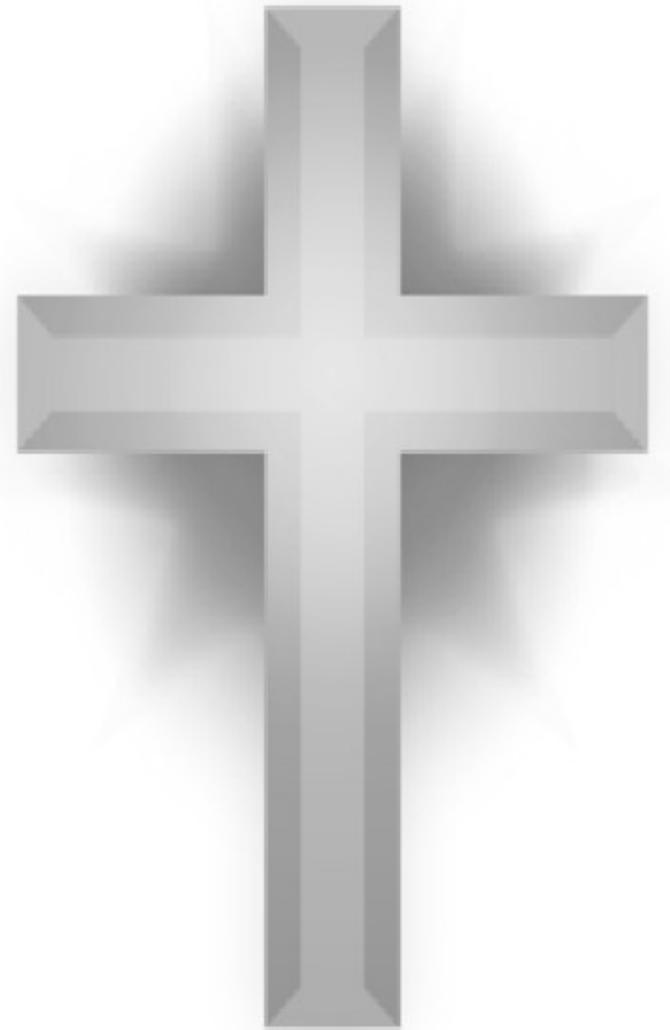
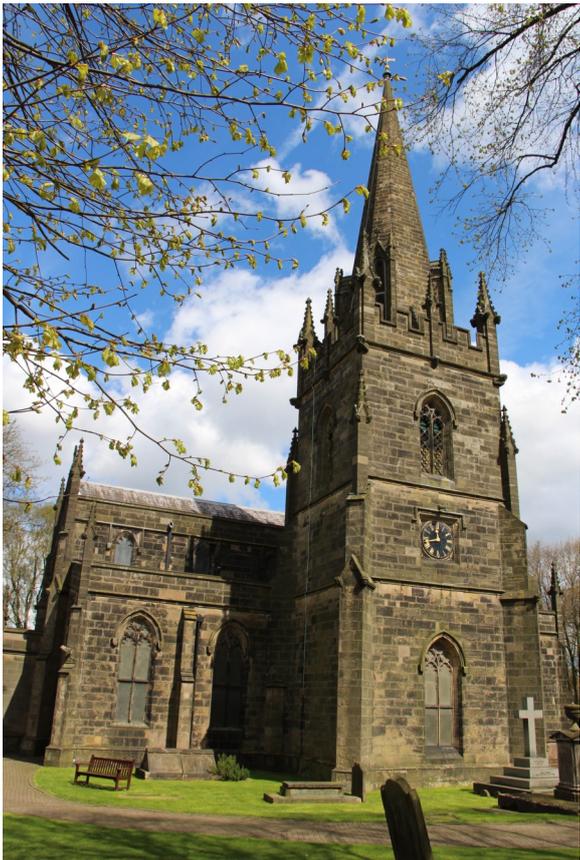


# THE BEACON

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

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People  
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

OCTOBER 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	TBA	
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

# St Andrew's Who's Who

Warden	Canon Jan Humphries	
Treasurer	Gordon Betteley	01902 882777
DCC secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007
Little Angels baby & toddler group	Canon Jan Humphries	
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108

