

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley  
Church Magazine*



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*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

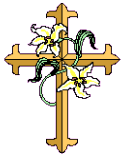
Magazine Editorial Team

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Jon Harcourt*

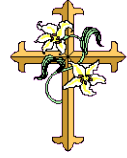
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## IN REMEMBRANCE FEBRUARY



1st	Minnie Priscilla White	18th	Mildred Harris
	Bert Hadley		Andrew Rickards
2nd	Doris Christie Cotterill	19th	Robert Fortington Neave
3rd	Alfred Joseph Daffy	20th	Ethel Rachel Dunn-Voce
4th	William Norman Read		James Richard Shakespeare
	Bill Brown	21st	Albert Hingley
	Daisy Manning		George Woodruff
6th	Carrie Harris		Peter Mason
	Frank Leighton Dovey	22nd	Bernadette Mary Overton
	Harry Ratcliffe	23rd	Edith Davies
7th	Gilbert Bradley (Priest)		Victor Palmer Wallace
	William Hanson	24th	Fanny Dodd
8th	William Henry Morris		Norman Lambert (Priest)
9th	John Bernard Watson	25th	Robert Marshall
10th	Cecelia Gaydon		Samuel Hadley
	Ethel Lavinia King		Thomas Webster
	Teresa Round	26th	Agnes Hickman
11th	Wilfred Poultney		Enoch Frederick Green
13th	Joseph Cook Dudley	27th	John Mills Keeling (Snr)
	Hilda Webb	28th	Joseph Cox
14th	Leonard Cotton		Dorothy Louise Dascombe
17th	Dorothy Minnie Tooze		Elizabeth Dudley
	Donald Arthur Vince		
	Walter Francis Davies		

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

## Lent - an article from Bishop John



It might feel as though we have been in the season of Lent for a very long time. Because of the pandemic we weren't able to celebrate Easter properly last year and the remainder of the year had a distinctly penitential feel to it, as has the first part of 2021.

There has been so much sadness, grief and loss during these past few months and we shall be living with the consequences of COVID-19 for years to come. My hope and my prayer, though, is that not all of those consequences will be bad.

Lent is the time for us to turn our faces towards Jerusalem and prepare to follow our Lord on the way of the cross. We do that knowing that out of crucifixion, God brought resurrection. That is the Christian pattern of things – God's redemption involves bringing good out of bad, joy out of pain, new life out of death.

After the resurrection Peter wanted to go back to fishing. It was what was familiar to him and he felt he could find comfort in that. But God was calling him to something much more exciting.

It would be a sadness for us to try to go back to the way things were before the pandemic, just as it would have been for Peter simply to resume his life as a fisherman. Like Peter, I believe God is calling us to something much more exciting.

This year, at the end of what feels like a very long Lent, it would be good for us to reflect upon and pray about what the 'new normal' might look like. I hope it will involve more care, more community, more goodness and more Godliness – but God will work things out much more wonderfully than I could ever plan.

## Claim a fortune?



Recently I have had emails telling me that I am entitled to a share in this fortune or that pool of money. The Bitcoin I invested in some years ago (DID NOT) is now worth several millions and did I want to increase my potential to make even more money? Laughable I know, but for some it could be tempting to “press this button now”. A scam – the crooks in this world are very inventive, and their objective is to take your money!

I can promise you that this article is not a scam, but comes to you in my role as Church Treasurer, taken on by me in a temporary form in 1992 (yes, temporary).

During the past year or so the Church Council have followed directives or advice from various authorities on how we could open safely whilst obeying the necessary social distancing etc.

In 2020 we had 30 Sunday Masses: in 2021 so far only 2. We at St Edmund’s are missing our distinctive sacramental worship, our praise and thanksgiving in our ancient church and look forward to the time when we can meet again and give thanks to our Lord on bended knee.

I am looking at our accounts and have turned pale (but interesting) at seeing how much our income has dropped, both on the plate, in envelopes and at coffee mornings. We have missed the social contact with our friends; the happiness of sitting after services and chatting; hot sausage rolls after cleaning; broken biscuits and so forth.

