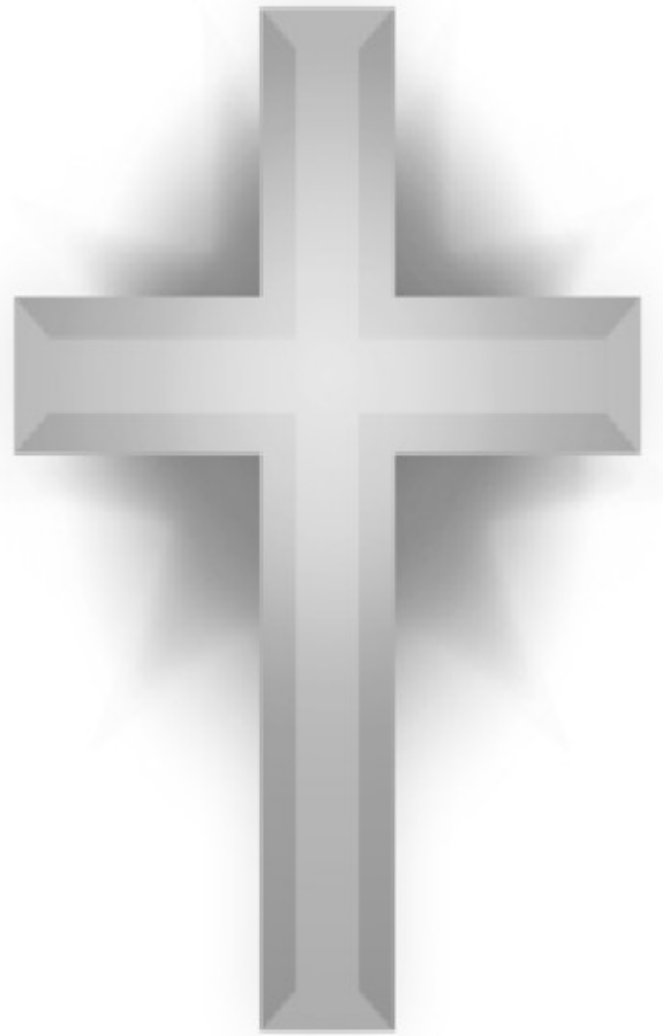


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50p

NOVEMBER 2016

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Archbishop Justin's visit to Dudley

On Sunday 9th October 2016 Archbishop Justin Welby visited Merry Hill to lead a Songs of Praise gathering in the Atrium (by Marks and Spencer) - and to preach.



Our Churchwarden Keith Tomlinson greets Archbishop Justin Welby and Archdeacon Nikki Groarke at Merry Hill

It was one of the most inspiring events I've attended recently. There were hundreds there to see him; the wonderful uplifting atmosphere reached its peak when some of our most popular hymns were sung – eg 'How Great Thou Art' - the sound threatened to raise the roof of the shopping centre!

A superb community gospel choir warmed everyone up with some sensational singing and there was a very warm friendly feel to the gathering.

Churches from our parish were well represented - indeed other Dudley C of E churches and other Christian denominations in Dudley were also there.

Archbishop Justin's visit to the Diocese began in Worcester on Friday 7th October where he talked with the BBC's Jeremy Vine in front of an audience of 1,600 at the University Arena. It continued at Dudley College, who hosted a conversation with Malala Yousafzai, who was shot by the Taliban in 2012 and later won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in promoting education for girls.

Martin Jones



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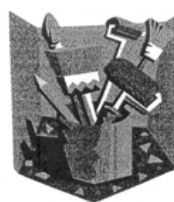
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“One Church, One Faith, One Lord”

by Suzanne E. Bradley

The following is a slight re-working and extension of part of the talk I gave during the sermon slot when I took Morning Prayer at St Peter's on Sunday 28th August 2016, which was the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity.

I recently visited my German friend who lives near Frankfurt (and also caught up with other friends I made through my friend) and she had organised a visit for us to Berlin for a few days. This was the first time I had visited the capital of Germany – and I have been teaching German for over 20 years....

