

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley
Parish Magazine*



*A Church of England Parish
March 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**

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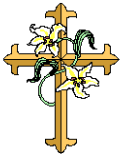
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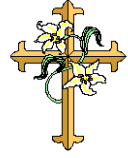
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IN REMEMBRANCE MARCH



5 th	Mary Josephine Vizer
6 th	Cissian Tilley
8 th	Marjorie Harries
9 th	Derek Hadlington Joyce Stephenson
11 th	Beatrice Una Jones
13 th	Phoebe Jane Cherrington
14 th	Jessie Sefton Harry Degenhard
16 th	William Harris Gladys Griffiths
17 th	Frank Scholey
20 th	William Millard
21 st	Clifford Tromans
23 rd	Josephine Trotman
25 th	George Martin Hall Elsie Trotman Margaret Robinson Bertha Whitehouse
26 th	Albert Moore
28 th	John Trotman Joyce Colston

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.

Letter from the Bishop of Dudley, Bishop Graham Usher



Judging by various conversations that I've been having, I'm not alone in feeling increasingly concerned by the rhetoric of building walls, putting those we describe as 'us' first, segregating people by religion, and the damning of journalists and judges that we have seen in aspects of world affairs in recent months. None of this chimes with the values of the Kingdom.

News events tend to draw out different aspects of the liturgy for me. It might be a verse in a psalm, or words in a Collect, that have a particular resonance. At present, a prayer at the heart of the Eucharist has taken on a yearning desire:

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

What the prayer does is allow me to hold before God's presence all that troubles me on the world stage. However, it soon reminds me of my own human preponderance to divide and protect, exclude and judge. Its penitential words hollow out my own culpabilities so that I might see myself more truly.

This is what Lent does on a larger canvas. Penitence is a theme that runs through this season and it enables us to be changed as we see love, compassion, justice and freedom as they should be. Lenten penitence brings us back to the way of Jesus, to his disturbing yet comforting teaching, and our faltering ways of responding. It helps us see things as they truly are and live deeply again.

As we are drawn to live more closely within Jesus' shadow, we are led into all types of situations and places as we attempt to respond to his call, 'Come, follow me'. For many that will lead to being scorned and thought of as barmy or uncool. For many others around the world it is a deliberate positioning of themselves in a place of grave danger where imprisonment, torture and death stalk the streets.

We who worship in comparative safety will keep wanting to respond to the news headlines in ways that put flesh and blood onto the words "thy Kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven".

MARCH

READERS

5th	Mr A. Baillie Mr J. Harcourt
12 th	Mrs J. Fraser Mr M. Simpson
19 th	Mr M. Wisbey Mrs A. Mullaney
26 th	Mrs J. Lambert Mrs D. Dodd
April 2 nd	Mr R. Baxter Mrs M. McGraghan

INTERCESSORS

5th	Mrs J Lambert
12 th	Mrs M. McGraghan
19 th	Mr M. Clews
26 th	Mr J. Harcourt
April 2 nd	Mrs J. Lambert

Please volunteer to join the reading and prayer rotas!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold and more just.

Pope Francis

From Fr Tom Atfield

This May, the first episode of the third series of the rather bizarre American TV mystery show *Twin Peaks* will broadcast, after an impressive twenty five year gap following the broadcast of the end of series two. What is more remarkable still was that this quarter-century gap was planned; the second series ends with the main character, a stoic detective, being dragged away to be held in a spartan, red-curtained other-dimensional prison while another character says to them "I'll see you in twenty five years." The production team behind *Twin Peaks* turned down several opportunities to make series three in the quarter century since the second series ended, waiting instead until they could match the show's broadcast dates with the show's established timeline. To do so showed remarkable confidence in their own product, and also a lot of hope that circumstances would allow this. And circumstances did; almost all of the thirty seven main cast members of the show were able to reprise their role (with the notable exception of David Bowie, who alas died mere weeks before he was scheduled to film his scenes). We could learn much from the patience, optimism and determination of the producers of *Twin Peaks* as Anglicans in Dudley today. In the fast-paced, fickle and utterly unpredictable world of television, *Twin Peaks'* producers stuck by the integrity of their product and had confidence in it, repeatedly turning down offers to produce something compromised, rushed or watered-down. In a religious landscape which can be as commercialised and fad-ridden as television, we likewise would do well to recognise the value of our 'product'- our traditional Anglican worship and ways of being church together, and have confidence in it. While it is good when we explore together new ways of worshipping and being church, to abandon entirely our historic forms of worship, and the distinct markers that make the church of England the church of England with its structure, creeds, and liturgy would show a distinct lack of confidence in being Anglican. There is a lot to be admired about anyone who waits for twenty five years before launching the next instalment in a long-running series. We can feel very pressured into making short-term decisions and feel overwhelmed by the pace of change in the world in which we live, and so sometimes reminders that things can genuinely wait a little (or a lot) longer are welcome. And finally, the remarkable hope that the show's producers had that they could re-assemble cast and crew after such a long time shows something about having faith that things will someday, somehow, be good and allow our work to continue. Lady Julian of Norwich reminds us that "*all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well*"; the makers of *Twin Peaks* remind us of the same.

