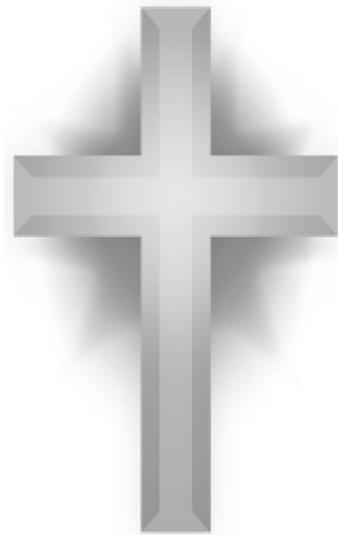
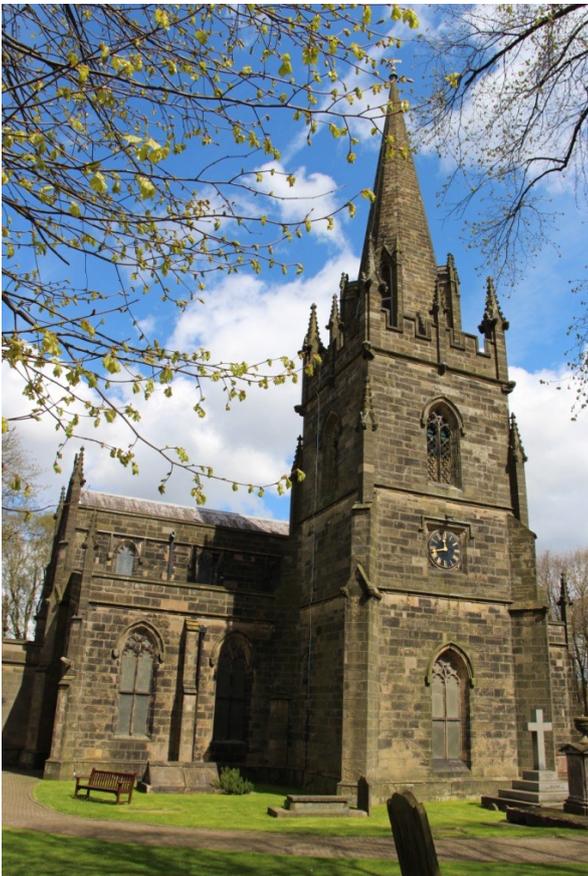
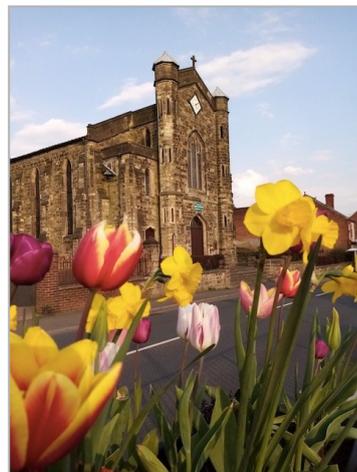


THE BEACON

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Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

July/August 2021

PARISH WIDE WHO'S WHO

Team Rector	Revd Guy Hewlett	01902 295164
Team Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minister	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Ordinand and ALM	Claire Cox	07812 010108
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Baker	01902 882847
Pastoral Care	Tracey Bate	01902 880727
	Jackie Hewlett	01902 295164
	Sarah Parker	01902 885570
Worship Leader	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth Leader and Youth Group	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108
PCC Secretary	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
PCC Treasurer	Sheila Moss	01902 893570
Parish Office	Gail Griffiths	01902 540289
Web Editor	Martin Jones	01902 884461

St Peters

Parish Warden	David Moss	01902 893570
Parish Warden	Edward Grist	01902 682786
Treasurer	Sheila Moss	01902 893570
Children's Advocate	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
DCC Secretary	John Powell	
Uniformed Organisations	Please Contact David Moss	01902 893570

St Andrew's

Warden	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Children's Advocate	Carol Haynes	
Treasurer	Alan Turner	01902 670938
DCC Secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007
Little Angels Baby & Toddler Group	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Singing Angels	Claire Cox	07812 010108

