

SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS



TEAM CHURCHES

St ALPHEGE - The Square, Solihull B91 3RQ
St HELEN - St Helen's Road, Solihull B91 2DA
St MICHAEL - Bryanston Road, Solihull B91 1BS



Sunday services are:-

St Alphege

8.00 am Said Holy Communion
10.30 am Sung Eucharist except:
Second Sunday - 9.15 am All Age Eucharist and 11.00 am Sung Eucharist *
5.00 pm Sung Evensong

*November 11.00am is the Civic Remembrance Service

The Junction

9.15 am - on zoom until Half Term and then hopefully in person

From November - Second Sunday - join All Age Eucharist in St Alphege

St Helen

10.00 am Eucharist

St Michael at Sharmans Cross School from 3rd October

10.30 am Eucharist

Friday

9.30 a.m. **Praise and Play** – please e-mail: I.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk

Full details available on the homepage of our parish website at: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>

Please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office if you need any support or advice. It is always a pleasure to talk to you.

The Revd Simon Marshall
The Revd. Sue Chandler

WEDDING AND BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

Please contact the Parish Office:

office@solihullparish.org.uk

0121 705 5350

**If you need help of any kind, please
do phone the pastoral care helpline:
0121 661 6343.**

One of us is on duty each day.

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Visit our Website

www.solihullparish.org.uk

Want to email the Editor?

parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk

Cover picture

**'A Commonwealth War Graves
Commission Memorial'**

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Editorial

Dear Friends

It is very hard to believe that we are now in November and the year 2021 is coming to a close. November is a busy time of the year for the Church, beginning as it does with All Saints' Day, when we reflect on those who have served God and God's people down the ages. On the 2nd of the month, we have the commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) and there will be two services this year on 2nd November at 7.30 p.m. in St. Alphege Church, and on the 7th November at 5.00 pm, also in St. Alphege Church.

The 14th November is Remembrance Sunday as we remember and give thanks for the lives of the members of our armed forces and the armed forces of the Commonwealth who died serving their countries. It is hoped that this year the usual service will be able to take place at the Solihull War Memorial, following last year's much smaller service.

On 21st November we celebrate Christ the King, when we remember that Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father and is indeed glorified as Lord and King. Christ the King brings to an end the Church's Year as we look forward to the season of Advent and the beginning of a new Church Year.

Sunday 28th November is Advent Sunday. And we are blessed this year to welcome Bishop David to the 10.30 a.m. service in St. Alphege Church. Bishop David will preside and preach, and we will celebrate the Confirmation of people from across the Deanery, some of whom have had a very long wait for this service. So please do hold them in your prayers on that day. It seems very appropriate that the confirmands will receive the Body and Blood of our Lord for the first time, taking a new step in their lives as Christians, as the Church moves forward into a new liturgical year.

The word Advent is taken from the Latin *Adventus*, which simply means coming. So we are reminded that this season is not just about the coming into the world of the Christ Child, but the second coming of Jesus Christ and all that that means for us as Christians. It is a time for looking forward, and a time for looking back. A time for inward reflection and prayer, as we look towards the birth of Jesus Christ, but also contemplate our own actions in the Church Year which we have just left behind. It is a penitential season when Christians take stock and inwardly reflect upon their lives and their discipleship. A busy month indeed!

The turning of the Church Year also reminds us to look forward, and to contemplate what is to come in the year to follow. Of course, we will soon be celebrating the great Christian feast of Christmas. And we very much hope and pray that this year that wonderful day will be a chance for many more families and loved ones to come together to celebrate the birth of our Lord than last year. Perhaps this Church Year will see the arrival of our new Rector, and all of the exciting possibilities for the Parish which this will open up for us.

So please, in this busy season, remember to continue to pray that God will send us a wise shepherd who will help us to grow and to continue to reach out into our community with the message of God's love for all. And pray especially for wisdom and guidance for those who are tasked with the job of putting together our parish profile and ultimately, deciding who we will welcome as our new Rector.

God bless you all.

Sue.

The Revd. Sue Chandler

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The Churchyard at St Alphege Church

I am sure that we have all noticed a change over the years concerning the widening area between the places where our families or relatives now live, be it parents, siblings or children. Solihull is no different to many other towns in this respect.

I originally came to Birmingham to study in the late sixties and never left the immediate area. My father was born in London, within the sound of Bow Bells as he liked to remind us, and my mother in Wolverton. After much travelling with the Royal Air Force they moved to Hampshire and are buried in a small cemetery in the New Forest outside Lyndhurst. I visit their grave when passing but have to say that this is infrequent. However I am always pleased to see that fortunately the cemetery is well looked after with grass cut, trees pruned and flower beds tended. I always feel grateful every time I see this and give a short prayer of thanks for the unknown people who carry out this work. It is a relaxing and lovely setting in which to spend a rare short time in remembrance.

Being a member of the Church and Churchyard committee I often see and speak to visitors in our own churchyard, who express the same feelings and their gratitude for the way we maintain it. They sometimes apologise as they are not in a position to be able to help or contribute to the work we carry out. Occasionally we are forwarded an e-mail or message via the Parish Office from relatives living some distance away after visiting family graves. These are usually complimentary about the churchyard and may include a donation or sometimes enquiring if they can help by providing any item we may need.

One such offer was from Mrs. Hewitt, following a visit to attend the interment of her mother's ashes in her father's grave. Hence some of you may have noticed a new smart wheelbarrow with a yellow (puncture proof) tyre which has recently appeared. We have also acquired a much better set of basic tools in terms of brushes, dustpans, leaf rakes etc.

You may not have any relatives in our churchyard or even have been a long term resident of Solihull but -

can you help on Saturday 6th November for an hour between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

at the last churchyard tidy-up session of the year? Specifically this is where we collect up all of the year's fallen leaves to leave the churchyard in a safe state for the outside Remembrance Day service at the war memorial. In previous years we have collected up over 150 black bags of leaves, all of which have been recycled on a local set of allotments. The quantity of leaves that are collected up is in direct proportion to the number of volunteers who turn up to help on the day!

There are tasks to suit all ages and families with children are especially welcome to attend. The children generally have great fun playing with the leaves! We have lots of plastic rakes, brooms, bags etc. Refreshments are provided for all ages. **No booking required!**

Details/further information:

Michael Rumball 0121 711 1726

Solihull Parish News moves to Full Colour

Some of you may have noticed in the last edition of this magazine that it has been decided that the magazine will be printed in high quality full colour from January next year, with a sample colour version in December this year. This will improve the appearance for our readers and advertisers, but has two side effects.

Firstly, printing in colour takes a little longer than printing in monochrome, because the print process used would now be high quality offset lithography. This involves making printing plates, is highly automated and involves expensive printing presses; consequently, our printers, Prontaprint, can't do this on site. This means that we now have to let our printers have the magazine several days earlier than usual, in order to ensure that it is always in church before the first Sunday of the month. This means that there is little leeway on the copy deadline and contributors **must** please let the editor have their copy by the deadline stated at the bottom of the last page under **Parish News Contacts**, or else it may not be published.

Secondly, moving to colour means that we have to use a higher quality paper, which is both recycled and recyclable, but costs bit more as it is a little heavier. This may affect the costs for postal deliveries. I was searching the archives and the last time the magazine cover price changed was in January 2004, when it increased from 40p to 50p. That was a very long time ago and all our costs have risen considerably since then and with some regret the cover price no longer covers the printing costs, even though the magazine still makes a contribution to church funds through advertising. It has therefore been decided that as from January 2022 the cover price will be **£1.00** as this is in line with similar magazines in other parishes.

Carol Southworth
Roger Edwards

Harvest Lunch 10th October 2021

On Sunday 10th October, following our Harvest Festival service at St Alphege, which also welcomed several young people to their first communion, we were finally able to meet for a Bring and Share Harvest Lunch.

Some 20 people met in Room 1 of the OBH to enjoy the company of others from church for the first time in over 18 months. Mothers' Union members assisted with organisation on the day and with all the contributions from everyone, it was a delight to be able to come together again. During the meal, the opportunity was taken to have a quiz on the effects of Climate Change, to stimulate thoughts about what it means to us as individuals. (COP26 will be taking place at the beginning of November). We had a lovely afternoon and hope that it will not be too long until other such events can take place again.

