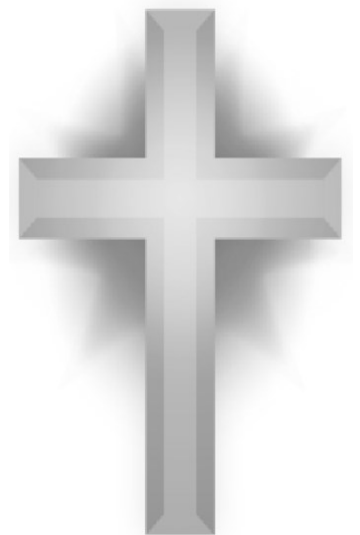
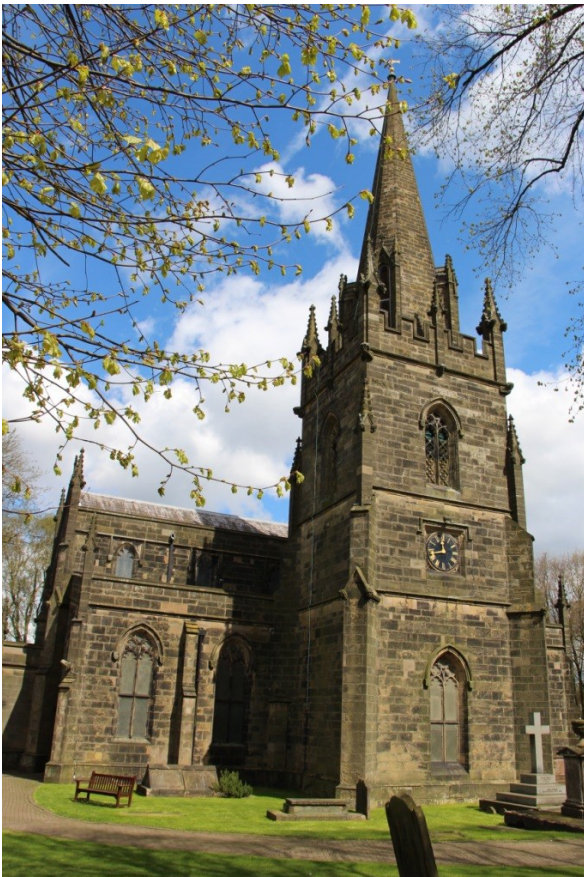


THE BEACON

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

Registered Charity Number 1179471



Worshipping God
Welcoming All
Serving our Community

50p

November 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
	Kath Apperley	01902 663253
	Joan Sullivan	01902 661094
Worship ALM	Suzanne Bradley	01902 880055
Youth ALM	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
PCC Secretary	Stuart Hutchinson	
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	
DCC Secretary	John Powell	01902 880055
Uniformed Organisations	VACANT	

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
Bell Ringer	Mary Zielonka	01902 672541
Youth Leader	Laura Robinson	01902 678572
Ladies' Society	Geraldine Baker	01902 674608
Mothers' Union	Liz Williams	01902 672880
Web Editor	VACANT	
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 October

9 th Donald Siverns	Gornal Wood
10 th Patricia Ann Taylor	All Saints
11 th William Donald Davies	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 October magazine need to be sent to:

admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk

by

Friday 29th November

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

A Message From Canon Jan

November is a time for remembering ~ as children we would chant remember remember the 5th of November, gunpowder, and so on .

We always had a big bonfire in our garden and my Grandad Jojo & Dad would enjoy setting all the fireworks off , and my poor Granny would be saying a prayer that nobody would get burnt, our lovely dog would stay inside , and we would all enjoy ourselves.

I'm sure my dear Mom would be praying for it to be dry , so that we didn't all keep carrying in lots of dirt and mud!!!

Whilst she was cooking hotdogs, burgers, and jacket potatoes.

Ahh lovely childhood memories ~ for me and of when my own children were younger.

I don't remember the Fireworks being so loud back then.

Also you could only purchase fireworks the week before bonfire night.

They seem to be going off all the year now and they're very loud.

Or maybe I'm just getting very old!!

November is the time when we remember all of those whom we love but see no longer, in church their names are read out , candles lit , and once more we recall happy memories, we've shared together.

Hearing the names read aloud , can evoke painful memories for time doesn't make the pain of loss better, but in time we do get better at living without them.

On November 11th the nation will stop for two minutes, to recall, remember, and give thanks for all the brave men and women, yes and the animals who selflessly gave their lives for our freedom.

Those whose lives were destroyed by horrific injuries physical and emotional.

But Jesus told us that in his Father's house there are many rooms, I go to prepare a place for you.

Vision Statement Announcement

Dear friends

I wanted to share with you the exciting news that after several months of discernment, questionnaires and prayer, we now have a Vision Statement for the parish!

Firstly, I want to thank everyone who participated in the process.

The development of a parish Vision Statement was part of our participation with the Mission Accompanier process, alongside our Mission Accompanier, Chris Sheehan, and the hub team.

The last questionnaire asked you to vote for your preferred statement from the three that were offered, plus the opportunity to suggest one.

From 70 responses and for those who ticked one of the suggested statements the scores on the doors were

- Uniting people with God and our community 6 (9.5%)
- Loving God, Loving People and serving our community 25 (39.7%)
- Worshipping God, welcome to all, serving our community 32 (50.8%)

there were also 17 responses for additional statements, many of which were in a similar vein to the ones suggested.

