

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley  
Parish Magazine*



*A Church of England Parish  
February 2017  
Price 50p*



*Welcome to the Church of  
St Edmund,  
King & Martyr, Dudley*



**Mass Times**

**Wednesday 12.15pm**

**Sundays 11.00am**

**The church is open on Thursday Mornings from  
10.30am to 12 noon**

*Church Wardens*

*Anne Mullaney - 01384 235654  
Adrian Baillie*

*Treasurer*

*Jon Harcourt - 01384 256050*

*Secretary to PCC*

*Mary McGraghan - 01384 252628*

*Organist & Choir Master*

*Reg Baxter - 01384 820446*

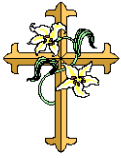
*Magazine Editorial Team*

*Janet Lambert, Mary McGraghan,  
Jon Harcourt*

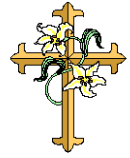
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[www.stedmundsdudley.org.uk](http://www.stedmundsdudley.org.uk)

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## IN REMEMBRANCE FEBRUARY



1st	Minnie White Bert Hadley
2nd	Doris Christie Cotterill
3rd	Alfred Joseph Daffy
4th	William Norman Read Bill Brown Daisy Manning
6th	Carrie Harris Frank Leighton Dovey Harry Ratcliffe
8th	William Henry Morris
9th	John Bernard Watson
11 <sup>th</sup>	Wilfred Poultney
14th	Leonard Cotton
17th	Dorothy Minnie Tooze
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mildred Harris
21 <sup>st</sup>	Albert Hingley
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bernadette Mary Overton
23rd	Victor Palmer Wallace
24 <sup>th</sup>	Fanny Dodd Norman Lambert (Priest)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Marshall Thomas Webster
28th	Joseph Cox

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Would you like to remember a loved one on their anniversary  
by sponsoring a floral display in church?  
If so, please have a word with Mrs Dodd.

## Boxes



I am asked these days if I'm looking forward to leaving. It's not a question I can answer honestly without risking hurting people's feelings but when I see the house now filling up with boxes it begins to reach the point when you know that home is no longer what once it was and you are on the move. The move is still ahead of me as I write and yet it has already begun. The attic is already cleared aside that is from empty packing boxes waiting to receive the electricals and other items that were kept safe within. I'm hoping that

with careful packing again, they will be ready to make their next journey. In case, reading this, you're unaware, I begin new ministry in Stoke on Trent on 25 March, Lady Day, the Feast of the Annunciation.

Deliveries and boxes are part of the modern world as white vans ply our streets with wares from online retailers. The box is unassuming and of no importance except that it holds within a treasured gift or possession. I'm reminded of the Amazon advert over Christmas that you may have seen as priest and imam exchange gifts purchased online (protectors to assist aching knees during prayer) and which arrive in simple brown boxes.

The English word 'box' derives from the Greek word 'pyx' and the Greek word retains an ecclesiastical meaning; the pyx is a small container, perhaps in silver, used to hold the holy sacrament as it is carried by the priest from the tabernacle, aumbry or altar and taken to sick at home or hospital. Again, the container is only of importance for what it holds, the bread of the Eucharist, the body of Christ.

The box tree is in Greek 'buxos' which suggest that boxes were originally made from boxwood. In Jamaica, it used to be the case that every home would have a 'box' out the back in the shed. Indeed, it was customary to make your own box, the box in question being, of course, the coffin. I never found this remotely morbid but a very down to earth spirituality that would accept there here, as folk tend to say, "we're all just passing through."

Life ends for us in the box; a sign surely of the reverence with which we continue to hold the human body. St Paul writes, "We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." (2 Corinthians 4.7) He might have said that we are ourselves the box to hold a transcendent treasure. Elsewhere he speaks of us being temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3.16).

It seems that in the ancient world writing tablets were made of boxwood. A tablet was a 'puxion'. We're writing on each of our boxes in the hope of finding things again afterwards. And if we can't find it afterwards? If some things never turn up? Then I guess we can live without them. To be sure, there are no boxes (or sacraments for that matter) in heaven. They are signs here of being on the move, of for the time being us 'just passing through'. Once we arrive we don't need boxes any more.

