



Harvest Festival

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 13th September 9.30 a.m. Parish Eucharist for all ages

Sunday 20th September 11.00 a.m. Choral Eucharist

5.00 p.m. Evensong, except:

Sunday 20th September 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 6th, 20th and 27th September

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*.

Contents

Editorial	2
Roundabout	4
Let us Pray	10
News from Team Churches	11
St. Alphege	11
St. Helen	26
St. Michael	28
The Guardians of St Alphege	16
Music Matters	18
Church for Families	21-24
Youth Stuff	25
Pioneer Diary	30
Matters of Faith	40
For Your Diary	42
Address Book	44



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Visit our Website

www.solihullparish.org.uk

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

Cover picture

Harvest

Headlines

Solihull Parish Puppets	4
St. Alphege Deputy Wardens	5
Parish TakeOver	6
Bellringer News - <i>The View from the Tower</i>	8
News from the Church of England	34
Every Childhood is Worth Fighting for	36
Update from the Parish Wardens	38
I Heard a Talk Today about the Mothers' Union	41

The Festival of Creation in Christ

September brings with it the beginning of Autumn, when our thoughts turn to the mellowing of the seasons and thanksgiving for the harvest. In recent years we have also celebrated at this time the season of Creationtide. This is the period, running from 1st September to 4th October, St. Francis's day, when congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it.

The celebration was introduced by the late Ecumenical Patriarch, Demetrios I, in 1989. Since then, 1st September (chosen because it is first day of the Orthodox ecclesiastical year) has been adopted as the start of Creationtide. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland adopted the concept in 2008. And in 2016, Pope Francis declared 1st September an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

The celebration of Creationtide is in large measure driven by the environmental crises the human race currently faces. But it also draws on roots in Scripture and in Christian traditions of the relationship between God, humanity and the created order. The theme for Creationtide 2026 is living water, based on Ezekiel 47:1-12. God's life-giving water flows from the temple of God, growing deeper, restoring barren land, reviving waters, and sustaining flourishing ecosystems. The vision calls us to immerse ourselves in the water, safeguarding and working for the renewal of creation so that environmental healing and human well-being may flourish together.

While we have been celebrating Creationtide for some time, this year sees a further development in that the first Sunday in September is now celebrated as the **Festival of Creation in Christ**, thus acting as a launchpad for the remainder of the season. The Revised Common Lectionary includes this as an official festival and provides specific readings. Bishops Michael and Esther have particularly commended to churches in the Diocese the celebration of this day, which is now acknowledged by all the main Christian traditions.

The introduction of this new festival comes at a poignant moment in human history. The appalling fires and droughts that have affected so much of Europe this summer come as a timely reminder that concern about climate change, global warming and the part in it played by humanity is not just some hypothetical doom-mongering but a present threat already bringing great suffering to many on this the planet. Nor is it just Europe that is suffering. The World Health Organisation of the United Nations points to the views of scientists that humanity is already suffering severely through heatwaves, fires, floods and the spreading of infectious diseases.

The introduction of the new festival urges us to take the question of the environment and climate change seriously and to contemplate prayerfully what we as Christians can do individually and collectively to meet the serious crisis threatening humanity and the planet.

Stephen Linstead

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 LODGE 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

The months following Easter were fairly quiet for the Parish Puppets, but we focussed on preparing for our performance during the All Age service at St. Alphege on 12th July. The theme was the parable of the sower and the seed and so we decided to perform to the song "Hey, seed sower", a parody of the song "Hey, Soul Sister," (written and performed by Train) which I was surprised to hear being played in Morrisons one day!

One of the challenges of a puppeteer is to make a puppet be "alive" throughout a performance and Mark did a great job of making the sower active whenever he appeared, his main role being just to sow seed throughout the song. Of course, I am proud of all the performers, who just keep getting better and better!



Some of us are looking forward to attending the Equip Festival, which will take place at the Renewal Church on 23rd and 24th October. This will be a great opportunity to see professional puppeteers and other creative people perform, as well as to pick up lots of useful ideas and tips.

As always, we would love more people to be involved in Solihull Parish Puppets. We currently meet on Mondays from 6-7 p.m. during term time in St. Helen's Chapel to prepare and rehearse for performances. If you are interested in finding out more or joining us, please contact me at ruth_sabbagh@msn.com Adults and children aged 10 and over are welcome.

If you missed us in July, you can catch us on 13th December at the All Age service in St. Alphege, if not before. Hope to see you there!

Ruth Sabbagh

St. Alphege Deputy Wardens

At the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 28th June at St. Alphege Church, we were delighted to elect Lis Wilkin and Becky Ward as our new Deputy Wardens. We are very grateful to them for agreeing to step into the vacant roles and look forward to their ministry. In order to coordinate communication at St. Alphege, there will be one 'go to' person at each service. Do please approach these people if you want to know anything, or if you would like to volunteer as a sidesperson, or a lector or intercessor.

8.00 a.m. Eucharist - Jenny Page

9.30 a.m. Journey Service – Becky Ward

11.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist – Lis Wilkin

5.00 p.m. Evening Service – Pam Price

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.

The Wednesday Music recitals will start on Wednesday 9th September.

Programme to be announced.

Isabel Baumber

'Parish TakeOver'

On Sunday 5th July the services at St. Alphege, St. Helen and St. Michael were 'hijacked' by Mothers' Union, to celebrate 150 years of this worldwide organisation. We were made incredibly welcome by everyone at each church and we thank all the clergy and congregations for their support.



Mothers' Union was founded by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife from Winchester. Her vision was to support the women in her parish, many of whom were primarily concerned about getting enough food on the table so their children would not starve. She believed that women could all support one another in motherhood, regardless of class, age and status, with the primary responsibility to raise their children in the love of God.