Of the many fascinating buildings, monuments and other points of interest in Berlin, the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtnis Kirche or Memorial Church was the one that struck a chord with me. A protestant church, built just before the end of the 1800s, located in western Berlin, it was severely damaged during World War II in 1943 and has been rebuilt right next to the ruins; like Coventry Cathedral, also bombed during the Second World War in 1940. On display in the renovated ruins of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church is the Cross of Nails – a cross made from the nails of the damaged Coventry Cathedral roof timbers – given by Coventry Cathedral to Berlin, which is one of 160 Cross of Nails given to other cities around the world.

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation, prayed every Friday at 1pm in the Memorial Church in Berlin to coincide with its praying at 12 noon in Coventry Cathedral and other places around the world that were gifted the Cross of Nails, is as follows:

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class, **Father, forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, **Father, forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth, **Father, forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, **Father, forgive.**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee, **Father, forgive.**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children, **Father, forgive.**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God, **Father, forgive.**

Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

On my return home a few days later, in preparation for leading Morning Prayer the following Sunday (Trinity 14) and choosing the hymns, I read the readings for that Sunday; as I usually do. On reading the New Testament reading, which was from Paul's letter to the Hebrews 13.1-8, 15-16, I couldn't help but think that the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation reflected parts of this reading – maybe for those who had not followed the words of Paul...

I also looked for the “The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation” on the internet and found the document (in 12 other languages besides English) from the Community of the Cross of Nails at Coventry Cathedral website – www.crossofnails.org – which gives a further explanation to the Litany:

Provost Richard Howard put the words “FATHER FORGIVE” on the wall behind the charred cross in the ruins of the destroyed cathedral in 1948, not “Father forgive Them”, because we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Rom 3,23)

These words moved generations of people and are prayed in the Litany of Reconciliation every Friday at noon outside in the ruins and on many other places around the world.

The Litany of Reconciliation, based on the seven cardinal sins, was written in 1958 by Canon Joseph Poole, the first Precentor of the new Cathedral. It is a universal and timeless confession of humanity’s failings, but it evokes us to approach these sins and weaknesses in the forgiveness of God’s love.

NB. The title to this article was taken from the last line of the hymn – Thy Hand, O God, has guided by Edward Hayes Plumptre, 1889.

A letter from Robert Jones

the Archdeacon of Worcester.

It's a celebrity world, and whilst we may look down on that, I suspect we are all a bit addicted to it too. I bumped into an erstwhile Dr Who in an Oxford pub once (the actor, not the character), and was more excited than I probably should have been!

The Church has its own set of celebrities. We like to put people like archbishops on pedestals, and sometimes we quite like to knock them off too. Our main celebrities are the ones we celebrate on All Saints Day. Some may well have been commemorated locally, but others are just gathered up into this wonderful 'catch all' festival on 1st November. They are the often unknown, unnamed and unsung heroes of the faith who have simply got on with living out their faith in their own time and place, people who know that God loves them.

Each church has its own particular heroes. This year the Lutheran church worldwide celebrates the man who made the Reformation happen in Germany 500 years ago, a monk called Martin Luther. He was a complicated man – bad-tempered and intense, and he made some dodgy political comments about the Jews and about the poor, which were to have unintended consequences years later. But he also changed the German language for ever, in the same way Shakespeare, the Book of Common Prayer and King James Bible did for English, and he turned the church upside down in a way that affected us all. As one commentator puts it, Luther had one really good strong central idea, that God loves us anyway.

It should not surprise us that Luther had a complex personality. Recently Mother Theresa has been raised to the altar and named a saint in the Roman Catholic Church. We all know the good works she and her sisters did with the least of the least in Kolkata and elsewhere. But we discover that she too was complex – in some of her alliances and opinions, and not least, amazingly, in the fact that for many years her spiritual life

seemed barren and dry, more like a wilderness than a fount of living water, a dark night of the soul.

Celebrating the saints is a great idea: it can really inspire us to fresh vision and purpose. But as Fr Harry Williams once wrote, have you ever had to share a house with a saint? We might find their foibles every bit as annoying as our own. None of us are perfect. Celebrities and pedestals are risky, because all of us are complex – it goes with the territory of being human.

So maybe we need to hold on to Luther's core idea as the most important one, the one that saints have known of old, namely that God loves us anyway.

The Waterfall

We hear the roaring water
We see the foaming spray
The mighty pow'r of nature
Compels us all to pray
"O Mighty Lord, Creator
"O Maker of us all
"The finest work thou makest -
"The tumbling waterfall!"

