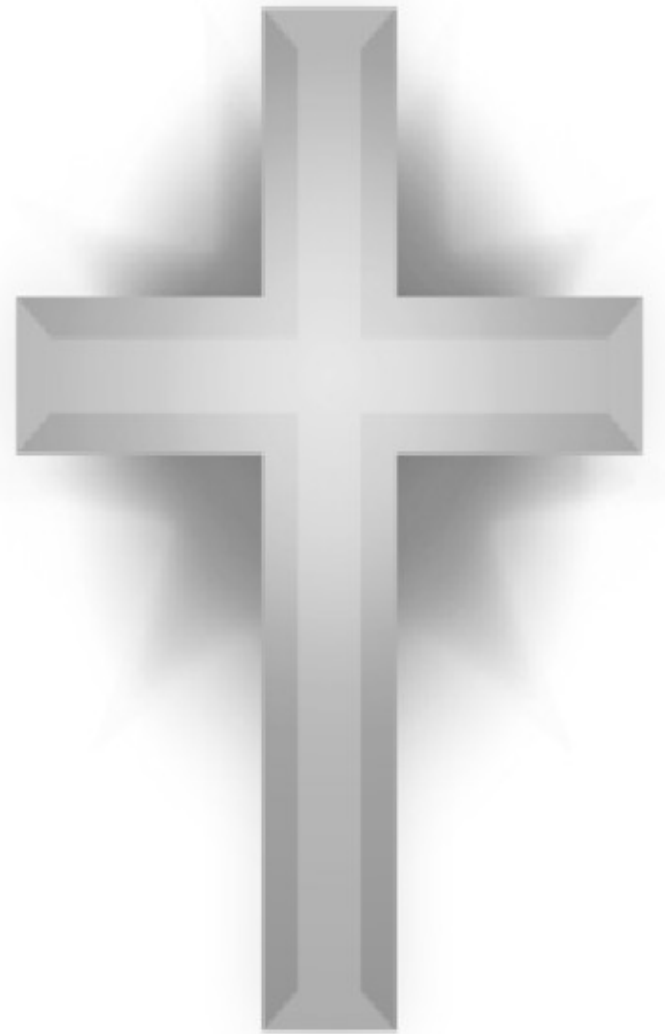


THE BEACON

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



50p

JUNE 2018

WHO's WHO

Team Rector	Revd Guy Hewlett	01902 295164
Team Vicar	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	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	Dave Bell	07933 204132
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

DIARY DATES FOR JUNE 2018

Mothers Union - June 5th - 2.30pm - MU France - Joyce Bache
Men's Society - June 18th - Aspects of Comedy - Mike Sampson
St Peters - 16th June - Afternoon Tea Party
30th June - Upper Gornal Fun Day (Quarry)

Every Monday afternoon the Salvation Army meet in the meeting room and on the third Monday of the month there is a Singing by Heart Group for Dementia in the hall. For more details contact Margaret Hollis 07957 112393.

Baptisms

13th May - St Andrews - Everley Caswell
27th May - All Saints' - Phoebe Williams and Jack Smallman

Funerals

9 May - Jennifer Hill - Age 79 - Gornal Wood
15 May - Michael Geoffrey Davis - St Peters
18 May - Gary Jones - Age 55 - All Saints

High Days & Holy Days for June

- 1 Justin Martyr – first ever Christian philosopher
- 2 Erasmus – a good saint for when you're all at sea
- 3 The Martyrs of Uganda
- 4 Petroc – the abbot of Padstow
- 6 Gudwal – the first Christian in Brittany?
- 8 William of York – victim of injustice
- 9 Columba of Iona – missionary to Scotland
- 11 Barnabas – Paul's first missionary companion
- 13 Antony of Padua – friend of St Francis of Assisi
- 14 Richard Baxter – Puritan Divine
- 15 Evelyn Underhill – mystical writer of the 20th century
- 16 Richard of Chichester – wanting God more clearly, dearly and nearly
- 21 Father's Day – time to celebrate male role models
- 21 Summer Solstice – longest day of the year
- 22 Alban – helping a stranger in need
- 22 St Alban – British martyr under the Romans
- 22 Alban – Britain's first Christian martyr
- 24 John the Baptist – preparing the way for the Messiah
- 29 Feast of SS Peter & Paul – the two most famous apostles

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 July magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 22nd June

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

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

If you know anyone who wishes to enquire about weddings or baptisms, please tell them that from 1st February, the Vestry Hour will only be held on the first and third Sundays in each month, from 12noon to 1.00pm.

