

SOLIHULL
PARISH



NEWS



No. 578

MAY 2026

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
 9.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist except:
 Sunday 10th May 9.30 a.m. All Age Holy Communion in the church
 Sunday 17th May 11.00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
 5.00 p.m. Evensong, except:
 Sunday 17th May 5.00 p.m. Taize service
 Sunday 31st May 5.00 p.m. Evening Service
 Monday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 Thursdays 10.30 a.m. Said Eucharist

The Journey Service

9.30 a.m. In Church and the Oliver Bird Hall on 3rd, 17th, 24th, and 31st May

St Helen

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

St Michael, Oak Cottage School

Sundays 10.30 a.m. Eucharist.

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** – childrensministry@solihullparish.org.uk

Full details on the homepage of the Parish website at: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>

Please don't hesitate to contact the Revd. Nick Parker or another priest if you need help in an emergency or any support (full contact details inside the back cover) or phone the Parish Office on 0121 705 5350. It is always a pleasure to talk to you.

WEDDING AND BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

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

The Revd. Nick Parker
The Revd. Simon Marshall

Contents

Editorial	2
Roundabout	4
Let us Pray	12
News from Team Churches	13
St. Alphege	13
St. Helen	28
St. Michael	30
The Guardians of St Alphege	18
Music Matters	20
Church for Families	23-26
Youth Stuff	27
Pioneer Diary	32
Matters of Faith	44
For Your Diary	46
Address Book	48



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Visit our Website

www.solihullparish.org.uk

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

Cover picture

**Stained glass window of Pentecost,
with the Holy Spirit as a dove**

Headlines

Solihull Parish Puppets	4
Mothers' Union Lent Lunch	4
Books 4 Home	5
David Patterson 1931-2026	6
Mothers' Union Festival Eucharist	8
Bellringers' News - A Visit from the No 1 Club	10
News from the Wider Church	36
Update from the Parish Wardens	40

Energy Supplies

The cost of energy, the need to find means of energy which don't harm the planet, and the ever-increasing demands for energy in our technological society are rarely out of the news headlines. At the time of writing the news is dominated by the conflict in the Middle East and the effect that it has on global energy price and supply. Russia has targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure as an attempt to bomb the Ukrainian people into submission. In our part of the world, we are so used to the availability of energy for power and warmth that we often take it for granted and only really notice it when it is absent. A power cut in our house would give rise to a frantic search for torches and candles. Fortunately, an extremely rare occurrence.

This month three Christian Festivals, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday are a reminder of our need for God-given energy. Like our attitude to energy sources, do we take the presence of God for granted? Conversely, as it has sometimes been said, "If the Holy Spirit was absent from church would we even notice and merely carry on doing what we always do solely under our own steam?"

Ascension speaks of the fact that Jesus Christ is only hidden from physical sight but is present in a new way. His work is entrusted to us, His followers. In a former parish we said that the motto of one of our churches should be "Making the love of God local."

Being the presence of Christ in our parish sounds an enormous challenge but Pentecost reminds us that we are not left on our own. Instead, we are given God – given energy to continue the work of Jesus. Just as we make use of energy in so many ways, heat, light, travel, communication, entertainment, healing, cleaning etc. etc., the Holy Spirit is a multi-facetted source of energy. He helps us to communicate with God and others, He gives the light of guidance and wisdom, brings peace and healing, comfort and assurance, gifts – the "tools of the trade" to equip us to be like Christ in our service.

Finally, Trinity Sunday tells us that all this energizing of the church is personal. The one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is a community of love. The God of relationship calls us deeper into relationship with Him and each other. The Trinity is something of a mystery – but the important thing is to experience God in all His fullness rather than try to understand or explain it. I personally have no idea how electricity works but it doesn't stop me from enjoying and using it!

Ascension calls us to continue Christ's work, Pentecost gives us the Spirit to do it and Trinity Sunday reminds us that all this flows from the loving life of God who is Himself love – an energy stronger than fossil fuel, nuclear power, solar or wind energy.

*"You Lord God are
Strength for my task,
Light for my way,
Peace for my mind,
Power for this day
Presence with me now,
Love for always"*

From Celtic Prayers by David Adam published by Tim Tiley Ltd 33 Zetland Road Bristol BS6 7AH

Rev. Roger Chamberlain

SHEPHERDSON COURT DAY CENTRE

7 Damson Parkway, Solihull West Midlands B91 2PP

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

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

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

For further information contact Day Centre Manager on

0121 711 4266

daycentremanager@raynerhouse.co.uk

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

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**

Solihull Parish Puppets

Solihull Parish Puppets continued to spread the love of puppetry further in April when we visited Knowle Parish Church, where we told the Easter story through four songs. The puppets were loved by all and were given Easter eggs as a thank you. We have already been requested to return in the near future.

Delivering the message and stories from the Bible whilst having fun with puppets, spreading joy and wonder to children alike is fantastic, and to be able to do this through different schools, churches and SoLO is humbling.

So where will we be travelling to next?

Sophie Prescott

Lent Lunch



Our Meeting in April took place on Maundy Thursday. We enjoyed a luncheon of soup and bread rolls followed by delicious home-made desserts and fruit.

After lunch, Revd. Anne Haselhurst led us in a Lenten Meditation. She based her talk on the account of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples after the Last Supper, as described in the Gospel according to John. Chapter 13 verses 1 – 38. Part way through the reading, Anne paused for us to wash each other's hands (rather than feet) starting with her washing Susan Haigh's hands.



When we had finished hand washing, she read the rest of John's account concluding at verse 38. Thank you, Anne, for a very moving meditation, we felt we were well prepared for the Easter Services to come.

Books 4 Home.

2026 is the **National Year of Reading** and reading is one of the Rotary Clubs' Areas of Focus. We know the power that literacy has to spark imagination, confidence and a lifelong love of reading, while assisting learning and giving pleasure in relaxation.

All Rotary Clubs and their members are collecting 200+books for each school. **Good quality used children's books** are to be presented to local primary schools for children to take home to read and keep forever.

We are planning to supply 200 books each to three Primary Schools in Solihull, or maybe to four schools if we can find enough books.

There are 1500 Rotary Clubs in the UK, so nationally we have a significant task to complete. According to the National Literacy Trust, children's enjoyment of reading is at an all-time low, with an acute decline among primary-aged children, which is a very serious situation.

If you can help with this project, please give donations to Phil Godfrey 07770 407870 or let him know by email philcgodfrey@btinternet.com

Advertising in the Solihull Parish News

If you advertise here you will reach many hundreds of households in Solihull through the print edition and many more via the online version 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

David Patterson 1931-2026



David was a much loved and respected member of the congregation and wider local communities during his 94 years.

He was born on 12th October 1931 to Daye and Reg Patterson. He lived all his life in Solihull, for the first 30 years in Hampton Lane and then for the next 60 years in his own family home in Widney Manor Road. For the last four years he lived in Birchmere House Care Home, where he died peacefully on 17 March 2026.

