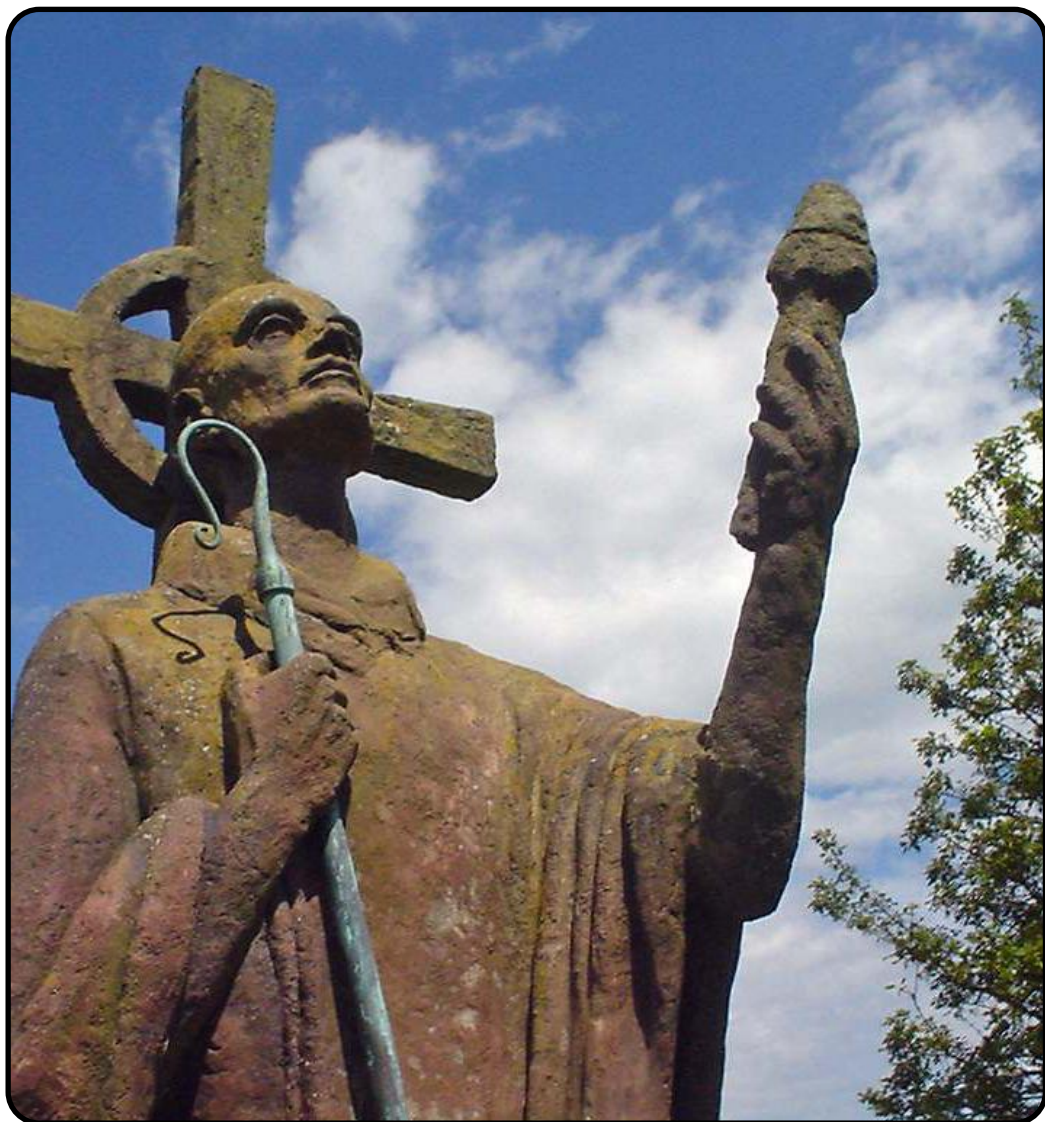


# SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS



No. 536

JULY/AUGUST 2022

PRICE £1.00

## 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**



### **St Alphege**

8.00 a.m. Said Communion  
10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist except 10<sup>th</sup> July:  
9.15 a.m. All Age Eucharist  
11 a.m. Sung Eucharist  
5.00 p.m. Choral Evensong

### **The Junction**

9.15 a.m. In person in the OBH on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July  
No Junction in August, recommences on 4<sup>th</sup> September

### **St Helen**

10 a.m. Eucharist  
Third Sunday 10 a.m. Morning Prayer

### **St Michael at Sharmans Cross School**

10.30 a.m. Eucharist

### **Wednesdays in St. Michael's Chapel, Bryanston Road**

9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### **Friday**

9.30 a.m. **Praise and Play** – please e-mail: [j.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:j.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)

Full details on the homepage of the 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](mailto: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

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Want to email the Editor?

[parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk)

## Cover picture

**"St. Aidan overlooking Lindisfarne Priory"**

by Elaine Macintyre

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# *Editorial*

**A**dvertising for the post of Rector Designate has now been launched both in the Diocese and nationally.

The selection of a new incumbent still bears many of the marks of past history. The Church of England has inherited from pre-Reformation times the principle of patronage and presentation. This means that an outside person or body (in our case the Society for the Maintenance of the Faith along with the Bishop) chooses a candidate and presents him or her for installation by the Bishop and induction by the Archdeacon. In fact the procedure will be slightly different in the current vacancy because the right of presentation in this parish has been temporarily suspended, but the elements of the process remain broadly the same.

In days gone by, a parish had virtually no say in who was to be their next incumbent. The patron had inherited (or bought) the right of presentation from a long line of persons going back to those who had originally built and paid for the construction of the church, often the Lord of the Manor. Each living usually brought with it some income, whether from tithes or from other endowments. Not surprisingly there was great disparity between the income attached to livings, and this was reflected in their value. Despite the laws against the practice (simony), it was not uncommon for rights of presentation (advowson) to be sold on the open market, sometimes by auction, and it was only in relatively recent times that the practice was finally outlawed. Patrons also used livings to reward friends and provide for their family – the tradition of one of the younger sons of the gentry 'going into the Church' was bolstered by a father's right of presentation.

Things have very much changed today. While the right of presentation remains, most patrons will fully involve the P.C.C. in the selection process and will seek to find a candidate suited to the traditions and needs of the parish. Moreover, as a long stop, the parish representatives, normally the Parish Wardens, have a right of veto over the Patron's choice subject to the latter's right of appeal to the Archbishop.

The relationship between incumbent and parish has also changed markedly. Formerly the incumbent could, within the limits of the law, run the parish largely as he wanted, with the parishioners having virtually no say in its running other than through electing one of the two church wardens. Today there is a far greater stress on the concept of partnership. The laity through the P.C.C. have responsibility for the parish's finances and are also under a duty of 'co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.' Such a duty underlies the need for a genuine partnership between incumbent and elected representatives of the laity in carrying out the mission of the church.

As we await the outcome of the current appointment process, we pray that a suitable candidate can be found who will lead us in the coming years in the task of bringing the Gospel to the people of Solihull.

**Stephen Linstead**

# **The Grove Residential Home (Solihull)**

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# Roundabout

**Mothers' UNION**  
CHRISTIAN LEAD FOR FAMILIES  
SINCE 1945

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea

The Parish came together on a sunny afternoon to celebrate the Queen's epic 70 year reign by enjoying a delicious traditional afternoon strawberry cream tea hosted by St. Alphege Mothers' Union. It was a delightful occasion and after the last two years apart, it was wonderful to see family, friends, young and slightly less young fellow parishioners chatting and swapping stories of previous Royal celebrations and opinions on how great Queen Elizabeth II is, as well as catching up on each other's news!

Games were available with 'Hook a duck' and 'Guess the name of the Corgi' proving very popular – the winning name was 'Gozo'. Children also enjoyed craft and face painting activities.



