

**SOLIHULL  
PARISH**



**NEWS**



No. 563

JANUARY 2025

PRICE £1.00

# 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 12<sup>th</sup> January  
11.00 a.m. Choral Eucharist 12<sup>th</sup> January  
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 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January

## St Helen

Sundays 10.00 a.m. Holy Communion  
Third Sunday 10.00 a.m. Morning Praise  
Tuesdays 9.00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
Sunday 10.00a.m. The Junction joins the Sunday Club

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:life.events@solihullparish.org.uk)

**The Revd. Nick Parker**  
**The Revd. Simon Marshall**

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

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## *Cover picture*

**The Magi arrive at the Manger**  
**Feast of the Epiphany 6<sup>th</sup> January**

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# Editorial

*As this new year begins we journey on from our celebration of the birth of Christ to the revealing of his nature in the Epiphany season. The Sundays in January focus on who Jesus is, and the purpose of his coming to earth.*

**I**n the Western churches, the Epiphany (which means 'manifestation') became an occasion to celebrate one element in the story of Christ's birth: the visit of the Magi, the 'wise men from the east' (Matthew 2.2, King James Version). As well as being seekers of knowledge, the Magi come from outside the Jewish faith - they are not part of the people who were thought to be looking for God's promised Messiah.

The visit of the Magi is understood as the revealing of Christ to those outside the Jewish faith. The feast of the Conversion of St Paul, who journeyed around the Mediterranean preaching the Gospel, also occurs in the Epiphany season, as does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18th-25th January). Seen from this perspective, the season of Epiphany is a very appropriate season to pray and work for the worldwide mission and unity of the Church.

Last November, I was privileged to take part in an inter-faith walk in Solihull. This drew together members of many faiths across our town including those from the Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Christian traditions. During the walk we visited each other's places of worship where we were warmly welcomed and heard something about the work and worship of those who gather there.

One of the most interesting elements of the walk was being able to talk with individuals from other faiths and to hear that we shared so many of the same hopes and concerns: the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic; a desire to help our local community; seeking to nurture our children and to care for our older members; creating a beautiful and holy space for our worship, and making our welcome as wide as possible. It was clear that we have so much in common, offering us starting-points from where our conversations and friendships can grow.

At the start of this new year, I would like to encourage us all to work for unity between our neighbours, our churches and between faiths, in whatever way we can. For when we truly seek to live and work together, everybody benefits.

I wish you a happy and peaceful new year!

**Fr. Simon**

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# Roundabout

## Journey to the Stable 2024

The Journey to the Stable event which is now in its nineteenth year at St. Alphege church took place during the week leading up to Advent Sunday. It was such a joy to welcome more than 350 children plus staff and parents from the following schools: Eversfield, Greswold, St. Augustine's, St. Alphege Preschool, St. Alphege Infants, Ruckleigh, Solihull, Oak Cottage and Yew Tree.

The session began with the children gathering in the pews to write their names and school on stars which were placed on a display board at the back of church. They also made a bookmark to take home to remind them of their visit. The children then moved forward to sit on the floor to listen to the Christmas story told using the Crib figures. They then divided into groups to journey around the church where they met a shepherd who told the story of an incredible night when he and his friends had been out on the hillside, caring for their sheep, when



they were astounded to be visited by angels telling them to go to Bethlehem. A Wise man then joined the shepherd to tell the children about his long journey with his friends following a star and talked about the unusual gifts they had chosen. The children also met a very grumpy Innkeeper's wife, who after being given some money to help pay for her



# Roundabout



fuel bills, was persuaded to sit down to tell the children about all the visitors to her stable. It was wonderful this year for the children to gather around the manger in the beautifully lit crypt where two children from each school were invited forward to be Mary and Joseph and share their story.

The children finished by again gathering



around the crib figures and enthusiastically sharing their thoughts on the most enjoyable part of the session, the part that was most important to them and why it was important and whether any part of the Christmas story could be left out and we would still have all the story we needed. It was wonderful to hear the children's thoughts and for each session the conclusion was that all parts of the story were important.

The Journey to the Stable would not be possible without the help and support of a team of wonderful volunteers who willingly give their time and many talents to make this event happen. A BIG THANK YOU to all of them, including Martha the dog who this year played the part of a sheepdog as she participated in her second Journey to the Stable!!

**Linda Hicks**

## Wednesday Lunchtime Music Recitals, 1.10pm to 2pm

Everyone is welcome to the Recitals. Admission is free and there is a retiring collection held in aid of The Friends of St. Alphege Music (Registered Charity 511237). Refreshments are available from 12.30 p.m.

Recitals are held weekly during term time and refreshments are available from 12.30 p.m. Recitals in 2025 will start on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

# Roundabout

## Fr. Patrick Taylor Visited South Africa

I went on a trip to South Africa with Christian Aid in October to visit some of the development agencies they support there, and was delighted to discover another St. Alphege church in Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg. A member of the group I



was with, Dudu, is the Churchwarden there and so some of us joined them for their Sunday morning mass (at 7.30am!). It's an Anglican church and so felt like home from home. At the end of the service I was invited to introduce myself to the congregation and I so told them about my link to St. Alphege, Solihull, which they were delighted to hear about.

Best wishes from Stratford to everyone who remembers us.

**Fr. Patrick**

Fr. Patrick was Team Vicar for St. Alphege and Director of Lay Adult Training 2005-2013



## Mothers' Union Souls of Our Shoes Exhibitions

Mothers' Union is very proud of their baking and hospitality skills, however, this charitable organisation that has existed for almost 150 years is so much more, as those who visited our 'Souls of our Shoes' exhibition held in St. Alphege discovered in November.

**Souls of our Shoes** exhibitions are an MU initiative to shine a spotlight on the voices of those who have walked away from domestic abuse and those who walk the journey with them. Donated shoes are paired with quotes from survivors of domestic abuse, giving an insight into their experiences and pathway to recovery.



