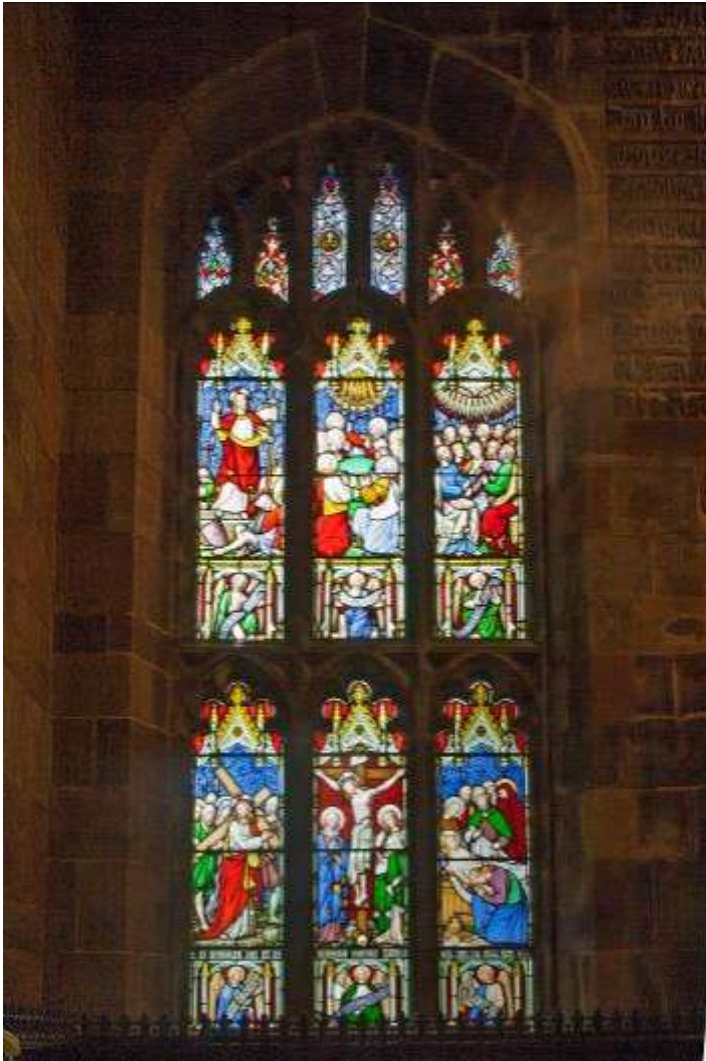


# CHALLENGE



The Parish Magazine of St Mary Sandbach

July 2023      50p  
Volume 59    No 694



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# July 2023

Sunday 2nd July	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 4	10.00 am	Family Worship
Sunday 9th July	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 5	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 16th July	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 6	10.00 am	Family Worship and Communion
Sunday 23rd July	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 7	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 30th July	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 8	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 6th August	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 9	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

**“Earth is so thick with divine possibility that it is a wonder we can walk anywhere without cracking our shins on altars.”**

—Barbara Brown Taylor

**A** quote by one of my favourite authors, let it **set the scene for today’s** ponderings.

Relatively speaking we are at the start of a long season of the church called 'ordinary time'. I always find it a bit strange and almost disrespectful that this season is called ordinary. It's not Christmas and it's not Easter but does it really have to be spoken about like it is run of the mill or hum drum. After all, we should remember that life is a gift from God, and we are created in the image of God, fearfully and wonderfully **made. It doesn't** feel like we should be treating any part of life as unimportant or insignificant.

I suspect we can all agree though that this attitude

towards each day, much like this long liturgical season, is harder to maintain. Keeping ourselves pepped up and **energetic towards God's** presence and his Kingdom can be a struggle and it takes discipline and intentionality.

I wanted to share a poem, on page 3, that speaks right into those days. As you read it, let it be a prayer for those **days when it's not Sunny or** rainy but just a little overcast. **For those days when it's not** coffee out with friends but rather a cup of tea on the sofa with the lunchtime news. **For those days when spiders' webs** are not a masterclass in weaving but our nemesis for the feather duster. For when the activity of the day is cleaning the bathroom.

