

SOLIHULL
PARISH **NEWS**

150 YEARS OF
Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in

Lighting the way for
generations to come

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 12th July 11.00 a.m. Parish Eucharist for all ages

Sunday 19th July 11.00 a.m. Choral Eucharist

5.00 p.m. Evensong, except:

Sunday 26th July and 30th August 5.00 p.m. Taizé 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 5th, 26th July and 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th August

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

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

Visit our Website

www.solihullparish.org.uk

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

Cover picture

The Mothers' Union, providing Christian care for women and families worldwide, is 150 years old this year.

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Editorial

On the first weekend of June, about 60 members of our parish had the privilege of attending the Parish Away Weekend at Launde Abbey retreat house in Leicestershire. There, we were able to take time to pray, reflect, worship and to learn together.

The theme of the weekend was 'Blessing', which we explored through Bible stories, creative activities, worship, prayer and fellowship. The beautiful gardens of Launde Abbey, and the delicious and plentiful food, also offered opportunities to ponder the blessings which God gives to us.

We were led through our weekend by the Reverend Charlotte Gibson, Missioner for St. George's, Edgbaston and Anglo-Catholic Missioner for the Diocese of Birmingham. The Venerable Richard Trethewey, Archdeacon of Leicester, also led two sessions of teaching and reflection on the subjects of 'putting God at the centre', and 'blessing and sacrifice'.

The weekend began in the beautiful medieval chapel, with a celebration of the Eucharist. As President, Charlotte introduced us to the practice of Benediction. Before the service began, Charlotte explained that Benediction, which means 'blessing', is a devotional act whereby we are invited to reflect on the mystery of the Eucharist and on the great gift of Jesus, who makes himself known to us in the bread and wine.

At the end of the service, part of the consecrated bread was taken from the altar to a smaller chapel, where it remained for the following two days so that we might come and pray there in the presence of Christ. This was a very moving experience which, through Charlotte's careful explanation, was opened up to those of us who had not previously experienced this devotion.

As the weekend progressed, we also thought about how God's blessing can be shared as widely as possible, so that not only our churches but also our whole community might be blessed and transformed. This next stage of the process invites us all - whether or not we were able to attend this weekend - to play a part in the growth of the mission and worship of our parish.

In his talks, Archdeacon Richard helped us to focus on these areas and led us to reflect on a number of questions:

- How has God blessed the churches of our parish? What does 'being blessed' look like?
- What blessings have our churches received which we can share with our community, so that it may also be blessed?
- What does it mean to 'be a blessing' to our community? And how might we need to change so that we learn not to put our own desires at the centre of things?

The Away Weekend was full of blessings. If we now take time to reflect on and to share what was learned there, it will continue to bless us all: our churches, our parish and the people whom we are privileged to love and to serve in the name of Christ.

Fr. Simon

SHEPHERDSON COURT DAY CENTRE

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Compassion



Compassion is a Christian charity that lifts children out of poverty in the name of Jesus.

Compassion empowers a child to overcome physical, spiritual and emotional poverty for good. We ensure a child receives nutritional support, regular check-ups, and the support of their local church community. We give a child living in poverty the educational support they need for a brighter future. All through the local church.

From the moment the sun rises, children wake up to a world shaped by choices they didn't make. But every child, everywhere, also wakes with rights. Including the right to be protected, the right to a home, the right to learn, the right to clean water, the right to a childhood. and the right to have their voice heard. Yet there are 412 million children living in extreme poverty around the world, many with no access to education, clean water or a regular meal.

Today 2.4 million children are supported out of poverty globally through Compassion in partnership with churches and individual Christians. Working across South and Central America, Africa and Southeast Asia, Compassion supports the whole child, health, education, nutritious meals all through the local church.

Neville Willerton works for Compassion UK as the Head of Strategic Partnerships and will be speaking to St. Michael's and St. Helen's congregations at St. Helen's on the 30th of August and at St Alphege on the 27th of September. He will share the breadth of the work and stories of impact that Compassion is having in areas of global poverty. This will be an opportunity to hear and be encouraged by stories of transformation.



Treading the Boards

Our rector Nick, along with his wife Helen and daughter Emma are appearing in *Calamity Jane* which runs from 8th - 12th September this year at the Core Theatre. Nick has a small comedy part as Rattlesnake the coach driver and Emma is in the dance company. They would love to welcome parish friends to the show and invite you to be in touch if you would like tickets.

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

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

1 st July	St. Alphege C. of E. Junior School SongSquad
8 th July	To be confirmed
15 th July	To be confirmed
22 nd July	Athena Trio
August	There are no concerts in August

Roundabout

Celebrating 150 Years of Mothers' Union: Join Us, Join In – Lighting the way for Generations to Come



2026 marks 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in the small parish church of Old Arlesford, Hampshire, by Mary Sumner – a home educated young vicar's wife with a powerful vision. She dreamed of women, regardless of class or status, coming together in faith to support one another and strengthen family life within the church.

From that small flame of an idea, a global movement was born. Today, 150 years later, Mothers' Union has grown to around 4 million members in 84 countries, working to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world. We now hold general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. At the heart of all we do is our belief that faith and compassion can transform lives.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven", (Matthew 5:16)

And shine a light is what our members do. Whether a family is in need of a break, a baby is born prematurely, a family is struggling with a parent going to prison, Mothers' Union members are there offering care, support and love without judgement.

