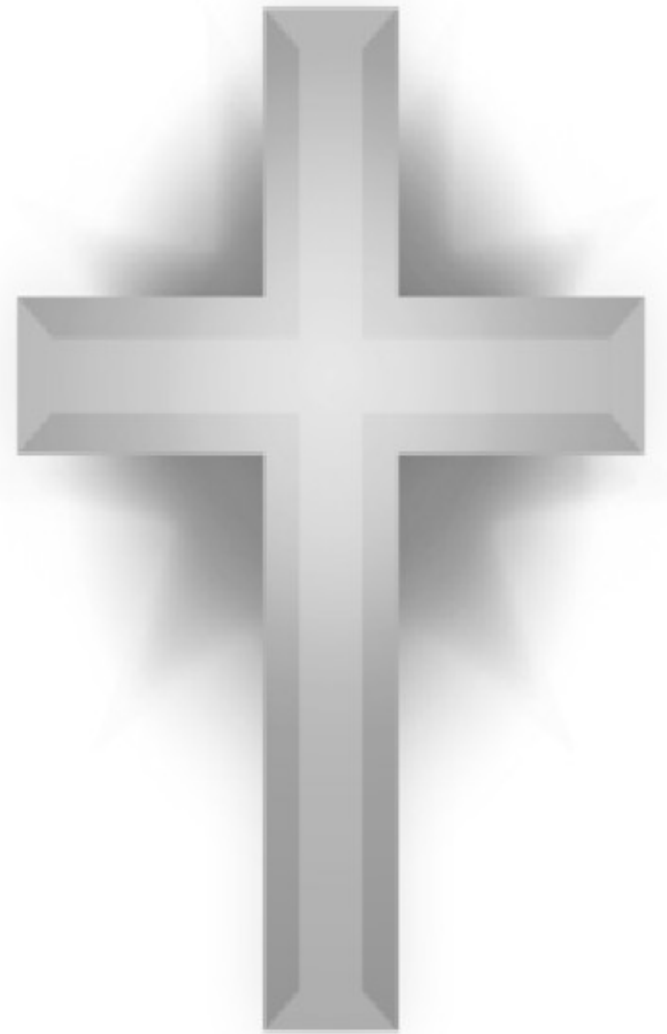


THE BEACON

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ALL SAINTS, SEDGLEY
& ST.ANDREW'S THE STRAITS

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

NOVEMBER 2018

WHO's WHO

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Pastoral Care	Tracey Bate	01902 680727
Worship Leader	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
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PCC Secretary	Chris Williams	01902 672880
Parish Office information baptisms, weddings, funerals and hall bookings.	Gail Griffiths	01902 540289
Parish Wardens	Keith Tomlinson	01902 673366
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Junior Church	Barbara Price	01902 676591
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Men's Society	Roger Berry	01902 881374
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St Andrew's Who's Who

Warden	Canon Jan Humphries	
Treasurer	Gordon Betteley	01902 882777
DCC secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007
Little Angels baby & toddler group	Canon Jan Humphries	
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Diary Dates for November 2018

Ladies Society -

November 5th - Barbara Price - Tell Them of Us - WW! Talk

Mothers Union -

November 6th - 2.30pm - From Nurse to Vicars Wife - Jackie Hewlett
November 20th - 7.15pm - Communion - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

Mens Society -

November 19th - Travelling with my Camera - Gordon Nicklin

St Peters - November 24th - Christmas Fayre

Funerals

3rd October - Gladys Dixon - Gornal Wood
9th October - Joan Hickman - Gornal Wood
25th October - Bernice Giles - All Saints
30th October - Jennifer Macefield - Gornal Wood

High Days & Holy Days for November

- 1 All Saints' Day
- 1 The first martyrs
- 2 All Souls' Day
- 3 Hubert
- 4 Charles Borromeo – saint for those with a lay ministry
- 5 Guy Fawkes' night
- 5 Kea
- 6 William Temple – Archbishop of Canterbury
- 6 Illtud
- 6 The Martyrs of Vietnam d. 1745 – 1862
- 7 Willibrord of York – apostle of Frisia (658 – 739)
- 8 Four Crowned Martyrs
- 10 Leo the Great
- 10 Justus – leading the Church in troubling times
- 11 Martin of Tours
- 13 Frances Xavier Cabrini – New York's first saint
- 17 Gregory of Tours
- *22 NEW Cecelia – patron saint of musicians
- 25 Catherine of Alexandria
- 30 Andrew

THE BEACON

If you are interested in having the magazine delivered to your home on a regular basis please contact:

Keith Tomlinson : tel. 01902 673366.

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Articles for the November magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 23rd 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.

