

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley
Church Magazine*



Church of England Member

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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

Mark Wisbey - 07732 651206
mark_wisbey@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Jon Harcourt - 07931 512671

Secretary to CC

Mary McGraghan - 01384 252628
patrick2010@btopenworld.com

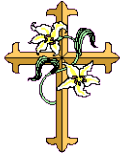
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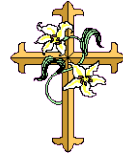
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**IN REMEMBRANCE
AUGUST**



2nd	Thomas Whatmore Catherine Westley Laura Whorton	17th	Charlotte Rebecca Dudley Elizabeth Julia Bowdler Mary Stephens
3rd	Doris Mildred Horton Samuel James	19th	Eliza Jones
6th	Heather Frances Dainty	20th	Winifred Norah Ordish
7th	John Francis Bartlett (Priest) Cephas Roland Allen Smart	23rd	Frank Charles Westley Gladys Watkins William Linskill
10th	John William Hall Elizabeth Spencer Carrie Matilda Thomas Iris Tilley	24th	Thomas Baggott
11th	Alfred Morris Doris Emery Richard Adney	25th	Arthur Cracknell James Dutton Ada Estelle Hill Lynda Reynolds
13th	George Michael Trotman Sheila Buckler	26th	Mildred Gwendoline Butler
		28th	John Causer Harcourt

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



I'm getting the sense that we're all looking for time off after such a long time of good behaviour! We have learned to be self-consciously safe in the way we interact - in the shops, in church, at home and at work. We've made a pretty good job of obeying the rules, following the guidance, and thinking everything through so carefully. Now we'd like some time off, and I think we've earned it.

We have learned a whole new vocabulary. I don't remember social distancing before March last year, and now we all talk about having been jabbed. We have learned to appreciate little things more, such as that kind phone call, or the encouraging wave. We have celebrated key events in a low-key way – at some personal cost in some cases; but in many ways returning to the essence of them, be it the wedding, the funeral, the baptism. We have learned to adapt and keep things simple.

There will, of course, be some serious unfinished business, most of all in the area of death and grieving. We will need to give ourselves time and be gentle with one another. For what strikes me is that we have had to face our frailty. We human beings, though capable of much, are fragile. When Paul wrote to the sometimes fractious Christians of Corinth, he said, 'We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.' Clay jars are fragile: Corinthian clay was, it seems, particularly so, and more likely to crack. Cracked pots were no good for holding wine, for example, but brilliant for holding light, making a good lantern.

Paul suggests that we are those fragile containers, and yet are all worthy of being bearers of God's light. Fragility can still contain much love. So in this month of August let's give ourselves a bit of time off for good behaviour, time to lick our wounds, acknowledge our frailty, and wonder at so much love revealed in such tough times.

Robert Jones, Archdeacon of Worcester

Readers for August

1 st	Mr A. Baillie Mrs A. Mullaney
8 th	Mr M. Simpson Mr F. Sheppard
15 th	Mrs J. Fraser Mrs M. McGraghan
22 nd	Mr S. Martin Mrs J. Lambert
29 th	Mrs A. Mullaney Mr A. Baillie
September 5 th	Mrs M. McGraghan Mr M. Simpson

Intercessors

1 st	Mrs M. McGraghan
8 th	Mr J. Harcourt
15 th	Mrs J. Lambert
22 nd	Mrs A. Mullaney
29 th	Mrs M. McGraghan
September 5 th	Mr J. Harcourt

*Thank you to all our readers and intercessors – if you would like to join either of these rotas, please speak with J.H.

Thought for the Month

Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.

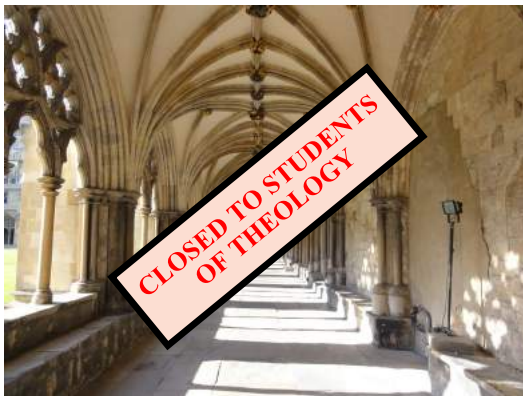
Albert Camus

Poor Prophets!

The Bishops' Synod members and others who had, or have?, influence over the church, decided some 20 or 30 years ago to reform training for would-be priests.

