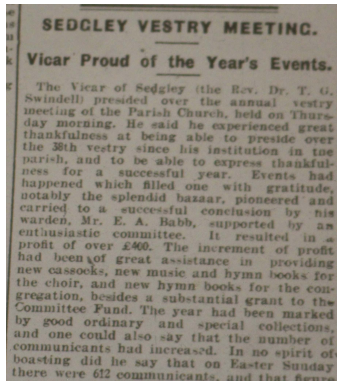
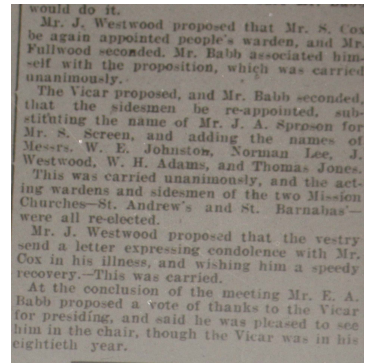




# 1920s



**The Annual Vestry Meeting .**  
The Dudley Herald used to cover the Annual Church Meeting in detail.

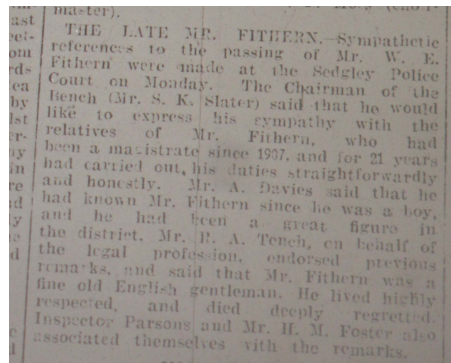


What is surprising nearly 100 years on is the familiar nature of the business of the annual vestry meeting – eg election of churchwardens and sidespersons. The 'mission churches' are mentioned - St Andrew's and **St Barnabas** - which was in Gospel End and has now been converted to a private house.

# 1929

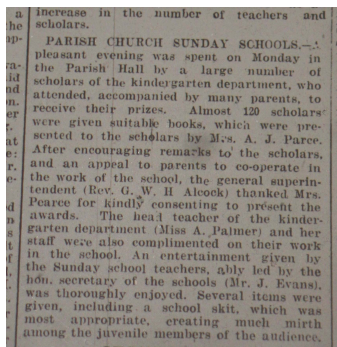


**Two cinemas in Dudley town centre – the Empire and the Castle.**



The Dowager Countess of Dudley dies – funeral at Himley Church. **Widow of the Earl of Dudley** who died in 1885.

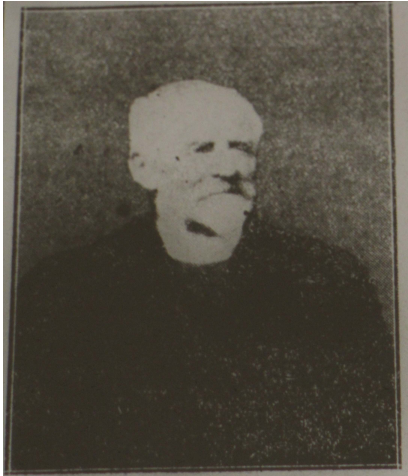
Mr Fithern, a **Sedgley magistrate** for 21 years, died in 1929 and tributes were paid to him at Sedgley Police Court.



**Sedgley Parish Church Sunday Schools Kindergarten prizegiving.** 120 scholars given books . Revd Alcock, the curate was the 'General Superintendent'.



# 1929



THE LATE REV. DR. T. G. SWINDELL.

The illness and death of Revd Dr TG Swindell dominated the year 1929. First his wife became seriously ill with influenza, then in the autumn he fell ill and eventually died. He had been vicar of All Saints for 41 years and his death marked the passing of an era in the life of the church and village.

Revd Dr Swindell's achievements while vicar of All Saints' are detailed.

**HIS EARLIER YEARS.**  
Born on December 13th, 1845, he was ordained deacon and priest in 1876, by Dr. Philpot, Bishop of Worcester, and his first curacy was at Holy Trinity, Worcester, where he remained for 18 months. Then, in 1878, he succeeded the Rev. S. J. Marriott as priest-in-charge of the Holly Hall district of Dudley, and it was here that his real work began. A school erected in the district by Messrs. Cochrane and Co. was put into the market, and mainly through the intervention of the late Rev. Dr. Cozens (then Vicar of Dudley), the building was secured for religious services to supply the spiritual needs of a growing parish. Therefore, at the time the Rev. Swindell came to Holly Hall the only place in which church services were held was in the school hall, and he immediately applied himself with great energy to the work of providing a new church. He formed a strong committee, principally of working men, and approached the late Earl of Dudley, who gave a donation of £1,750 towards the project. Working with zest, £5,650 was ultimately raised, and in 1884 the Rev. Swindell's object was achieved by the consecration of St. Augustine's Church. A separate ecclesiastical parish was carved out of St. Thomas's parish, Dudley, and the living was endowed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. However, he was not to stay long to enjoy the fruits of

