

# *The Parish Magazine*

*St John-in-Bedwardine*

*St Michael's*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



March 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: <a href="http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk">www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk</a> A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine">www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine</a>
St Michael's	Parish Website and A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/">www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/</a>

### 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).	<b>St John's</b>
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).	<b>St Michael's</b>

## *A word from the editors*

Welcome to our March 2024 edition. Our theme is ‘Palm Sunday to the tomb – the events of Holy Week’ and Phil has ably covered this in his letter, explaining that some things, which seem like they have been traditions forever, are actually relatively recent, while others truly do have ancient roots.”

The events of Holy week place Jesus front and centre. On page 17, Rob Little explores the place of the Creed in Christian faith and living, focusing on Jesus as one of the main subjects of the Creed.

Reflecting our theme, we leave you here with the collect for Maundy Thursday. The collects for Good Friday and Easter Eve can be found on pages 5 and 6:

*God our Father,  
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end  
and drank the cup prepared for him:  
may we who share his table  
watch with him through the night of suffering  
and be faithful.*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

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## *Important information*

**Email address:** parishmagazine@wcv.church

**Next edition:** Deadline is Sunday 10th March. Distribution, towards the end of March.

**Subscription form:** Page 50.

**Cover picture:** Colin Nash

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine, including Beth Broadway, Sue Fairman, Liz Forman, Rob Little, Margaret Miller, Colin Nash, Sarah Wilkins and Worcester Diocese.

## **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 50 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 11.

## *From Phil Bradford*

The fact that by the time you read this we will already be well into Lent, despite it only being late February or early March, is a reminder of one of the peculiarities of the liturgical calendar which often perplexes and frustrates.



Easter is quite literally a moveable feast, falling on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the (Northern Hemisphere) spring equinox, which in church rules is fixed as 21st March. This makes the earliest possible date 22nd March (last happened in 1818, next in 2285, so not something any of us will ever experience), the latest 25th April (1943 and 2038).

Easter varies because it is linked to the celebration of the Jewish Passover, and as Christianity spread across Europe and the Middle East, where communication could take months, a method was needed for clergy to calculate Easter. The calculation is different depending on whether you use the Julian or the Gregorian calendar, hence the difference today between Western and Eastern dates for Easter. There is a table in the front matter of the Book of Common Prayer should you wish to have a go at the calculation, although understanding it is fiendishly difficult and I have never yet managed to get anything like a correct calculation. That is what the internet is for these days.

However, all this is a reminder that our Holy Week and Easter celebrations are something that have developed over time, however historic and ingrained what we do today may seem. We are accustomed to Lent starting on Ash Wednesday and running for 46 days, the Sundays being feast days which don't count, right up to Easter Eve. Were you an Eastern Orthodox Christian, Lent would start on 'Clean Monday' (there is no Ash Wednesday) and run for 40 consecutive days, Sundays included, until Palm Sunday; Holy Week follows Lent rather than being a part of it, as it is for us in the West.

Palm Sunday itself developed over the centuries, marking the ceremonial entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, heralded by people with palms. (Placing this on a Sunday is convenience more than anything.) Early and medieval Catholicism gradually added processions, which came to involve palms and donkeys, but such frivolities were looked on sternly by the Book of Common Prayer, where the collect is for 'the Sunday next before Easter.' Only with the attempted revision of the Prayer Book in 1928 was Palm Sunday reintroduced into official Church of England liturgy, so most of what we think of as 'traditional' is actually a product of a twentieth century revival of medieval practices.

Maundy Thursday (from the Latin for commandment, reflecting words of Jesus, ‘I give you a new commandment’) should begin with the Chrism Eucharist in each diocesan cathedral. A service which originally celebrated the institution of priesthood, it now celebrates ministry in general, and is often moved away from this symbolic day to accommodate episcopal whims.

In the evening of Maundy Thursday (after nightfall, as in Jewish understanding this marks the start of Friday, and the Eucharist echoes the Last Supper) the service includes foot-washing. Traditionally, this was done to twelve men to imitate the disciples, although it was then expanded to all, and has today fallen victim in this country to the Englishness which dislikes such things. The stripping of the altars and the watch are likewise highly symbolic moments of desolation which are now over-ritualised and victim to the call of people’s beds.

This leads into the solemnity of Good Friday, which must be over by 3pm as this is the time recorded in the gospels as the time of Jesus’ death. It is then a time when there should be emptiness until Easter, dwelling in the desolation of death before rejoicing in the resurrection.

It might all seem familiar, but the celebrations are rooted in the Bible and form a whole, and they have developed over the years into what we have today. For Christians, participating in this cycle is perhaps the most important duty of the year, but many have now made it a minor part of their observance. Much is made of Sunday attendance, but the Holy Week cycle is something every Christian should make a priority, for this is at the heart of our faith. And rather than being a chore or an obligation, this has intentionally developed into something which reflects the drama, the pain and the agony of those last days of Jesus’ life. This year, if you can, take the chance to engage with Holy Week with fresh eyes, to encounter and respond to Jesus incarnate, crucified and resurrected.