The fundamental focus of Mothers' Union has remained true to Mary's belief. So, faith and prayer continue to be at the heart of everything that our members do; wherever they live. Did you know that every day at 12 noon, some members pray, either together or alone, creating a wave of prayer around the world across all the time zones?

When Mary started that small parish group, she wouldn't have envisaged a women-led, international Christian movement with over 4 million members in 84 countries. Yet, her vision, her faith and her call for action are still so relevant today.

The name hasn't changed - and is unlikely to - but what has changed is how inclusive Mothers' Union has become. Originally, open to married mothers only, now anyone can become a member - women and men, regardless of whether they are married or parents.

"Wow – I never knew you did all that!"

During the services we were able to share some of the achievements of the organisation. But as we have had enquiries about 'what else?' we thought we'd share a few more achievements from last 150 years...

- 1886 – our first overseas branch was formed in Christchurch, New Zealand
- 1909 – we became Britain's largest voluntary organisation for women
- 1926 – *Royal Charter* was granted giving MU independent legal status
- 1929 – instrumental in raising the legal age of marriage from 12 to 16 for girls
- 1945 – successfully lobbied (along with other groups) to have *Family Allowance* payments made direct to mothers as opposed to men
- 1996 – at least 125 MU members ordained as priests
- 2000 – gained consultative status at the *United Nations*
- 2003 – invited to nominate a member representative to the *PEGI Advisory Committee* advising on the age and appropriateness of video games; creating a single computer game rating system still used across more than 35 Pan-European countries. We are the only faith-led group on the committee

Roundabout

- 2003 – involved in petitioning and lobbying for the *Domestic Abuse Bill* which finally moved to legislation in 2021
- 2005 – joined the *Make Poverty History Campaign* and the *Jubilee Debt Campaign* advocating for debt relief in the world's poorest countries
- 2006 – led a longstanding campaign for the right to request flexible working arrangements for all parents; advocacy was instrumental in the passage of the *Work and Families Act 2006*
- 2010 launched the *Bye Buy Childhood* resulting in tighter regulation around marketing to protect children from exploitation
- 2014 – contributed to policies informing the *Children and Families Act*
- 2018/19 – MU constitution revised to modernise governance and reflect the global nature of the movement, including a Worldwide Board including our first male trustee
- 2024 – HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh becomes our royal patron
- 2026 – our work continues as we celebrate 150 years... ***Can you be part of our future?***

Mothers' Union is in almost every diocese in England, Ireland and Wales. Celebrations and 'TakeOvers' are happening worldwide throughout the year and throughout the country. In June a 150th anniversary service at St. Paul's Cathedral was led by Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury. In her sermon, she stated (of Mothers' Union) "*YOU are the powerhouse of the Anglican Communion*" and commented that "*if you need something doing, ask the Mothers' Union to do it!*"

'Join us Join In' to 'do something'; as we actively live out Christ's call to justice, peace and love in the next 150 years. Find out more: <http://www.mothersunion.org/>

If you would like to become either a participatory *local member* or a *Friend of Mothers' Union* supporting the work of our worldwide movement, please contact:

Branch Leader: Susan Haigh hillwalker32@icloud.com or



Bellringers News

More from May

Before the Summer break you may recall I wrote about our busy month of May? Only it was so busy there wasn't room for it all! So, here's Part Two.

Striking Competition

We very proudly took part in a striking competition run by the St. Martin's Guild of Church Bell Ringers, the local Diocesan Guild that many of our band are also members of. There were in fact 3 competitions all held at Moseley. We entered the 6 bell novice call change competition, this competition was held at St. Mary's. We also entered the 6 bell method competition held at St. Anne's. We had several of our band members away so we couldn't enter a team for the 8 bell competition though, to be honest, the standard was so high I think we may well have been a tad intimidated if we'd tried!



Striking competitions can be rather anxious affairs. We went along very much with the attitude that it's the taking part that counts. Though, there had been a little bit of practising, and we were determined to make Solihull proud. We started at St. Anne's where there was tension as we waited on the tower stairs for our slot. These bells aren't the easiest and are what we would call 'oddly struck' which means that it's more difficult to anticipate when the sound will come, in relation to the pull of the rope. We held our heads up high with a joint third place when the results were announced.

Then it was a mad dash to run back to St. Mary's where the novice bands were already underway and two of our band members were joining them. It is true to say that our team were probably the least experienced, our band included 4 members who are at level 1 & 2 of the Association of Ringing Teachers scheme, that we follow. It's an uncomfortable ring at St. Mary's where it's a ground floor ring and you're in sight of everyone watching from the nave. Our team did come last but that's fine. They were congratulated by the Ringing Master of The Guild for taking part and the judge commented on their tenacity so, all was not lost. A huge thank you to all of the Solihull band members who stepped up to the plate to represent us. And whilst we didn't bring any silverware home, we did have a glorious "ringers' tea" laid on by the band at Moseley. Just to further put our ringing into context, Birmingham Diocese has a very high reputation of good striking, so much so that the judges for the 8 Bell competition who had travelled from Bristol for the day, commented that they felt rather daunted to be asked to judge the ringing!



The View from the Tower

Bell Sunday

You may also recall that back in May we celebrated Bell Sunday with you. Thank you for welcoming us at The Journey and at the 11 o'clock. This too was a busy day as the second half of the Journey Service clashes with our usual ringing time so, it wasn't going to be possible to repeat quite what we've done before for The Junction. However, where there's a will, there's a way and Plan B was initiated! Whilst most of the band were up in the tower for our usual ringing, a few of us took our model of the church, one of our model bells and some of the smallest handbells down to the Oliver Bird Hall. After a brief introduction, pointing



out on the model where we ring and where the bells hang in the tower, we explained a little about our ringing with the bell model. Lara, one of the team there, was a delight. She'd recently visited the tower with The No 1 Club and she was able to remember the 'do not touch the ropes' message, for safety. She remembered the difference between bells being in the upright position and being down and why some bells can be unsafe.



