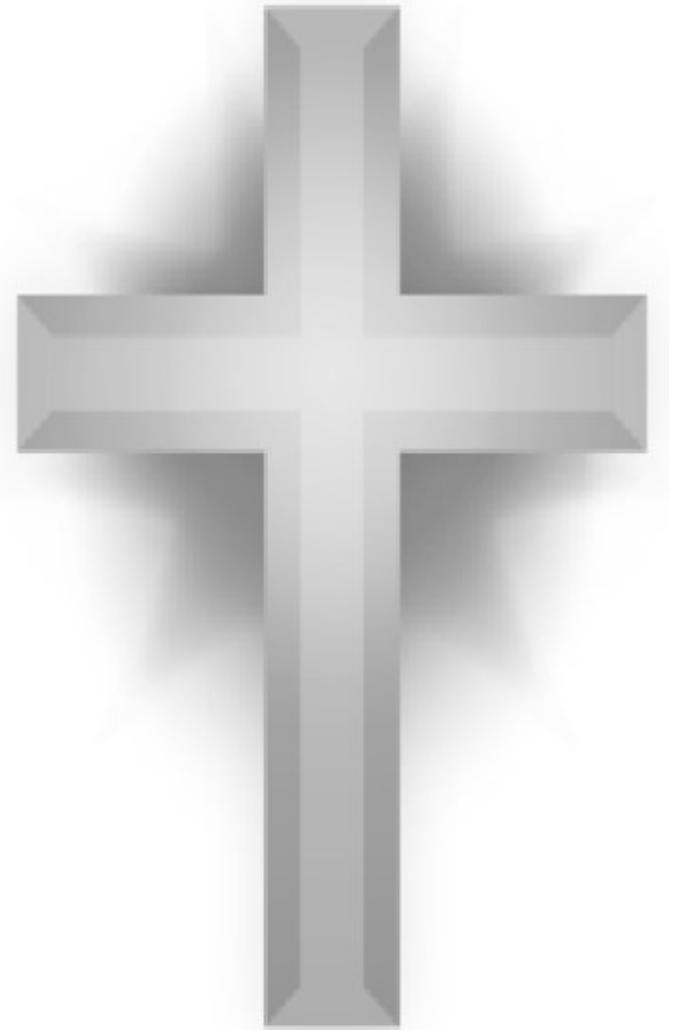
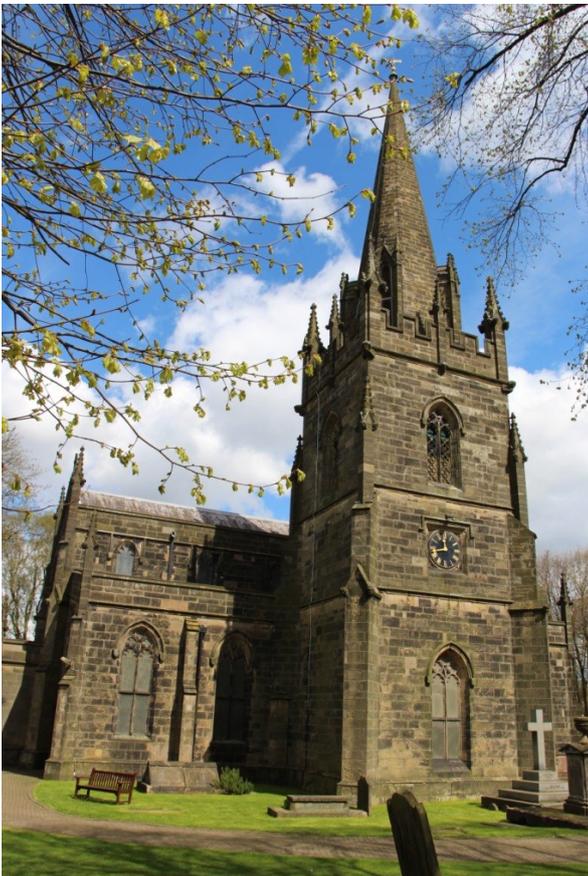