*Phil*

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## *Collect for Good Friday*

Eternal God,  
in the cross of Jesus  
we see the cost of sin  
and the depth of your love:  
in humble hope and fear  
may we place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## *In Memoriam*

Joan Kathleen Burgess	1 March 2009
Allan Wordsworth	5 March 2023
Robert Leslie Osborne	6 March 1986
Henry Barrow	8 March 1998
Ronald Victor Roberts	10 March 1995
Marjorie Mary Jones	22 March 1984
Susan Alice Potter	23 March 1990
Frederick John Halls	24 March 1987
William Hooper	27 March 1985
Stanley Norman Frank Parrott	28 March 1987
Samuel Frank Hodgetts	28 March 2005

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, January 2024*

### **St John's**

**FUNERALS:** *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 11th December 2023 Gerald Hodgetts

d. 12th December 2023 Barbara Ann Willis

d. 16th December 2023 Gordon Dobson

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

14th January 2024 Sophie Janet Fisher

Alfred Robin Neil Hunt

**SERVICES:** Communicants 217. Total attendance at all services 462 (including 102 at a baptism and a funeral).

### **St Michael's**

**SERVICES:** Communicants 56. Total attendance at all services 67.

We send congratulations to Peter Skinner and Sue (née Thompson) on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. They married at St John's on 14th March 1964.

## *Collect for Easter Eve*

In the depths of our isolation  
we cry to you, Lord God:  
give light to our darkness  
and bring us out of the prison of our despair;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## *Clocks go forward!*

Reminder - the clocks go forward on Easter Sunday (31st March).

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### *Easter Flowers at St John's Church*

It seems so soon after Christmas, but the Flower Team is now already planning the decoration of the church for Easter. This year, Easter Sunday falls on 31st March, so the flower team will be decorating the church on Saturday 30th March from 9am until 1.00pm. You are welcome to come and help if you wish. Refreshments will be available from about 11am. Gifts of greenery will be most useful.

If you wish to remember friends or relatives, you can do so by making a donation towards Easter lilies and flowers. Please give your donation, in an envelope with the names of those to be remembered, to the church wardens, Dorothy Little or me. Names of those remembered will be included in a memorial list which will be placed on the 'Welcome' table.

The flower team wishes you and your families a blessed and joyful Easter, and we thank you for your continued support.

*Sue Hussell*

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### *Weekday services*

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for each week in March:

Tuesday	St John's 10am (Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer)
Thursday	St Michael's 10.30am (Eucharist - Common Worship)

There are the following additional weekday services in Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday (28th March) Eucharists with stripping of the altars:  
10.30am at St Michael's, 6.30pm at St Clement's and 7.30pm at St John's.

Good Friday (29th March), St John's:  
Stations of the Cross - 12 noon  
Liturgy of Good Friday - 1.30pm to 3pm.

There are no weekday services in Easter Week (2nd and 4th April).

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### *Coach trips*

Two of our popular coach trips are planned:

- Leicester on Saturday 16th March
- Weston-super-Mare on Tuesday 23rd July.

See page 11 for details. To book places, please call Catherine on 07708 297413.

All event information should be regarded as provisional and checked near the time

## *Dates for your diary*

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

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

--- 000 ---

**(J) All Wednesdays in March, 12.30pm:** Lent lunches, in the Blakefield Room, 12.30pm to 2pm, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

**(M) & St Clement's: Lent Course (parallel sessions):** See page 13.  
Tuesdays 2pm at St Clement's and Wednesdays 7.30pm at St Michael's.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 2nd March, 4pm:** Messy Church, see pages 9 and 24. Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 9th March, 9am:** Women's Breakfast, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Thursday 14th March, 1pm:** The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Glover, Draper, Porcelain Painter", see page 10.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 16th March, 9am:** Coach trip to Leicester, see page 11.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Monday 18th March, 2.30pm:** Mothers' Union - "My favourite hymn and why"

--- 000 ---

**(J) Wednesday 20th March, 2.45pm:** Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 10.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Thursday 21st March, 2pm - 4pm:** West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

**(V) Friday 22nd March:** Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 23rd March, 10.45am:** Café Church@10:45am, see page 9.

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## *Dates for your diary*

Sunday July 7th: Church barbeque (time tbc).

Sunday 15th September, following the licensing service (time tbc), a party to celebrate Rob Little being licensed as a Lay Reader.



## Events at St John's

### ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

## LENT LUNCHES

*Soup, bread, cheese and fruit  
with tea or coffee*



**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March**

In the Blakefield Room

**12.30pm to 2pm**

*Suggested donation £4*

### St John-in-Bedwardine



Our next Messy Church is on Saturday  
2nd March, 4pm. The theme is  
'Noah.'

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 9<sup>th</sup> March**  
9.00am until 11.00am

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

*This month's speaker will be*

Patricia Fenner



### St John in Bedwardine



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

At 10.45am on

**Saturday**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> March**

*Thought for the day by*  
*Margaret Rutter*

**ALL WELCOME**

## *Events at St John's*

### **ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE**

**Open for Tea/Coffee  
and Cakes  
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**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March  
at 2.45pm in the Church  
ALL WELCOME**



**The Good Old  
Days  
presents  
a  
Discover History  
Talk  
Glover, Draper,  
Porcelain  
Painter.**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
1pm  
£4 admission includes  
refreshments**

**Little Lambs**  


**Mondays in Term Time at  
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**Come and join the fun!**

***St John-in-Bedwardine***



**Future dates (NB Two in March and  
none in April!):**

**Saturday 2nd March: Noah**

**Saturday 30th March: Easter**

**Saturday 4th May: Abraham & Sarah**

## Coach trip to Leicester!



Explore the city, learn about Richard III, enjoy the shops OR visit the National Space Centre.



Coach only: £16

Coach and space centre: £34.

To book call Catherine on 07708297413

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Coach leaves St John's Church at 9am.

## Coach Trip to Weston Super-Mare!!



Enjoy a day by the seaside on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July.