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## DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER 2018

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### Ladies' Society

October 1st - Midland Freewheelers with Adrian (Charity)

### Mothers Union

October 2nd - 2.15pm Communion - The Revd Guy Hewlett

October 6th - 2.30pm - Diocesan Festival - Worcester Cathedral

### Mens' Society

October 16th - Teaching with a Cross in my Pocket - Deborah Castle

St Peters - October 27th - Barn Dance

### Funerals

18th September - Virginia Meryl Marsh - Gornal Wood

19th September - Pauline Turner - All Saints

21st September - May Smith - St Andrews

27th September - Stephen Flavell - Gornal Wood

# High Days & Holy Days for October

- \* 1 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shaftesbury – the Poor Man’s Earl
- 1 Remigius
- 1 Theresa of Lisieux
- 2 Your Guardian Angel
- 3 Hewald the Black and Hewald the White
- \* 4 St. Francis – and the Life of Simplicity
- 4 St Francis of Assisi
- 6 William Tyndale, Bible translator and martyr
- 8 Demetrius of Sirmium
- 9 Luis Bertran (1526-81)
- 9 Denys of Paris
- 10 Francis Borgia
- 13 Edward the Confessor
- 14 Donation
- 18 Thank you, Dr Luke! *By David Winter*
- 18 St Luke the Evangelist
- 22 Donatus
- 24 Felix of Thibiuca
- 26 Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, scholar, 899
- 27 Odran of Iona
- 28 Simon and Jude
- 30 Alphonsus Rodriguez
- 31 All Hallows’ Eve

# 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 November magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

**Friday 19th October**

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

WEBSITE: [www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk](http://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

Vestry hour will take place on the first or third Sunday of the month for all enquires on weddings and baptisms from 12 noon to 1pm

# **A letter from the Bishop of Dudley**

Bishop Graham Bishop of Dudley

The hymn 'Dear Lord and Father of mankind' is a favourite of many. I love the calming sense of the hymn as it progresses from verse to verse. The third verse speaks of the Sabbath rest by Galilee, recalling Jesus taking himself off into the hills in prayer to enter into communion with his Father in "the silence of eternity interpreted by love".

Within Judaism, as we see from many stories in the gospels, the Sabbath has a central place in the rhythm of the week and in the makeup of life. In fact, it has a central place in the Ten Commandments, as the commandment to keep the seventh day unlike all other days is found between those commandments that talk about people's relationship with God and those that speak about relationships with other human beings. This Sabbath commandment, then, is the hinge point. It brings together God and the human world, the loving of God and loving of neighbour, in a unique way.

The Sabbath day is a place-marking gift. A day on which to stop toiling and to rest. It is also a day of joy to unwrap again all of the blessings we have been given and to be re-thankful for them. Rest and joy lead into freedom and we read of the sabbatical year when land is allowed to breathe, debts are cancelled, and slaves are released from that which binds them. In turn, this leads back to rest and joy.

In our own lives, there are various rhythms that are played out. We find we need to snatch periods of Sabbath time amidst pressing other responsibilities. Carers speak of the crucial need for rest, and whilst respite care often carries a sense of guilt, it allows the carer to go on caring. After a traumatic or difficult period, we begin to see small signs of joy again and count our blessings. Freedom comes in many forms and I recall talking to a prisoner in HMP Hewell about his sense of freedom when he sang hymns of praise.

During the autumn, with the agreement of Bishop John and the support of the Archdeacons, I will be on sabbatical. I hope this extended Sabbath time will offer some rest which, to my mind, isn't loafing but is about doing things that bring me spiritual, intellectual and physical replenishment. I'm going to spend time writing which always brings me much joy. Freedom will come from having a break from some of the ministerial responsibilities which come with my role!

