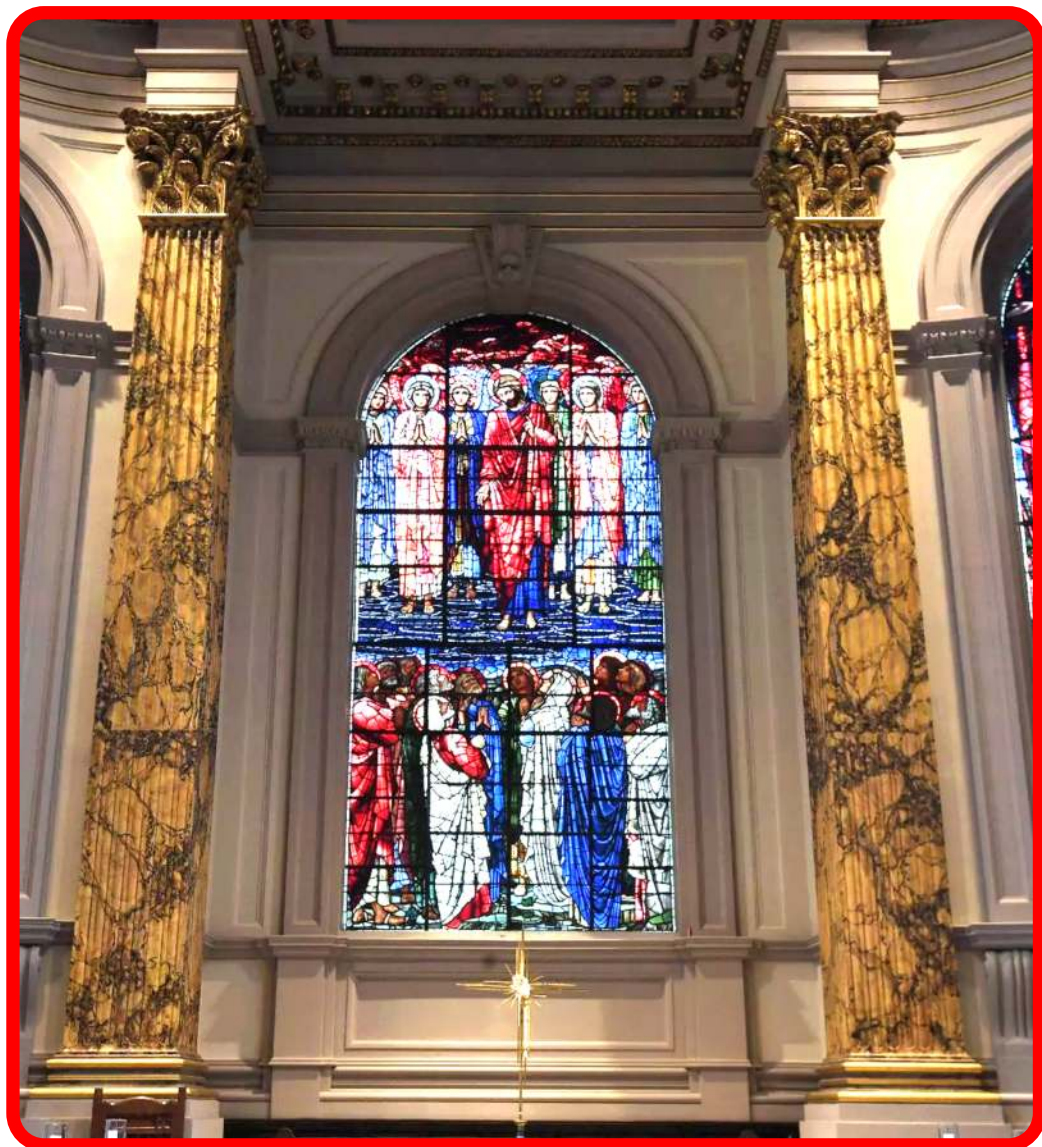


SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS



No. 557

JUNE 2024

PRICE £1.00

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 9th June in the Church building
 11.00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 9th June
 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 2nd, 16th and 30th June
 9.15 a.m. Junction on Zoom on Sunday 23rd June

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 Helen	22
St Michael	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

**"The Ascension window in Birmingham Cathedral
by Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris."**

Headlines

The ART of Bell Ringing	4
St. Alphege Micro Victory Garden Project	6
Christian Men Together	6
Ann Boulter	7
Bells and Beacons to mark D-Day <i>Thursday 6th June - Ringing for Peace</i>	8
The Deanery Welcomes the new Bishop	8
Fencing for Great Britain	9
Parishioner Pedal Power	10
Mothers' Union - Welcoming the new Bishop	11
Souls of our Shoes Exhibition	34
Update from the Parish Wardens	38
What is Project Turnaround	40
New Lighting in St. Alphege Church	42
Ordinary Time	47

Editorial

Dear Friends,

At the All Age service in May twelve young people received their first Holy Communion at a joyful service surrounded by their families and friends. Linda and I had spent several weeks with the young people, learning together about Holy Communion and what it has meant, and continues to mean, to Christians throughout the ages and the world. They learned about the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, they thought about prayer and its central role in the life of a follower of Christ. They thought about their own lives and what being a Christian means for them. And we remembered that to receive Communion is both a receiving of God's grace in the spiritual presence of Jesus Christ, and an offering of, not just the fruits of God's world, but of our own lives in the service of our Saviour.

We offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. **(Post Communion Prayer from Common Worship)**

It was a privilege and a pleasure to share this part of their journey with them, and we pray that they will continue to grow in faith and in the knowledge of God's love for them and the world.

I was reminded, as I have been each time I have helped lead a group preparing for Holy Communion, that it is not just helpful, but essential, for us all to remind ourselves regularly just what this wonderful sacrament means for each one of us.

As we receive the bread and wine at the Eucharist, we remember that the word Eucharist means thanksgiving, and we do indeed give thanks for the ministry of Christ as we receive. And we are united in this thanksgiving both with Him and with Christians throughout the ages. St. Paul reminds us of this in his letter to the Corinthians.

*The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body for we all partake of the one bread. **(1 Corinthians 10.16-17)***

St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish priest who gave his own life in a concentration camp in order that the life of a fellow prisoner might be spared, wrote very movingly about what Holy Communion meant to him.

*You come to me and unite Yourself intimately to me under the form of nourishment. Your blood now runs in mine, Your soul incarnate God, compenetrates mine, giving courage and support. **(St. Maximilian Kolbe)***

Although various denominations may differ in their understanding of exactly what happens at Communion, I think that all would agree that we are indeed fed and given courage and support as we receive bread and wine. We 'remember' the words of Christ as he prepared to die for us. It is believed that the word he used that night was *anamnesis*, to bring into the present that which happened in the past. The life, death, resurrection, and presence of Christ with us today is what we remember and celebrate at Holy Communion. And when we receive, we offer all that we are to God. Is it any wonder that each time we receive feels as wonderful as the first?

