

# 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 10<sup>th</sup> November  
 11.00 a.m. Civic Service of Remembrance 10<sup>th</sup> November  
 5.00 p.m. Evensong except  
 5.00 p.m. Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November All Souls / New Door Commemoration service  
 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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	30
St Michael	33
The Guardians of St Alphege	20
Music Matters	22
Church for Families	25-28
Youth Stuff	29
Pioneer Diary	34
Matters of Faith	46
For Your Diary	50
Address Book	52



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

*Visit our Website*

[www.solihullparish.org.uk](http://www.solihullparish.org.uk)

Want to email the Editor?  
[parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk)

*Cover picture*

**Solihull War Memorial  
outside St. Alphege Church**

# Headlines

<b>Last Churchyard Tidy-up</b> <i>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November</i>	4
<b>Curacy News from the Rector</b>	5
<b>SCAH Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness</b>	6
<b>The Church is Open</b>	7
<b>Heritage Day Tower Tours</b>	8
<b>James Brews a Special St. Alphege Beer</b>	10
<b>Christmas Greetings</b>	11
<b>The Goodness of God</b>	38
<b>Update from the Parish Wardens</b>	42

# Editorial

I recently came across a video titled 'The world's remotest place of worship'. The video revealed a church located in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia which is carved into the side of a cliff and which can only be reached by a strenuous and dangerous two-hour climb of 1000 feet. The church, named *Abuna Yemata Guh*, is believed to have been hewn from the rock during the Sixth Century. It is dedicated to Abuna Yemata, one of the nine saints of Ethiopia and is notable for its dome and wall paintings dating back to the Fifteenth Century.

Despite the extreme challenge involved in reaching Abuna Yemata Guh, the church is used daily and about 80 worshippers attend the Sunday service, including pregnant women, elderly people and mothers with their children on their back! The current priest of *Abuna Yemata Guh*, Father Assefa, who is nearly 70 years old, has climbed to the church every day for over 50 years.

This hazardous journey of faith is what we might call a spiritual practice: an activity done on a regular basis to help us to further our spiritual development and growth and to deepen our connection to God.

But we don't have to go to such extremes in order to deepen our relationship with God. A spiritual practice doesn't have to be hard - it simply requires a willingness to begin and then a commitment to keep trying.

We may already be doing some of this by attending church regularly, reading the Bible, and spending time in prayer. These are important elements of the Christian faith which have sustained and guided millions of people down the ages. They support and build up the community of Christian believers, enabling us to worship God and to serve the local community.

Alongside these important activities there are many other areas of the Christian tradition which can help us to develop spiritually. These are timeless traditions of prayer and contemplation, of action and reflection, which can help us to flourish as followers of Jesus. The beauty of these traditions is that they appeal to each of us in different ways and involve the use of our mind, our heart and our senses, so that we can grow as the unique person that God created us to be. This is what many call 'developing our spiritual practice'.

A couple of months ago, I wrote about a new parish-wide project which will offer us the opportunity to develop our spiritual practice. This will take the form of a series of events, groups and classes which will focus on a variety of practices of prayer, spiritual learning and exploration.

We are going to begin this project by offering two opportunities to develop our spiritual practice through the season of Advent:

1. **An Advent Quiet Morning** on Saturday 23rd November. This will be led by Suzette Maguire at St. Alphege Church from 9.30 a.m. for a 10am start, until 12.30 p.m. There is an invitation to a 'bring and stay lunch' straight afterwards. Further details about booking for this event will be available in all our churches.

2. **The Art of Advent:** we will explore some of the world's greatest paintings to discover the spiritual message within them. Come and journey through Advent as we allow great works of art to lead us deeper into prayer. This will take place at St Michael's Chapel from 1.45 p.m. - 3.00 p.m., starting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November and then continuing on Wednesdays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December. To indicate your interest in this event, please email [simon@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:simon@solihullparish.org.uk)

I hope that you may be able to take part in one (or both!) of these events. If not, please don't worry, as there will be plenty more opportunities for spiritual practice in 2025!

Fr Simon

# **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**

## **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](mailto:daycentremanager@raynerhouse.co.uk)**

**<http://www.raynerhouseandyeuwetrees.co.uk>**

# Roundabout

## Last Churchyard Tidy-up Morning of the Year The Great Leaf Gather-Up Saturday 2nd November 2024 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Can you come and join in the Great Leaf Gather-up in the churchyard this year even if only for an hour? Great fun especially for families to have some time together in the fresh air. The usual refreshments will be provided half-way through the morning. All necessary equipment and gloves will be provided. We would normally expect to gather up over 120 black bags full, so even if you only fill one it is still a great help.

The idea is to clear the churchyard to enable a final grass cut to be carried out the following week so that everywhere is as safe as possible for everybody who turn out to participate in the Remembrance Day memorial service the following Sunday.

Michael Rumball

## Parish Christmas Card

Once again we have high quality Parish Christmas cards and we encourage everyone to buy them. The cards are now available from the Bookstall in church, from the Parish Office or by contacting Fran Halstead (07710 329030, [fran.halstead@gmail.com](mailto:fran.halstead@gmail.com)). The picture this year is a reproduction of an original watercolour by Edward Girard. It imagines a scene of the choir singing carols around a Christmas tree in the square with the church lit up ready to welcome the congregation. The packs are £5 for 10 cards. Please buy while stocks last and support the Bookstall which distributes its profits to selected charities. The Bookstall also continues to sell an excellent range of cards and books for all occasions at modest prices. Please do support it.



### MOBILE HAIRDRESSER

*Fully Qualified  
Ladies & Gentlemen's Hairdresser*

FOR AN APPOINTMENT

Telephone Claire:

**07931 751 451**

### HIGH QUALITY PAINTING & DECORATING SERVICES

We cover Solihull & surrounding areas.

Contact Lizzie for a free quote:

**07809222493** [hello@kbpainting.co.uk](mailto:hello@kbpainting.co.uk)

[www.kbpainting.co.uk](http://www.kbpainting.co.uk)



## Curacy News from the Rector

**W**e are delighted that our application to receive a curate has been successful. Karen Marlow-Tipple, currently studying at Queen's Theological Foundation, will join us in July 2025 following ordination (about which more details will follow in due course). Please hold Karen in your prayers as she continues with the demands of her training and prepares for her curacy with us.

### Karen writes:

I am incredibly excited to start my curacy in Solihull Parish next year. I was born in Solihull and attended schools and college in the area. I studied History and then Law at University and was admitted as a Solicitor in 1988. I am married with a daughter and two grandchildren.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to attend churches with a wonderful variety of worship styles, all of which I have very much enjoyed. I also cherish the years I spent as a chaplaincy volunteer at Birmingham Women's Hospital. I often say that it would be amazing if church buildings had glass walls, so that people could see inside (and, therefore, not be afraid or hesitant to enter) and so that the church could see outside (to notice and see the people whom they are there to help).

Creation continues to be the place where I find peace and joy and is the source of much personal creativity and spontaneity.

I am currently studying at The Queen's Foundation in Edgbaston, Birmingham. My time at Queen's has been vibrant, inspirational and formational. Having entered the final year of my studies at Queen's, I continue to be amazed at how God has transformed my life and am in awe of my forthcoming ordination in July, after which I will begin my curacy with you.

I very much look forward to meeting everyone and to starting my new adventure in Solihull Parish – serving the church and going out into the communities to care and make a real difference; journeying where God takes me and sharing the Good News of Jesus along the way.