The article in the Herald reveals the dynamic nature of Revd Dr Swindell's first ministry at **Holly Hall in Dudley**, where he succeeded in building a new church - St

**WORK AT SEDGLEY.**  
During the past forty years the Sedgley Parish Church has been improved not only on its spiritual side, but also on the material side. A stone pulpit, a handsome lectern, a lady chapel and a war memorial window have been added, and the tower—the only remnant of the old church—has been restored at a cost of nearly £2,900. In addition, the bells have been re-hung and the organ rebuilt and enlarged. A parish hall has been formed out of two rooms, the burial ground has been extended, and a mission has been built at The Straits to replace a building previously demolished.  
Although the present church at Sedgley was built over a century ago, there have only been four other vicars—the Rev. Charles Girdlestone (who did a great amount of work during the great cholera visitation of the Black Country in 1832), the Rev. William Lewis, the Hon. and Rev. A. Anson, and the Rev. W. Griffiths. Little was it thought when the Rev. Swindell took up the position in 1883 that he would remain to take part in the centenary celebrations which took place in July last. He completed 55 years of his ministry at Sedgley in 1938, and commenting on life's changes, mentioned that with one exception—St. Peter's, Upper Gornal—there was not an incumbent then in Wolverhampton, Bilston, Wednesbury, Tipton, Wombourne, Rowley Regis, Tettenhall, Stourbridge and Oldbury who was there when he first came into the neighbourhood of Dudley

The details of the funeral and the burial in Gospel End Street cemetery.

The body, in an oak coffin which bore the inscription: "Thomas Greenall Swindell, Priest, at rest, Nov. 16, 1929. Aged 83 years," was borne from the vicarage to the church on Tuesday night by the churchwardens (Messrs. E. A. Babb and A. J. Dews) and sidesmen, and was received by the Rev. G. W. H. Aleock and a surpliced choir, and carried to the chancel.  
A short choral service was held, and early on Wednesday morning there was a solemn requiem, at which the celebrant was the Rev. A. Dawson (vicar of Hurst Hill), assisted by the Rev. G. W. H. Aleock. Several members of the late vicar's family attended, and in addition a large number who had been associated with Dr. Swindell during his long ministry in the parish.  
The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Aleock, assisted by the Lord Bishop of Lichfield (Dr. Kempthorne), the Rural Dean (the Rev. J. Edward-Jones, M.A.), the Rev. A. H. Bird (St. George's, Wolverhampton, and

At the graveside the Rev. A. T. Bennett officiated, and following the hymn "On the Beauty Thou morning," the Bishop of Lichfield, who had read the committal sentences, pronounced the Benediction.  
Chief mourners were Mr. Walter C. Swindell (Bridgport), the Ven. Frank G. Swindell, M.A. (Archdeacon of Singapore), Mr. John A. Swindell, Mr. Basil H. S. Swindell and Mrs. Swindell, Mr. Harold Page (representing Mr. Sam Well Page), Mrs. R. L. Hodson, Miss Sarah Benn, Mr. H. W. Ashwell and Mr. I. J. Percy Terry, representing respectively Dr. Swindell's two surviving brothers—Alderman T. W. Swindell (Great Yarmouth) and the Rev. Canon F. S. Swindell, M.A., R.D. (Erdington).  
Owing to illness, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson (son-in-law and daughter), of Bristol, were unable to be present.  
The bearers were Messrs. T. Wright, J. Wright, F. Davies, A. Jones, J. Grewcutt, A. Monckton, H. Robson, W. Bradley, N. Lee, J. Elwell, H. A. Pearce and J. Westwood, and they carried the body shoulder-high to the church to the grave.  
In addition to the clergy already mentioned there were present the Revs. J. C. Rose (St. Chad's, West Cosely), W. H. Mitchell (Hurst Hill), P. Bourne (St. Andrew's, Wolverhampton), G. Cooke (St. James's, Lower Gornal), W. Edge (Lower Gornal), R. H. Fowler (Holy Trinity, Wordsley), F. Dawson (Hurst Hill), J. W. C. Jones (Mowcop, a former curate), Hartill, A. Picken (Ettingshall) and W. Jenkins (Rector of Llanfyllin).