

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



February 2024

50p



Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY (clergy@wcv.church)

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

Pastoral Minister: The Reverend STEPHEN BUCKLEY (07746 206905)

TEAM OFFICE

You can contact the office by email, post or telephone.		The office is open Tuesday and Friday 9am-12noon.
Postal address: 1a Bromyard Road St John's, WR2 5BS	Tel: (01905) 420490 e-mail: office@wcv.church	

ON THE WEB

St John's	Parish Website: www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk A church near you: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine
St Michael's	Parish Website and A church near you: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/ Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/

SERVICES

Please check our websites and Facebook pages, or the notices published on the church noticeboards and printed in the magazine and weekly pew sheets.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, contact the Joint Council Safeguarding Officer, Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: stjohs.churchwardens@wcv.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	St John's
Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email sylvia.render@talktalk.net) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email stephenbuckley554@gmail.com). The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com/ 424539) Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com/428948). On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	St Michael's

A word from the editors

Welcome to our February 2024 edition. Our theme, prompted by Shrove Tuesday, is the role of food and hospitality in the church's ministry. Sarah explores this in her letter. Our events pages reflect this. We have a Community Breakfast in February (see pages 8 and 13), and many of our regular events feature food or refreshments. Finding all of them is left as an exercise to the reader!

We hope you will also enjoy seeing that many of our articles manage to mention food; Georgian Christmas food and games involving food (page 30); the role of 'chocolatada' in Christingle in Peru (the Marcés Mailing starting on page 34); and modern day school cookery lessons (page 41) to mention but a few.

In looking for a prayer for this month, we came across the following 'Grace' which was new to us. It's obviously intended for children, but we see no reason why adults should not use it too!

*One, two, three, four, five,
thank you God that I'm alive.*

*Six, seven, eight, nine, ten,
thank you God for food. Amen!*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 11th February.
Distribution, towards the end of February.

Subscription form: Page 54.

Cover picture: Colin Nash

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine, including Brian Askew, Beth Broadway, Sarah Cottrill, Sue Fairman, Joy Job, Rob Little, Penny Marcés, Margaret Miller, Colin Nash, Amy Rees and Catherine Templeton.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

Articles on all aspects of Christian and parish life, letters, jokes and anecdotes are welcome - do contribute if you can. If you have a story to tell, please make contact. Do include your name as anonymous contributions will not be considered. If you can, please use e-mail (address below left). The editors will always acknowledge items sent by email; please try again if you do not receive a response. Please send all written correspondence for the magazine to the Parish Office.

The magazine costs 50p to purchase and can be obtained from the back of church. Subscriptions are available at the discounted price of £5 per year; by subscribing you make things easier for our printing team as we know more closely how many copies to print.

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 54 or by taking a subscription form from the rack (where the magazines are) at the back of the church. Please return the form and your payment to the parish office.

Opinions!

Opinions expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of the authors concerned and may not represent the views of the editors, our PCCs or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

To advertise

Please see page 16.

From Sarah Cottrill

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels
without knowing it.”



Blank out, for now, the word “Strangers” in that sentence from Hebrews 13, and we can apply it to ourselves in our homes. For most of us, the appearance of a friend or acquaintance on the doorstep will elicit an invitation to come in and an offer of some form of refreshment. The practice of hospitality is, generally speaking, an instinctive one and I doubt that we stop to consider Paul’s suggestion - based on Abraham’s experience - that we might, in fact, be entertaining angels. Indeed, the very idea that nosy Mrs Bloggs from two doors down the street is, in fact an angel, might well strike us as a ludicrous thought! And yet Mrs Bloggs’s nosiness might be her way of finding out who needs help, support or “keeping an eye on” She might, on some occasions become the “Angel of mercy” desperately needed by somebody else.

So hospitality is important, and it will generally include some element of food. Whether that is a biscuit offered to an unexpected visitor or a slice of homemade cake or meal prepared for a friend whose visit has been planned, food is important and this applies equally to the Church. In times gone by, the provision of food and shelter for travellers was a major function of the Church and religious communities. Looking at our own churches, we can see how this role, though changing with changing times and needs, is still important. We support charities which provide food for others; we offer refreshments after most of our services; we hold regular coffee mornings and tea afternoons and there are the popular Community Breakfasts and Pastoral Teas. All of these are examples of our churches offering hospitality not only to “members” but equally to the general community - those strangers of whom Paul spoke - and none would take place without the presence of food.

Food then, is central to any offer of hospitality but we are approaching Lent: the season of abstinence when all the “special” food - the sweets, biscuits, cakes etc with which we like to tempt our guests are traditionally missing from our cupboards and tables.

Shrove Tuesday, now more popularly known as “Pancake Day” was originally the day on which all the luxury food stuffs such as sugar, fats and eggs were used

up before the Lent fast began. These days many of us give up something we enjoy; popular ones being chocolate, sweets, alcohol etc.

One thing we shouldn't give up though, is hospitality or generosity. These things are at the centre of the Christian faith - showing love for neighbours and providing for them. We could even, perhaps, say that keeping a supply of biscuits in the house in case of visitors, but abstaining from them ourselves, adds an extra dimension to our Lent sacrifice!

Shrove Tuesday, though, has a deeper significance than simply deciding to go without a particular treat for a few weeks. It is the Eve of one of the most holy seasons of the Church year. On this day, traditionally, Christians would go to church to confess and be "shriven" (absolved) of their sins. This confession and absolution enabled the faithful to enter into the season of Lent in a state of grace, as they prepared to celebrate the events of Holy Week and Easter - and the first really major event of those celebrations was, and is, Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper - which brings us full circle to the importance of food and hospitality.

Jesus, fully aware of all that was about to happen, nonetheless foresaw the need for somewhere for his friends to celebrate the Passover and set in motion the events which would provide this. He took time to sit and eat with them and undertook the duties of both host and servant. At that meal, where he instituted our Eucharist, Jesus broke bread, declaring it to be his body. He shared a cup of wine, describing it as being his blood. Food could not be more central, or more important! Jesus provided hospitality that was both lavishly generous and incredibly humble and sacrificial. In this, as in all things, he "sets the bar high" and calls us to follow his example.

Sarah

Post Communion for the Third Sunday before Lent

Merciful Father,
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life,
that those who come to him should never hunger:
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,
that we may eat and drink with him
at his table in the kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

There is no 'Third Sunday before Lent' this year. Easter is quite early, so there is not enough gap between Epiphany and Lent to fit in a 'Third Sunday before'.

In Memoriam

Olive Mary Peggy Outram	2 February 1992
William John Davies	3 February 1999
Charles Gordon Burnett	7 February 2021
Frederick Grice	8 February 1983
Rosanna Walker	14 February 1990
Eileen Bennett	17 February 2009
Maurice Charles Pearson	24 February 1999
Reginald Edward Osborne	25 February 1984
William Joseph Probyn	28 February 1987
Doris Betty Dear	28 February 1989
Doreen Iavarone	28 February 1998

Additions to In Memoriam are not automatic but must be specifically requested via the clergy.

Inclusion only needs to be requested once; entries are then included until the fortieth anniversary.

An extension may be requested by family or friends of those named.

From the Registers, December 2023

St John's

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 1st November 2023 John Bryan Wilson

d. 5th November 2023 Brian Joseph Fortey

d. 28th November 2023 Celia Ann Green

BAPTISMS: *We welcome you into the Lord's family*

10th December 2023 Reggie-Jae Hunter

SERVICES: Communicants 286. Total attendance at all services 1069 (including 138 at a marriage, two baptisms and a funeral).

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 47. Total attendance at all services 66.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in February

Friday 2nd February: Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

[celebrated on Sunday 28th January]

Sunday 4th February: Second Sunday before Lent

Sunday 11th February: Sunday next before Lent

Wednesday 14th February: Ash Wednesday

Sunday 18th February: First Sunday of Lent

Sunday 25th February: Second Sunday of Lent

Dates for your diary

<i>Location key</i>	(J) St John's Church	(M) St Michael's Church
	(V) The Vicarage, 7 Manor Road	

(J) Mondays in term time, 10am: Little Lambs, see pages 8 and 26.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 3rd February, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 8 and 28. Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 8th February, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Homes through time", see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 10th February, 9am: Women's Breakfast, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 15th February, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 17th February, 8.30am - 11am: Community Breakfast, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 19th February, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union - Revd Mike Gardner leading the theme "Reflections for Lent."

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 21st February, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 23rd February: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 24th February, 10.45am: Café Church@10:45am, see page 8.

Mid-week services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for February:

Tuesday St John's 10am (Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer)

Thursday (not 15th) St Michael's 10.30am (Eucharist - Common Worship)

Wednesday 14th February only (Ash Wednesday):

 St Michael's 10.30am (Eucharist - Common Worship)

 St John's 7.30pm (Eucharist - Common Worship)

Events at St John's

WELCOME



**Free
Community Breakfast
Saturday 17th February
08.30 to 11.00**

*All are welcome to come and share a full English
breakfast with unlimited supplies of tea, toast and coffee*

St John's Church



Registered Charity
No:1205354

St John-in-Bedwardine



Our next Messy Church is on Saturday
3rd February, 4pm.

Please do come along – you'll be sure
of a warm welcome!



**Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship**

**Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!**

Our next meeting is on
Saturday 10th February
9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room
Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)

This month's speaker will be

Reverend Anne Potter



St John in Bedwardine



Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish
'Friendship and Thoughts'

At 10.45am on

**Saturday
24th February**

*Thought for the day by
Phil Bradford*

ALL WELCOME

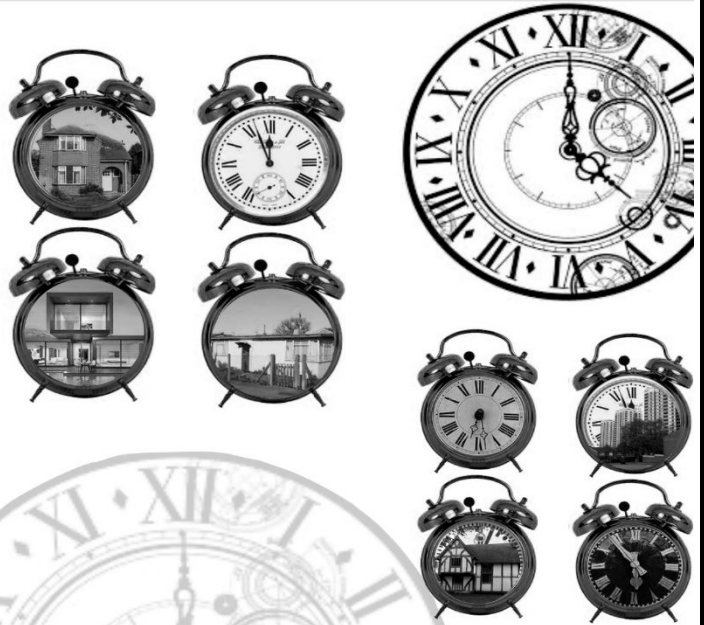
Events at St John's

ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

Open for Tea/Coffee
and Cakes
£2.00



Wednesday 21st February
at 2.45pm in the Church
ALL WELCOME



Homes Through Time

The Good Old Days presents
A talk by
Discover History

Thursday 8th February
1pm
£4 entry includes refreshments

Little Lambs



**Mondays in Term Time at
St John's Church
10:00am to 11.30am**

FREE!

Toys and Games, Art & Craft, Messy Play,
Snacks and Stories, Singing

Birth to 4 years old and carers

For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962

Come and join the fun!

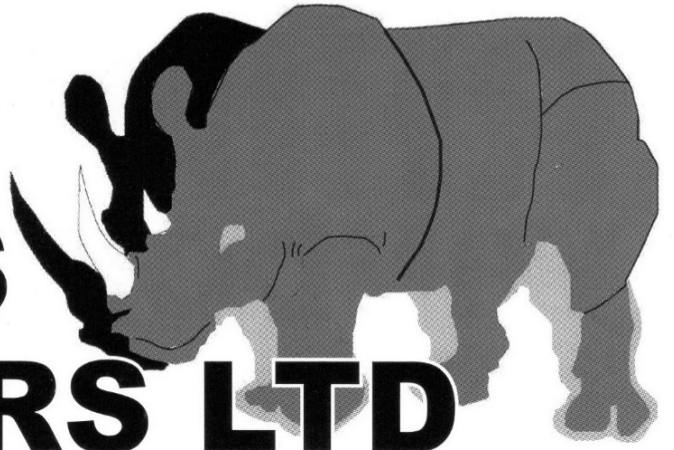
St John-in-Bedwardine



Future dates:

2nd March

RHINO WINDOWS AND DOORS LTD



Rhino Windows and Doors was formed on values of the very best customer service and the highest quality installations.

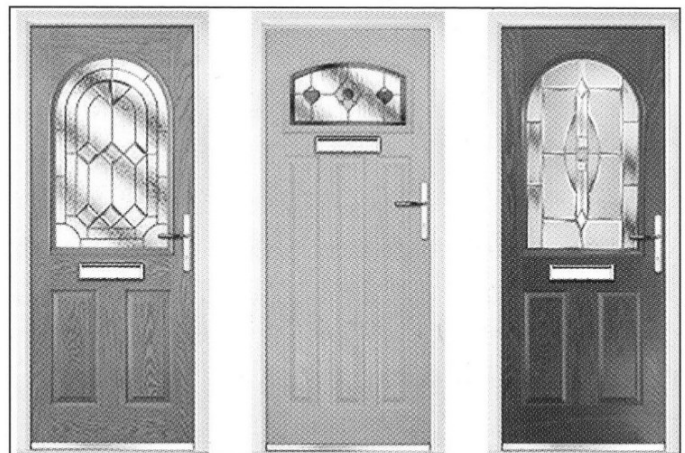
As we have continued to grow and develop our business, we remain committed to complete customer satisfaction.

Our services are wide ranging from UPVC windows and UPVC doors/ composite doors to conservatories.

Our windows and doors are made using the finest quality materials and manufactured to the highest standards.

All of our UPVC Windows and Composite Doors are energy efficient, reduce noise pollution and incorporate the latest security features.

We offer a range of designs options that will complement virtually any property style and age.



REPLACEMENT WINDOW &
DOOR SPECIALISTS BASED
IN WORCESTER

01684 770437

info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A
FREE NO-OBLIGATIONQUOTE



www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

Kingdom Arts

exploring faith through creativity

*Painting, collage, craft, creative-
writing, textiles, printing clay.*

St George's Church Worcester WR3 1HX
www.kingdom-arts.co.uk

Tuesdays in 2024: 20th February, 12th March, 9th April,
14th May, 11th June, 10th September, 8th October,
12th November and 10th December.

Coffee from 10:00, finish with a soup lunch

Kingdom Arts is a lovely morning of worship, craft and fellowship followed by a soup and fruit and cake lunch. Do come and see for yourself. February meeting is on the 20th February; starts with coffee at 10am. All are welcome.

Jenny English



“Bluebird Care - as near to perfect as possible”

Care in your home, just as you like it.

You may be in a situation where you need an extra pair of hands to help with daily chores, or you may have complex needs that require more dedicated care.

Our well-trusted care services range from a 30-minute daily visit through to full Live-in care.

Call our friendly team today.

Bluebird Care Worcester & Wychavon

bluebirdcare.co.uk/worcester-wychavon | 01386 764830

[worcesterrandwychavon@bluebirdcare.co.uk](mailto:worcesterandwychavon@bluebirdcare.co.uk)

your life
your home
your care
your way



Community Breakfast

This year our Community Breakfast is on the first weekend of Lent, when we share with each other and serve each other. This is a free event, but donations are always greatly appreciated.

The date for your diary is Saturday 17th February from 8.30-11.00 am.

It is a time for our community and neighbours to come together and enjoy a full English breakfast. All are welcome.

Jenny English

Thank you (1)

A big thank you for all the Christmas good wishes, cards and gifts I received. They were all greatly appreciated.

Sarah Cottrill

Thank you (2)

We mentioned in the previous edition that our Estates Manager, Brian Askew, retired at the end of December.

Brian had been doing this job since 2011, so we take this opportunity to say 'Thank you' to him for 12 years of service to St John's Church in this role.

Graham Evans



St David's Church News

Although we changed the date of our "Carols Round the Tree" service for 2023, it was well attended, and we had a lovely service. Thanks to Phil Prince for playing the organ for us and also to Father Christmas for finding the time to visit us and giving a small gift to everyone. The afternoon finished with light refreshments.

The first Eucharist of Christmas took place on Christmas Eve, and we were very pleased to see Marie and Peter Yates who came along to play for us.

Our monthly coffee morning was held on 3rd January 2024 and although several of our regulars were unable to attend it was a very pleasant morning.

Our next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 7th February at 10.30am, which you are most welcome to attend.

Finally, we wish you a happy and peaceful new year from us all at St. David's.

Carole Stone, Deputy Church Warden



HOSKINS

FUNERALS DIRECT

For Funerals arranged your way, whatever your budget.
Caring for your family, when you need us.
Simple or complex we can help.
Funerals, Traditional and Bespoke,
Celebrations of Life, Direct Cremations

07942 114560 - 24 hrs - It costs nothing to talk

Keeping our prices manageable & helping you beat funeral poverty
Droitwich, Worcester, Pershore, Malvern and between.

CALL NOW TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS - 07942 114560



Hoskins Funerals Direct

129, Astwood Road, Worcester

www.hoskinsfuneralsdirect.co.uk

01905 27862



@HoskinsFuneralsWorcester



DirectHoskins



hoskins-funerals-direct

La Fleur Florist

Weddings Funeral Tributes Everyday Flowers

Corporate Flowers Special Occasions

Garden Plants

Victoria Phelps

36 Woodstock Road

Worcester, WR2 5NE

Tel: 01905 421820 or 07842258936

lafleur@hotmail.co.uk

www.lafleurflorist.co.uk



Lent 2024

This year we are once again offering a Lent Study Course.

Using material published by World Council of Churches, “True Freedom” looks at issues around modern slavery drawing on Paul's letter to the Galatians.

The course will run for six weeks, Tuesday afternoons at St Clement’s Church and on Wednesday evenings at St Michael’s Church. It's the same content being offered twice to try to accommodate people who don’t want to come out at night and also those unable to attend day time meetings. The first sessions will be on Tuesday 20th February and Wednesday 21st (exact times to be confirmed).

Sarah Cottrill

Future courses

I am thinking about future courses, with the possibility of running one in the early summer (June) and one in the autumn (September/October), and two topics have come to mind.

The first is the Apocrypha, which crops up occasionally in the lectionary and is fascinating, but by which many people are baffled.

The second is our liturgy, both BCP and Common Worship, and looking at how our services have developed and why we do things the way we do. At the moment, I am just seeing what interest there might be. If anyone is interested in either (or both) of these possibilities, please let me know!

Phil Bradford

Fourth Friday Friends

In a change from our usual format, our December meeting was a “bring and share” supper rather than a cooked two course meal. That, however, was the only difference. Everybody joined together to create a really delicious tea and we enjoyed the usual level of fun and laughter. Christmas crackers were pulled with great gusto, jokes dutifully laughed at, paper hats donned, and glasses raised!



We confidently look forward to another year of food, fun and friendship. Why not come along and join us? Look out for sign up lists in church.

Sarah Cottrill



Footnotes UK

174a London Road

Worcester

WR5 2EJ

We have expanded our private practice! We now have 3 chiropodists in the clinic and a home visit chiropodist to take care of all your foot needs! Please visit our website to meet our team and book an appointment www.footnotesuk.co.uk

You can telephone for an appointment on 01905 360079 / Mob: 07974 650 775

Or email inquiries to info@footnotesuk.co.uk

Racheal Sharman and the Footnotes UK Team

HCPC registered

Would you like to advertise in this magazine?

