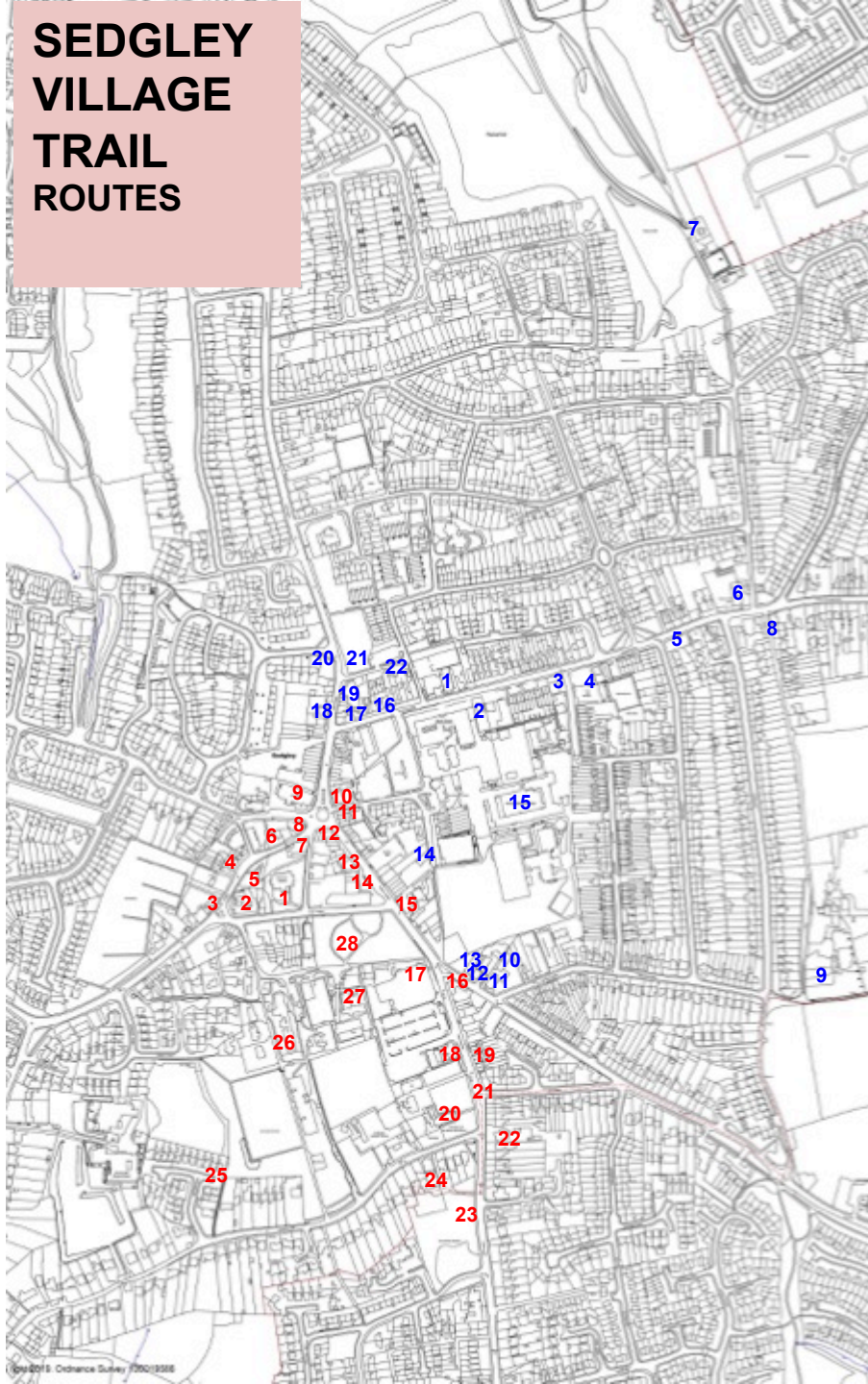


**RED TRAIL -
South and West of
Bull Ring**

RED TRAIL

- 1: All Saints' Church
- 2: The Police Station, a former Workhouse
- 3: Café Cappella
- 4: The Olde Curiosity Shoppe
- 5: Gospel End Street – green
- 6: The Swan Inn
- 7: The Court House
- 8: The Bull Ring
- 9: The Clifton
- 10: The Red Lion
- 11: Beacon Crafts/formerly The Butlers
- 12: Former Eggintons
- 13: White Hors
- 14: Dudley Street Precinct
- 15: Dormston House
- 16: The Grand Junction
- 17: Asda formerly Watty Turner's
- 18: The former Sedgley UDC Council House
- 19: High Holborn Terraced Houses (listed buildings)
- 20: St Chad's Catholic Church
- 21: Chit's Grave Piece/Gate Street
- 22: Victorian Town Houses
- 23: Coronation Gardens
- 24: The Limes
- 25: Tenscore stile post
- 26: Sedgley Library and Ladies Walk Centre
- 27: Sedgley Community Centre
- 28: Vicar Street Gardens

SEDGLEY VILLAGE TRAIL ROUTES



BLUE TRAIL

- 1: St Andrews United Reformed and Methodist Church
- 2: Old and New Manse
- 3: School Street
- 4: Former Chapel/ Sedgley Working Men's Club
- 5: White Lion
- 6: Beacon Hotel and Brewery
- 7: The Beacon - Beacon Tower
- 8: Whites Drive
- 9: Site of Turl's Hill House/'The Belgians'
- 10: Former Primitive Methodist Church Hall
- 11: Former Primitive Methodist Church
- 12: Former Hortons DIY
- 13: Nail Warehouse
- 14: Rear of Dormston House/ Dormston Stable Block
- 15: Dormston School
- 16: Queen Victoria School/ Bilston Street – Turnpike
- 17: Steam Flour Mill
- 18: Wesleyan Methodists/Tasty Plaice/Miss Brassington's Private School
- 19: Georgian Buildings
- 20: Townsend Avenue – Townsend House
- 21: The Bypass that never was
- 22: Brick Street: Cottage Blinds

1: All Saints' Church



The present All Saints' Church building dates from 1829. It replaced an earlier building that dated from the 14th century and was built at the sole expense of the Earl of Dudley.

Up until the 1990s, the church Sunday School used to commemorate the opening of the new church in July each year with a parade around the village. Inside there are several notable monuments commemorating local families and industrialists.

