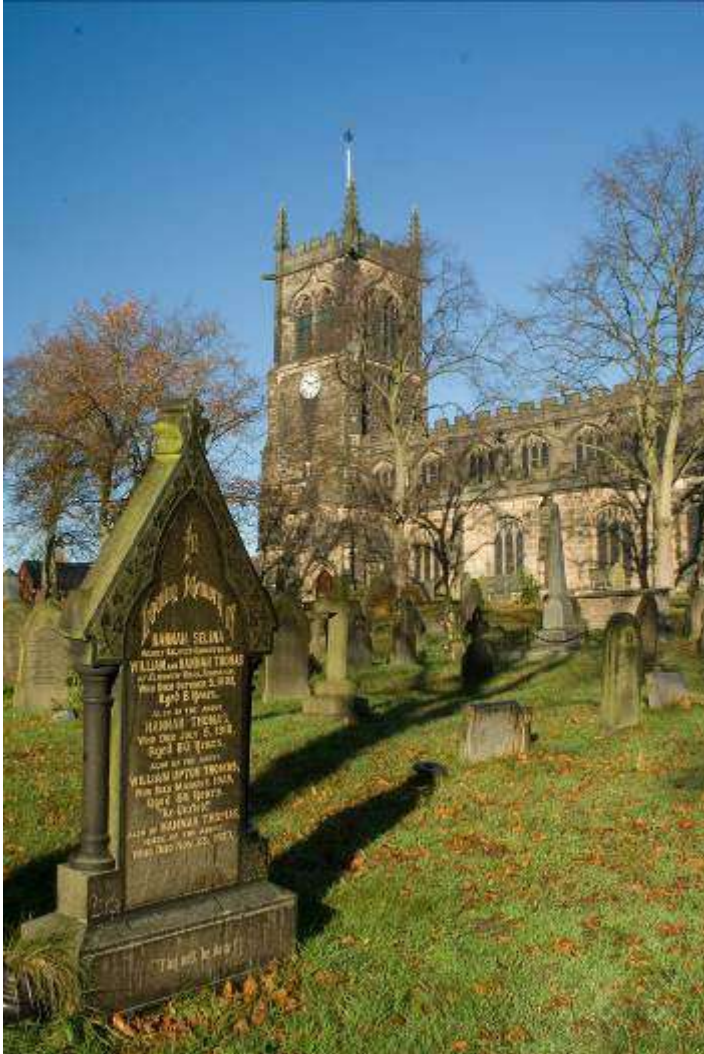


CHALLENGE



October 2011

Volume 47 No 560

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP

At St Marys in October 2011

Sunday 2nd October 15 Trinity Harvest	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Holy Eucharist

Sunday 9th October 16 Trinity	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong

Sunday 16th October 17 Trinity	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong

Tuesday 18th October St Luke, Evangelist	7.30 pm	Holy Eucharist

Sunday 23rd October Last of Trinity	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong

Friday 28th October St Simon and St Jude	7.30 pm	Holy Eucharist

Sunday 30th October 2 am

British Summer Time Ends
CLOCKS GO BACK 1 HOUR



Sunday 30th October All Saints Day Commemoration of Faithfully Departed	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	3.30 pm	

Sunday 6th November 3 Before Advent	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Morning Worship
	3.30 pm	Holy Eucharist

(Winter Times)

This month's letter is a jumble of observations about the church building. We have been very well served by the architect and builders in the restoration of the Tower. They have got on with the work with diligence and the result of their labours is of a very high standard. The next major repairs to the Tower should be in a hundred years! Now that the last vestiges of the scaffolding has gone and the bells ring out again all that remains to be done is to clean up the area under the west end of the Tower and reset the clock. New flags have been purchased and will be hoisted on appropriate days. Look out for the George flag with the diocesan coat of arms in the left quarter (canton)!

The appeal to the town raised some of the money that was needed to make up the English Heritage Grant and I'm thankful for all the hard work and generosity over the past year or so in raising that. The PCC has agreed to keep the momentum going for the third stage of the appeal to completely re-roof the nave and aisle roofs. The detailed preparation and grant applications take a very long time and we are working now towards 2014 for that to be completed. Then we will have a church building which is entirely re-roofed to a very high standard and should not need work for several generations.