Who's Who

Who's Who

All Saints Who's Who

Vestry Clerk	Chris Williams	01902 672880
Parish Wardens	Keith Tomlinson	01902 673366
	John Anderson	01902 677666
Treasurer	John Anderson	01902 677666
DCC Secretary	John Anderson	01902 677666
Caretaker	Brett Morgan	07590 687982
Junior Church	Barbara Price	01902 676591
Bell Ringer	Keith Williams	01902 672585
Organist	Martin Platts	07941 173252
Youth Leader	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Brownies	Heather Churm	01902 674709
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Men's Society	Roger Berry	01902 881374
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Rainbows	Liz Naylor	07827 629648
Web Editor	Martin Jones	01902 884461
Server/Verger	Len Millard	01902 676339
	Steve Castle	07971 899072
Noah's Ark		
Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	01902 672556

Funerals

Funerals for June 2021

7 th June	David James Boyd	Gornal Wood
10 th June	Gertrude Lillian Fellows	All Saints
24 th June	Colin Roy Guest	Gornal Wood

THE BEACON

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

Karen Evans: 01902 678056

The Beacon is published ten times a year and the cost for the year is £5. A larger typeface version of The Beacon can be provided on request.

Articles for the September magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 20th August

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

Do not send files in pdf format

WEBSITE: **www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk**

To Magazine Deliverers

Could you please get email addresses for all the people that you deliver to and let either Gail Griffiths or Karen Evans know .

MAGAZINE COLLECTORS

all people that kindly deliver the magazines can you now please start collecting the money and let Karen Evans know when it is ready for picking up. Thank you.

St Peter's District Church magazine

St Peter's also publishes a magazine which is more particular to Upper Gornal. If you would like to receive that magazine (which is not available electronically), in the first instance please contact a St Peter's Church warden details on page 2 of this magazine.

If you wish to enquire about a wedding for 2021 or 2022, please contact

Chris Williams chriswilliams550@btinternet.com.

From Revd Guy Hewlett - Living with uncertainty

Marie Curie has been quoted as saying “nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood”.

Over these last 18 months as individuals] and communities, as countries and as a world we've come to better understand the coronavirus and the disease we call COVID-19.

Although there is a great deal for us still to learn, in the UK, as I write, we are close to legal social restrictions being lifted. Even though the government may on the lift all social distancing laws in England, I suspect we will choose to carry on with certain good practices so as to stay safe.

Many of you will be familiar with the story of the sinking of the liner Titanic and will have seen the film of that name. There was of course a tragic loss of life. And we have seen a tragic loss of life during this pandemic. After the Titanic struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sank with the loss of 1500 lives, the International Ice Patrol was formed to prevent similar tragedies. Almost 50 nations were members of this safety agency. It is operated by the United States Coast Guard but is funded by the 13 nations interested in trans-Atlantic navigation. Its planes and ships are constantly on patrol during the ice season to warn other vessels of danger from icebergs.

There were four reasons given for the incredibly high toll of life in the Titanic sinking:

- There were two few lifeboats.

- The crew was unfamiliar with the ship.

- The ship was travelling too fast.

- The line is officers were overconfidence.

Perhaps many of us had become complacent about the risk of disease and were over confident. Perhaps we did not have plans nationally or personally in place to ensure our safety, and perhaps we were also too unaware of how a virus can spread.

Perhaps we were living life too fast to stop and reflect on our well-being.

Hopefully we are learning to live with the uncertainty and in truth the fear that has come with the corona virus, and to live well and as safely as we can.

The writer Samuel Johnson said “fear is one of the passions of human nature of which it is impossible to digest it. You remember the emperor Charles the 5th, when he read upon the tombstone of a Spanish nobleman, ‘here lies one who never knew fear’, wittily said ‘then he never snuffed a candle with his fingers.’

Fear is a natural response to challenge and difficulty. In John’s first letter we read ‘There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.’

How might we experience that love? By trusting in God that all things work for the good of those who believe and are called according to his purpose is. That life in this world is sometimes very difficult but that it is not punishment. This is challenging but in truth we have to step out in faith.

As July and August 2021 pass through to September, I know we are all hoping that the pandemic will have passed and that we will be living with this virus in a way which allows us to live fully, perhaps acknowledging our fear and concerns, but choosing to live anyway.

