



The Parish Magazine of St Mary Sandbach

November 2023 50p Volume 59 No 697





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Thursday 2nd November	6.30 pm	All Souls Service
Sunday 5th November All Saints	8.00 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion Family Worship
Sunday 12th November 3 before Advent	8.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 19th November 2 before Advent	8.00 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion Family Worship and Communion
Sunday 26th November Next before Advent	8.00 am 10.00 am 3.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Eucharist Choral Evensong
Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday Advent Service	8.00 am 10.00 am 4.00 pm	Holy Communion Family Worship CTiS - New Horizons Church - Wheelock Methodists

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

When so many are suffering (and you don't know what to do)

By Kate Bowler & Jessica Ritchie from 'the lives we actually have'

Oh God, so many are suffering. beyond what they can bear. *Come quickly* with help that is stronger than death. You see the vulnerable. who face what we find hard to imagine. And their caregivers and healthcare workers, families, teachers, and helpers of every kind. who string together scarce resources. while they're running on empty. Blessed are we. still in our relative ease. still, Jars of Clay, yet broken, who gives to others what we yet can give, who pray, boldly, and love fiercely. This is the very ground of our being – God's love for us and love working through us. God, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Spirit, have mercy. amen.

This is a prayer I used during the week to start a meeting, and it was appreciated by several people and I was asked to share it in the magazine. I have been referring back to this prayer several times over the last few days as we are bombarded with the images and stories in the media of the atrocities currently being suffered in Gaza and Israel. What I have been struck by is just how much I don't want to hear anymore and I don't want to see the images anymore, it is more than we can imagine or bear. Why are people suffering like this? How can humans do this to each other? Then as a secondary, I think many of us feel like we don't really know what is going on and why it's happening politically. Perhaps we are not hearing truths and are perhaps witnessing hypocrisy on all sides. It feels overwhelming. It's confusing and it feels desperate.

The meeting I first shared this was a meeting about the vision and mission of the Diocese and their hope we would sign up to it. It often feels incongruous to talk about this kind of thing when there is that going on over there or elsewhere.

Feelings of being inadequate to help those in desperate situations can have the effect of making us feel inadequate in all spheres of our faith. I will be clinging to this prayer for the times like now that I feel overwhelmed, as it reminds me what we can always do, no matter where we are or what is happening, is to give what we can and pray boldly and love fiercely.

So in the midst of the horrible images and unknowns of this terrible fighting, let's pray boldly. Let's ask God what it is we are really seeking for these people and places.

Perhaps it feels like a lament or a psalm, maybe it feels like a strongly worded email - just speak and pray it out. Be Bold.

Loving fiercely doesn't feel so hard to understand, but in many ways I think it actually is harder to do. Loving fiercely is with intention and not just the people we like. How do we love in a way that Jesus did? How do we love in the way that God calls us to?

I pray that instead of being overwhelmed by this broken world we may be spurred to pray boldly and love fiercely.

As a reminder we meet to pray and endeavour to pray boldly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm in church. All are welcome to join - we would love some more people to join us as we seek to hold our community on a foundation of prayer.

Bee

Registers for August Baptisms

3th September	Lucy Botherston
8th October	Oliver and Connor Clarke

Funerals

25th September	Marvin Cole
10th October	Gillian Floyd
13th October	James Cooper
19th October	Jenny Hassall

Memorial Service

6th September Bill Bowden

Coffee Rota

5th November	Kath Davies and Kath Beech
12th November	Janet Hides and Ellie Palfreman
19th November	Jim Thompson and Iris Kenilworth
26th November	Jean Richardson and Jo Williams
3rd December	Stella Craven and Angela Speedy

Regular events and services		
Tuesday &	9.30 am	Morning Prayer in church
Thursday		
Mondays	9.00 am	Tiddlers
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 month	10.30 am	Bereavement Group - contact Bee for details
First Sunday	9.15 am	Music group practice
of the month		before the service - contact
		Heather Bottomley
		(768744)

Editor

From the Photos - I'm sure you have photos you would like to show off on the front of one of the monthly magazines. Have a look in your albums or get the camera out. Please

send me your photos - of inside or outside the church, views of Sandbach, flowers, nice views etc.