The Mission Accompanier hub team agreed a slight modification to the highest scoring option and offer to our parish the following Vision Statement, which is:

Worshipping God

Welcoming all

Serving our community

In the coming weeks and months, we will be saying more about the Vision Statement, and communicating across the parish and beyond, so watch this space.

But one of the most important things about a Vision Statement is to “own it” as individuals and as a parish; that it informs everything that we do.

When we first started the process, I mentioned that when I worked at Jaguar Car's the vision of the company was drilled in us, that we owned it and were proud to work at the company. In my sending church, we did a similar process, and created a statement that said, "receiving God's love, sharing God's love". We recognised God's love in our lives, and we wanted to share that love with others.

I encourage you in the coming weeks to think about what each line of the Vision Statement means to you and your life of faith.

What does

Worshipping God, mean to you.? What does

Welcoming all, mean to you? What does

Serving our community, mean to you?

How do you live by these?

Is there anything you need to change?

Do you need to repent of anything?

In the coming weeks and months, we will be providing each church with resources, such as posters and postcards, with the new statement on. We will also add to news sheets, readers sheets, magazine, the website and social media and many more places!!

As we move forward as a parish community, let's start to live by our new Vision Statement, and see what God might be doing in us, and in our churches, in our ministry and mission

Blessings

Catherine

Tractors

A little girl was watching her daddy repair his tractor. She asked her mother, "What happens to old tractors when they finally stop working?"

Sighing, her mother answered: "Someone sells them to your father, dear."

ALL SAINTS CHURCH SEDGLEY

A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS



Friday 6th December 10.00am to 3.00pm

Morning from 10.00am, School Concert

with choirs from Woodsetton, The Straits,

Cotwall End and St. Chad's schools,

Refreshments provided.

Afternoon

Cakes Stall and Craft Stall

Free Children's Nativity Trail with a prize for everyone.

Trees decorated by community organisations.

Saturday 7th December 10.00am to 4.00pm

10.00am to 2.30pm

Craft stall,

Children's Nativity Trail

Home made cakes

Refreshments.

2.30pm

Festive Entertainment

The Church Raffle will be drawn at the end of the entertainment.

No Charge. Donations for Black Country Food Bank welcome.



Our loved ones are not lost , they simply go before us .
John 14 verse 27 says

My peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

My prayer is that God's peace and comfort will be with you all.

Canon Jan

St Andrew's Christmas Fayre

Saturday November 16th

10-30am till 1-30pm

**Homemade Cakes, Books, Craft Stalls
Tombola Stall,
Lovely Refreshments.**

Grand Raffle – tickets £1 each.


Fair Trade Christmas Cards

There are 16 lovely designs available.

There will be packs to show you soon.

If you are interested in supporting us, please let Gail or Cicely know.

Packs should be available in October.



Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.

The Bereavement
Journey
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films
and discussion
for *anyone* bereaved *anytime*

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions – a Christian perspective (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Running soon:

**All Saints Church,
Community Room
Ladies' Walk, Sedgley**

Commencing Jan 7th 2025 at
2:00 p.m. - 4:00p.m.
(and following 6 Tuesdays)

Contact: 01902 540289 to book.
Total suggested donation £6.00



Remember

When I come to the end of my journey,
And I travel my last weary mile,
Just forget if you can ,that I ever frowned.
And remember only the smile

Forget unkind words I have spoken, remember some good I have done

Forget that I ever had a heartache, and remember I had lot's of fun.

Forget that I stumbled and blundered, and sometimes I fell by the way.

Remember I have fought some hard battles and won, ere the close of the day.

Then forget to grieve for my going, I would not have you sad for a day.

But in summer, gather some flowers, and remember the place where I lay.

And come in the evening, when the Sun paints the sky in the west.

Stand for a few moments beside me, and remember only my best.

Poem sent in by **Canon Jan Humphries**



Thank you

to everyone who supported Fair Trade Fortnight – overall we sold £177 worth of goods.

Next year Fair Trade Fortnight is March 3rd – 16th

Christmas cards will now be on sale each Sunday there is a service at All Saints in November. Please remember to bring along some money if you want to purchase. Orders can be taken for extras!

Mothers' Union

Thank you to Rev. Catherine for taking our lunchtime Communion Service in October and blessing the items knitted by members and friends. The teddies have gone to the prison project, the baby items to a Young Mum's group and the knee blankets to the Firs Residential Home, who were delighted with them. Many thanks to all our knitters. We had lunch and fellowship after the service.

~~~~~

Our November meeting, 'My Walk with God' is an excellent talk by Jill Nicholls, a Reader at St Mary's Kingswinford.

All are welcome to come and listen to Jill – **you do not have to be a member of the Mothers' Union.**

~~~~~

Our Christmas Collection for the Women's Refuge is to provide ladies gifts e.g. hand cream, nail varnish, scarf, socks.

There will be a box at the back of church for items.

~~~~~

Anyone needing a lift to The Lodge for our Christmas Lunch please let me know.

~~~~~

"November is the most disagreeable month in the whole year", said Margaret standing at the window one dull afternoon, looking out at the frostbitten garden.

Louisa May Alcott – Little Women

Whether you agree with this or not November is a significant month – a month of Remembrance.

In the Church we remember the lives of saints, known and unknown, on All Saints' Day and we remember those who have gone before on All Souls' Day. It is the month when we remember the sacrifice of so many who gave their lives in the World Wars and conflicts since.

In history in November:

1605 - Guy Fawkes and The Gunpowder Plot.

1919 - Nancy Astor was elected Member of Parliament for Plymouth, becoming Britain's first woman M.P.