THE BEACON

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

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

March 2020

WHO's WHO

Team Rector	Revd Guy Hewlett	01902 295164
Team Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minister	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Baker	01902 882847
Pastoral Care	Tracey Bate	01902 680727
Worship Leader	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth Leader/Children's Advocate	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
PCC Secretary	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
Vestry Clerk	Chris Williams	01902 672880
Parish Office information baptisms, weddings, funerals and hall bookings.	Gail Griffiths	01902 540289
Parish Wardens	Keith Tomlinson	01902 673366
	John Anderson	01902 677666
Treasurer	John Anderson	01902 677666
Caretaker	Pam Pugh	07860 256535
Server / Verger	Len Millard	01902 676339
Junior Church	Barbara Price	01902 676591
Brownies	Heather Churm	01902 674709
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Men's Society	Roger Berry	01902 881374
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Noah's Ark	Linda Edwards	01902 672556
Parent & Toddler Group		
Rainbows	Liz Naylor	07827 629648
Web Editor	Martin Jones	01902 884461
Youth Group	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Bell Ringer	Keith Williams	01902 672585
Organist	Martin Platts	07941 173252

St Andrew's Who's Who

Warden	Paul Cox	
Treasurer	Alan Turner	01902 670938
DCC secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007
Little Angels baby & toddler group	Canon Jan Humphries	
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108

Parish Prayers at 9.15am - All are Welcome

Tuesdays at St Andrew, Wednesdays at St Peter and
Thursdays at All Saints.

Funerals

Funerals in February

7th February - John Alan Jones - Gornal Wood
12th February - Rachael Louise Burton - Gornal Wood
13th February - Alan Geoffrey Moseley - Gornal Wood
20th February - Margaret Rose Gripton - All Saints
24th February - John Michael Clitheroe - Gornal wood

High Days & Holy Days for March

- 1 St David's Day
- 2 Chad – Bishop of Lichfield and missionary c 672
- 4 Casimir
- 5 Eusebius
- 7 Perpetua and Felicitas
- 8 Woodbine Willie
- 8 Felix of Burgundy
- 9 Savio
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 19 St Joseph of Nazareth (two options)
- 20 Cuthbert
- 21 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr
- 22 Mothering Sunday (two options)
- 24 Catherine of Sweden (1331 – 81)
- 25 The Annunciation
- 27 Rupert
- 30 John Climacus

THE BEACON

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

Karen Evans: 01902 678056

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 February magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 21st March

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

Do not send files in pdf format

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

From Guy Hewlett

And so Lent has begun. I always find Ash Wednesday a moving day in the church calendar. We take the opportunity to stop and begin the period of reflection that can be so important to the health of our spiritual lives; we take time to ponder the love of God and his purposes in our lives.

But stopping can be incredibly difficult. Being still and quiet can feel very strange in our modern society where activity and action rule supreme! Even if we are on our own in the house it is so easy to switch on the radio, to switch on the television; or find any other distraction! Even the housework suddenly feels very attractive! It is really very, very, easy to keep going.

But Lent can give us the time to make space if we allow it. Now why would we want space? It is often in quiet and in silence that we find the presence of God. For some people this may be out walking in the countryside, or on a mountain top; it may be working in the garden or walking in the park; perhaps sitting quietly in your arm chair with a cup of tea; the noise of the world can go quiet. As we journey through Lent it is truly helpful to do something different in our lives that changes our routine in some way.

Some of you will have heard of St Ignatius of Loyola who drew up something called the spiritual exercises. The spiritual exercises are a way of retreating from the noise of life and spending time with God and his scriptures from the Bible, so that we can better hear his voice. The exercises start with working out the truth afresh for each of us that we are deeply loved by God. Then there is a process in the warmth of God's love where we come to understand where we go wrong; we might say where we sin. As we understand the love of God for us, we are able not to be overburdened with what we think we've done wrong and we are able to say sorry to God and receive His forgiveness.

Another phase of the exercises moves onto contemplating the wonderful life of Jesus when he walked on the earth. And as we look at how he spoke the love of God and was the love of God and is the love of God to the people of that time, as we see the beauty held in the gospels, we can receive deep assurance that God understands the ordinariness of our lives and the trials and tribulations that we so often face.

In the 3rd phase of the exercises we come to what we now call Holy Week where we contemplate on the passion of Christ. As we mark Maundy Thursday with the washing of feet we journey through the pain of Good Friday and the death of Christ and we come to Holy Saturday. Holy Saturday is a day where it is best to be still if we can. As we still ourselves we can contemplate the glory of God's power and His love in the death and resurrection of Jesus. We can contemplate that the resurrection and its power is here for us today. That Jesus's death was for us.

And when we come to Easter Day we can be free of the burdens that we have carried and burdened us. Free to live a resurrection life.

I pray as we journey through Lent, perhaps taking opportunity to meet with each other to pray, to gather together in the Lent group's, to read our Lent books, or simply to find a quiet time each day, that we will find

Gifts for mothers on Mothering Sunday

This year, you can either buy special gifts for your mother from Mothers' Union, or else remember your mother by sending a gift to Mothers Union to help empower women around the world.

