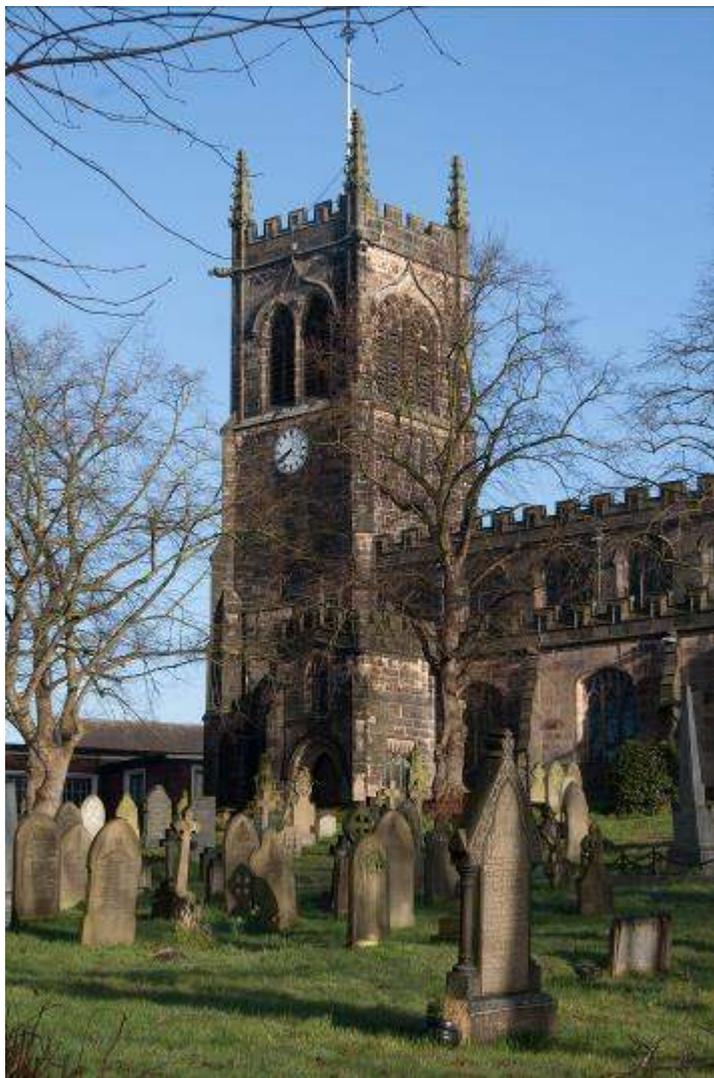


CHALLENGE



The Parish Magazine of St Mary's Sandbach

August 2018

Volume 54

No 637





August 2018

Sunday 5th August	8.00 am	Holy Communion
10 Trinity	10.00 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Holy Eucharist
Sunday 12th August	8.00 am	Holy Communion
11 Trinity	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday 19th August	8.00 am	Holy Communion
12 Trinity	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday 26th August	8.00 am	Holy Communion
13 Trinity	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 2nd September	8.00 am	Holy Communion
14 Trinity	10.00 am	Morning Worship
	6.30 pm	Holy Eucharist
Every Wednesday	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Holy Eucharist, Parish Eucharist = Order 2 Common Worship
Holy Communion = Order 1 Book of Common Prayer

How about joining us at St. Mary's for a LOVE FEAST? an 'Agape'

Let me explain.

The day I arrived at Lincoln Theological College to begin training for the ministry I walked through the college front door to be faced by a blackboard on which was written in very large letters:

AGAPE TONIGHT 7 pm.

You may imagine what thoughts went through my mind. What is 'Agape'? Is this message for everyone or does it apply to a select few who know what 'agape' means? Where and how do I fit in here at a college which is sure to have many rules and practices which are unlike any I have previously known?

Fortunately I was soon having the mystery explained to me by one of the students deputed to welcome newcomers. Agape, he explained, is a Greek word which means 'Love Feast.' If you have a copy of the Concise Oxford Dictionary you can find

it there for yourself.

