

SOLIHULL
PARISH  **NEWS**

Please forgive the disruption
Out of darkness the light shall shine!



TEAM CHURCHES

St ALPHEGE - The Square, Solihull B91 3RH

St HELEN - St Helen's Road, Solihull B91 2DA

St MICHAEL - Bryanston Road, Solihull B91 1BS



St Alphege (Sundays)

8.00 a.m. Said Eucharist
10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist except:
Sunday 9.15 a.m. All Age Eucharist 14th July in the Church building
11.00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 14th July
5.00 p.m. Evensong
Monday, Thursday and Friday 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer
Thursdays 10.30 a.m. Said Eucharist

The Junction

9.15 a.m. Junction in person at the OBH on Sunday 7th and 21st July

St Helen

Sundays 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
Third Sunday 10.00 a.m. Morning Praise
Tuesdays 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer

St Michael at Sharmans Cross School on Sundays

10.30 a.m. Eucharist.

St. Michael's Chapel, Bryanston Road on Wednesdays

9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Friday

9.30 a.m. **Praise and Play** – please e-mail Linda Hicks l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk

Full details on the homepage of the Parish website at: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>

Please don't hesitate to contact the Revd. Nick Parker or another priest if you need help in an emergency or any support (full contact details inside the back cover) or phone the Parish Office on 0121 705 5350. It is always a pleasure to talk to you."

WEDDING AND BAPTISM ENQUIRIES

Please contact the Parish Office:
life.events@solihullparish.org.uk

The Revd. Nick Parker
The Revd. Simon Marshall
The Revd. Sue Chandler

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THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

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Cover picture

**"The board displayed in St. Alphege
by the lighting contractors"**

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Editorial

The author of the book of Genesis states that *'God created humans in his own image. He created them to be like himself.'* (Genesis 1.27) In other words, human beings have aspects of God's character in their creativity, their decision-making, their compassion and their capacity to wonder.

And having brought the creation to completion, says the writer, *'God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good! It was evening, it was morning—Day Six.'* (Genesis 1.31) But even though heaven and earth are completed, God does not stop caring for creation. God blesses the new-dawning seventh day and rests for a whole 24 hours.

This rest-day became the Jewish sabbath - the 7th day of the week on which the people of Israel are told to rest and to do no work. It is a weekly feast lasting 24 hours, beginning at nightfall with the family meal. It marks the division between rest and work, and highlights the people's dependence upon God alone.

The importance of the Sabbath day is prescribed in the Ten Commandments. The fourth commandment is, *'... remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.'* (Exodus 20.8) This commandment sets down a weekly holiday - literally a 'holy day' - as a pattern of life that takes its shape from the day of rest which God takes at the end of the week of the Creation.

In the Incarnation, Jesus takes on all that it means to be a human being: he eats, drinks and weeps - and he also rests.

When Jesus encounters the Samaritan woman in chapter four of John's Gospel, he and his disciples have been on a long journey. As it nears midday, they make a stop:

'Jesus was tired from his long trip, so he sat down beside the well.' (John 4.6)

And as Luke tells us in his gospel:

'One day Jesus and his followers got into a boat, and he said to them, "Let's go across the lake." And so they started across. While they were sailing, Jesus fell asleep.' (Luke 8.22)

Jesus, both divine and human, does not refuse the rest which all humans need. Not only that, but God the Creator also makes rest a priority at the end of the task of creation. What does this say to you and me, who are fully human? Do we not also need rest, which seems to be a gift from God which God himself embraced?

The wisdom of the Psalms refers to sleep on many occasions. In Psalm 127 we find this advice:

'It is no use for you to get up early and stay up late, working for a living. The Lord gives sleep to those he loves.' (Psalm 127.2)

So the next time you find yourself yawning at the end of your working day or even nodding off whilst saying your prayers, it's worth remembering that rest and sleep are gifts from God.

Fr. Simon.

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Roundabout

Two Bell Sundays!

A huge thank you to all involved in welcoming the bell ringers to the 11 o'clock service 12th May for Bell Sunday. The morning started with a couple of band members taking over 90 bell shaped biscuits to the OBH to add to the usual refreshments following the 9:15 a.m. service. Thank you to the team there for accommodating us and to our bakers (who had to be very organised as the day before we'd all been on our annual outing). The rest of the band were in the tower as usual, ringing between the services. After we had finished ringing, we raced down the stairs to the door straight into church, where Paul, our Verger, met us. Once the choir had processed past, he verged us to our seats. As we passed the altar we placed a rope on it and, model bells and large handbells in front. Hymns, readings and the sermon from Ven. Paul all included bell references and both readings were read by bell ringers. After the service the remaining biscuits were served with refreshments.



The Junction did not meet in person 12th May so, not wanting to be missed out, they had invited us to join them at the O.B.H. on 19th May. In fact, this was lovely because it was actually the closer day to the Feast Day of St. Dunstan, our patron saint of bell ringers. We took with us handbells which we used to demonstrate change ringing but of course, we had the smallest of our handbells with us so that we could ensure all the children had the opportunity to have a 'jingle'. During their craft time 3 of the older children joined us to have a go at change ringing, initially being guided along but as you can imagine, they quickly got the hang of what we were doing. Not sure what was more fun that morning? The hand bell ringing or watching the band join in the actions along with the children's singing?

What was really special though, is that the children at the Junction made us some bell bunting as a thank you for joining them. We're really rather proud of it. Well chuffed!



Some Recent Highlights at the Junction and All Age Worship

At the end of May the Junction were delighted to receive a visit from the bellringers and to celebrate St Dunstan, the patron saint of bell ringers. It was great that everyone had the opportunity to ring handbells and the older children were able to have a go at change ringing. After the bellringers had left to ring for the 10.30 a.m. service, the Junction decorated bell shapes adding the words 'Thank you for all you do to make the bells at St Alphege sound so beautiful'. The bells were then made into bunting which was delivered to the bellringers and is now hanging in the ringing room and we are told that the ringers are rather proud of it!



At the start of June, the Junction took place outside. We were blessed with wonderful weather and planted one of the beds in the Micro Victory Garden at the front of the OBH. The plants were in three colours to represent the Trinity and we talked about the approaching D Day commemorations and the importance of remembering. We looked at all the vegetables and fruit already growing in the garden similar

to what would have been grown in the Victory gardens during the world wars. We learnt that flowers would also have been grown to boost morale and to be used in wedding bouquets during war time. Do take a close look at the garden if you are passing by!



Paper planes were much in evidence during the June all age service as Nick launched giant paper planes to accompany his talk on the Holy Spirit and the whole of the congregation made paper plane prayers!



Linda Hicks

Roundabout

Bellringers Aboard the Charabanc!

Once again, the ringers set off for our annual outing, Saturday 11th May, this time to the beautiful countryside of Derbyshire. Gorgeous weather and gorgeous views, all the more beautiful for the elevated view from the coach.

Our first stop was Youlgreave. We started with coffees at the bakery, all very civilised even if the payoff had been an early start. Unfortunately, despite the meticulous preparations we were let in at the church a little late but, we still got to ring the lovely 12 bells with the resonating tenor (the biggest bell and deepest note). Perhaps better listened to outside as the tenor somewhat drowned out the sound of the smaller, lighter bells when heard from the ringing room, which made it a little difficult to pick out the individual notes as we rang.