The church also contains memorials listing the people from the village who died in two world wars. Six leather-bound volumes in a glass cabinet contain details of all the servicemen from Gornal and Sedgley who died in World War One.

Outside in the churchyard there is a memorial to Eliza Tinsley and her family, who were nailmakers; by 1870 they employed 4000 outworkers in Cradley Heath and the firm had offices in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The churchyard is largely filled with burials that took place before 1808.

From the parapet of the church tower, it is possible to see westwards as far as Titterstone Clee, Brown Clee and The Wrekin in Shropshire; northwards to Wolverhampton; eastwards towards Tipton and Bilston; and southwards to Dudley.

2 The Police Station, a former Workhouse



Sedgley Police Station was originally the parish workhouse, built in 1734 on land donated by William Ward, Earl of Dudley. The census of 1851 contains details of nearly 100 individuals – ranging from destitute families with children, to those then classed as ‘idiots’. In 1859 the workhouse was closed and the inmates removed to the Union Workhouse in Shavers End, Dudley.

Sedgley was originally ‘policed’ by parish constables. These were usually elected annually at the Court Leet, which met in Sedgley’s historic Court House (subsequently the Courthouse Inn), and later at the Church Vestry meetings. In 1842, Sedgley was included in the Mining District of the newly formed Staffordshire Constabulary (later Staffordshire County Police), with its district headquarters at West Bromwich. The district was split into divisions, each with a superintendent. These included Bilston, of which Sedgley was a sub-division.

¶The first professional police officers appointed for Sedgley were housed in Bilston Street. A report was made on the number and distribution of Sedgley’s population (then estimated at 19,401) outlining the need for a proper police station, with its own police court.