There will be another hugely significant service On the 23rd of this month, as members of our churches, both young and slightly older, will gather together for a Deanery Confirmation service. Another joyful event in the life of those to be confirmed, and of the church itself. The confirmands will come together and, in the presence of the bishop, confirm their love for Jesus and their desire to continue to walk in his footsteps for the rest of their lives. Please do pray for each one of them as they make their vows and promises, that the Holy Spirit will bless each one of them and guide them on their continuing journey in the service of Christ.

With love
Revd. Sue

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/>

The ART of Bell Ringing

I forget how long I have been teaching people to 'handle a bell'. But a few years back one of my students was the now Tower Captain, Malcolm Paulson. The expression 'duck to water' comes to mind. Malcolm most certainly got the bug and he's now one of our most experienced band members. As well as exploring conducting in bell ringing and taking on some of the most challenging 'change ringing', he has also joined the ranks of those that will teach bell handling. His support has been invaluable and together we follow a long tradition of teaching at Solihull. We owe a huge debt of thanks to all those that have taught in the past.

It's a tricky business teaching someone to ring. It's all about teaching a skill. There's no brute force required, we use the momentum and weight of the bell and after a time, a new ringer can judge exactly what is happening with their bell some 50 feet above their heads. They learn to manoeuvre it in such a way that they can make it ring at the exact point required in relation to other bells ringing around them. The tricky thing in the early stages is that yes, there is some risk involved if a bell isn't handled properly and as a teacher, we take full responsibility. Not unlike teaching someone to ride a bike, there's that tense moment when you let go and watch and wait for your novice to ride off into the distance or, more likely, you run after them and hopefully soften their fall as they inevitably struggle with their balance. It's as much about the teacher's confidence as it is the learner's, simply because if you don't know what you're doing and your student becomes anxious, then it's a recipe for disaster, so teaching bell handling isn't for everyone. Weirdly, the ringer that grapples with bell handling at this early stage is learning so much about bell control that it can be helpful as they move forward. And what a joy when you watch a new recruit start to ring a bell alone.

"My first lessons were fascinating, but also very scary. There were times when I felt I was ringing in a permanent state of nervousness and anxiety. However, I now feel more relaxed and getting more confident."

"The teachers at St Alphege were extremely encouraging and very reassuring and my fellow learners have all been very supportive."

"Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of the teaching team I have progressed through ART level 1 and continue to find great pleasure in not only the ringing but the warmth of the whole tower family."

In recent years Malcolm and I both decided that it would be good to be accredited for the work we have been doing. So, we took the plunge and we're now accredited by the *Association of Ringing Teachers* (ART). This means that we can follow their teaching scheme, though we tweak it a little to suit our local tower. It's been a useful way to share best practice and we've also taken on some of the ideas from towers local to us. In the past we have probably had 1 or 2 learners on the go at any one time, but you may recall that in the buildup to the Coronation, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers launched a national campaign called *'Ring for the King'*. This really has created some interest and this, along with articles here in the Parish News and a few tower tours, has resulted in us having 8 ART students on the go at once! You can see why I'm so glad to have 2 of us on the case. We've given up a few hours in teaching (probably best we don't try and calculate just how many...). But now we're starting to reap the benefits.

Roundabout

"I love being part of St Alphege Guild and I am very appreciative of the effort and patience put into my training."

"To anyone who is teetering on the precipice...take the plunge! It's daunting at first but just like driving a car, once the skills are mastered there's no limit on what you can do."

"It's not too late to start, mistakenly I let a busy life delay me!"

"I find the history and traditions of bell ringing fascinating."

We teach on Thursday evenings, with a few of the bells silenced so that we don't disturb choir practice. More recently the 'ART Team' that have mastered the basics of bell handling come along early to our Tuesday night practices so that we can go through some of the ART exercises that help them improve their bell control. They then ring with the rest of the band as they arrive for the main practice, with the last part of the evening being reserved for the more experienced team. We'll be rotating members of the ART Team back through the Thursday sessions just to make sure that their style doesn't deteriorate as they take on more challenges. You see, ringing is a little like being asked to pat your head while rubbing your tummy. That's pretty easy to master but, then we ask them to ring with others and by the time we've introduced additional things to think about, you can imagine, some of the original instructions can get a little bit muddled!

"My advice to learners is to attend every possible session that you can, to get as much rope time as possible."

We now have two of the ART Team ringing with us on Sunday mornings and hope that more will join us very soon. Bear with us, ringing accurately takes a while to master so you may hear some rather lumpy ringing for a while as our newer members become more experienced. We're so lucky in Solihull to have so many lovely bells and it's a shame that so often on a Sunday morning we have so few ringers available. If we can keep supporting these willing volunteers and work with them to perfect their art, who knows, you may soon hear more of our lovely bells ringing each Sunday.

Sand Cooper (with contributions from the ART Team in italics)



Roundabout

St. Alphege Micro Victory Garden Project

Cultivating Green Thumbs and Kind Hearts: A Community Gardening Project

In a world increasingly defined by screens and reduced green space, fostering a connection with nature becomes paramount, especially for the youngest. One way communities achieve this is through community gardening projects, teaching children about the environment and healthy eating, and teamwork, responsibility, and empathy. We have been offered circa £8k of grant funding from the Big Lottery Fund to establish a fruit and vegetable garden for children and young people in the community, using the patch of ground at the entrance of the Oliver Bird Hall: the Solihull Parish Micro Victory Garden Project.

This project offers a hands-on approach to growing, linking theory and practice. Children witness the miraculous journey of a seed evolving into a flourishing plant, fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural world. Digging the ground, they learn about ecosystems, sustainability, and the interconnectedness of all living things. Community gardening is not just about cultivating green thumbs; it nurtures kind hearts and children learn cooperation and collaboration, experience the satisfaction of contributing to something greater than themselves, develop a sense of community spirit. Tending a garden teaches children responsibility and stewardship, understanding plants depend on them for water, sunlight, and care. Through hands-on experience, they develop empathy and compassion, recognizing the needs of all living beings.

Now the raised beds are established, we are planning community days for children, young people and their families to help plan and plant the garden and become environment champions for the community.

We also hope to host gardening talk evenings for people of all ages to learn more about gardening, growth and some of the other wonderful things happening in the community.

If you are interested in being involved in any way, please contact Ben Yates, Preschool Group Chair.

Ben Chair@stalphege-preschool.org.uk

Christian Men Together

On 13th April we welcomed Wes Erpen, the CEO of Birmingham City Mission, at one of our Men's Breakfasts at the Greville Arms. He is a true Brummie and after a number of occupations he felt God calling him to work in the Mission from the bottom and eventually he became CEO to follow on Edwin Orton who started the mission in 1966. They do great work in spreading the word about Jesus around a number of conurbations and the city centre, and do a great deal of work to help the homeless, the old and children and youth, collecting and distributing furniture, and distributing Christmas Presents to needy kids. It was a pleasure to welcome him.

