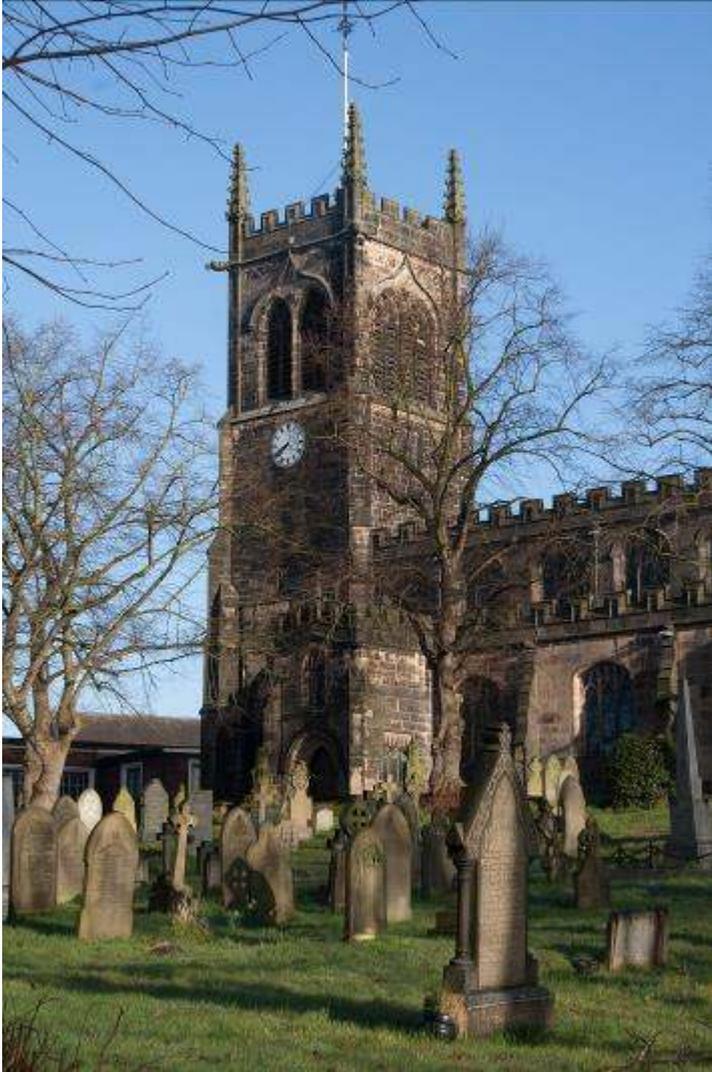


CHALLENGE



The Parish Magazine of St Mary's Sandbach

March 2018

Volume 54

No 634

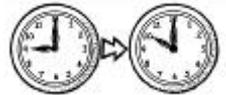
50p



March 2018

Friday 2nd March	7.00 pm	Service for Women's World Day of Prayer
Sunday 4th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
3 Lent	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	3.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday 11th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
4 Lent	10.00 am	Morning Worship
Mothering Sunday	3.30 pm	Holy Eucharist
Sunday 18th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
5 Lent	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist and the Annual Parochial Meeting
Passion Sunday	3.30 pm	Evensong

Sunday 25th March 2.00 am



BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS - Add 1 hour

HOLY WEEK

Sunday 25th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Palm Sunday	10.00 am	Procession of Palms and Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Monday 26th March	7.30 pm	Compline

Tuesday 27th March	7.30 pm	Compline
Wednesday 28th March	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 29th March	7.30 pm	Holy Eucharist and Watch till 10.00 pm
Maundy Thursday		
Friday 30th March	9.00 am	Mattins and Litany
	1.00 pm	Liturgy of the Day
	2.00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 31st March	8.00 pm	Vigil

Easter

Sunday 1st April	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter Day	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Evensong and Holy Communion
Every Wednesday	11.00 am	Holy Communion