1922 - Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun.

1942 - The Church of England relaxed its rules that women must wear hats in church.

1963 - John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

1989 - The Berlin Wall was torn down.

In the Mothers' Union November is the month when we support the 16 Days of Activism campaign, which runs from 25th November to 10th December. Throughout this campaign, we join with over 6000 organisations from over 185 countries to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence and abuse in all forms and in all societies. It can affect anyone at any time and it takes many forms. It can be part of a damaging cultural norm or hidden behind closed doors. We support our local Women's Refuge with items throughout the year and will be highlighting the awareness of domestic violence in church during this time.

Dates:

5th November 2.00pm 'My Walk with God', Jill Nicholls

19th November 2.00pm Diocesan Festival,
Worcester Cathedral

3rd December 12.30pm Christmas Lunch, The Lodge

Liz Williams

Cabinet

My granddad always said,

"When one door closes, another door opens."

Lovely man. Terrible cabinet maker.

Ladies Society – October 2024

This month we were happy to welcome Geoff Shaw back to our meeting to deliver a talk on the Burlish Camp Project.

Geoff has been involved for several years in a National Lottery funded project which is focussed on an area between Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley and is known as Burlish Top.

He was originally walking in an area known as Upland Heath, an area with lots of trees and scrubland, when he noticed lots of concrete objects. The trees had developed after World War 2 and several stories had been passed down about the origins of the concrete. Was the area an American camp? Was it a POW camp for Italians and Germans? Was it a hospital? There were a lot of manhole covers so was there a secret underground factory?

Geoff researched the area and received funding to explain its history. The concrete was on the site of 70/80 huts which each accommodated 60 US soldiers. The camp held up to 4000 people and there were 10,000 soldiers in the area. 102 acres of land were requisitioned from Kidderminster Council in order to build 6 dual-purpose camps from September 1942.

Geoff and his team started by building a monument – which looks like a wartime tank trap – and then they constructed marker posts to explain the various objects to be found on the site. The team was helped by the fact that the USAF 22nd Reconnaissance Squadron had practised taking aerial photographs here and at other sites, and so there were a lot of pictures to look at in order to work out what the site had looked like. Two authors, Adrian and Neil Turley, who had written a book called “The US Army at Camp Bewdley” helped in identifying the information on the various boards around the site.

They then organised an Open Day where local children did activities such as trying to camouflage themselves and triaging casualties.

“Bolero” was the code name for the operation to bring American soldiers to Britain in 1942-44. The ships RMS Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth were used and they sailed from New York.

The biggest load on the Queen Mary was 15000 troops so the ship was very full – one trooper recalled a 6 hour wait for breakfast! The journey was high risk. The ship sailed at 25 knots which meant that U-boats, sailing at 10 knots, could not catch it. The ship was blacked out at night, but as it approached Great Britain it needed protection from other ships. HMS Curacao was one of the ships, equipped with anti-aircraft guns, which was used to protect RMS Queen Mary. Unfortunately, in 1944 the two vessels were zigzagging across the sea in order to avoid U-boats and the Curacao was cut in half – 300 people on board died.

From November 1943 to April 1944 Birlish Camp was the base for the American 8th Core – 15000 soldiers were preparing for the invasion of Europe under the command of Major General Emil Reinhardt. The tanks, guns and other equipment came on different ships. Some soldiers were sent from the camp to collect guns from Newcastle. Unfortunately, they went to Newcastle-upon-Tyne rather than Newcastle-under-Lyme!! The 8th core was eventually replaced by the 12th core – often American soldiers arrived in the wrong town and had to be found and sent to Kidderminster.

None of the troops in Bewdley went to D-Day. They arrived in Scotland/Liverpool, were sent to Bewdley for training, then to Wales/Dorset for battle training and then to the south coast for embarkation training. The 8th Core crossed the Channel 9 days after D-Day and the 12th Core crossed 23 days after D-Day. These were fresh troops who served under General Patton and their job was to force the German army back. The soldiers from Bewdley were involved in forcing the Germans back to Bastogne (“The Battle of the Bulge”) and this was vicious fighting.

The Bewdley camp, and 14 others across the country, became hospital bases and many soldiers from the Battle of the Bulge were sent to Bewdley. All of the nursing staff were recruited from County Hospital, Chicago. One doctor, from Armenia, became a pioneer in the use of skin grafts. He had been starved during the First World War by the enemy forces and, even when in Bewdley, he always went out with a piece of bread and an onion in his pocket, just in case!

Half of the injured in Bewdley were from trauma (being shot etc.) and the other half suffered illnesses such as shell shock, diphtheria and influenza. Only four people, who had been injured in France and transported to Bewdley, died in the hospital.

Geoff told us that there are many stories about the people who lived at the camp from the nurses who were sent to snowy Bewdley but arrived in clothing designed for service in the Pacific, to the visit by General “Blood and Guts” Patton who visited the camp and gave a rousing speech. This can be viewed on YouTube – apologies for the bad language. After the war the camp was closed and the site was taken over by many displaced people. The Polish community built a church there and it was their home for a decade. Later on, the local council acquired the land and there are now homes and a wildlife haven there.

Geoff’s talk was fascinating and we hope to plan a visit there next year when the weather improves.

Our meetings take place at 11.30am on the first Monday of the month and we would love to see you there.

Karen Evans

What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, “Does anyone know what the bishop does?”

There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: “He’s the one you can move diagonally.”

THE JOY OF ARCHIVING!

