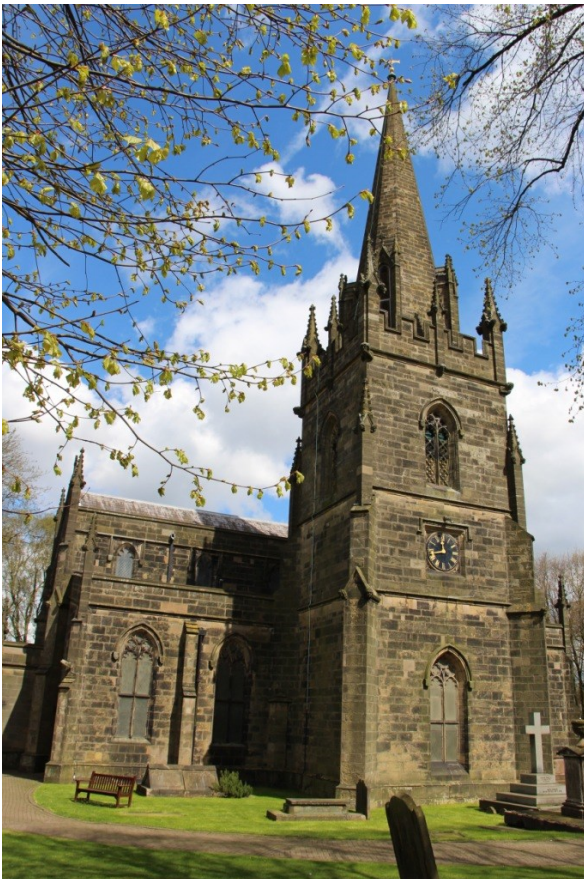


THE BEACON

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

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Kingdom People
love • compassion • justice • freedom

50p

May 2024

PARISH WIDE WHO's WHO

Vicar	Rev Catherine Mitchell	01902 677897
Licensed Lay Minister	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Baker	01902 882847
Pastoral ALM	Tracey Bate	01902 880727
	Sarah Parker	01902 885570
	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
	Joan Sullivan	01902 661094
Worship ALM	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth ALM	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
PCC Secretary	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
PCC Treasurer	Sheila Moss	01902 893570
Parish Office	Gail Griffiths	01902 540289
Web Editor	vacant	

St Peters

Who's Who

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

Who's Who

Warden	Canon Jan Humphries	01902 661275
Treasurer	Alan Turner	01902 670938
DCC Secretary	Rosemary Reed	01902 679007

All Saints Who's Who

Parish Wardens	Keith Tomlinson	01902 673366
	Steve Castle	07971 899072
Treasurer	John Anderson	01902 677666
DCC Secretary	John Anderson	01902 677666
Caretaker		
Bell Ringer	Mary Zielonka	01902 672541
Youth Leader	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Server/Verger	Steve Castle	07971 899072
Noah's Ark		
Parent & Toddler Group	Linda Edwards	01902 672556

SAFEGUARDING

The Parish of Gornal and Sedgley is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults. We follow the House of Bishops guidance. If you or someone you know feels unsafe, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Barbara Baker, Tel 01902 882847, safeguarding@allsaintssedgley.co.uk
 or Acting Team Rector Rev Catherine Mitchell
 Tel 01902 677 897, vicargornalandsedgley@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

(other contacts available on our website www.gornalandsedgley.org.uk)

Funerals in April

3 rd	Wendy Marion Compton	Gornal Wood
9 th	Job Claude Laight	Gornal Wood
10 th	Sylvia Amy Durnall	Gornal Wood
16 th	Valerie Isobel Round	All Saints
19 th	Christine Cox	Gornal Wood
22 nd	Harold Edward Hemmings	Gornal Wood
23 rd	Baby Lily Alice Whitehouse	Gornal Wood
24 th	David Charle Hanney	Gornal Wood
26 th	William Ray	

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 June magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 24th May

and needs to be in Arial typeface, size 18.

Do not send files in pdf format

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.

