

SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS



TEAM CHURCHES

St ALPHEGE - The Square, Solihull B91 3RH

St HELEN - St Helen's Road, Solihull B91 2DA

St MICHAEL - Bryanston Road, Solihull B91 1BS



St Alphege (Sundays)

8.00 a.m. Said Eucharist
 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist except:
 Sunday 9.15 a.m. All Age Eucharist 12th May
 11.00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 12th May (bell Sunday)
 5.00 p.m. Evensong
 Monday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 Thursdays 10.30 a.m. Said Eucharist

The Junction

9.15 a.m. Junction in person at the OBH on Sunday 5th and 19th May
 9.15 a.m. Junction on Zoom on Sunday 26th May

St Helen

Sundays 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
 Third Sunday 10.00 a.m. Morning Praise
 Tuesdays 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

St Michael at Sharmans Cross School on Sundays

10.30 a.m. Eucharist.

St. Michael's Chapel, Bryanston Road on Wednesdays

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

Friday

9.30 a.m. **Praise and Play** – please e-mail Linda Hicks l.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 Revd. Nick Parker or another priest if you need help in an emergency or any support (full contact details inside the back cover) or phone the Parish Office on 0121 705 5350. It is always a pleasure to talk to you."

WEDDING AND BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

Please contact the Parish Office:
life.events@solihullparish.org.uk

The Revd. Nick Parker
The Revd. Simon Marshall
The Revd. Sue Chandler

Contents

Editorial	2
Roundabout	4
Let us Pray	12
News from Team Churches	13
St Alphege	13
St Michael	22
St Helen	24
The Guardians of St Alphege	18
Music Matters	20
Church for Families	25-28
Youth Stuff	29
Pioneer Diary	30
Matters of Faith	46
For Your Diary	50
Address Book	52



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Visit our Website

www.solihullparish.org.uk

Want to email the Editor?
parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk

Cover picture

"Christ is Risen!"

The Easter Garden in St. Alphege Church"

Headlines

So, What Do the Mayer, the 6 th Solihull Cubs and a Cat have in Common?	4
In the Next Edition	5
Shoe Aid	6
Good Friday Walk of Witness	7
Solihull Parish Youth	7
"Time and Variations" <i>Martin Tunncliffe introduces his new book.</i>	8
New Area Dean for Yardley and Solihull	9
National Youth Ministry Conference	9
Mothers' Union - Hot Cross Buns for Walkers	10
Mothers' Union - Marriage Preparation Returns to St. Alphege	11
The 'Big Picture' of Additional Needs Ministry	34
Update from the Parish Wardens	38
Cathedral Cities	40

Editorial

May is an interesting month, full of contrasts. Usually, as it begins, we are in the heart of Spring. By the end there are often signs of the approach of summer. It is a month of hope, a month of promise. The church's calendar and liturgy during May this year brings us several important festivals. These too offer hope and promise.

Easter was early this year, which means that May begins in the fifth week of the season. The first major festival in May this year is *Ascension Day* which always occurs forty days after the Resurrection. In those forty days, Jesus Christ was seen on a number of occasions and by a number of different people. He greeted them, spoke with them, broke bread with them and left them blessed by their encounter with the risen Lord.

Then the time came for Jesus to leave. Jesus led the disciples out to Bethany. Here he lifted his hands in blessing and then withdrew as he was carried up to heaven. On the day we call Good Friday, the disciples had watched as Jesus hung, dying on the cross. Then they looked on in great sadness and confusion as his lifeless body was carried away to be buried in a tomb. Now on the day of the *Ascension* they again looked on as Jesus was carried away. This time, however, they were filled with great joy. They then returned to Jerusalem, to the Temple to wait.

The second major festival this month occurs just ten days later. It is the *Day of Pentecost*, which some of us might remember used to be known as *Whitsun* or *Whit Sunday*. This is another day of great rejoicing. In fact, the disciples were so joyful that some thought they might be drunk. The *Day of Pentecost* is the day that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit, the advocate, the comforter, the paraclete. On this day the Holy Spirit was seen in the form of tongues of fire, flames, descending on to the heads of the disciples. This was the day on which the disciples gained the confidence they needed to go out into the world and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, risen, ascended, glorified. This confidence was brought to them by the Holy Spirit. Many consider the *Day of Pentecost* to be the birthday of the Church.

The third day of celebration comes just a week later: the feast of the *Holy Trinity*. Our God has revealed himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three aspects of God form a Trinity of relationships united in one being. It is this eternal three-fold relationship that we celebrate on this day. It used to be traditional on this day to recite the Creed of St. Athanasius in church. You might like to read this through for yourself. It is in the Book of Common Prayer, immediately following the liturgy for Evening Prayer.

So, in May we bring the story of Jesus Christ's earthly mission and ministry to its end. We remember his ascension into heaven, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the unity of the three persons of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These festivals draw us more deeply into our faith, more deeply into the hope and promise offered to us by God through Jesus Christ.

Fr. Roy

The Grove Residential Home (Solihull)

48 LODE LANE, SOLIHULL, B91 2AE

CQC AND SOLIHULL MBC REGISTERED

A comfortable 'home from home' residential home for older people, located near to the Hospital and centre of Solihull.

We offer Short term / Long term

**Enquiries to Miss Michelle Farrugia
Telephone No: 0121 705 3356**

RAYNER HOUSE AND YEW TREES

3-5 Damson Parkway, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2PP

**ARE YOU CONSIDERING SHELTERED HOUSING
IN A CARING ENVIRONMENT?**

- YEW TREES** offers single older people affordable sheltered housing flatlets situated in pleasant grounds -
- Independent living with support services
 - 24 hour on site emergency support
 - Home cooked meals available
 - Domestic service provided
 - A secure environment
 - Parking facilities
 - A varied social activities programme
 - A friendly community environment
 - Guest flat accommodation available for visitors

For further information and brochure contact Business Manager on

0121 705 9293

<http://www.raynerhouseandyewtrees.co.uk/>

Roundabout

So, What Do the Mayor, the 6th Solihull Cubs and a Cat Have in Common?

No, it's not the start of a daft joke but some rather interesting visits to the bell tower. You'll know from our article in the March Parish News that the bell ringers have been celebrating the various Borough anniversaries. Monday 11th March saw the 70th anniversary of Solihull becoming a Municipal Borough. To mark the occasion, the Mayor of Solihull, Diana Holl-Allen, along with the Mayor's consort, John Courtenay, visited the ringing room to ring one of the bells and help the ringers to mark the occasion.

52 steps up and having got her breath back, the Mayor took in the history of the church, the bells and ringing. She showed particular interest in the peal board dedicated to Private Tom Turner who was a regular ringer as St Alphege before being killed in the Great War at Gallipoli. After the War when ringing resumed, the resident ringers rang a peal of over 3 hours in his honour. Each Remembrance Sunday we still lay a wreath for him. Many of the names on the peal boards were familiar to the Mayor, including the Braggs and Geoffrey Martineau who are well known in the Solihull area and also were once regular ringers.

After being introduced to the current band, who had arrived during the tower presentation, it was time for the Mayor to ring a bell. With great gusto, she set about chiming the 7th bell. The Mayor's consort then also had a turn. The Mayoral party stayed in the ringing chamber for the first general ringing of rounds on all twelve bells, before leaving the tower and allowing the ringers to continue, concluding with a quarter peal.

A month earlier, one cold dark night, 6th Solihull Hurricane Cubs were treated to what they described as a fantastic visit to the bell tower. We were careful throughout to give an age-appropriate tour that included the bells in the belfry. We firstly started with a safety briefing followed by an introduction to bell ringing and some demonstrations using models so everyone could understand. Then one group of Cubs went on up another 49 steps to the belfry to watch the mechanics of the bells as individual bells were rung, while the other group learnt 'plain hunting' with hand bells. For them it was like magic when everyone ended up back where they'd started and able to play a scale again after lots of changing of places! Lastly, everyone had the opportunity to try ringing one of the bells for themselves, with the support from an experienced ringer.



The Cubs loved their evening learning about bell ringing, they counted lots of steps, learnt new skills, gained an awareness of the art of bell ringing (which they were keen to share with their parents), and also committed to look out and listen out, for the bells in future. Here's what some of the cubs thought, in their own words:

"This visit was great fun and the bell was so heavy it lifted me off the ground!" – Theo

"I was scared at the tight entrance at first but the bell ringing was awesome, I loved it very much." – Alec

"I didn't know the bells were so big and heavy!! And that some of them start upside down!"
- Lewis-Oliver

A huge thank you to ringers who turned out in force to support this event. We were all so impressed by the Cubs' enthusiasm, listening skills and willingness to have a go at imitating change ringing on handbells, ringing a church bell 'full circle' and even attempting to chime the biggest of our bells. We all thought it was a truly lively event and great fun and together we certainly created a cacophony of sound! The Cub leaders were so grateful to the whole of the bellringing team for giving up their time and for making such a successful and informative evening for the Cubs. And in our turn, we loved the thank you card signed by them all.

And so, what about the cat? Well, if you've ever ventured up the tower you'll know that it's approached from the small door near the vestry and involves climbing some way up a spiral staircase. Not the usual haunt for a neighbouring cat but we recently had an unexpected visitor to one of our practice nights. Having reached the ringing room door and inadvertently being let in, the cat became rather frightened of us all and rushed into a small space behind the ladder to the clock room. Fortunately, one of our resident vets was on hand to capture the cat, calm him down and remove him!

Never a dull moment in the tower...