I feel, and the PCC agree, that it is important to have the church open as much as possible for people to use for quiet prayer or to visit. Indeed it was a stipulation that English Heritage made, when they gave the substantial grant towards the Tower restoration, that the church should be left open for visitors. I know it is a bit of a gamble, and we may have problems but thanks to a timely donation of £2,500 we are able to give some protection to the church by installing a good security system and CCTV. This will be installed in the next few weeks and then the church will be opened between 8.30 and 3.00pm. It is hoped that monitoring equipment will make people feel more secure in church and up and down the pathways. If you are passing the church during the week, please do pop your head in to see that all is well. The more brief visitors there are, the better the overall security.

Another issue is that of the outside which needs to be addressed. In the winter months the problem of lighting the pathways is difficult. The old electrical system supplying the lighting is dangerous and has had to be disconnected. We could do with a donation or gift of money to provide lighting on the pathways.



Thomas Shepherd

From the Registers

Funerals

August

- 10th Sylvia Frost (79)
25th Vera Williamson (78)
31st David Hilton Booth (89)

September

- 14th Harold Raymond Herbert White (91)
16th Sabino (Tony) Sterlacci (91)
20th Annie Davies (100)

Baptisms

August

- 21st *Dylan James Booth* son of Samuel David and Emma Clair Hindson
Safiya Rose Butterworth daughter of Martin James and Julia Loiuis
28th *Benjamin Daniel Cooper* son of Richard David and Jennifer Leon
Ruby Elizabeth Musgrave daughter of Adrian Graham and Lucy Jane
Lucy Rose Knight daughter of Darren Scott and Sian Christine

Holy Matrimony

August

- 28th Neil Foulkes and Anna Stone

September

- 2nd James Hutchin and Jayne Lloyd
3rd Kevin Dobson and Laura Blackhurst

Confirmations

September

- 11th Daniel Lamph, Rebecca House, Jessica O'Connell, Anna Mitchell,
Phil Shackleton, Ros Sturge and Nicky Walker

Altar Flowers

October Altar

- 2nd Mrs Jean Birchenough
9th In memory of Mr Percival
16th Joyce Griffiths
23rd Janet Hides
30th Vacant

Pedestals

- vacant
vacant
Sylvia Watkins
In Memory of Cath Jones
vacant



Coffee Rota

October

- 2nd Joyce Griffith and Lynne Winfield
9th Marjorie Burgess and Renee Bickerton
16th June and Bob Wharne
23rd Kathleen Davies and Kathleen Beech
30th Marjorie Holdcroft and Joanna Whittaker

November

- 6th Eileen and Jim Thompson



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.

Ed Note: This is easy money for the Church. I have used the site a few times now and have raised £1.71. The web site indicates how many people are supporting the Church and at the moment there are just 6. However, we have raised a total of £5.24. All you on line shoppers come and join us. It really is very straight forward.

ST MARY'S CHURCH BELLS

The Church tower repair has now been completed. We are again ringing the bells for Sunday services and when a band can be found, for weddings. However the number of bell ringers who can now ring the bells is diminishing. A repeat request is therefore made for new ringers.

Unless we get more bell ringers, ringing for church services and weddings could cease all together in Sandbach.

Learning to ring a bell is not difficult. All you need is some form of co-ordination, but an experienced bell ringer is necessary to teach the art. The bell ringers have consistently requested volunteers to learn and will continue to do so. As the number of current bell ringers is getting less, so the time will eventually arrive that unless new ringers are taught now there will not be anyone to teach this craft in the future. Although learning to ring is not difficult it does take time for confidence to be gained.

I hope this magazine article may be read by someone who might mention the problem to somebody else who mentions it to somebody else and new volunteers will be encouraged to try their hand

At present we are dependent on visiting ringers to make a ring of six. St Mary's is a ring of eight and we would like to ring all eight bells as often as possible. We are therefore asking that if you know anybody who may like to either return to ringing after a long time away from the hobby, or to learn to ring for the first time that you let them know of St. Mary's need.

The bells are rung for practice and learning every Thursday evening between 19.30 and 21.00 hours. Nobody has yet been turned away and any volunteer will be taught how to ring the bells safely. The Bells are also rung every Sunday at 09.30 to 10.00 and again for the evening service. Once any volunteer can handle the bells safely they will be welcomed to ring on Sundays as well.

It would be a shame if this ancient English art was lost and the bells were not heard in Sandbach.

Paul Burden - bell ringer



Autumn Fair

The Autumn Fair will be held on **Saturday November 12th** from 10am – 2pm. If you would like to run a stall or have any new ideas please contact Gill Savage on 765161. Cakes, items for the stalls, raffle and tombola will be very welcome.

Letter of Thanks - Africa Christian Teaching Service

We are writing to thank you so much for all your love and to acknowledge receipt of forty two pounds and 47 pence from St Mary's Sandbach for the Herridge Technical School in Burundi. Please find attached a brief update to share with the Congregation.

