

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley
Church Magazine*



Church of England Member

April 2024

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



Mass Times

Wednesday 12.15pm

Sundays 11.00am

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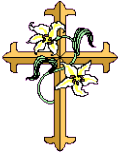
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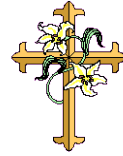
*Janet Lambert, Mary McGraghan,
Jon Harcourt*

*Please direct all enquiries regarding
St Edmunds to the Church Wardens*
www.stedmundsdudley.org.uk

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IN MEMORIAM APRIL



2nd	Emma Nix Georgina Frances Williams	18th	Maud MacDonald Ellinor Caroline Neave
3rd	Agnes Green	20th	Joseph Thomas Cecil Wall
6th	Agnes Rebecca Wood Anne Baggott Hilda Mills	21st	Gwendoline Cartwright Peter Atkins John Davies (Priest)
7th	Ray Bratt Sarah Tonks	22nd	Samuel Millard
8th	Annie Ratcliffe	23rd	Maurice Tilley William Henry White
9th	Herbert Arthur Cracknell	24th	Edgar Smith Ethel Brazenhall Jack Reynolds
10th	Arthur Boon	25th	James Niven Campbell
12th	Nettie Mary Cox	27th	Selina Lydia Evans Jessie May Cliff
14th	Alfred Brooks	29th	Joseph Foulkes Edith Louisa Elizabeth Taylor
15th	William Edward Evans William Edward Ratcliffe David Allcock MM	30th	Dennis Cotterill Annie Shakespeare
16th	Hazel Stephenson Rhoda Williams		
17th	Beatrice May Baker		
18th	Lucy Eleanor Smith James W Forth Charles Cox		

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

Our work in safeguarding is being audited and the auditors would like to hear from you!

In this article, Bishop Martin encourages people to give their opinions.



The safety of all those who wish to worship in our churches should always be at the forefront of our minds. That is true for those who work or volunteer in our parishes and also for all of us who work in a diocesan context. We are keen to ensure that we are doing all that we can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

The Church of England has commissioned INEQE Safeguarding Group to conduct a series of audits of dioceses to look at our work in safeguarding and suggest areas where we could make improvements. As part of this audit process, INEQE would like to hear from as many different people as possible from across our diocese and have put together an online survey through which individuals can comment in confidence about their impressions and experiences of safeguarding in the Diocese.

The surveys are both anonymous (the audit team are not seeking to identify individuals) and confidential (individuals will not be identified in their report). No one from the Church of England or any other body will be provided with or have access to survey responses.

Please consider filling in this survey openly and honestly and letting the audit team know your opinions. Our audit will take place from 1 July, but the surveys are open now and will **close at 11.30 pm on Wednesday 1 May 2024** to enable the audit team to go through them.

To access the surveys please visit <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester/>. Do encourage others to do this too.

Thank you for your help – listening to and learning from those in our parishes is an important part of the audit. Only by working together can we strive to make our churches a safe place for everyone.

Bishop Martin

Readers for APRIL

7 th	Mrs J. Lambert Mrs J. Alderman-Rowe
14 th	M/s M. Gazzard Mr G. Smith
21 st	Mrs J. Fraser Mrs A. Mullaney
28 th	Mr F. Sheppard Mr C. Denston
May 5 th	Mrs M. McGraghan Mr A. Baillie

Intercessors:

7 th	Mrs M. McGraghan
14 th	Mrs A. Mullaney
21 st	Mrs J. Lambert
28 th	Mr J. Harcourt
May 5 th	Mrs A. Mullaney

Thought for the Month

Look upwards into the night, not in terror at the infinite spaces, but in exhilaration at the infinite wonder.

Prof. Brian Cox

The March meeting started with prayers, some taken from the World Day of Prayer service prepared this time by the Christian Women of Palestine (this was done before the present events). The theme was of resilience, prayers for peace and for refugees and for women and girls whose lives are restricted and regarded as less important.