The regular article looking back on my 13 years as editor will appear again in the next issue.

In this Issue.....

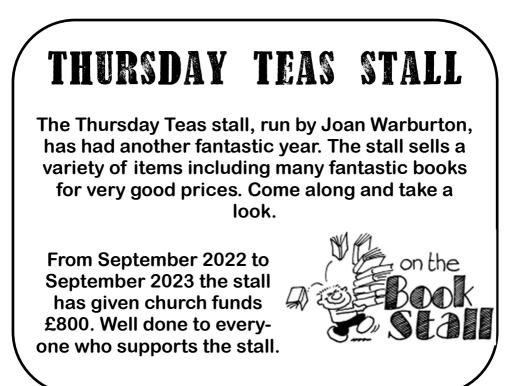
Autumn Fair Poppies CWGC Windows **Evensong Sponsorship Diocese Vision** Sister Act

Poppies

B y the time you read this the poppies will be up in church. A huge thank you to those who have been busy knitting and crocheting. Our collection has grown significantly since last year.

All the poppies will be kept again for next year.





Christmas is coming

We have been promoting **easyfundraising** at St Mary's for 12 years now. In that time we have received **£733** into the church account, but so far this year there have only been 3 active supporters.

This is **"FREE MONEY"** for us and doesn't cost you, the supporters, anything to donate. It's a cashback site. Just do any on-line shopping through their website looking for the cause St Mary's Church - Sandbach.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

From the easyfundraising website, search for the

company you are buying from and you will be taken to their website.

Hundreds of companies take part: all major supermarkets; DIY and tool companies; Amazon; Argos; eBay; Currys; Boots and many many more.



If you shop on-line this is the site for you!

The next evensong is at the winter time of 3.30 pm:

Sunday 26th November

The Casson family military monument

There is a registered historic military monument on the southern wall inside St Mary's church, commemorating three members of the Casson family. This is the first of three articles about the men named on the plaque, Randal Alexander Casson who was killed in WWI.



Casson Family Plaque, designed by FV Burridge, Imperial War Museum Reference WM42870

The inlaid coloured furniture represents the Casson Family Coat of Arms on the left. In the centre are two regimental symbols: high: Royal Welsh Fusiliers and low: London Regiment. On the right are displayed three shields: top: Winchester College, middle: Oxford University coats of arms of colleges for Christ Church, and low: The Honorary Society of the Middle Temple.

To the dear memory of RANDAL CASSON Of Betchton House Sandbach and Bron-y-gartf Portmadoc Born 10th February 1850 Died 2nd April 1914 at Taormina Sicily And of his only child RANDAL ALEXANDER CASSON Second Lieutenant Acting adjutant 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers Born 11th Oct 1893 Killed in action 26th Sept 1917 at Polygon Wood Ypres & Buried in Poelcappelle New British Cemetery And of his nephew WILLIAM CASSON Major 7th Battalion London Regiment Born 18th Aug 1873 killed in action 25th Sep 1915 at the Battle of Loos

Randal Alexander (known as Alec) was born on 11th October 1893 at 26 Moore Street, Cadogan Square, London, the only child of Lucy Jane, née Nesbitt, and Randal Casson.

Alec was educated first as a boarder at Sandroyd School then in 1907, he went to Winchester College (B House, Morberly's) before attending Christ Church College, Oxford from 1912 to 1915. As an undergraduate aged 20, Alec was admitted to Middle Temple on 14th November 1913, but he was never called to the Bar. However, he is mentioned in the Middle Temple Roll of Honour for those killed during WWI. Of note is that his father Randal was not a member of any of the four inns and subsequently the three shields on the right of the memorial plaque relate to Alec.

Whilst at Oxford, he was a member of the University Contingent of the Officers Training Corps and a 'Gentleman Cadet' at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant into the Royal Welch Fusiliers (RWF) on 22nd December 1915.