All of our work is guided by our three core pillars of transformation: Ending Violence – promoting peace and safety, Ending Injustice – advancing gender justice and Ending Poverty – fostering self-reliance and resilience.



Our global programmes include literacy and savings groups, parenting and resilience training and domestic abuse awareness campaigns. These initiatives are rooted in local communities – we listen first, then respond with practical faith-led action. Every day, globally, our members carry out thousands of quiet acts of service that bring hope and healing.

Mothers' Union today reflects the diversity of the modern world. We are a movement that continues to evolve, welcoming people of all backgrounds and identities. While we are a women-led movement, men are welcome to join and you don't need to be a parent either! 150 years of courage, care and community and we're just getting started – so why not join us?

Roundabout

Over many years our branch has helped fundraise for the overseas campaigns previously mentioned, but we have also implemented programmes such as the parenting course locally. Children's Praise, a group for pre-school age children and their parents, was started and led by MU for over 25 years. With the support of the clergy, we still run the Marriage Preparation course for couples getting married across the parish. The 'Souls of Our Shoes' exhibition curated by our branch, tours Birmingham diocese supporting Women's Aid and highlighting the UNs' 16 days of Activism Against Violence towards Women and Girls.

Blankets are knitted for the homeless; presents provided for prisoners' children at Christmas and of course we continue to host our annual fundraising Pancake Party and provide refreshments and hospitality across the parish, with a supply of cakes as necessary.

Our Solihull branch meet in the Oliver Bird Hall every first Thursday (except July and August) for 1.30 p.m. We have a varied programme of speakers which is advertised towards the back of this magazine – our meetings always end with refreshments and a chance to chat and catch up.

There is no commitment to attend meetings for any member - your annual subscription goes towards the work of Mothers' Union and other help can be offered from home. As a member you will have access to all we do and news of our projects; whether you are passionate about social justice, community outreach, prayer or simply want to connect with others who care, we invite you to get involved. So, if you aren't able to attend meetings due to work or other reasons, you will be kept up to date with what is happening at branch, diocesan and national level via digital or physical newsletters. We would love to have more members of working age and young parents join us; your voices would be welcomed to shape our future projects.

To find out more about what's happening or what we do look out for a local member at church – we should be wearing a badge! Come and find out more on Sunday 5th July 2026, when we 'TakeOver' church services parish wide, as part of our anniversary celebrations.

Mary Sumner Prayer

All this day, O lord,
let me touch as many lives
as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.



Find out more: <http://www.mothersunion.org/>

Contact us: Branch Leader: Susan Haigh <mailto:hillwalker32@icloud.com>

Elaine Diskin <mailto:elainediskin@hotmail.co.uk>

Our Busy Month of May - Part 1

May is always a busy month for us. It kicked off with our ringing outing to Leicestershire. When I write about our outings I often talk about similar themes. Firstly, the weather, it was just right, lovely and sunny but not too hot. We're not really sure how Gillian, our organiser, manages to get this right? Secondly, the benefit of ringing in towers new to us. Once again, we came home having been reminded how easy going our bells are and how lucky we are. Our newer ringers really benefit from trying bells that are more flighty (less easy to control), bouncy ropes, both overly noisy and overly quiet bells (making them difficult to pick out from each other) and extra-long drafts, which is the distance from the floor to the ceiling. In such cases where there are no rope guides, handling bells absolutely correctly is not only extra important but, to be honest, a little intimidating even for the more experienced.

Thirdly, we often mention a 'novelty tower'. This is always completely by chance because Gillian can only research the number and weight of the bells. Hard to pick out this time. We had to cross the roof at Thurnby to get to the ringing room. At Great Glen we had to move stored items out the way to ring and, at Oadby, with no local ringer to let us in, we had a complicated list of pre ringing checks to undertake. Here also, we found the best 'spider' for the day,



(a device to hold the ropes up out of the way for safety.) But the crown probably goes to Billesdon where the ropes were very oddly arranged. The lightest and heaviest bells were very close together making a tidy ringing style essential, it was rather awkward. The 2nd through to the 5th were hung in a long straight line with ringers giggling as they stood, quite literally in some cases, shoulder to shoulder holding ropes hung so close to the wall that you'd struggle if you had a wide girth! At least you could rest by leaning against the wall! And it was amusing trying to see around each other as we rang. All this whilst the 6th rope was hung in a corner of its own! Turns out the locals rarely ring all eight bells together because they find it so hard!

The View from the Tower

Finally, there's always the food. Gillian did us proud, organising for an unsuspecting publican to create a menu for us at lunch time when they don't even normally have a food offering. But they simply had to help because they were the pub at our lunch stop! They did a great job for us and seemed to love being wrapped up in our conviviality and joy. We unexpectedly had tea and coffee laid on at an afternoon tower where the parish warden had turned out specially to greet us. In the evening we'd eaten so much that Robin needed help with his sweet and the ladies ordered extra spoons so that we could oblige! There was the usual 'herding of cats' and stragglers to round up as we shepherded the ringers back onto the bus after each stop. The worst of the bunch will know who they are, but of course they're forgiven for snatching a look in churches as we whisked away.

