

# SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS



No. 569

JULY/AUGUST 2025

PRICE £1.00

# TEAM CHURCHES

**St ALPHEGE -**

**The Square, Solihull B91 3RH**

**St HELEN -**

**St Helen's Road, Solihull B91 2DA**

**St MICHAEL'S CHAPEL -**

**Bryanston Road, Solihull B91 1BS**

Sunday Worship at Oak Cottage School,  
Greswolde Road, Solihull, B91 1DY



## St Alphege (Sundays)

8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist	
10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist except:	
	Sunday 9.15 a.m.	All Age Eucharist in the church 13 <sup>th</sup> July
	Sunday 11.00 a.m.	Civic Service 13 <sup>th</sup> July
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 the Oliver Bird Hall on 6<sup>th</sup> July

## 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, Oak Cottage School

Sundays	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist.
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## St. Michael's Chapel

Wednesdays	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	10.00 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 views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of *Solihull Parish News* or of *Solihull Parish*.

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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

*Cover picture*  
**Sunflowers**

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## Vocations and Holy Days

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May we celebrated Fr. Roy's twentieth anniversary of priesting with a Eucharist at which Fr. Roy presided and preached, with a bunfight to follow. It was a suitably joyful occasion, giving opportunity for me and many others to show our appreciation for all Fr. Roy has given to our parish through the years – enriching our worship and offering care and support to many individuals.



This time of the year is commonly a time for priestly anniversaries with ordinations traditionally taking place at Petertide – the period of the church year close to the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

Celebrating Fr. Roy led me to count how many years it is since my own priesting (twenty-six) and to think afresh about my journey into priesthood and what it means to be a priest. I vividly remember coming back from selection conference and waiting to receive news on whether I had been recommended for training. As it turned out, my recommendation was conditional on a

favourable report at the end of my first training year, and whether I had more firmly grasped the ontological change involved in priestly vocation.

Ontological change is a fancy way of describing a change to one's core identity, and in the case of clergy is denoted by becoming reverend. Ironically, this idea of identity change is something I only properly understood through becoming a husband and then a father – moments which profoundly changed the way I understood and thought of myself. Now, twenty-six years on, I hugely appreciate the privilege of priesthood and with it the knowledge that



I am and always will be a priest – whatever role I may be in and, presuming I live long enough, even after I properly retire and am no longer in role. At its heart, priesthood is a ministry of reconciliation, helping to bring people into relationship with our Saviour Jesus Christ, and God our creator.

Not wishing to take anything away from priestly vocation but it has further struck me that clergy are far from being unique in finding that their sense of identity is bound up in what they do. And, of course, most professions can be vocational if approached in the right way – that is using our gifts, talents and skills in service of others, making a positive difference to those around us and the world in which we live. As Christians we would add to this the service of God and perhaps rephrase 'making the world a better place' to working towards God's kingdom of justice, peace and love.

For many, the summer months are a time for a break from work and chance to spend time with our friends and families. I pray they may also be holy-days in which we find refreshment, so that we might be renewed in whatever several vocations we may have – as spouse, parent, carer, student, employee, or volunteer – recognising the inherent goodness and joy in giving ourselves to whatever God calls us to do.

**Rev. Nick**

## **SHEPHERDSON COURT DAY CENTRE**

7 Damson Parkway, Solihull West Midlands B91 2PP

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

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

# Roundabout

## Revd. Anne Writes

I want to add my congratulations to Nick's on the anniversary of Fr. Roy's ordination. I was ordained deacon thirty-three years ago and priested thirty-one years ago. It was something I never thought would happen and, as Nick has said, it changes your life in many ways. I discovered that God had a plan for me that I didn't know He had, and He gave gifts to me that I was sure I didn't have. But this is something, that in different ways, He can give to any of us, whether our calling is for ordained or lay ministry, if only we ask in faith.



*Service at the Cathedral of  
St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich celebrating  
30 years of the Ordination of Women*

## Solihull Parish Puppets

The All Age Service for the Feast of Pentecost gave the puppets another opportunity to perform, this time to the song "Great Tongues of Fire", a parody of the Jerry Lee Lewis hit "Great Balls of Fire". This performance included some pretty amazing dancing, of which Father Nick was quite envious! Our newest team members were able to participate in a training day run by One Way UK in April, and this performance provided them with a great opportunity to try out some newly acquired skills and hacks. Well done, Sophie! You really nailed that dancing!



**Ruth Sabbagh**

## **Ringling World National Youth Contest 5th July 2025**

**T**he ringers at St. Alphege will be hosting nearly 200 young ringers across the day as they come and ring our beautiful bells (9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). In all, nearly 300



young people will be coming to the Birmingham area to take part in ringing competitions at Edgbaston, Erdington and St. Mary's, Moseley with the results being announced at St. Martin's in the Bull Ring. In between their competition slots they'll be visiting some of the finest rings of bells across the Midlands which includes our very special 12 bells. Only the competition ringers will be allowed into the tower but they, their family members and even the general public will be welcomed to have a go on the Maplestead mini-ring. The mini ring will be stationed to the left of the north porch, unless it's very poor weather when it will be inside at the West end. It should be a really fun day. So put Saturday 5th July into your calendar and come and listen to some hard working and dedicated young people ringing and may be even have a go on the mini-ring?

## **Parking Permits**

**T**he Parking Permits allow parking in the Oliver Bird Hall car park. If you don't have a permit, you will need to enter your car registration in one of the machines every time you park to avoid a fine.

New permits for the year 2025 – 2026 will be issued in September. Full details will be announced then.



## Thank You for Bell Sunday

What a privilege for the band to be invited to join the Sung Eucharist on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May for Bell Sunday. Bell Sunday is a national celebration and falls on the closest Sunday to the feast day of St. Dunstan, the patron saint of bell ringers. It is a day for raising the visibility and awareness of bell ringing, strengthening relationships between ringers and the wider church community, highlighting the importance of the sound of bells in our surroundings. Some of the band attend alternate services or even services elsewhere so how lovely to come and meet so many of the congregation when we usually just slip upstairs, out of sight through the outside door in the corner, near the vestry.

We started the day with another visit to The Junction in the Oliver Bird Hall, they always give us such a lovely welcome. The ringers stood at the back as the service got underway and they were real sports as they joined in the actions of the songs. We took handbells with us and rang the bells in such a way as to mimic church bells, weaving in and out of each other to make the sound of changes. Fun and entertaining to watch, this isn't how



we would normally ring so there's always a few slip ups and giggles along the way. The older children then joined in and as you can imagine, they immediately got the hang of the patterns we follow. For the younger children we had taken the smallest of our handbells from a larger set for tune ringing. Even the youngest of them could hold a bell and give it a good jingle.