Rachael Linstead

Solihull War Memorial

After the end of the First World War it was decided that Solihull should have a War Memorial in the centre of The Square to commemorate those from the town who had given their lives in the conflict. The Memorial was designed by the architect W.H. Bidlake and unveiled on 19th June 1921, a century ago this year. It was unveiled by William, 4th Earl of Craven, who was Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire and a Liberal politician; he died very shortly afterwards on 10th July. The Memorial was dedicated by the Bishop of Birmingham, Dr. Adolphus Bernays read the names of the fallen, a firing party fired three volleys and the Last Post was sounded. Subsequently the names of those who died in the Second World War and the Korean War were added to the Memorial. In 1994 The Square was altered and

the War Memorial moved to the side, so that it was no longer a roundabout but still has plenty of room for people to gather around it for the annual service on Remembrance Sunday.

The photograph, courtesy of The Core, shows the dedication of the Memorial on 19th June, 1921, with the Choir of St. Alphege in attendance. The second picture is of the Memorial after a recent Remembrance Service.



Carol Southworth

Contributing to the Solihull Parish News

As mentioned elsewhere, this magazine will be printed in high quality full colour as from December. This is a slower process which means your editors have less time to put the magazine together and consequently it would be very helpful if contributors could send their copy in a format that we can use directly. Contributions are usually a mix of text, pictures and sometimes tables, all of which are handled differently by the Desk Top Publishing Package (DTP) that we use to produce the magazine.

Text can be accepted in more or less any text file format, but "Word" is the most usual. Please use only essential formatting, as we reformat the copy to fit the space available. Do **not** include pictures or tables, other than if necessary to show the required position.

Pictures should be sent separately as high resolution files in a picture format such as .jpg or similar, direct from your camera. These are usually greater than 1MB for a suitable quality picture. Please **do not** embed the pictures in an email or "Word" document, as these are often highly compressed to minimise file size and are of poor quality. Please send them as an **attachment** to an email. If you have too many pictures to send in one email, then send them as several emails.

Tables. Our DTP does not handle "Word" tables very well and it is therefore helpful if you can send them as a separate document as a spreadsheet in Excel so similar format.

Roger Edwards

Parish Wardens' Update

Sunday services have now settled into their new pattern. St Michael's have started services again with good attendance at Sharmans Cross School, with grateful thanks to St Helen's for their hospitality over the last 18 months and St. Helen's services are continuing with good attendances too. At St. Alphege attendances have been high at all the morning services. Bookings are picking up for the O.B.H. and it is lovely to see groups around the Parish returning to meet in person.

Some special events are also returning this November in all our congregations: The *All Souls' Eucharist*, will take place on Tuesday 2nd November, the *New Door Service* will be on Sunday 7th November, and the *Remembrance Sunday* service around the War Memorial, followed by the Civic Service in St. Alphege will take place on 14th November. Bishop David will be in attendance on Advent Sunday 28th November to conduct the *Deanery Confirmation Service* in St. Alphege. We look forward to welcoming many visitors and their families to this service at 10.30 a.m. All of these services are for the whole Parish; details are in this magazine. The *Junction* is hoping to start to meet in person in November.

The parish-wide consultation responses show that there is a great deal of appreciation of all that our clergy and lay ministers are doing, and for the variety of liturgy across the Parish. Sadly, though, there are many references to the need for unity and healing across the parish, the need to work more closely together as a parish, and the unwillingness of some to accept change. With this in mind, our Area Dean, the Revd. Nick Parker, is co-ordinating a service to be held on Sunday 21st November at 5.00 p.m., called *One Light, One Vision*, which will be held at St. Alphege Junior School. Please do support this if you possibly can, to show your willingness to work together and to move forward in unity as a Parish. It would be lovely if the Hall was packed! It will be followed by tea and cakes. Details are in a separate notice.

Whilst we recognise that the majority of our employees and volunteers act impeccably and treat each other with dignity and respect, we have found it necessary to clarify the expected standards. The P.C.C. has approved a new Code of Conduct for Employees and a Code of Behaviour for Volunteers and church group members. These can be found in the cloud files on Churchbuilder.

We are delighted to report the appointment of Christopher Martin Thomas as our new Director of Music and Organist at St. Alphege and look forward to welcoming him in mid-November. There is an article from Chris elsewhere in this magazine.

We would also like to announce Project Turnaround which has been discussed by the P.C.C. and St. Alphege D.C.C. This is an exciting plan of two parts: (1) to re-organise the interior of St. Alphege Church so that it is a space that can be used flexibly for 7 days a week and be more accommodating for visitors and (2) to refurbish the O.B.H. into a much more accessible and welcoming Parish Centre for the whole Parish. The P.C.C. has agreed to the commissioning of plans to see what is possible, and we are very grateful to Andy Halstead for offering to 'Project Manage' this stage. We hope to bring you lots more news about this in the coming months.

Thank you to all of you for your continuing support, and for everything you do towards our services, in stewardship, in financial giving, and in offering your skills and talents. We really appreciate it. Please keep praying for the Parish as a whole and our Mission to mediate our Good News to all the Parish.

Pam Price and Andrew Williams
October 2021

New Dorridge Church Doors Open after 140 years in the planning

Dorridge recently saw the opening of a superb, brand-new, purpose-built church in the heart of the local community.

Funded by parishioners and loans, over £4m was raised to replace the existing St. Philip's church buildings, first built in 1878, which engineers deemed unfit for purpose because of crumbling Victorian foundations.

Keir Construction, with local supply partners, have worked throughout the Covid19 pandemic to complete the 'A' rated environmentally friendly building to budget and on schedule.



At the centre of the new building is a unique glass spire. Highly skilled engineering and precision crane fitting were required to complete the installation safely. With acoustic design and retaining the original stained-glass window, the worship space can accommodate up to 400 people; it is complete with in-built baptistry, surround-sound system, wifi and service streaming.



Vicar of Dorridge and Bentley Heath, the **Revd. Canon Duncan Hill-Brown** said: *"It's taken years of planning, fundraising and hard work to reach this opening ceremony. I'm thrilled at all that's been achieved, with a magnificent church and community facility in the heart of Dorridge and Bentley Heath. We welcome local residents to come and see for themselves all that's going on and join with us in worship and community life."*

In excess of 2500 people attended a specially arranged Open Day held on Saturday 4th September. Those who visited were most impressed with the design and serenity of the worship space, the provision of other rooms and all the facilities and technical equipment

The new St. Philip's church and associated rooms will provide excellent amenities for the area. There will be a church for worship in the heart of the local area and a building which can serve the local community by providing a sports hall, creche, youth room, catering kitchen and meeting / activity rooms. The main auditorium is a multi-use 400+ seat facility, with acoustics designed by the same team that designed the Birmingham Conservatoire. Additionally materials and labour have all been sourced locally, injecting much needed capital into the local economy as well as providing vital skilled employment throughout the pandemic. Waste was minimised as bricks and rubble from the former church building were

Roundabout

re-purposed for use in the foundations of the new building. Hardwood for the huge internal beams is from sustainable forest sources. All materials have been sourced from environmentally friendly suppliers.

The new building was dedicated by The Right Reverend David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, in a ceremony held on Sunday 5th September 2021 in the presence of a large congregation.

The building of this new church is a wonderful achievement which will not only be a centre for the worship of God but will also serve the needs of the church family and



Left to Right Rev'd Canon Jenny Tomlinson Archdeacon of Birmingham, Right Reverend David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, Rev'd Canon Duncan Hill-Brown Vicar of Dorridge & Bentley Heath

the wider needs of the whole community of the local area.

60th Anniversary of Fr. John Bradford's Ordination

On 26th September, the Sunday nearest St. Michael's Day, Fr. John celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination by the Bishop of Bath and Wells at Michaelmas 1961. To mark the occasion Fr. John presided at the Eucharist at St. Alphege and also preached. It was a joyful occasion. The choir sang Stanford's B flat Communion Service and the beautiful anthem, "The Lord is my Shepherd" by Howard Goodall. Fr. Andrew Hutchinson led the Intercessions. As requested by a number of people, the text of Fr. John's sermon is printed on page 36.

