

CHALLENGE



The Parish Magazine of St Mary Sandbach

March 2019

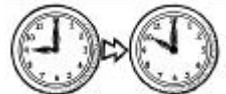
Volume 55 No 643



March 2019

Sunday 3rd March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday before Lent	10.00 am	Morning Worship
	3.30 pm	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 6th March	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Ash Wednesday	7.30 pm	Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
Sunday 10th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
1 Lent	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist and Baptism
	3.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday 17th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
2 Lent	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	3.30 pm	Evensong
Sunday 24th March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
3 Lent	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	3.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Sunday 30th March 2.00 am



BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS - Add 1 hour

Sunday 31st March	8.00 am	Holy Communion
4 Lent	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Mothering Sunday	6.30 pm	Evensong

Sunday 7th April	8.00 am	Holy Communion
5 Lent	10.00 am	Morning Worship and the Annual Parochial Meeting
Passion Sunday	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

From the Registers

Baptism

January

27th Sophie Alice Hayward daughter of Robert and Abigail
 Alfie James Maclean son of Andrew and Sarah



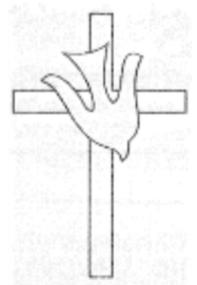
Funerals

January

22nd Andrew Farrington (56)
 24th Margaret Cooke (80)
 30th James Philip Mallett (67)

February

5th Ronald Isaac (84)
 7th Patricia Anne Mellor (80)
 8th Brian Arthur Barnes (70)
 15th Louise Micelle Cole (37)



I don't know how it started, but just before Christmas my sister Bridget and I had a long conversation about the blight of Acedia. It was well documented in the middle ages by Aquinas and others, as the monks disease. But all professional religious people may feel its debilitating and numbing effect from time to time. So if I start by saying that its opposite is "spiritual joy" you will quickly understand that Acedia is the state of mind that progresses through the stages of torpor of mind, spiritual sadness, spiritual sloth, bored indifference, disgust with the spiritual and finally a loathing of the divine good. That is a bleak progressive catalogue. Of course along the way work and all sorts of well-being are affected. There is a sense that it becomes a bit of a pit that one can't escape without a lot of external help - God's free grace being the most essential. Usually folded into one of the seven deadly sins, Sloth, it is certainly akin. It is also subtly different as there is a strong sense of spiritual and world weariness associated with it. Indeed it is not a sinful state that has the effect of doing things wrong. It is a state of life that does not do anything at all! Many of us have been there in our Christian journeys. Usually, mercifully, only for brief periods of time.

And it is not only religious people that get affected. There are some good secular parallels. What about laziness, apathy, ennui or boredom? They effect everyone - the religious and non-religious alike. It is a state of mind that is centred on the individual. There is also a sense that society itself can get into the state of torpor and boredom from time to time. I think we are going through such a period just now, with the final days before the decisive separation between Great Britain and the other members of the European Community. We are at considerable unease and boredom with the process, and wish it completed, without any more fuss.

Perhaps, shortly, we will experience what ever is the secular equivalent of "spiritual joy" in our nation's story. Certainly we hope for a less frenetic period of inconclusive politics. The Christian message at Easter speaks of a joy beyond all imagining. We have a story of love, redemption and reinvigoration. But we have the self-examination of Lent and the yearly remembrance of the way of the cross to experience first. Taking that pilgrimage seriously, may lift us from any lurking feelings of Acedia.

Thomas Shepherd - Vicar

Coffee Rota

March

- 3rd Joyce Griffiths and Lynne Winfield
10th Aileen Higgs and Margaret Parry
17th Jim Thompson and Ghania
24th Jean Richardson and Iris Kenilworth
31st Marjorie Burgess and Joyce Booth

April

- 7th Joyce Griffiths and Lynne Winfield



Did you know?

Accessibility

We are all aware of the difficulties accessing our church on the hill.