Our exhibit supports **Mothers' Union's No More 1 in 3** campaign to raise awareness that 1 in 3 women worldwide have been subjected to either physical/or sexual violence in their life time. The display was shown to coincide with the *Global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* (25<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> December) as Mothers' Union is one of over 6000 organisations from over 185 countries raising awareness of and calling for an end to gender-based violence and abuse in all forms and in all societies.



A series of events was also organised by Solihull Council and Elaine Diskin accompanied Revd. Nick Parker to a reception hosted at the Mayoral Parlour for Solihull Soroptimists to share details of our display.

Our exhibit was first shown in St. Martin's in the Bullring in March 2024 and has already visited Kings Heath and Knowle parishes. It will continue to tour the diocese throughout 2025. Those who have viewed it felt it was a powerful reminder of the impact of domestic violence on the victims and their dependants, yet was also a celebration of the strength of those manage to walk away from domestic violence. We hope it will return to Solihull Parish to be shown again next year.

**Julia Hanson**  
On behalf of St. Alphege Mothers' Union

# Roundabout

## Remembering our dear friend Richard Cann, 28<sup>th</sup> February 1938 – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024

It was with much sadness that we learnt that Richard had passed away, he was such an important part of our local bell ringing band despite not having been able to climb the stairs to the ringing room for a while. He continued to join us for our social events and even rang with us at easily accessible towers on outings. He was elected a member of the St. Alphege Guild of Ringers 14<sup>th</sup> October 1957 though, the previous meeting having been nearly 4 years earlier, in truth, he was a member for nearer 70 years. Richard himself described to us how during the post war years, whilst his father was serving with the army in India, the bottom of their garden was turned into a vegetable patch tended by a neighbour. Mr Lane would paddle across the stream from a garden in the road behind their home. He had a son David who was a ringer and one day he posed the question "Have you ever thought of becoming a bell ringer?" He arranged for David to take Richard up the tower to see the ringers and witness their activities first hand. He liked what he saw and was subsequently taught to ring by Edgar Shepherd, Vin Rigg and Tom Warner. When he learnt the tradition of ringing the curfew bell each evening was still practiced between the end of September and the end of March, something he continued into the 1970s ringing a version of the curfew before evensong on Sundays. Over time, Richard came to hold most positions within the local Guild. Whilst we have lost an oh so important member of our band, we have also lost a valued link to our history, he rang with many respected ringers and is a part of the legacy that he leaves to all.



Richard was first elected an officer of the St. Alphege Guild in 1964 when he became Tower Keeper. Whilst he held this role for only a year, it is minuted that the then Rector paid tribute to his work following a visit from the church architect who had said that it was the cleanest tower and best kept he had ever seen. In 1965 Richard became Secretary to the Guild, a role since sub divided into Weddings Secretary, Social Secretary, Outing Organiser and so on. Richard did it all and at a time when we had anything up to 7 weddings on a Saturday, held an annual dinner and an outing, (a day visiting other towers). As if that wasn't enough, he also took on the role of Treasurer at the same time.

Our meeting minutes show that Richard was an active part of the group who worked together to secure the augmentation to 12 bells, in 1968. Richard stood down as Secretary in 1977 but retained the role of Treasurer until 1985. He was specifically thanked by Tom Warner, another highly respected ringer, for overseeing a period in which he had taken on negligible funds, bringing the Guild to the point that it was self-supporting, something Tom considered to be an almost unique position that he felt the church could be proud of and, relieved that he had left such a solid foundation for his successor. Alongside the Treasurer role, Richard took on the role of Church and Churchyard Representative for 9 years and Handbell Treasurer for 35 years. He finally took the role of Tower Master, 1991 until 1996.

Not only has he been the bedrock of our band but, he has also been an important member of the St. Martin's Guild (The Birmingham Diocesan Guild) which he joined in 1955 and was later made a Life member. He proudly chaired the St. Martin's Guild, Henry Johnson Dinner

# Roundabout

in February 2009. Richard was never a keen peal ringer (3+ hours of continuous ringing) though he rang 10, 8 of them for St. Martin's, his first being in 1956. He rang 461 quarter peals that we know of, the first recorded being the same year as his first peal. He rang in and called many of the local monthly attempts before evensong at Solihull. At one time the 11<sup>th</sup> bell was known as 'Richard's bell', his favourite when ringing long extents.

Richard was a positive force in supporting others in their ringing. He taught bell handling and encouraged particularly the younger ringers with a gentle word of advice and guidance. He explained the theory of ringing and supported band members in their journeys to more complex ringing. He made time to act as chauffeur to other local tower's practices and events and, on occasion wearing his chauffeur's hat, just for fun! Fun was a huge part of Richard's ringing, he had a schoolboy sense of humour and great charm. He'd arrive in the ringing room and whatever hat he'd come in would be tossed across the room to the coat hooks on the opposite side, with three goes to see if he could hoopla the pegs. (Amazingly he often managed it!) Back in the day he'd make us giggle when a long-standing Rector was invited to speak at each of our annual dinners and Richard would mischievously have the younger band members giggling as he predicted his every word during the after-dinner speech. To this day many of us remember how he taught us to tie the rope for the Sanctus bell with his rabbit story, the rabbit coming up out of his burrow round the tree and back down. And we often reference Richard's 'bells across the meadow' which is how he referred to our lightest 5 bells.



As well as tower bell ringing, he loved the handbells and tune ringing. He was active in acquiring our set of 38. With him, we rang at many events including dinners, church gatherings and the local hospice, where he was a long-time volunteer. Richard introduced several members of the Mothers' Union to the team and then, when our handbell team drifted, Richard brought another group together teaching, conducting and leading ladies from The Women's Institute.