VESTRY HOUR

Vestry hour will take place on the first and third Sunday of the month for all enquires on weddings and baptisms from 12 noon to 1pm

All Saints' Church, Sedgley, Legacy Policy

At All Saints', we welcome all gifts in wills, however large or small and we promise to use your gift to make a difference to our parish. Our DCC Legacy Policy is to use gifts to help fund significant development projects, whether buildings, equipment or staff.

Since needs change over the years, we encourage you to leave a gift in your will for the general purposes of the parish rather than for a restricted purpose. We will discuss possible uses of your gift with your executors when the time comes, bearing in mind your known areas of interest in the church (e.g. music, buildings, children and youth, overseas mission or aid) and the church's priorities at the time.

You can be confident that your gift will be used to make a real difference to our future mission and ministry.

We acknowledge gifts in whatever way the donor and/or his/her executors feel most appropriate to. Equally, we can make sure that gifts remain anonymous if the donor prefers.

If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about the sorts of purposes your gift might fund, and how/if you would like your gift to be acknowledged, please contact Rev Guy Hewlett our Team Rector on 01902 295165 or email rectorgornalandsedgley@allsaintssedgley.co.uk or Rev Catherine Mitchell our Team Vicar on 01902 677897 or email vicar@gornalandsedgley@allsaintssedgley.co.uk.

If you would like to make a gift to our church in memoriam, please come and discuss this with us too. It can be a wonderful and appropriate way to remember a loved one.

Letter from Archdeacon of Dudley - Nikki Groarke

In recent years I have often visited Top Church, Dudley, as plans have come together to make it a Resourcing Church. Meetings have taken place in a back room, as the main worship area is huge and hard to heat. When I have been involved in Sunday services, the tiny congregation have been dwarfed by the cavernous building which they have struggled so faithfully to maintain.

It was a delightful experience therefore to walk into the church one recent Sunday to be greeted with well over a hundred people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and church traditions gathered to hear the recently appointed Resourcing Church Leader, the Revd James Treasure, outline the church's unfolding vision. There was a real buzz!

Home-made cakes and good coffee were served, activities were provided for children and young people, and using an informative PowerPoint presentation, James shared the Top Church story, past, present and future, and explained about the changes planned to enable the church to be fit for purpose for the next 200 years.

Further discussion then took place over plenty of delicious healthy, vegetarian food, served in compostable trays with wooden forks. These details underlined the message James and the team he is forming want to communicate.

I came away inspired and encouraged, hopeful about what will grow in and around Top Church in the coming years, but also challenged about attention to detail. Is the message of welcome, inclusion, care for the environment and whole-life discipleship we preach in our churches also fleshed out in our actions? As Kingdom People do we model lives of integrity? What is communicated to newcomers potentially exploring faith in our churches if we serve unfairly traded coffee in plastic cups and ask for a contribution?

We don't have to be a resourcing church to be welcoming and attractive and holistic in our approach. We could all perhaps identify one small detail in our building or welcome, which if given a few moments' thought and attention, could change the experience next week for those who cross the threshold. What might it be in your place of worship?

Psalm 139 – God knows you better than you know yourself

Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space in 1961, reportedly said 'I looked and looked but I didn't see God.' Psalm 139 sees things from a very different perspective, in which God can be found everywhere in the universe. God is all Knowing: 'You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.' (v1). God knows my thoughts, habits, moods, words and choices, including the things done in secret. He knows me better than I know myself, and yet still loves me, despite my faults and failings! 'Such knowledge is too wonderful for me.' (6).

God is all present: 'Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?' (v7). In whatever circumstances we face, God is present with us, especially in the dark and difficult times. If we know the path to God, we can find it in the dark!

God is all powerful: 'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.' (v13,14). Both the vastness of the universe and the wonder of the growing embryo in the womb speak of the power of the creator God. We can trust Him because He knows our beginning and end and everything in-between: 'all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.' (16).

How do we respond to what this psalm says? Are we prepared to constantly expose our inner life to God and consistently yield our whole life to Him? 'Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.' (v23/4).

I get to play on a bike and do something good!

In September the Ladies Society members met after the summer break for a short business meeting. This was, as ever, managed efficiently by Geraldine. At the meeting Anne Wakefield announced her decision to retire from the role of “reporter” for the Ladies Society. I am sure that we would all wish to thank her for writing so well over recent years. We then enjoyed a social evening of cheese and wine and good conversation. It was great to see so many members there and to catch up on events since we last met.