Sand Cooper
Tower Secretary sand.cooper@outlook.com

In the Next Edition:

In the June edition there will be an article about a sometime parishioner who is now a young fencer in the Great Britain team and one about the St. Alphege Micro Victory Garden Project which is about Cultivating Green Thumbs and Kind Hearts: A Community Gardening Project.

Shoe Aid

Trying to help to provide shoes, to people who are too poor to be able to buy shoes:-

- Children who cannot go to school, or play sports because they have no suitable shoes to wear, which often this makes them a target for ridicule or bullying.

4m children, taking an average across the British Isles, this equates to 4 children out of a class of 30

- Young adults unable to go for an interview due to lack of suitable shoes
- Rough Sleepers without shoes, "Trench Foot" is now rife amongst these people

So Children's to Adult Shoes, Trainers to Formal wear, all are welcome

If you have any unwanted shoes in good condition, please contact Phil on 07770 406870, 56 Buryfield Road, Solihull, or let me know on philcgodfrey@btinternet.com



We had a splendid collection last year, when we collected in the Parish and the Rotary Club of Solihull, a fantastic total of 84 sacks of shoes.

Can we beat this??

Please tell your friends and relations

Phil Godfrey



Crafty People – We Need You!

We are planning to host a poppy installation at St. Alphege Church in Solihull for Remembrance Sunday 2024, and we need as many poppies as possible! (Knitted or crocheted.)

(Patterns are available if you need one.)

See **Ann Bocock** (Knit & Natter at the Greville Arms, fortnightly on Monday evenings) or **Suzette Maguire** (Wellbeing Wednesday at the Greville Arms, every Wednesday morning or call

0121 7090884 for more details.

Drop off points to be confirmed.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

For the first time in memory, some of the Walk of Witness took place in the rain, quite heavy rain in the end. The Walk started with a short service outside St. Augustine's Church and processed along the High Street to Mell Square where Fr. Simon led the service



and Fr. Dominic from St. Augustine's spoke well but with increasing difficulty in the rain. We then decided to cut short the service and move on to St. Alphege where the Revd. Molly from the Methodist Church concluded with some prayers. We do thank Chris Thomas and the Ladies' Choir for their help with the music, and Peter Rock and others too for guiding the cross which was carried by Fr. Nick for the last stage. One good facet of the situation for the service was that most of the walkers could keep dry under the shop canopies! But a good number turned up to make it a significant Act of Witness, and it was good to share fellowship with those from many congregations in the Parish Centre afterwards with Hot Cross Buns; thank your Pat Marshall and many others. It was good to welcome Fr. John Yanny from the Coptic Church for the first time to the Walk. It is well worth a visit to the Cathedral in Caldwell Grove.

Andrew Williams

Solihull Parish Youth

Our Parish Youth performed the Palm Sunday Dramatic Passion Reading in an impressive way at St. Alphege which helped the congregation to feel more a part of the narrative and the young people too learned how to perform well and to understand more about the events of the first Holy Week.

Andrew Williams



"Time and Variations"

Martin Tunnicliffe introduces his new book.

When my children were still infants, I began to scribble a few thoughts and memories of what it was like when I was their age. As those two girls are now well past their fiftieth birthdays, you will appreciate that that was a long time ago. Every now and then over the intervening years, I put a few more memories into writing. Then life became too full of other matters, and I shelved all the papers. During the 2020 pandemic lockdown, in one of the many idle moments, I found the stuff I had written, and thought it might be worth adding to. The result is this 280-page book.

Inside, you will come across a series of verbal pictures. I was born in 1931 and grew up during the 1930s and 1940s. The years covered in the book are 1931 to 1958. They are remote; one might say they are historical, when you consider that they pre-date computers, space travel, artificial satellites, mobile phones, the Internet, electric scooters, synthesized music and AI. Yet they are the years of the Twentieth Century of which I have clear and vivid memories, including the Second World War. During those 27 years, I became an evacuee and a soldier. I lived in ten different places, including a year in Paris, and attended, in various parts of England, six primary schools, three grammar schools, and one university. I had several part-time jobs and one permanent one. Some of my experiences have been puzzling, some serious and reflective, some scary, some bizarre, and some really funny. They include a jolly rag-bag of interesting characters, ranging from professors and bishops to farmers and soldiers.

Time & Variations is currently being prepared for printing, and I need to know how many copies to print. It will cost about £10 per copy to produce. I don't intend to make any money on the book, so if you would like a copy, it will only cost you £10 (plus postage if necessary). However, to celebrate the appearance of this book, I intend to donate £3 myself per copy sold, to a special Down's Syndrome charity. If you would like to add to that donation when you purchase a copy, please feel free and I will add your donation to mine.

If you are interested in buying a copy, please let me know, preferably by email to mwtunnicliffe@outlook.com.

Editor's Note

Readers may recall the recent article in Parish News about a family with two members with Down's Syndrome. Those of us with family members who have Down's Syndrome know how valuable the work of the charities is to supplement the difficult-to-access state support.



New Area Dean for Yardley and Solihull

Bishop Michael is very pleased to announce the appointment of the Revd. Tony Rindl as vicar of St. Leonard's, Marston Green and Area Dean of Yardley and Solihull. Revd. Tony is currently the vicar of St. Mary's church, Watford, where he has served since 2013.

Revd. Tony Rindl said,

"I am very much looking forward to returning to the West Midlands and to serve in the CofE Birmingham as Area Dean of Yardley and Solihull Deanery and Vicar of St. Leonard's Marston Green. Having grown up in Birmingham it feels like I am coming home. Indeed, I was born in Marston Green and the first five years of my life I lived in Yardley before moving to Selly Oak. Since ordination I have served in three dioceses, Leicester, Blackburn and most recently St. Albans. I hope the experience gained in different roles and responsibility over the past 25 years will stand me in good stead as I embark on this new chapter in my ministry."

Revd. Tony is expected to take up his role in July and details of his collation and induction will be shared in due course.

We look forward to welcoming Revd. Tony back to Birmingham.

National Youth Ministry Conference.

The gift of hospitality - can you help?

Every year, thousands of people who work with young people in churches and communities from across the country come to our great city; they come for the National Youth Ministry Conference run by Youthscape, and this year, we would like to offer some of them a place to stay!

The event is moving back to Resorts World, largely due to the numbers who come; this may mean that the price of the conference is out of some people's reach as the hotels are more expensive.

So, could you help?

This year Mission Support would love to offer 30 people attending the conference a place to stay on the Friday and/or the Saturday night.

Do you have a spare room, and could you offer breakfast on the 22nd and/or 23rd of November?

You may not be able to do youth work where you are, but you can cheer someone on in their youth work journey by offering a bed for the night! We are hugely grateful.

Further details will follow.

Emma Sargeant, Growing Younger Advisor, Mission Support.



Our many friends from other churches in Solihull joined with us for refreshments after the Walk of Witness

Hot Cross Buns for Walkers

Mothers' Union provided hot cross buns, tea and coffee to the people returning from the Walk of Witness on Good Friday morning. We served about 120 people from the various churches around Solihull; they were so grateful, after getting very wet at the end of the walk. It was a lovely atmosphere and we received £141.00 in donations which will be sent to the Mothers' Union Overseas Fund.

Susan Leach

Mothers' Union Enrolment

Our newest member is Revd Nick. He was enrolled into the St Alphege Branch of Mothers' Union at the Corporate Eucharist on 21st March. Congratulations, and welcome, Nick.

TOM O' THE WOOD
Country Pub and Restaurant



Finwood Road, Rowington,
Warwickshire, CV35 7DH
Tel. 01564 782 252
www.tomothewood.co.uk

Traditional homemade food with a modern twist all freshly prepared on the premises using locally sourced products.

This ancient canalside pub provides a relaxing setting in which to enjoy your meal whilst taking in the peaceful sight and sounds from the Grand Union Canal.

You will find a very friendly atmosphere with welcoming staff.

Families, groups, walking parties and dogs are always welcome.

See Website for more information

Steve Tremayne

Carpentry & Joinery

Property Repairs, alterations and maintenance

Garage Conversions

High standard of work and attention to detail

Friendly and efficient service

Telephone
0121 743 8185 07906 233288

Mothers' Union's Marriage Preparation returns to St. Alphege



On Saturday 2nd March 2024 it was wonderful to host six of the couples who will marry at St Alphege during the year.

Marriage Preparation sessions were suspended during the pandemic and the interregnum, so it was fabulous to see them return. The sessions were previously delivered by Catherine and Neil Eaton and our thanks go to them for sharing their experiences with myself and Elaine Diskin, who along with my husband Nick and Revd Nick, were picking up the reins.

The openness of our couples made the session a pleasure to deliver. Using materials created by Mothers' Union, our programme covered **3 Cs**: communication, commitment and conflict.

Those present were willing to share their journeys to date, to seriously consider the commitment they are to make and to examine how they may deal with life's challenges as they move forward together. The **5 Languages of Love** were also explored (look them up!) and we all discovered some of our differences when playing the Mr and Mrs game! Our thanks also go to Justin and Karen Jeff for sharing their experiences with the group over coffee.



The day was filled with candour, humour and cake and was deemed a success by everyone. We wish all of the couples much happiness and joy, both on their wedding days and for many years to come.



