

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley
Church Magazine*



Church of England Member

May 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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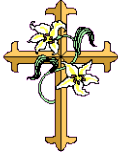
Also Parish Safeguarding Officer

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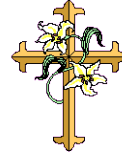
*Janet Lambert, Mary McGraghan,
Jon Harcourt*

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

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IN MEMORIAM MAY



1st	Alice Wilcox	19th	Lilian Marion Smith
2nd	Ivy Howell		Marion Gertrude Morton
3rd	Lucy Wright		Dorothy Dodd
	Cliff Field	20th	William Henry Read
	Elsie Brain	21st	Peter Joseph Stone
	Phyllis Coombs	23rd	Esme Walker
	Barbara Cracknell		Richard Stephen Baker
6th	Millicent Smart	24th	Sarah Elizabeth Hickman
7th	Pauline Mary Wall		Mabel Ethel Shakespeare
	Alfred John Morris		Ida Adney
9th	Percival Edwin Gardiner	25th	Maureen Ann Reed
10th	Hannah Smith		Mary Elizabeth Roberts
11th	Simon Morgan	27th	Ann Dudley
	Lucy Wright		Arthur Sidney Fletcher
13th	Henry Thomas		Mary Ann Taylor
14th	Florence Greenaway	28th	Donald Bradford
15th	Wilfred Palmer	30th	Gweny Morris
	Irene Gertrude Homer		Mary Colton
16th	Hilda Monica Devonport	31st	Hannah Plant
	Percival Thomas Hickman		Ernest Albert Ailsby
18th	Hannah Jackson		Frank Colton
	Thomas Charles-Jones (Priest)		Pauline Jewkes
	Ida Dutton		Mary Ellen Dudley
			Ernest Albert Dudley

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

Light Up the World in Prayer Thy Kingdom Come

Starting on Ascension Day, (9th May), and running until Pentecost (19th May), is Thy Kingdom Come. Established in 2016, this is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.

From small beginnings, the movement has grown to unite more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions.

During the eleven day period everyone is encouraged to pray in their own way, as individuals, households and churches.

One of the key invitations during this time is to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of people who have not yet responded with their 'Yes' to God's call. Thy Kingdom Come also offers the opportunity to deepen our own prayer life and to ask for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Alongside personal prayer, many churches and groups will run services and events both in-person and on-line where we can join with others to pray for God's Kingdom.

Almighty God, who called your church to witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself; help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you.

Readers for MAY

5th Mrs M. McGraghan
Mr A. Baillie
12th Mrs J. Alderman-Rowe
Mr G. Smith
19th Mrs A. Mullaney
Mrs J. Fraser
26th Mr C. Denston
Mr F. Sheppard

June 2nd Mrs J. Lambert
Mrs M. McGraghan

Intercessors:

5th Mrs A. Mullaney
12th Mrs J. Lambert
19th Mrs M. McGraghan
26th Mr J. Harcourt

June 2nd Mrs A. Mullaney

Thought for the Month

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs,
but not every man's greed.

Mahatma Gandhi

The March meeting fell on 8th of the month, which, this year, was designated the feast of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary in her home. Usually, this is on March 25th, Lady Day, but this year this fell in holy week and so was transferred.

All this leads up to the talk by Jon Harcourt at our meeting, which was on the Virgin Mary. Jon asked us to consider the feelings of Mary, a humble teenage girl, confronted by the angel Gabriel telling her she would have a son, "He shall be great, and be called the Son of the Highest and he shall reign over the house of Jacob and of his kingdom there shall be no end". Mary's quiet and simple acceptance points us in the same direction, that we, too, should accept God and the Holy Spirit in the words of Jesus.

Many thanks to those who donated things for the Women's Refuge, they have been added to the collection at St Francis and taken to the refuge. The Staff there were delighted with everything. There is great need.

Later in the year members of staff from the refuge will be coming to talk to our meeting, and we look forward to what I am sure will be an interesting and probably a rather upsetting occasion.

The next meeting will be on:

Monday 13th May 2pm at St Francis

The speaker will be Mrs Gwen Taylor, who received Maundy Money this year at Worcester cathedral and will tell us about this experience.