Our October meeting welcomed Chris from Midland Freewheelers Blood Bikes, our charity of the year. Chris arrived on his motorbike and in his uniform emblazoned with “BLOOD” on the back. He quickly explained that, although the service is mostly associated with the transport of blood to hospitals, the service does much more than that. Midland Freewheelers is a voluntary service which supports the NHS but it receives no funding at all. It provides what Chris described as a “posh delivery service” and mainly carries blood, breast milk and chemotherapy drugs to patients who need them. However, sometimes his deliveries are rather more unusual. The day we met, for example, he had transported a batch of “foetal poo” to a patient who, because of the drugs she had been taking, had lost all of the bacteria in her body and needed a transplant to increase the levels of bacteria. Chris explained that this delivery had been a “relay delivery”: he had taken the package to Oxford Services and he had passed it on to another driver who carried it to Woolwich Hospital.

Chris was motivated to get involved in delivering blood when the son of his friend was taken seriously ill in Derby. Tests were carried out and the blood had to be transported to Birmingham. Because of the work of the blood bikers in Derby, the results were ready within 90 minutes and the boy’s life was saved as he was then given the necessary drugs as identified by the tests. Had the blood bikers not been available, the blood would have been taken to Birmingham by taxi at a slower pace and higher cost.

Chris explained that the bike riders often delivered breast milk to premature babies in hospital as the babies cannot drink formula milk. His team is involved in delivering empty cartons to donors and then collecting them and delivering them to the milk bank. He expressed amazement at the huge quantities of milk involved! Sometimes he takes the milk as far as Ross-on-Wye and a relay rider will then take the package on to a Welsh hospital.

He then told us that the chemotherapy mixing facility is based in Longbidge and that, once mixed, the drugs have a shelf life of 45 minutes. The journey to the hospital takes 22 minutes so there is no room for error or delay, especially as they are not allowed to “blue light”. Chris recalled the day when he mounted the pavement in order to get to the hospital on time and also the day when he was waved through a funeral cortege by the funeral director in order to get to his destination on time.

Chris then went on to tell us that the blood bikers also take refills to the helicopters at Cosford so that they are ready for any emergency. The service runs 24/7 and involves a hospital ringing the 0300 number to contact a call handler who then allocates a driver to the task. The blood bikers nationally carried out 75,000 jobs last year and saved the NHS £1.8m. There are 33 other regional groups in the country so that every part of the country can access their services via the relay system. For every £2 spent on this service the NHS saves £5.

The Midland Freewheelers has 100 members. The bikes are provided by the charity and they are fuelled and maintained by donations. The bikers buy their own uniform. Three of the bikes are named after people who have left money to the charity. The charity also owns two four wheel-drive cars so that the service can continue in very bad weather. These cars were in action last winter when the charity helped to transport doctors and nurses to work in the snow.

In response to questions Chris explained that there are a few women drivers and co-ordinators but more would be welcome. The charity provides a lot of training for anyone interested.

The ladies present at the talk found the subject fascinating and we all applauded the work that Chris and his colleagues did with such dedication and enthusiasm. A collection was taken and Geraldine was able to donate £250 to the Midland Freewheelers from the Ladies Society.

Next month we will be meeting to listen to a talk by Barbara Price called “Tell them of us”. I look forward to seeing you all then.

Karen Evans

New local Christian radio show – Heart & Soul

By Sam Setchell

Have you listened to a new local Christian radio show?

An exciting new Christian radio show, ‘Heart & Soul’, has started on www.southbirminghamradio.uk each Wednesday evening from 6-8pm. The first hour usually features an interview between Roger Jones and a special guest interspersed with Christian music. Interviewees so far have included Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, singer Jonathan Viera, songwriters Sue Rinaldi and Dave Fellingham and Canon Andrew White the ‘Vicar of Baghdad’.

The second hour is live in the studio with the Heart & Soul team – the Revd Simon Gudger, Roger Jones and Debra Mayo. The team play music and chat with local guests on a variety of topics.

Heart & Soul are always looking for people to interview, so if your church is doing anything fresh and exciting, or if you have a story to tell, get in touch on office@cmm.org.uk.

The radio show is currently online only, but plans are in the pipeline to extend onto DAB. This is such an exciting opportunity to encourage churches in the midlands and beyond, and also to reach non-Christians. Please be praying for the Heart & Soul team, and even better, tune in and listen each week

Vicars Ponderings November 2018



Let's talk about Jesus!!

I'm sure for most of us we would run for cover if some random person were to start a conversation like this wouldn't we?! I certainly would!

It is one way of getting your own seat on the bus... but is this the best way to talk to people about your faith?

There are two readings in the Bible that I think that can help us gain confidence in talking about Jesus. The first is the last verse in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 28 verse 18 And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' After Jesus rose from the dead and just before he ascended into heaven, Jesus gathered his disciples together and issues them with his commission, he gives them the authority that he has been given to go and make disciples, just as he had been doing.