He loved sharing bell ringing with any group that was interested. He hosted many tours of the tower for local school groups, scouting and guiding groups and even regularly took bells to the playgroup. It was never too soon to get people interested! He also represented us for many years at the War Memorial, placing our wreath to commemorate the loss of one of our band members during the First World War.

When we learnt of Richard's passing, we hastily arranged half muffled ringing the following evening. The muffles make the ringing sound mournful. We removed the muffles for the morning service but with the Rector's permission we rang a half-muffled quarter peal for evensong, Richard's usual 6-part composition that he often conducted. For his funeral we rang half-muffled before, removing the muffles during the service and ringing open afterwards. We were joined by many old and new members of the local Guild as well as those from St. Martin's. Richard asked for handbells to be rung around his coffin which was arranged. During the afternoon we scored his requested Quarter Peal composition in thanksgiving for his life and service to the church for many years.

A real gentleman, full of humour and a real pleasure to know.

**Sand Cooper**

# Let us Pray

## Calendar and Prayer Intentions for January 2025

1	Naming & Circumcision of Jesus	The well-being of our town in 2025	Waverley Grove
2	Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzus 379/389	Michael, our Bishop	Welcombe Grove
3	Feria	Local doctors' surgeries	Wellington Grove
4	Feria	Staff and patients of the Marie Curie hospice	Westwood Grove
5	The Epiphany	Those awaiting the birth of a child	Wharf Lane
6	Feria	Our Parish Wardens, Pam & Andrew	Wherretts Well Lane
7	Feria	Writers and poets	White Falcon Court
8	Feria	Those caring for a family member who is ill	White House Close
9	Feria	The UK Government	White House Green
10	William Laud, Abp of Canterbury, 1645	The three churches of our parish	White House Way
11	Mary Slessor, Missionary, 1915	Suzette Maguire, our Pioneer Minister	Whitefields Crescent
12	The Baptism of Christ	Those preparing for baptism	Whitefields Gate
13	George Fox, Founder of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), 1691	The Quaker Meeting in Solihull	Whitefields Road
14	Feria	The three churches of our parish	Widney Manor Road
15	Feria	The staff of the shops, cafes, bars and restaurants in our town	Willoughby Drive
16	Feria	The staff of funeral directors in our town	Winterbourne Road
17	Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 365	Spiritual directors and counsellors	Winthorpe Drive
18	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins	The Christian Churches in Solihull	Witham Croft
19	Second Sunday of Epiphany	Our Parish Children's & Families Team	Witley Avenue
20	Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349	Members of religious communities	Witley Farm Close
21	Agnes, Child Martyr at Rome, 304	Those who suffer for their faith in Christ	Wollescote Drive
22	Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 304	Diocesan staff & members of Bishop's Council	Woodbury Grove
23	Feria	Growth of relationships between faiths in our town	Woodfield Road
24	Frances de Sales, Bp of Geneva, Teacher 1622	The staff and pupils of the St Alphege schools	Woodlea Drive
25	The Conversion of Paul	Those awaiting the results of medical tests	Woodperry Avenue
26	Third Sunday of Epiphany	Nick, our Priest-in-charge & Rector-designate	Woodside Way
27	Feria	The work of Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness	Woodston Grove
28	Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher of the Faith, 1274	Chris Thomas, St Alphege Director of Music & the St Alphege Choirs	Wroxall Road
29	Feria	Those who are seeking work	Albany Gardens
30	Charles, King and Martyr, 1649	Our King, Charles III	Alderbrook Road
31	John Bosco, Priest, Founder of the Salesian Teaching Order, 1888	Those who work to translate the Scriptures	Alderham Close

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

## From the St. Alphege Register

### Baptisms

27<sup>th</sup> December Turton Marshall

### Weddings

None

### Renewal of Vows

None

### Funerals

12<sup>th</sup> November Patricia Floyd

9<sup>th</sup> December Laurence Lane

10<sup>th</sup> January Jillian Hecht

### Interment of Ashes

21<sup>st</sup> November John Bass and Patricia Bass

24<sup>th</sup> November John Goodman

27<sup>th</sup> November Peter Aske @RHC

6<sup>th</sup> December David Hudson

7<sup>th</sup> December Frances Bradley

## Names taken from the Chantry Book for Remembrance in January

Margaret Aston

Edwin Barnes

John Barnsley

Tim Berry

Cecil Campkin

Katherine Davis

Robert Davis

Kathleen Dumigan

Maud Dunkley

Mary Feldman

John Feldman

Elsie Flood

John Flood

Lily May Hale

Betty Hartley

Dorothea Hobbs

Stan Jones

Nellie Kemp

Colin Leach

Dorothy Lloyd

Jim Madeley

Elsie Katherine Malpass

Norman John Marston

Ronald Metcalfe

Elizabeth Newton

Joshua Panayiotu

Roger Patey OBE

Alison Peat

Hilda Mary Pinfold

Noreen Sheehy

George Shirley

Dorothy Smith

Michael Southworth

Margaret Tate

Peggy Turner

Clive Thwaite Williams

Betty Wood

Betty Haselhurst

## Worship Notes for January 2025

Each year, Christians are invited to come together to pray for their unity in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is held between 18-25 January. This year the Week of Prayer invites us to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus, which we read in John 11:17-27. Each of us is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

This year also celebrates 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea in 325, which gathered Christian communities from around the world. This crucial meeting was not without its challenges as a wounded and scattered church sought to discern the truth of the Gospel message. However, there was a clear desire to deepen connection and belonging and to live faithfully as disciples of Christ.

### Worship Notes

The resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the community of Bose, an ecumenical monastery of brothers and sisters in Northern Italy. The following reflection is taken from the final day of this year's resources and encourages us to pray for greater Christian unity in this life, and to live lives of love and service to others.