I am hoping to learn more about Orthodox Christianity which will resource my involvement with the International Commission for Anglican Orthodox Theological Dialogue. I will be spending time on pilgrimage to Mount Athos in Greece and taking part in a week-long painting retreat at the Bethlehem Icon School. In both places, as well as in the creativity of writing, I hope to encounter the silence of eternity interpreted by love. I am delighted that sabbaticals are taken seriously in this Diocese and hope that the fact that I am taking one will encourage other clergy, who have not done so for seven years or more, to consider doing so. Do encourage them! My one previous experience of a sabbatical was personally very enriching and parishioners were kind enough to say that it was, in turn, beneficial for them - though they lacked clarity whether that was during or after the sabbatical!

I'm enormously grateful for this gift, and especially the generosity of colleagues in making it possible, so that I can go deeper into Sabbath life at the hinge point of serving God and my neighbour.

---

**To all my church family,**

I would like to thank you all for the lovely flowers, gifts, telephone calls, visits and mainly your prayers during my recent operation, it has meant so very much to me.

As you will know I am back at church getting better every day.

My love and thanks, **Brenda Tomlinson.**

# Psalm 121 – the God who knows and cares

The Rev Paul Hardingham continues his short series on various Psalms

A man asked a friend about the two greatest problems in the world. The friend responded, *'I don't know and I don't care!'* *'You got them both!'* the man replied.

Psalm 121 presents a God who both knows and cares about our problems. As the first Song of Ascent (Psalms 120-134), it was used by pilgrims going to the great festivals in Jerusalem. Just as this road was full of dangers, this psalm speaks to our problems and set-backs, whether illness, family or work issues, or fear.

Where do we look for help? *'I lift up my eyes to the mountains... My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.'* (1,2). The hills speak of a Creator God, who is bigger than our troubles, for whom nothing is beyond His reach.

What is His care like?

*It is constant: 'He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber'* (3). God is never off duty in His care, as we are constantly His concern.

*It is close: 'The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand'* (5). God is not watching us *'from a distance'* as the songs says! His care operates at close quarters, to take the heat out of situations, or when circumstances are dark and uncertain.

*It is continuing: 'the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and for evermore.'* (8). God's care is all encompassing, through life and eternity. We are not immune from difficulties, but in the bigger picture, God will use these in His eternal purpose for our lives. The psalm is fulfilled in Jesus, who has secured eternal life for us.

So let's trust His care for us, and not be like the lady who asked: *'why pray when I can worry?'*

# Why Christians are like pumpkins

A woman had recently become a Christian and been baptised. Curious, one of her colleagues at work asked her what it was like to be a Christian.

The woman was caught off guard and didn't know how to answer. Then she saw the office 'jack-o'-lantern' on a nearby desk and blurted: 'Well, it's like being a pumpkin.'

Her colleague asked her to explain that one. And so she said: "Well, God finds you and picks you up from the patch and brings you in and washes off all the dirt on the outside that you got from being around all the other pumpkins.

"Then He carefully cuts off the top and takes all the yucky stuff out from inside you. He removes all those seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then He gives you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you, to shine for all to see.

'It is our choice to either stay outside and rot on the vine, or come inside and be something new and bright. We can each of us smile today, and shine with His light!'

---

## Pauline Turner

Alan, David and Christina thank all those attending Pauline's funeral on the 19<sup>th</sup> September as well as all those who sent messages of sympathy and condolence.

Your generosity has enabled donations of £750 to be sent to both Cancer Research UK and to the Snowdrop Unit Trust – New Cross Hospital.

We wish to thank you for your kind generosity to the memory of Pauline.

# Creationtide

Paul Hardingham

The heatwave this summer was a powerful reminder that our planet is not disposable! The evidence that carbon dioxide is heating the planet is seen in melting polar ice caps, rising sea levels and extreme weather. In the church September and early October is designated Creationtide, a time to reflect on God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. God loves the world ('cosmos') so much (John 3:16), referring to the entire universe. Do we share such love for God's world, in our care for it?

Despite the environmental crisis, God has not given up on His world. We live in a broken world where our present experience is marked by suffering: 'For the creation was subjected to frustration' (Romans 8:20). With us, the creation groans in pain: 'We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.' (22). However, these are not groans of despair, as God promises the hope of a new heaven and earth for all creation: 'the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.' (v 21). At the end of time, God will not simply start again, but renew the created order according to His glorious eternal purpose.