Go, although it's a small word, it is a powerful word, it has action, it has movement. When you were at school competing in the running races, the starter would say, ready, steady, GO!... this is the disciples ready, steady go moment. Jesus says, don't stay here, go!.... you need to move and take action, to tell people about me, you can't stay in your homes, or your church buildings you have to get out there into the world!! It's gonna be scary, but you will not be alone, I'm gonna be with you, helping you, guiding you, sustaining you, only you can do this now!

I wonder how they felt?... I imagine their emotions were all over the place, they'd seen their friend and teacher killed and then buried, then three days later he rises from the dead!..... after spending time with them, he then ascends, and it's up to them!..... GO, and that's what they did!!.... Commissioned and energised by this last final encounter with Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the ages, from those early disciples, people have been telling people about Jesus, and today, **WE**, that's all of us in the churches of the Parish of Gornal and Sedgley, as disciples are also commissioned to GO tell people about Jesus. So we have the commission from Jesus, but how do we do it?

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, like Paul, wrote letters to the Christians in the early church, to help them in their understanding of the faith and to encourage them. In his first letter he says... 15b Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; 1 Peter 3:15b

Being ready to talk about our faith to those that we meet, our friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues, people we meet in the supermarket is part of our calling and vocation as disciples of Jesus. As the early disciples spread the word, so we, the disciples in this age need to spread the word. It's scary though isn't it, telling people about Jesus, and our faith? There are many ways in which we can gain confidence and authority in our own faith, so that we too can tell others about Jesus. A good first step is through our prayer life and in studying of the scriptures; Being deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures is one of the 8 characteristics of the Signs of the Kingdom initiative we are adopting in our parish.

This is a great way to start, but many of you may be saying well, well that sounds great, but I really need help in that. One of the initiatives we are looking to provide is to offer, in the new year, an Alpha Course, this is a great way for everyone, whether they are committed Christians, new

Christians and those seeking, to really get to grips with some of the questions that we may have about the Christian faith, but maybe we're unable to ask; and also to give us confidence and a new perspective on our own faith understanding.

Watch out for the dates and times in upcoming issues of the magazine and pew sheets.

Blessings **Catherine**

Always be prepared to give an answer
to everyone who asks you to give the
reason for the hope that you have.

1 peter 3:15

Remembrance silhouettes

This year Remembrance Sunday marks 100 years since the end of WWI. In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day, as a reminder of those who did not return, 10 silhouettes will be placed in the pews. Before they went to the war your preferred seat may have been theirs. They will also have a biography of one of the local soldiers fixed to the silhouette to remind us of their sacrifice.

The Remembrance Sunday service this year will be on the actual day 11/11 and during the service the WWI book of remembrance that Barbara Price has researched and created will be dedicated at that service.

Gornal and Sedgley Vision Day Oct 2018

On 14th October nearly 30 church members, from across the parish, gathered to look at where current statistics of the Church of England, the Diocese of Worcester, and where we are as a parish, as we currently see it, for our own ministry and mission. The current statics for the church attendance across the country is quite sobering, where all bar one or two diocese are experiencing decline in adult and young people attendances. This decline is being experienced in our own diocese, where we being 4th from the bottom of 43 diocese, and decline in church attendance is also being seen in our own parish, for various reasons, which we of course recognise, hence the need to review how and why we do things.

As part of trying to address this decline we, as a parish, are adopting the Signs of the Kingdom initiative from the Diocese, which highlights the 8 characteristics of flourishing and growing churches. During the afternoon session, we reviewed the survey that has been in church during September to highlight potential priorities for our parish as we move forward. More about these priorities and how we are enabled to move forward will be communicated in the coming months.

There is an anonymous quote which says “if you continue to do what you’ve always done, you’ll continue to get what you always got!”.

There is no better time than the present for us to review what we do in our own lives of faith and in the life, mission and ministry of the church, to enable the flourishing of our churches, and to enable more people to experience the transforming life of Jesus Christ in their own lives.

This will be a journey for all of us and I pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us in all that we do.

Blessings **Catherine**

MOTHERS' UNION

At our afternoon meeting in October Revd. Guy Hewlett gave an account of his early ministry, firstly at Sudbury, then at Harrow & Wealdstone. From his vicarage he could see Harrow Public School. His parish was very cosmopolitan. Guy built the congregation up from just over thirty to over one hundred people, with youth Bible studies and other activities, for all ages. One incident that occurred while he was there was when a lady brought three doves into the church for a wedding. She released the doves after the service and left the church, with Guy calling out to her, "What about the doves?" She replied, "They will fly away". Well, two of the doves did fly away, but one stayed in the church. The RSPB were not interested and the RSPCA asked Guy if he had an airgun! Sunday came and the dove was still in the gallery. Guy wondered what would happen during the service and when he mentioned the Holy Spirit, the dove flew down over the congregation! It landed on the projector screen and stayed there until the end of the service. When the congregation went out, the bird went out too. Amazing!

