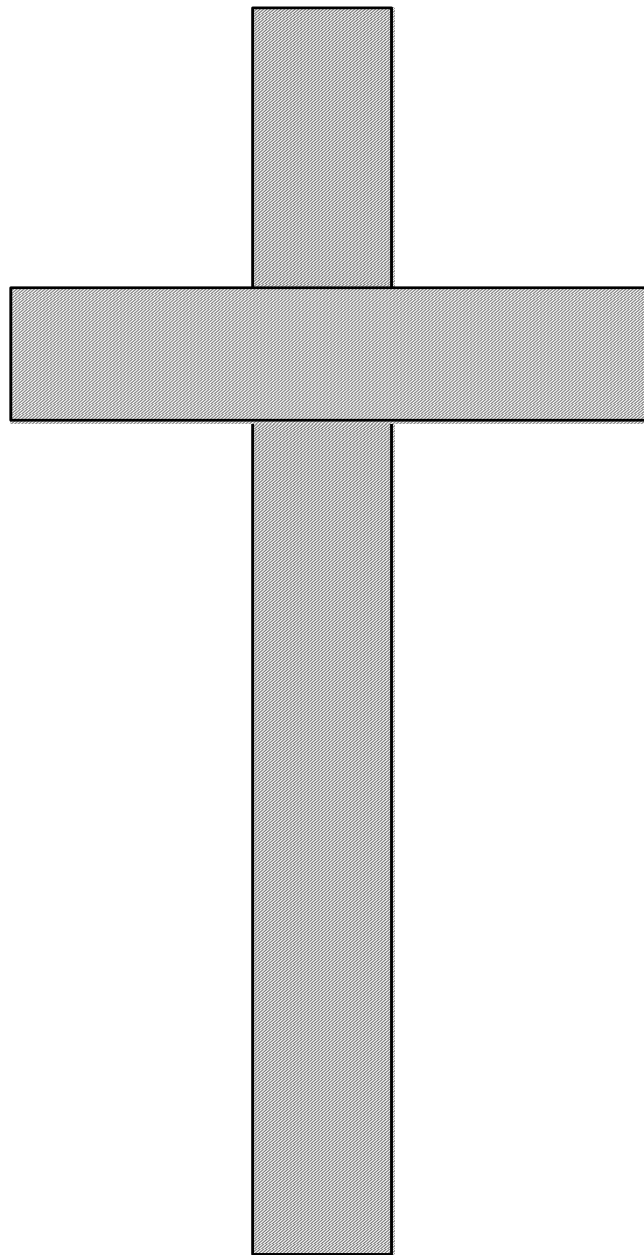
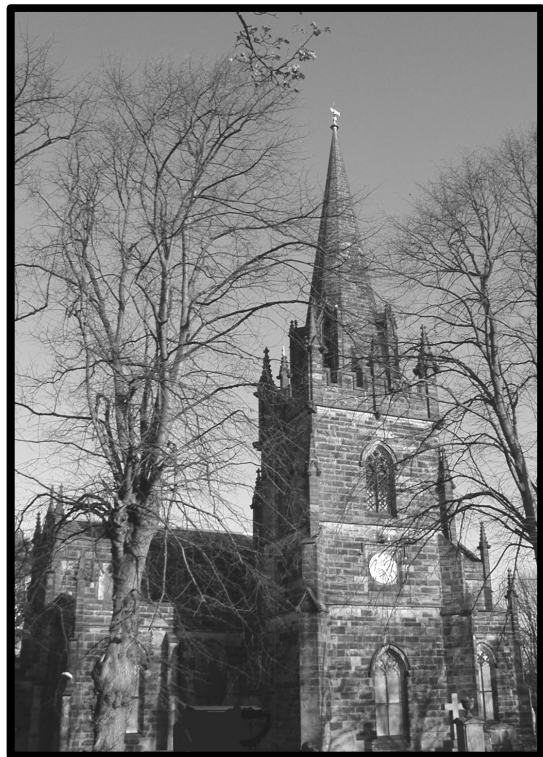


# ***THE BEACON***



**50p**



**February  
2013**

**The Parish Magazine of  
All Saints' Sedgley & St Andrew's The Straits**

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live for today,  
hope for tomorrow”**

**Albert Einstein**

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## **ALL SAINTS', SEDGLEY**

### **Sunday Services**

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
10.30 a.m. Parish Communion  
(First Sunday: All-Age Worship)  
6.30 p.m. Evensong (BCP)

### **Weekday Services**

- Monday 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
Wednesday 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion  
(1st Wednesday: Healing Service)

## **ST ANDREW'S, THE STRAITS**

### **Sunday Service**

- 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion  
(1st Sunday: Morning Prayer)

### **Weekday Service**

- Wednesday 7.00 p.m. Holy Communion

## **THE STRAITS CHURCH**

### **Sunday Services**

- 9.30 a.m. Prayer & Communion  
11.00 a.m. Family Service  
6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

(When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the three churches in the Team Ministry meet for a united service at either 9.30 a.m. or 10.30 a.m. depending on the venue.)

