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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Cover picture
'Prayer Tree'

Visit our Website

www.solihullparish.org.uk

Want to email the Editor?

parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk

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Editorial

When the time comes around each year to remember those who gave their lives in the two World Wars, and in countless conflicts since, the poppy is, perhaps, the most widely understood symbol of our remembering. Our wearing of the poppy joins us, without words, to the millions of others who, later this month, will pause to look back, to remember and to be thankful.

Alongside this outward token of remembrance, the contemplation of poetry in the season of remembrance also plays a helpful role. The experience of the first world war poets is worth reflecting on 'lest we forget' and repeat the mistakes of the past which brought suffering and loss to so many millions of ordinary people.

One of the most celebrated World War I poets is Siegfried Sassoon. He was commissioned into the 3rd Battalion (Special Reserve), Royal Welch Fusiliers, as a second lieutenant on 29th May 1915. Sassoon's periods of duty on the Western Front were marked by exceptionally brave actions, including the single-handed capture of a German trench. Sassoon's bravery was so inspiring that soldiers of his company said that they felt confident only when he accompanied them.

However, Sassoon became horrified by the realities of war, and the tone of his writing changed completely, to convey the ugly truths of the trenches to an audience which, previously, knew nothing of this.

One of his most celebrated poems was written in April 1919, shortly after Sassoon had taken up the position of Literary Editor of the Daily Herald, where he hoped for a fresh start, having just left the army.

Everyone Sang, by Siegfried Sassoon

Everyone suddenly burst out singing;
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields;
 on - on - and out of sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted;
And beauty came like the setting sun:
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror
Drifted away ... O, but Everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless;
 the singing will never be done.

© The Siegfried Sassoon Literary Estate

The speaker in the poem hears everyone around suddenly burst into song, and the sound of singing fills him with delight. There's a suggestion that this delight is related to a feeling of relief and, indeed, release; he likens it to the feeling that a caged bird must feel when it is freed and allowed to fly away.

The song being sung is 'wordless', like birdsong. Perhaps the poet wants us to imagine the sound of singing birds as nature's reminder that the world goes on as ever, despite the sacrifices being made by thousands in war.

It is possible that Sassoon didn't have the Armistice in mind when he wrote 'Everyone Sang', but rather soldiers singing in the trenches. The poem, then, is perhaps not about joy that the

war is over but rather a temporary and spontaneous desire to sing as a way of keeping one's spirits up during a time of death, warfare, and uncertainty. However, later on in his life, Sassoon talked about the poem as 'an expression of release'.

Whether it was intended to be interpreted as such or not, 'Everyone Sang' struck a chord with readers after the end of the First World War, because it seemed to capture the mood of exhilarating release felt by everyone following the Armistice. So at least in the minds of its many readers, and possibly in the intentions of its author, this is a poem of peace rather than war.

In the Bible reading used on Remembrance Sunday, Jesus says: *Blessed are the peacemakers, they will be called God's children.* These 'peacemakers' of whom Jesus speaks are those who can show their fellow human beings how to cooperate instead of competing or fighting; those who are willing to forgo the struggle to be right or first in order that all may have their voice heard and their needs met; those who will turn their anger into prayer and their prejudices into penitence.

They are those who are willing to let go of argument and accusation and to have the courage to sing a song of healing. If the song is loud enough to share, its truth touches all things, enabling all beings to join their voices in song, whose singing will never be done.

May our remembering lead us to gratitude and hope.

Simon

WHAT IS 'JUST EXPLORE' AND WHO IS IT FOR?



just explore is a course which explores the key aspects of the Christian faith.

2 sets of 5 sessions on Thursday evenings, starting in November, are held in a relaxed and informal environment where you are encouraged to ask anything you are unsure about; no question is too simple or too challenging.

The sessions provide an opportunity to learn, discover and discuss.

just explore is for everyone regardless of their current understanding of faith or their spiritual journey so far:

- Those wanting to explore Christianity,
- Newcomers to Solihull and/or their local church,
- Those wishing to be baptised/confirmed following completion of the course,
- Those who want a refresher on the basics of Christianity.

More details are shown on the website

www.solihullparish.org.uk

(and look under the three menu dots on the right side of the home page)

or contact Andrew Williams - arwilliams399@gmail.com

or contact the Parish Office on **0121 705 5350**.

We hope you will want to join us on our journey of faith.

800 Acts of Kindness

2020 marks the 800th anniversary of a place of Christian worship being established in Solihull and amongst the events planned to mark this amazing milestone we are planning to complete at least 800 acts of kindness during the course of 2020. A working group has been formed to make plans and it is hoped that there will be many acts of kindness performed by individuals but also permanent legacies e.g. a garden brought back to life and ongoing legacies e.g. a group or activity started which helps to tackle social isolation. One of the younger members of our congregation, Sophie Hosking (age 7), has already worked really hard to compile a list of 31 suggested acts of kindness that we could complete. Why not check through Sophie's list below and see what inspires you:

1. Giving Greggs sausage rolls to homeless people.
2. Help people to do their work at school.
3. Give homeless people water.
4. Giving people apples from my tree.
5. SMILE!
6. Visit people when they are ill or hurt.
7. Draw people pictures.
8. Give people cards.
9. Make someone a present.
10. Give people a present.
11. Bake someone a cake or someone biscuits.
12. Buy your teacher some chocolate.
13. Buy someone something while you're on holiday.
14. Give someone a ticket to go to the cinema.
15. Look after somebody's pet when they're on holiday.
16. Help somebody if they're hurt in the playground.
17. If someone's not responding in the day call 999.
18. Play with someone if they're lonely.
19. Help someone when they're in the garden.
20. Do the dishes.
21. Clean your room.
22. Clear a table.
23. Give someone money.
24. Go on a playdate with someone.
25. Say hello to people.
26. Say please and thank you.
27. Give up something so somebody.
28. Write to people.
29. Use skype to talk to people.
30. Sew something for homeless people.
31. Give a woman you know some flowers.

If you feel inspired and would like to join the working group or have ideas for projects then please contact Linda Hicks l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk or 0121 270 7390 and do look out for more information about how you can be part of this exciting venture!

Roundabout

Solihull Parish Puppets

Solihull Parish Puppets are looking forward to putting on a performance of "Bethlehemian Rhapsody" at The Junction on 15th December, and also at Jigsaw at St Helen's that afternoon. However, at present, we have only 14 hands amongst us and we could really do with more.

If you fancy having a go at joining in and are aged 10 or over, please get in touch with me on 07912 626315, or at ruth_sabbagh@msn.com. We meet at St Helen's Chapel, 6.30-7.30pm on Thursdays during term time.