I think it could be said that the theme of the day was



ropes. Not only had the ropes been so close together at Billesdon but at the same tower, literally as we rang the last few blows of the visit, the rope of the lightest bell broke and as Malcolm chimed it to end, the rope came cascading down around his head! Alan's harsh jibe "where there's no sense there's no feeling!". Later in the day at Great Glen, the ropes had been tied so tightly to some iron railings to make them safe while unattended, that it was hard work to release them to ring! They were challenging too as they were a bit springy having only been fitted the week before.

Once again, a truly magnificent day out and a whole lot of fun. Great that so many of the band could make it and it was lovely to be joined by ringers from local towers that we often ring alongside, Castle Bromwich, Moseley, Sheldon, Shirley and even further afield, Feckenham. Thank you Gillian for another special day.

So, what else was going on? Well we had additional ringing for Ascension Day, we rang in a striking competition run by the St Martin's Guild of Church Bell Ringers (The Diocesan Guild of Ringers), we celebrated Bell Sunday with you, a visiting band rang a long extent on our bells and just into June, there will be additional ringing for Corpus Christie. But more on this in the next edition...



Let us Pray

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for July 2026

1	Henry, John & Henry Venn the Younger, Priests, evangelical divines, 1797, 1813, 1873	That we may share our faith openly	Monkspath Hall Road
2	Feria	Those whom we have loved and lost	Muswell Close
3	Thomas the Apostle	Those struggling with their faith	Naseby Road
4	Feria	Those who care for the churchyard at St. Alphege	Netherwood Close
5	5th Sunday after Trinity	Our Pioneer Minister, Suzette Maguire	Newfield Close
6	Thomas More, Scholar and John Fisher, Bp of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs	Those persecuted for their faith	New Road
7	Feria	The people and leaders of Ukraine & Russia	Northwick Crescent
8	Feria	Those who work in the Touchwood Centre	Oaken Drive
9	Feria	Bishop Anne	Oakland Close
10	Feria	The work of our Parish Church Council	Oakley Wood Drive
11	Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c.550	Members of Religious communities	Oakwood Croft
12	6th Sunday after Trinity	Our Parish Wardens, Pam & Andrew	Oldington Grove
13	Feria	Those waiting for the results of medical tests	Oldway Drive
14	John Keble, Priest, Poet, 1866	Archdeacon Jenny Tomlinson	Orchard Avenue
15	Swithun, Bp of Winchester, c.862	Our Archbishops, Sarah & Stephen	Park Avenue
16	Osmund, Bp of Salisbury, 1099	The people of St. Alphege Church	Park Road
17	Feria	The staff and pupils of the schools in our parish	Perryford Drive
18	Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England, 1883	Archdeacon Phelim O'Hare	Pinfold Road
19	7th Sunday after Trinity	Bible Translators	Pinley Way
20	Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th cent	Those preparing for baptism	Pool Meadow Close
21	Feria	Those caring for a family member who is ill	Poolfield Drive
22	Mary Magdalene	Paul Evans, St. Alphege Verger	Poplar Road
23	Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373	The people of St. Helen's Church	Poplar Way
24	Feria	Linda Hicks, Parish Director of Children and Families Ministry	Princes Way
25	James the Apostle	Our Priest-in-charge, Nick Parker	Prospect Lane
26	8th Sunday after Trinity	The work of Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness	Ratcliffe Road
27	Brooke Foss Westcott, Bp of Durham & Teacher, 1901	Musicians, singers and choirs of our parish	Ravenshaw Lane
28	Feria	Chris Thomas, St Alphege Director of Music	Ravenshaw Way
29	Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of our Lord William Wilberforce, Social Reformer,	The staff of funeral directors in our town	Rectory Gardens
30	Oludah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson, Anti- Slavery Campaigners, 1833, 1797 & 1846	The people of St. Michael's Church	Rectory Road
31	Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus	Those in prison and their families	Redbrooks Close

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

Let us Pray

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for August 2026

1	Feria	Community groups which use our church premises	Redlands Close
2	9th Sunday after Trinity	Staff and residents of local care homes	Redlands Road
3	Feria	Those taking summer holidays	Riverside Drive
4	John-Baptiste Vianney, Spiritual Guide, 1859	Spiritual directors and counsellors	Rollswood Drive
5	Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642	Those who work in national and local government	Rowlands Crescent
6	The Transfiguration of our Lord	That we may declare our faith in Christ in word and deed	Rowood Drive
7	John Mason Neale, Priest & hymn-writer, 1866	Hymn writers	Ryefield Close
8	Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221	The Readers of our Parish	Saddlers Mews
9	10th Sunday after Trinity	Mother's Union members in our parish	Saintbury Drive
10	Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258	The work of food-banks in our town	Sandal Rise
11	Clare of Assisi, Founder of the Poor Clares, 1253	That we may live simply and generously	Sandhills Crescent
12	Feria	Online delivery workers	School Lane
13	Jeremy Taylor, Bp of Down & Connor, Teacher, 1667	Our parish administrators	Seven Star Road
14	Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941	Staff, patients and volunteers of the Marie Curie hospice	Sevington Close
15	The Blessd Virgin Mary	Those awaiting the birth of a child	Sharmans Cross Road
16	11th Sunday after Trinity	Understanding between all faiths	Shelsey Way
17	Feria	Those who are looking for work	Shustoke Road
18	Feria	The St. Alphege bell-ringers	Silhill Hall Road
19	Feria	Local Mental Health support services	Silverbirch Road
20	Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher 1163	The work and witness of Churches Together in Central Solihull	Smiths Lane
21	Feria	The Solihull Town Centre Chaplaincy	Solihull Bypass
22	Feria	Medical and support staff of Solihull Hospital	Somerby Drive
23	12th Sunday after Trinity	Our church and parish treasurers	Southey Close
24	Bartholomew the Apostle	That we may point others to Christ	Spilsbury Croft
25	Feria	Those who work in the Touchwood Centre	St Alphege Close
26	Feria	Doctors' surgeries in our town	St Bernard's Road
27	Monica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo	Those exploring religious vocations	St Helen's Road
28	Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher, 430	The staff of Queen's Theological Foundation in Birmingham	Station Approach
29	The Beheading of John the Baptist	Those who suffer for their faith	Station Road
30	13th Sunday after Trinity	Writers and poets	Stonebow Avenue
31	Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651	The clergy of the Yardley & Solihull Deanery, and our Area Dean, Tony Rindl	Stoneleigh Road

