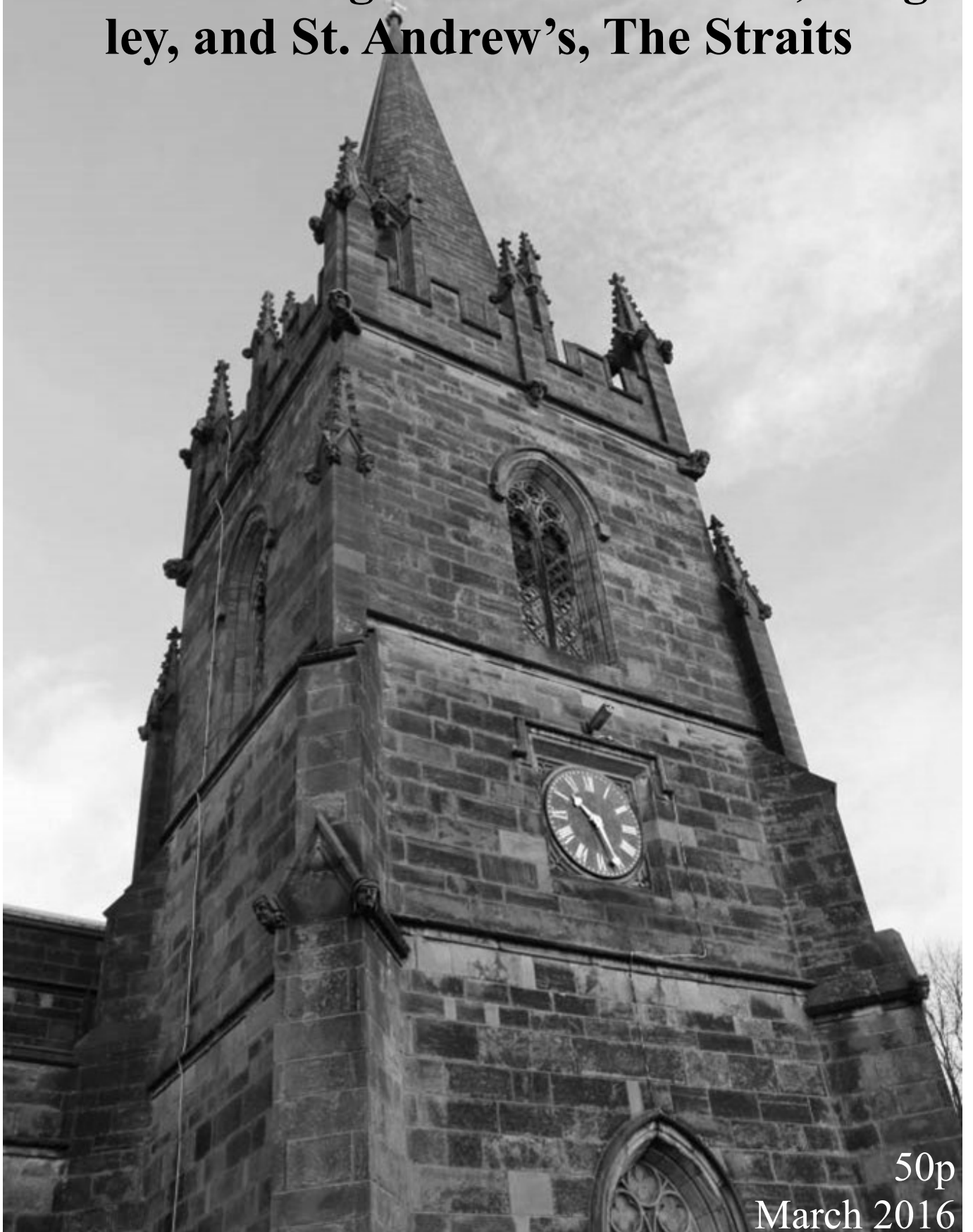


THE BEACON

The Parish Magazine of All Saints', Sedgley, and St. Andrew's, The Straits



50p
March 2016

SERVICES

ALL SAINTS', SEDGLEY

Sunday Services

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.30 a.m. Parish Communion (First Sunday: All-Age Worship)