Did you know that on a Sunday anyone, not just Blue Badge holders, is allowed to park on a Single Yellow

Line on the Main Street. So parking on the street, near the cobbles, and then up the alley way past Williams Delicatessen and then through the Church Hall would be the easiest route.

The PCC have been unable to find a suitable solution despite asking many people, including our architect. If you have any ideas then please contact one of the members of the PCC.

Candles and Boxes

Thank you to all of you who returned your Children's Society Boxes. The total was £1238 which is a slight increase on last year. Well done!



If you do not have a box, and would like one, then please contact Stella 763801.

From the Editor

Cover

At a small additional cost I have printed three different cover photos for the year so they can be rotated on a monthly basis. This should

make it easier to see when the next edition is published.

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 with which readers would be interested.

Photographs

Sometimes the photograph in the magazine do not reproduce particularly well which is due to the duplicator machine been best suited to text. If you would like a clearer image then just visit the magazine page on the website:

www.sandbachchurch.co.uk

In this Issue....

Beetles

Google

Lent

Bones

Daffodils

AGM

Citadels

Help for the Vicar

Who cares for the Vicar?

The Church of England is looking into ways of giving more support to vicars. You may wonder why, as it looks a nice life: house provided, regular salary, job security – and only one day’s work a week!

But from my own personal experience I can assure you it’s not like that. In my working life I’ve had four jobs: teacher, then journalist, then BBC producer and finally vicar. The last was by some distance the most satisfying and rewarding, but also by far the most demanding. Your home is also the office seven days a week.

It’s true Sunday is the ‘public’ bit of your work, but while you may be free to pick up the kids from school, forget about cosy evenings with the family, as church

meetings are held in the evenings! The really defining part of the job is largely unseen and takes place all through the week.

It was funny, coming from an ordinary job to parish ministry. Previously, I had known what I was expected to do, the hours I was required to work and to whom I was answerable. Well vicars are technically ‘self-employed’, though they are licenced by the bishop and paid by the Church Commissioners. In practice, their work is determined by the local church – its needs, potential, aspirations. The churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council also

help to shape the work-load. If all that sounds a bit confusing, yes, it is. Possibly the Church’s current research may look into that.



What won't change, I'm sure, is the priestly vocation. It is not a job, even if I've used the word, but a vocation – like nursing, teaching or care-work. It is always hopeless to treat a vocation as a job! Mind you, that is all the more reason for those who shape the work patterns of those 'called' with

sensitivity and care. Clergy burn-out is not unknown, and nor is depression which stems from a feeling of failure.

So, don't only pray for the vicar. Show him or her how much you value them and where possible share their burden.

Canon David Winter

The Story of the Holy Land - a *visual history*

By Peter Walker, Lion Hudson, £12.99

This is a highly illustrated, visually led guide through the story of the Holy Land, from Bible times to the present day. The Holy Land frequently features in today's headlines as a much fought-for territory. Many know part of its story, as recounted in the Bible, but what happened after Jesus' time?

This book explores the Old Testament and New Testament history of the Holy Land, as well as everything that happened later - the Muslim conquest, the crusades, and the modern rediscovery of Bible sites - unearthing the rich layers of history of this sacred place.



Beetle Drive

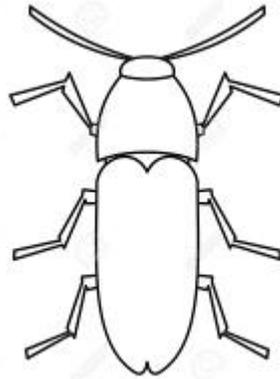
Saturday 16th March

7.00 pm

St Mary's Church Hall

**£6 per
person**

**Tea,
Coffee and
Cakes at
half-time**



**Bring some friends
along for this highly
entertaining and social
event.**

Advance notice

Annual Vestry Meeting: to elect new churchwardens for the year 2019-2020 will be held in church on **Sunday 7th April at 10.00 am**. This meeting is open to anyone in the parish.

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.

Please do try to attend this important meeting.