Then it was time to collect up the bells and dash off to the tower to ring for the morning Eucharist but not before suggesting that The Junction children listen out carefully as they'd hear us as they left their service. Robert had made many of the arrangements with the Rector and his team so, he corralled us all and off back down the stairs we went. Waiting patiently to process in once the choir had passed the internal door to the tower. A special occasion for the congregation to see us together and coming into church in such a visible way. This time we brought with us two of our largest handbells and our two model bells which were placed either side of the altar. A bell rope was hung from the pulpit. The peal board had been leant against the altar that morning, before the service started. A peal is continuous ringing without repeated changes and lasts over 3 hours. When peals are rung for very special occasions they are recorded on a peal board, a type of 'plaque'. It's taken a

# Roundabout

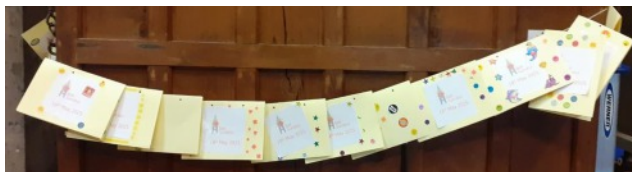
while to organise but, we now have a new peal board recording both a peal and quarter peal rung to commemorate the millennium of the martyrdom of St. Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, which we marked in 2012/2013. It was appropriate for Robert to lead us into church as he had made all the arrangements for the peal board to be made, framed and collected.

The service was very special. The Collect was followed by a prayer for Bell Sunday



*Incline your ears, O Lord, to our prayers, and grant  
that as the bells of your Church sound in this parish  
so the hearts of those who hear them may be awakened to worship you  
that the faith and devotion of Christian people may be increased  
to the greater glory of your Holy Name*

Bell ringers Richard Harris and Linda Whitehead delivered the readings in between which the new peal board was blessed. Those who had taken part in this special ringing were invited to stand for a blessing and then there was a blessing for all of the bell ringers in which we dedicated our ringing to the glory of God. During his sermon Revd. Nick referenced the bell rope hanging from the pulpit and he gave us the thank you cards made for us by the children



at The Junction, after we had left them. The cards now proudly hang in the ringing room for our visiting ringers and all to see. What a fantastic morning!

Oh, and just another note to add. The week after Bell Sunday, Sheila, the Church Warden, wrote to us to say that the sound of the bells before the Sunday service had called two non-churchgoers into the church. Such a joy to hear that our ringing really can help connect us to our community and thank you to Shiela for sharing this with us.

**Sand Cooper**  
Tower Secretary

**We believe that responding to the climate crisis is an essential part of our responsibility to safeguard God's creation and achieve a just world. Climate change already hits hardest the poorest countries and poorest people of the world but it's now hitting us harder too.**

Meantime, the widespread destruction of the natural world is a crisis for creation and our single planet island home. Our Environment Programme exists to enable the whole Church to address these threats — in faith, practice and mission. It includes tackling our own carbon emissions (aiming for Net Zero Carbon by 2030) and our wider environmental work — **we all have our part to play.**

Find out more: [churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme](http://churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme)

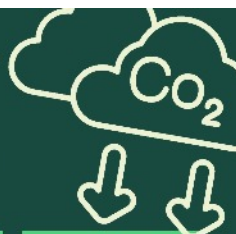
# Roundabout

## 2025 Environment Days & Key Events

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Find out more: [churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme](http://churchofengland.org/about/church-england-environment-programme)



January	
Veganuary	
10	National Cut Your Energy Costs Day
12	Plough Sunday
17-23	Big Energy Saving Week
26	International Environmental Education Day
24-26	RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch
7 Jan - 14 Feb	RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch
28	International Reducing CO2 Emissions Day

February	
Show My Love Climate Coalition	
2	World Wetlands Day
20	World Day of Social Justice



March	
3	World Wildlife Day
5	Ash Wednesday
18	Global Recycling Day
21 Mar - 6 Apr	Great Britain's Spring Clean
21	International Day of Forests
22	World Water Day
22	Earth Hour
25-26	Church of England BCO Conference

April	
4	National Walk to Work Day
7-13	Community Garden Week
13	Palm Sunday
17	Maundy Thursday
18	Good Friday
20	Easter Sunday
22	Earth Day
30	Stop Food Waste Day

May	
No Mow May & Most Free May	
4-10	International Compost Week
11-17	Christian Aid Week
16	Endangered Species Day
20	World Bee Day
20-26	Water Saving Week
22	International Day of Biological Diversity

June	
3	World Bike Day
5	World Environment Day
8	Day of Pentecost
7-15	Love Your Rural Ground and Churches Count on Nature Week
7-15	The Great Big Green Week
8	World Oceans Day
8	Open Farm Sunday
16	World Refill Day
20	National Clean Air Day
22	World Rainforests Day

July	
Plastic Free July	
5-11	Net Zero Week
17 July - 10 Aug	The Big Butterfly Count
25 July - 3 Aug	Love Parks Week



August	
11-17	National Allocations Week
30-31	International Bat Night



September	
Second Hand September & Organic September	
1 Sept - 4 Oct	Creation/Seed/Season of Creation
1	World Day of Prayer for Creation
1-5	Zero Waste Week
22 Sept - 5 Oct	Fairtrade Fortnight
16	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone
20	World Clean Up Day
22	World Car Free Day
28	World Rivers Day
19-28	Great British Beach Clean

October	
International Walk to School Month	
4	St Francis Day
4	No Disposable Cup Day
14	International F-Waste Day
24	Water Night
TBC	Recycle Now Recycle Week

November	
World Vegan Month	
TBC	National Tree Week
10-21	Climate COP26 Brazil
29	Buy Nothing Day
30	First Sunday of Advent

December	
5	World Soil Day
25	Christmas Day
25 - 5 Jan	12 Days Wild

Download all events to your calendar!



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
Environment Programme



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ORGAN  
YEAR 2025**

[www.rco.org.uk/play](http://www.rco.org.uk/play)

## **FREE WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITALS**

As part of the ongoing Wednesday lunchtime recital series at St Alphege Church, we are holding two special organ recitals in July 2025. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Wednesday 9 July - Callum Alger, Head of Chapel Music, Solihull School

Wednesday 16 July - Liam Condon (Assistant Organist, St Alphege Church) & Harry Brown (Senior Organ Scholar, St Alphege Church)

**1.10pm, 9 & 16 July 2025**

**ST ALPHEGE CHURCH**  
Solihull



# Roundabout

## Philip in Philippi

In May this year, Philip and I visited the ancient city of Philippi. So, it was particularly poignant on our return, that the readings on 25<sup>th</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June were about St Paul's mission there.

*Acts 16. 9-15 and Acts 16. 16-34.*

Paul had a vision to go to Philippi and he set sail from Troas (in modern day Turkey) to Samothrace then to Neapolis and from there to Philippi. Our journey there was much easier. We were spending a week in Thessaloniki, Northern Greece and we made our way to Philippi in Eastern Macedonia by



*The remains of the Prison*

There were two great turning points in the history of Philippi. The first, in 41 BC, in the aftermath of the assassination of Julius Caesar, was the biggest ever confrontation between Romans. The legions of Brutus and Cassius met those of Antony and Octavian. After twenty days Brutus and Cassius were defeated and committed suicide. Octavian (now Augustus) claimed Philippi, and renamed it Colonia Augusta Iulia Philippensis. He then settled his army veterans there.