Back in February 2017 Cicely Thomas, Keith Tomlinson and I formed the Sedgley Archives Group and registered it with Dudley Council for Voluntary Services.

We work in liaison with Dudley Archives to research and record the history of the village of Sedgley through a combination of desk research and personal reminiscences.

Personal reminiscences are collected using the Sedgley and Coseley Past and Present Facebook page. Stories and pictures are then recorded into the Sedgley People's Archive, which has twenty sections covering most areas of the life of the village.

Since 2017, we have delivered 30 talks on local history at local venues including Sedgley Library and All Saints' Church, all of which are available on PowerPoint in the Archive.

The Archive, consisting of pictures and articles is available on request at Sedgley Library Reception desk, on a USB memory stick for use in Sedgley Library only; a copy of the stick is also available for use at Dudley Archives in Tipton Road, Dudley.

The Archive will eventually be made available on the Black Country History website.

The Archive has existed in an elemental form for a number of years but has not yet been fully developed into an accessible community resource - and that is now our intention in the coming months. While some sections are fully referenced, other content still requires ordering and referencing using the widely-used 'Fonds-Series-Sub Series-Item' archiving hierarchy we have adopted.

There is indeed an abundance of as yet unrecorded relevant material on local topics that attracts comment on the Sedgley and Coseley Past and Present Facebook page. This is all in need of collating and editing into a coherent whole. While this task is (alas) never likely to be achieved in full, that doesn't mean that efforts should be made towards that goal and

that the results can't be a rich resource for local people and researchers. In relation to All Saints' Church, our archive material is included in Section I, the 'Churches' section of the Archive. At present all we have relating to other churches is their photos but once the All-Saints' content is developed, we hope they too will participate fully in the future.

I intend to do a presentation about the current content in All Saints' archive in the near future; any suggestions about what we might include are welcome.

MARTIN JONES

Choose your god

'I will praise you O God with all my heart; before the gods I will sing YOUR praise.' Psalm 138:1

You were spoilt for choice when it came to choosing a god, back in the Psalmist's Day. If you were into power and control, try Molech. A god of the Ammonite people, Molech commanded that you sacrifice your living child to the flames of his altar. If you were more attracted to sex, then Ashtoreth, from the Mesopotamian cult of Ishtar, was the ideal god for you. Worship of her involved having as much outdoor sex as you could manage. And finally, if you fancied both sex and a bit of violence, then Baal would do nicely: he was the Canaanite god of war and fertility.

Today we have pretty much the same gods, we just call them different names. Many of us still give our lives to clawing our way into power and influence. We sacrifice our families on the altar of our ambition. Others of us crave 'the perfect partner' – and spend our lives in serial romancing.

The Psalmist rejected these little 'gods' that waste people's lives, and often hurt those around them. Instead, he worshipped the living God, who was holy, loving and faithful... In humble adoration he wrote: "you preserve my life...your love endures forever." "The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me". Now, there is security and peace!

THE POWER OF PRAYER

I have always believed that prayer can be strengthened by the more people who pray. This belief was seeded in me when I was a teenager by an event I will never forget.

My dad came home from work and informed us of an imminent death. His boss's young son was ill in hospital and was not expected to survive the night.

We had a routine of daily prayers before bedtime. It was a cold night, so my parents, sister and I, chose to say our prayers in front of the warm fire in the lounge.

My prayers that night were very much focused on the young lad who was ill. I prayed for his survival. It transpired that all four of us had prayed for the exact same thing.

The following evening when dad returned home from work, mum immediately asked about his boss's son. Had he passed away?

I well remember my dad's response. "Well you are not going to believe this."

His boss had been at work and recounted his story of the night before. He had been by his son's bedside holding his hand and feeling the life ebbing out of him, when suddenly and inexplicably the strangest thing had happened. Life seemed to flow back into him and miraculously he suddenly perked up.

The doctors were amazed at this sudden turnaround, believing that he would go on to make a full recovery. And indeed he did!

But this is the strange thing.

Dad asked him what time this happened. His boss explained that he could give him the precise time because he had glanced at his watch. No prizes for guessing the time. It was the exact same time that we had been praying for him.

I am not sure whether dad told his boss about our prayers. He was an atheist, and often pulled dad's leg about being a Christian. Dad said if the right opportunity presented itself, then he would tell him, but sadly I do not know whether this ever happened.

This man may have been unaware that a prayer had been answered, but the rest of us were very much aware, and prayer remained very important and significant in our lives.

Gordon Betteley

A key to longer life? Keep calm and carry on

Scientists have long known that mental resilience, or our ability to bounce back in the face of trouble and adversity, has a powerful effect on us for the good. Such resilience has been linked to preventing disease, keeping chronic illnesses at bay, and helping us recover after trauma. Now it seems that our capacity to cope with and adapt to challenging life events may even delay our risk of dying for a good few years.

Scientists at the University of Sun Yat-sen, in Shenzhen China, have done extensive research into the health records of more than 10,000 Americans who had signed up for the US Health and Retirement Study. They found that those who scored high on qualities such as perseverance, calmness, a sense of purpose, self-reliance and stoicism had a much lower death rate than others who scored lower.

Writing in the journal *BMJ Mental Health*, the authors said: "Exposure to adversity, such as poverty or significant life events like job loss or bereavement, often leads to disruptions in psychological functioning. However, individuals differ in their ability to overcome and adapt to adversity, with some exhibiting resilience while others struggle."