The Mothers' Union President for the Canterbury Province, Nikki Sweatman, was visiting the Diocese at the beginning of October. Amongst the projects she visited was the Women's Refuge. Karen Turnock from CHADD gave a presentation, which showed the support given by Kingswinford Deanery Mothers' Union, and gave her a tour of the Refuge. Nikki was very impressed with the Refuge and the work done by the members in the Deanery.

Members attended the Diocesan Festival at Worcester Cathedral, the theme of which was 'Following in Mary Sumner's Footsteps'. This service marked the end of Liz Green's term of office as our Diocesan President and was attended by the Mayor of Worcester and Nikki Sweatman. Bishop John led the service and in his address he said, 'You don't have to look too far to see the great work of the Mothers' Union. It's inspirational. There are thousands of women following in the footsteps of founder Mary Sumner. However, we can only be good disciples of Jesus and

do good works for God, if we are first good followers. Jesus calls us to receive God's love in the way a child receives the love of a parent, and then go out and share that love – reaching out to others as Mary Sumner did.' The singing was led by the girl choristers of the Cathedral and branch banners were paraded, led by Liz Green with the Diocesan Banner. The service was followed by refreshments and a special cake to thank Liz for her time as Diocesan President.

A group of us met in the Church Hall for a MULO A session, led by Liz Green and Judith Grubb, our President-Elect. MULO A - Mothers' Union Listening Observing and Acting – is an initiative aimed at creating a vision for the future that is grounded in members' views and experiences. There are a series of regional meetings looking at the following questions :

Who are we as Mothers' Union?

Whose lives could/should we be touching?

What difference are and could/should we be making in people's lives?

How do we most effectively make that difference?

This was a very worthwhile exercise – thank you to all who supported it.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of May Smith, a dedicated and long-serving member of our branch. Our thoughts and prayers are with May's family at this time.

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
(sure you can think of many more)

crayons, felt pens, pencils, rubbers, etc
books
cars, children's DVD's
jigsaws
card games
gloves, socks

hair slides, small colouring
scrunchies
combs, brushes
make-up brushes
emery boards,
hand cream

Days of parish priests as 'kings' are over, says new Dean

Modern clergy in the Church of England can no longer be "king" in their parish, the new Dean of Salisbury, the Very Rev Nicholas Papadopoulos, has said.

'Once upon a time the vicar was a 'king' – I say king advisedly because it would in those days have been a he – he was the king in his patch. Whatever anyone else in the surrounding patches was doing was of no consequence really. The vicar was supreme.

'These days, the vicar will probably be overseeing, in a rural diocese, six or seven of those patches, and he or she will be working with a whole range of different colleagues, retired priests, part-time priests, lay ministers, lay officers of the church.'

After all, Church of England figures reveal that between 1960 and 2011 the proportion of parishes which were in "multi-parish benefices" rose from 17 per cent to 71 per cent.

So what the vicar needs is 'a capacity to supervise those people and to get the very best out of them, and to nurture and oversee a cohesive team. That is quite a shift in culture,' he said.

'Clergy need to be people who above all else, can be open with God, open with one another, not defensive, but willing to collaborate in the building of the kingdom.'

Mr Papadopoulos worked with newly ordained priests for five years in his previous role as canon treasurer of Canterbury Cathedral. The new Dean was speaking to the Sunday Telegraph (16.09.18)

Modernise the church – or close down

Parish church buildings must modernise or risk being closed, according to a Church of England judge.

Chancellor June Rodgers was warning traditionalists and heritage groups that church buildings must stay relevant to the needs of their communities.

In a ruling published earlier this month, she said: “If people disagree with sensible and necessary re-ordering of an existing church building to keep it in use, then they should think what redundant churches have been turned into: a supermarket, climbing walls, dance studios, or even demolition.”

Thus, she has recently ruled that a Grade II listed Mariners’ Church in Gloucester could install a kitchen, new lighting system, sound system and monitors, and remove pews, as part of an overhaul to help it accommodate a growing congregation. ‘The church needs people (and money) to survive unless it is to become an empty un-used shell.’

Her comments came as the bishop in charge of cathedrals recently warned that parish churches were becoming “mausoleums” which were no longer at the centre of communities.

Dr John Inge, the Bishop of Worcester, told the national cathedrals conference in Manchester: ‘Far too many churches remain locked, despite the advice of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company that they should remain open, and stand like mausoleums except when they open for worship, and have become increasingly marginal to the life of the communities they exist to serve.

‘Traditionally, churches have been at the heart of the communities in which they stand, in both a human and geographical sense. It is well known that in the medieval period much of what we would now term secular activity would have taken place within churches and cathedrals.

‘Over the years, particularly during Victorian periods, a piety crept in which tended to exclude everything but public worship from them, all other activities being transferred to other places, halls and community centres.