What does this say to us? We cannot simply write off this world, but work with God for that day of transformation. We demonstrate the importance of this world to God by our lifestyle, by living simply and generously and not harming the environment by the wrong use of resources. What practical steps can we employ?

---

## Do it yourself

Keep your nose to the grindstone and your shoulder to the wheel – it's cheaper than plastic surgery.

# MOTHERS' UNION

Steve from 'Discover U' came with two members of the team to tell us about the work they do. 'Discover U' is a charity working to help adults with learning disabilities into employment. They believe that everybody who wants to should have the opportunity to work and they support them to do that with a wide range of programmes and opportunities. 'Discover U' operates by recycling wood, furniture and other materials, turning them into 'shabby chic' items for sale, and return any monies back into the charity in order to fund further projects. They now have premises on the site of the Old Bakery in Wollaston. The building at the back where the ovens were has been turned into a factory/work area where items from cushions, bunting, peg bags, original designed bird feeders, planters and bird tables to plaques and trays are produced. The shop at the front of the building has been turned into a Tea Room selling delicious cakes and Afternoon Teas. Steve sums up what 'Discover U' achieves, 'The items we make is the result of the true determination, dedication and passion of our members. Each one an inspiring and talented individual who proves to us that any barrier can be faced or overcome.' Several members left the meeting with bird feeders and I heard several say they would be seeking out the Tea Room at the Old Bakery in Wollaston.

Our Christmas meal is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30pm, at The Lodge. The cost is £16.50. If you wish to go and have not already signed the list please let Anne or myself know by 16<sup>th</sup> October.

## Dates

2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - 2.15pm Communion followed by a talk by Revd Guy Hewlett

6<sup>th</sup> Oct - 10.30am Coach to Worcester for the Diocesan Festival

16<sup>th</sup> Oct - 7.30pm A talk by Jill Nicholls

(Our afternoon meetings are in All Saints' Church Hall, and our evening meetings in the Church. All are welcome – you don't have to be a member.)

**Liz Williams**

# National Grandparents Day – 7<sup>th</sup> October

Parents may have to wait a few years to become grandparents, but it is definitely worth it. Spending time with your grandchildren nourishes both your body and soul: the physical energy you use to keep with them keeps you healthy, and your emotional bonds with them will reinforce your own emotional well-being.

Grandparents can do SO much for their grandchildren: giving them time and attention, as well as providing them with a strong sense of belonging to the family. This all helps build emotional security for their future. Tell your grandchildren their family heritage – reminisce about your family's events and history. Where did your parents and grandparents come from? What did they do? Did they fight in the World Wars? Do you have old photos to show them?

Tell your grandchildren about what it was like going to school when you were young. Tell them stories about raising *their* mum or dad. Show them pix from the family album, sing the same songs to them that you sang to their mum or dad; read them the same favourite stories. Tell them of your family traditions, from everything about the best way to make tea to how you always decorate the Christmas tree. By doing so, you link your past to their future, and greatly enrich them.

Grandparents can really be God's special gift to children.

---

## Apples

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. A nun had posted a note on the apple tray, 'Take only ONE. God is watching.'

At the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cakes, next to which, in a child's handwriting, was a sign, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

# Children's Society Autumn Fayre

**All Saints' Church Hall, Sedgley**  
**Saturday 13th October 2018**  
**10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.**

Children's Society Autumn Fayre, has been a very popular event in All Saints' Church Hall for a many years, and this year will be held on Saturday 13th October. As usual, admission is free.

Many local Anglican Churches support this event every year by running stalls, donating prizes and selling raffle tickets.

**OUR STAR ATTRACTION** – The 'Little Angels Choir' from St Andrew's Church, The Straits

The usual activities include, as always, a Grand Raffle, as well as a fantastic hamper, Tombola, a jewellery stall as well as home-made cakes and other pleasantries

Tea and coffee will, of course, be available, with a selection of delicious light lunches including savoury burgers, hot dogs and tasty sandwiches.