Letter from the Bishop of Dudley

Modern Slavery

The roadside sign to have your car washed for £3 is so tempting. With busy lives, and when time is precious, this amount is small change. You can have your car cleaned in a few minutes by a team of people, generally from overseas, while you catch up on emails or read a magazine. For many of us it's a no-brainer.

Then you begin to hear that some car washes (although certainly not all) are places where the victims of modern slavery are forced to work. Along with nail bars, brothels, domestic service and horticulture, these are the places where people are found caught up in this vile trade in human beings. The trade includes children as well, often violently coerced into illegal activity, and there is a horrifying international trade in the poorest people having their organs trafficked for the benefit of people who are ill and wealthy enough.

If you thought slavery ended with William Wilberforce then think again. Each and every human being is made in the image of God – the Imago Dei – so anything less than human flourishing is an affront to God. Any behaviour that values some human beings less than others, or exploits or abuses them, is contrary to God's will. This is why, as Christians, we must take a stand against modern slavery in all its forms. In such a way, we follow in the steps of Jesus in proclaiming release to the captives and letting the oppressed go free.

Working to combat modern slavery is the responsibility of us all. The Church of England's Clewer Initiative is working to bring these crimes to the attention of the wider public. It is also helping us to spot the signs that are there, often in plain sight before us, if only we had the eyes to see.

For further information about their work and what you can do to help, please see www.theclewerinitiative.org, and for indicators of trafficking,

domestic servitude and labour exploitation, see their “spot the signs” page.

Together we can make a difference and banish the scourge of slavery in our midst.

Bishop Graham

Ordinations By Sam Setchell

Please pray for this year’s ordination candidates.

Over the weekend of 30 June/ 1 July, 14 people will be ordained to serve in parishes across the Diocese.

12 candidates will be ordained Deacon in the Cathedral on Saturday 30 June and are entering their first year of training as a curate. A further two candidates have completed their first year and will be ordained Priest in their parishes on Sunday 1 July; they are now able to preside at the Holy Communion.

Bishop John will ordain the Deacons, while Bishop Graham will ordain the two Priests. Archdeacon Rick Simpson, Archdeacon of Auckland in the Diocese of Durham will be preaching having led the pre-ordination retreat for candidates.

Ordained deacon:

Adam Hadley, who will serve at St Thomas in Stourbridge

Andy Smith, who will serve at All Saints in Worcester

Chris Sheehan, who will serve in the Arch Benefice, Evesham (Church Lench with Rous Lench & Abbots Morton & Harvington)

Jen Dennison, who will serve in the West Worcestershire Rural Team

Julia Quinn, who will serve in Stourport on Severn and Wilden

Peter Myres, who will serve in the Chase Team, Malvern (St Andrew's & All Saints, Malvern Wells & Wyche)
Rich Hackett, who will serve at Holy Trinity, Old Hill
Robin Parry, who will serve in the Worcester South East Team
Timothy Hupfield, who will serve in Badsey with Aldington & Offenham & Bretforton
Sue Adeney, who will serve in Upton-on-Severn, Ripple, Earls Croome w Hill Croome & Strensham as well as Hanley Castle, Hanley Swan & Wellingland
Janet Hatton, who will serve at St John, Bromsgrove
Jo Williamson, who will serve in Broadway, Evesham

Ordained Priest:

Becky Elliott serving in the West Worcestershire Rural Team
Paula Honniball serving at St John the Baptist, Claines & St George Worcester
Please pray for all this year's ordination candidates.