Alec arrived in France on 1st February 1917 and was attached to the 2nd Battalion

Painting by John Napier RA, 2nd Lieutenant Randal Alexander Casson Royal Welch Fusiliers



RWF as acting adjutant on 14th February.

It was here that he met the famous poet and writer Siegfried Loraine Sassoon CBE MC, who also served in the RWF. Sassoon refers to Alec several times in his book, Memoirs of an Infantry Officer (1930).

An entry for 3rd April 1917 reads: ...Four officers had been left at Corbie; they went to St. Pol to be held in reserve. 'B' Company Mess contained a typical war contrast in Casson and Evans. Casson, aged twenty-three, had been at Winchester and Christ Church; he was a sensitive, refined youth, and an amusing gossip.

A week later: The snow had stopped when, at the end of eight miles, we bivouacked in the dregs of daylight, by a sunken road near Mercatel... Casson and I spent the night in a very small dug-out. How we got in I can't remember, but we considered ourselves lucky to be sitting round a little brazier, talking to the trench-mortar sergeant major and two signallers who occupied that coke-fumed den.

On Friday 13th April: When Casson was at Winchester he did not anticipate that he would ever be walking about on a fine April evening among a lot of dead men. It struck me as unnatural at the moment, probably because the stretcher-bearers had been identifying the bodies and had arranged them in seemly attitudes, their heads pillowed on their haversacks. Young Casson was trying to behave as if it were all quite ordinary; he was having his first look at the horrors of war. While we were on the hill there was a huge explosion down by Fontaine Wood, as though a dump had been blown up. On our way home we

stopped to inspect a tank which had got stuck in the mud while crossing a wide trench. But I was thinking to myself that sensitive people like Casson ought not to be taken to battle-fields. I had grown accustomed to such sights, but I was able to realize the impact they made on a fresh mind. Detached from the fighting, we had merely gone for a short walk after tea, so to speak, and I couldn't help feeling as if I'd been showing Casson something obscene. (Nine years afterwards the whole business has become incredible). Unfortunately young Casson is not alive to share my sense of the incredibility of that little evening walk.

Shortly after this last encounter on 19th April, Alec is recorded as being admitted onto 31st Ambulance Train with influenza and transported to the General (Military) Hospital at Dannes Camiers, France.

After recovering, he returned to his unit on the front line and in July found himself fighting in the 3rd Battle of Ypres, also known as the Passchendaele campaign.

On the afternoon of 26th September, Alec was at Polygon Wood, near Ypres, when he was



Map of the area around Ypres, Belgium, 1917

killed in action alongside two other officers (Major Roger Alvin Poore and Lieutenant Ernest Forbes Campbell Colquhoun) whilst taking cover when an enemy shell exploded.

In the book Old Soldiers Never Die by Frank Richards (Faber 1933) is an account by Private Frank Richards of what happened: ... There was a strong-point called Black Watch Corner, which was a trench facing north, south, east and west. A few yards outside the trench was a pill-box which was Battalion HQ... The enemy now began to heavily bombard our position, and Major Poore and Mr. Casson left the pill-box and got in a large shell-hole which had a deep, narrow trench dug

in the bottom of it. They were safer there than in the pill-box, yet in less than fifteen minutes a howitzer shell had pitched clean into it, killing both of them. During the day shells fell all around the pill-box, but not one made a direct hit on it.

At first Alec was buried in a battlefield grave (Ref: 28.J.9.d.00.10) with Major Poore, Lieutenant Campbell Colquhoun and another soldier killed that day, Private H Jones. In July 1923 their bodies were exhumed and he was identified by a ring engraved R. A. Casson. He was then reburied at Poelcapelle British Cemetery LV-F Grave 12 alongside the others.

Peter Merrill

Keep it in the habit

On Friday 15th September the church was turned into a makeshift cinema, a screen was erected and a show stopping hit film musical SISTER ACT (1992) starring Whoopi Goldberg was shown. A great family night was reported by all who attended in our beautiful sacred space.