*Great to see Anne Kemp*



The cake, plant, book and bric-a-brac stalls similarly did a roaring trade.

Further guessing was required in order to win the Crown Cake; did you come close? Sofia had a good go lifting the bag of equivalent cake weight, but our winner (who guessed by



comparing the weight against the heaviness of his catch when fishing) was Robert Sayers who was only a smidgeon off, guessing 4.31kg when the actual weight was 4.3kg – very impressive!

Many thanks must go to our live musical entertainment, *The Romantix* led by John Kay. The ukulele group played lots of music of bygone eras, and toes were certainly tapping as scones, jam, cream and the odd glass of Prosecco were enjoyed by our community.



Thank you to everyone involved from Mothers' Union who together baked, shopped, set up, hosted, cleared up and facilitated such a wonderful afternoon. Finally a huge thank you to everyone who attended. You helped raise a magnificent £750 for Mothers' Union Charities.

**God Save the Queen!**

**Julia Hanson**

## Bellringers Busy for Platinum Jubilee

Some of you will have seen the display that the bellringers produced for the Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival. If not, here's a picture!

Essentially, we wanted to highlight and celebrate the occasions on which bellringers at St. Alphege have rung for a host of Royal events over the last 125 years, such as births, marriages, birthdays, funerals and jubilees – and, of course, an accession in 1952 and a coronation in 1953! Two of particular interest to locals were in 1962, when we rang to celebrate the opening of Solihull's new Civic Hall by Her Majesty The Queen and in 1985, when we rang immediately prior to the official opening by Princess Margaret of the reconstructed vestry and extension at St. Alphege. Each card around the display gave brief details of a different occasion when our ringing had a royal dedication.

The bell in the centre can have left no one in any doubt as to which group produced the display! This bell proved of great interest to visitors, who learned that it hung originally in the Mission Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Cornyx Lane, originally a "daughter" church of St. Alphege. It was rescued from the demolition of the church in 2004 and now lives in our ringing chamber.

Bellringers standing by the display over the four days enjoyed chatting to visitors about all aspects of bellringing and the significance of the various parts of the display.



On Friday morning, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, bellringers around the country, including us, rang to coincide with the Service of Thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. On Sunday evening we rang a quarter peal to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. The details of this can be seen on the attached website, from which it will be printed in *The Ringing World*, the weekly magazine for bell ringers worldwide.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1522523>

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## Environment Competition God's World Needs You!

Before Easter the Social Justice & Environment Committee from Solihull Parish invited St. Alphege Junior School pupils to think about how we care for our world with **'In 2030 I'll be really glad that I suggested...'** as their starting point.

The Committee had a challenging task; it is clear that our students care deeply about how we look after God's world.

Originally just one winner was to be chosen but having examined all of the entries it just couldn't be agreed which entry was the *most* inspiring so, after much deliberation, 4 entries were selected as *together* they reminded us what our planet and ecosystems need: these entries reinforced messages of reducing & recycling and the actions that we can take at a local level; they introduced innovative ideas; and they sent a message to those in power who can make a difference for us all:



**Chimbundum** put together an information board reminding us about our ecosystems and what destroys them. Chimbundum advised how we can help by cycling or walking rather than driving and how we need to conserve water and other materials by selecting more sustainable resources to use in manufacture.

**Aadya** created a colourful poster using the rainbow from the Bible story about Noah's Ark. This reminded us how God brought the flood to cleanse the earth of evil and how Noah protected the animals in the ark. Aadya advised us how to reduce our carbon footprint and think about the fuels we use.

**Ellie** recycled some cardboard to make her poster which reminds us why trees are so important to our planet. Unless we protect them they can't protect us by removing the carbon dioxide we create. One of the reasons trees are cut down is for paper production (there are lots of other reasons too) Ellie has a solution that would take some thinking about.... Recycling elephant dung! As elephants are vegetarians (mostly vegan) their dung is full of fibre that could be used. Now, as you may have noticed, there are no native elephants in the U.K. but Ellie has a solution - we could think about cow manure as it also has a lot of fibre! We thought this was a great idea – but we may need innovators like Ellie to develop it further!

Our final winner also had a suggestion that needs further innovation **Alivia** has written to Boris Johnson asking the Government to take action on reducing plastic. As well as banning plastic drink stirrers, cotton buds and plastic straws, Alivia suggests research into alternative materials for crisp packets is required following a report on Blue Peter that bits of packets



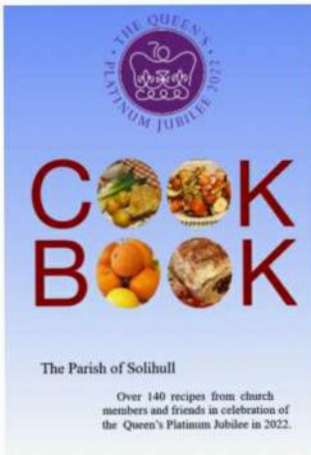
# Roundabout

were used by birds in their nests in Scotland.

All 4 of our environmental champions have been awarded a book **Genius – The Most Astonishing Inventions of All time** as I am sure we all agree we need innovation to help protect our planet moving forward for future generations.



*Our winners with Linda Hicks and Julia Hanson  
from the Social Justice & Environment Committee*



## Jubilee Cook Book

This new edition of the Cook Book with recipes from around the parish is **now ON SALE**

The price is £10  
and the profit will be donated to  
**Solihull Churches  
Action on Homelessness**

**ON SALE IN CHURCH (Susan Leach)  
and in the PARISH OFFICE.**

# ***Roundabout***

## **21 Intrepid Bellringers Descend on Oxfordshire...**

Once again Gillian had put her pin in the map and had decided we were off to the chocolate box villages surrounding Witney in Oxfordshire. Last year our wings were clipped but the more usual tradition of a full day out was back on track. The coach was booked, the weather set to fair, nearby ringers drafted in for the St. Alphege weddings and the risk assessment complete. The designated Ringing Masters for each tower had all the information they needed and their planning was underway, so we were off!

The churches were picked for their beautiful surroundings rather than their suitability for coach travel but having had a few recces to the area we were pretty sure we would get round without delays. We had the most marvellous of coach drivers, with the patience of a saint, who soon nominated Gillian and me as his co-drivers, dispensing with the satnav and accepting our route suggestions.

We always tell ringers new to the outing experience that we never know quite what to expect but that it is rare to find bells as lovely and as easy going as ours. Sure enough, the first tower at Eynsham would prove the point. I'm sure the locals have come to love their bells which to us sounded rather clangy and weren't the easiest to ring. Our newest recruit concluded that he had clearly been taught at the Hilton of towers, back in Solihull! Eynsham was an interesting place to organise the ringing because the floor has a weight limit allowing only ten people at one time. So there were calls down the stairs summoning the next band, whilst shuffling others down to wait their turn. The plant sale in the square became a distraction from which ringers had to be called away and one band member couldn't resist a purchase!

On to Southleigh. The final section of single-track lane led to a beautiful church with many medieval paintings, well worth a visit. With the sun full out, we watched swifts in and out of the porch and rang from the ground floor with the West door wide open. And so, another challenge for the next Ringing Master, as band members wandered off into the sunshine, before being called back to ring.

Lunch in Witney, a lovely market town with much to offer, was a mixture of picnics, pubs and restaurants. Here was the setting for the tour photo. Then forty-nine steps up the tower to a great ring of 8 albeit, they rang as though they were much heavier than they actually were so still not as nice as our bells. From Witney the coach was dispatched without us and we walked the short distance to Ducklington. As you can imagine, it was like herding cats! The team soon broke into three groups all walking at different speeds, I dashed between them giving directions and keeping them on track, so a huge thanks to Geoff the back marker, who could be heard chuckling along so there was never any



# Roundabout

doubt that all were following on. Safely into Ducklington which yes, comes with ducks on a very traditional village pond, we had the pleasure of red kites flying overhead and the call of a cuckoo! A delightful church and arguably the best ring of the day.