Julia Hanson

Let us Pray

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for May 2024

1	Phillip and James, Apostles	Bishops Michael and Anne	Bushley Croft
2	Athanasius of Alexandria	Elections for SMBC	Caldwell Grove
3	Feria	The King and Queen	Cambridge Avenue
4	English Saints and Martyrs	Those Persecuted for their Faith.	Catherine's Close
5	Easter 6	The People of St. Helen's Church	Cedarhurst
6	Rogation Day	Farmers and Food Producers	Chadbury Croft
7	Rogation Day	Those exploring ordination	Chadley Close
8	Julian of Norwich	Volunteers in our Parish	Chalgrove Crescent
9	Ascension Day	Those Preparing for Baptism or Confirmation	Charterhouse Drive
10	Feria	The St. Alphege Schools	Chauson Grove
11	Feria	The Police	Chelthorn Way
12	Sunday after Ascension	The People of St. Alphege Church	Cheltondale Road
13	Feria	Our Local GP Surgeries	Chelveston Crescent
14	Mathias the Apostle	Those preparing for marriage	Cherrington Way
15	Feria	Those Studying the Alpha Course	Cherrywood Crescent
16	Caroline Chisholm	Those Working for Social Justice	Chesterton Close
17	Feria	Musicians in the Parish	Cheveridge Close
18	Feria	The Marie Curie Hospice, Solihull	Chilwell Close
19	Pentecost (Whit Sunday)	The Guidance of the Holy Spirit	Chipstone Close
20	Alcuin of York	Stephen: Archbishop of York	Church Hill Close
21	Helena, Protector of Holy Places	Curators of Damaged Church Buildings	Church Hill Road
22	Feria	Students Preparing for Exams	Clarewell Avenue
23	Feria	Well-being Wednesday Group	Claverdon Close
24	John & Charles Wesley	Solihull Methodist Church	Compton Close
25	The Venerable Bede	Our Archdeacons	Coppice Close
26	Trinity Sunday	The People of St. Michael's Church	Cornyx Lane
27	Feria	Hospital Staff	Cotheridge Close
28	Lanfranc, Prior of Le Bec	Justin: Archbishop of Canterbury	Cranford Grove
29	Feria	Funeral Directors in Solihull	Cryersoak Close
30	Corpus Christi	Thanksgiving for Holy Communion	Damson Lane
31	Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth	Those expecting babies this summer	Damson Parkway

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

From the St. Alphege Register

Baptisms

April 21st Theo Newton

April 28th Everlie Danks, Theodore Sandhu-Jones, and George Shiels

Weddings

18th May Gregory Leech and Jessica Hall

Funerals

April 9th John Stevenson

April 12th Keith Baldwin

April 22nd Terence Eccles

Interment of Ashes

None

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in May

Paul Bloodworth
David Chambers
David Geoffrey Cox
Marie Davey
Tony Davies
Edith Feldman

Barbara Ferguson
Douglas Hale
Reginald Hobbs
Leslie Hodges
Christine Jukes
Margaret Mawson

Mark Metcalfe
Peter John Mitchell
Michael Shackleton
Geoffrey Starbuck
John Mark Taylor
Peter Walford

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:

<https://www.solihullparish.org.uk/church-hall-hire/>

or contact the Parish Office at:

[**OBHBookings@solihullparish.org.uk**](mailto:OBHBookings@solihullparish.org.uk)

Worship Notes for May 2024

The month of May this year leads us through the final weeks of the *Easter Season*, which ends at *Pentecost*. The month continues on to include both *Trinity Sunday* and the feast day of *Corpus Christi*.

Ascension Day - 9th May

On this day, forty days after *Easter Day*, we recall that Jesus was lifted up into heaven. His disciples were present at this event, but before he left, Jesus instructed them to wait patiently for the coming of the Holy Spirit. There is a special sense of patient expectation during this short season of Ascensiontide.

Pentecost - 19th May

This day often used to be called **Whit Sunday**. It is the day of celebration for the coming of the Holy Spirit which descended upon the disciples. It is often visually represented by tongues of fire resting on the heads of the disciples. Pentecost is often thought of as the birthday of the church.

Trinity Sunday – 26th May

The Sunday following *Pentecost* is devoted to the doctrine of The Trinity. The Church argued over this for many years but eventually settled on the belief that God reveals himself through three persons: that is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is this revelation of God which the church celebrates today.

Corpus Christi – 30th May

The feast day called *Corpus Christi* is a day of thanksgiving for Holy Communion. We recall that Jesus Christ instituted this commemoration at the Last Supper and that he intended us to continue its usage for all generations. At the Eucharist we continue to meet with Jesus in the bread and wine of Communion.

Other Feast Days in May

1st May - The Apostles Philip and James

These two apostles, brothers, are celebrated together. They were constant companions of Jesus and were present at several events recorded in the Gospels.

31st May - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Even though we have only just ended our Easter festivities, the church begins to look toward Christmas. Having received the news that she was to give birth to a son, the Blessed Virgin Mary went to visit her relative Elizabeth who was herself six months' pregnant. Her son would be John the Baptist.

Fr. Roy

Wednesday Lunchtime Music Recitals, 1.10pm to 2pm

All are welcome to the Recitals. 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

1 st May	Calypso Moon saxophone trio
8 th May	Tony Bridgewater, piano
15 th May	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Harp Department
22 nd May	Stuart Ironside, guitar
29 th May	Joel Skaria, piano

Thomas Bragg & Sons Funeral Directors

A Life Well Remembered Lives On

- 24-hour service
- Bereavement advice
- Transparent pricing
- Home visits
- Private chapels of rest
- Floral tributes
- Memorial masonry
- Prepaid funeral plans

Thomas Bragg & Sons Funeral Directors are here to support and guide you. We offer a friendly, professional service to families.

Call us for immediate support, advice or a home visit. We are here to help 24 hours a day.

www.thomasbragg.co.uk

Shirley

0121 744 1428

562 Stratford Road, B90 4AY

Knowle

01564 773 610

1682 High Street, B93 0LY

 **Funeral Partners**



May 2024 Services

Sunday 5th May – Easter 6

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
Oliver Bird Hall	9.15 a.m.	The Junction
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

Wednesday 8th May

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
-------------	------------	-----------

Thursday 9th May – Ascension Day

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	7.30 p.m.	Eucharist

Sunday 12th May – Easter 7

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.15 a.m.	All Age Holy Communion (First Communion)
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Choral Eucharist (Bell Sunday)
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

Wednesday 15th May

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
-------------	------------	-----------

Thursday 16th May

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
-------------	------------	-----------

Sunday 19th May – Pentecost

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
Oliver Bird Hall	9.15 a.m.	The Junction
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

Wednesday 22nd May

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
-------------	------------	-----------

Thursday 23rd May

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
-------------	------------	-----------

Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
Zoom	9.15 a.m.	The Junction
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

Wednesday 29th May

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
-------------	------------	-----------

Thursday 30th May – Corpus Christi

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	7.30 p.m.	Eucharist

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is ordinarily said each weekday, and all are very welcome.

Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays at St. Alphege at 9 a.m.

Tuesdays at St. Helen's at 9 a.m.

Wednesdays at St. Michael's Chapel at 9.30 a.m.



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

We had a most enjoyable Coffee & Hot Cross Bun event. There were not as many there as we had hoped though, as we clashed with the Mothers Union. We must be careful about that in future. However, those there seemed to enjoy themselves and we made £133. Thank to everyone who supported the event.

By the time you read this, we will have had our next planning meeting and arranged future events. We'll let you know the details as soon as possible.

We are delighted to let you know that we have recruited another Trustee. Phil Godfrey has volunteered to join us and we are extremely grateful to him. As they say, 'one volunteer is worth ten conscripted people'. Roger Shinton and Phil have been co-opted to the Trustees committee and will be formally elected at the A.G.M. in early October.

This does not mean that the rest of you can sit back on your laurels. We may have what is constitutionally required for the Trustees for the time being. However, next year Judith and Jan will have completed their second 3-year term and may not wish to go on for a third term, in which case we will need more volunteers. Please give it some thought.

Also, the Fundraising Committee will be a bit short after the A.G.M. Some new people on that committee would provide new ideas for events. It is important that we keep these events going as, in addition to membership subscriptions and investments, they are our main source of income. If you don't feel ready to take on the responsibilities of being a Trustee, but would like to help, the Fundraising Committee might suit you better. Please think about it.

I'll end with my usual plea for more of you to join. If you are interested, please get in touch with me (margaretoswald43@gmail.com or 0121 722 4092). The annual subscription is only £15 per person or £20 for a couple. You all know how much work has been done recently, and that there is still more to do. So please consider helping us raise the necessary funds. Thank you.

The Trustees

MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

*Fully Qualified
Ladies & Gentlemen's Hairdresser*

FOR AN APPOINTMENT

Telephone Claire:

01564 79 46 84

07931 751 451

HIGH QUALITY PAINTING & DECORATING SERVICES



We cover Solihull & surrounding areas.

Contact Lizzie for a free quote:

07809222493 hello@kbpainting.co.uk

www.kbpainting.co.uk



Floodlighting

The Guardians Floodlighting Scheme is available for anyone who would wish to celebrate or mark an occasion, or to commemorate a date.

Unfortunately, the floodlighting of St Alphege cannot be switched on at the present time due to corrosion of the electric cabling. The commemorative dates will still be displayed on the notice boards and also in the Parish Magazine. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me on the telephone number below.

I have been informed that remedial electrical work will commence at the beginning of June to resolve the floodlighting problem.

I would like to thank everyone who has been so supportive throughout this difficult time, for continuing to make their usual payments to the Guardians. We are most grateful.

The cost is £8.00 for 2 hours; £14.00 for 4 hours. Please give 14 days' notice.

Forms are available from the Guardians notice boards in St. Alphege Church or in the Oliver Bird Hall.