I hope and pray that we will all have a renewed confidence and that this will help us to live well, to love God, and continue to love our neighbour. God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Guy

Mothers' Union

Festival of Flowers

On Friday 6th August All Saints' Church will be open from 10.00am to 4.00pm, and St Andrew's Church will be open from 10.00am to 12.30pm, to mark the centenary of the death of our founder, Mary Sumner. There will be a display of the work of the Mothers' Union, and flower arrangements. Mary Sumner will also be remembered at the 10.30am service on Sunday 8th August.

Mothers' Union Date

We intend to meet on Tuesday 13th July for a short service led by Revd Guy, and the AGM. This will be an opportunity to meet up with members many of us have not seen for 15 months. The meeting will be in the Church Hall and will comply with current Covid 19 advice. There will be no refreshments as under current regulations we are unable to use the kitchen. I look forward to seeing as many of you as feel able to attend the meeting.

I enjoy chatting to you all and feel privileged to share your news, concerns, anxious and happy times, especially during the last 15 months. I thought you would like to hear a lovely piece of news I heard while talking to Sheila Kendrick. She told me about her granddaughter, Eleanor, receiving her First Class Hons. Degree at Worcester Cathedral last month. Some of you will remember Eleanor coming to All Saints' with Sheila from when she was 3 years old.

'The Ceremony took place on 'Live Stream' inside Worcester Cathedral. All Covid Rules and Regulations were followed, including Testing, "Test and Trace' and social distancing. Graduates only were in the cathedral and parents and guests watched in the Arena Hall. Before the start of the ceremony the cameras moved around the cathedral showing all its beauty.

With the organ playing softly, I really felt that I was there!! I was so uplifted by the experience, and it was so welcome after all these days of Covid rules and restrictions. I was able to see my granddaughter receive her degree and share her happiness, live on the screen. I give thanks for the technology in place for that to be possible. My spirits were lifted on that special day in our own Diocesan Cathedral.'

Congratulations to Val and Ernie Thomas, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in June.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the deaths of Maureen Wassell and Jean Hale. Maureen and Jean were faithful and dedicated members of the Mothers' Union, who became Indoor Members in recent years and they will be sorely missed by us all. We hold Jane and David, and Ian and Sara, and Sally and Helen, and their families in our prayers at this sad time.

Take care

Liz

A BIG THANK YOU FROM BRENDA AND KEITH

For all of the good wishes, cards, gifts and flowers given to us for our Golden Wedding.

Many, many thanks. **Keith and Brenda**

Chatting with Canon Jan

What is your guilty pleasure?

A biscuit with every cup of tea.

What simple thing sparks joy in you?

Hearing my beautiful, brave little Ezra shout 'Granny' and Saffy's gorgeous smile.

What advice would you hand down?

Never give in.

What do you do to relax?

Chatting with friends.

What household item could you not do without?

A washing machine.

If you could meet a famous person (alive or dead) who would it be and why?

Catherine Booth. I would like to know more about how she and her husband, William, had the courage to take God's word out into the streets and rescue people from utter squalor, to find the life transforming love of God in the wonderful Salvation Army.

What is your helpful daily mantra?

Be kind and never give up hope. God sends Angels in unexpected guises.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM BRENDA AND KEITH

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Many, many thanks. **Keith and Brenda**

The Children's Society Box Collection

This year's box collection raised a total of £967.89. Thank you to all those who contributed in these difficult times. It will help to make a difference to the lives of many vulnerable children. If you do not already have a collection box and would like to have one please contact me on 672541. Thank you.

Mary Zielonka

Reflected Faith series: the spaces between

Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don't know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help. The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be 'listened to'. Really listened to. But it is not easy to find someone who will 'actively listen' to you.

Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don't clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens.

He doesn't necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life's challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible.

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to 'nudge' the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

This month:

Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken.

Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.

Time for a change

I have had my walking boots for a few years now, and they have been faithful companions. We have walked many miles together during that time, on my daily walks as well as on holiday. They are partly responsible for my physical recovery after Covid-19, so they have a place in my heart. They fit me very well, and we have adjusted to one another. But they are very thin now on the soles and heels, and it is reluctantly time for a change.

