

CHALLENGE



The Parish Magazine of St Mary Sandbach

August 2023 50p

Volume 59 No 695



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August 2023

Sunday 6th August	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 9	10.00 am	Family Worship
Sunday 13th August	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 10	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 20th August	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 11	10.00 am	Family Worship and Communion
Sunday 27th August	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 12	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 3rd September	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 13	10.00 am	Family Worship

Holy Eucharist, Parish Eucharist - Order 1 Common Worship

Holy Communion - Order 2 Book of Common Prayer

St Mary's Church, High Street, Sandbach, CW11 1AN

As many of you may have heard me say, I recently went to the Lovell Quinta Arboretum and found it a deeply inspiring visit. An assembly of clergy out for some fun and even though it was raining it still managed to inspire me. The scientist Bernard Lovell fell in love with the area and indeed a particular house which he and his wife tried to buy at auction but failed to be the highest bidder. Fortunately, the owner felt they were a 'better fit' than the top bidder and sold the house to them instead. Little did they know how much the buyers would invest in the area and the future.

What I have been thinking about the most is people who plant trees for the benefit of others. It's never for themselves as trees take so long to grow. Even trees planted as a memorial which give a place to remember for loved ones who grieve will likely not experience the tree in all its fullness.

Of course, that is not the only way that people have a vision into the future or invest in something that they will never see come to fruition. We often think with gratitude about our teachers for all they give to our children but I'm not sure I think about the fact that a great amount of the investment will not be seen until many years later. They fulfil their vocation and trust in the process and they hope their hard work (and the children's hard work) will help the students to grow and flourish in adult life. There are also those in the medical profession who work hard to make people well and bring them back to health, often just playing their part in the process and never seeing the patient back in full health. The surgeon who gives someone a new heart valve, saving their life but not seeing them as they run around the garden with their grandchildren the following year.

I have been pondering on the idea that God calls us to invest in people and his Kingdom in this way too. It is not for us to know the plans that God has, but it is for us to play our part by living the ways of God, in the communities where we have been planted. It's good to check ourselves and think about the legacy that we leave, or to put it another way, what part of God's kingdom are we nurturing and growing? Do we do anything simply trusting that God knows the plan and it's not for us to see? Perhaps you prefer the image of being part of the cog in a bigger wheel. This can be hard to do, but if you stop to consider for a moment I am sure there will be people from your past who invested in you or in a community of which you were a part.

When I think back over my life there are those for whom I am thankful, many of whom would have no idea of their impact or influence in my

growth and flourishing. The unseen and quiet acts of care and encouragement, gifts of friendship or wisdom. Let us never forget to be thankful for the people who gave in faith that which would help your future.

Like Sir Bernard Lovell, let them inspire you to invest by faith and maybe God's Kingdom will grow in ways we can not even imagine.

I saw this on a poster and felt it very fitting. I hope you choose to use it sometimes as an aid to prayer. Also, if you have not, do visit the arboretum, it's as wonderful as the food at the Swettenham Arms!

Choose a tree

Thank God for the person who planted something others could enjoy. Thank God for the life this tree brings.

Ask God

What can I plant for my community?

Bee

From the Editor

In this issue, from the magazine archives, we look at the church tower repairs. The cover picture was taken by Joyce Griffiths in September 2011 when the work was complete.



The next edition of the magazine will be a joint production for

September and October

Please help me by getting your articles to me in good time. It should be a bumper edition.

In this Issue.....

Poppies

Fund raising success

Evensong

An appeal

Tower repairs

Regular events and services		
Tuesday & Thursday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer in church
Mondays	9.00 am	Tiddlers - next meeting September
Tuesdays	7.00 pm	Prayer Meeting in church
Wednesdays	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursdays	9.00 am	Thursday Teas. Please note we will be open on the 3rd August but closed on the 17th August
Fridays	6.15 pm	Choir Practice - contact Kevin Birch (760778)

Regular events (cont)		
First Thursday of month	10.30 am	Bereavement Group - contact Bee for details
First Sunday of the month	9.15 am	Music group practice before the service - contact Heather Bottomley (768744)

Registers for July Baptisms

Olivia Joan Vandersteen
 Thomas Clifford James Yarwood
 Georgian Elizabeth Doyle



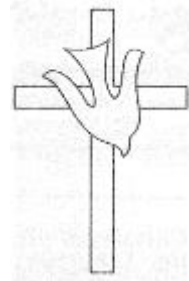
Wedding

Stephanie Filletti and Thomas Devlin



Funerals

Keith Burrows
 Terry Whitehouse
 Dorothy Goode
 Carol Anne Fitzsimmonds
 Marjorie Longworth
 Jonathan Laurence Stubbs



Coffee Rota	
6th August	Jim Thompson and Iris Kenilworth
13th August	Jean Richardson and Jo Williams
20th August	Stella Craven and Angela Speedy
27th August	Kath Davies and Kath Beech
3rd September	Janet Hides and Ellie Parlfreman



Poppies for November

You may remember the success of our Remembrance poppy displays last year. They brought a lot of people into Church. All of last year's poppies were safely put away to be used again but we would really like to expand this year and our mystery sculptor certainly has plans! So, it's time to get knitting or crocheting again!