Finally to Appleton, a tower where many long extents have been rung, though sadly this ring of ten bells now has no regular band. There are many peal boards on the walls recording the remarkable nine or more hours of nonstop ringing. Our efforts were more modest in the cramped ringing room accessed by a ladder through a trap door in the floor. The bells proved a little awkward and we marvelled at how anyone would want to ring there for so long!

Before heading home, we made our way to the Merry Miller for a fabulous meal and Gillian's clever and fun outing themed raffle. Third prize was a plastic bath duck for Ducklington, second prize Oxford sauce for Oxfordshire and the first prize a hamper of all things apple related for Appleton.

On Sunday morning we were back at base. We love an outing together but it's always good to be back home with our magnificent bells.

**Sand Cooper**

## Second Saturday Bible Study

We meet every second Saturday of the month at 10.30 a.m. at the back of the church and we are working our way through Acts, looking at how the Early Church began. Our next meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> July in Room 1 O.B.H. as there is a wedding in church. All are always very welcome.

## Wednesday Lunchtime Music Recitals, 1.10pm to 2pm

Booking is no longer required and all are welcome. Admission is free of charge and a retiring collection is held in aid of The Friends of St. Alphege Music (registered charity 511237). Tea, coffee and cake are available from 12.30 p.m.

**Isabel Baumber**

6 <sup>th</sup> July	James Druce - Trombone
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Stuart Ironside - Guitar
20 <sup>th</sup> July	St. Alphege Song Squad
27 <sup>th</sup> July	no recital

There are no recitals in August

# Let us Pray

## Calendar and Prayer Intentions for July 2022

1	Henry, John and Henry the younger Venner, priests, 1797, 1813 and 1873	The people of Ukraine	Willoughby Drive
2	Feria	Our Parish Office	Winterbourne Road
3	Thomas the Apostle	Christians in India	Winthorpe Drive
4	Feria	Our Director of Music	Witham Croft
5	Feria	Solihull Members of Parliament	Witley Avenue
6	Thomas More, Scholar and John Fisher, Bishop and Martyr	Reconciliation between Christian traditions	Witley Farm Close
7	Feria	Local councillors	Wollescote Drive
8	Feria	Local Police	Woodbury Grove
9	Feria	Our verger	Woodfield Road
10	Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Our Parish Wardens	Woodlea Drive
11	Benedict of Nursia, Abbot c550	The Benedictine Order	Woodperry Avenue
12	Feria	Our servers	Woodside Way
13	Feria	Our church guides	Woodston Grove
14	John Keble, Tractarian, Poet 1866	Christian Hymn Writers	Wroxall Road
15	Swithun Bishop of Winchester c862	The Diocese of Winchester	Yew Tree Lane
16	Osmund, Bishop of Salisbury 1099	The Diocese of Salisbury	Yewhurst Road
17	Fifth Sunday after Trinity	Our clergy	Albany Gardens
18	Elizabeth Ferard, first deaconess of the Church of England, Founder of the Community of St Andrew 1833	Women's ministry within the Church	Alderbrook Road
19	Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa and his sister Macrina, Deaconess, Teachers c.394 and c.379	The Orthodox Churches	Alderham Close
20	Margaret of Antioch, Martyr 4th century	Those suffering for the faith	Alderminster Road
21	Feria	Our Treasurers	Alderpark Road
22	Mary Magdalene	The chronically sick	Alderton Close
23	Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena 1373	The Church in Sweden	Alderwood Place
24	Sixth Sunday after Trinity	Our readers	Alston Close
25	James the Apostle	All Christian leaders	Alston Road
26	Anne and Joachim, Parents of the BVM	Parents	Anchor Lane
27	Brooke Foss Westcott, Bishop of Durham, Teacher, 1901	The Diocese of Durham	Arley Road
28	Feria	Our Choirs	Ashborough Drive
29	Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of our Lord	Those suffering bereavement	Ashbrook Crescent
30	William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, Olaudah Equiano and Thomas Clarkson, antislavery campaigners, 1833, 1797 and 1846	Those suffering from modern slavery.	Ashby Court
31	Seventh Sunday after Trinity	Our District Church Wardens	Ashlawn Crescent

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

## Calendar and Prayer Intentions for August 2022

1	Feria	Firefighters	Ashleigh Road
2	Feria	Our safeguarding officer	Ashton Croft
3	Feria	All who help run the OBH	Austcliff Drive
4	John-Baptiste Vianner, Cure d'Ars, Spiritual Guide, 1859	Spiritual counsellors	Avenbury Drive
5	Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642	The Northumbria Community	Baginton Close
6	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	For the renewal of the Church	Barbourne Close
7	Eighth Sunday after Trinity	The PCC	Barnmoor Rise
8	Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221	Preachers	Barston Lane
9	Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union 1921	The Mothers' Union	Baxterley Green
10	Laurence, deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258	The Diaconate	Beaminster Road
11	Clare of Assisi, founder of the minoresses (Poor Clares) 1253	The Franciscan Order	Beauchamp Road
12	Feria	The Junction	Beaumont Grove
13	Jeremy Taylor, Bp of Down and Conner, Teacher 1667	The Church of Ireland	Beechnut Close
14	Ninth Sunday after Trinity	St Alphege DCC	Beechnut Lane
15	The Blessed Virgin Mary	The Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham	Beechwood Park Road
16	Feria	All involved in youth and children's work	Berkswell Close
17	Feria	Couples preparing for marriage	Berry Hall Lane
18	Feria	Those involved in baptism preparation	Billingham Close
19	Feria	Our bellringers	Billsmore Green
20	Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, teacher 1153	Monks and Nuns	Birch Tree Grove
21	Tenth Sunday after Trinity	St Helen's DCC	Bisbrook Croft
22	Feria	Doctors	Blackthorne Close
23	Feria	The armed forces	Blossomfield Road
24	Batholomew the Apostle	The Church in Armenia	Blythe Way
25	Feria	The Pre-School	Blythewood Close
26	Feria	Nurses and midwives	Boulton Road
27	Monica, mother of St Augustine of Hippo 387	Families suffering tensions	Bourne Close
28	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	St Michael's DCC	Bowercourt Close
29	The beheading of John the Baptist	The victims of tyranny	Bradmore Close
30	John Bunyan, spiritual writer, 1688	The free churches	Bramcote Drive
31	Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, missionary, 651	The Community of Aidan and Hilda	Brandon Road

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



## **From the St. Alphege Register**

### **Baptisms**

3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Dulcie and Walter Manning-Poole Miller Jay, Scarlett Hattie and Betsy-Belle Holtom
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Cali Jennings, and Sawyer Spraggett
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Tahleya Buckland, Frankie Hill
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Finley Cruickshanks
7 <sup>th</sup> August	Evie Carter, Archie Smith
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Edie Naylor, Monroe and Bleu Myatt
21 <sup>st</sup> August	Oliver Marston, Wren Corp

### **Weddings**

28 <sup>th</sup> May	Simon Munson and Lori Herbert
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Alexander Walker and Charlotte Bocking
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Stuart Cooke and Nicola Jenkins

### **Funerals**

26 <sup>th</sup> May	Barry James Ward
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Peter Gregory
28 <sup>th</sup> June	James Bumstead

### **Memorial Services**

None

### **Interments**

6 <sup>th</sup> June	Alan Arnison
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Shirley Anne Gardiner
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Louise Lilian Butt

## **Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in July and August**

James Dallaway	Edna Madeley	John Groutage
Nan Roland-Smith	Lilian Thomas	Albert Rowland-Smith Priest
Anthony Herbert Dann	Pam Cooper	Alfred Butwell
Alice Caldicott	Susan Woodward	Adel Azer
Stephen Woollas	Amy Butwell	Betty Wright
Irene Dallaway	Phyllis Flood	Aileen Moss
Diana Gregory	Barrie Prince	Elsie Greasley
James Mawson	Alma Reah	Roy Mander
William Turner	Kurt Schoch	James Frangou
Sandy Moir	Alfred Dudley	David Lawrence
Alexander Moir	Len Gregory	
Ivy Fowler	Brian Curran	

## **Worship notes for July and August**

The following are the principal feast days, other than Sundays after Trinity.