Names are displayed on monthly lists on these notice boards and also in the Solihull Parish News magazine and acknowledged with a card sent to the donor.

For further information please contact the Scheme organiser:-

Sheila Payne

0121 706 0520; or email: russellpayne110@aol.com

The Church was floodlit to remember the following in 2024:

8 th April	In loving memory of Ron Soden on his birthday.
10 th April	In loving memory of Mary Friswell.
24 th April	In loving memory of Vivien Soden.

Advertising in the Solihull Parish News

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

Contact our Advertising Manager, Tim Drakeford

TELEPHONE: 0121 705 4494

GARDENING SERVICES

All types of gardening work undertaken

Serving Solihull and surrounding areas

Free advice available

Contact Steve Byrne 07969 692934

Music Matters

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

What a privilege it was to journey alongside the congregation and clergy through Lent and Holy Week, towards the joy of Easter!

We were delighted to be part of the Palm Sunday procession (and are hoping that the donkeys might be back next year) and loved hearing the dramatised version of the Passion Gospel read by the Parish Youth, which includes a number of choir members.

Monday saw our one-day Holiday Club with 20 visiting children from eight different Solihull schools. The children spent the day learning music and singing technique, as well as having



time for games and making new friends. At the end of the day, parents were invited to listen to a performance by the children – it was lovely to have a very full chancel and we are hoping to see some of the children again at regular choir practices.

In the evening, we supported a new initiative, Taizé Evening Prayer, with three of our secondary-school aged choristers playing flute and clarinet to accompany the Taizé chants. It was a very moving service and we'll be pleased to support Fr. Nick with future services of this nature.

The *Triduum* services all included some wonderful and highly appropriate music choices. As is tradition, we sang Duruflé's *Ubi Caritas* during the foot-washing on Maundy Thursday. Duruflé set this ancient Gregorian chant to music in 1960 and it has become a very popular choral piece, with words meaning 'where there is charity and love, God is there'. Good Friday included the Victoria *St. John Passion*, the Sanders *Reproaches* and Lotti's *Crucifixus*. This was a very emotional service with words and music all contributing, and the powerful *Reproaches* forming a central question "*O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!*". The *Triduum* ended with the joyous Holy Saturday Easter Vigil service, where we sang movements from Mozart's *Spatzenmesse* and Vaughan Williams' vibrant '*Let all the World in every corner sing*'.

Easter Day was an early start as the clocks changed overnight! The All Age Holy Communion service included singers from the Holiday Club, singing songs they had learnt earlier in the



week such as *Easter Jubilation* by Helen and Mark Johnson, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist involved Schubert's *Mass in G* and the ever-popular *Hallelujah Chorus* – the culmination of Part II of Handel's *Messiah*. We also had a bit of time for Easter crafts and an egg hunt – a very well-deserved reward at the end of a very busy week. It was a pleasure to be joined by former choristers and visiting choristers for some of the Triduum and Easter services – you are all very welcome, it is wonderful to have such a large choir as part of our worship.

Thank you to all singers and everyone who supports the choirs.

Isabel Baumber



Job Advice Club Solihull

LOOKING FOR WORK? Need help with:

- ♦ Job Search Applications
- ♦ CVs
- ♦ Interview Preparation
- ♦ Networking

INTERESTED? Drop-in on Mondays
10:30am to 12:30pm

– in the meeting room at the rear of
Solihull United Reformed Church B91 3DA
Warwick Road, (opposite House of Fraser)

Email contact point is: enquiries@jobadviceclubsolihull.com
Contact phone number is: 07745722273

Solihull Church
heart of england
Workplace Chaplaincy
and our wonderful volunteers!




BANNOCKS OF SOLIHULL Monumental Masons



Five generations of quality manufacturing
and service from a family business.
All aspects of Monumental Masonry.
Large display.

117 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull B90 3PF

Tel: 0121 744 1727

Opposite Robin Hood Cemetery main gates
www.bannocksmemorials.co.uk

Easter Day like no Other

To most of us the hour going forward in April on Easter Day was no surprise, but clearly to someone somewhere it was. We turned up as usual at the school for our Easter Day service to find we could not gain access. Somehow the swipe card we use to gain access failed to work presumably as the schools were on holiday no one had thought to move the timing. However here at St. Michael's we always have a Plan B. Rapid phone call, text messages, carrier pigeon, pony express, any way to let everyone know we would be at the chapel. Yes, it was a scramble, but everyone rose to the occasion and in the finish we had 43 in our chapel. Although it is large enough to cater for most events we run, Wembley Arena it isn't, so we were well packed. Oh, and we had our music group as well. Many thanks to everyone who responded and made it a really happy and enjoyable occasion, as indeed it should be. Thanks also to Nick who presided as if this was quite normal.

Wendy from our congregation summed it up beautifully in this poem, which was entitled:

Surprised by Easter! Ha ha.

Not finding the familiar (Sharmans Cross School).
Having to face the unexpected (another venue!)
Pulling together, spreading the news!!
(Phone calls, texts, WhatsApp's)

Being in disarray (even in slippers!)
And finally joy, connection, excitement.
Together and celebrating!
Squashed in, a family. Together.
He is risen! Alleluia!!

Back to Lent Quickly

During Lent Fr. Simon led a group which looked at various works of art with reference to the themes of Lent. These are available to look at: www.artandlent.blogspot.com

St. Michael's Annual District Church Meeting

This was held on Sunday 17th March after the Eucharist. Apart from reports on how St. Michael's fared over the last year, there were the elections to the District Church Council. A very big thank you must go to Keith Wilson who was elected as Deputy Churchwarden for another year. Keith has been in this job now for a good number of years and St. Michael's is really grateful for his dedication to this important role which he carries off with his usual good humour. Also elected to the D.C.C. were David Yarnold, John Hudson and Russell Payne. Retiring from the D.C.C. were Ann Cloney, Richard Austen and Nick Evans, so our very grateful thanks to all.

Thursday Social

Recently we decided to start a social get-together once a month; this is open to anyone to join us in the chapel for tea/coffee and cake and a chat. As a church, we don't have many opportunities to come together just to talk to one another. We held the first of these gatherings on 4th April which was attended by a good number from St. Michael's, so we shall continue to meet together on the first Thursday of the month between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at St. Michael's Chapel, Bryanston Road.

Paul Smith

SHEPHERDSON COURT DAY CENTRE

7 Damson Parkway, Solihull West Midlands B91 2PP

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR COMPANY OR RESPITE FOR A LOVED ONE?

SHEPS - offers respite for older people in a day care setting

- Mobility Friendly
- Motivation and Exercise
- Socializing
- Art Class
- Refreshments
- Activities and Mental Stimulation
- Nutritious Menu
- Entertainment
- Person Centre Care and Support
- Individual Needs e.g. Administer Medication

For further information contact Day Centre Manager on

0121 711 4266

daycentremanager@raynerhouse.co.uk

<http://www.raynerhouseandyewtrees.co.uk>

Looking back, the days before Easter were busy ones at St. Helen's. On Maundy Thursday, people from across the parish came together to enjoy an *Agape* meal which



was new to many of us but was a time of celebration and fellowship with delicious food. On Good Friday Revd. Nick led a *Tenebrae* service in the St. Helen's chapel when the atmosphere as the candles were extinguished was solemn and meaningful. This was followed by a Parish Quiet Day on Holy Saturday led by Suzette Maguire, our Pioneer Minister. Then on *Easter Sunday* we welcomed visitors both to our *Easter Service* led by Fr. Simon and afterwards when neighbours came to enjoy refreshments outside the church and to decorate with flowers the wooden cross which had stood there during *Holy Week*.

During April the *Alpha Course* has been running here on Wednesday evenings. It's an excellent course with new videos which really helps in understanding our faith. It runs for 8 sessions with an *Away Morning* at Temple Balsall on 18th May.

Looking ahead, May will see us celebrate *Pentecost* on 19th May with a Holy Communion Service. The week before is Christian Aid Week which will be the focus of our worship at the *Morning Praise Service* on 12th May. We will hold a collection in church or people can donate online using an e-envelope. We will also be supporting the *Christian Aid Coffee Morning* at Solihull Methodist Church on Saturday 11th May between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. There will be the usual stalls, including an excellent plant stall and Ploughmen's Lunches are served from 12 noon. We would encourage everyone to come along to this worthwhile event.

Chris Carrington
Deputy Warden



CHURCH 4 FAMILIES

May

Sunday Worship St Alphege

On **5th and 19th May** 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 **12th May** everyone will meet in the church building at 9.15 a.m. for a special **All age worship** service with the worship band and a group of children from the Parish will receive their First Communion.

On **26th May** the Junction will meet **ON ZOOM**
(Contact Linda l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk to register to receive the zoom link)

St Helen

Every Sunday at 10.00 a.m. there is worship in a modern space with a community feel with activities available for children.

Sunday 26th May St Helen's Sunday club will meet during the 10 a.m. service with an exciting action packed session for children age 0-11

St Michael

Every Sunday in term time at 10.30 a.m. there is worship in the school hall where a warm and welcoming space is created for all ages to worship.

Other Activities

Friday 17th May **Messy Church** St Helen's Church 4-6 p.m.

Praise and Play Every Friday 9.30-10.30 a.m. Oliver Bird Hall

Holy Week and Easter 2024

It was wonderful that children and their families had the opportunity to to explore Holy Week and Easter in so many of different ways.

Easter Journey

The Easter Journey event is now in its nineteenth year at St Alphege church. This year children attended from St Augustine's, St Alphege, Ruckleigh, Oak Cottage, Yew Tree and Greswold.

