

CHALLENGE



The Parish Magazine of St Mary Sandbach

March 2020

Volume 56

No 655



March 2020

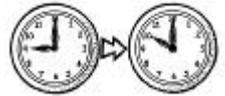
Sunday 1st March 8.00 am Holy Communion
Lent 1 10.00 am Morning Worship

Sunday 8th March 8.00 am Holy Communion
Lent 2 10.00 am Parish Eucharist
 6.30 pm Churches Together
 World Day of Prayer

Sunday 15th March 8.00 am Holy Communion
Lent 3 10.00 am Parish Eucharist

Sunday 22nd March 8.00 am Holy Communion
Mothering Sunday 10.00 am Morning Worship

Sunday 29th March 2.00 am



BRITISH SUMMER TIME BEGINS - Add 1 hour

Sunday 29th March 8.00 am Holy Communion
Lent 5 10.00 am Parish Eucharist

Sunday 5th April 8.00 am Holy Communion
Palm Sunday 10.00 am Parish Eucharist

Every Wednesday 11.00 am Holy Communion

Holy Eucharist, Parish Eucharist = Order 1 Common Worship

Holy Communion = Order 2 Book of Common Prayer

A Lenten Letter

Lent continues throughout the month of March this year as we look forward to Holy Week and Easter Day which we will celebrate early next month.

Lent as many of us know is 40 days long. As Christians we never fast on a Sunday. Each and every Sunday is a feast day, a weekly reminder of the Resurrection and the new life in Christ it brings. So Sundays this month are “**of Lent**” but not “**in Lent**” a chance if needed to relax and re-group from whatever Lenten tasks we might be undertaking.

Lent probably started as an extended period of preparation for those who would be baptised into the fellowship of the church at the Easter vigil. It seems that what was seen as a good idea for new Christians was quickly recognised as a good thing for all Christians. A yearly time of preparation, of getting ready to greet the Risen Lord Jesus in the new light of Eastertide; a time of getting ready for the joys and rigours of being the Easter people in the world and to the world!

I was thinking about this these last few days as I enjoyed a spa break with Jill. She has been on such breaks before but I never had. It gave me a chance as an admittedly “ever slower” runner to attempt new ways of looking after my physical well being and fitness. I enjoyed the aqua exercises in the pool, the stretching exercises in the gym which were new to me and therefore a little outside my comfort zone.

To give another example we have some plans for our garden this year. But for them to come to fruition we need to do some preparatory spade work. Dig over some long neglected spots, do some remedial tidying and cutting back. The problem is of course the weather at this time of year is often (especially this year?) not always favourable to long spells in the garden.

Lent is a chance to try something new or to get round to things we have long meant to do in our Christian journey. It doesn't matter if we fail because actually taking part and trying is the important bit. If it doesn't sound too negative "failure" can sometimes be good for the soul. Perseverance, trying again (and again!) is an often underrated human virtue. Again that is why the Sundays of Lent are so good, a weekly opportunity to re-group, re-assess and even re-calibrate.

I thought I might try the Church of England resource "**Live Lent, Care for God's creation**" this year. It gives me chance to focus upon environmental questions whilst exploring the spiritual significance of this aspect of faith. Hopefully I might be challenged too in some of my practice and lifestyle choices.

It also struck me joining some larger church based programme might be good for me. So often we tend to concentrate on the personal aspect in our Christian discipleship to the detriment of the corporate or the political. It isn't that the personal aspects of our faith are unimportant just that the wider aspects of faith are equally important. As a prison chaplain this is a particular challenge in my own Christian journey.

What are the implications for me of being a member of St Mary's church family? How does it affect my Christian discipleship belonging to the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion? What are the searching issues I need to contemplate and address in my participation in the worldwide mission of God's church?

Perhaps the spiritual exercise and energy needed for such Lenten activity will be slightly different to the activity I undertook at the Spa. It might be less physical than any energetic exercise I use in our garden but it is vital just the same. How are you going to get ready for Holy Week and Easter this year?