The Parish Magazine is published A5 in size, in black and white.

There are eleven issues each year,
July and August being a combined issue.

An advert can be full-page, half-page or quarter-page in size.

The booking can be from one month to one year.

If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell by telephone on 01684 893397 or by email at suehussell4@gmail.com

West Worcester Friendship Group

We brought the old year to an end with our Christmas Party. Everybody contributed to a delicious spread which was enjoyed over enthusiastic chat and drinking of tea!

2024 promises to be another good year, with a varied and interesting programme including opportunities to chat, compete in quizzes and games and welcome visiting speakers. A trip to a local garden centre is planned for the summer.

West Worcester Friendship Club is for anybody living alone as a result of bereavement and meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month in St Michael's Church. For more information, please speak to me, Val Mason, Jo Dowling or Mike Dowling.

Sarah Cottrill

Walking Church

Due to illness and family commitments, it was a slightly smaller than usual group that gathered for the first Walking Church of 2024.

The Gospel for the day told of Jesus's call to Philip, who responded not only by following Jesus, but also encouraged Nathanael to do the same. As we walked along the (remarkably clean and flood free) riverside, we reflected on our own willingness - or lack of - to hear and obey Christ's call on our lives and why we are often less than enthusiastic to share our joy in Christ with others.

Our second discussion point centred on Nathanael's reaction to the news that Jesus came from Nazareth: "Can anything good come from there?" This caused us to look at our own prejudices and "blind spots" - both those we know lie within ourselves and those we suspect may exist within our churches.

Despite the seriousness of the discussions, some more light-hearted chat was also enjoyed along the way; we kept reasonably warm and it was a good start to the year!

Our next walk is in March, but the exact date is to be confirmed. The second Sunday being Mothering Sunday, we might all have other calls on our time!

Please look out for confirmation of date and meeting point which should appear in the pew sheets a week or two beforehand. Everybody is most welcome to join us.

Sarah Cottrill

Smile line

Did Eve have a date with Adam?

No, just an apple!



**PROPERTY &
GARDEN SERVICES**

A well established family business offering competitive rates and a friendly, reliable service. Customer satisfaction is our priority.

Services

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| General Plumbing & Heating | Internal & External Wall Repairs |
| Painting & Decorating | Tree Felling & Pollarding |
| Hedge Trimming | Household Clearance |
| Lawn Mowing | Jet Washing |
| Decking | Weeding |
| Pruning | Fencing |

Areas Covered

Worcestershire & surrounding areas

Garden Clearance

All rubbish taken away



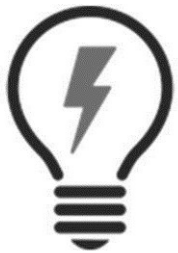
Contact

Julian Shuttleworth

07557 027001

info@jspropertyandgardenservices.co.uk

www.jspropertyandgardenservices.co.uk



**JDS
Electrical**

**For all your electrical needs
Fully qualified and insured**

JON HALL

07528 183057

jds.electrical@outlook.com



*Would you like to
advertise in this
magazine?*

The Parish Magazine is published A5 in size, in black and white.

There are eleven issues each year, July and August being a combined issue.

An advert can be full-page, half-page or quarter-page in size.

The booking can be from one month to one year.

If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell by telephone on 01684 893397 or by email at suehussell4@gmail.com

Caring for our wildlife

The brief for this month's theme was food in our ministry. An event this week broadened my view on this. As Christians we are charged with not only looking after each other, but also the natural world in which we live.

We live on the edge of the city, within walking distance of farmland and rivers. Over the 6 years we have lived here we have had foxes, badgers and hedgehogs visiting the garden. We put out peanuts, cat biscuits and occasionally dog food for the visitors especially when the fields are flooded or frosted over.

I have a wildlife camera so I can check what is going on. A couple of foxes have been regular visitors since the flooding. This week I noticed one was limping and was coming back several times in the night to feed.

On day 2, I saw that he had an open wound on his “knee”. I contacted Worcestershire Wildlife to ask for advice and they put me in touch with

Vale Wildlife Rescue. After seeing photos of the injury, they decided he needed trapping and treating. They arrived with a cage trap and showed me what to do.

Within the first hour I caught a cat. I released the cat, reset the trap, and went to choir practice. We returned to find that the fox had taken the bait and was caged. I had been given a blanket to cover the cage and he then settled down. The wildlife “paramedic” arrived 50 minutes later and took him to the wildlife hospital.

News the following day was that there was no break but a slightly infected wound, so the fox is on antibiotics for 7 days. He will also be treated for worm and fleas as a matter of course.

Once he has recovered, he will be brought back to our garden and released.

I look forward to seeing him back visiting the garden for a feed along with the other wildlife we share this part of the planet with.



Margaret Miller

If you need care or have older parents, whose health has taken a sudden change, we can tailor responsive, companionship led care from 30 minutes through to 24/7 care in your own home.

You will find our local, family run care ethos invests heavily in recruiting the most capable care professionals, giving you complete peace of mind.



Ask us about our
**20% Introductory
Discount on your
Care Package**
Ts & Cs apply

Visiting Care
Live In Care
Specialist Care
Companionship

Call our friendly team on:

01905 950 409

www.severnvalhomecare.co.uk

care@severnvalhomecare.co.uk

Good



Homecare
Association

We are a
**Living
Wage**
Employer

Your local, independent, family run, home care company.

GoodOaks Home Care has rebranded to Severn Vale Home Care – The Editors

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

Prayers for the dark places in our world

As we begin our prayers for February let us remember that all our prayers together shine a light into God's world, where Father, Son, and Holy Spirit dwell.



Lord God, we pray for the places in our world where your people are being killed and maimed, left homeless, and forced to become refugees who leave their homeland, way of life, and family, to find a new way of starting again, in a place of safety.

So much violence, Lord; hatred and revenge is meted out to the innocent in Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Yemen, Eritrea, Afghanistan and now South America. A violence that destroys peace and democracy. Lord God, hear our prayer for peace.

We pray for the tyrants of this world, whose power drives them to destroy life. Lord God, send your Holy Spirit into their hearts and minds to bring a change of heart, to enable peace and equality for all. Lord God, we pray for your Holy Spirit to be heard in all the conversations urging resolution and peace.

Lord God, we pray for the women and children of Afghanistan; women who are denied work and unable to feed their children; where children are stopped from going to school; where Aid workers are struggling to help.

We pray for the people of Gaza, grieving for all the death and mayhem that surrounds them, where they now live as refugees in tents made of plastic sheeting with nowhere to flee to. Lord God, we pray that our prayers will shine a light into hospitals providing places of healing and care for all who suffer. Let us remember that you are a God of love and compassion, and your presence is in every situation of pain and suffering.

Lord God, we pray for Ukraine and its people, that your strength will be their strength as they continue to fight for their freedom and democracy.

We pray for all nations involved in working together for peace, to listen to each other, for wisdom and courage to stand over and against the violence and to speak out for tolerance and peace.

Lent is a time of fasting and remembering. We offer our prayers for peace in the dark places in our world. We ask God to give us insight into praying for all people suffering at the hands of others.

God sent His son into our world offering salvation, hope and comfort and we pray for hope and salvation for all people.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

Amen

Jenny English

Carols in the Churchyard

It seems a long time ago now, but, on Sunday 17th December, there were carols in the churchyard at St John's. The service was led by Phil and the Mixed Blessings music group...



... and was attended by over 50 people.



Graham Evans

Christmas Flowers

Thank you for your generous donations for the Christmas flowers in memory of loved ones. The Flower Ladies arranged the flowers on Friday 22nd December 2023. We had a very busy morning and we were very grateful to have extra helpers Sally, Sue and Margaret. The donations of greenery were much appreciated. We hope you enjoyed the flower arrangements.



Once again our thanks to Liz Forman and the guides for decorating our Christmas tree so beautifully.

Here are the Flower Ladies on the production line, assembling the orders for Christmas decorations.



Joy Job

Children's Church

This year we have re-started Children's Church at St John's Church. The sessions will run during the 10.30am service on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday of every month.

Children's Church is open to young people of all ages and our sessions typically involve reading and retelling a



Bible story followed by a related activity. Activities often involve arts and crafts, but we have lots of different things planned over the next few weeks. A range of baby toys are available for very young children.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to meeting anyone who would like to come along and join us.

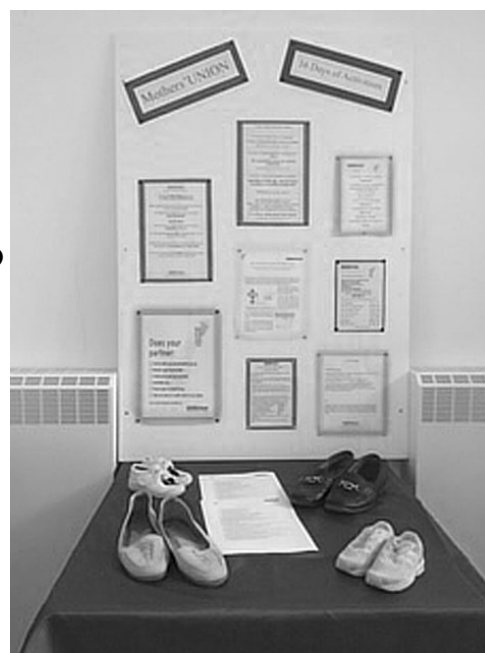
Fiona Templeton

In Their Shoes

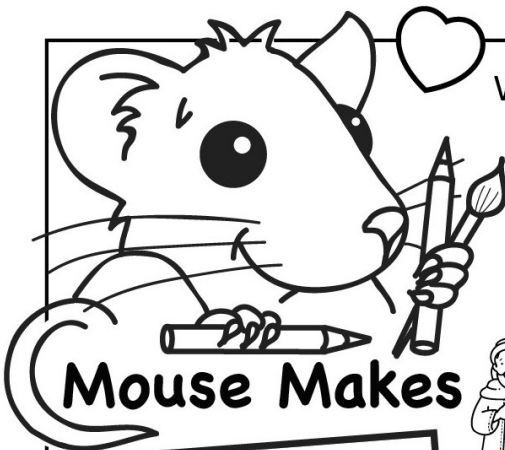
On November 25th, Mothers' Union launched their Sixteen Days of Activism. The "In their Shoes" project aimed to raise awareness of domestic abuse, through displays incorporating shoes, Biblical and secular texts and information about help available to victims of abuse. The main display was in the Cathedral but branches of Mothers' Union were encouraged to also put up their own displays.