These were built involving major work, but the old building of 1734 was largely incorporated into the design.

¶The station opened in 1864 and the police court in 1865.

The adjoining house was added later for the inspector and his family to live in, in the early years of the 20th century. It occupies part of what was the east wing of the old workhouse, and has direct access from inside the station.

¶Sedgley remained a sub-division of Bilston right up until 1966, when it amalgamated with Dudley on the formation of West Midlands Constabulary.

3: Café Cappella



The premises today occupy a similar footprint to that recorded in the 1844 Tithe Survey. A nailer named James Wickstead lived there in the first three censuses 1840s-1860s; John Tomes, a hosier and pawnbroker lived there from 1865 until 1891; in 1901 William Smith, a shoemaker, shared the premises with Mary Catherine Woodward, who was living there too and she was described as a pawnbroker in 1900. She continued until at least 1940.

The premises are recalled as Crompton's Antique/Junk Shop in the early 1960s; in the 1980s it was owned by Wilf Barker, of Able Hardware. He became notorious for continuing to sell goods using lbs & ozs & feet & inches, instead of kilograms & metres. Harris Filters, now in Gornal Wood, is also recalled as occupants in the 1980s.

From the 1990s-2011 it was Aspect Lighting, and in 2011 it was converted to Café Cappella downstairs; upstairs is the offices of Signature Aromas (2019), both owned by Brian Chappell (Chapel is 'cappella' in Italian!).

4: The Olde Curiosity Shoppe



From the Sedgley Tithe map of 1844, this appears to have originally been part of a larger row of terraced buildings which extended further along Gospel End Street, towards the junction with Hall Street.

There was another row of terraced to the left, later demolished, now the police car park.

In 1841, Titus and Sarah Johnson lived in a property on this plot. In the 1950s it was Roden's sweet shop, also selling groceries (Fox's butter crinkles a speciality); a pet shop from the late 1950s to the 1980s owned by Eric Abbis, the last landlord of old The Seven Stars and first landlord of the new Seven Stars, run by a Mrs Thomas, who owned two Scottie dogs. It sold groats for groaty pudding and pigeon peas for peashooters, and had tropical fish.

5: Gospel End Street – green



At the bottom of the pathway to All Saints' Church once stood housing including a 'cordwainers' (shoe maker).

Opposite stands the police car park which was once housing, accounting for the jump in numbers from No 67 (Cafe Cappella) to 80 (The Olde Curiosity Shoppe). The pathway to the graveyard was once access to Bradley's Meadow, which was acquired by the church in 1896 for use as Gospel End Street Graveyard. There was once a cottage next to the entrance to the cemetery, where the Pugh family lived for many decades. They provided generations of sextons for All Saints' Church, who maintained the cemetery and church grounds and also collected the poor rate.

Seven Stars Public House once stood past Café Cappella. The long-gone Bush Inn was where the traffic island stands by Café Cappella, giving its name to Bush Bank at the top of Gospel End Street hill.

6: The Swan Inn



In the 19th century the landlord of The Swan Inn also had a role as a Manor Court official.

In the 20th century, George Mills was landlord 1912-20, and again from 1923-52. He was for 28 years a member of Sedgley Council, four times its chairman and for many years its 'father.' For 14 years he was a member and in later years an Alderman of Staffordshire County Council.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Ken and Jean Evans are remembered. In the 1980s Geoffrey Bangham is one of the best-remembered landlords. In his time there was a front room with a piano and a back room with a pool table; a pianist was hired at weekends. He organised a street parade around the village to celebrate the Queen Mother's 80th birthday in 1980.

7: The Court House



The Court House is a very old public house; the current building has been adapted from a medieval structure, parts of which remain and were revealed in a recent refurbishment. It was used by the Court Leet (Manor Court) of the Earl of Dudley, to appoint manor officials - and until the 1920s the building was still used for civic administration and for hearing minor offences, while also being run as a pub. There was once a sign on the outside wall detailing the fines for various offences.