The children listened to the story of Holy Week. They then experienced foot washing, learnt about the Last Supper and heard Simon Peter's story. They took part in a meditation on the crucifixion and heard from one of the women at the Empty tomb and had the opportunity to reflect on their own fears and worries. Finally the children fed back what they had enjoyed most about the Easter Journey and what was the most important part to them and why it was important.

Palm cross making



On the afternoon of Thursday 14 March Linda Hicks taught Yr 5 of St Alphege Junior school how to make palm crosses and talked about the significance of Palm Sunday and the events of Holy Week. The following Wednesday Yr 2 of the Infant school walked up to the Junior school where they were expertly and enthusiastically taught by Yr 5 how to make palm crosses. It was great to see the different age groups working together. Each child made a palm cross to take home and then made another for the Parish. It was wonderful that all the palm crosses handed out at St Helen's on Palm Sunday were made by children from St Alphege school.

Easter Messy Church



At the Easter Messy church session the children spent time thinking about the events of Holy week through taking part in various activities. These included, palm cross making, making Easter cards, an Easter wreath, an Easter garden and decorating a cross.

Good Friday - Exploring the Easter Story



It was fantastic to see people of all ages from the Parish and beyond come together on Good Friday morning to explore the Easter story. There were lots of activities to get involved with including painting our feet and walking the path to the bowl where Nick washed our feet. Our footprints reminded us that we are journeying together with Jesus. As our feet were washed we heard more about why Jesus chose this particular action – why Simon Peter struggled to accept it – and how we can learn to love like Jesus by serving each other.

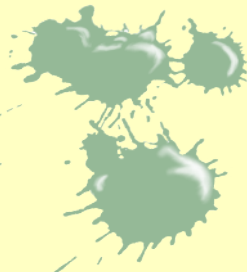
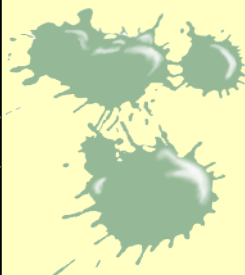


Prams to Preschool - Praise and Play



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



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. Finally we'll finish with a tasty hot tea for everyone!

The next Messy church session will be at St Helen's on Friday 17 May 4-6pm.

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

And make a note for your diary that it will also be Messy Church on 21 June and 19 July!

Youth Stuff

The Youth Group sessions on a Friday continue to flourish with a loyal band of young people growing in number. We have reinstated Film Club on a Saturday evening and plan more Film Clubs on future dates.

Are you, or someone you know in Year 6 and above, interested in joining a church youth group? Then do consider joining Solihull Parish Youth on a Friday evening, 5 p.m. – 6.20 p.m. in Room 6 at the Oliver Bird Hall. The sessions include pizza, activities and games. The aim is to provide a safe space to have fun and where faith and friendships can grow.

There is no charge, but registering before you come along for the first time is essential.

Please email Lynn Smart for the registration link: l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk

LITTLE LEARNERS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Cultivating Young Minds



St. Helen's Church, St.Helen's Road,
Solihull, B91 2DA

07526 789185

www.little-learners.co.uk
llmontessorisolihull@gmail.com

Ages 2 to 4 years



Enrol TODAY

Last few places left
at our calm, happy,
caring nursery rated

OUTSTANDING by
Ofsted.

Montessori develops your child's independence and brings joy to child led learning

"Were not our hearts burning within us...?"

(Luke 24:32)

On Saturday 30th March 14 of us came together from across the Parish for a quiet morning to think about the idea of being *A Holy Saturday Church*. Our pondering took us on the road to Emmaus, and the experience of the disciples in the *in-between*, wondering what had just happened and how it would all turn out. Jesus patiently, slowly, carefully walked with them as they tried to do a post-mortem on the events of recent days and he helped them to discover the truth so that they could move on (or, in their case, go back to Jerusalem).

He let them pour out their honest feelings to him before gently leading them to understand a bit more. They didn't know it was him, they didn't recognise him, but he was there. They didn't know what was coming up in the future. They definitely hadn't got it all sorted in their heads, but Jesus himself was there with them, walking, explaining, listening, staying. It was only over dinner that night, later, as he broke bread, that their eyes were opened: "Were not our hearts burning within us....?", and it's that burning heart that we spent just some of our time exploring on the quiet morning.

This burning is the resurrection of hope in the heart. A slow glowing burn, not quite catching fire yet. Remember these two described themselves as "astounded" by what the women had told them, but even so they still couldn't quite go the whole hog and believe that what the women had said, that what the angels had told them was true. That Jesus was alive. So, Jesus goes right back to the beginning and interprets the scriptures for them, showing them all "the things about himself in the scriptures". It's later on that they describe this sensation – "*Were not our hearts burning within us, while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?*" – but, for now, enough has happened in their hearts that they take their eyes off of their troubles and invite this stranger to stay with them "*because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.*"

In very simple terms St. Ignatius calls this movement, from being very self-centered and wrapped up in our broken heart, to moving on to a burning in our heart - the lifting of our eyes from ourselves and on to others and onto God - as the movement from desolation (experiencing a broken heart) to consolation (experiencing a burning heart). Something is happening. It may take some time. It may take some reading of the scriptures over time. But there is movement afoot. A slow unfurling. A movement within the heart.

We'd do well to look for this burning within ourselves. One way that I was introduced to some time ago, is something called the Examen. To perform the Examen we ask of ourselves just two questions: *When did I feel the most alive today?* & *When did I feel the least alive today?* This question can be asked in all kinds of forms, (others might ask - When was I happiest today? When was I saddest? What was today's high point? What was today's low point?) but, however we ask them, these questions can be asked after a whole day; or maybe a Church service (or a quiet morning ☺); after a day at work; a day at school; or a holiday; after reading a book; in fact, any kind of experience: what matters is that you are looking for the **life** in that experience. The burning of the heart. That burning shows us the way to move forward, to more of what makes us feel alive, and hopefully less of what doesn't – although no one has told me yet that I don't have to do housework!

The following is an example of one of the optional exercises that were available for people to try on the quiet morning:

Praying through Luke 24:21 – spend some time with this prayer and take time to think about 'what do I need to trust Jesus with today?'

Heavenly Father, thank You for the beautiful account of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, whose sorrow was turned into joy when they met Jesus on the way, and He opened-up the Scriptures to them.

Thank You that their hope in Him was restored when they discovered that Christ was indeed their promised Messiah, Who died to pay the price for their sin and rose again the third day, so that all Scripture would be fulfilled.

I pray that I will be careful not to fall into the trap of letting outward circumstances affect my inner trust in You. Help me heed my burning heart. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.

Keep safe and thanks for listening!

Suzette.

BILL BOYCE DECORATORS

***All types of Painting
Interior and Exterior,
Decorating, Glazing,
Free Estimates
Quality Workmanship***



**89 Union Road, Shirley, Solihull,
West Midlands B90 3BY
Telephone: 0121 744 0040
www.billboycedecorators.co.uk
billboycedecorators@hotmail.co.uk**

PG TURNING

Specialist Wood Turner
Commissions undertaken

Email: philcgodfrey@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07770 406870



*All profits to the charity
APS Support UK*

Quality care in Solihull you can trust

When a family is thinking about care for a loved one, they want the best - they want to know that the care home they choose will put their loved one's safety, happiness and wellbeing first.

Blossomfield Grange is managed by award-winning provider Care UK - one of the UK's most highly successful care home operators* with over 40 years' experience of delivering high quality care to older people.

Blossomfield Grange stands out from other care homes with its large apartment-style living and luxury facilities. The home offers a choice between two room types, each with their own ensuite bathrooms, private dining areas and kitchenettes. Our one bed suites are ideal for individuals, whilst our companion suites offer an additional room, perfect for couples to enjoy as an extra living area.

Living at Blossomfield Grange is all about quality of life, and we offer tailored care both for residential residents, as well as those living with dementia on our specialist memory care floor. All residents are supported to continue to enjoy lifelong hobbies and make new friends, from music sessions to quizzes, while dancing, exercise classes, and gardening support residents to stay fit and active.

Blossomfield Grange is designed with signage, colour schemes, soft furnishings and floor coverings all chosen to create a calm and accessible home from home. The dementia suite also includes extra items to aid reminiscence and create a sensory and engaging space. We also have our own café bistro, hair salon and large established gardens, enabling all residents to enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle.

Blossomfield Grange care home
1 Worcester Way (Off Dog Kennel Lane),
Solihull B90 4JX
0121 756 5748
careuk.com/blossomfield-grange

Join us for our next event

At Blossomfield Grange care home

Knit and natter coffee morning

Last Monday of every month
11am - 12 noon

Come along to our monthly session alongside residents at Blossomfield Grange. Take part in learning and sharing new skills while enjoying complimentary freshly baked cakes and coffee or tea.

Contact the home to RSVP.



*As rated by the Care Quality Commission in England and the Care Inspectorate in Scotland.



50 years
SINGING FOR
SOLIHULL

Songs — AND — SONNETS

7 song settings to words by Shakespeare,
composed by Sir George Shearing

THE SPRIG OF THYME

11 English folk songs,
arranged by John Rutter

*Enjoy a summer evening of
enchanting songs, deeply rooted
in English life and literature*

Saturday 29th June 2024, 7.30pm
Shirley Methodist Church

Tickets £15 (includes Programme)
Under 18s Free



Reserve online at solihullchandoschoir.org
or by phone 01564 779 962

Supported by
prontaprint

126 Station Road, Knowle B93 0EP
0121 705 9988 / 01564 771343
sales@solihull.prontaprint.com

The 'Big Picture' of Additional Needs Ministry

When thinking about how to support children and young people with additional needs, it is important that we first understand and acknowledge what we mean by that; what are additional needs, and what are the experiences of children and young people with additional needs, and their families?