After the service St. Alphege Deputy Warden Susan Gomm presented Fr. John with a card signed by many of the congregation, a bottle of Champagne, some special chocolates and a beautiful bouquet of flowers for his wife Marion. He thanked the Parish for their gifts and good wishes and for making him welcome for over 50 years.



Let us Pray

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for September 2021

1	All Saints Day	For all the saints who have served God.	Bramcote Drive
2	All Souls Day	For those who have died in the faith and for those who mourn.	Brandon Road
3	Richard Hooker, Priest	For all who minister in the church.	Branthill Croft
4		Those who work at diocesan office.	Brick Kiln Lane
5		For those attending the COP 26 conference in Glasgow.	Broad Oaks Road
6		For all who live in religious orders.	Broomfields Avenue
7		For the work of Deanery synod.	Broomfields Close
8		For all who have died for and continue to die for their faith.	Broomfields Farm Road
9		For the music department of St. Alphege church and those who play at St. Helens and St. Michaels.	Brown's Coppice Avenue
10		For children's work in the parish.	Brueton Avenue
11		For youth work in the parish.	Bryanston Road
12		The Revd. Simon Marshall	Bufferys Close
13		Our church and parish wardens.	Buryfield Road
14		For those who have died in wars throughout history.	Bushell Drive
15		St. Alphege pre school.	Bushley Croft
16		The schools in our parish.	Caldwell Grove
17		Shop workers in Solihull during the continuing pandemic.	Cambridge Avenue
18		For our bishops.	Catherine's Close
19		For all cathedral staff.	Cedarhurst
20		For health workers.	Chadbury Croft
21	Christ the King.	For obedience to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.	Chadley Close
22		For the work of all charities.	Chalgrove Crescent
23		For the work of the United Nations.	Charterhouse Drive
24		For those in hospital.	Chauson Grove
25		For those who work in prisons.	Chelthorn Way
26		Work of Christians against poverty.	Cheltondale Road
27		God's strength in times of challenge and pain.	Chelveston Crescent
28	Advent Sunday	For guidance and wisdom in our prayers and reflections in this season.	Cherrington Way
29		For the missionary work of the church.	Cherrywood Crescent
30	Andrew the Apostle	For all who follow Christ.	Chesterton Close

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

From the St Alphege Register

Baptisms

17 th October	Harper Hamill
31 st October	Esme Rose Clarke
7 th November	Imogen Eve Hodges
14 th November	Kasper Vergo
21 st November	Millie Carlton
28 th November	Ada Grace Jackman

First Communicants

Arthur William Freeth
Evan Harris
Rory William Hewitson
Alexa Grace Iles
Daniel Joseph Lee
Ruby Violet Lightwood

William John Medicott
Laura Jane Pannett
Jasper Michael Leslie Toal
Isobel Catrin
Liangde (William) Lan

Weddings

None

Funerals

21st October Samuel Oji

Interment

None

Memorial Service

None

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in November

Norman Jewers
William Tew
Joan Watts
Leslie Starbuck
Pat Sharrock
Margaret Harris
Peter Cooper

Mabel Campkin
Frank Wright
Peter Herd
Alexander Herd
Gordon Ross
Frederick Fowler
Arthur Middleton

Joan Freeth
Dennis Tate
Rachel Scarff
Sydney Flood
Alan Clarke
Lawrie Andrew

Worship Notes for November 2021

November is a busy month in the Church's calendar, beginning as it does with All Saints day on 1st November. All Saints Day will have been celebrated in church on the previous Sunday (31st October 2021).

All Saints Day is, of course, followed by the All Souls services when we come together to remember loved ones who have died. This year's services will be as follows:-

Tuesday 2nd November 2021

St. Alphege	7.30 p.m.	Requiem Eucharist	All Souls
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Sunday 7th November 2021

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	24 th After Pentecost
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Service (New Door)	All Souls
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist	
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist	

The following Sunday is, of course, Remembrance Sunday. At the moment what we hear from the council is that it is envisaged that the Civic Service will go ahead as usual. If we hear differently we will post updates on the Parish Website, so please do continue to check in on this. The only service which may be changed that day will be the Civic Service, all other services will happen as below.

Unless we hear differently from Solihull Council the services are as follows:-

Sunday 14th November 2021

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	25 th After Pentecost
St. Alphege	9.15 a.m.	All Age Eucharist	Remembrance Sunday
St. Alphege	10.45 a.m.	Civic Service	
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong	
St. Helen	0.00 a.m.	Eucharist	
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	All Age	

On the 21st November we celebrate Christ the King.

Services that day will be as follows:-

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Christ the King
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong	
St. Helen	10 a.m.	All-Age	Morning Prayer
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist	

The 28th November is, of course, Advent Sunday and at the 10.30 a.m. morning service in St. Alphege we welcome Bishop David to preside at the Eucharist and to confirm people from across our deanery. In the evening there will be an Advent carol service at 5.00 p.m.

The services that day will be as follows:-

Sunday 28th November 2021

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Advent
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Deanery Confirmations
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Advent Carols	
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist	
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist	

Sunday Worship at St Alphege Church

The pattern of services will be as published inside the front cover, with these additions and themes:

November

Tuesday 2 nd November	7.30 p.m.	All Souls Eucharist
Sunday 7 th November	5.00 p.m.	Parish and New Door Service of Remembrance
Sunday 14 th November	9.15 a.m.	All Age Eucharist – Remembrance
	10.45 a.m.	Civic Service – Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 21 st November	5.00 p.m.	One Vision – Parish Service followed by supper at St Alphege Junior School (No evensong at St Alphege Church)
Sunday 28 th November	10.30 a.m.	Deanery Confirmation with Bishop David
	5.00 p.m.	Advent Carol Service

December

Sunday 12 th December	9.15 a.m.	All Age Eucharist – Christingle
Sunday 19 th December	5.00 p.m.	Nine Lessons and Carols
Friday 24 th December	3.00 p.m.	Crib Service
	4.15 p.m.	Crib Service
	11.00 p.m.	Midnight Mass preceded by Carol Singing
Saturday 25 th December	8.00 a.m.	Christmas Day Said Eucharist
	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Sung Eucharist
Sunday 26 th December	10.30 a.m.	Said Eucharist with hymns
		This will be the only service in the Parish on this day

January 2022

Saturday 1 st January	No services
Sunday 2 nd January	Services at usual times – choir holiday.



Live and streamed services are being held at St Alphege's, St Michael's and St Helen's churches. Details are inside the front cover of this magazine and on the Parish Website.

<https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>



The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church

GUARDIANS FLOODLIGHTING

The Guardians 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 21 days notice.

Names are published in the Parish magazine and acknowledged with a card sent to the donor.

It may be possible to have the Church floodlit at short notice but it will not be published in the Parish News until a later date.

For further information please contact the Scheme organiser:-

Sheila Payne, 0121 706 0520 or email: russellpayne110@aol.com

The Church was floodlit to remember the following:

5 th October	John Mason. Wishing you all the best. Many happy returns on your 70 th Birthday.
7 th October	Royal Marine Ashley Hicks. Your love and laughter will live on in our hearts.
7 th October	Leonard George Vernon. 7 th October 1926 – 11 th August 2015. Much loved by all the family and remembered with love from his wife Betty.
8 th October	In loving memory of Richard John Hampson.
11 th October	To celebrate the birth of Giles William Blackburn to Benn and Nadine. A great grandson for Gerald.
17 th October	Leonard Kidner. Remembering you on your birthday.
19 th October	In loving memory of Nicole Potts on her birthday.
21 st October	In loving memory of Gwen Mullis on her birthday.
23 rd October	In loving memory of my wife Alma Reah on this our wedding anniversary.
25 th October	Raymond Colston Horswill 02.02.1928 – 25.10.2008. Much loved by all who knew him. Devoted husband and father.
31 st October	In loving memory of Vivien Soden on her birthday.
31 st October	In loving memory of Nicola Blakeman.

Friends of St. Alphege Music

The Friends of St. Alphege Music will hold the 2021 A.G.M, on Thursday 4th November at 8 p.m. in St. Alphege Church.