Andrew Williams



Anne Boulter

Anne Boulter (née Benjamin) began her life on 12th June 1933 in Moseley, Birmingham. She worked as a legal secretary until she met and married the late, Roy in December 1952.

Moving from Moseley to Dorridge, family life began with the arrival of Helen, followed by Martin, Nick and Claire – and family life centred initially on Dorchester Road and then Alderbrook Road.

Roy and Anne were heavily involved with St. Alphege School, Roy patiently looking after the finances of the PTA for many years and Anne helping at school fetes, always very supportive of the school's ethos and values.

Anne worshipped at St. Alphege for almost fifty years before she and Roy moved to Dorridge and Anne became a member of the congregation at Lapworth Church.

In their years in Solihull, Anne was a long-standing member of the Gilbert and Sullivan Society which included many of her church friends. In time she became a member of the church choir in Lapworth and loved music all her life.

Losing her beloved Roy in 2018 was a huge blow but Anne, supported by her many friends and family, dealt with her loss – undeniably helped by her faith and positive attitude to life.

She died peacefully on Monday 22nd April after ninety years of a wonderful and fulfilled life and she will be sorely missed. She leaves behind her four surviving children, seven grand-children and four great-grandchildren and many dear, much-loved friends.

Claire Campbell

**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

Roundabout



Bells and Beacons to mark D-Day Thursday 6th June – Ringing for Peace

We're making plans to ring for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. We'll be ringing from 6:30 p.m. on Thursday 6th June. The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers has asked ringers to ring out for peace. In addition to bell ringing, beacons will be lit at 9:15 p.m. around the United Kingdom and the Normandy beaches. There's more going on too and information is available here:- www.d-day80beacons.co.uk

We can't be a 100% sure what we will attempt that evening to mark this important event, but you know the drill by now, whatever we do, we will record it on the bell ringers' website Bellboard so if you search <https://bellboard.UK> and list Solihull as 'place', within a couple of days of the event, you'll see our record of the evening.

The Deanery Welcomes the new Bishop

St. Alphege Church was privileged to welcome our new Bishop, the Rt. Revd. Michael Volland, to the Solihull and Yardley Deanery. The church was packed for the Songs of Praise service with the music led by singers from all the parishes in the Deanery and included a Question and Answer session

with Revd. Nick. After the service, refreshments were provided by the Mothers' Union in the Oliver Bird Hall..



Fencing for Great Britain

Henry Pick, as a small child, spent time at Praise and Play and has at other times been part of the congregation at St. Alphege. Henry is now 16 years old and enjoys sport, especially Fencing at which he is representing Great Britain. He has been selected for the Under 17 World Championships in Saudi Arabia and the U17 Commonwealth Championships in New Zealand. This is a wonderful achievement, and his family are so very proud of him, seeing him in his GB tracksuit representing his country, as one of its top athletes in the age group.

Henry got into sabre fencing when he started school in Year 7 at King Edward VI School, Stratford upon Avon, as it was provided as an after-school club and became a member of the *Shakespeare's Swords Fencing Club*, under the school. He stayed dedicated to the sport as he grew through the school, competing at competitions at the weekend along with doing Rugby and Cricket for the school. He has fencing training 3 to 4 times a week.

His favourite thing about sabre fencing is the challenge. The physical challenge that goes with being elite in a sport but also the mental challenges. In fencing you have to think tactically like in chess but quickly since you only have a couple of seconds between points to think of a plan for the next hit. Sabre, being almost the odd one out of the other weapons (the others being Epee and Foil), is quick, sharp and very aggressive. When reaching a higher level, it is an absolute mind game that you become addicted to.

In his age group the World Championships for which he has been selected, the U17 World Championships in Saudi Arabia are the crème de la crème of competitions, where you work all year to get the results and points that qualify you above your competitors in the rankings. All the top fencers from all across the world have been selected compete at it and the U17 Commonwealth Championships The Commonwealth Championships in New Zealand on the other hand is a smaller competition. These major events are the end of our competitive season, and Henry is looking forward to having the chance to do the sport he loves on the other side of the world, plus with it being a once in a lifetime opportunity and a rewarding finish to a long and tough season.

Henry is also a volunteer coach with the *Shakespeare's Swords Fencing Club* and coaches the younger fencers to pass on his fencing knowledge and tactics. He also likes to help out the club in other ways, such as refereeing at their competitions and fixing equipment.

However, representing his country at international competitions does come at a cost with flights, travel, accommodation and competition fees and Henry is busy raising the funds to get himself to both Championships. He has set up a gofundme page to help with his fundraising and would be very grateful for any support. If readers are interested, please have a look at the page Link: <https://gofund.me/68bd2467>

Parishioner Pedal Power

On Friday 28th June I will start a 4-day solo bike ride (with Julia as support crew!), cycling around 225 miles between Stobars Hall Care Home in Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, to Blythe Rose Care Home, in Solihull, raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society.

Alzheimer's Disease affects so many families across the country and sadly my own is one of them. My mum, Mary, passed away in December 2022 and unfortunately her later years were



impacted by dementia. She lived her last few months at Stobars Hall. Mike Parsons, Julia's dad, now has advanced Alzheimer's disease and has lived at Blythe Rose since September 2022 when his dementia meant he was no longer able to live safely at home with my mother-in-law, Lillian.

To honour both my mum and father-in-law I wanted to undertake a challenge to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society; to help provide support to those whose lives are devastated by the disease and the families who are affected by the inevitable ripple effect. As a keen cyclist it seemed to make sense to ride between their care homes!

My ride will see me averaging between 50-60 miles a day and I will cycle from Cumbria down through Lancashire to St. Mary's Parish Church in Clitheroe, where my mum's ashes are interred. I will then head to Cheshire before riding down through Staffordshire and into the West Midlands. I will arrive at Blythe Rose on Monday 1st July.

Training has started well, and I am currently strong in mind and body..... long may it continue! If you can spur me on as I cycle uphill and down dale by sponsoring me, please do visit <https://www.justgiving.com/page/nick-hanson-carehome2carehomeride> or see Julia or me, to discuss alternative methods of donation. Your support is truly appreciated. An article to follow up my ride will hopefully be published in due course. Thank you in anticipation!

Nick Hanson

Welcoming the new Bishop



Members of Mothers' Union served refreshments to the congregation after the service of welcome for Bishop Michael. The service took the form of *Songs of Praise* and was attended by parishioners and friends from across the Solihull/Yardley Deanery.

It was a time of joy and friendship and was a great opportunity to talk and get to know him.

Thank you to everyone who made the delicious cakes and to people for their generous donation to Mothers' Union AFIA Fund.

"Hope you're enjoying the cake Bishop!"