The second major turning point was when St. Paul came to the city to preach and baptized his first Christian convert, Lydia. (Acts 16 v 14).

bus. It was a two hour journey to the port of Kavala (Neapolis as it was known in Acts) and then a local bus to the village of Philippi and from there a short walk to the ancient site. The Greek city called Crenedes was founded in 360-359 BC and was re-named Philippi in 356 BC by Philip II of Macedonia, (father of Alexander the Great). Just within the walls of the city, is an amphitheatre built by Philip II in 356 BC. It was partially restored in the 1950s for Philippi's summer festival, featuring ancient drama and music.



There is not very much left of the Roman city which St. Paul would have known when he came in AD 49-50, but we did see the site of the prison where Paul and Silas were imprisoned and were liberated by an earthquake. The prison was built under a shrine and is supported by props. A main road, the Via Egnatia, runs through the site with large paving stones and side passages linking it to the Forum, Library and Palestra. There are remains of three early Christian basilicas and sanctuaries dating from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> century AD, a Bishop's Palace and early Christian baths.



In AD 619, the city was partially destroyed in an earthquake, and subsequently its stones were used as building material. Excavations were begun by the French in 1914, and in 2016 Philippi was inscribed in UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The site is well worth visiting and, most importantly, there are excellent refreshment facilities there. It was great, as unlike most ancient sites one visits these days, there were very few people there and we could wander almost anywhere.

**Susan Leach**

## 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).

Recitals are held weekly during term time and refreshments are available from 12.30 p.m.

**Isabel Baumber**

2 <sup>nd</sup> July	No recital
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Callum Alger, organ
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Liam Condon and Harry Brown, organ duets
23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Rela Spyrou
	Summer Break, recitals will restart on 10 <sup>th</sup> September

# Let us Pray

## Calendar and Prayer Intentions for July 2025

1	Henry, John & Henry Venn the Younger, Priests, evangelical divines, 1797, 1813, 1873	That we may share our faith openly	Libbards Gate
2	Feria	Those whom we have loved and lost	Libbards Way
3	Thomas the Apostle	Those struggling with their faith	Lighthorne Road
4	Feria	Those who care for the churchyard at St. Alphege	Links Drive
5	Feria	Our Pioneer Minister, Suzette Maguire	Linton Avenue
6	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	Those persecuted for their faith	<b>Linwood Road</b>
7	Feria	The people and leaders of Ukraine & Russia	Littleton Croft
8	Feria	Those who work in the Touchwood Centre	Littlewood Close
9	Feria	Bishop Michael	Lode Lane
10	Feria	The work of our Parish Church Council	Lovelace Avenue
11	Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c.550	Members of Religious communities	Lugtrout Lane
12	Feria	Our Parish Wardens, Pam & Andrew	Malvern Park Avenue
13	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	Bishop Esther	Manor Road
14	John Keble, Priest & Poet, 1866	The staff and pupils of the schools in our parish	Manor Walk
15	Swithun, Bp of Winchester, c.862	Stephen, Archbishop of York	Maplebeck Court
16	Osmund, Bp of Salisbury, 1099	The people of St Alphege Church	Marsh Lane
17	Feria	Those waiting for the results of medical tests	Marsham Court Road
18	Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England, 1883	Our Archdeacon, Phelim O'Hare	Martley Croft
19	Gregory Bp of Nyssa and his sister, Macrina, c.394 & c.379	Bible Translators	Maybridge Drive
20	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	Those preparing for baptism	Mayfield Close
21	Feria	Those caring for a family member who is ill	Maythorn Grove
22	Mary Magdalene	Paul Evans, St Alphege Verger	Melford Hall Road
23	Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373	The people of St Helen's Church	Mell Square
24	Feria	Tammy Strong, Parish Children's & Families Minister	Melplash Avenue
25	James the Apostle	Our Area Dean, Tony Rindl	Merrington Close
26	Anne and Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	The work of Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness	Miall Park Road
27	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	Musicians, singers and choirs of our parish	Middlewood Close
28	Feria	Chris Thomas, St. Alphege Director of Music	Milcote Road
29	Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of our Lord	The staff of funeral directors in our town	Mill Lane
30	William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson, Anti-Slavery Campaigners, 1833, 1797 & 1846	Those seeking refuge from conflict	Mirfield Road
31	Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus	Those in prison and their families	Moat Lane

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

## Calendar and Prayer Intentions for August 2025

1	Feria	Community groups which use our church premises	Monastery Drive
2	Feria	Staff and residents of local care homes	Monkspath Hall Road
3	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	Those taking summer holidays	Muswell Close
4	Jean-Baptist Vianney, Curé d'Ars, Spiritual Guide, 1859	Spiritual directors and counsellors	Naseby Road
5	Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642	Those who work in national and local government	Netherwood Close
6	The Transfiguration of our Lord	That we may declare our faith in Christ in word and deed	<b>Newfield Close</b>
7	John Mason Neale, Priest & hymn-writer, 1866	Writers of hymns and sacred music	New Road
8	Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221	The Readers of our Parish	Northwick Crescent
9	Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921	Mother's Union members in our parish	Oaken Drive
10	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	The work of food-banks in our town	Oakland Close
11	Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Order of Minoresses (Poor Clares), 1253	That we may live simply and generously	Oakley Wood Drive
12	Feria	Online delivery workers	Oakwood Croft
13	Jeremy Taylor, Bp of Down & Connor, Teacher, 1667	King Charles III	Oldington Grove
14	Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941	Staff, patients and volunteers of the Marie Curie hospice	Oldway Drive
15	The Blessd Virgin Mary	Those awaiting the birth of a child	Orchard Avenue
16	Feria	Understanding between all faiths	Park Avenue
17	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	The St Alphege bell-ringers	Park Road
18	Feria	Those who are looking for work	Perryford Drive
19	Feria	Local Mental Health support services	Pinfold Road
20	Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher 1163	The work and witness of Churches Together in Central Solihull	Pinley Way
21	Feria	The Solihull Town Centre Chaplaincy	Pool Meadow Close
22	Feria	Medical and support staff of Solihull Hospital	Poolfield Drive
23	Feria	Our church and parish treasurers	Poplar Road
24	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	That we may point others to Christ	Poplar Way
25	Feria	Those who work in the Touchwood Centre	Princes Way
26	Feria	Doctors' surgeries in our town	Prospect Lane
27	Monica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo	Those exploring religious vocations	Ratcliffe Road
28	Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher, 430	The staff of Queen's Theological Foundation in Birmingham	Ravenshaw Lane
29	The Beheading of John the Baptist	Those who suffer for their faith	Ravenshaw Way
30	John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688	Writers and poets	Rectory Gardens
31	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b>	The clergy of the Yardley & Solihull Deanery	Rectory Road