Whether we have services or not, we still have to pay insurance (about £80 per week); plus standing charges for gas, electricity and other utilities; necessary repairs etc., so no wonder I am going grey!

A number of our faithful pay by standing order, which is wonderful; sometimes cheques arrive at my house (wonderful); but in 2020 direct giving was down by approximately £3,500. Many do ‘catch-ups’ the next time they are in church, but sometimes the thought of giving in one go 12 weeks or whatever looks formidable. There are still 52 Sundays in a year, so perhaps we ought to consider moving onto the system of paying by bank standing order. If you do this an example of £your giving x 52 and then divide by 12 for monthly payments ( $£10 \times 52 = £520$  divided by 12 is £44 per month).

Easy, either telephone me for bank details on 07931 512671 or email any questions or offers to me on [jjonharcourt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jjonharcourt@blueyonder.co.uk)

If you increase by any amount or wish to send an extra donation, then thank you in anticipation.

God loves a cheerful giver – and so do Parish Treasurers! JH.

## *News From Uganda*

Derrick does the paperwork for a man who makes steel doors and windows and for this he gets just under £1 a day. Like many places it is closed at the moment but a few weeks ago the man asked Derrick to hold some metal whilst it was cut. Alas, some steel went into Derricks finger and he had to have it treated together with a tetanus injection. Derrick was quite ill due to an infection and had to have more treatment. I send him a little pocket money when I can so you can imagine how proud I was of him when he told me he had saved some of his money to take soap, maize flour, pampers and sugar to a lady who houses abandoned and unwanted children. One of the children housed there is little Tasha and her mother is a drug addict so is not able to look after the child



Derrick at the home which houses unwanted children.

I think Derrick was trying to prove that he has not forgotten his early childhood and was also trying to get "one up" on Ronald who, a few months ago, took responsibility for an abandoned child called Paul, In addition to his own two girls, Shallom and Shilloh. Ivan also gives up a lot of his free time to a local church where he teaches the youngsters to sing and dance and helps to serve them a cooked meal.



Ronald's two girls Shallom and Shilloh and little Paul who was abandoned.

Parental skill is a difficult concept especially when you try to do it from the other side of the world but when I reflect on what three of my lads are doing it makes me so proud and it has certainly made all the years of struggle, sleepless nights and heartache worthwhile.

David Russon



## ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE START OF LENT



We have the opportunity over the next few weeks of Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, to meditate upon the meaning of Our Lord's death on the Cross.

It is an important chance to think deeply about the things of God.

The prayerful keeping of Lent and Holy Week has been the mark of our Catholic tradition within the Church of

England. Among my first memories of church life were making the Children's Stations of the Cross, singing the Passiontide hymns as we processed around the church.

The sign of a Christian is surely closeness to Christ and His teaching. How can we claim to be Christians if we ignore Him? In fact we need His presence with us to support us.

By meditating on Our Lord's sacred passion we are drawn close to God and His will for us and his world. This helps us to prepare to celebrate Easter with both understanding and real joy. To be a "real" Christian is to be "Christ like" both accepting His words and living lives that reflect His teaching.

We may not be able to attend Church at the moment, as we would like, with the threat of the Coronavirus, we can still follow the Bible readings in our Bibles or Prayer Books.

We can follow the Stations of the Cross at home in our own prayer books and Walsingham Manuals. We can read the words of the Passiontide Hymns. If we can get to Mass so much the better.

We need to use this special time so that we can understand more deeply what it means for God to take up human flesh. Our Christian Faith is quite unique for we believe that God Himself lived on earth, born of the Blessed Virgin and died on the Cross for our salvation. We have probably heard these words so often and can far too easily take them for granted. We must remind ourselves of the wonderful promise of eternal life that Christ's death on the Cross reveals.

Look at your Crucifix and remember the words of the hymn "When I survey the wondrous cross."

***"Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all."***



It puts into relief our poor efforts at following Christ and what he really expects of us.

In previous centuries our country was well known for its deep faith and trust in God.