Mrs Maggie Clift, a reader, previously at Top Church, and well known to many of us, gave a talk on the Virgin Mary, referencing the points in the Bible where she appears: the Annunciation, the visit to Elizabeth, the Nativity, the presentation in the Temple, the marriage at Cana and the Crucifixion. Candles were lit at appropriate points and prayers said for refugees (as our Lord was when in Egypt as a baby), and young mothers.

There were several birthdays among the members in the month of March: Cake and biscuits were provided by the birthday girls for refreshments. It also happened to be Maggie's birthday on the day.



Next Meeting
Monday 8th April 2pm
at St Francis

Canon Paul Tongue 1941 - 2024



Sadly, Canon Paul Tongue died on Tuesday 30th January. He served within the Diocese of Worcester since his ordination in 1964.

Paul was curate at St Edmund's for five years, from 1964 to 1969.

He was then curate at All Saints Sedgley before becoming vicar of Holy Trinity in Amblecote from 1970 to 2007.

He was made Honorary Canon in Worcester Cathedral in 1993 and served as Rural Dean in Stourbridge from 1996 to 2001.

In retirement, Paul continued an active ministry both at the cathedral, notably serving as its principle evensong cantor from 2010 to 2014, and at St Martins in the Cornmarket in Worcester city centre.

The Bishop of Worcester, Rt. Rev. John Inge, had presented Paul with the Cross of St Wulfstan in recognition of his exceptional service to the Diocese over many years. This was presented to him in the weeks leading up to his death.

Bishop John said: "Paul Tongue was one of the most faithful and dedicated priests I have ever known. I met him 16 years ago shortly after he had retired after 37 years as a parish priest in Amblecote and returned to Worcester. He continued to have a very active ministry here and was faithful to the last. I consider myself privileged to have known him and pray that he will rest in peace and rise in glory."

Paul's daughter Clare said: "Dad was completely shocked, surprised and humbled when Bishop John turned up at his house just before Christmas to personally hand him the letter telling him of the honour.. He always felt that everything he did was just 'normal' and never anything special. He also had the biggest smile when Bishop John surprised him again when in hospital to actually present him with the Cross!"

Some of us at St Edmund's remember Paul and give thanks for the happy memories. May he rest in peace.



**“ Since singing is so good a thing,
I wish all men would learn to sing”.**

Thus wrote William Byrd (c. 1540 - 1623) singer and organist in the Chapel Royal of Queen Elizabeth Ist. , but also a Catholic who composed music for clandestine worship.

At the time, some militant protestants saw music as a downward spiral leading to sin, death and the devil.

However, others disagreed, and the Queen herself played the virginals and the lute, as well as singing. Byrd published his “Psalms, Sonnets and Songs of Sadness and Piety” to encourage amateur singing, and he recommended it as an activity good for bodily and mental health. Perhaps his most important argument , though, is that the aim of music is “To honour and serve God”, quoting psalm 150 “Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum” (Let every spirit praise the Lord).

One of the glories of the Anglican church is Choral Evensong. Choristers trained in cathedrals and collegiate chapels are relied upon to provide dazzling music on state occasions, and we have witnessed their virtuosity over the last few years.

Unfortunately, access to musical training and education has become more difficult for the state - educated child. Music seems to play second fiddle (pun intended) to other subjects over the school curriculum, and the disappearance of the Act of Worship at the beginning of the day, and the diminishing of church attendance means that many people have no knowledge of even the most common hymn tunes.

But there is a glimmer of hope in projects such as Choir Church in the Blackburn Diocese, where children are trained in music and theology and provide support to parish choirs. As the Bishop of Blackburn, the Rt Reverend Phillip North says, “ Music can lift the soul and inspire people in so many ways”.

So let us nor forget the treasure that is centuries of church music

- psalms, plainsong and beautiful hymns, from Tallis and Byrd to Stanford and Handel, and agree with St Augustine of Hippo who stressed “He who sings prays twice”.

Refs:

1. The Historian (magazine of the Historical Association Summer 2023
2. Together (the voice of Catholic Anglicans)
Christmas 2023

JF

Vocations Sunday takes place on 21 April in 2024.