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

**If you cannot explain the Christian Gospel simply,
 perhaps you don't understand it well enough**

It was a wonderful service on the last Sunday before Lent when bishop Peter revisited St Mary's after some fifteen years. As a congregation we were able to reflect on our own baptismal vows alongside the four candidates for Confirmation. These vows include a very serious renouncing of evil and sin. A few days earlier I had been asked by one of the candidates "What do you mean by 'sin'? It was a very serious question and I was quite taken aback by it as I assumed that everyone understands what sin is. I found a conversation starting with the nature of evil and the pervasive and pernicious effects that has in the world. Quite quickly we got round to our own moral behaviour and the ways in which humans are fairly good at making a mess of things both as societies and individually. As we discussed evil, we were able to get a sense of what sin is and its roots at the deep darkness of the human condition. We both agreed that there was little point in objectifying it or seeking its origins anywhere other than in ourselves. We agreed that we were pretty good in all sorts of ways of inventing it, multiplying it and enjoying it more than we ought.

We agreed that sin given free and unchecked reign leads inevitably to all sorts of evil outcomes. Yet deep within, at our core, we should find the image of God. After all we are promised that in Genesis - that we are made in God's image. But how faint that image can become as it is clouded and obscured by the blight of sin.

It's time to take our sinfulness seriously. It's time to get a grip. And we are encouraged to ponder its effects during Lent - to look inside find the spark of the love of God there and renew our baptismal promises. For:

"In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him."

And our response is:

"I turn to Christ. I repent of my sins. I renounce evil."

Words which are hugely significant during Lent.

Thomas Shepherd - Vicar

From the Registers

Baptisms

January

28th Isaac Henry Edge son of Rob and Kim

William Arthur Slack son of Nathan and Sarah

February

11th Lucinda Dunning



Confirmations

February

11th Lucinda Dunning

Callum Rayner

Theresa (Terrie) Newton

Joanna Johnson



Funerals

January

22nd Derek Forster (69)

23rd Edna Boyd (83)

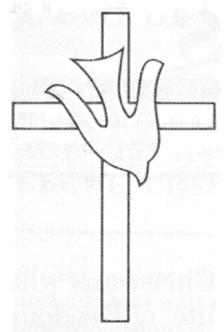
24th Eleanor Hamlett (94)

25th Audrey Hanlon (80)

26th Colin Hart (73)

February

13th Brian Falconer (80)



Coffee Rota March

- 4th Aileen Higgs and Margaret Parry
11th Jim Thompson and Joyce Booth
18th Jean Richardson and Iris Kenilworth
25th Marjorie Burgess and Renee Bickerton



April

- 1st Joyce Griffith and Lynne Winfield
-

From the Editor Cover

Due to increasing printing costs, the cover picture on the magazine will remain the same for the next 12 months.

Adverts

The new round of advertisements are now on the cover. Please do support these top quality local businesses and organisations.

Articles

Don't forget to send me your articles about your organisations, local issues, stories, prayers, jokes and anything else you think the readers would be interested in.



How often do you read the Bible?

A recent poll of members of the Church of England has found that 60 per cent of people who say they are Christians also say that they never read the Bible. 36 per cent say they never attend church. 33 per cent say they never pray.

The figures, from ComRes, which was asked to do the poll, reveal that many people who claim to be Christians do not actually do the most basic activities associated with being a Christian. Of all the self-confessed Christians whom ComRes polled, those who said they were followers of the Church of England were the least observant.

Rachel Jordan, the Church's national mission and evangelism adviser, said the survey had given it 'a real sense of the scale of the task ahead... we, as a group of leaders across denominations committed to evangelism, wanted to devise a measure which shows us who the most committed people are – those who themselves might be willing to take on the task of spreading the good news of Jesus.'

That daffodil time of year

O how I love, as poets do
That time when skies turn deeper blue,
And all can know the vernal thrills
Of landscapes filled with daffodils.

I love to spend a pleasing hour
Admiring nature's golden flower;
That trumpet shape, enhanced by dew
That vibrant, cheering yellow hue!

No better herald of the spring
No flower can more pleasure bring;
And spirits crushed by winter's ills
Are lifted by the daffodils!