Andrew

# **FEBRUARY**

## **READERS**

5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs D. Dodd Mr J Fraser
12 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A. Mullaney Mr M. Wisbey
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mr R. Baxter Mrs J. Lambert
26 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M. McGraghan Mr M. Clews
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mr A. Baillie Mr J. Harcourt

## **INTERCESSORS**

5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M. McGraghan
12 <sup>th</sup>	Mr M. Clews
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mr J. Harcourt
26 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J. Lambert
March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Lambert

### **Canon Andrew Wickens**

The letter on the previous page is the last one we shall have from Fr Andrew. Over the years he has provided us with many thought provoking letters and we thank him for them. He has also supported St Edmund's and helped us in many ways, taking services, attending PCC meetings and giving advice, particularly on the very complicated subject of the Chancel Repair liability. He has been active in many areas of life in Dudley: education, Interfaith network and many others. He and Caroline will be much missed. As he starts a new ministry in Stoke on Trent we send him our love and best wishes.

## LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER



Andreas Whittam Smith is best known as the man who started the Independent newspaper. Equally significantly, as First Estates Commissioner, he has effectively 'run' the Church Commissioners for quite a few years – and done so brilliantly. He's stepping down soon and late last year he addressed the House of Bishops. I was struck by what he said – that he feels more hopeful about the Church of England now than he has done for a long time.

That's quite something coming from a seasoned old hack like Andreas and I found it very encouraging. Why did he feel so hopeful? He felt the Church is at long last waking up to the fact that 'business as usual' is no longer an option and, more than that, is taking bold and innovative steps to reform and renew.

The scale of the challenge is enormous: The proportion of people in our country who have much understanding of the Christian faith, let alone practise it, is declining fast. What is needed is nothing less than the re-evangelisation of England. That's not an invitation to despair though, but a challenge to which, in the power of the living God, we can rise.

One exciting development in our diocese is the *Calling Young Disciples* project. Ruth Walker, its director, has already begun her ministry here and three Mission Enablers have already been appointed and will be taking up their posts soon. I hope and pray that their ministry will bear much fruit – not just to reverse the 'institutional decline' of the Church but bring people to a vibrant faith in the living God revealed in Jesus.

The renewal of the Church is not just up to them though; responsibility for it lies with us all. Please pray that we may all, as Kingdom People, fulfil our vocation to witness effectively to God's great love for everyone in Christ. May He make us instruments of his love, his compassion, his justice and His freedom.

+John

## ***From the Food Bank***

At the start of 2017 I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of you as churches for your continued support of Refresh.

I find it so encouraging that this joint mission venture has served our community well for six and a half years to date. I do believe that no one church would be able to achieve what we can do together. I am often reminded of the prayer Jesus prayed for us in John chapter 17 where he asked that we be brought into complete unity.

During 2016 Refresh fed a total of 2427 people in comparison with 2525 the previous year. December being our highest month of the year, in which we fed 307 people.

Although we are over the busy Christmas period we will still need donations to enable us to see people through the winter season.

Please continue to pray for wisdom as we seek not only to feed them physically, but also help them spiritually by showing the love of Jesus in word and deed.

Once again, many thanks to those of you who release volunteers and also for the donations that we are so grateful for.

Love in Jesus

Joy Parkes

Lead Co-ordinator ay Refresh/Food Bank

**Women's World Day of Prayer**

**Friday 3rd March**

**United Reformed Church at 10am**



## **CHURCHES TOGETHER** Notes from Churches Together in Dudley

### ***Street pastors Scheme***

CTD is looking into the possibility of setting up a Street Pastors group. This is only in the investigation stage at the moment. This would involve the support of at least four or five churches, and training is essential. For those who have not heard of this, it involves the monitoring of streets at night, mainly at weekends, where there is sometimes trouble involving the over indulgence of alcohol, also for homeless people. This is in a helpful and supportive way: providing water, flip flops to replace high heels, protection of those who may be at risk. Generally the police are very supportive, as crime rates are reduced. This could be an exciting new venture for CTD.

They ask for your prayers.

### ***Good Friday***

The usual Act of Witness in Churchill precinct.

### ***Food Bank***

There is a report elsewhere in the magazine, but we were informed that the needs of *families* has increased.

They would be pleased to have more volunteers at the distribution centre.

### ***Church History***

CTD would like to visit churches willing to participate, to learn about their history and to pray with them. (We hope they will come to St Edmund's.)

### ***Christian Unity Service***

will be on Sunday 18th June at 4pm. Venue to be advised, maybe outside?

### ***Chaplaincy***

Is looking for a new vision.



## Silence



Martin Scorsese's new film *Silence* is, let it be said at the outset, in the "hard to watch" category. Based on the novel by the Japanese

Roman Catholic writer, Shusaku Endo, the film narrates the fate of a Jesuit missionary to Japan in the 17th Century, one Fr. Sebastião Rodrigues. Reports have reached him that one of his fellow Jesuits has committed apostasy. As Rodrigues sets about witnessing to the gospel, he finds his faith challenged in ways he had never anticipated.