### 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**



## SCAH: Always providing help for those in need in Solihull Borough



*James 2:17 .... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead'*

### November 2024: The month of ACTION for financial donations

SCAH is **Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness**, a faith-based charity which seeks to relieve the effects of homelessness and poverty in the Solihull Borough, with the help of members of our local churches.

In the previous two years SCAH have organised a virtual flag day to help raise much needed funding. The virtual flag day has proved to be very productive and brought in much needed additional revenue, so thank you to those kindly donated.

We call this virtual flag day our **MONTH OF ACTION**.

In November 2024 we will again hold a **Month of Action** in order to help raise much needed revenue to enable us to continue doing what we do.

Why do we always need to raise additional funding?

Year to date, up until October 2024, our expenditure has been consistent with previous years but, of course, as costs continue to rise for everything we purchase, we need to maintain a healthy income stream to make sure we can continue to support those in need in the community.

We have all seen the effects of that increased costs in our everyday lives. For SCAH it means that the cost of each starter pack we provide has become more expensive over the past two years. We have been very careful in ensuring that we get the best economic value for money we can when shopping for the items we need, while ensuring that we don't compromise on the quality of our deliverables.

We have continued this year to help the most vulnerable and needy in the community and as at the beginning of September we had been able to help 124 adults and 87 children who needed our assistance.

We are therefore still adhering to the SCAH principal objective of providing help for all those in need and poverty in all its forms, not just the homeless and we are sure you will all agree that it is important for us to do so.

So how can you help? During our **Month of Action for November** we ask you kindly to donate to SCAH.

Please go to [www.scah.org.uk](http://www.scah.org.uk), click on the 'Fundraising and Donors' page, then click on the 'CAF Donate' button...and donate a minimum of £5. You will be helping enormously. As an ecumenical Christian organisation, SCAH does not judge people...it just tries to help them. Thanks for your generosity.

*SCAH registered charity 1058279*





## The Church is Open!

**S**t. Alphege Church is now open to the public: Monday to Friday 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. and Saturday Morning 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon.

On Fridays, the opening is part of the *Warm Welcome Spaces* network. "*Warm Welcome Spaces are places of belonging, where new friendships are forged, and where people feel valued. The difference Warm Welcome Spaces bring to communities is remarkable; they bring connection, friendship, and human warmth, helping people feel less isolated and boosting wellbeing*".

Warm Welcome Spaces are:

- Warm (the heating is on and a hot drink is available)
- Welcoming (there are volunteers to offer a welcome and the space is inclusive and non-judgmental)
- Free (no charge is made for refreshments or using the Wifi)
- Safe (we have a safeguarding policy and offer basic signposting information to people who need further support).

We are incredibly grateful to the people who have volunteered to act as Hosts or Welcomers at these times, but we still need plenty more people to help spread the load. Could you spare an hour or two every so often? If so, please contact Pam Price 0121 704 3104 or [colandpam@ic24.net](mailto:colandpam@ic24.net).

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

**E**veryone is welcome to the Recitals. Admission is free and there is a retiring collection held in aid of The Friends of St. Alphege Music (Registered Charity 511237). Refreshments are available from 12.30 p.m.

6 <sup>th</sup> November	Gen Li (cello) and Yin Yu (piano)
13 <sup>th</sup> November	Performer to be confirmed
20 <sup>th</sup> November	Performer to be confirmed
27 <sup>th</sup> November	No recital (Journey to the Stable)

## Heritage Day Tower Tours

The Ringers were really grateful to be asked to get involved in the Heritage Day. So, a big thank you to Pam and her volunteers who did the organising and took the tower tour bookings. And, a big thank you too, to the ringers that gave up their time to safely see something like fifty visitors all the way up the tower and back. It is a fair way to the belfry where the bells are, nearly one hundred steps in all. We had one lady who felt a little faint, but all was well and there were lots of reminders about taking time on our uneven and unfamiliar spiral steps. It was all worthwhile.



*The spire of the church seen from above  
Photo by Aiden Ridyard*

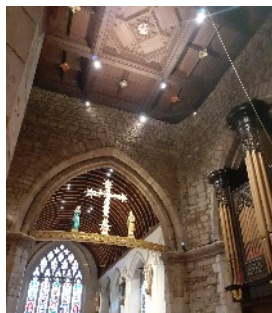


*St. Georges loft Door –  
The blocked-up door  
plus the tower door  
behind the piano*

So, what did they see? Well, we started in the church under the tower, looking at the door that leads to the base of the spiral staircase. We last used the door in May when we celebrated Bell Sunday and the bell ringers processed into church straight from ringing, to attend the service. Normally we use the external door. Looking up, they saw the blocked-up doorway that would once have taken you out on to St. George's Loft. Originally a chapel converted to ringing room and choir loft, a wooden structure that would have sat on the capitals under the tower. We also looked up to the embossed tower ceiling and the hexagonal panel that can be winched out to allow the bells to come in and out. The last time being when the newest bell was installed in 1996. Of course, we also saw the rope for the *Sanctus* bell which can be connected to the rope upstairs to allow it to be chimed from the church, when the *Sanctus* ("Holy, Holy, Holy") is said

or sung during Communion.

We were blessed with fine weather, so we walked our tours through the choir vestry, once St. Mary's Chapel, and into the graveyard where we stood looking up at the tower. We pointed out the windows and the levels we would be climbing to and noted the change in colour of the stone, the top grey section of the tower being added in 1470. Looking on up to the spire that has twice fallen and been rebuilt, now slightly shorter than the original, with the weathervane sitting some 600 feet above sea level.



*Tower Ceiling - A view of  
the hexagonal panel that  
can be winched out and  
below it, alongside the  
organ pipes the blocked-up  
door of St. George's loft*

# Roundabout

We then made our way to the ringing room, passed the blocked-up door to St. Georges loft and noting the wide windowsills on the stairs which become much smaller as the tower walls become thinner on the way up. In the ringing room we could track the rope for the *Sanctus* bell and see how it could be connected to our rope upstairs. We had the cupboard door in the paneling open so that people could see where the original windows were for the tower, now covered by the transepts, nave and chancel. Our visitors peered into the gloom of the pendulum cupboard to see and hear our gorgeous clock pendulum gently swaying back and forth. The clock mechanism was once on a balcony reached by ladder from the ringing room. Now there is a complete floor which has some soundproofing but is still accessed by ladder.



*Belfry Door – The doorway into the belfry alongside which you can see the once continuing staircase that would have led to the top of the tower*

We gave a brief overview of bellringing, and the visitors watched the *Sanctus* bell being rung. Then it was onwards and upwards to the belfry, pointing out another blocked-up doorway which would once have been the belfry entrance. You can peer through a remaining window in it into what is now the clock room. We reach the top of the stairs which hundreds of



*St. Georges loft door from the stairs – basically just the other side of the blocked-up door*

years ago would have gone on and up onto the roof of the tower. Huddled in the belfry looking across our thirteen beautiful bells, we rang the *Sanctus* bell again, while they watched on, completing the rope's journey from the church floor below. They were fascinated with the ladder leading into the base of the spire but I'm afraid it really would have been unsafe to take them on any further and onto the battlements.

We went back to the ringing room, spotting various graffiti carved initials in the sandstone, most of it dating back well over a hundred years. Once back in the ringing room, there was a little time for some questions and talk of the occasions we ring for and, a mention of some of our more notable ringers. It was then time to show our visitors back down the stairs and await the next group.

We received some great feedback so perhaps we'll get involved again. Until then we look forward to greeting a scout group, our own Youth Group and even a young archaeologists' group. See, we keep busy and keep enjoying both showing the bells and explaining the art of ringing to anyone who visits us.