By Nigel Beeton

Fairtrade Fortnight: 26th February to 11th March

Many of the foods and other commodities which we buy in this country are produced by millions of farmers and workers who live in developing countries. They depend on the income from trading with us, but the truth is that many are forced to accept very low levels of remuneration. This means they can't afford to feed and house their families adequately, and live without things we regard as essential, such as clean water. Because they need all the family working just to survive, the children are not able to go to school – especially the girls, who do the water carrying and are often destined for very early marriage. They couldn't afford to pay for necessary clothes and equipment for schooling anyway. So they never learn how to improve their lot.

Unfairness in global trade is

rooted in centuries of exploitation. But these are our brothers and sisters, our neighbours, loved by God as much as we are.



We can ensure that those who produce the things we buy are paid properly if we buy Fairtrade goods. In this scheme producers are helped to form co-operatives, to improve yields, to find markets, and to bring fresh water, schools, healthcare, to their communities. I have seen for myself the difference this can make in Malawi, one of the poorest African countries (and a former British colony).

So, this Fairtrade Fortnight, please consider trying more products that carry the Fairtrade logo – there are hundreds available, from coffee and tea to flowers and gold.

Joan Plowman

Annual Meeting

The Annual Vestry Meeting, to elect new churchwardens for the year 2018-2019 will be held in church at the end of the Parish Eucharist on and is open to anyone in the parish:

Sunday 18th March at 11.00am.

The Annual Parochial Meeting will follow immediately afterwards. Anyone can attend but only those on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote at that meeting. This year there will be the elections of four new PCC lay representatives, election of deanery representatives, the co-option of a Treasurer, the election of sidemen and the presentation of Safeguarding Policy and the audited financial accounts. If anyone feels able to serve on the PCC please speak to the vicar or the churchwardens.

How about removing the pews!

Following a decision by a C of E court, pews can be removed permanently and replaced with stackable chairs at Bath Abbey. In 2015, the historic church received a £1.5m donation and Heritage Lottery Fund money for a restoration project which included creating eco-friendly under-floor heating and repairing the collapsing floor. Included in these plans was the controversial move to get rid of the pews to make it a more flexible space. After nearly 10 years of planning, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Bath and Wells has granted them permission.

In a statement on the church website, Rev Edward Mason of Bath Abbey said: "We are delighted with the decision of the Consistory Court. We strongly believe in the benefits of removing the pews. It will enable us to open up the Abbey's nave and side aisles to all and make it possible for people of different physical ability to sit where they choose. Stackable chairs mean that the nave can be used for a wide variety of traditional and contemporary worship."

Sandbach concert series

Tickets: Adults: £8.50

Snr Citizens/Concessions: £7.00

School Children: £3.00

Family Ticket : £20.00

Doors Open 6.30 pm

Wednesday 28th March **Sophie Rosa**

Sophie Rosa and Benjamin Powell will perform a programme
cantering around Beethoven Violin Sonata in G major
and spotlight concert with local young musicians

www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk

All concerts at 7pm in St Mary's Church Hall

Tickets available from: on-line, Demeters Wholefoods (12 Welles
St), Bramwells Opticians (4 Hightown) or on the door.

Sandbach Choral Society Concert

Sunday 25th March

St Mary's Church, Sandbach

7.30pm

Programme: Stanier Crucifixion and Rheinberger Stabat
Mater.

Tickets £12 & £10 Concessions. Under 16 free

Tickets available from Bramwells Opticians, Demeter whole
foods and any Choir member.

Outreach Programme for 2018-19

Following the meeting of the Outreach Team on Wednesday 7th February the following charities have been selected for our support during the next twelve months. These incorporate the response to the recent pew sheet appeal to identify locally based charities. There is a mix of three local charities and two international ones although the Railway Children's Charity was started locally and has its headquarters are now in Sandbach.

The planned schedule is:

February/March - **Petty Pool** - this is a college based at Sandiway who provide education and training for young people with learning difficulties.

April/May/June – **Railway Children** – started 20 years ago to take lonely children off the streets away from potentially dangerous exploitation. It operates in the UK, India, Kenya and Tanzania.

July/August – **Crossroads** – this is based in Congleton and provides support to full time carers.

September/October – **Sight Savers** – they operate mainly in Africa performing thousands of cataract operation a year and treating millions of people to protect them from diseases such as river blindness.