Cream Tea

Tuesday 3rd July, 2.30pm
at
All Saints' Church Hall
£6 – Proceeds to
Mothers' Union Projects
& All Saints' and St Andrew's Churches

(Tickets from Liz Williams)

From Guy Hewlett: Where are the children and young people?

When we look at our parish, all three of our churches, we can see that the numbers of children and young people present in our church communities are not representative of the wider community which we serve. We know in our hearts and minds that if we do not emphasise this aspect of our shared lives then our parish will struggle in the future. We have some very gifted and committed people working with our children and young people and there is some super work happening with children:

All Saints – Noah’s Ark Toddler Group, Junior Church, the Easter Workshop, the Youth Group (starting again soon) and growing connections with 1st Sedgley Scout Group

St Andrew – Little Angels Toddler Group, Singing Angels and Archangels
St Peter – Uniformed Organisations - Sponsored Groups

I believe that our Lord Jesus wants to see his church thrive and grow in depth of faith and in numbers. Bishop John, in the Kingdom People vision, has as one of the 8 characteristics of a Kingdom People Church: ‘Dedicated to helping children and young people to belong and be nurtured in faith’.

This is something I hope we all aspire to.

As part of the Kingdom People vision the Diocese have set up an initiative, ‘Calling Young Disciples’. This initiative helps churches like ours strengthen our engagement with children, young people and families.

Part of the initiative includes placing a ‘Mission Enabler’ in the parish, a professional person equipped to advise and support us on our work with children, young people and families, and the opportunities that exist for such work.

A number of Mission Enablers are part of the wider team. The first three of these begin in April last year. As well as a general support role, they will be intentionally placed in individual parishes, working with the leadership team to look at developing relationships with children, young people and families which are already in place.

The project is funded with contributions from the Diocesan Board of Finance, the Archbishops' Council, the Church Commissioners' strategic development and lowest income communities funding streams and a grant from the Mercer's Charity.

The Revd Ruth Walker is the Calling Young Disciples (CYD) Project Director. She said:

“This is a wonderful opportunity to focus on the engagement of churches with children, young people and families, helping families coming into our churches to have a good experience. Through this project we will be able to share good practice, build on work already in place and grow in confidence, sowing seeds and doing what we do as Church really well.”

Recently at a meeting with Ruth Walker at St Andrew's we were told that as a parish we may have a Mission Enabler come to work with us as early as September this year.

Please pray for our team who give so much to our work in the parish, and pray that if this opportunity is possible for us that it will be a real blessing to our shared life in Christ.

Following on below are some notes and points which we will need to agree with to move forward with this opportunity.

Criteria for Host Parish – why us?

Some existing work with children, young people and families which has the potential with some input and guidance from a Mission Enabler over

a year to grow and develop.

Consultation has taken place with Archdeacons and Rural Deans about parishes which could be great placements for Mission Enablers. The safeguarding team support this placement

What will the host parish have to sign up to?

Being 'in green' with their safeguarding toolkit.
Ruth check's with the Safeguarding Team.

Paying the local expenses of the Mission Enabler. The salary of the Mission Enabler is paid by the Project as are any expenses they have that are incurred in their role with the Project rather than the parish. F/T Mission Enablers are employed for 35 hours a week.

Partnership Agreement with Host Parish

Working Relationship between Key Parish Contact (the Rector) and the Project Director

Guidelines for the Key Contact Person

Establishing good communication with the Project Director. There will inevitably be meetings to set up in preparation for the arrival of the Mission Enabler and at other points both with the 'Incumbent' and groups like the PCC.

Being willing to be vulnerable, receiving constructive criticism and to take risks. The Mission Enabler should be able to provide caching and act as a critical friend and have that received.

Being willing to lay things aside to make room for this and to honestly face the question: What needs to go to make this a priority? The Enablers will ask: So what are you going to stop doing to do this?

Being open on this journey to working with an external consultant if after consultation the Project Director identifies areas where this would be helpful. The costs of this being paid by the Project.