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

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

### **Baptisms**

18<sup>th</sup> May      Elizabeth Clapham  
                     Noah Morby

### **Weddings**

6<sup>th</sup> June      George Ingram and Emily Collinson

### **Renewal of Vows**

None

### **Funerals**

16<sup>th</sup> May      Alan Chandler at Robin Hood Crematorium  
2<sup>nd</sup> June      Vivien Wheatley at St. Alphege  
20<sup>th</sup> June      Iris Stirling at St. Alphege

### **Interment of Ashes**

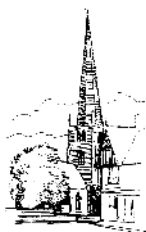
27<sup>th</sup> June      Richard Cann

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

Adel Azer  
Alfred Butwell  
Alice Caldicott  
James Dallaway  
Anthony Herbert Dann  
Phyllis Flood  
Ivy Fowler

Eileen Groutage  
Alexander Moir  
Sandy Moir  
Aileen Moss  
Barrie Prince  
Alma Reah  
Nan Roland-Smith

Kurt Schoch  
Ian Stanley Temple Senior  
William Turner  
Stephen Woollas  
Betty Wright  
Irene Patey



**S t   A l p h e g e**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July**  
**9.15 a.m. All Age Eucharist**  
**11.00 a.m. Civic Service**

## **Worship Notes July & August 2025**

The months of July and August are full of feast days and celebrations! Here are a few 'highlights' of this season.

### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – St. Thomas the Apostle**

Most famously Thomas was the disciple who was unconvinced by reports of the Resurrection of Jesus, causing Jesus to show him the marks in his hands and feet and side. Thomas then proclaims the words that form the great climax to John's gospel by saying to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July – St. Benedict of Nursia**

Benedict was born in Italy, around the year 480. Later in life Benedict wrote his Rule for Monks. His Rule was so effective that it was shared and followed widely, becoming the model for all western monastic life.

### **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – St. Swithun**

Swithun was Bishop of Winchester in the Ninth Century. He is most famously remembered for the onset of long summer storms apparently caused by the moving of his bones in the Tenth Century, but was also known for giving charitable gifts and for his simplicity of life.

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – St. Mary Magdalene**

All four gospels give Mary Magdalene a unique place among Jesus' followers. Along with other faithful women, she stayed beside the cross during the crucifixion and was the first disciple to discover the empty tomb on Easter morning. She experienced the first appearance of the risen Lord, who sent her to take the good news of the Resurrection to the other disciples.

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August - The Transfiguration of our Lord**

The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus shows that God's salvation is for all and Christ is that Saviour. The event also pre-figures the Resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory.

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August - Mary Sumner**

Mary Sumner was born in 1828. A mother of three children, Mary called a meeting in 1876 at which the Mothers' Union was founded, encouraging mothers in the bringing up of children in the Christian Faith. It grew steadily into an international movement which now operates in 84 countries across the world.

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August - John Bunyan**

Born in 1628, John Bunyan was largely self-educated but he wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, a text of spiritual genius which tells the story of the man Christian on his journey through life to God. History tells us little about John Bunyan but it is clear from his writings that the salvation of the soul was what mattered most to him. It is from his *Pilgrim's Progress* that the hymn 'To Be a Pilgrim' (or 'Who Would True Valour See?') is taken.

**Fr. Simon**

## July 2025 Services

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist, Prayers for Healing & Anointing
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### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 3

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.	Evening Prayer

### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 4

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.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Civic Service
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

### Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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**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>**

## Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 5

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist + Children's Activity Story 1
St. Alphege	10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen	6.30 p.m.	Eucharist, Prayers for Healing and Anointing

## Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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## Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July – Trinity 6

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist + Children's Activity Story 2
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

## Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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## Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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## 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.

## August 2025 Services

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – Trinity 7

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist + Children's Activity Story 3
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

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

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist, Prayers for Healing & Anointing
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### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 8

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist + Children's Activity Story 4
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

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

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 9

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer – Patronal Festival
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist + Children's Activity Story 5
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong
St. Helen	6.30 p.m.	Eucharist, Prayers for Healing and Anointing

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

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August – Trinity 10

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist + Children's Activity Story 6
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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## Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August – Trinity 11

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist + Children's Activity Story 7
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Taizé

## 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.

## 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)



## *The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church*

**M**any thanks go to Ann Taylor for kindly hosting our summer drinks party last month. With her generosity and that of others our funds were considerably strengthened.

We are all looking forward to the St. Alphege Windows evening. This may be the first dedicated presentation and tour specifically looking at these local artistic treasures. They reveal local stories about the church and the wider community. Not to be missed!

### **Future events**

**Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup> 7.00 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.** St. Alphege Church

*The Stained Glass Windows of St. Alphege Church.*

Please see flyer in the magazine for details. This is an open fundraising event.

**Note the start is 7.0pm.** Don't forget binoculars if you have them.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**

*Autumn Coffee Morning*

Hosted by Margaret Oswald. Margaret has very kindly again agreed to invite members and potential members round for this fund raiser. Entry will be £8 per person. We will hold a raffle. Coffee/tea will be served with cake and other delights. This is a good chance to welcome new members. Please let me know if you are joining us, via the e-mail below, by the end of Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 7.30 p.m. Oliver Bird Hall.**

*Guardians A.G.M.*

A review of the year and plan going forward. Refreshments available.

*Christmas Lunch.*

Judith Hetherington has kindly agreed to organise this member's event. Details of venue, menu and price will follow.

### **Other News**

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June this year an expert archaeologist has been booked to start an examination of what is under the wooden boards in the nave. This is connected to the proposal to fit underfloor heating as part of 'Project Turnaround'. It was proposed that stone slabs be lifted at 8 sites and trenches 0.35 metre deep dug, and the soil examined. This does not happen every day. The Solihull Archaeological Group has certainly been interested. Could we find old coins to revisit the founding date? Or trinkets to suggest the church was a shrine to which pilgrims flocked by the thousand, hoping for healing from the relic of a saint? I have been promised a copy of the report, so hopefully we will know more.

**Roger Shinton  
Trustee**

[rogershinton@outlook.com](mailto:rogershinton@outlook.com)



## Floodlighting

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

The cost is £8.00 for 2 hours; £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. Alternatively, you can contact Sheila Payne, details below.

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 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.