**Sand Cooper**

# Roundabout

## James Brews a Special St. Alphege Beer

**O**n Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October James, a Bass in the St. Alphege Choir, headed to Stirchley to meet friends of St. Alphege Beer Festival, Birmingham Brewing Co., on a special mission to brew a one-off beer for our Beer Festival. This is the first time a beer has been brewed directly for us. Exciting times!!

### James writes -

Chris (from Birmingham Brewing) was given the task of leading the brew day and he quickly put me to work mashing in, where grain is mixed with water to form a porridge-like mixture called the mash. As this was only to be a small batch, we were using the pilot kit which should make around 50L, as opposed to 3000L on the big kit!

Mashing in completed, we left the grain to work its magic before we could begin the



temperature for the yeast, but also in our case, as the fermenting tank we were to use is made of plastic, and we didn't want any off-flavours being created by a warm vessel.

Once the fermenting vessel was full, we pitched the yeast, and our work for the day was finished. The fermentor was put to bed to allow the yeast to do its work, eating up the sugars and creating alcohol. Fingers crossed we will have a fantastic beer which can only be



sparging process, which is where we rinse the grain bed with hot water to help release the sugars in the grain. Once we were happy that we'd got as much of the sugars out of the grain as possible, the process of transferring the wort (the liquid produced from the mash) to the copper began. As the temperature got to the boil, we added the wonderfully smelling Mosaic and Ekuanot hops.

Boil done and it was ready to transfer to a fermentor via a heat exchange pump. This cools the wort quickly, mainly to the right





# Roundabout

found at the **St. Alphege Beer Festival** on **Friday 1st November 5:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.** and **Saturday 2nd November 12 Noon – 10.30 p.m.**



The recipe for the beer was kindly provided by Joe, Head Brewer at Marble Brewery in Manchester. It is going to be a Pale/IPA style of beer, based loosely on their beer Lagonda, the name changing to Gondola after a customer at the Marble Arch who reviewed the beer and mistakenly called it Gondola ... with the number of canals in Birmingham we couldn't help but name our beer Brummie Gondola! Full details will be in the Festival programme and once again, can only be sampled at the St. Alphege Beer Festival.

Thanks to everyone at Birmingham Brewing for their hospitality, time and support in creating a new beer, particularly to Chris and Griff.

The Beer List (Cask and Keg) for the Beer Festival is now really taking shape and I'm happy to confirm that we will have beer from some of the best breweries in the country, both local and a little further afield, including Church End, Fixed Wheel, Twisted Barrel, Elusive, Siren, The Kernel and many more.

Please come and join us on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the Oliver Bird Hall to have a great time and raise funds for the Friends of St. Alphege Music.

**Cheers!**  
**James Mawson**



## Christmas Greetings

**P**arish News will be happy to publish readers' Christmas Greetings to their friends in the December edition. If this is in lieu of sending cards, we would respectfully ask those who use this service to send a donation to a church charity of their choice, please.

# Let us Pray

## Calendar and Prayer Intentions for November 2024

1	All Saints' Day	The three churches of our parish	Princes Way
2	All Souls' Day	Our friends and family members who have died	Prospect Lane
3	4th Sunday before Advent	Paul Evans, St Alphege Verger	Ratcliffe Road
4	Feria	The staff of St Alphege schools	Ravenshaw Lane
5	Feria	Rev Sue Chandler and her work in the parish	Ravenshaw Way
6	Leonard, hermit, 6th century	Those in prison and their families	Rectory Gardens
7	Willibrord of York, Bishop, 739	Bishop Michael	Rectory Road
8	Saints & Martyrs of England	Those suffering for their faith	Redbrooks Close
9	Margery Kempe, Mystic, c.1440	Spiritual writers and poets	Redlands Close
10	Remembrance Sunday	Those who have given their lives in conflict	Redlands Road
11	Martin, Bishop of Tours, c.397	Those serving in the armed forces	Riverside Drive
12	Feria	Our parish administrators	Rollswood Drive
13	Charles Simeon, Priest, Divine, 1836	Our Parish Wardens, Pam & Andrew	Rowlands Crescent
14	Samuel Seabury, Bishop, 1796	Hymn writers	Rowood Drive
15	Feria	Spiritual directors and counsellors	Ryefield Close
16	Margaret, Queen of Scotland, 1093	The work of Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness	Saddlers Mews
17	2nd Sunday before Advent	Local Mental Health support services	Saintbury Drive
18	Elizabeth of Hungary, Philanthropist, 1231	Fransiscan communities and members	Sandal Rise
19	Hilda, Abbess of Whitby, 680	Those exploring religious vocations	Sandhills Crescent
20	Priscilla Lydia Sellon, a Restorer of the Religious Life in the Church of England, 1876	Members of religious communities	School Lane
21	Feria	Those caring for a family member who is ill	Seven Star Road
22	Cecilia, Martyr at Rome, c.230	Musicians, singers and choirs of our parish	Sevington Close
23	Clement, Bishop & Martyr, c.100	Archdeacon Phelim O'Hare	Sharmans Cross Road
24	Feast of Christ the King	That we may point others to Christ	Shelsey Way
25	Isaac Watts, Hymnwriter, 1748	Chris Thomas, St Alphege Director of Music	Shustoke Road
26	Feria	Linda Hicks & Tammy Strong, our Parish Children & Families Ministers	Silhill Hall Road
27	Feria	Rev Nick Parker, Priest-in-charge of our parish	Silverbirch Road
28	Feria	The work of our Parish Church Council	Smiths Lane
29	Day of Intercession & Thanksgiving for the Missionary Work of the Church	Our Pioneer Minister, Suzette Maguire	Solihull Bypass
30	Andrew the Apostle	The Readers of our Parish	Somerby Drive

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

## From the St. Alphege Register

### Baptisms

22<sup>nd</sup> September Jordon Thiruchelvam

6<sup>th</sup> October Finley Turner

### Weddings

None

### Renewal of Vows

None

### Funerals

3<sup>rd</sup> October Stella Wright

24<sup>th</sup> October Michael Curren

28<sup>th</sup> October John Hughes

### Interment of Ashes

29<sup>th</sup> October Margaret Jordan

## Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in November

Lawrie Andrew  
Mabel Campkin  
Alan Clarke  
Peter Cooper  
Sydney Flood  
Frederick Fowler  
Joan Freeth  
Margaret Harris

John Haselhurst  
Alexander Herd  
Peter Herd  
Norman Jewers  
Arthur Middleton  
Lawrence Albert Patey  
Gordon Ross  
Rachel Scarff

Pat Sharrock  
Leslie Starbuck  
Joe Sterling  
Dennis Tate  
William Tew  
Joan Watts  
Frank Wright



## Worship Notes for November 2024

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

### Friday 1st November - All Saints' Day

*Taizé Eucharist at St. Alphege, 7.30 p.m.* All Saints' Day celebrates those in whose lives the Church has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. It is a time to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that holiness can grow in the ordinary circumstances of human life, as well as in the extraordinary events.

### Saturday 2nd November - All Souls' Day

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

### Sunday 3rd November

*All Souls' Commemoration Service at St. Alphege, 5pm.* At this service we will remember those whom we have known personally who have died.

### Sunday 10th November - Remembrance Sunday

*Remembrance Sunday Civic Service at St. Alphege, 11 a.m.* Today across our Parish we explore the theme of memory, both corporate and individual, as we confront issues of war and peace, loss and sacrifice. This will be the theme at services in all three churches in our parish.