According to the 1881 census, John Ebery aged 40 , his wife Betsey (45), his son aged 16 and mother in law aged 70, and two staff were living at The Court House. In the 1960s it was run by 'Mr Mac' (Ian McMillan) and his wife - it was a favourite haunt of 'Mods'. Past patrons recall other landlords including Jan, a Polish gentleman; a landlady called Chris; and also 'Lynn and Dicky'. It closed as a pub in 2015 and was auctioned in 2017.

As of May 2019, The Court House is owned by Moss, a property developer. He has refurbished the first floor into living accommodation and undertaken a restoration of the whole building, inside and out in consultation with Dudley Historic Environment. At present (May 2019) there are no plans to open a business to the public on the ground floor.

8: The Bull Ring



The central area of Sedgley was possibly named because it was originally the site of bull-baiting before the sport was declared illegal in 1835. All signs of the actual ring were destroyed in about 1930 on the construction of a traffic island, but the area is still known as the Bull Ring.

The inset photo was probably taken around 1891 by John Egginton, the local chemist, who developed and printed photos on his premises.

A small crowd is gathered to watch a 'dancing bear'. Not a regular feature of the village centre, but probably a means of advertising a local fair, circus or theatre show.

The house just visible on the left belonged to the butcher John Conway Fox, and the steeply pitched single storey building was a 'coffin shop' separated from Hilton's house by the entrance to Hilton & Caswell's builders yard. In the background was the imposing, if incorrectly named, Manor House, occupied by Abner Farnworth.

9: The Clifton



The Clifton Cinema was opened 17 May 1937, as a new cinema by the Clifton Cinemas chain. Its first showing was 'San Francisco', starring Clark Gable, Jeanette McDonald and Spencer Tracy.

When originally built, there were buildings on the south side that were later used by Sproson Vinrace Grocers (who moved there from the opposite side of the Bull Ring), and Beresford's Café. During wartime the café premises are reputed to have been used to provide meals for the poor as part of Churchill's 'British Restaurants' programme.

The cinema closed on 17 June 1978, showing Joan Collins in "The Stud", to become a bingo hall, which closed around 1996. It retained its original cinema name to become a Wetherspoons pub at the end of 1998.

Much of the old projection equipment still remains in the building.

It overlooks the Bull Ring, which has always been the focal point for the village's celebrations on important events such as VE Day and Remembrance Sunday, as well as the recent Christmas Lights Switch-On event that began in 2017.

10: The Red Lion



The Red Lion is an 18th century coaching inn and lay on the coaching route from Wolverhampton to Stourbridge and Kidderminster.

The stage coach that passed through Sedgley in 1822 was called 'The Royal Everlasting' and it left Wolverhampton every morning at 6am for Worcester passing through Sedgley, Dudley and Stourbridge.

Another stage coach, The Eclipse, took the same route at 3pm. In 1835 The Criterion that ran from Dudley to Wolverhampton called daily at the Red Lion at 10.30am and 3pm. On the return journey it called again at 12 noon and 5.30pm.

It enjoyed great prosperity during the long tenancy of Mr and Mrs George Jenkins.

To the north side of the forecourt lay Croydens the hairdresser, and Fields the butcher.

The area to the front is sometimes used for gatherings and village events – for example an Ecumenical Service involving all Sedgley's Christian denominations is held there each year at 10am on Good Friday.

11: Beacon Crafts/The Butlers



The block on the corner of Mill Bank and The Bull Ring was built in the Georgian period – around 1790.

Records from 1841 show that it was used by the Beaman family, who ran both a drapery and grocery. In 1842 William Beaman was also parish constable and arrested seven people attending a Chartist meeting in the Bull Ring.

By 1871 the Mapp family had taken over the draper's business.

By 1881 the Butler family were living there, as drapers alone. In 1900 it was known as 'Zebulon Butler's Fancy Repository'. Sydney Butler, Zebulon's son, became famous as an operatic tenor in New Zealand, and later founded Sedgley Operatic Society in the 1930s. He also ran a music teaching business from 7 Parkdale, Sedgley in the 1940s. The draper's business continued until the 1930s when the Hartills bought it and the premises became a high quality butcher's shop. It is recalled thus: "Prize winning beasts were chosen alive at Bridgnorth and other markets, it had wonderful shop-made sausage, and even the beef dripping for Basil's chippie was rendered there."