### **Sunday 3rd July - Thomas the Apostle**

One of the twelve disciples of Jesus, also known as 'Didymus' (twin) or as 'Doubting Thomas' because he initially doubted the Resurrection until he had personally met the risen Christ and seen the wounds of the Crucifixion. He is believed to have been apostle to India where he was reputedly martyred. A major shrine to him is located at St. Thomas Cathedral, Mylapore, Chennai. He is the patron saint of Christians in India but is widely revered elsewhere.

### **Friday 22nd July - Mary Magdalene**

Sometimes known as Mary of Magdala. According to the Gospels she was a companion of Jesus who accompanied him as one of his followers and was a witness to his Crucifixion and Resurrection. John's Gospel portrays her as the first person to meet the risen Christ. She is mentioned twelve times in the Gospels, more than any other woman apart from Mary, Jesus's mother. Sometimes known as apostle to the apostles, she is regarded as the patron saint of many causes including apothecaries and people ridiculed for their piety.

### **Monday 25th July - James the Apostle**

The brother of John, known together as the 'Sons of Thunder' (Boanerges). Also known as James the Great, he is not to be confused with James, Brother of Our Lord or with James the Less; he is one of the 12 disciples of Jesus. According to Acts he was the first apostle to be martyred - under Herod Agrippa. The patron saint of Spain, his body is claimed for Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. He is also the patron saint of many professions including veterinarians, equestrians, furriers and tanners.

### **Saturday August 6 - the Transfiguration of Our Lord**

This is a mysterious event recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke and in 2 Peter. Jesus ascended a mountain with Peter, James and John. On the mountaintop, Jesus began to shine with rays of light. The figures of Moses and Elijah appeared next to him, and he spoke with them. The Church regards the Transfiguration as one of Jesus's miracles, and one of the major milestones in the Gospel narrative of his life, the others being his Baptism, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension.

### **Monday August 15<sup>th</sup> - The Blessed Virgin Mary**

This is a feast day of Mary, marking the end of her earthly life and otherwise referred to as the Assumption or the Dormition. The retention of Mary's principal feast days in the Book of Common Prayer reflects the honour which the Church of England continues to afford to the Mother of Our Lord.

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August - Bartholomew the Apostle**

Bartholomew was one of the twelve disciples listed in the Synoptic Gospels, where he is always mentioned in company with Philip. It is generally assumed that he is the same person as the Nathaniel mentioned in John. According to tradition he was martyred in Armenia, where he is greatly venerated. His means of death was reputedly being flayed alive and he is accordingly regarded as the patron saint of tanners and leatherworkers.

## July 2022 Services

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Trinity 3

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 4

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.15 a.m.	All Age Eucharist
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 5

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 6

St Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Trinity 7

St Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	10.30a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen & St Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

## August 2022 Services

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 8

St Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen & St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August – Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

St Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen & St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August – Trinity 10

St Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen & St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

### Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 11

St Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen & St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist



**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*

**I**t is good to see that the work on the church is well underway. The trouble is that often the result of the work is not that obvious to the casual observer. However, rest assured, as I have been, part of the cost of these works is quality control to ensure that everything is done according to specifications. I'm not sure how long the first phase is due to take, but it is possible that by the time you read this we are on to the second phase, the choir vestry windows. This will be a great comfort to the choir when the colder months arrive as they should be a lot warmer in the vestry. I hope so.

You will have noted that in various places, parishioners have been asked to contribute to the cost of refurbishing the gates. You may well have wondered why. The Guardians are not paying for that, as well as everything else; are we being tight-fisted? The answer is definitely not. We are bound by our constitution, which states that we may be asked to pay for the upkeep and preservation of the fabric of the church. The gates do not constitute the fabric of the church. I hope that answers any queries you may have had.

In the June edition of the Parish News I told you about the Afternoon Tea we were planning for 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. If you are reading this after 3<sup>rd</sup> July, then you can skip the rest of this paragraph! If you have an early copy and are interested in coming to the Tea. Please contact Sheila Payne to see if there are any tickets left. The event is being held at Sheila's home from 3 – 5 p.m. and tickets, which are restricted to about 30 people, cost £10.

We have no definite plans for further events just yet but expect to be holding a Cheese & Wine event later in the year. Then nearer Christmas we may try the Coffee & Mince Pies Party we had to cancel last year. Watch this space.

This last paragraph will no doubt be somewhat boring, but we are still in the same situation. I just keep hoping that someone new might read it! We are still hoping for someone to come forward to oversee our website. So, please if any member, or non-member, would like to take this on, please contact a Trustee or Committee member. Is it something a student in that field might be interested in? We should be most grateful.

**The Trustees**

### **OLIVER BIRD HALL BOOKINGS**

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

Visit the website on:

[www.solihullparish.org.uk/church-hall-hire](http://www.solihullparish.org.uk/church-hall-hire)

**or contact the Parish Office:**

**Tel: 0121 705 5350 Email: [office@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:office@solihullparish.org.uk)**





## **Floodlighting**

**T**he 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 or £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.

### **The Church was floodlit in June 2022 for the following:**

- |                       |                                                                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> June  | In loving memory of Colin Price                                                |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> June  | In loving memory of Jordan Jane Page (Jo).                                     |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> June  | In loving memory of Neil John McDonough on his birthday.                       |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> June | In memory of Owen Cawser.<br>Lovingly remembered by May and the family.        |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> June | In loving memory of Michael Hartley.                                           |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> June | In loving memory of Jordan Jane Page (Jo).<br>Beautiful, brave and much loved. |

### **The Church will be floodlit in July 2022 for the following:**

- |                       |                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July  | In loving memory of Jackie Goodman.                                                                                                                 |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> July  | In loving memory of John Barnsley on his birthday.                                                                                                  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> July | Colin Price, with love on your birthday.                                                                                                            |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> July | In loving memory of Eric Morton on the anniversary of his birthday<br>13 <sup>th</sup> July 1928. Sadly missed by June, children and grandchildren. |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> July | In loving memory of David Francis Wright on his birthday.<br>A devoted husband, father and papa.                                                    |

# Music Matters

I hope that you are all well and enjoying the summer. It's certainly proving to be a summer to remember with all the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, both locally and nationally.

After all the hard work of Holy Week and Easter, our choristers were treated to an Eastertide Party, together with their parents. It was held on a sunny Saturday afternoon, following two weddings (both of which had run extremely late – but luckily there was still time to enjoy the party afterwards). The event started with outdoor games with 'Mr Hod' – huge thanks to Andy Hodgkinson for his tireless support of the choirs – the children always love your games. We then had party food and entertainment provided by the choristers themselves. Thank you to Lily for organising the entertainment, and thanks to all who *supported the afternoon in any way*.

We then moved swiftly into full preparation for our Jubilee Concert on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. We were successful in a bid to attract funds for this and are extremely grateful to the Solihull Celebrating Communities Fund for their generous support of the concert. The fund was created through a partnership between Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the Heart of England Community Foundation.



We had a packed church, with an amazing audience, and were honoured by the presence of Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands, Mr Clive Stone, and The Worshipful The Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Ken Meeson and Mayoress Mrs Annette Meeson. We had tried hard in the run-up to the concert to reach people who may not normally be able to access a classical music concert, so had worked with care homes, charities and the various local refugee and

asylum seeker support groups to spread the word about our free concert. We certainly had a variety of people there; they filled the church and included many who were new to church, and by all accounts, they all enjoyed the concert very much.