### Sunday 24th November - Christ the King

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

### Sunday 27th November - First Sunday of Advent

Today a new year begins in the life of the Church. Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time.

Fr. Simon



SOLIHULL  
**CHANDOS**  
CHOIR

**50** years  
SINGING FOR  
SOLIHULL

# Ring out Wild Bells

**Saturday November 16th 2024**

**Shirley Methodist Church, 3:00pm**

**A choral matinée celebrating British Composers  
and marking the 150th Birthday of Gustav Holst**

**Programme includes:** From The Bavarian Highlands - *Edward Elgar*  
Give Unto The Lord - *Edward Elgar* • Lord Who Hast Made Us - *Gustav Holst*  
Three Festival Choruses - *Gustav Holst* • Ring Out Wild Bells - *Percy Fletcher*

**Conductor:** Leon James • **Organ:** Angela Sones • **Piano:** Iain Jackson  
**Tickets** £17 (includes Programme and Interval Refreshments) • Under 18s Free

Reserve online at [solihullchandoschoir.org](http://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](mailto:sales@solihull-prontaprint.com)

## November 2024 Services

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints' Day

St. Alphege	7.30 p.m.	Eucharist / Taizé
-------------	-----------	-------------------

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – 4<sup>th</sup> Before Advent

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.	All Souls / New Door Commemoration

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November

St. Michael	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November

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

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday

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.	Civic Service of Remembrance
St. Catherine	11.00 a.m.	Remembrance Service
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen	6.00 p.m.	Taizé Service

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November

St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Remembrance Service
-------------	------------	---------------------

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

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

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November

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

## Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November – 2<sup>nd</sup> Before Advent

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

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November

St. Michael	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

## Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November

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

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November – Christ the King

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 27<sup>th</sup> November

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

## Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November

St. Alphege	10.30 a.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>**

# **ST ALPHEGE BEER FESTIVAL**



**Friday 1 November 5.30 - 10.30pm**  
**Saturday 2 November 12 noon - 10pm**

**OLIVER BIRD HALL, CHURCH HILL ROAD,  
SOLIHULL, B91 3RQ.**

**REAL ALES, CRAFT BEER, CIDERS, ALTERNATIVE DRINKS.  
LIVE MUSIC, FOOD.**

[www.solihullparish.org.uk/beer-festival](http://www.solihullparish.org.uk/beer-festival)

Entry £8. Advance bookings via the QR code. Charity 511237.







**Ontrack**  
Computers Ltd

# COMPUTER REPAIR

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



- ☺ **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



**Call Mike Nash On Local Number : 01564 330 505**

**[www.ontrackcomputers.co.uk](http://www.ontrackcomputers.co.uk)**

**email : [helpme@ontrackcomputers.co.uk](mailto:helpme@ontrackcomputers.co.uk)**

**TOM O'THE  
WOOD**

Country Pub and Restaurant



Finwood Road, Rowington,  
Warwickshire, CV35 7DH  
Tel. 01564 782 252  
[www.tomothewood.co.uk](http://www.tomothewood.co.uk)

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

This ancient canal-side 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**

## 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**



## *The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church*

**A**s I write this, my last piece for the Guardians, we have just had our A.G.M. The meeting was reasonably well attended; thank you to all those who came and enjoyed the social gathering afterwards.

The main thing to report is that the meeting elected four new Trustees. Having pestered you for ages to come forward, we now have a full quota again. The new Trustees are Roger Shinton, Phil Godfrey, Martin Ayres and Andrew Moore. They will be joining Judith Hetherington who continues as Trustee & Treasurer. Sheila Payne and Margaret Oswald wish them all the best for the future, which we are sure is in safe hands.

By the time you read this, we will have had our lunch at the *Drum & Monkey*, which I hope will have been an enjoyable occasion.

We have nothing else planned at the moment. Margaret is also leaving the Friends Committee but will be replaced by Judith who will be the link between the Committee & the Trustees. I am sure that they will soon have some events planned.

**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 Bockock** (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

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

Do contact me on the phone or email below if you don't know about the Floodlighting Scheme and would like to learn more. It's open to all.

The cost is £8.00 for 2 hours; £14.00 for 4 hours. Please give 21 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](mailto:russellpayne110@aol.com)

### **The Church was floodlit to remember the following in 2024**

7 <sup>th</sup> October	Royal Marine Ashley Hicks. Your love and laughter will live on in our hearts.
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Leonard Kidner. Remembering you on your birthday.
19 <sup>th</sup> October	In loving memory of Nicole Potts on her birthday.
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	In loving memory of my wife Alma Reah on this our wedding anniversary.
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Raymond Colston Horswill 02.02.1928 – 25.10.2008. Much loved by all who knew him. Devoted husband and father.
31 <sup>st</sup> October	In loving memory of Vivien Soden on her birthday.
31 <sup>st</sup> October	In loving memory of Nicola Blakeman.



**I**t was lovely to see all our choristers and choir families again at the beginning of September, once the new school year had started. Before the first rehearsal of the new year, we took a few minutes to share news over drinks and nibbles, and to set out some of the plans for the term ahead. We then resumed our normal routine of rehearsals and services throughout the month.

September culminated in *Vespers* at the end of the month. This consisted of a choral recital, followed by a service of *Compline*, then a cheese and wine reception. The recital started with Monteverdi's '*Laudate Dominum*', accompanied by organ and violins, and also included '*I saw the Lord*' by Stainer, the beautiful duet '*Laudamus Te*' from Vivaldi's *Gloria*, two organ solos performed by Liam, introduced with reference to the day – the Feast Day of St. Michael and All Angels – and closed with Bairstow's '*Let all mortal flesh be silent*'. It was well attended by a variety of people, and well received.



In the next issue of Parish News, we'll have updates about our October outreach events –

## 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)



**solihull  
choral  
society**



Conducted by David Rice

# Haydn The Creation

**7.30pm Saturday, 16th November 2024**  
**Solihull School Chapel, B91 3DJ**

Tickets from [solihullchoral.org.uk](http://solihullchoral.org.uk)

# Experience quality dementia care, led by experts

At Care UK's Blossomfield Grange care home in Solihull, our team is passionate about supporting your loved one to maintain independence and make choices, whilst receiving the very best dementia care in a place they can call home.

## Care you can trust

We work with academic partners and respected leaders in the field, to ensure we stay up to date with the latest approaches to dementia care. We have worked closely with the Association of Dementia Studies to create bespoke programmes of dementia training.

Whilst Dr Nori Graham - a renowned dementia expert and Vice President of Alzheimer's International - supports the development of our dementia strategy with Suzanne Mumford, a Queen's Nurse and Head of Nursing, Care and Dementia at Care UK.

## Living well with dementia

Our dedicated team will work with you and your loved one to deliver a care and lifestyle plan entirely tailored to their unique needs and preferences and our busy activities schedule is always packed with meaningful activities that support them to live life to the full.

## Purpose-built facilities

At our purpose-built home, everything from colour schemes, signage, and furniture to the design of our crockery, has been carefully chosen to support residents living with dementia to be as independent as possible.

Each floor at Blossomfield Grange is divided into smaller suites that create a calm atmosphere, keeping hustle and bustle to a minimum.



Blossomfield Grange care home in Solihull is part of Care UK, the country's most awarded large care provider. We've been delivering high-quality, person-centred care for over 40 years. That's why over 9,000 families trust us to care for their older loved ones.

To find out more about Blossomfield Grange, call 0121 756 1802.