Some office space where the Mission Enabler can base themselves, warm, access to refreshments, toilet, desk and internet/phone signal. As they are employed by the DBF there will be a Health and Safety Check of that environment.

Participating in the evaluation of the Project which is being undertaken for us by the Saltley Trust. As the project has received considerable funding from the Church Commissioners they want to be assured that the project is working well. (see also below)

Being part of a Learning Community facilitated for us by CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) for 3 years and providing up to about 10 people including the 'incumbent' or other appropriate member of the clergy team who will commit themselves to this, along with their Mission Enabler. This sustained will help to imbedded more thoroughly all that happens. Understanding that if the placement isn't working out and the steps taken to resolve this haven't worked, that although removing a Mission Enabler is a big step we are prepared to do that.

Learning Communities, CYD Hub .. Gatherings:

These meet twice a year at 6 monthly intervals beginning in September 2017 for the host parishes in the 1st and 2nd tranches. Each 'meeting' will begin on a Friday evening from 6.30pm and finish Saturday 9.30 am – 4.00/4.30pm, they will be non-residential but will include food on the Friday evening and Saturday lunch time.

With my prayers for you all,

Guy Hewlett

Vicars Ponderings - Fire in Coventry

Over the past few weeks I have been re-reading the book *Fire in Coventry*. The book was first published in 1964 and documents the how the people of the diocese prepared for the consecration not only of their new cathedral, but also of themselves.

The book has been re-published twice since 1964; the first republication was in 2012 for the 50th anniversary of the consecration of the cathedral and again this year on the centenary of Diocese of Coventry.

The movement of the Holy Spirit within the diocese at the time was tangible, working in the lives of the people and the church. Starting with the clergy and ministers being convicted to meet and pray; a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit within the whole church soon developed. This movement of the Spirit was founded on the commands to love and pray.

There's a quote in the book which was published in the *Church Times* in July 1962, which says of the effects of what was happening in Coventry "Perhaps we have come to know a tiny bit of what Jesus meant when he said: 'I will send you the Spirit of Truth'. We have seen reality break through, like the sun through a fog, sweeping away the pretences. People have been set free, to become what they really are. We have begun to know that a whole diocese could be a fellowship of the Holy Spirit.....

We know now, that when men and women make themselves available to God together, in love and prayer, then the Spirit who is already within them can break out and take control. These are the three who dance together and are one at the heart of the Church - Love, Prayer and the Holy Spirit. All else is secondary"¹.

The Spirit of God blows through our churches, each church and parish and diocese will see the Spirit's movement in many different ways. We can't bottle and replicate what happened in Coventry in the early 1960's,

It's up to us to discern where that might be; but a good place to start would be to love and to pray; as individuals, as church fellowship groups, as church communities and as a parish.

I have found re-reading this book that I have seen not only new aspects of the story that I'd not noticed before, but also the Spirit speaking to me in my own journey of faith.

Blessings Catherine

I Verney, Stephen Fire in Coventry (2018, Pendlebury Press), p66

Thoughts

The noblest revenge is to forgive. - Thomas Fuller

All but God is changing day by day. - Charles Kingsley

We expect our young people to lay down their lives for our nation, but most of us are not willing to lay down our bank accounts for God. - Anon

We trust not because 'a god' exists, but because THIS God exists. - C S Lewis

Our life is scarcely the twinkle of a star in God's eternal day. - Bayard Taylor

God's gifts put man's best dreams to shame. - Elizabeth Barrett Browning

God loves his children as well in adversity as in prosperity. - Thomas Watson

Grace is the sum and substance of New Testament faith. - J I Packer

Bishops' Mission in Evesham

I wonder how you first heard about the Christian faith? Perhaps it was at your mother's knee, or at school, or you were introduced by a friend, or perhaps you picked it up in a way that you can't remember now. I hope that you would agree that being a Christian makes you see life differently, brings you joy and hope as well as challenge. Many people speak about becoming a Christian as being like meeting a new friend because at the heart of our faith is a friendship with Jesus Christ.