What we need donations of cakes for the stall and a number of gifts to sell on our tombola and jewellery stalls. Children's Society Christmas cards will also be available

Of course, another important requirement is your presence in All Saints' Church Hall on October 13th - come along relax and enjoy the occasion

**Anne**

# Seven reasons why our churches need more men

You probably have already guessed that there are more women than men in UK churches. In general, the ratio is about 40 men for every 60 women. Now recent research into this gender imbalance has also found: 1.8 million fewer men than women in the UK say they are practising Christians.

Up to one-third of Christian women overall (and half if they are middle class) will either have to marry a non-Christian or remain single and childless.

54% of single Christian adults say that they haven't dated for at least a year.

More women than men are married to a non-Christian. Over 90% of Christian couples expressed happiness with their marriage, while it was 66% of those in a mixed marriage did so.

Fewer children are growing up in a family with two Christian parents. If current trends continue, only about 16% of today's church's grandchildren will have two Christian parents.

*The research was done in the preparation for 7 Reasons Your Church Needs More Men by contributors including: Christian Vision for Men, Ridley Hall Theological College Cambridge, Marriage Foundation, New Wine, Youth for Christ, and Care for the Family.*

---

## The Guarding of the God of Life

The God of life with guarding hold you,  
The loving Christ with guarding fold you,  
The Holy Spirit, guarding, mould you,  
Each night of life to aid, enfold you  
Each day and night of life uphold you.  
From Poems of the Western Highlanders

# Don't bottle it up – it's okay to grieve

The Rev Tony Horsfall

I grieve for you, Jonathan my brother; you were very dear to me. Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women. How the mighty have fallen! 2 Samuel 1:26

A lament is a passionate expression of grief, a heartfelt cry of sadness. Here David, who composed some of the most memorable and uplifting songs of praise, allows himself the opportunity to pour out his heart to God because of his deep sorrow.

Christians are sometimes confused about how to express grief. Some contemporary teaching has emphasised the power of praise, and of praising God in all circumstances, so they feel guilty about the pain inside them and do not know how to release it. Whilst Paul does say we are not to grieve 'like the rest of mankind' (1 Thessalonians 4:13), he means we should not grieve in the hysterical way that characterises those who have no hope in God. He does not mean that we should not grieve at all, or that we should suppress our true feelings. That would be cruel, unnatural and unhealthy. Grief is best acknowledged and expressed, and in a way that is consistent with our belief in heaven.

David's own heart feels most keenly the loss of his dearest friend, Jonathan. Those who have known the loss of a 'soul mate' will understand the depth of his feeling and the pain in his heart. His lament enables him to get in touch with his grief, to express it, and so begin the slow process of healing and recovery.

If you are grieving yourself today, may I encourage you to pour out your heart to God? You could pray aloud, or write your prayer down. You may find a song that helps, or a piece of music. You might talk with a trusted friend. You may just want a good cry. Whatever you do, remember that it's OK to grieve.

# Church Homeless Trust changes its name

Homelessness charity Church Housing Trust recently changed its name to Church Homeless Trust.

Church Homeless Trust's new name emphasises its focus on homeless individuals and the specific support they need to rebuild their lives. There is no government funding for individual needs such as new ID, stipends for transport, or living costs if someone's Universal Credit has been delayed. Without these items it is impossible to live independently.

People who have experienced homeless also need more than a roof over their head; without the skills and sense of community needed to sustain a new tenancy, they may end up back on the streets. The Trust concentrates on building an individual's strengths and interests, and meeting their needs with small, personal grants.

The charity's origins go back to 1882 and the incredible work of Church Army Housing on behalf of homeless people. They worked at the forefront of homeless services, and Church Homeless Trust continues to support people in many hostels first set up by Church Army Housing.

Communications Manager, Nicole Holgate, comments: "The small change in our name helps to represent what we have learnt over more than 30 years' of providing funding for homeless people. We have seen a dramatic rise in demand for individual grants, especially for the funds we provide that help people to settle into their own, independent accommodation after being homeless.

"Everyone is an individual and their needs are as unique as they are. Only they can tell us what will help them make a permanent transition out of homelessness."