**Blossomfield Grange**  
**1 Worcester Way, Off Dog Kennel Lane,**  
**Solihull B90 4JX**  
**[careuk.com/blossomfield-grange](http://careuk.com/blossomfield-grange)**





# CHURCH 4 FAMILIES

## November

### Sunday Worship

*The Junction is a short family focussed service that meets at 9.15 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Oliver Bird Hall. Here are the November themes:*

*3 Nov **God's Saints** What are saints? Which ones do we know about?*

***\*\*This session will be in the St. Alphege church building so that we can explore the building to see how many saints we can find \*\****

*17 Nov **Tree planting Sunday** If the weather is good we will be spending time outdoors and will be making a gratitude tree.*

***Everyone is invited to stay after the Worship session to help plant trees donated by the Woodland Trust around the OBH site.***

*24 Nov **Christ the King** The Junction will be joining the Sunday club at St Helen's. We'll be making crowns! (see below for more information)*

*In the St. Alphege church building at 9.15 a.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> November there will be a very special **All age Remembrance Sunday** service.*

***St. Helen's Sunday club** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November Join us at St. Helen's Church, St. Helen's Road, B91 2DA (off Buryfield Road) at 10 a.m.*

## Other Activities

*Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November **Messy Church** St. Helen's Church 4 p.m.-6 p.m.*

***Pause and Pray** Every Monday 9 a.m.-9.30 a.m. Room 5 Oliver Bird Hall*

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





# Pause and Pray



A chance to pause, and reflect on the week ahead

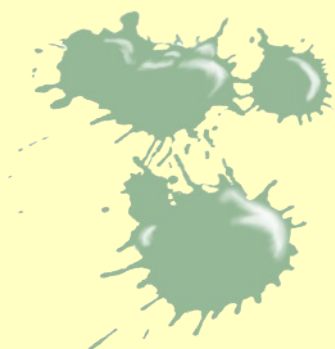
Open to all Parents and Carers

Mondays 9am after school drop off for 30 minutes  
Room 5, Oliver Bird Hall

**\*\* Starts Monday 4th November 2024 \*\***

Any questions contact: Linda Hicks [l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto: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!



4 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Friday

15<sup>th</sup> November and 20<sup>th</sup> December



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



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

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



Booking is essential. E mail  
[l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)  
to book your place.







# 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](mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)

## Youth Stuff

**T**he Youth Group continues to meet on a Friday evening in the Oliver Bird Hall.

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](mailto:l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk)



**S t A l p h e e**  
**All Age Eucharist**  
**9.15 a.m. Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

## 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](http://www.little-learners.co.uk)

[llmontessorisolihull@gmail.com](mailto: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

**M**y younger daughter has just celebrated her 41st birthday, which led me to reflect that she was less than a year old when I started to attend St. Helen's Church.

Here we are, forty years on, quite a milestone. During that time we have seen five vicars, most of whom I keep an still in touch with, two who have presided over the marriages of both my daughters, and another two over the funeral of my husband. Others have given great support over other tragedies and joys along the way. There are also many members of the congregation, past and present, who have shared the joys and tragedies which have come along. This has made me realise what a huge part St. Helen's and the church family have played in my life, and I'm sure, the lives of all of us.

We are a community church, facilitating many secular and non- secular activities. We reach out to the local community and do what we can to support global causes. When you read this, we will have celebrated Harvest in conjunction with St. Michael's and our neighbours. We are planning the Christmas Fair which is to take place on Saturday 30th November. On this topic, could I invite you all to give your support, either by attending, or contributing cakes, raffle prizes, tombola prizes, or by volunteering to help on the day. All our proceeds this year are being divided between PHAB a local charity which supports young people with either mental or physical challenges; the second is Marie Cure Hospice Solihull, which probably needs no introduction. This is in memory of Sheila Cross, a beloved member of St. Helen's who is sadly missed and who gave an inestimable amount of wisdom, compassion and support to so many including me.

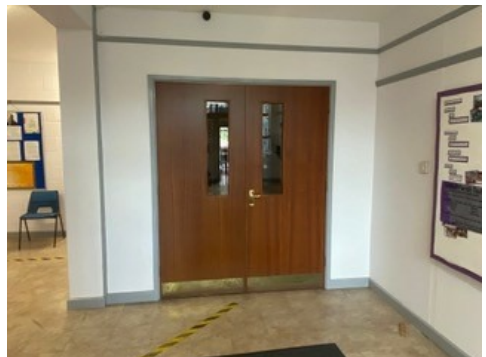
It maybe good for us all to reflect on our past at St. Helen's and indeed, on all three of the churches in our Parish, to understand the part they play in our lives which is often taken for granted, to look to the future and, perhaps, find something we can do to make our Church thrive. Now, a long overdue thank you to St. Helen's, past and present.

**Jean Fewins**

## A new look for St. Helen's

Over the last few months we have been making changes to St. Helen's Church. This work has been made possible by a generous legacy from the late Barbara Semple who stipulated it should be spent on the church. The overall aim of the works was to make the way into the church brighter and more welcoming.

We started by replacing the old drab floor mat and tiles in the porch and entry corridor. We put



## St Helen



in new entrance matting and wood effect flooring that matched the flooring in the lobby area.

Following this we have replaced the doors into the lobby area and the bifold doors into the main hall with light oak glazed doors. At the same time, we lifted the 50+ year old wall cupboards in the lobby area and painted the doors and fitted more contemporary handles.

The work so far has made a tremendous difference which has been greatly appreciated by the congregation and the various users of the halls.

The work is not finished yet and we are replacing the other two sets of double doors into the main hall with doors the same as those already installed but with opaque glass. We will also upgrade the lower cupboards in the lobby to match the wall cupboards.

**Les Prescott**





## St Helen's Christmas Fayre

Sat 30th Nov 2024  
11.00am - 2.00pm



Wood turning      Cakes/Preserves  
Books              Bottle Tombola  
Toys & Games.    Treasure Hunt  
Raffle.            Cards & Decorations  
Crafts             Human Fruit Machine



Admission £1, kids free



Plus Meet Father Christmas

Lunches & Refreshments



Proceeds to:  
Marie Curie  
  
Lyndon Senior Phab Club



## **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

On the 27<sup>th</sup> September we held a Macmillan Coffee Morning in St. Michael's Chapel. During the course of the morning, we had a good number of people visit to stay for a chat and enjoy some of the excellent cake provided by members of the congregation. Not only is Macmillan Cancer a good cause but the coffee morning enables people to have a good chat. Macmillan Coffee Mornings are their biggest fund-raising event, started in 1990. As with many events it started small and has since grown significantly. At St. Michael's we raised £320, so many thanks to all who supported this event and who provided refreshments.

## **St. Michael's Day**

During September we have our Patronal Festival. The Revd. Sue Chandler presided at the Eucharist and preached a very informative sermon extolling the merits of being a church under the wing of St. Michael. Indeed, we have a very powerful saint watching our backs. Following the service everyone stayed to enjoy an indoor picnic.

## **Thursday Club**

Our monthly Thursday club took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, a very memorable day as the sun shone all day. Those who came were able to enjoy cake and tea or coffee and a good chat together. The next time we meet on this occasion will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November at St. Michael's Chapel from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. All are welcome.

## **Harvest Thanksgiving**

This year took place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October. At this service we were delighted to welcome



our resident music group. We arrange our Harvest Service so that people bring fresh produce which is then sold after the service and the money thus raised donated to charity. This year we are donating to the Farming Community Network. The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers, farming families and people in rural communities through difficult times and periods of change. They have helped thousands of people deal with a variety of issues, including financial difficulties, animal disease, mental health and family disputes.