So, one recent Saturday I bought a new pair. They are clean and smart, and fully waterproof. The soles are strong and new. There are no signs of wear and tear. But I know that change is never easy. They will take some time to wear in. They may rub and I may get a blister or two. Occasionally I will long for my old boots, and wonder, 'Did I make a mistake?' Hopefully, they will become as much a part of me as my old ones as we tread the miles together. But there is always a risk with something new, Isn't there?

Change is never easy in whatever form it comes. But change is inevitable because life does not stand still, and we have to keep adjusting and adapting and being open to fresh winds of the Spirit. Never more so than in these present, troublesome days.

Strangely enough as I have been meditating on this, my reading this morning (Isaiah 9) contained a reference to 'Every warrior's boot used in battle ... will be destined for burning (v5).' Oh dear. I'm sure like me, warriors were fond of their boots too and found it hard to part with them.

Bowls

A small boy stunned his parents when he began to empty his pockets of coins. Finally his mother asked him where he had got all that money. "At church," the boy replied nonchalantly. "They have bowls of it there."

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – a celebration of faith & service – save the date!

A four-day Bank Holiday from 2-5 June 2022 will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. This is an amazing opportunity to bring our communities together for the celebrations, which end on Pentecost Sunday.

HOPE Together, the Church of England, the Methodist Church, Biblica and other key partners are currently planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a specially commissioned souvenir book for us to give away; a new anthem for communities and churches to sing; a '70 Acts of Service' community challenge for us to adapt to use together with churches and other organisations in our area, and lots of resources for children and schools.

Rachel Jordan-Wolf, HOPE's executive director said, "Churches are in an ideal place to bring communities together for national celebrations. We have the tables, chairs, crockery and PA systems – and we love making cakes!

"It is so appropriate that the nation and Commonwealth should be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the same weekend as Pentecost, the day when the church celebrates the gift of God's Holy Spirit."

The anointing of God's Holy Spirit was central to the Coronation and, in preparation for the day, The Queen prayed: 'Come, Holy Spirit, and daily increase in all of us, and in me, thy humble servant, thy manifold gifts of grace; the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spirit of counsel and strength; the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill us, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear, now and forever. Amen.'

The beautifully illustrated souvenir book to be published for the celebrations uses rarely seen prayers, which the Queen prayed in preparation for the Coronation, and highlights how God has answered those prayers over the past seven decades.

The 'Platinum Jubilee Celebration of Faith & Service' will build on the successful partnership facilitated by HOPE Together, which enabled local churches to bring their communities together for the Diamond Jubilee and the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations.

Over the next year HOPE will provide churches across the country with all the resources and ideas they need to run a great all-age community event that will celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service. We can plan to get our church involved, invite our community to the party, and round off the weekend with a special guest celebration service for Pentecost.

Find out more at hopetogether.org.uk/jubilee

Opening and closing churches in the UK

There were an estimated 45,500 congregations or churches in the UK in 2020: 79%, in England, 8% (3,700 churches) in Wales, 8% (3,500 churches) in Scotland and 5% (2,100 churches) in Northern Ireland.

New congregations are being started or having to close all the time, and in the fifteen years since 2005 it is estimated that collectively some 3,100 new congregations have started while some 5,800 have closed, a net drop of 2,700 across the UK.

Most of the Anglican new congregations are in the Church of England, many of which are planted by the larger churches. A third of all the churches which have closed in the last 15 years have been Methodist, followed by the Anglicans and Roman Catholics (both 15%) and the Presbyterians (9%). The Baptists (7% of all closures) have also seen over 400 churches close in the last 15 years, which is one in eight of their congregations.

From UK Church Statistics Nos 1-4

Can you sleep?

In the West, insomnia is thought to affect between 10 and 30 per cent of adults at any one time, according to the Economic and Social Research Council.

The group also says that a tenth of British adults regularly take some kind of sleeping tablet, with its accompanying risk of addiction.

Now The Sleep Charity, which campaigns to improve sleep support, warns that:

“While prescription drugs can help with short-term insomnia, and help to break a cycle of poor sleep, they don’t tackle the root problem. They really just mask symptoms. With long-term insomnia, lifestyle changes usually need to happen, which is why cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia is an effective treatment.”