6.30 p.m. Evensong (BCP)

ST. ANDREW'S, THE STRAITS

Sunday Service

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd Sunday: Morning Prayer)

ST. PETER'S, UPPER GORNAL

Sunday Service

10.30 a.m. Parish Communion

Wednesday Service

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

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

During the vacancy at All Saints', there will be no mid-week communion services. There are communion services on Wednesdays at St Peter's at 10.00am and at St. Andrew's at 7.00pm. The vestry hour will be held on Sundays in All Saints' at 12.00 noon.

LENT SERVICES

ST. PETER'S, UPPER GORNAL

Wednesday Service

10.00 a.m. Eucharist

ST. ANDREW'S, THE STRAITS

Wednesday Service

7.00 p.m. Eucharist

WHO'S WHO

Team Rector	Vacant	
Team Vicar	The Revd. Andy Stand <i>Day Off Monday</i>	01902 883467
Licensed Lay Minister	Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Pastoral Care	Tracey Bate	01902 680727
Worship Leader	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth Leader	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Parish Office	Gail Griffiths <i>For information RE baptisms, weddings, funerals, and hall bookings.</i>	01902 540289
Parish Wardens	Rob Lavender Keith Tomlinson	01902 661325 01902 673366
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
Youth Group	Laura Robinson	01902 678572

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH 2016

1st March 2016	MU Looking Towards Easter, Revd. Emma Stand	2.30pm
7th March 2016	Ladies' Society, Children's Society, Janice Horton	7.30pm
11th March 2016	MU Wave of Prayer	10.00am in Church
13th March 2016	DCC AGM	12.00am in Church
15th March 2016	MU Communion, Celebration / Uganda, Liz Green	7.15pm
21st March 2016	Mens' Society, Austin Motor Company	7.30pm

ALL SAINTS'

CHURCH REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

All Saints'	28th February 2016	Mason & Ellie Williams
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WEDDINGS

St. Andrew's	27th February 2016	Joy Louise Shepherd to Alexander Lee Parsonage
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FUNERALS

4th February 2016	Alan Arthur Warmer
8th February 2016	Jean Flavell
10th February 2016	Alan Eric Parkes

THE BEACON

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

Articles for the April magazine need to be sent to
magazineeditor@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by Sunday 20th March and need to be typed in font Times New Roman size 16

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LETTER FROM FATHER ANDY

I wonder do you have a favourite Easter hymn? Maybe, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, or *There is a Green Hill Far Away*, or *Jesus Christ is Risen Today!* or *Thine Be The Glory*. Those are just a few that spring to mind as I write this letter and of course there are quite a few more that you might chose. Most of these are what I would consider to be fairly traditional Easter and Passiontide hymns. There are of course more modern ones written by some of the more contemporary hymn and worship song writers.

One of my favourites, and as it happens one I have heard twice today (21st Feb), on both the radio and television, is *My Song is Love Unknown*.

My song is love unknown
My Saviour's love for me.
Love to the loveless shown,
that they may lovely be.

For me, one of it's delights is that it reminds us, throughout, of God's love and friendship offered, given even during the events of Good Friday - the suffering of Christ's arrest, trial and execution - and of course it's invitation to us to reciprocate, to join in the worship of Jesus, whether that be at the foot of the cross, or on a sunny resurrection morn.

Here might I stay and sing
No story, so divine
Never was love dear friend,
Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

I trust I am not the only one to appreciate this wonderful hymn, and we do seem to sing it a to during our services in Holy Week. Again, for me, it falls into the classification of a traditional Passiontide hymn.

I wonder though whether you have ever stopped to really reflect on those opening words: 'Love to the loveless shown that they may lovely be.'

