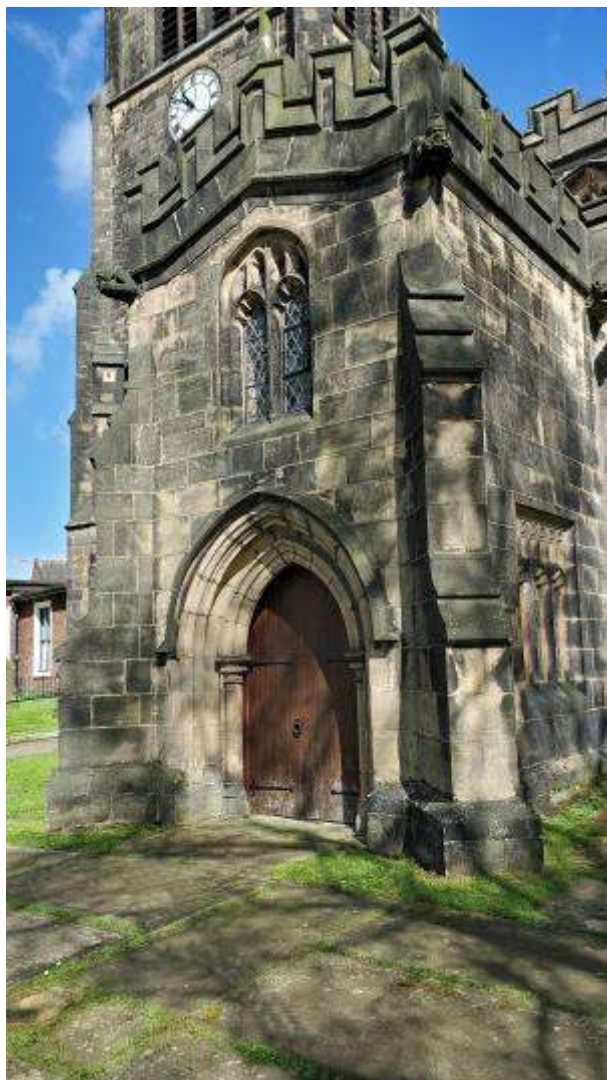


CHALLENGE



The Parish Magazine of St Mary Sandbach

May 2024 £1

Volume 60 No 703



Sandbach Mowers and Repairs

- We service all Lawn Mowers
- Spares & Repairs for all Major Makes
- Pick up and drop off service
- Based in Sandbach and surrounding areas

 **Lodge Road, Sandbach, CW11 3HD**
sandbachmowersandrepairs@btinternet.com

For a Free Quote & Friendly Advice Call Paul

01270 761408 or 07725



PETER FORSHAW FUNERAL SERVICES

*Private Chapel
of Repose*



*24 Hour
Personal &
Dignified Service*

The Independent Funeral Directors

Prepaid Funeral Plan Available
37a Middlewich Rd, Sandbach
01270 762230

Middlewich: **01606 836708**
Holmes Chapel: **01477 532000**

St Mary's Thursday Teas

In the Church Hall, off the
Square

Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches and
home made cakes

Open 9am to 1pm
Every Thursday
(except the first of
the month)



Come and join us, all welcome



Hall For Hire

**A wonderful spacious hall
available for private functions
and community events during
the day & evening**

*celebrate, dance, get creative or
keep fit...*

10' x 8' screen available

Whatever your requirements please
get in touch for more information.

smcsandbach@gmail.com

07771 391667

**Advertise Here
Just £27 for the year
Contact the editor**

MAB ELECTRICS

Qualified Sandbach Electrician
38 years experience

Tel: 01270 764791



May 2024

Sunday 5th May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter 6	10.00 am	Morning Worship
Sunday 12th May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Easter 7	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
Sunday 19th May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Pentecost	10.00 am	Family Worship and Communion
Sunday 26th May	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity	10.00 am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong - St Christopher Chorale
Sunday 2nd June	8.00 am	Holy Communion
Trinity 1	10.00 am	Morning Worship

Holy Eucharist, Parish Eucharist - Order 1 Common Worship
Holy Communion - Order 2 Book of Common Prayer

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary Sandbach
St Mary's Church, High Street, Sandbach, CW11 1AN
Charity Number 1205356

From the Editor

Welcome to the May edition of Challenge.