After Eversfield Preparatory School, he attended Solihull School and then went on to complete a commerce degree at Birmingham University, where he met Wendy, later to become his wife.

His working life involved seven years in the timber trade, followed by 38 years with Midland Wallboards, a specialist importer and distributor of building and decorative sheet materials. He became joint managing director, running offices and warehouses in Smethwick and Sparkhill.

David first started worshipping regularly at St. Alphege in 1955 and by the age of 25 he was an altar server. He went on to become a member of the Guild of Servers for 65 years, including 14 years as Joint Warden.

He and Wendy were married at St. Alphege in 1961 and had daughters Sarah and Elizabeth, both baptised, confirmed and married there. They made many friends through the church

Roundabout

community. A special group, called "The Puffins" (named after one of their early trips to Scotland), included Pam and Roy McLeod, Evelyn and Tim Berry, Sally and Ron Herd, Audrey and Alan Norman and Anne Kemp.

David's contribution to the life, community and historic research of St. Alphege was quite considerable. He served on several committees, many as Secretary, including St. Alphege Church Council, Parochial Church Council (PCC), Church and Churchyard, to name but a few. He was also a Pastoral Link Visitor, did Home Communion visits and was an Area Deliverer of the Parish Magazine for 40 years.

Wendy, who died in 2004, was also very involved with the church - Leader of the Wives Fellowship, Mothers' Union committee member and longstanding helper for the Sunday coffee and church flower rotas.

David's knowledge of the history of St. Alphege and of many aspects of its interior, particularly the many monuments, memorials and families they represented, led to much contact over the years with visitors from far and wide who wanted to know more about their ancestors' links to Solihull and the church. In particular, he developed a close relationship with members of the Griswold Family Association (GFA) of America whose members are descended from four men who emigrated to New England from Warwickshire in the 1630s and who were related to the Greswold family of Solihull. The GFA led six heritage tours to the UK between 1984 and 2017, all of which involved guided tours and talks from David on the history of the church and the Griswolds' connections with Solihull and Warwickshire.

His researches and extensive knowledge contributed to the production of the latest Church Guidebook in 1989. His numerous lectures within the Parish included: The History of Solihull and St. Alphege, The Greswolds and Griswolds, and, another interest close to his heart, "John Constable - a Warwickshire Artist?"

He was passionate about protecting both the church and the "village" with all their historical roots. On a small scale, this included fighting for matters such as the preservation of "The Ruin" or site of a Holy Well, and the wood panelling in The Rectory. But also, tireless campaigning against the proposed Touchwood Extension plans a few years ago which, in his view, would have destroyed the historic character and soul of the town he so loved.

St. Alphege Church and its history have played a major role in his life and David was always a keen supporter of the work of The Guardians. At the launch of The Guardians in 1981 he gave a talk on the history and development of St. Alphege Church. So it is fitting that his family have chosen The Guardians of St. Alphege for donations in his memory. A Service of Thanksgiving took place on 20 April 2026.

Mothers' Union Festival Eucharist



On Saturday 28th March, St Alphege Mothers' Union had the privilege of being the first parish church to host the annual Diocesan Festival Eucharist, which previously was always held at Birmingham Cathedral. The Officiant was The Right Revd. James Langstaff, Honorary Assistant Bishop, and the Deacon was the Mothers' Union Chaplain, Revd. Tracy Browne.

Banners from the various branches were paraded before and after the service and two new members were enrolled into the St. Alphege Branch of Mothers' Union.

At the end of the service, Rowena Nicholls, our Diocesan President, thanked everyone who had been involved in its organization and all members for coming.

After the service we all enjoyed refreshments – tea, coffee and home-made cakes and were able to purchase Mothers' Union items from the MU stall.

Mothers' Union Zimbabwe singers came in their uniforms and delighted the congregation with their singing (in Shona, their native language) during the service.

The service was a joyous occasion and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet up with members from across the Diocese to celebrate Mothers' Union, which is 150 years old this year.



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

6 th May	Josh Cahm, organ
13 th May	Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Harp Department
20 th May	Spanish Lute Songs and Solos - Jonathan Spencer (countertenor) & Mike Ashley (lute)
27 th May	To be confirmed

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

www.kbpainting.co.uk

Bellringers News

A Visit from the No. 1 Club!

I'm not sure we've ever hosted a tower visit to so many small people before so, it was with some trepidation that we made the arrangements for 23 little friends, with their helpers, to come along and see the bells.

We met the group at the Oliver Bird Hall so that we could go through the basics. We now have a 3D printed model of the church, a kind gift from the architect (who rather wonderfully is a ringer himself!) The model was perfect to brief the children as to exactly where we were going. They dutifully repeated back that we "do not touch the ropes!" So, we were set to go.

I took the lead as we climbed the spiral staircase. The steps are dreadfully uneven and the first few are particularly big if you're

only 5 or 6 years old! I climbed up more slowly than I think I have ever done before, the only certain way to make sure they all



took their time. It's hard to concentrate on steps when you're totally overwhelmed by the new experience of being inside a turret stairway, so a slow ascent was the best way to go. They'd been primed to look out for the blocked-up doorway which once took you into St. George's Chapel and, they were inspecting the windowsills to see how they narrow towards the top. We made it into the ringing room and then the questions came thick and fast! They were clearly quite intrigued. We started with understanding why they shouldn't touch the ropes and never when seeing a bell rope in any church. We watched Margaret slowly ring one of the bells, full circle. We talked about the delay of the sound following Margaret's pulls and together we clapped our hands when we thought the sound would come. We chatted about the woolly coloured parts to the rope, the sallies, some of which go through the holes in the ceiling, clearly fascinating!

It was time to divide the group in two, blue and red teams. The reds went on up into the belfry. They counted round the 13 bells and learnt that we'd never ring more than 12 at a time, making sense of the blue sally in the ringing room, like a black note on a piano.

The View from the Tower

We'd made arrangements for a bell to be rung just once while they were standing alongside the frame. With fingers in ears and much excitement, it turned out that wasn't enough. "Again, again!" was the shout. And of course we obliged. The squeals of delight were all the more amusing for the fact that several of them were a little worried as they climbed the stairs as to whether it would be too loud. One of them said, "that's not loud" as another scrunched up her face. Lots of chatter and cobweb spotting and whilst there was talk of spiders I'm not convinced anyone actually saw one? Once the shutters and sound control had been explained, it was time to climb back down.