Help required

We are in urgent need of new members of the PCC. This is not an onerous or time consuming position, but we do need to spread the work load amongst a larger team. Specifically we need:

Two Churchwardens

A Treasurer

Four additional members of the PCC.

If anyone feels able to serve on the PCC please speak to the vicar or the churchwardens. There will be a handover period for all of the positions.

Help is also required with:

Sides person duties

Thursday Teas

Social Committee.



Sandbach **Methodist** Church
Wesley Avenue, CW11 1DG

Saturday 16 March 2019

“Peace Meal”

Jacket Potatoes with fillings
served at 6:30pm followed by

**“Why is loving our enemies
so flippin difficult?”**

at 7:30pm with Mrs Ruth
& Revd Rob Hilton

Donations (£5 suggested) will be
for the Methodist Mission Partner
in Israel / Palestine

Bookings: 07760 130124 or
email: karenefoster@hotmail.co.uk

Raffle in aid of Sandbach Foodbank

The speed of change

Reflecting on the first two decades of this century, it's amazing when you think about the speed of change. What is normal now, certainly wasn't normal in the year 2000!

No-one had heard of a selfie. Google was in its very early stages, but whoever thought it would come to be used as a verb? There was no Wikipedia, no Snapchat, no YouTube and no WhatsApp. Neither was there any Spotify, Skype or Facebook. And the list goes on - no Twitter, no Netflix, and no iPads. There was hardly a satnav to be found and no emojis to bring a smile or two.



And what about photographs – we used to fill albums, but now a mobile phone can take super photos at the push of a button - and good quality! Talking about the cloud a few years ago and you knew it was threatening rain. If this kind of change is what a few years can bring, what on earth will it be like in, say, 2050?

Many of the people who have resisted technological change will have passed on and every new generation will be tech-savvy. But let's remember there are some things that never change.

The Web – 30 years on

Editor: Tim Berners-Lee has almost certainly affected more people than any other living person.... By Tim Lenton

The World Wide Web was invented 30 years ago this month, on 12th March 1989, by Tim Berners-Lee while he was working at CERN, the European particle physics laboratory.

His innovation – a global hypertext document system originally described by his superior as “vague but exciting” – was intended to help scientists share data across a then obscure platform called the Internet, but his decision to make the source code freely

available meant it took on a life of its own and is now used by almost everyone with a computer.

He has never profited directly from his invention, but now spends much of his time trying to protect it from malign influences and is working on Solid, a project designed to provide “true data ownership as well as improved privacy”.

As a result of his original invention, Berners-Lee was named one of the 20th century’s most important figures by Time magazine, received the prestigious Turing Award for achievements in the computer sciences, and was honoured at the Olympics. He was also knighted by the Queen.

Raised as an Anglican, he turned away from religion but then became an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Church, which he describes as tolerant and liberal.

The mother of a choice!

Who will your Mothering Sunday card be addressed to this year? If that sounds a silly question, consider this: last year, for the first time in the UK, you could choose between cards that called your mother Mother, Mum or – *Mom*.

Paperchase was the company who brought in the American flavoured ‘Mom’, and the reason may be linked to all the American cartoons British children enjoy. But it seems that ‘Mom’ is also used in the UK, at least in the Midlands.

Prof Carl Chinn, a Birmingham linguistics expert, says there is evidence that ‘Mom’ was used prior to WW1. In Birmingham, “people have been replacing the ‘a’ with an ‘o’ in various words since the ancient medieval times.” The Birmingham Yardley MP, Jess Philips, uses the term ‘Mom’, and insists that Hansard record her saying ‘Mom’ and not ‘Mum’ in the House of Commons.



Sandbach concert series

Tickets: Adults: £10.00
Snr Citizens/Concessions: £9.00
School Children: £3.00
Family Ticket : £21.00
Doors Open 6.30 pm

Wednesday 27th March

Kabantu

A quintet from Manchester who unravel new marriages of music from around the world to celebrate the space where different cultures meet, from Scotland to South Africa to Brazil 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, Demeter Wholefoods (15 Welles St), Bramwells Opticians (4 Hightown) or on the door.

