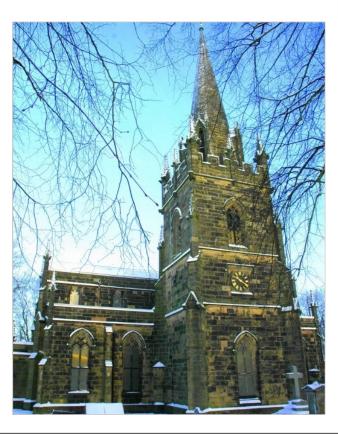
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50p JULY/AUGUST 2017

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DIARY DATES FOR JULY-AUGUST 2017

Dates for Diary

A Summer Concert will take place on Saturday 1st July at All Saints' Church. Tickets are £8 per person which can be obtained from Liz, Tony or Gail (01902 540289). This replaces the Summer Fayre which normally place. The concert starts at 7.30pm with music which will cover Classical, Pop, Vivaldi, Karl Jenkins and Simon and Garfunkel.

Junior Church Festival will take place on the 2nd July at 10.30am at All Saints'.

Mothers' Union
July 4th - 2.30pm - Cream Tea
July 18th - 7.15pm Communion - Lipservice or Action - rosemary Moss

Fair Trade Stall - 9th July

Ladies Society - July 3rd - The Coseley Tragedy - Anne Clarke

Funerals

9th June - Marjorie Holloway - Gornal Wood

13th June - Doris Sheldon - Gornal Wood

15th June - Dorothy Joan Gough - Gornal Wood

15th June - Gillian Mary Andrews - All Saints'

22nd June - John Greathead - Gornal Wood

Holy Days and Commemorations for July

1st July St. Theobald - choosing God, not money 2nd July St. John Francis Regis – patron saint for relief workers 3rd July St. Thomas the Apostle – confused and doubting 4th July St. Elizabeth of Portugal - compassion for prostitutes 7th July St. Boisil of Melrose - patron saint for ordinands? 7th July St. Willibald – the first ever Anglo-Saxon travel writer I Ith July St. Benedict - author of the famous Rule 14th July St. Camillus de Lellis - patron of the sick 15th July St. Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day 16th July St. Helier – losing a loved one to violence 19th July St. Macrina the Younger – a sister in a million 22nd July St. Mary Magdalene – the woman with a past 22nd July St. Mary Magdalene - patron of repentant sinners 25th July St. James the Apostle - apostle to Spain 25th July St. James the Great 25th July St. Christopher - patron saint of motorists 27th July The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus 30th July William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson 31st July St. Joseph of Arimathea – the man who buried Jesus

Letter from the Bishop Of Dudley By Bishop Graham

For the past year I have been serving on the board of the Human Tissue Authority, the body that regulates organisations that remove, store and use human tissue for research, medical treatment, post-mortem examination, education and training, and display in public. They also give approval for organ and bone marrow donation from living people. I have become increasingly fascinated by its work and the many ethical questions that arise as medical science advances what is possible.

Part of my role, along with other board members, is to give the final approval for living organ donations, having ascertained that the donation is being given without reward, coercion or duress - all of which are illegal in the UK. The donor also needs to be capable of giving informed consent, having understood what the procedure involves and its consequences. There are often incredibly inspiring stories such as a husband giving a kidney to his wife, or a work colleague donating to someone across the office. There are also people who choose to donate a kidney or liver lobe altruistically to someone who they do not know, and will likely never meet or know anything about.

Recently I read a report submitted to the HTA for such a donation. It was an older person who decided that she would mark a significant birthday, not by receiving presents but by giving to someone else. Her Christian faith had inspired her, in thankfulness to God for good health and so many opportunities, to offer to donate one of her kidneys to a complete stranger.

This would not be the choice of everyone, and many people might not be physically or psychologically fit to proceed, but it made me reflect upon how important it is to be people of gift. If we believe that everything we have, including our bodies, comes from God, then offering to donate in life and in death is part of our good stewardship. Donation then becomes an incredible gift of love as 'freely you have received, freely give' (Matthew 10.8) and it furthers our Christian calling to bring healing, motivated by compassion, mercy and prioritising the needs of others.