We were then off to Darley Dale and perhaps the real reason for the trip. Darley Dale had been the home tower for several generations of Malcolm's family (our Tower Captain). So, it was marvellous that Malcolm's father, mother, sister and daughter were able to join us there. In fact, Malcolm's grandfather had rung long extents at each of the towers we visited and, peal boards and notices recorded the presence of members of the Paulson family in several of the towers we visited. Sadly, Malcolm's father is no longer able to ring but Malcolm and his daughter trod in their families footsteps. Malcolm recalled climbing the ancient Yew Tree in the graveyard as a child and playing in the old stone coffin outside the church. Quite emotional for the family and fun for us to trace their links and hear from the locals, the importance of the Paulson family to the ringing community.

On to Ashover for lunch where we made use of the various pubs albeit that several of us also ended up at the Tuck Shop for ice creams, well it was a warm day! These 10 bells were perhaps the best ring of the day, an easy-going ring in a beautiful setting. We rather enjoyed the board displaying each of the bells inscriptions. Some of which were quite fun like, '*I sweetly tolling men do call to taste on meats that feede the soule*' and '*My roaring sounde doth warning give that men cannot heare always live*'. My favourite, '*All men that heare my mournful sound repent before you are in ground*'.

Off to Matlock where, having rung some truly lovely bells elsewhere, these were a little less easy going on the ear. One of the band noting that we hoped none of the locals was trying to have an afternoon nap! It's here that we had our team photo on the oh so many steps which lead down the hill to the west end of the church and on into the church and past the font. I've never seen anything quite like it before but the perfect solution to a church built on a hill. We often take the opportunity to take a look into the churches where we ring and learn a little of the local history. Here the item of real interest was the Crantses or m

Roundabout

Maiden's Garland. Only a few historic specimens survive from the early 19th Century. They were part of a custom of carrying garlands or crowns before the coffins of unmarried women.

And finally to Wirksworth, via the winding narrow 'top road', avoiding the traffic of Matlock centre, we arrived at this interesting church which sits in its own grounds hidden by the houses and shops around it so that in fact, the best view of it had been glimpsed as we drove through the town at the start of the day on the way to the first tower. We really enjoyed the bells here but, they did ring rather heavily. All the same, we gave ourselves a round of applause as we finished the day's ringing. We were then rewarded with dinner at the Hope and Anchor where Gillian, our organiser, as usual directed the waiting staff like conducting an orchestra to serve in double quick time, all the right meals to all the right ringers most of whom had forgotten what they had preordered some weeks earlier! And yes, no names mentioned but trousers were loosened! Our outing meant that we'd missed the general meeting of the local Diocesan Guild but, with an update received and having their certificates prepared, Malcolm was able to both thank Gillian for all her hard work and then present two members of the band with their St Martin's Guild of Church Bell Ringers new membership certificates.

So, with another super outing over and a long but wonderful day we arrived back in Solihull. The coach driver had been such a star and risen to the challenge of our chosen rout including some tiny villages. He told us that despite the narrow roads and the ridiculous parking he was already looking forward to seeing us again next year!

Our Visit to the Parlour

You'll recall that the ringers were heavily involved in celebrating the various Solihull Borough anniversaries and in a recent Parish News you'll have seen the photograph of Malcolm, our Tower Captain, introducing the Mayor of Solihull, Councillor Mrs. Diana Holl-Allen M.B.E., to bell ringing. Well, she so enjoyed her visit that she returned the compliment by inviting the band to visit her parlour. Along with members from other local community groups we were entertained to refreshments before a tour of the Civic Suite. We were made very welcome and, we learnt so much particularly of the artwork and loved the view down onto the topiary engagement ring which really isn't so clear from ground level. The silverware is very impressive and we heard how the mace should be carried including its club end which ceremonially is used to protect the monarch.



Sand Cooper
Tower Secretary

Roundabout

St. Alphege Church featured in new Doctor Who Documentary

In summer 2022, the Parish Office received a request to film/photograph in and around St. Alphege church, for an upcoming documentary which would look back at the life of the late Graham Williams. Graham was one of the most successful producers of the BBC series Doctor Who.

The film called *'Darkness & Light: The Life of Graham Williams'* has recently been released as part of the BBC *'Doctor Who: The Collection - Season 15'* box set. It includes an interview with Graham's widow, Jackie who speaks incredibly fondly of their 1970 wedding at St. Alphege Church, and provided some beautiful photos from their special day. Also featured



are those who knew Graham best - from his family to the show's stars, Tom Baker and Louise Jameson.

Chris Chapman, producer/director of the documentary film said, *"Huge thanks again for letting us film with you - the documentary has already been receiving rave reviews, but the most important thing to me is that Graham's family very much love it."*

Photos of Chris Chapman from the filming day courtesy of Veronica Spokes, Parish Administrator

Parishioner Pedal Power

By the time you are reading this it should be July and I will hopefully have successfully completed my 4-day solo bike ride (with Julia as support crew!).

I will have cycled around 225 miles between 2 care homes to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society to honour both my late mum, Mary and Julia's dad, Mike Parsons who have both been affected by this cruel disease.

Starting on 28th June, at Stobars Hall, Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria, where my mum lived, I will have cycled around 50-60 miles each day, travelling first to Clitheroe (where I grew up and mum's ashes are interred). Day 2's destination was my cousin's home near Warrington and Day 3 finished in Rugeley. Hopefully my final day, Monday 1st July, saw me arriving safely at Blythe Rose Specialist Care Home in Solihull, where Mike resides.

To find out how my ride has gone and to donate, visit my charity page by scanning the QR code or visit justgiving.com and search [Nick Hanson](#) or see Julia or me, to discuss alternative methods of donation.

Thank you for all donations; your support is truly appreciated.

Nick Hanson



The Next Edition of Parish News

The next edition of Solihull Parish News will be in September. This current one is for July and August.

Copy date for the September edition is the first Friday in August, **2nd August**. Contributions should be sent to the Editor on parishnews@solihullparish.org.uk or given to the Parish Office.

Offering Our Gifts and Talents: Life in All Its Fullness (John 10.10)

St. Alphege is blessed by many people offering their gifts, talents, and time – often together with others, or sometimes quietly behind the scenes. This greatly enriches both our worship and the community life of the church. We are planning a ‘Ministries Fair’ in September where we will showcase the various areas of church life and ministry, making these more visible, offering more information, and inviting people to think about how and where they might like to get involved. It is hoped this event will strengthen the virtuous circle whereby different ministries are resourced with the volunteers they need, whilst prospective volunteers find avenues to pursue their interests, use their talents, and gain fulfilment.

Areas we would like to showcase include (but are not limited to):

Bellringing, Choirs, Music Group, Servers, Welcome Team, Mothers Union, Children and Youth, Uniformed Organisations (Cubs, Brownies, Guides, Scouts), Refreshments Team, Parish Puppets, Open the Book, Parish News, Bookstall, Asylum Seekers Welcome Group, New Door (Bereavement support), Churchyard Team, and more...

Those who coordinate an area of church ministry are encouraged to be in touch with the Parish Office to book a table and to plan display and publicity materials. More details about the event (yet to be finalised) will be shared in the September edition of Parish News and on our website.

Revd. Nick Parker
Priest in Charge and Rector Designate

The Junction August Break

The Junction is taking a break in August. Praise and Play will meet on 2nd and 9th August but not the remainder of August

Wednesday Lunchtime Music Recitals, 1.10pm to 2pm

All are welcome to the Recitals. Admission is free of charge and a retiring collection is held in aid of The Friends of St. Alphege Music (Registered Charity 511237).