Ruth Sabbagh



Host UK

No difficulty in telling who is having the better time and sad to think of *anyone* being on their own at Christmas.

HOST UK arranges one day and weekend visits for International students all year round with three-night visits during the Festive season. Such hospitality is greatly sought after and valued by students far from home whose only alternative may be a lonely hall of residence.

Our "festive season" does not just mean Christmas but can also mean weekends in the run up to Christmas, and New Year. Your guest will be someone curious to experience British life with all its special traditions and culture...and keen to share those of their home country. Your hospitality will be a unique gift, a treasured memory and rewarding in so many ways.

Please consider opening your home and heart to an international student and remember that if the festive season is difficult for you, we do operate *all year round*, so hosting can become one of your New Year Resolutions!

If you should like to know more, please go to our website www.hostuk.org or leave us a message on

<http://visits.hostuk.org/Public/ApplyToBecomeAHost>



Roundabout

800th Anniversary Cookery Book

As part of the 800th Anniversary Celebrations, we'd like to produce a recipe book. I understand such a book was produced in 2012, so many of you are familiar with the concept. We are looking for new (additional) recipes, so please do send in your favourite, reliable recipes to the Parish Office by the end of December 2019.

Thank you,

Jane



Carers Trust Solihull

Carers Trust Solihull are an independent charity and together we work in a strong partnership to actively promote the wellbeing of family carers of all ages. We believe in a world where the role and contribution of family carers is recognised and they have access to the quality support and services they need to live their own lives. Our services support carers who care for children/adults with disabilities, mental illness, long term illness and addiction. We run support groups, events/activities, drop in centres, training/workshops, education assistance, conduct carers assessments and signpost to other agencies. Do you know a carer who may benefit from our services/support? If you do then please get in touch.

Most of our services are free of charge, we are only able to do this by relying heavily on fundraising in the local community. We are delighted to announce that Marks and Spencer Solihull has chosen us as their charity for fundraising 2019-20. If you would like to get involved in fundraising then please visit our web site www.solihullcarers.org

As we are a small charity we welcome volunteers who can offer their time as we feel it is important to support the local community and provide experience for them both personally and in future employment. If you would like to volunteer for us we are looking for volunteers to offer 1-2 hours per week of their time in various roles within the organisation, at our support groups, befriending and on our organised trips. Please contact Emma Hunter on 0121 788 1143 for further details.



Eve and the Origins of Womanhood

On the 25th September, the Women's Theology Groups hosted an event for men and women to attend. The evening was a huge success, with more than fifty people coming together to study the Hebrew text of Genesis 1-3 in depth. The men who volunteered to provide refreshments outdid themselves: we enjoyed a selection of pastries and cakes, as well as the usual tea and coffee, and we were really grateful to all who helped set up and tidy up at the end.

Why do we have Women's Theology Groups?

The Bible has many difficult topics within it, including many stories of violence towards women. We meet together to discuss these subjects in as safe a space as possible – people don't have to talk about their own experiences, but it gives more of an opportunity for support. Biblical passages with any kind of violence towards women are not found in the Sunday lectionary so they would be unlikely to ever be properly discussed without these groups.

Why study women from the Bible separately?

In the groups we approach the text with a particular purpose, paying special attention to the woman or women in the story. Women we have covered this year include: Sarah, Hagar, Rebekah, Rachel, Leah, Bilhah, Zilpah, Delilah, Deborah, Jael, Ruth, Naomi, Orpah, Esther, Mary, Elizabeth, Junia, the women at the tomb, the woman at the well and the Syro-Phoenician woman.



Why is Eve important?

For many Christians, the beginning of Genesis can be a difficult read. Within our churches there may be a range of opinions about what it really means, whether the creation narratives are true in an historical sense, and whether Adam and Eve were real people. Regardless of this, Eve remains an important figure for women, whether or not she truly existed. This story has caused women to be seen as more sinful than men, less important than men (as if created as a second thought), and weaker than men. With this in mind, we looked closely at the language used in our translations of the text of Genesis. For example, we looked at the word *adam*, often translated as 'man' or 'humankind', which is more accurately translated as 'earth creature', when understood in the poetic language of Genesis, since *adamah* means earth.

More information...

If you would like more information about the Women's Theology Groups, please contact me (chachagibson@gmail.com), or please do come to one of our groups – women are welcome to attend, there is no need to book.

Charlotte Gibson

St Alphege**From the St Alphege Register****Baptisms**

29 th September	Harriet Shakespeare Emilie Thorpe
6 th October	Charlotte Auckland
13 th October	Sophie Burke Harper Day
20 th October	Louis Johnson Sophie Fieldhouse

Weddings

21 st September	Christian Edwards & Charlotte Sinclair
5 th October	Jason Woodward & Zoë Hamed

Funerals

15 th October	Denise Smith
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Memorials

None

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in November

William Tew	Mabel Campkin	Joan Freeth
Norman Jewers	Frank Wright	Arthur Middleton
Joan Watts	Peter Herd	Dennis Tate
Leslie Starbuck	Alexander Herd	Rachel Scarff
Pat Sharrock	Chris Davey	Sydney Flood
Margaret Harris	Gordon Ross	Alan Clarke
Peter Cooper	Frederick Fowler	Lawrie Andrew

OLIVER BIRD HALL BOOKINGS

**Enquiries are welcome for the use of the Hall for
social gatherings, christenings, anniversaries, meetings, etc.**

Visit the website on:

www.solihullparish.org.uk/church-hall-hire

or contact the Parish Office:

Tel: 0121 705 5350 / 0121 270 9740 Email: office@solihullparish.org.uk



Carols for Birmingham Children's Hospital

Friday 29th November, 6.30pm

St Alphege Church, Solihull

St Alphege Church Choirs will perform Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols, and will be joined by children from local choirs to perform a traditional carol concert to raise money for local charities.

Tickets are £5 for adults, available on the door. Children are admitted free of charge. Licensed bar and refreshments.

www.stalpegemusic.org.uk

isabelbaumber@btinternet.com

Tel 07730 981038

Proceeds from this concert will be shared between The Friends of St Alphege Music, a charity supporting musical education, and Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, supporting children who are patients at the hospital.

The Friends of St Alphege Music is a registered charity number 511237.

Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity is a registered charity number 1160875.

Worship Notes November 2019

The Feast of All Saints, on 1st November, marks the beginning of what has come to be informally named the Kingdom Season. The four Sundays which make up the season are a continuation of 'ordinary time' and used to be part of a series of nine Sundays before Advent. The Church's year draws to its close with the Feast of Christ the King. The liturgical colour for the season is red or green.

