

Birthdays this month

2nd August – Alison King
4th August – Liam Seddon
6th August – Andrew Burling
11th August – Anne Palmer
15th August – Leonie Young
17th August – Marilyn Hobbs
22nd August – John Hall
30th August – Linda Young & Bobby Rose

This fortnight's ECO tip!

It's Plastic Free July! When out and about why not have a go at reducing plastic waste by refusing plastic cutlery and extra bags? Take a re-fillable bottle or flask with you rather than buying a container. At home, why not return to natural fibres for dishcloths, dusters and bed linen where you can, to avoid microfibre plastics getting into our waste and sewage systems? Have a look at the display at the back of church for more ideas!

THE PSALM RESPONSE

26th July :

Lord, your word gives light and understanding

2nd August:

You are faithful and loving, O Lord

9th August:

Show us your mercy, O Lord

S. Margaret, Hasbury

**26th July, 2nd August,
9th August 2026**

17th, 18th, 19th, Sunday in Ordinary



A cross made of oysters and pearls...

In This Week's Scripture...

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, ... yeast ... treasure hidden in a field... a merchant in search of fine pearls... a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind"

Matthew 13: 31, 33, 44, 45, 47

Our hearts are restless 'til we find our rest in you, says S. Augustine. Our hearts long for something, search for it. And sometimes we don't even know what it is really that we are searching for. Yet, something in our hearts recognises that it is the thing we need above all over, something deeper, more beautiful, more insistent, more powerful, more transformative than anything we can find in ordinary life. And yet something that somehow we can uncover all around us. Something that works through all our lives, like yeast, bringing life and hope. Something that shines in the darkness of pain, like a pearl bringing beauty and healing, something as small as a seed – yet that yields a plant that can blaze in flower across a whole landscape. Something that will draw all hearts and souls to itself.

SomeONE who invites us in: to find the Kingdom in his heart, and to seek every day to grow deeper into it, uncover it around us, and within; and to share it with those we meet along the way.

Contact?

Vicar: Mthr. Victoria Barlow
mthrvictoria@halasteam.org.uk
or text/ whatsapp 07585264050
Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Seddon
sarahwhiley82@hotmail.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088868160324>

on the web: Please take a look at our *A Church Near You* Page which holds up to date information about all services, events and notices [St Margaret - A Church Near You](#)



Welcome! Is there anything you need?

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

T loop: available at all worship

Toilet: right at the back of the church to your left

Children: are most welcome! There is a play 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!

Dyslexia friendly and Large Print : orders of service are available at most services at the welcome table.



Worship for the Coming Weeks

This Sunday 11.15am Holy Mass with hymns

5.15pm evening prayer on zoom (click link)

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

Tuesday 28th 7.30am Morning Prayer at S.

Margaret's, followed by optional tea and toast breakfast

Wednesday 29th 7pm half hour said Night Prayer

Thursday Evening Prayer 3pm – speak to Susan Cresswell for more details and location!

Sunday 2nd August

11.15am Holy Mass with hymns

5.15pm evening prayer on zoom (same link)

6pm Voices in the Vestry

Tuesday 4th August 7.30am Morning Prayer at S.

Margaret's followed by optional tea and toast breakfast

Wednesday 5th August 7pm half hour Night Prayer

Thursday 6th August Evening Prayer 3pm – speak to Susan Cresswell for more details and location!

Sunday 9th August

11.15am Holy Mass with hymns

1pm Baptism at S. Peter's of Everley from our Messy Church family – please pray for her and her family.

5.15pm evening prayer on zoom (same link)

Monday 10th August

12 noon Jean Holloway's funeral in church

Tuesday 11th August

7.30am Holy Mass at S. Peter's followed by optional tea and toast breakfast

Wednesday 12th August

7pm Half hour said Holy Mass

9pm Online livestream Compline – click link below

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

Thursday 13th August Evening Prayer 3pm – speak to Susan Cresswell for more details and location!

Sunday 16th August – NO WORSHIP AT S.

Margaret's – see separate notice about confirmation

1pm Baptism of Kayden & William, from our Messy Church family – please pray for them 😊

Invitation for creativity!