The new year of advertisements in the magazine begins this month. I am really pleased that most of the companies from last year have renewed. We also have one additional company advertising, **Help@Home**. There are still spaces available for anyone else you know to advertise. Please do support these local businesses.

This month we have the continuation of the series on memorials within the church and the history of the church building. There is also the second part of the series helping us to know and understand the Old Testament.

There are still plenty of tickets available for the Ceilidh on Saturday 4th May. If you've never been to one before they are great fun: no experience required as the caller directs all the dances; it's really sociable so don't worry if you are coming alone; and finally there's a licensed bar! Tickets from the Office and Anne Birch 760778.

Regular events and services		
Mondays	9.00 am	Tiddlers
Tuesday & Thursday	9.30 am	Morning Prayer in church
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	5.15 pm	Choir Practice - contact Kevin Birch (760778)
First Thursday of the month	10.30 am	Bereavement Group - contact Bee for details
First Sunday of the month	9.00 am	Music group practice before the service - contact Heather Bottomley (768744)

Letter from Bee

I wonder if you feel like you are always being asked to do things for church, or perhaps you feel like church is always asking something of you that you can't give. In May Christians unite in an ecumenical initiative called 'Thy Kingdom Come' that runs between Ascension Day and Pentecost. It was launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, in York in 2016, in a call to unity in prayer. It has grown into an international movement with over 90 % of the world's countries represented along with 85 different denominations and traditions.

It is focused on the common aim, which is for more people to know Jesus Christ and for 'Thy Kingdom Come'. These eleven specific days are dedicated to praying in a variety of ways and in ways that suit each of us individually and as a community.

This year I want to encourage us at St Mary's to be involved in any way that feels achievable.

Maybe you can commit to praying for people that you

know and love (the suggestion is five people), Maybe you want to commit to praying for certain public figures? It really is very simple; all we are praying for is that more people would know they are loved by God and that they would have a new understanding of what it means to be known and loved by him. Perhaps we want to pray that others know what it means to be broken but forgiven in this often messy life.

You don't need to leave your home to do this, in fact you can even do this from your bed each day. There is no need to tell others, although it is so encouraging to know we are all praying together.

During these days there will be some prayer stations in the church that people will be invited to engage with as and when they would like. I will also be doing some form of daily prayer, possibly online so more people can join in. Do let me know if you have any ideas about how we can be praying together or individually.

You have a few days to think about what might be suitable for you. Remember this is not just

another thing the wuth which church is asking you to be involved, it's something we can all do. After all, we surely want others to know the joy and hope

we have in being part of God's Kingdom.

Let us pray.

Bee

www.thykingdomcome.global

Registers

Funerals

January

18th Gerald Leech

February

1st Michael Edge
2nd Pauline Davenport
9th Victoria Bury
22nd James Nelson

March

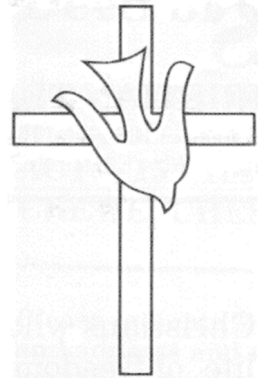
4th Jean Coppenthal

April

3rd Robert Goodwin
4th Vivien Brown
9th June Wharne
11th Baby Thomas Enache
18th Martyn Colley

Baptisms

February Bohdi Foxx Breithaupt
April Amelie Alija Jones



It is better to talk about God less and talk to Him more

Fire of Pentecost

"You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth" Acts 1:8



We all get tired and battle weary sometimes. The disciples of Jesus had just been through a three-year long roller coaster adventure with Jesus that had culminated in His death, resurrection and ascension into heaven.

The range of emotions would have been hugely taxing in the days leading up to Pentecost, as they remembered Jesus weeping in the garden of Gethsemane, betrayed by Judas, brutally beaten and crucified and then dead and buried. Then there had been the shock and awe of finding out that He was alive again! But then He had left them again, to return to His Father. By the time the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples would indeed have welcomed some fresh spiritual fire!

For us today, many of us have felt emotionally drained with the uncertainties caused by Covid 19, the worry of prices rising at an alarming rate and now the pain and uncertainty of what will happen in the war in Ukraine.