Harvest was close to the feast day of St. Francis, and Fr. Simon was able to link the two, as of course St. Francis saw the face of God in everything in the natural world. Sarah had made a beautiful stole which Simon wore, and which represented the natural world.

**Paul Smith**



## Advent: Journeying Together

### Advent Book

The Archbishop of York's Advent book for this year, written by Rachel Mann, is called, *"Do not be afraid: The joy of waiting in a time of fear"*.

The book comes out in September, but the blurb that precedes it tells us:

***'Waiting can be beautiful and, at least sometimes, it takes us to the heart of the Holy.'***

As much at home with Strictly Come Dancing as the mystical writings of Julian of Norwich, Rachel Mann writes with disarming verve of something we all experience - waiting.

It may seem unlikely when you're stuck on a train, or nervously anticipating hospital treatment, or simply fearful of an uncertain future, that there is treasure to be found in the waiting. Yet the Psalmist says, *'I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.'*

These luminous meditations tell stories of God waiting with us when we're in fear or distress; of coming - bidden or unbidden - to relieve our loneliness; of disconcerting us, desiring us and surprising us with joy. Most of all they remind us that Jesus Christ comes into the world as one long waited for; as the servant who waits on others; as the one on whom we are, adoringly, called to wait.

Covering 4 weeks, each meditation ends with a prayer and questions for reflection, which may be used by individuals or groups.

Don't forget to look out for any Advent groups/events in the Parish, whatever resources they are using.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Group @ The Greville Arms

4<sup>th</sup> Monday Group will be meeting as follows during Advent 2024:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November (Advent one)

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December (Advent two)

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December (Advent three)

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December (Advent four)

All dates are 1.45 p.m. for a 2 p.m. start at the Greville Arms, Cornyx Lane.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Advent Quiet morning

Another Advent linked parish event is our annual Advent Quiet Morning. This year this will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at St. Alphege.

Gathering at 9.30am for refreshments, ready for a 10am start, the morning will follow a pattern of: *opening worship; first input session; 'sacred space'; second input session; 'sacred space'; closing worship*; ending at 12.30pm, with the opportunity to bring along a packed lunch so that we can eat together before we leave.

Each of the 'Sacred Space' sessions will last for around 55 minutes, and this is either space to reflect on what has been shared in the (short) input, and how it reflects on your life, or to simply spend the time with God however you wish. Activity sheets are provided, linked to each session of input, for those who would like a little more direction, but these are purely optional.



As Susan Sayers writes in her Advent book (2006), *'Making Christmas Happen'*, "this Advent let's stand back from all of the pre-Christmas frenzy of expectation a moment and catch our breath and regain our balance."

\*\*\*\*\*

## The Advent Journey: "Why bother?"

As I write I have just returned from sabbatical, during which I experienced a labyrinth retreat. Unlike a maze, where you can hit a dead end and get lost, the journey through a labyrinth is a winding journey into the centre, where you can spend as much time waiting upon God as you need, before undertaking the same winding journey back out again. This winding journey is symbolic of life and, in this instance, I would suggest is symbolic of the journey through Advent too.

I had an amazing time with God during my sabbatical, and with my fellow retreatants on the labyrinth retreat, and the one word I would share with you now with regard to that amazing time is – *'perspective'*.

Growing up I used to love the TV programme, *'Ask the Family'*, with Robert Robinson. Very often on there they used to show you a picture of something very close up and ask you to identify what it was. Sometimes the families were able to recognise the object, and sometimes they weren't, because the perspective was changed. (*For another example of this, try putting your hand right up to your face and seeing what is beyond it – it will be blurred at best.*)

Just like with those pictures (*or with your hand if you tried it*), the busyness of life can cause any of us to lose perspective at any time. We may be busy with our job, or with our families, or a myriad of other valuable things – even with doing things *for* God – and it's easy to lose perspective and not realise that this has happened. It just becomes 'the way it is'.

I would suggest that keeping Advent in some way – that is, in *intentionally* journeying with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem - we put ourselves in a position where we can regain some of that lost perspective.

So, whether you join in with looking at the Advent book, with the Advent Quiet morning, or you do something else that suits *your* spirituality, my prayer for us all is that we have an *intentional* Advent with our loving God at the centre, and that, when we reach our Christmas celebrations, our perspective will be more Christ-centred than it was.

## Think and pray –

Here I offer you, Lord Jesus,  
All my preparations for Christmas.  
Teach me more about giving  
And more about receiving.  
Realign my priorities  
In tune with your will,  
And enable me to see more clearly  
How best to celebrate your coming  
As our Lord and Saviour.  
Amen.

*Keep safe and thanks for listening!*

**Suzette**

# 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](http://www.thomasbragg.co.uk)

## **Shirley**

**0121 744 1428**

562 Stratford Road, B90 4AY

## **Knowle**

**01564 773 610**

1682 High Street, B93 0LY



## **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**

## **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](http://www.bannocksmemorials.co.uk)

# 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 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.



Our Silver fleet of Jaguars

We are happy to arrange;

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

## 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

See what our clients have to say at [www.cbastock.co.uk](http://www.cbastock.co.uk)



# The Goodness of God

**D**uring the year Birmingham City Mission started (1966), Birmingham's BT tower was completed. It has stood as the city's highest landmark at a height of 152 metres. Very soon it will be superseded by another building. In the summer of 2025, it is expected that the Octagon, the world's first octagonal high rise residential building, will be completed and become our city's tallest building at 155 metres. Costing £110 million, the Octagon will include 370 one, two, and three-bedroom apartments, affordable homes, communal space and residents' amenities. It will stand out on the city's skyline as people pass by, travelling along the M6 motorway.

I must confess that I have enjoyed seeing landmarks in places I have visited over the years, small or large. Glenfinnan Monument in Scotland was built in memory of 1,200 Highlanders who gathered eight months before the Battle of Culloden. Standing in front of the monument one can just imagine the noise and excitement of those men all those years ago. I have photographs which I took from the top of one of the Twin Towers in New York from 1994 during dusk, as the lights of the city were turned on. Now of course, they remind me of the terrible events of 9/11.

If it were possible, the monument that I would love to photograph, is the one that Joshua built on the riverbed of the river Jordan. He led the Israelites across the river in the spring when the water depth was probably higher than normal. As the priests entered the water, God caused the river to be held upstream allowing the Israelites to cross into the Promised Land on dry ground. God instructed Joshua to use twelve stones representing the twelve tribes and to erect a monument on the riverbed where the priest had stood. A similar monument was built at Gilgal. Joshua told the people, "In the future, when your descendants ask their fathers, "What are these stones?" tell them, "Israel crossed the Jordan on dry land. For the Lord your God dried up the Jordan until you crossed over." I can imagine parents standing with their children years later in Gilgal explaining to them what the stones represented!

As we go through life, whether with our families, churches, or Christian organisations, there are always good times and challenging times. Periods when it feels like that everything is going well and that we can see and feel the blessing of God, and others when, out of the blue just like a tsunami, we are confronted with unexpected and unpredictable challenges.

During the harder times we may not have a monument like the one that Joshua built to visit and reflect upon, but I think it is good to remember the times when God was with us and delivered us through some crisis or another, or brought us through some difficulty, or provided for us in a miraculous way. Perhaps making a note of answered prayers and of the 'God interventions' that we have experienced will in practice become our personal Gilgal as we remind ourselves of God's goodness.

We have a God who can do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or even imagine. Please pray that we may see His power at work in us and through us this month.