*What joy is there in hope?*

*What joy is there in unity?*

*We are hungry on the road,  
and in God we are nourished.*

*When shall we be satisfied?*

*Only when we feed our sisters  
and brothers.*

*Reaching out to humanity,  
welcoming the stranger.*

*Touching creation as we watch  
and wait.*

*For a time when righteousness  
and peace kiss.*

*Keep your lamps burning, keep watch.  
For there is joy in unity, there is joy  
in hope.*

*In this hope we sing 'alleluia'.*

There will be a service of Unity, to which we are all invited, on the evening of Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January. I hope that you will consider coming along to show our unity with our sisters and brothers in Christ.

**Fr. Simon**



**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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## January 2025 Services

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January

St. Michael's Chapel	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael's Chapel	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Christmas 2

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
Oliver Bird Hall	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 8<sup>th</sup> January

St. Michael's Chapel	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael's Chapel	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 1

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 15<sup>th</sup> January

St. Michael's Chapel	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael's Chapel	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 2

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 22<sup>nd</sup> January

St. Michael's Chapel	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael's Chapel	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

## Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Epiphany 3

St. Alphege	8.00 a.m.	Said Eucharist
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.	Evening Prayer

## Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

St. Michael's Chapel	9.30 a.m.	Morning Prayer
St. Michael's Chapel	10.00 a.m.	Eucharist

## Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January

St. Alphege	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist
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## 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.



## *The Guardians of St Alphege Parish Church*

**B**y the time you read this it will be 2025. So a happy New Year from the Guardians.

Back in mid-November the new Trustee Committee, which includes our Rector, met to look at how the Guardians would administer the finances, communicate with members and help organise events. Updating the Charity Commission website should be complete by now and banking signatory changeovers in hand. This has been organised by Judith Hetherington, who continues as our Treasurer.

A new website was carefully considered and is now due. We hope it will be up and running shortly.

To communicate regularly with members we hope to continue to develop the online list of current members and keep it up to date. New members are of course very welcome. We hope to be able to announce further fundraising events as soon as plans are confirmed.

Finally, in the last 2 months I have enjoyed acting as a host to the varied and delightful visitors we receive in our Grade 1 listed local parish church. They have been pleased to find a warm welcome inside. And that even when the heating was awaiting repair!

**Roger Shinton**  
Trustee

## **Guardians Christmas Gathering**

**R**egrettably this event has had to be cancelled due to poor advance numbers of attendees.

We realise that this time of the year means that people have many calls on their time and this has resulted in the cancellation.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and hope for your support in the New Year.

**Sheila Payne and the Friends of the Guardians.**



## Floodlighting

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

The cost is £8.00 for 2 hours; £14.00 for 4 hours. Please give 21 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.

Do contact me on the phone or email below if you don't know about the Floodlighting Scheme and would like to learn more. It's open to all.

For further information please contact the Scheme organiser:-

Sheila Payne, 0121 706 0520; or email: [russellpayne110@aol.com](mailto:russellpayne110@aol.com)

### **The Church was floodlit to remember the following in 2024**

1 <sup>st</sup> December	Cherished memories of Ben Fleet. A loving husband, father and grandfather. Happy birthday.
4 <sup>th</sup> December	In loving memory of Michael Edwards.
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Myra Wilson. In memory of a loving mother.
8 <sup>th</sup> December	In ever loving memory of the late dearly loved Robert Lamble.
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Birthday memories of my dear husband Robbie Lamble.
14 <sup>th</sup> December	To commemorate the birthday of Marjorie Elsie Lane.
14 <sup>th</sup> December	In loving memory of Malcolm Spence.
14 <sup>th</sup> December	In loving memory of Mike Southworth on his birthday. A beloved husband, father and grandfather.
15 <sup>th</sup> December	In loving memory of Dr Oswald.
19 <sup>th</sup> December	In loving memory of William James Lane.
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	In loving memory of Mike, deeply missed by Jan, Mark and Guy.
24 <sup>th</sup> December	In loving memory of Rachel Elston as this was her favourite time of year.
24 <sup>th</sup> December	In loving memory of Ronald McDonough.
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Dearly beloved Jonathan Mark. Rest in peace till we meet again.
27 <sup>th</sup> December	In loving memory of Ron Soden.

# Music Matters

In this issue of Parish News, I'd like to highlight two significant events which took place in November, the **Beer Festival** and **Remembrance Sunday**.

At the very beginning of November, we held our eighth *Beer Festival*, and it was certainly the best yet.

James worked extremely hard to get a good range of interesting beers, both cask and keg, which ensured that our event was on the *Beer Festival* map and therefore well supported by genuine real ale enthusiasts. We also, for the first time, had our very own unique beer, specially brewed for the event – *Brummie Gondola* – brewed at *Birmingham Brewing*, and so popular it sold out.

We're tremendously grateful to all who sponsored beers – business sponsors were Bastocks, Bullfinch Gas Equipment, Spice Club and Tom O'The Wood, and private sponsors Ann Taylor, Pam Price, Nick Cahm, Alex Wollaston, Dr. Neil Shastri-Hurst MP and Jock Joyce on behalf of the *Salford Beer Festival*.

We had some amazing helpers, including people not connected with the choir, who were keen to help as they enjoy beer and beer festivals! James brought in some local experts who helped us set up the special Lindr machines, which chill and dispense the keg beers. Nick brought lots of different family members who worked tirelessly throughout both days, and Pam brought her family from Malta! Thank you to everyone who helped in any way before and during the festival. Thank you also to Deputy Mayor, Councillor Annette Mackenzie, for formally opening proceedings on Friday evening.

We were treated to some great entertainment including Northern Star Ukulele Band with their now traditional Friday evening slot, some of our very own parish talent with Bruce and Stephen each performing a set, and other local groups.

Although this event is a fundraising event, it also has huge community and fellowship benefits – the atmosphere throughout the festival was wonderful, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Cheers – and here's to the next one!