The spray refracts the sunlight
Into the rainbow hues;
We feel the water shaking
The ground beneath our shoes!
We gaze into the torrents
Unto the Lord we call
"O Praise thee, God our Father
"For this, Thy waterfall!"

by Nigel Beeton

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



All Saints' Church, Sedgley will be holding a Christmas Tree Festival from Friday 2nd December to Sunday 4th December and Friday 9th December to Sunday 11th December. The theme this year is 'Charities' and each tree will be decorated to depict a different charity. There will be a Blessing of the Trees at 10.00am on Friday 2nd December followed by singing from local school choirs. Admission will be free, light refreshments will be available and any donations during the weekends will be for the Salvation Army.

We look forward to seeing you and your family and friends.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

'Charities'

All Saints' Church, Sedgley

Friday 2nd - Sunday 4th December

&

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th December



Friday & Saturday - 10am - 4pm

Sundays - 2pm - 4pm

Admission: Free

Light Refreshments available

Donations to Salvation Army

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The Beacon is published ten times a year and the cost for the year is £5. A larger typeface version of The Beacon can be provided on request.

Articles for the December magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by Friday 25th November and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

WEBSITE: www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk

CHURCH OPENING



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

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

DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER 2016

Dates for Diary

- November 1st - Mothers' Union - 2.30pm - A Celebration Of Faith - Gwen Taylor
- November 3rd - Townswomen's Guild - 10am - David Berry - Humorous In Retirement
- November 7th - Ladies Society - 7pm - Diocese Of Cyprus And The Gulf - Joan Sullivan
- November 15th - Mothers' Union - 7.15pm Communion - Letters From The Trenches - Chris Smith
- November 21st - Mens Society - 7pm - Travelling With My Camera - Gordon Nicklin

Baptisms At All Saints'

- 23rd October - Oakley Adam Bradburn
Isabel Rose South

Funerals

- October 3rd - Raymond Benjamin Hopson - Crem
- October 21st - Sylvia Beryl Dicken - Crem

Altar Flowers for November

- November 6th Ladies Society
- November 13th The British Legion – Remembrance Sunday
Liz Williams – Pedestal
Keith & Brenda Tomlinson – Pedestal
- November 20th In memory of Mr & Mrs Sadler
- November 27th Advent – NO FLOWERS

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MOTHERS' UNION

Sheila Baker, the Coordinator of 'High Flyers' came to our afternoon meeting in October. Based in Wombourne, High Flyers aims to 'release the potential of adults with learning difficulties'. The work done by Sheila and her team is amazing. They provide and organise activities such as swimming, horse riding, cookery, drama and dance, and art and craft as well as visits out. The aim of High Flyers is to enable the adults who come to the centre to realise their own aspirations. What came over during the afternoon was the wonderful dedication of the team that run High Flyers and the joy, sense of achievement and happiness of the adults who attend. We are fortunate that there are such committed people in our community who provide the experiences these young adults need to enrich their lives.

Our Deanery Festival was held at St Mary's, Kingswinford who took 'Celebration of Faith and Membership' as the theme for the service. Our President, Liz Green gave the address and presented Long Service Awards to members from across the deanery. Congratulations to Anne Ridge, Mavis Gosling, Pam Hunt, Sheila Kendrick, Elaine Melhuish, Beryl Morgan, Judith Dunning, Betty Payne who all had awards.

Our Christmas project is to provide small, filled gift bags for the women and children at New Beginnings, as we did last year. These are intended as a small gift for families when they arrive at the Refuge throughout the year. We have the bags and there will be a box in the narthex for your gifts.

Ideas for gift bags – Not Christmas items & No sweets

(I am sure you can think of many more)

crayons, felt pens, pencils, rubbers, etc hair slides, scrunchies
small colouring books gloves, socks cars combs, brushes jigsaws make up
brushes card games emery boards, hand cream

Dates:

1st November 2.15pm Communion followed by A Celebration of Faith - Gwen Taylor

15th November 7.15pm Letters from the Trenches - Chris Smith

Congratulations to **Maisie Glover** who will be celebrating her 100th Birthday on 30th October. What a wonderful achievement for a lovely lady.