We experience Jesus' presence in our worship, as we read the scriptures and as we break bread. When we pray, when we serve our neighbours, when we care for the most needy and work to transform our communities so that all may flourish.

98% of people in Evesham deanery are not particularly involved with the life of the church. We long that they will become involved and that the joy of the Gospel will be theirs too.

That's why over the weekend of 15 – 17 June we will be celebrating the life of every church community in the deanery and sharing personal stories about the difference that being a friend of Jesus has made in our lives.

The 'Bishops in Mission' weekend follows an invitation by the Archbishop of Canterbury for all bishops to work alongside those training for ministry (ordinands) by spending time sharing their faith in a local context. Bishop John and Bishop Graham will be leading a team of about 20 people spread out in each parish and involved with a whole series of events. We are praying that more people in Evesham and the surrounding area will hear the good news of Jesus Christ and be welcomed to encounter him through the life of our churches.

So what can you do?

- PLEASE DECIDE which event(s) you will commit to being part of.
- PLEASE PRAY for three people, currently not involved with the worshipping life of the Church, that they might be touched by this mission.
- PLEASE INVITE people to an event – coffee morning, pilgrimage walk, family afternoon, grill-a-bishop pub evening, Fathers' day service, climbing wall, Songs of Praise – whichever would be the most appropriate for them.

This may feel a little daunting but the church only grew from that small group of frightened disciples, unsure of the future, because people began to say 'come and see'. Down through the ages people have continued to say those words of invitation. Now, as much as at any time in history, we need to be a people of invitation.

In such a way we will, by God's grace, reach the 98% who God already knows and loves, and offer a home to see life differently; one of joy and hope.

Bishop Graham

My Baptism and Confirmation

I would like to thank everyone at All Saints' for the prayers, cards and gifts that I received to mark my Baptism and Confirmation.

It was a lovely and thoroughly enjoyable day even when the Bishop decided to make sure that I remember my baptism all my life with the generous soaking of water he gave me. My posh hair-do survived it I am pleased to say.

Love to you all

Milly Germeney

Mothers' Union

'From Engineer to Vicar' was an opportunity for us to hear how Revd Catherine Mitchell came to the ministry. Catherine sees life as a series of journeys, from being confirmed along with her sister and then drifting away from church, going to university and getting a job at Jaguar. She travelled abroad, bought a car and a house and life was good. Her job, for twenty-six years, was as an engineer for Jaguar at Brown's Lane, Coventry. This part of her journey saw her working on fuel systems and then moving on to braking systems. Interesting work that Catherine enjoyed, everyone in the team working together, very much a family. She loved to watch the engine swing round on the conveyor belt and drop into the bodywork on its journey to completion. Catherine met well known people who visited the plant and particularly remembers John Major. Sadly she was away when the Queen visited! Her journey was about to take a different turn when she went along to an Alpha course with her sister. From this there were questions and further courses, involvement in the church with a youth band and as church warden, all the time moving closer to another turn in her journey. She felt called to take the next step and went to see her vicar about going forward for ordination. Following her training and curacy in the beautiful area of Durham, we are pleased that Catherine is continuing her journey with us here in Gornal and Sedgley.

Anne and Crispin gave us a taste of their holiday in the Dordogne, at our evening meeting in May. It is an area of attractive countryside, with old villages, churches and beautiful chateaux. We were amazed to see houses built on the steep cliff sides, not that many of us would want to regularly journey up to them, on foot, laden with shopping! The street markets were very colourful and enticing, selling, amongst other things, their famous gourmet delights of pate de foie gras, walnuts and truffles. While in Souillac they visited the Musee de l'Automate with its fascinating display of automata. Anne told us of their visit to the Chateau des Milandes with its attractive gardens and falconry display. The chateau was at one time the home of Josephine Baker, known as the 'Black Venus'.