Friday 1st November - All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. It is a time to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that holiness can grow in the ordinary circumstances of human life, as well as in the extraordinary events.

Saturday 2nd November - All Souls' Day

10.30am: Requiem Eucharist at St Alphege. Also known as The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, this day celebrates the saints in a more local and intimate way. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly: those who gave us life, or who nurtured us in faith.

Sunday 3rd November

6.30pm: New Door Memorial Service at St Alphege at which those whom we have known personally who have died will be remembered.

Wednesday 6th November

10am: Eucharist at St Michael's Chapel at which we will commemorate the life of St Leonard, a 6th-century hermit who is the Patron saint of prisoners and to whom over a hundred and seventy English churches are dedicated.

Friday 8th November

4pm at St Helen's Church: Messy Church, a fun worship event for families with songs, stories and activities to help us to learn more about following Jesus – followed by a cooked tea!

Sunday 10th November - Remembrance Sunday

Today across our parish we explore the theme of memory, both corporate and individual, as we confront issues of war and peace, loss and sacrifice. The 11am service at St Alphege will be the Civic observance beginning at the War Memorial.

At 6.30pm at St Helen's Church, there is a memorial service to remember those whom we have loved and lost.

Sunday 17th November

4pm at St Helen's Church: Jigsaw, a service for all ages with songs, prayers and opportunities to explore the Bible through a wide range of activities – followed by Sunday tea!

Tuesday 19th November

9.30am: Eucharist at St Alphege at which the Feast Day of Hilda of Whitby will be celebrated.

Sunday 24th November – Christ the King

The annual cycle of the Church's year now ends with the Feast of Christ the King. The year that begins with the hope of the coming Messiah ends with the proclamation of his universal rule. The Feast of Christ the King returns us to the Advent theme of judgement, with which the cycle begins once more the following Sunday.

Tuesday 26th November – Licensing of Suzette Maguire

7.30pm at St Alphege: Our new Pioneer Minister Suzette will be licensed by Bishop Anne. This is an exciting time in the life of the Parish with Suzette filling a new ministerial role as a full member of the staff team across the Parish. Please do your best to come to this service.

All Souls' Services at St Alphege

As noted above, we are having the usual All Souls' services in St Alphege:

- Saturday 2nd November at 10.30am – All Souls' Requiem Eucharist
- Sunday 3rd November at 6.30pm – New Door Service

There are lists available in St Alphege Church for you to enter the names of deceased loved relatives / friends you'd like us to remember at those services.

Advent Carol Service at St Alphege

The Advent Carol Service at St Alphege will take place at 6.30pm on Sunday 1st December. The service comprises readings, hymns and carols: do come along!

St Alphege Church of England INFANT & NURSERY, and JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Anglican parents are encouraged to consider these schools for the education of their children. The schools offer an excellent education incorporating Christian values.

For appointments to visit please contact the Head Teacher, Mr. R. Morrissey, via the school offices, 0121 705 0443 or 0121 704 2714.

For further information please consult the website.

www.stalphege.solihull.sch.uk

Music Matters

Chorister for the Day

On Saturday 14th September, we held our annual recruitment events, 'Chorister for the Day', where we invite children from local schools to visit St Alphege Church and to experience life as a chorister. Our own choristers are a key part of this day, having a role to welcome and look after visiting children. We do singing, music theory, games outside, and then finish with a short service so that visiting families understand the context of



the choir. We were again very lucky with the weather this year, and are grateful to Andy Hodgkinson for coming along to run the outside games, which are very popular with everyone. Many of the parents who bring their children along have never been inside St Alphege Church, so it is wonderful to welcome them for the first time.

Civic Recognition

At the time of writing, I have just returned from the Solihull Civic Honours Awards Ceremony, where I was privileged to receive a Civic Honours Award in the Creative Arts category for my work supporting our church



choirs. The award letter stated the awards recognise outstanding achievement and commitment to the community of Solihull. It isn't normally my style to publicise my own achievements, but this underlines the importance of the work of our choirs within the local community – we work hard for the civic services, and we are also visible in the community, for example with carol singing at



Christmas, and visits to care homes and the Marie Curie Hospice. We support charities with fundraising activities, and are open to children joining us, regardless of their background, and try to make everyone welcome. I am grateful to the person who nominated me for the award, and also to the Mayor's office and sponsors for this recognition.

Events for November and beyond

Looking ahead, we have day trips to cathedrals planned for Saturday 23rd November, when we will visit Lichfield Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong at 5.30pm. In the New Year, we are planning to visit Tewkesbury Abbey on Saturday 8th February.

At the beginning of November, we will be holding the fifth St Alphege Beer Festival, which should prove to be a great community event – we have a fantastic selection of real ales on offer (as well as alternative drinks) and some great musical entertainment over the Friday evening and Saturday.

At the end of November, on Friday 29th, we are holding a concert to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital and the Friends of St Alphege Music. We will be joined by other local choirs, and hope to provide the audience with a wonderful start to the festive season.

Isabel Baumber

Music Recitals : St Alphege Church at 1:10pm

Wed 6th Nov - Chris Roberts (guitar): *Chris Roberts performs works from his debut album 'Adra' on Ty Cerdd records. In this concert, he takes the ancient bardic music of Wales as a foundation, and places it alongside Welsh folk song, West African music, and contemporary classical composition*

Wed 13 Nov - Peter Mallinson and Lynn Arnold (viola/piano): *"The Composer Performer" - Rebecca Clarke and Lillian Fuchs were highly regarded composers, but as equally acclaimed viola soloists they also had many works written for them. Works by Friskin, Leigh, Shatin and Martinu for viola and piano*

Wed 20 Nov - Ruth Hopkins (soprano): *Ruth is currently artist in residence for the National Trust at The Firs - Elgar's Birthplace Museum, where she is exploring the importance of music and landscape on creativity and wellbeing. Through a collaboration with Dr Rosemary Golding at the Open University, this recital explores the links between music and mental health, and features music by Edward Elgar, Ivor Gurney, Henry Purcell and John Dowland*

Light refreshments from 12.30pm Recital ends 2.00pm
Any voluntary donations to Friends of St Alphege Music



The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church

EVENTS & NEWS

Dear Guardians,

Just a reminder of forthcoming events:

Guardians AGM is on Monday 4th November at the slightly later time of 8:30pm in the Oliver Bird Hall. All members are most welcome to join us. Please can you acknowledge your attendance or apologies to Ruth Morton at 58 Northdown Road, Solihull, B91 3NB or ruthjmorton@hotmail.com.