St Edmund's Magazine - 100th edition

For as long as I have been coming to St Edmund's, there has been a magazine, except for a gap of a few years earlier this century. The previous editors that I remember were Mr Ronnie Dodd, and Mrs Sue Williams who both produced interesting and informative publications. They have been hard acts to follow.

There was a pause in production when we were supposed to share St Francis magazine, but this was not successful.

In 2008 Adrian Baillie agreed to take on the production of our own magazine again. This he continued until 2010 when he became part of an editorial team.

The magazine has evolved over the years to the way it is today. The point of all this, is that this is the 100th edition of the magazine since it was restarted. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way by way of articles and pictures and technical assistance. This includes the clergy who produce letters, often at short notice (like one day!) Also Jon for the same.

If you would like to write something for the magazine or have found something interesting you would like to share, please pass it on.

MMcG

Mothers' Union

Many thanks to Fr Michael Brierley for celebrating a House Mass for us in February. I had asked him to give us some inspiring words for the year ahead. Instead, he said that to take one day at a time would be better. Fr Brierley used the third collect for Grace from Morning Prayer in the Book of Common Prayer:

O Lord our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; defend us in the same with thy mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This prayer was originally in the office of Prime, said at the first hour of the day.

This month's meeting will be on:
Monday 13th March at 3pm. At Mrs Dodd's home.
For the Wave of Prayer.

MMcG

TELEVISION DRAMA.



After the branch meeting of St Edmund's Mothers' Union recently, whilst we enjoyed tea and coffee and nibbles, conversation moved to television programmes. As with many light hearted conversations, we flitted around what is happening on the soaps, and at this stage I must confess that the only soap that interests me is the lightly scented one used in block form on the bathroom sink or going round and round in my washing machine.

But what did arise was a discussion on that very popular programme from the Sunday night before our Mothers' Union meeting (yes, I am a member) 'Call the Midwife'. Generally most people of our group either watched or had seen the programme. 'Call the Midwife' has been around for few years now, and is set in the East End of London in the 1950s and 60s. A gentle drama, with nuns and nurses (midwives). The writing of this occasionally tugs on the heart strings, dwelling on the poverty in the post war London slums. It also very cleverly looks not only at social deprivation, but also medicine and health care, particularly at new drugs and advancement in 'new' treatments. I know it is only a TV programme but the sets normally do not seem to represent the poverty of that era.

I vaguely remember some of the dreadful areas around Dudley and Oldbury with little back to backs and courtyards, and many of you, like me, lived and survived that time in our life.

Some years ago I visited the wonderful Black Country Living Museum, and one comment still lives with me. Overhearing a couple talking in one of the re-constructed tiny houses, the comment was – "how lovely and cosy this room is; wouldn't it have been nice living here."

No, it wasn't, and thank God most of it has disappeared! Or has it? Or don't we and some of the politicians want to know the reality of life in the back streets of our cities,

So, off my soapbox, (get the pun?) and back to 'call the midwife.' Now in its 6th series, I haven't learned anything, and even if I was faced with helping someone give birth apart from holding their hand and saying "there, there, deary, everything will be fine. Now push" I would be totally hopeless, so I hope it never happens. Pity the poor woman if it does!

Life was tough in the 50s and 60s, it wasn't all bad – and I am happy to say that I love this programme. Hope it doesn't qualify as a 'soap'.

J.H.



The Desert waits,
Ready for those who come,
Who come obedient to the Spirit's leading
Or who are driven,
Because they will not come any other way.

The desert always waits
Ready to let us know who we are
The place of self-discovery.