F.o.S.A.M. is an independent registered charity founded over 40 years ago to support choral music in church and music education, primarily by supporting all the Choirs at St. Alphege and the Director of Music. The Friends contribute to the Organ Fund to help to keep the instrument in excellent condition, support the choristers by contributing to the costs of day or week-long trips to sing at cathedrals and important churches, fund Choral Scholars and support the Choirs' musical education in any way possible. F.o.S.A.M. raises money by organising events, in non-pandemic times, and by running the weekly Wednesday lunchtime recitals which are educational in the widest sense, giving opportunities to young performers, including our own choristers, as well as to excellent established performers and providing first-class live music in the centre of Solihull for anyone who wishes to attend.

Details from: **Carol Southworth** (Secretary) [south-1beam. @tiscali.co.uk](mailto:south-1beam.@tiscali.co.uk)
Isabel Baumber (Membership Secretary) isabelbaumber@btinternet.com

Special Parish Service on Sunday 21st November

'One Light One Vision' 5 p.m. at St. Alphege Junior School

All are welcome - indeed we hope for strong attendance from across our churches and across all age groups - and will plan accordingly.

The idea for this service emerged from our mission group for a special service for the whole Parish on neutral ground to seek afresh a united vision for our ministry and mission together. 21st November is Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Church's year, so a good moment to reflect back (in thankfulness and penitence for what has been) and prayerfully look forward to what will be – with significant change already underway.



Rev. Nick Parker
Area Dean for Solihull and Yardley

A Message from the Editor

Readers will, I hope, have noted the information elsewhere in this edition about the magazine becoming full colour and the technical help offered by Roger Edwards. We are delighted to receive contributions from readers on subjects relevant to the Church, the Parish, the town and the history of the local area which would be of interest to our readers. Please contact us if you would like any help. We make a modest profit on Parish News which we are then able to give to communications projects like audio visual equipment for the church; had the 800th Anniversary celebrations been possible Parish News would have assisted with publicity. This profit is only created because we carry advertisements. If you contact advertisers from the magazine, please tell them so they know it is worthwhile to advertise with us. Also, if you or family or friends could use this service, please do. Rates are very reasonable.

Contact **Tim Drakeford**, Advertising Manager, on 0121 705 4494 for details.

Carol Southworth
Editor

Music Matters

Hello everyone. I hope you are all well and are able to enjoy some return towards normality – though of course I am sure everyone is still taking good care of themselves and their loved ones as the pandemic is definitely not over yet. By the time this magazine is published, the situation may have changed again.

We have some lovely news to share this month. Two of our senior choristers (Kat and Matthew) have applied for choral scholarships at Oxford, and both of them have been successful with their applications and auditions. They are both talented and dedicated choristers who thoroughly deserve this opportunity, and we are very proud of them. They still need to continue with the academic application process, so we wish them well over the coming months.

Another highlight this month is that we have a new choral scholar singing with us for the year, James Druce. James has been singing professionally since the age of eight as a chorister at St. Paul's Cathedral. Particular highlights in his treble career included two BBC Proms with the BBCSO, a Hyperion Record of Mozart works, BBC Radio 3 broadcasted solos, private Royal recitals and annual performances of the Messiah and St. John Passion. James was fortunate to have solo experiences as a treble such as being the chosen soloist out of all the London Cathedrals for a special St. Cecilia Service, several Messiah and St. John Passion solos and a solo for the Queen for her 85th birthday.



After his time at St Paul's, James became a Lay Clerk at St. Mary's Warwick, recording three CDs and two Songs of Praise broadcasts. During this period, he was a Choral Scholar at Warwick School and studied singing at Warwick University with Llyndal Trotman and Richard Whitehouse. He performed several recitals in Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon, Royal Leamington Spa, Coventry and spent a brief spell singing at Jesus Cambridge.

James is a recent graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, with a first-class degree in Trombone and second study Singing. James was a choral scholar at St. Matthew's Bayswater, regularly depping at surrounding Churches including St. Marylebone and was a member of the RAM Chamber Choir. James' recent recitals in London have included venues in Bayswater, Barnet, Westminster and the City.

James joins Barney Stephens, who has been with us for some years.

Barney introduces himself here:

Hi, my name is Barney. I graduated from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in 2020 studying horn and second study singing, where I took part in various ensembles such as the Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir. I was excited to be invited to sing with St. Alphege back in 2017 as not only did its musical reputation precede it, but I also had a family connection – my grandparents had attended when they lived in Solihull and had got married





there too! I am currently working at Presto Music and am keeping up my musical activities in whichever ways I can.

Our choral scholars are a valuable part of the choir as they are skilled young musicians who can lead a part, can act as cantor, and will also mentor our young men as they move from the treble line to the back row. We are fortunate that the Friends of St. Alphege Music fund a small bursary for these positions to defray their expenses and recognise their contribution, encouraging the involvement of young people in the maintenance of our choral tradition.

Of course, the most exciting news this month is that we have a new Director of Music - do look out for the article elsewhere in the magazine.

If anyone wishes to get in touch about choir activities or any of the parish online services, please send me an email (isabel@solihullparish.org.uk) and I will do my best to help.

Take care everyone.

Isabel Baumber

Wednesday Lunchtime Music Recitals, 1.10pm to 2pm

In order to keep everyone safe, masks must be worn and social distancing and other Covid safety measures will be in place. Admission is free of charge and a retiring collection is held in aid of The Friends of St. Alphege Music (registered charity 511237). Please could we ask that you book a place by visiting <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BBOF>. Tea, coffee and cake are now available.

Isabel Baumber

3 rd November	Chordata Jazz Saxophone Quartet
10 th November	Jane and Peter Morris, flute and organ
17 th November	Rita Schindler, harp
24 th November	The Himbley Duo, violin and piano

**St. Helen's Christmas Fayre
29th November 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.
Looking forward to seeing you all there!**

On **Sunday 12th September** at 4 p.m. about 80 of us gathered at the back of St. Helen's Church to share in an outdoor **Songs of Praise Harvest Celebration**. Suzette, our Pioneer Minister, led the informal service and St. Michael's Music Group provided the music. Members of both St. Helen's and St. Michael's were involved, and we had a number of residents of St. Helen's Road and other local neighbours join us. About 250 invitation cards had been delivered and those in St. Helen's Road had all been invited personally. Sadly, despite a good forecast the previous day, it was slightly drizzly, but we continued with our plans, and everyone coped with the help of umbrellas, hoods and a gazebo for the musicians!

As well as Harvest hymns, there was an interactive Bible reading, a sketch on the Harvest theme and a performance by the Parish Puppets. Three people, Sandy Scheiby, Linda Hicks and Chris Carrington, each gave a short testimony and also chose a hymn, explaining why it was special for them. We all then sang their chosen hymns.

The event finished with lots of tea and cakes which everyone stayed for and seemed to enjoy. It was a joyful occasion and a wonderful opportunity to engage with some of those who live in our district. We plan to hold an outdoor Carol Service again this year and this will give us a further chance to invite and get to know some of those who live around the church.

We are very grateful to those from St. Michael's who were involved and without whom we should not have been able to run this event.

It was a bittersweet moment on **Sunday 26th September** when, after worshipping with us for so many months we said goodbye to the congregation of St. Michael's. We wish them well as they settle back into their home at Sharman's Cross school on Sunday mornings.

What's on at St. Helen's as we return to 'normal'?

Lydia Group is meeting fortnightly on Monday afternoons in the Chapel to make it easier to be socially distanced. The next meeting is 1st November. Our current Bible study is the Psalms and how we can use them to guide our prayers, especially when we cannot find the right words. It's been really good to resume our fellowship and friendship after such a long break. For more information contact Moira Wyatt on 0121 705 0311.

Cameo which meets on the first Wednesday of the month will hold its next meeting on 3rd November at 2.00 p.m. when we will welcome the three councillors from the Silhill Ward. They will give a short introductory talk and answer any questions - everyone is welcome! For more information contact Pippa Gates on 0121 705 2357.

Wednesday Lunches. It is hoped that these will resume after Christmas.