Some of the donations to the Women's Refuge displayed at St Francis church.

Dudley choral society



It's not over until the fat lady sings!

Well very sadly and with many regrets all round, it will soon be over for Dudley Choral Society, after nearly 80 years since its formation.

Due to Covid, age, and the general falling off of interest in choral music, it has been decided that this month's concert will be the last.

Very reduced numbers of singers, together with the impending closure of St. James's Church, Eve Hill, the regular rehearsal place, has confirmed the decision.

However, we mean to go out with a bang, so if you can, please support us by attending our last ever concert on: **May 11th at 7.00pm and/or taking part in the Singing Day on July 13th - time to be announced** - when we will have a good time practising some well-known works, before an informal performance - afternoon tea will be provided. Both events will be at St. James.

See Jane Fraser for more information.

Growing churches through our renewal programme

Bishop Martin explains where we are with the strand of our diocesan strategy to have at least one church in each major population area with a congregation of at least 150 people.



The Church of England has a vision of a church that is Christ centred and Jesus shaped. A church that is simpler, humbler and bolder.

We share that vision and want to see every parish, every benefice, every chaplaincy, every church school flourishing. Every church, every congregation is precious however small.

But within a healthy and sustainable ecology of churches we do need some that are larger. Some that can have thriving provision for youth and children; that can have excellent Sunday worship, and develop one or more new worshipping communities. We need some churches to be generating the leaders of the future and helping to train the leaders of today. Not every church will be able to do all that, but within each significant area of population we want to ensure that there is somewhere which can.

So one strand of our diocesan vision and strategy is to focus renewal funding in certain areas, to enable at least one church to grow to at least 150 people average weekly attendance across different services on Sunday and weekdays. We currently have very few churches that come near that number, particularly in the north of the diocese. Only Top Church approaches that in the Dudley Archdeaconry, which has grown as a result of significant investment as well as inspirational leadership at local level.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 12TH MAY

Following the 11am Mass

**Reports for the year will be given
Come and hear what is going on in the church**

We now hope to replicate that growth in seven other centres of population and have obtained a significant grant from the national church to help us do that. This first phase of our renewal programme focusses initially on Kingswinford, Sedgley, Old Hill and Netherton, Pensnett / Brierley Hill, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Redditch town centre. As these churches start to grow, we will also apply for funding to do the same in Bromsgrove and Kidderminster as phase 2 of the programme. Please pray for all those involved as we seek to grow healthy, happy, diverse churches that can flourish and thrive as centres of Christian love and faith for decades to come.

Remember we want to see every parish, every benefice, every chaplaincy, every church school flourishing and every church, every congregation is precious however small. If you want to know more about how a Mission Accompanier, or the Healthier Churches Fund might help your church to grow, contact me or Archdeacon Nikki today!

Bishop Martin

“And I think to myself “



If my memory serves me correctly/right, I think that I have started an article in our magazine several hundred years ago with the same phrase from the 1967 Louis Armstrong chart topper. I am a great fan of Dudley, and do most of my shopping here. Not many big stores left, but our church and the market with ancestry going back hundreds of years, lots of colleges (don't start me on this) and lately wonderful traffic diversions, lots of buses forming orderly queues and decreasing number of car parks and also very few street parking places to encourage visitors. So I try to avoid Dudley on Saturday mornings and go instead to the nearest big city – Gornal! If you live and visit there the locals always say 'The Village'. Parking fairly easy just below the old Barclays Bank, now a smart charity shop, so just a few minutes from the mostly privately owned businesses covering many needs. Florists; a Sainsbury's local; hairdressers and so on. I made several purchases and then decided to relax after all the excitement in a little tea/coffee shop (several to choose from) and ordered cappuccino and a slice of homemade cake (naughty I know) but hey – who cares? Friendly service and interesting, because they also sold and advised on wool and knitting items. After sitting and relaxing there I came out and lo and behold there was a (small) traffic jam – in Gornal of all places! Such a rarity I almost expected it to be on the Midland News, but it wasn't. Shame, but *such fun*. I like visiting and buying my vegetables and fruit from Dudley market, where you can see what you are buying in real life from friendly traders. Occasionally for whatever reason I sometimes succumb to buying vegies (especially potatoes) from a supermarket, all wrapped in plastic bags. All wrapped in plastic bags with lots of writing and pictures of the contents, but beware, my beloved million(ish) followers, because in a recent purchase of 'Baby British potatoes' when opening approximately 25% were tiny and quite wrinkled. Weird but I have learned my lesson – avoid snazzy plastic bags in supermarkets, especially if you cannot really see the contents! And I thought that wrinkles only came with old age (not us, my dears). And talking about being slightly elderly (but non-wrinkled), my car insurance with the AA for the year 2023-2024 was £471. I was informed for this year 2024-2025 it was to be £1,212. That's correct £1,212. No