### **Baptisms & Weddings**

Arrangements for baptisms and weddings at All Saints' and St Andrew's can be made at the Vestry Hour at All Saints', which is held on Wednesdays at 8.00 p.m. in All Saints'.

Baptisms are generally held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 4.00 p.m. at All Saints', and on the second Sunday of the month at 3.00 p.m. at St Andrew's. Baptisms can also take place during the Sunday morning service at All Saints' or St Andrew's by arrangement.

# WHO'S WHO AT ALL SAINTS' & ST ANDREW'S

## GORNAL & SEDGLEY TEAM MINISTRY

Team Rector (Day off Friday)	The Revd Canon Stephen Buckley	01902 883255
Team Vicar (Day off Monday)	The Revd Andy Stand	883467
Asst Curate (Day off Friday)	The Revd Rob Parker-McGee	01384 860525
Reader	Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Authorised Lay Minister	Suzanne Bradley	880055
PCC Secretary	Chris Williams	672880
<b>ALL SAINTS'</b>		
Parish Wardens	Rob Lavender	01902 661325
	Derrick Turner	895066
DCC Secretary	Pam Hunt	670787
Treasurer	Derrick Turner	895066
Electoral Roll	Liz Williams	672880
Verger	Len Millard	676339
Organist	Mel Jones	0121 550 1604
Bell Ringers	Keith Williams	01902 672585
Servers	Len Millard	676339
Junior Church	Barbara Price	676591
Youth Group	Laura Price	678572
Noah's Ark Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	672556
Hall Bookings	The Vicarage	883255
Hall Caretaker	Joan Moon	682902
Social Club	John Dillworth	670156
Magazine Editor	Christine Buckley	883255
Distribution	Rob Lavender	661325
Advertising	" "	" "

Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	672880
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	674608
Men's Society	Roger Berry	881374

### **Uniformed Organisations**

Rainbows	Liz Naylor	01902 885517
Brownies	Heather Churm	07530 977090

### **ST ANDREW'S**

Church Warden	Margaret Probin	01902 883163
DCC Secretary	Rosemary Reed	
Treasurer	Gordon Betteley	882777
Sacristan	May Smith	

Little Angels		
Mums & Toddlers	Sarah Parker-McGee	01384 860525

### **THE STRAITS COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Pastor	Maurice Powell	01902 885402
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**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk](http://www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk)**

## **CHURCH REGISTERS**

### **BAPTISMS**

#### **ALL SAINTS'**

25 Nov	Eve Rose Moulton Sienna Lily Louise Kelly Evie Elizabeth Kelly Jamie Owen Hurst
23 Dec	Libby Alice Hadlington Dale Clark Hadlington Christopher John Hollis
27 Jan	Daniel Ryan Burton Bethany Louise Burton Joshua Graham Turley Cian Roman Burton Henlie James Burton

## **PARISH REGISTERS CONT.**

### **PARISH FUNERALS**

6 Nov	Sally Ann Bond, aged 93
13 Nov	Derrick Garner, aged 82
21 Dec	Colin William Powell, aged 68
28 Dec	Eileen Hudson, aged 96
3 Jan	Annie Bagnall, aged 92
7 Jan	Eli Reginald Flavell, aged 92
10 Jan	Michael Cooper, aged 63
22 Jan	William Malcolm Davies, aged 73
"	Annie Sheila Guest, aged 88
28 Jan	Shirley Booth, aged 76

### **MAGAZINE MATERIAL**

Articles for the March magazine should be sent to the Vicarage by Sunday 24 February. They may also be sent by e-mail to [srb55@talktalk.net](mailto:srb55@talktalk.net).

### **THE BEACON**

If you are interested in having the magazine delivered to your home on a regular basis, please contact Rob Lavender: tel. 01902 661325. *The Beacon* is published ten times a year and the cost for the year is £5.

