

Birthdays this month....

3rd September – Ann Southwick

30th September Catherine Morgan

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! Internet

Did you know that AI is quite destructive for the environment? Data centres that power AI models consume vast amounts of electricity, contributing to carbon emissions, especially where fossil fuels dominate. A single AI query can use up to 10 times more electricity than a standard online search. AI infrastructure also requires significant water for cooling, and centres are built taking vast acres of natural habitat.

What can we do? Limit use of AI to where it is most helpful, and avoid using it for simple recreation or by accident. Turn off AI searching on your browser, and only use it when you intend to. Try using *Ecosia* instead of your normal browser – an internet browser that ploughs normal advertising profit into planting trees.

Why do we? ... Communion

Why does the priest wash their hands during the laying of the altar? This is not to wash the hands for cleanliness! I promise you I do wash my hands, and they are clean. This is a symbolic washing. Whilst the water is poured, the priest prays a prayer "Lord, wash away my iniquities and cleanse me of all my sins – it is in your grace and yours alone that I stand". It is a prayer that as we come to the great privilege of saying Jesus' words and standing in his place, and feeding ourselves and the people... we might through his grace be blessed. It reminds us of our humility as priests – and is also a visual symbol to the people. We need this as we are no more worthy of such a great privilege as anyone else would be. We need his blessing and forgiveness, before we undertake such an act.

THE PSALM RESPONSE

Lord, show me the Way of life

Questions / Contact?

Vicar: Mthr. Victoria Barlow mthrvictoria@halasteam.org.uk or text/ whatsapp 07585264050 or on Fb @MthrVictoria

Parish Office parishoffice@halasteam.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Sharon Turner

Shazt1971@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook: *St Peter's Cradley*

(10) St Peter's Cradley | Halesowen | Facebook

Website: [S. Peter's Church, Cradley - A Church Near You](#)

S. Peter, Cradley

6th September 2026

23rd Sunday in Ordinary



In This Week's Scripture...

"Love your neighbour as yourself"

Romans 9

We can only really love each other, if we learn to love ourselves first.

If we learn to look in the mirror at ourselves, and see ourselves with God's eyes of love – the eyes that see us and know us completely – all the beautiful and graceful parts, and all the parts that we worry about and wish he didn't see - We learn that we are fully known... and yet we are still fully loved.

When we accept this extraordinary love of God it sets us free from fears and gives us a firm foundation on which to stand, and helps us to grow into that love.

Learning to look at the human image like that in the mirror and see God love us like that, helps us to learn to look at the human image with kindness, forgiveness and love. We are called to look outward with that same love. To love our neighbours as ourselves, in all their fragility and imperfections, also, with that all-holding love of God that we ourselves receive. And as we do, we bless them, in the same way God blesses us. and we all grow together in grace and gifts. And so a community of love grows ... in his Name. For the Name of God is Love.

Wherever two or three are gathered together in my Name, says the Lord, I am in the midst of them.

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 and children's group

5.15pm evening prayer on zoom (click link)

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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

7pm Half hour said Holy Mass at S. Margaret's
NO 9pm Online livestream Compline this week

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

Next Sunday

10.30am Team worship at S Peter, Lapal

5.15pm evening prayer on zoom (same link)

Team Worship Next Sunday : Lapal

Next Sunday, 13th September, there will be no morning worship at S. Peter's. You are all invited to come together at S. Peter's Lapal to worship at 10.30. The rather wonderful Revd Andy Todd will be presiding and preaching – so it is a real treat. The worship will be to celebrate the Halas Parish. Evening zoom will be held as usual.

Nave altar

We are not sure who moved the Nave Altar last week, but please do not move it without consulting the Wardens first, as it is quite heavy to move, and rarely will need to.

Foodbank Donations

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



Our next Concert.. Sept 19th 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. Do come and bring a friend!

Bible Hour – gentle share reading

September 25th onwards every fortnight at 1pm in **S. Margaret's** Church – bring a sandwich if you like, share a cuppa and we shall open the book and look at a passage of the gospel of Mark.

There is also a sign up sheet at the back - to try to find the right time for a monthly bible hour for people who can't do Fridays!

Flowers? Would you like to help?

There are new rotas attached to the back doors, for people to volunteer to bring flowers for around the church. A simple bunch of cheap flowers, dropped in a vase, can really transform the inside of the church with love. Do sign up for a week if you would like to.

Messy Church in September

19th September at S. Margaret's

26th September at S. Peter's

10am – 11.45am ending with free refreshments.

This is for pre-school and primary school age children. Free crafts, prayers and time to make friends and learn about the faith together. All are welcome, please spread the word.

Harvest Fish and Chip Supper & Quiz

Friday 25th September at the Cradley Sports and Social Club. £7.50 per adult, Children £3.50, Family ticket available. Speak to Lynn for more details.

Harvest Festival worship is October 4th 9.30am, and we usually take donations of food to split between the women's refuge and the foodbank.

Open Meeting FOR ALL....

Having set our budget for next year, we (as are most of the parish) are facing a noticeable Deficit. Whilst we do have some small reserves, obviously they will not last very long.

We are holding an open DCC meeting for all the church family, on Saturday 10th October 2.30pm – 3.30pm with tea and cake, to share more information and to pray about this, share ideas, and see what sort of plans we can make to sustain this beautiful place of worship and community for the future. Please do come. Your ideas are essential, as are your prayers.