Blue group had stayed back in the clean and cobweb free ringing room. We had the smaller handbells ready from our large tune ringing set. Ringing a handbell is a tricky business for little people. We carefully avoided touching the bell metal and made sure the bells didn't clash with each other. We had little hands clasped close to the leather cap below each bell, clappers organised to move in the right direction and then we experimented with our 'flicks'. If you give a handbell a wide circular movement the clapper just moves with the bell and you hear nothing. But they gave them a flick of the wrist and managed a wonderful cacophony of sound. So, time to get more organised. We rang them one after the other, highest note to deepest, just as we do with tower bells, they were ringing rounds! Then we began call changes. They each clutched a small sheet with their bell number and followed as we called out numbers and swapped them about. We soon brought them into Queens. Again, something we ring on tower bells where a conductor gradually swaps the bells until we're organised with all the odd bells followed by the even; 1,3,5,7,9,2,4,6,8,10. They seemed really engaged and recognised whether they had an even or odd numbered bell.

The groups then swapped over so they all had the chance to see the bells and ring handbells, and it was time to have a go on the tower bells. By this time all the bells were in the safe downward position so they had a chance to have a go at chiming. This too isn't the easiest. If we gently pull on the rope of a bell that is down, the clapper will sway inside the bell and you hear nothing. Grab at the rope though and give it a jolt, and the magic starts to happen! They needed rather a lot of help with the bigger bells even with 2 or 3 holding the rope but they were really chiming the small bells, oh what fun! They thought they were flying, they've clearly seen too many bell ringing cartoons! Chiming bells probably most grabbed their attention. The whole visit certainly engaged their curiosity.

So, I think we can put that down as a complete success. A little bit 'full on' perhaps but thank you to Alison, Margaret and Malcolm who helped out and truth be known, we had a whole lot of fun too!



Let us Pray

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for May 2026

1	Philip & James, Apostles	That we may share our faith openly	Henwood Lane
2	Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria	Our Bishops Michael & Esther	Herbert Road
3	5th Sunday of Easter	Our Parish Church Council	Hermitage Road
4	English Saints & Martyrs of the Reformation Era	The people of St Alphege Church	Heronfield Way
5	Feria	Those who lead our parish study and fellowship groups	Heyford Grove
6	Feria	Those who are looking for work	High Street
7	Feria	Those who work in the Touchwood Centre	Hillfield Mews
8	Julian of Norwich, Spiritual Writer	Writers and poets	Hillfield Road
9	Feria	The staff of Solihull Railway Station	Hollings Grove
10	6th Sunday of Easter	The people and leaders of the Journey Service	Holly Oak Grove
11	Feria	Those who work at the Core in Solihull	Hollyberry Avenue
12	Gregory Dix, Priest & Monk, 1952	Those who plan and prepare our worship	Hollyfield Avenue
13	Feria	Those waiting for the results of medical tests	Homer Road
14	Ascension Day	Our part in God's mission to Solihull	Hunningham Grove
15	Matthias, Apostle (transferred from the 14th)	Suzette, our Pioneer Minister	Huntley Drive
16	Caroline Chisholm, Social Reformer	Our borough Council	Kelmarsh Drive
17	5th Sunday of Easter & Bell Sunday	The St Alphege bell ringers	Kelvedon Grove
18	Feria	Chris Thomas, St Alphege Director of Music	Keresley Close
19	Dunstan, Abp of Canterbury, 988	Our Archdeacon, Phelim	Kilsby Grove
20	Alcuin of York, Deacon & Abbot	Members of Religious communities	Kinchford Close
21	Helena, Protector of the Holy Places	The people of St Helen's Church	Kingsbrook Drive
22	Feria	The staff and pupils of the schools in our parish	Kinsham Drive
23	Petroc, Abbot	Those exploring religious vocations	Kirton Grove
24	Pentecost Sunday	The worldwide Christian Church	Knightcote Drive
25	The Venerable Bede, Monk, Scholar, Historian, 735	The people of St Michael's Church	Ladbrook Road
26	Augustine, first Abp of Canterbury, 605	Archbishop Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury	Lady Byron Lane
27	Feria	Those who are in hospital	Langford Croft
28	Lanfranc, Prior, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1089	Staff and patients of the Marie Curie hospice	Langtree Avenue
29	Feria	Those studying for exams	Laxton Grove
30	Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906	The Readers of our Parish	Libbards Gate
31	Trinity Sunday	Churches dedicated to The Holy Trinity	Libbards Way

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

From the St. Alphege Register

Baptisms

None

Weddings

7th April

Robert Andrew Hodkinson and Alice Rebecca Howe

Renewal of Vows

None

Funerals

30th March

Heather Arnold at Robin Hood Crematorium

20th April

David Reginald Patterson at St Alphege

Interment of Ashes

27th April

Pamela Creed Creed

28th April

Margaret Lindsey

1st May

Susan Anne Baker

3rd May

Edwina Mooreen Hedgecox

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in May

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

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

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



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>

Worship Notes for May

This month continues the Easter Season and includes some special occasions for us as a parish. The main liturgical colour is white apart from several important feast days where the colour is red.

Friday 1st May

Today is the Feast Day of Saints Philip and James, Apostles.

Saturday 2nd May

Today we hold our Grounded Church event at 3 p.m. in Oak Cottage garden to celebrate the festival of Beltane, which traditionally marks the beginning of Summer.

Monday 4th May

The English Saints & Martyrs of the Reformation Era. This day recalls those who witnessed to their Christian faith during the conflicts in church and state in England, which lasted from the 14th to the 17th centuries. We may also give thanks on this day that, in recent decades, ecumenical links have drawn churches of all denominations closer to each other in work and worship.

Friday 8th May

The Feast of Julian of Norwich who, when thirty years old and suffering from what was considered to be a terminal illness, experienced a series of sixteen visions, which revealed aspects of the love of God.

Sunday 10th May

Today we admit children of our parish to First Communion. Please pray for them and their families on this joyful occasion, that they may continue to grow in faith and love of God.

Thursday 14th May

Today is the **Feast of the Ascension**, forty days after Easter Day. We celebrate this important day in Eucharists at St. Alphege at 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Jesus commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The Ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. From this day, we look towards the arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost later in the month.

Sunday 17th May

Today we celebrate Bell Sunday at our 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, to give thanks for the contribution of bells and bellringers to the life and worship of the Church.

Thursday 21st May

The Feast Day of Helena, Protector of the Holy Places. Helena (Helen) is the Patron Saint of St. Helen's Church in our parish.

Sunday 24th May

The Day of Pentecost, which Christians celebrate as the 'birthday' of the Church!

Sunday 31st May

Trinity Sunday. This is one of the few celebrations of the Christian year that commemorates a reality and doctrine rather than a person or event. Today we remember and honour the eternal God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Fr.Simon



LAUNDE ABBEY WEEKEND AWAY

5th to 7th June 2026
Friday evening to
Sunday afternoon



Join our church family for a weekend away - spend time learning, praying, worshipping and relaxing with Parish friends - old and new.

- Spiritual Refreshment
- Building friendships
- Expanding our Vision
- Building community
- Great venue with delicious food and a bar

See leaflet available from Parish Office or our churches.