Josephine was a dancer at the Folies Bergere and during World War Two played a significant role in the French Resistance, for which she was awarded the Croix de Guerre. She later worked for the Civil Rights Movement and adopted children from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, referred to as her 'Rainbow Tribe', to show that they could live together happily.

Our Deanery Festival is at All Saints' on Wednesday 6th June, at 2.00pm. Jackie Hewlett will be enrolled during the service and Guy will be welcomed into the branch. I hope as many members as possible will be there to support them and welcome our friends from across the Deanery.

Dates

5 th June	2.30pm MU France Joyce Bache
6 th June	2.00pm Deanery Festival, All Saints' Church, Sedgley

Liz Williams

Outing to Stratford

There are still a few seats left on the coach for Stratford on Tuesday 26th June. We leave Vicar Street at 9.30pm and the cost is £10. Anyone wishing to go please contact Liz Williams, 01902 672880.

Be with you

The vicar at a local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: 'There's something wrong with this microphone.'

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: 'And also with you.'



“GOOD COMPANY”



Those who enjoyed the Good Company concert last July will be pleased to hear that they will be performing again on Saturday 7th July, 7.30pm in church.

Tickets:£8 including a glass of wine

Contact Gail on 01902 540289
or Liz Williams, Mike Edwards, Kath Apperley, Tony Hart

Bread

It takes a year to produce a loaf of bread, from field to fork. Yet in the UK we throw away 24 million slices of it, every day. The average person will throw away more than half a loaf of bread every month.

A recent survey by Love Food Hate Waste has also found that among 18 to 34-year-olds, 69 per cent throw bread away every week. The campaign is urging people to slice and freeze their bread when they get it home, so that it can last for several months



Live 60s/70s Tribute Night

featuring

The McKays

Saturday Oct 6th in the Church Hall

8.00pm to 10.30pm

Come and dance the night away or just listen and take in a bit of nostalgia.

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Roger Berry Tel: 01902 881374

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(Any raffle prizes would be gratefully received)

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Go Germ, Go

You may be wasting your money on antibacterial wipes and sprays because common germs can replicate themselves in just 20 minutes, recolonising to their original mass. And so it is that Dr Clare Lanyon, a biomedical scientist from Northumbria University, says that using wipes on kitchen surfaces is in fact 'an absolutely redundant' exercise.

Following a programme for the BBC, Dr Lanyon said: 'The point of the show is that you don't need to be so fastidious in cleaning your home because you can't actually remove all bacteria, and nor would we want to – exposing ourselves to everyday pathogens is good in keeping the immune system healthy and strong.'

She goes on, 'Personally, I don't waste my time purchasing antibacterial products for the home... our research found that a lot of antibacterial cleaning products were not as effective as good old-fashioned soap and water.'

Sarah Powell

Foot Health Practitioner

RGN, Dip CFHP, MPSP (FHP)



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**Gail Griffiths
Tel. 01902 540289**

Could you help the Conservation Foundation investigate the state of our elms?

Are you someone who believes that all our elms have disappeared? That may be a popular opinion, but there could be more healthy elms in parks, gardens and our countryside than we think. The Conservation Foundation, which has been working with elm trees for over 30 years, has set up a new interactive map to understand the state of Britain's elm population, and support researchers and enthusiasts to identify surviving elms across the UK.

With the arrival of spring and the distinctive bunches of bright green seed clumps (below) that make elm trees instantly recognisable, The Conservation Foundation is calling on the British public to become elm detectives. They are invited to join the search for the UK's elms, many of which grow unrecognised in our towns and countryside, and to record them on the new crowd-sourced map at:
www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/elms/map

Far from losing all but a very few of its magnificent elm population to Dutch elm disease in the 1970s, The Conservation Foundation believes the UK still has a large number of mature elms. With the help of the country's citizen-scientists it hopes to discover the current state of Britain's elm population and support Dutch elm disease researchers. Elm sightings can be logged by uploading photographs of the tree with its location and as much other information as possible, including pictures of the shape and bark. When the leaves come through later in the season, the elm detectives are asked to add a photograph to their online record for the expert panel to identify the species.