As we'd been talking, the children had been edging towards the handbells in anticipation! With a reminder not to touch the bell metal or let the bells touch each other, we were off! Bells in hand, flicking away to create the sound. We made as much noise as we could before trying something a little more organised. They shuffled themselves into order, lightest bell first through to the deepest note and with numbers held up they

rang in rounds, 1 through to 12. Then we called them into changes, swapping the numbers in couplets as we went along. We managed to get into 'queens' 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, just as we would with our tower bells. They were terrific. We had a bit of a swap around so that everyone could have a go and we set off again. Well done them.

We then dashed off back up the tower so that the band could go into church for the 11 o'clock with the same model bell, a bell rope, the largest of the handbells along with the thank you poster that we'd just been presented with, walking in through the internal tower door as the choir processed past. Linda read one of the readings in the bell themed service. Afterwards band members mingled with the congregation to talk about our ringing. We were so pleased to find that a ringer who hasn't rung for many years approached us and, we hope she will join the band going forward.

Sand Cooper

Let us Pray

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for September 2026

1	Giles of Provence, hermit, c.710	For those pursuing the contemplative life.	Redlands Close
2	The Martyrs of Papua New Guinea, 1901 and 1942	For The Church in the Pacific.	Redlands Road
3	Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, Teacher, 604	For The Roman Catholic Church.	Riverside Drive
4	Birinus, Bishop, Apostle of Wessex, 650	For the Diocese of Oxford.	Rollswood Drive
5	Feria	For Sarah and Stephen, our Archbishops.	Rowlands Crescent
6	The Festival of Creation in Christ	For the care of the environment.	Rowood Drive
7	Feria	For the work of Solihull Action on Homelessness.	Ryefield Close
8	The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary	For The Mothers' Union and all mothers.	Saddlers Mews
9	Charles Fuge Lowder, priest, 1880	For those living and working in slum conditions.	Saintbury Drive
10	Feria	For Michael and Esther, our Bishops.	Sandal Rise
11	Feria	For the work of Solihull Action on Homelessness.	Sandhills Crescent
12	Feria	For Churches Together in Central Solihull.	School Lane
13	The 15th Sunday after Trinity	For our Parish Wardens and the PCC.	Seven Star Road
14	Holy Cross Day	For confidence to proclaim Christ crucified.	Sevington Close
15	Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258	For the Church in North Africa and the Middle East.	Sharmans Cross Road
16	Ninian, Bishop of Galloway, Apostle of the Picts, c. 432	For the Church in Scotland.	Shelsey Way
17	Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179	For those who exercise a prophetic ministry.	Shustoke Road
18	Feria	For Nick and all the clergy serving in the Parish.	Silhill Hall Road
19	Theodore of Tarsus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 690	For The Southern Province.	Silverbirch Road
20	The 16th Sunday after Trinity	For Chris Thomas, our Director of Music and all choirs in the Parish.	Smiths Lane
21	Matthew , Apostle and Evangelist	For all churches dedicated to St. Matthew.	Solihull Bypass
22	Feria	For the Guardians of St. Alphege Church.	Somerby Drive
23	Ember Day	For those preparing for Michaelmas Ordinations.	Southey Close
24	Feria	For our District Wardens and DCCs.	Spilsbury Croft
25	Launcelot Andrews, Bishop of Winchester, Spiritual writer 1626,	For preachers and spiritual writers.	St Alphege Close
26	Wilson Carlyle, Founder of the Church Army, 1942	For our Pioneer Minister, Suzette, and all evangelists.	St Bernard's Road
27	The 17th Sunday after Trinity	For our Ministry to children and young people.	St Helen's Road
28	Feria	For readers and all licensed lay ministers.	Station Approach
29	Michael and all Angels	For St Michael's Church and all other churches so dedicated.	Station Road
30	Jerome, translator of the Scriptures, Teacher, 420	For translators of scripture .	Stonebow Avenue

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

From the St. Alphege Register

Baptisms

28 th June	Lily Rose Mawson
	Logan Jude Kelly
12 th July	Thea Francesca Harwood
19 th July	Alfie George Bednall

Weddings

18 th July	Timothy Christopher Trace and Sophie Ellen Thompson
	Mark Christopher Grant and Clair Louise Andrews

Renewal of Vows

None

Funerals

22 nd June	Velma June Hands at Robin Hood Crematorium
1 st July	David Robert Jordan at Robin Hood Crematorium
21 st July	Sheila Mary Pittaway at St. Alphege
27 th July	Shirley Whitney at St. Helen
29 th July	Stephen John Fisher at St. Alphege
30 th July	James Geoffrey Trotter at Robin Hood Crematorium
11 th August	Keith Suthern at St. Alphege
13 th August	Arthur Cecil Edwards at St. Alphege
14 th August	Andrew Charles Donald at St. Alphege
17 th August	Pamela Jones at St. Alphege

Interment of Ashes

22 nd July	Sheila Mary Pittaway
31 st July	Marilyn Ruth Osborn
6 th August	Wendy Margaret Meikle
1 st September	Kathleen Vera Wyldes
4 th September	David Arthur Caldicott
17 th September	Evelyn Jean Berry

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in September 2026

Reginald Bernard Aston	David Hudson	Harry Pilkington
Ann Casey	Nigel Paul Ladbrooke	Colin Pittaway
Vernon Cecil Davis	Tony Marshall	Noreen Porter
Geoffrey John Day	Peggy Oswald	Eileen Rivers
Sue Hewitt	Wendy Patterson	Alice Shirley

Worship Notes for September 2026

The Festival of Creation in Christ (6th September)

September sees the start of Creationtide, when Christians throughout the world unite to pray for the environment. It starts at the beginning of September and ends on the 4th October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. From this year onwards, the First Sunday in September will also be specially celebrated as the Festival of Creation in Christ.