The Bible urges us to not try and cope with life on our own. Instead, it reminds us that God is always our refuge, 'a very present help in trouble'. Psalm 55 says: 'Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.' Now that sounds like resilience – with some heavenly back-up!

Times Past

ARIS'S BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE, Monday, November 1, 1790
COAL MINE

To be sold by Private Contract, the Mines of Coal lying under near twenty acres of land, situate at Ettingshall, in the Parish of Sedgley, and County of Stafford. The Birmingham Canal passes through Part of the Land. For further Particulars apply to Mr. Fellows, Attorney, in Dudley.

WOLVERHAMPTON CHRONICLE & STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER,
Wednesday, November 9, 1842

SEDGLEY ROADS

NOTICE is hereby given, that the TOLLS arising at the several Toll Gates and Toll Bars upon the turnpike road leading from Wombourne through Sedgley to Bilston and Prince's End, in the county of Stafford, will be LET BY AUCTION, to the best bidder, at the house of JOHN EBERY, the COURT HOUSE, in SEDGLEY aforesaid, on FRIDAY, 25th day of NOVEMBER, 1842, between the hours of four and six in the afternoon, for the term of one year, commencing the first day of January next, in the manner directed by the Act passed on the 3rd and 4th years of the reign of his Majesty King George the Fourth, "for regulating Turnpike Roads," which Tolls produced last year the sum of 552/- clear of the expenses of collecting the same, and will be then put up at that sum.

WOLVERHAMPTON CHRONICLE & STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER,
Saturday, November 5, 1870
SEDGLEY

CHORAL FESTIVAL AT THE PARISH CHURCH. – Tuesday being the Festival of All Saints', to whom the parish church is dedicated, a special choral service was held. The church, which was beautifully decorated, was crowded to excess. The choirs of the adjoining districts took part to the number of 150, under the conductorship of Mr Blonden, organist to the parish church, Dudley. Many of the local clergy were also present.

The prayers were effectively intoned by the Rev.W.T. Dudley, curate of Sedgley. The Psalms and hymns were well sung, as was the anthem, Kent's "Thine O Lord". An able sermon was preached by the Rev.W. Twigg, M.A., of Wednesbury. After the Benediction had been given by the Hon. and Rev.A.J.R. Anson, vicar of Sedgley, the hymn. "Hark, my soul," was impressively sung by the whole congregation.

Herod's Secret Policeman

Open Doors has launched a new tool for families and churches, aimed at explaining religious persecution in an age-appropriate way.

Herod's Secret Policeman is a children's story book and animated video which tells the fictional tale of Secret Policeman Number 3 (and his toy sheep, Nellie), of the people he met on the journey, and the way in which the encounter with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph changed him forever.

"It's an imaginative take on this familiar story that will introduce children — in a very gentle way — to the pressures faced by believers around the world, many of whom live under surveillance, or are at risk because of their faith," said Open Doors US CEO Ryan Brown. "It helps children understand that some Christians today might even have to flee for their lives, just as Mary, Joseph, and Jesus did."

The book and video are available for download :

at opendoorsus.uspages.com/herods-place/. More information about what believers endure around the world and how Christians can pray for them can be found at: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/>

FH3 Barbers Ltd Sedgley and Fadeclub Ltd Tipton

Walk In Service

Open Monday to Saturday

Sedgley 07470 536144 & Tipton 07985 539256
Instagram @FH3Fadeclubsedgley @Fadeclubtipton

New Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons

The Revd Mark Birch has been appointed by HM The King as a Canon of Westminster and by Sir Lindsay Hoyle as Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Mark has been a Minor Canon at Westminster Abbey since January 2015. He has been responsible to the Dean of Westminster for the daily worshipping life of the Abbey, and for designing and planning many of the special services.

Mark previously served in parishes and as Chaplain of Helen and Douglas House, Oxford, which offers hospice care for children and young adults. He was also Chaplain, and remains a patron, of Treloar's School and College, which offers education to young disabled people. Before training to become a priest, Mark was a veterinary surgeon.



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.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

The Worcester Diocese and Cathedral have been jointly audited by IN-EQE safeguarding group, commissioned by Archbishop's Council. The final report was published in October and can be viewed on the Worcester Diocese website by following the link on the safeguarding page.

The Diocesan safeguarding team began collecting the required evidence in March with a final submission in May. There was also an online survey which was completed by various groups and parishioners across the Diocese, including many from this Parish. This was followed by a four-day face to face visit in July.

The audit was largely positive. A quote from the Culture, Leadership and Capacity section (page 9) says:

“The Audit saw and heard credible evidence that a safeguarding culture is being embedded within the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF), the body responsible for safeguarding, and across the diocese's parishes. An analysis of interviews, focus groups and feedback from surveys, found the most frequently used terminology to describe culture within the diocese was largely positive. People used phrases such as 'welcoming' 'supportive' and 'respectful'. It was clear from survey responses that the overwhelming majority of the DBF's workforce and those working and worshipping within, felt safe in their respective environments. Nearly all knew who their safeguarding leads were and across the diocese there was almost unanimous agreement with the statement that 'it is everyone's responsibility to report safeguarding concerns'.

In the Conclusion section (page 75)

“The DBF has laid a solid foundation for a safeguarding culture that prioritises the wellbeing of individuals and fosters a safer environment for everyone involved in the diocese. They have proactively developed safeguarding policies and improved practice, collaborate well with internal and external stakeholders and have led on a number of innovative safeguarding projects.

