

# Profile for the Parish of Gornal and Sedgley

St Andrew's

St Peter's

All Saints

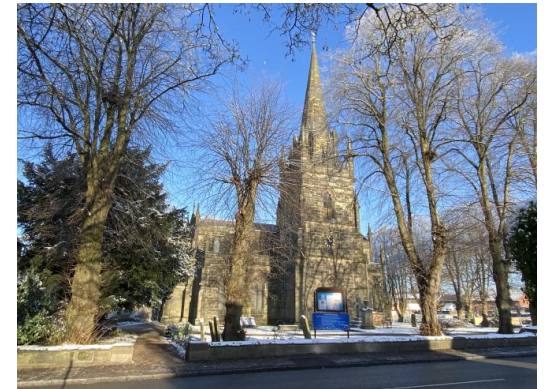
## Appointment of Team Vicar for the Parish of Gornal and Sedgley With particular responsibility for St Andrew's and St Peter's



St Andrew's, The Straits



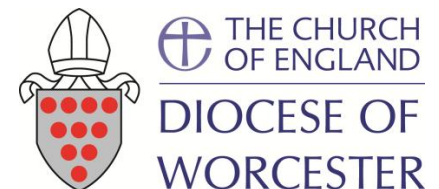
St Peter's, Upper Gornal



All Saints, Sedgley



Worshipping God  
Welcoming All  
Serving our Community



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# Welcome

The Gornal and Sedgley Team is looking for a Team Vicar.

The vacancy of Team Vicar will arise following the retirement of the Team Vicar in June 2025.

We hope our parish profile will give you a taste of the life, work and worship in our three churches.

Thank you for taking time to find out about us.

A role description and person specification are on the following pages

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

**The Venerable Nikki Groarke**  
**Archdeacon of Dudley**



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**Worshipping God**

**Welcoming All**

**Serving our Community**



## What We Can Offer

The parish is currently undergoing an exciting renewal project with funding for a children and families worker. A Team Rector has recently been appointed to lead this.

Parish Administrator 16 hours per week.

Safeguarding is rated green by Diocese of Worcester.

We have

- 1 Authorised Lay Minister for worship
- 1 Authorised Funeral Minister
- 3 Authorised Lay Ministers for Pastoral Care
- 1 Licensed Lay Minister
- 2 Licensed Lay Ministers in training

The parish is urban, within easy reach of beautiful countryside.



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## Role Description

### **Role Description: Team Vicar**

Role Title: Team Vicar

To serve as the Team Vicar in the Parish of Gornal and Sedgley with responsibility for St Andrew's, the Straits and St Peter's, Upper Gornal. This includes developing mission and ministry, through working collaboratively with the Team Rector, staff and volunteers.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

#### **Spiritual Leadership:**

- Lead worship, mission, and pastoral care across the two churches. Build on existing services and activities and develop new initiatives, especially those that will encourage children and families, alongside the team rector
- Preach and teach in ways that inspire faith, discipleship and intergenerational engagement.
- Foster a culture of prayer, hospitality and welcome, and evangelism within the two churches.



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**Community Engagement:**

- Build and strengthen relationships with the local community through engaging with schools, shops and businesses.

**Leadership and Development:**

- Develop and equip volunteer teams for mission and ministry
- Develop pastoral care
- Promote a healthy safeguarding standards

**Sustainability:**

- Contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of the parish through effective stewardship, fundraising, and volunteer development, particularly focusing on St Peter's and St Andrew's
- Support wider parish and deanery initiatives.



## Person Specification

We are seeking someone with a strong personal faith who is:

- an effective communicator, approachable and able to relate well to people of all ages.
- a team player who enjoys working collaboratively.
- an encourager who will help individuals to identify and develop their gifts and skills and build teams.
- a person of prayer and scripture and passionate about enabling others to deepen their discipleship.
- comfortable with exploring different styles of worship and will help to develop, encourage and grow New Worshipping Communities.
- compassionate and inclusive of all.
- passionate about mission and engaging with children, youth and families and being a visible presence in our communities.
- resilient and able to support the Renewal Project at All Saints as it resources the parish.