On **Remembrance Sunday**, we were honoured to be part of the *Civic Service of Remembrance*, participating in the outdoor *Act of Remembrance* at the War Memorial, then continuing inside with the *Civic Service*.





Our choirs were joined by the Chamber Choir from Solihull School, creating a massed choir of 60 people of all ages, who made a fabulous sound. Church was full for the indoor service with more young people participating than in recent years, and involvement from veterans and other military personnel, which made for a very special and dignified occasion. The main musical items were *'They shall grow not old'*, Douglas Guest's setting of Laurence Binyon's famous poem, Psalm 121 (I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills), and *'Greater Love'* by John Ireland. It is a privilege to lead the music on behalf of the local community at this special service.



**Isabel Baumber**

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# CHURCH 4 FAMILIES

## January

### Sunday Worship

*The Junction is a short family focussed service that meets on Sunday mornings. Here are the January themes:*

On **5<sup>th</sup> January** which is **Epiphany** the Junction will meet at 9.15 a.m. in the Oliver Bird Hall. We will celebrate the visit of the wise men, will make crowns and will be joined by the **Solihull Parish Puppet team!**

On **12<sup>th</sup> January** everyone will meet together in the church building at 9.15 a.m. for **All age worship** when we will be celebrating the Baptism of Christ.

On **19<sup>th</sup> January** the Junction will meet at 9.15 a.m. in the Oliver Bird Hall.

On **26<sup>th</sup> January** the Junction will be joining the Sunday club at St Helen's Church, St Helen's Road, B91 2DA (off Buryfield Road).

### Other Activities

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January **Epiphany Messy Church** St Helen's Church 4-6 p.m.

**Pause and Pray** Every Monday in term time 9 a.m.-9.30 a.m. Room 5  
Oliver Bird Hall

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



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?**

4.00 p.m. - 6 p.m. on Friday  
17<sup>th</sup> January and 28<sup>th</sup> March

**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



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[l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)  
to book your place.







# Pause and Pray



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\*\* Starts Monday 4th November 2024 \*\*



Any questions contact: Linda Hicks [l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)



# 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](mailto:l.hicks@solihullparish.org.uk)

## Youth Stuff

The Youth Group continues to meet on a Friday evening in the Oliver Bird Hall.

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](mailto:l.smart@solihullparish.org.uk)

### OLIVER BIRD HALL BOOKINGS

**Enquiries are welcome for the use of the Hall and meeting rooms for social gatherings, christenings, anniversaries, meetings, etc.**

Visit the website on:

<https://www.solihullparish.org.uk/church-hall-hire/>

**or contact the Parish Office at:**

[OBHBookings@solihullparish.org.uk](mailto:OBHBookings@solihullparish.org.uk)

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**B**y the time that you read this Christmas Day will have come and gone, and we will be looking forward to the season of Epiphany on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January, when the Magi, people from the East, came and worshipped the infant Jesus, reminding us all that the Son of God came into the world for all people everywhere. I hope very much that Christmas was a wonderful, joyous and peaceful time for you all.

It is very strange to be writing this with all of the celebrations in front of us, but I thought it would be good to share with you some of the things which will have happened by the time you read this.

You may have read in the December magazine about the visit of Greswold school to St. Helen's for their Harvest Festival (and when I say Greswold School, I do mean every child, the entire school came and we celebrated with two services on the same morning!) It was a fantastic morning and Nick reminded the children of the worldwide nature of food production these days.

Our Community Harvest Festival took place with testimonies from members of the congregation as usual, which were very moving. And Roger, Les and Jeremy in an amusing interlude, were presented with different sized seeds, but managed to produce three identical and beautiful flowers! If you have not watched the video, and it is still on Youtube - do have a look!

Many of our congregation joined those at St. Alphege for our In-memoriam service, during which the names of those who had died and who were members of St. Helen's were remembered with love, along with members of St. Michael's and St. Alphege, and those whose funerals the parish ministers had the privilege of leading. It was a deeply moving service and everyone greatly appreciated it.

The Remembrance Day service at St. Helen's was led beautifully by Roger, and those who had given their lives in the service of their country were remembered with great love and respect.

There was a Taizé service in the chapel on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. And as I write this we are looking forward to our Community Carol Service, which will be taking place on 8<sup>th</sup> December. As usual it is eagerly looked forward to, and the hope is that it will take place outside (weather permitting)

The Christmas Fayre will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November when so many people come together to invite members of the local community into church, to buy Christmas presents, enjoy the raffle, eat food and generally have an enjoyable time. I would like to thank, in advance, everyone who helped to make that the success I have no doubt that it will be.

So back to January! As the New Year begins, we look forward to continuing to serve our community and the parish in the name of Christ, and to opening our doors to all who come seeking God within our walls.

**Rev. Sue**

## St Michael

**D**uring Advent last year Fr. Simon ran a four-week group called 'The Art of Advent'. This group met in St. Michael's Chapel and looked at various paintings which had a resonance with Advent, a period in the Christian Year which is given to reflecting on preparing for the birth of Christ at Christmas. In this group we looked at various works of art, many of which Sister Wendy Beckett had chosen for her various books. There were observations made on what the paintings meant to us and how they helped in the reflective nature of Advent. The sessions were greatly helped by Fr. Simon's extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for art works. Everyone came away feeling they had learned a great deal from these sessions.

### Reflective Thought for January

As we enter into the new year, January often feels like a pause between the joy of Christmas and the steady rhythm of ordinary life. It's a time of resolutions, fresh starts, and perhaps a little reflection on what lies ahead.

The month is named after Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and transitions, who is famously depicted with two faces: one looking back and the other looking forward. This image feels fitting for us as Christians, especially in January. We look back with gratitude on the blessings of the past year, and we look forward with hope and faith, trusting in God's guidance for the year to come.