People have made great endeavour to follow the Church's teaching which we may well find is rather different from the 'way of the world' and the way other people choose to lead their lives.

Fr. John Oakes

### *Thought for the month*

A society in which there are higher levels of voluntary activity will simply be a better, happier place than one where there are not.

**Jonathan Sacks**

### **Correction**

I wish to make a correction to my article in the December edition of this magazine. I mentioned in my article that it was common knowledge that St. Barnabas church in our benefice would be closing. I was, however, delighted to be informed that there are no plans to close St. Barnabas's church. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for my mistake. I have been greatly encouraged by the faith of the congregation of St. Barnabas, and their continued commitment to be a witness in their local area.

Mark Wisbey

## A New Diocesan Chancellor



Jacqueline Humphreys, a Barrister at St John's Chambers in Bristol, has been appointed as the new Chancellor for the Diocese of Worcester. The appointment was made by Bishop John following the approval of the Lord Chancellor.

Jacqueline has been the Deputy Chancellor for the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham since 2012 and takes over in our diocese from Charles Mynors who is stepping down from the role at the end of the year. She is due to be sworn into the role early in January with a formal service of welcome when possible later in the year.

As a Barrister, Jacqueline specialises in family law; in particular, financial remedy cases. She also practises in charity law and ecclesiastical law and co-authored the Case Law Resource Guide for the Northern Ireland Charity Commission in 2011. She was Acting Chancellor of the diocese of Southwell and Nottingham for a year.

She has published several articles on both ecclesiastical and family law and her latest is 'The Role of the Faculty System in Achieving Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030' which will be published in the Ecclesiastical Law Journal in 2021.

### ***On her appointment, Jacqueline said:***

"I am delighted to be called to serve as Chancellor for the diocese of Worcester. I look forward to working with all those involved in the conservation and development our beautiful buildings to resource the mission of the Church. I am particularly excited to see how our buildings can achieve the Church of England's national commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2030, whilst continuing to serve people in need across the Diocese."

### ***Bishop John said:***

"I'm delighted that Jacqueline has agreed to become our new Chancellor: she brings a wealth of experience of ecclesiastical law to the post. She has a deep understanding of the importance of ensuring our buildings be valued but appropriately adapted so they can continue to be fit to serve the communities of our diocese for hundreds of years to come. I am looking forward very much to working with her."

The Chancellor is the independent judge of the Consistory Court of the Diocese, who undertakes several legal duties on behalf of the Bishop. The main element of the role is to determine applications for faculties (i.e. permission) to undertake works to church buildings and churchyards. The Diocesan Chancellor is assisted by the Deputy Chancellor, works closely with the Diocesan Registrar and is advised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the care of church buildings (DAC).

***The Current Chancellor for the Diocese, Charles Mynors, said:***

“After 23 years, I shall miss working with the Diocese of Worcester, but I am happy to know that it will be in safe hands. The coming years are likely to be a period of considerable change, and I have every confidence that Jacqueline will provide the necessary judicial wisdom to ensure that it is properly managed.”

Jacqueline worships at St Martin’s Church in Knowle, Bristol. She is married to the Revd Dr Simon Taylor, and they have two children. She enjoys theatre, dance, hillwalking, archaeology, novels and designing embroidered textiles.

## Pancakes



Pancakes have been around a long time. There is archaeological evidence from 30,000 year ago of pancake like food and also from the remains of Oetzi the Iceman who lived 3,000 years BC.

The ancient Greeks and Romans ate pancakes, sweetened with honey; the Elizabethans ate them flavoured with spices, rosewater, sherry and apples.

Traditionally, they were eaten on Shrove Tuesday to use up ingredients, and also as a final festivity before the Lenten fast.

Pancakes can be accompanied by savoury or sweet items, for example, bacon and maple syrup for breakfast, blueberries, stuffed with spinach and ricotta or mince.

They are made from three ingredients: flour, milk and eggs in varying proportions and are commonly eaten with lemon and sugar.

Don't forget to make pancakes on the 16th February and if feeling bold, tossing them!