Tea, coffee and cake are available from 12.30 p.m.

Please note that **June and July recitals** will be in the **Oliver Bird Hall** as the project to install new lighting in church will have started. There are no recitals in August.

We hope to resume recitals in St. Alphege Church on 11th September, subject to the completion of the lighting works in the church building; the performer will be confirmed nearer the date.

The church will be open for worship on Thursday mornings and Sundays.

Isabel Baumber

3 rd July	No recital
10 th July	David Prrice, organ (in Church)
17 th July	The Lachrimae Consort
24 th July	Roman Rudnytsky, piano
11 th September	To be confirmed
18 th September	Mary Culloty O'Sullivan, voice
25 th September	Pavlos Triantaris, organ

Second Sunday Drinks and Nibbles

On the second Sunday of each month at St. Alphege there are three Communion services, at 8 a.m., 9.15 a.m. All Age Eucharist and 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist. After this 11 a.m. service we customarily have Drinks and Nibbles. Donations given for these refreshments are given to charities, most recently to the Guardians to go towards the repairs to the church building.

On 14th July there will be a Choral Eucharist at 11 a.m. after which drinks and light refreshments will be served, to which all members of the congregation are invited.

Let us Pray

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for July 2024

1	Henry, John & Henry Venn the Younger, Priests, evangelical divines, 1797, 1813, 1873	That we may share our faith openly	Hampton Lane
2	Feria	Those whom we have loved and lost	Hartwell Close
3	Thomas the Apostle	Those struggling with their faith	Haseley Road
4	Feria	Those who care for the churchyard at St. Alphege	Heath Gardens
5	Feria	Our Pioneer Minister, Suzette Maguire	Heath Road
6	Thomas More, Scholar and John Fisher, Bp of Rochester, Reformation Martyrs	Those persecuted for their faith	Heathcote Avenue
7	6th Sunday after Trinity	The people and leaders of Ukraine & Russia	Heaton Road
8	Feria	Those who work in the Touchwood Centre	Henley Crescent
9	Feria	Bishop Michael	Henwood Lane
10	Feria	The work of our Parish Church Council	Herbert Road
11	Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, c.550	Members of Religious communities	Hermitage Road
12	Feria	Our Parish Wardens, Pam & Andrew	Heronfield Way
13	Feria	Those waiting for the results of medical tests	Heyford Grove
14	7th Sunday after Trinity	Archdeacon Jenny Tomlinson	High Street
15	Swithun, Bp of Winchester, c.862	Our Archbishops, Justin & Stephen	Hillfield Mews
16	Osmund, Bp of Salisbury, 1099	The people of St Alphege Church	Hillfield Road
17	Feria	The staff and pupils of the schools in our parish	Hollings Grove
18	Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England, 1883	Archdeacon Jenny Tomlinson	Holly Oak Grove
19	Gregory Bp of Nyssa and his sister, Macrina, c.394 & c.379	Bible Translators	Hollyberry Avenue
20	Margaret of Antioch, Martyr, 4th cent	Those preparing for baptism	Hollyfield Avenue
21	8th Sunday after Trinity	Those caring for a family member who is ill	Homer Road
22	Mary Magdalene	Paul Evans, St Alphege Verger	Hunningham Grove
23	Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373	The people of St Helen's Church	Huntley Drive
24	Feria	Linda Hicks, Parish Director of Children and Families Ministry	Kelmarsh Drive
25	James the Apostle	Our Area Dean, Tony Rindl	Kelvedon Grove
26	Anne and Joachim, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary	The work of Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness	Keresley Close
27	Brooke Foss Westcott, Bp of Durham & Teacher, 1901	Musicians, singers and choirs of our parish	Kilsby Grove
28	9th Sunday after Trinity	Chris Thomas, St Alphege Director of Music	Kinchford Close
29	Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of our Lord	The staff of funeral directors in our town	Kingsbrook Drive
30	William Wilberforce, Social Reformer, Olaudah Equiano & Thomas Clarkson, Anti-Slavery Campaigners, 1833, 1797 & 1846	The people of St Michael's Church	Kinsham Drive
31	Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus	Those in prison and their families	Kirton Grove

The Church prays for the community daily: please include these topics in your personal daily prayers.

Calendar and Prayer Intentions for August 2024

1	Feria	Community groups which use our church premises	Knightcote Drive
2	Feria	Staff and residents of local care homes	Ladbrook Road
3	Feria	Those taking summer holidays	Lady Byron Lane
4	10th Sunday after Trinity	Spiritual directors and counsellors	Langford Croft
5	Oswald, King of Northumbria, Martyr, 642	Those who work in national and local government	Langtree Avenue
6	The Transfiguration of our Lord	That we may declare our faith in Christ in word and deed	Laxton Grove
7	John Mason Neale, Priest & hymn-writer, 1866	Hymn writers	Libbards Gate
8	Dominic, Priest, Founder of the Order of Preachers, 1221	The Readers of our Parish	Libbards Way
9	Mary Sumner, Founder of the Mothers' Union, 1921	Mother's Union members in our parish	Lighthorne Road
10	Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258	The work of food-banks in our town	Links Drive
11	11th Sunday after Trinity	That we may live simply and generously	Linton Avenue
12	Feria	Online delivery workers	Linwood Road
13	Jeremy Taylor, Bp of Down & Connor, Teacher, 1667	King Charles III	Littleton Croft
14	Maximilian Kolbe, Friar, Martyr, 1941	Staff, patients and volunteers of the Marie Curie hospice	Littlewood Close
15	The Blessd Virgin Mary	Those awaiting the birth of a child	Lode Lane
16	Feria	Understanding between all faiths	Lovelace Avenue
17	Feria	Those who are looking for work	Lugtrout Lane
18	12th Sunday after Trinity	The St Alphege bell-ringers	Malvern Park Avenue
19	Feria	Local Mental Health support services	Manor Road
20	Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, Teacher 1163	The work and witness of Churches Together in Central Solihull	Manor Walk
21	Feria	The Solihull Town Centre Chaplaincy	Maplebeck Court
22	Feria	Medical and support staff of Solihull Hospital	Marsh Lane
23	Feria	Our church and parish treasurers	Marsham Court Road
24	Bartholomew the Apostle	That we may point others to Christ	Martley Croft
25	13th Sunday after Trinity	Those who work in the Touchwood Centre	Maybridge Drive
26	Feria	Doctors' surgeries in our town	Mayfield Close
27	Monica, Mother of Augustine of Hippo	Those exploring religious vocations	Maythorn Grove
28	Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, Teacher, 430	The staff of Queen's Theological Foundation in Birmingham	Melford Hall Road
29	The Beheading of John the Baptist	Those who suffer for their faith	Mell Square
30	John Bunyan, Spiritual Writer, 1688	Writers and poets	Melplash Avenue
31	Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 651	The clergy of the Yardley & Solihull Deanery	Merrington Close

The Church prays for the community daily: please include these topics in your personal daily prayers.