November/December/January – **Sandbach Talking Newspaper** – this provides an important link in the community for those people who are visually impaired with all the local news by producing audio tapes from information contained in the local Chronicles. They operate from Brook House on Crewe Road, Sandbach.

Information on each of these charities will be posted at the back of church as well as in the church hall. A three month allocation has been planned for

those charities which coincide with other annual main stream charitable appeals. Where possible we will invite a speaker to the Sunday 10am service to provide a short talk describing how their charity works.

Our main route for this fund raising is through the contribution we all make when getting a coffee after the Sunday and Wednesday services which apart from buying the coffee etc all the money collected goes to

the designated charity. So the Outreach team wish to thank you for your support and our last appeal for the Papyrus Charity which finished at the end of January raised £367.14.

If you wish to give an individual larger donation to a particular charity, then this will secure a large contribution to the charity since under the right tax situation they can claim these as gift aided whereas the collective money cannot.

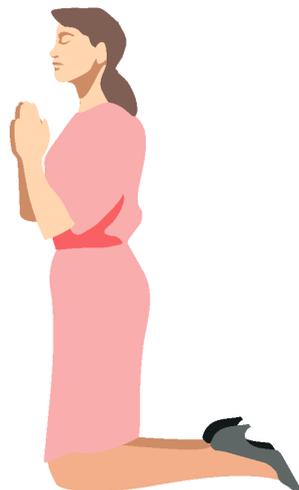
Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 2nd March. Services at:

The Church on the Heath, Ettiley Heath 2pm
St Mary's Church, Sandbach 7pm

The service this year has been written by the women of Suriname, and also shows us something of the country, its life, history and concerns. Although the country is not very big, it's people are diverse and the scenery beautiful. It is wonderful to be able to share in celebrating our faith with Christians in very different parts of the world.

Everyone is welcome - not just women.



Mothering Sunday - and Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ.

On Mid-Lent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old Covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." We



gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus, Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and

others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's

Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The UK seems to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life; instead He gave me life so that I may enjoy

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Christmas Angels

Once again, thank you to all who knitted angels during last year. At 6 am the Saturday before Christmas, over 900 were put around the town but I think it surprised many of us how quickly they were taken up by shoppers (some found an angel sitting on top of their milk bottle when they opened their door that morning).

This year we hope to get more knitters and hence more angels to put out, so if you can help, please start knitting now and hopefully we will double the number.

Please let me know if you need a pattern.

Katie Cavanagh 01270-760270

Churches Together



Christian Aid Coffee Morning



Coffee Morning and Snack Stop

10th March 10 am until 1 pm in St. Mary's Hall

£1 includes tea/coffee and biscuits

Bacon Baps and Cake will be available

Do come and support us

Christian Persecution

Prince Charles has urged Christians in the UK not to take for granted the freedom to practise their faith, as he pointed to extreme persecution against believers in the Middle East. The Prince of Wales issued the stark warning after meeting Christian children forced from their homes by the bloody conflict to grip Iraq and Syria. His Royal Highness said: "It is heart-breaking beyond words to see just how much pain and suffering is being endured by Christians in this day, simply because of their faith. As Christians we remember of course how our Lord called upon us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute, but for those confronted with such hatred and oppression I can only begin to imagine how incredibly hard it must be to follow Christ's example."

More than 700,000 Christians have left Syria during a conflict which is now into its seventh year, while the major city of Aleppo has shed 75 per cent of its Christian population; only 35,000 remain.

Islamic extremism remains the primary factor behind Iraq and Syria being ranked two of the countries where living as a Christian is most difficult, according to the anti-persecution charity Open Doors.

More of God

The BBC has promised to do better religious broadcasting. After conducting a review of its faith-based programming, the network said it wants to raise its game across all religious output, reach as many people as possible and portray the diversity of beliefs and society. BBC presenter Roger Bolton, who was consulted as part of this review, told Premier it's a step in the right direction. "If you have everyone paying for the license fee, then you have the responsibility to everybody no matter what their faith background is," he said. "On the other hand, the majority of people of faith in this country are Christian so I would always expect Christianity to have a predominant position."