These words are a reminder to us that Easter is fundamentally a season of change. Death is changed to new life, resurrected life. Love is given, that the loveless may be changed, transformed. That the loveless may become lovely. Sin is conquered by grace: by the freewill offering of Christ crucified, risen and glorified.

Easter is also the season of Hope. Because of Christ's victory over death, we can have hope, and faith in His promises. Hope and faith in his promises of new life, eternal life, life in relationship with Him and our heavenly Father.

This year, more than most, the Gornal and Sedgley team faces change. God willing, the recruitment process for the new Team Rector will move past the shortlisting stage in Holy week itself. Towards the end of the Easter season, Chris and James and I will take our leave of the parish, and make way for the new life that God is I pray already preparing to bring to Gornal and Sedgley. New life - Resurrection life.

What part I wonder will you play in the new life God offers this Easter time? Will you embrace it and nurture it, or will you try and stifle and quench it? It is a gift of grace. A gift freely offered. A gift for us to accept or not as we so choose. How will you choose?

Wishing you all a joyful and blessed Eastertide.

Fr. Andy

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week, in which Christian tradition marks the last week of Jesus' earthly life. It starts off with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey to be greeted by a happy crowd waving palm branches in celebration. In the space of a few days shouts of victory gave way to betrayals, from celebration to crucifixion.

Strange to say, Holy Week with its moments of violence and ruthless politics we must also remember that Jesus comes as a Light to the world. He comes into our lives when things suddenly go wrong, when we seem to lose reality, when we yearn for a world in which respect and kindness dominate.

Jesus is tried on trumped up charges, found guilty by a corrupt political system and put to death because he challenges the powers that be.

But before all this we have the meeting in the upper room where Jesus washes the disciples feet on the night Judas betrayed him. In that upper room Jesus shares with his disciples the bread and the wine saying " Do this in remembrance of me " as we do Sunday by Sunday.

Then on Good Friday the day that Jesus was crucified, a day of great solemnity which his disciples could not join in. Mary Magdalene and Mary his mother stand at the foot of the cross. This may call us to being present with and one another in those dreadful moments of suffering and death.

Then comes the glorious Easter Day when the women went to the tomb to find the stone rolled away and the tomb was empty. I wonder what went through their minds? The stone has been moved what in our own lives is beyond our capability to move or roll the stone away? What is beyond our strength despite our desire and hope? The resurrection begins with an expected change of circumstances, a change we did not anticipate and certainly not create.

The Life of the infinite God makes a quantum leap and the stone of life is rolled away. It may be that we know it when we are amazed when we find the tomb empty when we least expect it.

Happy Easter

Bob

Sarah Powell

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HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday	10.30am	Team Service at All Saints'
Monday	7.30pm	Team Service at St. Andrew's
Tuesday	7.30pm	Team Service at St. Peter's
Wednesday	7.30pm	Team Service at All Saints'
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	All Saint's and St. Andrew's at All Saints'
	7.30pm	St. Peter's
Good Friday	2.30pm	All Saints' and St. Peter's at All Saints'
	2.30pm	St. Andrew's
	7.30pm	St. Peter's
	7.30pm	All Saints' and St. Andrew's at All Saints' <i>'God so Loved the World'</i>
Holy Saturday	8.00pm	St. Peter's
	9.00pm	All Saints' and St. Andrew's at All Saints'
Easter Sunday	9.30am	St. Andrew's
	10.30am	All Saints'
	10.30am	St. Peter's



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MOTHERS' UNION

Celebrating 140th anniversary

The world is a very different place today from the one in which Mary Sumner, the founder of the Mothers' Union, lived, but the need she saw to support mothers, and the importance of family life, is no less relevant in today's society. What would Mary think of our worldwide organization today, with more than four million members - women and men - in more than 80 countries?