More details at: <https://www.mothersunion.org/mothering-sunday-resources>

MOTHERS' UNION

Our former Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, has been recognised for her achievements, across 40 years, by Liverpool Hope University who have awarded her an Honorary Senior Fellowship.

At our February meeting we were pleased to welcome Alison Russon to tell us about the Mothers' Union Prayer Shawl Ministry. Alison oversees the project across the diocese with a passion and dedication which was evident during her talk. Members in the diocese knit prayer shawls which are blessed in the branches and given to Alison. When she receives a request for a shawl she will spend time thinking about and praying for the person who will receive it before choosing one. A card, with a prayer for healing in it, is given with each shawl and Alison will also often write to the recipient. This is a wonderful ministry in which prayer is at the centre.

Our Wave of Prayer service is on Monday 9th March at 11.30am in church. This is an opportunity to remember our link dioceses. Those members who are unable to be at the service can pick up a service sheet from the back of our churches.

Our Lenten Project this year is to provide items for 'Welcome Packs' for the Women's Refuge. Lists of the items needed are on the Mothers' Union noticeboards at All Saints' and at St Andrew's and on the table at the back of church. There are boxes, in the narthex at All Saints' and at the back of church at St Andrew's, in which to place items during Lent. There will be a Coffee Morning and Collection at All Saints' on Saturday 25th April, when Karen will receive the packs and give us an update on the work at CHADD.

Dates:

March 3rd 2.30pm Stepping Up, Angie Chant
March 9th 11.30am Wave of Prayer, All Saints' Church
March 24th 7.15pm Communion, 'What and Who?'

Liz Williams

MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY

The Mothers' Union are promoting 'Make a Mothers' Day' again this year. The project raises funds for MU work caring for families worldwide. This will be the church 'Charity of the Month' during March. Further information about this can be found on the Charity of the Month board at the back of church.

Ladies Society – February meeting

For our February meeting Barbara Price had prepared a quiz for our entertainment. This was a delightful evening where each question asked us to identify seven answers. We had to identify, therefore, a wide array of answers including the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World, the 7 food groups, the 7 children in The Sound of Music, the actors who were The Magnificent Seven, the 7 Harry Potter books, the 7 Canary Islands, the 7 events of the heptathlon and the 7 planets of The Planet Suite.

Worryingly, many of us struggled to identify what happened on each of the 7 days of Creation and also the 7 deadly sins!

Many thanks to Barbara for organising a really entertaining and fun evening.

Also, thanks for the chocolate prizes which we all enjoyed. I look forward to seeing you at our March meeting.

Karen Evans

Prayers

When my daughter was young, she was glad to say her prayers, but she always worried whether God would know which little girl she was. One night after the usual 'Amen', she dropped her head upon her pillow and closed her eyes. After a moment she said, "Lord! This prayer comes from 203 Seldon Ave. I'll get you the postcode tomorrow."

Psalm 84 – a heart for pilgrimage

This psalm is appropriate to think about during Lent, as it was used by pilgrims going up to Jerusalem. It speaks of the journey to find the presence of God in our lives. Where is our heart with God?

A Heart for God's Presence: 'How lovely is your dwelling-place, Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.' (v1,2). For the psalmist, the Temple is the focus of God's presence and the place where he longs to be. How much do we long to know God's presence ourselves? Lent is a time to seek Him through the spiritual disciplines of Bible reading, prayer, fasting, silence and solitude.

A Heart set on Pilgrimage: 'Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.' (5,6). Lent reminds us that the Christian life is a journey of faith, which is not always easy. We pass through the valley of Baka, which is the dry desert place in our experience. Here God can seem remote and silent. However, it also the season when we are refreshed by the Holy Spirit filling our lives.

A Heart that's Undivided: 'Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.' (10). We will find a home in God's presence only with an undivided heart, as we maintain our focus on God and trust him for all we need.

'Most of Scripture speaks to us; the Psalms speak FOR us.' (St Athanasius)

And then....

Teacher: "What is the difference between results and consequences?"
Bright pupil: "Results are what you expect; consequences are what you get."

Remembering the martyrdom of Oscar Romero

Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador, was shot dead by a gunman as he celebrated Mass in a hospital chapel 40 years ago, on 24th March 1980.