Arts and Crafts Together. The group meets monthly, and the next meeting is on 8th November at 2.00 p.m. in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome. Contact Barbara Sears for more details on 0121 704 1994.

Tuesday Prayer meets every Tuesday 10.30 a.m. in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome.

Thornby Homegroup is pleased to be meeting in person again after meeting on Zoom. The group is now meeting fortnightly in the Chapel. We have started some studies on 'God's Faithfulness', looking together at various Bible passages. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please contact Chris and Jenny Carrington 0121 705 0902.

Links Homegroup

The group is currently studying the York Course 'Caring for Creation'. Others are welcome to join at the next meeting on 11th November. Contact June Paddock for more details 0121 705 2767.



Silver Eco Church Award Certificate

This is to certify that

St Helen's Church, Solihull

has won a Silver Eco Church Award in recognition of their efforts
to care for God's earth in each of the following areas (as applicable):

Worship and Teaching
Management of Buildings and Land
Community and Global Engagement
Lifestyle

Signed Andy Atkins Date 28th September 2021
CEO, A Rocha UK



ecochurch.arocha.org.uk
arocha.org.uk

During November the Church recognises the Remembrance Season, with All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, and Remembrance Sunday on 14th November. It's good occasionally to remind ourselves of the origins if these commemorations.

Remembrance Day (sometimes known informally as **Poppy Day** owing to the tradition of the **remembrance poppy**) is a memorial day observed in **Commonwealth** member states. Remembrance Day has been observed since the end of the First World War to remember armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. Following a tradition inaugurated by **King George V** in 1919, the day is also marked by war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries. In most countries, Remembrance Day is observed on 11th November to recall the end of First World War hostilities. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" of 1918, in accordance with **the armistice** signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12 and 5:20 that morning. ("At the 11th hour" refers to the *passing* of the 11th hour, or 11:00 am.) The First World War officially ended with the signing of the **Treaty of Versailles** on 28th June 1919.



The tradition of Remembrance Day evolved out of **Armistice Day**. The initial Armistice Day was observed at **Buckingham Palace**, commencing with King George V hosting a "Banquet in Honour of the President of the **French Republic**" during the evening hours of 10 November 1919. The first official Armistice Day was subsequently held on the grounds of Buckingham Palace the following morning. During the Second World War, many countries changed the name of the day. Member states of the Commonwealth of Nations adopted "Remembrance Day", while the US chose "**Veterans Day**".

Here at St. Michael's

We were delighted to be back at Sharmans Cross School in October and were able to start our time back by celebrating St. Michael's Day on the 3rd of October. On the 10th October we held our Harvest Thanksgiving, although it was a somewhat more muted service than we are accustomed to due to the current requirements.

We are more than grateful to our friends at St. Helen's for such a warm welcome as we joined with them over the past months. It meant we were not homeless over that time and helped to keep us together as much as possible under very difficult and stressful circumstances.

One of our family, Jean Holland, celebrated her 100th birthday as we returned to the school, and we were able to share in a small way her birthday celebrations.

As yet we are uncertain when worship can return in St. Michael's Chapel. There are some difficulties to overcome before that can happen, but hopefully before too long we shall be worshipping there too.

Paul Smith



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Introducing 'Pause'.....

The History

While working in Sheffield Diocese some dozen or so years ago, I trained as a Spiritual Director. While practising as a Spiritual Director I then co-led Quiet Days in the parish that I was based in. When I arrived in the Northeast for my next post, I continued as a Spiritual Director, while my primary role was as a community minister in a coffee shop.

In the coffee shop, out of hours, we set-up an evening called the *Chill-Out Zone*, where people came along on a Sunday evening to 'chill' for a couple of hours before the working week began again. During *Chill-Out Zone*, as well as in the coffee shop during the day, we noticed an increase in people asking faith questions, so we began something called *Table* once a month, the week after *Chill-Out Zone*. At *Table*, over food, people had space to ask their questions. Examples of themes that kept cropping up were forgiveness, justice and mental health issues.

At the same time as all the above was happening in the coffee shop, we (my husband David and I) trained and led a course called *Fit for Life Forever*, a Christian course about a person's relationship with food. While running this I began to realise that something was needed *before* this course, for non-Christians. As a result of this I wrote and led a pilot of a course I had written called '*Blossom*'. The things that we did at *Blossom* caught the interest of others, so I expanded them to suit a larger group, and '*Pause*' was born.

Effectively, *Pause* is a quiet morning or afternoon for those who wouldn't recognise the term. It contains themes that are recognisable to Christians while attractive to non-Christians. The chief thing is that *Pause* is built around relationship. It's designed to promote conversation outside of the event where non-Christians begin to realise that maybe, just maybe, the Christian faith may have something to say to their lives.

Today

I led an invitation-only *Pause* in this Parish on 19th September. It was invitation only to preserve the 'safe space' for the non-Christians who were invited. Around 20-25 people were invited, and five came along. (That's a 20% acceptance rate for those interested in statistics! ☺) The theme was 'Shabbat' or 'Sabbath', and we looked at: *What do you need a break from? Why will you take a break? And How will you take a break?* We also ate Mars Bars (other chocolate bars are available ☺); and some of us played games – all optional!

I am planning on holding another *Pause* before Christmas, this time on an Advent theme.

If you would like an invitation for yourself and/or a friend, especially a non-Christian friend you have an ongoing connection with, then do get in touch. I'd love to hear from you!

And..... Advent Reading.....

Advent begins on Sunday 28th November and is one of my favourite times of the year. Although we will probably experience most things to do with Christmas in the world before

Pioneer Diary

December 25th, I love the sense of anticipation. I also love to use Advent as a time to work on my relationship with God.

I have several favourite Advent study books that I have used many times over the years but, this year, I fancied something new. While looking for something less 'churchy' than some, I came across the following:

Humbug & Happiness by Sheila Jacobs, described as *An Advent Study with "A Christmas Carol"*. Based on my favourite Christmas film (and book), this attracted me straight away. Published in 2019, the blurb for this intriguing Advent Study says:

"Charles Dickens' tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come is a familiar one to most people, and one we often revisit during Advent. But have you ever paused to wonder where Jesus is in this story, and what God might want you to learn through it: about living unselfishly, about repentance, forgiveness and restoration?"

I was also attracted, upon looking through the book, to hear, *"It isn't a 'course', and you don't have to read the chapters as four Advent 'weeks'. Read it in the way that suits you best during this busy period."*

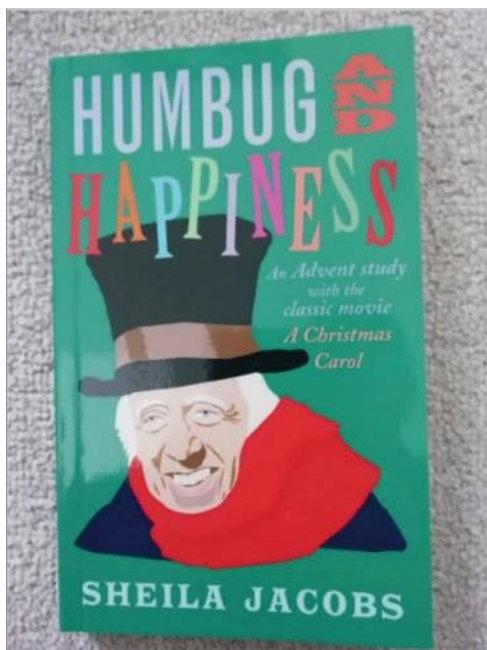
So, with that in mind, I would like to issue you an invitation:

Why not get yourself a copy of this book to read during Advent? (It's available online or from WH Smith, as well as I'm sure other places, and (as I write) prices vary between £3.19 (used) and £6.99 (RRP).)

Then, if you would like to join me in discussing this Advent book, and where each of us has got to with it, I plan to be at the Greville Arms *, Cornyx Lane, on Mondays 29th November, 6th December, 13th December, and 20th December; from 11a.m. – 12 noon. (If there is the demand, I will also arrange with those interested another day or time.)

** Please be aware that if you park in the Greville car park you have to put your registration into the machine inside the building to avoid a fine.*

Do get in touch and/or why not join me for *Humbug & Happiness*... and coffee/ breakfast? Keep safe and thanks for listening!