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## Introduction to the parish of Gornal and Sedgley

The Gornal and Sedgley Team Ministry comprises the parish churches of All Saints, Sedgley, St Peter's Upper Gornal, and St Andrew's The Straits. We have been working together as a team since 2005, although All Saints and St Andrew's have been linked together since 1995.

The PCC has oversight of the parish, with the DCCs having delegated responsibility for finance and buildings for each church.

The parish serves a population of approximately 27,070 (2021 census), with 11,517 households, with population density 5,790. The deprivation rank is 3,800 (1=most deprived, 12239=least deprived).

Age profile of parish 0-4 4.7%, 5-19 16.2%, 20-29 10.5%, 30-44,17.9%, 45-69 32.5%, 70 and over 18.0%

Sedgley, Gornal and The Straits have a selection of local facilities:

The popular Mill Theatre which hosts regular musical and dramatic performances.

A good variety of shops, supermarkets and a library.

Selection of clubs, uniformed organisations, societies (such as local history), and several social organisations.

Cafes, pubs and restaurants offering a wide variety of food.

Several doctors' surgeries and close to hospitals.

8 primary schools and 2 secondary schools.

Himley Hall and Park is close by, which hosts regular events throughout the year, also Baggeridge Country Park.

There is easy access to the cities of Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

The Parish of Gornal and Sedgley has been a Registered Charity 1179471 since 2017



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# About the area of Gornal and Sedgley

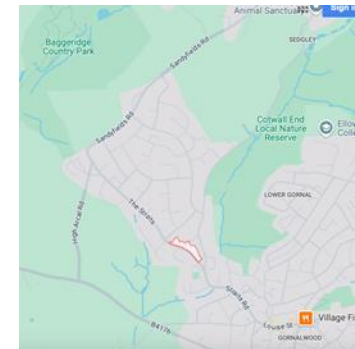
The parish of Gornal and Sedgley is located on the edge of the West Midlands conurbation. We are very fortunate to have the countryside of Staffordshire on our doorstep and Shropshire to the west. We have good transport connections in the local area and further afield. There is easy access to the motorway network and direct rail travel to both Birmingham and London close by.

The West Midlands is known for its manufacturing and industry.



## The Straits

The Straits is a short drive from Sedgley, through an area of farmland. There are a few shops on the main road. St Andrew's Church stands prominently on the main road, and the Straits housing estate spreads around the church. This is also where the popular Straits Primary School is located.



St Andrew's

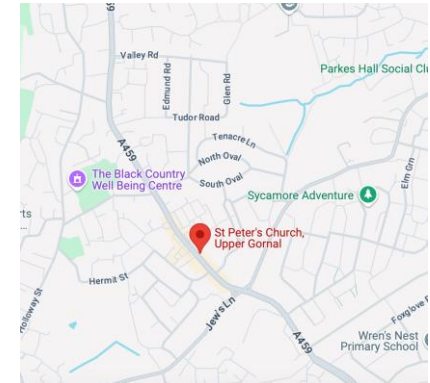
St Peter's

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## Upper Gornal

Upper Gornal, where St Peter's is located, is reached by the main road from Sedgley. St Peter's Church stands on the main road at the centre, which features a shopping precinct, doctors' surgery and several pubs.

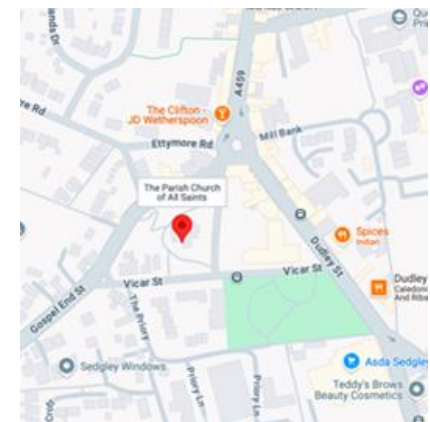
Upper Gornal Methodist Church is located here. This is where our local Food Bank is based and is well supported by all the churches in the team, including volunteers.