From the St. Alphege Register

Baptisms

23rd June Finley Butler
7th July Nina Rose Davies
28th July Halle Sofia De-Vaney

Weddings

6th July John Peter Dodd and Sarah Jane Harris
1st Aug Jake Brooks and Kate Louise Allen

Blessings

20th July Charlie Morgan and Danielle Naughton

Renewal of Vows

27th July Mark Nigel Kershaw and Elizabeth Kershaw

Funerals

None

Interment of Ashes

7th June Charlotte Guise
27th July Peter Bosley

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in July

Adel Azer	Eileen Groutage	Nan Roland-Smith
Alfred Butwell	Alexander Moir	Kurt Schoch
Alice Caldicott	Sandy Moir	William Turner
James Dallaway	Aileen Moss	Stephen Woollas
Anthony Herbert Dann	Irene Patey	Betty Wright
Phyllis Flood	Barrie Prince	
Ivy Fowler	Alma Reah	

Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in August

Amy Butwell	Elsie Greasley	Roy Mander
Pam Cooper	Diana Gregory	James Mawson
Brian Curran	Len Gregory	Albert Rowland-Smith, Priest
Irene Dallaway	John Groutage	Lilian Thomas
Alfred Dudley	David Lawrence	Susan Woodward
James Frangou	Edna Madeley	

Worship Notes for July and August 2024

The months of July and August are full of feast days and celebrations! Here are a few 'highlights' of this season.

Wednesday 3rd July – St. Thomas the Apostle

Most famously Thomas was the disciple who was unconvinced by reports of the Resurrection of Jesus, causing Jesus to show him the marks in his hands and feet and side. Thomas then proclaims the words that form the great climax to John's gospel by saying to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Thursday 11th July – St. Benedict of Nursia

Benedict was born in Italy, around the year 480. Later in life Benedict wrote his Rule for Monks. His Rule was so good that it was shared and followed widely, becoming the model for all western monastic life.

Monday 22nd July – St. Mary Magdalene

All four gospels give Mary Magdalene a unique place among Jesus' followers. Along with other faithful women, she stayed beside the cross during the crucifixion and was the first disciple to discover the empty tomb on Easter morning. She experienced the first appearance of the risen Lord, who sent her to take the good news of the Resurrection to the other disciples.

Tuesday 6th August - The Transfiguration of our Lord

The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus shows that God's salvation is for all and Christ is that Saviour. The event also pre-figures the Resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory.

Friday 9th August - Mary Sumner

Mary Sumner was born in 1828. A mother of three children, Mary called a meeting in 1876 at which the Mothers' Union was founded, encouraging mothers in the bringing up of children in the Christian faith. It grew steadily into an international movement which now operates in 84 countries across the world.

Wednesday 14th August - Maximilian Kolbe

Fr. Kolbe was imprisoned in Auschwitz in May 1941. He continued his work as a priest in secret, hearing confessions and celebrating the Eucharist. When a group of 10 men were chosen to be starved to death, Maximilian Kolbe offered to take the place of one of those selected. In their cell, he encouraged the others with prayers, psalms, and meditations on the Passion of Christ. After two weeks, only four remained alive, and only Maximilian was fully conscious. The four were killed with injections of carbolic acid on 14th August 1941.

Saturday 24th August - Bartholomew the Apostle

It has long been assumed that Bartholomew (see Mark 3.18) and Nathanael (see John 1.45-49) are the same person. The Gospels speak of Philip bringing Nathanael to Jesus. Although he seems initially to be cynical, he recognises Jesus for who he is and proclaims him as Son of God and King of Israel.

Friday 30th August - John Bunyan

Born in 1628, John Bunyan was largely self-educated but he wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, a text of spiritual genius which tells the story of the man Christian on his journey through life to God. History tells us little about John Bunyan, but it is clear from his writings that the salvation of the soul was what mattered most to him. It is from his *Pilgrim's Progress* that the hymn '*To Be a Pilgrim*' ('*Who Would True Valour See?*') is taken.

July and August 2024 Services

Wednesday 3rd July

St. Michael 10.00 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday 4th July

St. Alphege 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Sunday 7th July – Trinity 6

St. Alphege 8.00 a.m. Said Eucharist
OBH 9.15 a.m. The Junction
St. Helen 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
St. Alphege 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist
St. Michael 10.30 a.m. Eucharist
St. Alphege 5.00 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 10th July

St. Michael 10.00 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday 11th July

St. Alphege 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Sunday 14th July – Trinity 7

St. Alphege 8.00 a.m. Said Eucharist
St. Alphege 9.15 a.m. All Age Holy Communion
St. Helen 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
St. Michael 10.30 a.m. Eucharist
St. Alphege 11.00 a.m. Choral Eucharist
St. Alphege 5.00 p.m. Evensong

Wednesday 17th July

St. Michael 10.00 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday 18th July

St. Alphege 10.30 a.m. Eucharist

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer is ordinarily said each weekday, and all are very welcome.

Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays at St. Alphege at 9 a.m.

Tuesdays at St. Helen's at 9 a.m.

Wednesdays at St. Michael's Chapel at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday 21st July – Trinity 8

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
Oliver Bird Hall	9.15 a.m.	The Junction
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evensong

Wednesday 24th July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 25th July

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Sunday 28th July – Trinity 9

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist with Children's Story Part 1
St. Michael	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 31st July

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 1st August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Sunday 4th August – Trinity 10

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen & St Michael	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist with Children's Story Part 2
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 7th August

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 8th August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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August 2024 Services

Sunday 11th August – Trinity 11

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen & St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist with Children's Story Part 3
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 14th August

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 15th August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Sunday 18th August – Trinity 12

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen & St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist with Children's Story Part 4
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 21st August

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 22nd August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Sunday 25th August – Trinity 13

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
St. Helen & St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist with Children's Story Part 5
St. Alphege	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 28th August

St. Michael	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist
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Thursday 29th August

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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Live and streamed services are being held at St. Alphege's, St. Michael's and St. Helen's churches.

Details are inside the front cover of this magazine and on the Parish Website.

<https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>

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CIRCUS PERFORMER

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The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church

If you are reading this before 5th July, I must correct an error in the last Parish News. The address for the evening event is **211, St Bernard's Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7DL**. We are very grateful to Ann Taylor for, once again, offering to host this event. It will take place on **5th July at 6.30 p.m.** The cost will be £12 per head. If you hope to attend, please let us know, so that we know how many to cater for. (0121 722 4092 or margaretoswald43@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there.

The next event will be a **lunch at the Drum & Monkey**. This will take place on **Thursday 10th October**. We will select 3 or 4 dishes for you to choose from, as we did last year. More details nearer the time.

The work on the lighting in church has begun on schedule and it is hoped that it will be completed in September, with the floodlighting sorted out as well.

We have in recent months co-opted two new Trustees for the Guardians and it seemed that we were going to be OK for the next year. However, sadly, Jan Richardson has decided that she can no longer continue as a Trustee. Jan has been a great support to the Trustees for the last 5 years and we are very grateful to her, but she does not live in Solihull and has found it increasingly difficult to come to meetings and events, in her already busy life. We are very sorry to lose her but quite understand her position. So, this means that we are once again looking for another Trustee. If you might be interested, or know someone who might be interested, please get in touch with us.

The Trustees



Crafty People – We Need You!

We are planning to host a poppy installation at St. Alphege Church in Solihull for Remembrance Sunday 2024, and we need as many poppies as possible! (Knitted or crocheted.)

(Patterns are available if you need one.)

See **Ann Boccock** (Knit & Natter at the Greville Arms, fortnightly on Monday evenings) or **Suzette Maguire** (Wellbeing Wednesday at the Greville Arms, every Wednesday morning or call

0121 7090884 for more details.