The other principal feasts and celebrations in September are:

Holy Cross Day (14th September)

A feast observed in honour of Christ's self-offering on the cross for our salvation.

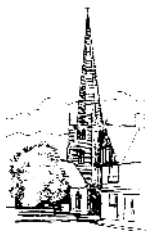
Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (21st September)

Named in the New Testament as one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. According to Christian tradition, he was also author of the first Gospel, and is thus also known as Matthew the Evangelist.

Michael and all Angels – 'Michaelmas' (29th September)

On this day we remember that creation comprises things unseen as well as seen. Angels feature in both Old and New Testaments and are portrayed as messengers of God. Michael is referred to in Revelations as the leader of the heavenly host in its fight against Satan. Other angels named in scripture are Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel.

Stephen Linstead



S t A l p h e g e

Sunday 13th September

9.30 a.m. All Age Holy Communion

The EQUIP Festival

THE UK'S ULTIMATE CREATIVE MINISTRY CONFERENCE IS COMING TO SOLIHULL!

“

Equip has changed the way I view my ministry, story telling, and everything I knew about how to share Jesus”

23rd-24th October 2026
Renewal Solihull, B91 2JR

“

“You will arrive, thinking you are able to do one thing, but you will leave knowing you can achieve anything!””

WHAT IS “THE EQUIP FESTIVAL?”

The Equip Festival is designed to inspire and equip you with creative ideas for sharing the Gospel in fun and engaging ways. Using puppets, storytelling, gospel illustrations, Drama, Science and so much more!

WHY YOU CAN'T MISS IT!

Enjoy hands-on workshops, live sessions, worship, practical training, resources, and awesome people!



EXPERT
SPEAKERS



BREAKOUT
SESSIONS



MAIN STAGE
SHOWCASES



RESOURCES
HUB

**LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!
BOOK NOW!**

EARLY BIRD TICKETS FROM JUST £85
Child and day passes also available



**SCAN HERE
TO FIND OUT MORE
& BOOK YOUR PLACE**

OR
HEAD TO EQUIPFESTIVAL.CO.UK



September 2026 Services continued

Sunday 6th September – Trinity 14

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 9th September

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

Thursday 10th September

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

Saturday 12th September

Newlands Bishop Farm	2.00 p.m.	Grounded Church at Parish Away Day
----------------------	-----------	------------------------------------

Sunday 13th September – Trinity 15 / Harvest Festival

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 16th September

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

Thursday 17th September

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

Sunday 20th September – Trinity 16

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

Wednesday 23rd September

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

Thursday 24th September

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

Sunday 27th September – Trinity 17

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

Wednesday 30th September

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

Thursday 1st October

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist + Prayers for Healing and Anointing
-------------	------------	---

Morning Prayer

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

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

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

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



Live and streamed services are being held at St. Alphege's, St. Michael's and St. Helen's churches. Details are inside the front cover of this magazine and on the Parish Website.

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



The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church

At the start of our hot summer, on July 7th, Guardians enjoyed 'Summer Drinks' hosted by Ann Taylor in her house and garden. Ann generously donated our liquid refreshments. It was well-attended and raised £470. Thanks are also due to Martin Ayers for managing the event.

The Guardians are particularly grateful to a couple present, who wish to remain anonymous, who donated a further £5000 to our charity. This gift was very gratefully received. It rounded off a most enjoyable evening.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 2nd September

Autumn Coffee Morning at Baddesley Clinton 10 a.m. to 12 noon

The team at Baddesley Clinton have very kindly agreed to support us running a Guardians fundraising coffee morning in the room adjacent to their café. Please contact Phil Godfrey (philcgodfrey@btinternet.com) to check if late booking is still possible.

Saturday 19th September

Heritage Open Day 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

St. Alphege is joining this national event. It is being run by the Parish with the help of The Guardians. There is no charge for entry. Tours and refreshments will be available. See: heritageopendays.org.uk

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 provided. Details of the agenda and minutes from last year will be sent to members via e-mail shortly. It would help if you can let Judith j.hetherington@btinternet.com know if you can join us or are sending your apologies.

Date to Be Announced

Guardians Christmas Lunch

Other News

To allow redecoration of the Parish Office two metal cupboards needed to be emptied and moved. The contents were a strange mixture. Up to date files and accounts. old photographs, minutes of meetings from around 50 years ago, bound magazines over 100 years old and a slide projector accepting 2 slides only, which looked pre 1960s. In addition, there were old metal printing plates. It turns out we have more of these plates stored away. Can anyone shed light on why we are storing them or what we should do with them? Most are related to printing the Parish Magazine many decades ago.

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 August 2026 to remember the following:

4 th August	In loving memory of Jonathan Mark.
6 th August	Remembering John Goodman and missing him every day.
11 th August	Alan Wilson. In loving memory of a wonderful father.
13 th August	In memory of my beloved wife. Barbara Eccles, to commemorate our 60th wedding anniversary. Robert.
19 th August	In loving memory of Stella Wright, and happy times, on her birthday. John and Annette.
26 th August	In loving memory of Jackie Goodman on her birthday.
30 th August	Remembering Stella Wright, forever in our hearts. John and Annette.

Music Matters

This year's Summer Concert was a full performance of Handel's iconic *Messiah*. Our choirs sang the choruses and we were privileged to work with two professional soloists and a professional chamber orchestra. The tenor and bass solos were sung by Matthew Skaria, Joel Skaria and Thomas Baumber, all either current or former choristers.