And whilst we fear, and rightly,
The loneliness and emptiness and harshness
We forget the angels
Whom we cannot see for our blindness
But who come when God decides
That we need their help;
When we are ready
For what they can give us.

(Ruth Burgess)

This year, the season of Lent begins on March 1st. and it starts with a call to the desert, the wilderness. That is where Jesus began his ministry and we begin our journey into Lent.

For Jesus it was a real desert- a place of stones and dryness and endless dusty landscape. A place filled with wild and prowling creatures and nowhere to hide. A place of burning heat by day and freezing cold by night. Not a place to choose to stay - yet, Jesus was almost literally thrown out into the desert, to face his own temptations. Temptations that he took head on and overcame with responses deeply rooted in his trust that he is dependent on God rather than self for life, glory, and identity. That understanding was born within him as he faced the desert, the wilderness.

If we look at this desert we are bound to recognize it. We have all had desert times of loss, hurt, abandonment, dryness, emptiness, loneliness. Wildernesses come in so many shapes and forms, and the only way you can really tell you are in one is to look around for what you normally count on to save your life and come up empty. No food. No earthly power.

No special protection. Needless to say, this is not a situation many of us seek. Most of us, in fact, spend a lot of time and money trying to avoid it; but I don't know anyone who succeeds at that entirely or forever.

That could sound like bad news, but I don't think it is. I think it is good news-- because even if no one ever wants to go there, and even if those of us who end up there want out again as soon as possible, the wilderness is still one of the most reality-based, spirit-filled, life-changing places a person can be. The experience of Jesus proves that to us. What being in the wilderness did for him was to set him free :-

- from attempts to distract him from his true purpose,
- from hungry craving for things with no power to give him life,
- from any illusion he might have had that God would make his choices for him.

After forty days in the wilderness, Jesus had not only learned to manage his appetites; he had also learned to trust the Spirit who had led him there to lead him out again, with the kind of clarity and grit he could not have found anywhere else.

I wonder if this Lent you and I might be more open to a desert time and the gifts that lie within it ?

Revd. Joanna Anderson

Churchwardens' Admission Service June 2017

This year's admission service will take place on

Tuesday 6th June at St Thomas,

Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AQ, commencing at 7.30 pm.

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 April Edition to Tom by 10th March - please use 'DCN' in the subject box of emails.

St James's Church

Dickens Evening in the crypt

Friday 3rd March 2017 at 7.30 pm

£3.00

**to include "Smoking Bishop" (Dickensian mulled wine)
and nibbles**

Raffle

Contact Janice Hickman 01384 231832

to book your place



" Give up stress for Lent "

Every Monday in Lent, 2 - 3pm at St. Francis Church, an hour of quiet and reflection - using breath work, music, Scripture and creative activities. Seeking the peace of Christ for ourselves and for the world.

Wear comfortable, loose clothing. "

Contact information

More information is available on the website: www.cofedudley.org.uk

Revd Joanna Anderson 01384-838695 revjoannacam@gmail.com

Revd Dr Tom Atfield 01384-836480 tomatfield@virginmedia.com

Rota for	St Augustine	St Barnabas	St Francis	St James	St Thomas	St Edmund	St John's
Mar-17	11:00	09:30	11:00	09:30	11:00	11:00	10:00
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Service of Word	Service of Word	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
05-Mar	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield			Rev J. Anderson	Canon G Lyall	Fr M Brain
1st Sunday of Lent							
	Service of Word	Service of Word	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
12-Mar	S Sharp	S Sharp	Rev J. Anderson	Rev J. Anderson	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Fr M Brierley	Fr M Brain
2nd Sunday of Lent							
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
19-Mar	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev J. Anderson	Rev J. Anderson	Rt Rev'd G. Usher	Fr A Motttram	Fr M Brain
3rd Sunday of Lent							
	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Service of Word	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
26-Mar	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev'd Dr T. Atfield	Rev J. Anderson	Rev J. Anderson	M Clift	Fr J Oakes	Fr M Brain
4th Sunday of 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

Fair Trade Fortnight - 27th February to 12th March



During Fair Trade Fortnight campaigners, businesses, schools and places of worship show their support for farmers and workers who grow our food in developing countries.

However hard farmers work to provide the things we depend on, millions in developing countries still aren't paid what they deserve. When we come together we can change the way people think about trade and the products on our shelves - the Fairtrade movement is made up of ordinary people doing extraordinary things in their communities for fair trade. Their actions help shoppers to make choices that change the lives of farmers and workers.