The film storyline is all about a nightclub rock singer Deloris (Whoopi Goldberg) who finds herself surrounded by gangsters and has to be taken to a convent to hide and be protected by Nuns. Deloris finds herself with her new disguised "identity" as Sister Mary Clarence teaching the choir some new tunes much to the reluctance of the Mother Superior who is played wonderfully by Dame Maggie Smith. The storyline escalates into opening up the local almost disused church to hear the new choir of nuns singing their new tunes with a hip swing and a little rock n roll. Hit tunes such as Hail Holy Queen, My Guy (My God), I Will Follow Him (Chariot) to name a few are heard by local people who then start to fill the church.

73 tickets were sold, traditional popcorn on sale and even ice-creams during the interval. Local bars Cubar and Bar 6



also supported the event. Guests arrived in fancy dress ready to sing along with the nuns. Local flower man Steve donated a bouquet of flowers to the best dressed Nun.

A great fundraiser and successful idea to open St Mary's up to new people from the community as well as our own congregation. Thank you to

all those who supported and together we raised £905.

Do keep a lookout for our next Sing along family event. Suggestions so far are *The Sound of Music* and *Mamma Mia*.

Sally - PCC

Don't let the past make your decisions for today

Fantastic response and progress

Progress. Good progress has been made on 4 large hall windows and their surrounds which have been totally



renovated. The door facing the church is also complete.

The plywood sheets covering the doors on the cobbles side have been removed exposing the original paneling which we intend to bring back to its former glory. This will need some major repairs but, as this is the first thing most visitors to the hall see, it is felt this is the best course of action.

Volunteers. We are very grateful to the volunteers who have commenced

the work and whose numbers are growing. If anyone is interested could you please contact Brian Day (763716) or John Bottomley (768744).



Costs. Materials have been purchased and will be needed in the future: wood, paint, brushes etc. These costs have been covered by your sponsorship. The current tally of items that have been sponsored is displayed in the hall and church and is:

8/20 large windows. 4/8 small windows. 1/3 large doors and 0/3 small doors.

Thank you very much to those who have sponsored so far it has enabled us to make excellent progress before winter arrives.

If you would like to consider sponsoring a window or door, half a window or part of a window please do give your clearly labelled donation to one of the church

giftaid

wardens or place in the donations box in church.

Commonwealth Graves Booklet

In September Pete Merrill and John Austin completed the booklet detailing the 14 Commonwealth Graves that are in our church yard. Publication of the booklet was ready for 1st October when the bell ringers placed the outstanding War Horse and handler in the remembrance corner of the church.

The comprehensive booklet " St Mary's Church Remembers" is available at the back of church for £5. All proceeds will be placed in church funds.





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

Wednesday 29th November 7 pm Craig Ogden **Classical guitarists**

St Mary's Church Hall

and spotlight concert with local young musicians

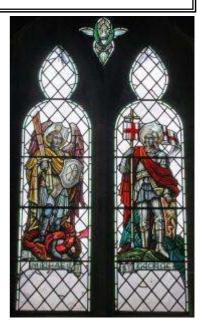
www.sandbach-concert-series.co.uk

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

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

Be a stained-glass window

People are like stained glass windows. We glow and sparkle when it is sunny and bright outside. But it is only when the sun goes down that our true beauty is revealed – and then only if there is a light deep within us – the light of God.



Christ the King

C unday 26th November is \mathbf{O} the last Sunday in the Church liturgical year - Advent Sunday is on 3rd December. The liturgical year loosely follows the life of Christ from his conception and birth at Christmas, his crucifixion and his rising from the dead at Easter, to being recognised as Christ the King – the king of all nations and all people who choose to accept him into their lives and who allow the Holy Spirit of God to not only be within them but to work through them. It is very apt, therefore that the final Sunday of the Christian year is all about celebrating and thanking God for Christ's kingship.

The title, Christ the King, is not always easy to understand and if you search online for its meaning you will find several, mostly helpful explanations:

Christ's kingship is rooted in the Church's teaching on the Incarnation. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both the divine Lord and the man who suffered and died on the Cross. One person of the Trinity unites himself to human nature and reigns over all creation as the Incarnate Son of God.

An alternative for children: Christ is not only a King, he is also a shepherd. He takes care of us and looks for us when we are lost. He has always been the King of everyone, and he will remain the King of all. He is a different King to worldly kings and governments.