The Christmas Luncheon is on Friday 29th November at Olton Golf Club and tickets will be available very soon. The ticket price of £29 includes a four course luncheon and drinks on arrival. Please see Sue Shaw or contact one of the committee for details.

We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Ruth Morton

FLOODLIGHTING

The Guardian's Floodlighting Scheme is available for anyone who would wish to celebrate or mark an occasion, or to commemorate a date. The cost is £8.00 for 2 hours; £14.00 for 4 hours. Please give 14 days' notice. Forms are available from the Guardians notice boards in St Alphege Church or in the Oliver Bird Hall.

Names are displayed on monthly lists on these notice boards and also in the Parish magazine and acknowledged with a card sent to the donor. For further information please contact the Scheme organiser:-

Sheila Payne, 0121 706 0520; or email sheilaepayne@aol.com

The Church was floodlit to remember the following:

- 7th October Royal Marine Ashley Hicks. Your love and laughter will live on in our hearts.
- 8th October In loving memory of Richard John Hampson.
- 10th October To celebrate the birth of Camille Ruby to Benn And Nadine Blackburn.
A second great granddaughter for Pat and Gerald.
- 15th October International Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day supported by the Teddy Rose Foundation.
- 17th October Leonard Kidner. Remembering you on your birthday.
- 19th October In loving memory of Nicole Potts on her birthday.
- 21st October Gwen Mullis. Happy birthday.
- 23rd October In loving memory of my wife Alma Reah on this our wedding anniversary.
- 25th October Raymond Colston Horswill 02/02/1928 – 25/10/2008.
Much loved by all who knew him. Devoted husband and father.
- 30th October To celebrate the 65th anniversary of the wedding at St Alphege of
Pat and Gerald Blackburn.
- 31st October In loving memory of Vivien Soden on her birthday.
- 31st October In loving memory of Nicola Blakeman.



THE GUARDIANS
Christmas Luncheon

Friday 29th November 2019

Olton Golf Club, Mirfield Road, Solihull
12.30pm for 1.00pm

Tickets: £29

For tickets please see one of the committee
or ring us: **0121 705 5652** (Sue Shaw)

St Helen

A huge 'thank you' to all the clergy we have covered our 10.00am service whilst Revd Helen has been off sick, Revd Jane Kenchington, Revd Peter Sellick and Revd Sue Ashton and to Fr Simon who has taken the 8.00am service and led 'Jigsaw'. We are very grateful indeed and it has been good to have them with us.

News from St Helen's House Groups

At St Helen's, we have a number of house groups who meet together regularly to study the Bible and pray together. Below are some updates from the groups.

The Links Group

Barbra Sears writes, 'We continue to meet fortnightly during term time on a Thursday afternoon at 2.00pm, usually at the home of Ralph and Hilaré Wood and the ten members of the group are grateful for their ever-welcoming hospitality.'

Recently we have studied Tom Wright's book 'Acts for Everyone' relating the people and places of the early church to our experience and practice as Christians in the modern world. We are about to begin the York Course 'Who are we Praying to?' written by David Wilkinson, Professor of Theology Durham University. The course consists of a CD of shared experiences, a helpful booklet and challenging questions for discussion.

Meeting regularly is helpful and stimulates our spiritual curiosity and on-going Christian commitment and is an important part of our pastoral care for one another.'

Lydia

Moirá Wyatt writes 'We are a small group of women who meet fortnightly mainly for Bible Study. Through our discussions we aim to learn and grow in our faith and in friendship. We aim to be supportive of one another and open to newcomers. We are currently looking at a book called "Aging Matters", seeing what the Bible has to teach us about our calling and spirituality as we all grow older. We certainly find the studying and praying together helps us in our Christian lives.'

The Warwick Group

Linda Finch writes 'We are a group of ten members which meet monthly throughout the year. Much of 2019 has been devoted to a course looking at the Ten Commandments. We have now embarked on a York Course 'Can we build a better world' learning from William Wilberforce.'

The Thornby Groups

Chris Carrington writes, 'We are encouraged that our homegroups has recently become two groups, meeting fortnightly on a Monday but now one in the afternoon and one in the evening. This has enabled us to invite new members to join us and our total number is now 20, too many to meet all together in one lounge!

Both groups are currently studying 'The Bible Course' produced by the Bible Society. It consists of 8 interactive sessions, each including video content, discussion time, personal reflection and daily readings. The course shows how all the books, characters and events fit together to form one big story from Genesis to Revelation and provides tools and skills to help us to apply the Bible to everyday life.

It is hoped that this course will be run as a Parish event for members of all our churches sometime next year, so that many others can benefit from it.'

Diary Dates

Friday 1 st	November	3.00pm	Forget me Nots
Friday 8 th	November	4-6pm	Messy Church
Sunday 10 th	November	6.30ppm	All Souls Service
Sunday 17 th	November	4.00pm	Jigsaw
Saturday 23 rd	November	11-2.30	Helen's Christmas Fayre

Beryl Moppett



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choral
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7.30pm Saturday, 7th December 2019
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St Michael

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This was the thirteenth year St Michael's has participated in the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' initiative. This was held in the chapel as on previous years. The amount raised has increased year on year as more and more people come along from across the parish to enjoy the cake, the drinks and conversation. Of course, the main purpose is to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, and we were delighted that including gift aid we raised just over £500. During the morning around 50 people came and enjoyed the wide variety of cakes on offer. Very many thanks to all who supported this event.



St Michael's Day

On Sunday 29th September we celebrated the feast of St Michael and All Angels. Our Reader Nick gave a very thought-provoking talk on angels which was illustrated by pictures of the Burn Jones stained glass windows from Birmingham Cathedral. As usual we enjoyed a 'bring and share' lunch after the Eucharist which was attended by a good number of the congregation. If you have read the first article you may assume St Michael's and food go together, and you'd be right, but then our Lord set the trend first.

Remembrance

In November we move into the season of Remembrance. Our All Age Remembrance service is on Sunday 10th November at 10.30am at Sharmans Cross School. We join with St Helen's for the All Souls' service which is also on Sunday 10th November.

Paul Smith

Advertising in the Solihull Parish News

If you advertise here you will reach over a thousand households in Solihull each month, as well as supporting your church.

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TELEPHONE: 0121 705 4494

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0121 705 9293

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December 1st

I don't know about you, but I have often noticed that the simple things of this world work better for me. For instance, I drink black coffee and black tea; I like to wake up without the alarm clock; I love to walk, especially long distances; or to curl up on a rainy day with a good book. I could go on, but hopefully you get the picture? However, experience has taught me that we can underestimate the power of the simple things in this life.