Revd Nick enrolled two new members into the St Alphege Branch of Mothers' Union, at our meeting on Thursday 2nd May. It was good that we were able to hold this particular meeting in church, while the OBH was being used for the elections. After the short service, Nick talked to us about his life with all its ups and downs, but his main theme was love, in all its forms. Romantic love in marriage, love of parent for child, love in friendship. He illustrated his talk with the words of three hymns, special to him: *Great is thy Faithfulness*, *Amazing Grace* and *How Sweet the Name of Jesus* which we all sang, accompanied by Nick on the piano.

Thank you Nick, for a very inspiring afternoon.



Julie London and Susan Camm with Nick and leader Susan H

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

Let us Pray

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for June 2024

1	Justin, Martyr, c.165	God's strength in times of temptation.	Danford Lane
2	1st Sunday after Trinity	Pray for Bishop Michael as he begins his ministry among us.	Deer Park Way
3	Martyrs of Uganda	Those working with the youth of the parish	Dingle Lane
4	Petroc, abbot, 6th Cent.	Those who work in prisons	Dorchester Road
5	Boniface, bishop 754	People who are persecuted for their faith	Dormston Close
6	Ini Kopuria, founder of Melanesian Brotherhood.	Members of religious communities	Dovehouse Lane
7		Those who work with children	Drury Lane
8	Thomas Ken, bishop.	Chaplains in the armed forces	Dunsmore Grove
9	2nd Sunday after Trinity	Street pastors	Eldersfield Grove
10		The Revd. Roy Murray	Elms Close
11	Barnabas the Apostle	The Revd. Simon Marshall	Felton Grove
12		Linda Hicks	Ferndown Road
13		Nick as he continues to lead our parish	Fircroft
14	Richard Baxter, puritan divine 1691	Our two church schools	Four Stones Close
15	Evelyn Underhill 1941	Parents throughout the world	Froxmere Close
16	3rd Sunday after Trinity	All secondary schools in the parish	George Road
17	Samuel and Henrietta Barnett 1913 and 1936	The parish office team	Gilmorton Close
18	Bernard Mizeki, Martyr 1896	The staff, children and parents of pre-school	Glaston Drive
19	Sundar Singh 1929	The congregation of St. Helen's	Glebe Road
20		The congregation of St. Michael's	Glenfield Close
21		The congregation of St. Alphege	Grandborough Drive
22	Alban, first martyr of Britain c. 250	The work of Suzette our Pioneer Minister	Grange Road
23	4th Sunday after Trinity	Deanery Synod	Greswolde Road
24	Birth of John the Baptist	All who will be baptised this month	Greyhurst Croft
25		Those being married in our parish this year	Grove Avenue
26	Ember Day	Bishop Anne	Grove Road
27	Cyril, Bishop	Diocesan office staff	Habberley Croft
28	Irenaeus, bishop c 200	General Synod	Hainfield Drive
29	Peter and Paul, Apostles	All church leaders	Halford Road
30	5th Sunday after Trinity	Christian Aid	Halstead Grove

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

From the St. Alphege Register

Baptisms

19th May: Ella Atkinson, and Rogan Judd
26th May: Benjamin and Olivia Everell, and Theodore Strong
2nd June: Daniel Harris

Weddings

18th May: Gregory Leech and Jessica Hall
22nd June: Edward Lawson and Harriet Sutton
29th June: Jack Connell and Jessica Hall

Funerals

None

Interment of Ashes

3rd May: Christine Weale
3rd June: Dorothy Lloyd

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in June

Albert Thomas Clark	Michael Hartley	George Sabbagh
Muriel Greasley	Mary Josephine Marston	John Sawle
June Hale	Jordan Page	Doris Starbuck
Henry Raymond Hall	Harry Pinfold	
Ross Harper	Colin Price	

For Life Event arrangements, please contact Parish office via email to life.events@solihullparish.org.uk

Please note our Parish Office opening hours:

9.00am till 1.00pm (Mon - Thur)

9.00am till 12noon on Fridays.

Worship Notes for June 2024

Although June is a relatively 'quiet' month in the Christian calendar, there are several saints' days to be celebrated and a very special service with the bishop to look forward to.

9th June 2024

This Sunday sees the beginning of 'volunteer week' when people are encouraged to think about what skills and talents they might be able to offer the church. And we give thanks for all of those who give so much of their time and energy to ensure that we, as a parish, can continue to share the Good News with the people of our community.

11th June 2024

We remember Barnabas the Apostle, a Hellenised Jew, who sold all his property and gave the proceeds to the followers of Christ, joining the church in Jerusalem shortly after Christ's death and resurrection. He was one of the founders of the church at Antioch, and joined Paul on his missionary journeys until they parted company. Nothing is known about him after that time.

23rd June 2024

There will be a **Deanery Confirmation Service in St. Alphege Church this evening at 5.00 p.m.**, where several adults and young people from our parish will be confirmed at what will be a joyful celebratory service. Please pray for those being confirmed.

24th June 2024

We celebrate the birth of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Christ's coming, calling people to repentance and baptising them in the River Jordan, where he also baptised our Lord and Saviour.

29th June 2024

We remember and give thanks for the lives of the Apostles, Peter and Paul.

30th June 2024

This evening **there will no Evensong**, instead there will be a service of **Vespers** led by Stephen Linstead at the usual time of **5.00 p.m.**

Rev. Sue

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.

Please note that **June and July recitals** will be in the **Oliver Bird Hall** as the project to install new lighting in church will have started.

The church will be open for worship on Thursday mornings and Sundays.

Isabel Baumber

5th June	Laurie McGee – violin
12th June	Alessandra Scalzone – flute
19th June	Anna Downes and Tony Bridgewater (violin and piano)
26th June	No recital – hall in use

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**



June 2024 Services

Sunday 2nd June – Trinity 1

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
O.B.H.	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 5th June

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

Thursday 6th June

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

Sunday 9th June – Trinity 2

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.15 a.m.	All Age Holy Communion
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Choral Eucharist, followed by refreshments
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

Wednesday 12th June

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

Thursday 13th June

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

Sunday 16th June – Trinity 3

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
O.B.H.	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 19th June

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

Thursday 20th June

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

Sunday 23rd June – Trinity 4

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.	Confirmation Service

Wednesday 26th June

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

Thursday 27th June

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

Sunday 30th June – Trinity 5

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	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.	Vespers

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 were very sad to learn that Ann Roberts had died. Ann was a stalwart of the Guardians, being on the Committee for several years, including time as Chairman. She continued to support us, even as her health deteriorated and she moved to Rayner House and finally to the Marie Curie Hospice. Our sympathies are with her family and friends.

Our next event will be an evening **Drinks & Nibbles**. We are very grateful to Ann Taylor for, once again, offering to host this event. It will take place on **5th July at 6.30 p.m.** The venue will be **221 St Bernard's Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7DL**. The cost will be **£12 per head**. If you hope to attend, please let us know, so that we know how many to cater for. (0121 722 4092 or margaretoswald43@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there.

We are also planning a lunch at the Drum & Monkey again. That will be in October, we will confirm the date as soon as possible.