For our eco celebration, instead of filling the church with un-ecological cut flowers we would love to bless it with greenery cut from our own gardens, and creative beauty – can you knit / crochet a flower, butterfly, bee or colourful pom pom? Or perhaps origami a bird or bee or flower? What are your creative gifts? Can we fill the church with re-usable beauty? Any offerings please to be brought in by Sunday 6th September 😊

Eco Celebration – date for diary!

September 12th 5pm we have a half hour service of praise and thanksgiving to celebrate our GOLD eco award, and all the work that has gone into that. We shall then share together in tea and scones. We have special invited guests to welcome, and it would be a wonderful late summer evening together.

Gentle Glitzing...

Saturday 5th September 10.30 – 11.30am . Please do come and help. Every little makes a difference!

Joint Confirmation at Cradley!

Bishop Hugh will be visiting us at S. Peter's Cradley at **9.30am August 16th** for the confirmation of Neil Curley and Jessie, Sarah, Danielle and Nicola from S. Peter's. There will be no worship on this morning at S. Margaret's. Please can everyone make sure to be at S. Peter's (let us know if you need a lift), to pray for our confirmands, 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 (Mthr V).

Money for Cardiff – and castle tour

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

Please give money for Cardiff to me or to Fran any time from now on preferably in an envelope with your name(s) and amount, (£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.

RIP Elisabeth Wellings

Unfortunately, Elisabeth had some rare side effects with her immunotherapy treatment for her cancer, following a period of ill health. She died peacefully on Thursday morning. Elisabeth was such a loving heart and faithful Christian. She will now be gathered up into the love of the God she loved so much. Please pray for Keith and the family at this time. Elisabeth's service of thanksgiving and commendation will probably be at 12 noon here at Church on Monday August 24th, following a family-only committal. We will confirm that as soon as we can. All are welcome.

RIP Jean Holloway

Jean's Funeral service will be here at church Monday 10th August at 12 noon, going on to Stourbridge Crematorium, and followed by refreshments here in church. All are welcome. Do pray for Jean and her family at this time.

A book to read over summer?

The Liturgy of the Ordinary, by Tish Harrison Warren. It is a very gentle book, full of blessing and reflection. A small group is then gathering over a cuppa on Friday 18th September to share responses.

Scripture Share

Friday 14th August – we will be reading and reflecting on the gospel of Luke, Chapter 9. All are welcome.

QUIZ!! August 15th

Sign up at the back! 7pm with QuizMaster Tim! Teams of up to six people. Bring your own nibbles, tea and coffee provided. £5 entry per adult, children and students free.

StoryTime Teddy Bears' Picnic

Friday 21st August at 2pm. All primary school age children are welcome – although the session is more designed for pre-schoolers. Bring your teddy bear (or other favourite soft friend), and some snacks, to share in song, story and a teddy bear's picnic. Some snacks will be provided, and hot drinks and squash. If your child is starting a new school or nursery, why not bring along their lunchbox / school bag / book bag for blessing? All are welcome, Free entry.

Mthr V is away (again)

Mthr V is away for the longest holiday of her life! And you have the wonderful treat of Revd Judith next Sunday again. Please do make her welcome.

Our next talk... 5th September 2.30pm

40 years ago, Andrea trained as a nurse at the Corbett Hospital. When she retired from nursing, she started researching John Corbett and the history of the hospital. She shares her findings in this fascinating talk about such an important part of our local community.

Valuation Day: 18th August

T Baker are back with another valuation day on Tuesday 18th August 10.30am - 3.30pm. Why not pop in with your curiosities and treasures for a free valuation? (No obligation to sell, although there is the option) (This event is not a fundraiser for S. Margaret's, nor endorsed by the Church, T Baker are hiring our premises for one of their regular roadshow valuation days)

Voices in the Vestry: 2nd August

6pm at the back of church for a lovely informal time of worship together, with prayer and chat and discussion, and of course a cuppa. All are welcome.

Coffee mornings

Continue over the summer, so do drop in and spend time with old friends and new... 6th August, 20th August, 3rd September. All are welcome.