Traidcraft

There is some very disappointing news about our Traidcraft suppliers.

Despite enormous efforts the wholesale business has been making a loss. Thus, the board of Directors has decided to close these loss-making operations.

There is consultation but it seems likely that wholesale trading will cease as from 31st December 2018.

The Fair Trade team at All Saints would ask that you support us as much as you can over the autumn.

Christmas cards will be on sale from October 7th. Catalogues will be available to place orders. We will have a stall at the Christmas Fair, and the usual one on the first Sunday of each month.

The good news is that we will still be able to purchase goods from the Wolverhampton Fair Trade shop which is well established and has other suppliers. However, we suspect that it will mean the loss of some of your favourite purchases.

Thank you very much to everyone who has supported our venture to help those in need in other parts of the world, to have a better life, education and standard of living. Let us hope that our work can go on.

Cicely Thomas

Thank you from Margaret Castle

Margaret would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for the kind wishes, cards and presents she received on her 90th birthday.

It has been 61 years since she started worshipping at All Saints' and she spent a lovely day celebrating with a family meal in a local restaurant.

Love, loss, and remembering

Autumn has traditionally been a time when Christians explore the big questions about life and death. Watching the leaves fall and the nights draw in is an opportunity for all ages to think about love and loss and remember in special ways.

Children ask questions about death for all kinds of reasons. It may come from seeing a local war memorial, or closer to home with the death of a pet. Or maybe your child has lost a great-grandparent, grandparent, a family friend, a teacher, a neighbour, an aunt or uncle.

For some children, the impact of loss has huge consequences, especially if it's the death of a parent or a sibling. However and whenever those questions come, there are good ways to remember those we see no longer with family at home:

Light a candle on important days and say a prayer. "Loving God, thank you for _____ and help us to remember them well." This is a simple prayer to say together.

Gather some items that remind you of that person – letters they wrote, photos of them, items of clothing – and keep them in a nice box. Children can add things to the box.

Taking part in charities connected to the person who died; Race for Life is a family-friendly event that can honour people who died from cancer, for example.

Children can help taking care of a gravesite – pulling weeds, choosing flowers or other items to bring at special times, washing a memorial stone, etc.

The church also has ways of remembering those we love who have died.

This happens at the start of November, at All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. A week later, at Remembrance Sunday, we remember those who died in wars, and pray for peace.

At All Saints' Day (November 1st), we remember those Christians who have died, who we don't know personally. A "saint" is someone whose life shows us how to follow Jesus. There are all kinds of saints – teachers, artists, scientists, social reformers, troublemakers, writers, and many more.

Is there a saint who shares your child's name? Their birthday? Think of well-known saints, like St George for example, and discover together who they were and what they did. On All Souls' Day (November 2nd), the church remembers all those we know who have died.

Some churches have a special service where they invite people to add any names they would like read out to a list – we can hear the names that mean something to us and light a candle to remember them. Some may have a prayer wall where you can add names. Some may have special services of remembering. Find out what your local church is doing, and how you and your child can remember along with the whole church family.

If your child is struggling with a bereavement, there are resources available:-

Child Bereavement UK, (<https://childbereavementuk.org/forfamilies/support/>) Grief Encounter (<https://www.griefencounter.org.uk>) and Winston's Wish (<https://www.winstonswish.org.uk>), are all charities which offer support to bereaved children.

SANDS (<https://www.sands.org.uk>) is for anyone coping with the death of a baby, including siblings.

At A Loss (<http://www.ataloss.org/find-support/search>) can help you find the right services for bereavement in your area.

Your child's GP may also be able to offer help and support.

This article was provided by Church of England Christenings

Spider time of day

Are you afraid of the big spiders that come into your house each autumn? Then avoid wandering around your house at about 7.35pm each evening.

It seems that that is the peak time for creepy crawlies to scuttle around your house, looking for a mate. An entomologist at the University of Gloucestershire adds: 'We think that while people are more likely to be sat down and able to view spiders at 7.30pm, the pattern of sightings in rooms other than living rooms suggests that it is not just people driving the pattern – so we think it probably does reflect some spider ecology too.'

No one is sure why spiders feel frisky at 7.30pm, but the good news is that the vast majority of UK spiders are harmless to people, and excellent pest controllers. 'So we should really celebrate the spider season.' As long as the spider is NOT running around on the couch with you.

Last chance?

The minister was very ill. He was told by his doctor not to have too many visitors. However, when his agnostic friend called, the unbeliever was ushered into the minister's bedside. 'I do appreciate,' said the agnostic, 'you seeing me when so many in your church have not been able to see you.'