In Philippians 3:13-14, St Paul reminds us: *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

This isn't about ignoring the past but about not being bound by it. The New Year offers an opportunity to recommit ourselves to God's calling—whether that's in our relationships, our service, or our daily walk with Him.

As we step into 2025, let's take a moment to seek God's wisdom and strength for the journey ahead. Whatever challenges or joys this year brings, we can be assured of his unchanging love and his promise to walk alongside us every step of the way.

Happy New Year! May it be a year of faith, growth, and peace for all.

**Paul Smith**

## "When the invisible became visible".

**H**ello Everyone. Happy New Year!

I want to begin today by taking us back to Christmas 2023. No, that's not a misprint. I do really mean Christmas 2023. You see, it was then that something was set in motion that dominated my life for most of 2024, and that was a question from someone in the local community: "*Do you think St. Alphege would like a poppy installation for Remembrance 2024?*"

I'm sure that most of you will know that the answer to that question was "Yes", and the rest, as they say, is history.

Ann – *the lady who posed the question* - and I were astounded at the reaction to the poppy installation right across the board. It was the work of countless individuals; lots of groups, including knitting groups; and several local businesses, including Solihull Bid, Listers Audi in Shirley; Manor House Tea Rooms; Arena Hair and Beauty in Elmdon Heath; John Lewis; the Greville Arms – including Andy, a local roofer, and his cherry picker; and Solihull RBL on Union Road. Our thanks go out to them all, and to our very own Parish Office who also acted as a popular drop-off point.

In fact, we were worried when it first went up that someone would vandalize the poppies before Remembrance came around, but we needn't have feared. It went up on Friday and, on Saturday, I got a message telling me that people were lining up to have their photograph taken with it! We knew then that no one would *dare* vandalize it.

To complete the picture several schools got involved in providing poppy artwork that was used to decorate the inside of St. Alphege for Remembrance season. It is hoped that this part of the event will be repeated next year, along with a poetry competition and, as I type, at least one school has already signed up. As for knitted poppies and 2025, I like to think that Ann and I are now friends, but I have forbidden her to mention poppies to me again until January 2025 at the earliest!

People have said to me '*Well done*' on the success of the poppy installation when, in fact, I did very little. I was a conduit at most. Before you think that I am just being modest, let me explain:

Someone had an idea, and they brought it to me because they knew *who I was* and *who I represent*. They also knew how to get hold of me. *I was available*.

As a Pioneer Minister based in my local community, I am always stressing the importance of just '*being there*'. That is, being there physically, as a part of that same community – the pub where I do a lot of my work *is also* my local pub for socialising – and being there so that you get recognised *and* build genuine relationships in situ. This is what can change things, and never was this truer for me than this year. I was so proud to be a part of this wonderful installation and event, the community pulling together, and this pulling together was very visible when we had to attach 8,000 poppies to a net from HMS Dauntless in just a handful of days! As my new friend said, that was one of her favourite parts of the whole venture; "*when the invisible became visible*". The real face of the community.

## Pioneer Diary

The lesson for all of us is that we need to be out in our communities as much as possible - Jesus commands us to 'go' (*Matthew 28:19*) - meeting people where they are, building relationships, and simply being available.

Plus, when we go, we don't need to be afraid of what we will say or perfect how we look. Jesus is the 'brand', if you like - his messages were compelling and clear, creating an emotional connection with his followers. He was an authentic leader who had an unwavering commitment to helping others before himself. When we go, we can be confident in the fact that he, and all of that, goes with us! "*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" (*Matthew 28:20*)

This week (November 2024) I led a **Food4Thought** session where 12 of us looked at 'perspective' as our theme for Advent one. One of the challenging things that we looked at during the session was a paraphrase of a saying by Canadian author Bob Proctor, that is:

*"Hope and fear both require you to believe in something that has not happened.*

*The difference is your perspective."*

In other words, as Bob says, "*You choose!*"

It's scary to leave our comfort zone, I know that – believe me, I do it almost every day of my Pioneer ministry. But my prayer for us all in 2025 is that we will each take a step in the right direction, out into our communities, and that God will continue to bless us and those communities in the same way he blessed every step of 2024.

### Pray with me:

Lord, we look toward you, our hope, our peace, and our comfort in this New Year.

As we enter into the unknown of the coming year, we ask for your guidance and wisdom.

Illuminate our path with your light so that we may walk in your ways

and make choices that align with your will.

Help us to seek first your kingdom and trust that all other things will be added unto us.

**Amen.**

*Keep safe and thanks for listening!*

**Suzette**

**Afterword:** The relationship begun with the RBL on Union Road in Solihull continues, as they have agreed to accommodate *Wellbeing Wednesday* for three weeks in January 2025, while the Greville Arms is closed for refurbishment. Our thanks again to them for that!

# News from the Church of England

The Church of England's *Living in Love & Faith* Working Groups continue their work. Here is a brief update on their progress.

***Please note that the following information is taken directly from the Church of England's Communications and is intended for information. The Solihull PCC has discussed the Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) and informally indicated its support for their use in the parish.***

Following the decision at July General Synod to develop proposals to introduce standalone services including Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) alongside pastoral reassurance, there will be continued input from four working groups into this process. The group membership includes bishops and members of General Synod, drawn from a wide range of backgrounds.

A new selection of readings and prayers of thanksgiving, dedication and asking for God's blessing for same-sex couples known as Prayers of Love and Faith are available for use in public worship during Church of England services. They were introduced in December 2023 as part of the outcome of a seven-year period of listening, learning and discernment known as Living in Love and Faith.

## What is Living in Love and Faith?

Living in Love and Faith (LLF) is a process that has been under way for some years now to help the Church in its discernment on matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. This has involved various phases of learning and listening across the country and across traditions. As a result, in 2023, the House of Bishops issued an apology for a failure to welcome LGBTQI+ people and committed itself to address this lack of welcome and inclusion. Part of this response has been to commend a suite of resources and prayers called the Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF).