In this 'corner of the vineyard', during Lent, we are supporting 'New Beginnings' by collecting items for 'Starter Packs' which are so appreciated by the women and children starting to rebuild their lives. There is a list on the board in the narthex with items needed and a box in which to place items. We will hold a Coffee Morning and welcome Karen, from 'New Beginnings, to receive our gifts on Saturday 9th April, 10.00am in church.

At our Candlemas Service Andy blessed a set of knitted glove puppet disciples. The detail on each disciple was wonderful and we thank Maureen Iddles for knitting them. We gave them to the children at Woodsetton School who were delighted with them.

Our afternoon meeting was a time to relax, enjoy and laugh together as we became characters in Val Rushton's pantomime and recalled our childhood cries of 'He's behind you'!

1 st March	Looking towards Easter, 2.30pm Revd. Emma Stanford
11 th March	Wave of Prayer (in Church) 10.00am
15 th March	Communion followed by Celebration/Uganda, our Diocesan President, Liz Green 7.15pm

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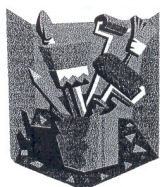
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AN APPRECIATION OF ALL SAINTS' SOCIAL CLUB

All Saints' Social Club formally closed on December 31st 2015. It is a pity, therefore that this appreciation of the contribution of the Club to All Saints' Church over the last 34 years should also be effectively an obituary. The closure notices in the Church Magazine and Pew Sheet were short and to the point so it seems only right and proper that the Club should have a fuller final tribute. As a former Chairman and a member since 1984 I felt a duty to provide this.

The Club commenced operations in 1981 in what had been a meeting room at the back of the Church Hall, originally opening six nights a week. The premises were appropriately refurbished including an elegant bar that put to shame the equivalent in many local licenced premises.

The remit of the Club was not only to serve the congregation of All Saints' but also local people who wished to participate. This policy ensured that many people were brought into a closer contact with our Church through the Club. The word local was, however, at times applied with some elasticity and names of visitors from Australia and the USA appear in the visitors' book.

Activities organised by or through the Social Club were much more varied than just regular evening opening including events such as quiz nights, concerts, meetings of the Church Men's Society and the Genealogy Society. In addition the Club room has been very popular as a comfortable place for meetings of the PCC/DCC, Scouts, Church Choir, Guild of Servers and other Church organisations.

The existence of the Social Club also increased the use of the Church Hall for events such as barn dances, skittles evenings, cheese and wine parties and jazz nights. The most prestigious event for many years was the annual All Saints' Day Parish Lunch where the quality of food served was at a standard that would not have shamed a hotel. In addition, for years, the New Year's Eve party was oversubscribed due to its quality and conviviality. Many Church members possibly do not realise just how much hard work went into these events and it is not fair to mention individual names since someone is inevitably omitted and possibly offended. There were of course groups of people that were the backbone of many operations of the Club, particularly the team who organised catering on many occasions, together with the loyal Bar Staff who regularly gave up two or more evenings a month to serve members.

Making money was not the objective of All Saints' Social Club. However, well-ordered administration by Committee members and appointed Officers ensured that the Club regularly operated with a surplus of income over expenditure. This was achieved despite fees and bar prices always being kept well below commercial levels. A portion of this surplus was regularly re-invested in the Club premises to ensure that the quality gradually improved. In addition regular donations were made to the All Saints' Church funds which over a period of 34 years amount to a very considerable sum.

The Club and the bar facility will be missed particularly as a support for so many functions. However, as the number of volunteer helpers decreased due to normal causes the work load became increasingly arduous for the remaining active members.

It has become fashionable at funerals to emphasise the positive attributes of the deceased person rather than the sorrow of the mourners. Let's do that with the Social Club – just be happy and thankful for what was done faithfully and selflessly by so many people over a very long period of time.

