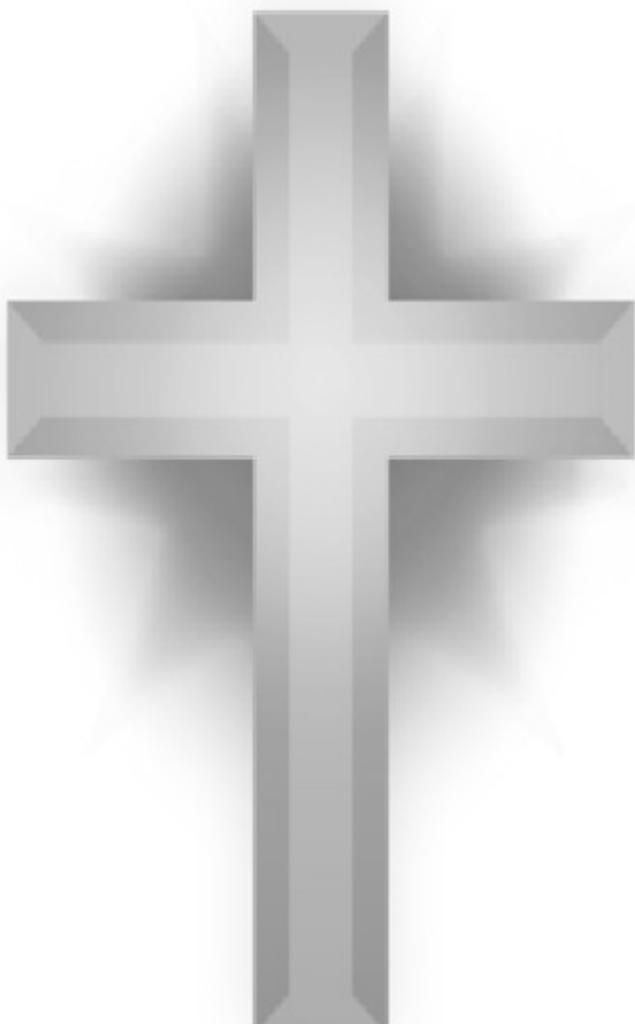
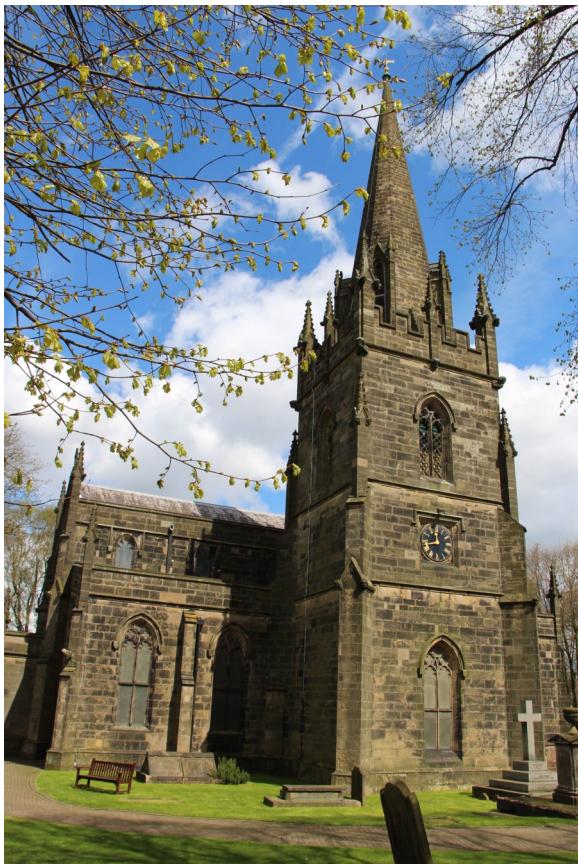


THE BEACON

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

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

FEBRUARY 2019

WHO's WHO

Team Rector	Revd Guy Hewlett	01902 295164
Team Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minster	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
Treasurer	John Anderson	01902 677666
Caretaker	John Anderson	01902 677666
Server / Verger	TBA	
Junior Church	Len Millard	01902 676339
Brownies	Barbara Price	01902 676591
Ladies' Society	Heather Churm	01902 674709
Men's Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Mothers' Union	Roger Berry	01902 881374
Noah's Ark Parent & Toddler Group	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Rainbows	Linda Edwards	01902 672556
Web Editor	Liz Naylor	07827 629648
Youth Group	Martin Jones	01902 884461
Bell Ringer	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Organist	Keith Williams	01902 672585
	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

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

Parish Prayers - These will start at 9.15am.

Tuesday at St Andrew,
Wednesday St Peter and
Thursday at All Saints.
All are welcome.

Funerals in December 2018

6th December - Leslie Roberts - All Saints
7th December - Christine Elizabeth Fowler - Gornal Wood
18th December - Elizabeth Hirons - All Saints
19th December - John Edward Fithern - Gornal Wood
19th December - Sheila Margaret Meredith - All Saints

Funerals in January 2019

3rd January - June Whitehouse - Gornal Wood
8th January - Joseph Farrington - Gornal Wood
10th January - Arthur Baker - Gornal Wood
11th January - Irene Hampton - Gornal Wood
16th January - Warren William Baines - All Saints
23rd January - Paul Griffiths - All Saints