As you will be aware the floodlighting has not been working for a while. Also, as you may know, the church lighting is due to be upgraded, starting in June and all being well the floodlighting will be dealt with at the same time. It is hoped that it will be completed in September.

The Fundraising Committee will be a bit short of members 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.

The Trustees



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.



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:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 22 nd April | To remember with love the life of Ann Boulter, 1933 – 2024. |
| 2 nd May | In loving memory of Tony Davies. |
| 4 th May | In loving memory of Norman and Freda Rolfe, married this day
In 1935. |
| 24 th May | In loving memory of Bill Stirling on his birthday, from Iris and
the family. |
| 28 th May | In loving memory of Margaret Mawson. Mum you are in my
prayers every day. |

Music Matters



April was a quieter month than March for everyone, I think! Musical highlights of the month were International Organ Day on Saturday 20th, the Patronal Festival on Sunday 21st and the special welcome 'Songs of Praise' service for Bishop Michael on Sunday 28th.

International Organ Day is a truly global celebration of the so-called 'king of instruments', and for the last two years, we have collaborated with David Rice at Solihull School to give participants the opportunity to view and try two wonderful instruments within a few minutes' walk of one another. This year, a number of our choristers took part, alongside our Organ Scholars (Senior Organ Scholar Harry Brown and Junior Scholars Josh and River). The event included demonstrations, recitals and performance opportunities at the same time as many similar events taking place up and down the country, including an event in Lichfield being run by our Assistant Organist, Liam Condon. Chris is always happy to hear from anyone who would like to find out more about the organ or who would like to enquire about organ lessons – do chat to him if you'd like to find out more.

The services celebrating the Feast of St. Alphege were joyous and fitting celebrations for this special occasion with combined choirs at both services. In the morning Eucharist, the anthem was Howells' *Te Deum* from the '*Collegium Regale*' Holy Communion Service, and during evensong, the anthem was Stanford's '*For lo I raise up*'. We hear that the congregations were very appreciative of the music and found it very moving.

The Deanery welcome service for Bishop Michael was another joyous occasion in April, with music provided by representatives of choirs from across the Deanery churches, as well as worship band and organ accompaniment.

Looking ahead, look out for information about the *Gin and Jazz Festival* on **Saturday 1st June**, a trip to **Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 2nd June**, and our **Summer Concert on Saturday 22nd June**.

Isabel Baumber

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





Gin...

*and
Jazz*



in June!

*St Alphege Gin and
Jazz Festival
Saturday 1st June 2024
12noon-10.30pm*

- Gin (and alternative drinks)
- Food
- Live Music

Oliver Bird Hall,
Solihull, B91 3RQ

[www.solihullparish.org.uk/
gin-and-jazz-festival](http://www.solihullparish.org.uk/gin-and-jazz-festival)

Adults: £5 U18s: free



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*

We held our Annual District Church Meeting after the service on Sunday 14th April. Revd. Sue Chandler as Chair reflected on a very busy year which has seen many positive changes as well as continuing to build on existing activity. In particular we have enjoyed a stability in our Sunday services enhanced by the monthly presence of the Rector, the Revd. Nick Parker. It has also been good to see the re-establishment of the Sunday Club for children led once a month by Linda Hicks. Numbers have been very encouraging, and we hope this will continue and, in time, additional leaders will come forward so that we can establish a weekly Sunday Club. We are very thankful to Linda for all her hard work. Phil Godfrey has now stepped down as Deputy Warden and he was thanked for his many years of faithful service in that role. Currently Chris Carrington is the only Deputy Church Warden and he continues to carry a significant workload including his work as reader, Homegroup leader, service organiser, Alpha Leader, etc., etc. Chris was thanked for his continued faithful service.

On the elections front, we welcome Mark and Julie Norman as new members of D.C.C. and welcome back Pippa Gates and Martin Finch for a further term. Chris Carrington and Les Prescott will be our representatives on the Parochial Church Council.

By the time of publication, the Alpha Course will be coming to an end. It has been good to host this event on behalf of the Parish and we trust that much fruit will come from it and that this can continue to be used as both a channel for those coming to faith and as an encouragement to the existing Christian community.

We continue to see extensive use of our building by the local community with regular use by Montessori School, Solihull Young Dancers, Bridge Clubs, Art classes, Guides and Brownies, Tumble Tots and Cameo. Thanks go to Jeremy Eade for coordinating all the bookings.

As summer approaches we are looking forward to a few changes to the building thanks mainly to a legacy from Barbara Semple. As well as the new flooring in the entrance area carried out last year, we have new glazed doors ordered for the central doorway into the main hall and for the double doors into the lobby area. We also intend to upgrade the cupboards in the lobby area. The overall intention is to enhance the welcome for those coming into the church.

In terms of outreach in our community we have not yet re-established 'Say one for me' since Covid but we hope to get this going again in the summer. This is a simple friendly way to call on our neighbours asking if there is anything they would like us to pray for and at the same time keeping them informed of church activities and maintaining contact.

Les Prescott



St. Helen's Rainbows

St. Helen's *Rainbows* group currently has a few vacancies for girls between 4 and 7 years old. We meet on a Tuesday evening at St. Helen's Church Room, St. Helen's Road, from 6 – 7 p.m., term time only. *Rainbows* is the first stage in the world-wide *Girl Guiding* movement. There is a programme of activities, sometimes leading to earning badges; but the emphasis is on having fun, making friends, building confidence and learning in a safe environment. For more information, please contact our Unit Leader, Yvonne, on 07964 872 931.

Judie Lloyd
Unit Helper

St. Helen's Wednesday Lunches

Offering mainly to the elderly in the local community, enjoy a home made two course lunch on the **1st 3rd and 4th Wednesdays** of each month (except August).

We may be able to offer transport occasionally

Time: 12.00 noon and cost is £6.50 including coffee

On the **5th Wednesday** of the month, a light lunch is offered (such as baked potato, or soup and crusty bread) £5.00

2nd Wednesday of each month: Coffee and cake at 10.30 a.m. at £2.00, currently followed by a toasted sandwich lunch at £2.00 or £4.00 to include another piece of cake with coffee.

Location: St. Helen's Church

St. Helen's Road
(off Buryfield Road)
Solihull
B91 2DA

Anne Noble - 07808 722848
anne-noble@hotmail.co.uk

During May we moved from still celebrating *Easter*, through *Ascension Day*, *Pentecost* and then at the end of the month we arrive at *Trinity Sunday* and find ourselves in *Ordinary Time*, or the *Trinity* season which lasts into early November. So we have the month of May filled with joyous celebrations and then a long period of the 'Green season' marked by Sundays after *Trinity*.

This *Trinity* time creates a sense of unity and continuity within the liturgical year. It serves as a bridge between the major seasons of *Advent/Christmas* and *Lent/Easter*, providing a consistent framework for worship and reflection.

During this time, the Church focuses on the teachings and actions of Jesus as a guide for discipleship. This time allows for a deeper understanding of Christ's message and its application to contemporary life.