Suzette

News from the St. Alphege Schools

Nursery Admissions for September 2022

Parents of children born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 are eligible for places in the Nursery at St. Alphege Infant and Nursery School. Church families are encouraged to apply to the St. Alphege Schools which have an exciting curriculum rooted in our Christian Vision and Values and which achieve high academic standards.

Applications for Nursery places are all handled directly by the Infant School and should be made by 1st December directly to the School.

There are 30 places in the morning three-hour Nursery session and 30 similar places in the afternoon. All sessions take place in the separate purpose-built Nursery in the grounds of the Infant School.

All information about the Schools and the application process for all ages is available on the Schools' website where there is also a virtual tour. It is regretted that because of the pandemic it is not possible to hold Open Days and actual tours.

Mr. Morrissey, the Executive Head Teacher, is very happy to talk to prospective parents by telephone. Please contact the School Office for assistance.

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Carol Southworth
Vice Chair of Governors

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CHURCH 4 FAMILIES

November

Sunday Worship

St Alphege

The Junction meets at 9.15am in the Oliver Bird Hall -
An informal service for families of all ages. It's lively and laid back!

St Alphege Kids - You are welcome at the 10.30am service for worship in our beautiful church building.
Space for all ages with dedicated activities for children.

On 14th November everyone will meet together in the church building at 9.15am for **Remembrance Sunday All age worship**

St Helen

Every Sunday at 10.00 am there is worship in a modern space with a community feel with activities available 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 14th November everyone will worship together with activities for all ages.

Other Activities

Friday 19th November **Messy Church** St Helen's Church 4-5pm

Praise and Play Every Friday from 9.30-10.30am Oliver Bird Hall



Activities for families of all shapes and sizes
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19th November and 17th December



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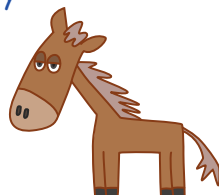


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to book your place.







Caring for Creation

During Great Big Green Week, a national week of events celebrating action on climate change, the Junction via Zoom thought about the wonderful world that God has created and reflected on what we all need to do to take care of it. During the session families used recycled material to make bird feeders.

Linda told everyone that she's registered each of the Churches in our parish to take part in the Creation Care scheme which aims to encourage households to make changes to care for God's earth.

To get started you need to go to <https://creationcare.org.uk/about> and click on the link to register your household and you can then make a start by completing a questionnaire that covers 7 different areas. This will tell you how well your household is doing at each of these aspects of caring for creation, and hopefully give you ideas of ways you can improve. Once you reach an award level, you can receive a certificate. There are three levels of awards: Gold, Silver and Bronze. Linda is the nominated contact person for the scheme so will be advised when households have received an award level and it would be fantastic to be able to give out one or two certificates before the end of the year, to celebrate what households have achieved, and inspire others to take part.

One of the sections is about the garden and you get points for having a bird feeder so everyone who made one of those at the Junction is well on the way to getting a certificate!



Prams to Preschool - Praise and Play *is back!!*

Praise and Play is now meeting in person at 9.30 am every Friday morning for a mix of songs, a Bible story, craft and chat, but you'll need to bring your own refreshments for now!



Booking is ESSENTIAL and numbers are limited so please email Linda Hicks:
l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk to book your place.

Youth Stuff

November Youth Events

After the half term we start back again with a full schedule. A few things to bring your attention are the Junior Refresh sessions have changed times: we now meet 7-8pm, still in the Youth Room, just a little earlier.

On Saturday 6th November we are helping out at the St. Alphege church yard tidy up come rain or shine; we meet at St. Alphege at 10 a.m. and do whatever we can to help keep the church yard looking its best. For any that come along to help with this we will supply lunch, usually McDonalds, followed on this occasion by our film club starting at 2p.m. Any young people can come along to both or either.

Friday 12th November the usual Friday Youth Session will be cancelled as it's the weekend of the National Youth Work Conference so I will be there.

Other dates to make note of is our Youth Christmas Party is back this year on Saturday December 18th. More information will be coming on this, but once again it will be at St. Helen's and is an event open to all youth in the Parish.

As always if you have any questions or want to know more, contact Joe at j.minall@solihullparish.org.uk

Monday 1st Nov 7-9pm	Our games and fellowship session in Room 6 in the Oliver Bird Hall, for all youth aged Year 9 and up.
Wednesday 3rd Nov 7-8pm	Junior Refresh - Our Bible study session for Years 6-8, with a mix of discussion, prayer, worship, and activities. In the Oliver Bird Hall
Friday 5th Nov 6-7:30pm	This session is open to all youth ages, meeting in room 6 of the Oliver Bird Hall between in which we play games, chat, and have fun.
Saturday 6th Nov 10-1pm & 2-4:30pm	Church yard tidy up and Film Club- As we are doing both of these. 10 a.m.
Monday 8th Nov 7-9pm	Our games and fellowship session in room 6 in the Oliver Bird Hall, for all youth aged Year 9 and up, in the Oliver Bird Hall
Wednesday 10th Nov 7:30-8:45pm	Refresh - Our Bible study session for Years 9 and up, with a mix of discussion, prayer, worship, and activities. In the Oliver Bird Hall.
Friday 12th Nov	NO YOUTH
Monday 15th Nov 7-9pm	Our games and fellowship session in room 6 in the Oliver Bird Hall, for all youth aged year 9 and up, in the Oliver Bird Hall
Wednesday 17th Nov 7-8pm	Junior Refresh- Our Bible study session for Years 6-8, with a mix of discussion, prayer, worship, and activities. In the Oliver Bird Hall
Friday 19th Nov 6-7:30pm	This session is open to all youth ages, meeting in Room 6 of the Oliver Bird Hall between in which we play games, chat, and have fun.
Monday 22nd Nov 7-9pm	Our games and fellowship session in room 6 in the Oliver Bird Hall, for all youth aged year 9 and up, in the Oliver Bird Hall
Wednesday 24th Nov 7:30-8:45pm	Refresh - Our Bible study session for Years 9 and up, with a mix of discussion, prayer, worship, and activities. In the Oliver Bird Hall.
Friday 26th Nov 6-7:30pm	This session is open to all youth ages, meeting in Room 6 of the Oliver Bird Hall between in which we play games, chat, and have fun.
Monday 29th Nov 7-9pm	Our games and fellowship session in room 6 in the Oliver Bird Hall, for all youth aged year 9 and up, in the Oliver Bird Hall

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New Director of Music and Organist

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Christopher Martin Thomas as our new Director of Music and Organist at St. Alphege Church, Solihull

I am looking forward very much serving you all at St. Alphege as Director of Music and Organist, from November 18th .

I live with my wife Lorraine in London, with two stepsons living close by, and will be resident in St. Alphege Close for the latter half of every week, so a straightforward weekly commute.

Throughout my career my aim has always been to foster what Bach described as 'a well-regulated church music', under the banner of the RSCM's motto 'with the spirit and with the understanding'. The paradox this presents to me was powerfully illustrated in the St. Matthew Passion prom recently. Here music of 100% beauty in Bach's composition and Jonathan Cohen's realisation of it, and 100% presentation of the truth of the Christian Gospel, (both in the performance, and Canon Lucy Winkett's carefully chosen words in her interval interview) was communicated by the unwitting BBC to millions of homes. I look forward to this happening in our church too!



Spirit and understanding, beauty and truth, music and word - all equally important.

As far as my musical background is concerned, I studied at Bristol University, Berliner Kirchenmusikschule, Cambridge University and Kings College London. My tutors included Nigel Davison, Karl Hochreither, Renate Zimmermann, Michael Overbury and Nicholas Danby (organ); Martin Berhmann (choral conducting) and Anita Marvin (voice).