High Days & Holy Days for February

- 1 Brigid of Ireland – Abbess of Kildare, c 525
- 2 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas
- 3 Anskar – Archbishop of Hamburg, missionary in Denmark/Sweden
- 3 Blaise – bishop of Sebastea
- 4 Phileas – Christian bishop/martyr of Egypt
- 6 The Martyrs of Japan – courage amidst persecution
- 8 Kew – or how to tame a wild boar
- 10 Scholastica – or how to get your brother to listen to you
- 11 Caedmon – the poetic shepherd
- 14 St Valentine's Day
- 14 The very first Valentine card – a legend
- 14 St Valentine's Day: a poem
- *NEW 15 Thomas Bray: founder of SPCK
- 17 Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, martyr, 1977
- 22 Margaret of Cortona – sad search for acceptance and love
- 23 Polycarp – the faithful servant who would not deny his Lord
- 24 Matthias the Apostle
- 27 Gabriel Possenti – and the enjoyment of romance
- 27 George Herbert, priest and poet
- 27 The Vicar's a Poet

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 22nd February

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

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

Letter from Archdeacon of Worcester

We live in tumultuous political times, so much so that many people are literally switching off from TV and radio news. It does indeed seem that megaphone diplomacy, which, of course, is no diplomacy at all, is playing a bigger part in our public discourse. We must not have a false sense that history automatically gets better as we learn to live better, when it is clear that human sinfulness can mess things up just as effectively today as it ever did.

So as Christians we must not be naïve about progress, but nor must we despair or give up hope either. We have a Gospel to proclaim and it is Good News. Our calling as Church in every generation is to be a community of hope, and if you look at the world in which Jesus lived, it was clearly as chaotic and seemingly hopeless as ours today. We must be realistic and yet bearers of hope.

What concerns me about today's politics is the poverty of our political discourse and conversation. Whatever else populism might or might not be, the language it uses is designed for newspaper headlines or media news feeds. It tries to give simple answers to complex questions. It feeds people's sense of unfairness. It requires an enemy and puts people down. It does not have any nuances, allow for compromise or considered thought. Twentieth-century history shows us where it can lead.

This is simply not good enough as a way of doing politics, or building a stable world order and country, nor indeed of running a church. Whenever we are tempted to caricature someone else's belief and way of living out the faith, we need to check ourselves and remember wise words from the letter of James in the New Testament: 'you must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness.'

Being 'quick to listen' – what might that look like in our public life?

Archdeacon Robert Jones

Lent Groups, Fellowship Groups and the Alpha Course

Rev Guy Hewlett.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on the 6th March and from the following week there will be 3 Lent Groups starting in the parish, details of times are given at the end of this article!

Last year one of the Lent Groups decided to carry on meeting as a Fellowship Group and the group then decided to do the Alpha Course material together.

Fellowship Groups are a wonderful way to meet together in the safety of a confidential group where we can trust each other and share those things which are closest to our hearts – to pray and to ask the questions which are most important to us, and to learn and grow together with God.

Later in this year we are hoping to run another Alpha Course.

The group which continued to meet through last year had the following ground rules which we decided on together, and kept:

Lent Group 2018 – Ground Rules

Confidentiality – who says what in the group is confidential to the group

Good listening – respect each other, be open minded, opinions are not wrong

It is fine to be quiet

It is fine not to read

No question is a silly question

No answer is a silly answer

I asked if some of the group members would be happy to write a few words about their experience in the group. Following on below are a few of those comments.

Feel free to chat to anyone about the groups and think about joining a group for Lent and see how it goes for you, Yours in Christ, Guy
Hi Revd Guy

To me the Fellowship group is a valued opportunity to develop my faith by discussing it in confidence, and with confidence, within a small group of fellow Christians.

While worship on its own is a vital part of Christian life, the fellowship group enables members to determine how, as individuals, we may carry our beliefs into practical actions in the context of day-to-day life.

Martin Jones
Hello Guy

'The Alpha course answers the big questions we all need to ask about Christianity whether we are new to faith or established worshippers.

Questions like, 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why and how do I pray?', 'What does the Holy Spirit do?' and 'Why and how should I tell others?'. The structure and style of the course is easily accessible, fun and thought provoking. We begin with a short prayer, followed by a video from the Alpha course, discussion and then prayers to close.

So what did the fellowship group and Alpha do for me?

Over the weeks we talked and prayed together I felt a confidence given from within the group to explore ideas, gain knowledge and to grow in faith.

Taking part in the fellowship group and Alpha has encouraged me to read the Bible with a deeper understanding and to be more purposeful in how I live life in the body of Christ.

By sharing our stories and our faith I feel deeply blessed and thirsty to learn more!

Kath (Apperley)

Dear Guy,

Belonging to our Fellowship Group and taking part in the Alpha Course has been brilliant in helping us on our spiritual walk with God. We can listen, ask questions, discuss issues if we wish, but without any pressure. As a result, we are feeling ever closer to God in our daily lives and strengthened by His presence.

Ray and Denise (Whittingham)

Dear Father Guy,

In relation to our fellowship group it seems wonderfully appropriate that I should be writing this on 12th January, the day on which Holy Church commemorates Saint Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx. I quote in full the introductory note and collect for the day:

St Aelred (1109-1167) was born at Hexham and joined the Cistercian monastery of Rievaulx in Yorkshire. He served as Abbot at Revesby, Lincolnshire, and Rievaulx, and became known as a preacher and writer, the “Bernard of the North”. He delighted in friendship and wrote, “He who dwells in friendship, dwells in God and God in him.”

*O God, who endowed St Aelred, Abbot of Rievaulx,
with the gift of fostering Christian friendship
and the wisdom to lead others in the way of holiness,
grant to your people, we pray,
that same spirit of fraternal affection,*

*so that in loving one another
we may know the love of Christ
and rejoice in the eternal possession
of your supreme goodness.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

What more can be / needs to be said of the blessings arising from our fellowship group, other than that we follow in an ancient tradition!