Critically, they seek out opportunities to listen to their workforce and volunteers and have developed a safeguarding strategy and action plan that sets out a commitment to continuously improve. Indeed, good practice is highlighted throughout the report, not least in the trauma informed support offered to victims and survivors.”

Lots of good practice was identified, although there were also many recommendations for improvement (58 in total, 31 for DBF, 27 for the Cathedral). One of the key recommendations is to consider the formation of a single safeguarding directorate for the Cathedral and DBF, led by a Director of Safeguarding, which would provide strategic oversight, advice and safeguarding support across the DBF, parish support and the Cathedral. The recommendations are being looked at by the DBF and safeguarding team.

Safeguarding Sunday is on 17th November this year. This is an opportunity to join with churches from all denominations across the country to think about safeguarding in our local community and our churches.

Barbara Baker

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Children’s Kitchen Terms

BOIL: The point a parent reaches upon hearing the automatic “Yuck” before a food is even tasted.

CASSEROLE: Combination of favourite foods that go uneaten because they are mixed together.

DESSERT: The reason for eating a meal.

EVAPORATE: Magic trick performed by children when it comes time to clear the table or wash dishes.

FRUIT: A natural sweet that is good for you; not to be confused with dessert.

REFRIGERATOR: A very expensive and inefficient room air conditioner when not being used as an art gallery.

SODA POP: Shake ‘N Spray.

THE JOY OF ARCHIVING!

Back in February 2017 Cicely Thomas, Keith Tomlinson and I formed the Sedgley Archives Group and registered it with Dudley Council for Voluntary Services.

We work in liaison with Dudley Archives to research and record the history of the village of Sedgley through a combination of desk research and personal reminiscences.

Personal reminiscences are collected using the Sedgley and Coseley Past and Present Facebook page. Stories and pictures are then recorded into the Sedgley People's Archive, which has twenty sections covering most areas of the life of the village.

Since 2017, we have delivered 30 talks on local history at local venues including Sedgley Library and All Saints' Church, all of which are available on PowerPoint in the Archive.

The Archive, consisting of pictures and articles is available on request at Sedgley Library Reception desk, on a USB memory stick for use in Sedgley Library only; a copy of the stick is also available for use at Dudley Archives in Tipton Road, Dudley.

The Archive will eventually be made available on the Black Country History website.

The Archive has existed in an elemental form for a number of years but has not yet been fully developed into an accessible community resource - and that is now our intention in the coming months. While some sections are fully referenced, other content still requires ordering and referencing using the widely-used 'Fonds-Series-Sub Series-Item' archiving hierarchy we have adopted.

There is indeed an abundance of as yet unrecorded relevant material on local topics that attracts comment on the Sedgley and Coseley Past and Present Facebook page.

This is all in need of collating and editing into a coherent whole. While this task is (alas) never likely to be achieved in full, that doesn't mean that efforts should be made towards that goal and that the results can't be a rich resource for local people and researchers.

In relation to All Saints' Church, our archive material is included in Section I, the 'Churches' section of the Archive. At present all we have relating to other churches is their photos but once the All-Saints' content is developed, we hope they too will participate fully in the future.

I intend to do a presentation about the current content in All Saints' archive in the near future; any suggestions about what we might include are welcome.

MARTIN JONES

When poverty pushes people into dark places

As Christmas approaches, the charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is warning that "Poverty has become more ruthless than ever. There are rarely simple solutions anymore. Families can't afford to live, let alone repay debt, as incomes don't cover the basics."

CAP tells the story of Bea, one of its clients. "Like nearly half of CAP's clients, Bea's income wasn't enough to live on. She and her husband had been made redundant and, no matter how careful she was; after paying for rent, food, and other essentials, the money couldn't stretch to the end of the month. "I got to the point where I didn't want to be here. I was in a black hole, and couldn't get out."

Nearly half of CAP's clients have attempted or considered suicide as a way out of debt, as on-going poverty and debt is literally driving people to the brink.

And so this Christmas, CAP is asking for support, as "your gift to CAP could save lives. The holistic care and debt help local churches across the UK are providing is vital for people like Bea."