The photograph shows the display created at St Michael's Church by myself and Jo Dowling. We also put copies of the information about help available outside the church so that they were readily available to anybody needing them.

My thanks to Jo for her work on this.



Sarah Cottrill



Who were the first couple?

_____ and _____

Genesis 2:22-25

Who's wife became a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the angel's warning?

Genesis 19:26



Which of Laban's daughters did Jacob love?

Genesis 29:18

Who was Moses' wife?

Exodus 2:21

Who married Boaz to become King David's great-grandmother and a distant relative of Jesus?

Matthew 1:5



Which couple helped the Apostle Paul in his ministry?

_____ and _____

_____ Romans 16:3

FIND THE BIBLE VERSE

Change each letter in this bible verse to the letter **before** it in the alphabet.

XIBU HPE IBT
 KPJOFE UPHFUIFS,
 MFU OPU NBO
 TFQBSBUF.

NBSL
 UFO WFSTF
 OJOF

CONNECT THE BIBLE COUPLES

ADAM	ELIZABETH
ABRAHAM	MARY
ISAAC	HANNAH
JACOB	PRISCILLA
BOAZ	EVE
ZECHARIAH	RUTH
ELKANAH	REBEKAH
AQUILA	RACHEL
JOSEPH	SARAH

DID YOU KNOW?

King Solomon had **700** wives! They were princesses of royal birth and he loved them all, but his wives caused him to turn away from God

See 1 Kings 11:1-3

E	E	Z	R	E	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	R	ABRAHAM
S	V	Q	S	L	R	Z	J	I	B	O	A	D	A	M	ADAM • AQUILA
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	O	J	R	A	O	Q	N	O	BOAZ • ELKANAH
U	I	S	A	A	C	A	S	A	A	Z	P	R	N	S	ELIZABETH
T	H	A	Q	N	H	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	EVE • HANNAH
H	R	U	T	A	E	V	P	O	A	I	E	B	H	I	ISAAC • JACOB
S	A	R	A	H	L	T	H	B	M	A	R	Y	S	D	JOSEPH • MARY
P	R	I	S	C	I	L	L	A	Q	U	I	L	A	PRISCILLA	
															RACHEL
															REBEKAH • RUTH
															SARAH
															ZECHARIAH

All ready for fun today

Happy New Year to everyone from us all.

We were delighted to return to Little Lambs on Monday 15th January, and we all had lots of fun. Thank you for our lovely warm church.

On Monday 8th January we had a leaders' tidy up day. All our toys had a good check-up. The baby box had a clean out. The baby bouncer now has the cover on. The jigsaws are all complete. The dolls are shiny. Everyone said they were looking forward to seeing everyone and having rides in the pushchairs and more. We enjoyed a chat with our coffee and biscuits and would welcome some more volunteers to join in the fun.

Is anyone looking for a large ball pit with many, many plastic balls? We have one which we have decided is no longer needed. If you are interested, please contact me on 07845 942962 or speak to Sally at church.

Here are some pictures from our first day back:



Thank you, Sally, for getting our tea party ready. All looks delicious.



Thank you , Gail, for looking after our painting activity

*Blessings
Sue Fairman*



The Three Wise Men Arrived

Falling on Saturday 6th January, there was really only one theme we could explore for Messy Church that day - Epiphany!



Exploring the story of the arrival of the three wise men, the first thing to do was discuss Christmas and presents! After sharing our own Christmas presents, focus moved to the gifts from the three wise men – gold, myrrh and frankincense. This proved as a great opportunity to bring out the thurible and fill the church with incense, which many adults of the congregation loved.



Following the Messy Church values, our Creativity activities included lots of crowns. Alongside making paper plate crowns, we also decorated crown shaped biscuits, which Liz had baked especially for the occasion. Considering the theme of gifts, the congregation was encouraged to consider what talents God had given to them. It was lovely to see the positivity this activity created, where ideas were being shared and people realised a ‘talent’ can be anything including simply being a good friend. The talents were written out and are now on the Messy Church board in St John’s Church – do have a read of them when you are next in! Other activities included making wooden



spoon wise men (which have joined the St John's pulpit display), designing thank you cards and creating embroidered star bookmarks.



Our short worship session, celebrating God, Jesus and this month's message was led by Philip Evans. The younger members of our congregation were all keen to volunteer when helpers were requested to light the altar candles, as we considered how the nativity story brings

light to darkness, both physically and spiritually. We also reflected on the meaning and use of the word 'epiphany.' We concluded with 2 verses from 'We Three Kings', led by Liz. As tempting as it was, no parody words were sung.



With Messy Church's value of Hospitality, our shared meal was spaghetti bolognese followed by chocolate cake. It was great to sit down and share a meal with everyone while catching up after Christmas.

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 3rd February. Messy Church is for adults and children alike, with activities set at various levels of complexity and many offering the chance for mindfulness and contemplation while being creative. Please do come along – you'll be sure of a warm welcome!

Beth Broadway

Discover History – Georgian Christmas

On a fine sunny December afternoon, over 80 people turned up to hear Paul Harding from Discover History tell us all about how the Georgians celebrated Christmas. In medieval times, Christmas was at its height, but following the Puritan era Christmas was banned. Christmas was resurrected in the time of King Charles II when he



allowed a lot more celebrations to take place. However, even though the ban was lifted nobody could be bothered in the latter part of the 17th century. It started to gain in popularity in the early 18th century, around 1714 and it slowly built in popularity.



The Georgians would dress their homes for Christmas with greenery that defined life, death and gloom such as holly, ivy, mistletoe and yew. Holly was used for the crown of thorns and the red berries for the blood of Christ. Ivy was a symbol of fidelity and friendship. Mistletoe seen as a symbol of fertility and life and yew was sweet smelling whilst symbolising everlasting life and rebirth.

The first Christmas tree appeared in 1800, during the Georgian era, when Queen Charlotte brought the popular German tradition of bringing a tree into the house, this also has Pagan roots. This was not widely adopted by the people and mainly the Royal family were some of the only people to do this

tradition. It became more popular with the people when Queen Victoria and Prince Albert were illustrated in magazines around the tree.

The Georgians did not start their Christmas decorating and celebrations until Christmas Eve and they lasted for the 12 days of Christmas. The first thing people did on Christmas Day was to go to church, which was usually a long service.

By the 1830's St Nicholas was starting to gain in popularity, and he was the patron saint of children. It was said that he flew across the sky on a white horse, and he threw coins out to the houses of the poor, who would find them on Christmas morning in the fireplace or beside open windows. From that came the tradition of hanging a stocking beside the fire to hold the money. The American Clement Clarke Moore created the famous poem about the night before Christmas:

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds; etc....*

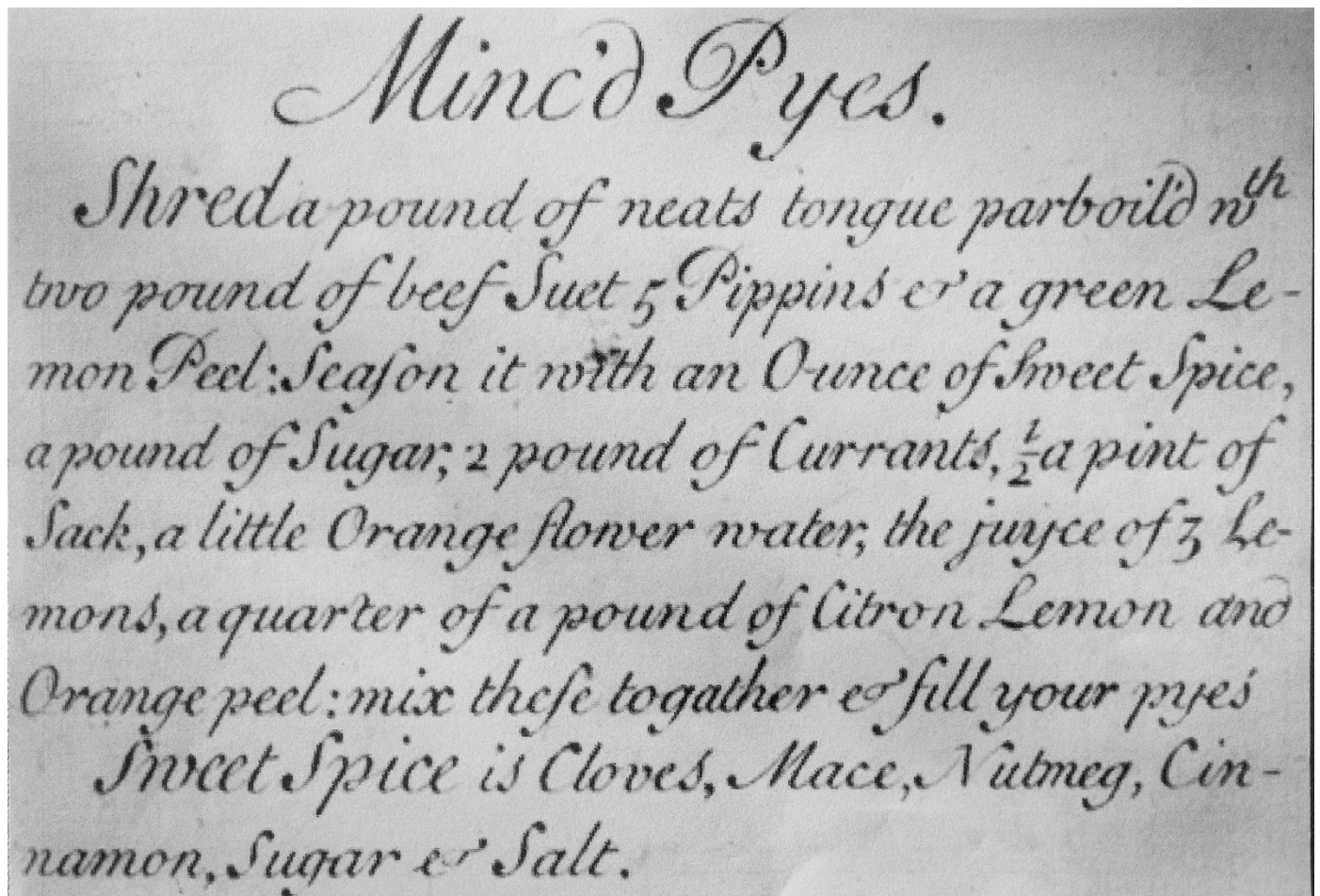
It is in this period that St Nicholas morphs into Father Christmas. By the end of the Georgian period the stockings would have coins, nuts, apples and, if lucky, oranges put in them.