So, what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us? As we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and birth of the Church, let us thank God that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Coffee Rota

5th May	Jim Thompson and Iris Kenilworth
12th May	Jean Richardson and Jo Williams
19th May	Stella Craven and Angela Speedy
26th May	Kath Davies and Kath Beech
2nd June	Janet Hides and Ellie Palfeyman



Come and Dance the night away

Ceilidh

This Way Up Ceilidh Band

With Baz Parkes as our Caller

No experience required

Saturday 4th May 7pm

St Mary's Church Hall

Tickets: Adult £12.00

Children (under 16) £6

Available from: Church Office, Thursday
Teas and Anne Birch 760778.



Bar and Raffle

All proceeds to church funds



Memorial plaque in St Mary's church

William George Upton was born on 22nd August 1898 to Jessie May, née Simpson, and Henry (known as Harry). He grew up at the Manor House, Betchton; Harry's parental home until the family moved into nearby Dubthorn Villas.

He attended Sandbach School between 1903 and 1915 (according to his service record, although his school record references to his attendance as 1911-1916) and was a member of the school's rifle club and fledgling cadet corps.

In 1915, aged 17, William volunteered and joined 14th (Reserve) Battalion, Cheshire Regiment, which was billeted at the Prees Heath Training Camp, near Whitchurch. It was one of the army's training bases for trench warfare with a capacity of 30,000 personnel. He was a private soldier, allocated the service number 9051. He was too young for active service so remained at Prees Heath

until he volunteered for flying duties in 1917.

During 1916/17 there were several army reorganisations of the reserve and territorial forces, resulting in 14th Cheshires first becoming 50th Training Battalion in August 1916 then 225th Training Battalion in May 1917.

It was whilst with the 225th that William volunteered for service with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) as a pilot, and on 20th October 1917, 19-year-old William reported to RFC headquarters at Denham for assessment and selection. He was successful, and on 28th October he was posted to No. 29 Training Squadron (TS) at



Shrewsbury. Two days later he was promoted to temporary second lieutenant and began flight training in an Airco DH.6 biplane.

After completing initial flight training between 31st January and 20th March, he went to Tern Hill Aerodrome, the home of No.34 and 43 TS, where he trained in Sopwith Camels (Sops) and the Scout and Pup biplane fighters.

It was whilst at Tern Hill that he would have learnt that Sandbach School's Cadet Corps had received official recognition from Cheshire Territorial Association on 11th February 1918. On 20th March, for the final phase of training, William went to Chattis Hill Aerodrome for advanced pilot training in preparation for operational duties.

On 1st April 1918, the RFC became the Royal Air Force (RAF) and in June he joined his operational unit, No.213 Squadron, based at the French Bergues aerodrome,

for combat duties as a Camel pilot. The squadron's role was to provide fighter cover for bomber and reconnaissance missions from the airfields around Dunkirk. Its area of operations covered the western end of the Western Front running from just north of Houthulst Forest, north of Ypres, to Nieuport.

When the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) merged with the RFC to form the RAF, No.13 Squadron RNAS was renumbered 213 Squadron, and the unit was sometimes referred to as the 'Navy Division' during its early years. It was during this time that the squadron derived its Hornet insignia and the motto for the squadron badge. After overhearing a Belgian

General refer to the squadron's defence of his trenches: "Like angry hornets attacking the enemy aircraft", the Hornet was adopted and became affectionately known as Crabro, Latin for hornet, and the squadron's motto



became Irritatus Lacessit
Crabro, The Hornet Attacks
When Roused.

There is no record of the operational activity on the day William died, but, from the few official reports and newspaper articles available, it is possible to piece together a likely narrative of the day he was killed.

William had been on the Western Front for just four months and had returned to the squadron two days earlier from leave. On the morning of 4th October, he departed the aerodrome flying a Sopwith F.1 Camel single seater fighter aircraft, serial number D3341. He never returned to base and was initially reported as 'missing in action'.

A few weeks later his family received a letter (reported in the Nantwich Guardian 25/10/1918) from Major Ronald Graham, 213 Squadron's Commanding Officer: I regret to say that there is little hope of your son being a prisoner of war. He went out with his patrol on the morning of 4th October and a big fight took place between our machines and some enemy

scouts. In the fight nine enemy machines were destroyed and your son's machine was seen going down out of control. It crashed very badly about five miles over the lines and everybody who saw it is of the opinion that your son must have been shot in the air. Your son was an exceptionally fine companion and a very keen officer.