Some people choose to be blood donors, thus contributing to the 7000 units of blood that are needed each day by the NHS; red blood cells, platelets and plasma are all needed to save lives. Others choose to donate bone marrow. Others register to be an organ donor when they die so that the 6,900 or so people who at any one time are waiting for a transplant might be given an incredible gift. The sad reality is that there aren't enough donors; in 2015, 429 patients died while on the active waiting list for a transplant and a further 807 were removed because they became too ill.

It can take some bravery to have that difficult conversation with family members to explain that when you die you would like to be an organ donor. That conversation is, however, really crucial. If this is your preference, do register - by signing up to the Organ Donation Register - and carry an organ donation card, but also have that conversation today so that your family understand your wishes to bring life and health to others if something were to happen to you.

Life is an incredible gift. Donation in life, and in death, gifts to others lots more life in all its fullness.

Growing up

Your child has started growing up when he stops asking you where he came from and starts refusing to tell you where he's going

Interfaith Picnic at Holland House Sam Setchell

An interfaith picnic takes place at Holland House in July On Sunday 2 July, retreat house Holland House, will host its 2nd interfaith picnic. Last year around 100 people from nine different faiths came together to enjoy the picnic. People of all ages enjoyed a vegan buffet and English cream tea along with traditional music from the faiths present. The picnic is a joint project between Holland House and the Worcestershire Interfaith Forum. Warden of Holland House, Ian Spencer said: "Our hope is to create an opportunity for people of faith to sit with each other and meet together in a very social way. It is also important for us to show that people of faith respect each other's tradition and that we get on!"

Haris Saleem, president of the Worcester Muslim Welfare Association, said: "It's really important for the different communities in Worcester to get together and understand one another better. If we have better understanding, I believe we become better citizens."

Faiths represented at last year's picnic were Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Quaker, Unitarian and Muslim. Alongside the food and music there was also a bouncy castle and games for the children to en-

THANKYOU

Thank you to one and all for your support by buying my cards, chutneys and preserves.

I have raised £400, which I have donated to the Snowdrop chemo therapy unit at New cross Hospital.

If you require a card just let me know. I'm usually at the 10:30 service or tell the Wardens, Keith or John, at All Saints.

Thanks Pauline

Spree West Midlands Sam Setchell

Spree West Midlands 2017 is taking place on Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 July and is a camping and activity weekend open to all young people aged 8 -15 at Lenchwood Christian Centre.

The programme includes sessions looking at the Christian faith in a fun and interactive way. This is the second year for Spree WM, and here are some of the comments on last year's camp:

"It was the calmest camp I've ever been on and the sunniest I think!! We all had fun, adults and kids - please pass on my thanks - the spiritual slot leaders completely nailed it - God was at work in our gang's lives." "We were so encouraged with the growth and participation of our young people and are hoping to start a Youth Alpha over the summer as a result of Spree. Thank you so much!"

"It was great to see the group come together and encourage one another in all the activities both spiritual and physical. It gave us time as leaders to engage with the kids and have fun together."

"Young people loved the rapping and mentioned they didn't realise this Christian event would be like that. They were surprised - in a good way!" Please pray for a safe, sunny and happy weekend with lots of young people joining in with all the group sessions and activities. We pray that through this weekend young people may draw closer to God and be inspired to follow Jesus in their daily lives.

Mothers' Union

Wendy Pettit came to speak to our afternoon meeting in June about 'Life on a Nigerian Mission'. Her husband David, who happens to be our Diocesan Treasurer, was an engineer in his working life. In the 1970's he and the family went out to Nigeria where he worked on building a new Bailey Bridge. Life on the mission where they were was quite basic.

No modern kitchen for the people who lived there, just an open air one consisting of a bench covered by a roof. The power came on for a few hours in the evening when the ironing could be done. The roads were poor and it was a long journey to the shops and doctor's. Many of the people lived in mud huts. There were the bugs, some harmless but others dangerous, and the different foods they and the children had to get use to. We were able to build a picture of what life was like there from Wendy's photographs of people and places. Sadly Wendy and David's little girl died from an infection while they were out there and Wendy spoke of the kindness shown to them by the Nigerians at that tragic time.