'Well, it's like this,' said the minister. 'I feel confident that I shall see them all again in heaven, but I was worried that this might be my last chance to

Top job

Our local vicar thinks very highly of my father. He's given him a job so important that he has 500 people under him. My father is cutting the grass in the churchyard.

Christmas Fair – Saturday 1st December

**10.00am to 1.00pm
at All Saints' Church Hall**



Come and enjoy a **bacon buttie** with friend

Try your luck on the **Bottle Stall** and **Tombola**

Guess the Weight of the Cake

Children's '**Have a Go**' **Craft table**

Have a chance to win the **Christmas Hamper**

Take home a delicious bake from the **cake stall**

Christmas stall – Fair Trade stall – Grand Raffle

Entertainment from '**Singing Angels**'

&

**The Christmas Tree Festival (in church)
'Hobbies & Pastimes'**

Any member of the congregation who has an idea for a stall at the Fair and would be happy to run it please let Tony Hart,

Liz Williams or Kath Apperley know.

All Saints Church Hall – Restoration

JH Kemp (Diocesan Reader) notes in his report in the October 1952 Parish Magazine:

“With the improved facilities of a new hall for parochial purposes, the scheme should appeal to all the people of Sedgley as a splendid opportunity for combining to build a Parish hall which will be, for generations to come, a reminder of what the Church accomplished in the Coronation Year”

All Saints Church Hall was subsequently opened on the 4th April 1956.

The build cost was £13,000 (£390,00 at current values).

Funded as follows:

Donations from parishioners - £4,000 (£120,000)

Sale of Land - £6,500

Development Fund - £ 500

Secured Loans - £2,000

The Parish Magazine also sets out early donations/ promises (in excess of 5/-) of £643, received at that time as set out in the following pages.

We are setting out an appeal to support a bid to ASDA for much needed funding to secure the building for the future as set out on the next page.

Guy, our Rector, says *“this is an opportunity we cannot miss to secure the Hall for further generations”*.

If you would like to make a donation, preferably Gift Aided, please see Churchwardens John or Keith. Donations will be gratefully received by cash/cheque/BACS/credit/debit card or to the Parish Office.

All Saints Church Hall Grant Application

You may have read that an application to ASDA for funding work to the Church Hall was turned down. This was a great disappointment.

However, at a recent meeting the local store advised that they have made representations to the ASDA Foundation for the bid to be reinstated.

Accordingly, ASDA have requested that we re-submit the bid focusing only on improvements to the fabric, principally:

- To the roof (the flat roof is leaking and work is required on the pitched roof).

- Replace the metal framed windows.

- Replace the kitchen units and equipment.

- Provide a food servery in the Community Room

These are estimated to cost circa £40,000.

No major work has been done to the Church hall since it was built in 1953 and when the extension was added in 1982.

In 1952 parishioners were requested to subscribe £4,000 to the Development Fund for the Hall - overleaf is an extract from a list of those who subscribed more than 5/- (£7.50 today).

I quote from the November 1952 Magazine – *It is therefore, earnestly hoped that all Parishioners....will support the scheme as generously as possible*” The hall was opened in 1956.

In making the bid to ASDA a pre-requisite is that we raise funds ourselves towards the cost of the work.

Accordingly, a donation towards the cost of works to the hall is sought. Money from fund raising events will also be assigned,

Can we follow the generosity of our forebears to secure the Grant and prepare the hall for the next 60years? Where appropriate donations will be gift aided so 25% is received back from HMRC.

SEDGLEY PARISH MAGAZINE.

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D. Cole		5	0
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Mr. Brooks, Sen.		12	0
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Eric Taft	3	0	0*
R. B. Clarke	1	5	0*
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To Philip – born July 12th 1975

I watched you from behind today,
Walking down the fairway, head held high,
brown hair, glinting blond in summer sun.
And thought how elegant you'd look in khaki uniform.

I saw you standing, waiting to climb upon a train,
your trousers pressed, your brasses gleaming bright,
your boots shining like a mirror.
With all your mates around you,
looking keen and fearless in their blissful ignorance.
And I'd have watched you as you drew away,
proud to be a soldier's dad.

But I would not have been there
when shrapnel left you bleeding in the mud.
And no help either from your mates,
for they were wounded too – or dead.
And neither could I comfort you in death
leaving your youthful limbs, so hard achieved,
to rot as compost in a Flanders field.

Thank God you were not born in 1893.

And then I see you dressed in Air Force blue.
The world's most natural 'Brylcream boy', that's you,
swigging pints of bitter in the village pub.
But I would not be there when light flak hit your plane
and set the wing on fire.

I would not share your awful feeling as you started spinning down,
in the long eternity you took to fall to earth
for welcome death to end your agony.

Thank God you were not born in 1923.