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

From the St. Alphege Register

Baptisms

31st May Jessica Bea Hill

Weddings

None

Renewal of Vows

None

Funerals

4th June Tamarah Nikomi Tameeka Gad at St. Alphege
23rd June Penelope Bridget Klein at St. Alphege
25th Jun Roy Nash at St. Alphege

Interment of Ashes

29th June Margaret Jean Harrison

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in July and August

Adel Azer
Alfred Butwell
Amy Butwell
Alice Caldicott
Pam Cooper
Brian Curran
Irene Dallaway
James Dallaway
Anthony Herbert Dann
Alfred Dudley
Phyllis Flood
Ivy Fowler
James Frangou

Elsie Greasley
Diana Gregory
Len Gregory
Eileen Groutage
John Groutage
David Lawrence
Edna Madeley
Roy Mander
James Mawson
Joan Mitchell
Alexander Moir
Sandy Moir
Aileen Moss

Irene Patey
Barrie Prince
Alma Reah
Nan Roland-Smith
Albert Rowland-Smith pr.
Kurt Schoch
Ian Stanley Temple Senior
Margaret Sterling
Lilian Thomas
William Turner
Susan Woodward
Stephen Woollas
Betty Wright

Worship Notes for July and August

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

Friday 3rd 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!"

Saturday 11th 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.

Wednesday 15th 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.

Wednesday 22nd 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.

Thursday 6th 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.

Sunday 30th 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.

Monday 31st August – St. Aidan

Aidan was one of St. Columba's monks at the monastery of Iona and was sent as a missionary to Northumbria at the request of King Oswald. Aidan was consecrated Bishop of Lindisfarne in 635. He lived simply and walked everywhere so that he could speak directly to the people he met. In the year 651, Aidan was taken ill at Bamburgh and died on the 31st August in that year.

Morning Prayer

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

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

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

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



Live and streamed services are being held at St. Alphege's, St. Michael's and St. Helen's churches.

Details are inside the front cover of this magazine and on the Parish Website.

<https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>



S t A l p h e g e

Sunday 12th July

9.30 a.m. All Age Holy Communion

July/August 2026 Services

Wednesday 1st July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 2nd July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist + Prayers for Healing and Anointing
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Sunday 5th July – Trinity 5 (Celebration of 150 Years of the Mothers' Union)

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	Journey Service
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 Prayer

Wednesday 8th July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 9th July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Sunday 12th July – Trinity 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.	Civic Service
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

Wednesday 15th July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 16th July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Sunday 19th July – Trinity 7

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	Journey Service
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.	Evensong

July/August 2026 Services continued

Wednesday 22nd July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 23rd July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Sunday 26th July – Trinity 8

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	Journey Service
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.	Taizé

Wednesday 29th July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 30th July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Saturday 1st August

St. Michael	3.00 p.m.	Grounded Church – Lammas Day
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Sunday 2nd August – Trinity 9

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	Journey Service
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 5th August

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 6th August – Feast of Transfiguration

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist, Prayers for Healing and Anointing
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Sunday 9th August – Trinity 10

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	Journey Service
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 12th August

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 13th August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Sunday 16th August – Trinity 11

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	Journey Service
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 19th August

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 20th August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Sunday 23rd August – Trinity 12

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	Journey Service
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 26th August

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 27th August

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

Sunday 30th August – Trinity 13

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Alphege	9.30 a.m.	Journey Service
St. Helen (with St. Michael)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	11.00 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Taizé



The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church

Visit to Hartlebury Castle and Bishop Hurd's Library.

A very warm welcome was extended to The Guardians by the volunteers at Hartlebury Castle. We were served tea and scones on arrival, before our visit to Bishop Hurd's Library. This Bishop of Worcester was a shy and studious man but popular with King George III and his wife. The King and other notables contributed to what may be the only surviving unchanged historic book collection of an Anglican Bishop. Ancient texts with links to Solihull had been selected for our perusal. Those interested in literature or history should consider a visit to this regional treasure. You will be well looked after.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday 7th July

Guardians Summer Drinks Party 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This has proved a popular fundraising event, kindly hosted by Ann Taylor, for members in recent years. The cost is £10 and includes drinks and refreshments. There will be a raffle so prizes will be welcome. Please contact Martin Ayers to book by emailing martinkayers@yahoo.co.uk by the end of Sunday 5th July.

Wednesday 2nd September

Autumn Coffee Morning at Baddesley Clinton.