### **FLOWER ROTA**

3 Feb	Vacant
10 Feb	Pauline Gregory, David and Elaine Melhuish
17 Feb	No flowers (Lent)
24 Feb	" "

#### **All Saints' Church Hall**

**The hall is available for hire by groups  
on a weekly basis, or for one-off events.  
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Tel. 01902 883255**

## LENT – A TIME TO THINK ABOUT SINNING

Lent is a time to think about sinning. When people sin against us, we get hurt. Have you ever been lied to? Been robbed? It hurts. When we sin against others, we also get hurt: we feel guilty before God, we lose our self-respect, and we feel isolated.

The little book of 1 John, in the New Testament, talks a lot about sin. John did not write in anger, but out of deep pastoral concern. His desire was that those who name Jesus as their Lord face the reality of sin in their lives. He wanted them to learn to avoid it as a pattern that ruled their lives. John reminded his readers that God is perfect light, holy, and the source of all life, truth and beauty. Christ, his son, the Light of the World, came to redeem us from our separation from him caused by sin, which has marred the world since the fall of Adam and Eve.

So what is sin? The Bible says that sin includes not only physical indulgences of our selfish appetites, but also our lustful, angry and hateful thoughts, as well as our self-righteousness, selfish ambition, divisive spirit, and pride. All of the Law of God, Jesus said, is summarized in the Great Commandment to love God with our entire being and our neighbour as ourselves (Mark 12:28–34), and not one of us in light of these commands can claim to be without sin (Luke 10:25–37).

As John makes clear in his short epistle, even God's being-saved, true believers will be guilty, perhaps even daily, of single acts of sin. Even though true believers have been released from the dominance of the habitual patterns of sinful behaviour, and have access to the liberating, victorious power of the Spirit for new life in Christ, we still, as long as we remain in these sin-prone bodies, will commit sin.

Yet this is not to discourage us, but to encourage us to take action. Our Father in heaven is a loving Father, waiting for us to come back to him, confessing each sinful failure, each hour of each day, if necessary. There's no sin so great as to separate you from the Father's mercy, grace, forgiveness and love. And through the Holy Spirit, we can become more Christ-like in our nature. It is a growth process, and we need to start growing now. This month is the perfect time for you to return to the Father's house, and receive and celebrate his complete forgiveness.

*(Ash Wednesday falls this year on 13 February. There will be services of Holy Communion with Imposition of ashes at 10.00 am and 7.30 pm.)*

## MOTHERS' UNION

Our afternoon meeting in January gave members a chance to chat about their memories. Unfortunately I was unable to be there but heard it was a pleasant afternoon.

Anne and Crispin Ridge told us about their 'Visit to Estonia' last year, at our evening meeting. Estonia was formerly a Soviet-occupied country, but gained its independence in 1991 through a cycle of mass demonstrations, which had lasted over four years, featuring spontaneous singing. In what became known as the 'Singing Revolution', they achieved independence without any bloodshed. We saw slides of the capital, Tallinn, with its medieval old town, and the quaint country villages, castles, manor houses and verdant forests, which gave us a feel for a country few of us knew much about. We had an interesting and enjoyable evening that helped us to forget the horrible weather outside.

### Dates

<u>2nd Feb</u>	<u>10.00 am</u>	<u>AGM, in church</u>
5th Feb	2.30 pm	Looking towards Easter: Revd Caroline Wickens
18th Feb	10.00 am	Corporate Communion
19th Feb	7.30 pm	Community of St Mary the Virgin: Revd Sue Oliver

*Liz Williams*

## THANK YOU

Thank you for your prayers, cards, flowers, and phone calls during my recent illness. You have been so kind and your care and concern is very much appreciated. We are blessed to have our church family. I hope by the time you read this that I shall be back at church.

God Bless you all.

*Liz*

## END OF AN ERA

On Sunday 13 January we said farewell to Alan Thompson who is leaving Sedgley to live with his daughter, Ruth. In recognition of all that he has done for All Saints' Alan was presented with various gifts, and in particular to mark his 25 years as warden Alan was made "Churchwarden Emeritus." We wish him well in his new home.

*Stephen Buckley*



## **LADIES' SOCIETY**

First, I would like to wish you all a 'HAPPY NEW YEAR' and I hope that you all enjoyed a good Festive Season.

We have met together three times since my last report. The first of these was on 26th November when we enjoyed an evening meal at the Bell Inn at Trysull. It was a very pleasant evening with good food served by very friendly staff. Then on December 3rd we met for our Christmas Supper. We all enjoyed our 'Turkey Baps' with a sumptuous choice of side salads etc. to accompany them. This was also accompanied with wine, and a good evening was enjoyed by all, putting us all in a Christmas mood.