Tony Hart – February 20th 2015



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WW1 TIMELINE - EVENTS OF 1916

March

- 1st German extended submarine campaign begins.
- 4th German raider "Moewe" returns to Bremen (Germany).
- 5th British advance on Kilimanjaro (East Africa) begins.
- 6th Mr Baker appointed U.S. Secretary for war.
- 8th Second attempt to relieve Kut: British relieving forces repulsed at Dujaila Redoubt.
- 9th Germany declares war on Portugal.
- 10th Taveta (East Africa) taken by British forces.
- 12th Allied Military Conference held at Chantilly regarding a general summer offensive.
- 13th New Moshi (East Africa) taken by British forces.
- 14th Sollum (Western Egypt) reoccupied by British forces.
- 15th Austria-Hungary severs diplomatic relations with, and declares war on, Portugal.
- 17th Fifth battle of the Isonzo ends.
- 18th Battle of Lake Naroch (White Russia) begins.
- 21st Germans retreat from Kilimanjaro area after fighting in Kahe (East Africa).
- 24th S.S. "Sussex" (British) torpedoed in the English Channel.
- 28th Declaration of Unity between Belgium, France, Gt. Britain, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Russia, & Serbia regarding military & diplomatic affairs, drawn up.

- 29th Japanese & Russian Ministers for war resign.
- 30th Russian hospital ship "Portugal" sunk by submarine in the Black Sea.
- 31st German airship raid on England (East coast).
Airship "L - 15" brought down by gunfire near mouth of the Thames.

Verdun

The estimated number of troops whose remains still lie under the battlefield is 1000,000.

France's Colonial Troops

France recruited men from its colonies to serve in the armed forces:

West Africans	-	166,000
Algerians	-	140,000
Vietnamese	-	49,000
Tunisians	-	47,000
Madagascans	-	46,000
Moroccans	-	24,000

Seventy thousand colonial soldiers were killed.

Chocolate Soldiers

Men of the Royal Fusiliers were thus described as they spent much of their money on confectionary.

Rosemary Moss

A THANK YOU FROM ROB

Thank you,

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, 'phone calls, cards and gifts following my recent eye surgery.

Best wishes to everyone and hope to see you all very soon,
Rob

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**The Secretary to the Trustees: 12 Larkswood Drive,
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CHILDREN'S SOCIETY NEWS

All Saints' Ladies Society have graciously decided to name the Children's Society as its charity of the year for 2016. I am obviously delighted at this news.

In addition Janice Horton a professional member of Children's Society staff will be giving a presentation describing the work of the Society on Monday 7th March to the monthly meeting of the Ladies Society. Everyone is welcome to attend to find out more about the way in which the Children's Society helps children and young people in the Dudley area.

COLLECTION BOXES

Could people who have collection boxes please bring them to Church before Easter. They can be handed to Kath Apperley, our Box Secretary, or to either of our Wardens, Keith and Rob.

The job of counting the coins is a longwinded one that Kath and her family have undertaken for many years.

Anne

AROUND THE PARISH MARCH 2016

Get well wishes to Pauline Gregory who recently had an operation on her knee, hope it will not be too long before she can throw her crutches away.

Happy first wedding anniversary to Laura and James Robinson.

Happy birthday to Joan Sullivan, believe this is a special one.

Pauline Turner is willing to make special designed handmade greeting cards for any occasion.

Dorothy Inett.

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LADIES SOCIETY

Our February meeting consisted of a General knowledge Quiz and a Bring and Buy Sale.

We began with the Quiz which was compiled by Geraldine. I don't know where she derives her questions from, but some were very tricky. The first part consisted of questions related to Christmas and then there were general knowledge questions divided into four sections with ten questions in each, I did not do well in any of them, but it did not really matter because it was only a bit of fun enjoyed by everyone!

The Bring and Buy sale followed and we raised a healthy sum of £45.91! While we were perusing the goodies for sale we had our usual coffee and tea and enjoyed some gorgeous "Naughty but Nice" cakes supplied by Barbara Price who was celebrating a "Special" Birthday.

Our next meeting will be a talk by Janice Horton about "The Children's Society which is our chosen charity for this year.