The Archbishop was widely known for speaking out against poverty, social injustice, torture and assassinations during a struggle between left-wing and right-wing forces. No-one was ever convicted of the shooting, though the Truth Commission for El Salvador suggested that extreme right-wing politician Roberto D'Aubuisson might have given the order. Romero was regarded as a hero by supporters of liberation theology, though his biographer said he adhered to traditional Catholic teachings. Seen as a social conservative at his appointment in 1977, he was deeply affected by the murder of his fellow priest Rutilio Grande a few weeks later.

In 2010, the UN proclaimed 24th March 'International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims' in recognition of Romero's defence of human rights. He is recognised by other Christian denominations, including the Church of England, through the liturgical calendar.

Romero is one of the ten 20th-century martyrs depicted in statues above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey in London. He was canonised by Pope Francis in October 2018.

Wet

Physics Professor: "What happens when the human body is immersed in warm water?"

Student: "The telephone rings."

Look for good pasture spend time with good people

There are some people who inspire you to be all you can as a Christian. When you meet one of these, it is a good idea to stay near them, and learn all you can from them. We are affected by the people whom we spend time with – pray that you will meet people who will lift you up, and not drag you down, in your Christian walk.

The Bible says: ‘He who walks with wise men will be wise.’ (Proverbs 13:20)

Many Christians admit that their present Christian faith was built on the wonderful example of Christians they met during their teenage years. They were inspired and encouraged and moulded by these older Christians. What a wonderful gift they were given! Good spiritual nourishment is vital for building a strong, vibrant faith.

Seeing God bless someone else can increase your own desire to reach higher, and also be blessed in that way. When you see a ‘successful’ Christian, don’t be envious, and want to sabotage them. Instead, be inspired and ask God to use *you* in some fruitful way. But remember – Jesus said that HE is the vine, and we are only the branches. No branch is ever going to flourish unless it stays deeply attached to the vine.

Colourful writing

The foreign student, writing a letter to the superintendent of the mission society, desired to end with the words: ‘May Heaven preserve you.’

Not being quite confident of the meaning of ‘preserve’, he looked it up in a dictionary. When the letter reached the director, it ended with the words: ‘And may Heaven pickle you.’

Reflected Faith: the Altar

The long list of television programmes concerned with renovating, moving home, and celebrity homes shows how interested we are in other people's homes, and how they live. The style and furnishings of the buildings vary considerably, and you can find out a great deal about the person by looking at what they have on display or indeed the lack of items.

In my house the only books on show are related to walking and gardening, and the wall pictures are either old and family heirlooms or show the natural world. Yet in every house there are some things that are pretty much a given: they're always there in one form or another.

It's the same in churches. No matter how old the building is, or how many times it has been re-ordered, there are some items which are constant.

The first of these essential items is the 'Altar' or 'Table'. In the majority of churches this is the place of most 'holiness' and where 'reverence' is given. The place where 'Bread is broken, and wine outpoured' in remembrance of Christ's last meal with His disciples.

As a retired parish priest, I now conduct services wherever I am invited and am aware of the variations of design and constituents of the altar everywhere I go.

This month: Ask to have a look at the actual altar at your own church or a place you visit. What size is it and what is it made from? Are there any special marks carved into it? What can you find out about the history of it? Has it always been standing in that same place?

Bereavement Information Hubs Launched in Dudley

Bereavement Information Hubs, helping people to deal with loss and grief, have recently been launched across Dudley.

The hubs, which are based in community locations across the Dudley Borough, offer an informal, friendly place to meet, talk and support each other in times of crisis and loss.

The hubs take place at each venue once a month on various days and times with the aim of giving people a safe and friendly environment where they can meet others and find out more about local services in their community.

Dudley Bereavement Information Hubs are open on the following times and dates:

- **White House Cancer Support , 10 Ednam Road, Dudley . DY1 1JX**

2nd Monday of the month, 2 - 4pm

- **The What? Centre 31 Priory Street Dudley DY1 1HA**

LGBTQ+ Hub 3rd Thurs of the month 6.30 - 8.30pm

Young Persons Hub (10 – 24yrs) 3rd Saturday of Month 2 – 4pm

- **St Thomas Church, Meeting Room, Market St, Stourbridge, DY8 1AQ**

(Facilitated by Mary Stevens Hospice),

Last Wednesday of the month 10.30am - 12.30pm Compton Care

- **Coseley Family Centre, Bayer Street Bilston WV14 9DS**

(Facilitated by Compton Care)

1st Tuesday of the month 2.30 – 4.30pm

If you would like more information call the Community Development Team on 0300 323 0250

Church Magazine Bloomers

You know what they meant, but what they said was..