We are having a Coffee Morning in church from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Friday I Ith August to raise funds for the AFIA project. 'Away From It All' provides holidays and days out for people experiencing difficulties in their family life and who would not otherwise be able to have a holiday. Holidays take different forms suitable to the families; caravan and holiday camps are popular but other families benefit from days out.

We have been invited to the Mary Sumner Day Service on Saturday 5th August at I Iam, at Holy Trinity, Amblecote. This will be followed by a light lunch. We are made very welcome and those members who have been in previous years enjoyed the service and fellowship over lunch. Please let me know if you will be going as I need to let Amblecote have some idea of numbers for catering. If any members need a lift please let me know.

Dates:

4 th July	2.30pm	Cream Tea
18 th July	7.30pm	'Lipservice or Action', Rosemary Moss
5 th Aug	11.00am	Mary Sumner Day Service at Holy Trinity,
		Amblecote
II th Aug	10.30am	MU Coffee Morning in aid of AFIA
5 th Sept	2.15pm	Communion followed by Liz Green
6 th Sept	7.00pm	Deanery Festival, St Mark's, Pensnett

Liz Williams

Outing to Trentham Gardens



We are organising a trip to Trentham Gardens on Thursday 3rd August, leaving Vicar Street at 9.30am. The cost is £19.

Anyone wishing to go please contact Liz Williams,

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Not much of a doubter, really Canon David Winter recalls the dedication of Thomas...

It's a strange nickname for a man whose burning faith in Jesus took him, so some accounts say, all the way to India to found a Christian Church there (Mar Thoma). But 'Doubting Thomas' he is, and in one way it's good to have someone in the early band of disciples who represents all those of us who tend to find unquestioning faith difficult.

His tendency to ask the searching, even perhaps sarcastic question, can be found in the Gospel (see John 14:6), but his reputation was set for ever on the first Easter night. Thomas was not in the Upper Room when the risen Jesus appeared for the first time to the apostles, and when they told him what had happened he was unimpressed. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my fingers in his wounds I will not believe."

A week later Jesus appeared again, and this time not only was Thomas there, but Jesus singled him out for special attention. "Come on," he said, "here are the wounds. Do not doubt, but believe." That was the end of the Doubter, who fell to his knees to exclaim, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus observed that he had seen and believed. There would be many in the future, He said, who would not have such evidence set before them, but yet would believe. Among them, I like to think, are many Thomases, people for whom faith (in the sense of believing propositions) is seldom easy. I suspect Thomas's favourite saying of Jesus was "Seek and you will find." It's not a bad one to have in mind this year on St Thomas's Day, 3rd July





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What do you think Mission is?

Church Mission Society has launched a major new campaign called 'Mission Is...'

The aim is to first 'listen' and discover what Christians nowadays think is involved in Mission, and then to seek to renew people's confidence in mission.

As a spokesman for Church Mission Society explained, "Our central belief is that all of God's people are called to join in God's mission, but we suspect that many people's confusion over what 'mission' really means is a central factor in this generation's hesitation about getting involved.

"We're not talking about dropping the word and becoming Church---- 'Blank' ------Society, but we are seeking to make mission easier to understand and ultimately, be part of." Visit:

http://www.churchmissionsociety.org/events

Former chorister Ken Dodd sings praise of the Book of Common Prayer

The Book of Common Prayer is a guide to life, according to 89-year-old comedian Ken Dodd. "The Prayer Book is, in many ways, very up-to-date," he says. "It's a wonderful piece of literature, beautifully-written and based on fact."

Sir Ken has been a life-long devotee of the Prayer Book, with which he became familiar at an early age as a chorister at the Church of St John the Evangelist in Knotty Ash. He still worships there periodically, but the pull of choral evensong means that he also attends Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral now and then.

THE BEACON

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

Keith Tomlinson: tel. 01902 673366.