Home Base has donated some furniture for the catering section that ACTS is trying to establish. There is a team raising funds for the airfare in order to visit the school and help with the installation. We are raising money to pay for a container to transport the material to Burtmudi. The Herridge Technical School is a long term commitment to improve the lives of destitute and orphaned children.

A really big thank you to everyone who is helping us, we greatly appreciate your support. We thank God for your partnership.

With our love,

Geoffrey and Georgette Butera

FODEN'S BAND

Evening Celebration Concert

A concert is to be held in Sandbach Boy's School on

Saturday 8th October 2011 at 7 p.m.

Guest cornet soloist – Roger Webster

Tickets on the door – Adults £8, OAPs & children £7

Open Rehearsal

Following the successful open rehearsal by Foden's Band prior to their competing in the British Open, they are pleased to announce a similar event on **Thursday 13th October** in preparation for the National Finals at the Royal Albert Hall.

It takes place at the Boy's School in the Theatre Space and starts at 7.30 pm finishing at approximately 9.30 pm.

Seating is limited, so please ring 01270 765773 if you wish to attend.

Harvest Festival Sunday

This year the Harvest Festival Sunday falls on 2nd October. The church will as usual be decorated in the preceding two days and the goods donated this year will be used locally to support needs within our locality. It would be good to have numbers of tins of produce or dried food donated as well for the Sandbach Family Centre.

The Centre is situated close to the centre of Sandbach. It deals with an assortment of issues involving the support and practical help of a number of vulnerable families within our community.

We think of Sandbach as relatively prosperous with little social or material hardship, but we should be aware that there are pockets of real deprivation within the township. Often the Centre is called upon to give out urgent food supplies. It is to maintain a working stock that the harvest goods collected at church will be used.

On their behalf, may I thank you for your generosity.

Thomas



Sandbach Leisure Centre Swimming Pool Re-Opens

By the time you are reading this Sandbach Leisure Centre Swimming Pool will have re-opened after some major improvement work.

The 'basket room' has been replaced with individual lockers. The extra space created has been used to enlarge the changing rooms and shower facilities and also provide a changing facility for people with disabilities.

The project has been government funded through a grant gained by Cheshire East Council's participation in the SwimFree project. Part of this funding was also used to successfully refurbish changing facilities last year at Wilmslow Leisure Centre. The remainder will be used to replace the entrance at Nantwich Swimming Pool later this year.

Before the work commenced, Councillor Rod Menlove, Cabinet member with responsibility for environmental services, said: "We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this refurbishment. The refurbishment at Sandbach Leisure Centre will enhance the facilities already available and prove a valuable asset to the community."

Also, Councillor Barry Moran, ward member for Sandbach Town, said: "The pool at Sandbach Leisure Centre is a popular facility locally. I would like to thank people in advance for their patience while the refurbishment is taking place. I welcome the refurbishment of the changing rooms and look forward to seeing the improvements once the work is complete."



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Forthcoming events from the Social Committee.

Sunday 2 nd October	Harvest Lunch 12.30pm. 2 course meal £10
Saturday 8 th October	Slide show 7.00pm Pauline Minshull Sandbach Past and Present Cost £5.00 Coffee / tea and cake
Saturday 22 nd October	Day out to Chester. Shopping followed by a service in Chester Cathedral at 2.00pm when Jane Colley will obtain her Reader's license
Sunday 23 rd October	Bring and Share Lunch to celebrate Jane's Reader's License. Church Hall after the 10.00am Service
Saturday 12 th November	Autumn Fair. 10.00am to 2.00pm Usual stalls plus a Treasure Hunt.
Sunday 11 th December	Christmas lunch. 12.30pm 3 course lunch with coffee and mints £12.50

On **22nd October** Jane is being Licensed as a Reader in Chester cathedral. We intend organising a coach for members of the congregation to go and support her on this day. Details of cost and timings will be available nearer the date, but if you could register an interest now it would help. A list will be available at the back of the church or I can be contacted on 01270 768318 or emailed at richard.wait29@tiscali.co.uk.

Recent Christening

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That vicar said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

The Green Thing

In the line at the Superstore, the checkout girl told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery 'Bags for Life' because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologised to the cashier, explaining that "We didn't have the green thing back in my day".

The checkout girl responded "That's why we have big problems today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment". She was right, our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, pop bottles and beer bottles to the shop. The shop sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. We didn't drive to the nearest bottle banks because there weren't any - but they really were recycled.....even though we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator or lifts in every store and office building. We always walked to the shops and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two streets away. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts - wind and solar power really did dry our clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV if we were lucky, or radio, in the house - not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of Wales!!!.