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?'
Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to see the organist after the service.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: *Break Forth Into Joy*.

This evening at 7 pm there will be hymn-singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The Women's Tea for next week has been cancelled. We are sorry for any incontinence this may cause.

The cost of the Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Parish Supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.



SPRING HARVEST

Unleashed – The Acts Church Today

**An introduction by Gavin Calver
CEO of the Evangelical Alliance**

The Church is absolutely amazing! What started as a youth group of 12 is now the largest religion in the world and growing rapidly. Here in the UK we are making a huge impact through ministries such as Christians Against Poverty, food banks and Street Pastors and Street Angels. The Church runs the majority of toddler groups, much of the nation's youth work, and remains pivotal on the ground. Yet there is more!

A big question remains: what does it mean for us to truly be unleashed and be like the Acts church today? We will be looking at this during Spring Harvest 2020. We will be journeying through Acts 1-12 looking at what it might mean for us as the church in the UK to live like this again for Jesus. After all, every one of us has an opportunity to be part of an unleashed church in our day. Standing on the shoulders of the many giants who have come before we could see something amazing happen in our land at this time. The church is wonderful, we love it, are active and committed members within it and both take our roles as ordained church ministers seriously in seeing the nation impacted. There are so many possibilities in front of us and it is a genuine privilege for all of us to have the opportunity to be in active service of the Saviour of the World.

If we live for Christ then we can be unleashed to see the nation changed. What does this really mean? We see it this way... 'unleashing' describes the release of what is being restrained. What is being held back is the power of God and the people of God.

Right now, spiritual earthquakes are happening in the places where missionaries have gone to for the last 200+ years. But in the places the missionaries came from during that same two centuries hardly a tremor can be felt.' The real challenge is, how can we see this kind of change in our nation in our day? How can we be the church we long for? How can we start ministering fully in words, works and wonders alongside one another? Do please come to Spring Harvest 2020 and we can go on a wonderful adventure together.

Gavin Calver

CEO of the Evangelical Alliance

For further information please visit www.springharvest.org or call 01825 769000.

Spring Harvest takes place in Harrogate, Minehead and Skegness over the Easter break.

J. Trousdale, G. Sunshine, *The Kingdom Unleashed* (Murfreesboro: DMM Library, 2018) .4

Why women over 50 should slim down

Most women who are over 50 would be wise to lose some weight, and thereby reduce their chance of developing breast cancer.

So says some recent Harvard research, which found that those who lost the most weight also cut their risk of breast cancer by up to a quarter. Two in three women in Britain are overweight or obese.

One in eight women in the UK will develop breast cancer. Being overweight is a driving factor, as after the menopause, oestrogen drops, but fat cells keep the hormone raised, which can cause tumours to grow.

Do you feel alone or isolated?

Pleased to meet you is about helping you stay positive in later life and providing a helping hand to get out and about and enjoy life



Pleased to meet you Enabling community support

Pleased to Meet You is about helping you stay positive while providing a listening ear to help you find enjoyment and a purpose in later life. Together we can help overcome the fear of stepping into the community you want to be involved in or even create something new.

For those of you who wish to stay at home but would appreciate regular contact you could call our Pleased To Meet you telephone line for a chat.



Call 01384 812761 for a chat
Or email CommunitySupportServ@dudley.gov.uk

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Volunteers needed now for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal

Marie Curie, the UK's leading charity for people living with a terminal illness and their families, will shortly launch their annual Great Daffodil Appeal, held across the UK every March.

As part of the Great Daffodil Appeal, Marie Curie needs volunteers who will give two hours of their time to help hand out their iconic daffodil pins in return for donations, and get more people than ever wearing the pin.

If you've got two hours to spare, then there may be a location near you and it's a great way to engage in your local community and support those in need.

Every donation and daffodil worn helps Marie Curie provide much-needed expert care to people with terminal illnesses, as well as support for their loved ones.

Marie Curie has a range of services aimed at helping people make the most of the time they have together. These include Nurses that give one-to-one expert care to people at home, nine hospices offering inpatient and outpatient care, spiritual and bereavement support, and, a free telephone support line. The charity says that the appeal is urgently needed as one in four people currently don't receive the care and support they need at the end of their life, and with the population getting older; demand on the charity's services is set to increase.

More details at: www.mariecurie.org.uk/collect or call free on 0800 304 7025. If you or someone you know would like help from Marie Curie, call Support Line on 0800 090 2309

200 years of astronomy

The Royal Astronomical Society was founded 200 years ago, on 10th March 1820.