The first Christians met together to obey our Lord's command at his Last Supper, "Do this in remembrance of me." Sharing broken bread and a common cup of wine became what today we call, according to our several traditions, The Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, The Mass, The Eucharist (which is another Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving'). But then it was noticed that some who came to the Eucharist were not just receiving a small portion of bread and a sip of the wine but were using the Eucharist as a means to satisfy their bodily not spiritual hunger. So the Agape was introduced as a shared meal to satisfy hungry bodies to be enjoyed before the Holy Communion to satisfy their spiritual hunger.

Pondering all this recently it occurred to me that we have our own tradition of Agape at St. Mary's Sandbach; except that we are more likely to have our

'agape' after rather than before the Holy Communion service. On those occasions in the year when we celebrate the Communion and afterwards adjourn to the Church Hall for a splendid meal prepared by our catering group we are doing exactly what St. Paul commends us to do; that is: as well as celebrating the Lord's Supper we go on to express our fellowship with one another by sharing a hearty meal. It is our version of the early Christian practice of enjoying a love feast, an Agape.

The only difference at St Mary's is that we celebrate the Communion first before we enjoy the Agape. How good it would be if all who come to the

Agape were also first at the Holy Communion.

The two really belong together with complementary meaning.

The Agape to strengthen our fellowship with one another.

The Holy Communion to bring us into closer fellowship with our Lord and Saviour.

Most recently we held an Agape on Sunday 15th July and there will be another one shortly before Christmas. Book your tickets but remember also that the Holy Communion is also open to anyone every week and no tickets are needed for that.

David Ashworth

Church Flowers August

19th	Mrs Stanway
5th, 12th, 26th	Vacant



Anyone wishing to provide the church flowers for other Sundays then please contact Sheenagh Ashworth on 01270 529187

**How dull life would be if God gave us everything
we asked for**

From the Registers

Baptisms

June

24th Tobi-Jaiden Arthur Platt son of David and Samantha
Isla-Rose Smith daughter of Scott and Carla



Weddings

July

21st Daniel Robinson and Lisa Draycott



Funerals

June

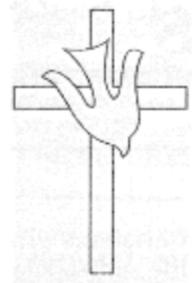
22nd Maxwell Higgs (84)

July

12th Wendy Evans (74)

13th Lily Stokes (89)

Also a memorial for Winifred Torr for 23rd July.



Coffee Rota

August

5th Joyce Griffiths and Lynne Winfield
12th Jean Richardson and Iris Kenilworth
19th Marjorie Burgess
26th Kathleen Davies and Kathleen Beech

September

2nd Joyce Griffiths and Lynne Winfield



Commitment is not just a word - it's an act



The next Challenge will be a combined edition including September and October. Please get your articles in for both months by the deadline 19th August.

Caption Competition

Last months caption competition was from the Garden Party in Howard's Garden and featured the photograph of the man himself. Here



were the winning entries:

How Much?
Spike PCSO

"Do have one of my award-winning strawberry scones... !" - Mary Garratt

"After this lot I'm going into rehab" - Howard Yates



This month we have a picture (left) from the Choir Afternoon tea. Get you pens out and send in your captions.

Let's mix it up!

It seems some people cannot hear in church although they may wear hearing aids and the clergy use microphones.

It has been suggested that they try moving to a seat in church that is near one of the loudspeakers fitted on the pillars.

Many of us sit in the same seat each week but it may help to move a row or two back/forwards - give it a try.

How about doing the same in coffee after the Sunday Service - go and sit next to someone you don't know that well, and even more importantly, welcome visitors or new people.



Keys are the answer

The Churchwardens would like to know who holds keys to the outer and inner parish office doors in the church hall as we are planning to replace the locks.