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 or baptism
please contact**

Gail Griffiths

At the Parish Office - tel 01902 540289

email admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

NOTICE

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Parish of GORNAL & SEDGLEY

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in
St Peter's Church Hall

on **Sunday 26th day of May 2024 at 11:15a.m.**

For election of parochial representatives of the laity as follows: –

To the Deanery Synod – there is one vacancy.

To the Parochial Church Council five representatives.

For the appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditor.

For the consideration of:

(a) a report on changes to the Roll since the last annual parochial church meeting

(b) an Annual Report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;

(c) the financial statements of the council for the year ending 31st December 2023

(d) the annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church or churches of the parish;

(e) a report of the proceedings of the deanery synod;

(f) a report of Parish Safeguarding Officer: and

(f) other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

In this Notice, 'parish' means an ecclesiastical parish.

Please note a meeting of the PCC will follow after the APCM and church service to appoint:

Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Secretary, Electoral Officer and Lay Chair

Signed



Rev. Catherine Mitchell, Acting Team Rector

Notes

- 1 Every lay person whose name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish (and no other person) is entitled to vote at the election of parochial representatives of the laity.
- 2 A person is qualified to be elected a parochial representative of the laity if –
 - (a) his or her name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish and, unless he or is under 18, has been entered there for at least the preceding six months;
 - (b) he or she is an actual communicant (which means that he has received Communion according to the use of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with the Church of England at least three times during the twelve months preceding the date of the election);
 - (c) he or she is at least 16; and
 - (d) he or she is not disqualified as referred to in paragraph 3 of these Notes.
- 3(a) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a churchwarden or a member of a parochial church council, a district church council or a joint council if the person is disqualified from being a trustee of a charity (and the disqualification is not subject to a waiver which permits membership of a parochial church council, district church council or joint council).
- (b) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person is included in a barred list (within the meaning of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).
- (c) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council, a district church council, a joint council or a deanery synod if the person has been convicted of an offence mentioned in Schedule 1 to the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (with that expression being construed in accordance with Rule 71(2) of the Church Representation Rules).
- (d) A person's disqualification under sub-paragraph (3) may be waived by the bishop of the diocese by giving the person notice in writing.
- (e) A person is disqualified from being nominated, chosen or elected or from serving as a member of a parochial church council if the person has been disqualified from holding office under section 10(6) of the Incumbent (Vacation of Benefices) Measure 1977.

Message from Rev Catherine May 2024

Dear friends

I wanted to thank you all for your support, messages, cards and gifts during my recent surgery and recovery. It was quite a curve ball at the beginning of this year and quite a journey as you can imagine!

The journey continues with follow up treatment, which I will find out about on 26th April, so by the time you read this, I will know, hopefully, what the plan entails.

There may still be some impact regarding what I am able to do during this time, and I ask for your ongoing support and prayers.

We have a great team here in Gornal and Sedgley, from our Church Wardens, Canon Jan, our ALM's, PCC and DCC members. This year, we will continue our journey together, a big part of our journey is to continue the work to submit our proposal for the renewals project at All Saints. This is an exciting time, as we continue to discern our work with children and families.

I would like to encourage everyone to attend the APCM meeting at 11:15 St Peters church on 26th May, and the service before at 10:00. On this day, the normal Prayer meeting at All Saints will not be on.

The APCM is an opportunity for the church to elect our Church Wardens for the coming year, and other officers, and to hear about all that has happened in the past year in our churches, to give thanks, and seek what new things God is calling us to in the coming year.

Part of our work this year is to develop vision statements for our churches, more of which is included in another message in this magazine. I encourage you all to be part of the process, the more people who are able to input into the vision, the better the vision will be.

Let's maintain unity, be of one accord, and seek always God's will for us as individuals, for our churches, and for our parish.

Blessings

Rev Catherine

Gornal and Sedgley Vision Statement 2024

Dear friends, firstly I want to thank you for filling out the Vision Statement Questionnaires earlier this year, we were excited that we had 79 responses from across the parish. This is an important first step in the process of developing a vision statement for each of our churches. The next step is to invite you all to a vision morning on Saturday 15th June, at 10:00am All Saints church hall. Gathering from 9:30 for tea, coffee and pastries!