The pattern they inherited went back to the Middle Ages, when great monasteries such as Worcester, taught men who felt a vocation to the priesthood, rudiments of theology, lives of the saints, and how to lead a life of prayer. The reformation shook this pattern, not least by destroying the monastic life, and it was left to the old universities of Oxford and Cambridge and their various colleges & houses, to take on the teaching role. So matters continued until the revival of church life in the early 19th century.

Then a series of theological colleges grew up, mostly near Cathedrals, whose life and worship they shared. Ely, Lincoln, Chichester, Durham, Lichfield amongst others began involving men into a life of prayer and service for others. But then a new voice was heard on the block!



There were two sorts of critics, the 'accountants', who said residential training was far too expensive, and 'academics' who said Cathedrals were not the place to be, but nearer universities where those under training could rub shoulders with real learning.

Those with power of decision-making, listened to both, And moved to placate them! So such places as Chichester, Lichfield, etc. were closed and non-residential places given encouragement to grow. Which growth did take place, though nothing much as had been hoped. And the place of prayer? Less important. The search was now for experience in the

fields of sociology, anthropology, psychology, which resulted in men and women worldly-unwise, and confused in faith. As we read in the Old Testament, there were two brands of prophets to chose from, the true prophets and the false prophets. Bishops and Synod members seem to have chosen the poor prophets, with which we are now struggling to cope.

God help us, I am sure He will.

Canon Graham Lyall



We were pleased to be invited to join St Francis MU for the first meeting we have had for 18 months. Lynette led us in prayers, and then each of us had brought a reading or prayer that had some significance for us. It was good to get together again.

9th August is the 100th anniversary of the death of Mary Sumner who started the Mothers' Union. That weekend will see most churches marking the event by having a flower festival or special flower decoration in Mary Sumner's honour.

At St Edmund's the church will be open on Saturday 7th August, from 11am to 1pm. We hope to make this a coffee morning, but as things are still uncertain decisions will be taken nearer the time. However, the church will be open even if there are no refreshments. I hope to see as many people there as possible.

MM

Mothers' Union Coffee Morning

Saturday 7th August 11am to 1pm

Celebrating the MU and commemorating 100 years since the death of our founder, Mary Sumner.

Special floral decorations, and refreshments subject to Covid rules.

Please come and support this first social event in church since the first lockdown,

'I see trees of green '



This article for our Church magazine I deliberately did not start until almost the last minute, in spite of being commanded to do so by our fearsome editor, who shall remain nameless (Mary McGraghan).

Monday 19th July was declared and trumpeted as being 'Freedom Day', when many restrictions were to be lifted or eased because so many millions had been double jabbed. If you had been in church on the 18th July in our notices I changed the name from 'freedom' to '**freedum**', with a heavy emphasis on the **dumb** part. We at St Edmunds and so many other churches have more than played our part in being safe and sensible – but the sports fans, celebrities and clubbers not so.

But Hey ho as well as trees of green let us have **red roses too**.

I see skies of blue, we have been enjoying beautiful summer weather at the time of writing, and that sunshine has dispelled a lot of the Coronavirus gloom. Suddenly masks in Dudley Town are getting fewer and further apart, but thankfully the wearing of such in shops has generally carried on. School children and students are readying themselves for holidays or just visiting play areas to let off steam. Young and not so young lovers are being seen sitting in the park, and all with smiles on their faces. No storm clouds for them, just **clouds of white**.

The colours of the rainbow brings out a little of my lighter journalistic side, because the more sensible daily papers have dismissed some of the gloom and have indeed talked about what the world has done during the various points of lockdown. My favourite as been seeing that International Diver Tom Daley has learned how to knit! But not only my friend Tom: 92 year old great-great-grandmother Margaret Seaman from Great Yarmouth has spent 12-15 hours a day knitting (yes knitting) a huge scale model of royal residence Sandringham House and associated buildings around it. It is now on display in Sandringham to raise funds for charity. Wonderful! I wonder how many of those fighting after the Euro Cup Final would admit to something as worthwhile as Tom's new hobby, unless you count causing havoc and damage in London as a new hobby. Perhaps they should speak to their grannies or Margaret.

So pretty in the sky is how the world is beginning to look – but be careful.

I hear babies cry applies not only to children, but if you are lucky enough to have birds in your trees, hedgehogs in your garden, fish in your pond then all this is nature, and we should play our part in preserving God's creation.