As the plot unravels, Rodrigues comes up against the brutal suppression of Christian faith by the Japanese authorities. The Jesuit mission has been successful in attracting local converts yet those same Japanese Christians have been subjected to appalling treatment. It's through their plight that Rodrigues is to learn the secret of his predecessor's apostasy. Although as a Jesuit he is well aware of the prospect of martyrdom, the Japanese missionary context proves

unprecedented in its challenge. In Japan he encounters the silence of God - the title of the book and film.

It's not, in fact, the threat of his own death that proves to be his undoing. Rodrigues is made instead to witness the martyrdom of his Japanese converts. Their torture and death he can avert simply by placing his foot on an image of the crucified Christ that the authorities present to him. By renouncing his own faith, and only so, can he save those who are ready to offer their lives as martyrs to the faith.

It's an impossible dilemma that's only resolved when Rodrigues hears the crucified Christ speak to him: "You may trample. You may trample. I more than anyone know of the pain in your foot. You may trample. It was to be trampled on by men that I was born into this world. It was to share men's pain that I carried my cross."

Scorsese's film was premiered in the Vatican before Christmas and, of course, Pope Francis is himself the first Jesuit pontiff in history.

In his first encyclical, EVANGELII GAUDIUM (Joy of the Gospel), Francis writes these words:

“A missionary heart ... makes itself “weak with the weak... everything for everyone” (1 Cor 9:22). It never closes itself off, never retreats into its own security, never opts for rigidity and defensiveness. It realizes that it has to grow in its own understanding of the Gospel, ... even if in the process, its shoes get soiled by the mud of the street.”

They are words that chime with the experience of Rodrigues in the film and perhaps for all of us as we seek to witness faithfully to Christ, to do so with compassion, without defensiveness. Perhaps it's only by such means that we can truly let God be God and find joy in the gospel.

Andrew

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- St Augustine's:** Mondays during Lent - Bible Studies at 10.00am
- 12th April:** Spy Wednesday team service 10:00 at St Francis
- 13th April:** Maundy Thursday Agape Meal 7.30pm at St Francis
- 14th April:** Easter Garden at St Barnabas 9.30am.

Do remember to send through news of events for sharing with other parishes.

Copy for the March Edition to Tom or Andrew by 10th February - please use 'DCN' in the subject box of emails.

### **Contact information**

More information is available on the website: [www.cofedudley.org.uk](http://www.cofedudley.org.uk)

Revd Joanna Anderson 01384-838695 [revjoannacam@gmail.com](mailto:revjoannacam@gmail.com)

Revd Dr Tom Atfield 01384-836480 [tomatfield@virginmedia.com](mailto:tomatfield@virginmedia.com)

Revd Andrew Wickens 01384-214487 [astljwickens@gmail.com](mailto:astljwickens@gmail.com)

You're invited to a:

## **Farewell Tea Party**

with



**Canon Andrew Wickens**  
**and family**



**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Drop by anytime

From 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm

(presentations at 4.30 pm)

Central Methodist Church (upper room)

Cross Street, Dudley DY1 1RW

Donations in lieu of gifts to CFED and DBIN – local charities that Andrew has supported

Andrew will be presiding at a team Eucharist at St James on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30 am and a final service at St Thomas & St Luke (Top Church) on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 am

All welcome



<b>Rota for Feb-17</b>	<b>St Augustine</b>	<b>St Barrabas</b>	<b>St Francis</b>	<b>St James</b>	<b>St Thomas</b>	<b>St Edmund's</b>	<b>St John's</b>
	<b>11:00</b>	<b>09:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>09:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>10:00</b>
<b>05-Feb</b>	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
	<b>Rev'd Dr T. Atfield</b>	<b>Rev'd Dr T. Atfield</b>	<b>Rev J. Anderson</b>	<b>Rev J. Anderson</b>	<b>Canon A. Wickens</b>	<b>Canon G Lyall</b>	<b>Fr M Brain</b>
4th Sunday before Lent	---	---	---	---	Evening Prayer @ 6.30 pm	---	---
					<b>Mrs M. Clift</b>		
<b>12-Feb</b>	Team Service (Holy Communion) at St James at 10.30 am						
	<b>Canon A. Wickens</b>						<b>Fr M Brierley</b>
3rd Sunday before Lent	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>19-Feb</b>	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
	<b>Rev'd Dr T. Atfield</b>	<b>Rev'd Dr T. Atfield</b>	<b>Rev J. Anderson</b>	<b>Rev J. Anderson</b>	<b>Canon A. Wickens</b>	<b>Fr A Mottram</b>	<b>Fr M Brain</b>
2nd Sunday before Lent	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
<b>26-Feb</b>	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Service of the Word	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
	<b>Rev'd Dr T. Atfield</b>	<b>Rev'd Dr T. Atfield</b>	<b>Rev J. Anderson</b>	<b>Rev J. Anderson</b>	<b>Mrs M. Clift</b>	<b>Fr J Oakes</b>	<b>Fr M Brain</b>
Sunday before Lent	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays: St Francis 10.00 am; St Thomas & St Luke 10.15 am; St Edmund's 12.15 pm.