**Wes Erpen**  
**Birmingham City Mission**

**With thanks for permission to print this article.**

## **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/>**





## **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*

**We had a splendid collection last year, when we collected in the Parish and the Rotary Club of Solihull, a fantastic total of over 200 sacks of shoes.**

*Can we beat this??*

**If you have any unwanted shoes in good condition,  
please contact Phil on 07770 406870  
or let me know on [philcgodfrey@btinternet.com](mailto:philcgodfrey@btinternet.com)**

*Please tell your friends and relations - Phil Godfrey*



# *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](mailto:enquiries@dovehousecourt.co.uk)**

**[www.dovehousecourtltd.co.uk](http://www.dovehousecourtltd.co.uk)**

# Update from the Parish Wardens

We are about to enter the more poignant time of the year of remembering our loved ones who have died and then those who have given their lives or have been injured in wars, and the latter are much in all our minds as we see the horrors of wars in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan and many other places.

We thank Suzette, Anne and many others who are arranging the Poppy Installation outside St. Alphege which will help us greatly in our remembrances. Thank you too to everyone who has been busy knitting poppies. Do come inside church too to see the artwork produced by our local schoolchildren.

Harvest services and activities took place in October and helped us in our worship of our God who supplies all our needs. Thanks to those who did so much work for those.

St. Alphege Church Building is now open during weekdays and on Saturday mornings. We would still welcome more volunteers to be welcomers during these times- even an hour or two occasionally would be good. Pam would love to hear from you. To volunteer for this, you do not need to attend St. Alphege or indeed be part of any congregation.

By the time you read this, we will also have had our *Volunteer Fair* for people to see what other opportunities there are for volunteering in many different areas – please do volunteer for areas that interest you.

We welcome Wing Sze Tse (Becky) as our new Parish Administrator; and we are also looking forward to welcoming Christopher Churcher as an intern to help with projects for Nick and music administration from November until July 2025.

On the music front we continue to be blessed with good music from Chris and the Choir and from our other groups at St. Alphege and St Michael's. It is a particular joy to have the St Michael's Band on the first Sundays of the month at St Michael's which adds a lot to the service.

It is also good that Chris and Liam's outreach project with school choirs, *Rising Stars*, is proving so popular. We could do more work with more funding as Chris has mentioned – so if you can help, please do let him know.

St. Helen's has welcomed a number of young people recently. Firstly, a Venture Scout Group came to visit the church one evening when we explained the history of the church and showed them round. The Puppets were also there practising and gave them a presentation of two songs which gave rise to a good discussion and also interest from one or two of them in becoming puppeteers. Secondly, the whole of Greswold School came in two sittings for their harvest services.

We continue to thank the Guardians for their support for the fabric at St. Alphege which has been invaluable. They had their Annual General Meeting recently where they thanked

Margaret Oswald and Sheila Payne for their great work as Trustees and particularly Margaret who has chaired so ably. They were pleased to welcome three new Trustees – Roger Shinton, Phil Godfrey and Andy Moore.

Plans for further work on *Project Turnaround* has now been explained to the three churches at services. Please do feedback any thoughts you have on these. There is a recording on Solihull Parish YouTube of the presentation at St. Alphege if you were not able to see these. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B91xrgLIaVE>

We still do not have anyone to take on the roles of Parish Safeguarding Coordinator or the St. Alphege Safeguarding Coordinator on a permanent basis. Please do consider coming forward for either of these positions which are very important to the Parish. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November is *Safeguarding Sunday* when we remember the importance of this issue.

Please do continue to pray for our Parish and our Mission to it.

**Pam Price**  
**Andrew Williams**  
**October 2024**

## **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](http://www.billboycedecorators.co.uk)  
[billboycedecorators@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:billboycedecorators@hotmail.co.uk)

## **PG TURNING**

**Specialist Wood Turner**  
*Commissions undertaken*

Email: [philcgodfrey@btinternet.com](mailto:philcgodfrey@btinternet.com)  
Mobile: 07770 406870



*All profits to the charity  
APS Support UK*



# 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](http://www.bastockandbruce.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](http://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***

## Do You Believe in Angels?

The Revd. Martin Tunnicliffe responds to a local churchgoer's question.

### Question

I have always believed in the existence of Guardian Angels, but recently I met two clergy who say that they don't advocate that belief in the Anglican Church as there is no reference to them in the Bible.

### Response

I think it's fair to say that, in Bible times, everyone believed in supernatural beings, whether angels, or pagan gods. I'm no expert on the subject, but I should think that, with few exceptions, this belief continued worldwide until the (so-called) Age of Enlightenment. This is a title sometimes given to a time of radical questioning which came about in Europe and America during the Eighteenth Century.

The ancient Greeks and Romans had their 'gods' who were generally thought to exist at a reasonably safe distance on top of Mount Olympus in Greece (see Acts 14.11). At the same time, the Middle Eastern countries believed in supernatural beings of various kinds with varying degrees of influence and power. The traditional Jewish faith stoutly and uniquely maintained the concept of *JHWH* as the one and only supreme God, creator and sustainer of all that exists. The Jewish religion appears to have adopted from Persian theology the idea of supernatural subordinate spiritual beings existing closer to God than humans do, dwelling with him in a heavenly realm above. Christianity inherited this belief, along with much else from the Jewish religion (see the Apocalypse of John, i.e. Revelation, the final book in the New Testament).

We get our word "angel" from the Greek word "*angelos*" which means *messenger*. So, in Judaism and Christianity, the heavenly system of governance is held to be like the human system, with a supreme authority (king) who communicates with his subjects by sending messengers. I think that the idea of angels as guardians must derive from the saying of Jesus (uniquely in Matthew 18.10) which was prompted by his blessing of little children: *See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.*

For myself, I strongly believe in the existence of angels. For example: in my driving days, I used to dread the approach to the roundabout at the Robin Hood traffic island on the Stratford Road. The nearer I got to it, the more urgently I prayed, and imagined the whole area being overlooked by angels, who saw to it that there were not frequent and multiple crashes. I also consider that God occasionally sends his angels in human form, and often singly. My strongest personal experience of this I have written down as an essay entitled "The Lord's Angel."



## **I Stand Alone**

I stand alone but He is near me.  
I cannot speak but He can hear me.  
A thousand years His gift is with us.  
If we can trust, then He can save us.  
All troubles fade when we are with Him.  
New life begins when we believe Him.  
Love Him and live.

What must I do to receive Him?  
Just turn and see, and then believe Him.  
Follow His path up to the Hill  
Then stand , give thanks  
And do His will.  
All those who try know they will fail  
But still in hope they try again.  
Do not give in

His hand will guide. In deepest darkness  
He is the light that does not dim,  
His is the love that does not fail.  
Keep on His path,  
And walk with those who know the way.  
Where shall I find such friends as these?  
Just look around and you will see  
The kindly hand offered on the way,  
The gentle smile when grief descends,  
The Being there, when all else fails.  
Oh Gentle Lord, what thanks are there  
To say enough for all thy care?

**Rosemary Owens**



## 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 for 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](http://www.retirementsecurity.co.uk)  
[resales@retirementsecurity.co.uk](mailto:resales@retirementsecurity.co.uk)

Deerhurst Court, George  
Road, Solihull, B91 3BY



Setting Standards for  
Retirement Communities



RetirementSECURITY



# 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**



# For Your Diary

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November** : 1.30pm in the OBH. *Ugandan Adventure*. A talk by Phil Godfrey.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November** : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December** : 1.00pm in the OBH. *Advent Lunch* followed at 2pm by an  
*Advent Meditation* with Suzette Maguire.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.