*I think I shall leave it at that for now.
God bless,*

John (Grosvenor)

Dear Guy,

'I would like to say that as our group continued to meet as a Fellowship Group after first meeting one another during Lent we have continued to grow spiritually. It has been rewarding to continue to study together using material from the Alpha Course. We have been able to share in a very trusting environment when both Guy and Jackie have been most encouraging. There has also been prayer time when we have asked for specific prayers sometimes out loud and sometimes quietly. I feel it is important that small groups meet in this way in the future for the growth of both individuals and the Church as a whole.'

Love and God bless, **Joan (Sullivan)**.

Hi Guy

I really enjoyed the alpha meetings it was lovely to meet new people, to share experiences and our thoughts on faith and to grow together in a peaceful and relaxing atmosphere. Thanks to you and Jackie for your warm hospitality.

Tracey (Bate)

Timetable

Lent Groups, Fellowship Groups and the Alpha Course

Mondays at 3pm, (**Catherine**) at **St Andrews Hall** –

Starting on Monday March 11th, 18th, 25th, 1st and 8th April.

Thursday evenings at 7pm please **contact Jan** –

Starting on Thursday March 14th, 21st, 28th and 4th and 11th April.

Thursday at 7:30pm, (**Guy and Jackie**) at **All Saints Vicarage** –

Starting on Thursday March 21st, 28th, 4th and 11th April.

Is the internet increasing your secret addictions?

Don't let your access to the internet mess up your head. That is the warning of a number of experts who are calling for urgent action to address the growing problem of a range of mental health disorders.

Now an international team of more than 100 researchers say that the 'all pervasive' nature of the web is driving not just 'cyberchondria', online hoarding and shopping addictions, but also problematic pornography use, gambling and excessive gaming, which is breaking up people's lives.

The report, published in *European Neuropsychopharmacology*, warns that users are becoming addicted and displaying obsessive behaviour, such as repeatedly checking emails and social media and suffering cravings and withdrawal if denied access.

There is a name for such behaviour: Problematic Internet Use (PIU). The World Health Organisation recognised it in 2014 and warns it has now become a global social health issue.

Paul Willmott

Paul Willmott is a Children's and Family Evangelist, he is passionate about presenting the Bible to Children and families in an accessible way. Along with speaking at church based outreach events, he works alongside 12 different churches in the Black Country, representing each church within local schools. He currently visits 32 schools on a monthly basis. These regular assembly visits have led to the opportunity of other invitations including RE lessons, class room interviews and visits school to church.

Locally Paul visits schools, on behalf of All Saints Church and St Andrews Church on the Straits. These schools are Alder Coppice Primary, Wood-setton Special School and Straits Primary School. Paul also visits Cotwall End Primary School.

Each visit to school Paul presents a whole school assembly, with a Biblical thought for the day. This assembly usually includes an exciting puppet routine to introduce the them, followed by a lively retelling of a Bible story, the use of other visual aids, finally concluding with a prayer. This year Paul has created a theme called, "Keys To Life", One little key can open a lock giving you access to an entire building. This school year Paul will be presenting messages about God's Love, turning to God and tuning into God.

Along with a hall full of children there are also teaching staff listening to assembly After one assembly, the Deputy Head said how the assembly had spoken to her and given her something to think about. It is fantastic for Paul to have this great opportunity to connect with local schools and be such a positive influence.

Sign seen in a restaurant

One of the greatest mysteries of life is how the idiot your daughter married can be the father of the most beautiful and intelligent grandchildren in the world.

Psalm 95's wise words on worship

'Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever' (Westminster Confession). We are created to worship, but who or what will we worship? Psalm 95 invites us to worship God and to engage with His presence and power.

Rejoicing in God (1-5): 'Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord.' (v1). In worship we are called to praise God through 'singing, shouting and extolling', because He is our king (3), creator (4) and rock (1). He truly has the whole world in His hands, including you and me! Whatever our circumstances, worship enables us to acknowledge his sovereignty over our lives.

Reverence before God (6,7): 'Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.' (v6). Worship brings us into the place of submission before God. The NT word for worship means 'to prostrate' ourselves before Him. It challenges the counterfeit 'gods' in our lives eg. power, money, sex, work etc., as well as calling us to trust Him in whatever we are facing, as He is a loving shepherd who cares for us.

Responding to God (8-11): 'Today, if only you would hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did...in the wilderness,' (v8,9). Our worship enables us to listen and hear God's voice. He has a fresh word to speak into our lives on a daily basis. Unlike the people of Israel in the wilderness, we are warned not to harden our hearts, but to embrace God's new life. The test of genuine worship is not whether it feels good or fits our taste, but does it lead to greater obedience in our lives.

Johann Sebastian Bach headed all his compositions with S.D.G. ie 'Soli Dei Gratia', which means 'To God alone be the glory'.

Student

A college student wrote a letter home, and it said in its entirety: 'Dear Dad and Mom please write soon, even if it is only a few pounds.'

Signs & Symbols: Why do we cross ourselves?

Do you ‘cross’ yourself? Do you literally make the sign of the cross over or upon your body?

People do this in different ways: some with certain fingers joined together, some touch their right shoulder before the left, some do small contained crosses on their head, lips and chest whilst others do an exaggerated sign extending as low as they can reach and almost wrapping their arms around themselves.

Keep your eyes open one time and look at your fellow congregation members as the priest extends his or her arm to bless them and you’ll see many different responses. From keeping their heads bowed, crossing themselves at the same time, to standing quite informally and just watching.

For me it’s not really ‘how’ you do it but rather ‘*What’s it all about?*’ If you ‘Google’ that question you’ll get lots of great theologically sound and sometimes deep suggestions.