Parish Away Day for Adults and Children on Saturday 12th September 2026 (note change of date)

Details will be available shortly

May 2026 Services

Sunday 3rd May – Easter 5

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist Patronal Festival
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	The Journey
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

Wednesday 6th May

St. Michael's Chapel	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
----------------------	------------	-----------

Thursday 7th May

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

Sunday 10th May – Easter 6

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 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.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

Wednesday 13th May

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

Thursday 14th May – Feast of the Ascension

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

Sunday 17th May – Easter 7

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	The Journey
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Choral Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Taizé Service

Wednesday 20th May

St. Michael's Chapel 10.00 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday 21st May

St. Alphege 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Sunday 24th May – Pentecost

St. Alphege 8.00 a.m. Said Eucharist
St. Alphege 9.30 a.m. The Journey
St. Helen 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
St. Michael 10.30 a.m. Eucharist
St. Alphege 11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege 5.00 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 27th May

St. Michael 10.00 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday 28th May

St. Alphege 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Sunday 31st May – Trinity Sunday

St. Alphege 8.00 a.m. Said Eucharist
St. Alphege 9.30 a.m. The Journey
St. Helen 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
St. Michael 10.30 a.m. Eucharist
St. Alphege 11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege 5.00 p.m. Evening Service

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.



The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church

Last month saw the Memorial Service for David Patterson. Well-known to many of us for his huge contribution to St. Alphege life and to The Guardians. He died aged 94, but right to the end he, with his family, was providing useful support regarding the history of the church. Despite it being a challenge, he was hoping to attend the History Fair. A particular feature of David's commitment was his generous hosting of visitors from across the world who had local family links. He will be greatly missed across the Parish and beyond.

Thanks are due to all those who contributed to the History Fair in any way. The talks, tours, exhibition displays, maps, refreshments and attendees were appreciated. It proved a successful fundraiser into the bargain. We are hoping, with the help of the wider community, to make further plans to showcase our heritage.

Upcoming events

Thursday 4th June

Visit to Hartlebury Castle and Gardens, plus Bishop Hurd's Library

Hartlebury Castle is one of the less well-known gems of the West Midlands. It lies a few miles north of Worcester in a small village. The library is particularly fine, unchanged from when it was established in 1782 by Bishop Hurd. The exhibition in the main Castle displays the portraits and stories of bishops going back 1000 years. Hartlebury Castle was a country seat for them before William the Conqueror. Solihull was part of the Worcester Diocese from 1837 to 1904.

The plan is to put together a small fleet of cars and share passenger seats to make transport simple. We plan to arrive by 10.30am. Booking needed by May 10th please.

Please contact Rector Nick, the Parish Office or myself if you wish to join this event. The number of places available is restricted. Cost £12.

Tuesday 7th July

Guardians Summer Drinks Party.

Kindly hosted by Ann Taylor. An event for members. Further details to follow.

Other news

Plans to get the church clock back to full working order, chiming and showing the correct time are in hand now. The Trustees have agreed this deserves support. Our thanks are due to those working on the project.

Particular thanks are due to Ben, our youth worker, for his major clear out of the storage space under the parish office. Entry is now possible. More clutter arriving is hopefully not the plan.

Roger Shinton (Trustee)
rogershinton@outlook.com



Floodlighting

The 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.

Do 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

The Church was floodlit in March and April 2026 to remember the following:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 14 th March | Congratulations Evie (nee Blackburn) and Sam Hammerton on the birth of Grayson Ren, another Great-grandson for Gerald and all the family. |
| 27 th March | In loving memory of Monique Kijak, greatly missed by loving husband Peter and children Marcel and Annalies. |
| 2 nd April | In loving memory of Jonathan Mark. |
| 4 th April | Ann Rona Mullen. In loving memory of a treasured aunt on her birthday. |
| 7 th April | Margaret Mawson. In loving memory of a dear mother on her birthday. |
| 8 th April | In loving memory of Ron Soden on his birthday. |
| 10 th April | In loving memory of Mary Friswell. |
| 24 th April | In loving memory of Vivien Soden. |



It is always a privilege for the choirs to provide music for the important Triduum services and then to move into the joy of Easter alongside the congregation, and this year was no exception. It is such a busy week, starting with the Palm Sunday processional service, this year with Vespers in the evening as well, then moving through Taizé to the message of the service of Maundy Thursday, the pain of Good Friday, and then into Easter itself.

All choir members worked hard and gave of their best. There were many musical highlights including Lotti's *Crucifixus* and Sanders' *Reproaches* on Good Friday, Vierne's *Messe Solennelle* on Holy Saturday, Mozart's *Spatzenmesse* on Easter Day with wonderful solos from Emma, Jo, Peter, Matt and Joel; and of course Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, also on Easter Day.

Special thanks are due to Harry and George for their organ accompaniments and Alison for her behind-the-scenes support during this busy week.

Look out for our 'Save the Date' page in Parish News for information about exciting summer term events – the Gin and Jazz Festival on 30th May and a concert performance of Handel's *Messiah* on 20th June – we hope to see you at one or both of these events!

Isabel Baumber



S t A l p h e g e

Sunday 10th May

9.30 a.m. All Age Holy Communion

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

BILL BOYCE DECORATORS

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



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

PG TURNING

Specialist Wood Turner

Commissions undertaken

Email: philcgodfrey@btinternet.com

Mobile: 07770 406870



*All profits to the charity
APS Support UK*

**DANCE &
MOVEMENT
CLASSES
AGE 1+**



TWIRLING TODDLERS



**BOOK YOUR
FREE TRIAL,
CLASSES
START APRIL
2026**



TWIRLINGTODDLERS.CO.UK

TEL: 01926 887780

EMAIL: INFO@TWIRLINGTODDLERS.CO.UK

FACEBOOK: @TWIRLINGTODDLERS

THE OLIVER BIRD HALL

Solihull, B91 3RQ

WEDNESDAY

2:00-2:30PM

Little Groovers ages 1-4

2:30-3:00PM

Twinkle Toes ages 3-4

**WE TWIRL
WE DANCE
WE SMILE**



What's on for Families?

May

In The Week



Every Friday in term time between 9.30-10.30 am, £2
The Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill, B91 3RQ



Friday 15th, 4-6pm, £2.50 per person (£10 max)
St Helen's Church, 6 St Helen's Road, B91 2DA



Every Friday in term time between 5-6.30pm, yr6+
The Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill, B91 3RQ

Sundays



Sunday 3rd May - 9.30am
Sunday 17th May - 9.30am
Sunday 24th May - 9.30am
Sunday 31st May - 9.30am

All at St Alphege Church, Church Hill, B91 3RT



All Age Worship St Alphege Church, Church Hill, B91 3RT

AGE 5+



Craftermoons

HOLIDAY CRAFT CLUB

£5 PER DAY



EASTER - SUMMER - CHRISTMAS

Book your place @ childrensministry@solihullparish.org.uk

FROM 12:00 TO 4:00 PM

OLIVER BIRD HALL
CHURCH HILL
B91 3RT





Easter Dates 2026:

MONDAY 30TH MARCH - FRIDAY 3RD APRIL 2026

TUESDAY 7TH - FRIDAY 10TH APRIL 2026

sign up here!



sign up here!