This year, the Fairtrade Foundation is encouraging people to take a Fairtrade break and take a moment over tea or coffee to think about whether they are feeding exploitation and how they can take action.

Edson Maotchedwe, from Malawi, is a Fairtrade tea farmer and father of seven. Edson's co-operative has invested Fairtrade Premium in building a maternity wing and school, a new bridge, clean water and an ambulance.

This was life-saving when two of Edson's children suffered from malaria. "I believe Fairtrade has already started playing a role in helping me realise the future for my children and children of our area," he says.

But there is more to do. "My thoughts almost every night are preoccupied by worries of how I can improve the welfare of my family. I have children and a wife to look after and it is difficult to raise proper income in our country. So I always ponder how or what I can do to improve our lives as a family."

Sam Setchell



Fr Andrew Collins 1915 - 2016



I was privileged on 5th January this year to attend the funeral of a most remarkably long lived priest, Father Andrew Collins, who died in December at the age of one hundred and one.

The funeral was held in Enville Parish Church which Fr Andrew had served, in various capacities, for many years. It was very well attended, (as you might expect for one who was so well-known and respected in the area and beyond). He was buried in the churchyard next to his beloved wife Marion.

The eulogy was given by Lord Patrick Cormack who at one time was churchwarden in Enville and lived next door to the Collins family.

Fr Andrew was born on 30th November 1915 in Lowe Gornal (one of several children) and was brought up by maiden aunts. He was educated on Lower Gornal schools.

In the early years of the second world war he joined the RAF and spent some time in India. Later he was responsible for taking important papers to the war office concerning medical statistics (war casualties etc.).

After the war, in 1947, he began a teacher training course at Worcester, subsequently teaching for a number of years at Robert Street School, Lower Gornal. He taught at several other schools in the area and was eventually made Head of the Church of the Ascension Junior school on Wall Heath.

In 1961, after completing theological studies, he was made Deacon in Lichfield cathedral and ordained priest the following year.

During the years 1961—1977 he was Assistant Curate at All Saints Church Sedgley.

In 1977, Fr Andrew retired from teaching and took up the position of Priest in Charge in Enville Parish Church. In 1981 he was made Rector of the parish in which post he served until 1986.

In 1988 he was appointed curate at the newly formed Kinver and Enville benefice and stayed in that capacity until his retirement from full term ministry in 1990. (By that time he was seventy five years of age!).

He was given permission to officiate at services in the Worcester Diocese if needed and he was glad to be able to do so. Some of the churches where he took services were: Holly Hall, Russells Hall, Bobbington, The Straits and here at St Edmunds. We were so pleased that he was able to celebrate the Sunday mass for us in December 2015, just after his 100th birthday. What an achievement!

In 2000, he enrolled in computer courses ("Learning for Life") and took a lively interest in curren affairs (both ecclesiastical and secular). He loved collecting antiques and anything that sparked his interest. He attended Stourbridge Leisure Centre, enjoying gym and, particularly the jacuzzi in the swimming pool area. At the age of 97 he joined a Tai Chi class at "The Cat" pub in Enville, for Enville senior citizens. (He must have been the most senior!)

Sadly his wife Marion (with whom he had four daughters) died in 1999 and his daughter, Elizabeth, a nurse and midwife in Zimbabwe for a number of years, came home to live with him, looking after him devotedly until his recent death.

Fr Andrew lover Walsingham and was a Priest-Associate. In due course, at his request, a Requiem Mass will be held for him there.

I feel privileged to have known him over the years and feel sure he will not easily be forgotten.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant;
enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

JL

Women's World Day of Prayer
Friday 3rd March
United Reformed Church at 10am

Services for March 2017

Wednesday 1st	Fr Tony Hutchinson
Sunday 5th:	Canon Graham Lyall
Wednesday 8th:	Fr Andrew Mottram
Sunday 12th:	Fr Michael Brierley
Wednesday 15th:	TBC
Sunday 19th:	Fr Andrew Mottram
Wednesday 22nd:	TBC
Sunday 26th:	Fr John Oakes
Wednesday 29th:	Fr Andrew Mottram

Holy Days in March 2017

1st	St David [Patron Saint of Wales] Ash Wednesday
2nd	St Chad Bishop of Lichfield
17th	St Patrick
19th	St Joseph
25th	The Annunciation