Although William was first recorded as being killed on 14th October (when taken off the unit's strength), this was later amended to 4th October. He was initially buried presumably close to where his aircraft crashed near Violet Farm, about four miles north of the town of Roulers (known today as Roeselare) in Belgium (CWGC/WWI Trench Map Ref. Sheet 20SE/R3/C9.1). In February 1920, William was exhumed and reburied at the Dadizeele New British Cemetery, grave reference III D.2. His gravestone (and memorial) reads 'He gave his heart to home, his life for country, his soul to God'.

His name appears on the Sandbach War Memorial

unveiled on 16th April 1922, on Sandbach School's memorial tablet, unveiled during their Old Boys' Day on 2nd June 1923 and on the St John's Church, Sandbach Heath memorial dedicated by the Bishop of Chester on Ascension Day, 1920.

Finally, of interest is the day-by-day diary which was kept by the Sopwith Aviation Company. It provides us with a startling snapshot of recorded incidents involving their Camel aircraft,

and an extract from the diary on the day William died reads as follows: [On 4th October] ...The pilots of D3341 (William), D9416, E1596, F1990 & F5954 are killed in action, D6519 & H771 are killed colliding at 14,000ft, F1987 is wounded in action and D9418 is taken prisoner. C8380 is wrecked colliding with H765 while landing, D3358 & F1988 are damaged by AA [anti-aircraft] fire and D9648 by ground fire.

Pete Merrill

Sandbach concert series

Tickets: Adults: £12.00
Snr Citizens/
Concessions: £11.00
School Children: £3.00
Family Ticket : £25.00
Doors Open 6.30 pm

Wednesday 29th May 7 pm
Adam Fairhall & Olivia Moore
Folk-jazz accordion and violin

St Mary's Church Hall

and spotlight concert with local young musicians

www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk

All concerts at 7pm in **St Mary's Church Hall**

Tickets available on the door (cash only) or via WeGotTickets.

The next evensong is at **6.30 pm:**

Sunday 26th May



Dear Lord,

May, the loveliest of months – and this year, as we welcome the blossom and the beauty of late Spring, we also welcome Your Holy Spirit afresh, as we celebrate Pentecost.

May we open our hearts to receive Your Spirit, as Your people did on that first Day of Pentecost. May we be filled and empowered and emboldened to witness to Your goodness and love.

May we be transformed by Him and reflect Your transforming grace to the broken world in which we live. May people who meet us ask, “What does this mean?” May they turn to You and hear You speaking in ways they can understand.

Without Your Holy Spirit we can do nothing. With Him living in us, we can do all things.

Come Holy Spirit, come to us, we pray,

In Jesus’ name. **Amen.**

By Daphne Kitching



Friends are like angels who lift us to our feet when our own wings have difficulty in remembering how to fly

Why Whitsun?

Within the Anglican and Methodist churches the word Whitsun, Whitsunday or Whit Sunday is sometimes used instead of Pentecost. It falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, and the birth of the church (as described in Acts 2). It used to be a tradition in some churches to baptise adults at Pentecost and the newly baptised people would wear white robes on that day, so Pentecost came to be called "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday" after these white baptismal garments.

Whit Monday, the day after Whitsun, remained a holiday in Britain until 1971, then starting in 1972, the ruling Conservative Government decided to permanently replace it, after a five year trial, with a holiday called the Spring Bank Holiday on the last Monday in May.

Sally Churchus

St Mary's Events

* **Thursday 2nd May 10am - 12 am**

Church clean team

* **Saturday 4th May**

Ceilidh

* **Saturday 3rd August**

Picnic

* **Saturday 26th October**

Autumn Fair



If anyone would like to organise a social or fundraising event then please book the Hall through the office.

Death and Dying in the UK

High costs and loss of faith lead to radical change in the ways we mark death.

Less than half of the UK population now want their death to be marked with a funeral, according to a major research report called Love, Grief, and Hope: Emotional responses to death and dying in the UK, released by the religion and society think tank Theos.