The text sets passages from the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, creating an oratorio divided into three parts: Prophecy and Christmas, the Passion and Resurrection, and Eternal Life.

The Worshipful the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Sardul Marwa MBE JP, accepted our invitation to attend the concert even though he had a family birthday celebration that evening – we very much value his support.

The concert was greatly appreciated by the audience, being described as 'superb' and 'fantastic'.

Isabel Baumber

Choir Tour to Wells Cathedral

Wells Cathedral certainly lived up to its reputation as "unquestionably one of the most beautiful of English cathedrals" (Wikipedia) and our choirs enjoyed a wonderful week in residence there at the beginning of August. We sang Choral Evensong every day except for Thursday, which was our day off, and on Sunday sang at the morning Cathedral Eucharist as well. We sang a variety of music during the week, from composers as varied as the 16th Century Christopher Tye through to present day John Rutter.





We stayed in one of the Cathedral School's boarding houses, which was very convenient for getting to and from rehearsals and services, and had a nice common room for the young people for social time.

On our day off, we went to Wookey Hole, where we visited the caves, walked through Dinosaur Grove, watched a 4D cinema film, and played adventure golf. We then went on to Burnham-on-Sea for the traditional beach visit. Sadly, we were unable to swim as the RNLI advised it wasn't safe, so we enjoyed games on the beach instead, and of course an ice cream!



We were made very welcome by the Cathedral, with a drinks reception on Tuesday evening and a guided tour on Saturday, giving us some interesting historical and cultural insights.

Huge thanks to everyone involved who made the trip such a success – to Chris and Harry for their musical leadership, to Pam and Alison for all their organisational help, to all the singers of all ages for their fantastic singing and participation, and to our supporters who joined us at the weekend. Looking forward to the next trip!

Isabel Bamber

**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*

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



What's on for Families? September In The Week



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



Friday 18th , 4-6pm, £2.50 per person (£10 max)
St Helens Church, Solihull



Youth Club

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

Sundays



Sunday 6th, Sunday 20th, Sunday 27th September

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



All Age Worship

Sunday 13th July - 9.30am

St Alphege Church, Church Hill, B91 3RT



Parish Away Day

Saturday 12th September - 10am - 3pm

Newlands Bishop Farm, Catherine-De-Barnes

AGE 5+

Crafternoons

HOLIDAY CRAFT CLUB

£5 PER DAY

EASTER - SUMMER - CHRISTMAS

Book your place @ childrensministry@solihullparish.org.uk

**DROP OFF FROM 1PM
COLLECTION UNTIL 4PM**

OLIVER BIRD HALL
CHURCH HILL
B91 3RT





sign up here!



September 2026 Dates
To be announced

Christmas Dates 2026:

sign up here!

MONDAY 21ST - WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2026





COME TO MESSY CHURCH

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

PLUS A HOT DINNER FOR EVERYONE!

Dates to be announced
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 5.00–6.30 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.

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

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

September sees more activity returning to St. Helen's during the week. During the Summer many activities have a break so there are no homegroups or Wednesday Lunches and many of the groups that use our hall, such as the ballet classes, Tumble Tots, Brownies and Guides also stop for the holidays. However the new Montessori Nursery continues all year round and the children are able to use the outside space as well as Coldlands Wood behind the church. Worship on a Sunday morning has of course continued and we enjoyed having St. Michael's with us for the month of August, contributing to the music and leading the intersessions etc. We are always pleased to welcome them and renew old friendships.

The church was also full on Monday 27th July for the thanksgiving service for the life of Shirley Whitney. She died at the age of 95 and had been very active and involved until shortly before her death. Her participation in many activities was shown by the large number of people who came to remember a full life well-lived. The uplifting service was taken by the Revd. Roger Chamberlain with participation from Shirley's son and daughter and grandsons and was followed by tea and cake.

So we now look forward to September and getting back to familiar routines. The Lydia Group will start on 7th and Thornby Homegroup on the 14th September and Wednesday Lunches on 2nd September. There are also extra events to plan for. On Sunday 20th September we shall welcome Jonathan Cheal to our Morning Praise Service. He has recently been appointed as a Trustee of MACS - Malawi Association for Christian Support, an organisation our church has supported for many years, and we look forward to hearing about recent developments following his earlier visit to Malawi.

On the evening of Saturday 26th September we plan to hold a Harvest Supper in the church before the Harvest Festival the following day, which will be instead of the Harvest Songs of Praise Service we have held in previous years, but we still intend to invite neighbours from St. Helen's Road and the congregation are asked to invite their friends and neighbours. So it will still be a time of outreach into the community.

Maira Wyatt



Ontrack
Computers Ltd

COMPUTER REPAIR

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

Which?
Trusted Trader

- ☺ **Which?** Recommended.
- ☺ Fully Insured.
- ☺ Home / Business Support.
- ☺ **WE COME TO YOU.**
- ☺ Established For over **20** Years.
- ☺ No Job To Small.
- ☺ **NOT** A Franchise.
- ☺ Friendly / **NO** Jargon.
- ☺ **BASD IN SOLIHULL.**

EMSIOSOFT
AUTHORISED PARTNER

Microsoft
REGISTERED
RESOLVER

Google
Reviews ★★★★★

ACRED

Which?
Trusted Trader

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**



Goodbye!

At the end of June St. Michael's said a sad goodbye to Sherwood and Geraldine Burge, who are moving south to be nearer their families. Both had been with St. Michael's for many years and also part of St. Alphege, with Geraldine being a member of the church choir there. Both played a full part in the life of the churches. Recently Geraldine had been a member of the District Church Council here at St. Michael's. For their final service at St Michael's they chose the hymns and readings. At the end of the service there were the usual drinks and a lovely cake that Geraldine had made. To mark the occasion Geraldine had composed a poem to mark their time at St. Michael's. They were presented with an icon of St. Michael and some plants for their new garden. We shall very much miss them and wish them well in their new home.