NEW CARETAKER

Our new caretaker for All Saints is Brett Morgan, may we wish him every success in his new role.

Also thanks to Pam Pugh who will still be cleaning the church on a weekly basis.



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All Saints Snapshots of History - Part 2

Christian worship has existed on the site of All Saints' since 1086 and the existing church was rebuilt in 1827-29 by the Earl of Dudley retaining the existing tower, refaced to match the new building. (It is assumed that the connectivity between the old and new structure explains the damp patch on the southern wall).

It was designed by Thomas Lee of Barnstaple. You can see part of the footprint of the original building by the choir vestry door where two above ground tombs are situated – the occupants would have paid to be inside the building.

You would anticipate that the Church, after opening, settled down to a long period of stability.

This is shown not to be the case as a report from the Staffordshire Advertiser dated 6th October 1866 sets out...

“The church having undergone a complete renovation was re-opened for divine service Sunday last..... A gift of two stained glass windows were introduced to the north and south aisles. One from Mrs Fellows of Tipton in memory of her husband - being a painting of the infant Jesus in the temple asking questions. The other from Mr Naylor of Wednesbury - being a illustration of the 11th verse of the second chapter of St Matthew. When you next go into church have a look”.

I would note that we still receive dividends from trusts set up in memory of the Fellows Family.

A handsome lecturn (the brass eagle?) was noted as a gift from Mr Isaac Naylor of Sedgley.

The collection at the service (where there were two sermons) was £40 – over £5,200 at current day values!

John

All Saints Snapshots of History – part 3

In part 2 I referred to church renovation in 1866. Surprisingly, it was reported in the Dudley & District News 27th October 1883 that “the church has undergone a costly renovation when it has been relieved of its high pews and side galleries, and two of the stained glass windows half hidden by the galleries have now been completed”.

The galleries would have existed at the level of the transom across the stained glass windows and provided a seating capacity of 1300.

You will recall the ‘infant Jesus’ window in Snapshots part 2. The upper part was now added in memory of Eliza Fellows by her children showing the time of Jesus’ mother’s purification.

Who were our benefactors in the Fellows family?

James Fellows founded a railway and canal transportation company active in the Black Country from 1837 onwards based in Horsley, Tipton. Eliza took on the business after James’ death until their son took over. As part of Fellows, Morton & Clayton, the firm built the steam powered narrow boat The President - seen at the Diamond Jubilee pageant on the Thames.

Faculties show that the font was moved from the north side of the narthex to what is now the vicar’s vestry in 1914. When it was moved to its present position is unclear.

John



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IF I CAN'T DO THE JOB, I KNOW A VAN MAN WHO CAN!

Ivy on your house is not really so bad after all

So says the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

In an effort to restore the plant's reputation, the RHS has been showcasing the species at its flagship garden in Wisley, Surrey. It hopes to set a new trend, and to get people to stop seeing ivy as 'the enemy.'

At Wisley you can now see 390 varieties of ivy, with a vast array of leaf shapes, sizes and colours. The RHS wants people to see that ivy can be an attractive and even eco-friendly addition to your home.

RHS experts say that ivy is a 'super plant' that not only has insulating benefits, but also offers habitats for a variety of wildlife, as well as being a food source for birds and pollinators during months of the year when there is very little else for them to eat.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/press/releases/New-research-shows-ivy-is-the-most-effective-plant>

Gambling – a major problem

One in eight adults in the UK – that is about seven million of us – are at risk of problem gambling, according to a recent study by YouGov. While more than half of us bet money online or at events, 19 per cent of people were found to have at least one characteristic of being a problem gambler.

The nine psychological validated attributes include: betting more than you can afford to lose, borrowing money to gamble, chasing losses or increasing stakes (to get the same buzz).

All in all, more than one in 50 people, or about 1.4 million, are classed as problem gamblers, with men twice as likely as women to have a gambling problem.

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* Please email me : admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk or if you do not
* have use of a computer please post it to me at:

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* Look forward to hearing from you.

