



Sedgley's

Diamond 60

*Sixty years, sixty people,
sixty stories about village life
since 1952.*

2011

The Mayor's Civic Service at All Saints' by Councillor Michael Evans

On 12th June 2011 I took an oath at the borough's Civic Service held at All Saints' Church Sedgley, to faithfully represent the people of Dudley.

The mayors of the nearby boroughs of Wolverhampton, Walsall and Redditch were invited to attend and we all 'robed up' in the parish hall in Vicar Street. It was a rainy evening as we made our way in procession across Vicar Street to church. The service was exceptionally well attended, with standing room only at the back.

I had the opportunity to pick the music for the service and tried to pick hymns people would be familiar with. In addition to the hymns I chose one of my favourite popular songs, recently recorded by Westlife and Aled Jones: 'You Raise Me Up'. We had a children's choir and after they'd finished everybody got up and applauded.

Also, as Mayor I had to do one of the readings.

A gentleman came up to me afterwards and said: "You're the first mayor who's actually done the reading right!" which was very kind of him. All Saints' was used again to stage the Civic Carol Service at Christmas which was another wonderful occasion.

One of my chosen charities as Mayor was the Dudley Group of Hospitals Charity, based at Russells Hall hospital. It raises funds for their leukaemia patients. My niece was diagnosed with leukaemia when she was 18 and sadly died when she was 20. When you compare the quality of service at Russells Hall with that of Birmingham you realise how special Russells Hall is, and this was my opportunity to say thank you to them. My other choice was SSAFA, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, supporting those who currently serve in the armed forces and those who used to serve. Together, the total funds for both charities stand at £24,000, a wonderful response.



**The Mayor and his Consort cross
Vicar Street from the parish hall.**



**Assembled dignitaries at the
Civic Service in All Saints'.**



**Rev. Stephen Buckley with the
Mayor and Mayor's Consort at the
official reception after the
service in the parish hall.**