Celebrating Lammas with Grounded Church

On Saturday 1st of August more than 30 of us from the three churches gathered in the vicarage garden at Oak Cottage on a beautiful Summer's day to celebrate Lammas with a special *Grounded Church service*.

Surrounded by God's creation, we shared a simple time of worship, giving thanks for the first fruits of the harvest and reflecting on God's generous provision. The relaxed outdoor setting provided a wonderful opportunity for all ages to worship together.

As part of the celebration, everyone enjoyed a range of creative activities, including making traditional corn figures and baking bread over an open fire, finding seeds, and other activities. During the service there was something very special about sharing freshly baked bread together, reminding us of God's gifts and the importance of community.

It was a joyful afternoon filled with conversation, creativity, worship and thanksgiving. Thank you to everyone who came along and to all those who helped organise such a memorable celebration of the Lammas season. We look forward to gathering together again for future *Grounded Church* events.

The next *Grounded Church* will be at the Parish Awayday on 12th September.

St. Michael's is back at Oak Cottage School on 6th September, Chapel Chat will be on 3rd September from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in St. Michael's Chapel.

Paul Smith



Award
winning care
homes

Blossomfield Grange care home, Solihull

The Cake & Coffee Club

Monday 28th September, 10.30am - 12 noon

Share stories, enjoy fun activities and listen to your favourite music in our warm and welcoming cafe.

Open day with informative talk from Alzheimer's Society

Friday 11th September, 10am - 4pm

Join us for an informative talk from the Alzheimer's Society at 11am, alongside live entertainment including music from David Knowles at 3pm.

**To attend please call 0121 667 7805 or email
jo.hopkins@careuk.com**

Inspected and rated

Good

Care Quality
Commission

Trusted to care

care UK 

Blessings

As a parish we have been looking at 'blessings' this summer, most specifically at the Launde Abbey Away Weekend in June, and our upcoming Parish Away Day on 12th September, at Newlands Bishop Farm. (*Have you signed up for that yet?*)

With blessings in mind, I want to share with you what is a real blessing to me within my role as Pioneer Minister, and that is my Monday mornings. Monday mornings for me consist of *Prayer Quarter* at 10.15 a.m. and *Food4Thought* at 10.45 a.m., both at the Greville Arms, Cornyx Lane.

You may remember that *Food4Thought* has been going some time now so, at this time, I want to focus on *Prayer Quarter* that has been going for a year now September is here. (*Happy Birthday to us!*)

The History

Although the idea came about earlier in 2025, wanting to pray for those in need, including at the time my husband, David, *Prayer Quarter* began in September that year and is regularly attended by up to 12 people. In fact, we deliberately left a 15-minute gap between *Prayer Quarter* and *Food4Thought*, so that people could come along to one and not the other if they so wished, but everyone who has come along so far has come along to both events. When I asked participants for quotes about *Prayer Quarter* for this article, most people spoke about *Food4Thought*, which I think goes some way to show how inextricably linked the two are in people's minds.

The Practice

Whether participants remember or not a year in, at *Prayer Quarter* we use the digits of our hand to pray, that is: *Our thumb* reminds us to begin with praising God – we usually begin with hearing a psalm or portion of scripture. *Our index finger* – the finger we point with reminds us to give thanks, for that, and that, and that, etc. *Our middle finger* – in most people this is the tallest finger – reminds us to confess our sins to God. *Our ring finger* reminds us of our relationships and to pray for others. We use the Parish Magazine and the Church Army prayer diary amongst other things. While finally, *our little finger*, gives us permission to pray for ourselves and our needs.

The Timeline

A year in, it's important to reflect on how things at *Prayer Quarter* have changed or evolved over time and practice.

May 2026: For instance, the group always seemed to struggle with the confession part of prayer so, in May 2026, I asked their permission to use the confession from a Christian Aid service booklet. This was agreed and was used for a few weeks.

June 2026: Then, in June 2026, I introduced the group to the prayer of confession used at the Journey service at St. Alphege, complete with actions. They embraced that and we have been using it ever since. I reported this back to the P.C.C., and on paper, it reads something like "Prayer Quarter are now using the confession from the Journey Service."

In fact it should read more like this: *Prayer Quarter are now using the confession from the Journey Service?! Or like this: A bunch of Churchgoers and non-Churchgoers are sitting in the local pub doing actions and saying confession – and the rest – most Mondays?! In the local pub?! Witnessed by staff and other customers?! Praying in the community for the community?! Wow! I know I'm biased but sometimes the written word doesn't express clearly enough the 'feel' of what has taken place. Praise God!*

Also in June 2026, a member of the *Prayer Quarter* community suggested that we spend some of our time praying for others, in quiet, praying for those either side of us. So, most weeks we do that now too.

June/July 2026: A member of the group went on holiday and brought back a book of prayers linked to the Iona community. We use that to end our time of prayer most weeks, and some members of the group have volunteered to read it.

Generally, over time: Not surprisingly, *Prayer Quarter*, named initially after 15 minutes' of prayer, has now expanded to longer – usually 20+ minutes – so the *Quarter* part is now 'a specific area' (like 'the French Quarter'), not the length of time that we pray.

Last words: I'll let members of the *Prayer Quarter* community have the last words, before ending with an Iona prayer that we used recently, the week we looked at the word 'retreat'.

"Prayer Quarter is amazing. I have learned so much – it's an amazing journey to be on."

"Prayer Quarter helps me to be myself."

**'The Adventure of Community'
A prayer from Iona (by Fiona Barker)**

*God who walks with us the adventure of community,
remind us of your constant presence.*

*When we are full
give us the strength to bring light to others.*

*When we are empty
comfort and renew us.*

*When we need challenge
teach and stretch us.*

*And when we need rest
provide a stopping place on the way.*

Amen.