If you would like to send a donation, please visit: <https://capuk.or>



Creative Learning Classes @ The Dormston Centre, Sedgley

Course Title	Start Date	Weeks	Time	Fee
Spanish for Complete Beginners	25/09/2024	10	7.00-9.00pm	£110.00
This course is suitable for those who have never studied Spanish before and would like to be able to communicate effectively in everyday situations. It is specifically designed for those of you with little or no prior knowledge of the language.				
Spanish For Improvers	28/09/2024	10 Weeks	9.30am-11.30am	£110.00
This course is aimed at those of you who have attended at least 2-3 terms of our beginners' program. During this improvers course you will re-visit basic topics extending vocabulary and enabling you to use a broader range of skills giving your own opinions, likes and dislikes.				
Spanish – Lower Intermediate	28/09/2024	10 Weeks	7.00pm-9.00pm	£80.00
This course is aimed at those of you who have attended at least 3 terms of our improvers program. During this improvers course you will again re-visit basic topics further extending vocabulary and enabling you to use an even broader range of skills giving your own opinions, likes and dislikes.				
Art - Introduction to Pastels	23/09/2024	8 Weeks	7.00pm-9.00pm	£88.00
This 8-week course is designed for beginners interested in exploring the vibrant and versatile medium of pastel painting. You will learn foundational techniques, colour theory, and composition while developing your unique artistic style.				
Art – Introduction to Acrylics	24/09/2024	8 Weeks	7.00pm-9.00pm	£88.00
This course introduces you to the vibrant world of acrylics, covering essential techniques, colour theory, and composition. The course includes practical projects like still life, landscapes, and personal pieces, fostering individual style development.				
Art Introduction to Print Making	25/09/2024	8 Weeks	7.00-9.00pm	£95.00
An introduction to foundational skills and techniques in mono prints and Lino cuts. You will start with the basics of mono prints, exploring texture, composition, and layering. You will then learn Lino cutting, focusing on design, carving, and inking techniques.				
Flower Arranging for All	24/09/2024	5 Weeks	7.00pm-9.00pm	£65.00
Flower Arranging for All	05/11/2024	5 Weeks	7.00pm-9.00pm	£65.00
This class is designed for all abilities, taught in an easy, friendly manner with many laughs along the way, in fact the ideal way to relax and have a bit of me time, whilst learning something that could even turn out to be a new profession.				
Floristry Christmas Wreath Workshop	23/11/2024	1 Day	10.00am-1.00pm	£60.00
Come along and join us for a day of festive fun. Our class is for all abilities. Our tutor will guide you through how to create a Festive Door Wreath using seasonal foliage and a selection of festive adornments to dress your wreath.				
Introduction to Sign Language	23/09/2024	10 Weeks	7.00pm-9.00pm	£100
During this introduction course You will cover topics such as Greetings, Weather, Transport, Numbers and much more. It's fun and interactive learning throughout, with no exams or assessments, unless you decide you want to.				
Sign Language Level 1	23/09/2024	33 weeks	7.00pm-9.00pm	POA
Achieving this qualification means that you will be able to communicate with Deaf people in British Sign Language on a range of themes that involve simple, everyday language use. You will gain basic skills and confidence in production and reception of BSL.				
Guitar Lessons for Complete Beginners	03/10/2024	10 Weeks	6.00pm-7.15pm	£62.50
Have you always had a fascination with the guitar but do not know how to get started? Take the first step with us here at Dormston by joining our Guitar for Absolute Beginners				
Guitar Lessons for Improvers	03/10/2024	10 Weeks	7.15pm-9.15pm	£100.00
This course is appropriate for nearly all skills levels with the minimum requirement of having the ability to change smoothly between a few basic major and minor chords and wish to build their knowledge				
Keep Fit for All	18/09/2024	12 Weeks	11.30am-12.30pm	£65.00
Come, join our nifty exercise class, and feel the benefits! Regular physical activity is important for so many reasons, not only can you gain improved mobility, balance, and coordination through carefully planned gentle exercise classes designed specifically for you, no matter what your ability!				
Boxercise	23/09/2024	10 Weeks	6.15pm-7.15pm	£50.00
Boxercise is a total body workout: It directly stimulates all your muscles, including your chest, shoulders, back, arms, legs, and core muscles. Training in this style not only allows you to lose weight but also gives you a leaner and fitter physique.				
Pilates	26/09/2024	10 Weeks	6.15pm-7.15pm	£50.00
Pilates focuses on stretching and strengthening the whole body. It is a low impact class that aims to strengthen muscles while improving postural alignment and flexibility and is suitable for men and women of all ages, levels, or abilities. If you have been looking for a new workout routine that can give you a good balance of all the above, then Pilates may be the answer.				
Aerobics	24/09/2024	10 Weeks	7.00pm-8.00pm	£50.00
A great class set to dance music and led by our instructor who will take you through a variety of stretching and strength-training routines combined with aerobic exercise that works on all areas of your body.				
Yoga	25/09/2024	10 Weeks	6.00pm-7.15pm 7.30pm-8.45pm	£55.00
Yoga – Hatha: Yoga is a workout designed to aid in relaxation and revitalisation of the mind and body. It also helps to improve				

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CMS training hits a new level

The number of students entering the Church Mission Society (CMS) Pioneer Mission Training programme has this year risen to record levels, enhanced by the enrolment of a cohort of students from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

At a time when many Christian training colleges are struggling to attract new students, a total of 45 students enrolled for the CMS Pioneer Mission Training programme for the new academic year, spread over its undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral research courses.

CMS Pioneer Mission Training is now in its 14th year of helping prepare students for mission at the edges of society, with innovative and creative initiatives designed to engage people who fall outside the scope of traditional church programmes.

Bishop Martin Gordon, a CMS mission partner and the Bishop of Goma in Eastern Congo, said the group of Congolese men and women, who are aged between 27 and 45, are expected to become senior leaders in the Diocese.

Joseph Ola, African Christianity MA lecturer at CMS, said: “The Congolese cohort come with a burning desire to acquire practical knowledge that directly addresses the unique challenges they face, coming from a war-torn region. We are thrilled to welcome them, and confident that this training will equip them to develop transformative mission strategies for their communities.”

More info at: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/pioneer>

Signs found outside churches:

- * Church car park sign...This is for MEMBERS ONLY. Trespassers will be baptised!!
- * No God – No Peace. Know God – Know Peace.
- * Free Trip to heaven. Details Inside!
- * Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here!
- * Come in and pray today. Beat the Christmas rush!
- * Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm next Wednesday in the church lounge. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

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,
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What issues most concern us?

In a recent article for The Tablet, the international Roman Catholic newspaper, its lobby correspondent listed a number of things that seem to most concern the UK at the moment, and which therefore indicate the challenges facing the new Government.