The findings are based on polling from YouGov and reveal significant changes in the ways that people in the UK are approaching death and dying. Less than half of respondents (47%) said they wanted a funeral. Just over 1 in 10 (13%) of respondents who did not want a funeral said this was because they did not have enough money saved, but far more said they felt the money could be better spent another way (67%). Others said “I don’t see the point” (55%) or “I don’t want a traditional service” (43%).

Existing polling from Sunlife indicates that direct cremation (where the body is taken directly

to a crematorium without any service or other event) is now chosen for 18% of all deaths.

Financial factors are significant in these decisions, but religious and spiritual adherence is even more influential: 76% of frequent worshippers said they wanted a funeral. Author Dr Pennington, head of research at Theos, said: “It appears that the UK population no longer has a shared conviction on the importance of ritual frameworks to say goodbye. Market forces have a bigger impact on how we grieve, when we no longer approach grief itself through a ‘transcendent’ frame. In an age of declining formal religious affiliation, this is driving a significant realignment of British bereavement practices.”

“This is such an important report for our time,” says Archbishop Justin Welby in his foreword to the report. “It is shocking to discover that death may be seen as expensive, time-consuming and irrelevant, and that it is better just to move on.” He calls for the Church to re-offer its “honed compassionate skills” and to “re-open conversations about death”.

What's happened in the last 13 years

This eighth article looking back into the recent history of the magazine, from the November 2012 edition, with similar issues that we are facing at the moment with the church roofs.

The Roof

*After several months of waiting contact was made with English Heritage to request the result of our grant application. Firstly we received an apology for no reply having been received and then we were informed that our application for **£250,000.00** had been refused on the first submissions - over 30 Church buildings have had to be considered. A letter is to be sent to us explaining the situation. We understand we can reapply in the New Year. Not very good news!*

*Recently, we have also had to "patch up" the roof at a cost of **£1,650.00 plus VAT**.*

The Boiler

The PCC agreed to convert the existing oil boiler to gas. This was based on economy and various technical reasons. In addition it was found that there was a certain amount of asbestos in the system and this proved to be one of the deciding factors in the decision to obtain estimates for the conversion. Also urgent repairs are necessary to the pipework following the burst at the rear of the church and the replacement of a supporting beam in the boiler cellar.

*The work was agreed, including the provision of a gas supply by National Grid, to the sum of **£37,117 71 plus VAT of £7,423.54**.*

Whilst this is a very large expenditure for the Church and will use up all our available reserves, it is hoped that further fund raising will provide a replacement for some of this money.

What's the Big Idea? - an Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament (pt 2): Judges

Following Joshua's death, a generation grew up who didn't know God (Judges 2:11) and 'every man did what was right in his own eyes' (17:6, 21:25). The book of Judges is a study in God's response to a permissive society.

The book takes its name from the deliverers that God raised up during this time. God empowered both men and women with His Spirit to rule and deliver the people. They included Ehud, Deborah, Gideon and his son Abimelech,



Jephthah and Samson. The judges operated in the 350 years (from 1050 BC) between Joshua's death and the

monarchy.

We see a recurring cycle of apostasy, oppression, penitence and deliverance played out. When the people fell into sin, God sent an enemy nation to oppress them. As a result, they

cried to God for help, and He responded by raising up a deliverer to free them.

The saddest words in Judges are those applied to Samson, 'He did not know that the LORD had left him' (16:20). Rejecting God in our lives can begin with tolerating those things that are not in harmony with His will for our lives. The people's toleration of the beliefs of their pagan neighbours led to a conformity in life and worship with them. Yet God waited for His people to return to Him, when He responded with grace to deliver them.

Gideon stands out as somebody who was unwilling to compromise with the surrounding culture. Despite his weaknesses, God used him to deliver Israel from the Midianite invaders. We read: 'the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon' (6:34). God's grace and faithfulness is at work in those who are prepared to trust Him.

Canon Paul Hardingham

The apostle with common sense

Is there someone in church whom you respect for their spirituality and common sense combined? Someone you feel easy about approaching to ask questions? That person's patron saint should be Philip (1st May).

Philip came from Bethsaida and was a disciple of Jesus from early on. He knew how to lead others to Jesus; he brought Nathanael (or Bartholomew) to Him in a calm, kindly way. He knew how to do some financial forecasting: at the feeding of the

5,000 it was he who pointed out that without divine help, even 200 pennyworths of bread wasn't going to feed that crowd.