* **Gail**

SPRINGS FOOD BANK - Food can be delivered to Springs Food Bank on **Mondays 10am to 12 noon at: SPRINGS, Upper Gornal Methodist Church, Kent Street, Upper Gornal, DY3 1YB.**

PLEASE NOTE – You can leave donations of food in the box on the table outside All Saints Rectory each day.

If you would like to make a cash donation you can do so on the Black Country Food Bank web site at:

<https://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk> or you could put a cash donation clearly marked through the All Saints Rectory door.



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From the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly observed in what he made.
 Romans 1:20

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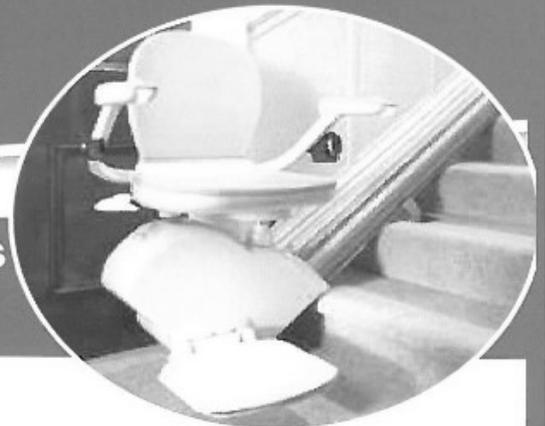
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Can comedy point the way to faith?

Truth can come from a range of places. In Shakespeare, it's the fool who often has the insight that the main characters lack. In the Old Testament, it's the prophets that proclaim the truth from God's perspective.

Maybe today, we should be listening more to the comedians – to the people who stand back from our day-to-day happenings and see the world from different angles. They can make us laugh, but they can also teach us truths about ourselves that can be distinctly uncomfortable. Take the new book by comedian, and Catholic, Frank Skinner. It's called 'A Comedian's Prayer Book' (Hodder & Stoughton) and runs to just over a hundred pages. Yet in that thin volume, Skinner – who is very open about his devout Christian faith – poses serious questions for both believers and atheists.

It's far from being a comfortable read, though it never ceases to be amusing and thoughtful.

Setting the scene for the book, Skinner, an award-winning comedian, television and radio host, explains: "Imagine someone on a pilgrimage, stopping at churches, martyr-related tourist spots and sacred wells, while dressed in a medieval jester outfit.

"The intention is serious and completely devout, but the pilgrim just feels more at home in the motley than in sackcloth and ashes. He feels jest is an integral part of who he is, and it seems wrong to deny that part." Skinner sees his role as a comic as integral to this faith, although some 'fellow pilgrims' may be uncomfortable with someone who seems to see humour all around him – and can easily make others laugh.

Yet Frank Skinner raises deep issues in the chapters of this slim volume, including questions that will connect with people both within the Christian faith, and those standing outside.

He describes his prayer life as “a telepathic dip into a long, ongoing conversation with thousands of tabs left open and no helpful ‘new readers start here’ summaries or simplifications for the neutral observer.”

Skinner’s ‘prayer book’ is on my bookshelf alongside ‘10 Second Sermons,’ (Darton, Longman & Todd) written by fellow comedian Milton Jones in 2011. Again, the comedian’s quirky view on life brings fresh insights and challenges.

Jones, a master of one-line jokes, describes gossip as “bullying people who are not there,” lust as “rehearsing for a play in which you shouldn’t have a part” and salvation as “like being returned to the factory settings – but you have to admit there is a factory, and that there could be some settings.”

One of my favourites is Jones’s description of the Holy Spirit as “a real person you can invite in. But watch out – in time He will go over, pull the fridge from the wall and say ‘What’s all this mess under here?’ But at least He helps clear up.”

Both Milton Jones and Frank Skinner are comedians of faith – comedic commentators with a gift of making us see the world with fresh insight.

Please take my money

Have you ever tried to use cash in a shop, and been refused? That happened to more than a third of us last year.

But now, in response to widespread protest, supermarkets and high street shops have promised that they will continue to accept cash. Aldi, Asda, Co-op, John Lewis, Lloyds Pharmacy and Waitrose have all joined a pledge organised by the consumer group Which? to protect customers’ choice.