Life at St. Michael's continues, our numbers are slowly getting back to pre-Covid days, we greatly enjoy the first Sunday in the month when the band enhance our worship with their musicianship and singing, this is greatly enjoyed by everyone.

The social afternoon on Thursdays in the chapel is well attended and gives everyone a time to chat to friends and catch up on all that is happening.

Another social event is planned for later in the year, hopefully in the garden at Oak Cottage depending on the weather which is more of a factor then it used to be, so hope for the best in weather and plan for the worst.

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>



CHURCH 4 FAMILIES

June

Sunday Worship

St Alphege

On **2nd 16th and 30th June** the Junction will meet **IN PERSON** at 9.15 a.m. in the Oliver Bird Hall.

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

On **23rd June** the Junction will meet **ON ZOOM**

(Contact Linda l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk to register to receive the zoom link)

On **9th June** everyone will meet in the church building at 9.15 a.m. for a service for all ages with the worship band.

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 23rd June St Helen's Sunday club will meet during the 10 a.m. service with an exciting action packed session for children age 0-11.

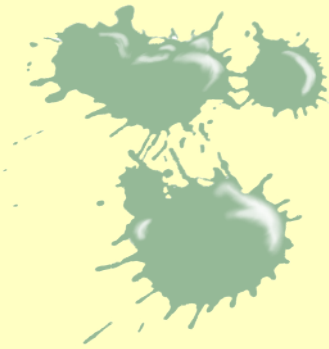
St Michael

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 21st June **Messy Church** St Helen's Church 4pm-6pm

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



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!



4 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Friday
21st June and 19th July



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
to book your place.





First Communion 2024



May was a special month for 12 children in the Parish.
On Sunday 12th May:

Eiana, Erin, Eva, Hilary, Hugo, Isla, Isla, Ivana, Lorelai, Oscar, Theo and Thomas were joined by friends and family when they received their First Communion at St Alphege.

All of the children have been invited to join a Junior Growth Group to enable them to 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 biscuits and praying. Please do **pray for them as they continue on their journey of faith.**



Prams to Preschool -



Praise and Play

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

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

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* and met on 11th May to watch a film and have a discussion afterwards. Several young people are attending preparation classes in order to be Confirmed when the Bishop visits St. Alphege on 23rd June.

Are you, or is 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

“Three little words.”

At Food4Thought breakfast and chat recently we were looking at the word ‘caring’. During that discussion I am sorry to report that I heard what I feel is one of the saddest phrases in the English language. That phrase is *"It's their job."* In the context that it was expressed in, that three-word phrase is perhaps another way of saying: “So what if they are working more and more hours every week and getting tired – *it's their job.*” Or – “So what if their families never see them – *it's their job.*” Or “So what if they say they need help – *it's their job.*” Sadly, what they are really saying is – “I don’t need to care about them – *they are just doing their job.*”

Of course, we, the Church, know better, as documented by Paul in his first letter to the church in Thessalonica. There we can read another – and I venture to add – a more lifegiving three-word phrase: *"Encourage one another."*

In context that is: *"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore **encourage one another** and build each other up."* We can see then that the instruction to *encourage one another* is not optional but is because of Christ dying for each of us on the cross. Making us our next three-word phrase, the *Body of Christ*.

Paul wrote this to the church of Corinth: *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many."* (1 Corinthians 12:12-14). The church is called the *body of Christ* because Christ is the head of the church and we are called to do the work of Christ, each like members of a body. We have different skills, purposes, and spiritual gifts, yet every believer is equally important to the full functioning, mission, and efficacy of the church. Obviously, this cannot just apply to paid staff but to us all. Indeed, the paid staff in the parish would have no chance of managing all that needs to be done without us all playing our part. *It's **our** job.* We are all the *body of Christ*. Sit with that thought for a moment: where are you in the *body of Christ*? What are the gifts and skills gifted to you by God, for you to use in the service of His Church?

Here we return to *encourage one another*.

During the Christmas break I received a message from a lady in my local community, a keen knitter, asking me a question: *"Do you think St. Alphege would be interested in a poppy installation for remembrance this year?"* I got back to her, spoke to Nick Parker, and the rest, as they say, is history.

That lady and I are getting to know each other very well – this idea of hers has legs and is running away all over Solihull, making us run to keep up! ☺ - but one of the things I love most about her is that she didn’t stop and think, *"It's their job."* She had an idea, she approached someone that she hoped could help her with it, and that was that. With the

amount of positive interest in the poppy installation for remembrance around Solihull at the moment, we could do with more people like her around!

So, if you see a gift or a talent in someone at Church, tell them, encourage them in their gifts. They may already be using that gift in the Lord's service but, then again, they may not. It is our role to *encourage one another* so that the body of Christ functions as it should – in the service of God and for the church and the local community. And, remember, we don't encourage someone just so we can say *it's their job*, or indeed to absolve ourselves from playing our part, but we *encourage one another* so that the person or persons involved can play their part **to the best of their ability**. At Food 4 Thought breakfast and chat, in our exploration of 'caring', we learnt that 'feeling cared for' can have a significant impact on our well-being and thereby on our ability to function to the best of our ability. Sadly, a lack of care can have the opposite effect. Thankfully, as the body of Christ we know better, and we'll let Jesus have the (first and) last three words: *love one another*.

It's as simple as that.

Pray with me:

Heavenly Father, thank You that I am part of the Body of Christ and for the gifts and graces that You have given to me.

I pray that I may live my life according to Your perfect plans and purposes.

Use me to complement the work carried out by my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I pray that I may be a beautiful testimony of the goodness and grace of Jesus Christ my Lord, to a lost and dying world.

Unite the whole Body of Christ, with a dependent mutuality, so that as individuals we may be truly united as one Body, to serve You in the place where You have planted us.

This I ask in Jesus' name, AMEN.

Keep safe and thanks for listening!

Suzette

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

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

Souls of our Shoes' Exhibition

A 'Souls of our Shoes' exhibition' curated by members of St. Alphege Mothers' Union was hosted by **St. Martin's in the Bullring** just prior to Easter.

The exhibition was visited by approaching 1,000 people over the fortnight, including members of Mothers' Union and the wider public. All who attended felt that the display was a powerful reminder of the impact of domestic violence on the victims and their dependants, yet was also a celebration of the strength of those manage to walk away from domestic violence.

Souls of our Shoes exhibitions are an M.U. initiative to shine a spotlight on the voices of those who have walked away from domestic abuse and those who walk the journey with them. Shoes were donated by St. Alphege M.U. and other members of Solihull Parish and then paired with quotes from survivors of domestic abuse, giving an insight into their experiences and pathway to recovery.

For more details on the initiative, please visit the M.U. website using the following link: www.mothersunion.org/news/souls-our-shoes

The exhibition will be coming to St. Alphege once the new lighting scheme has been completed and it is hoped it will tour other churches in the Diocese in the coming year. Thank you to all those who have contributed.