The Georgians liked their food and there lots of pictures of feasting from the era. Many political pictures would show the gentry, mostly very fat, eating mounds of food and drinking large amounts. The Georgians started to give presents at Christmas, but it was not a big thing.



A Georgian Christmas dinner would be very similar to what we have now, but the main meat was Goose. Turkey had been introduced in Tudor times, along with sprouts, but they were not eaten by many people. Turkey did not become popular until the 1970s, even though Scrooge sent the lad for the biggest turkey in 'A Christmas Carol'.

Drinks at Christmas would be ale or cider or mulled versions of both. A hot poker would be put into the drink to warm it up. Wine would also be drunk, which was a lot stronger than the wines we drink these days. Once they had eaten, they would also snack on things like Gingerbread and mince pies. The early mince pies contained meat and lard. See the recipe below!



A Georgian tradition was that you should have a mince pie at someone else's home for each of the 12 days of Christmas.



An early Georgian dessert would be plum pudding, which did not have plums in it, and this underwent a name change to Christmas pudding. Bringing the flamed pudding in towards the end of the day was said to be linked to the lengthening of days.

The Georgians also enjoyed games.

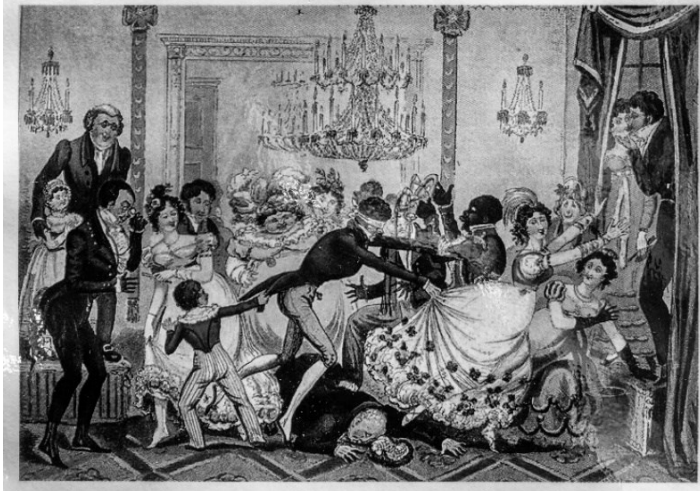
One such game was Bullet Pudding, where a bowl was filled with flour and then turned over and the bowl removed. A musket ball was placed on

top of the flour and the players had to cut a section of flour away. The person who causes the bullet to fall into the flour had to get it out of the flour with their teeth, very messy!



The Minister's Cat is a game mentioned in 'A Christmas Carol.' In this game the first player describes the minister's cat with an adjective beginning with the letter 'A', the second with the letter 'B' and so forth, going around the circle.

Blind Man's Buff was another popular game. In the picture to the left, the top is a group playing The Minister's Cat and the bottom one is Blind Man's Buff.



A game we could not imagine playing today was Snap Dragon. Brandy was heated and placed in a wide shallow bowl; raisins were placed in the brandy which was then set alight. Typically, lights were extinguished or dimmed to increase the eerie effect of

the blue flames playing across the brandy. The players had to grab the raisins and extinguish them by eating them!!!

Someone call the Health and Safety people.... Oh, they did not exist then!

As normal, the ladies had produced some wonderful cakes, and these disappeared rapidly during the break along with gallons of tea and coffee.

Colin Nash

Less calories?

The Vicar took his young daughter to the supermarket with him. In addition to the healthy items on the carefully prepared shopping list, they returned with a box of sugar-laden biscuits. The Vicar noticed the glare of his wife and quickly said, "It's okay, this box of biscuits has one-third fewer calories than usual."

"And why is that?" she asked.

"Because we ate a third of them on the way home," he replied.

Marcés Mailing

December 2023



The one who calls you is faithful,
and he will do it.
(1 Thessalonians 5:24)



Please pray for:

Juan Carlos + Penny: appropriate use of time

Juan Carlos: Responsibilities from March in San Juan Evangelista;
Ministry in Arequipa
JC's mother Hilda

Penny: Ongoing responsibilities in J el N (lay rector) & Cathedral;
Diocesan responsibilities (Children's Ministry)

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Diocese: Discipleship courses;
Newly ordained deacons,

Jesús El Nazareno: teenagers' group;
children's work- Bible holiday club and English classes

El Nazareno area: communal kitchens,

Cathedral (English): search for a new Rector

Country of Peru: corruption and lack of stability;
economic challenges for many;
environmental challenges

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés Reynaldo Morón 215,
Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 15039, PERU
Tel. +51-1-448-8264; +51-942612987
Email: psmarcesinlima@gmail.com

Dear friends,

Yes, we ARE still alive, and no you have NOT been deleted from our mailing list. We apologise profusely for the fact that we never quite got round to writing in August, or September, or October, or even November.

We had a wonderful time in UK visiting links, albeit sometimes challenged by the Rail system. Having been asked by one Church to talk about the faithfulness of God, we realised that this has been such a strong truth for us that we would use it as our starting point for almost everything. **Thank you** to all who offered hospitality or chauffeured us not only the extra mile, but rather the extra 100 miles or so. Since



we are both now past retirement age, being asked about the “next step” was hardly surprising; the answer is that we shall continue (God willing) to work in full time ministry here until some time during 2026, but will then see where God leads. By then Juan Carlos will be turning 70, and our next planned UK trip (in 2026) will therefore probably be the last time we visit some of our link Churches officially. In some cases the link has been for over 40 years, so this will be a rather emotional time.

Since our arrival back in Lima in July, we have not had time to get bored. One adventure for Penny was a 6am “operative” involving local police, a council social worker, the local (Miraflores) council ambulance and the big Lima psychiatric hospital. This was the result of MANY rather frustrating hours of attempts to hospitalise someone who by now was sleeping (in a tent) on the lawn outside the Cathedral. Living on the streets meant that she NEEDED certain blood tests beforehand so that any drugs deemed necessary would not have negative effects on liver, kidneys or unborn babies –rather tricky to get someone to accept blood tests if they deny there is anything wrong She is about to be released – HOPEFULLY to one of the (few) halfway homes in Lima.

One of the most encouraging things for us has been a workshop, organised by SAMS Ireland with Penny, to train children’s workers. In October/November we held 3 sessions, with participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Peru.. It is exciting to see children’s work being taken so much more seriously in the Anglican Church in Latin America, in both cities and

remote rural areas. The materials Penny produces will now all be channelled through the SAMS website, hopefully making them much more easily available. The challenge is to get them prepared rather more in advance than is currently the case, so please pray.



In Jesús el Nazareno the Confirmation service in October had been preceded by the 18 week Abundant Life course, attended by a wider group. A significant proportion of the congregation in JEN struggle with reading (let alone writing), and it is a testimony to see how some people make such a huge effort to read the Bible in order to learn.



Which brings us to Christmas – and an increasing need to finish this NOW!

Our annual “Traditional Carol Service” this year in the Cathedral was



thankfully NOT affected by attempted political coups. However, there were unplanned-for moments. A Cathedral in darkness, each person waiting either for a Choir candle to light her own, or for someone else to light it. The hitch? - somehow the congregation hadn't actually been GIVEN their candles. Then there was the “sermon”

where, instead of a meditation there were to be 4 (short!) talks on “My favourite Carol” by different members of the Church. The hitch? - sadly, 2 of the 4 couldn't actually be there, for different reasons. Despite what was missing, the idea was well received and did indeed lead to others discussing THEIR favourite carol and how it relates to their life. And our 10 year old reader who, having practised her reading, nevertheless proceeded to start reading at sight, but with great confidence, the reading heard a mere 4 minutes earlier, and which had been left on the lectern. It was an enjoyable service, and we trust the Lord enjoyed it too.

Planning (well) ahead,) a Carol service in English is one of the possible projects for 2024 in Arequipa. Juan Carlos has been talking with English speakers there, including the British consul, about restarting English services at certain times, eg Easter and Christmas. Given the challenges of logistics, this will not be quick but please pray for the working out of this.

Christingle services are held in both the Good Shepherd and Jesús el Nazareno (where it is called Cristoluz). Christingles formed part of Messy Church in JEN; one result of making them up to half an hour before the full explanation and lighting of the candles was the consumption of not only bits of marshmello and raisins, but also, in at least 5 cases, of the oranges..... In one of the communal kitchens a Nativity play is part of the “chocolatada” (hot chocolate and sweet bread); I HOPE the microphone works so that the 100 people who will be standing around in the area, can hear a story that is increasingly forgotten in the midst of emphasis on family reunions, giving a good time to children, and making sure we are all being given the most appropriate mobile phone for Christmas.