During our time together we'll review the responses, then do some more thinking about what they mean for us, and develop some potential options for vision statements for each church, which will then be offered to the wider church community to review and decide which one they connect with.

We hope that as many people as possible from our three churches will come to the vision morning to help the churches develop these important statements. The more voices that are heard in this process the better the statements will be. Please make every effort to come.

Blessings **Rev Catherine**



ST ANDREWS FAYRE

May 11th from 10.30am.

Raffle tickets will be available in the parish office from next week.

In appreciation of our nurses

The work of nurses is celebrated around the world on 12th May. That day was chosen to be International Nurses Day because it is the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

Here are some current stats on nurses in the UK:

There are currently 731,058 nurses on the permanent NMC register. With midwives and nursing associates added, this figure rises to be 788,638.

There are more female nurses than male nurses. 89% of registered nurses identify as female, and 11% identify as male.

We need more nurses! Currently there are about 46,800 vacancies. Could this be a job for you?



New business owner Tracy took over the salon almost two years ago.

We offer all colour services, perms, cutting, styling and hair for occasions. All the stylists have over 25 years + experience. We offer flexible working hours to suit everyone's busy lifestyles and are open

Monday to Saturday. Please call the salon on

01902 882161 or pop in and see us.

Mothers' Union

It was lovely to welcome Elizabeth Jenkins to our April meeting to tell us about 'Education Alternatives to School'. Elizabeth, who has had a lot of experience of teaching in schools, told us of her reasons for choosing 'home schooling' for her children. We heard how their days were structured and of the outings and activities they experienced and interests they developed. Elizabeth also told us of her involvement with 'Breathing Space' at Baggeridge Country Park which provides an alternative for young people who find mainstream education challenging. This was an extremely interesting talk that generated much discussion over our tea and cake.

~~~~~

I have received the 'Thank You' below from New Beginnings for our Lent Collection.

### **THANK YOU**

Thanks so much for the very kind donations of  
pyjamas/underwear and Easter eggs  
(and of course our beloved knitted toys)  
With much love and sincere thanks  
From all at New Beginnings

~~~~~

Please note the change to June's meeting which will now be 'Look Around You' This is a meditative walk around the church to which all are welcome.

'Childhood Memories' will be our September meeting.

***Mothers' Union Afternoon Tea
with***

'The Sedgley Strummers'

Tuesday 2nd July

2.30pm (in the church hall)

Tickets: £6 (from Liz Williams & Judy Clements)

Dates:

7th May 2.00pm Compston Brothers Bakery - Kathryn Osborne

4th June 2.00pm 'Look Around You' Meditation in Church

Joan Sullivan

2nd July 2.30pm Afternoon Tea

Liz Williams

Transform Trade

Transform Trade is now the holder of the Traidcraft brand – which we are familiar with. The Traidcraft mark is a seal of approval. It will signify that workers and producers are treated and paid fairly for products. One way is in demanding UK fashion brands do more to support home workers.

Because they are not directly employed, they often struggle to get a minimum wage, sick pay or maternity leave.

Transform Trade is challenging fashion brands to recognise homeworking in their supply chains, and create policies which mean home workers get a fair deal.

Some brands have no policies, some have policies which need improving, and some brands do have policies, but they need to publicly demonstrate their support for home workers through fair wages and conditions. If we buy products from brands with good policies, we know we are helping those women and children who do this work.

How do we find out which brands have a policy? Ask!!

Taking Jesus

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took the boy Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: "*They couldn't get a babysitter.*"

THE DAY GOD SPOKE TO ME

God answers our prayers in many ways, but there was one time in my life when He actually spoke to me.

I am 89 now, and the time in my life when God spoke and reassured me, is one of those stand out moments which not only burgeoned my faith, but left me with a memory which has strengthened and comforted me throughout my life.

It is as clear to me now as the day it happened, and I will be forever grateful that I heard His voice, comforting me in my hour of need. The event in question occurred when Jean, my wife, was pregnant with our first child. She suffered terribly with pregnancy sickness, but there was one day when she was particularly bad. She had gone to bed at 5pm, spending the next few hours being continuously sick in the bucket I had placed by her bedside.