It reminds us that even in the most ordinary parts of life God is there and can be **found 'in everyday graces'.**

God is not just a God of the moments we find extraordinary and awe making, these moments

naturally help us to gaze in wonder and reverence, but perhaps more significantly he is in the simple everydayness of our life. He is interested in our everydayness; he is present in our everydayness, and he cares about our everydayness. If you think about it that makes even the ordinary extraordinary.

### For This Ordinary Day

*by Kate Bowler*

Lord, here I am.

How strange it is, that some days feel like hurricanes and others like glassy seas and others like nothing much at all.

Today is a cosmic shrug.

My day planner says, rather conveniently, that I will not need you, cry for you, reach for you.

Ordinarily, I might not think of you at all.

**Except, if you don't mind,**

let me notice you.

Show up in the small necessities and everyday graces.

God, be bread.

Be water.

Be laundry.

Be the coffee cup in my hands and the reason to calm down in traffic.

Be the gentler tone in my insistence today that people pick up after themselves for once.

Be the reason I feel loved when I catch my own reflection or feel my own self-loathing fluttering in my stomach.

Calm my mind, lift my spirit, make this dumb, ordinary day my prayer of thanks.

**Bee**

God is there whenever a human heart welcomes him in

# From the Editor

Summer is well and truly underway although, as I write, the heavens have opened bringing much needed water to the land.

Summer presents a good opportunity to get your camera or phone out to take pictures in and around our church. I would like to publish some of your pictures on the front cover of future editions, so please email me them to me.

## In this Issue.....

Ashton-on-Mersey Show Band	Winning Beetle
Ordinary	Jumping from aeroplanes
The past	Performing Arts

Regular events and services		
Tuesday & Thursday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer in church
Mondays	9.00 am	Tiddlers - Praise & Play
Tuesdays	7.00 pm	Prayer Meeting in church
Wednesdays	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursdays	9.00 am	Thursday Teas (except first Thursday of month)
Fridays	6.15 pm	Choir Practice - contact Kevin Birch (760778)
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

## Baptisms

June

4th Max Hart  
Amber Latham



## Funerals

June

2nd John Buckley  
20th Freda Brookes  
21st Tina Boland  
22nd Robina Fazey



## Coffee Rota

2nd July	Jim Thompson
9th July	Jean Richardson and J Williams
16th July	Stella Craven and Angela Speedy
23rd July	Kath Davies and Kath Beech
30th July	Janet Hides and Christine Hirst



The next Choral Evensongs is on:  
Sunday 23rd July at 6.30 pm

## Sunday Services

The Sunday 10.00 am services have recently been revised.

Family Worship - 1st Sunday. 3rd Sunday with Communion.

With a more accessible service suitable for all ages.

Parish Eucharist - 2nd and 4th Sunday

For those who love the more traditional liturgy with sung responses. All ages are welcome.

Pewsheets

We are currently thinking through how we share information, news and service details. So we may ask for feedback as we try new methods in the future.

If you have any questions please get in touch with me.

**Bee**

## Beetle Drive

Thirty of us enjoyed a great evening of dice-shaking and exercise as we 'ran' from table to table after each round,







in order to burn off the calories acquired from consuming the delicious cakes on offer.

Congratulations to Jim Thompson who was the overall winner.

Thanks to all who helped put on the event which raised £284 for church funds.



# Spotlight on a casualty buried in St Mary's churchyard

(by Pete Merrill)

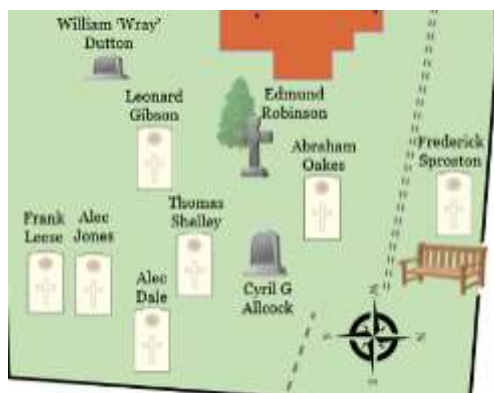
Private Cyril Garner Allcock served briefly with the 10th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment. He died on 10th April 1916, aged 21, during basic training and is **remembered on the Cobbles' War Memorial**. He is registered with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) as a war casualty and is buried in the south-east area of St Mary's churchyard in a private family grave, Row 3, Grave 23.