The programme consisted of music associated with coronations, performed by our own choirs; there was also a performance by St. Alphege Junior School SongSquad. There were



many highlights of the evening, but one particular highlight was the singing of a new anthem specially commissioned by the Royal School of Church Music for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, where our full choirs were joined by SongSquad to create a massed choir singing in recognition of the Queen's amazing life of service. Called *In our service*, the anthem uses words from various of the Queen's speeches throughout her life, with music composed by Thomas Hewitt Jones.

Take care and enjoy the summer everyone – and thank you for all your ongoing support.

**Isabel Baumber**

## The Programme

As well as the new anthem and the splendid songs from SongSquad, which is coached by Allison Taylor, who is as well as being a teacher is a soloist and has performed in concerts both in England abroad, the programme contained many other items. These included Handel's Coronation Anthems numbers 1 and 3, *Zadok the Priest* and *The King shall Rejoice*, both composed for the Coronation of George II in 1727, with chamber orchestra and organ accompaniment. The choir also sang Handel's Chandos Anthem No.9, *O Praise the Lord with One Consent*, Vaughan Williams' contemplative anthem *O Taste and See*, especially composed for the Queen's Coronation in 1953, Parry's *I was Glad*, composed for Edward VII's Coronation in 1902 and Judith Weir's *I Love All Beauteous Things* commissioned by St. Paul's Cathedral to mark Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, S.S. Wesley's *Blessed be the God and Father* and *Three Latin Motets Op.38* by Charles Villiers Stanford. The organist was Michael Overbury, who had been an Organ Scholar at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, and subsequently held, among others, appointments at King's College, Cambridge, St. Albans Cathedral and Workop Priory while also following a solo career. He accompanied a number of items and also as soloist played Handel's *Organ Concerto No. 4*, accompanied by the orchestra. In the Handel Organ Concerto Op.4 No. 4, Michael exploited the Baroque voicings on our organ to great effect, using stops like 'Sesquialtera' and 'Larigot' which accentuate the upper harmonics. His playing was stylistic and definitely 'Handelian', executed with both accuracy and flair. The conductor for the evening, apart from for the SongSquad items, was Christopher Martin Thomas, our Director of Music at St. Alphege, who has continued to preserve and develop the musical traditions here and on this occasion presented a splendid celebratory Jubilee Concert enjoyed by a very appreciative audience.

**Carol Southworth**



**I**mmediately following Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, St. Helen's Church celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June. The Sixties-themed party was a great success, enjoyed by all ages, and on Sunday Bishop David presided at the Eucharist. The St. Michael's congregation and Fr. Simon and many friends joined the St. Helen's people and the Bishop preached about the joy of receiving great gifts.

A full report will appear in the next edition of Parish News.

## Memories of Coronation Day 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953

**T**hough living in Bournemouth then, we were invited to stay with friends in London. They had a new television set, on which my younger brothers were to watch the proceedings, while their daughter and I were old enough to be among the lucky ones who spent the night on the pavement near Green Park. From there we could see the soldiers going from their barracks to Westminster Abbey and view the whole procession returning to Buckingham Palace.

It was my first night out without adult supervision, but of course there were many adults around. Most excitingly during the night the paper-sellers called out that Everest had been conquered by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. I think the news had been saved for that special day and the spectators cheered as the news spread through the crowd.

Much later after sharing soggy sandwiches with my friend – it rained heavily in usual English style – along came the parade of carriages from the Abbey, with the Queen, all the royal family, foreign royals and columns of soldiers. The Queen of Tonga became the crowd's favourite as she smiled and waved to everyone. By then everything, our flags, our clothes, even the newspaper we had slept on, was sodden. But it was a day to remember and now, nearly 70 years on, it still has a warm place in my heart.

**Rosemary Owens, neé Nesbitt**

## St Michael

### News

Very slowly our congregation numbers are building up after the disastrous two years of the pandemic. It's so nice to see members feel they can return to worship again. Soon hopefully we shall have the choice of receiving the sacrament as we used to if people so choose.

In May we were delighted to welcome the Revd. Theresa Jones to preside and preach at our Sunday Eucharist and in July we look forward to welcoming the Revd. Nigel Jones to preside and preach at our Eucharist.

### August

During August as we are unable to use the school for our services, we usually join with St. Helen's at their 10 a.m. service.

### Platinum Jubilee

A visit to the Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival in St. Alphege over the June Bank holiday showed a lovely variety of displays from the various church organisations. Many thanks to Geraldine Burge for the St. Michael's display as shown in the picture showing a crown and icon of St. Michael. The display was called 'Strength and Service'.

Paul Smith



## Women's Theology Group



The Women's Theology Group meets in the evening on the second Wednesday of the month, on Zoom at present, to study and discuss passages from the Bible, to consider appropriate Christian responses to current issues, to pray and support each other in faith. Our June meeting studied two women from the New Testament, Dorcas and Lydia. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July.

If you are interested in joining this friendly group or just want to find out more, please e-mail Lizzie, Nic or Avril at :-

[womenstheologysolihull@gmail.com](mailto:womenstheologysolihull@gmail.com)



## **“Walking Pace Gives Your Soul Space”**

**T**hose who know me will know how much I love to walk. I was set a positive example by my parents when they walked me and my brother as children for miles all over Sheffield. I remember some of our longer walks to this day, and always fondly.

My more recent love of walking long distance footpaths came when we moved to the Northeast, and we took the opportunity to walk the Hadrian's Wall National Trail. It was amazing and, quite frankly, a surprisingly spiritual experience. That's probably why, when I recently read the phrase “walking pace gives your soul space” in a magazine, it really resonated with me.

Since walking Hadrian's Wall that first time, we did it a second time, that time with company. We've walked the Ridgeway National Trail, the Thames Path, the Birmingham to Worcester Canal and a large chunk of the Grand Union Canal (Birmingham to Braunston), including the cut all the way down to Stratford-upon-Avon (and back again!). We've also begun the Northumberland Coastal Path; and, later this year, we plan to begin the South Downs Way. Each time I am struck by the 'rhythm' of long-distance walking. The similar pattern to each day. The reminder of 'food as fuel' and taking on the right nourishment to get you through the day. And 'connecting' - with other walkers, with your surroundings, with God, and with yourself.

The rhythm of long-distance walking is one of breakfast, prepare to walk, walk, bathe, evening meal, sleep - and begin again. Every day is similar and every stage important. To me, in no small way, the rhythm of long-distance walking echoes the monastic rhythm of life. It should come as no surprise either that people are more open to one another when walking along side by side. I have experienced this in previous walking group settings and, most recently, in connection with our monthly 'Wellbeing Walks'.

That first time we walked Hadrian's Wall I learnt a valuable lesson on only the second day when, by 3pm, I was struggling. Then we saw a sign for a tea-room ahead. I have never raced to somewhere so fast in my life. We got there just 30 minutes before they were due to close, and I ordered a pot of tea - which without thinking I loaded with sugar before drinking - and a cheese scone. With that sustenance, a couple of paracetamols and the removal of my boots for 20 minutes or so, I soon felt like a new woman. But I had learnt a lot about food as fuel. We were walking an average of 14 miles per day, and I simply hadn't eaten enough. In the days after that experience, we stopped every hour or so for a snack.

I was amazed that first-time long-distance walking how easily everyone connected. There was a real camaraderie as we all faced the same obstacles along the way. Sometimes you would overtake other walkers and then, another day, they would overtake you. Walking the Ridgeway, we met a lovely American couple in this way and, on their last night - they walked four of the eight days to fit in more of our country's sights - they came to our hotel and treated us to a meal. Another time we kept meeting a Dutch couple along the way until, when we all ended up in the same B&B one evening, we had a great time swapping stories with them over a pie and a pint. All of this made me think about the title 'people of the way': prior to the term 'Christian' being used, followers of Jesus Christ were simply known as “people of

the Way" (Acts 9:2, 24:14) in reference to their lifestyle, i.e. the way of life they lived. In other words, it was their lifestyle that identified them as being followers of Jesus Christ, not their words. I was made to think, how do we connect with others? What does our lifestyle say?