I will confess that I was very, very scared, fearing for the safety of my wife and our unborn child. Feeling helpless, there was only one thing I could think to do. I prayed! A prayer that was spoken from the depths of my heart!

That was when I heard a voice speaking to me. “Don’t worry about Jean, she is going to be absolutely fine, as is the baby. There is a reason why she has been this sick, but she won’t be this sick again.”

When I rose from my knees, Jean was fast asleep. She slept well, and the next morning she announced that she felt much better. True to God’s words, she fared much better throughout the rest of the pregnancy. Did I imagine it? Absolutely not! It is hard to explain how I heard the voice. It was downloaded into my brain, rather than an external voice which I heard outside myself, but one thing I knew with certainty – it was not my voice!

Gordon Betteley

Over the years, I have shared my story with others, and I am aware of a few people who have had a similar experience. My dad too heard God speak to him, and like me, as far as I am aware, it only happened once in his life. But that is a story for another day.

I feel it is important to share such things, as many people have experiences which they are scared to talk about for fear of being ridiculed. In a world where there is so much negativity and bad news, we should be shouting these stories from the rooftops. They give people hope and they demonstrate that where there is faith, there are miracles.

Don't just sit there, whatever you do!

The average adult in the UK sits for nine hours a day. Office workers probably clock up even more time in a chair.

But it is not good for you. Research has found that too much sitting increases your risk of weight gain, Type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis, depression, anxiety, stress, cancer, and even early death.

“Excessive sedentary time is associated with a plethora of physical and mental health complications,” says Prof Lee Smith, an expert in physical activity and sedentary behaviour at Anglia Ruskin University.

And James Betts, professor of metabolic physiology at the University of Bath, says that sitting too much may also lead to weaker and less flexible muscles. “Using your muscles and loading your bones can definitely strengthen them – or conversely, disuse can rapidly make them weaker,” he says.

The good thing is that too much sitting can be easily dealt with. Simply interrupt your sitting with activity breaks. Get up and walk around during every TV advert break. Walk around during phone calls. Go for a walk after dinner. Use the stairs whenever you can.

The good news is that other studies have found that if you make time for even short bursts of exercise during your day, it will help to offset the harm of too much sitting

Tell the **Independent Safeguarding Audit**

The INEQE Safeguarding Group is an independent company of safeguarding professionals.

We have been asked to carry out Audits of the Church of England to make sure dioceses, cathedrals and palaces are doing all they can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

Listening to and learning from parishes is an important part of the Audit.



ineqe
SAFEGUARDING GROUP

You can help us

If you have any information, concerns or worries about something that happened in or is related to your Church body, you can contact us via this webpage.

ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester



Access the webpage by scanning the QR code

Tell us your views

Your participation is critically important and you can help by taking part in an anonymous and confidential survey.

We encourage you to be open and honest. We will only share information if what you tell us indicates a serious risk of harm.

ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester

Closing date is **1st May 2024**



Don't forget - If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, it is important that you quickly get the right help – **call the police on 999**

NSPCC Helpline

☎ Helpline - 0800 8800 5000
✉ Email - help@NSPCC.org.uk

Childline

☎ Helpline - 0800 1111
🌐 Web - childline.org.uk

Safe Spaces Support Service

☎ Helpline - 030 0303 1056
✉ Email - safespaces@firstlight.org.uk
🌐 Web - safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

The man who created Father Brown

The British writer G K Chesterton was born 150 years ago, on 29th May 1874, in Kensington, West London. A novelist, short story writer, philosopher and critic, he was best known for his Father

Brown stories, popular now through their adaptation for television. He thought of himself as a journalist with good reason, composing 30 years of weekly columns for the *Illustrated London News* and more elsewhere, but he was a prolific writer in many areas, writing 100 books and contributing to 200 others, as well as composing short stories, essays and poems and creating Father Brown.

He was a tall man who weighed in at over 20 stone, and he was notoriously absent-minded – once contacting his wife, Frances, to say: “Am at Market Harborough. Where ought I to be?” Unsurprisingly, he did a great deal of writing while waiting at stations.