**Sheila Payne**

Scheme organiser:-

0121 706 0520

email: [russellpayne110@aol.com](mailto:russellpayne110@aol.com)

### **The Church was floodlit in June 2025 to remember the following:**

4 <sup>th</sup> June	In loving memory of Colin Price.
8 <sup>th</sup> June	In loving memory of Jordan Jane Page (Jo). Beautiful, brave and much loved.
9 <sup>th</sup> June	In loving memory of Neil John McDonough on his birthday.
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Remembering John Goodman on his birthday and celebrating a life so well lived. Reunited with Jackie.
16 <sup>th</sup> June	In loving memory of Michael Hartley.
27 <sup>th</sup> June	In loving memory of Jordan Jane Page (Jo) on her birthday.
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Celebrating the centenary of the birth of Neville John Shinton, 1925 - 2025.
6 <sup>th</sup> July	In loving memory of Jackie Goodman.
11 <sup>th</sup> July	Colin Price with love on your birthday.
21 <sup>st</sup> July	In fondest memory of David Francis Wright on his birthday. A devoted husband, father and grandfather.



This year, the Gin and Jazz Festival fell on Saturday 31 May – so it wasn't Gin and Jazz in June for the first time! We were lucky with the weather after some wet days, and the fine weather certainly made a difference. This is a wonderful community event, where we have many visitors from Solihull and further afield to enjoy interesting gins, wonderful live music and good company. There was a range of music, from SMC Jazz (a 25-piece band) through piano soloists to smaller duets from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Special



thanks are due to everyone who helped and supported the event, but in particular those who were literally on their feet all day alongside me – Nick and Alison – as well as Lynne who had worked all day then came to help for the rest of the afternoon and evening. Solihull Music have supported every festival we have done – they are very generous with their time and talents. Adam Parrish and David Rice are also great supporters of the music programme at St Alphege, with regular recitals as well as a performing slot at our festivals. These events are important in the life of the parish as they are a great way to reach new groups of people, and they are also important fundraisers.

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**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September**  
**6.30pm**  
**St. Alphege Church**  
**Oliver Bird Hall**  
Tickets price £10 available from September 1<sup>st</sup>  
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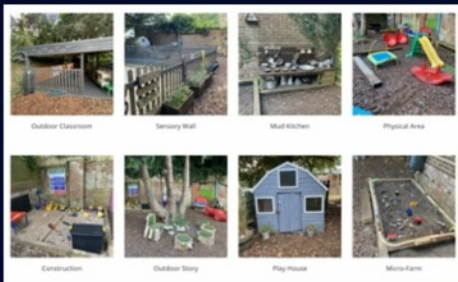
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# CHURCH 4 FAMILIES

## July/August

### Sunday Worship

*The Junction is a short **family focussed** service that meets on Sunday mornings. Here are the July themes:*

On **6th July** the Junction will meet at 9.15 a.m. in the Oliver Bird Hall. We will be thinking about St Christopher and Journeys.

On **13th July** everyone will meet in the church building at 9.15 a.m. for a special **All age worship** service.

The Junction will be taking a break during the school summer holidays and will return on **7th September** but in the school summer holidays, there will be special activities for children during the 10.30 a.m. Sunday services at St. Alphege. (Further details overleaf)

### Other Activities

Friday 18th July **Messy Church Picnic** St. Helen's Church 4-6 p.m.


**Pause and Pray** Every Monday in term time 9.00 a.m.  
Room 5 Oliver Bird Hall

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




# St Alphege Church Summer 2025

In the school summer holidays, there will be special activities for children during the 10.30am Sunday services at St Alphege based on Old Testament stories from the My Big Story Bible by Tom Wright



20 <sup>th</sup> July	The Giant Tower
27 <sup>th</sup> July	God calls Abram
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	God makes a Special Agreement
10 <sup>th</sup> August	The Boy who nearly died
17 <sup>th</sup> August	A Wife for Isaac
24 <sup>th</sup> August	Jacob tricks his father
31 <sup>st</sup> August	The Stairway from Earth to Heaven



**Location: In the  
Upper Chapel  
during the  
10.30am Service**



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Facebook page

What?

Lots of hands-on crafty fun  
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Ending with a hot meal for all!

When?

Friday 4.00pm - 6.00pm  
16<sup>th</sup> May | 27<sup>th</sup> June | 18<sup>th</sup> July

Where?

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

Who?

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

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

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email - [l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)



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## 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? If so, 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 more information and for the registration link:

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

**Lynn Smart**

### The Guardians

## The Stained Glass Windows of St. Alphege Church Insights into the Art and History

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 7.00 p.m.**

Event led by Phil Godfrey and our stained glass window restorer Barry Brady  
Barry will present the story behind the windows and give a glimpse into the work of a stained glass window restorer

Small group tours will then allow a closer examination and discussion of each window

*Refreshments available*

There is no admission fee but donations for the work of  
**The Guardians of St. Alphege Church** will be gratefully received

Please, if you can, bring binoculars



**S**t. Helen's Church family has continued to unite both through our worship and other activities. We received two welcome visitors at our Morning Services in May. Bishop Maurice Sinclair presided for us on 11<sup>th</sup> May and preached, as well as sharing information about the diocesan link with Bolivia to encourage our support. Then Amy Tan, curate at Knowle Church, joined us the following Sunday, inspiring us with both her account of her faith journey and also with her beautiful singing voice, which was in no way spoiled by her attack of hay fever!

Our thanks go to Moira Wyatt for coordinating the Christian Aid Appeal. The Coffee Morning (for which she made many jars of jam and chutney and marmalade) raised £3,175, and the envelope collection from St. Helen's £155. There was also an online giving scheme for the entire Parish, and we know that a number of our congregation gave this way, hence there will be a sizeable and much needed donation for this most worthy charity. Thank you, Moira.

Phil Godfrey, our intrepid globe trotter, continues with his fund raising for Potter's Village, who are in desperate need of a replacement truck to continue their vital work. Phil and his friends have managed to raise almost enough money. Hopefully, his *Travelling Tales* evening on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June will seal the deal.

We will be sad to say goodbye to Linda Hicks, who will retire as Director of Children's and Families' Ministry. We are privileged to host her farewell at St. Helen's on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 12:30 after which there will be a bring and share picnic. The monthly Sunday Club services have been joyful and it's been wonderful to see so many children at St. Helen's. We wish Linda every happiness in her retirement.

We look forward, as ever, to St. Michael's joining us for the month of August, and to catch up with another branch of our church family, and of course we very much look forward to their musical input.

We're saddened to say goodbye to the Montessori School at the end of the academic year. We wish the Principal and her family well after such a difficult time for them.

August brings the birthday of Bob Paddock. Without embarrassing him, he was born during the reign of George V, and in the year that insulin was first used to treat diabetes. We wish him and his lovely wife every happiness for his birthday.

**Jean Fewins**

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## Our 56th season Singing for Solihull!

Chandos Choir singers are looking forward to performing another year of great choral music under the inspiring direction of conductor Dexter Drown.