St Mary's on the internet

There is a push to keep the St Mary's website more up to date. A number of news items and photographs have recently been added by our web editor, Heather. Web sites are only as good as the information on them so please send regular updates to **magazine@sandbachchurch.co.uk**

Please have a look at it: **www.sandbachchurch.co.uk**

St Mary's also has a Facebook page to share Services and Events to a wider community and to create a wider interest in our church.



If you are not currently on Facebook but have photographs or memories you would like to share about St. Mary's email **organist@sandbachchurch.co.uk**.

Women Priests

It was 25 years ago, on 12 March 1994, that the first 32 women priests in the Church of England were ordained. It happened in Bristol Cathedral, and Bishop Barry Rogerson ordained them in alphabetical order; so Angela Berners-Wilson was considered the very first woman to be ordained. The daughter of a priest, she is now chaplain at the University of Bath and Prebendary at Wells Cathedral.

The youngest was Karen MacKinnon, now spiritual care manager at Southampton Hospital.

The legality of the ordination was challenged unsuccessfully in the courts by Anglo-Catholic the Rev Paul

Williamson. Ten years later, one in five priests was a woman.

The first Anglican province to officially permit the ordination of women was Hong Kong and Macao in 1971. Florence Li Tim-Oi had been unofficially ordained there in 1944.

The idea of women priests began to be discussed in the 1920s. In 1978 a meeting chaired by Dame Betty Ridley agreed to set up what eventually became the Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW).

Of the 542 candidates entering training this year, more than half (274) are women, which is 19 per cent more than last year – a record rise.



Fairtrade Fortnight 25th February - 10th March



This year the focus is on chocolate, specifically on the people – in particular the women - who grow the cocoa in our favourite treat.

It's estimated that a cocoa farmer in West Africa needs to earn £1.86 per day to achieve a living income -that means enough for food, clothing, medicine and school. Currently a typical cocoa farmer in Cote d'Ivoire lives on around 74p a day. Almost all cocoa farmers in West Africa live in poverty. Many of these are women, who plant and harvest on the farm, look after children, carry water, collect wood, cook and clean for the family, and transport the cocoa beans to market. Fairtrade

foundation is campaigning for a living wage to become a reality for them.

For the two weeks of Fairtrade fortnight, the story of cocoa farmers in Cote D'Ivoire is being told (through the eyes of the women) on the website

www.fairtrade.org.uk

Take a look if you can, but at any time if we buy chocolate, cocoa and many other products bearing the Fairtrade logo we are doing something to help make sure all producers of our food get a fair price for their produce.

Joan Plowman



St Mary's Social Events



Saturday 16th March

Beetle Drive

Sunday 25th August

Summer Lunch

Saturday 2nd November

Autumn Fair

Sunday 8th December

Christmas Lunch

Come along and bring your friends to these events.

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

Women's World Day of Prayer

The service this year has been prepared by the women of Slovenia. Local services on **Friday 1st March** are:

2pm at St Winfried's

7pm at Wesley Avenue

World Day of Prayer is a women-led, global ecumenical movement, but ALL are welcome to the services.



Ash Wednesday: a good time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

‘I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance’ (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

‘Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)



‘Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.’ (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

Shrove Tuesday



PANCAKES

Tuesday 5th March

4.15 to 5:30pm

Wesley Centre Hall

Sandbach Methodist Church

Donations for



Year of Beliefs

The BBC is going to 'shine a light' on faith and spiritual values in Britain today by running a year of programmes dedicated to religion and ethics. The move comes a year after the BBC promised to 'raise our game' in the way that it treated religion. That promise followed a year-long review of its religious and ethics output.

So what series should we look out for? Here are just some:

On BBC 1, Earth's Sacred Wonders will look at the rituals and monuments of faith around the world; Medical Ethics will be a documentary filmed at Great Ormond Street Hospital; and Pregnant and Platonic will be a documentary on people who have children without being in a romantic relationship.