In the 1970s it was Taylors' estate agents for a brief time. The property is now Beacon Crafts."

12: Eggintons



Eggintons' business was part of the Bull Ring from the early 20th century until around the late 1960s.

In the census of 1841 a Mr Egginton was living in Dean Street and was an assessor for Sedgley Workhouse. His descendant Mr JT Egginton served in the trenches during the First War, where he was gassed, received disfiguring facial injuries and subsequently wore a black eye patch.

He started a pharmacist's business in the Bull Ring, originally just the taller, three storey building on the corner of Bull Ring and Dudley Street. It was 'Victorian Gothic' in style with characteristic pointed arched windows. Mr Egginton built his business up to include the two adjacent Georgian properties in Bull Ring, including what was originally Sedgley Coop, later Sproson Vinrace's grocery store, and also a much older stone property around the corner in Dean Street, which was set below road level and housed the pharmacy.

The ground floor facade facing Bull Ring and Dudley Street was remodelled to look more 'modern' in about 1960 and the whole lot was demolished in 1971. A new retail block was constructed in its place.

In the early 20th century, Mr Egginton's experiments with photography from the high balcony of his shop produced a unique record of the centre of the village.

13: White Horse



The White Horse is one of Sedgley's oldest pubs. In the 19th century the village was dominated by the iron trade – people either made nails or worked in iron foundries. Then the pub was then known as the 'Shinglers Arms', denoting one of the industrial processes in an iron foundry - a metalworker who hammers and squeezes metal to expel impurities.

Past landlords remembered are: Ron Beach (early 1960s); Kerry Macefield's mum and dad; Tracey Macefield ran the pub for 12 years, when they used to serve Hansons; Doug and Celia Harper ran it around the mid-1970s.

When Jack Russell was the landlord at the White Horse his brother Ben had the Junction pub, and his sister had 'The Gate Hangs Well' at the top of Hurst Hill. Becky Hill's uncle also ran it; and Len and Clare Jones. In the past it had a darts team.

Brian New is the current landlord. He took over in April 2017. Amber Taverns are the owners and have had the premises since 2014. It has a popular 'beer garden' outdoor area with covered TV screens for watching sport.

14: Dudley Street Precinct



This site was occupied from the 1820s by one of the original National Schools, built by the Earl of Dudley, and owned and run by the Church of England. There was a boys' and a girls' section, and the house in between was occupied by the Headmaster's family.

When universal public education began in the 1880s, the building became the Sunday Schools for All Saints' Church. The building became dilapidated and in the late 1960s it was demolished; a Fine Fare supermarket and several shop units were built in its place.

Over the years traders have come and gone. Amongst those remembered are Sedgley Lunch Box (now Deb's Diner); Dudley Building Society (now a Turkish Barber), and the chemists, which is now run by Lloyds.

15: Dormston House



Dormston House was built for the Homer family in the 1820s; they were landowners in the area. It was originally called 'Sedgley Villa'; then later 'The Villa'.

The name Dormston comes from the manor the Homers owned that included the village of Dormston in Worcestershire; it was where JRR Tolkien stayed when recovering from illness in the 1920s. It's said he based 'The Shire' in *The Hobbit* on the countryside around the house – and Bilbo Baggins' Bag End was named after Bag End Farm at Dormston owned by his aunt Jane Neave. The site was originally larger and included a stable block at the rear. It had a vineyard in the conservatory; also a ballroom at the back of the house.

John Twigg Homer was the last of the family to live here; he was a local magistrate, councillor and guardian of the poor. He died in 1934.

During the Second World War the house was used as the headquarters of the local battalion of the Home Guard.

After the war the house was sold to Councillor Alan Hickling, Leader of Sedgley Urban District Council. He was a research chemist and used the stable block as a laboratory and snuff factory. His hobby was cinema organs and he had one installed in the hallway of the house. The organist the late Brian Sharp lived in an apartment at Dormston House and occasionally gave recitals on the organ.