Church Street, Sandbach and his father was a Grocer Shopkeeper.

By 1911, Ada had died, Cyril was a **Bricklayer's Labourer** and the family were living at 12 Front Street.

On 12th December 1915, Cyril was called up and is recorded as being employed at **Bolshaw's Butcher's**. He was also a member of the local Oddfellows Society. When attested, he requested that he be allowed to serve with the 6th (Service) Battalion, South Wales Borderers. However, when he was mobilised on 31st January 1916, aged 20 and 10 months, he was instead posted to the 10th South Lancashire Regiment and allocated the service number 26762.

Cyril reported to Prees Heath Camp, Whitchurch for basic training on 2nd February 1916. Two weeks later he was home on leave but, on returning to camp, he became ill with pneumonia and was admitted into the



Cyril was born in February 1895 in Sandbach to Ada, née Garner, and Joseph, and as a baby he grew up in Back Street, Congleton. By 1901, the family were living in

camp's Military Hospital.

His obituary indicates that '... for the next six weeks he lay in a critical condition, at times he rallied sufficiently to converse with those visiting him but would relapse into

unconsciousness...'

Cyril succumbed to the illness on the afternoon of Monday 10th April and his funeral took place on the Friday of that week.

---

## Sky Dive

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who so generously sponsored me to participate in the Sky Dive to raise funds for the Christie Hospital along with 12 other brave colleagues from SAS Daniels Solicitors. I am extremely pleased to report that our skydiving efforts raised over £12,000. Jumping from 15,000 feet on Palm Sunday, the limit in the UK without an oxygen tank, we really were in the heavens, which seemed rather fitting for the start of the Passion Season!



The Christie carries out essential work in research and respite, of such importance to our collective fight against cancer which affects so many lives. To have stepped out of my comfort zone and contributed in some small way to this work was such a rewarding experience and I really appreciate all of your support, donations and prayers towards this cause.

Thank you again and God bless,

**Matthew Ottley**

# Ashton On Mersey Showband



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**Sat 15th July 2023**

**7:30pm**

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Incl. tea/coffee cake

Tickets available from

St Mary's Church Social Committee,  
Thursday Teas, AOM band members



**Phone 01270 768744 Heather Bottomley**

# What's happened in the last 13 years

**H**ere is the start of a new article. I've been editing the magazine now for 13 years so I thought I would look and see what's happened since then!

Some things have changed and others not. The first edition I edited in June 2010 was a measly 8 pages long, but thanks to your regular contributions this number has tripled..

**Things that haven't changed are the cost of running a Grade II\* listed building and who supports the church financially. Here are extracts from the vicar's letter written by Rev Thomas Shepherd. John - Editor.**

*One of the great features of English life is the presence of the parish church at the heart of any community. It's one of the things we take for granted, and, of course, everyone assumes that it always will be there.*

*One of the great privileges of being a parish church is that of being available to the whole community - for baptisms, weddings and funerals, as the focus of local commemorations and celebrations. Yet it should also be there for those who want space to be quiet, to think or to pray. Perhaps soon we may feel confident to leave it open*

*throughout the daylight hours.*

*What people often forget is that the parish church continues to be there only because of the generosity of those who support it. As we know there are no government grants, no money from central church funds to keep it going and only a very small proportion of these costs come from fees charged for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The church is here today because of the generosity of its regular congregation and well-wishers in the local community. Archbishop William Temple once said that "the Church is the only*

*organization which exists principally for the benefit of non-members", and the financial support of the parish church is an excellent demonstration of this. Many people who are glad to use the church forget what they owe to those who have ensured its preservation down the years and those who valiantly maintain it in their own time.*

*In the first year of my incumbency*

*we have spent several thousand pounds on various schemes associated with the buildings. As we know too well the most pressing issue facing us remains the water coming through the roof.*

*We appreciate all the support we receive, and hope for your continued and increased general giving to the maintenance of the ministry of this parish.*

---

## **History of Stained Glass at St Mary's Church**

**I**n 2022 historian Richard Vickery compiled a booklet about the history of the stained glass windows in our church and has been on sale in church ever since.

