

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley  
Church Magazine*



*Church of England Member*

*October 2020*

*Price 50p*



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



**Mass Times**

**Wednesday 12.15pm**

**Sundays 11.00am**

*Church Wardens*

*Jon Harcourt* - 07931 512671  
[jjonharcourt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jjonharcourt@blueyonder.co.uk)

*Mark Wisbey* - 07732 651206  
[mark\\_wisbey@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_wisbey@hotmail.com)

*Treasurer*

*Jon Harcourt* - 07931 512671

*Secretary to CC*

*Mary McGraghan* - 01384 252628  
[patrick2010@btopenworld.com](mailto:patrick2010@btopenworld.com)

*Organist*

*Steve Martin* - 01902 716700

*Magazine Editorial Team*

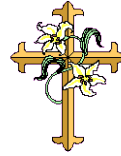
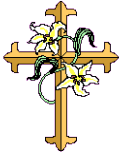
*Janet Lambert, Mary McGraghan,  
Jon Harcourt*

*Please direct all enquiries regarding  
St Edmunds to the Church Wardens*

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

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## IN REMEMBRANCE OCTOBER



2nd	Alonso Frederick Hulbert Ellen Maria Hall William Thomas Tilley	15th	Agnes Mary Webb
3rd	Sidney Albert Watson	16th	Leonard Dentith
4th	Katharina Schuler William Emery	18th	Gertrude Ann Emery Michael Brierley (Priest)
5th	Eliza Jane Dudley	20th	Rose Lilian Reed
6th	Sarah Jane Bartlett Ethel Maud Shakespeare	21st	Katherine Anne Fox Beatrice Pugh Phoebe Elizabeth Corbett
7th	John Alfred Homer Scutt (Priest) Phoebe (Edith) Read May Foulkes	22nd	Francis Norman Bradley Dorothy Stanton
9th	Elizabeth Woodall	23rd	Jessie Holtom Doris Hadley Douglas Fielding Joseph Cartwright
10th	May Darby Dorothy Anne Greasley	24th	Ada Rowe Charles Wood
11th	Richard Charles Wood	25th	Ivy Dovey
12th	James Stanley Dorothy James Elsie Allcock Ada Bradford Gwendoline Wood	26th	Hugh Davies
13th	Walter Smith Phyllis Esme Green Doris Maud Hickman Edith Guest	27th	George Aspinall Mabel Jewkes Evelyn Fear
		28th	Annie Dudley
		29th	Frederick Devenport
		30th	Sarah Jane Baddams

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

## An article from Bishop Martin:



2020 has been such a strange year. Autumn has arrived, yet in some ways the year never seems to have got started. I feel I am still living with so many uncertainties, and trying to make plans on the constantly shifting sands of guidance and advice based on ever evolving Covid realities. We are all learners in this, and pioneers too as we discover new ways of being church. Tiredness and fatigue are very natural too and sometimes the weight of it all can press very heavily. I'm so encouraged by the prayerful determination in our churches to be people of hope, even in the darkest times.

Traditionally we celebrate Harvest at this time. Its been a tough year for farmers, with heatwaves, droughts and floods. Sowing seed in a wet winter was almost impossible, and many grain harvests have been poor. Nevertheless lorries and trailers filled with bales of straw and hay are testimony to the resilience and grit of our farmers, who just had to 'carry on carrying on', pandemic or not. I salute all those who work on the land, who produce our food and tend our environment. Brexit will affect them all, though its still not clear how. They deserve our traditional harvest thanks and prayers.

We give thanks too for the harvest of Kingdom Values that have been so evident in parishes up and down our diocese this year, for every glimpse of love, every act of compassion, every shout for justice and every step into freedom.

May the Lord of the world, the Lord of the harvest, bless you and keep you. One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Readers for October:

4 <sup>th</sup>	Mr S. Martin Mr G. Smith
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Harvest</b> Mr M. Wisbey Mrs J. Fraser
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A. Mullaney Mr B. Prentice
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mr A. Baillie Mrs M. McGraghan

## **November**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs J. Lambert Mr M. Simpson
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## Intercessors:

4 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M. McGraghan
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Harvest</b> Mr J. Harcourt
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J. Lambert
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A. Mullaney

## **November**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Mr M. Wisbey
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Thought for the month

Let us remember: one book, one pen, one child and  
one teacher can change the world.

Malala Yousafzai

## Holiday in the Philippines

This time last year we were enjoying a holiday in the Philippines visiting Annabelle's family. As most of you probably know it is a south eastern nation situated to the north east of Indonesia and part of the "Pacific ring of fire" meaning earthquakes and typhoons are a regular occurrence. Holidaying was not the sole reason for our visit as my wife needed to pay her last respects to her recently departed mother who died in January.

A first impression of these tropical islands can be forgiven as being idyllic; palm trees, balmy breezes, golden sands, etc. However, although some of the islands do answer to this description, the opposite is sadly true to the majority of them. The first thing a visitor notices is the poverty. Houses made from bamboo poles and woven palm fronds which in many cases have holes in the walls, leaky corrugated iron roofs, no windows and rough uneven floors. Cooking is done outside on an open fire. Diet for the majority of the poor consists of rice and dried fish.