See the Donkeys, stroll along the pier and have a paddle in the sea.



£16 per person.

To book your place call Catherine on 07708297413.

The coach will leave at 9am.

## *Would you like to advertise in this magazine?*

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

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## *Lent 2024*

Our Lent Study Course this year is running throughout March. 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 is running on Tuesday afternoons, 2pm, at St Clement’s Church and on Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm, 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 daytime meetings.

The dates in March will be the third session (5/6th March) and the sixth and final session (26/27th March). You are welcome to join part way through.

*Sarah Cottrill*

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### *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, no later than the end of March!

*Phil Bradford*

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### *Sundays and Principal Feasts in March*

Friday 1st March: David, Patron of Wales

Sunday 3rd March: Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 10th March: Mothering Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

Sunday 17th March: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

Tuesday 19th March: Joseph of Nazareth

Sunday 24th March: Palm Sunday

Monday 25th March: Holy Week begins

Thursday 28th March: Maundy Thursday

Friday 29th March: Good Friday

Saturday 30th March: Easter Eve

Sunday 31st March: Easter Day

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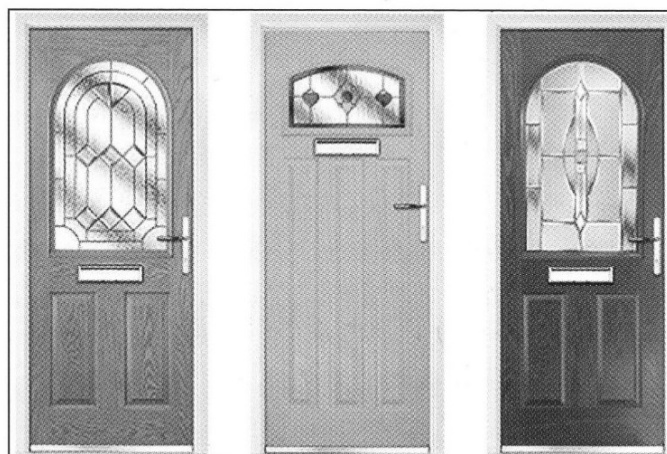
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## *Welby in Worcester*



On the afternoon of 3rd February 2024, the Archbishop of Canterbury came to Worcester Cathedral on his pilgrimage of the Worcester Diocese, having previously been to Dudley and Pershore in the morning. A few members of St John's congregation attended the service along with a large number of people to pray for peace and justice throughout the world in 2024 and the future.

Archbishop Justin was interviewed by Sam Setchell, the diocesan Director of Communications. He spoke about the different models of prayer and mentioned that he found the Ignatious model helpful for covering all aspects of prayer - to give thanks for the gifts and blessings of the day, to examine the day and seek forgiveness and ask for help.



He then spoke about how people know that God would answer their prayers. He commented on the book 'God on Mute' by Peter Greig and how to cope with the sense that our prayers may not be answered. He told of an episode when he was mediating between two warring factions in Central Africa. The leader was very drunk and threatened to kill him, but he would decide in the morning. Obviously this was a very frightening situation to be in, so he conducted a Eucharist and then slept well. Fortunately he was freed in the morning! His wife had also prayed for his release and she had slept well too!

He also prayed on the day of the Coronation of King Charles III, asking God to help ensure that the day ahead went smoothly and that he was able to place the crown on the King's head without mishap!

He said that there was nothing wrong in placing all your troubles into God's hands. Psalm 88 alludes to all the emotions of suffering and loss and psalms are prayers.

He concluded with prayers for everyone in the Diocese.

It was a very meaningful and special time with Archbishop Justin, and it certainly gave food for thought praying with everyone in the cathedral - a special place for prayer across the ages. However, it was very disappointing that the sound system was not effective and it was very difficult for some of us to hear all of what was being said. This account therefore is a collective precis!

*Joy Job*



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## ***“We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ...”***

*Rob Little explores the place of the Creed in Christian faith and living, focusing on Jesus as one of the main articles of the Creed.*

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

Dramatic words from the beginning of John’s gospel evoking themes of creation, Jesus’s eternal nature, his role as mediator between us as part of creation and the creator God, and the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. In this article exploring the creeds I will focus on the second of the three persons of the Trinity, that is God the Son, Jesus Christ. I will confess I was pretty nervous when I was asked to take this on. I found this part of my reader’s course very challenging, but I have found I learn best by doing and so I hope I can impart a little of what I have learned in writing this. I can’t hope to do justice to the importance of God the Son in just a few words and so I have selected a few of the phrases from the Nicene Creed that stood out to me.

### **Jesus is LORD**

The first of the phrases is “We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ.” There is so much to unpack in just those few words! “Lord” was a very important word to the writers of the Old Testament. It was felt that referring to God by name would in some way compromise his spiritual nature, mere human words and names couldn’t do him justice. However, on occasions when it was necessary to be explicit that they were referring to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob they used four letters YHWH which got translated into the Greek word *kyrios* which in turn is translated as Lord in English. And so, when we say that we believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, we are implicitly saying that we believe that Jesus Christ is one and the same as the God of Israel.

### **He is the Only Son of God**

The next phrase follows directly from the first: “the only Son of God.” In saying that Jesus is the only son of God, we are saying that he is the Son of God, and here is where things start to get a bit tricky (for me at least). Having said previously that Jesus is God, how then can he also be the Son of God? Well, I can’t say this is entirely clear in my own mind (although a running joke in our reader seminars is that whenever something does become too clear it’s probably because you are straying towards a heresy), but I have been thinking about an image that provides a way of visualising the relationship between the three persons of the trinity and most importantly how they relate to a term I had heard of but never really thought about and that is the Godhead.