Liz Williams

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Visit

The University of Worcester Arena was full as people gathered from across the diocese to hear the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, interviewed by the BBC's Jeremy Vine.

The evening began with a rousing performance by iSingPop, a choir of sixty children from church schools across Worcestershire, which was enjoyed by all.

The interview covered a range of subjects, including how the Archbishop came to faith and how he dealt with the death of his eldest child in a car accident, and finding out that his father was someone different from whom he had thought. He talked about issues including same-sex marriage and the migrant crisis and answered questions from the audience. Throughout the message was of love for one another.

I came away having seen a man of strong faith, compassion, humility and gentle humor. An ordinary man whose experiences, which he stressed were not unlike so many others, make him aware and approachable and have brought him to become our Archbishop.

May we remember him and his family in our prayers.

Liz Williams

TALES FROM THE VICARAGE

His cat had got stuck up a tree and the vicar mounted a rescue operation.

He climbed a ladder and tied a rope around the highest point of a tree he could reach; he then tied the other end to the tow bar of his car. Once in the car he very gently drove forward - and the inevitable occurred. The rope snapped catapulting the poor cat heavenwards. No more was heard of the cat.

A few weeks later the vicar went to visit a young Mum and her young son, Jack. In the front room sitting on the mat was the vicar's cat. "Wherever did you find such a lovely cat?" asked the vicar with thinly disguised innocence.

"Well, Jack had been asking for a cat for months and in the end I took him into the garden to hang out the washing, I told him that the only thing we could do was to pray. So we put our hands together, looked up to the heavens, closed our eyes and prayed. Dear Jesus, send us a cat.

Well vicar, you'll never guess what happened next

The vicar's son had just passed his driving test in the family car. He asked if he could borrow the car on Saturday. "First go and get your haircut," he was told.

"Moses and Noah and even Jesus and his disciples had long hair," the boy protested. "Yes," was the reply and they walked everywhere they went"

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Times Past

Wolverhampton Chronicle

& Staffordshire Advertiser - 9th November 1842

SEDGLEY ROADS

NOTICE is hereby given, that the TOLLS arising at the several Toll Gates and Toll Bars upon the turnpike road leading from Wombourne through Sedgley to Bilston and Prince's End, in the county of Stafford, will be LET BY AUCTION, to the best bidder, at the house of JOHN EBERY, the COURT HOUSE, in SEDGLEY aforesaid, on FRIDAY, 25th day of NOVEMBER, 1842, between the hours of four and six in the afternoon, for the term of one year, commencing the first day of January next, in the manner directed by the Act passed on the 3rd and 4th years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, "for regulating Turnpike Roads," which Tolls produced last year the sum of 552/- clear of the expenses of collecting the same, and will be then put up at that sum.

Staffordshire Advertiser - 5th November 1870

SEDGLEY

CHORAL FESTIVAL AT THE PARISH CHURCH. – Tuesday being the Festival of All Saints', to whom the parish church is dedicated, a special choral service was held. The church, which was beautifully decorated, was crowded to excess. The choirs of the adjoining districts took part to the number of 150, under the conductorship of Mr Blonden, organist to the parish church, Dudley. Many of the local clergy were also present. The prayers were effectively intoned by the Rev. W.T. Dudley, curate of Sedgley. The Psalms and hymns were well sung, as was the anthem, Kent's "Thine O Lord". An able sermon was preached by the Rev. W. Twigg, M.A., of Wednesbury. After the Benediction had been given by the Hon. and Rev. A.J.R. Anson, vicar of Sedgley, the hymn, "Hark, my soul," was impressively sung by the whole congregation.

Staffordshire Advertiser - 2nd November 1935

CRAZY Paving, Dutch Walling, Rockery, delivered Stafford district, 30/- for two tons, C.O.D. – Stephen Bagley, Upper Gornal Quarries. 'Phone Sedgley, 142.

Children's Society News

Our Autumn Fayre on 8th October raised:- £1,365.04

This is a remarkable effort from the Committee who faithfully work all through the year to endure the success of the Fayre. Our thanks go out to everyone who supported us.

Christingle Service - 24th December at 5.30pm

Attendance at this service has grown so that the Church is generally full. As usual it takes place on Christmas Eve; so come early for a good seat.

All of the money raised goes to Children's Society.