Summer Dates 2026:

MONDAY 20TH - FRIDAY 24TH JULY 2026

MONDAY 27TH - FRIDAY 31ST JULY 2026

MONDAY 3RD - FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 2026

MONDAY 10TH - FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST 2026

Christmas Dates 2026:

MONDAY 21ST - WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2026

sign up here!





COME TO MESSY CHURCH

THIS MONTH WE ARE
FOCUSING ON

COMMUNITY

WE WILL HAVE LOTS OF CRAFTS,
FUN ACTIVE CHALLENGES,
WORSHIP TIME
AND MUCH MORE!



PLUS A HOT DINNER FOR EVERYONE!

Friday 15th May, 4-6pm
St Helens Church, B91 2DA



£2.50 per person, max £10 per family
Booking is essential..

Email: Childrensministry@solihullparish.org.uk
or complete the online form

<https://forms.office.com/e/H0CaCrd0r8>



Youth Stuff

If you're in **Year 6 or above**, come and check out **Solihull Parish Youth Club**! We meet every **Friday from 5.00–6.20 p.m.** in the **Oliver Bird Hall**, and it's a great place to hang out, meet new friends and have a brilliant time.

Expect **pizza, games, activities and plenty of laughs** in a relaxed and welcoming space where friendships grow and faith can be explored together.



Best of all – it's completely free!

Before coming along for the first time, you'll just need to register. To get the details and registration link, email **Lynn Smart** at l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk.

As we write this article over the Easter weekend, we are looking forward to our various Easter services and other events, particularly the Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday, the Walk of Witness, the Tenebrae Service and of course the Easter Morning service when we hope to welcome a few visitors. We have delivered Easter cards to the houses around the church inviting them to join us and we shall this year, during the first hymn, be decorating with flowers the plain wooden cross that is outside the church for Holy Week. The flower-covered cross will then be put in the front of the church.

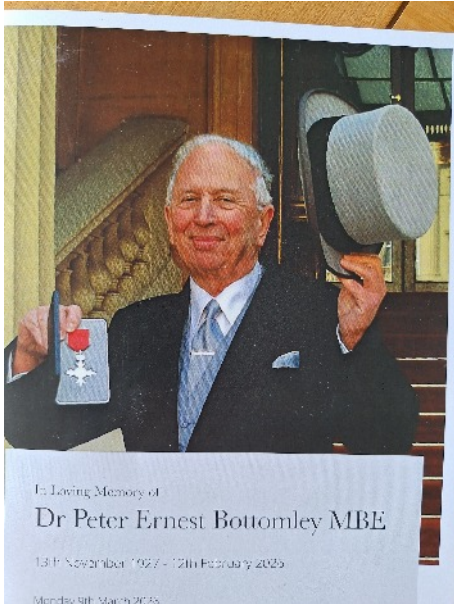
During Lent two groups met weekly to look at the prayers of Jesus in the gospels, using a book by Amy Boucher Pye. It was encouraging to have over twenty people sharing in this course and we enjoyed learning, discussing and praying together. These groups continue to meet fortnightly and are an important part of our fellowship at St Helen's.

Our Annual District Church Meeting was held on 22nd March following the 10 a.m. service and was well attended. Sand Cooper was presented with a small gift to thank her for the past 6 years of being our D.C.C. Secretary. She has done a wonderful job, and we are very grateful to her and also to Linda Finch who has taken on the role. Linda has been D.C.C. Secretary in the past, so we know we are in safe hands! The meeting was followed by lunch for everyone, mainly provided by Geoff Ridgway who made soup (2 different varieties) and bought all the bread, cheeses etc. Others brought salads, ham and cakes so we all enjoyed a delicious lunch and are particularly grateful to Geoff without whom these regular meals together would not happen.



St Helen

Peter Bottomley and Barbara Sears, two longstanding members of St. Helen's, died just a day apart in February so it has been a sad time for us all, and both funerals were held in



March. Peter held many positions during the many years that he and Jean worshipped with us, including Warden, D.C.C. Secretary and Chair of the Building Committee when the Youth Hall was built. Jean still lives in the family home but is unable to get to church now. Barbara also had been at St. Helen's for nearly 50 years involved first in the large Sunday School and also with Wednesday Lunches and starting up both the Lydia Group (which continues to meet after 45 years!) and the Tuesday Prayer Group. She became a Lay Reader about 30 years ago, and gave many years of ministry as deacon, leading Evening Services and running a homegroup. She was very artistic and most of the banners and wall hangings at St Helen's were initiated by her. Her husband Derek died 2 years ago and together they provided much pastoral care to many over the years.

Chris and Jenny Carrington

St. Michael's Annual District Church Meeting

St. Michael's ADCM was held on Palm Sunday 29th March following the Sunday Eucharist. This is a formula which seems to work well, with most of the reports contained in a booklet available before the meeting. At this meeting there is an opportunity to hear how the church fared over the past year and something on future plans. There is also the election of officers to serve the church in the coming year. Keith Wilson was elected Church Warden for another twelve months. Keith has served in this post for many years as St. Michael's only warden, a situation that seems common in a number of churches. We are extremely grateful to Keith for fulfilling this role faithfully. It does necessitate the attendance at quite a number of meetings (herein may lie the problem of recruitment for the position of warden). Keith, nevertheless, has done this job uncomplaining and efficiently. St Michael's is lucky to have such a dedicated and faithful servant in its midst.

Forest Church

On 21st March Fr. Simon led a Forest Church Spring Celebration in the garden of Oak Cottage Vicarage. There is a movement taking place in the church to develop different styles of service of which Forest Church is one. This offers a unique opportunity for people to connect with God in the beauty of the natural world and encourages participants to experience spirituality outside rather than inside church buildings.

Easter Service

With a good congregation the worship on this joyous of all days was helped by the St. Michael's band and singers, so we were able to celebrate the resurrection of Christ in a fitting and joyful occasion. Our usual flower cross was in full view in front of the altar, many thanks to all who helped with this.

Sunrise Service

Again, making full use of the garden at Oak Cottage, Fr. Simon presided at the Sunrise Easter Eucharist at 6.30 a.m. on Easter morning. Around a dozen people were there to celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter in the open air.

Art of the Lord's Prayer

This was part of the Lent series of courses focussing on the Lord's Prayer. This was held in St. Michael's Chapel and showed a series of paintings from many areas and styles to help understand the Lord's Prayer seen through the eyes of great artists. It was well attended by people from across the parish.



Save the Date!