## Sedgley

Sedgley has a good mixture of age groups living and working here. There is a wide variety of housing in the area. This ranges from social housing, to the popular Brownswall, Northway and Straits estates, to larger individually designed homes. There are also areas of urban deprivation.

A major new development on the edge of Sedgley with our neighbouring village of Gospel End is Baggeridge Village. Located next to Baggeridge Country Park this offers a selection of luxury homes and businesses.



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## Vicarage



Large 4 bedroom detached house

Downstairs - main entrance at front, leading to living room, dining room , kitchen and stairs. Study, with separate entrance at side of house, a small utility room, toilet and shower.

Upstairs - 2 generous double bedrooms, 2 single rooms, and family bathroom, with bath and separate shower cubicle.

Generous mature gardens front and rear of the house, with ample parking for visitors at the front .

Gas central heating and double glazing throughout.

Separate garage.

Located next to St Andrew's Church.

Near to The Straits primary school which was rated Good 2023.

Walking distance from Gornal village and Baggeridge Country Park.



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# St Andrew's Church



St Andrew's church was built in 1914, members were told that if they looked after the Church, then it should last 30 or 40 years. The building is in reasonable condition. In recent years several windows have been replaced. It holds about 100 people. The pews are moveable.

The hall is adjacent to the church building and is in good condition. The hall hosts a weekly moms and toddlers group called Little Angels, and is very popular. Several of the St Andrew's baptisms come from Little Angels. St Andrew's holds two fayres a year. They are very successful, well supported by the local community, and have led to people starting to attend meetings

St Andrew's each year welcomes The Straits School for their annual visit to learn more about the church.

Our LLM Canon Jan Humphries oversees much of the day-to-day life, ministry and worship at St Andrew's

The hall has several regular bookings, such as Gentle Exercise, a local choir, craft group and an afterschool tutor group. The hall has daily regular bookings

The hall is also booked by a local independent church called Bridge Church Gornal. The two churches have a long history of working together. Bridge Church hold their weekly Sunday services at 18:30, and a monthly coffee morning in the hall. We have collaborated to have a community defibrillator installed.



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# St Peter's Church



The Church Hall was built in 1936 in red brick and tiled with flat felted roof sections. The building has a large central assembly hall, a lounge, print room/storage area, kitchen and toilets. The DCC have appointed a Fabric Committee. They oversee the day-to-day maintenance and longer term renovation proposals. The building could accommodate 100 people.

St Peter's hosts the midweek communion, which is well attended. There is coffee and cake afterwards. There is potential for this service to be developed in a number of ways.



St Peter's does not currently have a licence for weddings or funerals. The old church building was closed in 2020.

The hall does not have any regular hall bookings, but it is used for church and parish social events, such as barn dances, beetle drives, choir concerts, and the Christmas fayre. It has been used for MPs' surgeries. We are hoping to let the hall to more community groups for surgeries and meetings in the future



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## All Saints Church



All Saints Church was rebuilt by the Earl of Dudley between 1826 and 1829, replacing the previous medieval church. It stands in the central part of Sedgley in a prominent position, and the tower and spire are visible for miles around.

The west end of the church was re-ordered in 2005, creating a narthex, separated from the nave by a glass screen. At the same time pews were removed from the back of the church to create an area for socializing, particularly after services. A kitchen was also created at the rear of the church. The church has a seating capacity of approximately 200.



All Saints has an active bell ringing group of 11 ringers.

The church contains several significant stain glass windows depicting Bible stories and a World War One window. There is an project ongoing regarding the structural integrity and preservation of the windows.