Originally called the Astronomical Society of London, it had been opposed by Sir Joseph Banks, president of the Royal Society, who persuaded the Duke of Somerset to withdraw his agreement to be the first president. But it survived with William Herschel as president, though he never actually took the chair at a meeting.

The idea was simply to promote astronomy. At the outset there were very few professional astronomers, but this soon changed. A Royal Charter was signed by William IV in 1831, and the name of the Society was altered. Since then every monarch has been a patron.

The Society was closed to women at first, and women were not admitted to fellowship until 1916, although Caroline Herschel was awarded a gold medal as early as 1828 and elected an honorary member, with Mary Somerville, in 1835.

Currently the Society, with more than 4000 members, has three main functions: maintaining a library, organising scientific meetings – geophysics is now part of its remit – and publishing journals.

A prominent 21st century fellow is Professor David Wilkinson, a theoretical astrophysicist and lecturer in theology, who is working on the dialogue between science and religion.

World Water Day – 22nd March

This year, it is all about water and climate change – and how the two are linked. There is a website offering good ideas and resources if you would like to join in.

Please go to: <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

The new website that makes evangelism easier

A new website has been launched which claims it is “going to make the easiest evangelism *even easier*.” It is also completely free to link to from church websites and materials.

The website, www.christianity.org.uk, is the result of a complete rewrite and redesign of an older website, and is still owned by the Christian Enquiry Agency.

But now visitors will be able to engage in meaningful conversations online with a real Christian, through the new conversation feature.

Visitors will also find all new, longer form content about the Christian faith, beautiful imagery, specially commissioned artwork, and up-to-date answers to the kinds of questions about spirituality and identity that people are asking.

The content will remain balanced and cover the breadth of Christian belief in the UK.

Dr Bex Lewis, Senior Lecturer in Digital Marketing at Manchester Metropolitan University, welcomed the new site. “According to Google Trends, searches such as ‘who am I?’, ‘purpose’, ‘gender’ and ‘mental health’ have all increased in the UK in the past 10 years. Christianity.org.uk is aiming to bring God’s hope to a space on the internet that is currently populated with mostly secular answers.

“There is also a new ‘Help me God’ page for the many people who type this in desperation. They will find a safe place, helpful contacts, suggested prayers and next steps.”

CEA chair, the Revd Dr Jo Cox-Darling added: “Best of all, we’re going to make it even easier for enquirers to have email conversations online with a real-life Christian. We listen as well as talk, don’t judge, and give a balanced Christian view. And we converse with people for as long as they want to, and no longer.

“I would encourage every church or Christian organisation to put a link to our URL on their website and public-facing materials. Someone who might never come to church or speak to a Christian friend will have no problem picking up their phone, starting an online conversation about faith, and like many before, beginning their own exciting journey with God.”

***Hope for All* – a great gift to give**

Have you noticed the spate of celebrity baptisms recently? Former football star David Beckham's two youngest children were baptised at a church near their Cotswold home last December. Showbiz celebrity Kim Kardashian West and her youngest children Saint, three, Chicago, 20 months, and baby Psalm, were baptised last October in Armenia's main cathedral. Liverpool Football Club star Roberto Firmino has become the latest Brazilian footballer to declare his Christian faith, posting images of his baptism on social media. And the Chelsea and Brazil winger Willian Borges da Silva, commonly known as Willian, was baptised in the River Jordan last June.

Baptisms often take place at Easter, as baptism imitates Christ being lowering into the grave and rising again. The magazine *Hope for All*, takes up this theme in the latest issue, out in March, featuring the celebrities as well as the story of a man baptised in a prison wheelie bin.

Published by HOPE Together and Hope for Every Home, the 32-page glossy magazine also explores the theme of generosity. Did you know that generosity is linked to psychological health and well-being? And according to the University of California, people who blush easily are more generous and trustworthy than those who don't! As well as a few fun facts, *Hope for All* features some examples of extraordinary acts of generosity, some of which have been world-changing.

The magazine also tells the poignant story of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse and her dad Nadim, who made headlines in July 2016 when Natasha died after an allergic reaction to a *Pret a Manger* baguette. A remarkable encounter in the midst of tragedy changed the family forever and continues to give them hope.