*Continued on page 19*



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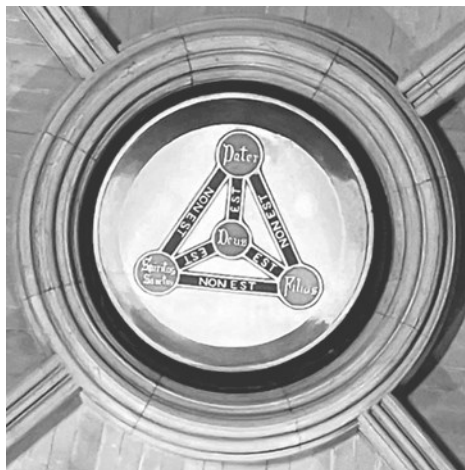


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*Continued from page 17.*



### ***From the ceiling in Dublin Cathedral***

The image shows the three persons of the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as points of the triangle, but at the centre, and from whom each of them emanates, is God or the Godhead, the three persons in unison. Now, I can think that God the Father and God the Son both emanate from the Godhead at the centre, but God the Son does not emanate directly from God the Father. You can see why my mind was a bit blown by this, but there is a real buzz each time you feel like you have unpacked a piece of the mystery.

And a mystery it is and one of the hardest things in my training so far is coming to terms that my feeble humanity will never be able to comprehend the awesomeness of God; but that's OK.

### **He is Saviour**

Finally, we'll skip forward a bit to the phrase "For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven." This tells us two things, firstly, in order for him to come down from heaven he must have been there in the first place and that's maybe more significant than it sounds at first. Matthew's gospel goes to great lengths to show that Jesus Christ was born of Mary, a real human woman. But he was (and is) clearly more than that if prior to his birth he had been with God the Father in Heaven. This is so important to our faith and bears repeating: Jesus Christ was entirely human, and Jesus Christ is entirely divine. I'll return to why that is so important shortly. The second thing to take from this phrase is that he came for our salvation. But what does that mean? What is salvation? And salvation from what? Well, the fact that this branch of theology has its own special name, Soteriology, tells you that there is no simple answer but in the simplest terms we are saved from sin. And what is sin, but anything that draws us away from or harms our relationship with God? So, Jesus Christ is the means by which we are able to enter into a right relationship with God. Not "a" way, but "the" way, and this brings me to the final point.

### **Why does it Matter?**

We have learned that when we recite the creed, amongst other things we state our shared belief that around 2000 years ago, a person was born who also was God! And we believe that through him we are to be saved. I've made joking reference to how complex a concept this is and the dangers of

*Continued on page 21*

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*Continued from page 19* heresy and you may be asking, as frankly I was, what's the point? Why make such a big deal? I won't go into the history of the creeds and the various councils at which they were discussed. Suffice to say that those who have gone before us determined the set of things Christians must believe to be Christians, not arbitrary things but things that speak to the nature of God and his love for us, so the creeds matter because they are the standard; the point of reference against which we can measure our own faith and stand firm in the face of the temptation of easy answers. And in respect of the second person of the Trinity, it matters that we try to wrap our heads around the idea that Jesus is God, because it is Jesus Christ that we worship and trust to save us from sin and bring us into a right relationship with God. If Jesus isn't God, then how can he save us? What power would he have? And where would that leave us?

*Rob Little*

---

## ***Introduction to the above article***

*When Rob sent the above article to us, he put the introduction (which follows) where you would normally expect it, at the start of his piece. However, we decided that as the work was intended as a magazine article, we would put the article part first, and give the explanation at the end.*

*The Editors*

Last month, I said that I would share my latest assignment with you and here it is! I've included details of the task we were set and the resulting article ("resource for others") is above but I have spared you the analysis! I hope you find it interesting. If it sparks any questions, then I'd be delighted to chat...although this may be the sum total of my trinitarian knowledge!

### **Brief for 'Resource for others' assignment**

Your church is running a series of three magazine articles exploring the place of the Creed in Christian faith and living. Each will focus on one of the main articles of the Creed (God the Father, Son, Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer) and explain why the article is not an abstract idea, but of practical value to Christian living.

You have been asked to write one of these articles (1,000 words). You will also provide a rationale or commentary (1,500 words) to accompany your article which will explain your chosen approach to the subject and give you an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the key ideas you utilise in more detail with reference to relevant scholarship. These should be submitted together as one piece of work.

*Rob Little*

## *Prayers for the Women and Children of Gaza and Ukraine*



As we settle for our prayer time during March we are praying for the women and children in Gaza and Ukraine. Let us light our candles and then be still before God.

Lord Jesus as we walk with you through Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, we remember all the emotions and feelings that you experienced. From your entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; the Last Supper you shared with your disciples and friends; the isolation you felt in the garden of Gethsemane; and then your trial, persecution and finally crucifixion.

Lord, we hold before you the women and children in Gaza and Ukraine who struggle each day with their feelings and fears for the safety of their children, their families and friends, in the midst of bombs and drones falling around them, maiming and killing, causing such suffering and grief.

We remember their struggle to find clean water and food, medicine and shelter, trying to keep everyone they love safe. Lord Jesus, we pray for your spirit to be with all women and children, suffering in war torn Ukraine and Gaza.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, with all the aggressive talk and threats in our world we pray for the peace makers, that their voices will be heard, that hearts and minds will be changed.