If you would like to be involved the tired and tested knitting pattern is below. We will also have some paper copies available at the back of church and a 'give and take' box so if you're not a knitter but would like to donate some wool, that would be very much appreciated. If you would like to crochet some there will be a copy in church but please feel free to use any pattern you prefer.

Nearer the time we'll be looking to recruit a team to put up/take down.

Any queries, just ask Ruth!

Thank you so much for your help.



1. Knitted Poppies

For the best finish, knit with a **Double Knit (DK yarn)**. The size of needle you choose will determine how big the poppy will be, but we recommend 3.5mm or 3.75mm (UK9).

Garter/knit stitch pattern

Colour A Red (one ball will make a lot of poppies!)

Colour B Scrap of black or black button

Body of Poppy

Using Col A cast on 120 stitches

Rows 1-4 knit

Row 5 knit 3 stitches together across the row (40 stitches)

Rows 6-9 knit

Row 10 knit 2 stitches together across the row (20 stitches)

Rows 11-14 knit

Row 15 knit 2 stitches together across the row (10 stitches)

Cut yarn leaving a tail of about 20cm. Thread tail through yarn needle and slip all the remaining live stitches onto the yarn tail and pull tight. Pull around into a circle and then mattress stitch (or use whatever stitching you normally use) to seam for an invisible seam.

Centre of Poppy

Using Col B, cast on 16 stitches. Cast off. Coil into a tight spiral and sew base to the centre. Or use a black or green button with 4 holes and sew to center of poppy. Add pin.



Ashton-on-Mersey Showband



The hall was at full capacity on the evening of the 15th July when the showband came to entertain us in the church hall. There were 38 musicians in the band and an audience of 105.

We were entertained with a variety of music arrangements:



war time Vera Lyn songs; stage and screen hits from various eras. In the breaks between music the conductor Ivan entertained us with his sense of humour, witty history of the band and how the music arrangements came about. He also played an excellent saxophone solo during the concert.

In the interval there was a choice of tea or coffee and a large selection of 18 home made cakes. The excellent selection of raffle prizes ensured the raffle team had plenty of tickets to tear and fold before the draw.



Thanks must go to many people; the cake makers; the catering team; the roadies setting up and clearing the hall; but mostly to the musicians who travelled from Ashton-on-Mersey to put on the show.

The members of the band are very talented and are all volunteers. Over the last 50 years the band have raised over one million for numerous charities.

The profit of **£1061** from the evening was split between the bands current charity and St Mary's Church.

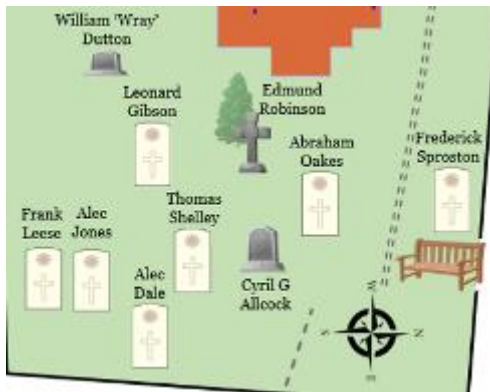


It's very difficult to find lost time

Spotlight on a casualty buried in St Mary's churchyard

(by Pete Merrill)

Former veteran soldier Private Thomas 'Tom' Shelley (born Shelle), served in the Boer and WWI wars, died on 9th May 1918 aged 55 and is remembered on the Cobbles' War Memorial. He is registered with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) as a war casualty and is buried in the south-east area of St Mary's churchyard, Row 8, Grave 30.



Tom was born during the second quarter of 1862, although some records including CWGC have his year of birth as 1855, which would have made him 63 when he died. His parents were Mary, née Smurthwaite, a dressmaker, and Joseph

Shelle (earlier spelling of his surname) a miner and he grew up at Pear Tree House in the village of Hinderwell, North Yorkshire. After he left school he followed his mother's profession and became a tailor.