SATURDAY
30
MAY

ST ALPHEGE GIN AND JAZZ FESTIVAL

This year's festival will have all the popular aspects of previous years, but some new and exciting attractions, including a broader range of music, and an experiment with 'G and Tea' - an afternoon tea with a difference!

Gin and Jazz Festival
bookings



Summer Concert
bookings



SATURDAY
20
JUNE

HANDEL'S MESSIAH CONCERT

Featuring St Alphege Church Choirs, professional soloists and a professional orchestra, we are proud to present an evening concert performance of one of the most popular oratorios of all time.

“From Small Beginnings to a Thriving Community”

— T. Nicholls

What started as a small, simple gathering has grown into something truly special.

Wellbeing Wednesday (WW) began five years ago, on 19th May 2021, with just a couple of people coming together at the Kitchen Coffee Shop on Damson Lane. Today, it has blossomed into a strong, supportive community of around 30, that continues to grow and touch the lives of many. I'd like to add that we are quite proud of the fact that we have met *every** Wednesday since that first meeting – *all except one, which I (*Suzette*) blame Jesus for, as that one fell on Christmas Day.

For those who don't already know, WW began as a response to my (*Suzette*) hearing people in the local community say, after Covid, that groups they used to go to hadn't opened again. The movement from group to community came sometime later, when its growing number of members began to care for each other, rather than always assuming the care had to come from *'the person in charge'*.

From this group, new ideas have flourished, and I (*Suzette*) see WW as the central hub of a wagon wheel (*not the chocolate biscuit*), with the *spokes* of other activities coming off it. For instance, *Food4Thought*, a group lovingly named by Shirley, who is sadly no longer with us but remains fondly remembered by all who knew her. Her contribution continues to be part of our story. As do *Prayer Quarter*, *First Wednesday Lunch*, *Canal and Coffee Walks*, etc. In the past we have also had a mid-month meal, *Teatime Treats*, planning meetings, and so on. What I call *spokes*, *Theresa* (WW member and *Suzette's* 'deputy') has described these as 'layers', each leading to another: *Food4Thought* leading to *Prayer Quarter* - which began with just eight people and is now steadily growing, reflecting the deeper support and sense of togetherness that *Wellbeing Wednesday* offers. We also have the *First Wednesday Lunch*, leading to monthly food bank collections; WW leading to walks; *MacMillan Coffee Morning* leading to a yearly choice for our charitable giving; and so on.

Over the years the WW community has developed many layers but, at its heart, it is and always has been about *connection*.

At *Wellbeing Wednesday*, we listen, we talk, and we support each other. No one has to face things alone. In a world where so many people live alone, *Wellbeing Wednesday* offers companionship, understanding, and a sense of belonging. It is a place where people are welcomed, valued, and cared for. Friendships have been formed not only within the group

Pioneer Diary

but beyond it too, with members meeting up in their own time and building lasting bonds. The idea of *layers* also fits when we state that *WW* is more than a name. It is a *community* that consists of individuals, while people share themselves, their families, bereavements, house moves, and much, much more. All these moments have created countless happy memories as well as giving people something to look forward to.

We mustn't forget also that *WW* is now an established part of Solihull Parish. In that vein, members of the *WW* community have taken part in many meaningful activities, such as attending occasional services; providing refreshments at the Flower Festival; reading (and praying at *Prayer Quarter*) the parish magazine; volunteering as welcomers at St. Alphege; participating in a parish first-aid course; as well as participating in a recent 3-2-1 course – culminating in one of our members, Theresa, being confirmed in October 2025. She says: *"I could write a book about how my life has changed for the good since finding WW."* Praise God for that!

(She hasn't written a book yet, that I know of, but she has helped produce this article, so my thanks to Theresa for that!)

In fact, *Wellbeing Wednesday's* Theresa and Gill have always stepped up at any time, when I (*Suzette*) could not make it to *WW* for whatever reason. This has been needed even more so with all that has taken me away in the last year. My heartfelt thanks go out to them.

So, as we approach our five-year anniversary on May 19th, we reflect with pride on how far we have come—and look forward with hope to the future. Theresa is keen to carry on in her supporting role. *(Haven't had the chance to consult with Gill as I type.)* We do, however, want to make sure that the 'parish connection' is kept up in my absence. With this in mind, we would like to begin a rota of volunteers from across the parish. If we could recruit just four people it would mean that they would attend once per month, less frequently if we got more recruits. *(The role of 'volunteer parish representative' is still being formulated as I type, but please do see me for a chat if you are interested.)*

Please consider if this is a role that you feel you could fulfill. You may be an important part of our future.

"Happy Birthday Wellbeing Wednesday!"

Thanks for listening!

Suzette & Theresa.

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.

We are Pre-Paid Funeral Plan Specialists

Shirley Funeral Home

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

Solihull Funeral Home

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

Yardley Funeral Home

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



Our Silver fleet of Jaguars

We are happy to arrange;

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

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

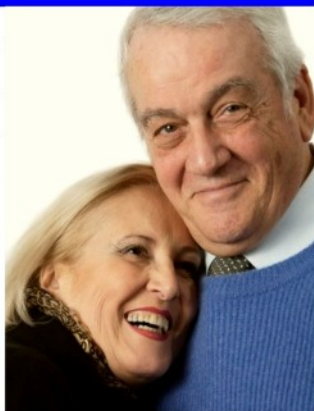


Dovehouse Court

61 Privately Owned Apartments

Opposite Dovehouse Parade Shops

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



Residents' Management Company;

Run By The Owners, For The Owners

Owners set & control the budget & annual service charge

1 & 2 Bedroom Retirement Apartments

For Sale

£155,000 — £269,950



Please contact us for a brochure & personal invitation to visit

Dovehouse Court on:

0121 709 2339

enquiries@dovehousecourt.co.uk

www.dovehousecourtltd.co.uk

News from the Worldwide Church

As I attempt to discern what might be suitable copy for our May edition, we are in the midst of Holy Week – and in thinking about the wider Church it feels appropriate to look beyond our shores to the region where the events of that first Easter took place, namely the Middle East, presently at a time of widespread conflict. As you read this it will still be the Easter Season and it seems most likely that the war may also be continuing. Given this, I share two reflections from Christians living in that region – encouraging us to pray in a more informed way – and to discover more about the reality of people’s day to day lives, through the websites of the following UK charities which record heartbreaking and uplifting testimony in equal measure.

Sat 7 UK – Supporting Christian broadcasting across the Middle East

Easter has always held deep meaning in dark times. In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), where many believers live with uncertainty and hardship, the story at the heart of Easter – a journey from suffering to hope – feels deeply familiar.

This year, that message carries particular weight. As Easter arrives in the region during a time of war, public celebrations of faith are falling silent. In Jerusalem, where Christians traditionally gather at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to mark the death and resurrection of Jesus, security restrictions have limited public gatherings. The traditional Palm Sunday procession did not take place this year.