Tony Hall said, "The review found that audiences of all faiths and none want to learn more about religion and ethics. They recognise that, if we truly want to make sense of the world, we need to understand the systems of belief that underpin it." The BBC pledged to not let Christian programming suffer under the move to give other faiths greater coverage.

From the Archives



This month we are up the church tower looking out towards Wheelock. In the top picture, taken a few a couple of years ago, we see The George (lower right) and Homebase (top left). In the bottom picture, taken in 1979 before the Sandbach inner relief road was in place, we see the bowling green (centre), above that the old slaughter house with Union Street going off to the right, and the Gas Works (top far left). **Stephen Minshull**

St Mary's Social Committee



Saturday 9th June

Afternoon Tea

Howard's Garden

Sunday 15th July

Summer Lunch

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.

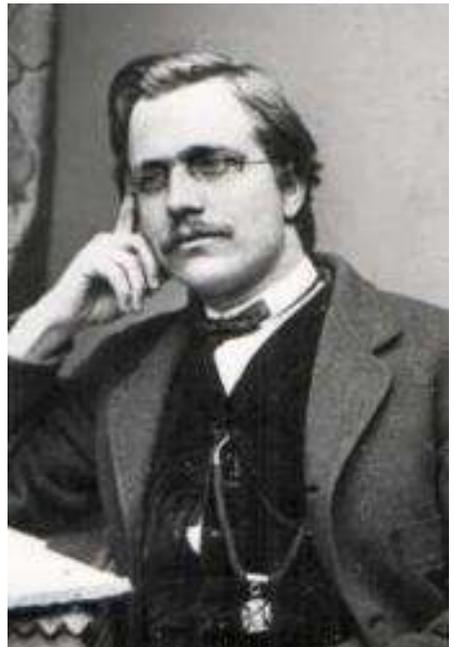
Tuneful Places

Aberystwyth -this is normally used for the hymn:

Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!

The composer was Joseph Parry (21 May 1841 – 17 February 1903), a Welsh composer and musician born in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. The cottage at 4 Chapel Row, Merthyr Tydfil, where Parry was born, is now open to the public as a museum. Parry is buried in St Augustine's Churchyard, Penarth.

From 1873 to 1879 he was professor of music at the Welsh University College in Aberystwyth. After establishing private schools of music in Aberystwyth and in Swansea, he was lecturer and professor of music at the University College of South Wales in Cardiff (1888-1903). Parry composed oratorios, cantatas, an opera, orchestral and chamber music, as well as some four hundred hymn tunes.





Because he had been naughty at school a little boy was told to eat his lunch on his own on a table at the far end of the room. He decided to say his own grace,

“Thank you Lord for preparing a table before me in the presence of my enemies.”

"Oh Mother dear, please do be seated
We think a long, frank talk is needed.
This house is large, a move is due,
A sheltered flat is best for you.
And, Mother, we will need to know
About the arrangements when you go."
So Mother, when she went to bed,
Thought it over as they'd said.
She sold the house, she spent the money,
She cruised the world, she tasted honey.
She stayed away a long, long time
Living it up on the Cunard Line.
The arrangements were her very own,
She was buried at sea and never came home!

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

Ignorance of the Bible was brought home by the university student who thought the Mount of Olives was an EU food mountain.

CHURCH OFFICIALS

Vicar	The Revd. Thomas Shepherd vicar@sandbachchurch.co.uk	762379
Churchwardens	Sheenagh Ashworth Anne Birch	529187 760778
Sacristan	John Percival	765700

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) OFFICERS

PCC Secretary	Mel Robinson	753821
Treasurer	Roger Cooke	762118
Covenants/Gift Aid	Aileen Higgs	760149

OTHER CONTACTS

Organist	Kevin Birch organist@sandbachchurch.co.uk	760778
Bells	John Austin Mervyn Stubbs	764851 762516
Church Flowers	Sheenagh Ashworth	529187
Church Hall	Sylvia Watkins hall@sandbachchurch.co.uk	767386

Baptisms and Weddings



Please Contact The Vicar in Church on Sundays 2pm - 3pm (5 pm to 6 pm during BST) 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 18th March**

More information is also available on the web-site:

www.sandbachchurch.co.uk