A more in-depth explanation: He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, 'as instruments of justice unto God.' - Quas primas, 33

Clean Team

We are looking for volunteers who love to clean. If this is you and you could spare an hour or two during daylight hours then we would welcome your hard working support.



Please let any of the PCC members know if you can help or contact Ruth or Sally (759675).

High Flight

By John Gillespie Magee Jr Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings; Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds — and done a hundred things You have not dreamed of wheeled and soared and swung High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung My eager craft through footless halls of air

Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace Where never lark nor ever eagle flew— And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod The high untrespassed sanctity of space, Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

Churches together in Sandbach

This week we had a meeting of CTiS. I can't tell you how much I value this group and the way we are trying to be God's people together in a town we love.

There are so many wonderful joint ventures that come out of this united front: Foodbank, Pantry, Life Line and hopefully very soon, connected more officially with our church, the Baby Library.

We also come together at the major festivals to worship together and to serve the community and are already looking forward to 'carols on the cobbles' and making plans for Christmas Day celebrations.

Perhaps you don't know much about CTiS but is it something you feel like you want to be more involved in? Do come and talk to me. Maybe you would like to know some practical ways you



can help. Here are a few opportunities to do that.

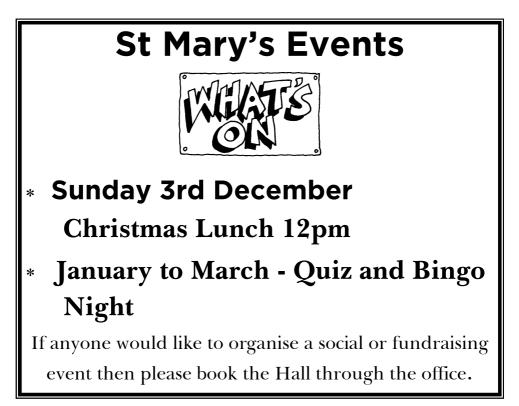
Life Line is looking for a few more people who would be willing to train as 'money mentors'. People who come alongside those referred to Life Line and journey with them as they make changes to better their financial outlook. (training is provided) Please contact Kath Cliffe on kacliffe@hotmail.co.uk **The Baby Library** is currently working from St Mary's hall. Due to changes in circumstances we are taking more responsibility for this brilliant concept. Reusing and passing on clothes and accessories for children aged 0-5 years old.

It's a way of caring for the environment and preventing unnecessary waste. No money is exchanged, so it really is available to all. With time and energy there is much scope for this to develop further.

If you want to get involved in this project then please do get in touch with me.

Thank you.

Bee



Souling Day

J ohn Higgins came across the article below, published in the Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser on 22 Apr 1865 when looking up newspaper reports. Our All Souls service is on Thursday 2nd November.

"Souling" Day. — Yesterday (Thursday) being "souling" day, groups of boys and girls perambulated the streets of the town, halted at various residences, and sang hymns, songs, &c., for which they received presents in the shape of pence, fruit, cakes, and sweets. Each year we notice that the old-fashianed " souling" song is rapidly going out; indeed, very few now sing it. Last night a number of adults in groups went a "souling" for what they could get, and judging from their convivial appearance some of them evidently considered it a pleasant and profitable diversion.





N ovember is mostly about expressing our gratitude to those who have gone before us. The month begins with All Souls and All Saints Days when we remember and pray for the faithful Christians who served in our Churches and our communities in the past.

This thanksgiving is closely followed by Remembrance Day (Saturday 11 November) and Remembrance Sunday on 12 November, when the whole nation expresses its gratitude to those who have served and still serve in the armed forces protecting us and many others around the world.

Some thoughts about Gratitude and Remembrance

'As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.' **John F Kenney** 'We sleep peaceably in our beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on our behalf,' – George Orwell

'The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.' – **Benjamin Disraeli**

'You may hate the war, but never hate the ones that fight. For they do not choose when or where to fight. All they chose was to protect who they love and even the people they don't know.' – **Millie**

Piglet, Winnie-the-Pooh's best friend, observed 'that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude.'