The Church Hall is across the road from the church. It was built in 1954. Over the last 10 years, it has been refurbished, brought up to date and provides excellent facilities. The hall and the church are WiFi enabled. The main hall has a capacity of 100. There is a wood block floor, a fully equipped kitchen and a professional audio-visual system. The hall supports a range of community activities. Separate from the hall is the Community Room with a capacity of 55.





## Worshipping God

### Sunday Worship – Statistics for 2024

	Over 16	Under 16	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
St Peter's	32	0	N/A	N/A	N/A
St Andrew's	13	2	7	1	1
All Saints	42	4	21	4	13

There were 39 funerals at the crematorium

Electoral Role Total = 188

St Peter's - 56

St Andrew's- 22

All Saints - 110

\* Figures from annual parish returns 'how many are in your worshipping community'. These figures include people who regularly attend at least once a month (or would do if they were able)



St Andrew's

St Peter's

All Saints



## Current Parish Monthly Sunday Service Pattern

We anticipate this will change with the appointment of the new team vicar

	All Saints 08:00	St Andrew's 09:30	St Peter's 10:00	All Saints 11:00	Baptisms	18:30
1st	* Prayer meeting	Communion		Communion		Evensong All Saints LLM/Clergy
2nd	Communion	Worship for all - LLM	Worship for all - ALM	Communion	St Andrew'ss 14:30	Compline Zoom LLM/ALM/ Clergy
3rd	* Prayer meeting	Worship for all - LLM		Family service with Communion	All Saints 13:00	Compline Zoom LLM/ALM/ Clergy
4th	Communion	Worship for all - LLM	Communion	* Prayer meeting		Compline Zoom LLM/ALM/ Clergy
5th	Communion	10:00 Team Service St Peter's				Compline Zoom LLM/ALM/ Clergy



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## Parish Weekday Worship and Prayer

The weekly communion service held at St Peter's had an average attendance of 20 in 2024

Morning Prayer is undertaken each Thurs 9:15 on Zoom.

The fellowship group meets weekly on Thursday evenings on Zoom, which attracts members from within and outside the church community.

There are twice monthly prayer opportunities on second Tuesday in person at 2:30pm in the church hall and the fourth Tuesday at 7:30pm on Zoom.

There are seasonal services.

Christmas services are well attended.

St Peter's and St Andrew's hold traditional services, including stations of the cross at Easter



St Andrew's

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## Worship style and tradition

The parish of Gornal and Sedgley appreciates the traditional style of worship, although open to different styles and new things.

### **St Peter's**

Vestments (Cassock Alb and stole) are normally worn for Communion services. St Peter's does not have a regular organist, so on occasions when the organist is not able to play, the church has recently acquired a Hymnal. St Peter's uses *Complete Anglican Hymns* book. Worship for All services are led by Suzanne Bradley, Worship Leader ALM. The congregation are open to try new things on occasion, such as the pet service we hosted in 2019. St Peter's hosts the parish midweek communion service, which is well attended by members from across the parish. St Peter's also has a screen and projector to be used when appropriate for services.

### **St Andrew's**

Vestments (Cassock Alb and Stole) are normally worn during communion services. Chasubles are available if the priest wishes to wear them. St Andrew's does not have an organist and uses a Hymnal, and uses the *Celebration for Everyone Hymnal* book. St Andrew's Worship for All Services are led by LLM Canon Jan Humphries. There is a choir.

### **All Saints**

Vestments (Cassock Alb and Stole) are normally worn during communion services, and choir dress for Evensong. The DCC voted that chasubles are to be worn for festivals, and at the discretion of the priest at other times. All Saints does not have an organist, and two Sundays a month and Evensong, pre recorded organ music for the hymns is used, with an extensive catalogue for both *Common Praise* and *Mission Praise*. At special services, such as Midnight Mass, an organist is arranged. At family service on the third Sunday of the month, we use iSing Worship, a projector and screen. This service is becoming the most attended service where we also invite baptism families to come for their welcome and post baptism visit.