What Is the 'Big Picture'?

This is a 'big' picture; 20% of children and young people have additional needs of some kind (source: UK Government), that's 2.5 million of them.

"Additional needs" covers a wide scope encapsulating disabilities, health conditions, differences and diversities, anything that means a child or young person needs extra support to engage effectively with things.

Over 90% of families with young people that have additional needs don't come to church at all (sources: Baptist Press, and Children's Ministry) so there are many of them in our communities around us that we need to reach.

They often find themselves on the margins, excluded and overlooked, and it's not just the children and young people with additional needs that can find things hard, although according to recent research, as many as 94% of Autistic children and young people are victims of bullying, for example (source: Anti-Bullying Alliance).

Siblings and parents often also feel excluded from a wide range of social activities, including church (source: Mumsnet).

Those pressures can build up, with United States publication 'Psychology Today' writing recently that, "Surveys show that the rate of divorce in families with a child with disabilities may be as high as 87%" and it is unlikely that United Kingdom figures will be very much different (source: Psychology Today).

There are strong links between disability and poverty too, with more deprived communities twice as likely to include families with young people with additional needs (source: LKMCo/Joseph Rowntree)

Barriers

Children and young people with additional needs, and their families, face many barriers as they navigate their way through life. Often it is society that places these barriers in the way of children and young people with additional needs, effectively 'disabling' them.

These barriers typically fit into three categories:

1. Places – are the places they go to accessible?
2. Programmes – are the activities they do inclusive?
3. People – are the people they meet understanding?

Often, the answer to these questions can be 'no', resulting in children and young people with additional needs struggling to cope, having to try to fit in, and being badly treated.

Top tips

So, having said 'Yes', what can we do to make a real difference, to ensure that we go above 'accessibility' and 'inclusion' and create a place where everyone can truly 'belong'?

Here are some 'top tips', strategies that we can all put in place to transform church for children and young people with additional needs:

1. Appoint an 'Inclusion Champion' – someone who can help us all keep our focus on making sure that everyone belongs, providing a first point of contact for families too.
2. Build relationships with families/carers: What support is working at school? What is helpful at home? How can we adapt these ideas in our church or group context?
3. Find out more about the children and young people we are journeying with; one-page profiles can help. What do people like and admire about them? What makes them happy? How do they like to be supported?
4. Using the responses to the one-page profiles, use what they enjoy doing to help them learn. Whether it's LEGO, Minecraft, sport, crafts, unicorns, whatever it is it can provide them with opportunities to engage and learn.
5. A 'fiddles box' can be a useful addition to the kit list, providing children and young people with the tools they need to either (a) calm their senses when overwhelmed, or (b) wake up their senses to help them focus and concentrate.
6. Visual timetables can help a child or young person with additional needs to know what is going on in the programme, what's happening now and next, and when their favourite part of the programme (snack time?) is coming! Use symbols if a young person already uses them, or photos if not, to create a visual overview of the programme.
7. One-to-one's or 'buddies' can be a huge help for children and young people with additional needs, providing stability, a helping hand, a friendly face, and understanding when it's hard. Other children or young people can be 'buddies' with appropriate supervision and support. This is a pastoral care support area.
8. Always ask children, young people, and their families, what support they would find helpful. We must always do inclusion 'with' people and not 'unto' them. As the saying goes 'Nothing about us without us'.

Continued on next page.

The 'Big Picture' of Additional Needs Ministry

Resources

For more help to create 'belonging' in your group or church, here are some more resources that can help you:

[Urban Saints Additional Needs Ministry](#) – information about training, support, articles and more.

The [Additional Needs Alliance](#) – a collaboration of over 3,000 children's and youth workers, families, practitioners and more.

Getting It Right

When we get this right, creating a place of true belonging for every child and young person with additional needs, church becomes better for us all.

There are 2.5 million children and young people with additional needs across the UK waiting for us to reach out to them and create belonging for them and their families too. Now you've got some tools that can help you on the first steps to get it right for those you journey with.

Mark Arnold, Director of Additional Needs Ministry at Urban Saints
Arnold blogs at [The Additional Needs Blogfather](#)
This article was re-published with permission.



Ontrack
Computers Ltd

Virus & Malware Removal
Broadband Issues
Wireless Routers Issue
Broadband Wireless Extensions
Email Issues
One To One Training
New Computers & Set Up
Computer Servicing

COMPUTER REPAIR

Which?
Trusted Trader

- ☺ **Which?** Recommended.
- ☺ Fully Insured.
- ☺ Home / Business Support.
- ☺ **WE COME TO YOU.**
- ☺ Established For over **20** Years.
- ☺ No Job To Small.
- ☺ **NOT** A Franchise.
- ☺ Friendly / **NO** Jargon.
- ☺ **BASED IN SOLIHULL.**

EMSIOSOFT
AUTHORISED PARTNER

Microsoft
REGISTERED
TECHNICIAN

Google
Business Partner

ACRBS

Which?
Trusted Trader

Call Mike Nash On Local Number : 01564 330 505
www.ontrackcomputers.co.uk
email : helpme@ontrackcomputers.co.uk



AMW Lawn Care

01564 340560

amw.uk.com

Lawn Mowing

Lawn Treatment

Turfing

Fencing

Landscaping



**ADAM'S TREE
SURGERY Ltd**

01564 898463

adamstreesurgery.biz

All aspects of tree surgery

Hedge cutting

Wood chippings

Logs Free local delivery

Based in Knowle Solihull

All work fully insured



Update from the Parish Wardens

The large variety of events and services in Holy Week and over the Easter weekend went very well towards helping us to consider the Passion events and the Easter Sunday Resurrection. It was good to have new and modified events and services to move us and to encourage us in our reflections and worship, and to see the support from across the Parish. It was a particular joy to see and hear the Parish Youth performing the Passion Narrative on Palm Sunday. Many thanks to all our musicians and choristers who put in so much extra time and enhanced our worship with some wonderful music.

Suzette's Quiet Morning was a lovely occasion and a valuable opportunity to take a step back from our 'busyness' and to become Easter Saturday people. Again, it was supported by people from all three churches, who got to know each other even better over lunch afterwards.

As previously reported, we look forward to seeing Bishop Michael Volland on Sunday April 28th when he comes to a welcome service from the Yardley and Solihull Deanery at 4 p.m. at St. Alphege. Please do support this event and meet people from across the Deanery parishes.

The District Church Annual General Meetings and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting have been held and we welcome those who have taken on new positions or have been re-elected. We do so rely on volunteers as well as our paid staff. Thank you to those who are taking on these positions. There are still a number of situations where we need people to come forward and we will be making these known in the coming weeks on the website and notice sheets.

The *Alpha Course* is now underway with at least 16 participants, which is encouraging. We hope that some of them and others may want to be confirmed at the Service in St. Alphege on 23rd June.

We would like to mention the work of the Mothers' Union who always do so much for the Parish but have been particularly active in providing the Pancake Party and the Walk of Witness Refreshments and the Refreshments for the Welcome Service for the Bishop. Thank you so much for this and the fellowship that you provide.

At the beginning of June, Phase 1 of *Project Turnaround* will begin, with the replacement of the lighting in St. Alphege Church. There will be more information about the Project in the June magazine, but do look out for information about when the church will be open and closed for this work to progress between June and September.

Pam Price
Anrew Williams
April 2024



Bastock & Bruce Ltd

F U N E R A L D I R E C T O R S

A partnership between C. Bastock Ltd and Bruce Bragg

Bruce, grandson of Tom Bragg is now the only remaining member of the Solihull Bragg family to own a funeral directors in Solihull following the sale of the Bragg family business to a national group in 2015. This partnership brings a family business to Knowle with generations of experience ensuring the truly personal service you would expect from a Family Owned, Independent Funeral Director.

Brisker Court, 1685, High Street,
Knowle, Solihull. B93 0LN

01564 33 5577

If Knowle is difficult to get to,
home visits can be arranged

Serving all surrounding areas
www.bastockandbruce.co.uk

Cathedral Cities

This is a trip down memory lane, when for a time, hordes of people would descend on Solihull railway station early one morning and disappear for the day. So what am I talking about?

In the 1980s, the Combined Churches of Solihull got together to organise train trips to cathedral cities. These ran for 10 years until 1988, when rising costs stopped this event being financially viable.

The Committee comprised representatives from each of the sixteen churches involved, who would then drum up customers at their individual churches. It was open to anyone, so church members, their friends and relatives, etc. joined the outings. The first year was 1979, when roughly 500 people boarded a nine-coach train to York. The return ticket price for adults was £2 per person. Children went for free.

This meant a family of four could travel there for considerably less than any other form of transport. Whilst prices per trip varied, this principle was maintained to the end. So who were the churches that were involved?

Here is a list of the sixteen churches involved:-

Church of England – St. Alphege, St. Francis, St. Helen's, St. Michael's, St. James, St. Margaret, St. Mary

Roman Catholics – St. Augustine's, Our Lady of the Wayside, The Friary

Others - Solihull Methodists, Shirley Methodists, Shirley Baptists, St. Ninians U.R.C., Olton U.R.C., Christchurch

Once rough numbers were known and the travel date decided, the trains would be booked with British Rail. In those days diesel engines were in the majority, as steam engines were being phased out, but for the initial years we had steam engines.