Roy Crowne, HOPE's executive director says, '*Hope for All* is a great gift to give to people in your community. Give it with an Easter gift and an invitation to your church's Easter events. It's a great conversation-starter!' *Hope for All* is available to order in bulk for just 10p a copy from hopetogether.org.uk/shop



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Hedge Cutting

Sheds Felted

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01902 670282 or 07754 801659

‘Unleashing’ the church at Spring Harvest 2020 – how to make an impact today

The Church is absolutely amazing! What started with a youth group of 12 is now the largest religion in the world and is still growing rapidly. Here in the UK we are making a huge impact through ministries such as Christians Against Poverty, Food Banks, Street Pastors and Street Angels. The Church runs the majority of toddler groups, much of the nation’s youth work, and remains pivotal on the ground. Yet there is more! A big question remains: *what does it mean for us to truly be unleashed and be like the Acts church today?*

We will be looking at this during Spring Harvest 2020. We will be journeying through Acts 1-12 looking at what it might mean for us as the Church in the UK to live like this again for Jesus. After all, every one of us has an opportunity to be part of an unleashed church in our day. Standing on the shoulders of the many giants who have come before, we could see something amazing happen in our land at this time.

The Church is wonderful, we love it, are active and committed members within it. We take our role seriously, in wanting to see the nation impacted. There are so many possibilities in front of us, and it is a genuine privilege for all of us to have the opportunity to be in active service of the Saviour of the World.

If we live for Christ, then we can be unleashed to see the nation changed. What does this really mean? We see it this way... ‘unleashing’ describes the release of what is being restrained. What is being held back is the power of God and the people of God. Right now, spiritual earthquakes are happening in the places where missionaries have gone to for the last 200+ years. But in the places the missionaries came from during that same two centuries hardly a tremor can be felt. (See ‘*The Kingdom Unleashed*’ by J. Trousdale and G. Sunshine (Murfreesboro: DMM Library, 2018).

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The real challenge is, how can we see this kind of change in our nation in our day? How can we be the church we long for? How can we start ministering fully in words, works and wonders alongside one another? Do please come to Spring Harvest 2020 and we can go on a wonderful adventure together.

For further information please **visit www.springharvest.org** or call 01825 769000

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STRAITS

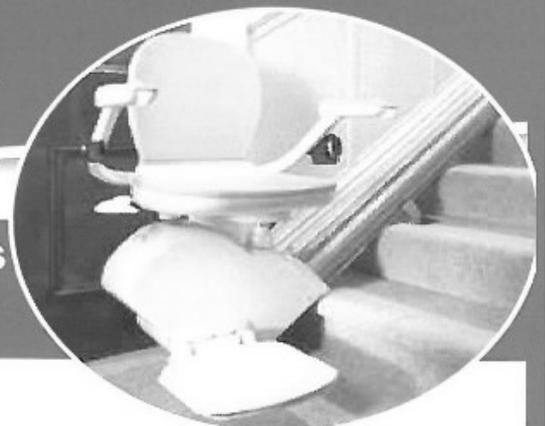
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The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

This year, the rigours of Lent have taken second place to a far more pressing matter: the installation of a lavatory at St James the Least of All.



Personally, I entirely disapprove of this additional sign of decadence in our moral fibre; we have survived perfectly happily for the last 800 years without one, so why is there such an urgent need now? And being surrounded by acres of fields, there seems to be a completely acceptable alternative.

It also spoils the pleasure I used to take, informing ushers at weddings, having liberally refreshed themselves at our local pub before the Service, that we have no facilities and that they would just have to wait. Their look of pained resignation, developing to clear signs of repentance as the Service progressed, was most cheering. It also meant that wedding parties did not linger after the Service but disappeared with commendable speed to safe havens.

I anticipate that now we have the thing, a sub-committee will form to devise a commissioning Service for the person who will be in charge of its maintenance. I can already foresee Lady Bartlett proposing an appropriate set of robes for the office holder – although it will need some tact to select suitable insignia on the sleeves.

In fact, the project has not been entirely successful; we still need to have a lock fitted and so at present, occupants have been advised to sing hymns loudly. A hymn book has been installed as an *aide memoire*. The greater difficulty arises from our antiquated plumbing system. A member of the congregation can leave a Service perfectly discreetly; they can enter the lavatory unseen by anyone, but on flushing, water is drawn through pipes running the length of the inside of the building with a thunderous roar.

I am sure that in your worship centre you will have lavish cloakrooms furnished with colour co-ordinated walls and towels, baby-changing facilities and video monitors relaying everything going on in the service. But we are made of sterner stuff, and I maintain that our congregation should be grateful that they now have a lavatory at all. And to think that someone suggested it should even have heating!