Beggars abound, small children amongst them. Many of these children do not attend school and it is not uncommon to see them standing naked, even in a market place. An improved economy and foreign investment have meant more jobs for people and this has been noticeable from the amount of Filipinos now using supermarkets and dining out. A situation which was largely unseen 10 years ago. Nevertheless, there are still large numbers of unemployed and poverty still abounds.

Having said that, Filipinos are very enterprising and have small shops on the side of roads or they jump on and off buses selling snacks and water to any passengers willing to buy.

Years of corruption has left its mark on the infrastructure with half-finished projects, appalling roads in the suburbs and thousands of homes without running water. Power cuts are frequent, especially during heavy monsoon rains.

Pollution is another problem with little progress towards protecting the environment. Vehicular pollution is extremely heavy with congested roads of nose to tail traffic. Little regard is given to pedestrians who literally take their lives in their hands when trying to cross a road. Pedestrian crossings are ignored by motorists and road deaths and injuries are high.

Health is another serious issue in the Philippines as there is no health service. Public hospitals are abysmal. Unless a patient can pay for services there is no nursing care with relatives having to look after a patient around the clock. Private hospitals are extortionately expensive and beyond the means of most citizens.

Crime is a serious issue as there is no gun control with firearms easily obtainable. Drug related killings are the most prevalent and the current president has taken many steps to control it. This in turn has raised controversy with human rights activists because the policy is to shoot and kill drug dealers and drug barons.

America has a huge influence on the way of life and aspirations of ordinary Filipinos. English is widely spoken and the majority of posters signs and names are written in English, even though a high percentage of older people have no knowledge of the language.

The population have a misguided impression that everyone in the west is mega-rich and all live like the movie stars they see on TV or at the cinema. Many Americans live in the Philippines, usually rich retirees so adding to the myth.

Unique amongst nations in the far east is the fact that the Philippines is 90% Christian. A small percentage of Muslims live in the far south of the archipelago, and this is where most of the problems of terrorism take place, and there is a tiny minority of other religions. Magellan, who discovered the islands and named them after Philip II of Spain, imposed Catholicism on the population, which in those times consisted mostly of tribal people living in isolated communities, although trading with China and Malaysia had been taking place for centuries before his arrival.

The Roman Catholic church is now well established and embedded within the social and political system of the country. This is evident from the many shrines around the country, the religious icons and pictures on display everywhere. Taxis, buses and motor tricycles are all emblazoned with pictures or icons of the Blessed Virgin or Jesus. At 12 noon and 6pm, trading in supermarkets stop whilst a broadcast prayer session takes place. On Sunday the churches hold a mass every two hours and at each one they are full to overflowing.

This being so, compassion for their fellow men seems to be very lacking. The church is not active in the community and teaching of religion only covers the very basics. Most have no knowledge of the Bible or its messages and it is almost like the Catholicism of the 16th century. The church has a large influence in government as indicated in the policy of contraception. The population of the islands is increasing at an alarming rate and it is not uncommon for the poorer people to have as many as 10 children that they can't afford to feed or house adequately. The congress voted to introduce free contraception to try and tackle the problem. The Church blocked this stating that they didn't see a problem and that it was up to individuals to take control of how many children they had.

The Church does not appear to take care of the poor and needy, donations go to the church coffers or the priest rather than distribution to the needy, even harvest time the donations go to the priest.

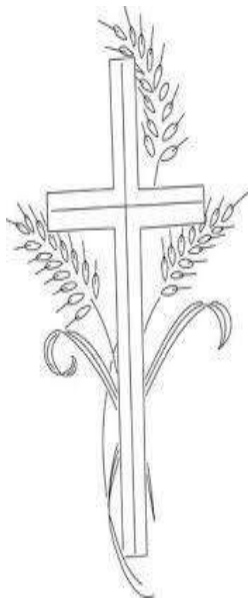
This year the Corona pandemic has dealt a further blow to this impoverished nation and its people. Lock down is severe with those over 50 not allowed out. Many are now facing starvation or the threat of gaol should they be caught flaunting the lock down rules. Lack of health care means death for the poorest. People arriving at hospitals are turned away, the assumption being that they are infected. The Philippines is currently the worst affected country in south east Asia. The daily infections continue to rise, particularly in the heavily populated urban areas.

To conclude, the Philippines has so much to offer, but until corruption, social inequalities, health care and an improved infrastructure have been addressed, sadly it will remain a third world country.

Christopher Attwood

# HARVEST 2020

St Edmund's Harvest Festival  
Sunday 11th October



Our Harvest collection this year is to support the work of Black Country Foodbank.

Last year, with your help, Black Country Foodbank gave out 260,520 meals to people in crisis. 96,380 of which were to children.

Please help us keep up the good work by bringing in an item from our Shopping List.