We often think of vocations in terms of ministry within the church: to be ordained or a lay minister. However, vocation, simply means what you are called by God to be and do. For some, this will be in formal ministry whether lay or ordained. But for all of us it will mean serving God through faithful discipleship in everyday life.

As Christians, we are called to spread the Good News to everyone, to be a Christian presence in every community. Vocations Sunday offers us an opportunity to stop and reflect on our vocations both individually and corporately. Are we living our faith as we would like to? What changes might we make?

There are a number of people within the Diocese who can help you work out what God might be calling you to be and do. This could be your vicar or another member of your church leadership team or community. It could be friends, family, or co-workers. It might be a member of the Mission and Ministry team, especially if you feel called towards formal ministry. Or you might find a spiritual director helpful, and the diocesan Spirituality Connexions group can help you to find one.

Almighty and everlasting God, hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

APRIL PHOTO-SHOP.

When I started to think about an April article for our magazine, I decided that the word *tome* could be used, especially when the Oxford English dictionary says that ‘tome; is a **noun** for a *chiefly humorous* book, especially a large, serious one’. A number of my friends are/have been teachers, and I wonder what they make of that definition i.e. how can a serious book be also humorous? Just 4 lines below in the Oxford Dictionary is the word ‘tommyrot’ and the definition of that is rubbish or nonsense! Born and bred in the Black Country we prefer to use the old English version of ‘a load of old tummyrot’.

So, that’s set out my stall of the direction we are to follow. Still being in the Oxford Dictionary another similar word is *muse* a **verb** meaning to ‘be absorbed in thought.’ Whichever way you look at it, my idea of rubbish fills a page so that all the world may see I failed my 11plus, a million years ago.

Back to headline: why is the press going so mad about the Princess of Wales using clever tricks on a photograph of her family? Good for her, and I’m sure that many newspapers and ‘celebrities’ do the same thing. Hate that word! To me a celebrity is someone doing something useful for all, not their own advancement. Princess Kate and her loving husband and children deserve better than the wild theories abounding because of her wish for privacy following her recent operation.

I doubt if the ever glamorous Nora Batty or heart throb Compo had so much to put up with all those years ago. Well done, William, Kate, and King Charles, and also to Queen Camilla for her support of them.

Almost lost my track – I hereby declare that any photo of me appearing in our magazine is genuine, and not altered by technology however, if by some chance our editor needs to change my looks, perhaps he/she could use a photograph of film star Brad Pitt (when he was younger) please!

In April of 2023 I commented in this magazine about how central Dudley had gone from being the envy of other towns because of so many car parks, which had changed when so many had been lost because of the rush to build new colleges on parts of the town. *Update: The leader of Dudley council has now announced proposals to build YET ANOTHER COLLEGE, this time on the Stafford Street car park (by the courts and near Top Church).

In a comment in the Express and Star he says “A review into the impact on car parking to establish alternative parking for people visiting Dudley.”

Where to park when you reduce car carks? Or will they appear by magic? Then comes the Metro, on which work seems to have been going on since the Black Country was just countryside. I also mentioned the endless traffic lights and diversions and “wait until they start work on the proposed new bus station.” Well, the work started at the beginning of March 2024 and will go on for at least the next 18 months (so Dudley MBC say), but don’t hold your breath, my dearly beloved. It is now worse than ever! Finding a space on a car park in the week is almost impossible – I feel sorry for the traders whose livelihoods depend on shoppers to keep them going. Obviously employing another 20 traffic wardens for the borough will help ease the situation in Dudley town centre (or not).

Educational Department: In an 1894 reprint of the ancient Dudley Parish Registers from 1540 to 1611 (even before I was born) I note that the surname most used in St Edmund’s registers was Shaw, with 52 entries. In those days spelling was in many cases different from the English we know of today. Many unusual names, and from the list mentioned I like the surnames ‘Whorwaddle’ and ‘Flemocke’ and ‘Whineup’. Have you ever come across these names? Let me know if you have or if you would like to see if your surname appears between 1540 and 1611. No charge, but *such fun*.

