



**Sedgley's**

**Diamond 60**

*Sixty years, sixty people,  
sixty stories about village life  
since 1952.*

## When the Methodists united with the Congregationalists

*by Iris Jones*

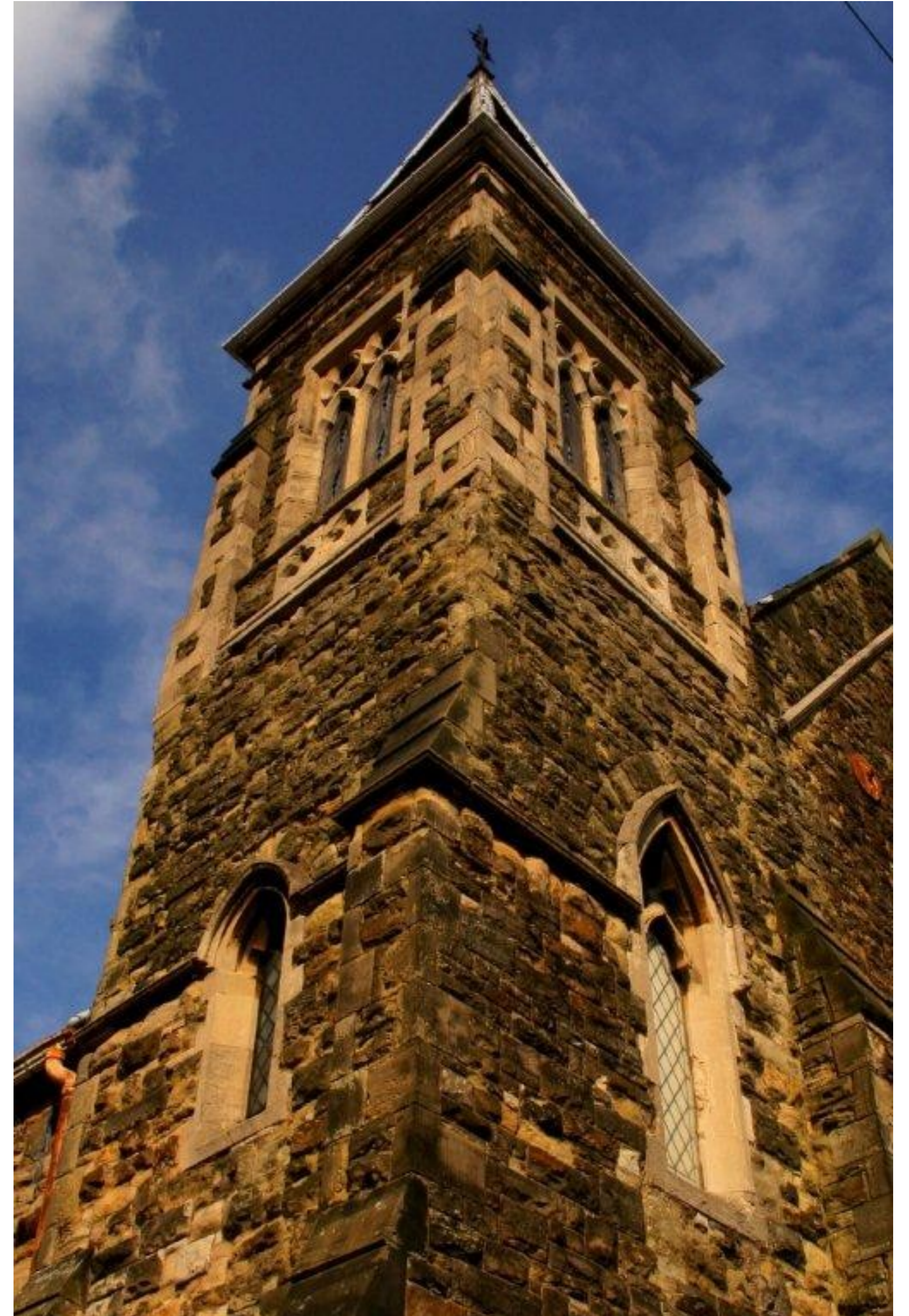
My son was born in December 1968; that was my first encounter with Mr Snuggs. He was the pastor of what was then the Congregational Church based at St Andrews, Bilston Street. He was very welcoming and wanted younger people to join. The Congregationalists were on average a much older age group whereas the Methodists who were then based on the High Street had families with young children. So St Andrew's Church was formed between Bilston Street Congregationalists and the High Street Methodists. The service of Union was held at St. Andrew's on October 3rd 1970.