Can anyone tell us who put the following items in the office which is getting very cluttered

A hi fi system

Soft toys and games

Electric heater

Tapestry pictures

And garden tools

These items will be disposed of unless claimed in the next month. If you have items which you think might be of use to the church please have a word with the churchwardens before leaving them in the office or the annexe of the church hall

Sheenagh and Anne (churchwardens)

Caroline's Occasions Bridal Boutique

All your Bridal Needs

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Unit 2, Zan Industrial Park
Wheelock, Sandbach
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Carolinesocccasions@gmail.com



Kakrao prayer update - June

(St Mary's raised £260 enough to start five Kenyan families with a calf and the corresponding training for its upkeep. Ed)



Dear Friends,

This month I thought you'd like to 'meet' Nancy and find out about how her life has been changing and some of the challenges she faces.

Nancy belongs to Kitumba Mwangaza Women's Group. She is 35 and is married to Evans. They care for 3 children: the first is a niece, Mauleen (14), the second daughter, Shivon (6) and the youngest boy is called Emmanuel (9 months).

Nancy has recently been trained in sustainable agriculture as part of the "Send a Cow" project and was proud to show us her new crops and vegetables. A few months ago, she was only growing kale and a few other crops (maize and bananas) but was not managing to feed her family well. Now she has a productive garden with several

varieties of vegetable, including kale, onions, tomatoes, spinach, amaranthus, cow peas, beans and other local vegetables.

It is only during the last month or two that she has managed to sell the surplus for profit, but she is already excited about the prospect of extending her vegetable plot and being able to sell vegetables in Migori town!

"Send a Cow has given me the idea to do this and now I have the knowledge, even if SAC leaves, I can expand my vegetables and supply onions and tomatoes to the hotels in Migori town."

Kakrao, is typically highly drought prone and during several months of the year, Nancy's only water source is the Migori river: an arduous hour long round trip which has to be made twice a day, carrying a 20 litre jerry can on her head up a steep hill. However, she has used her initiative and put up a

short length of guttering under part of her house roof, with which she can collect a small amount of water.

Very soon, the Send a Cow team will be providing training in other structures which will improve her water harvesting even further.

“I believe God loves me and God loves my husband..... we survive because I love him and I take care of him. He is so friendly: he is welcomed everywhere; he is happy and everyone loves him, especially the children.”

What a wonderful family! Please do pray for them.

Praise God for Nancy and her optimism and eagerness to make changes to her life.

Pray that her work will be



fruitful and that he would protect Nancy and her family. Pray that all in the community would be successful with growing new

vegetables and they would grow enough to sell and bring in an income, as well as help them to lead healthy, happy lives.

Pray for those who have to walk such long distances to fetch water. Pray that the spring capping project will get underway soon and benefit more people than ever with clean water.

Best wishes,

Ann Hatton

Church Development Manager

St Mary's Social Committee



Saturday 8th September Pudding Evening

Saturday 3rd November Autumn Fair

Sunday 2nd December Christmas Lunch

Come along and bring your friends to these events.

Tickets will be advertised in the magazine and on the pew sheets.



Fundraising overdrive

The Summer Lunch was held on Sunday 15th July. All the food was given and prepared by the Social Committee as usual, and hopefully enjoyed by all who attended. A big thank you to all for your support and we raised **£1,226**.

The Choir also held a fundraising Afternoon Tea on Sunday 22nd July. Seventy two people came along to the event with many also attending the Choral Evenson afterwards. A total of **£560** was raised to help replace the ailing organ.



Holiday with Jesus

August is the month when schools are off and many of us go on holiday. The trouble is that holidays soon come to an end! Yet Jesus offers us a rest which has no end:

‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.’ (Matthew 11: 28-29). Are you tired or burdened? Jesus invites you to take a holiday with Him!

The Invitation: Our holiday destination is Jesus himself: *‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened.’* We can come just as we are, with all the burdens, weaknesses and sinfulness that we carry. Jesus doesn’t offer a *‘10 steps programme’* to deal with our issues; He simply offers himself!