He was a deep thinker, usually getting the better of the many prominent men he argued against, but almost invariably retaining their goodwill, since he was a genial and witty opponent.

An “orthodox Christian” who espoused Roman Catholicism (moving from High Anglicanism) because he felt it was the best resistance to fads of the age, he was against both socialism and capitalism, materialism, determinism and “spineless agnosticism”. He fought for freedom and justice.

Chesterton never went to college but did attend art school. Extremely quotable and read now by too few people, he composed some near-perfect lines, concluding for example that “the Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried”

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Blue Light Breakfast

Last Wednesday of each month
10am - 11.30am

Join us each month for delicious breakfast treats and drinks. It's our way of saying thank you!



Stay and Play*

Wednesdays (Starts 6th Sept)
11am - 12pm

Bring along your little ones for fun and games with our residents and make new friends.



Dementia Café

Last Friday of each month
10.30am - 12pm

We'll have delicious homemade refreshments and a variety of entertainment and activities.

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| • PILATES | THURSDAY | 6.15PM-7.15PM |



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www.thedormstoncentre.co.uk

FITNESS @ THE DORMSTON CENTRE, SEDGLEY



Walking out

“I hope you didn’t take it personally, Reverend,” said an embarrassed woman after a church service, “when my husband walked out during your sermon.”

“I did find it rather disconcerting,” the preacher admitted.

“It’s not a reflection on you, sir,” insisted the churchgoer. “Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child.”

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2024 MAY 12TH – 18TH

783 million people around the world will not have a meal today.
In the face of hunger, can you make a difference?

Farmer Fatima Said Kassim from Northern Kenya:

We are badly affected by drought. We have no meat or milk to sell. We can’t water our vegetables because there is not enough water. The weather has changed over the last ten years. Now we have prolonged drought, there have been no rains for the last four to five seasons. To help farming families in Northern Kenya to adapt to prolonged drought Christian Aid is helping families learn drought-resistant agriculture techniques to grow food as well as new skills for alternative livelihoods to farming.

If you wish to donate, go to:

Caid.org.uk/Spring2024 or call 020 3832 7208

Remembering Beethoven's greatest symphony

Two hundred years ago, on 7th May 1824, the first performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No 9 took place in Vienna. It is regarded as Beethoven's greatest work and is one of the most-performed symphonies in the world.

This last of his symphonies is known for its revolutionary structure and majestic emotion, and it is all the more remarkable because it was completed when the composer had gone profoundly deaf. Indeed, although Beethoven stood as conductor for the first performance, the musicians and singers were in fact guided by a separate musical director.

At the close Beethoven did not even hear the hugely enthusiastic response of the audience and had to be turned round by the young contralto so that he could witness it.

The complex ninth symphony, completed over many years with multiple changes, is in fact part symphony and part oratorio – a device that mystified some of the less adventurous critics of the time, who regarded his iconoclastic style as a little too rock-and-roll.

The key final movement is a magnificent setting of Friedrich Schiller's famous poem, *An die Freude* (*Ode to Joy*), which celebrates brotherhood and freedom and has been used to mark many notable occasions. The most striking of these was perhaps the concert on Christmas Day 1989 in Berlin, shortly after the Berlin Wall came down. It was led by American conductor Leonard Bernstein, using musicians from East and West Berlin. For this one occasion the word *Freude* (joy) was replaced by *Freiheit* (freedom).

Beethoven's music to *An die Freude* is used as the European Union Anthem – but without the words

THE SEDGLEY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Sedgley Educational Trust is established to advance education, including religious education, in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in the area of benefit: that being the ecclesiastical parishes of All Saints', Sedgley, St Mary the Virgin, Sedgley and St Chad's, Coseley.

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**



ALL Saints Church Hall

Working for the Community

Vicar Street, Sedgley.

Reeling In the Years

Films from days gone by for older people
to enjoy and reminisce without charge

@2pm

16th May — “Roman Holiday”

Refreshments 1.30pm

If interested, please contact Gail 01902 540289
admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

Reeling In Years Programme

All Saints Church Hall

Refreshments at 1:30pm

Film starts 2pm

January 18th

It's a Wonderful Life 1:36

February 15th

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers 1:42

March 21st

Meet me in St Louis 1:53

April 18th

Me and My Gal 1:44

May 16th

Roman Holiday 1:53

June 20th.