I was so sad Richard Snuggs moved on in 1972. The church was full and that's what we wanted. It's prospered from there. They get so many youngsters and are doing so much more than we were able to do on our own. There are lunches, Guides, activities for teenagers and all the youngsters. There's a service every month that is especially for young people.

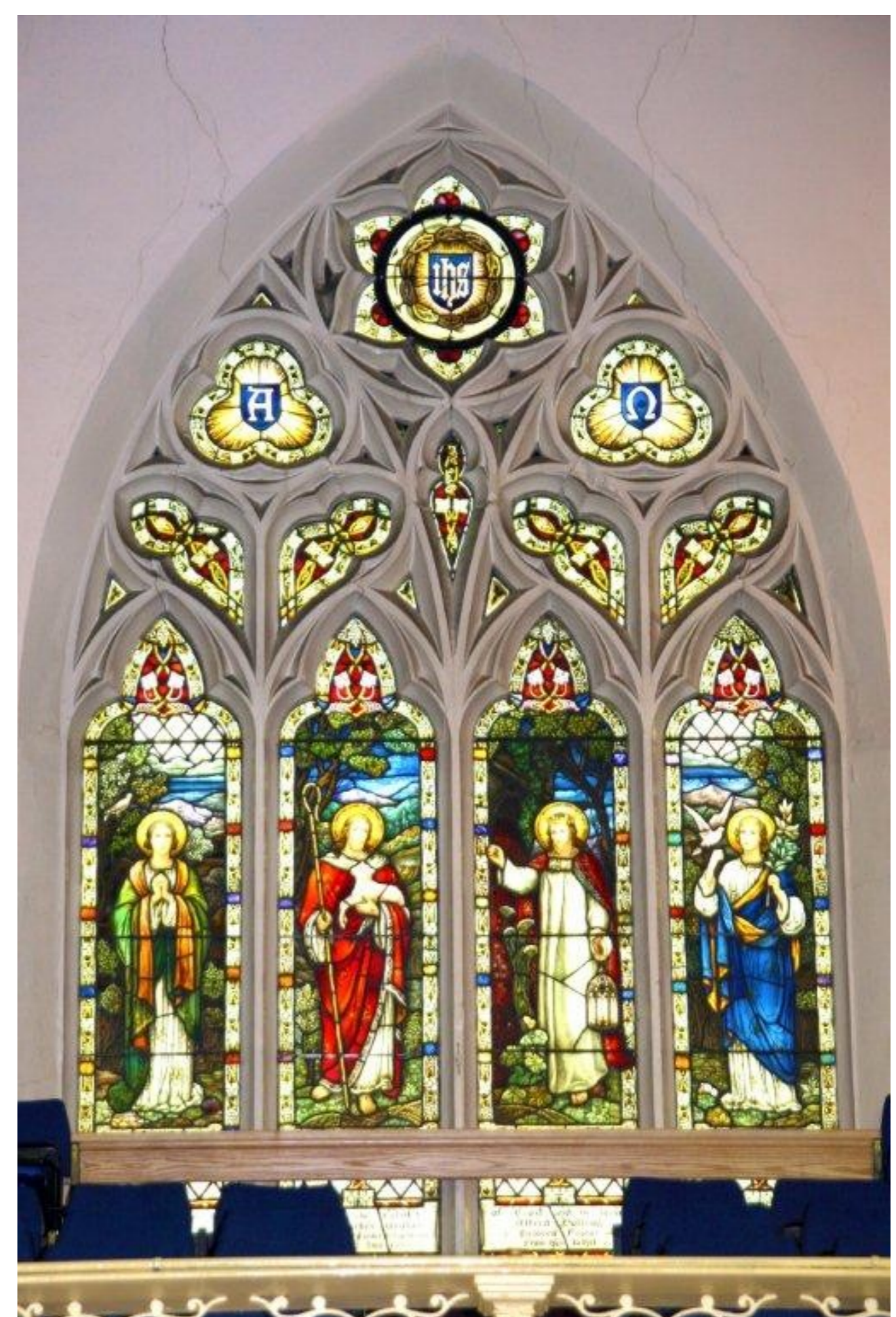
*Historical note:*

St Andrew's Church Sedgley - or to give it its full name 'St. Andrew's United Reformed and Methodist Church' - has a history dating back to the middle of the 19th century.

The foundations [to the existing building] were laid in March 1857 and in October the church was opened for worship. It was built in the decorated Gothic style and its tower, topped with a spire, was 80 feet in height. In 1905 the church was extended at the north end to accommodate an organ, choir stalls and a vestry.



**The Tower of St Andrew's Bilston Street**



**Stained glass at St Andrew's**