Someone has said, "Walking pace gives your soul space". I would agree with this. Walking helps me acknowledge a rhythm of life. It makes me think about what I am putting into my mind and body. It helps me connect with others along the way, sometimes around hospitality, sometimes on a deeper level as we travel – quite literally – side by side.

But don't just take my word for it – why not give it a go? Explore your local area purposefully, really taking in your surroundings; maybe join a walking group or come out on one of our monthly Wellbeing Walks; or, if you can't walk far these days – my husband and I always acknowledge that we're doing it while we can – then why not explore how you can develop a rhythm in your day, one that slows you down; why not spend some time in prayer, thinking through what you feed on daily; or find another way to connect meaningfully with others.

Walking pace gives **my** soul space. What does it for you?

Keep safe and thanks for listening!

**Suzette**

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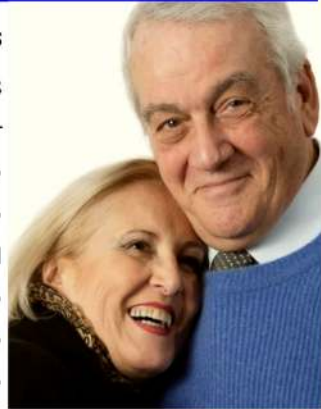
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# CHURCH 4 FAMILIES

**July/August**

**Sunday Worship**

## **St Alphege**

On **3rd and 17th July** the Junction will meet **IN PERSON** at 9.15am in the Oliver Bird Hall.

(An informal service for families of all ages. It's lively and laid back!)

On **10th July** everyone will meet in the church building at 9.15am for a service for all ages featuring the parish puppet team

(The Junction will be taking a break during the school summer holidays and will return on 4 September)

## **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.

(NB St Michael's and St Helen's will be worshipping together throughout the school summer holiday)

## **Other Activities**

Friday 15th July **Messy Church Picnic** St Helen's Church 4pm

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

(Continuing through the summer except Friday 19th and 26th August)



Activities for families of all shapes and sizes with lots of hands-on, crafty fun - followed by a celebration including a story and a prayer



4.00pm 'til 6pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July,  
16<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> October,  
18<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December



St Helen's Church, St Helen's Road,  
B91 2DA (off Buryfield Road)

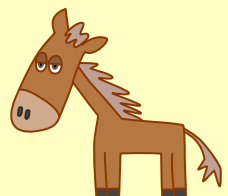


EVERYONE! Children, bring your friends, but be sure to bring an adult

Cost: £2 per person, max £7 per family



Places are limited and  
booking is essential. E mail  
[l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)  
to book your place.





# Junior Growth Group



Children who have recently received their First Communion have been invited to join a Junior Growth group to enable them to continue to develop their faith. The aim of these small groups is to help the children understand more about their faith and give them a good foundation in their relationship with God. The group involves a mix of games, watching film clips, looking at the bible, eating kitkats, praying and making things.

The group meets on alternate Wednesday evenings for one hour from 5.30pm and 6.30pm in Room 1 of the OBH.



# Prams to Preschool -



## Praise and Play

Every Friday in the main Hall of the Oliver Bird Hall  
9.30am-10.30am.

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

A time of fun and fellowship for all.



If you want to know more ring Linda on

0121 270 7390

or 07838 670772

or e mail [l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)

## Youth Stuff

Only a few weeks to go before term ends and the Summer Holiday awaits. Let's hope for long, hot sunny days!

Before then we will continue to meet on a Wednesday evening in the Youth Room for a Bible based activity. Dates are as follows:

July 6<sup>th</sup> Year 9+ 7.30 – 8.45 p.m.

July 13<sup>th</sup> Year 6 – 8 7.00 – 8.00 p.m.

July 20<sup>th</sup> Year 9+ 7.30 - 8.45 p.m.



LIVING  
IN LOVE  
& FAITH

## What is Living in Love & Faith?

Living in Love and Faith refers to a set of learning resources which has been produced by the Church of England to explore how issues of identity, sexuality, relationships relate to Christian teaching in the Gospel.

The learning resources set out to encourage people to think profoundly about what it means to be human and to live in love and faith with one another. It aims to discuss the difficult questions and the diversity of opinion amongst Christians about what it means to be faithful to Christ in a world in which the understanding and practices around gender, sexuality and marriage continue to evolve. These are controversial and difficult issues for many. The resources do not set out to necessarily change our minds but rather to encourage us to be open as to how we demonstrate love to those whose lived experience and opinions may be very different from our own. They are designed to help us consider how we as Christians may disagree well whilst functioning together in the Body of Christ.

This 5 week course with video presentations is planned to take place at St. Helen's Church on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m., starting on the 8<sup>th</sup> June and running until 6<sup>th</sup> July.

If you are interested in joining the group and would like further information, please contact the Revd. Simon Marshall (0121 704 4730 [simon@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:simon@solihullparish.org.uk)) or Chris Carrington (0121 705 0902 [chrisandjennycarrington@gmail.com](mailto:chrisandjennycarrington@gmail.com))

To book your place on the course please contact Ann Colloby at the Parish Office.

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# Invigorated by Hope

Prayer is at the heart of all that we do at **Tearfund**. Our vision to see lives and communities transformed is far bigger than what we can achieve alone. One of the main ways we partner with God's work in the world is by asking for his kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as in heaven. Our belief and experience is that God is a loving Father who hears and responds to our prayers.

But we are living at a time in history where there is much to be disheartened by: escalating conflict, overwhelming need, a 'me first' sentiment in wealthy nations, climate change, and a global pandemic. The challenges posed to the world by ongoing conflicts,

the climate crisis and the devastation caused by Covid-19 are huge, and are driving up extreme poverty.

Yet our Christian belief is that the body of Christ, the church, carries a message of hope in the middle of such despair, because of our faith in God and in the coming of God's kingdom.

The church is central to Tearfund's vision to see all people freed from poverty, living transformed lives and reaching their God-given potential. In recent months, we have been sensing a call from God to pray even more specifically for the church around the world. We want to pray for the body of Christ to be confident in God's love, invigorated by hope, anointed by the Spirit and envisioned by its calling to be good news to people living in poverty.

Central to our vision to pray for the church is Jesus' outline of his mission statement in Luke 4, quoting Isaiah 61:

*'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'* (Luke 4:18-19)

We want to pray for this same anointing of God's Spirit to be on the church as it carries out Christ's mission in some very difficult circumstances. We will continue to pray about the challenges that are impacting global poverty, with our emphasis on praying for the body of Christ to shine brightly as lights in the darkness.

Praying for the church also gives us confidence that we are praying in line with God's will. Global poverty is driven by many complex issues and it can sometimes be hard to know how to pray. One answer is to use the prayers of the New Testament.

Many of these prayers are for God's people to be strong in their identity, character and mission. No matter what is happening in the world, we know that God always wants to use churches to be vessels of hope. When we use New Testament prayers to pray for the church, we can have confidence that God will hear and answer (1 John 5:14-15).

**Lynne Paterson, Tearfund's Head of Prayer Mobilisation**





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# Platinum Jubilee Flower Festival

**20** flower displays, a 14kg bell, a 1922 bicycle, and a Platinum Jubilee Beacon – wow you really did come up trumps! A huge thank you to all the participants, the people who helped set up and dismantle, the groups that organised the refreshments, and all the members of the public who came to visit. It was so lovely to see the church doors open and people streaming in throughout the day; some even arrived before the official opening time! It was a joint effort by all of our churches and parish areas - even the scaffolders lent us some boards – and there was a tangible sense of fellowship and community.



*Men and Ladies Choirs*

The main purposes of the Flower Festival were to welcome members of our wider community into the church, to bring together our church organisations in a communal activity, and to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. I hope you all agree that these were achieved. In addition, we raised just over £600 for church funds.

Thank you all very much for your support; it is very much appreciated.

Who is going to organise our next event? Do get in touch if you have any ideas.