For us, this Christmas will be different – none of our children will be in Peru. Lizi is working in London, and Joni studying there; Becky, who will be starting a new job on 2 Jan, is taking a 10 day trip to spend it with them. As we come to the end of 2023, we give thanks again for God’s faithfulness to us. 2024 will, we already know, be different since JC will from March be taking on responsibilities in San Juan Evangelista whilst their rector is away for 6 months. In JEN we are still trying to set up a group for adolescents; this is still a gap in our ministry.



- Encouraging visits to our link Churches
- Continued growth in Cathedral English congregation
- Improved political stability (still room to improve!)

Please pray....



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

Please pray for activities in Lima & those leading:

- Sun:** 10.00 am (Penny) service in English (Good Shepherd)
6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service
- Tues:** 6.30 pm Prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
- Wed:** 6.00 pm Silent prayer meeting (Good Shepherd)
- Sat:** 4.00 pm Children’s activity (J. el Nazareno)

Specific dates:

- 6 Jan:** Diocesan Ordinations of 14 people as deacons
- 9 Jan –15 Feb:** English classes and Bible club in Jesús el Nazareno
- 9-15 Jan:** Juan Carlos in Arequipa
- 1-8 Feb:** Juan Carlos in Arequipa
- March:** JC takes temporary charge (6 mths) in San Juan Evangelista

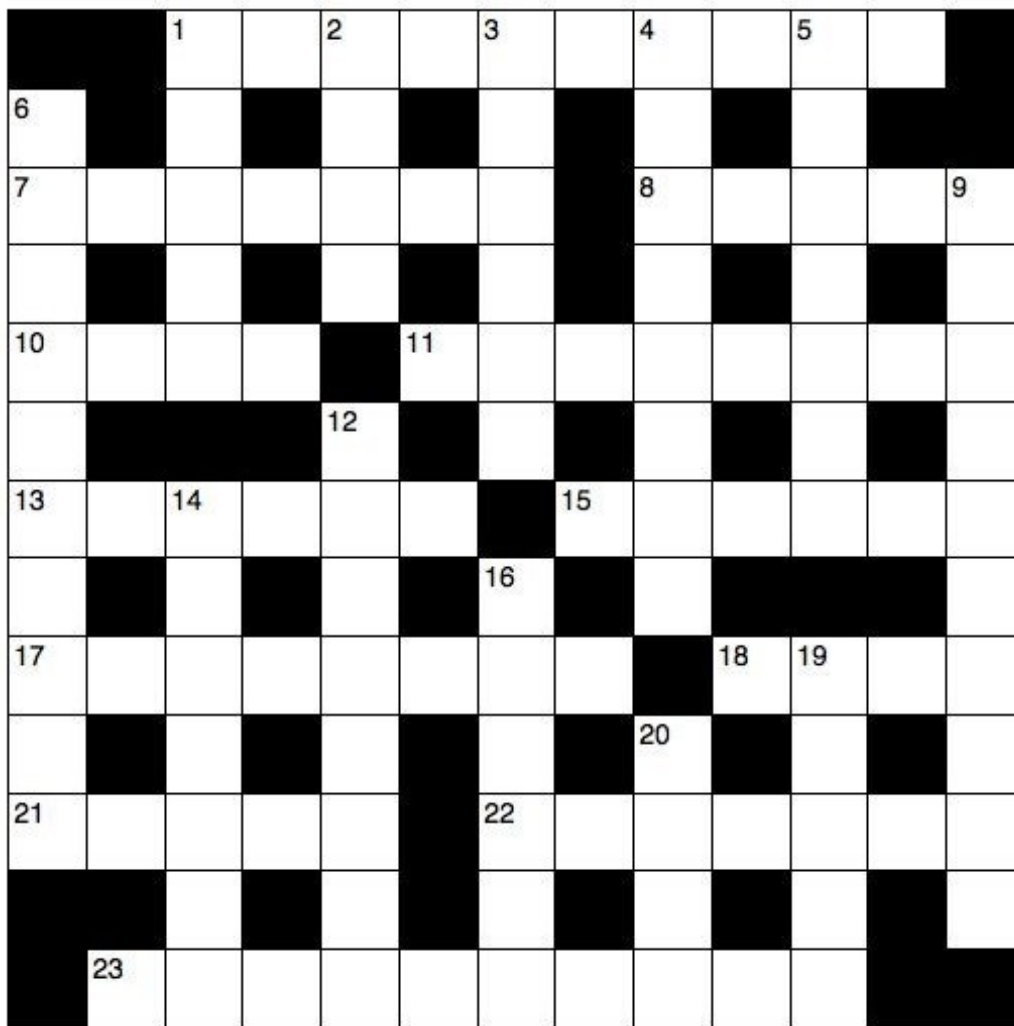
Thank you again to those who have been supporting us (and the communal kitchens and other needs) in so many ways. You are part of all that happens in Peru! Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987.

God bless you and keep you secure in Him, now and always,

Juan Carlos & Penny

Puzzles

The solution is on the inside back cover.



Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, — Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that ‘he walked with God’ (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul’s ‘fellow worker’, to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God’s foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 ‘The Lord... has given the — of Israel to David and his descendants for ever’
(2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 ‘My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my — ’ (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 ‘On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of — will not overcome it’
(Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

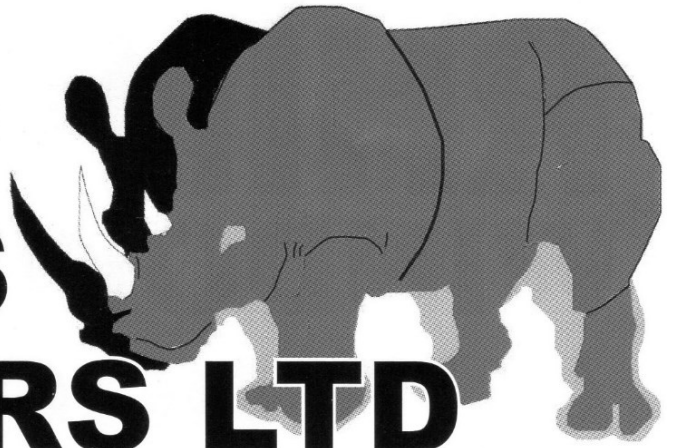
***Sudoku
Puzzle***

© 2008
KrazyDad.com

***The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.***

		5			7	3		
	1					2		
7				1	5			6
	5	9			6			
			3			4	2	
6			5	4				7
		1					8	
		8	2			6		

RHINO WINDOWS AND DOORS LTD



**A TILED ROOF WILL KEEP YOUR CONSERVATORY
WARM IN WINTER & COOL IN SUMMER**

Rhino Windows & Doors can enhance your conservatory and make it easier to enjoy year-round – we can even add skylights and lighting. Contact us today for details of how to get more from your conservatory

**TELEPHONE:
01684 770437**

info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

REPLACEMENT WINDOW &
DOOR SPECIALISTS BASED
IN WORCESTER

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A
FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE

www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

Modern Day Cookery Lessons



I remember my days of doing Home Economics. My excitement was soon quelled by the contents of the lesson, which seemed to be buy a pizza base, paste on the tomato first layer and add cheese. I chose the topping. The most exciting part was the robust discussion about whether you could put pineapple on a pizza, it was ever thus!

Thankfully, the modern day ‘food’ teacher has moved the lessons on with vocational courses that can be adapted for the skills of the hospitality industry. Employable skills in a shortage industry are what is desperately needed.

At 16, our students are being assessed in two courses. The first is GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition. This rigorous course sees students assessed 50% for their practical skills and application and 50% for their theoretical knowledge. The second course is a vocational course that is aptly named Hospitality and Catering. Most students have successfully left this course for jobs or apprenticeships and many are beginning to thrive as leaders in their field.

There has rightly been a lot of comment about the 25% of students who simply do not attend school. It is my belief, working in a desperately underfunded industry, that the short-sighted removal of so many excellent but expensive vocational courses has devalued education for a significant group of students. If your skill set is more practical than academic, it is purgatory to have to sit in a class of 30 for five hours a day. Therefore, the opportunity to do a practical life skills accredited course is relished by the Christopher Whitehead students. The Food Technology department keeps incredibly busy trying to provide real life examples of the necessity and all-round benefits of being a good cook.

This includes managing our school garden, cooking proper nutritious meals for the homeless ‘Street Café’ or liaising with businesses to cook unusual foods donated by them.

Fastnet Ltd donated two boxes of hake, (a link provided through Donnelly’s Fish and Chip shop) that meant the Year 11 students produced beer battered fish and chips, mushy peas and homemade tartar sauce.



Opportunities such as this are only made available through the generosity of our community as weekly donations of eggs, flour, sugar or tins of tomatoes, fruit, jars of jam allow so many to undertake practical lessons. To donate in-date food, please drop off at Christopher Whitehead reception on the Bromwich Road.

Neil Morris, Christopher Whitehead Language College & Sixth Form

Your Picture Framer

Call in and see our retail space and studio where we continue to provide our great customer service and fine bespoke framing.



- We can frame almost anything
- No obligation advice
- Home/Office visits available
- Computerised pricing – no guessing
- Out of hours appointments offered
- Latest techniques
- Top quality materials



www.yourpictureframer.co.uk
info@yourpictureframer.co.uk

01905 423300 or 07730 539168

2A Great House Road
Worcester
WR2 4HS

Worcester Chiropractic Clinic

102 Bromyard Road, St Johns, WR2 5DJ

Expert treatment for a range of conditions:

- Sciatica
- Headaches
- Sports Injury
- Trapped Nerves
- Back Pain
- Carpal Tunnel
- Tendonitis
- Osteoarthritis
- Neck Pain
- And more...

01905 428 956

Reflections

As birthdays arrive and life's challenges become greater, it is normal to reflect upon aspects of life past and present. This is particularly so when a "milestone" arrives. Such is the case with Easter 2024 for me.