Now, we arrive in 2013 with our first meeting taking the form of a quiz and a 'Bring and Buy' sale. The quiz was divided into different sections - Sweets, Partners in Crime, Christmas Songs and Hymns, and Art and Literature. This quiz of course was just a bit of fun and we all enjoyed it.

Now we look forward to the programme for the rest of the year, beginning on February 4th with a talk by Emma Whitehouse about 'Aloe Vera'. I hope to see you all there.

*Molly Taft*

## **INTRODUCING OUR HOLY WEEK GUEST FROM MIRFIELD**

Our guest for Holy Week this year will be Fr Dennis Berk, who originally hails from 'across the pond and moved over to this side of the Atlantic Ocean three years ago. Born in the United States, he then went to Canada where he studied at the University of Toronto and took his degree in theology from Trinity College in that city. Ordained in the Anglican Church of Canada in 1990, he served his title in the province of Ontario, followed by more years of parish ministry there after his curacy.

Eventually he returned to his natal land of the United States and pursued doctoral studies in Pennsylvania. Completing his doctorate in 1998, he continued in parish ministry until relocating to Mirfield in West Yorkshire in 2010 when he joined the Community of the Resurrection. Previously he'd been associated with those Anglican monks for nine years as an oblate, having first met them in 2001 when he was living in the UK as a graduate student in Oxford.

Fr Dennis serves as the Guest Brother of CR and he enjoys offering monastic hospitality to the many visitors who come to Mirfield. This January he arrived in our parish on a wintry day when all was covered by snow, so he looks forward to being here in warmer springtime weather this coming Holy Week.

## QUIZ ANSWERS: TV PROGRAMMES OF YESTERYEAR

1. Newtown was their patch
  2. 'Evening all'
  3. Father of 'Who wants to be a Millionaire'
  4. You do this when you think yourself fortunate
  5. Concise female item
  6. What you'd say to a navy
  7. Uncooked skin
  8. Start the race
  9. Soldiers play it
  10. Something you may reach in life
  11. He was only on for thirty minutes
  12. You wouldn't want this in your house
  13. There was always a cuddly toy
  14. Anger
  15. Staple food
  16. Haloed hero
  17. We sometimes go round in these
  18. Was he a pawnbroker
  19. Always on the run
  20. Metal team
  21. Water rather than treasure one
  22. Coloured hat
  23. There was a monkey in this
  24. It all happened at Fenner Fashions
  25. Fabled creatures who watch over city and sea
  26. They're out on this tune
  27. Self-sufficiency
  28. Don't drop the cabbage
  29. Hush, hush
  30. Medical aviator
  31. Scottish dog
  32. Musical sweets
  33. You'll always be found
  34. He wasn't a bird but he could sing
  35. Education for 'The Sons of Gentlefolk'
  36. Hercules helped them
  37. She had a ball
  38. Masked cowboy
  39. They didn't live in a zoo
  40. Masters and servants
  41. It travelled West
- Z Cars  
Dixon of Dock Green  
Double Your Money  
Thank Your Lucky Stars  
Compact  
Take Your Pick  
Rawhide  
Ready, Steady, Go  
The Army Game  
Crossroads  
Hancock's Half Hour  
Rising Damp  
The Generation Game  
Fury  
Bread  
The Saint  
Ever Decreasing Circles  
The Man from Uncle  
The Fugitive  
Ironsides  
Sea Hunt  
Redcap  
Circus Boy  
The Rag Trade  
The Liver Birds  
Juke Box Jury  
The Good Life  
Crackerjack  
Top Secret  
The Flying Doctor  
Lassie  
The Black and White  
Minstrels  
No Hiding Place  
Budgie  
Whacko  
Steptoe and Son  
I Love Lucy  
The Lone Ranger  
Life with the Lyons  
Upstairs, Downstairs  
Wagon Train

42. He didn't escape	The Prisoner
43. They righted wrongs	The Avengers
44. You wouldn't stay here	Fawlty Towers
45. Demon barber	The Sweeney
46. This was not strictly	Come Dancing
47. Extreme pain	Agony
48. Sudden good luck	Bonanza
49. Drab month	Maigret
50. This is the last one	The Epilogue

Congratulations to John Baker who won the Quiz with 48 correct answers. Anyone wanting their quiz back, let us know.