### 2025-26 Season Concert Dates

- Saturday 8th November 2025, 2.00pm
- Wednesday 10th December 2025, 7.00pm
- Saturday 14th March 2026, 3.00pm
- Saturday 6th June 2026, 3.00pm



All 2025 concerts at Shirley Methodist Church. For further information about our music programmes, and to buy tickets please see our website [solihullchandoschoir.org](http://solihullchandoschoir.org)

## Super September Singing

We're inviting prospective singers to Open Rehearsals as we prepare our November concert, when we'll be performing **Verdi's Requiem**

If you'd like to experience this wonderful choral work, please join us every Tuesday evening from September 9th to 30th. To find out more, see our web site or call 01564 779 962



[www.solihullchandoschoir.org](http://www.solihullchandoschoir.org)

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### A New Chapter for St. Michael's

We are settling in very nicely to our new home at Oak Cottage School and starting to appreciate the features of worshipping in a new space. It is certainly larger than the worship area at Sharmans Cross School so we have room for growth. It will certainly be easier to accommodate more people at special services, Mothering Sunday and the Carol service spring to mind when the numbers last year filled the space we then had. The entrance is far more welcoming than before with more space. With large windows in the worship area it is lighter and feels more spacious.

The smooth move would not have been possible without the unwavering support of St. Michael's congregation, as we needed to fetch and carry until we can get organised and lighten the burden.

We pray that the move will continue to be a place where worship flourishes, connections deepen, and lives are touched.

### August Move

During August we shall as usual, begin our nomadic life for a month as we worship in other places, primarily with our friends at St. Helen's, who are ever welcoming. During August however, Wednesday services at the chapel will continue as usual.

### Chapel Events

The chapel in addition will be host for the first two of the 'head, heart and hands' exploration of spiritual practices these being '*Exploring the Jesus Prayer*' on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> July, and '*Introduction to the poetry of George Herbert*' on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Full details of these are in the flyers available from churches. Our social afternoon '*Chapel Chat*' will take place as usual on the first Thursday in August 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

### Wedding

Fr. Simon's son Joe was married to Charlotte on 31<sup>st</sup> May in St. Michael's Chapel, this being the third wedding conducted there. The weather was warm and fine for the reception in the garden at the vicarage. We wish every happiness to Joe and Charlotte for the future.

**Paul Smith**





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## Walking a Sacred Path

On 19<sup>th</sup> May the Wellbeing Wednesday (WW) community celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. To mark this occasion, 24 of us (that's two thirds of the community) went for afternoon tea at the Royal British Legion club on Union Road – the place that hosted us earlier this year when the Greville Arms was closed for refurbishment. The celebration afternoon tea was a lovely event, with good company and even better food. *(I recommend the RBL to you, and especially their afternoon tea. Pre-booking necessary. Suzette. ☺)*

Love or hate the word, 'wellbeing' is still big in peoples' psyche today. For instance, did you know that there are men's wellbeing walks, entitled 'Men Walking and Talking', happening every Tuesday at 7 p.m. from the gates to Brueton Park (New Road)? Plus, when a women's event started very recently on Wednesdays, same time, same place, 100 women turned up on the very first evening.

As if this wasn't enough to capture our interest, I came across a quote recently (in the book [Walking a Sacred Path](#) by Lauren Artress) that I believe can help us get to grips with why 'wellbeing' should be on the agenda of any church community:

*'Walking the labyrinth clears the mind and gives insight into the spiritual journey. It urges action. It calms people in the throes of life transitions. It helps them see their lives in the context of a path, a pilgrimage.'*

*They realise that **they are not human beings on a spiritual path but spiritual beings on a human path.***

Read that again. This time, really emphasise the words in bold as you read. You might like to change 'they', to 'we'.

The Church has a history of helping people with their 'human path', right back as far as the Acts of the Apostles:

*'In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food'. The response was '3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.'* Acts 6:1,3-4)

Through the centuries: *'It was in the Christian world that hospitals spread over almost like a popular phenomenon. By the middle of the 6th Century, many hospitals arose in Europe thanks to the support of churchmen, noblemen and kings.'* 'In his monastic Rule, St. Benedict of Nursia (c. 480–547), placed the care of the sick 'above and before every other duty', suggesting to establish an infirmary (infirmatorium) for inmate and sick travellers in every monastery, repository of medical as well as all the written ancient and medieval knowledge. [The charity and the care: the origin and the evolution of hospitals - ScienceDirect](#)

Through to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and beyond: *'The churches can legitimately lay claim to having initiated the entire education system within England and Wales. From 1808 onwards the churches founded schools, trained teachers and organised the daily curriculum of many*

millions of pupils.' [Developments in Religious Education in England and Wales \(Part 1\): Church and State, the 1988 Education Reform Act, and Spirituality in Schools - The Gospel Coalition](#)

SCAH – that is, Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness - began 'in 1993 when 'cardboard cities' were at their height, campaigning soon developed into practical action and over the years initiatives such as assisted housing for the young, a rent deposit scheme and furniture restoration have been part of SCAH's work. In recent years SCAH has provided 'starter packs' ... as well as helping to alleviate general poverty.' <https://www.scah.org.uk/>

When we meet people on their human path, at their point of need, we do this with no hidden agenda, but it can often lead to an opportunity to share with them what it means to be a spiritual being. This, I believe, makes the occasional offices of baptisms, weddings, and funerals a valued asset to the Anglican Church.

To go back to Wellbeing Wednesday. Through promoting Lent and Advent with the community – two seasons that are very important to me – and offering a chance for discussion, we now have the weekly meeting that is [Food4Thought](#). In June (as I write) we know that we will be looking first at the word 'spiritual', and then the spiritual practice of 'the examen'. The latter topic – asked for by the group (after they read my article in the parish magazine) – has prompted the former word as introduction. Food4Thought remains one of the highlights of my week, with lively discussion that often reminds me that we are all spiritual beings on a human path.

In conclusion, pray with me this prayer based on Philippians 1:6 - "*Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*"

Heavenly Father, guide me as I seek to grow spiritually. Help me to deepen my relationship with You and to follow Your teachings more closely. Grant me the strength to overcome spiritual obstacles and the discernment to recognize Your voice.

May my growth in faith reflect Your love and grace. Amen.

Thanks for listening!

**Suzette**

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# The History of St. Alphege Church

## - a great parish event

What a fantastic evening! Mothers' Union hosted an event with a talk on the history of St. Alphege Church, given by Carol Southworth. She used the model of the church to show how the church has grown from the initial small building in 1220 to the one which we know today. Carol linked the expansion of the church to what was happening in Solihull and the rest of England and the changes to the way worship was conducted. I was amazed at the historical knowledge and dates that she had to hand (and all without any notes).



After the talk, we had time to chat together; it was so good to see members and friends from across the parish. We then enjoyed a delicious cheese supper, prepared by Elaine and Julia, and wine and soft drinks served by Amanda, Lynn and Nick Hanson.



All in all, this was a very successful and enjoyable evening. Our thanks go to Carol for such an interesting talk and to our MU members who organised it all. The proceeds from events like this are sent to Mothers' Union Charities.

The nominated charity this time is Birmingham Women's Aid, which provides essential items for women who are fleeing home after suffering domestic abuse, and also for donating school uniforms for children in need.