Thanks for listening!

Suzette

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

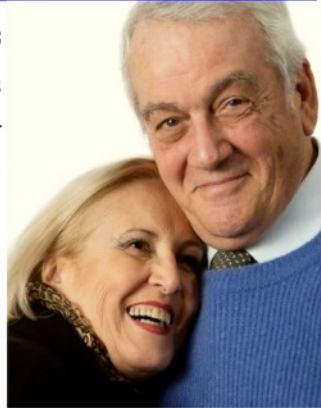
See what our clients have to say at www.cbastock.co.uk



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 Church of England

Clergy and Licensed Ministers recently received a letter from Bishop Michael. Amongst other matters, it described an important new development in the life of the Church - the **Festival of Creation in Christ**. This is a new Festival to be celebrated by churches on the first Sunday of September each year.

This new Festival is one of the fruits of a growing ecumenical movement across churches worldwide and offers an opportunity for Christians to give thanks for God's creation and redemption of the world, to reflect on humanity's responsibility to care for the natural world and to pray for its renewal. The title 'Creation in Christ' emphasises that creation is understood through the person and work of Jesus Christ: created through him, sustained in him and destined for renewal in him.

In the introduction to the material which supports this new festival, we read the following:

"The damage generated by human activity to the climate and ecosystems on which we depend is widespread and intensifying. Biodiversity loss is escalating. The impact on vulnerable human communities is increasingly severe, and the prospects for the future grow bleak. Meanwhile, the response of nations with the power and resources to limit and mitigate this damage is seeming to falter.

Yet God has not forsaken the Earth, the precious life it supports, nor the human beings who inhabit it... In this critical moment, Christians are called to respond to our current ecological situation in a profound conversion of our lives and imaginations, to repair our broken relationships with our fellow creatures." Introduction, pp. 5-6

We will be celebrating this Festival across the parish, and also observing other elements of the Season of Creation throughout September. To read more about the themes of the **Festival of Creation in Christ**, you can visit the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/hope4allcreation>

Fr. Simon

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



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

'Every Childhood is Worth Fighting for'

'Every Childhood is worth fighting for' is the current NSPCC campaign message. We all want children to experience the kindness, promise and confidence of a happy childhood and NSPCC's mission is to make that a reality.



The charity works to prevent child abuse, protect vulnerable children and support families through direct services, national helplines, school programmes and by campaigning for changes in law and policy.

However the need for this work is growing. Over the past year, the NSPCC's Childline service has seen a 36% increase in counselling sessions related to online sexual abuse and exploitation. On average a child contacts Childline every 45 seconds and around half a million children in the UK experience abuse each year.

Childline, which celebrates its 40th birthday this year, has never been more vital. It is a free service available seven days a week and is staffed by trained professionals. The rise in social media has significantly increased demand for its services and increased the risk for young people - but there are signs of progress.

When Sir Keir Starmer announced in June the Government plans to ban under-16s from social media to help keep children safe online, NSPCC Chief Executive, Chris Sherwood, described the move as "a win for children and parents" and a "watershed moment for child protection". However NSPCC will continue to call for more pressure on technology companies to do more and for robust age checks to be in place.

NSPCC has been there for children for over 140 years. The world has changed so much in that time; children need us now as much as they ever did, if not more.

Local fundraising plays an essential role in supporting this work. The Knowle and Dorridge NSPCC branch, founded in 1981, has raised over £500,000 through a range of activities - from coffee mornings and lunches to sponsored events. While each event may seem modest on its own, together it has made a significant impact.

On October 22nd the Branch will host its Autumn Lunch at Copt Heath Golf Club, featuring guest speaker Matt Brookes, Team Manager Childline Birmingham. Anyone who is interested to hear more about the NSPCC's crucial work is warmly invited to attend.

For more information, please contact Penny Harbour on 07973 819469 or via email pennynutlands@sky.com

With your support, you will help us continue to protect children and ensure that every childhood is truly worth fighting for. Your support is vital and will help us towards raising our next £500,000!

Penny Harbour
Branch chairman



The Complete Legal Service for the Private and Commercial Client

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

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

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

1612 High Street, Knowle, Solihull B93 0JU

Tel: 01564 776287 Fax: 01564 778996

Update from the Parish Wardens

Our Parish Away Day on Saturday 12th September is now near. Do please register if you have not already done so. It is a key event for our Parish and has something for everyone with spiritual input too. It gives great opportunities to meet our fellow parishioners – to renew friendships and make new ones. We look forward to seeing you there.

We welcomed **Charles Fillingham**, Headmaster of Solihull School to the **Men's Breakfast** in June and he gave us an inspirational talk about the part God has played in his calling to teaching. On 3rd October we welcome **Paul Nelson**, Pastor of Gas Street South Church, to our next Breakfast.

On their 150th Anniversary it was good to be reminded of the great work **The Mothers' Union**, and in particular our own Mothers' Union, do. During services on 5th July, our members described and showed us some of the work and particularly paid tribute to the founder, Mary Sumner. This does give us a chance to thank those in our branch for all they do in service in many ways in our Parish.

Thanks are due too to Ben and his team for the **Craftafternoons Activity Sessions** in the first four weeks of the holidays. They went really well with good attendance; 16 sessions with nearly 100 different craft activities and games. The Forest School was very popular. We hope and pray that some of the children and their families will join in with services and activities on a regular basis.

The **St. Alphege Church Choirs** had a very successful week's residency at Wells Cathedral, where they received a warm welcome, sang to large congregations, and enjoyed their social time together.