Happy Lent, God Bless. **David Ottley**

From the Registers

Funerals



January

21st Robert Williams (44)

24th Kath Leech

February

11th David Proudman (79)

14th James Huthchin

20th Andrew Horth

21st Jean Mottershead (91)

Baptism

February

9th Evie Helena Gilbert daughter of Helen and Sam.

Coffee Rota

March

1st Margaret Parry and Ghania

8th Jim Thompson and Rosemary Wilkinson

15th Jean Richardson and Iris Kenilworth

22nd Marjorie Burgess ad Joyce Booth

29th Joyce Griffiths and Lynne Winfield

April

5th Kath Davies and Kath Beech



God must work in you before He can work on you
and through you

Cover

A new year has begun for the Challenge cover. You will see three new photographs which will be rotated on a monthly basis.

Do you know where in church the cover picture is

From the Editor

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. Last year I was really pleased to receive a number of thought provoking letters. Get typing!

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....

Discovery

Morals

Concerts

Beetles

Food bank

Fiartrade

61 minute clock

What Morals?

A survey of 3,655 adults questioned about their morals revealed what people think is right and wrong.

The poll, conducted by ComRes for the BBC's Year of Beliefs, suggests that while 70 per cent of adults agree it's important for people to have a moral framework in their lives, what people believe to be right or wrong differs greatly. Age is most likely to define people's morality with notable differences in attitudes to the issues across the generations. Topics included lying, taking illegal drugs, consent, suicide, pornography, the environment, choosing a baby's genes and carrying weapons. Although 57 per cent had a strong sense of right and wrong, three in five of the adults who said they have been unfaithful to their partner also said it was never acceptable to cheat. Those who were members of a



religion were more likely to stick to their morals.

Graham Nicholls, director of the evangelical group Affinity, said, "There are two reasons why we do what God commands us to do. One is because God commands it but the second is that I think we would argue for every single commandment and exhortation that it's good and it's good for us and it's good for society. I think it's good and reasonable for Christians to argue for the goodness of what God commands in terms of morality, I think there is an argument to be made, but I think ultimately, people will judge that based on their own experiences and all sorts of other things, and ultimately, they need to come under the authority of God to actually say, 'I want to do that' because even if they see it as good, they may not choose to do it'."

Alison Kirkham, BBC Controller of Factual Commissioning,

says: "The findings of the most likely to define our morality survey are an important morality, this survey gives a part of this, providing a snapshot revealing insight into how of our ethics and values and what different generations view hotly we really think about some of the debated topics such as the most pressing issues of our time. environment, relationships and With our age emerging as being the online world."

Arts Society Discovery Trail

You may remember I mentioned teaming up with the Dane Valley Arts Society to produce a Discovery Trail for the church. This is now well underway thanks to two members of our congregation, John and Barbara Silverdale.

The trails are aimed and children between the age of 8 and 12. A number of questions, about the church, are presented on an A4 sized piece of paper for the children to complete. A question sheet is also available for accompanying adults which gives the answers together with more detailed information.

Barbara and John will now explore the church and come up with interesting questions which will then be placed in a template designed by the Arts Society. When completed, and approved by the Arts Society, there will be a launch event which will include children, the press and other members of the community.

Visit the Church from home!

Take a look at the link on the front page of the web-site. A big thank you to Ian Tresman, who has created a virtual tour of the inside of the Church, and allowed us to put a link on our website and to Heather our web editor. It is impressive.

I know he is also thinking about creating one from the top of the Church Tower - watch this space.

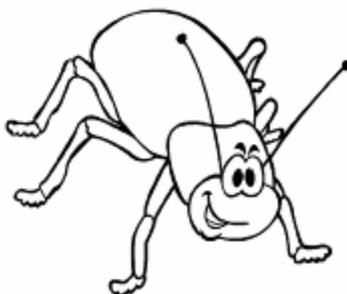
Beetle Drive

St Mary's Church Hall

Saturday 29 February

Tea / coffee & cake

7.00 pm -
10.00 pm



Tickets
£6.00

Raffle

Bring your own alcoholic/soft drink &
glass

Tickets from Judy, Sylvia, Marjorie or
Gill

email hall@sandbachchurch.co.uk

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 25th March

Chris Acquavella & Lauren Scott

Leading American classical mandolinist, Chris Acquavella makes a special visit to Sandbach to join forces with local harpist Lauren Scot.