I was fortunate that my parents took their responsibilities seriously and, after my baptism, it was essential (for them) that I had an education which would begin with a Christian foundation. Thus, at the age of 4 years and 8 months, I was enrolled as a day pupil at Holy Trinity Convent in Kidderminster, which had a good reputation for its success in the education of its pupils. The convent at that time was run by and staffed by nuns under the direction of a house mother.

The daily routine was one that was to be strictly adhered to by both pupils and (I learned later) the staff too. The morning began with an assembly where the seniors looked after and organised Eucharist. The majority of pupils were girls who were also boarders at the school. Boys were only admitted to the age of eleven years whence they were expected to move on to other establishments, by passing the 11+ exam and going to grammar school or by going to one of the Roman Catholic secondary schools in the region.

My future was different because my father ensured that I was additionally tutored by the then vicar of St Mary and All Saints, Kidderminster and prepared for Anglican confirmation which took place in the autumn of 1948 at Worcester Cathedral, under Bishop Mervyn Edwards. This precipitated my leaving the Convent and continuing my education at the Unitarian School under the direction of Dennis Handley the then headmaster. This was at Church Street, Kidderminster, but is no longer in existence.

The "church" education continued with attendance at Sunday school at St Mary's and also, in 1949, with preparation for service at the altar. This was first as an acolyte, then as an "altar boy." From this position it was possible to watch all the activity and actions that took place in the preparation and service of the Eucharist, and to handle the placement and movement of items to and from the credence table.

Easter 1949 was the first time I was able to serve at the altar for the Eucharist jointly with one of the adult servers. So, this Easter, 2024, it will be 75 years since that time. It is a matter of personal celebration to have been able to continue such service through the good offices of clergy at several churches in the Diocese and now at St John in Bedwardine.

Arthur Miller

Safeclean[®]

BY  GUARDSMAN

**Quality cleaning services from
the furniture care experts**



**Safeclean will help keep your
home fresh, bright & beautiful**

- Carpets • Fabric & Leather Upholstery
- Curtains • Mattresses • Hard Floors

Contact Elliot for a free, no obligation quote

Call: 0808 144 8161 or 07748 328 597

Email: elliott@safeclean.co.uk

Web: www.safeclean-cheltenham.co.uk

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

Hoping for warm weather!

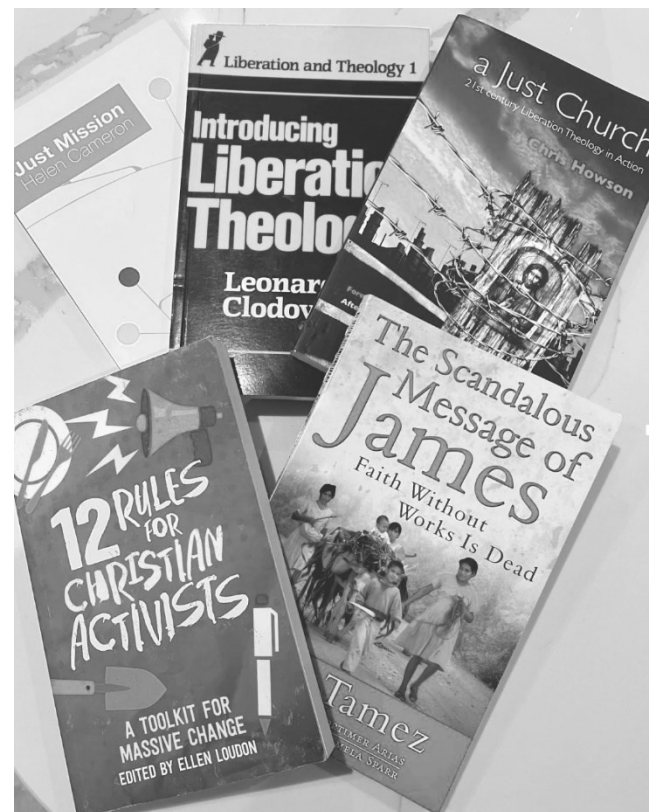
This month's article will be a little light as I have been on end of term break for most of the time since the last one (lazy student).

But let me cast my mind back before Christmas...I think the last time I wrote I was frantically trying to complete an article about the creeds. Well, I can report that I managed to get it in on time (thanks to the extension) and last week I got my result. Given that at times it felt like I was writing in a different language I was quite pleased with the mark and so I will get it vetted by the boss and see if I can share it.

I'm already up to my eyes in reading for the next assignment which is about the fourth mark of mission.

The title is: "How does the Bible inform a Christian understanding of what it means to transform unjust structures?" and you'll see a sample of my reading material below. It's very exciting because as well as the theory side of Liberation Theology there are lots of really practical examples of churches and Christians "putting their money where their mouths are".

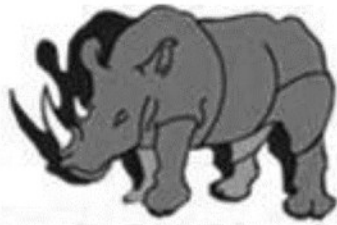
It's inspirational and there's plenty of sermon material...you have been warned!



Term resumed last week with our second session on God the Creator. We had a great conversation about the extent to which God is active in the management of creation vs leaving it to us as stewards. As things drew to a conclusion, we waited for the tutor to tell us the "right answer." Sadly there is no such thing and we were left to ponder this as part of our individual, maturing theology.

We talked about the relationship between us as stewards and the creation we were granted stewardship over and I was rather pleased to learn something of co-founder of Methodism John Wesley's theology. Now I may be oversimplifying and it's fair to say this was not the thrust of the session, but Wesley saw a time when the whole of creation would be renewed. I swiftly reduced this to "Wesley says that dogs go to heaven" and have had a spring in my step ever since. Do have a read of Wesley's sermon "The General Deliverance" if you want to explore this more.

Continued on page 47



RHINO ROOFING LTD

- FLAT ROOFING REPAIRS
- RE-ROOFS
- FLAT ROOFS
- CHIMNEY WORK
- FASCIAS
- SOFFITS
- GUTTERING
- LEADWORK
- RE-POINT RIDGES AND VERGES



Genuine OAP Discount

If you are looking for trained professionals to fix your roof, look no further. Rhino Roofing Ltd is a very professional and established company. You can put your trust in us to give you the best as we have over 20 years experience and still counting! Contact us for a

FREE QUOTATION – CALL US ON 01905831364



<https://www.facebook.com/rhinoroofingltd>



https://instagram.com/rhino_roofing_ltd/



<http://www.rhinoroofing.co.uk/>



rhinoroofingltd@hotmail.com



Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

Continued from page 45

This weekend is my next (and penultimate) residential at Queens. It's always great to see everyone and our tutor for this part of the course is just so passionate and knowledgeable with a world of practical experience. Given the weather forecast though, what I'm not looking forward to is my ancient room...I have my thermal jim-jams and a spare blanket on stand-by!

Finally, just before Christmas we paid a visit to Rochford, one of the churches in Teme Valley to say hello to the team there and we enjoyed a beautiful cosy carol service in another church in a farmyard. My one mistake? Only having one of the delicious mince pies they offered.

Until next time friends, God bless.

Rob Little

Joint Council, November 2023

Summary of the minutes

Phil welcomed everyone to the meeting and led everyone in a prayer. There were 13 members present and apologies from 5 members.

Fiona Templeton was elected as JC secretary.

It was noted that charity registration for the JC is now complete; the prayer diary is being worked on and updated. By correspondence, the JC had agreed and delegated the appointment of replacements for Liz Edwards and Brian Askew.

The Church Wardens reported for St John's that the Quinquennial Inspection took place in September and the report is now available. For St Michael's, there is a problem with the guttering which is being pursued with the Diocese. We are not responsible for the outside of the buildings.

Jenny E reported from the November Deanery Synod meeting. The Diocesan budget was approved which includes a 5% increase to ministry share.

A Finance Report was submitted in advance of the meeting. The figures need careful consideration going into next year. A legacy given this year has made the cashflow look positive, but when this is taken out it is a less positive picture.

The JC approved some specific operational items relating to finance.

New gas and electricity prices (through the Parish Buying Energy Basket) were reported and approved. St Michael's energy costs will stay about the same, as will St John's electricity costs. There will be a very large rise in St John's gas costs due to the end of the fixed price contract from 2020.

BEDWARDINE FUNERAL SERVICES

A COMPLETE & COURTEOUS 24 hr SERVICE

PERSONAL ATTENTION

HOME ARRANGEMENTS

PRIVATE CHAPEL of REST

DAIMLER FLEET

MONUMENTAL MASONS

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

GOLDEN CHARTER PRE PAYMENT PLAN

01905 748811



*INDEPENDENT & LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS
OFFERING*

EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

TO THIS COMMUNITY and SURROUNDING AREAS

The Coach House, 30 Bromyard Road, Worcester. WR2 5BT.

Philip outlined the plans for setting the 2024 budget. An initial version will be based upon 2023 amounts (with known changes factored in), but there is a wider discussion that needs to happen about any implications from mission plans that the church would like to pursue.

Ministry Share goes up by 5% in 2024. Our benefice share is £126,764. For 2024, Phil proposed that in accordance with distribution of ministry, the Joint Council pay two-thirds and St Clement's one third of the requested amount. St Michael's is eligible for Lowest Income Community Support (LInC). Philip to apply for grants such as LInC so that the council can meet their requirements.

It was agreed that a Stewardship Campaign was needed in 2024, perhaps April/May. Gordon offered to look into a grant from the Henry Smith Fund. Fiona will prepare an application for a grant from the Kingdom Fund at the diocese around developing Children's Worship at St John's.

Phil expressed his thanks to Philip and the team for their work on finance.

Occasional office fees were discussed and it was agreed to hold these at the 2023 levels for 2024. The issue of hiring costs was delegated to the Standing Committee.

The Accommodation Committee report was circulated in advance of the meeting. JC approved spend £3349 for a replacement wooden window for the flat above the Parish Office. The Council Conservation Officer is insisting that it is replaced with a high quality (expensive) wooden frame because it is a Grade 2 listed building. The Feoffees maintenance grant for 2023 can cover this as other maintenance in 2023 is well short of the grant amount.