## What are the Prayers of Love and Faith?

The Prayers of Love and Faith (PLF) are resources and prayers provided for same-sex couples, because no provision was previously made for them through existing public forms of prayer. The PLF are not a form of marriage service and cannot currently be used to form a stand-alone service. They do seek to celebrate God's gifts and grace in other forms of committed, faithful relationships, and to ask for God's guidance and blessing as they seek to grow in love and faith.

The LLF hub carries a range of resources for individuals, groups and churches. These seek to inspire people to think more deeply about what it means to be human and to live in love and faith with one another. See: <https://llf.churchofengland.org>

*TEXT TAKEN FROM:*

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/llf-working-groups-continue-update-membership-and-residential-meeting>

*and:*

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/llf-next-steps-update-autumn-2024.pdf>



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# Advent Procession at St. Albans Cathedral and Abbey Church

The Cathedral began to fill with people from about 5.15 p.m. onwards for the 6 o'clock service. Very fortunately, as a Choir family, we had reserved seats near the front; as the nave claims to be the longest in England (disputed by Winchester) at 93 yards the view from the West end is distant. The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire arrived, to sit on a rather grand chair in the front row. Her Seventeenth Century hat, black velvet with white ostrich feathers, could only be described as magnificent. The nave and the side aisles were soon packed with people.

As the bell was rung everyone's tapers were lit and the lights were switched out; the procession of choir, clergy, the Suffragan Bishop of Harpenden and the Bishop of St. Albans appeared in the South aisle and sang the Responsory *I looked from afar*. The Bidding Prayer, the hymn *Hark the glad sound!* and the Advent Collect followed. Byrd's anthem *Vigilate* was sung, a reading followed as the procession reached the front of the nave. Then there were lessons from the Old and New Testaments, interspersed with anthems, including Sheppard's *Rejoice in the Lord alway*, Macmillan's *O radiant dawn!*, Dove's *Seek Him that maketh the seven stars* and Bairstow's *Let all mortal flesh keep silent* and popular Advent hymns, including *Hills of the North, rejoice!* and *Lo, He comes with clouds descending*. After the prayers the procession reformed and, followed by the congregation, moved through the presbytery and the Quire to the



High Altar, where the amazing sight greeted us of the great stone screen of the Fifteenth Century Abbot John of Wheathampstead bathed in colour. The candlelight flickered, the clergy and servers were all robed so it was easy to imagine what the Abbey would have looked like during a medieval service. Not until after the final hymn and the Bishop's blessing were the tapers extinguished and the lights switched on. A wonderful and moving service.

Carol Southworth



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# Update from the Parish Wardens

The start of a new year is always a good time to reflect on the year past and the year to come. Much has been achieved in the Parish in 2024 including:

- The new lighting project in St. Alphege Church (Phase 1 of Project Turnaround).
- St. Helen's has some lovely new interior doors.
- The beautiful Victory Garden Beds outside the Oliver Bird Hall planted by Pre-School and Scouts.
- 9 people were confirmed.
- 17 people attended the Alpha course.
- Wellbeing Wednesday growing – sometimes exceeding 30 people.
- St. Alphege Church opening to the public in the daytime and offering a Warm Welcome on Fridays.
- People coming forward to offer their time at the Volunteers Fair.
- Two wonderful multi-faith Civic Services with our new Mayor.
- The installation of 8000 poppies for Remembrance Sunday, supplied by many people in the local community.
- A number of new employees and key volunteers in place.
- Successful Choir Tour in Rochester.
- *Rising Stars Choral Outreach* established in schools.
- Morning Prayer well established in all three churches.
- Parish Youth restarted and going well
- Pause and Pray on Monday Mornings

In 2025 we look forward to even more growth and discipleship:

- Progress on Phase 2 of Project Turnaround.
- A Review of Worship from January to April in which we hope as many people as possible will engage.
- Plans for a Yurt in St. Michael's Garden.
- Another Alpha/Just Explore Course.
- Themed services in Lent.
- Possible days away to hear what God is saying to us.
- Parish Youth developing and expanding.
- New ways of reaching out to people in our Parish.

These are just some of the newer things – much else is going on and we have no room to mention them all here!

We give much thanks to all our clergy, employees and volunteers for their wonderful work and presence and most of all to our Lord for his grace and empowering during the last year.

Please do continue to pray for our Parish and our Mission to it.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

**Pam Price**  
**Andrew Williams**  
**Parish Wardens December 2024**

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# *Matters of Faith*

**T**he feast of the Epiphany tells the story of the visit of the Magi to the child Jesus. We are told little about them, other than that they came 'from the east' (Matthew 2.1). But is there more to these mysterious figures?

The word 'Magi' means 'possessors of mysterious and secret knowledge'. They are students of ancient wisdom, thoughtful astrologers and astronomers who had the knowledge to see the significance in the appearance of a new phenomenon in the heavens. Theirs is the business of seeking out that which is hidden and shrouded in mystery, whether it be a new star, the meaning of ancient prophecy, or a baby whose birth has great significance for the world.

And, of course, as well as being seekers of knowledge, the Magi come from outside the Jewish faith - they are Gentiles; they are not part of the people who were thought to be looking for God's promised Messiah.

The Magi would have had their own religion – it's possible that they were priests in the Zoroastrian faith which has its origins in Persia (now Iran). Zoroastrianism is one of the world's oldest organized religions and one of the first recorded monotheistic faiths (faiths having only one god).

The name of the religion comes from the prophet, Zoroaster, who lived around 1400-1200 BC. He was already a priest among the semi-nomadic Iranian people on the south Russian steppes before his religion spread more widely from the 6th century BC. His teachings drew on early Hindu texts alongside his own religious insights.