Looking ahead in the Church calendar towards Advent, amongst the melee that is preparing for Christmas these days, like many other Christians I try to use Advent as a time to bring me closer to God: at home our book shelves are full of Advent reading books – so many that I sometimes feel that I have 'done Advent to death'. Imagine my delight then, when I saw the following on Facebook.

NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning December 1st,

Read one chapter of

**The Book of Luke in the Bible
each evening.**

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read

an entire account of Jesus' life

and wake up Christmas Morning

Knowing WHO and WHY

We Celebrate!!

What a simple but lovely idea! ☺

Of course, no-one is saying that we can't have chocolate (or some other treat that takes our fancy) during Advent, but how many Advent calendars these days focus on the Christmas story? Not many – believe me, I've looked. And, although I don't usually like time of day to do things being prescribed – we are all unique with different pulls on our time – I personally do like the idea of making a time each evening to read this wonderful story. I can imagine myself curled up with a cup of hot chocolate, immersing myself afresh in what can often feel like an over-familiar Christmas narrative.

I was so enamoured of this idea when I first saw it on Facebook that I shared it straight away. I then heard from a family that I used to have contact with in the North East, while working up there around five years ago. A non-Church-going mother, son, daughter and grandchildren have all taken up the challenge and will be reading Luke during Advent this year. I was thrilled to hear that and will pray for them especially during that time.

What about you? Do you have an Advent tradition to share? Whether the answer is yes or no, why not use this simple idea to begin a new Advent/Christmas tradition in your home/family and/or amongst your friends and neighbours?

And that, to my mind, is the other wonderful thing about this simple idea: it's such a simple and inoffensive thing to suggest, so why keep it to ourselves? Copies of Luke's Gospel can

be purchased quite easily, at a not too expensive price, and given to those around us so that they too can wake up on Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!

I'm buying some for my six Godchildren, amongst others: I am also going to put them out at some of the things that David and I lead before we leave Bedford, and come to join you in Solihull.

It's a simple thing – the best things often are - but it could help both us and/or someone else take their relationship with Jesus to a whole other level:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

(Luke 2: 10-12)

Thanks for listening and see you soon!

Blessings,
Suzette. ☺

2019 Parish Christmas Card



The Solihull Parish Christmas Card is now available from St Alphege Bookstall in church and from the Parish Office in the Oliver Bird Hall. Please buy while stocks last and support the Bookstall which distributes its profits to selected charities.

The picture is a representation of a Georgian Christmastide from an original watercolour by Roger Heath.

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November

Sunday Worship

St Alphege

At 9.15am there's a choice of:

The Junction which meets in the Oliver Bird Hall - An informal service for young families offering tailored activities for children of all ages.

It's lively and laid back! Or

St Alphege Kids - You are welcome at the 9:15am service for worship in our beautiful church building.

Space for all ages with dedicated activities for children.

On 10th November everyone will meet in the church building for Remembrance Sunday All age worship

St Helen

Every Sunday in term time at 10.00 am (apart from 17th November when it's **Jigsaw** at 4pm) there is worship in a modern space with a community feel with tailored activities for children

St Michael

Every Sunday in term time at 10.30am there is worship in the school hall where a warm and welcoming space is created for all ages to worship. There is a crèche for little ones and activities for children of all ages. On 10th November everyone will worship together with activities for all ages.

Other Activities

Friday 8th November **Messy Church** St Helen's Church 4-6pm
Praise and Play Every Friday from 9.30am onwards Oliver Bird Hall

(Term time only)

Oasis Tuesdays 9.15- 10.15am Oliver Bird Hall

Little Treasures Wednesdays at 1.15pm Oliver Bird Hall



Bag a Book this Christmas!

This year we will be supporting the Children's Storehouse Christmas campaign (part of the Jubilee Solihull Community Trust). Each year the aim is to clothe 500 children in need and they love to give extras like toys and books. This year they would love our support to help make this happen by collecting lots of books for children and young people of all ages.

Please support this campaign by bringing a book or a set of books to the Junction or the St Alphege church building on either the 17 or 24 November.



OASIS



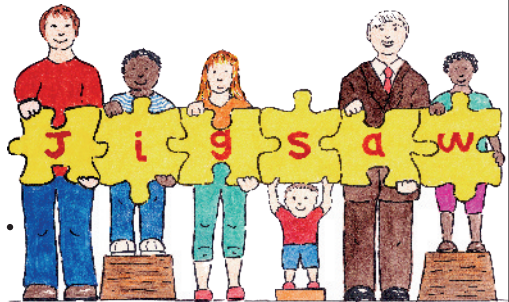
A warm and welcoming space for parents and Carers to meet each week for friendship and support, to share a cuppa and talk about love, life and faith.

We'll provide toys for the children to play with, while you enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, posh biscuits and a friendly chat with other parents.

Tuesday mornings from 9.15am-10.15am in the Main Hall of the Oliver Bird Hall

For more information contact Linda Hicks l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk


We'd love you
to be part of ...




A time to get together with others to explore a Bible story in lots of different ways. to sing and pray to God and to have tea together. It's for everyone and we we hope it will be for you!

Why not give it a try and find out?

Do come along to the next session of Jigsaw at St Helen's Church. St Helen's Road (off Buryfield Road) Solihull B91 2DA
on Sunday 17th November at 4pm



Prams to Preschool - Praise and Play



Every Friday in the main Hall of the Oliver Bird Hall from 9.30am. A time of fun and fellowship for all.

Come along and chat, play, eat biscuits, sing action songs, explore a bible story.

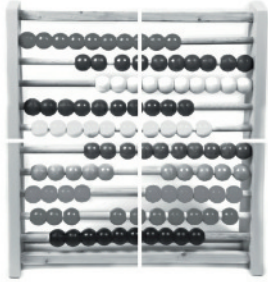


No need to book but if you want to know more ring Linda on 0121 270 7390 or 07838 670772



It's Messy Church at St Helen's on Friday 8 November 4-6pm. Lots of creative activities and a hot family friendly meal to finish. £2 per person, max £7 per family.

Contact Linda on 0121 270 7390 or 07838 670772 or e mail l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk to book a place or for more info.