bangs/prangs/bad driving or any other reasons – just because of my (but still glamorous) age. One of the best adverts on tele recently was an AA one when bank robbers broke down before making a getaway with the loot. It was “Don’t worry, I’m with the AA”. Well AA Insurance, I’m not with the AA anymore. After visiting the t’internet I have moved to another company and got a charge of £669 with extra benefits. Can’t tell you who with, but I didn’t have to fight a battle!! Guess!!

I recently watched on the tele a documentary by TV presenter Alexander Armstrong and Dr Michael Scott entitled “Italy’s Invisible Cities” and as well as factual they also used modern technology to show how Naples developed over a couple of thousand years, before climate change; Mount Vesuvius; Pompeii and rising sea levels. This was the first of 3 such ‘tours’ with Florence and Venice also on the list. One fact emerged is that there are something like 450 churches in present day Naples, just a few more than in Dudley.

The Post Office saga goes on and on and on. Loved the comment by Mr Alan Bates during an interview when he described the former big chiefs of being “Thugs in suits”. It seems as if none of the highly paid executives or politicians were even aware of thousands of sub-post office managers being falsely accused of dishonesty and theft. A succession of the aforementioned have said “sorry” during the enquiry – how hollow that seems to the poor souls who lost their integrity, homes and livelihoods so many years ago. Hope this saga does not go on as long as the Windrush scandal!

Back to St Edmunds. Holy week, of Palm Sunday/Good Friday Stations of the Cross/Easter Day were well supported, with rise in attendance at all 3 over last year. Our Lenten charity observance for 2024 was for the Children’s Society, cannot tell how much we raised, because a number of plastic boxes are yet to be returned. But whatever the final figure will be, it all counts! This year we also joined with the Mothers’ Union in supporting the Women’s Refuge with toiletries and personal items. Not forgetting the Foodbank, of course. Many thanks, dearly beloved, and keep smiling.

“ what a wonderful world.”

JH

Easter Flowers at St Edmund's



Thanks to the flower team:
Malcolm, Barbara, Jon and Mary

Thank you to everyone who gave
donations for the flowers.



Thanks to Jane Shepherd for this mini Easter garden

Thanks to Phil Griffiths for baking this Simnel cake which was shared after the service. It was delicious.

Photographs by Patrick McGraghan and Phil Griffiths



NOTABLE DAYS IN MAY

Wednesday 1st - May Day
Friday 3rd - World Press Freedom Day
Sunday 5th - Rogation Sunday
Monday 6th - Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 27th - Spring Bank Holiday

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SUNDAY SERVICES 11am Mass

5th Fr Tony Hutchinson

12th TBC

19th Fr John

26th TBC

HOLY DAYS IN MAY

Wednesday 1st - St Philip & St James

Wednesday 8th - Julian of Norwich

Thursday 9th - Ascension Day

Thursday 14th - Matthias the apostle

Sunday 19th - Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Sunday 26th - Trinity Sunday

Thursday 30th - Corpus Christi

Day of thanksgiving for Holy Communion

St Philip and St James share a feast day because their relics were brought to Rome together in 560 and were placed in a basilica dedicated to them. This James is not the brother of John, but James, Son of Alpheus.



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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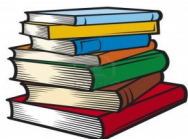
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