In his late 30s, Tom attested as Thomas Shelley into the 2nd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, service number 2840 (also recorded as 2850). He joined D Company and in December 1899 he was fighting in a colonial war against the Boers in South Africa, now known as the Second Boer War (1899-1902). He saw action at the Battle of Tugela Heights and the Relief of Ladysmith, for which he was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal along with two clasps.

In March 1900 he was in College Hospital, Pietermaritzburg, with 'chronic rheumatism' likely following a bout of dysentery. While there he wrote about his experience that January at

Spion Kop, where 300 soldiers were killed, wounded or missing: ‘...it was an awful day, bullets flying about like hailstones and the trenches were full of dead and wounded...’ He did not recover



‘unmarried wife’ and Leonard and Alice as their children. This was accepted by the War Office and she received a war widow’s pension on his death. Of note is that the 1920 electoral register shows one Mary Shelley living at 50 Union Street.

enough to rejoin his unit and on 1st August 1900 was invalided back to England and discharged.

Tom then settled in Sandbach as a Tailor and was employed by Draper Mr Edwin Saxton of 14 Hightown (it’s now Dennis Peever & Sons). In 1911, Tom is recorded on the census as being single and the head of household at 50 Union Street, living with widower Mary Ann Leech (Leach) and her children, John (18), Jos (9), Leonard (5) and Alice (3). His military service dependants' record names Mary as his

Unfortunately, Tom’s service records for WWI were destroyed in the London Blitz during WWII, but we do know that at the outbreak of WWI he joined the Cheshire Regiment and at some stage transferred to the Labour Corps.

On 9th May 1918, aged 55, Tom died of pneumonia at a Newcastle upon Tyne Hospital (or CWGC Ref: age 63).

Tom’s age discrepancy on the CWGC site has been highlighted to the organisation along with documentary evidence for their consideration.

Willing Witnesses

Water of life, river now flow
From us, that others know
The Spirit's touch through word and deed
And to your message heed
Message of salvation to all
Who on the Lord's name call
Give us courage, boldness, that we
Not as the blocked streams be
Not stagnant, stale, but refreshing
Something of God's life bring
To each we meet, be large, small ways
Throughout our pilgrim days
The gospel preached, teaching, healing
Your name glorifying
As you Christ did, so may we be
Sharers of you freely
That deaf shall hear and dumb shall speak
Grace to the humble, meek
That sick be healed, e'en dead to rise
True gospel spread, no lies

by Steven Rolling



Pray for your printer on 28 August

While many of us in the UK will be hoping to make the most of the last days of summer during the August Bank Holiday, take a moment to remember St Augustine of Hippo, the patron saint of printers, sore eyes, brewers, and theologians – the sore eyes might include our editors and proof-readers and our clergy. St Augustine of Hippo's feast day is the 28th.

Editors, publishers, proof-readers and printers must be in the need for a lot of prayer because St John Bosco is also their patron Saint. His feast day is 31 January.

Brewers also seem to have plenty of saintly patronage. As well as St Augustine of Hippo, brewers can expect prayers on days put aside for Saint Nicholas of Myra (5/6 December), Saint Arnold of Soissons (14 August), Saint Amand (6 February), Saint Dorothea of Caesarea (6 February) and Saint Arnuf of Metz (18 July).

St Augustine of Hippo was born on 13 November 354 in Tagaste, in modern Algeria. His mother was a Christian and his father a pagan. In his youth he was attracted to Manichaeism, a belief founded in Persia in the 3rd Century, and which was based on the conflict between light and darkness. It embodied Christian, Gnostic, and pagan beliefs. However, he eventually settled on Christianity, being baptised in 386 and then he became the bishop of Hippo Regius in Numidia, northwest Africa.

His prolific writings have, and still do, influence western philosophy and Christianity and he became known as the most important Church Father of the Latin Church. In one of his works *On the Trinity*, Augustine explains that '*the Trinity, my God — Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit [is] Creator of the entire creation.*'

Augustine of Hippo died 28 August 430 (aged 75).

Evensong is heaven on earth.

A woman I heard about who is dying much too young has set herself a goal. Not for Sue the exotic bucket



list of sunset over the Serengeti and bungee jumping in New Zealand. Sue wants to attend every evensong at every college in Cambridge.

It's an inspired idea. The chapels are glorious, from the heart-expanding grandeur of King's to the perfect jewel-box of Jesus. It is the sacred music sung within, however, which has this capacity to take away the sins of the

world and to give even the sternest unbeliever a feeling of transcendence.

How wonderful to hear that choral evensong at both Oxford and Cambridge is

enjoying a revival. Chaplains have seen a steady increase in attendances at the early evensong services, which combine psalms and anthems with the Book of Common Prayer. I went regularly to evensong at Jesus College when my son was a chorister there. It was the perfect escape from 24/7 communication.