Board Games Morning for High School & Year 6 students

Saturday August 22nd we would like to start our new outreach. We would be inviting High School and Year 6 students to share in refreshments and space to play board games and chat together. 10.30 – 12 noon.

Do you have any board games we could borrow / you would like to get rid of? Please let Mthr V know if so!

I am also looking for one or two volunteers to help serve refreshments and to be available to make sure it all runs smoothly. Please let Mthr V know if you can help.

Bags of Hope

Mthr V has been approached by the Bags of Hope school project for disadvantaged school children. They are looking for donations of back packs, refillable water bottles, pencil cases and stationery for children whose families are struggling to provide these. Can you help? Donations are needed by Sunday August 16th, and must be new, please.

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

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

Here are three week's worth of reflections!

We often make the sign of the Cross by joining two fingers and thumb together – the three representing the Trinity - and touching our head (the place where we make our rational choices), our stomach (the place where it was believed we made our emotional choices) and the two sides of our chest, and into the heart. Wrapping the Trinity around all we do, think, speak, feel and are. It is a prayer that wraps protection, love and grace around us, and a prayer we can make as an intercession for others, or a witness. It is a body-prayer, for when words fail. Why not try it out?

We already explored the making of the sign of the cross at the **gathering**, and the **absolution**...

Why do we make the sign of the Cross **at the reading of the Gospel**? First on the head, then on the lips, then on the heart. It is a prayer that we might receive and make our own the presence of Jesus in the Word he gives to us. You might like to join in the prayer that the priest always prays silently at this point ('Lord be in my heart and upon my lips, that I may worthily proclaim / receive thy holy Gospel')

Why do we make the sign of the Cross as we say *The resurrection of the dead in the Creed*? It is to remind us that just as Jesus shared our human deaths and pains through his incarnation, so we also share his resurrection life. His life is always at work within the deaths and losses of our life. We pledge ourselves here to be people of his resurrection, receiving it for ourselves in new beginnings and hope - and sharing life and love in the world.

Why do we make the sign of the Cross at the: **Benedictus** (when we sing 'blessed is he who comes...')? It is a way of remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and inviting him to enter into our hearts. It reminds us of the joy of those who welcomed him, and of the journey of love he was about to make for us. We pray that he will enter our hearts, but also that we may make his journey our own... that we too may be ones who are blessed as they come, sharing love into the world...

Why do we make the sign of the Cross **before receiving communion**? It is to pledge ourselves to receive the Jesus' body and love – broken for us on the Cross, and to be broken open, that we might

receive – and in receiving, to be equipped to share. And also, unworthy as we are, to ask the Lord to bring us to his grace as we receive his most Holy Presence.

Why do we make the sign of the Cross **at the blessing**? It is just simply to wrap that blessing around us, that we might go out – people of the Cross. Strengthened and protected by his grace, and filled with his self-giving love.

150th Anniversary of the MU

9th August sees the 150th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union. We shall be giving thanks for the work of the Mothers' Union in church on that Sunday. Please do pray for the work of our local and diocesan branches of the Mothers' Union in prayer, advocacy, fundraising, and practical love. If you are interested in joining the Mothers' Union please speak to Mthr V who can put you in touch with our Cradley Branch. The branch meet on Wednesdays, have termly lunches out, and special speakers, prayer, and study periods around Lent, and great fellowship and fun together. All are welcome. (Men and women, any age!)

You may wish to join with the Mothers' Union in praying the Mary Sumner prayer (Mary was the founder of the MU)

"All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen."

(*quicken* in this context is an old English word meaning 'to bring life to'.)

DCC meeting

Our next DCC meeting is August 25th 7pm in the Lady Chapel. Please put this date in your diary if you are on DCC, and please pray for the DCC as they meet. If you have anything you would wish to raise, either in celebration or a suggestion, or query, please speak to Mthr V, or one of the wardens.

S. Peter's Free Concert

September 9th 2.30pm. Andy Quin is a virtuoso improvising concert pianist and organist. He has performed internationally and made numerous tv appearances and radio broadcasts. Andy will treat us to improvisations on well known film and TV themes, musicals, 'Great American songbook' and much more playing both the organ and piano. All are welcome