Yet Easter is a story of hope. Jesus’ resurrection is the promise that darkness does not have the final word. Churches, families and communities across the MENA will still mark the season. Through special programs, worship and devotional broadcasts, SAT-7 will accompany believers through Holy Week and Easter on a journey of hope and faith.

Sabeel-Kairos UK – Supporting Palestinian Christians *(The name literally means The Path towards the Opportune Moment for Justice)*

Holy Saturday stands as one of the most profound moments of darkness and uncertainty in the Gospel story—the time between crucifixion and resurrection. For us Palestinians, this “Saturday” has stretched across decades, marked by ongoing suffering imposed through escalating ethnic cleansing, settler violence, settlement expansion, land confiscation, and the indifference—if not the outright complicity—of governments around the world. It is clear now that attacks on Christian Palestinian communities—along with predominantly Muslim towns—are not isolated incidents. These violent assaults are part of a broader, systemic reality engineered on the part of the Israeli government. This Alert—still another heartfelt cry on the part of Palestinian Christians—is a call to the Global Church to move beyond thoughts and prayers into active solidarity. It is also a pastoral word to the faithful, the Palestinian steadfast people, calling us to remain steadfast on our land, to celebrate our shared Palestinian Christian identity, and to protect our heritage and holy sites. An existential threat

to the Palestinian Christian presence in the Holy Land is real. Israel's 58-year occupation of our land and now the taking of northern Gaza and the annexation of ever-larger portions of the West Bank have accelerated emigration through the resulting economic suffering, insecurity, land seizures and violence. Simply put, there is shrinking physical and demographic space for indigenous Christians—serving as a warning that Christian continuity in Palestine is no longer guaranteed.

Yet, in spite of our prolonged and costly Saturday experiences, we do believe that Sunday is coming— resurrection out of the deaths we are experiencing.



*Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.
Psalm 85:10*

Rev. Nick

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:

QBHBookings@solihullparish.org.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



The Complete Legal Service for the Private and Commercial Client

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

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

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

1612 High Street, Knowle, Solihull B93 OJU

Tel: 01564 776287 Fax: 01564 778996

Update from the Parish Wardens

We have been privileged to have had a wonderful series of services and events during Passion Week and Easter Week. Palm Sunday included extended Passion Readings at all our churches and we welcomed the Scouts who performed their dramatic reading at St. Alphege. The Agape Meal at St. Helen's was a good occasion and well attended and helped us experience something of the atmosphere at the Last Supper. The Churches Together Walk of Witness had great weather and a good attendance with contributions from all our churches with music from Tom Millington and Jubilee Players in Mell Square which inspired us to worship in a special way. The Devotions Service, the Tenebrae, Quiet Morning, Dawn Service and Easter Services also encouraged us and attracted good congregations. Thanks to everyone who put so much into these.

Thanks to Chris and the Choir for all their good work to enhance our worship. The youngsters in the choir enjoyed the traditional Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Day.



Earlier in March, Simon and Sarah Marshall led us in the first Parish "Grounded Service" in Oak Cottage Garden. We were blessed with wonderful weather and experienced our Lord through the natural environment and creative activities as we worshipped there.



Passion and Easter Weeks also saw 8 Crafternoons which attracted nearly 100 children for crafts and games which were much enjoyed and appreciated; we welcomed many children who were not regulars at our services. It was a huge amount of work. Thank you Ben and your team and many volunteers for this.



It was with sadness that we learned of the death of David Patterson. Much will no doubt we said about his life in Parish News and elsewhere but we wanted to express our thanks to God and to David for an amazing life of service to the Parish over

such a long time. We do particularly pay tribute to his study and knowledge of the History of the Parish, St. Alphege Church and indeed the Borough as a whole. He will be much missed.

By the time you read this, all of our churches and the Parish will have held their annual meetings. We are grateful to all the people who agreed to stand for election and have taken on responsibilities in the Parish. However, we still have vacancies. Please give some thought as to whether you could spare some time for these. 'Job Shares' are possible and you do not have to wait to be asked!

There are still some places for the Launde Abbey Weekend – please do consider coming to what we expect to be a very enjoyable and meaningful time. Those who attended the Quiet Morning were able to experience and enjoy a Labyrinth, of which there are two at Launde. Details of the Parish Away Day on Saturday 12th September will be out soon.

Please keep praying for all that is going on in the Parish.

Pam Price
Andrew Williams
April 2026

TOM^OTHE
WOOD

Country Pub and Restaurant



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

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

This ancient 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 many hundreds of households in Solihull through the print edition and many more via the online version as well as supporting your church.

Contact our Advertising Manager, Tim Drakeford

**TELEPHONE:
0121 705 4494**



COMPUTER REPAIR

Ontrack
Computers Ltd

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



- ☺ **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.**

EMSI SOFT
AUTHORISED PARTNER

Microsoft
REGISTERED
RESALE

Google
Reviews ★★★★★



Call Mike Nash On Local Number : 01564 330 505

www.ontrackcomputers.co.uk

email : helpme@ontrackcomputers.co.uk

Thomas Bragg & Sons Funeral Directors



A Life Well Remembered Lives On

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

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

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

www.thomasbragg.co.uk

Shirley

0121 744 1428

562 Stratford Road, B90 4AY

Knowle

01564 773 610

1682 High Street, B93 0LY

Funeral Partners



BUKKY | PRIVATE PHYSIOTHERAPY

Expert Care. Exceptional Results.

With over 19 years of clinical experience, Bukky provides a refined, personalised physiotherapy service designed to restore movement, reduce pain, and optimise performance.

SPECIALIST HOME VISITS SERVICE

- Arthritic Joint Pain
 - Back and Neck Pain
 - Post Surgery Recovery
 - Fractures
 - Mobility Problems
- Falls
 - Chronic Pain
 - Neurological Rehabilitation
 - Post Accident Therapy
 - Sports Injury Rehabilitation

A BESPOKE APPROACH

Each session is tailored to your body, your goals, and your lifestyle – delivering focused, one-to-one care in the comfort of your home.

📍 Solihull & surrounding areas
☎️ 07342678797
✉️ bawosophysio@gmail.com

Private appointments available
Enquire today to begin your recovery journey



FEEL BETTER. MOVE BETTER. LIVE BETTER.



Ruby

Precious Stone Care

Help with washing & getting dressed * Preparing medication *
Accompanied GP & hospital appointments * Companionship *
Light cleaning & washing

Contact Ruby for a free consultation

Caring for the elderly in their own homes in and around Solihull

Call 07803401094 or Email rubykathryn09@live.co.uk

Website featuring reviews
www.preciousstonecare.co.uk
Private Home Carer - Competitive rates - 7 years
experience - Dementia trained - DBS Checked

Matters of Faith

'I heard the voice of Jesus say'

by Horatius Bonar (published 1846)

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
 Thy head upon My breast."
 I came to Jesus as I was,
 Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
 And He has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Behold, I freely give
 The living water; thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live."
 I came to Jesus, and I drank
 Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 And now I live in Him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,
 And all thy day be bright."
 I looked to Jesus, and I found
 In Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk,
 Till trav'ling days are done.