The team at Baddesley Clinton have very kindly agreed to support us running a Guardians fundraising coffee morning in a room adjacent to their café. For tickets, please contact Phil Godfrey at philcgodfrey@btinternet.com who will provide timings and admission details.

11th to 22nd September

Heritage Open Days.

St. Alphege is planning to join this national event.

Thursday 1st October. 7.30 p.m.

Guardians of St. Alphege A.G.M. Oliver Bird Hall

A chance to review and plan for 2027. Refreshments will be available.

The Trustees hope to see as many of you as possible at these events.

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 June 2026 to remember the following:

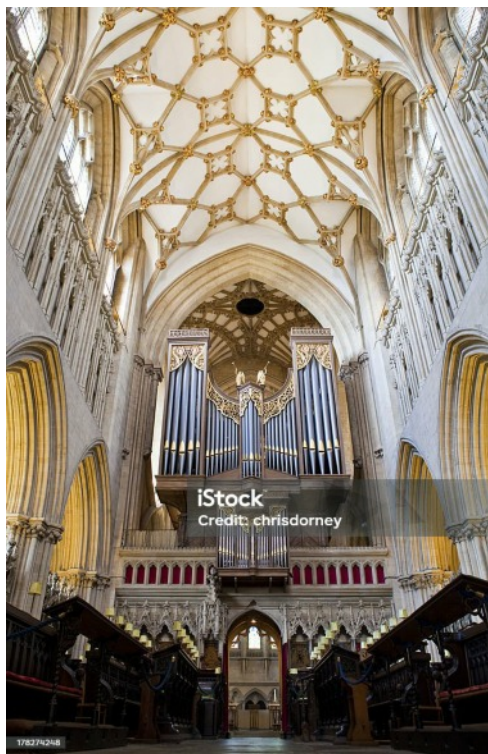
- 3rd June In loving memory of Jonathan Mark
- 4th June In loving memory of Colin Price
- 8th June In loving memory of Jordan Jane Page (Jo)
Beautiful, brave and much loved
- 9th June In loving memory of Neil McDonough on his birthday
- 14th June Remembering John Goodman on his birthday and celebrating a life so well lived. Reunited with Jackie
- 16th June In loving memory of Michael Hartley
- 27th June Jordan Jane Page (Jo). In loving memory of Jordan Jane Page (Jo) on her birthday

The Church will be floodlit in July to remember the following:

- 1st July In loving memory of Jonathan Mark
- 6th July In loving memory of Jackie Goodman
- 11th July Colin Price. With love on your birthday
- 21st July In fondest memory of David Wright on his birthday. A devoted husband, father and grandfather

Music Matters

As we go to press, the St. Alphege Choirs are preparing for the Summer Concert, a performance of Handel's *Messiah* with "home-grown" soloists. Tom Lilburn, Countertenor, was Head Chorister at St. Alphege, but is now a distinguished soloist nationally and internationally and a Lay Clerk at St. George's Windsor. He was the counter tenor in the quartet that sang at the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral. Matthew and Joel Skaria, our Tenor and Bass soloists were both Choristers here and are now studying to be doctors. Joel is a Choral Scholar at Cambridge University.



A full report will appear in the September Parish News.

After a busy Summer Term, which included singing Evensong at Coventry Cathedral, the choirs are looking forward to their end of term presentations of medals and certificates and then their residency, for a week in August, at Wells Cathedral, arguably the most beautiful of English cathedrals.

Carol Southworth.



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

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What's on for Families?

July & August

In The Week



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



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



Youth Club

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

Sundays



Sunday 5th July, Sunday 19th July, Sunday 26th July,
Sunday 2nd August, Sunday 9th August, Sunday 16th
August, Sunday 23rd August & Sunday 30th August

All at 9.30am at St Alphege Church, Church Hill,
B91 3RT



All Age Worship

Sunday 12th July - 9.30am

St Alphege Church, Church Hill, B91 3RT



Grounded Church

Saturday 1st August - 3pm

St Michael's Church, Bryanston Road, B91 1BS

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CHURCH HILL
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sign up here!



Summer Dates 2026:

TUESDAY 21ST - FRIDAY 24TH JULY 2026

TUESDAY 28TH - FRIDAY 31ST JULY 2026

TUESDAY 4TH - FRIDAY 7TH AUGUST 2026

TUESDAY 11TH - FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST 2026

Christmas Dates 2026:

sign up here!

MONDAY 21ST - WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2026





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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.

**You are
Invited
to Alpha**

**For the
Explorers,
Open-minded
Still thinking
curious**



Start Date – Tuesday 9th June 2026 Time - 7.30pm

- then Tuesdays after that. See below for dates and course content.

Where - St Michael's Chapel, Bryanston Road. B91 1BS

Alpha is a series of excellent videos followed by group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. Everyone's welcome. Whatever your background or beliefs, you're invited.

