

Birthdays this month....

23rd July – Joseph Brookes

28th July – Danielle Hall

28th July – Meryl Poole

Do let us know your birthday, so we can pray and thank God for the gift of you all on your nativity

This fortnight's ECO tip!

It's Plastic Free July! Laundry is a top source of microplastic pollution. Fibres from synthetic clothes shed tiny fibres during washing and drying. These enter the sewage systems and are hard to filter out. Use a microfibre bag or ball to catch the fibres. How about trying to purchase more natural fibre clothing where you can? Buy laundry products in bulk to avoid so much plastic packaging, or explore alternatives such as Wablu washing sheets.. WABLU Spring Florals Laundry Detergent Sheets with natural enzymes (800) | Biodegradable All-in-one Washing Sheets | For all washing types | 24 Washes (or 48 small loads) | Amazon.co.uk: Grocery

Why do we? ... the sign of the Cross

Currently we are exploring what we do around making the sign of the cross in church ...

Why do we make the sign of the Cross in the Creed when we mention the resurrection of the dead? It is our way of reminding ourselves that Jesus shared our humanity with us, so that we might share his divinity with him. He shares our death, so we might share his life. And also, to committing to be people of resurrection in the world, bearing each others' crosses, that we might all have life.

Messy Church! 10am – 11.45am

Saturday 25th July at S. Margaret's. If you are aged 0 – 11 why not come along and bring your adults with you, for a time especially for you... activities, songs and worship, food and love to share.

QUIZ!! S. Margaret's - August 15th

Sign up in the porch for our next quiz with QuizMaster Tim! 7pm. Come as a team, or on your own and we will find you one.

THE PSALM RESPONSE

Lord, guide us along the safe path

Questions / Contact?

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S. Peter, Cradley

19th July 2026

16th Sunday in Ordinary



In This Week's Scripture...

"Let both of them grow until the harvest"

Matthew 13: 23

The Word of God is thrown with such wonderful abundance that it springs up everywhere, in all parts of our lives, glorious and beautiful. We are encouraged to know that even in the muddle of our lives, and in the struggle of the world, there will be beautiful harvest. And to see it everywhere in beauty all around us.

Sometimes our lives of faith – and our world, and story - can seem full of frustrations and distractions and things that scratch, and sting, and we would rather things were well-ordered, peaceably, a perfect rose-garden of life.

Well, as the song says "I beg your pardon, I didn't promise you a rose-garden". But in Jesus' love for us the only thorns are those he wears on his head, as he pulls up with us the thorns and tangles in the garden of our soul.

Jesus tells us in our reading today to just trust in the beauty. To keep sowing it, to let it self-seed, to focus on it... to allow the challenges to become blessings in him... and as for the tenacious weeds, he will deal with them, in due course, and we can trust in him.

Welcome! Is there anything you need?

gluten free? If you need a gluten free wafer at communion, please let the welcomers know

T loop: Please set your hearing aid to T-Loop to use the sound system effectively

Toilet: at the back of the church to your left

Children: are most welcome! There is a children's area to the front right of the church, where children can play, supervised by their accompanying adult. Do keep them with you in the main seating area if you prefer. Please do not worry if they want to wander round the church, or if they cry! They may also wish to try out our Junior Church, which meets in the vestry most weeks. (parents are welcome to accompany their child, but leaders are fully compliant with safeguarding regulations)



Worship for the Coming Week

This Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion with hymns
5.15pm evening prayer on zoom (click link)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5589842329>

Tuesday 7.30am half hour said Mass bi-weekly between S. Margaret's and S. Peter's, *followed by optional tea and toast* – please see website or ask Mthr V if you're not sure which church we are in!

Wednesday 7pm simple said Mass at S. Margaret's
9pm Online livestream Compline – click link below

Mthr. Victoria Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/victoria.barlow.750>

Next Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion with Hymns

5.15pm evening prayer on zoom (same link)

School leaver's Bibles

We have had the great grace of giving all our Year Six leavers a beautiful bible once more – placing the Word of God into their hands. It is incredibly difficult to find suitable bibles for this age-group, and has been very expensive. If anyone would like to make a donation toward this, please put it in an envelope marked 'spreading the word' and give it to Christine Adshead. Thank you so much.

Confirmation and the Bishop!

Bishop Hugh will be visiting us here at Cradley at **9.30am August 16th**. **PLEASE PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW.** Please can everyone make sure to be here, to pray for our confirmands, Jessie, Sarah, Danielle and Nicola, and Neil Curley (Neil is from S. Margaret's church family). and to welcome our bishop. It would be wonderful to have celebratory cake and drinks after the service – I'll donate pink prosecco if you bring the cake, tea and coffee.... (Mthr V).

Money for Cardiff – and castle tour

Our trip to Cardiff is August 29th. 8.30am – 8.30pm departing from S. Margaret's

I will be collecting money for the coach on the last Sunday of July, (£20 per head). As the coach is quite popular, I will then be releasing tickets that aren't paid for by Sunday August 16th in order that people can come who would like to. I will give you a receipt for your seat 😊 The Castle tours are only for 8 people at a time – so if you would like to do that I suggest you arrange it separately as there would be no advantage and many disadvantages to booking it centrally. I will give you a list of suggested fun activities / places to eat before the trip for you to explore. If you would like to come and haven't yet signed up, do let me know.

New Altar

Sunday 26th July I shall be giving you a sneak preview of the New Altar following the worship. This altar was made for us for free by a craftsman in our area – Adrian - who heard of our need for one. We needed a new altar as we have been having to move the altar from the children's chapel every week, which leaves the restored chapel looking bereft, is a lot of hard work, is damaging the wooden plinth, and is pulling the altar apart.

The new altar was made to measure to be the correct size for a Nave Altar. So it is a lot larger than the side chapel altar – meaning we shall get a real sense of it being the Proper Altar, rather than a subsidiary altar, and it is big enough to symbolise a table around which we can all be gathered. It is, however, also designed to be fuss-free – the only ornamentation being a cross, and the simple design meaning you can see straight through the altar up to the chancel and the block of colour that is the High Altar Frontal. We shall still use the High Altar once a month as previously – 3rd Sunday, unless it is team worship when the week will move - unless people request otherwise.

If we had purchased an altar as simple as that at S. Margaret's it would have cost us around £6-7K. This one, had we bought it at church furnishing cost would have cost us probably around £11K. We are so very blessed in our community.

It will be blessed for use on August 16th by Bishop Hugh, and we shall have the joy of celebrating around it, and receiving from it on that day alongside our confirmands and our Diocesan Bishop.

Foodbank Donations

Don't forget we collect for the Foodbank *every week* at S. Peter's. Every little helps those in need.