The music cleanses the

brain like sorbet cleanses the palate. Not only you get one of the best free concerts in the world, but to submit yourself to those ancient words and music is the find that rarest of freedoms in the 21st century: freedom from self.

I wish Sue huge Joy in

reaching her goal. So long as you are at choral evensong, heaven can wait.

(Reproduced with kind permission of Harry Taylor from the Times Newspaper)

Ed. It is also a joy to see an increase in the size of the congregation at our monthly choral evensongs.

St Mary's Events



* **Saturday 28th October**
Autumn Fair

* **Sunday 3rd December**
Christmas Lunch 12pm

If anyone would like to organise a social or fundraising event then please discuss your idea with Bee and book the Hall through the office.

What's happened in the last 13 years

This second article, looking back into the recent history of the magazine, focuses on restoration of the church tower.

Bells Fall Silent

(Jun 2010) At last! Work is beginning on the church tower's roof and the internal structure. From mid June 2010 to the beginning of July, the bells will fall silent as the internal scaffolding is erected in the bell chamber for the close inspection of the work that will be needed to restore the Tower. Of course now is the time to start really serious fund raising once again. The kindness, generosity and good will over the last few years as the project has been proposed will now have to be maintained as the work begins in earnest.

(September 2010) The main roof truss is decayed and failing at the east end and will require replacement. The wall plates built at two levels into the masonry of the Tower are also extensively decayed and will require replacement.

(February 2011) The tender for the work from Magsands was sent to English Heritage for acceptance and for a grant offer. Based on this tender English Heritage has offered a stage 2 repair grant of £91,000. This means that on completion of the renovation work we as a church have to find a sum of £28,690. All the necessary paperwork was submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches in early November 2010 but it will take several weeks before approval is received.

(May 2011) The work on the tower is about to start in the next few weeks. At the time of writing this in mid-February

the glass windows in the bell-ringing room have been removed for re-glazing. Hardboard fills the holes. Soon the bells will fall silent again as the tower is encased in scaffolding.



(August 2011 - written by Pauline Minshull)

Picture taken on 2nd July 2011

On Sunday morning on the 7th August, as I opened my conservatory door to let in the beautiful sunny morning air, what did I hear was the lovely peel of the “Bells of St Mary’s” ringing out for the 10am service. What a wonderful and joyful sound to hear drifting across from the town to Sandbach Heath. The bells have remained silent for some months now due to repair work on the church tower.

(September 2011) Now that the last vestiges of the scaffolding has gone and the bells ring out again all that remains to be done is to clean up the area under the west end of the Tower and reset the clock.

(Cover photo taken by Joyce Griffith in September 2011)

Why is my Bible different from yours?

K V Beaumont - final part.

Part 6 Modern Translations

Even while the Revised Standard Version we spoke of last month was making its way through the process of production, scholars in Britain decided they wanted a new all British translation. They also decided that they wanted a fresh translation without reference to the old if that were possible. As a consequence the New English Bible was produced; the New Testament in 1960 and the Old Testament in 1970.

Initially it was a great success. Times Literary Supplement commented in March 1961 that “in a few years time there will only be two versions in normal use the Authorised Version and the New English Bible”. This has proved not to be true



however, the original 1961 version contained a number of particular idioms such as the Virgin Birth which upset a number of theologians and the criticism stuck. The translation would now be hard to find.

The Good News Bible was published in 1966 as “The Good News for Modern Man”. Originally an American Translation its aim was to produce a bible for people who speak English either as a mother tongue or as a second language. The translation is based on a thought for

thought translation rather than a word for word translation, Two versions therefore were produced an American one and an English one. It

is a modern translation for the modern world and it has much to commend it. You will still see it sold as either

the Good News Bible or as Today's English Version.

The Bible Society, which produced the Good News Bible, published in 1995 the Contemporary English Version, designed to be able to be read by all, especially those with no biblical knowledge. Again it is a useful text to read but it lacks the Academic rigour needed for Public use.

I must also mention the Revised English Bible which is an updated version of the New English Bible (NEB) whilst it has many improvements on the NEB it does set itself out to be gender inclusive and therefore renders itself liable to the charge of being a paraphrase since it is no longer a literal translation but one designed to fit modern opinion.