The Promise: Jesus promises us the gift of refreshing, sustaining and everlasting rest. When we go on holiday, we usually look forward to doing very little and yet this is not the kind of rest Jesus offers. His rest involves taking up His yoke and learning from Him! A yoke was the wooden collar that ran across the shoulders of a pair of oxen and enabled them to work the fields. Jesus says to us: *‘My yokes fit well. They do not rub your neck and shoulders. Come to me and get yoked to me. Make an act of loyal obedience and trust in me. And you will find a deep peace and satisfaction that you could never find anywhere else. I have come for you. Come to me!’*

What’s so amazing about this holiday is that you don’t have to go anywhere; you can find rest by simply staying at home!

Let your religion be less of a theory and more
of a love affair. (G.K. Chesterton)

29th August - Beheading of St John the Baptise

When you go back to work after the August Bank Holiday this month, spare a thought for John the Baptist: however rough your local sandwich bar may be, it probably doesn't serve you locusts with a honey dip; you won't be imprisoned for saying derogatory things about the local MP's wife, and even the boss from hell is unlikely to have a daughter who wants to hip-hop about with your head on a platter.

John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique job God gave him to do, which has to be the best PR job of all time: act as God's press officer.

This was quite literally the PR job from heaven: with God as his client, John the Baptist's job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever attempted anything like that.



It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised Him in the Jordan at the start of His ministry.

PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even the most dedicated press officers literally lose their heads over a client.

Church Wardens Report March - July 2018

We have had an interesting four months working closely with Adrian, our new architect, looking at completing the re-roofing of the church: replacing, the two side chapels and two vestries. Anne, John, Brian and I have been looking into the grant system and have now completed an application for £100,000 from Our Heritage Lottery. We hope to get this grant which does not need match funding.

Having had a report from the Quantity Surveyor it looks as though we will have to look at just doing the



two chapel roofs as the cost of all four rooves is more than the grant available to us. We will be able to apply for a further grant next year enabling us to finish the project..

Anne has been looking into other funding and I have been working with the Diocese on this project.

Anne and I have a variety of jobs to do each week. Setting up the altar for communion, getting the books ready at the back of church, greeting people as they come into church, counting and recording and banking the collections, making payments to bell ringers and vergers after weddings and funerals and keeping an eye on the general running and upkeep of the church. Sometimes church begins to feel like a second home.

We would welcome any help with some of these duties especially to help with preparing books and service sheets for services and welcome people to the church. **Sheenagh Ashworth**

Prayer



A prayer based on the Lord's Prayer recently said at the Civic Service.

Through our love of the countryside, through our care for animals, through our respect for property and tools: **Father, hallowed be your name.**

On our farms and in our homes, in our colleges and schools, in our shops and places of commerce and where policy is planned: **Father, your kingdom come.**

By our seeking your guidance, by our keeping your commandments, by our living true to our consciences: **Father, your will be done.**

For the millions who live in poverty and hunger, for our own needs, and the requirements of our neighbours, by co-operation, sympathy and generosity: **give us today our daily bread.**

Because we have broken your commandments, doing what we ought not to do and neglecting what we ought to do: **forgive us our sins.**

If any have injured us by injustice, double dealing or exploitation: **we forgive those who sin against us.**

When prosperity lulls us to false security, or hard times prompt us to despair. When success makes us boastful, or failure makes us bitter: **lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

In the assurance of faith, in the confidence of hope, in the will to serve, help us to love Christ as Lord, and our neighbour as ourselves. **for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

And they say it's old fashioned

The family had been up in the attic together doing some cleaning. The children uncovered an old manual typewriter and asked, "Hey Mum...what's this?" She answered, "Oh...that's an old typewriter", thinking that would satisfy their curiosity. "Well, what does it do? they asked.

"I'll show you," she said and found a blank piece of paper. She rolled the paper into the typewriter and began striking the keys, leaving black letters of print on the page. "Wow!" they exclaimed, "that's really cool, but how does it work like that? Where do you plug it in?"

She explained, "There is no plug, because It doesn't need electricity." The children persisted, "Then where do you put the batteries?" With a smile she said, "It doesn't need batteries either."