Drop off points to be confirmed.



Floodlighting

The Guardians Floodlighting Scheme is available for anyone who would wish to celebrate or mark an occasion, or to commemorate a date.

Unfortunately, the floodlighting of St. Alphege cannot be switched on at the present time due to corrosion of the electric cabling. The commemorative dates will still be displayed on the notice boards and also in the Parish Magazine. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on the telephone number below.

I would like to thank everyone who has been so supportive throughout this difficult time, for continuing to make their usual payments to the Guardians. We are most grateful.

I have been informed that the remedial electrical work has now commenced.

The cost is £8.00 for 2 hours; £14.00 for 4 hours. Please give 14 days' notice.

Forms are available from the Guardians notice boards in St. Alphege Church or in the Oliver Bird Hall.

Names are displayed on monthly lists on these notice boards and also in the Solihull Parish News magazine and acknowledged with a card sent to the donor.

For further information please contact the Scheme organiser:-

Sheila Payne

0121 706 0520; or email: russellpayne110@aol.com

The Church was floodlit to remember the following in 2024:

4 th June	In loving memory of Colin Price.
8 th June	In loving memory of Jordan Jane Page (Jo). Beautiful, brave and much loved.
9 th June	In loving memory of Neil John McDonough on his birthday.
16 th June	In loving memory of Michael Hartley.
27 th June	In loving memory of Jordan Jane Page (Jo) on her birthday.
6 th July	In loving memory of Jackie Goodman.
11 th July	Colin Price with love on your birthday.
21 st July	In treasured memory of David Francis Wright on his birthday. A devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Music Matters

In this bumper summer edition of the Parish News, we also have a bumper lot of news to update you on regarding the choirs and music activities at St Alphege.

In the middle of May, two of our choristers were invited to a national RSCM celebration service at St Paul's Cathedral in London to have their RSCM Gold Awards presented. This is testament to their individual hard work and dedication, as well as recognition of the musical and liturgical educational opportunities available to our choristers. In the service, they sang alongside 250 other choristers from across the country. As it was the Eve of Pentecost,



the choir sang a specially composed introit by Elizabeth Stratford of Arundel Cathedral. Elizabeth was present in the congregation for the service, as was Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, another composer whose work was part of the service music. Congratulations Thomas and Lily, and what a privilege to sing in such a choir, and in the presence of a number of cathedral directors of music, as well as two contemporary composers.

The first weekend of June included two very important events for the choir. On Saturday 1st June, we held our Gin and Jazz Festival. This is a wonderful community event, where we have many visitors from Solihull and further afield to enjoy unusual gins, wonderful live music and good company. There is such a buzz during the



event and we had a queue at opening time! There was a range of music, from SMC Jazz (a 25-piece band)

through piano soloists to smaller duets and trios including from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and our very own St Michael's Church – thanks to Bruce and Anne-Marie. Special thanks are due to everyone who helped and supported the event, but in particular those who were literally on their feet all day alongside me – James, Nick and Alison – as well as Lynne who had worked all day then came to help for the rest of the afternoon and evening. As well as being a fundraiser, these events are important in the life of the parish as they are a great way to reach new groups of people.



The following day, we had a combined choir visit to Coventry Cathedral to sing Choral Evensong. This was led by our Assistant Organist, Liam, who used to work at Coventry, so was very warmly welcomed back. Liam was also able to give the choristers some helpful historical highlights as we walked around the cathedral – it is a wonderful space to visit and to sing in. The music included Noble's Canticles in B minor and Balfour-Gardiner's *Evening Hymn* – the choir certainly rose to the occasion, ably accompanied by Harry, our Senior Organ Scholar.



In the remainder of this term, we have our final outreach event of the year, the Rising Stars concert, as well as our end-of-term services, and then preparations for the Rochester Cathedral summer residency.

Wishing all Parish News readers a wonderful summer – here's hoping for some better weather at some point!

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Blossomfield Grange is managed by award-winning provider Care UK - one of the UK's most highly successful care home operators* with over 40 years' experience of delivering high quality care to older people.

Blossomfield Grange stands out from other care homes with its large apartment-style living and luxury facilities. The home offers a choice between two room types, each with their own ensuite bathrooms, private dining areas and kitchenettes. Our one bed suites are ideal for individuals, whilst our companion suites offer an additional room, perfect for couples to enjoy as an extra living area.

Living at Blossomfield Grange is all about quality of life, and we offer tailored care both for residential residents, as well as those living with dementia on our specialist memory care floor. All residents are supported to continue to enjoy lifelong hobbies and make new friends, from music sessions to quizzes, while dancing, exercise classes, and gardening support residents to stay fit and active.

Blossomfield Grange is designed with signage, colour schemes, soft furnishings and floor coverings all chosen to create a calm and accessible home from home. The dementia suite also includes extra items to aid reminiscence and create a sensory and engaging space. We also have our own café bistro, hair salon and large established gardens, enabling all residents to enjoy a fulfilling lifestyle.

Blossomfield Grange care home
1 Worcester Way (Off Dog Kennel Lane),
Solihull B90 4JX
0121 756 5748
careuk.com/blossomfield-grange

Join us for our next event

At Blossomfield Grange care home

Knit and natter coffee morning

Last Monday of every month
11am - 12 noon

Come along to our monthly session alongside residents at Blossomfield Grange. Take part in learning and sharing new skills while enjoying complimentary freshly baked cakes and coffee or tea.

Contact the home to RSVP.



*As rated by the Care Quality Commission in England and the Care Inspectorate in Scotland.



CHURCH 4 FAMILIES

July/August

Sunday Worship

St Alphege

On 7th and 21st July the Junction will meet **IN PERSON**
at 9.15 a.m. in the Oliver Bird Hall.

(An informal service for families of all ages. It's lively and laid back!)

On 14th July everyone will meet in the church building at 9.15 a.m.

for a service for all ages

(The Junction will be taking a break during the school summer holidays
and will return on 15th September)

St Helen

Every Sunday at 10.00 a.m. there is worship in a modern space with a
community feel with activities available for children.

(St Helen's Sunday club will be taking a break during the school summer
holidays and will return on 22nd September)

St Michael

Every Sunday in term time at 10.30 a.m. there is worship in the school
hall where a warm and welcoming space is created for all ages to worship.

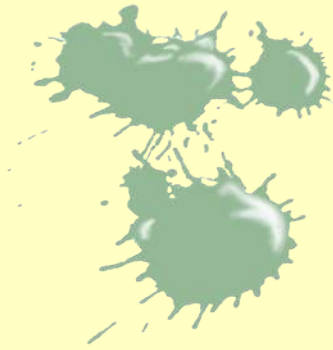
(NB St Michael's and St Helen's will be worshipping together throughout
the school summer holiday)

Other Activities

Friday 19th July **Messy Church Picnic** St Helen's Church 4 p.m.

Praise and Play Every Friday 9.30-10.30 a.m. Oliver Bird Hall

(Except 16th and 23rd August)



Activities for families of all shapes and sizes with lots of hands-on, crafty fun - followed by a celebration including a story and a prayer. Finally we'll finish with a tasty hot tea for everyone!

WHEN?

4.00pm 'til 6 p.m. on Friday 19th July,
20th September, 18th October,
15th November and 20th December

WHERE?

St Helen's Church, St Helen's Road,
B91 2DA (off Buryfield Road)

WHO?