We're very please that all the copies have been sold and another 50 have been printed and are now available at the back of the church for £5. Come in an have a look at our fabulous collection of Stained Glass.

**Richard writes...**

*All the windows date from after the restoration and extension of the Church and Tower in 1847-49 by George Gilbert Scott. The first to be installed was the large window in the east wall above the altat. Designed and made by Thomas Ward, it commemorated the life of John and Mary Latham of Bradwall Hall.*

(Ed.The window on the cover of this magazine is on the south side of the chancel.)

# St Mary's Events



- \* **Saturday 15th July 7:30pm**  
Ashton-on-Mersey Showband
  
- \* **Sunday 30th July 12:30pm**  
Summer Lunch
  
- \* **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.



## Locked in a shipping container

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7*

**O**pen Doors, the organisation which works with the Persecuted Church, tells of the Christian singer, Helen Berhane, who was arrested for sharing her faith in her home country of Eritrea. She spent almost three years in prison, much of this time in a metal shipping container.

Because she would not deny her faith, she was beaten so severely she could not walk. Instead, during her time in the container, she wrote Christian songs, encouraged the other prisoners, and witnessed to the prison guards.

**After Helen's release, she resettled in Europe and has written her prison memoirs in a small book titled, *Song of the Nightingale*. Describing her time shut inside the shipping container prison, she wrote:**

**“Sometimes I cannot believe that this is my life—these four metal walls, all of us corralled like cattle, the pain, the hunger, the fear. All because of my belief in a God who is risen, who charges me to share my faith with those who do not yet know Him. A God who I am forbidden to worship. I think back to a question I have been asked many times over my months in prison: ‘Is your faith worth this, Helen?’ As the guards continue on their rounds, I whisper the answer: ‘Yes.’”**





# **An Ode to the English Plural**

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,

But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.

One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,

Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,

Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,

**Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?**

If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,

And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,

**Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?**

Then one may be that, and there would be those,

Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,

And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,

But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language. There is no apple nor pine in pineapple. We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and

hammers don't ham'?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?

We have noses that run and feet that smell.

And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

# Why is my Bible different from yours?

*K V Beaumont.*

## Part 5 The Revised Version

Following on from the production of the Authorised Version, one would almost believe no other translation was produced until the late nineteenth century. However whilst the Authorised Version remained the standard against which new translations were compared by the man in the pew, a number of new versions were printed and largely disappeared from sight. The reason for many of these newer versions was down to the increased awareness of better Greek manuscripts coming to light. Indeed as early as 1627 Charles 1st was presented with what is now known as the Alexandrine Codex which gave a much better text than had been used in the Authorised

Version. One must remember in the days when documents were copied by hand the older the manuscript the better the text was likely to be.

In 1870 the fore runner of the House Of Bishops decided that a revision of the authorised version should be undertaken to address those errors in the text which had been used in 1611 and any changes that were deemed appropriate by modern scholarship.. The work was undertaken by two parallel groups of scholars in England and the USA, with the aim of producing one single translation. This resulted in the Revised Version being published in England in 1885 and the American Standard Version in 1901.

The Revised Version had achieved its main aim of using



a better text from which to translate, yet as a translation it was not so successful. The RV is a literal translation and therefore lacks the readability of the older Authorised Version. It did however gain greater usage in schools, Universities and Students of the Word. Indeed it remains worthy of comparison for those who lack the use of the original languages.

The American Standard, though not widely available, was very similar but slightly more conservative in outlook.

