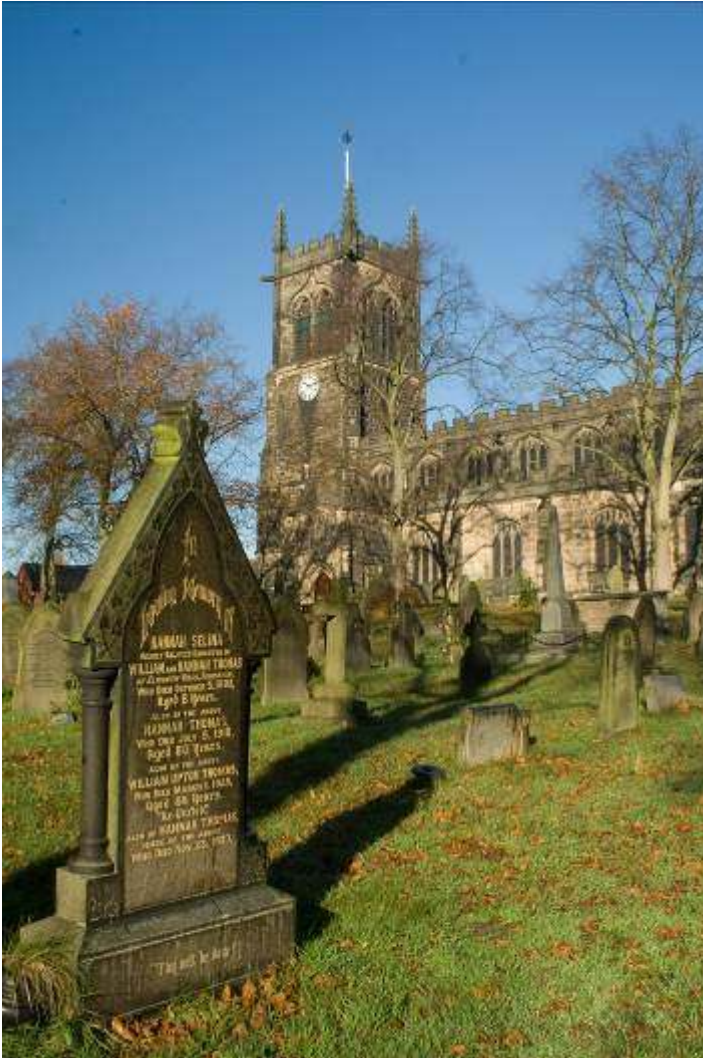


CHALLENGE



August 2011

Volume 47 No 558

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

At St Marys in August 2011

Sunday 7th August 7 Trinity	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday 14th August 8 Trinity	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday 21st August 9 Trinity	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday 28th August 10 Trinity	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday 4th September 11 Trinity	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Holy Eucharist
Weekday Services		See Notice Board

EasyFundRaising for St. Mary's Church

For all those who shop online... and even those who don't, just take a second to check this out on behalf of St. Mary's Church, it's a really easy way for us all to raise some funds for the church free of charge. We have recently registered St. Mary's Church Sandbach with a fundraising website called www.easyfundraising.org.uk - the site is designed to raise money for charities and causes.

Here's how it works..

www.easyfundraising.org.uk provide a FREE service where you can shop with your favourite online stores and at no extra cost raise funds for any charity, good cause or group you choose to support. You still shop directly with each retailer as you would normally, but simply by using the links from their site first, each purchase you make will generate a cashback donation to the cause you wish to support.

For example, spend £25 with WHSmith on books and 2.5% will be donated. You will have raised £0.63, at no extra cost to your purchase. Full details are on the Church website – www.sandbachchurch.co.uk.

Blythe Spirit – ‘Jacey’

Sometimes I feel like giving up the Church Times newspaper but then along comes just a snippet which lights up my day and puts my thinking in order. What follows is a blatant bit of copying from an article by John Pridmore. We were contemporaries at University but hardly knew each other. I belonged to the Student Christian Movement Branch and he to the Scripture Union and, as he wrote in a book recently, the two didn't speak to each other. John went on to be ordained but after a crisis of faith he worked for years in education before returning to ministry at St. Martin's in the Fields and then as Rector of Hackney, a tough London Parish with a church building even larger and more demanding than St. Mary's. Whenever he writes in the Church Times I always find something to invigorate and encourage. All that follows is a recent contribution of his.

John wrote: "Creating Sparks" was the title of a one-day conference organised by the Guildford Diocesan Children's Adviser. I gave the 'key note address.' In view of the title I decided to be inflammatory. So I made the same point I always make when on a platform, in a pulpit, or talking to strangers in bus queues – that the Church of England's policy about the admission of children to Holy Communion is bonkers.