*Liz and Chris*

## INTERCESSIONS FOR FEBRUARY

1st	Brigid, Abbess
2nd	Those to be confirmed
3rd	Presentation of Christ in the Temple
4th	Peace throughout the world
5th	Those living in poverty
6th	Accession of Queen Elizabeth II
7th	Our work with young people across the parish
8th	The Beacon Centre
9th	Those involved in medical research
10th	Those martyred for their faith
11th	The work of the food bank
12th	The Hospice Movement
13th	Ash Wednesday
14th	Gornal & Sedgley Team
15th	Thomas Bray, founder of SPCK
16th	Worcester Diocese
17th	The persecuted church
18th	Hospital Chaplains
19th	Israel & Palestine
20th	Refugees
21st	The Unemployed
22nd	Ember Day
23rd	Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
24th	Our relationship with other churches in Sedgley
25th	World Debt
26th	Retired Clergy in the Diocese
27th	George Herbert, Poet & Priest
28th	The Homeless

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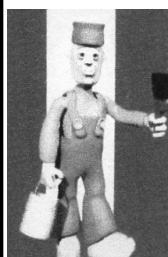
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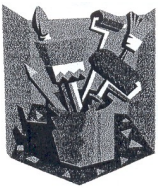
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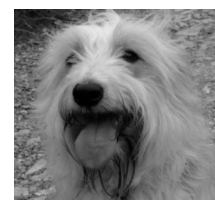
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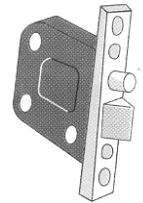
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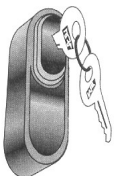


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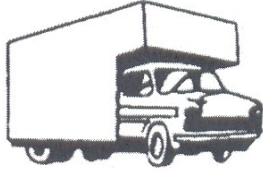
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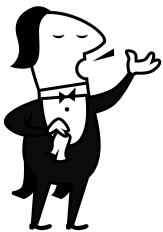
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## JUST THOUGHTS

Do nothing in haste, look well to each step, and from the beginning think well what may be the end.

Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously new ones.

Sitting on the fence can only get you splinters.

Happiness is like a butterfly: the more you chase it, the more it will elude you. But if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder.

Happiness is not just a great place to visit but it is a great place to stay.

It's time now to let go of the past and embrace all that awaits you.

Happiness it is always will be your choice.

Don't waste time hating people who hate you, but keep busy loving the people who love you.

Life is similar photography: you use the negatives to develop.

Start each day with a grateful heart, focus on the positive aspects of every person that you encounter, and end each and every day with a grateful heart.

Just remember – the wishbone will never replace the backbone.

Strength doesn't come from what you can do, it comes from overcoming those things that you thought you couldn't.

Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.

Don't follow your dreams – chase after them.

Life is about being yourself, someone only you can be, someone only you can understand, someone who is unlike anybody else. Be someone that doesn't copy others and look the same, be someone who is extremely unique, because you are you. You are an original, be creative, just be yourself.

Remember; you will be strong if you know your weaknesses, you will be beautiful if you're aware of your flaws. You will be fearless if you recognize illusion from reality; you'll be wise if you can learn from your mistakes.

One of the best things about being an adult is the realization that you can share with your brother or sister and still have plenty left for yourself.

Charity should begin at home, but it should not stay there.

You have reached the pinnacle of success as soon as you become uninterested in money, compliments, or publicity.

Great ideas often receive violent opposition from mediocre minds.

The world is a dangerous place in which to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.

A person never stands as tall as when they kneel to help a child.

To think too long about doing anything often leads to its downfall.

Remember not only to say the right thing in the right place, but what is often more difficult is to leave unsaid the wrong thing at a tempting moment.

Love is like dew that falls on both nettles and lilies.

Friendship improves happiness and abates misery, by doubling our joy and dividing our grief.

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

To find yourself you must think for yourself. A person with hope has everything.

A mind is like a parachute: it's wonderful when it's open, but not much use when it's closed.

Remember three of the important things in Life: who you really are, why are you here, and where are you going.

*Compiled by David Melhuish*

## **CHURCH OPENING**



**Friday mornings from  
10.30am to 12.30pm**

**The church is open for quiet prayer  
& coffee and a chat.**

**We will be pleased to see you**

## AROUND THE PARISH

**The marriage of David Turner and Nicola Bowley** was in November 2012 but no details were available to be printed in the magazine. The bride wore an ivory satin dress and the dresses for the two older bridesmaids were purple with a grape-coloured sash, while the two younger bridesmaids wore grape-coloured dresses with a purple sash. The reception was held at Blakelands, with a hog roast, a quiz and finally a disco. Something different for all to remember.