The knowledge and study of Biblical Texts and language made great advances in the early part of the twentieth Century and whilst in England an attempt to amend the Revised

Version of the Bible was disrupted by the Second World War , work on a new translation continued in America. The new version was to **“embody the best results of modern scholarship as to the meaning of the**

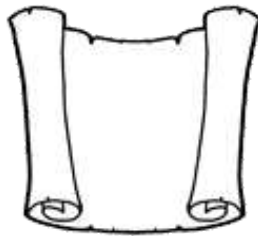
scriptures and express this in English diction which is designed for use in public and private worship and preserves those qualities which have given the King James Version a supreme place in English **literature”**.

The outcome was the Revised Standard Version of the Bible in 1952. A version which to quote T W Manson, a former Professor of Biblical Studies at Manchester, is **“reliable and speaks directly to the man in the pew in language he can be reasonably expected to**

**understand”**. The translation ceased to **use the “the” in the third person singular so instead of “he saith” it read “he says”**. **The translation**

also does away with the pronoun of the second person singular (thou, thee, thy) unless addressed to God.

The RSV also uses a range of English words for one Greek word and this gives a much greater readability. For me it



remains the best of present translations, it is true to the text and retains a readability and the use of appropriate language which few if any of the modern translations manage. To quote another Manchester Biblical Studies Professor FF Bruce “The

revisers have succeeded in satisfying the requirements of those mid twentieth century readers who look for an English Bible which will do for today and tomorrow what the A.V. did for the seventeenth and following centuries.”

---

## Parish Administrator

**A**nne Birch has decided to step down from her role as Parish Administrator.

We need to say a big thank you for all she has done towards the smooth running of our church and hall.

Anne was also church warden for a number of years and was particularly helpful to so many people during the covid pandemic. Furthermore, she also dealt with the interregnum and the appointment of our new vicar.

We are so grateful for **her service to St Mary's** and wish her all the best for the future.



## **Performing Arts Summer School coming to Sandbach**

### ***Discount for parishioners joining Sandbach Summer School, open to ages 7 – 14 years***

Hi – my name's David Gregan-Jones and I'm the principal of Carney Academy, where we offer industry-standard acting and performance arts training, right here in Sandbach.

I'm proud to say that I grew up here before I headed out to become a professional actor and writer. The opportunity to run this amazing school and work with our wonderful students brought me back to the town, and I've been the principal since 2020

Carney Academy was founded by our Managing Director and Sandbach resident, Ruth Carney - an experienced TV and theatre director. Ruth has worked both in the West End and on Broadway, with TV credits including Casualty, Emmerdale and, most recently, BBC favourite Death in Paradise.

Since I joined, first as a part-time teacher in 2018, we've gone from strength to strength – finding ways to take our lessons online during the pandemic and then coming back to the classroom with a vengeance,

performing at Crewe Lyceum and even starting an adult class which meets every Thursday evening during term time.

And for our younger students, aged 7 through to 16, we've been running classes on Saturdays, in Sandbach since 2017. Some of these amazing young people have gone on to train at professional drama schools such as LAMDA and Guildford School of Acting, but also appear in short films and perform in some of the most prestigious local theatres, including The New Vic, The Royal Exchange and Manchester's award-winning Hope Mill Theatre.

But it's not just about pursuing careers in acting. Our students also come to us to build their confidence, become better communicators and have fun!

### **New summer school**

While we've been a part of Sandbach for some time, we are excited to establish something new for 2023. For the first time ever, we're offering a five-day summer school, where each day is filled with new routes into creative arts and media including special effects movie make-up, puppetry, circus skills, musical theatre and more.

Running **Monday 14 – Friday 18 August**, each full day (9:30am to 4:30pm) includes a jam-packed itinerary with workshops and games for 7 – 14 year-olds. The summer school will be led by our very own Carney teachers and a group of industry professionals including Barnton Circus, Jacqui Dunn make-up artist, and more.

We can't wait to see young people come down to St Mary's Church Hall, and join us for what promises to be our most exciting summer ever. Also, we're proud to offer St Mary's parishioners a £25 discount on the cost of the week, if they reference St Mary's and book before 14 July.

To book or for more information about the Summer School and Carney Academy,

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email  
[info@carneyacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@carneyacademy.co.uk)

Thanks for reading and  
supporting our school,

David.