Dismounting from my hobby horse, I talked about Jacey, a child I had once taught. Jacey certainly created sparks. He was a chaotic child, rarely in the right place at the right time. "What on earth is Jacey doing?" we would ask in chorus. What Jacey was doing it turned out, was slipping out of school to visit a local old lady he had adopted, to do her shopping, tidy up her garden and the like.

Schools haven't a clue what to do with one-off non-conformists such as Jacey – children whose problem is not that they behave badly, but that they behave beautifully, answering a spirit blowing where it wills, a spirit indifferent to the priorities of myopic schoolteachers.

David Ashworth

Ye Olde Sandbach Treasure Hunt

The winner of the treasure hunt was Mrs M Buckley who found it inside The Covered Market. The prize was 10 Elizabethan Gold (ish) coins.



£95 was raised for the Church Roof Appeal

From the Registers

Forthcoming Weddings

August

20th Justin BURNDRED and Donna BRADBURY
28th Neil FOULKES and Anna STONE



Altar Flowers

August Altar

7th In memory of Derrick Davenport
14th In memory of Harold Horth
21st In memory of Cath Jones
28th vacant

Pedestals

Sheila Mellin
Nora Bebbington
vacant
vacant

Anyone who would like to give flowers when there is a vacancy please ring Sheenagh Ashworth on 01270 529 187 leaving a message and your phone number if we are not available.

Coffee Rota

August

7th Marjorie Burgess and Renee Bickerton
14th June and Bob Wharne
21st Kathleen Davies and Kathleen Beech
28th Marjorie Holdcroft and Joanna Whittaker



September

4th Kate Roberts and Sheenagh Ashworth

Confirmations 2011

It has been a little difficult getting a Sunday on which Bishop Robert is free to come to St Mary's for a Confirmation Service. Now though, we are able to work towards 6.30 on **Sunday 11th September**. I hope that we will have a full church that evening to celebrate this important event in the Church's life. There are already a number of young people and adults who will be making a commitment at that time, but I hope others will also feel it is the right time in their lives to be Confirmed. Please let me know as soon as possible.

Thomas

The Future Giving to the Church

Have you ever wondered how the church you attend, weekly, monthly, spasmodically, or even only once or twice a year or lifetime happened to be there at that precise moment in time when you decided to first attend church. It might have been when you were a child when the answer seems obvious, because your parents or grandparents ensured it was there. If you were an adult when you first decided to go to church or an adult who goes to church every Christmas then I suppose the thought does not occur to you. Well I am asking that you think of it now.

In today's financial climate it can no longer be assumed that the church is there because it is there or because it is and always has been there. The time has come when the church must meet all the 21st century costs itself out of the money it receives weekly, monthly, spasmodically or once or twice a year. However this weekly money does not provide any guarantee that the church will still be there in 10, 20, 30 or 50 or more years' time.

If you wish for the church to be here for other children to attend or for the person who suddenly wants to go to church to be able to do so in say 25 year's time or for a time after your death please consider making a legacy gift now. In other words please consider leaving the church some of your wealth on your death. This might seem a bit morbid or even extremely mercenary but if you want the church to be here in the future, and after your death so that children and others might use it as you used it then I trust that this criticism is withdrawn.

Please consider leaving the church some of your wealth in your will. I would also ask that if you do decide to leave a sum of money that you remember that after making your will you will hopefully live many more years. Therefore try to build into the gift an automatic increase every year or two years.

In next month's magazine there will be a copy of a similar request made in 2009 as part of the giving initiative. I trust you will read these articles.

Paul Burden - St Mary's Church Finance officer.



Holiday Club For Primary Age Group

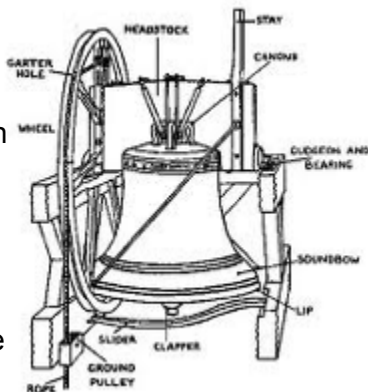


To be held at Wheelock Methodists Church on **22-26 August**, between 10am and 12noon. Contact Jayne at tom.bunn@btinternet.com for further details

Arthur Yorke retires

After the Sunday service on 17th July a celebration and thank you was held for Arthur who recently retired as the Captain of the Bells at St Mary's. Tea, coffee and cake were taken and a few speeches were made. Here is the 10 point list that was written about Arthur.