Postings are being moderated by a number of elm experts and researchers who will identify the species.


The Conservation Foundation Great British Elm Search map is supported by The Tanner Trust, The Berkeley Reforestation Trust and private individuals.

Before the Suffragettes – the woman who ‘made a majority’ with God

On May 30th the Church of England honoured Josephine Butler in its Calendar of great Christians of the past. It seems appropriate in this particular year to recognise the contribution of a woman who came decades before the suffragettes but fought many of the same battles. Josephine Butler’s was an often-lonely Victorian voice, challenging injustice, prejudice and discrimination.

She was a noted champion of victims of child slavery and sexual exploitation. Her opposition to the Dangerous Diseases Act, which ruled that a man who was infected with an STD could sue the woman who was ‘responsible’, eventually won parliamentary approval – but it took 20 years of campaigning. She fought to get the age of consent raised from 13 to 16, and also brought about an end to the practice of ‘selling’ young girls into the hands of unscrupulous men.

All of this campaigning was motivated by her profound Christian faith. Her best-known quote was ‘God and one woman make a majority’ – her response to the continual parliamentary majority against change, when there were, of course, no votes for women and no women MPs. Supported by her husband, a vicar, and by a growing band of women, this Victorian predecessor of the Women’s Rights movement fully deserves to be remembered and honoured this year.



St Andrew's Afternoon tea June 16th from 1:30pm

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In Praise of Knitting

Knitting can be astonishingly good for you. This gentle hobby has been found to lower blood pressure, reduce depression, keep your mind alert, slow the onset of dementia, distracts from chronic pain (such as arthritis), boost wellbeing, and reduce loneliness.

A major study by the organisation Knit for Peace has found that knitting lowers the heart rate by an average of 11 beats per minute and induces ‘an enhanced state of calm.’ The repetitive movement also boosts calming serotonin, which lifts your mood and dulls any pain. Knitting also boosts the reward centres of the brain, because it allows people to feel that they can still make a contribution to society.

In Britain, where the NHS spends more than £2 billion each year on blood pressure treatments, around £300 million on antidepressants, and about £26 billion on dementia, and unknown billions on various chronic pain, perhaps more people should take up knitting. As one expert says: ‘Research has shown that there is a growing crisis in primary care. As a skilled and creative occupation, knitting has therapeutic potential. There is an enormous amount of research showing that knitting has physical and mental health benefits.’

Bishops’ comments on curates

If you’ve ever been exasperated with a priest, spare a thought for bishops, who have to work with hundreds of them. Here are some assessments of clergy, made by bishops whose patience was perhaps wearing thin....

‘Mr Smith believes his last parish made him a scapegoat, as did his three previous parishes.’

‘Mr Brown would be out of his depth in a church car park puddle.’

‘Miss Green has delusions of adequacy.’

‘Mr White, having reached rock bottom, has started to dig.’

‘His last parish would follow him anywhere – if only out of morbid curiosity.’

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On church tourists and outrageous lies

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was sorry to hear of the dawn call by the police because your church had been broken into, although the theft of tambourines, books of choruses and banners proclaiming “Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam” are likely to have a limited market. But you are fortunate that those are the only unexpected call-outs you receive.



Those of us with ancient churches are resigned to receiving telephone calls from people living in remote corners of the globe who happen to be on holiday in England and want to trace long-lost relatives who were married or buried in our parishes. They invariably seem amazed when they find you are not personally familiar with someone who died 400 years ago, what family still exists, where they live and what interesting anecdotes you know about their ancestors – preferably something criminal. Any attempts to put them off will be deflected by being told that they fly home tomorrow and since they are booked at a show in London that evening, could they come round early afternoon?

Once inside the church, they will expect a conducted tour. I have a competition with myself to see how outrageous I can make our history, yet still be believed. One family now thinks that the conical tomb in the churchyard is the last visible tip of the spire of the famous cathedral which once stood on this spot but sank into the ground when cursed by a bride who was jilted at its altar.