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Youth Stuff

Sat Nov	2 nd	Churchyard tidy-up Followed by Film Club	1pm-4pm St Alphege Churchyard (any youth helping will get dinner). Film club 5pm-7.30pm Youth Room.
Sun Nov	3 rd	Revive-Youth at St Michael	10.30am St Michael - Breakfast club (Sharmans Cross School)
Mon Nov	4 th	Relax -Our fellowship group for all year 9+	7-9pm Youth Room
Wed Nov	6 th	Junior Refresh -Bible based activity group for years 6, 7 and 8	Group 1 - 6.30-7.30pm Group 2 - 7.30-8.30pm; Youth Room
Fri Nov	8 th	Reflect Youth Session	6pm-7.30pm Fun, Games, Pizza and Reflection. In the Youth Room
Sun Nov	10 th	Revive-Youth at St Alphege	9.15am St Alphege (arrive by 9.00am, if you can, for sidesperson duties)
Mon Nov	11 th	Relax -Our fellowship group for all year 9+	7-9pm Youth Room
Wed Nov	13 th	Refresh -Bible based activity group for years 9+	7.30-8.45pm Youth Room Confirmation session (Rev Dr Sam Gibson)
Fri Nov	15 th -	NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES Joe away at youth work conference	
Sun Nov	17 th		
Mon Nov	18 th	Relax -Our fellowship group for all year 9+	7-9pm Youth room
Wed Nov	20 th	Junior Refresh -Bible based activity group for years 6, 7 and 8	Group 1 - 6.30-7.30pm Group 2 - 7.30-8.30pm; Youth Room
Fri Nov	22 nd	Reflect Youth Session	6pm-7.30pm Fun, Games, Pizza and Reflection. In the Youth Room
Sun Nov	24 th	Revive-Youth at St Helen's	10am St Helen Youth Hall
Mon Nov	25 th	Relax -Our fellowship group for all year 9+	7-9pm Youth Room
Wed Nov	27 th	Refresh -Bible based activity group for years 9+	7.30-8.45pm Youth Room
Fri Nov	29 th	Reflect Youth Session	6pm-7.30pm Fun, Games, Pizza and Reflection. In the Youth Room

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Remembrance Sunday

For the past five years, we have been marking centenary anniversaries of particular historical events concerning the First World War.

1919 marks the creation of the League of Nations. Following the conclusion of hostilities at the end of the First World War, the warring factions met at the Palace of Versailles near Paris in 1919 to formally end the war. A confirmed isolationist at the beginning of the war, President Woodrow Wilson had by now become an ardent champion of internationalism.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson had issued a 14-point statement which included the ending of secret alliances between countries; the open use of the seas; open trade between countries; a reduction of armaments; reviewing the needs of colonial peoples and the establishing of an international organisation which would be responsible for helping to keep peace among the nations. Guided by this 14-point statement, Wilson and his allies sought a lasting peace enforced by what he called the League of Nations, a forerunner to the United Nations of today. Wilson made the League's establishment a priority of the Paris Peace Conference.



The Treaty of Versailles, signed on July 25, 1919, imposed strict penalties on Germany and forced it to accept full responsibility for starting the war. Germany was not only forced to demilitarize but also cede territory to France and Poland and pay billions in reparations. Similar penalties were also imposed on Austria-Hungary in separate negotiations.

Ironically, the U.S. was not a member of the League of Nations; the US Senate rejected its participation. Instead, the U.S. embraced a policy of isolationism that would dominate foreign policy in the 1920s. The harsh penalties imposed on Germany, meanwhile, would later give rise to radical political movements in that nation, including Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party.

The League of Nations ceased its activities after failing to prevent the Second World War and the United Nations came into being during and after the Second World War. Although the League of Nations ultimately proved to lack the "teeth" required to stop the Second World War, it had laid the foundations underlining the need for nations to come together and set out charters and treaties to try to avoid/manage conflict.

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Hilary Soper – a Tribute

At St Michael's we were all very saddened to learn of the death of Hilary. Hilary with husband Robin joined St Michael's about 50 years ago and had been a very dedicated and loyal member throughout that time. Very early on Hilary took on the role of Sunday School Superintendent (as it was then known). Then we had a very large group of children divided into several classes. Hilary was very organised and dedicated in this very demanding role. Under her guidance the Sunday School flourished and grew.

She was a long-standing member of St Michael's DCC. When Robin was elected as Parish Warden, Hilary was always very supportive as he travelled to the district churches on Sundays.

Hilary with Robin hosted many very enjoyable social evenings which helped to reinforce St Michael's fellowship. These events usually involved food and drink (a common theme at St Michael's!!) and often a difficult but enjoyable quiz masterminded by Robin.

Over the last couple of years Hilary really struggled with acute hearing loss which made communication difficult, but she still managed to attend services until very recently. She died following a fall and a period in hospital and respite care.

She was a great friend and committed Christian who will be greatly missed.

Paul Smith



St Alphege Pre-School

We welcome you to apply for a Pre-School place for children who will turn 3 in the academic year beginning September 2020. The closing date for applications is 31st January 2020. Application Form and Admissions Policy are available online (paper copies can be requested). St. Alphege Pre-School offers highly experienced and qualified staff. The last Ofsted Inspection result rated us 'Outstanding'.

Little Treasures (baby, toddler and pre-school age)

Wednesday afternoons in the OBH : 1.15pm until 2.30pm. Children accompanied by parent/carer. Drop-in session, no need to book, just turn up!

2's Group (in the term a child reaches age two)

Monday mornings (3 in 4 per month) in the OBH : 10.00am until 11.30am. Children accompanied by parent/carer. Drop-in session, no need to book, just turn up! Activities aimed at children who are 2 years old or who will be approaching 2 years old.

Further information available : www.stalphege-preschool.org.uk or email Pre-School Manager, Meryl Homer : manager@stalphege-preschool.org.uk



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Calendar and Prayer Intentions for November

1	All Saints' Day	The three churches of our parish	Stoneleigh Road
2	All Souls' Day	Those whom we have loved and lost	Stoneythorpe Close
3	4th Sunday before Advent/All Saints	The New Door service at St Alphege	Stonor Park Road
4	Feria	Staff, patients and volunteers of the Marie Curie hospice	Streetsbrook Road
5	Feria	Those who lead children's groups in our three churches	Tanwood Close
6	St Leonard	Those in prison and their families	The Crescent
7	Willibrord of York, Bishop	Those participating in the parish 'Just Explore' course	The Hermitage
8	Saints & Martyrs of England	Those suffering for their faith	The Square
9	Margery Kempe, Mystic	Members of religious communities	Thornby Avenue
10	Remembrance Sunday	Those who have given their lives in conflict	Thorngrove Avenue
11	Martin, Bishop of Tours	Those serving in the armed forces	Thornhill Road
12	Feria	Our Parish Wardens, Deirdre and Neil	Tibberton Close
13	Charles Simeon, Priest	The work of the Church Mission Society	Timmins Close
14	Samuel Seabury, Bishop	The people and ministry of St Michael's	Touchwood Hall Close
15	Feria	Those who are looking for work	Union Close
16	Margaret, Queen of Scotland	Study and prayer groups in the parish	Union Road
17	Second Sunday before Advent	The people and ministry of St Alphege	Upwey Avenue
18	Elizabeth of Hungary, Philanthropist	Franciscan communities and members	Vulcan Road
19	Hilda, Abbess of Whitby	Those exploring religious vocations	Wadleys Road
20	Edmund, King & Martyr	The work of the Police Service	Walton Croft
21	Feria	Those caring for a family member who is ill	Warwick Grange
22	Cecilia, Martyr	Musicians, singers and choirs of our parish	Warwick Road
23	Clement, Bishop & Martyr	Our Archdeacon, Simon	Waverley Grove
24	Christ the King	The people and ministry of St Helen's	Welcombe Grove
25	Isaac Watts, Hymnwriter	Joe Cooper, Director of Music	Wellington Grove
26	Feria	Our new Pioneer Minister, Suzette Maguire	Westwood Grove
27	Feria	The work of Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness	Wharf Lane
28	Feria	The work of our Parish Church Council	Wherretts Well Lane
29	Intercession & Thanksgiving for Church Missionary Work	The Town Centre Chaplaincy	White Falcon Court
30	Andrew the Apostle	David & Anne, our Bishops	White House Close