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 September magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk
by
Friday 18th August

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

WEBSITE: www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk

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THE TRADITIONAL HEART OF INDIA

This is the story of Suzanne who visited Northern India last October for Traidcraft on a 'Meet the People Tour'.

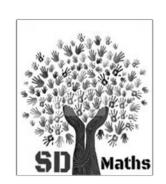
She tells us: "The best moment for me was visiting the Bagga village where the ladies make bird houses. They were so excited to meet us, and we sat on the floor with them to watch how they made their products.

The hardest part of the trip was seeing the poverty. In the slum areas people, especially children, were living with open sewers. In the Neru slum there was a small room, in which, when the door was opened, we saw 20 children sitting on the floor trying to learn to read and write.

Everything was a new experience, but what surprised me most was that these people who had nothing were so proud and happy. They just got on with things – and that is a lesson for us all."



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India - 'alarming rise' in attacks by Hindu nationalists

Attacks against Christians in India have been rising at an alarming rate, according to new reports. They are politically motivated, and have increased since the March 2017 elections, which saw a landslide victory for Hindu nationalists.

The latest report of the All India Christian Council records an increase of almost 20 per cent in attacks against Christians in 2016. It says physical violence against Christians is up 40 per cent and murders have doubled.

In states across India, church workers have been beaten, threatened and killed.

Attempts have been made to force Christians to renounce their faith and convert to Hinduism. Church services and prayer meetings have been disrupted, churches and Christian school have been bombed, torched, vandalised and demolished. Bibles have been torn to pieces and burnt. Militants beat one evangelist with chains, stripped him and forced him to drink urine. A Christian cemetery was desecrated and skeletons dug up and strewn across the graveyard.

The report, Atrocities on Christians in India records a fresh attack every 40 hours. It says: 'The attacks have become severe and more frequent. Incidents used to be confined to a few states. Now the violence has spread to 23 states.' The sharpest rise has been recorded in Uttar Pradesh and the state of Telangana.

Right-wing Hindu nationalism has been gaining ground since the BJP took power in 2014. Since further gains for the radicals in the March elections, five Indian states have now imposed anti-conversion laws. There has also been moves to bring in nationwide legislation aimed at outlawing evangelism, to prevent Hindus from converting.

Release International reports that in Andhra Pradesh a pastor was beaten to death by a Maoist. In Assam, a couple who had recently converted to Christianity were murdered in their home. A pastor and his sevenmenth pregnant wife were doused with petrol by religious extremists, who threatened them with swords and demanded they chant, 'Hail Lord Rama'.

In Chhattisgarh, a gang raped and murdered a 14-year-old Christian girl who was on her way to school. Villagers had excommunicated her family for accepting the Christian faith. The authorities have yet to take any action against the culprits.

Some attacks appear to be a reaction against what reads like a Christian revival in parts of India.

Iraq's church leaders call for help to protect ancient Christian communities

Iraq's three main church traditions have issued a joint statement calling for international action to safeguard the "rights of Christian communities in the historic Nineveh Plains", including the establishment of a "safe haven" for Christians in the region.

The joint statement by church leaders followed a proclamation by a prominent Iraqi Shia cleric that "Jihad should be implemented in regard to the Christians in order for them to convert to Islam. Either they will become Muslims or we must fight them, or they ought to pay jizya." Jizya is a tax paid to an Islamic government by non-Muslims as a sign of subjugation, according to classical Islam.

The threat of anti-Christian violence continuing, despite the progress made in defeating Islamic State, remains a real concern for Iraqi believers, reports the Barnabas Fund. An Iraqi MP has recently stated that around 1.5 million Iraqi Christians have fled the country since 2003.

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Lift up your eyes

'Are we there yet?' This is a familiar cry from a child frustrated by a long journey, impatient to be at the destination. With the school holidays soon upon us, it's good to be reminded of Psalm 121. This is one of those psalms (Ps 120-134) used by the Jewish pilgrims journeying to Jerusalem for the great festivals.