In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have food processor machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used folded old newspapers to cushion it, not plastic bubble wrap.

Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working, so we didn't need to go to the gym to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen every time, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the

whole razor just because the blade got dull - but we didn't have the green thing back then.

Back then, people used public transport and kids walked or rode their bikes to school instead of turning their parents into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerised gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest chip shop or takeaway.

But isn't it sad that the current generation laments how wasteful their parents and grandparents were - just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

*Every single evening
As I'm lying here in bed,
This tiny little Prayer
Keeps running through my head:*

*God bless all my family
and friends
Wherever they may be,
Keep them warm
And safe from harm
For they're so close to me.*

*And God, there is one more thing
I wish that you could do;
Hope you don't mind me asking,
Please bless my computer too.*

*Now I know that it's unusual
To Bless a motherboard,
But listen just a second
While I explain it to you, Lord.*

*You see, that little metal box
Holds more than odds and ends;
Inside those small compartments
Rest so many of my friends.*

*I know so much about them
By the kindness that they give,
And this little scrap of metal
Takes me in to where they live.*

*By faith is how I know them
Much the same as you.
We share in what life brings us
And from that our friendships grew.*

*Please take an extra minute
From your duties up above,
To bless those in my address book
That's filled with so much love.*

*Wherever else this prayer may reach
To each and every friend,
Bless each e-mail inbox
And each person who hits 'send'.*

*When you update your Heavenly list
On your own Great CD-ROM,
Bless everyone who says this prayer
Sent up to GOD.Com*

Amen



SUNRISE

This was to have been mainly about the “Wild Goose Chase” in Dumfries and Galloway in March – and some of it is – but it developed into sunrise experiences.

Sandbach U3A Bird watching group went on a bird watching trip to see the six different wild geese in particular: White fronted, Canada, Barnacle, Brent, Greylag and Pink-footed. We also saw many other birds, from dippers to red kites and greenfinches to gannets.

We stayed at the Bruce Hotel in Newton Stewart for four nights. The view from my window was of Cairnsmore of Fleet, a hill I'd climbed about ten years ago, so that was a delight too. The company was good and the variety of reserves was wonderful, and the many birds we saw from the tiny wren to the large geese.

Dumfries and Galloway are eager to attract more tourists to their lovely area, especially to enjoy the geese which over-winter there, so one thing they had laid on was a dawn goose walk followed by a free breakfast in Wigtown Town Hall. We had to be there early on the Sunday morning so one of the group said she'd phone me at 4.15am – but I was awake at 4am. Did any of us really want to get up at that time on a cold, dark morning? Well, did any of us want to miss it? Certainly not!

We duly set out from the Town Hall in the dark and went down the road and along a path to the local nature reserve. As we walked the sky very slowly became lighter; we could see the dark shapes of the hills, the shining loch below them, and the frost on the grass at our feet. We could see the birds – dark shapes moving on the loch shore, then many other birds. The sky now had a tinge of pink behind the hills, which became deeper and, although we didn't see the sun, due to the cloud, we saw the increasing light of a new day. *Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”*

Easter was about a fortnight after that. Sandbach Churches Together had arranged a dawn service at the Crosses starting at: 6am (St John's magazine), 6.10am (St Mary's magazine) and 6.30am (local paper). Again it was well worth the effort of getting up in the dark and cycling into Sandbach in light drizzle, which soon stopped). Two people were already there, from 6am. I had arrived at 6.10am. We chatted quietly until 6.30, by which time about another 15 had gathered...and one dog. The service was lovely but I think the others had missed something; after all, Mary Magdalene had come to the tomb early, while it was yet dark, and the three of us early birds had been there at the coming of the light.

“Welcome happy morning, age to age shall say” (The Congregational Hymnal)

Other sunrises have been more spectacular. I remember one in the Lake District while camping below the summit of Dale Head. I actually woke my daughter (sharing the tent) to see this wonderful sunrise above the distant hills that July morning, but it was early so we had at least an hour's sleep afterwards. Another was in Scotland with the tent pitched on the slopes of Carn Liath, part of the Beinn a'Ghlo group above Blair Atholl, for the final night before catching a train home. This time I woke to a deep blue sky above me with small clouds of rose pink drifting past, and as the sun rose the pink gradually faded.

“For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies....”