I still have Christmas Cards sold on behalf of Children's Society. Please ask if you require any.

Anne

Church donations boost food banks and homeless charities

Food, clothing and items from toothpaste to soap were collected in many Church of England parishes this autumn to help supply food banks and support homeless and vulnerable people.

Canon Dr Jill Hopkinson, the Church of England's National Rural Officer, said Harvest Festival remains popular in both rural and urban areas, with churches and schools active in collecting for local food banks and homeless projects.

"Where people would have brought fresh produce in the past, there is probably a greater emphasis now on bringing food that is in tins and packets that can be given to those in need," she said.

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The alternative fruit cake recipe.

A cup of water, cup of sugar, 4 eggs, two cups of dried fruit one teaspoon of baking soda, one teaspoon of salt, a cup of brown sugar, lemon juice, nuts and a bottle of whisky. Sample the whisky: to check for quality.

Take a large bowl, check the whisky to ensure it is up to the right standard. Pour one level cupful and drink, repeat if not sure. Turn on the electric mixer, beat one egg cup of butter in fluffy bowl add one teaspoon of sugar and beat again.

Make sure whisky is still o.k. try another cup. Turn off the mixer, break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup and dried fruit. Mix on the turner.

If the dried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a peapod. Sample the whisky to check its consistency.

Next, sift two cups of salt or something, who cares?. Check the whisky, sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts, add one tablespoon or something. (whatever you can find that keeps still)

Grease the oven, turn the cake tin 550 degrees, bite the turner, throw the bowl at the window, check the whisky and go to bed.

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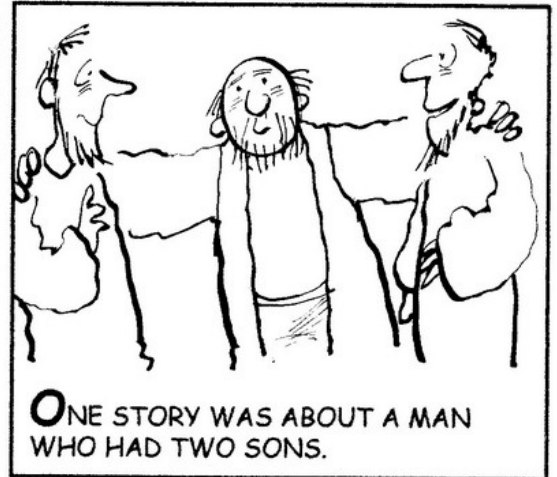
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The tale of the Prodigal Son



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AND CARED FOR HIS FATHER



BUT THE OTHER SON JUST
DEMANDED MONEY FROM
HIS DAD



THEN HE LEFT HOME TO WASTE
HIS WEALTH.

HE HAD MANY FRIENDS...



...UNTIL HIS MONEY RAN OUT



SOON, THE ONLY WAY HE COULD
SURVIVE WAS BY FEEDING PIGS.



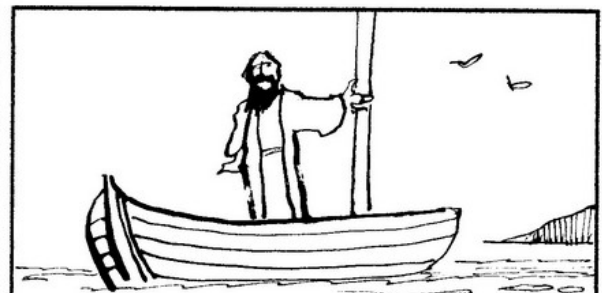
I KNOW, I'LL GO BACK TO
MY DAD AND SAY SORRY -
BUT HE'LL BE SO CROSS.



BUT HIS FATHER WAS
FAR FROM ANGRY - HE
WAS THRILLED TO SEE
HIS SON RETURN HOME!



MY SON IS ALIVE!!



JESUS EXPLAINED - WE HAVE A FATHER
IN HEAVEN WHO ACHES TO SEE US ALL
RETURN TO HIM - JUST LIKE THE
PRODIGAL SON RETURNED TO HIS
FATHER.