I am currently (until the beginning of November) Musical Director at St. John the Baptist, Keynsham, and vocal coach at St. John's Junior School. We have a Minims group, a Junior Choir, adult choir and three worship bands. I held similar church appointments at Waltham Abbey, St. John's Hyde Park, St. Mary's Wimbledon and Holy Trinity Geneva. During these appointments I conducted visiting choirs in the cathedrals of Geneva, Orvieto, St. Paul's, Worcester and Southwark, and at Beverley Minster and Christchurch Priory. I also conducted the Schola Cantorum of St. Ignatius College at a mass in St. Peter's Basilica, Rome, in 2004; and in 2014 I conducted masterclasses with the Tchaikovsky Chamber Choir of Izhevsk (Tchaikovsky's birthplace) and with the Udmurtia Girls' Choir.

I also teach music privately (organ, piano, cello, recorder, singing and theory), and have held school music directorships in Derby and London, directing musicals including The Sound of Music, Oliver and Les Misérables.

I am also active as composer and lecturer, having been invited as visiting lecturer to the Royal Academy of Music, London Bach Festival, the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity and the London School of Theology. I look forward to the opportunity to share with you my multimedia presentation 'Ten Ways to Sing the Psalms' which I have so far delivered in Keynsham, Geneva and Wimbledon.

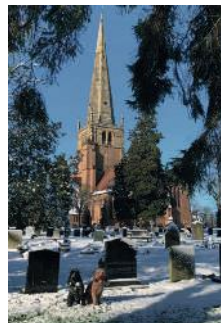
Much more about me can be seen and heard on my website: www.octavaconsort.org

It will become obvious from what you see and hear on my website, that my favourite composers are Tallis, Schütz, Bach and Howells. Add to that Philip Stopford among the living.

Favourite meal: anything curried. Favourite pets: cats. Favourite colour: blue. Favourite choir: Voces8. For anything else about me: I look forward to a personal grilling over a cuppa or a glass of wine!

The Bookstall and the Parish Christmas Card

The Bookstall is now up and running again! We have a wide range of attractive cards at very reasonable prices as well as votive candles, prayer cards and books. Do please purchase your cards from the bookstall if you can. Profits go to mission projects locally or further afield. We are also selling a Parish Christmas card again this year - a lovely photo of the church in the snow taken earlier this year. These are £4 for 10 cards, available from the Bookstall, Parish Office or by contacting Fran Halstead (07710 329030, fran.halstead@gmail.com) or Alison Vining (07971 265702, alison@vining.eu).



A Prayer of Remembrance

Almighty God,
We give thanks for our Queen, country and Commonwealth
and for the gifts of freedom and democracy which we enjoy;
We offer our grateful remembrance
of those who have lost their lives in armed conflict,
in training, or as associated sailors and civilians,
in two World Wars, the Falklands, in Afghanistan and in all other fields of strife;

We ask for your strength and guidance for
The Royal British Legion and other Voluntary Organisations
providing support for the injured,
for the bereaved, and for former prisoners of war;
More particularly, we remember all those serving in
Her Majesty's Armed Forces to-day
in the Navy, Army or Air Force,
at home or abroad.

At this Remembrance-tide, may the Union Flag
symbolise our solidarity with our military,
our concern for their well-being,
and our support for their vital contribution to peace and liberty
for which they loyally serve:
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Rev. John Bradford (ex-RAF)

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Michaelmas-tide Sermon

The Sermon Preached by Fr. John Bradford at the Eucharist on the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination

Exactly sixty years ago this Michaelmas I was ordained priest by Edward Henderson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, serving my title in the parish of Walcot St Swithin, Bath (a church in which William Wilberforce had been married and a parish embracing the Royal Crescent, the Circus and much hill-side housing at the London Road end of the city; it also included the Diocesan Secondary School, a Church Junior and Infant School, a residential institution for women with learning difficulties, youth "Campaigner" groups and other spheres. I am naturally thinking much about the ongoing life and ministry of that parish to-day.

However, and although I did not anticipate staying for so long at the time, it was 51 years ago that Marion and I moved to live in this parish in 1970 when I came to take up a Lectureship at St Peter's C. of E. Teacher Training College, Saltley, and Fr. Harry Hartley invited me to offer occasional help. Therefore, my first concern to-day is to express my genuine thanks to you all for putting up with me and my assistance for half a century!

Having been to School at Berkhamsted from 1944, my ministerial journey began at Farnham Castle with being selected for training for the ministry when only 19. Then followed National Service in the R.A.F. with numerous courses at the R.A.F. Chaplain's School, Dowdeswell Court, followed by study for a first degree at London in Philosophy, Ethics and Theology where I also achieved a first-class pass in the General Ordination Examination. (I have retained the prize!)

And so to Bath, for four years, where I served with the Rector, the Revd. Francis Musgrave-Brown, who had been in the same class at school as the comedian Arthur Askey (they were complete opposites), and Jim Bale, a classical scholar with whom I had been at Theological College. Within a year Jim and his wife and daughter left to tutor the children of the extended family of Emperor Haile Selassie in Ethiopia (most sadly believed lost at some point in the political turbulence there) and followed in the second year with the admission of the Rector to St. Luke's Hospital in London, from which he did not return. So my final two years were managed 'solo'.

I would like to share just one or two pastoral reminiscences of those times.

Baptism I remember visiting a mother prior to a Baptism who sat close to her television, following it intently, and not even glancing in my direction. *I learned from that the grace of keeping silent, and gift of understanding.*

Weddings We had a good number of Barbadian parishioners, several choirmen among them. With a Barbadian wedding there at that time, if the Service was booked for 3.00 p.m. a car would bring the first guests, it would then travel to bring further guests, and so on until (wonder of wonders) the bridesmaids were delivered after which the bride herself would arrive! No Service scheduled for 3.00 p.m. would begin before at least one hour later. *I learnt the grace of patience.*

Cemetery The parish cemetery was at the top of Lansdown Hill, with Beckford's tower as the helpful sexton's ground floor home. It had magnificent views towards the Severn estuary. A wife selecting a plot for her husband asked for my advice. I recommended a plot with remarkable views, to which the lady replied "What has the view got to do with it?" For me, I was mindful of I Thessalonian 4.16,17. But from this I learnt that sometimes it was wise to observe *the grace of avoiding argument.*

Sick Communion I cite two cases. The first was the clinically very severely overweight lady who was virtually unable move at all and needed constant care. No communicant could have been happier or more appreciative. *I learned the grace of reciprocated warmth.*

The second case was of Sir Cuthbert, a former Member of Parliament for Durham, who lived in Camden Crescent, just above my lodgings. He was essentially bed-bound and in considerable pain and for whom any visitor was intrusive. However, on one occasion I was invited to join him and his wife for the visit of his old friend Dr Michael Ramsey, formerly Bishop of Durham and now Archbishop of Canterbury. I witnessed the joy and humour of past times and personalities recalled. *I learned the grace of holding together the value of both the serious and the silly.*

Visiting the troubled I received a request to call on a young mother in particular distress. On my arrival the young mother, and her mother, were distraught. It had come to light that as the young mother was giving birth, her husband had been unfaithful to her with a member of staff in the Hospital laundry cupboard. I could see at once the hurt, confusion and despair of the young mother as she was holding her new-born son. For some time I sought to convey that although she had become aware of the most upsetting of circumstances, what mattered most ~ despite everything ~ was her care, calm and love for her baby. *I learned the grace of seeking to help others discern priorities.*

The first marriage at which I officiated This was a romance of extraordinary quality. The bride had been a Parsee and daughter of a wealthy and significant Persian family. She had met a British airman serving in the locality and had fallen in love with him. He was recalled to England with his Unit. She left her home and was banned from returning and disinherited as she travelled to England to find him. This took two years or more during which period she was baptised and became a Christian. On the morning of her wedding (when most English brides would have been attending to their appearance) she spent the whole time in Church, in prayer. The depth and quality of her feeling for her husband-to-be was remarkable. *I learned the grace of thankfulness for the gift of human love.*

In my last two years at Bath I offered to assist the Rector of Bath Abbey, the Revd. Geoffrey Lester (who had suffered polio in boyhood) with his week-day Communion Service on a Wednesday. I find it noteworthy now that St. Alphege (as he became) had been appointed Head of the Monastery at Bath by Archbishop Dunstan in 980 A.D. Furthermore, at this festival-tide of St. Michael and all Angels, the carved angelic ladders on the West Front of the Abbey demonstrating the interconnexion between heaven and earth (see Genesis 28 & John 1.51) have particular significance.