Mrs Hicking had the shop on corner of High Street and Bilston Street - a ladies' dress shop in the 1960s.

There were once lamps on the drive were of the same design as at the Houses of Parliament.

The premises were converted to flats in the 1980s.

16: The Grand Junction



The Grand Junction public house is now a private Dental Practice. However it was formerly a well-known pub in the area. [

In the 50s and 60s the pub was run by a family named Ginty. In the late 60s it was done out to look like a railway carriage - and is said to have sold sell 80 different types of whisky!

It was once run by the Russell family, who also ran the White Horse and The Gate Hangs Well in Hurst Hill. It was Ben Russell at the Grand Junction; Rose his sister at The Gate Hangs Well; and Jack Russell at the White Horse.

It was said to have been frequented by staff at High Arcal Grammar School!

17: Asda formerly Watty Turner's



Asda is the latest in a series of supermarkets to occupy this site.

In the post-World War Two period it was High Holborn Garage owned by Walter ('Watty') Turner. A fine house was set back from the pumps, once used by a firm of accountants. A large building on the right was the car repair workshop; next to it was the garage office and storage area. The pumps dispensed ROP ('Russian Oil Products', Russian petrol that undercut UK producers by 2d); the right hand pump was Shell petrol. In the middle was a stand with cans of engine oil. Adjacent to Turners on the left was 'Top Marshes' the Butchers (there was also a 'Bottom Marshes' in Dudley Street). Where Asda car park now is, was a row of terraced houses and finally the old Sedgley Urban District Council Rates Office which stood where the entrance driveway to Asda now lies.

Presto built the first supermarket on the site in around 1986. It was taken over by Safeway - then Coop in 2005. Asda took over in 2017. Opposite Asda, where UKIP once had their office, used to be the food office where people would go for various items with their ration books just after the war.

18: The former Sedgley UDC Council House



The former Urban District Council House and offices. The Urban District Council governed most local affairs from 1894 until amalgamation with Dudley County Borough in 1966.

The village mortuary once stood in the back yard, before moving to a site near The Limes in the 1960s.

The Rates Office stood next door on the right, and access to the rear yard was through the archway on the right.

Other municipal functions were run from The Limes in Catholic Lane. After the Urban District Council was abolished, the building was used as the village library by Dudley Council before a new library was built in Ladies Walk.

The building was then converted to flats in the 1990s - with additional new-build flats accommodation at the rear.

19: Terraced Houses (listed buildings)



Wilf Atkins and his family lived at No. 14, the last but one in the terrace. On the end terrace unit was a large sign advertising the business. His son Derek was born in this house; he now runs Oliver Twist Hairdressers in the Bull Ring. His father used to build coffins in the brick shed at the bottom of garden and they used to carry them out through the entry. They also rented a coach house in Gate Street; where the new housing is at the top of Catholic Lane was once the village morgue.

The house with the bay window to the right, was owned by a Miss Price and a Mrs Cooper - they ran it as a grocers in the 1940s. In later years it was Tina Smith's hairdressers, called 'Vanity Fair'. Tina's husband Malcolm ran a painting and decorating business with their two sons, Shaun and Dean.

Some of the terraced units were demolished to create The Holborn Centre. One was a jeweller's; it's now Lime Indian Restaurant. Another, run by Mr Foster was a dentist and also used to make dentures; and in another Jamie Paskin had a cobblers shop and once won "Young Businessman of the Year".

□ The end terrace next to the Junction pub was converted into a kitchen showroom in late 1970s . It later became offices for Beacon Insurance Services.

20: St Chad's Catholic Church



The current church was first used for Mass in 1823 and called All Saints. When the church was consecrated in 1891 a saint's name had to be added. So the church was dedicated to St. Chad and All Saints. The first rector or parish priest was Reverend John Placidus Perry, was born in 1741 in Bilston.