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Waiting

Waiting is something that we generally don't like doing. Watching the number 1 bus depart before we can get on board and then waiting 11 minutes for the next one is irritating. Not, however, as irritating as waiting for a train that is 90 minutes late. And neither of these comes into the same class as a nine hour wait at a foreign airport to catch the 'plane home. Neither a thirty five minute wait at the doctor's surgery or a five hour wait in A & E goes down well and 3 minutes in a dentist's waiting room seem like an eternity.

No - by and large people don't like waiting. But waiting is an inevitable part of many aspects of life. Some of us have been recently planting daffodil and tulip bulbs to flower next spring and no matter how much we fret about waiting they won't flower until it is their due time to do so. Waiting for a baby's first tooth is frustrating but nothing can speed it up.

I recently visited a vineyard in Tennessee that produces sparkling wine where waiting patiently for many years for the wine to develop its best flavour is absolutely vital. On the same holiday I visited the Jack Daniels' Distillery where waiting times can be up to twenty five years. In both cases it is the only way to get the best product.

At All Saints' we are now waiting for a replacement for both the Team Rector and a Team Vicar and many people are getting frustrated at the delay in appointing someone to either of these posts. So we may ask the question 'Why doesn't God do something about it? Does He know how much we want to move forward as a church? If so, why are we waiting?'

Is it somehow in God's divine will that He wants us to wait? Is it good for us in some way - just as waiting improves sparkling wine and Sour Mash Whisky. Maybe the answer is that we must hold on in trust and faith and develop our own talents in the absence of ordained leaders. Maybe God wants us to be exposed to the different opinions of our visiting clergy and the different way in which they conduct the services.

Maybe He wants to dispel the “what was good enough for my father is good enough for me” attitude and the longing for past times.

Not being happy with waiting is not new. The Psalmist starts off Psalm 40 with the words “I waited patiently for the Lord” but then goes on to say “and he inclined unto me and heard my calling”. Perhaps if we follow his patience in the Lord our calling will be heard by the Lord.

Tony Hart October 2016

A November Field

The tractor ploughs a lonely field
Seen through November mist;
Which, to the rising sun doth yield
The earth is gently kissed.

The earth is gently kissed,
And melts remaining frost
But yet a chill does still persist
For thousands here were lost.

For thousands here were lost.
They fought for this same soil
These thousands paid the awful cost
In blood, and pain, and toil.

In blood, and pain, and toil,
‘Gainst shell, and gun, and bomb
They fought, these men, courageous, loyal
The Battle of the Somme.

By Nigel Beeton

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THE SEDGLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Sedgley Educational Trust is established to advance education, including religious education, in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in the area of benefit: that being the ecclesiastical parishes of All Saints', Sedgley, St Mary the Virgin, Sedgley and St Chad's, Coseley.

Application for grants are invited from individuals or organisations resident in the area of benefit. Application forms are available from the incumbent of any of the parishes mentioned above, or alternatively from:

**The Secretary to the Trustees: 12 Larkswood Drive,
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Just Thoughts.

The **ABC** of loving families;
Accept each member as the unique gift they are.
Balance work rest and play.
Communicate with mutual respect.
Demonstrate how love encourages growth.
Embrace the changes the years bring.
Find ways to say “I love you”.
Generate self esteem and self acceptance.
Help each other do for themselves.
Inspire independence and interdependence.
Juggle schedules to “be there”.
Know there are no perfect families.
Look for the best in each other.
Make the world a better place.
Nurture abilities and talents.
Openly talk about whatever is up.
Provide safety and security.
Quickly mend fences and move on.
Remind each other of their greatness.
Saviour memories and traditions.
Take time to listen and care.
Understand how precious family time is.
Value presence more than presents.
Works things out compassionately.
Xperience life’s ups and downs together.
Yearn to create a happy home.
Zeal to bequeath a legacy of love.

Praise the youth and they will flourish.

All your dreams can come true if you have the courage to pursue them.

In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility.

True happiness is to enjoy the present, without anxious dependence upon the future, not to amuse ourselves with either hopes or fears but to rest satisfied, for they that are so want nothing. The greatest blessings of mankind are within us and within our reach. A wise person is content with their lot, whatever it may be, without wishing for what they have not.

Things are not always as they seem.

Let the day unfold. Expect the unexpected. Surrender to miracles. Never forget you are not alone. See the goodness in others. Be present. Speak kindly. Impart love and give thanks.