The Church prays for the community daily: please include these topics in your personal daily prayers.

Let us Pray

Nov 7th: Just Explore 2019/20

Just Explore is a 10-week course for those who might have questions regarding matters of faith or belief, are new to the area or church, or might be thinking of getting more involved in the life of the church. Participants are invited on a journey of exploring some of the foundational aspects of our Christian faith.

Over the first 5 weeks, we unpack key aspects – the “why” and “what” we believe as Christians. We then take a 4-week break over Christmas, returning in the New Year to look at the “practice” and outworking of faith – our Christian life, worship, prayer, belonging and becoming an active member of the church community.

The course starts this month, with the first session on 7th November. Let us pray...

- for those considering joining the course, be they new to our area, to church (or perhaps the Church of England).
- that participants would feel welcomed and integrated into the life of the church.
- for the leaders – both lay and clergy – to faithfully reflect the tenets of what we, as Christians, believe.
- for lively and inspired discussions!
- that questions, beliefs or doubts may be challenged and settled.
- that lives will be impacted by the good news of a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- that the Holy Spirit will be ever present to enlighten our thoughts and discussions.
- for each of us as together we seek to live out our mission in *growing disciples, building community and transforming lives*

David Scheiby (for the Just Explore team)

Nov 26th: Suzette Maguire

Suzette, our new Pioneer Minister, will be licensed by Bishop Anne on Tuesday 26th November at 7.30pm in St Alphege.

In this new ministerial role, Suzette’s primary task will be working outside the established churches, building relationships with people who would rarely, if ever, come into our churches and in due course share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them.

Suzette will be a full member of the staff team across the Parish and I hope you will welcome her warmly.

Please remember Suzette and her husband David, in your prayers as they move and settle into Solihull. They will also welcome your continued prayers after 26th November as well!

Jane

Matters of Faith

Martin Tunnicliffe sees

Glimpses of the Divine

My father had a long and richly varied pastoral ministry in the Church of England. He would often share some of his experiences with the family. He had a lively sense of humour and we looked forward to his anecdotes about some of the people he came across.

I am writing this on All Saints Day which is why I am particularly remembering how my father would from time to time describe someone he knew as "a real saint." Such people often turned out to be very ordinary and simple folk who had impressed my father by their unselfishness, their concern for others, their uncomplaining acceptance of difficulty or pain. Most of his stories I have long forgotten, but I do recall very vividly a telling phrase he once came up with after an encounter with such a "saint". He paused a moment in his narrative, and then he said: "You know, there are some people you just cannot account for unless God exists."

Those are words that are worth pondering over. I hope we have all had the experience of having met someone in that category. I certainly have, and feel as a result that I have had a real glimpse of the kingdom of God. Here are two of them.

Mrs Williams

It is a good many years now since I met Mrs Williams. She spent a large proportion of her life immobile in Little Bromwich Hospital where I was part-time chaplain. At that time her condition required her to be encased in an iron lung, a tube-like contraption rather like a miniature submarine which enabled her to breathe. In the course of visiting, I got to know Mrs Williams quite well. As there was no chapel in the hospital at that time, she agreed that I could celebrate the Holy Communion alongside this iron lung before taking the Sacrament round to those patients who had requested it. It was the ideal place, simply because, although she had no formal Church connection, there was an indefinable holiness about Mrs Williams.

On one level, she seemed an entirely ordinary and unremarkable person. But I discovered that many of the more mobile patients, as well as members of the hospital staff, would go to chat with Mrs Williams when they were feeling fed up and depressed. "The place really gets me down sometimes," one nurse told me confidentially, "but when I get anxious and miserable I go and talk with Mrs Williams. She always cheers me up." I have to say that Mrs Williams had the same effect on me. My father would definitely have included her among his "real saints." A glimpse of the Divine!

Tracey

One other glimpse is worth sharing, again a hospital story from years ago but immovably fresh in the memory. It is a normal morning on the ward in the Children's Hospital, happily for once without any great traumas or emergencies having to be dealt with. The children are in their beds or cots, some quiet, some more boisterous and demanding. The doctors have done their rounds: the staff are about their regular duties.

Suddenly a small girl appears on the ward. She is about eight or nine and is clutching a fairly large bag. One of the nurses immediately recognises her. "Hullo Tracey! What are you doing here?" Tracey had been a patient on the ward a few weeks previously and she had been discharged as a matter of course when she was well enough to go home. I can't remember Tracey's response well enough to quote it: that doesn't matter. Sufficient to say that she told the nurse that, since she left the hospital, she had been saving up her pocket money and she had used it to buy presents for the other children. Whereupon she went round the ward with her bag, distributing small toys to each occupant of a bed or cot.

If that is not a glimpse of the Divine, I don't know what is! There are indeed some people you just cannot account for unless God exists.

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"See that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" [1 Peter 1.22]

I wonder how conscious we are of the presence of a recipient for the prayer we address to God; "No man has seen God at any time" [1 John 4.12], nor can ever do so. And He ought never to be a figment of the imagination. St John tells us that "God is a spirit" [John 4.24] whose presence can be felt.

St John thought "God is love" [1 John 4.8] "who dwelleth in us" [1 John 4.12], recognising a specific identity of God in that felt presence. As St Luke put it, "Neither shall they say; 'Lo here', or 'Lo there', for behold the kingdom of God is within you" [Luke 17,12]. That is the reality of the situation in our praying. "I thought to have the sense of God present, to feel His hand in mine. If I cannot, of what use am I?" (as an ordained minister of the Church).