The Bishop of Repton, the Rt. Revd. Jan McFarlane, who chairs the Sandford St Martin Trust, welcomed the BBC's plans. Especially "bringing issues of faith, belief and ethics to as wide an audience as possible."

Credit announcement

Following comments by the Work and Pensions Secretary, Amber Rudd, on changes to Universal Credit, the Bishop of Durham, Paul Butler, who speaks for the Church of England on issues relating to children and young people, said: "As a just and compassionate society, we believe that every child is a blessing and deserves to be treated equally."

"So I very much welcome today's announcement that the two-child limit policy will not be extended to children born before the policy came into effect in April 2017. I also welcome the Government's more considered approach to moving people on to Universal Credit from the old benefits system."

"I look forward to working with Ministers to continue reviewing these policies as part of a broader, coherent strategy to reduce child poverty, helping parents to give their children the best possible start in life."

From the Archives



This month we have moved on to Rookery Bridge in Elton, and in the top picture we see the new Canal Fields estate. In the lower image we see a similar view back in 1980 when the old Bone Works was still here. Originally built in the late 1800's they produced; glues, fertilizers, greases and fats for soap as well as gelatine and calcined bone for the china trade. The factory was demolished in 1986 with the chimney being removed by local celebrity 'Blaster' Bates.

Stephen Minshull

St David's Day: time for daffodils

The 1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!



We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

Rebels with knitting needles

The young are rebelling again – this time, it seems, against the digital age. A recent study of 18-to-21-year-olds found that 83 per cent prefer to read a printed book rather than a tablet. They are also discovering the joys of knitting, fishing, and fruit picking, doing crosswords, and gardening.

Privilege Insurance, which conducted the research, said it was great to see the younger generation “defy stereotypes and expectations.”



Tuneful Places

Carlisle - usually sung to:

Stand up, and bless the Lord,
ye people of His choice;
stand up, and bless the Lord your God
with heart, and soul, and voice. (*or*)

Tis good, Lord, to be here,
thy glory fills the night;
thy face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.

It was composed by Charles Lockhart who was born in London in 1745 and died on the 9th February 1815 in London.

Lockhart was the first organist of the Lock Hospital, and was for some years associated with Martin Madan in the musical arrangements there. Though blind from infancy, Lockhart had a distinct musical gift, and was especially known for training children's choirs. He published a set of hymn tunes in about 1810.

I'm not sure if there was any link to the City of Carlisle but, it is the only city in Cumbria. It has a compact historic centre with a castle, cathedral and semi-intact city walls, as well as other medieval buildings including the Guildhall and Tithe Barn. The former law courts or citadel towers which, until 2016 also served as offices for Cumbria County Council, were designed by Thomas Telford, with the eastern tower incorporating part of the 16th century building.

Next to the Citadel is Carlisle railway station, designed by William Tite in the neo-Tudor style, considered by Historic England to be among the most important early railway stations in England.



Slow

A curate consistently arrived late for work until his long-suffering vicar asked him what was wrong. ‘My problem,’ explained the curate, ‘is that I sleep very slowly.’

Sign in church

The vicar had put some signs around the church. They read: Keep your eyes on me preaching! Stop reading these signs!

Adam & Eve

At Sunday School the children were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Little Josh was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam’s ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down and looking scared. “Josh, what is the matter?”

Josh whispered “I have pain in my side. I think I’m going to have a wife.”

St Patrick

Why do people wear shamrocks on St Patrick’s Day? Because regular rocks are too heavy.

Married

I married an Irishman on St Patrick’s Day.”

“Oh, really?”

“No, O’Reilly!”

CHURCH OFFICIALS

Vicar	The Revd. Thomas Shepherd vicar@sandbachchurch.co.uk	762379
Reader	Joan Plowman	768079
Churchwardens	Sheenagh Ashworth Anne Birch	529187 760778
Sacristan	John Percival	765700

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) OFFICERS

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

OTHER CONTACTS

Organist	Kevin Birch organist@sandbachchurch.co.uk	760778
Bells	Steven Stoker stmarysbellringers@gmail.com	07456 418888
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 24th March**

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