NB Rota is subject to change—latest info is at [www.cofedudley.org.uk](http://www.cofedudley.org.uk)

Our February meeting will be a House Mass, which we traditionally have at this time of year. It will be on:

**Monday 20th February at 3pm at Mrs Dodd's home.**

This will be good way on which to embark on the year ahead with various speakers, social events and other meetings.

The Mothers' Union theme for this year is: **Faith in Action.** Jean Swift, an MU speaker and Diocesan outreach co-ordinator will be coming to speak to us about this in May. In the meantime, there will be other interesting talks and meetings.

The new sales catalogue is now available with Easter cards and many other items to be ordered. If anyone would like to order from it, MU member or not, please ask me.

Mary

### **Sylvia Baxter**

Sylvia was not an attender at St Edmund's , but was the wife of our organist, Reg. Sylvia attended Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury RC church and when her health had permitted it, was an active member of the congregation . She was on the reading rota, and was known to advise the priests when she felt it was needed!

I first came in contact with Sylvia many years ago, when needing some advice on local Girl Guide groups; she was a guide commissioner and had previously run Brownie groups. The number of people at her funeral was an indication of the love and respect she inspired.

The eulogy was given by her grand-daughter Emma, and it was clear that she was a much loved mother and grandmother. We send our love and sympathy to Reg, and his daughters, Theresa and Sarah.

*Pray for me, as I for thee  
That merrily we may meet in heaven*

**HOW CAN LIFE GO ON?** Is a title not thought out by me, and will have separate and poignant meanings to individuals.



However, that was the theme for 2017 Holocaust Memorial Day at the end of January.

By the time you read this, the day will have happened, and many of us will have joined hundreds of others of all creeds, religions, atheists and all ages, joining together to remember the dreadful events of the Holocaust.

A few days before typing this article, I watched Antiques Road Show on BBC 1. A programme I enjoy, and often wondered why I didn't have a priceless work of art or jewellery or artefact screaming 'I'm worth a fortune'. But this showing on the 15th January was different.

It brought tears to my eyes – and hopefully, if you saw it, to yours also.

All the items shown were memorabilia from the horrors of the death and concentration camps created by the evil Nazi regime as a means of extermination for any group of human beings they considered to be impure. Pieces of yellow cloth with the Star of David; the pyjama like striped suits so many of us have seen in the grainy flickering of films shot at Liberation, hanging on the skin and bones of the poor souls who somehow managed to live just a little while longer.

Memories by survivors, retelling of how they survived the horrors, and the stories of those who risked their own lives to help them. Photographs of family they never knew and or would never see again.

The dreadful thing is that some 60 odd years later the rise of extremism is happening again in Europe and in the USA. Not yet with any power, but in some areas having great influence on weak governments. In our Lord's time this same evil existed, perhaps under different guises, but was there.

The Jews were a favourite and very often easy target for the Nazis, who wanted to achieve their total extermination. The gas chambers did not recognise the Jews or the socialists or gipsy or homosexual.

In different forms this has gone on many times throughout the ages – and still does today! The name today is ethnic cleansing (remember Kosovo? The Kurds in Iraq?)

Throughout all this, not every person in Nazi Germany was a murderer or Nazi following the party line.

Many like you or me helped shelter, feed the starving and the refugee from the Ghettos. Anne Frank? Your next door neighbour?

Frank Foley, born in Somerset, was the passport officer in Berlin, although in reality he was the head of the secret service there. His undercover activities directly saved the lives of over 10,000 Jews, but in reality, many more. When Frank retired in 1948 he moved to Stourbridge where he and his wife lived unassuming lives until he died in 1958. If you visit Jerusalem see his name at Yad Vashem as a "Righteous Among the Nations".