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# Discipleship

As a parish, we are blessed by so many people giving their time and talents to the parish, from our PCC and DCCs, to those who lead and help out with many groups and activities. Living out their faith in action.



During 2023, two groups from the parish completed the Living in Love & Faith course and found it helpful in understanding a little more of the current debate regarding identity, gender and sexuality.



In September 2024, six people from the parish were confirmed, after completing The Start Course. As newly confirmed Christians they are now seeking how to live out their faith in action.



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## Welcoming all

A few quotes from people who have recently started to worship in the parish

*Lisa When we moved to Gornal our first interaction with Jan at St Andrew's was at the Summer Fayre. The church is a welcoming place, very accepting and friendly. This gave my husband and I the confidence to attend Sunday worship. We were warmly welcomed and Jan made the service easy to follow and join in.*



*Stuart and Steph. We came to St Peter's after we left our previous church. We were immediately made to feel welcome. Although we had a lot of church experience, we weren't pushed to take on additional roles until we had settled in.*



*Tom and Emily. When we first began to regularly attend All Saints the congregation were so welcoming, and they really made an effort to get to know us, they made us feel really comfortable.*



St Andrew's

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## Renewal Project – All Saints

The renewal project at All Saints Sedgley will see All Saints Church become more welcoming, and its worship more accessible to children, young people and families. A major focus of the project is to increase intentional missional engagement with children and young people, and their families.

This will result in the planting of new worshipping communities at All Saints Church, which will grow to become vibrant and dynamic Christian communities.

As part of this project All Saints will recruit two new full time staff members – The Team Rector, (Rev Canon Diane Cooksey, and Children, Youth and Families Worker, who is yet to be appointed.

The existing congregation has a high average age with very few children and young people attending Sunday worship regularly, which does not reflect the local demographic. The church, however, is located at the centre of the population and presents a significant opportunity for growth.

There is a strong desire for growth, particularly among children and families, and a readiness for change among the existing church members, but additional capacity and investment is necessary to realise the potential growth and to enable the long-term sustainability of the church.

The parish has a successful baptism ministry which further indicates the potential for growth through renewed mission and ministry with children and young people, and their families. There are currently about four children baptised each month, with a waiting list running a year in advance.

The Renewal Leader will be responsible for over seeing the project, line managing the Children, Youth and Families Worker, developing and supporting volunteers, regular monitoring and evaluation of income growth, and liaising with the Team Vicar, PCC and All Saints DCC



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# Serving Our Community



Several members of the parish are members of the **Mother's Union**, they support the local women's refuge with collections of essential items. They also knit toys and hats for premature babies, also knitted hearts, prayer blankets and twiddle muffs for people to use for prayer and comfort.



Each of our churches have **Foodbank** Collection boxes, and several members of the parish support the local food bank at Upper Gornal Methodist Church.



On the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, the **Bereavement Hub** meets at All Saints Community Room, which is open to all the community. The Hub is coordinated by AFM Kath Apperley, and a team of volunteers from across the parish.



In January/February 2025 we are starting new **Bereavement Journey** Course which will be offered in the parish, coordinated by AFM Kath Apperley. This was well received



Reeling in the years

**Reeling in the Years** is a dementia friendly group which meets once a month in the hall at All Saints. A team of volunteers from across the parish support the project.



Coffee morning

All Saints hosts a weekly **coffee morning** on Friday mornings, which attracts people from across the community.



Community Defibrillator

In Spring 2024 St Andrew's, and Bridge Church, Gornal joined together for a joint project to provide a **community defibrillator**, to bless our community.



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## Greater Dudley Deanery

The Greater Dudley Deanery (GDD) was formed during a diocesan reorganisation in 2021. The Deanery covers the whole of the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley along with a handful of parishes in Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire. This makes the deanery relatively large nationally, and the largest by population in the diocese. The benefit of a larger deanery is the greater opportunity for team working between clergy and churches, and for drawing suitably significant groups together for training.