## **Gemma's story**

Gemma lives at a residential rehabilitation treatment programme for addiction. She is in 'Stage Three' flats, the third and final stage of the hostel's recovery process.

Having been through the treatment programme, Gemma regularly volunteers in 'Stage One', where people begin their recovery from addiction and rough sleeping.

She supports those beginning their recovery from addiction, and acts as an example of what can be achieved. She says she started volunteering because she wants to give something back to the community and the service that changed her life.

However, to continue her role she needed ID, which was lost during her time on the street. Thanks to our donors, Church Homeless Trust was able to fund a replacement passport that Gemma can use to continue volunteering, apply for jobs, and find her own home in the future.

Gemma had a successful interview to join another hostel's volunteer programme. She hopes it will lead into a paid trainee position and eventually a full-time, paid role.

Without grants from funding raised by Church Homeless Trust, Gemma and others like her will continue to be excluded from society. A small grant can make a huge difference.

---

## **A different kind of diet**

Each day I aim to eat something from each of the four food groups: the bonbon group, the salty-snack group, the caffeine group, and the 'whatever-the-thing-in-the-tinfoil-in-the-back-of-the-fridge-is' group

A decorative border consisting of a continuous line of musical notes and stems, forming a rectangular frame around the central text.

# **An Evening of Music**

**with**



## **The Salvation Army Dudley Citadel Band**

**&**

## **Acoustic Voices**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**7.30pm**

**All Saints' Church, Sedgley**

**Tickets: £8**

**From Parish Office – 01902 540289**

**&**

**Kath Apperley, Liz Williams & Tony Hart**

## Decorate a 'grace' table mat:

Take a piece of A4 paper, and in the middle draw round a medium sized plate to make a circle, then in that circle draw round a smaller plate. You should have something that looks a little bit like a plate. Then draw a fork outline on the left, and a knife outline on the right, and a spoon above – don't worry about the quality of the artwork!

Now, have some fun decorating your plate with pictures of their favourite food – you can draw pictures yourself, or cut them out of magazines, or use pictures from food packets – and you can even label them if your child is old enough to start learning to read. Somewhere on your paper, perhaps at the top or in a corner, write 'Thank you God' in big letters and colour it in – this is your 'thank-you' place mat, a reminder of all the good things that God gives us.

Once you've finished decorating, you can either laminate your artwork, or slip it into one of those plastic folders and seal up the end with sticky tape. Use your place mat at family meal times as a reminder of your thankfulness for all God's blessings, and particularly for food.

This is such a fun activity, that you can create a new one every so often, with updated favourite foods, and perhaps even write a little 'grace' prayer of your own to go on it? Or simply include one of the prayers on this page. Make food fun! If your child is a bit of a fussy eater, you could try making their food more fun. Maybe arrange the veggies in the shape of a smiley face?

*Article taken from [www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org) with permission*

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## If only

Computer message I'd like to see: 'Smash forehead on keyboard to continue'

# **Christmas Fair – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

**10.00am to 1.00pm  
at All Saints' Church Hall**



Come and enjoy a **bacon buttie** with friend

Try your luck on the **Bottle Stall** and **Tombola**

**Guess the Weight of the Cake**

Children's '**Have a Go**' **Craft table**

Have a chance to win the **Christmas Hamper**

Take home a delicious bake from the **cake stall**

**Christmas stall – Fair Trade stall – Grand Raffle**

Entertainment from '**Singing Angels**'

&

**The Christmas Tree Festival (in church)  
'Hobbies & Pastimes'**

Any member of the congregation who has an idea for a stall at the Fair and would be happy to run it please let Tony Hart,

Liz Williams or Kath Apperley know.

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## **‘He gave us eyes to see them’ Duccio’s Wedding at Cana**

‘The conscious water saw its God and blushed’ – in those words, the poet Richard Crashaw describes the first miracle of Jesus at the wedding feast in Cana.

This sign at the beginning of our Lord’s ministry points ahead to that other meal when a cup of wine will be poured out for many. The cup is a rich image of life in scripture: from the cup found in Benjamin’s sack in Genesis to the cup of blessing in Paul’s letters. The cup may be filled with bitter wine to reflect life’s sorrow, while the cup of Psalm 23 overflows with goodness. It is as rich an image as the bunch of grapes we often see in a church window or carved on a screen – a sign of the goodness of Creation that brings us the gift of wine.