In 2016 the theme for Holocaust was 'Don't stand by'.

In 2017 the theme for Holocaust is 'How Can Life Go On?'

Life does go on, but we should not forget or be allowed to forget the events of the Holocaust.

See you in 2018, unless the hand on the trigger presses the wrong button.

JH.



Frank Foley



Yad Vashem

## Café @ the Old Palace

If you're visiting Worcester, why not pop in to the Café at the diocesan office (The Old Palace, Deansway) for morning coffee or lunch.

Open Monday – Friday, 10am – 2.30pm (lunch served between midday and 2pm) the Café offers a range of food at very reasonable prices.

**All are welcome**

On Thursdays join the diocesan office staff as they worship together from 12.30 – 1pm.

*The café is a Worcester BID Gold award winner for customer service.*

## Services for February 2017

<b>Wednesday 1st</b>	<b>Fr Andrew Mottram</b>
<b>Sunday 5th:</b>	<b>Canon Graham Lyall</b>
<b>Wednesday 8th:</b>	<b>Canon Andrew Wickens</b>
<b>Sunday 12th:</b>	<b>Fr Michael Brierley</b>
<b>Wednesday 15th:</b>	<b>Fr Andrew Mottram</b>
<b>Sunday 19th:</b>	<b>Fr Andrew Mottram</b>
<b>Wednesday 22nd:</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Sunday 26th:</b>	<b>Fr John Oakes</b>

Give us Lord, a bit o'sun, bit o'work and a bit of fun  
Give us all in the struggle and sputter  
Our daily bread and a bit o'butter;  
Give us health, our keep to make  
and a bit to spare for others sake;  
Give us sense, for we're some of us duffers,  
An' a heart to feel for all that suffers.  
Give us too a bit of a song and a tale and a book to help us along,  
An' give us our share o' sorrows lesson  
That we may prove how grief's a blessin'  
Give us Lord, a chance to be our goodly best, brave, wise and  
free.  
Our goodly best for our self and others,  
'til all men learn to live like brothers.



## Holy Days in February 2017

**2nd February Candlemas - presentation of Christ in the temple**

**5th February St Agatha**

**14th February St Valentine**

**28th February St Oswald of Worcester**

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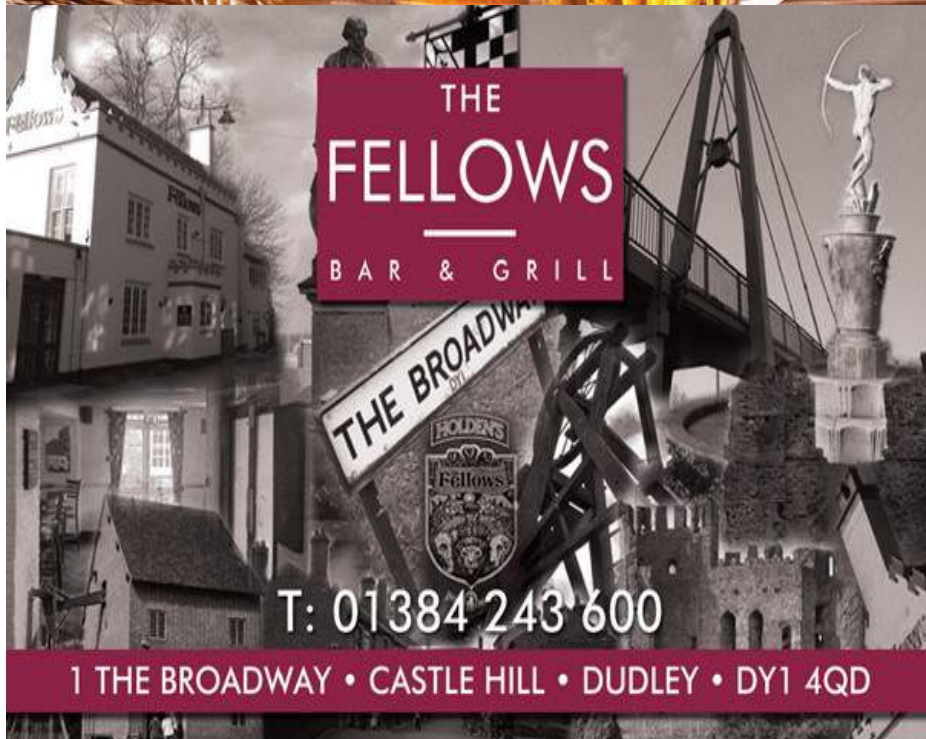
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