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Gandhi's salt march against the British

It was 90 years ago, on 12th March 1930, that Indian political and spiritual leader Mahatma Gandhi led 78 activists and followers on a 23-day “salt march” to protest against a British tax on salt and a ban on Indians collecting or selling it. On 5th April he reached the sea and made salt, breaking British law. On 4th May he was arrested and imprisoned.

Thousands of Indians followed Gandhi from his religious retreat near Ahmedabad to the Arabian Sea coast, a distance of about 240 miles. The march resulted in the arrest of nearly 60,000 people, including Gandhi himself.

Gandhi said his resistance to British salt policies would be the unifying theme for his campaign of *satyagraha*, or mass civil disobedience. The word means ‘truth with insistence’ in Sanskrit.

During the salt march – which Gandhi described as a *padyatra* (a long spiritual march) – he made many speeches on the injustices of the Indian caste system, which labelled the lowest classes ‘untouchable’.

17 days after Gandhi's arrest, the poet Sarojini Naidu led 2,500 marchers on the Dharasana Salt Works, north of Bombay. They were beaten viciously by police, which prompted an international outcry. India was granted its independence in 1947



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The man who invented self-raising flour

Henry Jones, a baker from Bristol, was granted a patent for his invention of self-raising flour 175 years ago, on 17th March 1845.

Jones was born in Monmouth, Wales, but he established a bakery in Broadmead, Bristol. His formula for making self-raising flour – essentially a process of baking without yeast – was granted a patent in 1845, and by the end of 1846 it was a runaway success, and he was soon supplying patent flour and biscuits to Queen Victoria.

He was granted a patent in the USA in 1849, and in 1852 the first gold medal for the new flour was issued to a Chicago firm using the Bristol formula, but his greatest opponent was the British Admiralty. Jones pointed out in detail and at length the benefits to seamen of using the new flour instead of the hard biscuits they were used to, and he received a great deal of support from individual captains and many prominent people.

But it was not until 1855, when his flour was used in the Crimean War – partly at the request of Florence Nightingale – and was so effective in saving lives and improving food supplies, that it got the grudging acceptance of the Admiralty

Pastoral care

The young clergyman was walking through the village when he met one of his elderly parishioners. “How’s your cold?” he asked.

“Verra obstinate,” came the bleak reply.

“I’m sorry.” The clergyman decided to try again. “Well, how is your arthritis?”

“Verra obstinate,” came the reply.

“Oh dear, I am sorry,” soothed the clergyman. He tried a third time:

“And how is your wife?”

“About the same.”

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

ALL SAINTS 1ST MARCH 8AM HOLY COMMUNION - REVD GUY HEWLETT
10.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER - REVD GUY HEWLETT
6.30PM BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER EVENSONG REVD GUY HEWLETT
ST ANDREW 9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER CANON JAN HUMPHRIES
ST PETER 10.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER NONE EUCHARISTIC SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH ST PETER 10AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD GUY HEWLETT

ALL SAINTS 8TH MARCH 8AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD GUY HEWLETT
10.30AM - WORSHIP TOGETHER CANON JAN HUMPHRIES
6.30PM BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER HOLY COMMUNION CANON JAN HUMPHRIES
ST ANDREW 9.30AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD GUY HEWLETT
ST PETER 10.30AM HOLY COMUNION WITH ADCM REVD GUY HEWLETT

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH ST PETER 10AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD GUY HEWLETT

ALL SAINTS 15TH MARCH 8AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD GUY HEWLETT
10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION WITH ADCM REVD GUY HEWLETT
6.30PM BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER EVENSONG CANON JAN HUMPHRIES
ST ANDREW 9.30AM WORSHIP TOGETHER CANON JAN HUMPHRIES
ST PETER 10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD CANON JUDITH OLIVER

WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH ST PETER 10AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD GUY HEWLETT

ALL SAINTS 22ND MARCH 8AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD GUY HEWLETT
10.30AM MOTHERING SUNDAY REVD GUY HEWLETT
6.30PM BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER EVENSONG REVD GUY HEWLETT
ST ANDREW 9.30AM MOTHERING SUNDAY CANON JAN HUMPHRIES
ST PETER 10.30AM PARADE SUZANNE BRADLEY

WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH 8AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD GUY HEWLETT

ALL SAINTS 29TH MARCH 8AM HOLY COMMUNION REVD GUY HEWLETT

TEAM SERVICE AT ST PETER 10.30AM REVD GUY HEWLETT - ARCH DEACON NIKKI GROAKE IN ATTENDANCE

ALL SAINTS 6.30PM HEALING SERVICE CANON JAN HUMPHRIES