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) or on the door.

Have you done something which haunts you?

Do you ever worry that your past failings mean that God will not accept you now? Some of us have done many things which we regret – things that have caused us, or others, great pain. We've given our children short shrift, we've betrayed our marriage partners, we've been dishonest at work, we've been ruthlessly greedy and

ambitious – no matter what the cost to anyone else. And now the memory of the wrong we've done lingers, and it makes us ashamed. Our past failings make us very reluctant to turn to God. Why should He forgive the damage we have done?

If you think this way, then you have a big surprise waiting for you: God isn't like that. You haven't yet encountered His GRACE. God knows all about you, and most of all He knows

you need His help. Jesus said that He came into the world to reach sinners – to help anyone who turns to Him in true repentance to find forgiveness, and a new start.

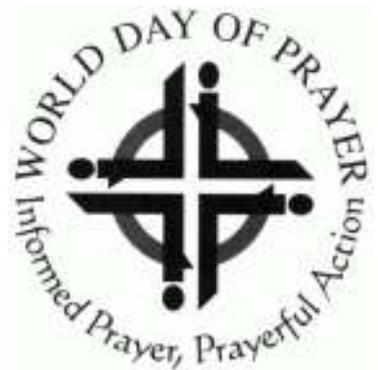
You can't do anything to turn yourself into a good person. But you don't have to. All that God asks of you is that you turn to

Jesus in prayer, and say you are sorry, and ask Him to forgive you, and to put His Spirit within you. Then you find His GRACE – which means His loving-kindness, beginning in YOUR life. Just try it.

Today let God begin to set you free from the past

World Day of Prayer

This year's service has been written by women of Zimbabwe who call us to 'Rise, Take your mat and walk. We are encouraged to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. As we hear their stories, the challenge for them and for us is that we will constantly seek love, peace and reconciliation.



Our local committee has arranged two local services.

Friday 6th March, 2pm at Sandbach Heath Methodist Church, Heath Road, CW11 2LE. In addition to the prepared service, we have a speaker - Dr Brendan Ratcliffe from St Winedride's RC Church, who visits Zimbabwe to help build water infrastructure.

Churches together in Sandbach has also arranged a second service on Sunday 8th March, 6.30 pm at St Mary's Church, Sandbach again using the same material. Both services are for men and women of all ages.

Durufle Requiem

*A selection from
European Sacred Music*

Musical Director Stephen Newlove



Sandbach Choral Society is a registered charity, no. 108265.

**Saturday 28th March 2020
St Mary's Church, Sandbach.
7.30 pm.**

All tickets £10, under 16s free.
Available from Sandbach library,
Broad Opticians &
Demeter Health Foods, Sandbach,
Choir members
Or 07933197809

www.sandbachchoral.co.uk
info@sandbachchoral.co.uk
f Sandbach Choral Society
@SandbachChoralS
Sandbach Choral

Candles and Boxes

Thank you to everyone who sent their Children's Society Box for counting.

We collected £1,239.

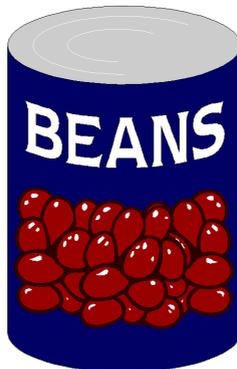


Stella Craven

Sandbach Food Bank

The food bank continues to provide emergency food parcels for families and individuals in need. Although we are not as busy as other food banks, mostly in larger towns and cities, we have seen an increase in demand from 2 requests per week to almost 3 per week on average.

We are fortunate in that we continue to receive donations of food and currently we have a very good stock of food. We are grateful to all the Churches and Schools who donated at Harvest and over Christmas many also donated along with members of the public who were keen to support us. We have the task of sorting these out and are also offering donations to other local food banks and charities. We also put together over 20 Christmas parcels for families referred by the Family Centre and Children's centre.