We pray for all agencies working to effect change. Lord Jesus, give them strength to persevere and wisdom to know when to speak out as they seek to serve the victims of violence by seeking peace for all. You taught your disciples how to be servants of one another at the Last Supper. We ask Lord, that we too may serve the victims of war by being faithful in praying for peace.

In the midst of Holy Week, Lord, you met with kindness and love and we pray for the women and children that they too will receive love and kindness as they seek life in the midst of war.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord God as you were crucified and suffered the separation from life to death, we pray now for all those who have died during the wars in Gaza and Ukraine; that they are at rest in you, healed and restored.

We hold before you all those who grieve. May they be comforted by your spirit, like the women who stood at the foot of your cross grieving.

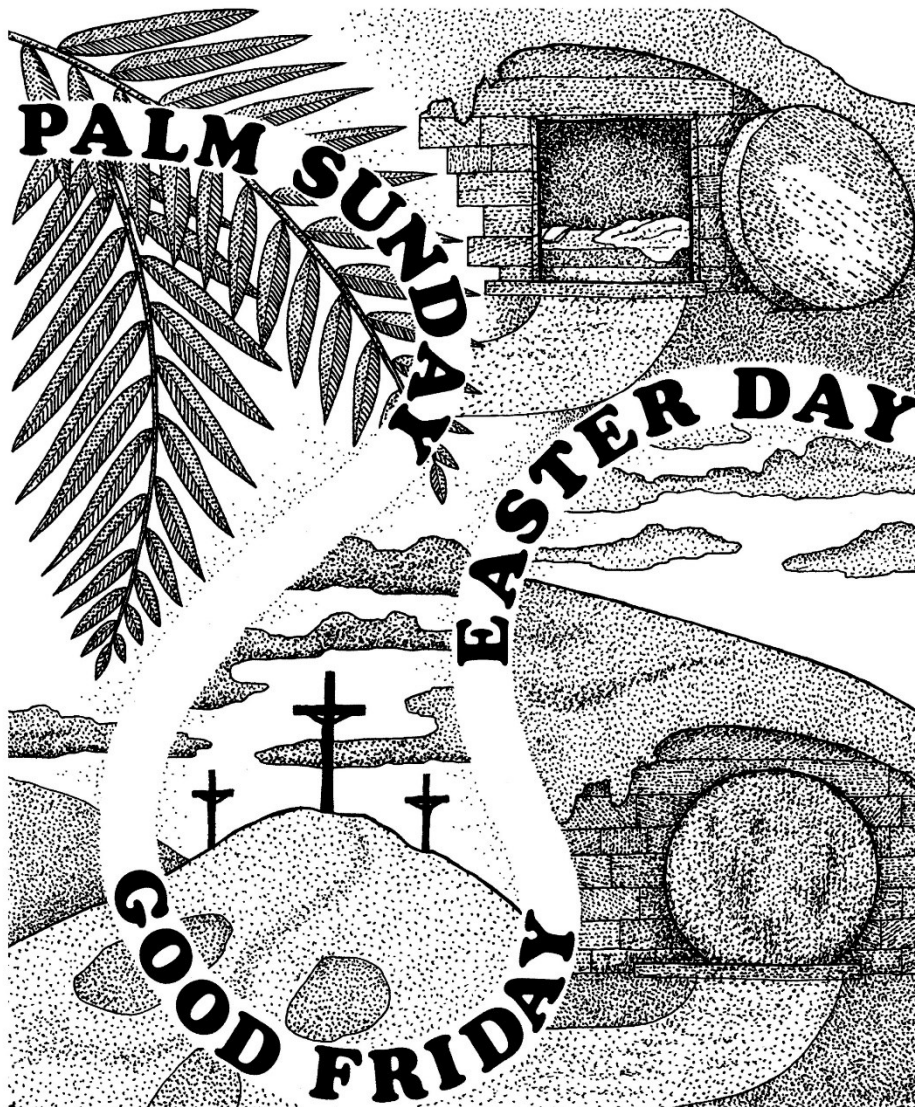
Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus grant to us a renewal of our faith, that we may be faithful in praying for peace and hope for the people of Ukraine and Gaza; for an end to the conflicts that fill our world. May the women work together to bring peace for the children and families where they live.

Lord, hear our prayers.

AMEN

*Jenny English*





## *God Created the Heavens and the Earth*

It was time to return to the very beginning in February's Messy Church, as we explored the theme of Creation.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). The story of the creation was our focus this month - the session starting with a chat about all of the different things God created.



### **Creativity**

Living up to the name Messy Church, the most popular activity this month was 'Primordial slime.' Made up of cornflour and water, what looked like a bowl of liquid, would solidify when squeezed. What exactly does this have to do with creation? It made us consider what was there before God created life on Earth. Perhaps the surface was just a big puddle of gloopy slime!



St John's pulpit collection is further expanding, with a pipe cleaner snail and spider, alongside origami animals joining it this month. The Messy Church's display board also shows our paper Creation Scene. Do take a look at these.

Other activities included making paper people, an Edible Eden with animal sweets and decorating blue balloons to look like the Earth. A leftover balloon on Sunday led to a post-service game of keepy-up, with children, adults and clergy all joining in! This turned into 'can it be hit high enough to land in the gallery?' ...the answer is no, but it was worth a try.





## **Worship**

Are you afraid of spiders? Our short worship, led by Phil, made us think about the importance of all of God's creations. Focusing on the spider, we talked about how they are actually fascinating creatures, and something to be liked and appreciated rather than feared. Some congregation members may still need convincing, but do consider that God created even the spider when you next come across one.

Our hymn this month was 'He's Got The Whole World.'