Which? is now asking the government to set out when it will introduce laws protecting access to cash, which the Treasury promised in March 2020. A treasury spokesman said: “We remain committed to further legislation to protect cash.”

How climate change could affect your cup of tea

Now here's something that will send you straight to your kitchen to put the kettle on: the Great British cup of tea may not taste quite so good in the future.

It seems that extreme weather and rising temperatures could lead to inferior leaves in the future, according to Christian Aid.

Kenya, the world's foremost exporter of black tea, is now affected by erratic rainfall, floods, droughts, and rising temperatures. India, Sri Lanka and China, also major tea producers, face climate change problems as well.

Climate change has been predicted by some as likely to cut production in Kenya's best tea-making areas by as much as a quarter by 2050. Even areas of only average growing conditions could see production fall by 39 per cent.

As one tea farmer in Kenya's Western Highlands, explained: "We cannot predict seasons anymore. Temperatures are rising; rainfall is erratic, often accompanied by unusual hailstones and longer droughts. If this continues, it will make growing tea much harder."

Church notices that didn't quite come out right....

The preacher for Sunday next will be found hanging on the notice board in the porch.

The minister is going on holiday next Saturday. Could all missionary boxes be handed into the vicarage by Friday evening, at the latest.

Ladies, when you have emptied the teapot, please stand upside down in the sink.

There will be a procession in the grounds of the monastery next Sunday afternoon. If it rains in the afternoon, the procession will take place in the morning

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Fair Trade in Church again

The Fair Trade Team want to ask all our friends in the congregation – and wider – what they think about re starting the Fair Trade stall once a month in church. This will be when we are open properly for all services – possibly September.

We know people often do not bring money with them, but perhaps if you know there is a stall then you can come with a bit of cash! We would also like to know what items you might want to buy. We know the cards are very popular – and the various chocolates and biscuits. We do not want to buy goods that no one wants!

Please could you let us know your thoughts by replying to Cicely on 01902 677724 or emailing to: cicely_thomas@hotmail.com

A tribute to Dolly the Sheep

The first cloned mammal – Dolly the sheep – was born 25 years ago, on 5th July 1996, at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh.

The news was generally greeted with either direct opposition or considerable suspicion. Richard McCormick, a Jesuit priest and professor of Christian ethics at the University of Notre Dame, voiced the feelings of many when he said: “I can’t think of a morally acceptable reason to clone a human being” – a view echoed by the scientist who produced Dolly as an accidental by-product of other work.

As it turned out, making cloned mammals was highly inefficient: Dolly was the only lamb that survived to adulthood from 277 attempts. But fears that Dolly would be unhealthy and unable to reproduce proved ill-founded. She bred with a Welsh Mountain ram to produce six healthy lambs.

Fears of a human cloning programme have so far not been realised, although gene-edited human babies were produced in 2018 by Chinese scientist He Jankui, who was subsequently jailed with two colleagues for “illegal medical practice”.

One legacy of the Dolly experiment was the birth of stem-cell research. Dolly died prematurely in 2003 from a form of lung cancer common in sheep. Her body is on display in the National Museum of Scotland.

THIS LINK WILL TAKE YOU TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ONLINE RESOURCES INCLUDING SUNDAY SERVICES:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online>

DAILY HOPE PHONE LINE

You can continue to access services at Daily Hope, which is a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone: 0800 804 8044.

Sarah Powell

Foot Health Practitioner

RGN, Dip CFHP, MPSP (FHP)



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Application for grants are invited from individuals or organisations resident in the area of benefit. Application forms are available from the incumbent of any of the parishes mentioned above, or alternatively from:

**The Secretary to the Trustees: 12 Larkswood Drive,
Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 3UQ**

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for the kind offer of your old computer, but I do not want it. I know you find it a fundamental basic of daily life, but I do not, and I intend to keep things that way.



This is despite the fact that our diocesan office now takes it for granted that all of us clergy have a computer. Indeed, the diocesan secretary and I have had several awkward phone calls upon this very subject. He can't believe that I really don't have one, and suspects that I am simply hiding my email address from him so that he cannot send me the daily diocesan briefings, weekly questionnaires, and constant notification of all sorts of meetings and training days. But I remain firm: I have survived in ministry for nearly 50 years without a computer, and I don't intend to change now. When he gets tetchy with me, I take the high moral ground and remind him that St Paul did not have a computer.