Last year we were one of the Coop's local community charities and in October received a cheque for £6,918. This will mean we are financially secure for the next few years and can continue to buy the fresh items we put with the tins and packets when making up a parcel.

Our management committee has looked at the best use of our money and we will be able to support families during the school holidays and are working with local schools on this as well as supporting a school breakfast club.

We would wish there to be no need for food banks but cannot see this happening for some time and therefore appreciate the support of our churches and the community in assisting those in

need and ask your prayers for those who receive parcels and the volunteers who run the service.

Deborah Darnes
Sandbach Food Bank

St Mary's Events



Saturday 29th February	Beetle Drive
Saturday 28th June	Summer Lunch
Saturday 7th November	Autumn Fair
Sunday 6th December	Christmas Lunch

We hope some other events will be arranged for this Year.

Come along and bring your friends to these events.

Put the dates in your diary. Tickets will be advertised in the magazine and pew sheet.

If you would like to organise an event then please get in touch with one of the Social Committee members or Churchwarden.



Fairtrade



Fairtrade Fortnight ends on 8th March. Do keep an eye open for special events, and perhaps try a new Fairtrade product yourself (there are a lot available now, both food and non-food). The town council are supporting an application to become a designated 'Fairtrade town', so the support of all of us is needed. Could St Mary's become a Fairtrade church?

In this country we expect to be able to feed and educate our families if we work long and hard, and workers in so-called 'third world' countries deserve no less. But the truth is that because of the way world trade and the commodity markets work, many workers earn so little that can't educate or feed their children, and often don't have even the basics, like clean water. By buying Fairtrade products, we can ensure that at least some of them will get a guaranteed income (but still not generous in our terms), and maybe clean water and schools.

Are you a late bloomer?

Are you crossing life's milestones later than your grandparents and even parents did? Not to worry – you are not alone. The office for National Statistics has recently revealed that for many of us, life's milestones are happening later. We are marrying, buying our first homes, becoming parents, divorcing, becoming grandparents, and retiring later than ever.

The average age for women to give birth in 1999 was 29 years; in 2018 it was 31.

The average age for retirement in women in 1999 was 60.8; in 2019 it was 64.3.

If you are older, here's a great bit of news: men and women aged 65-74 are happier than any other age group. (Those aged 40-50 are least happy.)



We believe in life before death

NORTH STAFFS CHRISTIAN AID

SPONSORED WALK

To be held at

TITTESWORTH WATER

(Three miles north of Leek, just off the A53)

SATURDAY 28th MARCH 2020

REGISTRATION FROM 9.15am

WALK STARTS AT 10.00am

The walk will be launched by

*The Bishop of Lichfield
and the
Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent*

**Sponsorship forms and more information from your local church
or phone John Bamford (01782 516137) or contact Mike Willmot at
mwillmot@talktalk.net**

By kind permission of Severn Trent Water

Overcoming Doglessness and Helping to Ease Social Isolation – Barking Mad Alternative to Dog Ownership Celebrates 20 Years

The local branch of a canine company founded in 2000, to provide home from home dog care instead of kennelling, is celebrating 20 years of people experiencing health and well-being benefits due to an alternative to dog ownership.

Jennifer Davies has been a ‘host’ dog sitter for Barking Mad for nearly fourteen years and believes that her hobby has changed her life. She said:

“The best thing about hosting is unconditional love! I always get a lovely good morning greeting with lots of tail wagging and I am much fitter. I have met so many new people with dogs and without. My first doggy visitors were Todd and Jazz, two salukis. In the evenings, Jazz would curl up by my feet and Todd would be beside me with his head on my shoulder, gazing into my eyes. I was totally hooked. I have a son who lives in Guernsey who I visit regularly and I like going on holidays with my friends. If I had my own dog, this would make things more complicated. With Barking Mad, I always say I have all of the pleasure and none of the expense or worry about what would happen if I became unwell.”

It has been scientifically proven that patting and walking dogs can help people to feel more relaxed and less anxious. This makes a huge difference to emotional and physical well-being. Those caring for a dog are also less likely to be socially isolated, research suggests.