EVERYONE! Children, bring your friends, but be sure to bring an adult

Cost: £2 per person, max £7 per family



Booking is essential. E mail
l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk
to book your place.



Junior Growth Group



Children who have recently received their First Communion have been invited to join a Junior Growth group to enable them to continue to develop their faith. The aim of these small groups is to help the children understand more about their faith and give them a good foundation in their relationship with God. The group involves a mix of games, watching film clips, looking at the bible, eating kitkats, praying and making things.

The group meets on alternate Wednesday evenings for one hour from 5.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. in Room 6 of the OBH. Do pray for the children and their leaders as they explore their faith together.



Prams to Preschool -



Praise and Play

Every Friday in the main Hall of the Oliver Bird Hall
9.30 a.m.-10.30 a.m.

Come along and chat, play, eat biscuits, sing action
songs, explore a bible story.

A time of fun and fellowship for all.



If you want to know more ring Linda on
0121 270 7390
or 07838 670772

or e mail l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk

Youth Stuff

The Youth Group has a new base in the O.B.H. We share the space in the freshly decorated Room 5, do stick your head in to have a look! We have a treasure hunt and BBQ planned for the Summer, hopefully the warmer weather will eventually arrive!

Are you, or is someone you know, in Year 6 and above, interested in joining a church youth group? Then do consider joining Solihull Parish Youth on a Friday evening, 5 p.m. – 6.20 p.m. in Room 6 at the Oliver Bird Hall. The sessions include pizza, activities and games. The aim is to provide a safe space to have fun and where faith and friendships can grow.

There is no charge, but registering before you come along for the first time is essential.

Please email Lynn Smart for the registration link: l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk

Lynn Smart

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We are pleased to host a number of Parish Events and courses at St. Helen's. These include the monthly **Messy Church** when we are delighted to see the church buzzing with children and their families, and it is lovely to welcome those from St. Alphege and St. Michael's who are regular helpers and support Linda and Sue in all the hard work involved. The recent **Alpha Course** was well attended and again it was good to be able to host the course and help with the serving of refreshments each week, as a group of leaders from across the Parish led the weekly sessions. The Alpha videos were excellently produced and well received by all.

At our Morning Praise Service on Sunday 16th June, we look forward to welcoming Nicci Maxwell, whom we support in her work with the **Church Mission Society**. After several years in Uganda, she is going to Juba in South Sudan this summer. Her time will be split between the work amongst refugees with ACROSS (a South Sudanese Christian organisation with a history of partnership with CMS) and work at the children's hospital including trying to establish a functioning neonatal unit and participating in teaching the next generation of South Sudanese paediatricians.

We have all been saddened at the death in April of Derek Sears, a much-loved member of St. Helen's for over 40 years. Derek and Barbara moved to Solihull from London in 1978 and Derek was a constant support to Barbara through all the years she was involved in Sunday School and other children's work and during her many years as a Lay Reader. **Derek's funeral will be on Monday 1st July at 12 noon at St. Helen's** and will be taken by Fr. Roy Murray with whom Barbara did her Reader training. Barbara and all the family continue to be very much in our prayers.

Barbara and Derek were both part of the setting up and running of the **Wednesday Lunches** many years ago at St. Helen's with Barbara cooking and Derek providing lifts. These lunches continue with a good number very much appreciating the home cooked meals and friendship they provide each week. We also welcome everyone to join us on the second Wednesday of each month for our **Community Coffee Morning**. This is between 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon and we welcome a good number from St. Helen's Road as well as church members to share in hot drinks and delicious home-made cakes.

We very much look forward to welcoming **St. Michael's congregation** as they join us in August. We so appreciate the support of their music group for our special community services at Christmas and Harvest, and it is lovely to share worship with them over the summer.

Chris and Jenny Carrington

St. Helen's Wednesday Lunches

Offering mainly to the elderly in the local community, enjoy a home made two course lunch on the 1st 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of each month (except August).

We may be able to offer transport occasionally

Time: 12.00 noon and cost is £6.50 including coffee

On the 5th Wednesday of the month, a light lunch is offered (such as baked potato, or soup and crusty bread) £5.00

2nd Wednesday of each month: Coffee and cake at 10.30 a.m. at £2.00, currently followed by a toasted sandwich lunch at £2.00 or £4.00 to include another piece of cake with coffee.

Location: St. Helen's Church

St. Helen's Road

(off Buryfield Road)

Solihull B91 2DA

Anne Noble - 07808 722848

anne-noble@hotmail.co.uk

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4m children, taking an average across the British Isles, this equates to 4 children out of a class of 30

- Young adults unable to go for an interview due to lack of suitable shoes
- Rough Sleepers without shoes, "Trench Foot" is now rife amongst these people

So Children's to Adult Shoes, Trainers to Formal wear, all are welcome



If you have any unwanted shoes in good condition, please contact Phil on 07770 406870, 56 Buryfield Road, Solihull, or let me know on philcgodfrey@btinternet.com



We had a splendid collection last year, when we collected in the Parish and the Rotary

Club of Solihull, a fantastic total of 200 sacks of shoes.

Can we beat this??

Please tell your friends and relations

Phil Godfrey

Our talented music group continue to enhance the worship on the first Sunday in the month and we are very grateful to them. Two of the group were also involved in the *Gin and Jazz* event, run by the *Friends of St. Alphege Music* in the O.B.H. last month.

We continue to hold our social afternoon at St. Michael's Chapel on the first Thursday of the month which is well-supported and this will continue in July and August.

During August, when we are unable to use the school for Sunday worship, we are delighted to join St. Helen's for the Sunday Eucharist and enjoy the warm welcome we receive there.

On 30th June we are not holding the Eucharist at the school, instead we are having a service in the Chapel and this will be followed by a picnic, both outside if the weather permits, inside if not.

We were very sad that a long standing and active member of St. Michael's, Elly Wright, died at the end of May. Elly had been a member of St. Michael's for many years and played an active part in many of our activities. We shall miss her greatly. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ian and the family.

We continue the small but important donations to charity, firstly through the money raised from coffee on Wednesday morning after the Eucharist which goes to 'Helping Hands'; secondly the money raised from coffee after the service is donated to smaller local charities which are nominated by members of the congregation.

Paul Smith

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Ring out Wild Bells

Saturday November 16th 2024
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Programme includes: From The Bavarian Highlands - *Edward Elgar*
Give Unto The Lord - *Edward Elgar* • Lord Who Hast Made Us - *Gustav Holst*
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"Sweet P's"

Pentecost - Looking back.

Wellbeing Wednesday was born out of necessity. That is, as Covid restrictions were lifting I was meeting more and more people in the community who were telling me that things they used to go to before Covid just weren't opening up again. This left a void for many, as well as the threat of a decline in mental health for some.

There was – and still is for some - a stigma around talking about mental health. Talk about 'Wellbeing' on the other hand was on the increase, and so the idea of *Wellbeing Wednesday* was conceived. I approached the local coffee shop, the Kitchen, on Damson Lane, they received my idea with a resounding 'yes', and the first meeting of *Wellbeing Wednesday* took place there on 19th May 2021.