## **Hospitality**

The theme of creation continued into dessert this month. After a supper of chicken nuggets and chips, dessert was a fruit kebab made earlier during the crafts, covered in chocolate sauce.

Yummy!

Our next Messy Church will be on Saturday 2nd March exploring the story of Noah, alongside new starts and promises.

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!

Our upcoming schedule of sessions and themes:

Saturday 2nd March: Noah

Saturday 30th March: Easter

Saturday 4th May: Abraham & Sarah

Saturday 1st June: Joseph and his Coat of Many Colours

Saturday 4th July: Moses

Please note there are two Messy Church sessions in March and none in April.

*Beth Broadway*

# Little Lambs



*All ready for fun today*

We are very pleased to be back from our Christmas break and Little Lambs continues to be very popular. We were very pleased that the children enjoyed dressing up, play dough, painting and building recently. Huge thanks to our lovely volunteers and to Phil who has helped us recently.





More fun to come as we run up to Easter now.

Blessings from us all.

*Sue Fairman*

## Women of Worcester



Over 90 people turned up on a cold January afternoon to listen to Paul Harding tell us all about the ‘Women of Worcester’.

There are no statues of the Women of Worcester, but there are some of women such as Queen Anne and Queen Victoria. Paul mentioned about women such as Butt Annie, Naughty

Nora and the Lady in White but there is little known of these residents of Worcester, although the audience could be heard discussing their encounters with some of these ladies during the break. Everyone knows about Fred Dancox and how he won the VC in the Great War, but no-one knows about Ellen Dancox who kept the family together whilst living in Dolday, a notorious slum of the time. She had to sell his VC for £5 to feed her family having collected it posthumously after he died on the front line.

In the Cathedral there is a tomb with a man and his wife on it. The man, Robert Wylde, gets all the mentions but his wife, Margaret, gets none really. However, she was the real brains behind their wool business that they had in Tudor times when they lived in the Commandery.



There are many stories about the legendary Sabrina, the Goddess of the River Severn. The statue of her in the Worcester Museum shows her being held by a Celtic man. One of the legends is that Sabrina was thrown into the river as part of a peace treaty and hence became the Goddess of the river. The footbridge over the Severn was named Sabrina in her honour.

In the 18th Century there was a barn behind the Golden Lion and the King’s Head, which was used as a theatre.

Sarah Siddons acted on the stage there as a child. She went on to become a famous actress, which was very uncommon then as ladies did not act.

Also in the 18th Century, George's yard was accessed through the arch of Greyfriars, which was a Medieval House and had 10 small houses with front doors and 2 windows only, one up and one down. In the 1930s Greyfriars and the yard were due for demolition, but the war put a stop to it. Elsie Moore did a lot of research about places and was very good at renovation. She also did a lot of



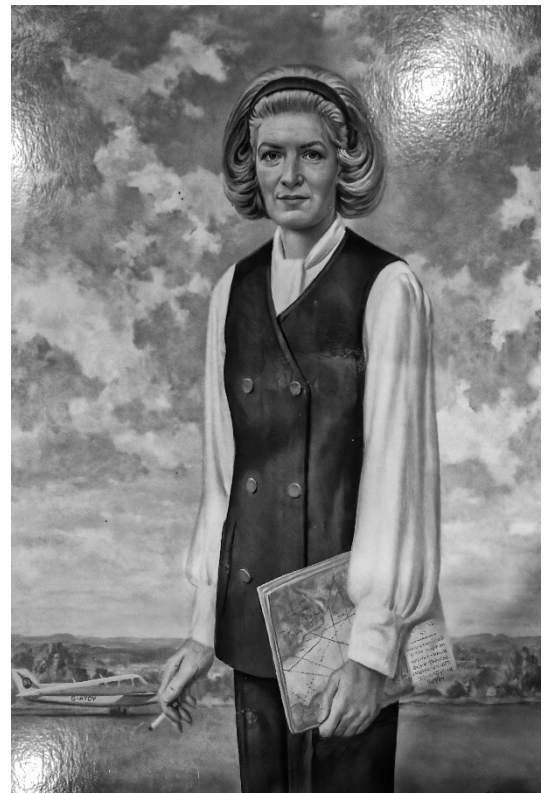
***Alice Ottley***

work on the Medieval Commandry. After the war, Greyfriars was again due to be demolished. Elsie told the council that Greyfriars should be saved as it was one of the oldest buildings in Worcester. The council said she could buy it if she wanted to save it! So, with her husband, Matley, they managed to raise the money and started the renovation. Eventually the building was handed over to the National Trust.

Alice Ottley came to Worcester and saw that education for boys was a big thing and they were getting a very good education, but it was sadly lacking for girls. She petitioned the council but was largely ignored so she set up the 'Worcester High School for Girls.' There is a blue plaque to her on the school site.

The famous aviator, Sheila Scott, was not a famous woman of Worcester, but she was a pupil of Alice Ottley School, and she was chosen to have an early flight at an air show on Pitchcroft. She hated the whole experience, however, later in life she decided to become a pilot and broke many records. She has a Blue Plaque on the old Alice Ottley school building.

The house on the corner of Sidbury and City Walls Road was lived in by Henry and Ellen Wood and there is a stone plaque to them. Henry was a poor businessman and went bankrupt a few times, in fact he was a bit of a 'Del Boy.' However, Ellen wrote little stories that were published as books or in newspapers. However, she had to write under the name of Mrs Henry



***Sheila Scott***

Wood. All her books were about fictitious locations but if you read them, you can see they are based on Worcester.