Any organisation, small, large, commercial, or voluntary, that does not try constantly to renew itself is doomed. (Peter Nonsuch)

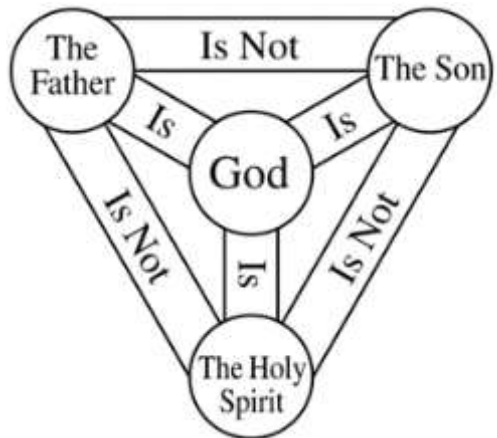
## What is ordinary about the Trinity season?

This year the Trinity season began on Sunday 4 June and will last for 23 weeks, taking us through July, August, September, and October.

In some church traditions, including Anglican and Roman Catholic, the liturgical season of Trinity has traditionally been called 'Ordinary Time' to distinguish it from the major celebrations of Christmas and Easter, and the times of penance during Lent and Advent. Surely, the Holy Trinity is not ordinary, which in today's vocabulary generally means with no distinctive features, or normal? Perhaps extraordinary would be a better modern term!

It is generally accepted that Tertullian (155-229 AD) was the first theologian to write about the Holy Trinity. Today, Tertullian is known as the Father of Latin Christianity, which represents the largest group within the Roman Catholic church. He is also known as the founder of Western theology and is most famous for being the first writer in Latin to use the term 'Trinity' (Latin: trinitas) to describe the complex nature of God. Strangely, even though many of his ideas are rooted in the liturgy used in both Eastern and Western Christian churches today, he has never been recognised as a saint.

A good way to explain the relationship between the members of the Holy Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is on the right.



# From the Archives



**T**his month we stay in Wheelock and are looking at Pet Food Superstore next to the canal. In the lower image, we go back to the mid 1930's when H J Lea & Sons received their new fleet of delivery vehicles, including the latest ERF diesel flatbed wagon.

**Stephen Minshall**





## And finally...

I changed my password to “incorrect” so whenever I forget it, the computer will say, “Your password is incorrect.”

Take my advice — **I’m not using it.**

I hate it when people use big words just to make themselves sound perspicacious.

Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes.

If you keep your feet firmly on the ground, you'll have trouble putting on your pants.

A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.

There may be no excuse for laziness, **but I’m still looking.**

Is it wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly?

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

Since tomatoes are technically a fruit, is ketchup a smoothie?

No matter how much you push the **envelope**, it'll still be stationery.



## Church Contacts

Vicar	Rev Bee Boyde <a href="mailto:revbeeboyde@gmail.com">revbeeboyde@gmail.com</a>	07872 326008
Reader	Joan Plowman	768079
Churchwardens	Sheenagh Ashworth Ruth Morrison <a href="mailto:warden.smcsandbach@gmail.com">warden.smcsandbach@gmail.com</a>	529187 07411 610962
Safeguarding	Joanna Blaiklock <a href="mailto:safeguarding.smcsandbach@gmail.com">safeguarding.smcsandbach@gmail.com</a>	07725 989374
Parish Office	<a href="mailto:smcsandbach@gmail.com">smcsandbach@gmail.com</a>	07771 391667
Baptisms	Ruth Morrison <a href="mailto:baptism.smcsandbach@gmail.com">baptism.smcsandbach@gmail.com</a>	07411 610962
Weddings	<a href="mailto:smcsandbach@gmail.com">smcsandbach@gmail.com</a>	07771 391667
Magazine Editor	John Bottomley <a href="mailto:jandhbottomley@gmail.com">jandhbottomley@gmail.com</a>	768744

### 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 23rd July

[www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org](http://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)

More details are available on the website:  
[www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org/donate](http://www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org/donate)

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## June magazine deadline

**Sunday 23rd  
July**

## Church Information

There's plenty of information  
on our new website

[www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org](http://www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org)



SandbachChurch

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St Mary's Church, High Street  
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