Besides, it would not end with just a computer. Next, I would be obliged to get a printer and then ink cartridges and then maybe some sort of virus would attack me. As I have no idea about any of this, I might have to allow someone into the vicarage to sort it out, and even worse, I might even have to *pay* them. My money can be far more usefully spent on good claret.

Being without a computer also saves me much aggravation. From what I can gather, most computer owners spend significant parts of their lives either trying to get their machine to do something that it refuses to do, or else getting help from someone in a remote part of the world who speaks a jargon only distantly related to English, who assures you that whatever you did, it would have been better if you hadn't.

So I have decided that should I ever REALLY need to use a computer for something, I will visit our local primary school and get a six year-old to do the job for me, which they do with effortless efficiency, speed and accuracy.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

100 years of the Chinese Communists

One hundred years ago, on 1st July 1921, the Chinese Communist Party was founded. It had its roots in the Russian Revolution of 1917 and at first worked with the Chinese Nationalists. But the Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, turned violently against them in 1927 and for a while the Communists, under Mao Zedong and others, went underground, turning to rural areas for recruits.

The Nationalists were stronger, however, and in 1934 Mao and his followers undertook the Long March northwards in order to survive. After that, and despite many internal power struggles, the party grew quickly – assisted by its resistance to the Japanese invasion – and drove the Nationalist Government out and into Taiwan in 1949, following the Chinese Civil War. The People's Republic of China was formed on 1st October that year.

Today the CCP has more than 85 million members and is a monolithic and monopolistic entity dominating all aspects of Chinese life. Although Article 36 of the Chinese Constitution insists that citizens “enjoy freedom of religious belief”, in May this year a decree was issued requiring all religious leaders to support the Communist Party: links to foreign organisations, such as church organisations and missionary societies, often led to persecution.

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4th July

8am All Saints Communion
9.30am Worship Together St Andrews
10.30am Worship Together St Peters
10.30am Communion All Saints
6.30pm Compline on zoom

Wednesday 7th July

10am Communion St Peters

11th July

8am All Saints Communion
9.30am Worship Together St Andrews
10.30am Communion St Peters
10.30am Communion All Saints
6.30pm Compline on zoom

Wednesday 14th July

10am Communion St Peters

18th July

8am Communion All Saints
9.30am Worship Together St Andrews
10.30am Compline St Peters
10.30am Communion All Saints
6.30pm Compline on zoom

Wednesday 21st July

10am Communion St Peters

Sunday 25th July

8am Communion All Saints
9.30am Communion St Andrews
10.30am Worship Together St Peters
10.30am Communion All Saints
6.30pm Compline on zoom

Wednesday 28th July 10am Communion St Peters

1st August

8am Communion All Saints
9.30am Worship Together St Andrews
10.30am Communion St Peters
10.30am Communion All Saints
6.30pm Compline on zoom

Wednesday 4th August

10am Communion St Peters

8th August

8am Communion All Saints
9.30am Worship Together St Andrews
10.30am Communion St Peters
10.30am Communion All Saints
6.30pm Compline on zoom

Wednesday 11th August

10am Communion St Peters

15th August

8am Communion All Saints
9.30am Worship Together St Andrews
10.30am Communion St Peters
10.30am Communion All Saints
6.30pm Compline on zoom

Wednesday 18th August

10am Communion St Peters

22nd August

8am Communion All Saints
9.30am Worship Together St Andrews
10.30am Communion St Peters
10.30am Communion All Saints
6.30pm Compline on zoom

Wednesday 25th August

10am Communion St Peters

29th August

8am Communion All Saints

9.30am Communion St Andrews

10.30am Worship Together St Peters

10.30am Communion All Saints

6.30pm Compline on zoom

Wednesday 1st September 10am St Peters

Sunday 5th September

8am Communion All Saints

9.30am Worship Together St Andrews

10.30am Worship Together St Peters

10.30am Communion All Saints

6.30pm Compline on zoom