## “Good boys go to Heaven .....



**M**any of you will remember some years ago that a vandal carved onto the paintwork of the church back door the legend ‘Good boys go to heaven, bad boys go to Kates Hill’. Dreadful I know but funny nevertheless. We recently had an attempted but unsuccessful break in to church via that back door recently. Thankfully the door held, but had to be replaced. So the vandalism has removed the legend of where bad boys go, but with new paint on the door – who knows what might happen.

In this dreadful pandemic we have all had to change our ways to safeguard ourselves and others to keep the dreaded virus away. Social distancing and other restrictions in church probably meant that it was one of the safest places to be. No hugging or jumping up and down with arms wrapped around each other as sweaty elite footballers are still doing (we don’t do that in St Edmunds!).

Not to mentioned the illegal parties afterwards, or flying off to Dubai to join the so called ‘celebrities’ who simply couldn’t cope with lock down. Other excuses like ‘to work’ mean posing in bikinis holding a glass of champagne by swimming pools or on yachts. We know this because they couldn’t resist telling the world and the press of their antics and then many claiming they didn’t know the rules. You and I know the rules – but if anyone reading this little article has posed in their bikinis during lockdown in the sunny Black Country, please keep it to yourself!

As regard knowing the rules – when we have a Prime Minister who doesn’t and bends those rules on interpretation after being seen 7 miles from Downing Street on a bike; or Health Secretary pictured playing football in a park with lots of others around what chance do you and I as ordinary folk have? The answer is leave your bike in the coal shed and stop playing football when the rules you make appear to mean ‘do as I say not do as I do’. Or even read the sign posted on the lectern in Downing Street ‘Stay Home’. President Joe Biden must have forgotten to post my invitation to his inauguration ceremony in Washington, but in his defence and to save him embarrassment and disappointment I wouldn’t have gone because at this

time of the year it is colder in Washington than in Dudley. Great respect for the man and his speech delivered so well to the world gives us all hope. But Joe (can I call you that?) during that ceremony a person cleaned the lectern between each speech (a star) but you and many of the gathered greats at the end exchanged hugs! Why? Social distancing was soon forgotten. But if the new President of the USA does come to Dudley and obviously to St Edmunds he will soon be put into and have to comply with our social distancing regulations. Two other thoughts: where is he going to park and he is Roman Catholic and we don't want to upset our friends around the corner! Another thought is keep the 25,000 National Guard in Washington, and we will resurrect our war time Home Guard with wooden rifles to defend him. Shades of Captain Mainwaring and the 1960/70s Dad's Army series. At the time of writing this moan, the number of deaths from the Coronavirus nationally is over 100,000 but more when the truth comes out. Horrifying. Some of our congregation and friends have had both JABS, others the first and most are waiting to go. But we must carry on with being sensible and careful, especially as newer and more virulent strains of the virus are emerging. The good news on this is that over 7 million have now been injected! Well done NHS and the scientists involved.

With a break from my moans, I spoke with a friend in the middle of January and he had received *the letter* giving a date for his first injection. He said it was the best news he had received since his wife started divorce proceedings! Nothing to do with divorce, but with most of us obeying the rules I am probably like you and watch loads of rubbish on the telly. What I avoid are programmes which have the word 'celebrity' attached to them. Having mentioned Dad's Army, I love 'Last of the Summer Wine', the world's longest running sitcom. Gentle, stupid, ridiculous plots around a group of harmless pensioners in a village in Yorkshire. Remember Nora Batty? She of the hats and wrinkled stockings? Compo, who's clothes looked like scarecrow rejects? Marina, bleached blonde, short skirts and desperate for love, especially from Howard, who thought he was being discreet but had to reckon with a sharp tongued wife (Pearl). Errol Flynn never had such problems.

JH.

## David Christopher Stephen Stroyd 1943 - 2021

At St Edmund's we first came to know David Stroyd in 2015. He came to the Open Churches day in September of that year having seen in a publication the opening times. We learned that he came to the church with his parents as a child. He was visibly moved when Jon Harcourt found the record of his parents marriage in the register with their signatures.