This year 19th May fell on a Sunday – which also happened to be *Pentecost Sunday* – so we had a party. It was a real birthday party with a real birthday cake (thanks again P! 😊) plus, we had party bags to take home at the end of our celebration together. From the items in the party bags, we learnt about *Wellbeing Wednesday*, sharing its birthday this year with what many regard as the birthday of the Church, and this was represented in the party bags by a piece of birthday cake. No birthday is complete without candles, and we learnt that the Holy Spirit came at *Pentecost* in the form of a flame, represented in our party bag by a tea light – with strict instructions not to put the tea-light on your head! (Thanks to J for pointing that out! 😊) Finally, while making positive comparisons between the community that is the church and the community that is *Wellbeing Wednesday*, we noted that one of the main things that we have in common is 'love' – and the love of God. This was represented in our bags by a heart-shaped bookmark.

I thank God for the 'birth' of *Wellbeing Wednesday* and that He has blessed us for three years. I also thank God for the Church and for the blessing that is the Holy Spirit. One of the things that I look for as a Pioneer Minister is 'opportunity'. This year, 19th May afforded an opportunity that was too good to miss. Was it hard work? *Yes!* Did I love every minute of it? *Yes!* Did I have help? *Oh yes!* Thank you to all involved for making it a celebration to remember.

Think and pray -

What opportunities is God putting in your path? When you find them, will your answer be *Yes!?*

Poppies - Looking forward.

Between Christmas and New Year 2023, I was messaged by a member of the local community who runs a Knit & Natter at the Greville Arms. Her message said something along the lines of – "*Do you think St. Alphege (Solihull Parish) would like a poppy installation for Remembrance in 2024?*" I can't tell you the exact wording because, before I had the chance to reply, she had deleted it thinking that I would think it was 'a daft idea'.

Pioneer Diary

I answered anyway. 😊 We met with Nick Parker, and the rest, as they say, is history.

I can't go anywhere these days without someone talking to me about poppies. The interest from across Solihull has been phenomenal and I think there are so many people from the local communities across the area who are either knitting poppies or know someone who is! Our target is 8,000 – and masses of lovely people have taken it upon themselves to make sure that we get there.

Ann (the poppy lady as I call her) and I have worked on a basic timeline for these activities. From January right across to September it says 'knitting' (although some are crocheting, which is equally valid) – anyway, you get the point! In June we will be approaching local schools to enlist their help if they will, with some poppies for displays inside St. Alphege, plus, by the end of June, we will be putting out a list of places to drop off completed poppies. Ann already has the net to attach the poppies to which we will be working on in earnest in October; someone has already volunteered a cherry picker to put the net up when the time comes in November; and we have had interest and help from Solihull Bid, John Lewis, RBL and Solihull Council.

As you already know, in my Pioneer role I work a lot in my local community, but nothing prepared me for how people from across Solihull Parish and beyond have picked up this idea and run with it with us. Thank you to you all for your support. 😊

Think and pray -

What connections do you have in your local community? If someone in your local community had an idea, would they know how to contact you about it?

Dear God,

I recognise the blessings of meaningful connections and their joy in my life.

Thank you for the gift of community, the friendships that sustain me,
and how others have touched my life.

I am grateful for how I have been challenged and inspired by others,
and how they have helped me grow and become who I am today.

In Jesus' name, I pray. **Amen.**

Keep safe and thanks for listening!

Suzette.

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Update from the Parish Wardens

When you read this Bishop Michael will have been to confirm about 10 candidates. This is encouraging for us as a Parish. Do please pray for them as they continue their Christian Journeys. A number of these came from the Choir, some from the Junction and at least one from the Alpha Course, which seems to have gone well and been enjoyed. We had a good *Away Day* on a Saturday in May which took place in the Hall at Temple Balsall on one of the few gloriously sunny warm days in May. We thought about the Holy Spirit and his work in our lives.

We have a number of moves on jobs within the Parish. We are pleased to say we have a volunteer candidate for our Parish Treasurer whom we will be able to name shortly. We have recruited a new Assistant Children's and Families' Worker to follow Sue Chandler when she retires from this work in July (but Sue continues her clerical ministry with us for which we are very grateful). Tamarin (Tammy) Strong will be starting in this role in September. We are in the midst of recruiting a volunteer to follow Viv as our Safeguarding Coordinator, and we have just heard that sadly Veronica from the Parish Office is leaving us in the summer as she is moving house, and so we shall be recruiting to replace her. A huge thank you to Sue, Viv and Veronica for all they have done for us.

Things are also on the move at St. Alphege and the Oliver Bird Hall. We thank Andy Halstead for a huge amount of work with Project Turnaround which he reported on in the last edition. We are pleased to say that the work on the lighting has begun and so far things are going smoothly! We are looking forward to the results in September when we will be able to see things we have never seen before! There have been rearrangements in the O.B.H. such that the Children and Families' office is now next to the Parish Office in what was the Youth Room. Youth have now moved to Room 5, which will still be available to Open Door and other meetings. The charity *Entraide*, which helps refugees and asylum seekers in the area, is going to be renting the old Children and Families' Office. It is good to welcome them into our space and it will provide a bit of income too.

Much continues as usual in the Parish and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and work that is going on. We would particularly like to thank Ben Yates for the great work he did in helping the moves in O.B.H. and also for chairing Pre-School which is now serving far more children and is much more viable.

The O.B.H. also hosted another successful *Gin and Jazz Festival*, raising valuable funds for *The Friends of St. Alphege Music*. The gin and a variety of talented musicians made the occasion most enjoyable.

The beginning of June saw the Choir visiting Coventry Cathedral to sing Evensong, and they will be spending their Choir Week away at Rochester Cathedral from 12th to 18th August.

We would also like to mention our *Parish Puppet Ministry* so ably led by Ruth Sabbagh. They entertain and teach at the same time on many occasions and we are pleased they will be performing in Marston Green in June and then doing some training for a church in Leamington Spa with which we have connections. Thank you, Ruth and your team.

I am sure you would like to join us in wishing Fr. Roy and Fr. Andrew many congratulations on the 20th and 35th Anniversary of their ordinations respectively, at the beginning of July. We are extremely fortunate to have them as part of our ministry team.

As this is a double issue of the magazine to cover July and August, we need to mention that as usual St. Michael's will be joining with St Helen's for the month of August which is always a good time to share worship. We would like to wish everyone well for August when less happens, many take holidays and it is a great chance to reflect, pray, study, talk and prepare for the new academic year.

**Pam Price
Andrew Williams
June 2024**



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Pastoral Care within the Parish

This article explains the current arrangements for pastoral care within the Parish.

Parish

The Parish Office (0121 705 5350) is the main point of contact for general pastoral queries, which will be re-directed to the most appropriate member of clergy or lay person. This includes funerals.

Sunday and weekday services are shared via a combination of the Parish Facebook page and YouTube channel. Links are also made available on the Homepage of the Parish website for you to watch later if you wish at: <https://www.solihullparish.org.uk>.

St. Alphege's

Pastoral Link

Given the relatively large size of our congregation and as the degree of contact we have with individuals varies, we have found it necessary to introduce a degree of formal structure into our arrangements.

The clergy are available to help in the event of personal emergencies including death and serious illness. A request for their services should be made through the Parish Office, or out of office hours to: 0121 705 5350.

For those who are permanently or temporarily housebound, home communions and more general visiting can be arranged through the Pastoral Link, a group of clergy and authorised laity. Requests should be made through the Parish Office or through the Link Co-ordinator, Stephen Linstead (sglrml@btinternet.com / mob. 07746 796 989).

The Link meets periodically throughout the year to discuss individual cases and more general issues.