**Susan Leach**

## Shoe Aid

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

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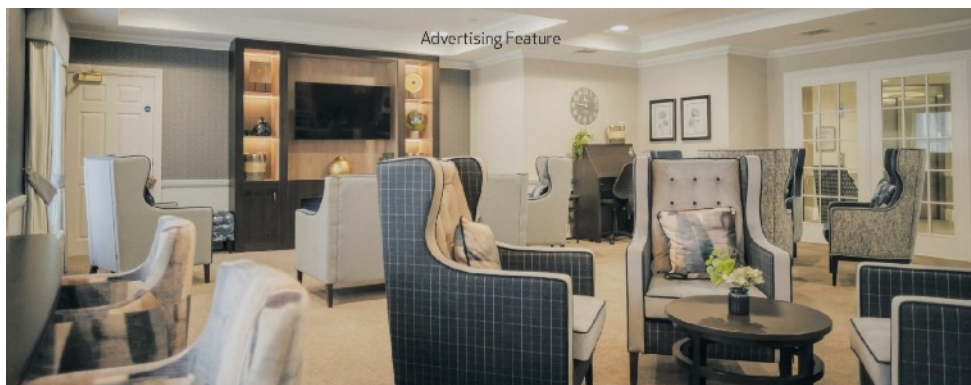
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# The Church and the Environment

In February 2020, the General Synod of the Church of England set the Church an ambitious challenge: to reach net zero carbon across all parishes, cathedrals and diocesan and church-school premises by 2030. It recognised that the Church, as part of God's mission, is called to 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth' (wording taken from the Five Marks of Mission).

The Church of England has published its 'Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030' (<https://tinyurl.com/cofenetzero>) which aims for a future where *'the buildings of the Church will be warm, bright and welcoming, powered by renewable energy and using low or zero carbon technologies for heat and light. Energy consumption for the Church as a whole will have fallen, on-site renewable energy generation will have increased, travel will be by low carbon means...'* (Routemap, p.6).

This target will require both thought and action at all levels of church life, based on an understanding that the whole of creation has its beginning in God's generous love.

As a parish, we have made some important steps in our journey towards net zero. For example, St. Helen's Church has been using solar panels for a number of years, St. Alphege Church now has a low-energy lighting system, and St. Michael's Chapel has installed double-glazed windows.



However, there is still plenty of work to do, both across the wider Church and in our own parish. The P.C.C.'s Social & Environmental Justice Committee strives to help the parish 'to care for the created world and to seek sustainable ways of living, working and worshipping' (wording from the Committee's Terms of Reference).

As part of that remit, and on behalf of the Committee, I hope that you will find the Environment Days calendar a useful resource to aid your own journey towards net zero, and to help you to care for God's wonderful creation.

**Fr. Simon.**

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# Update from the Parish Wardens

At a Thursday morning service in May we were delighted to give thanks for the 20 years since Father Roy was ordained. We give much thanks for Fr. Roy and Jean for their service to us in our Parish, and we were able to share in the celebration with a special cake.

It was good to see so many coming to Gin and Jazz at the end of May with some great music and a wide variety of gins and other beverages. It was also very good to see so many at the Eco Fun Day at the beginning of June, with lots of things to do and see to help our local environment.

June saw the third wedding held at St. Michael's Chapel when Joe and Charlotte Marshall were married by Fr. Simon on a glorious Saturday with the reception in a marquee in the garden. Congratulations to the happy couple.

The archaeological pits in and around St. Alphege Church have been dug and examined. As we write, nothing of any consequence has been discovered! Thank you to those who came to clean up some of the dust created by the work.

The end of June sees us welcome some Youth and their leaders from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Eugene, (Oregon, USA). This is the church where Nick and Helen spent a couple of years on a ministry swap some years ago. We look forward to giving the Youth some hospitality and showing them the Parish.

July sees the Choir trip to Malta. We wish them well on this adventure and look forward to seeing and hearing about it.

The Alpha Course at St. Michael's Chapel got off to a good start with 10 people signed up. We have had some very good conversations and discussions. This continues into mid-July and we will probably have some more sessions in the Autumn for those who would like this. It provides a good foundation for those wishing to be baptized and confirmed by Bishop Esther on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 5 p.m.

The time is going quickly towards the day we say cheerio to Linda Hicks. The main gathering to give thanks for her and her ministry will be at St. Helen's at 12.30 p.m. on 13<sup>th</sup> July for a picnic lunch – please do come for this important occasion. We are in the midst of recruiting for a Director of Ministry for Children, Youth and Families – do pray for the right person for this position.

St. Michael's and St. Helen's will be joining up for the month of August for Sunday Services at St. Helen's at 10 a.m.

Digital and online facilities are an increasingly important part of many of our lives and the lives of those in our Parish to whom we wish to reach out. Partly as a result of your comments in the Worship Review Survey, we now feel that it is necessary to improve our Parish website and so we have placed an order with ChurchEdit Limited (which is amazingly based in Solihull) to design and implement a new site for us. Most of the information will be transferred from the current site but formatted in a better way and it will be easier to introduce new text, pictures and video and make navigation better.

The Summer may be a good time to remind you that services are streamed and put onto YouTube each week; these can be viewed on mobiles, tablets, pcs and smart TVs. You can view current and past videos on <https://www.youtube.com/SolihullParish> - do take a look, especially if you want to keep in touch while you are away.

This is advance notice for our **Parish Weekend Away from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026** at the wonderful Launde Abbey in Leicestershire; more details in the autumn but please note the dates in your diaries now.

We continue to be thankful for all the wonderful work done by so many. Thank you all so much. We wish you some time of rest, recuperation and revitalization over these summer months, so that you may be refreshed for service and mission in September.

Pam Price  
Andrew Williams  
June 2025

# Stroke

association

If you are a stroke survivor, you may be interested in friendship and support from your local group.

Solihull Stroke Survivors is a friendly, growing group based in Oliver Bird Hall, Solihull. We meet term-time on Thursdays 10.00am to 12.00 noon. You'll be able to share your experiences and tips for dealing with the effects of stroke, as well as enjoying a range of activities.

We have drinks, biscuits (and sometimes cake) 😊. We invite speakers, singers, have chair Tai Chi, arts and crafts events, a weekly raffle, play Boccia and arrange trips out.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the support of our group, please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.



Diane Hagan (Secretary) on 07951 780568

Email: [solihullstrokesurvivors1@outlook.com](mailto:solihullstrokesurvivors1@outlook.com)

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# Matters of Faith

## God the Three-in-One

On the Sunday after Pentecost, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Trinity, more commonly known as Trinity Sunday. On this day, we focus our worship particularly onto the life of the three persons of God - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - and we take time to explore our understanding of this central part of our faith. Of course, every act of Christian worship properly focuses on the Trinity, and our relationship to God the Three-in-One. This is especially true of our celebration of the Holy Eucharist, in which we are invited to enter more deeply into that relationship.