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

## WIVES' FELLOWSHIP

**T**he Fellowship Lunch Club will meet as usual on the first Friday of the month, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November. If anyone would like to join the group for an enjoyable meal and friendly company, please telephone as below for further information

**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 DECEMBER OF THE PARISH NEWS MUST BE IN BY  
FRIDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER PLEASE**

mail to [parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto: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](http://WWW.STEPHENANDPHILIPPAINTER.COM)



## SOLIHULL PARISH SAFEGUARDING

<i>Safeguarding Coordinator</i>	<b>Vacancy - interim co-ordinator</b> <b>Pam Price</b> , <a href="mailto:colandpam@ic24.net">colandpam@ic24.net</a>	0121 704 3104
---------------------------------	--	---------------

## SOLIHULL PARISH PCC & DCC CONTACTS

<i>Parish Wardens</i>	<b>Andrew Williams</b> , <a href="mailto:arwilliams399@gmail.com">arwilliams399@gmail.com</a> <b>Pam Price</b> , <a href="mailto:colandpam@ic24.net">colandpam@ic24.net</a>	0121 705 3268 0121 704 3104
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<b>Julia Hanson</b> , <a href="mailto:pccsecretary@solihullparish.org.uk">pccsecretary@solihullparish.org.uk</a>	
<i>Acting PCC Treasurer</i>	<b>Tim Drakeford</b> , 42 Fowgay Drive	0121 705 4494
<i>Parish Electoral Roll Officer</i>	<b>Stephen Linstead</b> , 20 Silhill Hall Road	0121 705 1376
<i>St Alphege Deputy Warden</i>	<b>Sheila Sayers</b> , 636 Streetsbrook Road	0121 705 5331
<i>St Alphege Stewardship Recorder</i>	<b>Frank Upton</b> , 1 Rectory Road	0121 705 2963
<i>St Helen Deputy Warden</i>	<b>Chris Carrington</b>	0121 705 0902
<i>St Helen Hall Bookings</i>	<b>Jeremy Eade</b> , <a href="mailto:solomere@aol.com">solomere@aol.com</a>	0121 706 3831
<i>St Michael Deputy Wardens</i>	<b>Keith Wilson</b>	0121 778 2295

## SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS CONTACTS

<i>Editor</i>	<b>Carol Southworth</b> , <a href="mailto:parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk">parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk</a>	0121 705 4958
<i>Production</i>	<b>Roger Edwards</b> , 39 Westfield Close, Dorridge, B93 8DY	01564 739134
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Roger Giddings</b> , 70 Silhill Hall Road	0121 686 3422
<i>Postal Subscriptions</i>	<b>Helen Russell</b> , 30 De Moram Grove, B92 0PZ	07710 473 418
<i>Advertising Manager</i>	<b>Tim Drakeford</b> , 42 Fowgay Drive	0121 705 4494
<i>Circulation Enquiries</i>	<b>Helen Russell</b> , 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>	<b>Prontaprint</b> , 126 Station Road, Knowle, B93 0EP	0121 705 9988

## OLIVER BIRD HALL

<b>PARISH OFFICE</b>	<b>Sarah Markham Senior Administrator</b> <a href="mailto:s.markham@solihullparish.org.uk">s.markham@solihullparish.org.uk</a> <b>Rekha Anand Parish Administrator</b> <a href="mailto:admin@solihullparish.org.uk">admin@solihullparish.org.uk</a> Parish Office, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	0121 705 5350 <b>Mon-Thu 9am to 1pm;</b> <b>Fri 9am to 12 noon</b>
<b>Oliver Bird Hall Bookings</b>		<a href="mailto:OBHbookings@solihullparish.org.uk">OBHbookings@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Life Events</b> (Baptism, Wedding, Funeral)		<a href="mailto:life.events@solihullparish.org.uk">life.events@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Pewslip items</b> (by 10 a.m. Wednesday)		<a href="mailto:Pewslip@solihullparish.org.uk">Pewslip@solihullparish.org.uk</a>



# SOLIHULL PARISH STAFF & CONTACTS

<b>Priest in Charge, Rector Designate</b>	<b>The Revd. Nick Parker</b>	<a href="mailto:rector@solihullparish.org.uk">rector@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 07890 720240
<b>Team Vicar for St. Michael</b> (Not available Thursdays)	<b>The Revd. Simon Marshall</b> St Michael's Church Centre, Oak Cottage, Bryanston Road, Solihull, B91 1BS	<a href="mailto:simon@solihullparish.org.uk">simon@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 0121 704 4730
<b>Team Vicar for St. Helen</b>	The position is currently vacant	<a href="mailto:sthoffice@solihullparish.org.uk">sthoffice@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Pioneer Minister</b> (Not available Thursdays)	<b>Suzette Maguire</b> 10 Middlewood Close, Solihull, B91 2TY	<a href="mailto:s.maguire@solihullparish.org.uk">s.maguire@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 0121 709 0884
<b>Associate Priest</b>	<b>The Revd. Sue Chandler</b>	<a href="mailto:s.chandler@solihullparish.org.uk">s.chandler@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 07970 791288
<b>Readers</b>	<b>Linda Hicks</b> <b>Stephen Linstead</b> <b>Chris Carrington</b> <b>Paul Smith</b>	01564 782557 0121 705 1376 0121 705 0902 07887 663 171
<b>Assistance is also offered by</b>	<b>The Revd. Roger Chamberlain</b> <b>The Revd. Roy Murray</b>  <b>The Revd. Canon Andrew Hutchinson</b>  <b>The Venerable Paul Taylor</b>  <b>The Revd. Anne Haselhurst</b>	<a href="mailto:revrog@hotmail.co.uk">revrog@hotmail.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:fatherroy47@gmail.com">fatherroy47@gmail.com</a> 0121 296 7798 <a href="mailto:fr.andrewhutchinson@btinternet.com">fr.andrewhutchinson@btinternet.com</a> 0121 758 7877 <a href="mailto:pstaylor53@gmail.com">pstaylor53@gmail.com</a> 07796 691203 <a href="mailto:annehaselhurst@talktalk.net">annehaselhurst@talktalk.net</a>
<b>Director of Music &amp; Organist</b>	<b>Christopher Martin Thomas</b>	<a href="mailto:c.thomas@solihullparish.org.uk">c.thomas@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Assistant Organist</b>	<b>Liam Condon</b>	<a href="mailto:l.condon@solihullparish.org.uk">l.condon@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Music Department Administrator</b>	<b>Isabel Baumber</b>	<a href="mailto:isabel@solihullparish.org.uk">isabel@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
<b>Director of Children's &amp; Families' Ministry</b>	<b>Linda Hicks</b> Room 3, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ. <b>Tammy Strong</b> Assistant Children's Worker	<a href="mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk">l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 07838 670772 0121 270 7390
<b>Youth Assistant</b>	<b>Lynn Smart</b> Youth Office, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	<a href="mailto:l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk">l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 0121 661 6303
<b>St Alphege Verger</b>	<b>Paul Evans</b> Verger's Office at St Alphege Church	07443 917726
<b>St Alphege Tower Secretary</b>	<b>Sand Cooper</b>	<a href="mailto:sand.cooper@outlook.com">sand.cooper@outlook.com</a>



*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](http://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](http://www.prontaprint.com)

126 Station Road, Knowle B93 0EP

Tel: 0121 705 9988 Email: [sales@solihull.prontaprint.com](mailto:sales@solihull.prontaprint.com)

**Business as usual!**  
following all safety guidelines  
of course