New volunteers, as Eucharistic Ministers or more general visitors, are always very welcome. Please note: this will require some safeguarding formalities including training.

The Link is not directly able to organise lifts to church services or other Parish events. However, members of the congregation are free to offer lifts as a private arrangement to those they know need such assistance. Anyone prepared to offer lifts or anyone who needs one is welcome to inform the Pastoral Link Coordinator or the clergy who can pass on any relevant information.

Tuesday Prayer Group

The Group currently meets every Tuesday and prays for those in need, including the sick and elderly. It maintains contacts with other organisations including the Pastoral Link and New Door. Contact: Anne Rock 0121 [705 0885](tel:7050885).

St. Helen's

This happens on an informal basis because the congregation is not large and also many of us are members of a house group or prayer group, which means that anyone missing is quickly noticed by others in the group.

In addition, Chris Carrington, Deputy Warden and Reader, tries to contact anyone he is aware has not been at church for a while and would also welcome anyone getting in touch with him at any time to share concern about someone. He can also arrange home communion if requested. His contact details are: 0121 705 0902.

St. Michael's

Pastoral Care at St Michael's takes place in a very natural and organic way. St. Michael's has always considered itself to be as much a family as a church congregation, and the smaller size of St. Michael's allows us to keep in touch with each other without the need for a formal pastoral structure. As such we share each other's joys and sorrows with cards, phone calls, flowers, visits and prayer.

We send out our weekly '*Wing & a Prayer*' newsletter by email to all who would like to receive it, and it is also available at church on Sundays. This keeps people up to date with what is going on at St. Michael's and also lists the names of those who have asked the church to pray for them. We also take communion to anyone who requests it, either at home or in hospital. This can be organised by contacting Fr. Simon on 07514 373400.

Stephen Linstead

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"Time and Variations"

Martin Tunnicliffe Introduces His New Book.

When my children were still infants, I began to scribble a few thoughts and memories of what it was like when I was their age. As those two girls are now well past their fiftieth birthdays, you will appreciate that that was a long time ago. Every now and then over the intervening years, I put a few more memories into writing. Then life became too full of other matters, and I shelved all the papers. During the 2020 pandemic lockdown, in one of the many idle moments, I found the stuff I had written, and thought it might be worth adding to. The result is this 280-page book.

Inside, you will come across a series of verbal pictures. I was born in 1931 and grew up during the 1930s and 1940s. The years covered in the book are 1931 to 1958. They are remote; one might say they are historical, when you consider that they pre-date computers, space travel, artificial satellites, mobile phones, the Internet, electric scooters, synthesized music and AI. Yet they are the years of the twentieth century of which I have clear and vivid memories, including the Second World War. During those 27 years, I became an evacuee and a soldier. I lived in ten different places, including a year in Paris, and attended, in various parts of England, six primary schools, three grammar schools, and one university. I had several part-time jobs and one permanent one. Some of my experiences have been puzzling, some serious and reflective, some scary, some bizarre, and some really funny. They include a jolly rag-bag of interesting characters, ranging from professors and bishops to farmers and soldiers.

Time & Variations is currently being prepared for printing, and I need to know how many copies to print. It will cost about £10 per copy to produce. I don't intend to make any money on the book, so if you would like a copy, it will only cost you £10 (plus postage if necessary). However, to celebrate the appearance of this book, I intend to donate £3 myself per copy sold, to a special Down Syndrome charity. If you would like to add to that donation when you purchase a copy, please feel free and I will add your donation to mine.

If you are interested in buying a copy, [please let me know](mailto:mwtunnicliffe@outlook.com), preferably by email to mwtunnicliffe@outlook.com.

Note. At this stage, I am only needing to discover the level of interest, so that I shall know how many copies to print. In due course, I will send more details about buying a copy or copies.

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Matters of Faith

I Believe . . .

The Revd. Martin Tunnicliffe



I came across this cartoon many years ago. As soon as I saw it, I cut it out and put it on the notice board in my kitchen, along with other vital matters such as the names of the neighbours' children, an old-fashioned cardboard ticket from the Severn Valley Railway, a bottle opener, and the Senility Prayer¹. As well as making me, and some of my visitors, smile, the cartoon gently reminds me of the foundation of my religion; namely, Faith.

Personally, I have never had any doubts about the existence of God, and I am thankful for that. At the same time, in pastoral ministry, I became very much aware that many people, including church worshippers, experience periods of doubt, not least when life becomes stressful, or when domestic or world affairs take a turn for the worse, or some disaster strikes.

The French philosopher, Blaise Pascal lived in the 17th century. He became a profound Christian believer. Some of his writings concerning Christianity were published posthumously under the title "Thoughts" (*Pensées*). One of these "Thoughts" was *Le Pari*, The Wager or Bet. When it came to believing in God, Pascal explained, there could be no certainty. However, every person should bet on it, and do so for a logical reason. Here is his argument as set out in Wikipedia:

- God is, or God is not. Reason cannot decide between the two alternatives
- A Game is being played... where heads or tails will turn up
- You must wager (it is not optional)
- Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that God is. Let us estimate these two chances. If you gain, you gain all; if you lose, you lose nothing
- Wager, then, without hesitation that He is. There is here an infinity of an infinitely happy life to gain, a chance of gain against a finite number of chances of loss, and what you stake is finite.

¹ See the Postscript below.

Well: that is one way of putting it.

For myself, and, I suspect, for the majority of worshipping Christians, faith is a factor in life which is more of a heartfelt situation than a rational decision. And Christian faith in God, once accepted, includes a commitment to follow the teachings and example of Jesus, not only in church, but in everyday life. This cannot be a solitary process. It requires the mutual love and support of what St. Paul calls "The household of faith" (Galatians 6.10). The Greek word is *koinonia*, from which we derive our word *economy*, which really means 'good housekeeping'.

Definition of Faith

So, what is "Faith"? When I look it up in my Dictionary of Bible Words, I find that this word (connected with "belief") takes up more space than any other in the whole book. It is very clear that Faith must incorporate Trust; and this must apply whether we think of Faith in the One God, or in the Three-in-One; Father-Son-Spirit. Also, it is important to remember that Christian Faith implies and incorporates Christian action in daily living. I find it helpful to turn, now and again, to Hebrews Chapter 11 which begins, "*Now, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*" "Assurance" and "Conviction" are strong words, and the rest of the chapter reassuringly elaborates the theme for us.

Postscript

The Serenity Prayer: *Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference. Amen.* (Reinhold Niebuhr)

And in case you haven't come across it, here is -

The Senility Prayer: *God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference. Amen.* (Anon)



St Alphege
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(contact Niki 07970 682 748 to reserve lunch and book a lift if you need one.)

N.B. There will be no Members' Meeting in August.

Thursday 18th July : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.

Thursday 15th August : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.

You can access more information on www.solihullparish.org.uk/mothers-union and also from the website homepage top menu by clicking on **Connect** and then on **Mothers' Union**.

WIVES' FELLOWSHIP

This friendly Fellowship will continue to meet in the Summer, on 5th July and 2nd August. If you would like to come and enjoy good food and fellowship, please phone Carol Caldicott for full details.

Carol Caldicott
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Jas Singh
Carol Southworth

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St Alphege Verger	Paul Evans Verger's Office at St Alphege Church	07443 917726
St Alphege Tower Secretary	Sand Cooper	sand.cooper@outlook.com



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