So, over 60 years, what kind of priest have I tried to be? .

First, in the vestibule, over the entry doors of Walcot Church, was the text: "*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*" (*Psalms 96.9 BCP*). I have tried to open up the vision of God's greatness, goodness and glory to others (and to myself).

Second, I have always been drawn to the description of the role of the Naval Chaplain described in King's Regulations as "Friend and Adviser of all on board".

My prayer for this Church is that God will continue to bless us richly in reverence and mutual understanding now and over the coming years.

Amen.

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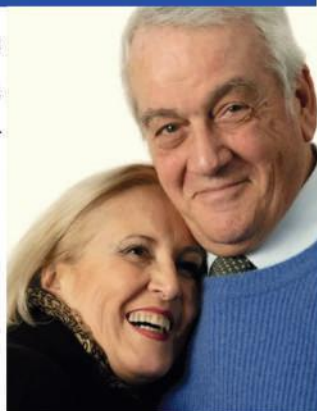
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Creation Care and Congratulations

An extract from a Statement on Climate Change as the COP26 Summit approaches from the Birmingham Faith Leaders' Group (this includes Bishop David)

Climate change is an existential threat that requires action from all people of faith. Care for the planet is an ethical responsibility and embedded in the scriptures of all faiths and religions.

Faith provides a moral compass at this critical juncture. It teaches us about the wonder, beauty and uniqueness of God's world and about the interconnectedness and interdependence of all creation. It gives us a sense of moral duty to care for the world that has been entrusted to us. Through the teachings of our faith, we can make a critical contribution to taking collective responsibility to care for the earth and its people.

The most recent United Nations IPCC scientific report states that 'recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and unprecedented in thousands of years.' It warns that 'unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C will be beyond reach.'

The COP26 Glasgow Climate Conference is being held in November under UK Presidency. The conference will need to determine how the large reductions in climate warming greenhouse gas emissions agreed at the Paris Climate Summit in 2015 will be achieved. It must also determine how those parts of the world that are being most affected by climate change, but have done least to cause it, can be helped to adapt to its effects.

Hopefully the speakers at our services across the Parish on Climate Sunday in July and during Creationtide in September have helped us unpack what is required of us to take seriously both our collective and individual responsibility to ***care for the earth and its people***, to accept the urgency of the situation, and the need for positive action during this decade. The Birmingham diocese has committed to being carbon neutral by 2030.

So my thanks go to our visiting speakers Revd. Meg Guillebaud, Mrs. Marilyn Hull (Climate Sunday) and Mrs. Caroline Egan, Mrs. Claire Carter, Mr. David Maguire, Mrs. Sheena Heaton and Mr John Heywood (Creationtide).

A starting point for a church to be proactive is to engage with the Eco Church Scheme that we have done across the Parish and I am pleased to say that St. Helen's has recently gained the Silver Award (only the 7th in the Diocese) and St. Alphege is well on its way to Bronze.

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My Way

By Martin Tunncliffe

I won't say that I am a 'fan' of Frank Sinatra, but I have always enjoyed his music and admired his artistry. I sometimes wonder if he ever knew how many times his song *My Way* would be played at funerals. Duty ministers at the crematorium may share with me the "cringe factor" as that familiar melody accompanies yet another coffin into the chapel!

The other day, I listened to it again on YouTube – the clip of a famous Madison Square Garden performance which Sinatra gave later in his life. Once more, two important facts about the song immediately came to mind. First, it is without doubt a magnificent song, emotionally powerful, musically skilful, and dramatically effective. Second, it is a towering monument to self-centredness and egotism, an appropriate theme-song for people who do things their own way, more or less regardless of what anyone else thinks or feels.

As I watched and listened, with the usual tingles in my spine, it occurred to me that, not far away from that concert hall, some twenty-seven years later, rescuers were bringing victims out of the rubble of the World Trade Centre. Certified as first among them was the chaplain to the New York City Fire Department, a Franciscan priest named Father Mike Judge, victim number 0001, age 88. A little later, three thousand people attended his funeral. His legacy was a lifetime of amazing dedicated spiritual service and ministry which you can read about on the Internet. He also left this prayer, one that he himself regularly used:

*Lord,
Take me where you want me to go,
Let me meet who you want me to meet,
Tell me what you want me to say, and
Keep me out of your way.*

It's those final six words that I find to be arresting. They stop me in my tracks, making me wonder how much of my personal praying comes from a context of my own self getting in God's way. I call to mind some of the prayer groups that I have attended over the years. I recall how often I have come away thinking that, unknowingly, the members appear to be giving God an agenda. They inform the one they call "Lord" about situations which the "Lord" needs to do something to improve: and they give him details about sick people who need his attention. The prayers of intercession at church can also become a sort of litany which seems designed to inform God about current affairs.

Thy Way

How, then, can we get out of God's way, both in prayer and in action? Bishop William Temple has some good advice to give on the matter:

The truly effective prayer, the prayer that makes a difference in practice in the world, is the prayer that is offered by the person who does not primarily care about the difference that he makes, but primarily cares about the glory of God. Above all, do not spend the whole time of prayer talking yourself. Bring the needs of the world, and the problems of your life, before God; then leave them with Him and wait for a while in silence not only from speech, but as far as possible from thought, just desiring with all your force that in these things God's will may be done, and resting in the quiet assurance of His love and power.

There is no limit to what God will do by means of us if we train ourselves to trust Him enough.

It's worth occasionally asking ourselves whether, perhaps even with the best intentions, we are actually getting in God's way. I think that if we sometimes use Father Mike's prayer, and also take note of what Bishop Temple has written, we shall be less likely to be like my daughter's cat. She has a clever knack of putting herself repeatedly in exactly the place where you want to walk!

Footnote: I think it is only fair to Frank Sinatra to point out that his daughter said that her father came to hate the song. "He didn't like it. That song stuck and he couldn't get it off his shoe. He always thought that it was self-serving and self-indulgent." Perhaps that's why, in the MSG performance, he jokingly introduced it, "And now, the national anthem".

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We are keeping in touch with our members and are offering help to those of you who request it.

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<i>PCC Treasurer</i>	Ron Crowdy , 18 Wellington Grove	0121 705 3253
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<i>St Alphege Deputy Wardens</i>	Susan Gomm , 10 Silverbirch Road Sheila Sayers , 636 Streetsbrook Road	0121 705 0015 0121 705 5331
<i>St Alphege Stewardship Recorder</i>	Frank Upton , 1 Rectory Road	0121 705 2963
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CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE DECEMBER EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS

MUST BE IN BY FRIDAY, 5th NOVEMBER PLEASE.

Email to parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk or leave in the Parish Office

SOLIHULL PARISH STAFF & CONTACTS

Team Rector	The position is currently vacant	
Team Vicar for St Michael (Not available Thursdays)	The Revd Simon Marshall St Michael's Church Centre, Oak Cottage, Bryanston Road, Solihull, B91 1BS	simon@solihullparish.org.uk 0121 704 4730
Team Vicar for St Helen (Not currently available)	The Revd Helen Greenham	
Pioneer Minister (Not available Fridays)	Suzette Maguire 10 Middlewood Close, Solihull, B91 2TY	s.maguire@solihullparish.org.uk 0121 709 0884
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Assistance is also offered by	The Revd John Bradford The Revd Canon Andrew Hutchinson (Chaplain, Solihull School - not available Mon, Wed)	0121 704 9895 0121 704 0171
Director of Music & Organist	Christopher Martin Thomas	
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Director of Children's & Families' Ministry	Linda Hicks Room 3, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk 07838 670772 0121 270 7390
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St Alphege Verger	Paul Evans Verger's Office at St Alphege Church	07483 318713
St Alphege Tower Secretary	Cynthia Dodson 64, Stoneleigh Road, Solihull B91 1DQ	0121 705 3744
Parish Administrators PARISH OFFICE	Ann Colloby & Prem Patel Parish Office, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	office@solihullparish.org.uk 0121 705 5350 Mon-Thu 9am to 1pm; Fri 9am to 12 noon
Oliver Bird Hall Bookings	www.solihullparish.org.uk/church-hall-hire/	



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