Thank you for your support.



Registered Charity: 1136676

*'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,' Matthew 25:35*





## **Harvest Shopping List**

**Please could you bring in any items from this list to donate to Foodbank**

- ◆ Long Life Milk
- ◆ Fruit Juice / Fruit cordial / Squash
- ◆ Breakfast cereal
- ◆ Jam / Marmalade
- ◆ Tinned rice pudding / Custard
- ◆ Tinned ready meals [Chilli, Meatballs, Curry, Ratatouille, Macaroni cheese]
- ◆ Tinned fish
- ◆ Jars of Cook-in sauces
- ◆ Hot Chocolate
- ◆ Small jars of coffee
- ◆ Tinned Fruit [in juice, preferably]
- ◆ Biscuits
- ◆ Packets of mashed potato / Tinned potatoes
- ◆ Healthy snacks [small packs of raisins / apricots]
- ◆ Tooth brushes / Toothpaste
- ◆ Shower Gel & Shampoo
- ◆ Roll-on deodorant [male & female]
- ◆ Shaving gel / foam

## **Thank you for your support**

[Www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk)  
Black Country Food Bank is a UK registered  
Charity No. 1136676



**If you are bringing contributions to the church for  
our Harvest Festival, please bring in bags that  
have handles.**



## *Heritage Open Day.*



With so much going on in the world today, lockdowns, local lockdowns, can go to pubs and restaurants but in some areas families cannot visit each other. Changing world, strange decisions being made by the powers that be, but we have to adapt, otherwise we can get depressed.

It was touch and go on whether St Edmunds could actually open the church on Heritage Open Day 19<sup>th</sup> September. From when we could open for services on July 17<sup>th</sup> we have been very conscious of protecting ourselves and congregation/visitors by sanitising the church regularly, observing social distancing and the wearing of face masks.

Open we did, one of the few buildings either civic or churches that did. Big yellow poster outside church inviting the world to 'step inside' the oldest church in Dudley. Thanks to Dudley MBC, who came and took photographs so that interested parties could also visit us for a virtual tour.

We did not have stewards, but welcomers – all 9 of them during the opening time, strategically positioned to control the crowds for our one-way system.

Unfortunately not many passed through our portals, but all were made welcome.

Restrictions meant that no refreshments were available; no tours; no raffle; no tombola, but it was an enjoyable day.

When closing came, then we had to dismantle the displays and sanitise ready for our service the next day.

Thanks to everyone who played a part, and perhaps next year things will be back to normal – maybe.

JH.

## Safeguarding

The Church of England is called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of a welcome for all, with particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.

*From "Promoting a safer Church" the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy Statement*

St Edmund's takes safeguarding seriously; relating equally to children and young people and also vulnerable adults.

A questionnaire is completed every year and returned to the safeguarding team at Worcester at the time of the Archdeacon's visitation.

All members of the Church Council are required to do basic awareness training - this was done a few years ago and now we have to do a refresher course which will take place sometime this year, it is hoped. The Church Wardens and Parish Safeguarding Officer are required to do more advanced training.

On the notice board at the back of church, by the children's corner, is displayed:

- A formal statement of adoption of the House of Bishops' "Promoting a Safer church: Safeguarding Policy Statement" Signed by a church warden.
- The name of the Parish Safeguarding Officer - Mary McGraghan and the Children's' Advocate - Janet Lambert  
Also the telephone number for Child Line and other useful numbers.

## **HOLY DAYS IN OCTOBER**

- 4th St Francis of Assisi  
Dedication Festival**
- 18th St Luke the Evangelist**
- 25th Bible Sunday, the last after Trinity**
- 26th Cedd Bishop of Lastingham**
- 28th St Simon & St Jude**

## **Notable Dates in October**

- Thursday 1st Harvest Moon -  
Full moon nearest the equinox**
- Sunday 4th Animal Welfare Day**
- Sunday 11th Prisons Sunday**
- Wednesday 21st Trafalgar Day**
- Saturday 24th United Nations Day**
- Sunday 25th Summertime ends  
Clocks go back at 2am**

**Annual Church Meeting**  
**Sunday 18th October**  
**following the 11am Service**

Reports on the previous twelve months will be given and the Church Council for 2020 - 2121 will be elected.

This is an important meeting in the church's year, usually taking place in April but was postponed this year due the pandemic.

Please come and take part if you can.

**Beryl Harris R.I.P.**



We are saddened to hear of the recent death of Beryl Harris.

Beryl was a faithful member of St Edmund's congregation. At the time of her death she was the longest standing attender at the church.

Beryl served on the PCC for many years, and was responsible for the lists of sides -people.

For several years she organised a buffet lunch in church on the Sunday following the Assumption.

The last time she came to church was February this year for the Candlemas celebration.

Beryl was a keen rambler and continued to walk well into her later years.

She enjoyed travelling to Birmingham to go to St Philips Cathedral to listen to the lunch time organ recitals on Wednesdays.

We shall miss her friendship and her presence.

May she rest in peace.



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