At that time, everything was organised via the British Rail regional Headquarters in Birmingham, but by 1989 they had re-organised themselves. This meant that each region - through which the train had to travel - had to be individually contacted by us. Each region would then separately charge for its own involvement, which caused a massive increase in the costs. The other change was that the intercity trains were running with a reduced number of carriages, and the surplus stock was being sold off, so there was less rolling stock available. This meant only circa 200 people could be accommodated on a train as it was being limited to five carriages.

That aside, the Committee arranged for all the passengers to be given a badge. This cited the "Combined Churches" logo and the destination for that year. The idea being that this would not only aid people making friends on the train, but also with other passengers as they wandered around that city,

So come the day, there would be long queues outside the station awaiting the train. Once it arrived there would be a mad rush up onto the platform as people sought their seats. On average circa 500 people would have boarded the train within circa 7 – 8 minutes.

This might sound very quick, but the Station Master was always anxious for the train to be stopped for the minimum possible time, so as to cause the least interference with the scheduled trains.

Given the rush to the platform, you maybe wondering about those whose mobility was challenged. Well, the marshals would identify them as they arrived, and then escort them up onto the platform before the train arrived. Everyone else queued at the entrance. We were not allowed by the Station Master to have everyone up on the platform as he wanted to avoid problems with other travellers getting through the crowds.

So what places did we visit? Well, we went to:-

1979 – York	1984 - Cambridge
1980 – Bath	1985 - Chester
1981 – London	1986 - Exeter
1982 – Lincoln	1987 - Liverpool
1983 – York	1988 - York

So quite a few lengthy journeys were undertaken. Usually we ran two trains each year, which would take circa 1,100 – 1,200 people on these trips. Due to numbers involved, we only ran a single train in the first and last year. There was always a good feedback about how much people enjoyed these trips.

Surprisingly, no one was ever left behind, although one year we did gain an additional passenger. He was discovered once we had started the return journey from York. It was then explained to him that this was a non-stop train to Solihull, so if he would care to pay the £2 fare, we would leave him be. He refused point blank to pay. He stated that he was a member of a very select group of train enthusiasts, whose aim was to travel on a train with a particular engine, but without paying. Apparently, our engine was on his list. Whilst we were somewhat suspicious about this story, our reply was that this was all very well, but either he paid or we would have the Police remove him. Strangely, he chose the latter, so we arranged for the Police to meet us at a convenient station and have him removed.

We had, of course, always advised the local police beforehand of these trips, since the sudden arrival of a large number of people could have caused problems for them, however, one year this did give them a fright.

We were travelling to Bath that year, and when the first train arrived, it was noted that there were about a dozen Police hovering near the exit. Some were busy on their walkie-talkies as our passengers ploughed past them and dispersed into the city.

Roughly 10 minutes later, the second train arrived and our passengers began to exit the station. Suddenly, they were confronted by about 40 – 50 additional Police, who came rushing onto the scene and formed a barrier around the exit to contain our passengers. One of the marshals then spoke to them and the barrier disappeared.

It seems that the Police had been warned that a large crowd of football fans were expected. This had taken priority in their planning, so when our trains arrived, they thought we were those fans arriving earlier than expected. Arrivals for which they were not ready.

Those were very enjoyable trips and did a lot to encourage greater contact between the various churches. I wonder how many of you went on those trips?

Keith Wilson

FREE EVENT, LUNCH PROVIDED

CHURCH OF SANCTUARY CONFERENCE

8 JUNE 2024

🕒 10.00AM - 4.30PM

📍 CARR'S LANE CHURCH
CENTRE
BIRMINGHAM, B4 7SX

This free conference and networking event, organised by the Church of Sanctuary, Churches' Refugee Network and City of Sanctuary, will explore how churches are responding to the call to offer sanctuary to those seeking asylum.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**PROF ROBERT
BECKFORD**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**DR JAYME R.
REAVES**

VANESSA BAKER,
ST DUNSTAN'S PRIMARY
SCHOOL
ARMIN ZAMANIAN,
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

SPEAKERS/CHAIRS

REVD DR INDERJIT BHOGAL | BISHOP MIKE ROYAL, GENERAL SECRETARY, CTE
DR NICOLA BRADY, GENERAL SECRETARY, CTBI | **BISHOP ROSE HUDSON-WILKIN,**
BISHOP OF DOVER

REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE



HOSTED BY



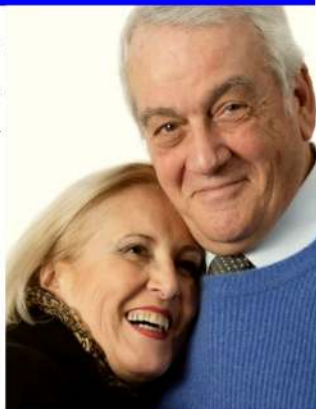
Image: Produced by pupils from St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School, King's Heath, Birmingham.

Dovehouse Court

61 Privately Owned Apartments

Opposite Dovehouse Parade Shops

- 24 hour on site Duty Manager
- Housekeeping assistance•
- Alarm call system to on site staff•
- Elegantly Decorated & Furnished
- Communal Areas •
- Dining Room with Waitress Service •
- Hobbies Room & Guest Suite •



Residents' Management Company;

Run By The Owners, For The Owners

Owners set & control the budget & annual service charge

1 & 2 Bedroom Retirement Apartments

For Sale

£155,000 — £269,950



Please contact us for a brochure & personal invitation to visit

Dovehouse Court on:

0121 709 2339

enquiries@dovehousecourt.co.uk

www.dovehousecourtltd.co.uk

S JOHNSON WEALTH MANAGEMENT LLP

INVESTMENT SPECIALISTS



We are Chartered Financial Planners who have been providing professional and impartial Independent Financial Advice for over 30 years.

- Investment Advice
- Pension Planning
- Wealth Management
- Inheritance Tax & Estate Planning
- Tax Mitigation

We are happy to meet and discuss your needs at your home, place of business, by video call, at our offices or over the telephone.



Interested? Call or email us to make a no-obligation appointment.

S Johnson Wealth Management LLP
348 Bromford Lane, Ward End,
Birmingham, B8 2RZ

Authorised & Regulated by the
Financial Conduct Authority

www.sjohnsonwm.co.uk
0121 348 8900
help@s-johnson.co.uk



The Complete Legal Service for the Private and Commercial Client

**Company and Commercial Matters
Commercial Property
Employment & Litigation Problems
Family & Divorce Matters
Buying & Selling your Home
Wills & Inheritance Tax Planning
Probate & Trusts
Lasting Powers of Attorney
Court of Protection Applications
Administration of Estates**

**Please call us on 01564 776287
or visit our website
www.standley.co.uk**

The partners and staff are dedicated to providing a prompt effective service with understanding and care

1612 High Street, Knowle, Solihull B93 0JU

Tel: 01564 776287 Fax: 01564 778996

Shepherding

The Revd. Martin Tunncliffe reflects on Psalm 23

Please note: this is the first of two articles on the 23rd Psalm. The second will appear next month.

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.

He shall feed me in a green pasture: and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.

He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer

It is advisable, and instructive, to look at other versions or translations of this Psalm which you can easily find on the Internet. Possibly the best-known version of the psalm is the hymn to be found in most of our hymn books, the one popularly known as *Crimond*, which begins:

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; he leadeth me

The quiet waters by.

One reason for the popularity of this hymn is because the late Queen Elizabeth chose it for her wedding service in 1947. When I began officiating at marriages in 1961, it was still being asked for by the majority of brides. *Crimond* is actually the name of the tune; so called because it was composed in 1871 by the lady organist at the church in the town of Crimond in Aberdeenshire.

The word "shepherd" occurs over 70 times in the Bible, including 14 times in the Gospels. The Bible records a kind of love/hate relationship with shepherds. The general tendency of community life in the Bible is towards the creation of settlements. They are often called towns or cities, but most were relatively small in numbers, perhaps with a defensive wall around them. Shepherds, on the other hand, were roamers, nomads living in tents, unsettled; they were viewed rather as city and suburban dwellers these days look upon 'travellers'. Yet they were part of the economy, and provided essential nourishment, not only for the bellies of the settled population, but also for their seemingly insatiable appetite for sacrificial animals (offering sacrifice was an indispensable part of Old Testament religion until the start of the Second Century A.D.: see Luke 2. 22-24).¹

In spite of what is written in the Old Testament Book of Psalms, David was not the author of any of them. Regarding King David, the Old Testament depicts him as the third Jewish king, a shepherd boy companion of Jonathan, the son of King Saul. In the Bible, he is legendary, "the once and future king;" an established part of Jewish mythology. Disappointingly, archaeology cuts him down to size as a rather insignificant leader somewhere around Jerusalem during the 10th century B.C. As for the Psalms, biblical scholarship shows us that they were anonymously composed and edited over a period of time between about 800 and 300 B.C. Their authorship may be unknown, but their poetic and spiritual impact remains unchallenged.

Emphasis and Metaphor

In a way, everything hinges on the word "Shepherd". Read it aloud and emphasise the words "Lord" and "My", and you begin to get the real drift of the psalm. "Shepherd" is a loaded word: a metaphor for political (including military) "Leader." More than once, the prophets berate their contemporary leaders as incompetent and ineffective shepherds (Isaiah 56.11; Jeremiah 23.1-4). Read especially Ezekiel, chapter 34, verses 1-16. This is the essential background text for both Psalm 23 and the Good Shepherd passage in John's Gospel.