We can know, and have contact with, God through our feelings of the love which He has given to us.

"Shall I tell you what I would like?" she whispered, "To take God's hand and show Him things. I'm certain He's not seen everything".

"My dear, what things you say"

"But He hasn't, and it's time He did. We'd creep and peep, and see it all for once, as He can't in His Churches"

[quotation from Galsworthy's novel of 1917-18, "Saint's Progress"].

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another" [1 John 4.12]. Everyone who knows such love, knows God. "If we love one another, His love is perfected in us, because He hath given us His Spirit" as its source. Such love is not to be confused with human affection. It is without discrimination, personal and social inhibition, having an equal respect for everyone, for anyone, all worthy of equal attention, requiring transformation of human affection in full recognition of difference.

The crucial factor is that loving another affords that person a priority of care and concern, in the denial of love for one's self; which would be safe in the hands of everyone else, in their love for me. Perhaps the kind of love referred to here is more a matter of care and concern anyway.

But St Peter's words are not limited to the personal intention to do all that is required of us with love, in all circumstances, giving ourselves with love for the activity itself; for those with whom we become involved, without regard for any personal attachment. The activity St Peter describes involves other people in a social situation wherein it can happen. And what he teaches moves into the social, political and economic spheres of life.

Fundamentally it involves relations with others individually, but also in groups – in formal associations – which following the 'individual' take upon themselves, act 'individually' with other societies. However, those societies acting individually in St Peter's terms, form village, town, city communities, and in turn the village, town, city bring their 'individuality' into counties, and nation states, themselves acting 'individually' in the sphere of the United Nations.

In other words, at all levels between the person and the world state, there is that single, firm back-bone of love for one another from the individual through communities, industries,

cultural groupings, nations and the world state, committed to the preservation and peace of its very life and existence. What St Peter and St John expect from their teaching is the globalisation of its message.

Many of our politicians are respected and revered for their ready and direct involvement in matters of care and concern for their constituents, in both personal and communal matters. Compare that with some of the actions of Government – e.g. (from T.L.S., August 2nd 2019): “Theresa May announced the intention to use the Immigration Act of 2014 to create a ‘really hostile environment for illegal immigrants’. The 2016 Immigration Act further intensified that hostility, with its root-and-branch foreclosure on anything like a liveable life”. Present life is overcrowded with this disparity not to warrant further reference.

The Church of England has raised its opposition to Wayne Rooney’s recent investments. That is a miniscule intervention compared to the need of a united Religious stance on the whole social, political, and economic businesses of the peoples in the world’s nations. Surely the scandal of the footballer’s income in the society of homeless people sleeping on the streets of our cities, in increasing numbers, the expanding growth in Food Banks, should shame us all in the roots of our being?

There can be no solution to inter-nation conflict, no world peace, no end to the “sustained systematic and brutal assault on every aspect of the life of individual vulnerable people” until in the private, and public and corporate life of each one of us we “love one another with a pure heart, fervently’.

Jeffery Babb



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For Your Diary



- Thur 7th Nov 1.30pm in the O.B.H. A talk on *Local History* by Joy Woodhall.
- Thur 21st Nov 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist* followed by coffee in the vestry.
- Thur 5th Dec 1.00pm in the O.B.H.
Lunch followed at 2pm by *Advent Meditation with Fr Simon*.
- Thur 19th Dec 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist* followed by coffee in the vestry.
Everyone is welcome to come to our meetings - you don't have to be a member.
Lifts are available to most events - phone 705 8761 or 270 6132

WIVES' FELLOWSHIP

We are a women's group who meet monthly at different venues.
We warmly welcome visitors at our various activities.

- Tues 12th Nov Fellowship Walk in Dorridge Park
10.30am Meet at Arden Road Car Park (usual place)
12.30pm Lunch at Railway Pub
- Tues 10th Dec Fellowship Walk in Hillfield Park
10.30am Meet at Brick Kiln Lane Car Park
12.30pm Lunch at Drum & Monkey Pub
- Fri 13th Dec 12.30pm Christmas Lunch at West Midlands Bridge Club

For further details contact Carol Caldicott - 0121 705 3168.

Second Saturday @ St Alphege

Breakfast & Bible Study

The Second Saturday group meets on the second Saturday of every month between 10am and 11am in St Alphege church building. We share a simple breakfast before opening up Scripture together. All ages and generations are welcome. Children are catered for with food, drink and a simple activity.

Second Saturday Bible study dates for the next couple of months are 9th November and 14th December. Why not join us? You don't need to know anything beforehand or prepare anything. For more info contact me at solihullcurate@gmail.com

Sam

Women's Theology Groups *Meeting • Discussing • Praying • Supporting*

The Women's Theology Groups are safe spaces for exploration, discussion and even disagreement! We have studied a range of passages relating to women in the Bible, and have been exploring what it means to be a woman and a disciple in our own lives. More information can be found in the report on page 7.

Our meetings in November and December are on:

- November: Thursday 7th/Friday 8th; Thursday 21st/Friday 22nd
- December: Thursday 5th/Friday 6th

Our three groups meet on:

- Thursdays 1pm (note change of time), 'The Core café (at Solihull Library)
- Thursdays 7.30pm, Room 5, OBH
- Friday 10am, 'The Core café (at Solihull Library)

For more information do contact me (chachagibson@gmail.com or 0121 709 0668), I would be delighted for more people to join us!

Charlotte Gibson

Christian Men Together

Our Saturday breakfast meeting with Bob Telford that had been scheduled for 2nd November has been postponed to Saturday January 11th. This is because The Rugby World Cup Final is being played at 9am on 2nd November – meaning that the pub will be full so it would be very hard for us to function properly, and also possibly leading to a diary conflict for those of you wanting to watch the match.

So the next meeting will now be to go Ten Pin Bowling followed by a meal on Friday evening **29th November**. More details to come.

We look forward to seeing as many men as possible at these events. For more details and to book in - let me know – arwilliams399@gmail.com. Do come and join us and bring friends.

Andrew Williams

St Alphege

Deputy Warden:	Chris Thorp, 29 Dovedale Avenue	243 4340
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Pro Warden:	Linda La Roche, 66 Church Hill Road	704 2282
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Readers:	Beryl Moppett	705 0337
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Church Office	(Tue & Fri 1.30pm-4.30pm)	704 2878
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Hall Bookings:	Jeremy Eade, solomere@aol.com	706 3831

St Michael

Deputy Warden:	Keith Wilson	778 2295
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The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of *Solihull Parish News* or of *Solihull Parish*.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE DECEMBER EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS

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