**Pam Price**  
**Parish Warden**



*Solihull Flower Club - Travelling through history*



*St. Helen's*



*Parish Puppets*



*St. Alphge Pre School*



*Wellbeing Wednesdays*



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*North Door*





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# Update from the Parish Wardens

We are well underway with the recruitment of our new Priest-in-Charge (Rector Designate) and the advert has been posted nationally on Pathways and in the Church Times. We hope for a good response and to interview at the end of July. The interview panel will be Bishop David, Philip Corbett from our Patrons (The Society for the Maintenance of the Faith), Fr. Simon Marshall, another person to be announced, and the two of us. The Parish Profile has now been published and can be downloaded from the Parish Website. This has been put together taking into consideration the comments you made in response to the consultation last year. Please keep this process in your prayers. Wouldn't it be lovely if, in the next edition, we could announce who the new Priest-in-Charge will be?!

The four suggested areas of focus for our **Transforming Church Action Plan (T.C.A.P.)** have also been published and are:

**Growing Disciples** To teach and nurture believers to grow in faith and spiritual commitment:

1. To nurture young people and their families in the Christian faith.
2. To provide learning opportunities to equip disciples and leaders on their faith journey.

**Building Community** To respond to human need by loving service:

1. To become more outward looking to serve the communities in our borough.
2. To encourage active engagement by church congregations and individuals on issues of social justice and climate change with the aim of moving closer to being carbon neutral.

After much prayer and discussion, it has been decided to offer the Chalice at services from the end of June. Taking the bread only is quite sufficient and taking the wine from the Chalice will be a matter of choice for the individual with no expectation that it should be taken.

What a blessing the Platinum Jubilee Long Weekend was for our nation when we were blessed with a wonderful flower festival in St. Alphege with superb flower arrangements from all over the Parish. We all owe Pam much thanks for organizing it so well. You can see photos and a report elsewhere in Parish News.

The Jubilee Tea on the Thursday afternoon was also a wonderful event and many thanks go to the Mothers' Union for their work on this.

The Platinum Jubilee Concert will have taken place by the time this is read and we give thanks to Chris and Isabel for all their work in organizing this.

The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Helen's was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June with much fun and rejoicing and a visit from Bishop David. Reports on this will have to wait until the September issue.

The repairs to St. Alphege Church are continuing well and proceeding to time scale. By the time you read this, the work on the Porch and Tower will be almost complete and the scaffolding will soon come down on that side. Some work will be required soon on the O.B.H. Many thanks to Phil Godfrey for project managing all of this.

Hopefully, Fr. Roy and Jean Murray are now settled back into St. Alphege Close and it is lovely to welcome them back amongst us. Fr. Roy has kindly offered to take services and be involved in the Parish, and his first service will be on 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Parking in the Oliver Bird Hall Car Park continues to be a problem and our office staff are spending too long dealing with the resulting complaints. We would respectfully remind you that parking permits are for using the church and O.B.H. **only**, not for going shopping! Please remember to use the disabled parking spaces **only** if you display a blue badge.

Let us continue to pray for the appointments of the right persons for our Priest in Charge and Youth Worker, and to pray for the Parish as a whole.

**Pam Price**  
**Andrew Williams**  
**June 2022**

## **St Alphege Pre-school**

Pre-school places are available for children who will turn 3 years of age in the academic year beginning in September each year. St. Alphege Pre-school offers highly experienced and qualified staff. The last two Ofsted Inspection results rated us 'Outstanding'. Please see web-site for further information [www.stalphege-preschool.org.uk](http://www.stalphege-preschool.org.uk) – or email [manager@stalphege-preschool.org.uk](mailto:manager@stalphege-preschool.org.uk) Application forms available from the Oliver Bird Hall or email the Admissions Secretary – [admissions@stalphege-preschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@stalphege-preschool.org.uk) for a copy.

## **Wraparound**

We also offer a wraparound service for nursery Children attending St Alphege Nursery. Email: Tammy Ellender: [manager@stalphege-preschool.org.uk](mailto:manager@stalphege-preschool.org.uk)

## **No1 Club**

Before and afterschool club is held at OBH by highly qualified staff offering a range of activities for all. Tammy Ellender: [manager@stalphege-preschool.co.uk](mailto:manager@stalphege-preschool.co.uk) or [No1club@stalphege-preschool.org.uk](mailto:No1club@stalphege-preschool.org.uk)

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- Check that the on and off settings on your controller for your heating are still relevant.
- For a finer control of your heating costs buy a 7 day controller
- When going on holiday or for a weekend set the heating to come on in the early **morning or leave it on the frost setting**

## Radiators.

- If you don't have thermostatic radiator valves (TRV), fit them. Turn the TRV to the frost setting in any room you are not using.
- Suspend sheets of foil from the brackets of your radiator to reflect the heat away from the wall and into the room. Approximate saving per radiator £20 per annum.
- When installing radiators put them on internal walls.

## Windows

- If your double glazing is over 15 years old, consider upgrading.
- If you have a single glazed window or leaded window, make or buy a padded covering that covers the window and can be attached to the window frame by velcro. Put this up each day in the winter as the sun goes down. This is especially useful on landing windows
- Make or have made thermal linings for your curtains.
- Once the sun has gone off the windows of a room close the curtains.
- Renew any mastic that has come away on the outside of the windows.

## Loft

- The recommended thickness of loft insulation around and above the ceiling joists is 11 inches or 275 mm. This will come above the ceiling joists. Clear out the junk in your loft, sell off what you don't need, and use the money towards the insulation. Look for any holes in the roof and repair them.

## Cavity wall

- If you have a cavity wall, all the bricks are laid lengthwise along the length of the wall, get some quotes for having it filled.

Taken from an article written by Steve Lyne, Chair ecosutton. [Enquiries@ecosutton.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@ecosutton.co.uk)

Some useful advice forwarded by Beryl Moppett.



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# Update on the Building Works

Works on this major project are well on programme, and the scaffolding around the North Door will have been removed by the time this magazine is published. The Wrought Iron gates are currently being restored and will be returned soon. Windows to the Bell Tower are currently being returned to their proper places, and work on the Choir Vestry is well in hand.



Works to the splendid East Window, installed in 1845 by William Wailes, will commence in August and be completed in November.

Ian Simpson, the Building Officer for the Diocese, told me that the North Porch, as it stands was not built c.1350, but it was a rebuilt around 1800. If it had been 1350, we would not be allowed to do

major works, as it would have to be classed as "historical".

**Phil Godfrey**

## Editor's Note

Past and present guide-books for St. Alphege Church unfortunately give the date for the building of the North Porch as the middle of the Fourteenth Century, as does the Revd. Robert Pemberton, who was Assistant Curate of the Parish, in his book *Silhill and its Church* published in 1905. He does, however, write that the inner doorway belongs to the *Perpendicular* period which he dates from after 1377 as it has a square hood-mould above the pointed arch, which is typical of that style, as does the outer doorway. Pemberton also mentions the "very good iron gates", mentioned in the article above, "The gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher, Widow, 1746", which are currently being restored. "In each of the side walls of the Porch is a small deeply-splayed trefoil-headed window." The glass in these windows were filled by stained-glass windows also by William Wailes in 1854, which show the figures of King David and St. Simeon, and were the gift of Dr. Hatherley, Organist, and Mr. R.S. Chattock, owner of Silhill Hall. Pemberton does not unfortunately mention any rebuilding work which would already have been about a century old when he was writing.

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## Jesus and Children

**I** sometimes wonder why images of Jesus with children so often appear in our Victorian stained glass church windows. Maudlin sentimentality covering a guilty conscience perhaps, on the part of those who paid for the church and its windows? Gentle Jesus, meek and mild (as the old poem puts it) sits there lavishly draped, and surrounded by small children, all clean and scrubbed and well-dressed. By contrast, and perhaps not very far from the church building, the stark reality of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century is very different. Children, ragged and unkempt, are working for hours on end in the factories from the age of seven, part of the dreadful human cost of making Britain great during the Victorian era.