In John chapter 10, the evangelist begins by elaborating the sheep metaphor into a parable; the parable of the sheepfold, with Jesus as the door, the entry / exit point (verses 1 – 9). The disciples don't understand: I'm not sure that I do, to be honest. Possibly, at the time this was written (early Second Century), Christian congregations were having second thoughts about their leadership, contrasting the comparatively slow growth of Christianity with the success of the Roman Empire under Hadrian; but that is only my guess. However, the words of Christ, "I AM the Good Shepherd," like the other "I AM" sayings in John's Gospel, are seminal Christian biblical teaching, and they align perfectly with the 23rd Psalm.

Considering the state of world and the quality of its leaders today, the Bible 'shepherd' teaching in Ezekiel, Psalm 23 and John's Gospel appears to me to be important, essential and very relevant. We do well to ponder it, and make it part of our prayers.

1. *This uneasy relationship is clearly prefigured in the story of Cain and Abel in Genesis chapter 4.*

The Revd. Martin Tunncliffe



S t A l p h e e
All Age Eucharist
9.15 a.m. Sunday 12th May



Retirement Apartments For Sale in Solihull

Retirement Doesn't Have To Be Lonely

- Move with help from our on-site handyman and additional support from our in-house team
- 24/7 on-site staff can help with any problems or queries offering total peace of mind for you and your family
- Dedicated weekly domestic support for every owner at Deerhurst Court.
- Private guest suite available for family and friends wishing to stay at the Court

BOOK YOUR VISIT, CALL
0800 389 9384

www.retirementsecurity.co.uk
resales@retirementsecurity.co.uk

Deerhurst Court, George
Road, Solihull, B91 3BY



Setting Standards for
Retirement Communities



RetirementSECURITY

C. Bastock Ltd Funeral Directors



Independent and Family Owned Since 1856



Our family will look after yours

Our dedicated full time staff will guide you through the arrangements to ensure a unique and a befitting funeral.

Whether you have a traditional, contemporary or eco funeral in mind our family are here to help you.

As an independent company we provide a truly personal experience, allocating your own personal funeral arranger, private viewing lounges and the attention to detail you would expect from a family business.

We are Pre-Paid Funeral Plan Specialists

Shirley Funeral Home

Century House,
100, Stratford Road,
Shirley. B90 3BH
(Next to Poppy Island)
0121 726 2626

Solihull Funeral Home

67-71 Warwick Road,
Olton, Solihull.
B92 7HP
(In Olton Hollow)
0121 706 4040

Yardley Funeral Home

112, Church Road,
Yardley.
B25 8UX
(On Yew Tree Island)
0121 784 3230



Our Silver fleet of Jaguars

We are happy to arrange;

- Black fleet of cars
- Horse drawn hearses
- Alternative hearses and transport

See what our clients have to say at www.cbastock.co.uk



For Your Diary



Thursday 2nd May : 1.30pm in church. *My Life to date* - a talk by Revd Nick.

Thursday 16th May : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.

Thursday 6th June : 1.30pm in the OBH. *Strawberry Tea and Time to Chat*.

Monday 17th June : 7.00pm in church. *Church Model and Tour*.

A talk by Carol Southworth followed by cheese and wine.

We can arrange lifts to these meetings.

Contact Elaine (0121 705 3265), Pat (0121 705 8761) or Julia (0121 744 3540).

You can access more information on 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

The Wives' Fellowship will meet next on Friday 3rd May at 12 noon for a friendly and companionable lunch. If you would like to join the group, please telephone Carol Caldicott.

Carol Caldicott
0121 705 3168

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views
of *Solihull Parish News* or of *Solihull Parish*.

NOTE FOR ADVERTISERS AND POTENTIAL ADVERTISERS

Would all advertisers please ensure that any changes they might require to their advert, or notice of cancellation, are routed through the Advertising Manager (Tim Drakeford, 42 Fowgay Drive, Solihull B91 3PH, Tel 705 4494) in sufficient time to meet the copy date for the issue in which they wish the changes to take effect. The copy date is usually the first Friday of the preceding month, but the exact date of the next copy date is shown below. Similarly, would new advertisers please ensure that their requirements for advertising space are also routed through the Advertising Manager in plenty of time to meet the required copy date.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JUNE EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS MUST BE IN
BY FRIDAY, 3rd MAY PLEASE.**

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

P STEPHEN & PHILIP PAINTER

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED



The only funeral homes still owned by
The Painter Family. Providing a dignified & personal
service across Birmingham & Solihull

HALL GREEN OFFICE

192 ROBIN HOOD LANE
HALL GREEN
BIRMINGHAM B28 0LG

TEL: 0121 777 4300

ACOCKS GREEN OFFICE

213 YARDLEY ROAD
ACOCKS GREEN
BIRMINGHAM B27 6LZ

TEL: 0121 707 1172

WWW.STEPHENANDPHILIPPAINTER.COM

SOLIHULL PARISH SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Coordinator

Viv Dobson, vhdobson@gmail.com

07960 783636

SOLIHULL PARISH PCC & DCC CONTACTS

<i>Parish Wardens</i>	Andrew Williams , arwilliams399@gmail.com Pam Price , colandpam@ic24.net	0121 705 3268 0121 704 3104
<i>PCC Agenda</i>	Rekha Anand	
<i>Acting PCC Treasurer</i>	Tim Drakeford , 42 Fowgay Drive	0121 705 4494
<i>Parish Electoral Roll Officer</i>	Stephen Linstead , 20 Silhill Hall Road	0121 705 1376
<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
<i>St Helen Deputy Wardens</i>	Phil Godfrey Chris Carrington	0121 705 3923 0121 705 0902
<i>St Helen Hall Bookings</i>	Jeremy Eade , solomere@aol.com	0121 706 3831
<i>St Michael Deputy Wardens</i>	Keith Wilson	0121 778 2295

SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS CONTACTS

<i>Editor</i>	Carol Southworth , parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk	0121 705 4958
<i>Production</i>	Roger Edwards , 39 Westfield Close, Dorridge, B93 8DY	01564 739134
<i>Treasurer</i>	Roger Giddings , 70 Silhill Hall Road	0121 686 3422
<i>Postal Subscriptions</i>	Helen Russell , 30 De Moram Grove, B92 0PZ	07710 473 418
<i>Advertising Manager</i>	Tim Drakeford , 42 Fowgay Drive	0121 705 4494
<i>Circulation Enquiries</i>	Helen Russell , 30 De Moram Grove, B92 0PZ	07710 473 418
	Parish News is published every month except August and costs £1 per copy. The Annual Subscription is £10 for all 11 editions.	
<i>Printers</i>	Prontaprint , 126 Station Road, Knowle, B93 0EP	0121 705 9988

OLIVER BIRD HALL

PARISH OFFICE

Sarah Markham Senior Administrator s.markham@solihullparish.org.uk
Veronica Spokes and Rekha Anand admin@solihullparish.org.uk
Parish Administrators 0121 705 5350
 Parish Office, Oliver Bird Hall,
 Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ

Mon-Thu 9am to 1pm;
Fri 9am to 12 noon

Oliver Bird Hall Bookings

Life Events

(Baptism, Wedding, Funeral)

Pewslip items

(by 12noon Wednesday)

OBHbookings@solihullparish.org.uk
life.events@solihullparish.org.uk

Pewslip@solihullparish.org.uk

SOLIHULL PARISH STAFF & CONTACTS

Priest in Charge, Rector Designate	The Revd. Nick Parker	rector@solihullparish.org.uk 07890 720240
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	The position is currently vacant	sthoffice@solihullparish.org.uk
Pioneer Minister (Not available Thursdays)	Suzette Maguire 10 Middlewood Close, Solihull, B91 2TY	s.maguire@solihullparish.org.uk 0121 709 0884
Associate Priest	The Revd. Sue Chandler	s.chandler@solihullparish.org.uk 07970 791288
Readers	Linda Hicks Stephen Linstead Chris Carrington Paul Smith	01564 782557 0121 705 1376 0121 705 0902 07887 663 171
Assistance is also offered by	The Revd. Roger Chamberlain The Revd. Roy Murray The Revd. Canon Andrew Hutchinson The Venerable Paul Taylor	revrog@hotmail.co.uk fatherroy47@gmail.com 0121 296 7798 fr.andrewhutchinson@btinternet.com 0121 758 7877 pstaylor53@gmail.com 07796 691203
Director of Music & Organist	Christopher Martin Thomas	c.thomas@solihullparish.org.uk
Assistant Organist	Liam Condon	l.condon@solihullparish.org.uk
Music Department Administrator	Isabel Baumber	isabel@solihullparish.org.uk
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
Youth Assistant	Lynn Smart Youth Office, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk 0121 661 6303
St Alphege Verger	Paul Evans Verger's Office at St Alphege Church	07443 917726
St Alphege Tower Secretary	Sand Cooper	sand.cooper@outlook.com



Peace of Mind

Need advice on Headstones?

*Get free, impartial advice on
all aspects of Headstones,
Cremation Desks & Tablets,
and a free colour brochure.*

POLLARD MEMORIALS

www.pollardmemorials.co.uk

Many examples of our work in the churchyard at St Alphege, Solihull,
and at Widney Manor and Robin Hood Cemeteries.

Phone 01676 534618

326, Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, CV7 7ER



Design. Print. Finish.

When you need a professional design
and print solution, call the experts.

www.prontaprint.com

126 Station Road, Knowle B93 0EP

Tel: 0121 705 9988 Email: sales@solihull.prontaprint.com

Business as usual!
following all safety guidelines
of course