At the heart of Zoroastrian belief is a struggle between good and evil entities. Human beings have an important role in keeping disorder and evil at bay by using their free will to do good. Good thoughts, good words and good deeds support the fundamental goodness and order of the universe.

Zoroastrian teachings tell that as the end of time draws near, a saviour will appear and prepare the world to be made anew. Perhaps it is possible that this belief inspired the Magi's journey to the infant Jesus.

It seems that the Magi were open to the movement of the Divine wherever they could discern it, even if such an event seemed to come from outside their own religion.

The journey which these foreign scholars made seems to suggest something astounding: that the coming of Jesus is an event not just for one select group of people; not even for just one nation; perhaps not even for the followers of just one religion. Rather, the birth of the Christ-child is a sign and a gift for the whole world.

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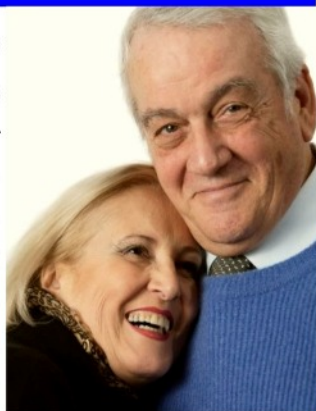
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# For Your Diary

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January** : 1.30pm in the OBH. *My Life in Horticulture*  
- a talk by Carol Caldicott.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January** : 10.30am in church. *MU Corporate Eucharist*.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February** : 1.30pm in the OBH. *Mothers' Union work in Prisons*  
with Rita Evans.

**Subscriptions** are now due and need to be in by the end of March. This year the subscription remains at £29 (or £29.40 for cheques). We'll be collecting subscriptions at the next three meetings. Cheques for £29.40 should be payable to **St Alphege Mothers' Union**.

Post or deliver your cheque to Susan Leach, 21 Grandborough Drive, Solihull B91 3TS.

If you want to pay online, the details are:

HSBC - St Alphege Mothers Union. Sort Code : 40-42-12. Account No : 71771396.

Please supply this Reference Information to identify payment : MU Subs - (*your name*).

Direct Debit payment will continue for those who have already set one up but unfortunately new DDs cannot be accepted this year by MU Headquarters.

You can access more information on [www.solihullparish.org.uk/mothers-union](http://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

**T**his friendly fellowship and social group will meet as usual in the New Year, on the first Friday of the month, for lunch. If you would like to join the group for lunch on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January** please telephone Carol Caldicott for details. You will be most welcome.

**Carol Caldicott**  
**0121 705 3168**

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views  
of *Solihull Parish News* or of *Solihull Parish*.

### NOTE FOR ADVERTISERS AND POTENTIAL ADVERTISERS

Would all advertisers please ensure that any changes they might require to their advert, or notice of cancellation, are routed through the Advertising Manager (Tim Drakeford, 42 Fowgay Drive, Solihull B91 3PH, Tel 705 4494) in sufficient time to meet the copy date for the issue in which they wish the changes to take effect. The copy date is usually the first Friday of the preceding month, but the exact date of the next copy date is shown below. Similarly, would new advertisers please ensure that their requirements for advertising space are also routed through the Advertising Manager in plenty of time to meet the required copy date.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FEBRUARY OF THE PARISH NEWS MUST BE IN BY  
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<i>Parish Electoral Roll Officer</i>	<b>Stephen Linstead, 20 Silhill Hall Road</b>	0121 705 1376
<i>St Alphege Deputy Warden</i>	<b>Sheila Sayers, 636 Streetsbrook Road</b>	0121 705 5331
<i>St Alphege Stewardship Recorder</i>	<b>Frank Upton, 1 Rectory Road</b>	0121 705 2963
<i>St Helen Deputy Warden</i>	<b>Chris Carrington</b>	0121 705 0902
<i>St Helen Hall Bookings</i>	<b>Jeremy Eade, <a href="mailto:solomere@aol.com">solomere@aol.com</a></b>	0121 706 3831
<i>St Michael Deputy Wardens</i>	<b>Keith Wilson</b>	0121 778 2295

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## OLIVER BIRD HALL

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<b>Oliver Bird Hall Bookings</b>		
<b>Life Events</b> (Baptism, Wedding, Funeral)		
<b>Pewslip items</b> (by 10 a.m. Wednesday)		

# SOLIHULL PARISH STAFF & CONTACTS

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<b>Priest in Charge, Rector Designate</b>	<b>The Revd. Nick Parker</b>	<a href="mailto:rector@solihullparish.org.uk">rector@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 07890 720240
<b>Team Vicar for St. Michael</b> (Not available Thursdays)	<b>The Revd. Simon Marshall</b> St Michael's Church Centre, Oak Cottage, Bryanston Road, Solihull, B91 1BS	<a href="mailto:simon@solihullparish.org.uk">simon@solihullparish.org.uk</a> 0121 704 4730
<b>Team Vicar for St. Helen</b>	The position is currently vacant	<a href="mailto:sthoffice@solihullparish.org.uk">sthoffice@solihullparish.org.uk</a>
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<b>Assistance is also offered by</b>	<b>The Revd. Roger Chamberlain</b> <b>The Revd. Roy Murray</b> <b>The Revd. Canon Andrew Hutchinson</b> <b>The Venerable Paul Taylor</b> <b>The Revd. Anne Haselhurst</b>	<a href="mailto:revrog@hotmail.co.uk">revrog@hotmail.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:fatherroy47@gmail.com">fatherroy47@gmail.com</a> 0121 296 7798 <a href="mailto:fr.andrewhutchinson@btinternet.com">fr.andrewhutchinson@btinternet.com</a> 0121 758 7877 <a href="mailto:ptaylor53@gmail.com">ptaylor53@gmail.com</a> 07796 691203 <a href="mailto:annehaselhurst@talktalk.net">annehaselhurst@talktalk.net</a>
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