The children were amazed and one said, "This is fantastic; someone should have invented this a long time ago!"

Sandbach Garden Trail 2018

The next dates are 18th and 19th August. Refreshments at most gardens.

Pay for your ticket at the first garden you visit - £4 per person.

Pick up a leaflet from local shops with more details.

Ordination

Oliver Blease was ordained Deacon on Sunday 1st July at Salisbury Cathedral. He spent many years at St Mary's both in the congregation, the Choir and assisting Thomas with worship. He has joined the ministry team at Royal Wootton Bassett in Wiltshire.



(Left to right: Gill (Oliver's mother), Oliver, Thomas Shepherd (St Mary's Vicar), Catherine Shepherd, Mariama (Oliver's wife).

The ministry of deacons in the church has a long tradition. The work "diaconos" means "servant", and the diaconate is one of the historic orders of the universal church. Deacons were appointed to assist the apostles in their ministry in earliest days - freeing the apostles for their distinctive work of preaching and teaching - but, more significantly, their ministry embodied that of Christ himself "who can not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many".



SANDBACH
CHORAL SOCIETY

Come and Sing

**Vivaldi Gloria & The Armed Man,
Karl Jenkins**

Music Director - Christopher Cromar

Saturday 1st September

10.00am – 4.30pm

Sandbach High School

Adults £15, SCS members &
students £10

Registration & refreshments from 9.30am

Refreshments including home-made cakes will be available

You are invited to bring lunch with you.

Booking forms from: Secretary Sue Cooke, 32 Vicarage Gardens,
Elworth, Sandbach, CW11 3BZ. Tel: 01270 766546

Email: info@sandbachchoral.co.uk

www.sandbachchoral.co.uk

German Grand Prix Winn

I wish I could describe this feeling right now... What a day, true proof that you should never give up!! The team did such a great job as they always do, I can't thank them enough! I kept the belief and it came true. A big, big thanks to God #Godisthegreatest @MercedesAMGF1

— Lewis Hamilton (@LewisHamilton) July 22, 2018

Gathering

The Archbishop of Canterbury hosted the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Shaykh Dr Ahmad al-Tayyeb, in July to discuss how religious leaders can help faith communities address conflict and help their societies to thrive. The visit celebrated the Emerging Peacemakers Forum, which brought together 50 young Christians and Muslims from around the world to learn about peacebuilding, reconciliation and leadership. The bishop of Egypt, Mouneer Anis, was present throughout the visit, as were Anglican leaders from places including Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Holy Land.

The Forum, which was held over nine days gave the young leaders a chance to explore what makes their faiths unique and different while working side by side to address conflict across barriers of faith and culture.

Archbishop Justin Welby said: 'The impact of these young peacemakers coming together has been even greater than we hoped. It's been full of creative ideas. The days – we hope and pray – of the great World Wars may have passed, but all over the world there are conflicts of extreme severity. It doesn't matter if you're a conflict where one person is killed or where 1,000 are killed. If you are the relative of that one person, for you that is the ultimate conflict. 'Don't let this investment of creative time and energy be wasted. Plan today for how what you have learned will be embedded, deepened, developed, over the years to come.'

The Archbishop and the Grand Imam were then shown the Birmingham Qur'an, one of the oldest surviving Islamic manuscripts, by experts from the University of Birmingham.

The formal relationship between the office of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Grand Imam of al-Azhar was officially established in 2002 after the events of 9/11 in 2001.

Peace

If there is to be peace
If there is to be peace in the world,
there must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
there must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
there must be peace between neighbours.

If there is to be peace between neighbours,
there must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
there must be peace in the heart.

(Lao Tzu (570-490 BC))

What's breeding in your tea towel

You will never look at your kitchen tea towels in quite the same way again: they could be harbouring bugs which will give you food poisoning.

Here are the gruesome details: recent tests on tea towels found that *E.coli* is more likely to be found on towels which have been used for both dishes and drying hands. Damp tea towels are the worst – with up to a third growing *E.coli* on them. The bugs found were of *coliform bacteria*, (a group which includes *E.coli*); *enterococcus spp*, and *staphylococcus aureus*. Food poisoning bugs can be fatal for the elderly, the very young, or infirm.