The same charge would be

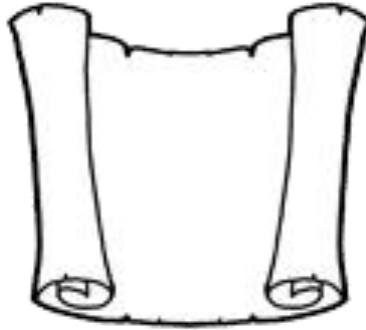
laid against the New Revised Standard Version; whilst it is an update of the Revised Standard Version of 1952 the preface states "that, in references to men and

women, masculine-oriented language should be eliminated."

The translation of Daniel 7v13 which reads "one like the son of man" in the RSV as ""one

like a Human being" removes from the text any of its greater meaning or the understanding behind the phrase "Son of Man" which Jesus used of Himself.

In conclusion we have a great tradition of text and translation and we must hold fast to the view of Paul expressed in 2Timothy 3v16 "All Scripture is inspired by God". Ours is not the job to add to that scripture because we find the original text challenging but to translate it faithfully for the benefit of all.



Christmas shoebox appeal



Churches Together in Sandbach are putting together Christmas boxes for children, mainly in eastern Europe, who are living in very difficult circumstances. The leading organisation is teams4u and you can read about them on their website teams4u.com. We would like to join the Baptist and Methodist churches in supporting this.

The local organisers would welcome items for the boxes, which will be packed altogether in time to be sent for Christmas. A list of suggested items is below. Hand knitted/sewn toys are welcomed, also hand knitted woolly hats, scarves and gloves or mittens. There are suggested patterns for these, if you want them please ask me. Donations of money to cover cost of transport are also welcomed.

Suggested items

- Toothbrushes (large and small) Toothpaste
- Wash bags, soap, flannels/sponges
- Combs, hair slides, hair bobbles
- Notebooks (no bigger than A5), ball point pens
- Pencils, rubbers, pencil sharpeners
- Colouring pencils, wax crayons
- Pencil cases, 6" plastic rulers
- Woolly hats , scarves, gloves, mittens
- Small toy/game for all ages from 3 – 14
- Small soft toys (if from charity shops - please wash first)
- Small packets of sweets

We would like items to be in by the beginning of September, to allow items to be bought to fill any gaps. If you want further information contact the local organiser Chris Nash at Sandbach Baptist Church, or see **Joan Plowman**.

60 years since “I Have a Dream”

Sixty years ago, on 28th August 1963, Dr Martin Luther King Jr delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the march on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The civil rights rally was attended by about 200,000 supporters, including many A-list film celebrities released temporarily by their studios.

His words influenced the Federal government to take more direct action to create racial equality, in for instance the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

King had been advised not to use the Dream format at Washington. He had used the idea before, and his adviser, the Rev Wyatt Tee Walker, described it as “hackneyed and trite”. The idea was to use a new speech with the



theme “normalcy never again”. But King was prompted by gospel singer Mahalia Jackson to re-use the Dream idea, and he went ahead with it, much to Walker’s dismay. But it had a huge impact and is now regarded as perhaps one of the most influential speeches in American history.

Martin Luther King Jr, born in 1929, was an American Baptist minister who became one of the most prominent leaders in the American civil

rights movement from 1955 until his assassination, apparently by James Earl Ray, on 4th April 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The autopsy revealed that although he was only 39 years old, King “had the heart of a 60-year-old”. He had said shortly before being shot that he was not afraid of dying.

On 14th October 1964, King had won the Nobel Peace Prize for combating racial inequality through non-violent resistance.

From the Archives



This month we travel to Haslington and stand at the corner of Slaughter Hill looking up Crewe Rd. In the lower image we go back to the 1960's when Whey Products occupied the corner. Originally built for the Ministry of Agriculture in 1918 it was one of the first factories in the UK to manufacture lactose, later became part of the Milk Marketing Board and finally Dairy Crest before being demolished in 1989. **Stephen Minshull**



The perfect diet

What is the best and most infallible way to reduce your waistline? Just move your head slowly from right to left when asked to have a second helping.

Way ahead

People aren't really so smart. The turtle had a streamlined body for travel, a hard top, retractable landing gear and a mobile home for thousands of years before we did.



Towels

Our organist and his wife have their towels marked Hymns and Hers.

Ready

I don't understand why people have to 'get ready for bed'. I'm always ready for bed.

Rainbows

Q: Where do rainbows go when they're bad?

A: Prism, but it's a light sentence.

Church Contacts

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Challenge

If you have any information or events that need publicising, or you would like to write an article, please contact the editor.

Articles must be received by **Sunday 20th August**

www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org

Donations

If you would like to donate funds for the running, repairs and mission of St Mary's then please use one of the following methods:

- Standing Order
- Contactless machine in church
- QR code (using JustGiving)

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**Magazine deadline
for the combined
September/
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**Sunday 20th
August**

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