Let me offer you my personal take on it that has grown to become daily the first thing, last thing and most important prayer of each of my days. It’s an acknowledgement of God’s love for me individually and us collectively and how through this we are forgiven and set free to live life to the full – with courage and strength.

As I start at the highest point and descend it reminds me that Jesus, God’s own Son came down to earth for love of me and all of us. As I cover the width of my body I feel His love wrapped around me, surrounding me, encouraging me, strengthening me, enveloping me and all that will take place in my life and the world today. Not a magic protection layer but a recognition of His presence wherever and whatever takes place.

May you be blessed – In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Shine, Jesus, Shine.

At the flick of a switch or a press of a button we can illuminate our homes with all kinds of gadgets. City life has street lights everywhere and if we need a light for dark places we can use a torch.

Life for people in Bible days must have been so different. The darkness was something to be feared. Anyone in the open at night was vulnerable to attack, not only by robbers and thieves but also by animals.

The Bible often mentions darkness to be a symbol for evil, whether real or imaginary. The Old Testament records watchmen on the walls of a city or large town who were employed to protect the inhabitants. Watchmen were impatient for the sunrise and a psalmist thinks of his soul waiting on God to deliver him, like the watchman waiting for the dawn. (Psalm 130:6)

The Bible often associates darkness for inappropriate behaviour, problems, difficulties, wrong-doing and malevolence. Darkness can also mean a wrong course of action, wilfulness and stupidity. When the Scriptures speak of *light* this shows up what is amiss with our lives. Light can reveal a problem and show the way to avoid or overcome it.

The prophet Isaiah wrote about people walking in darkness and seeing a great light. This in turn would change their lives for the better. He was describing the coming of Jesus who would be a light for us. He would come to reveal everything that is wrong with us, and to be the means to bring us a new life, a new purpose and a new future. He would break the power of sin and death and make it possible for everyone to be reconciled to God.

In a world that needs to see the healing and saving light of Jesus, we are called to be lights of hope, peace and love. What we do and what we say matters. Our actions and words should point people to our heavenly Father. Sometimes this is difficult and sometimes we fail. But we still should try to be like the psalmist who, while thinking about God, said:

Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path. (Psalm 119:105)

Your child's personal data is everywhere

The sheer amount of personal data that children and their parents are giving away about themselves is staggering. Consider this:

Children aged 11 – 16 post on social media on average 26 times a day

By 13, a child will have about 1,300 pictures and videos of themselves posted online.

By 18, the average child will have posted online nearly 70,000 times.

Anne Longfield, the Children's Commissioner, warns that children's lives are being 'datafied' on a huge scale, as their personal information is collected by a series of smart toys, smart speakers and even school apps.

'We need to think about what this means for children's lives now, and how it may impact on their future lives as adults. We simply don't know what the consequences of all this information about our children will be.'

Death of Roger Taft

I would like to say 'Thank you so very much' to all our friends at All Saints who sent cards and for the phone calls of sympathy after Roger's death. Also, thanks to all of you who came to his funeral. It is wonderful to know one has so much support at these times. Thanks must go too, to Guy & Catherine for their support and prayers which were so helpful.

I wish you all a delayed 'Happy New Year'.

With love to you all

from Molly

MOTHERS' UNION

Every year, Mothers' Union has an annual theme that focuses members' prayers and actions on particular aspects of our work and faith. Our theme for 2019 is:

'Listen, observe, act – in step with God'

~~~~~

Thank you to all who gave items for the gift bags we took to the Women's Refuge at Christmas, they were greatly appreciated.

Our first meeting of the year was an opportunity for members to share in Communion, refreshments and the collection of subscriptions.

**The AGM is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00am in church** and it is hoped that all members will be able to attend.

The new Mothers' Union catalogue is now available with Easter cards and gifts as well as the usual cards and items. There will be a chance to look at this at our February meeting and the AGM.

~~~~~

We were delighted to hear that Lynne Tembey has been awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List for her services to Mothers' Union, women and families. She was also awarded the Cross of Augustine by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

'To receive the OBE from the Queen and the Cross of Augustine from the Archbishop of Canterbury is so humbling. I accept these awards through God's grace and in recognition of the worldwide members it has been an honour and joy to serve.'

Sheran Harper is our new Worldwide President. She was born in the United Kingdom and grew up in Guyana. She has been a member of

Mothers' Union since 1987, and for the last 17 years has devoted herself to serving Mothers' Union, at Parish, Diocesan, Provincial and Worldwide levels. She has visited over 16 countries for Mothers' Union, primarily as the Worldwide Parenting Programme Trainer. She has gained experience of Governance as a member of the Worldwide Board and by attending training programmes in England, and she has been regularly called to speak and advise Government regionally, on matters relating to the family and the reduction of violence in the home.

Our new Diocesan President is Judith Grubb, who we hold in our prayers, along with Sheran as they take up their new posts.

Dates

5th February - 2.30pm 'He who hath ears to hear' Kath Apperley

9th February 10.00am AGM in church

There is no evening meeting in February

Liz Williams

Pet Service – St Peter's Church 10th Feb 10:30

Do you have a pet?

On 10th February 10:30 at St Peter's Church there will be a pet service to celebrate our fury, feathered, swimming friends. to give thanks to God for them, and to bless them.

If you have a household pet, please bring them along; if your pet is too big, please bring a photograph; also if you have lost a pet, we will give thanks for them.



All are welcome

Please contact Rev Catherine for further details on tel 01902 677897

Remember the Fashion?