Owner-operator of Barking Mad Crewe Sandbach, Congleton and Macclesfield, Becky Spall said:

“As Barking Mad celebrates its 20th anniversary, our proudest achievement is the happiness which holidaying dogs have brought to the lives of our host families. We match friendly dogs to hosts’ preferences and lifestyle, for their holidays and short breaks. It’s ideal for retirees, home-based workers and teachers in school holidays. We take care of everything, including chauffeuring dogs to our hosts’ homes with all their essentials and providing 24/7 support. Hosts experience all the benefits of dog companionship without any of the emotional or financial responsibilities of full-time pet ownership.

To find out more about becoming a Barking Mad host, you can call Becky on 01270 260570 or email her at becky.spall@barkingmad.uk.com.

From the Archives



This month we are looking at Front Street in the upper image as it is today and in the lower image back to the early 1900's. This particular row of house were built around 1875 after the original houses in this area were demolished to allow for the Church grounds to be extended.

Stephen Minshull

Tuneful Places

Crimond - sung to:

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

The tune first appeared in *The Northern Psalter* (c.1872) where it was credited to David Grant (1833-1893). Our Hymn Book, *Common Praise*, also accredits the melody to him. However, other information reveals that Grant had only arranged and not composed the tune.

The tunes is believed to be composed by Jessie Seymour Irvine (1836 – 1887). She was the daughter of a Church of Scotland parish minister who served at Dunottar and Crimond in Aberdeenshire. It is believed that she wrote the tune while still in her teens, as an exercise for an organ class she was attending.

Crimond is a town in the North-East corner of Scotland, 9 miles northwest of Peterhead, with a population of approximately 1000. The clock of Crimond Church has an extra minute between the eleven and twelve making for 61 minutes in the hour. The clock mechanism was repaired in 1948 by Zygmunt Krukowski, a former Polish soldier, who adjusted the frequency of the pendulum by adding and removing penny coins. He also repainted the clock face with the correct number of minutes. The subsequent furore resulted in a further repainting with restoration of the extra minute. The clock is electric but the original movement is kept in the church .





A Morning Prayer

So far today God, I have done alright. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper and I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. And I haven't told anyone to mind their own business and stay out of mine. I'm really glad about all that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot of help.

The brain is amazing. It begins from the time we are born, and works 24 hours a day 365 days a year, right up to the time you get up to speak in public.

Church Magazine Bloomers

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to see the organist after the service.

The Women's Tea for next week has been cancelled. We are sorry for any incontinence this may cause.

Parish Supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

Don't forget the Singles Progressive Dinner. Attire is optional.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, please don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

CHURCH OFFICIALS

Vicar	Please contact the Churchwardens	760778
Reader	Joan Plowman	768079
Churchwardens	Anne Birch	760778
	Sheenagh Ashworth	529187
Sacristan	Andrew Wood	

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) OFFICERS

PCC Secretary	Aileen Higgs	760149
	<u>pccsecretary@sandbachchurch.co.uk</u>	
Treasurer	Roger Cooke	762118
Covenants	Aileen Higgs	760149
and Gift Aid	<u>giftaid@sandbachchurch.co.uk</u>	

OTHER CONTACTS

Organist and	Kevin Birch	760778
Choir Master	<u>organist@sandbachchurch.co.uk</u>	
Music Group	Heather Bottomley	768744
and Web Editor	<u>musicgroup@sandbachchurch.co.uk</u>	
Bells	Steven Stoker	07456
	<u>bells@sandbachchurch.co.uk</u>	418888
Church Flowers	Sheenagh Ashworth	529187
Church Hall	Sylvia Watkins	767386
	<u>hall@sandbachchurch.co.uk</u>	

Baptisms and Weddings

Please Contact the Churchwardens.

Challenge is edited by John Bottomley. If you or your organisation has any events or information that needs publicising, please telephone 01270 768744 or e-mail: magazine@sandbachchurch.co.uk

Articles must be received by **Sunday 22nd March**

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