Summer Holiday 1:47

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18th May @ 10.00am

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Dudley**

Telephone 01384816389

acadmin@dormston.dudley.sch.uk



BRIDAL *Flowers*

Our one-day Wedding Floral Course is open to people with all levels of floristry skills, especially for beginners.

Over the day you will learn the technical skills needed to create the following romantic wedding designs:

- A head to head, Hand tied Rose Bouquet
- A loose natural design mixed Bridal Bouquet
- A grooms Buttonhole



**Gornal & Sedgley
Team Ministry**

Bereavement Hub

Are you struggling to come to terms with the loss of a loved one?

Do you feel lonely in a crowd?

Then come and join us!

We offer a safe place to meet and the opportunity to be with others who understand what you are going through.

10:00—11:30 a.m. Fourth Tuesday of the month.

All Saints Community Room (rear of Church Hall), Ladies Walk, Sedgley

For more details contact Parish Office on 01902 540289

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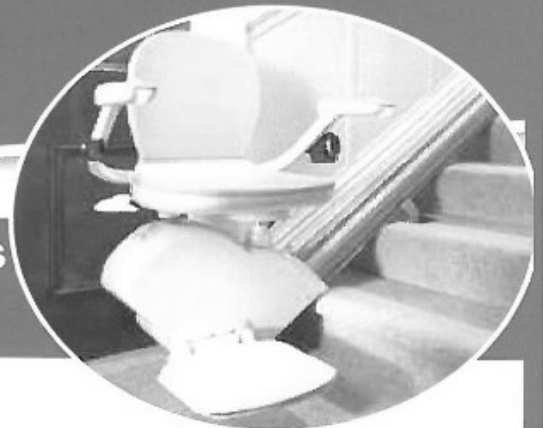
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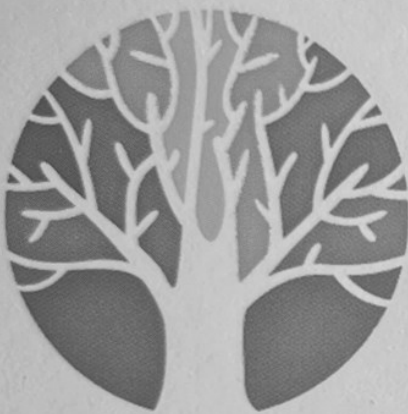
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qualities, his eternal power and divine nature
have been clearly observed in what he made.*

Romans 1:20



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The Rectory St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

It never fails to amaze me how, in church life, an issue can suddenly become an Issue. In the last month, we have acquired an Issue: a proposal to convert a space at the back of church into a kitchen. Inevitably, battle lines have been drawn and trenches dug. Attendance at church council meetings has soared and unofficial sub-committees meet in the car park after Services. It's obvious that feelings are running high, because people have become remarkably polite to one another.

Some who are wildly in favour see it as an opportunity of being able to leave the pews ten minutes early, in order to get ready for the rush for weak coffee and damp biscuits. I can already hear in my mind the final hymn being drowned by kettles being filled, biscuit tins opened, cups thunderingly placed on saucers, while the volunteers discuss the dress sense of others in the congregation in deafening whispers.

I was a little surprised to hear that Colonel Wainwright was all in favour – until I realised that it would give him a place to totter into to read his newspaper once he got bored with my sermon, which usually seems to happen in the first minute. Naturally, smaller turf wars have broken out alongside the major battle. There is conflict about whether we should get new crockery, what colour carpeting tiles would look right – and most importantly of all, who will take charge of the coffee rota.

Others are totally against the project: the treasurer dreads the thought of signing yet more cheques, the churchwardens worry about removing pews which have quietly hidden the dry rot, and the theologically angst-ridden agonise about the fact that St Paul never mentioned coffee after Sabbath worship.