He was the one whom the Greeks approached when they wanted to ask Jesus to show them the Father but didn't quite have the nerve to approach Jesus directly. People had confidence in Philip's spirituality, common sense, and kindness. Such a person is a gift to any church! In art, the Apostle Philip has been represented either with a cross, or with loaves of bread.

God's transforming power

God who cannot be bound
Flow into our hearts and minds
Wear down our resistance to your love
And refresh us with the spirit of your compassion.
Today, as we commit ourselves once more to your work
We ask you to show us how to hold the needs of your world
At the heart of our lives
And to celebrate your many gifts with joy.
May your power transform our lives
May your Spirit set us free
And may the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be with us all now and for ever.
Amen

Linda Jones

And the walls came tumbling down. Really?

In his history of St Mary's Church (1974), John Minshull was anxious to disprove the popular belief that the church had been rebuilt in 1847-49.

Looking at an inscription carved in the stone work above the west door, under the tower, it says "Rebuilt 1847*48*49" and you could be forgiven for believing that it was demolished and rebuilt. So was it rebuilt or merely restored?

Historians who visited the church in the early part of the 19th century remarked on some of the windows being "mutilated", the red sandstone walls "much crumbled", the south porch "destroyed" and the "degraded state of the church as a whole".

The meetings of the Vestry (forerunner of the PCC), whilst being preoccupied with adding more seating, were aware of the serious state of the building and plans were requested from the time of John Armitstead's appointment as Vicar in 1828. In 1845 a decision was made to "take down the tower and rebuild it from the ground" as it was "highly dangerous."

From the Reformation (1534) onwards, most English churches and cathedrals had little work done to the fabric – apart from some internal re-arrangements to accommodate Puritan reforms to create "preaching houses." (See my article in last month's Challenge). As a result, they were suffering from severe neglect. St Mary's was no exception.

In 1846, it was resolved that



the Vicar and churchwardens “procure plans from a respectable architect for the rebuilding of the tower and repairs of the church.” The architect chosen was George Gilbert Scott and the builder was William Mansfield Cooper of Derby.

The rebuilding of the tower was completed first, under a separate contract, at a cost of £2,000 – a substantial sum. It would appear that this gave the impetus to begin the work on the whole building. At this point Miss Sarah Sibson, whose father John was a curate at the church from 1760 to 1797, made a donation to rebuild the south porch with a muniments room (a place to store records) above. A blackened brass plaque in the south porch commemorates this

act of generosity. This encouraged further funds to be sought for the restoration of the roofs (£1,000) and the re-casing of the nave with new stone (£550). The stone is said to be the gift of the local MP, Sir Philip de M Grey Egerton, from quarries in the Mow Cop area. A contingency of £200 was put in to cover the cost of removing the galleries, if necessitated – it was.

The specification for the work is brief, compared to modern standards. The work on the roof consisted of making good any defective timbers and removing the old lead from the roof and gutters and replacing it. The old stonework inside the church was cleaned and re-pointed and defective stone replaced. New window tracery (the stone bars or mouldings to hold the glass)

was installed and the glass replaced.

There is evidence of some re-cycling of materials. In the tower are examples of heavily worn steps near the top and lightly worn ones near the bottom –



the opposite of what you would expect. The stonework of the pillars and around doorways and arches shows how the surface has been restored by “scraping” - vertical lines cut into the face of the stone to remove paint and irregularities to give it a fresh and decorative effect.

The total cost of the work, including the tower, as well as the new chancel, clergy vestry and all the woodwork, etc., exceeded £7,000. Apart from the donation mentioned, this was raised by a joint rate on the landowners and occupiers in the parish, from “voluntary efforts” and “a loan from the Church Building Societies”. (Probably a grant, rather than a loan, from the Incorporated Church Building Society, which had been set up in 1818 to help pay for the building and enlargement of churches.)

The church was crowded with a congregation of nearly 900 for the re-opening service on 3rd July 1849 at 11 o'clock. The Rev John Armitstead took the service and the choir sang the Te Deum and Jubilate to a setting by William Jackson. The

sermon was preached by the Bishop of Chester and 49 clergy were in attendance. In the afternoon, around 600 children processed from the market place to the Vicarage where they were provided with a meal of roast beef followed by plum pudding.