Government guidelines recommend changing and washing tea towels, dish-clothes, sponges and oven gloves on a frequent basis, and letting them dry well before re-use. The study was carried out at the University of Mauritius.

From the Archives



This month we are over in Elworth down Hill Street, in the top picture we see the building on the corner with New Street currently individual apartments. However, in the lower picture we see back in the 1960's when it was the No1 Branch of the Sandbach industrial



Co-operative Society. Originally built in 1900 it opened for business on June 22nd 1901 and included; butchery and drapery departments as well as a billiard and ballroom on the first floor.

Stephen Minshull

Tuneful Places

Abbot's Leigh - usually sung to:

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God.
He whose Word cannot be broken
formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes

Other hymn texts sung to the same tune include "Father Lord of All Creation", "God is Here", "Go My Children, With my Blessing" and "Lord, You Give the Great Commission".

Composed by Cyril V. Taylor in May of 1941 when he was working for the Religious Broadcasting Department of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The BBC had received complaints about the use of Austria (tune for the Austrian national hymn) during this time of war, a tune then set to "Glorious Things of You Are Spoken". Thus Taylor originally composed his tune for that text. First printed in a leaflet, Abbot's Leigh was published in *Hymns Ancient and Modern Revised* (1950), *Congregational Praise* (1951), and the *BBC Hymn Book* (1951), of which Taylor was editor. No modern hymnal would want to omit this great twentieth-century tune!

Abbot's Leigh is a village near Bristol where Taylor composed the tune (Bristol was wartime headquarters for the BBC). The parish of Abbots Leigh was part of the Portbury Hundred and the manor house, named Abbot's Leigh or Leigh Court, was a resting place of Charles II during his escape to France in 1651.



Things you are unlikely to hear in church:

“Excuse me, but it’s my turn to sit in the front pew.”

“I was so enthralled that I never noticed the sermon went 25 minutes over time.”

“Personally, I find witnessing about my faith much more enjoyable than golf.”

“I’ve decided to give the church the £200 a month I’ve been spending on fashion.”

“I shall volunteer to be a permanent teacher for the Sunday School class.”

“Forget about the agreed stipend, let’s pay our ministers so they can live like we do.”

“I love it when we sing hymns I’ve never heard before.”

“Vicar, we’d like to send you to a Bible seminar in the Bahamas.”

An elderly couple were in bed one night discussing the vows they made at their church wedding 60 years before. The husband had started nodding off when his wife asked, "Do you remember how we used to hug in those early days?" The husband replied, "Of course I do" and he gave her a big hug.

He was almost asleep when she said, "And do you remember how we used to kiss?" He replied sleepily, "Yes dear, I remember it well," whereupon he gave her a big kiss.

After a short pause his wife said, "Do you remember, how you used to nibble my ear?" The old man threw off the covers and started to climb out of bed. His wife, rather concerned, asked him where he was going. In a slightly exasperated tone he said, "I'm going to get my teeth."

Sign spotted in a safari park: Elephants, please stay in your car.

CHURCH OFFICIALS

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Churchwardens	Sheenagh Ashworth Anne Birch	529187 760778
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Covenants/Gift Aid	Aileen Higgs	760149

OTHER CONTACTS

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Bells	Steven Stoker stmarysbellringers@gmail.com	07456 418888
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Church Hall	Sylvia Watkins hall@sandbachchurch.co.uk	767386

Baptisms and Weddings



Please Contact The Vicar in Church on Sundays 5 pm to 6 pm to make the necessary arrangements.

Challenge is edited by John Bottomley. If you or your organisation have reports of events that have already happened, progress updates of continuing projects, or any other items to be published in the magazine, please contact me by: tel: 01270 768744

e-mail: magazine@sandbachchurch.co.uk

Articles must be received by **Sunday 19th August**

More information is also available on the web-site:
www.sandbachchurch.co.uk