**The Christmas Tree Festival was an outstanding success.** I do know that many people came more than once to look at and admire the trees. We welcomed the Mayor and Mayoress Councillor Melvyn and Mrs Michelle Mottram to a morning service; afterwards they joined us for coffee and spent some time admiring the trees. The speaker that morning was Mrs Susan Price who spoke about the Children's Society.

We send our **congratulations** and best wishes to **Joyce Ford** who will be 90 years young on 7 February. Joyce had a heart attack before Christmas and is now staying at Stanford House on Dudley Road. She is making a good recovery and would welcome visitors.

We are all glad to know that **Liz Williams**, who was poorly over the Christmas period, is now much better. She has been missed by many church members. We hope it is not too long before she is fully recovered and able to be back with us.

Happy Birthday to **Chris Williams** on 17 January.

Get well wishes to **Bill Castle** who I believe is still in hospital; also to **Keith Tomlinson** who will be having a knee operation shortly.

**News from Noah's Ark Mums and Toddlers.** The Christmas Party was a happy occasion. Father Christmas made a quick visit and each child had a small gift. Many thanks to all the helpers who also received a gift voucher. Goodbyes were said to Petra Sullivan who is going to Nursery School; but we shall welcome back her sister Elsa in September. Snow and ice greeted everyone at the beginning of the winter term on 15 January.

**Goodbyes were said to Alan Thompson** on Sunday 13 January. Alan is going to Lincolnshire to live with his daughter Ruth. He was presented with a beautiful picture of the Church, painted by Rob Lavender, and a gift from the



Church members in recognition for all his work in the past. To me it seems like the end of an era. It was both a happy and sad time saying a last goodbye.

*Church Warden Emeritus  
is awarded to  
Alan B. Thompson  
in recognition of his 25 years' service as  
Vicar's Warden of All Saints' Church Sedgley  
1971–1996  
(Well done, thou good and faithful servant)*

A quote from Thoughts for Every Day: Memories are not in the brain, for cells could never hold the record of a story that no tongue has ever told. Memories through memories we tread the secret way, across the silent borderlands of now and yesterday. Memories evoke for us the face, the words, the smile, of those we have not seen awhile.

**Alan**, we wish you every happiness in your future home.

**A final note from me.** Thank you to the good yet mysterious Samaritan who cleared a path to the top of my drive during the bad weather.

*Dorothy Inett*

## **FAIRTRADE NEWS**

Because our Confirmation Service takes place on 3 February, the Fairtrade stall will be in All Saints' on 10 February.

## **CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

Thank you to all who decorated trees and helped with the preparation and clearing up after the Festival. I am sure you will agree that a lot of thought and hard work went into the decorations, which were very imaginative. Many people visited the Festival over the two weekends and said how much they had enjoyed it. With the Festival and school carol services we raised £800 for the BibleLands Charity, now known as Embrace the Middle East.

*Jonathan Williams*

## **CHURCH AGMS**

Please note that St Andrew's Church AGM will be held on Sunday 3 March at 10.45 am, and All Saints' on Sunday 17 March at 12 noon.

## HOUSE OF BISHOPS TAKES ACTION ON WOMEN BISHOPS

What about women bishops in the Church of England? The issue has not gone away. Following the vote against them in General Synod last November, the House of Bishops met to consider the implications, and to discuss the best way forward.

First, the House of Bishops expressed its ongoing gratitude and appreciation for the ministry of ordained women in the Church of England, and its sadness that recent events should have left so many feeling undermined and undervalued. Effective response to this situation is a priority on which all are strongly agreed.

The House went on to acknowledge the profound and widespread sense of anger, grief, and disappointment felt by so many in the Church of England and beyond, and agreed that the present situation was unsustainable for all, whatever their convictions. It expressed its continuing commitment to enabling women to be consecrated as bishops, and intends to have fresh proposals to put before the General Synod at its next meeting in July.

The House is also organizing an event early in 2013 at which it will share with a larger number of lay and ordained women - in the context of prayer and reflection - questions about the culture of the House's processes and discussions, and how women might more regularly contribute. In order to avoid delay in preparing new legislative proposals, the House has set up a working group drawn from all three houses of Synod.

This group will arrange facilitated discussions with a wide range of people of a variety of views in the week of 4th February, when General Synod was to have met. The House will have an additional meeting in February immediately after these discussions, and expects to settle at its May meeting the elements of a new legislative package to come to Synod in July.