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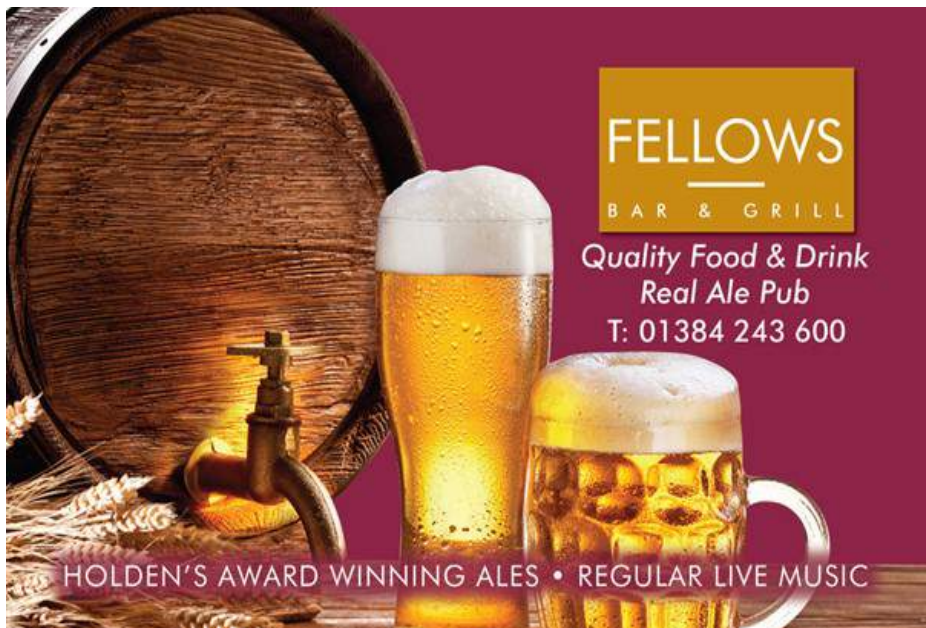
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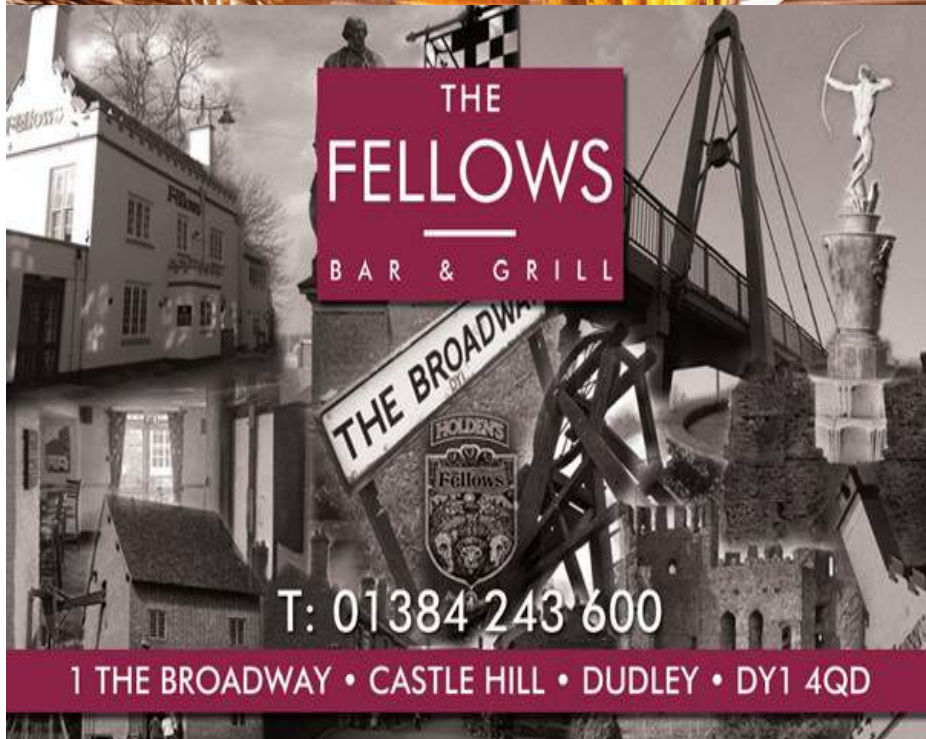
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