There was one of the most brilliant sunrises I have ever known while I was walking up the Northumberland coast a few years ago. I camped about a mile south of Craster and, as often happens, I was woken by the light. I peeped out of the tent; I got out of the tent, camera in hand. All was quiet and beautiful, with just the gentle sound of small waves breaking on the pebbles a few feet below. The sun was just appearing over the horizon, shining on the sea, sending pathways of gold towards me.

“.....and the Spirit of God move on the face of the waters.....”

Christine Roche

Christmas Fair 29th October 2011

10:00am to 14:00pm

To raise funds for Oakdene Court sheltered housing scheme
In the Communal Lounge at Oakdene
Court, Sandbach, CW11 4NP.

Tombola Stall
Craft Stall
Cake and Marmalade Stall
Bric a Brac Stall
Name the Doll Stall
Raffle

Admission 30 pence including Tea and
Coffee, Biscuits.

Church Fellowship

Where is this year going to? We began our new season on Tuesday 13th September with a talk by Mr Allan Hadfield on the 'Origin of Everyday Sayings'. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but from reports it appears that everyone enjoyed a very amusing evening.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday 11th October** when Mr. Harry Watson will return yet again, this time to talk about his time in the police force. Please come along and bring a friend.

Sue

St. Mary's Church Outreach Harvest Appeal - Horn of Africa Drought and Starvation

At this harvest time St Mary's Church is asking that you help us make a donation to assist those charities who are still trying to give food and water to the thousands of people, old, young, children and babies, who are in desperate need in Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

The newspapers and television programmes were full of the disaster that was affecting the people of that part of Africa in June and July. Although other news has attracted the news headlines the situation in Africa is still desperate. The number of children who are in need of water and food every day, the number of people who are still walking to find help in camps that are already full to bursting is appalling and outrageous. It is sad that it is not mentioned in the news now. Does this mean it is not happening, or that it is not worth reporting anymore? I think the answer to both questions is no, therefore we are asking that you give as big a donation as possible at this harvest time.

At the time of going to press we cannot say which organisation we will send the money donated. There is so much that is needed now and will be needed in the future if the people are to return to their homes BUT all the money donated will be sent to the organisations that will help feed, water, and house the people.

Please give generously to this appeal. It does not matter whether the money comes via the church or you make a direct donation. Please give whilst we celebrate the wonderful harvest and good things that we have.

Paul Burden – Outreach Committee

ALL IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

It was....

175 years ago:- on 2nd Oct 1836 that British naturalist Charles Darwin returned from his five-year voyage to South American aboard 'HMS Beagle'.

125 year ago:- on 28th Oct 1886 that The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour was dedicated by US President Grover Cleveland.

100 years ago:- on 4th Oct 1911 that the first escalator on the London Underground began operating at Earl's Court station.

75 years ago:- on 5th Oct 1936 that the Jarrow March began. 200 men set off from Jarrow in north-east England to Westminster in London to draw attention to the severe unemployment and poverty in their area following the closure of a shipyard. They reached London on 31st Oct.

65 years ago:- on 15th Oct 1946 that Hermann Goering, Nazi leader, was sentenced to death at the Nuremberg trials, but poisoned himself with cyanide before the execution could take place.

60 years ago:- on 31st Oct 1951 that zebra crossings were officially introduced in Britain; the first was in Slough.

50 years ago:- on 6th Oct 1961 that US President John F Kennedy advised Americans to build bomb shelters to protect themselves from nuclear fallout in the event of an attack by the Soviet Union.

40 years ago:- on 10th Oct 1971 that the British TV series 'Upstairs, Downstairs' was first broadcast.

25 years ago:- on 27th Oct 1986 that 'Big Bang Day' took place; when the British financial market was deregulated and the London Stock Exchange switched to a computerised trading system.

Also 25 years ago:- on 29th Oct 1986 that the M25 orbital motorway around Greater London was officially opened by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

15 years ago:- on 13th Oct 1996 that British racing driver Damon Hill won the 1996 Formula One world championship, clinching victory in the final race of the season in Japan.

10 years ago:- on 7th Oct 2001 that the USA launched its military offensive in Afghanistan following the Sept 11th terrorist attack.



WHO'S WHO AT ST MARY'S

Vicar	The Revd Thomas Shepherd	762379
	e-mail	revts@me.com
Churchwardens	Reg Dunning	762681
	Martyn Colley	748669
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	

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP	Marjorie Spence	767020
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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 23rd October 2011

FOR BAPTISMS AND WEDDINGS, PLEASE CONTACT

The Vicar in Church on Sundays between 5.00pm – 6.00pm (When the clocks go back **2.00pm-3.00pm**) to make the necessary arrangements.