For any such proposals to command assent, the House believes that they will need (i) greater simplicity, (ii) a clear embodiment of the principle articulated by the 1998 Lambeth Conference "that those who dissent from as well as those who assent to, the ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate are both loyal Anglicans", (iii) a broadly-based measure of agreement about the shape of the legislation in advance of the beginning of the actual legislative process.

These concerns will be the focus of the working group in the months ahead. The House endorsed the view of the Archbishops' Council that the "Church of England now has to resolve this issue through its own processes as a matter of great urgency".

## FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Fairtrade Fortnight this year runs from the 27 February to the 10 March. Below are some examples of the difference Fairtrade makes to peoples lives.



It would be safe to say that Leah is house proud. She is one of the first workers at Panda Flowers in Kenya to own her own house. She beams with pride on her doorstep. *‘On my own, I would never have had the money to do this,’* she says. *‘It was my dream to build a house to call my own.’* The cost of rent and the difficulties of land ownership make

housing a big worry for agricultural workers in developing countries. By using the Fairtrade premium, the workers at Panda could save up to buy small plots, and then build their houses. Before, says Leah, *‘You are always fearing the landlord’s knock. But paying back on the loan on your house is more friendly.’* The next step for Leah and the others is to save up to get electricity and water connected to their homes.



There are people in the Windward Islands who say Fairtrade has saved the islands’ banana industry. Conrad’s one of them. He grows bananas on his five acre farm for export for the UK. He has seen firsthand how the islands’ economy has suffered under trade rules that made it harder for his bananas to keep their place on UK shelves against cheaper imports

from Latin America. He believes people choosing Fairtrade do a great thing. *‘You help a community you don’t know... that’s marvellous.’* And Fairtrade has helped Conrad’s community. The Fairtrade premium the farmers get for every box of bananas has been invested in buying fans for the local medical centre, to keep patients cool, and improvements to the local school.



*‘I did not get any education but I want my children to. Because of the Fairtrade price, I can send them to school.’* For Laljibhai, an Indian cotton farmer, this is the most important improvement in his life since he started selling his cotton as Fairtrade. As a cotton farmer he has to become a member of a farmer’s group in order to be able to get the Fairtrade price for his crop.

This means he can share skills and equipment and farming tips with other members, and together they can work to get a better price for their cotton and new buyers. The extra money from the Fairtrade Premium has been a real boost for their community in lots of ways, including funding solar street lamps, school books and uniforms for poorer families, and ways to save rainwater for farming.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **Grace Transforming by Philip Ryken, IVP, £7.99**

You are not defined by who you are and what you do. You are defined by who Jesus is and what he has done for you. With the gentle wisdom of an experienced pastor and preacher, Phil Ryken considers the depths of God's grace and its implications for every part of your life. God has more grace for us in Jesus than we could ever imagine.

“To grasp the fullness of God’s grace is to come humbly to Christ in empty-handed spiritual poverty. That alone may be the greatest challenge for any Christian! And it’s why I so appreciate Dr. Philip Ryken’s extraordinary insights. If you are seeking a fresh look at your Lord and your own desperate need of him, this is the book for you!” So writes Joni Eareckson Tada, the disabled writer and speaker.

### **Gospel Truth - answering New Atheist attacks on the Gospels**

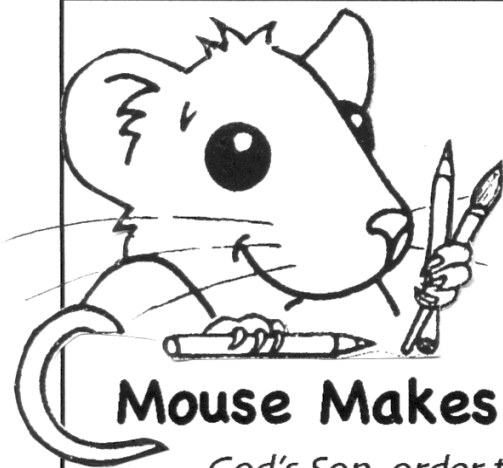
**By Paul W Barnett, IVP, £9.99**

Strident New Atheists who seek to disprove God usually make historical attacks on the New Testament Gospels, as a major part of their strategy. According to the late Christopher Hitchens, in ‘God Is Not Great’, “The case for biblical consistency or authenticity or ‘inspiration’ has been in tatters for some time, and the rents and tears only become more obvious with better research, and thus no ‘revelation’ can be derived from that quarter.” In responding to Hitchens and others, Paul Barnett concedes that their instincts are correct: destroy the credibility of the Gospels and you destroy the credibility of Jesus and thus the credibility of God and the structure of Christian belief.