1. Arthur started ringing when he was 13 in 1948 63 years ago.
2. Arthur became a tower captain at the tender age of 19 at Christ church Alsager
3. Arthur married in Barbara in 1973 and became the St Mary's probationary Tower captain in the same year.
4. We now, after a short time for St. Mary's, end the trial – probationary period.
5. Arthur has ALWAYS ensured that the bells could be rung for twice for Sunday worship, were available for all weddings when requested, was available for any special services arranged by the vicars of St. Mary's, and perhaps most important, ensured that the Thursday evening practices continued.
6. My rough calculation of the number of stairs Arthur has ascended and descended on behalf of us is about 729,220 plus..... Arthur never mentions his health or that his neck was broken in his teens so I won't, but $\frac{3}{4}$ million steps!
7. He has over the 38 years ensured that the bells and ringing room are in a first class condition. Other church's bells might be dangerous or even unringable; Not St. Mary's. He has organised and repaired himself bits and pieces of the bells and modernised the ringing room. He has cajoled, and even bullied, the PCC to ensure the bells remained in tip top order.
8. He with Barbara's constant support, ran 10 years ago a marathon fund raising campaign to have the bells re-hung, new wheels, new ropes and all other major repairs carried on.
9. Arthur organised it all. The PCC listened to his reports and agreed with everything he proposed. If finance was a problem, it often was, then Arthur would think of a different way in which the problem could be solved without involving finance. I am sure he met a lot of the costs himself.
10. The amount St Mary's owe to Arthur and of course to Barbara, is incalculable. He always thought of the bells and how they could continue to announce ST MARY'S CHURCH IS HERE.



Would You Ask God For A Spoon?

Overnight on the Sleeper from Crewe to Inverness, then on a train to Thurso and by bus to John O’Groats was an interesting journey, and the weather was perfect. I had a quick look around John O’Groats, took a photo of the Start/Finish Line, and started walking at 5pm with brilliant blue sea and sky. A path leads along the shore below the campsite, with common scurvy grass and primroses flowering, and green, grassy fields sloping up to Duncansby Head Lighthouse. It was quite breezy on that far north-east corner of Scotland, but certainly not cold. Soon after you turn south at the lighthouse Duncansby Stacks come into view, pointing up from a very calm blue sea. Fulmars nested on the cliffs. I walked on for 5 miles from John O’Groats until I came to a level patch of grass on the cliff top and pitched my tent. Dehydrated food was put in a pan and water poured on for it to soak while I was unpacking. Now, where was the spoon? It always lives in the front pocket of the rucksack but was definitely not there, nor in the main part of the rucksack. What could I possibly use? The lid of a water bottle, wrapped in polythene from a bag, twisted to make a small handle. It was slow eating with it, but manageable. Between here and Inverness there would be villages, some with food shops, but very unlikely to sell spoons.

Next morning I continued over moorland until I reached a farm track leading, via a farm, to Skirza, a hamlet on Freswick Bay. Along this track something was shining in the mud – a soup spoon! It was a stainless steel soup spoon; (had it been a silver spoon I should have taken it to the farm and asked if they could give or lend me an old or odd spoon). I wiped the mud off with damp grass, with a sense of great wonder that the very thing I needed had appeared right where I was walking. I had not liked to pray for a spoon; that seemed to me like asking God to compensate for my carelessness, but I certainly thanked Him! My prayers had been for people, and giving thanks for all the beauties of creation, but perhaps someone else had been asking for all my needs to be supplied. I shall always keep that spoon!

There seemed to be something remarkable almost every day, although nothing to compare with the surprise of finding the soup spoon. There was the day when I arrived at Dunbeath campsite, where I had sent a food parcel. The lady asked me into the house to book me in and give me my parcel, then said, “We’ve put you in the static,” meaning that they were renovating the toilet and shower block so I was in a large luxury caravan (for the small tent rate of £4) with its own little bathroom!

Another day started with brilliant sunshine, then, as I was ready to start walking, from my wild pitch on the grass above the beach, south of Helmsdale, the mist began to drift in from the sea. Whilst it hid the distant

views, it also hid me, so that I came closer to some creatures that didn't see me until I was about 25 yards away. Were they otters romping down to the sea? No, binoculars revealed the heads of young seals in the water, and when I reached where they had been the flipper marks were visible in the sand. I'd heard seals "singing" the night before.