The wedding at Cana speaks to us of the generosity and gift of our Lord who transforms the feast. Duccio di Buoninsegna portrayed it in the panel he provided for the Maesta, the glorious altarpiece for Siena Cathedral in 1311. We see the table lavishly spread, while Jesus, sat by the side of His mother, blesses the water pots. The servants are busy pouring what is now wine into the jugs and cups. It is the new wine of the kingdom.

Everywhere that Jesus went, the old was made new. For the widow of Nain he changed tears into joy, for Zacchaeus selfishness into love, for the thief on the cross despair into hope, for Mary Magdalene the end of the road into a new journey. What our Lord did at Cana, He went on doing in His ministry, changing not just water, but transforming human lives. And we share in that transforming love at every eucharist as we drink of the cup of blessing. These are some words of the poet Elizabeth Jennings: ‘Those grapes, ready for picking, are the sign Of harvest and of Sacrament.’

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## **How can I endure?**

Lord, how can I endure this life of sorrow, unless You strengthen me with Your mercy and grace? Do not turn Your face from me. Do not withdraw Your consolation from me, lest my soul becomes like a waterless desert. Teach me, O Lord, to do Your will, and to live humbly. You alone know me perfectly, seeing into my soul. You alone can give lasting peace and joy.

*A Prayer of Thomas a Kempis (1380 – 1471)*

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## The Rectory, St James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

Plans for our Harvest Supper always start several months in advance, with the annual argument about whether we dare increase the price of tickets by 20p to £1.50. After endless wrangling we compromise on 15p, with several warning that this will sound the death knell of Harvest. That every member of the committee cheerfully pays £50 a head to dine out elsewhere seems irrelevant.

Hotpots are provided by the ladies of the parish. It is always interesting to speculate on who has made which: some are robust and meaty, while others are wan and watery. Having sampled these dishes for the past 30 years, I can match each offering with the personalities of their creators. It is also amusing to watch how the cooks manoeuvre to make sure the correct people receive their own dishes. Mrs French positively chases Lady Masterson with her hotpot.

After the meal, we proceed to what parishioners optimistically call the entertainment. I settle myself on the back row, smile, applaud – and think of the large gin awaiting me back at the Rectory.

Colonel Hetherington imagines that the consumption of a bottle of claret over the meal improves his intonation as he gives his annual rendition of “The Lost Chord”. I can only assume the lost chords he refers to are the vocal ones he once possessed. Miss Simpson’s jokes have been repeated so often that the audience enthusiastically joins in with every punch line. Miss Sprocker makes her annual (failed) attempt to hand around paper and pencils and hold ‘a nice little quiz’ – she was a primary teacher.

Meanwhile the ladies in the kitchen provide a musical accompaniment of crashing crockery and cutlery, which sadly drowns out all but the most tantalising snippets of their gossip about the rest of us.

The evening always ends with the Major's recitation of "The boy stood on the burning deck". Before he can commence an un-requested encore, I surge up to the stage, thank all the performers, and wish everyone a safe journey home. The Major is left looking like a boy who had just had his lollipop stolen by the school bully. On reflection, that is quite an accurate analogy.

Your loving uncle,

**Eustace**

---

## **All Things Anglican who we are and what we believe**

**By Marcus Throup, Canterbury Press, £12.99**

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# SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

## OCTOBER 2018

### 7th October

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell  
10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett - Harvest Festival  
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

### 14th October

- All Saints - 10.30am - Vision Day - Team Service - The Revd Guy Hewlett and The Revd Catherine Mitchell

### 21st October

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell  
10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell  
6.30pm - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Andrews - 9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
- St Peters - 10.30am - The Revd James Makepeace

### 28th October

- All Saints - 8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett  
10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell  
6.30pm - The Revd Guy Hewlett - BCP
- St Andrews - 9.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
- St Peters - 10.30am - Worship for All - Suzanne Bradley