Creation and care is something very fundamental in our lives as Christians. If we follow our Lord's teaching then caring for those in need can come from us – perhaps by supplying goods for the food-bank and donating to charities large and small. **I watch them grow** but the starving are not growing.

Currently the richest man in the world Jeff Bezos paid umpteen millions for an 11 minute flight into near space and on return thanked "Every Amazon customer and every Amazon employee because you paid for this". His money, but the lowly paid in his worldwide company must love his sentiments! 18th century John Wesley said 'Earn all you can; save all you can; give all you can'.

But amidst all this we can echo the words sang by Louis Armstrong in the late 1960s:

***And I think to myself,
What a wonderful world.
Yes, I think to myself,
What a wonderful world.***

JH.

Thank you.....

.....to everyone who responded so generously to the appeal for money for church flowers.

There is enough to keep the church looking like a florists until Advent!



August

I wonder how many of you readers have an August birthday.

I do, and I was always delighted, as a child, that I would not have to go to school on my birthday. I should have realised that if it was a school day I might have received presents from my school mates (or not!).

August is the eighth month of the year and named after the first Roman Emperor, Augustus.

The old feast of Lammastide was observed on the first of August; a thanksgiving for the first fruits of the harvest. Nowadays we tend to hold our Harvest Festivals in September or October. Maybe this year we will be able to sing our lovely harvest hymns again. I have missed "ploughing the fields and scattering the good seed on the land" and watching "the fair waving corn in Canaan's pleasant land".

August has been described as a "towering month when plants reach for the stars and then fall flat". We see the fruits change colour as they ripen in the late summer sun. The poet Seamus Heaney, in his poem "Blackberry-picking", writes:

"Late August, given heavy rain and sun,
For a full week, the blackberries would ripen."

He goes on to describe picking them but storing them too long so that grey furry fungus covered them. (Once off the bush, the fruit fermented). Have you ever done that? I have.

August has also been the time for horticultural shows, village flower shows, and so on.

It is also a month when birds prepare to migrate to warmer lands travelling amazing distances. This is surely a sign that summer is on the wane. At the end of the month, leaves will just be beginning to change colour, an indication that autumn is nearly here.

The poet Kenneth Steven writes:

On a day that is almost September.....
.....the swallows gather....

The following day they're gone, all of them -
And we watch where they were, wondering.

In pre-Covid times, August was very much a holiday month with flights to the Costas, or soaking up the sun in some other holiday destination. Church congregations were depleted until these travellers returned with enviable tans and assorted holiday snaps.

Nowadays, the congregation in our church is at an alarmingly low number due to the virus, even though, ***it is quite safe to attend with precautionary measures in place.***

The poet Rupert Brooke described summer as “the fragrant queen of long delight”, which reminds me that August is the time when we honour Our Lady Mary, Queen of Heaven, on the 15th August, and her Assumption into Heaven. This year it falls on a Sunday so I hope that we will have a good congregation on that day.

I am writing this article on a swelteringly hot day and being amused by something poet Byron wrote (sarcastically)

“The English winter, ending in July, to recommence in August”.

Obviously, there was no talk of climate change in his day!

So, let’s enjoy August and to those with August birthdays, go easy on the cooking sherry and the Cadburys.

JL

August

Fairest of months! Ripe Summer's Queen
The heyday of the year
With robes that gleam with sunny sheen
Sweet August doth appear.

R. Coombe Miller

NOTABLE DAYS IN AUGUST

Sunday 1st Lammas Day (loaf mass) traditionally marks the beginning of Harvest

Monday 9th Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union – 100th Anniversary

Friday 13th Florence Nightingale and Octavia Hill
Social reformers

Monday 30th Summer Bank Holiday



**Cardinal John Henry Newman -
Wednesday 11th August - the first
English person to be recognised as a
saint by the Roman Catholic Church
since the 17th Century.**

Contributions for publication in the magazine would be welcomed. Have you got any thoughts that you would like to share? Please let me know if you have.

MM

SUNDAY SERVICES 11am

1st	Fr Michael Bartlett
8 th	Fr Tony Hutchinson
15 th	TBC
22nd	Fr Tony Hutchinson
29th	TBC

*Thank you to all the clergy who support us on Sundays and not forgetting those who Celebrate the Mass at our Wednesday 12.15pm services as well.

HOLY DAYS IN AUGUST

6th	The Transfiguration of Our Lord
10th	St Lawrence
11th	St Clare
15th	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
20th	St Bernard
24th	St Bartholomew, Apostle
28th	St Augustine Bishop of Hippo



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