The issue of ‘gospel truth’, that is, of the Gospels’ historical truth, is of critical importance. Barnett surveys the main issues and questions, offering historical arguments in response to the critics and sceptics: New Testament dating and history, hostile witnesses to Jesus, his immediate impact, wider world history, archaeology, contradictions in the Gospels, the stories of Jesus’ birth, miracles, the resurrection of Jesus, and other ‘gospel’ texts. He concludes with a clear affirmation of true and trustworthy revelation from God in the Gospels and in the person of Jesus Christ. This helpful, accessible volume will be of lasting value to all with an interest in the issues and debates.

### **I Am Loved by Claudette Schlitter, Authentic, £8.99**

The well-known British Gospel singer, Claudette Schlitter, has told her remarkable life story. For many years Claudette kept her secrets under wraps, until her battle with an eating disorder threatened to destroy all that she had worked for. She began a search for true love, only to find more tragedy. Finally she found the strength to face her past, and the courage to tell her story. Claudette's story will inspire you as you read of her remarkable journey of faith against the odds. Never giving up on the belief that somewhere out there was someone who loved her, she finally found that someone, but in the most unexpected way.



## Mouse Makes

## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After he was baptised Jesus returned full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, **Human beings cannot live on bread alone.**"

Then the Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this power and all this wealth, it has been handed over to me and I can give it to anyone I choose. All this then will be yours if you worship me." Jesus answered,

*The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'*

Then the Devil took Jesus to the Temple and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, 'They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'" But Jesus answered,

*The scripture says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'*

READ  
Luke 4: 1-13

THE DEVIL SAID:  
*"If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread."*

JESUS REPLIED:  
**"Human beings cannot live on bread alone."**

read Deuteronomy 8:3



WE LEARN:  
**Read the Bible  
Learn God's word.**

THE DEVIL SAID:  
*"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me"*

JESUS REPLIED:  
**"Worship the Lord your God and serve only him"**

read Deuteronomy 6:13

**1**

WE LEARN:  
**Put God first  
Worship only Him**

THE DEVIL SAID:  
*"If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take good care of you"*

JESUS REPLIED:  
**"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."**

read Deuteronomy 6:16



WE LEARN:  
**God cares, trust Him  
do not test Him.**



Cut out the three cards  
and during Lent learn  
the bible verses

## DIARY DATES: FEBRUARY

Sunday and weekday services at All Saints', St Andrew's and The Straits Community Church are advertised on page 2 of this magazine.

### All Saints'

Sat 2 Feb	10.00 am	MU AGM in church
Mon 4 Feb	7.30 pm	Ladies' Society meets in the church hall
Tues 5 Feb	2.30 pm	MU meets in the church hall
Wed 13 Feb	10.00 am	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Ash Wednesday	7.30 pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Mon 18 Feb	7.45 pm	Men's Society meets in the social club
Tues 19 Feb	7.30 pm	Baptism meeting in the social club
" "	" "	MU meets in church
Tues 26 Feb	7.30 pm	DCC meets in the church hall

'Noah's Ark' Mums & Toddlers meets in the hall on Tuesdays at 9.30 am in term time.

### St Andrew's

Tues 5 Feb	10.45 am	Joint Council meets in the church hall
Mon 18 Feb	7.30 pm	DCC meets in church

'Little Angels' Mums & Toddlers meets in the hall on Mondays at 9.30 am in term time.

St Andrew's 'Silver Threads' (over 60s) meet each Wednesday from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm in the church hall.

### Diocesan, Deanery & Parish Events

Sun 3 Feb	10.30 am	Parish Confirmation at All Saints'
Tues 5 Feb	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod at St Mary's, Kingswinford
Sat 23 Feb	9.30 am	'Dad's Breakfast' in All Saints' church

### Lent Study Group Dates

#### All Saints'

Group 1	Venue: 9a Turls Hill Road at 7.30 pm
Mon 18 Feb, Mon 25 Feb, Mon 4 March, Mon 11 March, Mon 18 March	
Group 2	Venue: The social club at 2.30 pm
Tues 19 Feb, Tues 26 Feb, Tues 5 March, Tues 12 March, Tues 19 March	

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"If we live in peace ourselves, we in turn may bring peace to others. A peaceable man does more good than a learned one." **Thomas à Kempis**



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