The Theatre Royal was the first proper theatre in Worcester and was built in the 18th Century. In common with many theatres it suffered several fires during its life. One of the owners was Arthur Carlton, a Mayor of Worcester, and he decided that he needed to boost the publicity for the theatre. He decided to bring a human cannon into the theatre and proceeded to fire his wife, the Lady Carlton, across the theatre. She was Mayoress of Worcester five times and is probably the only Mayoress to have been shot out of a cannon.



Hannah Snood lived at 25 Friar Street in the 18th Century. She was married to a Dutch sailor, and he was abusive towards her. He left her and she found that he had joined the Army.

She decided to take on the persona of a man, James Grey, and joined the army herself to find him. She joined the Royal Marines and fought in many wars. She was wounded and flogged as a punishment but, somehow, she managed to hide her gender for a long time. Eventually however, she was found out and was thrown out of the Army. Her husband was executed for theft whilst in the Army.

Hannah lived in London afterwards and went round the pubs selling her story for drinks. When she died, she was buried in a pauper's grave but was later reburied at the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. There is a Blue Plaque on her house in Friar Street.

The first female Mayor of Worcester was Diana Ogilvy.

She did a great deal for the city, and she can still be seen on various old movies of Worcester on the internet, like the opening of Cripplegate Park and the main Worcester Bridge.



Finally, Paul mentioned Matilda Alice Powells, better known as Vesta Tilley. She was the highest paid woman on the stage in England and her stage name came about because she was said to be as bright as a vesta match when she came on stage and Tilly is short for Matilda. She was said to have been the greatest Recruiting Sergeant in the Great War.

Of course, our own excellent ‘Women of Worcester,’ or St John’s, excelled with the creation of a wonderful array of cakes, serving them with 90 plus drinks to the audience during the break. Well done ladies.

*Colin Nash*



---

## ***Looking After Our Buildings – Help Please!***

As most readers will know, Tom Amies was recently appointed as our new Estates Manager for St John’s and St Michael’s. He has taken over from Brian Askew, who retired at the end of last year after over ten years of service.

The Estates Manager job exists to look after the maintenance of our church buildings and associated properties. The role includes:

- carrying out routine tasks such as weekly setting of the church heating
- undertaking minor repair tasks and bringing in external contractors to undertake more significant interventions as required
- acting as Health and Safety Officer with regard to buildings related matters; this includes the arranging of regulatory safety inspections
- liaising with the Diocese where faculty approval for works is required.

To guide this role, the Joint Council would like to re-form an Accommodation sub-committee. Ideally a group of three or four to meet with Tom around five times a year to review and help to prioritise our maintenance work. Specifically, the group will:

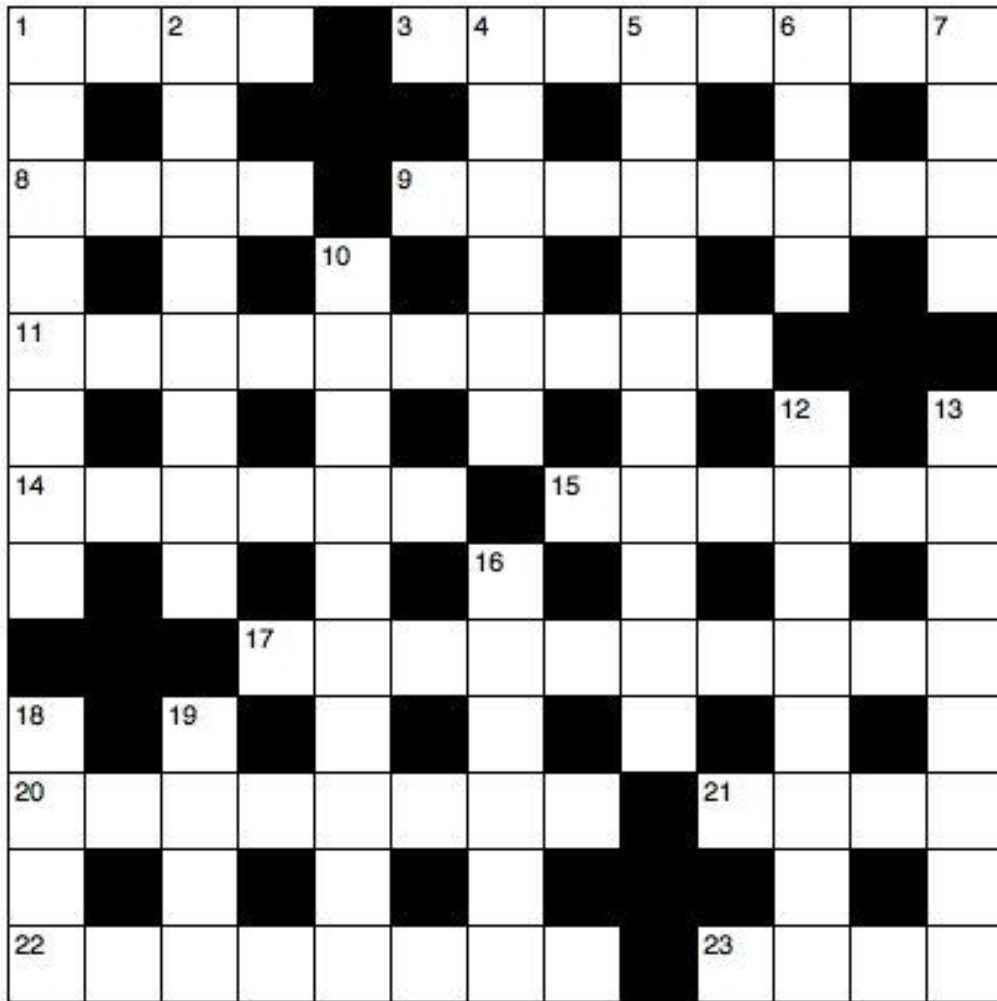
- commission remedial and other work to the buildings within a budget authorised by the Joint Council
- prepare proposals for submission to the Joint Council that would require over-budget spend or would alter the buildings or their fabric in any material way.