A few days later, after some lovely beach walking, I came to Golspie, then a walk along lanes took me to Embo, where the campsite was not open until June, but Dornoch was only a mile and a half further. Just as I was pitching the tent it began to pour with rain, then a man appeared from a nearby caravan. "I wondered if you'd like a bowl of pasta; we have some left over!" "Oh, that would be lovely! Yes, please!" By the time the tent was pitched (only a few minutes) the man returned carrying a mug of tea and his son, about 9 years old, carrying a bowl of pasta with tomato, heated in their microwave.

On the final day when I walked from Culbokie, on the Black Isle, to Inverness it was very hot, again with a distant heat haze. I walked through a forest with lots of peacock butterflies, then along a lane to Munloch, where I had my lunch by a tub of daffodils (there were tulips in the tub 7 years ago on LEJOG) then after Munloch village a path goes off left to Munloch Bay, not well used as I had to squeeze carefully past gorse bushes, then on to a fence corner and uphill through more gorse. Then the way clears to a grassy track beside a forest, where the sun blazed down and I longed for shade. A small white house was ahead with a bush beside the gate on the far side. Thankfully, I sat down under the bush...then a man appeared and asked if I'd like a cold drink, and brought me a large glass of orange juice with ice in – very refreshing! He stayed to chat until I had finished, also suggested a good route to Kessock bridge, then I went on with a spring in my step!

All these things were "wonders of the walk" but that soup spoon will never be forgotten!

Christine Roche



Forthcoming events from the Social Committee.

Saturday 10th September

Beetle Drive.

In the Church Hall 7.00 pm. £3.00

Sharing The Beat Of Christian Love

On **Friday the 16th September** at The Wesley Centre, Sandbach there will be two events linked together. All are welcome to either or both.

1st Event - 5pm to 6.30pm. Soup, Bread + Sweet £5

2nd Event - by popular demand – 6.45pm to 10pm - African Drumming Workshop £5

Raising Funds for the charity The Railway Children



12 July 2011

Dear Paul

On behalf of all at Prison Fellowship, I would like to thank you for your generous donations totalling £420.00, which we received on 29 June 2011. As requested, your donations will be used for our Sycamore Tree project and Angel Tree.

Your support is a blessing and vital to our work in helping those whose lives have been affected by crime and we are very grateful for your contribution. Your gift enables us to impact upon the lives of prisoners and their families and goes towards sharing God's love into prisons through our programmes such as Sycamore Tree, Angel Tree and Letter Writing.

We are always adding testimonies from those who are involved in or who have been blessed by our ministry to the Patchwork Quilt and you can find these stories at www.prisonfellowship.org.uk I hope you enjoy the articles and pictures to be found there.

With grateful thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gail Butler".

Gail Butler
Administration Team

Armed Forces Day



It is 6.30a.m. on Sunday 26th June and the sun is shining already for our Armed Forces Day Parade and Service at St. Mary's Church, Sandbach.

Each year since we began celebrating firstly Veterans Day and then Armed Forces Day we have always been so fortunate with the weather.

We meet at 9.15 at "Westfields" Car Park and it is then that I discover how many people will be parading and when we meet the Band, the Macclesfield Silk Brass, behind whom it is a pleasure to march. When we arrive at the War Memorial two Wreaths are laid one on behalf of the Legion and the other by a member of the Cheshire Regiment Association.

This year, as last year the Army Cadet Force paraded several Detachments of Cadets about 50 in total, and also the Air Cadets were well represented.

Above all else it is crucial that we grasp the real purpose of Armed Forces Day, which is the expression of our nation's pride, gratitude and support for all branches and members of our armed forces, past, present and in years to come, not primarily as victors or valiant losers but as dedicated and disciplined men and women, prepared, if necessary, even at the cost of their own lives, to defend the cause of freedom, justice and humanity for their fellow men.

Finally, I would like to see not only more ex-service people in the parade at which a Wreath is laid to express our gratitude but also far more of the general public including those of the younger generation watching the event and attending the Church service.

Marjorie Newton

Chairman (Sandbach Branch) The Royal British Legion.

An Afternoon of Music

What a wonderful concert there was on 3rd July 2011 in the Church. Yes, we had the famous Foden's Band kindly giving a performance in conjunction with the Town Council in aid of the Church Roof Appeal.



The Church started to fill shortly after 2.15pm and by the start of the concert at 3.00pm there were around 200 folk waiting for the band in their red and gold uniform to come into Church.

After the welcome from the Vicar, Michael Fowles the conductor said the President of the Band the late Peter Fletcher had recently passed away and the band would play Crimond as a tribute to Mr Fletcher. He also mentioned that a new piece of music had been arranged by the composer in residence, Andy Scott and this piece had no name, but more of that later!!