I hope to see everyone there on March 7th and hope that we don't get too much wintry weather in the meantime.

Molly Taft

CHOCOLATE & CHERRY LAMINGTONS RECIPE FROM JAN HUMPRIES

125g softened butter
125g caster sugar
2 medium eggs
125g S R Flour
25g Cocoa powder
200g cherries

1. Preheat oven gas 4 180°C grease a 20cm square cake tin & line with grease proof paper
2. Mix butter sugar, eggs & flour in a bowl. Mix cocoa powder with about 3tablespoons of cold water to a paste, then add to the bowl & mix until smooth & creamy
3. Fold in the cherries
4. Spoon into prepared tin & bake for 35mins or until risen & firm to the touch.
5. Leave in the tin for several hours to cool & firm up.
6. Remove the cake & with a sharp knife remove the crusty edges.
7. Spread 200g of black cherry preserve over the cake & sprinkle with desiccated coconut & cut into squares.

'200 Club' Dinner 2016

The menus have been returned, the food ordered. Now we can all look forward to a pleasant and enjoyable evening with friends, good food and a glass of wine. Entertainment is by our very own Martin Platt on the piano and also we have guest singer (crooner) Dave Jones.

Members are reminded that the S/C bar is closed and therefore should bring their own drinks and glasses if they require more than a glass of wine.

Once again, on behalf of fellow trustees Jean and Jenny thank you for your continued support.

Roger Berry

ps

-MOST WANTED- New Members



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heart of
Sedgley**

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Enjoy sitting out in our gardens with views over the Wrekin or come inside where you will find a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.

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- **Superb coffees & teas**
- **Home made cakes**
- **Sedgley cream teas**
- **Paninis & Quiches**
- **Breakfasts with local produce & local bread**
- **Rear car park**
- **Garden seating with views of the Wrekin**
- **Take away available**



Café Capella Open Monday-Saturday 8.30am till 4.00pm

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Tel: 01902 677351 Email cafecappella@gmail.com

JUST THOUGHTS

Be someone you would be proud to know.

There are crazy ones. Misfits. Rebels. Troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. Ones who see things different. Those who don't follow the rules, having no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things, they push the human race forward. And while you may see them as crazy they are often geniuses. Because it's those people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who usually do.

You have to put up with a little rain to get to the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

Accept that you lost, but never accept that you failed. Try, try again.

When you have no one around you, believe that you have got yourself and that everything is going to work out alright.

Love others for who they are and what they are not, do not love them for the possessions they have.

The scariest moment is always just before you start.

Don't expect a miracle; be a miracle.

A ship is safe in the harbour, but that's not where ships are meant to be.

The meaning of life is to give life a meaning.

Life is full of the unexpected, but always remember that it's hard to beat someone who never gives up.

Life is as extreme as you wish to make it.

If God always gave us good days, how would we ever learn from our mistakes.

The most important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed no hope all.

You will walk through life much easier with a smile on your face.

Don't chase your dreams, catch them.

When your mind says give up, hope whispers go on give it one more try.

Forget yesterday, live for today, tomorrow will take care of itself.

Life isn't an adventure to be taken too fast, take it slow, live your life, enjoy your days, because you never know how long your days are numbered.

Life may not lead you where you want to be, but have faith because you are exactly where you are currently meant to be.

Never regret a day of your life, "Good days give you joy while bad days give you experience". Both are important for a successful life.

Be someone else's sunshine. Be the reason someone smiles today.

You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great.

Don't look for inspiration, just start working and inspiration will come to you.

Live, love, laugh. Don't let anyone drag you down. Live life your way.

You are only limited by your own fears and inaction.

Sometime you need to go through pain and mistakes to be able to appreciate and understand what you really value and want in your life.

You only live once, but if you work at right; once is enough.

Look up, get up and never give up

Life is what you make it to be.

Compiled by David Melhuish.

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