## From the outset...

The opening words of the Eucharist declare our intention to offer our worship in the presence of God the Trinity. The priest says, *'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit'*, to which the people respond *'Amen'*. Additionally, we may make the sign of the cross as those words are spoken, thus outwardly acknowledging the presence of the three persons of the Trinity.

## Words of praise...

A little later in the service, the Gloria is either spoken or sung. The first line echoes the words of the angels who appeared to the shepherds at the Nativity: *'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.'* The remainder of the Gloria addresses each person of the Trinity in turn. First, we praise and give thanks to God the Father; secondly, we ask Jesus (who is God the Son) to have mercy on us and to hear our prayer; finally, we acknowledge the relationship between the three persons of the Trinity: *'...you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.'*

## Declaring our faith...

After the sermon, we are invited to affirm our faith by saying together the words of the Creed. (On most occasions, we say the Nicene Creed, though the Apostles' Creed may also be used.) We begin by making a crucial statement: *'We believe in one God...'*. Although the Christian faith teaches that there are three persons of the Trinity, we understand them as a unity or whole who belong one to the other. We are stating that we do not believe in three Gods, but in one God who is a family of three entities.

Then as in the Gloria, each of the persons of the Trinity is acknowledged in turn, beginning with God the Father. The longest section of the Creed speaks of Jesus, the Son, and outlines both his earthly and heavenly existence. The final part describes the work of God the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit's role in the history of salvation.

## **A holy 'pecking-order'?**

It would be easy for us to think that there is a hierarchy within the Trinity - e.g. that the Father is the most 'important' of the Three - especially as both the Gloria and the Creed open with references to God the Father. Also, many sacred works of art depicting the Trinity have tended to show the Father as the largest figure on the canvas (and the Spirit as the smallest!).

However, the Church's understanding is that there is equality between the three persons of the Trinity, and that they exist in loving relationship to one another. In that way, the Trinity is the origin of the mutual love that we, as God's children, are called to have for one another.

**Fr. Simon**

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# For Your Diary

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July** : 10.30am. *A Visit to St Patrick's Church, Salter Street*  
followed by *Lunch* at Waves (Earlswood Garden Centre).

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July** : 10.30am in church - *MU Corporate Eucharist*.

## **NO MEETING IN AUGUST.**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August** : Mary Sumner Day.

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

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September** : 1.30pm in the OBH. *Mothers Union work in Prisons*  
with Rita Evans.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September** : 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 Wives' Fellowship will meet during the Summer. There will be lunches at 12 noon on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August. If you would like to join this friendly group for fellowship and a good meal, please telephone Carol Caldicott and you will be very welcome.

**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

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**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS  
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## SOLIHULL PARISH CONTACTS

<i>Parish Wardens</i>	<b>Andrew Williams, <a href="mailto:arwilliams399@gmail.com">arwilliams399@gmail.com</a></b> <b>Pam Price, <a href="mailto:colandpam@ic24.net">colandpam@ic24.net</a></b>	0121 705 3268 0121 704 3104
<i>St Alphege Deputy Warden</i>	<b>Sheila Sayers, 636 Streetsbrook Road</b>	0121 705 5331
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<i>St Michael Warden</i>	<b>Keith Wilson</b>	0121 778 2295
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<b>Julia Hanson, <a href="mailto:pccsecretary@solihullparish.org.uk">pccsecretary@solihullparish.org.uk</a></b>	
<i>PCC Treasurer</i>	<b>Martin Finch, <a href="mailto:pcctreasurer@solihullparish.org.uk">pcctreasurer@solihullparish.org.uk</a></b>	
<i>Parish Electoral Roll Officer</i>	<b>Stephen Linstead, 20 Silhill Hall Road</b>	0121 705 1376

## SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS CONTACTS

<i>Editor</i>	<b>Carol Southworth, <a href="mailto:parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk">parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk</a></b>	0121 705 4958
<i>Production</i>	<b>Roger Edwards, <a href="mailto:Roger@AdvantecSystems.Biz">Roger@AdvantecSystems.Biz</a></b>	01564 739134
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Roger Giddings, 70 Silhill Hall Road</b>	0121 686 3422
<i>Postal Subscriptions</i>	<b>Helen Russell, 30 De Moram Grove, B92 0PZ</b>	07710 473 418
<i>Advertising Manager</i>	<b>Tim Drakeford, 42 Fowgay Drive</b>	0121 705 4494
<i>Circulation Enquiries</i>	<b>Helen Russell, 30 De Moram Grove, B92 0PZ</b>	07710 473 418
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## OLIVER BIRD HALL

<b>PARISH OFFICE</b>	<b>Sarah Markham Senior Administrator <a href="mailto:s.markham@solihullparish.org.uk">s.markham@solihullparish.org.uk</a></b> <b>Rekha Anand Parish Administrator <a href="mailto:admin@solihullparish.org.uk">admin@solihullparish.org.uk</a></b> <b>Becky Tse</b> <b>Christopher Churcher (Intern)</b> 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><a href="mailto:OBHbookings@solihullparish.org.uk">OBHbookings@solihullparish.org.uk</a></b> <b><a href="mailto:life.events@solihullparish.org.uk">life.events@solihullparish.org.uk</a></b> <b><a href="mailto:Pewslip@solihullparish.org.uk">Pewslip@solihullparish.org.uk</a></b>
<b>Oliver Bird Hall Bookings</b>		
<b>Life Events</b> (Baptism, Wedding, Funeral)		
<b>Pewslip items</b> (by 10 a.m. Wednesday)		

# SOLIHULL PARISH STAFF & CONTACTS

<b>Priest in Charge, Rector Designate</b>	<b>The Revd. Nick Parker</b> Not available on Mondays	<a href="mailto:rector@solihullparish.org.uk">rector@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 07890 720240
<b>Associate Priest for St. Michael</b> (Not available Thursdays)	<b>The Revd. Simon Marshall</b>	<a href="mailto:simon@solihullparish.org.uk">simon@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 07514373 400
<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>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>Honorary Assistant Priests</b>	<b>The Revd. Anne Haselhurst</b> <b>The Revd. Roger Chamberlain</b> <b>The Revd. Sue Chandler</b>  <b>The Revd. Roy Murray</b>	<a href="mailto:annehaselhurst@talktalk.net">annehaselhurst@talktalk.net</a> <a href="mailto:revrog@hotmail.co.uk">revrog@hotmail.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:s.chandler@solihullparis.org.uk">s.chandler@solihullparis.org.uk</a> 07970 791288 <a href="mailto:fatherroy47@gmail.com">fatherroy47@gmail.com</a> 0121 714 5216
<b>Priestly Assistance is also offered on occasion by</b>	<b>The Revd. Canon Andrew Hutchinson</b> <b>The Venerable Paul Taylor</b>	<a href="mailto:fr.andrewhutchinson@btinternet.com">fr.andrewhutchinson@btinternet.com</a> <a href="mailto:pstaylor53@gmail.com">pstaylor53@gmail.com</a> 07796 691203
<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
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