If we understood the power of our thoughts, we would guard them more closely. If we understood the awesome power of our words we would prefer silence to almost anything negative. In our thoughts and words we create our weakness and our own strengths. Our limitations and joys begin in our hearts. We can always replace negative with positive.

To love a person is to see all of their magic, and to remind them of it when they have forgotten.

Open wide the door to your heart. If you open it wide enough any one can go in and out. on the other hand, if the door is too narrow everyone will bump into it and perhaps not enter. Life is happiest when you are needed by others and can do things for others. A loving heart is the most beautiful thing in the world.

Compiled by David Melhuish.

The Ukulele Band



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WWI TIMELINE - EVENTS OF 1916

November

- 1st Fort Vaux (Verdun) recaptured by French forces.
- 7th Mr Wilson re-elected President of United States.
- 11th **Battle of Ancre Heights (Somme) ends.**
- 12th Shiraz (South Persia) occupied by British forces.
- 13th Beaumont-Hamel stormed by British forces.
- 15th Third affair of Hafiz Kor (North West Frontier of India).
British advance into Sinai begins (ends Dec 21st).
- 18th **Battles of the Somme 1916 end.**
- 21st Craiova (Rumania) taken by German forces.
British hospital ship "Britannic" sunk by mine in the Aegean sea.
Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria dies.
- 22nd Orsova (Hungary) taken by Austro-German forces.
- 23rd Greek Provisional Government at Salonika declare war on Germany and Bulgaria.
British hospital ship "Braemar Castle" damaged & beached in Aegean sea - probably mined.
- 25th The German air forces established as a separate branch of the German army.
- 26th Second German naval raid on Lowestoft.
French battleship "Suffren" sunk in Bay of Biscay.

- 27th German airship raid on East coast of England: Airship 'L,-34' destroyed by aeroplane & 'L,-21' destroyed off Yarmouth.
- 28th First German daylight aeroplane raid on London (single aeroplane).
- 29th Admiral Sir John Beatty succeeds Admiral Sir John Jellicoe as Commander-in-Chief, Grand Fleet.

Father and son.

George Lee and his son Robert served in the same artillery battery and were killed on the same day: 5 September. They are buried side by side in Dartmoor Cemetery.

18 November, 1916.

The day the battle of the Somme ended. Total casualties:

British:	420,000
French:	200,000
German:	450,000

Rosemary Moss



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Ladies Society

I said in my last report that we have a surprise at our October meeting, I was right! We should have had a talk about “Winter Warmth”, but the speaker did not come and Barbara Price came to the rescue as she has done before by reading some of her poetry, interspersed with poems from other perhaps more famous poets.

Her programme was divided into different sections, the first was “Children” and Barbara read us a poem which was based on her son when he was a little boy, she reminded us one of the best known poems about children was “The Pied Piper of Hamlyn”. Apparently this was based on historical facts. In 1284 Hamlyn was overrun by a plague of rats and about this time 130 children disappeared and eventually turned up in Transylvania!

Then she read us a poem called “Boys will be Boys”. Apparently this was inspired by some of the activities her little boy indulged in when he was **very** young and each verse ended with “Boys will be Boys”. Of course he is now grown up and watching a new generation devising similar reactions for the adults to sigh and look away!

Next she had a few poems about “Women” and Shakespeare’s Julius Ceaser had some lovely women as of course was Portia in the “Merchant of Venice!”

Barbara concluded her talk by reminding us of other famous writers and poets. There are many verses and sayings quoted from the Bible which is now available in 11,000 languages.

Barbara said that a poet has to be inspired by some event or situation and she concluded by including Robbie Burns’ greatest love song “My love is like a “Red Red Rose!”

Thanks Barbara, we all look forward to your next presentation!

Our next meeting will be on November 7th when Joan Sullivan will be telling us about the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. Also on November 28th at the “Forge” in Gornal for a Christmas Meal and on December 7th we meet for a “Bring and Share” supper. I hope to be present at all these events and will meet all of you there

Molly Taft

FRUIT LOAF

DENISE WHITTINGHAM

Ingredients: Half pint mug as a measure.

One mug of:- Sugar
Raisins
All Bran
Milk.
SR flour

Method

In a mixing bowl, mix together all the above ingredients, except for the flour. Allow to soak for at least one hour, or overnight if you prefer. Add the mug of flour and mix well. Line a loaf tin and add mixture.