In the restoration the roof was repaired not replaced, the walls were encased not demolished, the original piers (pillars) are still standing. The tower was rebuilt, but we are told it is an exact copy of the original – and it looks as though they recycled the original stone. So would you say it's rebuilt or restored? My money's on the latter. I'm sure John Minshull would be happy with that.

Scott was criticised, even in his lifetime, for being over-zealous and ruthlessly sweeping away original work which he thought “not correct” and replacing it with a copy of what he thought it might have been. But without Scott's “restorations” it has to be said that the walls of many medieval churches, including Sandbach, would have come tumbling down.

John Higgins

A GLOBAL HUNGER CRISIS

According to the United Nations, hunger is currently the leading cause of death in the world. While the world's farmers should be able to grow enough food to feed everyone on the planet, the overlapping crises of conflict, climate change and economic inequality have created a cycle that has undermined food security worldwide.

To give a few examples:-

Conflict in the Middle East has already driven 576,000 people in Gaza to hunger with no end in sight.

The Horn of Africa is experiencing the driest conditions in over 40yrs. Across the region nearly 9 million livestock have perished.

In East and Southern Africa up to 63 million people will be food insecure by May 2024.

Katie Cavanagh

Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Thursday 6th June

10am until 12 noon

St Mary's Church Hall

Make a note in your diary. We look forward to seeing you there.

**SUPPORT CHRISTIAN
AID. SAVE LIVES FROM
HUNGER**

**AND HELP FAMILIES
BUILD A MORE**



Supporting people in trouble

David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the potential pitfalls of helping others...

Brothers and sisters, ...Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. (Galatians 6 1-3)

I am always interfering, in situations where I should not. Sorry, but I do. It is probably because of the job I do, that I want to fix things. Christians naturally want to help others. Churches are loving communities, and we want to do the best for each other.

Sometimes supporting others can be difficult. Some people are easy to help. They know what the problem is and what help they need.

Others are very demanding and always need help. They go from person to person asking for support and do not always follow advice. Then there are those who would never ask for help. They battle on and get exhausted and struggle on their own.

Probably the best helper is the person who can listen and not judge and guide the burdened to find their own answers. Often the person who is best at helping others is the one who has experienced life's ups and downs themselves. We can support others by:

Listening and keeping confidences.

Looking out for someone to make sure they are ok.

Respecting their choices even if we do not agree.

And, best of all, praying to know what to say and when to be quiet.

St Paul reminds us that we should bear each other's burden and no-one is expected to carry some things by themselves. The law of Christ that Paul was referring to was the New Commandment Jesus gave... that we love one another.

So, I will carry on trying and sometimes failing to fix things. You never know, I might make things better one day!

From the archives



This month we are at the Top of The Hill looking at Griffiths & Booth and the new Co-op. In the lower image we are back to 1970, just after Don Hocknall's the butcher had closed shop. Further up was the Sandpiper that used to be the Odd Fellows Arms and then Lawton Tools. **Stephen Minshull**



Children's exam papers

The following real-life answers to various exam papers explain why teachers need long holidays...

What is a nitrate? – Cheaper than a day rate.

What did Mahatma Gandhi and Genghis Khan have in common?
– Unusual names.

Name one of the early Romans' greatest achievements. –
Learning to speak Latin.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Arctic. – Two polar bears. Four seals.

Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld. – Mrs Orpheus.

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed? –
At the bottom.

The race of people known as Malays come from which country? –
Malaria.

State three drawbacks of hedgerow removal. – All the cows will escape. The cars drive into the fields. There is nowhere to hide.

What is a fibula? – A little lie.

Why would living close to a mobile phone mast cause ill health? –
You might walk into it.

Where was Hadrian's Wall built? – Around Hadrian's garden.

Share. There are only two things a child will share willingly – a communicable disease and his mother's age.

Old person. I hate it when I see an old person, and then realise we went to school together.

Grin. Keep smiling – it makes people wonder what you've been up to.