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Small car | Mini |
| 2. Military vehicle, summit | Tank Top |
| 3. Golf top | Tee Shirt |
| 4. Cheat | Fleece |
| 5. Chauffeur | Parka |
| 6. There's no hole in this | Polo Shirt |
| 7. Ideal wear for bargees | Leggings |
| 8. Low ringers | Bellbottom trousers |
| 9. Same pair | Twin Set |
| 10. A hat used to grow vegetables under | Cloche |
| 11. Of Belgian origin | Duffel Coat |
| 12. Worn by a cricketer | Bowler Hat |
| 13. Careless chap | Sloppy Joe |
| 14. Cyclists | Pedal Pushers |
| 15. This may give you the hump! | Camel Coat |
| 16. You need these to eat at the seaside | Winkle pickers |
| 17. Could you buy these in Port Isaac? | Doc Martens |
| 18. City carriers | Oxford Bags |
| 19. Disagreements | Spats |
| 20. Sandy chemist | Desert Boots |
| 21. Novel by Du Maurier | Trilby |
| 22. Ice gold | Bolero |
| 23. Face cloths | Flannels |
| 24. Is lazy | Slacks |
| 25. Narrow blades | Stilettos |
| 26. Fishy knot | Kipper Tie |
| 27. Worn by Jackie Kennedy | Pill Box Hat |
| 28. Headgear worn by Procul Harum | Homburg |
| 29. Frank? | Spencer |
| 30. Worn by airmen | Bomber Jacket |
| 31. Footwear for the railway station | Platform Shoes |
| 32. Stag hunter | Deer Stalker |
| 33. Gareth made this popular | Waistcoat |
| 34. Kept children warm in winter | Liberty Bodice |
| 35. Northern Ireland | Ulster |
| 36. Warning signals | Flares |
| 37. Racing outfit | Tracksuit |

38. Empty smokers	Drainpipes
39. Adapted for use during WWI	Trench Coat
40. Warm to wear!	Hot Pants
41. Worn by a mollusc	Shell Suit
42. Blow and deceive	Windcheater
43. Worn when smoking pot?	Reefer Jacket
44. Shoes to wear in Havana?	Cuban Heels
45. They tell tales	Sneakers
46. Trendy plastic waterproof	PVC Mac
47. They're hers	Jeans
48. Copper items at an auction	Culottes
49. Austrian item popular in the 1950s	Dirndl skirt
50. You'll need the Fire Brigade if you wear this!	Blazer

- Congratulations to Martin Hickman and Claire White who won the quiz.

A big thank you to all who supported the Christmas Tree Festival which raised £420 for The Salvation Army.

With Lent coming, we consider prayer...

Kneel before you leap. – George Allen

Anything is a blessing which makes us pray. – C H Spurgeon

Satan is far more anxious to keep us off our knees than he is to keep us off our feet! – Ivor Powell

Too many people pray like little boys who knock at doors, then run away. – Anon

Tears are often the telescope by which men see far into heaven. – H W Beecher

A prayer in its simplest definition is merely a wish turned Godward. Phillips Brooks

Her eyes are homes of silent prayer. – Tennyson

The Lord's Prayer is not, as some fancy, the easiest, the most natural of all devout utterances. It may be committed to memory quickly, but it is slowly learned by heart. – Anon

A mother can touch a whole generation just by loving her own child well. – Anon



Children's Holiday Workshop

for ages 4 to 11

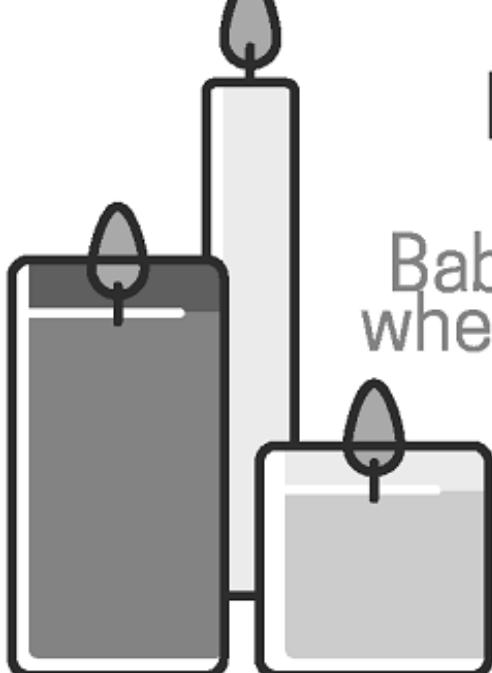


Bible Story

Fun Crafts

Refreshments

Free Entry



Babies and Toddlers welcome
where accompanied by an adult

Tuesday 19th February 2019

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

All Saints' Church Hall

Ladies Society

Mary Zielonka came to share with us more of her encounters as an exchange teacher as told in letters to her parents some thirty years ago.

Mary spent a year teaching in an Elementary School in Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada. It was somewhat isolated, being a two day drive to Vancouver or two hour flight.

Letter 18, written in January, about halfway through the academic year found Mary still living, free of charge in the “Teacherage” House as the sole occupant.

Friend and colleagues were concerned for her financial well being(trying to live on an English teacher’s salary, with a poor exchange rate, and expensive Canadian lifestyle).

Mary expressed amusement as these folk tried to give her money. On her behalf they had applied for a grant from the Teacher’s Benevolent Fund and she was given quite a sum of money. She felt she was coping!

I’m not sure Mary was really enjoying her teaching though the letter suggested another amusing situation.

An announcement stated that six staff members of the Kitimat School Group were pregnant, with no prospect of any replacements, so by March classes could be without a teacher and after school clubs would be cancelled. So, not wishing to miss out on their basketball or hockey the pupils staged a “walk-out”. This was reported in the local news and further afield! “Never heard of such a thing,” said Mary.

Some children continued to be difficult so Mary felt in need of some respite.”Perhaps a week of illness,” she joked.

It is now February and Mary gets a break, she joins a skiing course in Smithers and tries out cross country skiing too. Hard work and a few falls but fun.