Good to see that most people have taken a box in which to put Lenten offerings for the wonderful work of the Children’s Society. Please be generous and return them to church the week after Easter – or alternatively a cheque payable to PCC of St Edmunds Dudley to add to our total.

*We support the work of the foodbank, and remember that someone, somewhere may be having a difficult time feeding a family, so all our donations however small will help.

Thank you: To the Priests who help keep our Catholic tradition going; without their help and our regular attendance at services.

USE YOUR CHURCH OR LOSE IT!

JH



Cherry Blossom

This is the time of year for cherry blossom. It comes in many varieties: the white petals with golden anthers of wild cherries; small pale pink early flowers that show up against dark branches; all shades of pink, single and double flowers later in the season.

Cherries grow in most temperate countries in the world.

In Japan the flowering of the cherries is a national event and leading up to the blossom flowering there are news bulletins of its progress. The opening of the first cherry blossom - *Sakura* - is widely celebrated. When we were in Japan in late March, several years ago, we visited the Kenrokuen gardens, (one of the three great gardens of Japan) and were pleased to find that as the cherry blossom was out, the usual entry charge was waived. The cherries looked beautiful.

It is customary for families to gather beneath the flowering trees and share food (picnic) beneath the branches while viewing the blossom: the viewing is called *hanami*.



A family enjoying the cherry blossom - *Hanami* - in Kenrokuen Gardens.

The quality of fleeting beauty is a reminder of the transience of life. Yet the cherry blossom is also a traditional symbol of birth and renewal, and in ancient Japan the flowering marked the start of the rice sowing season, part of the cycle of agricultural life on which human life depended. Cherry blossom time is truly a festival of lightness, a mark of the onset of spring and a time of new life. But it reminds us that even youth and beauty will pass.

The words of A.E. Houseman ;

Loveliest of trees the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Ref: R. Warren Nature's Calendar

M.M.

Safeguarding

As mentioned in Bishop Martin's letter this month, the Diocesan Safeguarding Department will be undergoing audit in July.

We endeavour, at St Edmund's, to fulfil all the requirements regarding safeguarding. Members of the Church Council have completed training, the safeguarding notice board at the back of church displays telephone numbers that can be contacted in case of need and we are ever vigilant.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer is Mary McGraghan

NOTABLE DAYS IN APRIL

Monday 1st - Bank Holiday

Sunday 21st - Vacations Sunday

Monday 22nd - World Earth Day

Thursday 25th - ANZAC Day

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SUNDAY SERVICES 11am Mass

7th Fr Tony Hutchinson
14th Fr Michael Bartlett
21st Fr Doug Chaplin
28th Fr John Oakes

HOLY DAYS IN APRIL

**Monday 8th - The Annunciation of our Lord to
the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Tuesday 23rd - St George
Patron Saint of England**

Thursday 25th - St Mark the Evangelist

**St George was most likely a Christian soldier
in the Roman Army who was martyred for his
faith**



FRIENDS OF DUDLEY ARCHIVES AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

If you are interested in local history then you can expect a warm welcome at our monthly *Dudley Archives* talks.

Refreshments and a raffle available at each talk.

We are now entering our Summer Season with the talks on a Thursday evening (see programme below).

Refreshments from 7:00pm Talk starts at 7:30.

Programme Summer 2024:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4 th April | Andy Bassett—Metal Detectorist |
| 2 nd May | John Pittwood—The Real ‘Allo ‘Allo |
| 6 th June | Paul Ford—The Gift of Time |
| 4 th July | John Smith—Dudley Caverns |
| 5 th September | Craig Denston—Dudley Graveyard Tour |

Visitors welcome at £2 per person per talk.

Annual Membership is £10 per person

The *Dudley Archives* building is located at Tipton Road, Dudley, DY1 4SQ



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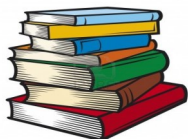
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