Following that visit, David offered to fund the provision of padded seating for the pews, which he had done for St Thomas's, Stourbridge.

He organised this and we thank him for it.

David came regularly once a month after this, and also joined in with social events when his duties at St Thomas's allowed it. There was much about

David which we did not know, but the following life events were supplied by Gill Partridge who wrote the eulogy for his funeral.

David was born in Dudley on 13th March 1943, to his parents Audrey and Stephen. During his early years they lived with his maternal grandparents and he had very fond memories of this time. (David told me that his grandmother Agnes Webb taught him all he knew about religion. MM). He went to St Edmund's Primary School where he was a good pupil and shone in maths. He attended St Edmund's Sunday School and religion became a very important and enduring part of his life.

When he was eleven the family moved to Stourbridge and he attended King Edward VI Grammar school for boys and made lifelong friends.

The Stroyds moved to South Avenue (which he still owned) in the early 1960's. The family of Gill Partridge moved in next door shortly after and they became his family which he had never had.

David's working life was spent at Eagle Star Insurance in Birmingham. He joined in 1964 and rose through the ranks to become Accident Superintendent. - essentially the manager.

He was affectionally known as Mr Accident. David was regarded as the top underwriter in the UK.

The latter years were spent in the Head Office in Cheltenham. His expertise was shared internationally. He took early retirement in 1993.

David had many vehicles over the years, his favourites being an Audi coupe and his Royal Enfield bike. He could often be seen tinkering under the car. There was nothing he couldn't take apart and repair. He was an excellent cook and made his own Christmas Cakes, puddings, jams and marmalade.

He was a kind man and supported a friend through the challenges of Huntingdon's disease and also paid for a child to have life saving surgery.

Throughout his life he was a devoted son. As his mother Audrey aged and became frailer he was her main carer and his life was taken up with this, with the help of other carers.

After Audrey's death his religion became a major source of support and he took over the preparation of St Thomas's for the Wednesday services which had been his mother's duties.

David was devastated by receiving the news that he had Motor Neurone Disease, but remained as independent as possible for as long as he could. When the time came that he could no longer manage, even with help, he investigated care homes and



made the decision to go to the Coach House at Prestwood.

David looked forward to his window visits and to the cards, texts and phone calls from his many friends.

*Continued over*



One of his dearest wishes was to fund the construction of an access ramp to St Edmund's in memory of his grandmother, Agnes Webb, whom he remembered having difficulty with the steps at church due to arthritis. However, even after extensive investigations, archaeology, trees, faculty, council input etc. time ran out and David became ill before this wish came to fruition.

It is clear that David was a good man, an excellent neighbour and a steadfast friend., Gill feels that the following quote from Wordsworth is a fitting tribute:

**The best portion of a good man's life is his little nameless  
unremembered acts of kindness and love.**

David Stroyd was a true gentleman and a good friend to St Edmund's. We shall miss him.  
May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

MM

### **Shortages at the Food Bank**

1L cartons of Long Life Fruit Juice  
Tinned Meat e.g. Corned beef - Ham etc.  
Instant Mashed Potato packets  
1L cartons of Long Life Milk  
Tinned Rice Pudding  
Tinned Spaghetti  
Small packets of Tea Bags

### **Non Food Items**

Washing up Liquid  
Single Adult Toothbrushes  
Sorry, but we cannot accept out of date items  
or anything containing alcohol

## HOLY DAYS IN FEBRUARY

2nd	Candlemas Presentation of Christ in the temple
5th	St Agatha
6th	St Dorothea
17th	Ash Wednesday
24th	St Matthais
27th	George Herbert - Priest & Poet & Hymn Writer

## NOTABLE DAYS IN FEBRUARY

<b>Monday 8th</b>	Day of prayer for victims of trafficking
<b>Thursday 11th</b>	World day of Prayer for the Sick
<b>Sunday 14th</b>	Church Action on Poverty <i>also</i> Day of Prayer for the unemployed
<b>Tuesday 16th</b>	<b>Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day</b>



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