Mary takes spinning lessons, hires a spinning wheel and enjoys herself.

The weather is awful, snow and rain, wet underfoot and at minus fourteen degrees centigrade with power failures school was cancelled. School hardly bearable so a day at home was like a "mental health day".

Mary now had to teach French. One boy objected to learning "froggy".

Another skiing trip to Smithers saves the day as does a visit to a concert and weaving course on wall-hangings. Skiing improvement gave a boost too! All this was expensive though! Another life line from the "Emergency Grant for English Teachers" helped. The grant was given because of the very poor rate of exchange. Offers to join a trip to Vancouver in May spur her on.

Valentine's Day proved amusing as Mary got 8 cards from pupils in her class, but the isolation and the awful weather made her feel homesick.

More after school clubs introduced so Mary goes bowling and teaches inkle weaving to a small group making belts.

A Post Office strike in March means no mail for a while. Letters home gave news of the class. Some children clever, workers and shirkers, and some weird.

Two teachers move into the "Teacherage" with Mary without any consultation, so she felt somewhat aggrieved. However another offer of a shared trip to Vancouver Island brings relief!

"Will I make it to June?" asks Mary. Of course you Will!

Thank you Mary. Look forward to your following experiences

Hope to see more members in February.

Anne Wakefield.

“Christmas Past”

At our December meeting Anne Clarke came along to talk to us about the traditions surrounding Christmas. She started by talking about Advent and moved on to explain that Jesus's birthday was probably not in December. This is because shepherds would not be in the fields in December as it was too cold. Also, tax collecting usually took place after the harvest and so Jesus's actual birthday was most likely to have been in September/early autumn in 4BC. The date of 25th December was the shortest day and, as people worshipped the sun, Christians chose a date when people were celebrating and not working.

Anne then went on to look at some of the traditions that we associate with the Christmas period. Nativity plays date back to medieval times and were the method chosen to tell people about the birth of Jesus. Carols are linked to the “pagan dances” of the winter solstice and the early songs of praise and joy were written in Latin. In Italy in 1223 St Francis of Assisi introduced a nativity play with carols. In England, Oliver Cromwell banned both carols and Christmas for a while.

In 1918 Kings College, Cambridge introduced its “Nine Lessons and Carols” service and Anne led us in a rendition of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”. She explained that this was a poem by Charles Wesley set to music by Mendelsohn which had been composed in 1840. The poem and music were later combined together.

The remainder of the evening consisted of a variety of fun activities: listing our favourite Christmas films and the dates of release; discussing our favourite Quality Street sweets – and why the tins are smaller nowadays; talking about the Queen’s Christmas speech; reminiscing about the games we played with the family; and the role of crackers, decorations and trees.

Anne finished the evening by reading “Twas the night before Christmas” which was written in 1822 and already included the names of Santa’s reindeer.

This was a lovely evening full of opportunities to reminisce.
Thank you Anne.

Karen Evans

Why you should not keep your curtains closed

In dark rooms, 12 per cent of bacteria can reproduce; in rooms exposed to sunlight, only 6.8 per cent can reproduce. Remember that when you consider your household dust and the effect that simply opening your curtains can make.

Researchers at the University of Oregon point out that we spend most of our time indoors, ‘where exposure to dust particles that carry a variety of bacteria, including pathogens that can make us sick, is unavoidable.’ But we can do something – let the sun stream in. The study found that it helps to kill the human skin-derived bacteria in our homes.

As one doctor put it:‘Our study supports a century-old folk wisdom that daylight has the potential to clean – or, as we now know, to kill microbes on dust particles.’

80th Birthday Thanks

I wish to thank all members of Mothers Union, Ladies Society and my many church friends for gifts and so many lovely birthday cards on the occasion of my 80th birthday.

I am overwhelmed by your thoughtfulness and kindness.

May God Bless you all.

Jean Turner

Noah's Ark News 2018

Just a few updates from the past year...

We enjoyed an Easter bonnet parade – although a very difficult decision had to be made by Jean and Maureen as to the best hat! We gave out Easter Eggs for the winners and all the children had a small egg each. We had our usual Summer Party with games and balloon animals the children went home with a party bag.

Most recently, our children, Moms and visitors really enjoyed the Christmas Story by Guy in church at the beginning of December. We've then had our Christmas Party with Santa and a gift for each child - they had a lovely time with the balloon animals and party food.

We had two children leave the group to go on to nursery Jaxon and Callum.

When funds allow we like to make a donation to Church and the Church Hall. We donated £300 to the Church Hall funds, and our Moms supported a raffle which raised £62.00. The Christmas Fayre benefitted from a raffle donated by us and we gave £200 for the new notice boards. Our Moms and Noah's Ark did a 'Children in Need' collection, and for several other charities throughout the year.

We currently have 35+ children on our register and are now going into our 24th year. We couldn't do this without our loyal team of helpers who have supported us over the years.

WELL DONE!

We look forward to starting the New Year on the 15th January 2019.

Linda Edwards and Jenny Lavender

Be my Valentine?

St Valentine's Day falls on 14th February and since the 18th Century has been associated with the declaration of love, albeit anonymously. Originally this might be through the offering of sweets or flowers, and now more commonly by the sending of an unsigned card.

One suggestion is that St Valentinus was a Roman Christian who performed weddings for soldiers in the Roman army, even though they were not permitted to marry. According to this story, Valentinus was sentenced to death for his offence, but during his imprisonment prayed for the blind daughter of his judge, who miraculously recovered. Before his execution he left her a note, which he signed 'Your Valentine.'