We now look forward to a new academic year with the renewed energy and vigour that this brings. We wish the very best of luck, and pray for any young and older people who are starting new schools, colleges, universities, training courses or jobs. We welcome Harry Brown to his permanent post as Assistant Organist, and also Aaran Fleet as our Organ Scholar (funded by The Friends of St Alphege Music).

The **Alpha Course** is continuing at St. Michael's Chapel, and the **321 Course** is starting on Sunday 6th September for 4 weeks at 6 p.m. in the Oliver Bird Hall – do book in for that. Some from these courses will be going on to Baptism and Confirmation with Bishop Esther on Sunday 18th October.

By the time you read this, we hope that the Faculty will have been granted for **Project Turnaround**, the plan to reimagine and revitalize St. Alphege Church to be more outward looking. On 14th September we are holding a **Community Engagement Evening** in the church to which we have invited lots of local groups and organisations to get their views on how they might use the building, and what features they would like to see. If you know of any organisations who would like to come, do let Pam or Andy Halstead know.

On Saturday 19th September St. Alphege will be open for the **National Heritage Open Days**. More details to come.

On Saturday 26th September, St. Alphege is hosting the bell ringing competition for the **Robert B. Smith Trophy** and we are expecting many visitors to the church. Do let our Wardens or Bellringers know if you could offer to welcome or assist on the day.

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
August 2026**

HOME-BASED PHYSIOTHERAPY

Professional Care in the Comfort of Your Home

A well established female physiotherapist with **over 19 years of clinical experience**, providing personalised physiotherapy services to restore movement, reduce pain, and optimise function.

SPECIALIST HOME PHYSIOTHERAPY 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.



Solihull 8 surrounding areas

07342678797

homebasedphysio.services@gmail.com

Private appointments available

Enquire today to begin your recovery journey



FEEL BETTER. MOVE BETTER. LIVE BETTER.

**TOM O'THE
WOOD**

Country Pub and Restaurant



Finwood Road, Rowington,

Warwickshire, CV35 7DH

Tel. 01564 782 252

www.tomothewood.co.uk

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

This ancient 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**

Matters of Faith

When I was a child, growing up in America, the school Summer holidays were not six weeks, as they are here, but three months. This was because, in America's early years, most children were farmers' children, and their parents couldn't spare them during the Summer months. That, of course, is no longer true, but the length of the holidays has stayed the same. Like all children, I looked forward to the Summer holidays, but after a while I began to feel bored and looked forward to September when school would start again.

I would be in a new class, with new things to learn and every so often, of course, a new school. Towards the end of the Summer holidays my mother would take me to one of the big department stores in Akron to buy new school clothes to replace the ones I had grown out of. All things new!

September, too, used to be the time of harvest, though these days, due to climate change, it is usually earlier, and this year, it has been even earlier and a good deal poorer due to the hot dry weather we have been having.

In Chapter 43 of Isaiah, God says to the prophet, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" And in the Book of Revelation God says, "See, I am making all things new." Jesus, too, talked about new things: about a different way to grow close to God, not through hundreds of rules that were hard to follow, but through faith in Jesus, as he showed through his acts of forgiveness and healing and supremely through the salvation that comes from his death on the cross, and his resurrection three days later.

The relentless hot dry weather I mentioned earlier means we all need to think about how we can make things new. The way we have been living since the Industrial Revolution seemed, for a long while, to be a positive thing. It provided us with a lot of new things, it made our lives easier, our homes warmer, our transportation quicker. But for some time it has been obvious that it is causing more problems than it has solved. And if we didn't see that before, surely, we must see it now, when temperatures have risen to dangerous levels, when the dry weather is killing the crops and when wildfires are raging both in our own country and around the world.

We need a new thing, a new way to protect the world God has given to us and all the creatures apart from ourselves that live in it. Jesus showed us how important new things are. In our own day the new things may be different from the ones He taught about, but they are just as important.

Rev. Anne

I Heard a Talk Today about Mothers' Union

I heard a talk today about Mothers' Union.

The work was world-wide,
and the speakers clear and bright.

Mothers all over our planetary space.
(It wasn't just about knitting,
tea and cake.)

But education, support and change.
Battles against modern slavery, and domestic rage.
(And men are welcome too.)

No more female invisibility.
No more lonely responsibility.
Only connectivity and positivity.
Human solidarity.
And yummy cake.

It was a fantastic talk at St. Michael's today, and everywhere in the parish.
Lynn and Elaine did a wonderful presentation, and June did the prayers. I learned such a lot.
And joined. And ate cake.

Wendy Westley

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

For Your Diary



- Thursday 3rd September :** 1.30pm in the OBH. *Marie Curie Hospice* with Leela Doherty.
Thursday 17th September : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.
Thursday 1st October : 1.30pm in the OBH. *Dear Elizabeth* - a talk by Mary Bodfish about the early life of the Queen Mother.
Thursday 15th October : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.

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 monthly Wives Lunch Club will meet on Friday 4th September. If you would like to attend this friendly meal, please contact Carol Caldicott by phone, as 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 OCTOBER EDITION OF THE PARISH NEWS MUST BE IN BY FRIDAY, 4th SEPTEMBER 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 Wardens</i>	Elisabeth Wilkin e.wilkin@icloud.com Becky Ward b.ward@solihullparish.org.uk	
<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 Deputy 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
<i>St Alphege Stewardship Recorder</i>	Frank Upton, 1 Rectory Road	0121 705 2963

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. Sue Shewring The Revd. Roy Murray	annehaselhurst@talktalk.net revrog@hotmail.co.uk s.chandler@solihullparish.org.uk 07970 791288 sue_shewring@yahoo.co.uk 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 ptaylor53@gmail.com 07796 691203
Director of Music & Organist	Christopher Martin Thomas	c.thomas@solihullparish.org.uk
Assistant Organist	Harry Brown	
Senior Organ Scholar	Aaron Fleet	
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 077838 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