Safeguarding, no issues were raised. Health and Safety, there was a question about risk assessments. The H&S policy will be reviewed.

Phil raised the possibility of a Mission Accompanier coming in to consult on how the church can become more sustainable. There was a discussion about the best way to go forward.

It was agreed to add to the memory log a review of the work of the Pastoral Care Team and to see if it can be extended to St Michael's.

Minutes by Fiona Templeton (JC Secretary)

Summarised by Graham Evans (JC member)

Ouch!

What happened when the pancake got angry?

It flipped!



**Your home care experts providing quality home care in
Worcester & Surrounding areas**

home... there's no place like it.

Being able to live at home can be one of the most important comforts in any person's life and because family and friends can't always be there, Home Instead are here to help in your area.

Our award winning services include:

- Companionship
- Light housekeeping
- Meal preparation
- Help with medication
- Shopping
- Personal care
- Specialist dementia and alzheimers care *and much more...*

If you would like an informal, no obligation chat to discuss your needs **OR** if you feel like you have the right qualities to become one of our Care Professionals please call:
01905 420404 and our experts will be at hand.

ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

Normal opening times:

- Monday: 9am - 5pm
- Tuesday: 9am - 6pm
- Wednesday: 9am - 5pm
- Thursday: 9am - 5pm
- Friday: 9am - 5pm
- Saturday: 9am - 4pm

Weekly events at St John's Library

- Bounce and Rhyme - Tuesdays, 11.00am-11.30am
- Scrabble Club - Tuesdays, 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- Chess Club - Tuesdays, 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- Crochet and Chat - Wednesdays, 10.00am to 12.00pm
- Storytime and Song - Fridays, 11:00am to 11:30am
- Lego Club - Saturdays, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Other February events at St John's Library

- Photography Group - Thursday 29th February, 11.00am to 12.00pm

Crime Readers Group Film Club and Crime Readers Group are not showing in the County Council Events diary for February (as at 15th January).

YOUR

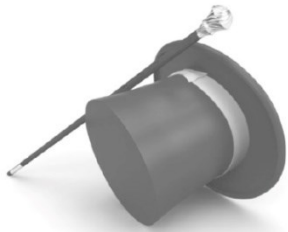
WEST MERCIA POLICE 'SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM' AT ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) are a group of local police officers dedicated to serving our local community.

The SNT will be visiting the library each month to give residents the opportunity to meet the team and discuss local issues and concerns.

Dates (all Tuesdays): 27th February, 19th March, 16th April, 7th May, 18th June
Time: 10:30 to 11:30.





Worcester Funeral Service

01905 23499

Independent Family Funeral Directors



Craig is available 24 hours a day.
Please call for any assistance.

Golden Charter 
Funeral Plans



Kilbury Drive, Worcester, WR5 2NE

WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk

From the magazine archive, February 1950

MOTHERS' UNION

THE New Year Party was very much enjoyed by all those present. We are sorry that some were unable to be present owing to illness and to other engagements. We do thank the Vicar for getting the Projector and the Film for us; also our thanks to the members of the King's Messengers, for so kindly putting on their play, "The Three Roses". It was delightful, and charmingly acted.

THE CAMP'S REUNION PARTY

THE Party took place on Friday, January 6th, in the Schools. The Campers, which came from Stourbridge, All Saints' and St. John's, arrived at approximately 5 o'clock. We started the party with an excellent tea which included two lovely iced cakes that everybody thoroughly enjoyed. After tea we were entertained by a well-known local conjurer, who amazed us all with his outstanding performance, and I am sure everyone was grateful to have had him with us that evening. We next played games, St. John's competing against the other campers—St. John's being very successful, thanks to Mr. Carver's ability.

We then walked to the Royal Albert Orphanage Hall (which was kindly lent to us for the occasion), for a film show which was very funny and exciting. The Party ended by going back to the Schools for light refreshments before dispersing.

I must say we were very pleased to see all the officers who helped to make the camp a great success, especially Bishop Lasbrey and Rev. Carver. I was myself, very pleased to see my tent-officer, Mr. Carter. I should also like to take this opportunity on the boys' behalf, to thank all concerned who have made this party possible.

MALCOLM T. STONE

Editors: The 'Royal Albert Orphanage' is the building in Henwick Road which from the 1950s was the YMCA, and is now becoming student accommodation.

The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please tick one of the boxes below and fill in your details:

*Pick up
at
St John's*

*Pick up
at
St Michael's*

(£5) I will pick up my magazine *from the church whose box I have ticked* (subscribers' magazines are put out at the back of church, usually from the 4th Sunday of the preceding month).

(£5) I live in St John's but need my magazine to be delivered.

(£23.15) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted. Postage and Packing costs £18.15 (Large Letter, 2nd class postage, £1.55 from October 2023, up by 40p!)

Your details:

Title:

.....

Forename:

.....

Surname:

.....

Email

address:

.....

Address (including post code):

		Total
Magazine subscription (as above)	£5 / £23.15	
Additional Donation (if applicable)		
GRAND TOTAL		

Send your payment in an envelope, or as a cheque made payable to St. Johns Parish Church, with this completed form to The Parish Office, 1A Bromyard Road, Worcester WR2 5BS. **Or, to pay by bank transfer**, please email parishmagazine@wcw.church to give your name and address details, and you will be given a reference number. Then make a bank transfer to the following account:

Account number: 64670460

Sort code: 30-99-90

Account name: St Johns Parish Church

Please put in the reference number you have been given, as the reference for the recipient.

giftaid it

Please make your money worth 25% more!

Please tick:

- I want St. John-in-Bedwardine Parish Church to treat the enclosed donation as shown in the Grand Total box above, as a Gift Aid donation.

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

Signed:

Date:..... //20

NOTES

1. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
3. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity.
4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.

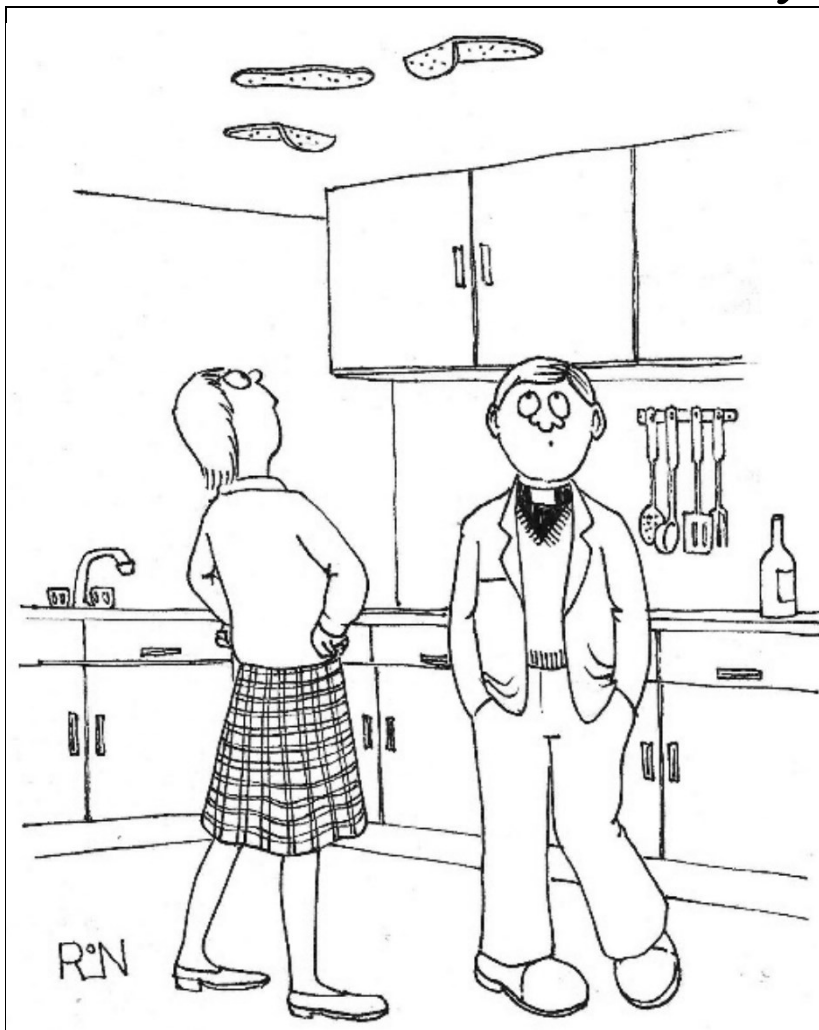


Puzzle solutions

4	8	5	6	2	7	3	9	1
9	1	6	8	3	4	2	7	5
7	2	3	9	1	5	8	4	6
2	5	9	4	8	6	7	1	3
8	3	4	1	7	2	5	6	9
1	6	7	3	5	9	4	2	8
6	9	2	5	4	8	1	3	7
5	4	1	7	6	3	9	8	2
3	7	8	2	9	1	6	5	4

		P	R	O	S	P	E	R	I	T	Y	
P		R		V		A		E		I		
R	A	I	S	I	N	S		A	D	M	I	T
O		D		D		T		F		O		R
V	I	E	W		C	O	N	F	E	T	T	I
I				K		R		I		H		D
D	I	S	T	I	L		G	R	O	Y	N	E
E		A		N		S		M				N
N	A	V	I	G	A	T	E		W	H	I	T
C		I		S		A		R		A		I
E	N	O	C	H		T	R	O	D	D	E	N
		U		I		U		M		E		E
		P	R	O	P	H	E	T	E	S	S	

And finally....



*Phil was unconvincing
when he said
he hadn't been
in the kitchen
during Messy Church!*

Worcester St John-in-Bedwardine and St Michael's Joint Council is a charity with the Registered Charity Number 1205354.



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – February

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
4th February	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
11th February	10.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
18th February	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
25th February	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
3rd March	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

The information above is correct at the time of going to press but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.