The concert began with the "piece with no name" following on with some traditionally Foden's music including the aforementioned Crimond set to a lovely melody. Music from the Cinema ended the first part of the concert when across in the Church Hall ladies of the Church had been very busy baking scones and everyone was invited to enjoy them with tea or coffee. The hall resounded with chatter and how much they were enjoying the afternoon.

The second part commenced with hits from the Broadway shows and the usual talented players, not forgetting the witty remarks from the conductor. Then brass from the Night of the Proms; at this point the conductor took off his waistcoat and put on a Union Jack one, much to the surprise and laughter of the band. Although the proceeds were for the Church Roof fund the audience and band alike were very much enjoying themselves. The programme which had the Union flag on the back, together with other Union flags were waved and made a sea of colour. The singing to the Night of the Proms was so loud it was a wonder that the roof stayed intact and was not lifted off!!! We even had our Town Council Mayor, Dennis Robinson conducting the band and he made a good job of that – watch out Michael he could be after your job!!

Then back to the "piece with no name" and Michael informed everyone that the band would not be giving it a name and asked the Town Council to take on the role of naming the piece, so over to our Councillors and I am sure that we will learn of the title in due course.

Thank you to Foden's Band, to the Town Council, the ladies who prepared the refreshments, to all who helped in any way and to all who came to the concert because the Roof appeal increased by £1,000.

Church Fellowship

Firstly may I apologize for my geographical error in the last magazine, but, thankfully, that did not prevent us from having a good day out in WORCESTER on Wednesday 13th. The coach left The Commons at 9.15, we had an excellent journey and the weather was kind to us for once, we arrived back in Sandbach at approximately 6pm after a very enjoyable day. Thank you Marjorie for all you hard work.



Sue

HELP is needed to polish and dust the Church. The team of four is now down to two and often only one, due to people moving away and sickness. Please do offer to help. We meet on a **Thursday** morning at about 8.30pm to 9.00pm for around an hour however, should more people come then this would be shorter. We appreciate that some of the Church members are involved in the refreshments in the Hall but not everyone is. A lady does come and undertake the deep cleaning during the week so it only light dusting and you can chat and dust in your own time – there is no supervision!! If we do not get more folk then it will be a case of bring your duster on a Sunday, but seriously we have a beautiful Church and to see the woodwork shining and the place so inviting is satisfaction not only to ourselves but to visitors. Please do not let the Church look dusty for want of help. Thanks.

The one or two Holy Dusters.

Churches Together In Sandbach Garden Trail 2011

This year, the chosen charities are:-

Macclesfield Community Garden Centre. An innovative scheme which supports learning-disabled adults to gain training in horticulture and gives work experience

Bees Abroad UK Limited, who sponsor beekeeping in poorer parts of the world to help lift families out of poverty and to ensure the pollination of crops. The honey can be sold.

You can visit local gardens on weekends of **13th, 14th August.**

Programme and event guide is just £4 and allows entry on all weekends. Katie Cavanagh has programmes (01270 760270) but if unavailable please contact Sheila Scragg (01270 765746).



WHO'S WHO AT ST MARY'S

Vicar	The Revd Thomas Shepherd	762379
	e-mail	revts@me.com
Churchwardens	Reg Dunning	762681
	Martyn Colley	759704
Sacristan	John Percival	765700
Verger	June Ollier	766973

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

PCC Secretary	Sylvia Watkins	767386
Treasurer	Roger Cooke	762118
Covenants/Gift Aid	Paul Burden	764687
Captain of Bells	Paul Burden	764687
Church Flowers	Sheenagh Ashworth	529187

CHURCH HALL Bookings Sylvia Watkins 767386
hall@sandbachchurch.co.uk

SUNDAY CIRCLE Margaret Corlett 762246

Meets on Sundays at 10.00am in the Church Hall

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP Marjorie Spence 767020

Meetings 2nd Tuesday in each month at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

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A copy of the magazine is also available on the web-site

www.sandbachchurch.co.uk

"CHALLENGE" is edited by John Bottomley. Tel: 768744 15 Chartwell Park

If you or your organisation has any items to be published in the magazine, please contact John either by email to magazine@sandbachchurch.co.uk or telephone. Please submit details of events well in advance so that they can be properly publicised. Reports of events that have already happened, progress updates of continuing projects, notices etc Copy may be left in Church but please submit by

Sunday 21st August 2011

FOR BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS, PLEASE CONTACT

The Vicar in Church on Sundays between 5.00pm-6.00pm to make the necessary arrangements