Gratitude is a state of mind that comes from our spirit and is a combination of wonder, appreciation, and the readiness to respond by saying thank you, which itself is an act of returning kindness to someone else.

When someone says thank you to you, you are usually left with a nice warm feeling that whatever you did to deserve it was appreciated. Rabbi Harold Kusner says this about that warm feeling: 'If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul.'

How much better would our world be today if more people took the time to nurture the souls of others by simply saying thank you!



We are looking for someone who may be able to help out occasionally at funerals. Duties are mainly supporting the officiating clergy, undertakers and family, to ensure the smooth running of the funeral. It is all very straightforward and

full training would be given.

There is a small fee payable for your time. Availability on Mondays would be particularly useful.

If you would like to know more – please have a chat with Sheenagh or I, or drop us an email on

warden.smcsandbach@gmail.com

Thank you.

Ruth

Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize how big and important they were

Parishes are still "at our very heart"

William Nye, the Church of England's Secretary General, said: "Local parish churches are at the very heart of the Church of England's mission and over the next nine years we are investing £3.6 billion of Church Commissioners funds in front-line ministry up and down the land, focusing particularly on those communities most in need."

This vision was emphasized on 19th October at the Deanery Synod meeting in our church. Personnel from the Diocese gave a variety of presentations setting out their vision for the future. From a consultation of people in the Diocese this list was produced:

What are we hearing and what is important to us?

We believe in the Gospel

- **We believe in the local and seek transformation**
 - We care about the environment, locally and globally
 - We want to engage with young people and the "disconnected"
 - We want to do bigger, bolder things together, simply

• The 1.5 million people in our diocese matter We want to build new communities of faith

In the coming months we will be given resources and help to articulate the vision in our parish.

From the Archives



This month we are in Elworth looking along Hill Street to London Rd and on the right the recently built Valley Court apartments. In the lower image we are back to 1987 when we still had the EITB (Engineering Industry Training Board) training centre that had previously been Foden's apprentice training centre that closed in 1981. **Stephen Minshull**



A s part of his research into the history of St Mary's, John Higgins has recently been making notes from PCC minutes between 1940 and 1980. To speed up the typing of his notes he has used the

speech-to-text facility on his computer - but sometimes with unexpected results!

Mr Meredith has been organised for a long time. [organist]

Resolved to have some hitting in the belfry tower. [heating]

A suggestion to use some hymns from the method in Timbuktu. [from the Methodist Hymn Book]

Mr Bostock of The Ring o' Bells to receive £26 per animal to wind the church clock. [per annum]

Older quiet boys to be paid 35p per month and younger ones 30p. [choirboys]

The Rural Dean introduced the incumbent-designate the Revd. Battle of Rugby. [Basil Rigby]

The Vicar thanked the crime master for the improvement in singing. [choirmaster]

It was resolved to sell the Virgin's house in Hope Street. [Verger's house]

The Vicar said he would like to have more late participation in the services. [lay participation]

Church Contacts

•••••••••••		
Vicar	Rev Bee Boyde	07872
	revbeeboyde@gmail.com	326008
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	Ruth Morrison warden.smcsandbach@gmail.com	$\begin{array}{c} 07411 \\ 610962 \end{array}$
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Weddings	smcsandbach@gmail.com	$\begin{array}{c} 07771 \\ 391667 \end{array}$
Organist & Choirmaster	Kevin Birch kevinbirch60@gmail.com	760778
Magazine Editor	John Bottomley jandhbottomley@gmail.com	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 November

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



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-	e deadline er edition	Church Information There's plenty of information on our new website
	ay 17th ember	www.stmaryschurchsandbach.org SandbachChurch Office 07771 391667
U		St Mary's Church, High Street Sandbach, CW11 1AN
	Booth Funeral rvice	Advertise Here
-	TORS & MEMORIAL JLTANTS Floral Tributes Memorials	Just <u>£54 for the year</u>
60 The Hill Sandbach	17 Macclesfield Rd Holmes Chapel	Contact the editor for more information
		for more information

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