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Jesus is King

Revelation 19:16

Whether we believe it, or not,
Whether we feel it, or not,
Whether we care, or not,

Whether we want it to be so, or not,
Whether we acknowledge it, or not,

The fact is,

The truth is,

The reality is that

Jesus is King!

King of Kings

And Lord of Lords.

And one day, He's coming back!

by Daphne Kitching

Hymn Books

Some months ago, we as a church were blessed by a legacy from the family of the late Dorothy Inett. The DCC agreed that to enable a wider experience of Sunday worship we would acquire a set of Mission Praise hymn books. The agreement at the DCC was to use the Mission Praise books at our primarily 10.30am services. Our Common Praise hymn books will still be used at our 6.30pm Evensong and new BCP Communion, starting on 20/10/2018. We know that these hymn books have been greatly loved by our church members over the years and they have served and blessed our community in many ways.

The Revd. Catherine Mitchell.

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The Rectory St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I am truly furious. I know that God has given clergy church councils, so they can have a better understanding of hell, but last night's meeting really was too much. The traps are always sprung under "any other business". Several hundred thousand pounds can be committed to repairing the tower without the slightest murmur, but if someone should suggest mending the tea urn under AOB, the meeting will close with blood on the carpets.

So it was yesterday evening. We had negotiated the tricky subject of not mentioning the verger when it was recorded that the cupboard containing the Communion wine will be kept locked in future. We had ever-so-gently sat on Mr Onions when he questioned whether it was biblical to hold raffles at our social evenings. We even smiled with equanimity when Lady Faversham grumbled about the damp Communion wafers. But when our treasurer, after a long preamble about soaring house prices in the village, suggested that the 12 bedroomed Queen Anne Rectory be sold and I be housed in one of the "more convenient" potting sheds being built on the green, I did not expect near universal agreement from council members.

That the new Rectory would have all the aesthetic charm of a suburban bus shelter seemed to be irrelevant; that I would have to learn to have all my meals in one dining room, rather than rotate round the present three seemed to be of no concern; that my dog would lose his own private suite passed them by entirely. This may be a case for calling in the Canine Protection Society.

The thought that I would have to get used to a warm, dry house with 21st century plumbing does not bear contemplation. It is only the cold, damp accommodation with Victorian water closets that keeps parishioners and visiting clergy at bay.

It was a close struggle; here was an opportunity for council members to settle a few old scores. You could sense the gleam in Colonel Mitchell's eyes as he recalled losing the hiding place for his whisky when we removed his box pew 30 years ago; he has been obliged to listen to the sermon ever since. And as for Miss Throckmore, who was allocated to decorate the porch rather than the great east window for last year's Harvest, she leapt at the opportunity of condemning me to life in a cardboard box. You could also sense a certain satisfaction when parishioners realised they would then be able to keep an eye on my movements, since there would no longer be several acres of ground and privet hedges to maintain my privacy.

Fortunately, I negotiated some time when I mentioned that possible legal obstacles must be cleared first. In the meantime, I shall be writing to apply for grants to build a substantial moat round my present Rectory – provided it has a working drawbridge.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

‘Ask Your Pharmacist’ Week 2018 5th– 12th November

When did you last talk to your local pharmacist? If it has been some time, now may be the month to pop in and share with them any health concerns that you have.

‘Ask Your Pharmacist’ week is an awareness week aimed at reminding communities of the wide range of services that pharmacists can offer. This year the focus will be on ensuring patient safety.

FUTILITY

Wilfred Owen, the best known of the Great War's poets wrote, concluding his poem 'Futility', wrote.

*'Oh, what made fatuous sunbeams toil
to break Earth's sleep at all ?'*

Was there a reason earth was formed ?
why did the clay grow tall ?
And what made fatuous sunbeams toil
to break earth's sleep at all ?
Why did the radiant Sun break through
and wake the lifeless earth,
warming the dead primeval soup
and giving life it's birth ?

Was it a pointless accident,
that earth gave life to man ?
Or, could our long held faith be true,
that this was God's great plan ?
Our faith is frail, our doubts prevail
But this sad truth holds through,
If God and Christ do not exist
Futility is true.

But we believe that Christ is God
born in cattle stall.
Who lived and died, and rose again.
to conquer death for all.
So we can live our earthly lives
with Jesus in our heart and head.
knowing, because He died and rose,
futility is dead.

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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2018

4th November

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
6.30pm - All Souls - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
- St Andrews - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Peters - 10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

11th November - Remembrance Sunday

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
6.30pm - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Andrews - 9.30am - The Revd James Makepeace
- St Peters - 10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

18th November

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
10.30am - Hon Canon Judith Oliver
6.30pm - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Andrews - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Peters - 10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett

25th November

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
6.30pm - BCP - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
- St Andrews - 9.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
- St Peters - 10.30am - Worship for All - Suzanne Bradley