All of us long to know that we are loved by someone, but declaring our love to another is always a risky business since we may be rejected. They may consider us not attractive enough, or unsuitable in any number of other ways. The pain of unrequited love is indeed great, and so many of us hold back because of the fear of rejection.

One thing we can be sure of, however, is that we are loved by God. He loves us because He made us, and likes us as we are. He loves us because He gave His Son to die for us, and thought we were worthy of such a sacrifice. Here is One who knows everything about us and loves us just the same. His love is unchanging and unending and we need never fear His rejection.

Here is the best declaration of love ever made. God says to you, "I have loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3)."

Sin

A young minister, serving his first church, noticed that one of his flock had been absent from services several Sundays in a row, so he decided to see her and ask the reason. The old woman shook her head and looked at him pityingly. "Son," she said, "you can't help me. You are not old enough to have sinned enough to have repented enough to be able to preach about it."

No need to fall

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude v 24-25

When the weather is cold and icy we have to take care lest we slip and fall. It is so easily done, and that is why our A&E departments are often overstretched in winter.

One of the fears that besets many believers is that they will take a tumble spiritually and fall into sin. They are unsure whether they can keep their footing when there are so many temptations around them, and when the values of society are so against Christian standards. They worry that they will not be able to keep up their good intentions to follow Jesus.

Here, through this doxology, we are given a great encouragement to believe that we can stand firm without falling because *Jesus is there to help and support us.*

Temptation is real and persistent, and sin will always be waiting to catch us out (Genesis 4:7), but even when we are weak and vulnerable, we need not fall because the Lord is our Keeper. As the Psalmist said, “He will not let your foot slip – He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.”
Psalm 121:3-4

Having set out on the heavenly journey, we will arrive home safely because of Christ’s amazing grace. Through His blood shed on the cross we have been cleansed from every sin, and with His help will take our place in the presence of God with the joy of angelic songs resounding in our ears. This is our confidence and their hope.

“Twas grace that brought me safe thus far and grace shall lead me home.” (John Newton)

The Bible verse of 2018

A Bible app, YouVersion, has named Isaiah 41:10 as the most popular verse of 2018.

That verse has been posted, bookmarked, and highlighted more times than any other on the app (which has been downloaded more than 350,000 times around the world).

Isaiah 41:10 reads: ‘So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.’ The verse also came top in Chile, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Peru, South Africa, Spain and the United States. But in the UK, for 2018, we preferred Jeremiah 29:11: ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Historic churches share in funding payout

77 churches and chapels in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are sharing in a recent £430,000 grant payout from the National Churches Trust, the charity supporting church buildings of all Christian denominations across the UK.

Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice President of The National Churches Trust, said: ‘The UK’s historic churches and chapels are a vital part of our national heritage. The cost of this work is far beyond what most congregations can pay for themselves and the latest grants from the National Churches Trust will help ensure that 77 churches and chapels are safe for future generations to enjoy.’

In 2018 the National Churches Trust awarded grants of £1.2 million to help 202 projects at churches and chapels around the UK. Demand for funding from the National Churches Trust continues to grow, with 583 grant applications received in 2018, up from 473 grant applications in 2017, a 23% increase.

Nigerian Christians under relentless attack

Release International relates the following true story:

Gyang, a 27-year old Nigerian Christian is a student at the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Jos. A few weeks ago Gyang saw a post on Facebook about how his village had come under attack from Fulani militants. Almost immediately he called home to speak to his father, the Rev Adamu Gyang, but his father's phone was switched off. Sensing something was wrong, he called his mother, but her phone was switched off too. A few minutes later he called a friend who told him that his parents, his three younger siblings and his grandmother were dead. They were among many villagers who had been killed in the village when the militants arrived one evening.

During that dreadful night the Fulani burned 95 homes. Most of the village's crops that were almost ready to harvest were also destroyed. Now Gyang is the only surviving member of his family of seven.

Unfortunately, this situation is all too common in parts of Nigeria, where the persecution and killing of Christians is on the increase. But it is not just in Nigeria. In Eritrea, Pakistan, Somalia, Kenya, Egypt and India Christians are also being murdered for their faith. Often, those who are left behind find it hard to keep going.

If you want to help the survivors of these attacks, who desperately need food, shelter, medicines and spiritual encouragement, go to <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org>

New job

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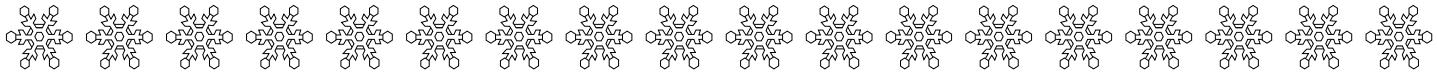
In School with Paul and Friends

Straits Primary: Key Stage 1 (infants) 2.55
January 16th and March 6th

Key Stage 2 (juniors) 9.05am
January 31st and March 14th

St Andrews Church: Paul visits these schools on behalf of St Andrews Church, If you would like to join him in school and see what happens in assembly he would love to hear from you. www.paulwilmott.com

Your prayer support is hugely valuable. Thank you.



Christingle Service December 2018

I must thank everyone who made the 2018 Christingle such a great success. It was a wonderful experience for us all to be there in a church full of people rejoicing and enjoying the ages-old Christmas story.

As usual Barbara Price organised the event and her daughter Laura led the service wonderfully. Of course volunteers who made the actual Christingles also need a special mention as do the children who took part in the Nativity play.

The event raised £ 463.00 for the Children's Society

I would like to wish all of our generous and faithful supporters of the Society at All Saints' a very happy and healthy

Anne

A decorative border made of small snowflake icons, surrounding the signature.

In School with Paul & Friend's



Alder Coppice

Primary School - 9am
Jan 15th, Feb 12th, Apr 9th.

