

All Saints' Sedgley

All Saints' Church was rebuilt by the Earl of Dudley between 1826 and 1829, replacing the previous medieval church. It stands in the central part of Sedgley in a prominent position, and the tower and spire are visible for miles around.

The west end of the church was reordered in 2005, creating a narthex, separated from the nave by a glass screen, giving a much more welcoming entrance to the church. At the same time pews were removed from the back of the church to create an area for socialising, particularly after services. A kitchen was also created at the rear of the baptistry, cleverly concealed by decorative panelled doors. The church has a seating capacity of approximately two hundred, and the interior and exterior are in excellent condition.

There are 156 on the electoral roll. The congregation is predominantly elderly, although we do have some middle-aged and younger members. The average Sunday attendance total at all services is 100. The church finances are stable and the parish share is always paid in full.

Across the road is the church hall, which was completed in 1954. The building has a large central meeting room, kitchen, lounge, toilets and storage area. The building has been upgraded in recent years with new decorations and new tables and chairs. It is now in a very good condition. The Parish Administrative Assistant has an office in this building.

All Saints' has three Sunday services: Said Eucharist at 8am and Sung Eucharist at 10.30am, both using Common Worship, and Evensong at 6.30pm using the Book of Common Prayer. In addition to this we have Morning Prayer once a month at 10.30am and Baptisms at 4pm on the fourth Sunday in the month. The fifth Sunday in the month is a Team Service at one of our three churches. We conduct on average 15 weddings, 30 baptisms and 15 funerals each year.

The church celebrates various festivals throughout the year with special services at Easter and Christmas, as well as the popular Christingle Service and the Remembrance Day Service, all attracting significant numbers of people. In recent years we have hosted a Civic Service for Dudley Council. Several of the local schools hold their carol services in church and we have also hosted the Service for Christian Unity. The Life Exhibition has visited Sedgley several times and this provides

ecumenical outreach to over 700 school children during the week of the event. Each week the church is open for coffee - everyone is welcome at this drop-in session held at the back of church every Friday from 10.30am-12.00 noon.

The Junior Church has a group of around 8 children attending, and a dedicated team of helpers. They put on various playlets/sketches on Bible themes throughout the year, culminating in the Nativity, which the congregation thoroughly enjoys.

Other organisations within the church include the Noah's Ark Toddler Group, Mothers' Union, Men's Society, Ladies Society and Youth Group. Other groups which meet regularly in the church hall include the Art Club, Rainbows, Brownies, Zumba, Tai-Chi, Yoga and Gentle Exercise. To see all of our organisations please see gornalandsedgley.org.uk

We hold a number of social events throughout the year which include concerts, skittles evenings, cream tea afternoons, summer and Christmas fairs, barn dances, an annual Macmillan Coffee morning, Christmas Tree Festival, Children's Society Fair and occasional Flower Festivals.

The 'Open the Book' team take Bible stories into two local schools on a monthly basis. The project involves church members from across the team ministry who enact stories from the Bible, each story ending with a reflection and prayer. This is a valuable way of taking the Word to the next generation and building links with our local schools.

The local outlet for the Black Country Food Bank has been operating as 'Springs' at Upper Gornal Methodist Church since 2012 and brings together volunteers from Upper Gornal Methodist Church, St. Peter's Upper Gornal, All Saints' Sedgley and St Andrew's the Straits. Last year 316 adults and 214 children were fed, the children also receiving Easter eggs and Christmas selection packs.

Throughout the year All Saints' charitable giving includes a variety of charities which in 2014 were: United Society, Church Mission Society, The Children's Society, The Island York, Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd Wolverhampton, New Beginnings Dudley, Mercy Ships and White House Cancer Support Dudley. In addition to this we have a charity of the month to which we donate. These have included High Flyers, Thai Baking Project, Embrace the Middle East and Langdale & Ambleside Mountain Rescue.