When we come to engage with the actual gospel account of Jesus and the children in Mark's Gospel chapter 10 verse 13, we are light-years away from stained glass windows. Here we find children being brought to Jesus, most probably by their fathers rather than their mothers, so that they might get a blessing from this astounding Galilean teacher and healer. There was probably quite a lot of pushing and shoving going on, and the disciples are trying to get some order into the situation and protect their Master.

Jesus sorts it out, and is happy to bless the children, but he is far from being in any way sentimental. He immediately sees this as an opportunity for some more radical teaching, a kind of visual parable, to drive home his urgent message about the alternative kingdom of God. It's as if he is saying:

*"You are coming to me hoping to hear something important about God and religion and law. Very well. I'll tell you something really important about God and heaven. Just look at his beloved little children. If you want to be part of God's kingdom, you have to become like these children".*

Suddenly, a small child has become a living parable. Why? Because, to begin with, very small children live in a state of powerlessness, dependency and trust. Infants have no choices. They swing between well-being and discomfort, between bliss and pain. They accept whatever comes. If they suffer because things go wrong, they may make a noise, but they don't immediately look around for someone to blame. Small children look at the world around them with a mixture of puzzlement and wonder, with no desire either to exploit it or control it. They are content to live with unanswered questions, at least until they are old enough to start asking "Why?" And they have a large capacity for play and laughter.

We can usually remember a good deal about our childhood. But can you **really** recall what it was like to live in a world where most people were giants at least twice your size? Look at how infants draw grown-ups: they are mostly legs. It takes a lot of imagination to see things from a child's perspective, but that is what Jesus is asking us to do. As I potter round on my mobility scooter, more or less at the same level as a child, I am beginning to grasp what he was on about. Being that much closer to the ground makes one feel more fragile and vulnerable. Each bump in the pavement is important, each encounter is a new adventure, and each homecoming a sort of triumph.

"Become like little children." As grown-ups, there are so many things that cause us anxiety, things we work for, strive for, hope for and suffer for which are simply not a concern for young children. Little children live in the present moment. They accept things as they are, rather than what they think they ought to be, or may be, or shouldn't be. If, as Jesus seems to be suggesting, that kind of attitude is a pointer towards the kingdom of heaven, then an awful lot of our grown-up ideas are being called into question, not least, and perhaps especially, religious ideas.



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# For Your Diary

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July** : *A Trip to St Mary and St Bartholemew, Hampton-in-Arden. £10.*  
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Eucharist at 10am followed by a tour of the church at 11am.  
Sandwich Lunch, tea and cakes in the church hall at noon.  
We can arrange lifts to this meeting: Contact Elaine (0121 705 3265).

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July** : 10.30am in church - *MU Corporate Eucharist.*  
*No meeting in August.*

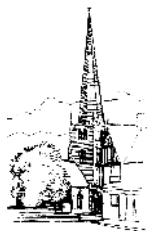
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September** : 1.30pm in the OBH. *Railway Tales* with Allen Kerr.

The latest information is on the parish website Mothers' Union page.  
You can access this on [www.solihullparish.org.uk/mothers-union](http://www.solihullparish.org.uk/mothers-union) and also from the website homepage top menu by clicking on **Connect** and then on **Mothers' Union**.

## WIVES' FELLOWSHIP

Our Monthly Lunch Club will meet again on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July and 5<sup>th</sup> August at 12 noon. If you would like to join us for a friendly lunch and chat, please phone Carol Caldicott for further details.

**Carol Caldicott**  
**0121 705 3168**



**S t A l p h e g e**  
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## SOLIHULL PARISH PCC & DCC CONTACTS

<i>Parish Wardens</i>	<b>Andrew Williams</b> , <a href="mailto:arwilliams399@gmail.com">arwilliams399@gmail.com</a> <b>Pam Price</b> , <a href="mailto:colandpam@ic24.net">colandpam@ic24.net</a>	0121 705 3268 0121 704 3104
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<i>St Alphege Stewardship Recorder</i>	<b>Frank Upton</b> , 1 Rectory Road	0121 705 2963
<i>St Helen Deputy Wardens</i>	<b>Phil Godfrey</b>	0121 705 3923
<i>St Helen Hall Bookings</i>	<b>Jeremy Eade</b> , <a href="mailto:solomere@aol.com">solomere@aol.com</a>	0121 706 3831
<i>St Michael Deputy Wardens</i>	<b>Keith Wilson</b> <b>Merrill Flood</b>	0121 778 2295 0121 705 3291

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS  
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**Email to [parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk) or leave in the Parish Office**

# SOLIHULL PARISH STAFF & CONTACTS

<b>Team Rector</b>	The position is currently vacant	
<b>Team Vicar for St Michael</b> (Not available Thursdays)	<b>The Revd. Simon Marshall</b> St Michael's Church Centre, Oak Cottage, Bryanston Road, Solihull, B91 1BS	<a href="mailto:simon@solihullparish.org.uk">simon@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 0121 704 4730
<b>Team Vicar for St Helen</b> (Not currently available)	<b>The Revd. Helen Greenham</b>	<a href="mailto:sthoffice@solihullparish.org.uk">sthoffice@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Pioneer Minister</b> (Not available Fridays)	<b>Suzette Maguire</b> 10 Middlewood Close, Solihull, B91 2TY	<a href="mailto:s.maguire@solihullparish.org.uk">s.maguire@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 0121 709 0884
<b>Associate Priest</b>	<b>The Revd. Sue Chandler</b>	<a href="mailto:s.chandler@solihullparish.org.uk">s.chandler@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 07970 791288
<b>Ministry and Leadership Support</b>	<b>The Venerable Paul Taylor</b>	<a href="mailto:pstaylor53@gmail.com">pstaylor53@gmail.com</a> 07796 691203
<b>Readers</b>	<b>Linda Hicks</b> <b>Stephen Linstead</b> <b>Beryl Moppett</b> <b>Chris Carrington</b> <b>Paul Smith</b> <b>Ruth Marshall</b>	01564 782557 0121 705 1376 0121 705 0337 0121 705 0902 07887 663 171 07732 121320
<b>Assistance is also offered by</b>	<b>The Revd. Roger Chamberlain</b>	<a href="mailto:revrog@hotmail.co.uk">revrog@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Director of Music &amp; Organist</b>	<b>Christopher Martin Thomas</b>	<a href="mailto:c.thomas@solihullparish.org.uk">c.thomas@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Music Department Administrator</b>	<b>Isabel Baumber</b>	<a href="mailto:isabel@solihullparish.org.uk">isabel@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Director of Children's &amp; Families' Ministry</b>	<b>Linda Hicks</b> Room 3, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	<a href="mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk">l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 07838 670772 0121 270 7390
<b>Youth Worker</b>	The position is currently vacant	
<b>Youth Assistants</b>	<b>Debbie Woodward &amp; Lynn Smart</b> Youth Office, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	<a href="mailto:d.woodward@solihullparish.org.uk">d.woodward@solihullparish.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk">l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 0121 661 6303
<b>St Alphege Verger</b>	<b>Paul Evans</b> Verger's Office at St Alphege Church	07483 318713
<b>St Alphege Tower Secretary</b>	<b>Sand Cooper</b>	<a href="mailto:sand.cooper@outlook.com">sand.cooper@outlook.com</a>
<b>Parish Administrators</b> <b>PARISH OFFICE</b>	<b>Ann Colloby &amp; Prem Patel</b> Parish Office, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	<a href="mailto:office@solihullparish.org.uk">office@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 0121 705 5350 <b>Mon-Thu 9am to 1pm;</b> <b>Fri 9am to 12 noon</b>
<b>Oliver Bird Hall Bookings</b> <a href="http://www.solihullparish.org.uk/church-hall-hire/">www.solihullparish.org.uk/church-hall-hire/</a>		





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