Church Contacts

Vicar	Rev Bee Boyde <u>revbeeboyde@gmail.com</u>	07872 326008
Reader	Joan Plowman	768079
Churchwardens	Sheenagh Ashworth Ruth Morrison <u>warden.smcsandbach@gmail.com</u>	529187 07411 610962
Safeguarding	Steavie D'Arienzo <u>safeguarding.smcsandbach@gmail.com</u>	
Parish Office	<u>smcsandbach@gmail.com</u>	07771 391667
Baptisms	Ruth Morrison <u>baptism.smcsandbach@gmail.com</u>	07411 610962
Weddings	<u>smcsandbach@gmail.com</u>	07771 391667
Organist & Choirmaster	Kevin Birch <u>kevinbirch60@gmail.com</u>	760778
Archivist	John Higgins <u>johnhiggins40@outlook.com</u>	763037
Magazine Editor	John Bottomley <u>jandhbottomley@gmail.com</u>	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 19th May**

www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org

Donations

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

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

More details are available on the website:

www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org/donate

SCAN ME



CARPET CRAFT

your flooring specialist, est 1978

**CARPETS - VINYL FLOORING - TILES - WOOD FLOORS
LARGE SELECTION OF RUGS, OVER 400 IN STOCK**

- # home selection service, daytime, evening or weekends
 - # free sample loan service
 - # uplift and disposal of existing carpet
 - # help with moving furniture
 - # free fitting on all carpets
 - # time served fitters, all work guaranteed
- 20 Market Street, Crewe, CW12EG
01270 255215 07814658164
info@carpetcraftcheshire.co.uk
www.carpetcraftcheshire.co.uk

PEEVERS MENSWEAR

Stockists for Sandbach
School (boys)

Uniform & Sports
Clothing



N.M Peever
14 Hightown Sandbach
01270 762421

Church Information

There's plenty of information
on our new website

www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org

SandbachChurch

Office 07771 391667

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

Williams & Lowe

Independent Family Funeral Directors

01270 750852

Sandbach, Holmes Chapel & Surrounding Areas

"It is our privilege to care for you"

Providing a professional and compassionate
service.

Assuring the most dignified care for your loved
ones with personal and respectful support at
your time of need.

Field House, 40 Congleton Road, Sandbach CW11 1HJ

www.williamsandlowefuneraldirectors.co.uk

We're short of Bell Ringers and are
recruiting new band members.



Age 11+ contact us at

belltower.smcsandbach@gmail.com

Weekly practice Thursday's 7.30pm - 9pm

**Magazine deadline May
edition**

Sunday 19th May

THE RURAL PARTNERSHIP GROUP

For all your Accountancy and Taxation problems. Local people serving the local community, from our local office.

For a free discussion about your personal tax position, your inheritance tax and estate planning please contact us quoting the reference 'St Mary's'.

We are pleased to support St Mary's with the preparation of their annual accounts.

RURALPARTNERSHIP.CO.UK
01270 762218
OFFICE@RURALPARTNERSHIP.CO.UK



OAKSIDE GARDEN SERVICES LTD

Local reliable gardener with over 10 years experience

- Regular Lawn Cutting
- Hedge & Shrub Trimming
- Pruning & Planting
- Garden Tidy Up's
- Scarification & Lawn Care
- Leaf Clearing
- Turbo Jet Washing
- Turfing & Seeding

07342 123667 or 01606 633043
Oaksidgardenservices@gmail.com

Griffiths & Booth Funeral Service

FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL CONSULTANTS

Chapel of Rest
24 hour Service

Floral Tributes
Memorials

60 The Hill
Sandbach

17 Macclesfield Rd
Holmes Chapel

01270 765783

01477 532427

SANDBACH ROOFING



with us you're home and dry!

Pitched Roofs • Rendering •
Chimneys • Fascias • Guttering •
Tiling • Cladding • Lead Work •
Skylights • Flat Roofing

01270 762679

www.sandbachroofing.com

Help
@
home



Dignity when it matters most

I pride myself on supporting individuals in their own home, or to access the community or appointments. I'm friendly, professional and very caring and respectful at all times.

07854453618

Traceycompanionshipsolutions@outlook.com
Online DBS
Liability Insurance
NVQ 4



www.flowersonthecobbles.co.uk

01270 766229

Follow us on Twitter @flowersonthecob and Facebook

poolealcock COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

Wills, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Probate

Providing you with the peace of mind that your loved ones will inherit and be cared for in line with your wishes.

www.poolealcock.co.uk | 0800 470 0331