Julia Hanson
St. Alphege Mothers' Union





solihull
choral
society



Conducted by Oliver Walker

Sacred and Profane

The magical world of opera meets
the sacred world of Anton Bruckner
in this, his 200th anniversary year

7.30pm Saturday, 15th June 2024

St Mary Magdalene

Tanworth in Arden B94 5AJ

Tickets from solihullchoral.org.uk



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.**

EMSISOFT
AUTHORISED PARTNER

Microsoft
REGISTERED
RESALE

Google
Reviews ★★★★★

ACRO

Which?
Trusted Trader

Call Mike Nash On Local Number : 01564 330 505

www.ontrackcomputers.co.uk

email : helpme@ontrackcomputers.co.uk

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**

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



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

It was a joy to Welcome Bishop Michael Volland on Sunday 28th April when he came to our Deanery Songs of Praise welcome service. A good number came from all over the deanery and the choir was joined by singers and other musicians from over the deanery too and all were cosily positioned in front of the Crossing with the speakers' lectern just in front of them. Bishop Michael spoke warmly and encouragingly, and we were pleased to talk more with him in the O.B.H. afterwards where the Mothers' Union again provided excellent refreshments.

The Alpha Course continues with 18 participants which is encouraging. The course material – videos and discussion material - has been excellent and involves a day away in Temple Balsall in May. We hope that some of the participants may want to be confirmed at the Service at 5 p.m. on Sunday 23rd June which is being conducted by Bishop Michael. We are looking forward to seeing others, young and old, from our Parish and other parishes in the Deanery, who also wish to be confirmed.

Another highlight was to see 12 children receiving their First Communion at the All Age service on 12th May. The church was full of children and families who came to support them; we all enjoyed joining in the last hymn with percussion instruments!

As has been reported elsewhere, after much consultation the P.C.C. took the decision to ask for the Team Scheme, dating from the Seventies, to be dissolved. The Team Scheme laid down the structure for the clergy to have a Rector and a number of Team Vicars but did not specify their roles. We have a very different arrangement now. But the P.C.C. decided to keep the structure of Districts with their own Church Councils. The meeting also passed resolutions that each of the three churches would have a pastoral lead person and a mission lead person but these would not need to be clergy and often would not. Much has to be worked out, as has the structure of the P.C.C. Committees. More will be reported on this later. But our real need is to be efficiently and effectively looked after in our work for the Parish.

Interviews have now taken place for the Assistant Children's and Families' Worker to succeed Sue Chandler when she retires from this role in the summer and we hope to be able to announce an appointment soon.

The Parish and District Church Annual General Meetings have now taken place and we are very grateful to all the people who have stepped forward to stand on these committees. As you will see elsewhere in this edition, there are still some vacancies to fill, especially if the District Churches are to be fully represented. Is this something you could do?

We are extremely grateful to Tim Drakeford for taking on the role of Interim Parish Treasurer as well continuing to be St. Alphege Treasurer. This has involved him with a great deal of work picking up from Ron Crowdy (who did such a detailed and meticulous job) and amazingly he has now completed the consolidated accounts for the whole Parish. They now need to be audited and will be available in the summer.

**Pam Price
Andrew Williams
May 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

What is Project Turnaround?

Our Parish Church and the Parish Centre, the Oliver Bird Hall, are located at the heart of Solihull, on the historic site, close to the commercial, civic and retail hub of our local community.

Project Turnaround is looking at ways to increase flexibility and connectivity between the church, the parish centre and the community, creating a welcoming place of sanctuary in support of the parish mission:

- to nurture young people and their families
- to provide life-long learning opportunities
- to become more outward looking to serve the communities in the borough

To reach out to the community we are called to “turn around” and focus on the mission field outside our doors. The church and parish centre could be reconfigured to generate more chances to meet as many people as possible. Our challenge is to make the most of those opportunities for personal interaction and engagement. Touchwood shopping centre might call this “maximising the footfall”. The church buildings could become an attractive “all-day, every-day” destination for the people of Solihull, offering the chance to build new communities.

The buildings need to become more welcoming, hospitable, comfortable and flexible:

- to offer a friendly welcome and hospitality
- to be warm and well-lit
- to give easy access to facilities
- to provide comfortable seating

The appeal of the venues could be widened by providing:

- Flexible configurations, allowing for different types of activities
- Good audio-visual facilities
- Helpful signage to bring the places alive for visitors

In church, the sense of togetherness across various styles of corporate worship could be made more inclusive with:

- A focal point around a nave altar
- A new position in the nave for our musicians, an integral part of our worshipping community
- Adaptable lighting

Underpinning these requirements is the need to be:

- Environmentally conscious
- Cost effective

There will be more to share about Project Turnaround this autumn when the PCC will seek everyone's views on emerging plans for new facilities in church, such as providing a servery from which to offer hospitality, opening up the West Door as a welcome area, paving a more direct link to the parish centre and, of course, installing loos.

Andy Halstead

Magnificat

Celebrating the centenaries
of Stanford and Bruckner

St Alphege Church Choirs
with Liam Condon (organ) and
Christopher Martin Thomas
(conductor)

**Saturday 22
June 2024,
7pm**

St Alphege Church,
Solihull, B91 3RQ

Admission £12 for adults
including interval drink

Music including:

- Three Latin Motets - Stanford
- Magnificats in C, G and A - Stanford
- Os Justi - Bruckner
- Christus Factus est - Bruckner and many more....



New Lighting in St. Alphege Church

Solihull Parochial Church Council has decided that the first phase of Project Turnaround is to address the most urgent need: to brighten the St. Alphege Church interior and reduce our electricity use by installing a replacement lighting system. A recent legacy is funding around 75% of the new lighting installation cost and the P.C.C. has agreed to fund the remainder. Tim Drakeford, Acting Parish Treasurer, would be delighted to hear from any donor who feels able to contribute towards that remainder - around £50,000.

To support our mission, we want our buildings to become more inviting by providing the facilities needed to encourage people in. To offer a welcoming, hospitable and comfortable environment, providing a well-lit church and reducing our carbon footprint are basic expectations.

Inside St. Alphege Church it is dark, even when the current lights are on. Deeply tinted stained glass keeps out the light. The sandstone walls don't reflect the light. The urgent need is to replace the old and failing "house lights" with a modern, cost-effective and flexible system.

St. Alphege Church is currently the third highest emitter of greenhouse gases in the Church of England Birmingham. The current lighting is well over thirty years old and uses a mixture of high wattage halogen lamps with some more recent LED replacements. Parts of the system, including lamps under the tower, can no longer be used without tripping the electricity supply. The nave lighting is dim because the lamps have reduced in output with age and some have failed completely. There is poor lighting control with no preset configurations. The current lighting is expensive to run. New economical, environmentally friendly and maintainable lighting will significantly reduce electricity use and increase brightness. Easy-to-use flexible lighting configurations will highlight the historical features and create moods for different occasions.