Bake at 160 degrees C, 350 degrees F, Gas Reg 4 , for approx 1 hour.
Serve sliced and buttered.

NB You can reduce the amount of sugar you put in if you wish.
Add a mixture of fruit instead of just raisins.

A true Olympic hero

The 2016 Olympics have been and gone, leaving good and some bad memories. Perhaps the most inspiring athletic event took place after the Olympics, at the World Triathlon in Mexico. Alistair Brownlee sacrificed his chance to win by stopping to help his injured brother Jonny. Later Jonny said "Sometimes in sport we talk about winning being the most important thing in the world. A lot of times it is, but maybe helping a brother out was more important."

Eric Liddle was an athlete who won Olympic Gold without sacrificing his principles. Liddle was chosen to represent Britain in the 100 metre sprint race at the 1924 Olympics. When he learned that the race was to be held on a Sunday, he withdrew from the event. Being from a Scottish Free Church background, he believed that the Sabbath should be kept sacred. Instead, he entered the 400 metres, a race that most thought that he had no chance of winning. He confounded his critics to win the Gold Medal.

The stories of Liddle and his great rival, Harold Abrahams, were retold for a later generation in the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*. A recent book, "For the Glory" by Duncan Hamilton, retells the story of Liddle's Olympic achievement. Unlike the film it also tells the story of his later life. This is less well known but was more remarkable in many ways.

Unlike many modern athletes, Liddle did not seek to profit from his success. Instead he used his fame to preach the Gospel to huge audiences.

Later he stepped out of the limelight altogether, following a call to go to China as a missionary. 1930s China was sliding into a chaos that resembles Syria today. A long and brutal civil war led to a breakdown of law and order. Terrible atrocities were committed and foreign missionaries were at risk. The Japanese used the opportunity to invade, adding a new dimension of horror to the country's suffering.

Liddle did not shy away from danger and worked to help the poorest. The threat of war between Japan and Britain grew, but he stayed on after sending his wife and children to safety in Canada. Soon, he and other foreigners were rounded up. Conditions in the internment camp were appalling. Extreme hardship, like Olympic success, often brings out the best and worst in people. It brought out the best in Liddle, who worked tirelessly, sacrificing himself to help others. He did not survive the war. One of his last acts was to give his running shoes to someone who had no footwear.

A survivor of the camp said “It is rare indeed when a person has the good fortune to meet a saint. He came as close to it as anyone I have ever known.” It is said that saints make uncomfortable company. Liddle was not like that. He did not boast of his piety, or of the sacrifices he was making. It was said that you came away from his prayer meetings as if you had been given a dose of goodness. Like the Master he followed, Liddle rejected the temptations of fame, giving his life for others and dying in obscurity. Most of us have less exciting or challenging lives than Liddle’s, but we can still be inspired by his example of unselfish, modest, goodness.

Greg Ball

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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

6th November - 3rd Before Advent

All Saints'	8am -	No Service
St Andrew's	9.30am -	No Service
All Saints	10.30am -	Morning Prayer - Jan Humphries
St Peter's	10.30am -	The Revd Canon Judith Oliver
All Saints'	6.30pm -	All Souls - Jan Humphries

13th November - Remembrance Sunday

All Saints	8am -	The Revd Canon Peter Kerr
St Andrew's	9.30 am -	Jan Humphries
All Saints'	10.30am -	The Revd Canon Judith Oliver
St Peter's	10.30am -	The Revd Canon Peter Kerr
All Saints	6.30pm -	The Revd Alan Howes

20th November - Christ The King

All Saints	8am -	The Revd Canon Judith Oliver
St Andrew's	9.30am -	The Revd Canon Judith Oliver
All Saints'	10.30am -	The Revd James Makepeace
St Peter's	10.30am -	Morning Prayer - Suzanne Bradley
All Saints'	6.30pm -	Jan Humphries

27th November - Advent Sunday

All Saints	8am -	The Revd Canon Peter Kerr
St Andrew's	9.30am -	Team Service With Bishop Graham
All Saints'	10.30am -	Team Service At St Andrew's
St Peter's	10.30am -	Team Service At St Andrew's
All Saints'	6.30pm -	Compline - Jan Humphries