She listed, in no particular order:

Breakdown of the justice system and overcrowding in prisons; social care and the NHS; planning and housing; defence in a troubled world; help for the poor and vulnerable and disabled; climate change; education; the asylum system and immigration; Brexit and its aftermat; the water industry; economic equality and the economy; and scandals of the Post Office, Windrush, Grenfell and the victims of contaminated blood.

As the New Testament instructs Christians to pray for their civic leaders, (1 Timothy 2:2), the list may be useful in guiding our own public and private prayers for the nation.

Reeling In Years Programme

All Saints Church Hall

Refreshments at 1:30pm

Film starts 2pm

July 18th

Annie Get Your Gun 1:47

August 15th

The Lavender Hill Mob 1:17

September 19th

Singing in The Rain. 1:43

October 17th

Calamity Jane 1:41

November 21st

Paris When It Sizzles 1:46

December 12th

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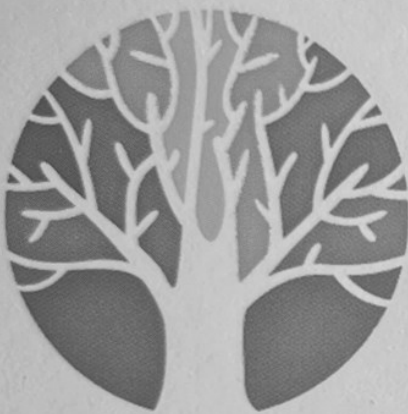
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From the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly observed in what he made.

Romans 1:20



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The Rectory

St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

I suppose it had to come, but combining parishes is now firmly on the agenda for our villages.

I had always wondered what the first Earl of Stowe was trying to prove, building a church here in 1347 to accommodate 800 people when the total population has never exceeded 250. In the short term – which in this village is measured in centuries – it seems to have been to house the tombs of his 13 successors. I now realise it was to make uniting with adjoining parishes in the 21st century more difficult. Clearly the first Earl had formidable foresight. None of our neighbouring churches seem too keen to share their reserves to help maintain our cathedral-sized building.

The threat of the closure of St Herve the Bard has, inevitably, caused outrage – not so much from its regular congregation of three, but from all those in the village who would never think of attending. People do so *like* to have a church not to go to.

The church of St Bregowine, built by a wealthy parishioner in the 19th century because she did not like the high church practices of the parish church of St Iwig, is refusing to re-unite, even though the two churches stand only 100 yards apart, in a village with a diameter of 300 yards. If only they could get over the trauma of seeing the incumbent putting water in the wine on Easter Day in 1894.

(Although it must be conceded that the Bregowinians were equally affronted that when the daughter church opened in 1895, they found that the Iwigers had provided no brass troughs at the end of the pews for umbrellas.

That they have subsequently refused to install them has only compounded the offence.)

Meanwhile St Plegmund is in discussions with the Church of South India as a way of avoiding uniting with anyone. Should it happen, I will be interested to see what travelling expenses the new incumbent claims. It will be difficult to tell when the present incumbent resigns, as he has not been seen at a clerical meeting for the last 30 years. Some of my colleagues suspect he is mythical, that a bloodless coup took place in the 1980s and that the church is now entirely run by the Mothers' Union.

The church of St Maximus of Constantinople in our nearest town has rather grandly offered to take all of our churches under its wing, but as a parishioner has pointed out: how could we possibly consider joining with a parish that fought on the other side at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. In the meantime, we will serenely carry on, as we seem to have done for the past six centuries; parish mergers and reductions in numbers of clergy seem to be of less interest than debating the suggestion that we change the brand of coffee served after Services.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

And finally...

An atheist has no invisible means of support.

The way Bernard Shaw believed in himself was so very refreshing in these atheistic days when so many people believe in no God at all. (*I Zangwill*)

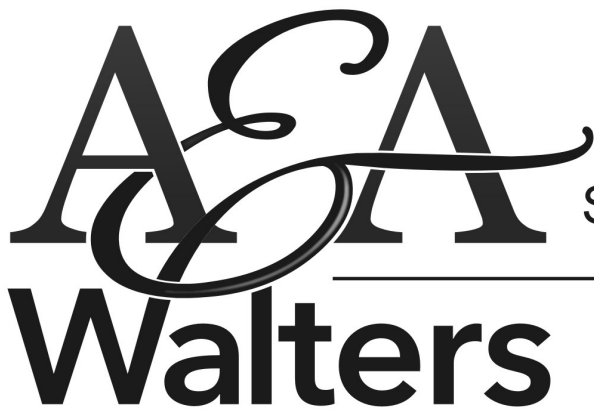
Have you heard about the agnostic dyslexic insomniac who lay awake at night wondering; "Is there a Dog?"

People are like tea bags – you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.

A sexton is a man who minds his keys and pews.

Dear Paddy, The Vicar here thinks very highly of your father. He's given him a job so important that he has five hundred men under him. He's cutting grass in the churchyard.

I'm not C of E, I'm from the Methyated church.



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11AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS

6.30PM EVENSONG AND ALL SOULS ALL SAINTS

WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS

SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS

10AM WORSHIP FOR ALL ST ANDREWS

10.15AM WORSHIP FOR ALL ST PETERS

10.15AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS

MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER - ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE

11AM ALL SAINTS

WEDNESDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 9.30AM WORSHIP FOR ALL ST ANDREWS

11AM FAMILY SERVICE ALL SAINTS

WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS

SUNDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 8AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS

9.30AM WORSHIP FOR ALL ST ANDREWS

10AM HOLY COMMUNION ST PETERS

WEDNESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 10AM HOLY COMMUNION ALL SAINTS