Naturally, I encourage all sides, especially if it will bring any possibility of progress to a halt. I proposed bringing in flasks of coffee, thus stopping anyone being able to escape before the end of the Service; I suggested drinks being brought to people in the pews, thus ruining the Colonel's hopes of finding a safe haven; I organised a group to study High Priestly attitudes to refreshments in the Temple in Jerusalem in Leviticus.

I am sure that by the time all these groups have come up with their conclusions, we will have safely moved on to fight the next Issue.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Fewer babies coming

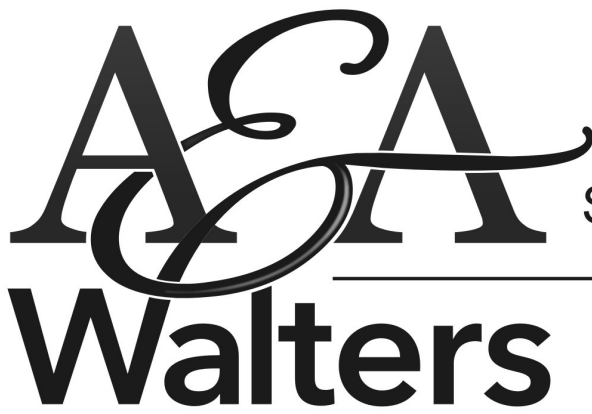
For the first time since the Black Death killed about 50 million people in the mid-1300s, the world's population is going to decline.

According to experts, global fertility rates have hit an historic tipping point, and seem unlikely to recover. Millions of women are simply having less children.

The global population currently stands at just over eight billion. But in the coming decades, as the older people die and fewer babies are born, this figure will fall.

Women need to have an average of 2.1 children each, for the population growth to remain static. Worldwide, in 1950 it was at 4.84. By 2021 it was at 2.23. It is predicted to fall to 1.83 by 2050. The UK, like other high-income countries, has a lower-than-average fertility rate, at just 1.49 in 2021. It is expected to fall to 1.38 by 2050.

This will mean that our population of about 67 million will become increasingly old. And this will have a huge impact on our national finances, as the old will put pressure on the health services, while there will be fewer young people in work, keeping the economy going.



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The Looking Glass

by Julie Collett Poems and Words

Looking through the looking glass
What do I see
A woman who has loved, lost, lived and cried
Looking back at me.
Moments to cherish
Looking back in time
The births of my children
Then along came the grandchildren
All of them mine.
A piece of the woman in the looking glass
That make their way out in this world
With the love of their mother and grandmother
Walking with them as they go
The looking glass tells visual stories
As you age along with time
It reminds you that nothing stays the same
Like the seasons you change.
When it was spring
You were just budding, young and bursting to life
Summer came and went
Just like your youth.
Autumn sheds its leaves
Like we shed our past
Winter brings cold and dreary days
We have all had a share of them.
But remember fires glow and crackle
Keeping us warm inside
Just like the love we have experienced through our lives.
So when we look into the looking glass
Our reflections change with time
We have all loved, lived, lost and cried
So look into it with pride

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH - MAY

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY ST PETERS 10AM HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY 5TH MAY 9.30AM ST ANDREWS HOLY COMMUNION
11AM ALL SAINTS HOLY COMMUNION
6.30PM ALL SAINTS EVENSONG

WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY ST PETERS 10AM HOLY COMMUNION

THURSDAY 9TH MAY ALL SAINTS 8AM ASCENSION DAY

SUNDAY 12TH MAY ALL SAINTS 8AM HOLY COMMUNION
9.30AM ST ANDREWS WORSHIP FOR ALL
10AM ST PETERS WORSHIP FOR ALL
11AM ALL SAINTS HOLY COMMUNION

WEDNESDAY 15TH MAY ST PETERS 10AM HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY 19TH MAY - PENTECOST - ST ANDREWS 9.30AM
WORSHIP FOR ALL
11AM ALL SAINTS FAMILY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY 22ND MAY ST PETERS 10AM HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY 26TH MAY ALL SAINTS 8AM HOLY COMMUNION
ST ANDREWS 9.30AM WORSHIP FOR ALL
ST PETERS 10AM HOLY COMMUNION

WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY ST PETERS 10AM HOLY COMMUNION