When he became a priest there was no church or chapel in Sedgley so he said Mass in people's houses. One of these was the home of Ignatius Smith which adjoined the Red Lion Inn. Eventually he bought a piece of land in "a secluded spot" at Sandwellfields (now known as Sandyfields). The Law Family, who owned nearby Cotwall End Farm, were Catholics and the location provided a safe haven for Catholics from over a wide area of the Black Country to worship. A descendant of the Laws is remembered as living in the cottage adjoining the church.

The chapel was dedicated to St George and opened on St George's Day 1789.

In 1821, Fr Tysan bought an acre of land using money raised by subscription, to build a chapel 73 feet long and 27 feet wide.

When Fr. Tysan couldn't pay all the money for the building of the church he was arrested.

Mass was said for the first time in the new chapel on 24th August 1823. In 1837 Fr Tysan erected a building on end of the church. Here in two rooms a school was started. Fr Tysan taught the boys upstairs, while his niece Miss Catherine Attwood taught the girls downstairs.

Father Malfait realised that the school building was inadequate and set about building a new school which was in use by 1876.

In 1895 Father Kelly bought a plot of land next to the church to be used as a cemetery. The first burial took place in April 1895.

During the Great War thirteen members of the congregation lost their lives.

St. Chad's the 'Old Hut' was removed, and a permanent St. Chad's Hall built in the 1960s. Father Tarrant was appointed in 1977 and continued caring for the Parishioners of St. Chad's and All Saints. He was parish priest for 24 years

Father Joseph Narikuzhi was originally From India. He joined St. Chad's from Birmingham in 2001. Father Paul Edwards is currently the priest of St. Chad's and All Saints. He took responsibility for the parish in August 2011.

21: Chit's Grave Piece/Gate Street



Directly opposite St Chad's is the entrance to Gate Street. The junction of Gate Street and High Holborn was locally known as 'Chit's Grave Piece', which may indicate a long-lost prehistoric tomb or burial mound. There are megalithic/early neolithic chambered tombs in Kent called Kit's Coty and Little Kit's Coty - Kit and Chit might be derivations of the same obscure name or word. Wikipedia suggests Kit's Coty means 'tomb in the forest'.

At the Tipton end of Gate Street stood Bunker's Hill toll house and there are still the remains of the wall that adjoined it. In 1856 Sarah Hall owned a share with interest in tolls collected from the 'Sedgley Old Line of Road', which she sold to Abel Fletcher - the miller, who owned the steam flour mill on the corner of Bilston Street and High Street.

22: Victorian Town Houses



Walking towards Dudley along Dudley Road: opposite Catholic Lane are two substantial houses, both bearing the dates of their construction, 1894 and 1897, high on their front gables.

They were probably originally built for business and professional people in the Sedgley community.

The house on the left, dated 1894, was once the home of the Black family of Blacks Vets, which is located further towards Dudley on Dudley Road. Jonathan Black and Mr Peel were partners in the practice from the early 1970s.

Stanford House, dated 1897, was originally a private house, but has been a residential care home since 1987.

23: Coronation Gardens



Coronation Gardens used to be the gardens of The Limes, the house on Catholic Lane built for nail-maker Eliza Tinsley in 1851.

On the 1844 tithe map there are both lime pits and lime kilns in this area, so they may have given their name to house. During the Second World War the gardens were dug up and used to grow vegetables for the war effort.

The Limes was acquired from the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham in 1949 by Sedgley Urban District Council, and the gardens to the property were developed into a public park, which was officially opened in 1953 to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Coronation.

The ceremony was performed by Councillor Alan Hickling who was then the Leader of Sedgley Urban District Council.

From the 1960s there was a village morgue in the grounds owned by Mr Atkins who lived in the end-terrace house in High Holborn, on the corner of Gate Street. There was also a fire station that had a siren to summon local part-time firemen.

24: The Limes



On the boundary between The Limes and Coronation Gardens there is an information board giving the history of the building.

It was originally built in 1851 for Thomas and Eliza Tinsley who were nailmakers from Upper Gornal. Following Thomas's early death that year, Eliza continued to live there while she was building her nail-making business in Cradley Heath, which by the 1870s employed 4000 outworkers and had several overseas offices.