There were real dangers for these Jewish pilgrims on their journey. They could slip on the road, there was the threat of wild animals and they had to suffer hot days and cold nights. On the Christian journey we are tempted by 'the world, the flesh and the devil', as well as dealing with those who mess up our lives and our questions about God's goodness or existence.

So where do we look for help? 'I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?' (Psalm 121:1). Ironically, the Jews would look to the hills, where pagan worship was practiced. Even today, we can go to the wrong places for help e.g. horoscopes rather than the Scriptures; work colleagues or friends, rather than fellow Christians. We can also miss where to look for help: 'My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth' (2).

Like the Jewish pilgrims, we need to recognise that only God has the power to keep us on the road. Even when God seems silent in our suffering, He is 'watching over us' (5). On our journey He 'will keep us from harm' (7) and 'watch over our coming and going' (8).

'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face towards you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6: 24-6).



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Handel's Water Music - 300 years ago

It was 300 years ago, on 17th July 1717, that Handel's Water Music was performed for the first time, on a barge on the River Thames in London. The music, which lasted about an hour, had been commissioned by King George I as part of the entertainment for a royal cruise. The monarch was so enthusiastic about it that he asked to hear it four times.

George Frideric Handel was a German-born English composer known particularly for his memorable oratorio, Messiah, which he composed some 25 years later. He was devoutly Lutheran and was described by a friend as "manifesting a deep sense of religion". Although he came under criticism for using the theatre for biblically-based works, he maintained that he knew the Bible as well as any bishop.

Water Music, a suite of short pieces for a small orchestra, was known particularly for its highly spirited movements in dance form. Most of the pieces were intended for outdoor performance. Selections from the suite were published during Handel's lifetime, but the entire collection did not come into print until 1788, nearly three decades after his death.

The order in which the composer wanted the various movements to be played remains uncertain

Prayer of a hard-pressed woman

Dear Lord,
I pray for Wisdom to understand my man;
Love to forgive him;
And Patience to cope with his moods.
Because Lord, if I pray for Strength,
I'll beat him to death.
Amen

Jane Austin - 200 years since her death

Jane Austen, a brilliant, quintessentially English novelist much loved for her irony, social realism and criticism of the upper classes, died 200 years ago this month, on 18th July 1817. She was almost unknown in her lifetime, having published books like Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility and Mansfield Park anonymously.

She was also a Christian (and the daughter of a rector) but did not wear her heart on her sleeve. A reticent Anglican, she wrote early on that she "did not like the Evangelicals" but later felt that those who were Evangelicals "from reason and feeling must be happiest and safest". Her novel Mansfield Park tackles a theme dear to the heart of many late eighteenth century Evangelicals – the abolition of the slave trade.

Throughout her writing her main characters are transformed by love, an idea of course central to Christianity. Her faith may not call attention to itself in her novels, but it is everywhere in her work.

One critic wrote: "The stories are subversive and work like Jesus' parables. The humour and the ironic insight into human sin get under your skin."

An image of Jane Austen will appear on the new polymer £10 note, to be released in September.

Cost of preaching

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."



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WWI TIMELINE - EVENTS OF 1917

July 1917

- 2nd Agreement signed at the Hague for the exchange of combatant & civilian British & German prisoners of war.
- 4th Concerted attack by German submarines on U.S. Transports defeated.
- 6th Aqaba (Arabia) occupied by Arab forces.

 Conscription Bill carried in Canadian House of Commons.
- 7th Severe aeroplane raid on England (Margate & London; 250 casualties, mostly civilians; last on London in daylight).
- 9th HMS 'Vanguard' sunk by internal explosion, in harbour.
- 11th British attack on Ramadi (Mesopotamia).
- 17th Proclamation issued changing the name of the British Royal House to Windsor.
- 18th German Counter Offensive on the Eastern Front: Battle of Galicia begins.
- 22nd Siam declares war on Germany & Austria-Hungary.
- 25th Full Inter-Allied Conference assembles in Paris to discuss the Bal kan situation with military, navel, and political committees to the discuss probable collapse of Russia.
- 28th Tank Corps formed in the British Army.
- 31st Battles of Ypres 1917 begin with Battle of Pilcken Ridge (ends August 2nd).