Woodsetton

Special School - 9:20am
Jan 16, Feb 13th, Mar 13th.

All Saints Church - Sedgley

Paul visits these schools on behalf of All Saints .
If you would like to join me in school and see what happens
in assembly, I would love to hear from you.

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Your prayer support is hugely valuable. Thank you.



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Leftover Mincemeat Apple Crumble

Serves 4-6

Ingredients

For the filling

800g Bramley apples (roughly 3).

3 tbspsns leftover mincemeat.

75g soft brown sugar

1tbspn plain flour

For the Crumble

100g plain flour

50g butter

50g caster sugar

Half teaspoon ground ginger

Half teaspoon ground cinnamon

Method

1 Peel, core and slice apple and tip into a large pan along with 2tbspsns of the mincemeat and the soft brown sugar. Cook over a low heat.

2 Once fruit has started to release its juices (approx 2-3 minutes), tip in the plain flour and stir, coating all of the fruit and creating a thickened sauce.

3 Set aside

4 Meanwhile, preheat the oven, to 200C/180C (Fan). In a large mixing bowl, rub together plain flour, butter, caster sugar and spices for the topping, until mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

5 Transfer the prepared fruit into a large oven dish. Sprinkle over the remaining mincemeat and cover with the crumble.

6 Bake for 40-45mins until golden brown and bubbling around the edges. Leave to cool slightly before serving.

Hope this is ok.

Love Denise xx

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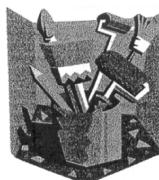
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All the lonely people

Where do they all come from?

All the lonely people

Where do they all belong?

The Beatles saw loneliness all around them back in the 60s, when they wrote the lyrics to *Eleanor Rigby*. And loneliness is growing: the number of lonely over-50s will hit two million within seven years, according to recent data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing.

The study points out that older people often live alone, lack someone to confide in, or are widowed, or are in poor health, or are unable to do the things they want, or feel that they do not belong in their neighbourhood. Caroline Adams, Age UK's charity director, warns that such loneliness will bring 'serious consequences for their physical and mental health, and therefore for the NHS, unless we take action now.' But action will be a challenge, for the adult social care sector is badly over-stretched, with up to 110,000 jobs vacant across the country.

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St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

We have just returned from our annual parish three-day silent retreat at St Epiphanius' Priory. We had the usual attendees: those husbands who see it as an opportunity to stop their wives talking, however briefly; those wives who can keep their husbands temporarily from the 19th hole at the golf club; and those who want to see if it might be a suitable home in which to park an inconvenient relative.



It can come as quite a shock for first-timers: the ladies are appalled to discover that there is neither coffee shop nor hairdressers, and the men that there is no bar or billiards table. The resident community certainly frowned on the four men among us who were discovered silently pushing a car down the drive late one evening before starting it at the main gates as they escaped to the nearest pub. Those of us who are older hands know to bring our own supplies – carefully wrapped, so that the clinking of bottles is not too obvious as one ascends the main staircase. The near universal retreat to bedrooms before dinner is less an opportunity for quiet reflection and more one for a restorative sherry.

The more experienced also know that temperatures in the house are Siberian. All the movement and hand waving during Services is less charismatic enthusiasm and more an attempt to maintain blood flow to the extremities. The series of addresses were given by an aged member of the community. That some of our party fell asleep during the addresses was excusable; that the person giving them also occasionally did so, was not.

During one stroll round the gardens, I noticed clouds of smoke coming from behind the hedges near the chapel. My hope that it was parishioners experimenting with incense to be used in church on our return was soon crushed when I found it was a group of hardened parishioners topping up their nicotine levels. Seeing them nervously huddled in the shrubbery made one think of schools and bike sheds. I now find it difficult not

to picture them all in short trousers and wearing caps.

And so we return, knowing that we have done our bit once again for the spiritual vigour of the parish, and also that three days of vegetarian cooking will mean a long queue at the village butchers tomorrow morning.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Technoference

We've all seen them: mothers engrossed on their mobile phones and ignoring their children nearby. But now research has found that children whose parents are addicted to their phones are significantly more likely to have behaviour problems.

The problem is called 'technoference'. It is when the everyday relationship between parent and child is constantly disrupted by a digital or mobile device, including during face-to-face conversations, meal-times and play-times.

Technoference causes children to display a range of behavioural problems: from sulking, whining, and emotional distress, to hyperactivity and tantrums. Sadly, it often gets the child nowhere. One health expert has said: 'Around Manchester you can see unbelievable attempts by children to communicate with the adult they are with, but who remains oblivious

Rice

A man who had been dating a girl for a number of years took her out to a Chinese restaurant. As they studied the menu he asked: 'How would you like your rice, fried or boiled?'

She looked at him sadly. 'Thrown.'



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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

February 2019

3rd February

All Saints -	8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell 10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett 6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - The Revd Guy Hewlett
St Andrew -	9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
St Peter -	10.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

10th February

All Saints -	8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett 10.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries 6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries
St Andrew -	9.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett
St Peter -	10.30am - Pet Service - The Revd Catherine Mitchell

17th February

All Saints -	8am - The Revd Guy Hewlett 10.30am - Canon Judith Oliver 6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Evensong - Canon Jan Humphries
St Andrew -	9.30am - Worship for All - Canon Jan Humphries
St Peter -	10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett

24th February

All Saints -	8am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell 10.30am - The Revd Guy Hewlett 6.30pm - Book of Common Prayer - Holy Communion - The Revd Guy Hewlett
St Andrew -	9.30am - The Revd Catherine Mitchell
St Peter -	10.30am - Worship for All - Suzanne Bradley