A second couple now know that a locked safe contains a set of pagan gods which were worshipped by an obscure sect in the parish during the time of the Tudor monarchs. They were removed by the incumbent of the day and locked away.

Only the Rector is allowed a key and is only permitted to look inside at the contents on the day he leaves office, as the sight is too terrible.

Yet another are convinced that several dozen mediaeval gold chalices are buried in the rectory garden, where they were hidden from Cromwell's soldiers and their exact location has been forgotten (I told that story when I was looking for volunteers to dig over the rose beds).

Should they get as far as the vestry to inspect the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, you know that the afternoon is lost. It can occasionally hasten their departure by casually telling them to ignore the mice which will be running round the floor – although hardened visitors are likely to set up their tripods to catch them on film.

The ultimate deterrent is to suggest they stay to Evensong which I am about to say. That is guaranteed to remind them that they have an urgent appointment back at their hotel.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Too late

First friend: 'It took me forty years to discover I had not the gifts for Holy Orders.'

Second friend: 'Goodness, whatever did you do when you found out?'

First friend: 'It was too late to do anything. By then I was a bishop!'

WWI TIMELINE - EVENTS OF 1918

June 1918

- 4th British Marines land at Pechenga (North Russia).
- 5th British independent Air Force in France constituted under tactical command of Major-General Sir H. M. Trenchard.
- 6th Dutch hospital ship 'Konigen Regentes' sunk.
American 2nd Division made an attack against four German divisions. The Battle of Belleau Wood (6 June - 1 July) was the first major battle by Americans against the German Army, and Vaux and Belleau Wood were successfully recaptured.
- 9th Phase 4 of the German Noyon-Montdidier Offensive, also known as the Battle of Matz (ends 4 June).
- 18th Russian battleship 'Svobodnaya Rossiya' destroyed in the Black Sea to avoid surrender to the Germans.
- 23rd British Expeditionary Forces join North Russian Expeditionary Force in Murmansk.
- 27th British hospital ship 'Llandoverly Castle' sunk by submarine off the Irish coast.
- 30th First contingent of United States troops arrive in Italy.

Note: Details of the British and German Spring and Summer Offensive 1918 can be found on:

www.greatwar.co.uk/battles/germanspringoffensive

6th June

On 6 June the US Marines began a counter-attack to take Belleau Wood. On the first day they lost 1,087 men - more than had been lost in the whole of the Marines' history. Three weeks of brutal fighting eventually saw the wood taken.

Captain Lloyd Williams, US Marine, Belleau Wood said:

"Retreat? Hell, we only just got here".

Williams was killed in the battle.

Casualties of the Spring Offensive:

Casualty rate of the British Fifth Army during the Spring Offensive was 36%.

German losses from the Spring Offensive were 963,000.

British Officer's Capture.

On the capture of Brigadier-General Hubert Rees, Kaiser Wilhelm is reported to have said:

"Your country and mine ought not to be fighting against each other, we ought to fighting together against a third. I had no idea you would fight me. I was very friendly with your Royal Family with whom I am related".

Some well known names served in uniform.

Politicians:	Clement Attlee	Winston Churchill	Anthony Eden
	Harold Macmillan	Oswald Moseley	Harry S. Truman
	Charles de Gaulle		

Spanish Flu.

This influenza epidemic in 1918 resulted in an estimated 50 million deaths across the world. More US troops died of the illness than in combat!

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10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
6.30pm - Evensong - The Revd Guy Hewlett

St Andrews - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries

St Peters - 10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10th June - All Saints - 8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
10.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
6.30pm - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries

St Andrews - 9.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett

St Peters - 10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

17th June - All Saints - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
6.30pm - Evensong - The Revd Guy Hewlett

St Andrews - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries

St Peters - 10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

24th June - All Saints - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
6.30pm - Compline - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

St Andrews - 9.30am - Canon Judith Oliver

St Peters - 10.30am - Worship for All - Suzanne Bradley