The Deanery is led by a Deanery Leadership Team (DLT) which includes an Area Dean, two Sub-Deans, and up to five lay members. The DLT guides the agenda for the Deanery Synod, and represents the deanery at certain diocesan meetings.

The expectation is that Deanery Synod acts as a focus and stimulus for parishes to deliver the mission priorities of the diocese. Deanery Synod meetings serve as a place of mutual support, encouragement and challenge to lift individual churches beyond the parochial and broaden understandings of mission. Increasingly churches work together, sharing resources and opening up new opportunities for mission.

The Deanery Chapter, of over 30 licensed ministers, is primarily a place of mutual support and encouragement, as well as a place to discuss matters of business. The Chapter meets every 4/5 weeks over lunch, and meetings are well attended.

The DLT works closely with the Diocesan training department to provide training for clergy and laity at all levels of ministry.

The task of growing healthy and sustainable churches in the Greater Dudley Deanery is challenging. Through good, collaborative working within and between parishes, between clergy and laity, and between Deanery and Diocese, along with a great deal of prayer, we face the challenge and celebrate together as God's Kingdom grows.



St Andrews

St Peters

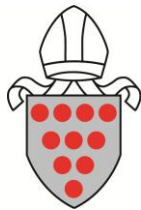
All Saints



# Diocese of Worcester

The Diocese of Worcester covers an area of 671 square miles and includes parishes in Worcestershire, the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, and a few parishes in northern Gloucestershire, south-east Wolverhampton and Sandwell. It has around 170 parishes and 280 church buildings, together with 100 church schools. The diocese is divided into two archdeaconries, with six deaneries.

Our diocesan vision is to grow as kingdom people, sharing the good news of Jesus' love in Worcestershire and Dudley. As the body of Christ, we join together to worship God creatively, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities as we live out values of love, compassion, justice and freedom to bring about the kingdom of God on earth.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER



St Andrews

St Peters

All Saints



## Priorities 2023 – 2030

Over the next few years, we aim to:

- **Double the number of children and young people worshipping in our churches.**
- **Create 100 new worshipping communities offering a range of ways for people to come to faith and worship God. (eg Forest Church / Café Church / Walking Church).**
- **Invest in the renewal of around a dozen churches to ensure that each major area of population has at least one church with 150 people attending weekly, enabling them to support other local churches.**
- **Underpin these by investing in our clergy and lay leaders, providing training and development opportunities to enable them to grow and feel supported and equipped for mission.**

## Diocese of Worcester, continued

Visit the Diocese website for a summary of our priorities along with the different ways your parish can get involved, also to download our full diocesan transformation strategy.

One size does not fit all - we want to strengthen local churches and encourage and resource them to explore what it might mean to grow in health and sustainability in their context as they worship God, make disciples, share hope, and transform communities.

We share a vision for a church which enables its people to be:

- Deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures
- Renewed and transformed by regular worship.
- Equipped to witness to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom.
- Dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith.
- Devoted to growing deeply in discipleship, offering our time and talents and money to God.
- Resourced and released to minister to others.
- Ready to engage with and serve our community.
- Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource.

[www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)



St Andrew's

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## Contact Information

Application form and details:

The Bishops Office

The Rt Revd Martin Gorick  
Bishop of Dudley and  
Acting Bishop of Worcester  
Office: 07553-770026  
The Bishop's Office, The Old Palace,  
Deansway, Worcester WR1 2JE  
Email: [bishop.worcester@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:bishop.worcester@cofe-worcester.org.uk)

For an informal chat about the role:

Rev Canon Diane Cooksey Team Rector Designate 07974556514  
Archdeacon of Dudley: Nikki Groarke: 01905 773301

Each church keeps its own finances. These will be made available on request.



St Andrew's

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