The new lighting installation will begin on Monday 3rd June and is planned to be completed by Friday 6th September. During this time the church will have areas fenced off for work with drilling and noise during the daytime on weekdays, but the church will be available every weekend, and some areas of church will be useable in the evenings. Some temporary lighting will be installed by the contractor, although at this time of year nearly all church use is during daylight.

The contractors are AC Electrical of Blackpool, who undertook similar works at Lancaster Priory and Mirfield Church of the Community of the Resurrection. As part of the works, the brass candelabrum - from 1706 - will be removed early in June, re-lamped with electric lights by a specialist contractor and rehung a metre higher towards the end of the works.

The church will be closed to visitors on weekdays for the duration, but Morning Prayer at 9 a.m. on Monday, Thursday and Friday and the Thursday 10.30 a.m. Eucharist will continue somewhere in church. Other activities such as the Tuesday Prayer Group and most Wednesday Lunchtime Recitals will be transferred to the O.B.H. Evening and weekend bell ringing will continue. Evening choir practices will carry on somewhere in church. There will be no school services or funerals held in church during this period.

In September we look forward to letting the ***light shine out of darkness***. Meanwhile, please forgive the disruption.

Andy Halstead

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

The Revd. Martin Tunncliffe shares thoughts about Praying Psalm 23

This is the second of two articles on the 23rd Psalm. The first one was published in last month's *Parish News* under the title "Shepherding". Before continuing with this one, I would suggest that you read the previous article, or perhaps read it again. It says something about the background to the Psalm. What I will do now is to share a few personal reflections on the devotional aspect of this lovely ancient poem.

The leading item on the agenda of our Christian faith is the declaration "I believe in God." This faith includes trusting in God. When we were baptised we were asked, "Do you believe and trust in God the Father?" And we (or our sponsors on our behalf) replied, "I believe and trust in Him." Psalm 23 is based on the idea of shepherding. British shepherds have sheep-dogs. In the time of Jesus, Palestinian shepherds did not. The sheep followed their shepherd in complete trust. I suggested last month that you read the opening sentence of the Psalm aloud, and emphasise the words "Lord" and "My." Let us also recall that, in the Bible, the word 'shepherd' is often used to mean the political leader. Knowing that creates the right background when we think, and pray, about our current world leaders, political or otherwise.

The consequence of having the Lord as our shepherd is immediately spelt out: "therefore can I lack nothing." Our creating, loving God makes adequate provision for our necessities. These are briefly listed, viz. food and drink ('green pasture' and 'the waters of comfort'); moral compass ('he shall convert my soul' and 'lead me in the path of righteousness'). Especially, our shepherd accompanies us to, and through, the "valley of the shadow of death". That is, during the dark times of suffering, and even of death. A more literal translation is "the darkest valley". This could be a sidelong glance at 'Sheol', the shadowy underworld which, in Bible times, many Jews believed to be the destination of those who died.

Inevitably, as we meditate on this Psalm, we are drawn to Jesus' *I AM* saying in John's Gospel (10.11), "I am the good shepherd." Here, the leading metaphor is not so much leadership as protection. We are hearing about the sheepfold, with its gate, and the various predators, animal and human, which threaten the flock. I wonder if this reflects the current situation regarding the survival of the Christian Church at the turn of the First and Second Centuries. It could extend to the persecution of Christians in any century, including our own.

I must admit to being baffled by the words, "Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me": or, in a modern translation, "You spread a table before me in the presence of my enemies." Biblical commentators appear to be equally puzzled. Some of them refer vaguely to King David's various battles; others think that the idea is to fill the 'enemies' with envy because they see the feast but can't join in, which sounds a bit fatuous to me. My best guess is that the lines were added later, possibly by the ancient editor(s) who wanted to attribute all the Psalms to David; but that is only a guess. The anointing with oil and the overfull cup make more sense; for they signify God's loving purposes in providing more than just the bare necessities of life, and they surely include such joyful things as celebration and fun.

A Holy Postscript

I am more than happy to move quickly to the conclusion; the Lord's "loving-kindness and mercy" following us. Looking back on our lives, if we are honest with ourselves, we do have a tendency to leave a trail of rubbish in our wake; bad choices, sinfulness, mistakes we shouldn't have made. Here, the Psalm is assuring us that God is not only out in front, showing us the way and showering us with gifts. He is also sufficiently loving to come behind and clear up the mess. That surely makes us fit and ready, in due time, to enter the eternity of love, which is God's household, where we can "dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

One final thought. Considering how many centuries apart they are in time, Psalm 23 and The Lord's Prayer have a remarkable affinity.

Each acknowledges God, not simply as Almighty Creator, but in personal relationship with humanity:

Lord's Prayer 'Father' Psalm 23 'Shepherd'

Each is concerned with provision of food:

Lord's Prayer 'Daily bread' Psalm 23 'Green pastures'

Each is concerned with correct behaviour:

Lord's Prayer 'Forgive sins' Psalm 23 'Paths of righteousness'

Each is concerned with the shadow side of existence:

Lord's Prayer 'Temptation and deliverance from Evil'

Psalm 23 'Valley of the shadow'.

I must admit that these two articles have not been easy to write. I hope that they are clear in meaning and intention; but if there is anything in them that you find difficult to grasp, by all means let me know, direct or via the magazine editor, and I will try to explain.

Rev. Martin Tunncliffe

Ordinary Time

Mostly my life is in Ordinary Time
Rarely reflecting the timetable of the church
With its reds and golds and purples.
Green, I once was, with the naivety of youth.
Green too sometimes, with gut-wrenching hurts
When life was not ordinary.

As I age, I now welcome Ordinary Time.
Although there's a place for anticipation
And preparation.
I know the promised excitement and
Stark reality are often at odds.
(I count the Resurrection the greatest exception).
Yes I love Ordinary.

In my Green and calm life, nothing really happens. Life.
There is quiet friendship, laughter. Sharing.
There is the silence in the green and still garden
Where flowers grow along with weeds,
All punctuated by bird song and rain and sunshine.

Mostly my life is in Ordinary Time
Where I meet with my Lord over the food prep.,
The cleaning, and the washing up.
I rarely meet him in the bustle of holidays
When full-on busyness stills his gentle voice.
I love my life in Ordinary Time.

Wendy Westley



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

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Birmingham

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

Thursday 20th June : 10.30a.m. in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist.*

Thursday 4th July : *A Visit to Tanworth-in-Arden Church*, followed by lunch at *The Bell*.
Details to follow.

Thursday 18th July : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist.*

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

This friendly group will meet for lunch on the first Friday in June, 7th June at 12 noon. If you would like to attend, please phone Carol Caldicott.

Carol Caldicott
0121 705 3168



S t A l p h e e
All Age Eucharist
9.15 a.m. Sunday 9th June

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 JULY/AUGUST EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS
MUST BE IN BY FRIDAY, 7th JUNE 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 Secretary</i>	Julia Hanson	
<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 10 a.m. 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