After Eliza's death The Limes had a succession of private owners until it was sold in 1931 to the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham for use as a Catholic Seminary. In fact it was never used as such, and in 1939 it was taken over by Civil Defence who used it as their local headquarters during the war.

The Italianate tower, which resembles the towers at the Queen's residence Osborne House in the Isle of Wight, was used by Fire Watchers to spot incendiaries dropped by German bombers.

After the war first Sedgley Urban District Council and then Dudley Council used it as offices and then a succession of private companies rented it. It later became derelict; however in 2014 the site was turned into flats and two detached houses, one of which is named 'Downings House' after the previous name of Catholic Lane."

25: Tenscore stile post



In the south-west corner of Tenscore field is a stone stile post, possibly indicating that this was common grazing land which remained freely accessible for parishioners, at the time of the enclosure acts in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

The origins of the word 'Tenscore' are obscure but it could indicate the dimensions of the medieval field, ie 10 x score (20 yards, ie 200 yards, which is slightly shorter than one furlong (220 yards), the length of a standard medieval field, as ploughed by a horse.

There's another similar arrangement of stile posts at the top of the old path that leads from Gospel End Street to Netherby Road, alongside the burial ground. It was possibly originally used as a bier way - one of several radiating out from All Saints' Church - and was one of a system of field paths connecting the village with Netherby Hall and Sedgley Hall.

A wartime photo shows Tenscore being used by the Home Guard for a Church Parade in 1942.

From 1952 the present car park was the site of two tennis courts and there was a shed there with an attendant.

Today Tenscore is used as a playing field and is marked out as a football pitch with goalposts. There is also free parking, mainly used by employees at Ladies Walk Health Centre and Sedgley Library.

26: Sedgley Library and Ladies Walk Centre



In the 1960s a library and health centre were built at the junction of The Priory and Ladies Walk. Before the building of the old library there were two grave-like mounds on the spot.

According to local tradition, these were the graves of William and Peter Howell, executed at Stafford in 1813 for burgling Townsend House. As executed criminals they could not be buried in consecrated ground, so they were buried as close to the cemetery (now Vicar Street Gardens) as possible.

Ladies Walk Centre was completed in around 2000 and includes a variety of health facilities and clinics; it encompasses Sedgley Library.

As one looks towards Sedgley village, the area now occupied by the Church Hall and maisonettes was all part of the old vicarage of All Saints', which was demolished in 1969.

27: Sedgley Community Centre



Built between 1985-1987, the Centre provides a wide variety of community-based activities for local people.

Sedgley Evening Townswomen's Guild meets on the third Monday each month at 7.15pm; their Art & Craft group meets weekly on Wednesdays at 2pm and their choir on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7pm.

[There is a bridge club on a Wednesday afternoon.

The Over 50s club meets from 2pm till 4pm on Monday and 10am till 12 noon on Thursday morning.

They have different activities every week including bingo, entertainers, speakers and day trips.

[There are gardening classes and Active Retirement Keep Fit for older people on Thursday morning. Natasha's School Of Dance meets on Monday evenings.

Weight Watchers meets there on Wednesday mornings; [Slimming World meets on a Friday morning.

A function room can be hired for children's parties.

28: Vicar Street Gardens



Vicar Street Gardens was originally the extension graveyard for All Saints' Church. Burials here began in 1808, and continued to 1876.

By the 1980s the graveyard had become overgrown; it was taken over by Dudley MBC and turned into a public park - although some of the monuments and graves were retained. A plan of the graves and an index of names is available at Dudley Archives in Tipton Road, Dudley.

Notable burials here include Joseph Nicholds, who was a composer of Sacred 'West Gallery' Music 1820-1860 and the leader of a brass band that toured Britain with a 'touring menagerie'; and the Foster family, who lived at The Limes in Catholic Lane. One of the Foster daughters fought with the Anarchists against Franco in the Spanish Civil War, eventually ending up residing in New Zealand and becoming a celebrated artist.

The park was used each year for a May Festival, where local children dance around the Maypole, and the Sedgley Morris Men perform.