To sign up or find out more,

Email alpha@solihullparish.org.uk Or ring Parish Office - 0121 705 5350

www.solihullparish.org.uk



Alpha Course in Solihull Parish

Here is a List of the Sessions. Tuesdays at 7.30pm

Session 4	How Can I Have Faith?	June 30 th
Session 5	Who Is The Holy Spirit?	July 7 th

July and August are fairly quiet months for most people, as Summer holidays mean that our towns and cities see an exodus to the seaside, either here or overseas, and the pace of life seems to slow down. The same can be said about St. Helen's church, as the lazy days of Summer bring a slowing down of special events and festivals. Although if you look carefully at the lectionary, you will see that July and August have their fair share of significant events to celebrate. The feast day of Thomas the apostle falls on the 3rd July, and on 22nd July we remember Mary Magdalene. On the 6th August we celebrate the Transfiguration (although certainly in the Roman Catholic church this is celebrated also on 15th February this year as Transfiguration Sunday.) On 15th August we remember Mary, the mother of Christ, since this is considered the day on which she was received into heaven. Not to be confused with 8th September, when her birth is celebrated! And on the 24th August we remember Bartholomew the Apostle. So actually not such quiet months after all !

In early June several members of St. Helen's had the great pleasure of spending time with members of our sister churches at Launde Abbey. We thought about blessings, the many ways in which God has poured his grace into our lives. We heard talks from Revd. Charlotte Gibson and Revd. Richard Threthewey, Archdeacon of Leicester. We were given the opportunity to paint icons, create artistic works and write prayers or poetry, among other delights. On the first evening there was a wine tasting 'competition' which brought with it much hilarity, a huge thanks go to Andrew and Fran Halstead for arranging that. It was much appreciated. And if all of that was not enough, we had the opportunity to simply enjoy the beauty of Launde itself, a former priory which still maintains a real sense of holiness and tranquility. We worshipped and prayed together and enjoyed superb meals and fellowship, as we were very well cared for by the staff there. It was a wonderful experience for all concerned. Huge thanks go to all who organized the weekend, and to the staff of Launde itself.

We continue to think about the revitalisation which is planned for our church and continue to pray for those who are involved in conversations about how that will eventually look for St. Helen's.

The Montessori School, following a fairly slow start, now has quite a few pupils and it is a joy to know that our building once again is a place of learning, laughter and love for the little ones who attend and their families. And of course, as I write this in June, we look forward with great joy to welcoming our brothers and sisters from St. Michael's, who will be joining us for worship and fellowship throughout the weeks of Summer.

And of course, looking further forward, we look towards September and harvest, and further still to Advent and Christmas! Although not quite yet!

In the meantime, from all of us at St. Helen's, we wish you a long and relaxing Summer.

Revd. Sue

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Faith in Ordinary Places

It is often said that we spend much of our lives waiting for the “big moments” – celebrations, milestones, or life-changing events. Yet most of life is made up of ordinary days, ordinary conversations, and ordinary acts of kindness. It is in these moments that our faith is quietly formed.

As a church family, we gather each Sunday for Holy Communion in a school hall. To some, that might seem an unusual place for worship. There are no ancient stone walls or colourful stained-glass windows. By Monday morning, school activities will once again fill the room, and the sounds of school life will replace our hymns and prayers.

Yet this reminds us of an important truth: the Church is not first and foremost a building but a community of people following Christ. Wherever Christians gather in his name, God is present. The earliest believers met in homes, courtyards, and borrowed rooms. Their faith did not depend on magnificent surroundings but on their trust in God and their care for one another.

Our daily lives offer countless opportunities to live out that faith. A kind word to someone who is lonely, patience with a difficult neighbour, a phone call to someone who is unwell, or a quiet prayer for those in need may seem small things. Yet these simple acts often reveal God's love more powerfully than grand gestures.

The rhythm of Sunday worship strengthens us for the week ahead. We come together to hear God's word, to receive Holy Communion, and to encourage one another. Then we are sent back into our homes, workplaces, and communities to be Christ's people in the ordinary places of life.

In a world that often values success, noise, and achievement, the Christian life teaches us something different. Faithfulness, humility, and love are the qualities that build God's kingdom. We may never know the full impact of our small acts of service, but God can use them in ways we cannot imagine.

So, as another week begins, may we remember that every day is an opportunity to serve God. May our words bring hope, our actions show kindness, and our lives reflect the peace and love of Christ wherever we are.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." (Colossians 3:23)

During August we are unable to meet in the school, so we are always grateful for the welcome extended by our friends at St. Helen's Church, so for some of us we worship as invited guests in a different church. We shall return to Oak Cottage School on Sunday 6th September.

Also, during August we shall continue with the Chapel services. Each Wednesday at 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer followed by the Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m. On the first Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. we have Chapel Chat, also in St. Michael's Chapel.

Paul Smith



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Wimbledon afternoon

Friday 10th July, 1pm - 4pm

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“Remember”

We appear to live in a society today where the words *retro* and *vintage* are commonly used – usually to describe something that I remember from my lifetime! Even without that though, we often use remembering to govern our year through life, whether that be using the Church calendar as of old, i.e. Advent; Christmas; Epiphany; Lent; Mothering Sunday; Easter; Ascension; Pentecost; etc; or the more worldly calendar adopted in recent years of Christmas; Valentines Day; Mothers’ Day; Easter; St. George’s day; Father’s Day; and so on. In this way, remembering is very much a fact of everyday life.

I remember being on one of my first holidays abroad, and I was with a friend in Austria. We stayed in St. Wolfgang, a beautiful lakeside village. Every morning the whole place smelt like icing sugar, as the pastries were prepared for everyone’s breakfasts and then, every afternoon, the whole place smelt like spicy sausages, as other meals and or snacks were prepared. I can’t smell either of those things now without being transported back to that place. That’s a fond memory. Of course, the things that we recall from the past – or that are recalled by our senses - are not always so welcome.