Horatius Bonar (1808 -1889) was a Scottish Presbyterian minister, poet, and prolific hymnist whose 19th-century works, including over 140 hymns, greatly influenced English-speaking worship.

In fact, "*I heard the voice of Jesus say*", arguably Bonar's most well-known composition, is based on Matthew 11:28-30;

²⁸ 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

and Isaiah 55:1, entitled 'An invitation to Abundant Life':

55. *Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
 Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.*

A recent Songs of Praise interview with the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, revealed 'I heard the voice of Jesus say' to be one of her favourite hymns, and she stated verse 3 as her absolute favourite verse.

For myself, this hymn has spoken quite clearly to me many times over the years. Amongst other things, I love that each verse is a call to action – *God speaks, we act* – and that the hymn draws us on, from weary, to thirsty, to traveller. It's a hymn very much about Jesus and about his care for our holistic wellbeing, so that we can respond and live a life extraordinary with him.

Incidentally, while researching the hymn for this article, I found a version with an anonymously written fourth verse:

4. *I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"My Father's house above
Has many mansions; I've a place
Prepared for you in love."
I trust in Jesus—in that house,
According to His word,
Redeemed by grace, my soul shall live
Forever with the Lord.*

Although well written, I can't help thinking that the original hymn doesn't need this fourth verse as Bonar's composition is complete in itself. What do you think?

Do any of the verses speak to you where you are today?

Why not spend some time with Bonar's three verses and/or listen to the hymn and be blessed by it. You're in good company!

(And yes, I did just align myself with the Archbishop of Canterbury, as women of faith and taste!)

Thanks for listening!

Suzette

For Your Diary



- Thursday 7th May** : 1.30pm in St Alphege Church. *British Sign Language* with Shakila Kosar.
- Saturday 16th May** : *Diocesan Cream Tea* at St Laurence Church, Northfield.
- Thursday 21st May** : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.
- Thursday 4th June** : 1.30pm in the OBH. *Strawberry Tea celebrating 150 years of MU*.
- Thursday 18th June** : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.
- Thursday 2nd July** : *Annual Outing at St James the Great, Shirley*. Eucharist at 10.30am followed by *Lunch* at Plume of Feathers, Shirley at 1pm.

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

WIVES' FELLOWSHIP

The next meeting for this friendly Lunch Club will take place on Friday 1st May. If you are interested in joining this friendly group for fellowship and a good meal, please contact Carol Caldicott on the phone number below.

Carol Caldicott
0121 705 3168

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

NOTE FOR ADVERTISERS AND POTENTIAL ADVERTISERS

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

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE JUNE EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS MUST BE IN
BY FRIDAY, 8th MAY PLEASE.**

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

P STEPHEN & PHILIP PAINTER

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
INDEPENDENT & FAMILY-OWNED



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

HALL GREEN OFFICE

192 ROBIN HOOD LANE
HALL GREEN
BIRMINGHAM B28 0LG

TEL: 0121 777 4300

ACOCKS GREEN OFFICE

213 YARDLEY ROAD
ACOCKS GREEN
BIRMINGHAM B27 6LZ

TEL: 0121 707 1172

WWW.STEPHENANDPHILIPPAINTER.COM

SOLIHULL PARISH SAFEGUARDING

<i>Safeguarding Coordinator</i>	Vacancy - interim co-ordinator Pam Price, songmeister20@gmail.com	0121 704 3104
---------------------------------	---	---------------

SOLIHULL PARISH CONTACTS

<i>Parish Wardens</i>	Andrew Williams, arwilliams399@gmail.com Pam Price, songmeister20@gmail.com	0121 705 3268 0121 704 3104
<i>St Alphege Deputy Warden</i>	Sheila Sayers, 636 Streetsbrook Road	0121 705 5331
<i>St Alphege Stewardship Recorder</i>	Frank Upton, 1 Rectory Road	0121 705 2963
<i>St Helen Deputy Warden</i>	Chris Carrington carringtons.church@gmail.co	0121 705 0902
<i>St Helen Hall Bookings</i>	Jeremy Eade, solomere@aol.com	0121 706 3831
<i>St Michael Warden</i>	Keith Wilson akeithwilson@hotmail.co.uk	0121 778 2295
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	Julia Hanson, pccsecretary@solihullparish.org.uk	
<i>PCC Treasurer</i>	Martin Finch, pcctreasurer@solihullparish.org.uk	
<i>Parish Electoral Roll Officer</i>	Stephen Linstead, 20 Silhill Hall Road	0121 705 1376

SOLIHULL PARISH NEWS CONTACTS

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

OLIVER BIRD HALL

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

SOLIHULL PARISH STAFF & CONTACTS

Priest in Charge, Rector Designate	The Revd. Nick Parker Not available on Mondays	rector@solihullparish.org.uk 07890 720240
Associate Priest	The Revd. Simon Marshall	simon@solihullparish.org.uk 07514373 400
Pioneer Minister (Not available Thursdays)	Suzette Maguire 10 Middlewood Close, Solihull, B91 2TY	s.maguire@solihullparish.org.uk 0121 709 0884
Readers	Stephen Linstead Chris Carrington	0121 705 1376 0121 705 0902
Honorary Assistant Priests	The Revd. Anne Haselhurst The Revd. Roger Chamberlain The Revd. Sue Chandler The Revd. Roy Murray	annehaselhurst@talktalk.net revrog@hotmail.co.uk s.chandler@solihullparish.org.uk 07970 791288 fatherroy47@gmail.com 0121 714 5216
Priestly Assistance is also offered on occasion by	The Revd. Canon Andrew Hutchinson The Venerable Paul Taylor	fr.andrewhutchinson@btinternet.com pstaylor53@gmail.com 07796 691203
Director of Music & Organist	Christopher Martin Thomas	c.thomas@solihullparish.org.uk
Assistant Organist	Harry Brown	
Music Department Administrator	Isabel Baumber	isabel@solihullparish.org.uk
Director of Children's Families & Youth Ministry	Ben Yates Tammy Strong Assistant Children's Worker Room 3, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	childrensministry@solihullparish.org.uk 07838 670772
Youth Assistant	Lynn Smart Youth Office, Oliver Bird Hall, Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 3RQ	l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk 0121 661 6303
St Alphege Verger	Paul Evans Verger's Office at St Alphege Church	07443 917726
St Alphege Tower Secretary	Sand Cooper	sand.cooper@outlook.com



Peace of Mind

Need advice on Headstones?

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

POLLARD MEMORIALS

www.pollardmemorials.co.uk

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

Phone 01676 534618

326, Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, CV7 7ER



Design. Print. Finish.

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

www.prontaprint.com

126 Station Road, Knowle B93 0EP

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

Business as usual!
following all safety guidelines
of course