The House of Windsor:

A Royal Proclamation was issued on 17th July.

"We out of our Royal Will and Authority, do hereby declare and announce, Our House and Family shall be styled and known as the House and Family of Windsor."

The previous name Saxe-Coburg-Gotha arose from the marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert in 1840 but it was felt insensitive for the royal family to have German names amidst a major war with that nation, and with Gotha aircraft bombing London.

1,700,000

Strength of the British Army on the Western Front in summer 1917.

Battle of Pilchkem Ridge- 31 July- 2nd August

The aim was to break through the German lines, win the high ground of the Passchendaele Ridge, and drive northwards to the coastal ports of Ostend and Zeebrugge, from which German U-boats were reported operating, and to take railway hubs.

On the first day it started to rain heavily. Bad weather continued, turning the battlefield into a quagmire; artillery fire had destroyed the field drainage systems. The battle dragged on despite little being achieved. The first bombardment before the battle lasted 10 days. 3,000 guns fired 4.25 million artillery shells.

The 'Battle of Mud'

If a soldier slipped off wooden duckboards into a shell hole it was difficult for him to be extricated because of the mud, and orders were given to leave him! One soldier fell and was abandoned. When the platoon returned a few days later they found him still alive, with mud up to his neck, but having had a nervous collapse.

Rosemary Moss

Airline Announcements:

Courtesy of Tony Hart

United Flight Attendant announced, 'People, people, we're not picking out furniture here, find a seat and get in it!'

On landing, the stewardess said, 'Please be sure to take all of your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have.'

'There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this aeroplane'.

An airline pilot wrote that on this particular flight he had hammered his ship into the runway really hard. The airline had a policy that required the first officer to stand at the door while the passengers exited, smile, and give them a 'Thanks for flying our airline.' He said that, in light of his bad landing, he had a hard time looking the passengers in the eye, thinking that someone would have a smart comment. Finally, everyone had gotten off except for a little old lady walking with a cane.

She said, 'Sir, do you mind if I ask you a question?'
'Why, no, Ma'am,' said the pilot. 'What is it?'
The little old lady said, 'Did we land, or were we shot down?'

As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Ronald Reagan Airport, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: 'Whoa, big fella, WHOA!'

Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: 'We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal.'

Part of a flight attendant's arrival announcement: 'We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of US Airways.'



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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH JULY/AUGUST 2017

2nd July - Trinity 3

All Saints': 8am - NO SERVICE

10.30am - Junior Church Festival and Prize Giving - Jan Humphries

6.30pm - Evensong - Jan Humphries

St Andrew's: 9.30am - NO SERVICE as Joint Service at St Peter's at 10.30am

St Peter's: 10.30am - Patronal Festival with Bring and Share Lunch-The Revd James

Makepeace

9th July - Trinity 4

All Saints': 8am - Holy Communion - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10.30am - JOINT SERVICE with St Peter's at All Saints'6.30pm - Evensong - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

St Andrew's: 9.30am - Family Service—Suzanne Bradley

St Peter's: 10.30am - Joint Service at All Saints'

16th July - Trinity 5

All Saints': 8am - The Revd Canon Judith Oliver

10.30am - The Revd Judith Oliver6.30pm - Evensong - Jan Humphries

St Andrew's: 9.30am - Family Service - Jan Humphries

St Peter's: 10.30am - Parade Service—The Revd Catherine Mitchell

23rd July - Trinity 6

All Saints': 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10.30am - Communion with Baptism - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

6.30pm - Compline - Jan Humphries

St Andrew's: 9.30am - The Revd James Makepeace

St Peter's: 10.30am - Morning Prayer - Suzanne Bradley

6.30pm - Memorial Service - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

30th July - Trinity 7

All Saints': 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10.30am - NO SERVICE - as Team Service at St Andrew's at 9.30am

6,30pm - Healing Service - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

and Jan Humphries

St Andrew's: 9.30am - Team Service

St Peter's: 10.30am - NO SERVICE as Team Service at St Andrew's at 9.30am