It is, however, important that we remember.

There is a very complicated Jim Carrey film entitled *‘Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind’*, where, to cut a long story short, people have unpleasant experiences erased from their minds so that they won’t keep remembering them. However, the upshot of this erasure is that people then keep repeating the same mistakes, because they don’t remember making them in the first place! In short, if we stick our hand into the fire, we need to remember how that felt or we are likely to do it again!

In the Christian faith, remembering is a vital practice that involves recalling God’s faithfulness, His promises, and the teachings of Jesus, which strengthen believers’ faith and connection with Him. Key verses include the following:

Deuteronomy 8:2

2 Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments.

Psalm 103:2

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—*

Luke 22:19

19 Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’

1 Cor 11:2

² I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions just as I handed them on to you.

I wonder which of these verses speaks the most to you today about remembering?

Do you have a sense of God leading you, especially if you feel that you are in a personal wilderness at this time?

Do you remember and/or give thanks for *'all his benefits'*?

When did you last take Communion and think about Jesus's instruction to *'do this in remembrance of me'*?

What Christian traditions do you value? How were they passed on to you and by whom?

What other thing or things does a focus on remembering throw up for you?

It may seem like the 'wrong' time of year to place a focus on remembering. However, for me, this July and August, and possibly every July and August for the rest of my life, are intrinsically linked to remembering. And, as such, I would like to offer you an invitation.

31st July has been named (by two of my grandchildren) *'National Shortbread Eating Day'*, in memory of my husband, David. Anyone who knew David couldn't fail to know how much he loved shortbread, and on his birthday, Father's Day, and Christmas, we were often inundated with the stuff. So much so that, one particular year of plenty, when he looked at the pile of tins and exclaimed "I'll never eat all that!", I did have to point out to him that it wasn't necessary to eat it all at once!

So, on 31st July, my family and I invite you to join in with *our 'National Shortbread Eating Day'* remembering, by either making, eating, gifting or donating shortbread in David's name. For those on Facebook, I'd also invite you to share a photo with me on my Facebook page and tag David Maguire in. That way we all get to see what the day has brought about.

Finally, I'd value your prayers for my family and I as we remember David on the anniversary of his death, or, as we prefer to call it *'National Shortbread Eating Day'*.

Do pass the idea on, and I leave you with a smile as I know how much David would have loved it!

Thanks for listening!

Suzette

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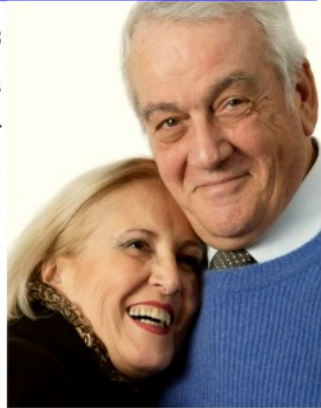
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News from the Church of England

A homily preached by our Bishop Michael at Bishop's Study Morning on 11th June, based on Matthew 9.35-38 that is not only timeless but also directly related to divisive events we are seeing in our Diocese and across the United Kingdom.

Jesus went about all the cities and villages; teaching, proclaiming, healing. He had compassion on harassed and helpless crowds. He instructed his disciples to pray that God would, 'send out labourers into the harvest'; an enormous task, that requires many workers.

You and I are already labouring. Praise God! And we are instructed to pray that God would send more people to join in. As you know, 'raise up workers for the harvest' is the fourth of the five points that Bishop Esther and I have been encouraging us to pray. We are asking that God would:

- Have mercy on the city and region.
- Give us great love for the city and its people.
- Break the power of evil in Jesus' name.
- Raise up workers for the harvest.
- Bring many to faith in Christ.

I encourage us to pray these prayers with expectancy. We are committed to growing churches at the heart of each community. Growing churches need labourers to love and serve those whom God is bringing to our doors. And growing churches are called to share in proclaiming the coming kingdom of God. A kingdom marked by welcome, justice, and peace. A diverse kingdom in which people come from every tribe and nation to sit as honoured guests at Jesus' table.

But as we gather here, we are all aware of a counter-proclamation which is gathering momentum in our city and region, and across the nation. It is a message of suspicion, intolerance and hatred. A message spread by those who want to sow fear and cause division.

We have all watched what has happened on the streets of Belfast and Southampton. Britain First are planning a 'March for Remigration' in Birmingham city centre on Saturday 20th June; the day of our ordinations. It is also International Refugee Day. The leader of Britain First, Paul Golding, finishes his publicity video for this event by inviting listeners to, 'Come and join us as we take our country back'. Golding's message and the aims and intention of the march is antithetical to Christianity and in direct opposition to the values of the Kingdom of God.

Bishop Esther and I have written a statement opposing the ideology behind this march which has been signed by leaders of other Christian denominations and leaders of other faiths. In it we say, 'As faith leaders we will continue to work together for the peace and flourishing of all in our city'. We believe that this is in line with Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom. It is a message that needs amplifying. The more people sharing this message of peace and hope, the greater the likelihood that attempts to spread fear and hate will falter and fail.

Even as we do make our own efforts to resist evil and share the message of the Kingdom, let's renew our resolve to pray to the Lord of the harvest, as Jesus instructed, that he would send out labourers into the harvest; Many, many labourers; young and old, from every tribe and nation, who can share the light of the gospel, resist the darkness, and help us to step towards God's hopeful future.

Let us pray:

God of love and mercy,
Through your son, you instruct us to pray
that you would send out labourers into the harvest.
In faith and anticipation, we ask that you would indeed raise up and send out
many faithful Christians to be lights in the darkness
and to boldly share the good news of your coming kingdom.
We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ,
Amen.

Bishop Michael

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Update from the Parish Wardens

Pentecost is a joyful occasion when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. At the All Age service at St. Alphege, the Parish Youth celebrated it with the presence of the London 2012 Olympic Torch as you can see in the picture of the Youth and leaders.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have two Deputy Wardens at St Alphege: Becky Ward and Lis Wilkin are due to be elected at an Extraordinary General Meeting on 28th June. We are so thankful to them for agreeing to do this and we trust that they will be blessed by their service as they bless us.

Our Parish Away Weekend at Launde Abbey finally came at the beginning of June – ‘Blessings’ was the theme of the weekend

away and we were certainly blessed as Nick has mentioned in his article elsewhere. As we were blessed, the message many of us took away is that we need to bless others by our service to them, and by us showing them Jesus so they can come into the blessing of His Presence with them. It was a great weekend with time for worshipping, speaking, listening, being creative, eating, drinking and having fun.

Details will be available soon for the Away Day on Saturday September 12th at Newlands Bishop Farm at Catherine de Barnes and we hope that many will come to this day which is for all ages – something for everyone with spiritual input too. As we found at Launde Abbey – one of the big blessings of these times away are the opportunities to meet our fellow parishioners – to renew friendships and make new ones. So please do apply and encourage others to do so too.

It is good to see St Alphege Church being used more – we saw this one Saturday evening recently with 3 short concerts when 600 people came in total. And more concerts have been booked in the coming months. Church Buildings are there to be used and it has been good over the past year or so to have St. Alphege open in the daytime – thank you to those who welcome people.

The Grounded Church that Simon and Sarah have put on in Oak Cottage Gardens on Saturday afternoons have been really good times of worship and fellowship with words,



singing, prayers and creative activities in the nature God has provided all around. The next one is on Saturday 27th June at 3 p.m. – do come along for the hour or so.

We do pray for opportunities for everyone for rest and recreation over the summer holidays. But it will not much of a rest for Ben as he heads up many *Crafternoons* in July and August. These will be great creative opportunities for young people – please do encourage them to sign up, and if you can, volunteer to help. Please see the centre pages of this edition of Parish News for full details.

Please keep praying for all that is going on in the Parish and thank you for all your work and support.

Pam Price
Andrew Williams
June 2026

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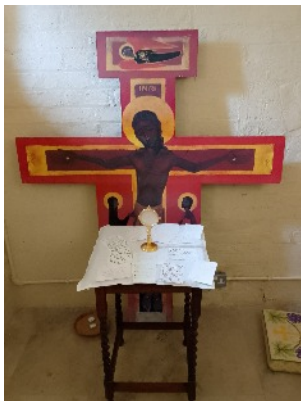
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Matters of Faith

Away Day for All the Parish Family

Having just enjoyed a fabulous Parish Away Weekend, as the following photos show, we are now turning our attention to making plans for our Parish Away Day in September.





This is being held at Newlands Bishop Farm (Berry Hall Lane, Solihull, B91 2RY) on Saturday 12th September from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Our theme remains the same as the Away Weekend, namely a focus on God's blessing and the renewal his promises. Solihull Parish is a community of communities and one of the greatest blessings of the away weekend was the way it brought everyone together. In this respect the Away Day promises to be an even more significant moment as we bring together members of all ages who are connected to our parish in various ways – through our ministry to children, families, and youth; through our pioneer ministry (Wellbeing Wednesday); through 6th Solihull St. Alphege; through the St. Alphege Preschool, Infants and Juniors; through our ringers, our choirs, our church congregations - indeed all are warmly invited whatever their connection might be. The day will be inexpensive – the only charge being lunch – and will offer lots of fabulous and fun activities culminating with worship in the much-appreciated forest church style which will regularly offer at Grounded Church. We hope very many people will wish to be part of this special day and encourage people to book places through the parish office. Bookings will open in July with more publicity to come. In the meantime, we ask you to mark the date in your calendar.

Rev. Nick

For Your Diary

Thursday 2nd July :	<i>Annual Outing at St James the Great, Shirley.</i> Eucharist at 10.30am followed by <i>Lunch</i> at Plume of Feathers, Shirley at 1pm.
Sunday 5th July :	MU members will be featuring in the services at all three churches in the parish to celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union.
Thursday 16th July :	10.30am in church. <i>MU Corporate Eucharist.</i>
Saturday 25th July :	12 noon to 3pm at Birmingham Cathedral. <i>150 years Celebration of MU</i> followed by a <i>Service of Thanksgiving.</i>
Saturday 8th August :	12.30pm at All Saints, Four Oaks. <i>Diocesan Fundraising Lunch.</i>
Thursday 20th August :	10.30am in church. <i>MU Corporate Eucharist.</i>
Thursday 3rd September :	1.30pm in the OBH. <i>A talk about Marie Curie Hospice</i> with Ben Thomas.
Thursday 17th September :	10.30am in church. <i>MU Corporate Eucharist.</i>

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 3rd July. If you are interested in joining this 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.

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