So, I am looking for two or three volunteers to join me in forming this group. Please let me know if you can help!

*Gordon Templeton*

## *Crossword*

*The solution is on the inside back cover.*



### **Across**

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 ‘You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don’t go very far from it. All of you be on — — ’ (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ’s burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 ‘A city on a hill — be hidden’ (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah’s mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed ‘Not as I will, but as you will’ (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 ‘Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour’ (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)



## Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
  - 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
  - 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
  - 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
  - 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
  - 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
  - 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
  - 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
  - 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
  - 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
  - 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
  - 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)
- 

## *Smile lines*

Before retirement, I taught 6 and 7 year old children. One day, one of them asked, "Why is God called Harold?" I asked him why he thought this, and the child replied, "When we say the Lord's prayer, we say 'Harold be thy name.'"

On another occasion, I told my class the Christmas story, and they drew a picture about it. One child drew what looked like a fly. I asked why he had drawn a fly. He said, "It's not a fly it's a flea. Joseph was told in the story 'take Mary and Jesus and flea (flee) into Egypt.'"

*Wendy Dedicott*

--- 000 ---

I promise I'll sort out my procrastination problems, tomorrow.

--- 000 ---

My boss calls me 'The Computer.' Nothing to do with intelligence; I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.

--- 000 ---

When Noah sailed the waters blue,  
he had his troubles same as you.  
For 40 days he drove the Ark  
before he found a place to park.

## *Reflections part two*

As mentioned last month, Easter this year will have a special significance for me. It is 75 years from my first service at the altar in 1949 at St Mary and All Saints, Kidderminster.

In 1951, having passed the 11+, I started at King Charles I Grammar School situated on Bewdley Road, Kidderminster.

Amongst the studies at school was music. In our first year, led by Mr Murphy, a teacher of considerable skill, we participated in a performance of Purcell's "Dido and Aeneas." Also, with the church choir of St John's Church (next door) we explored a whole range of hymns, psalms and anthems to meet the needs of the church year.

My father's desire for me to follow a Christian education expressed itself once more when time came for me to leave the grammar school. He and the Headmaster, John Drake, decided that I should go to teacher training at St Peter's College, Saltley, under the Principalship of the Rev. T.G. Platten, and that I should also continue R.E. under his direction. The College was associated with the local church, St Saviour's, which had an attached Convent for Anglican Sisters. There we celebrated Mass at 8am every morning. Those of us studying R.E. were in turn servers to the celebrant. In our second year we did all the preparation for the Mass: The credence table, the priest's vestments, the texts for use on the day and the special prayer cards where needed by all the participants.

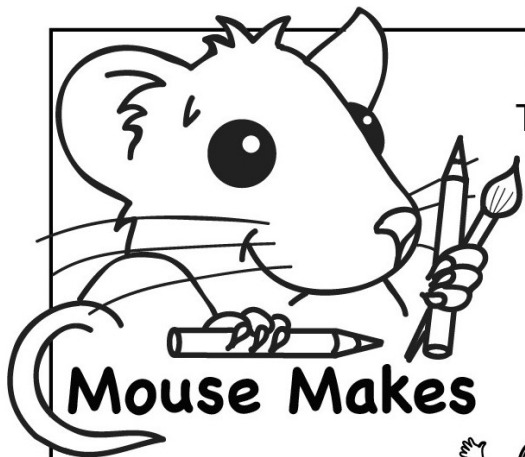
At the end of our training, I went on to teach at St Alban the Martyr School, in Birmingham which had the same traditions as St Saviour's with regular daily Mass but at 8.45am before the school day started! My first class had 63 pupils and the headmaster greeted me on my first day with a piece of chalk, a blackboard rubber and a cane (for discipline, if needed). A bit different from today's young teachers beginning their careers!

If one of your class was missing at registration you sent a note with the name(s) to the Deputy Headmistress who would contact the school board lady who would then chase them up. With luck the child would appear before mid-morning, looking suitably contrite!

However, girls were often kept at home on Fridays to help with the washing of the family's clothes! Of course, clothes had to be clean for use on Sunday to attend Morning Mass and the obligatory Sunday School at 2 pm.

O how church has changed too! I hope you enjoyed these reminiscences.

*Arthur Miller*



"I am the resurrection and the life.  
The one who believes in me will live  
even though they die."

John 1:25



READ the Bible passages to find the answers to the crossword clues

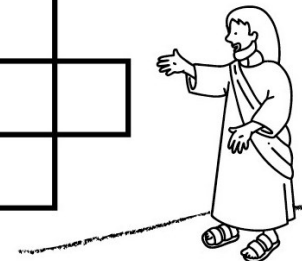
Matthew 21:1-11

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?



Matthew 26:17-29

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



Matthew 27:27-61

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?

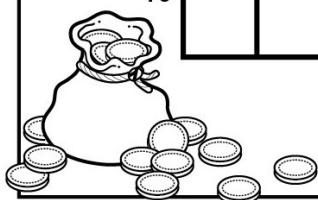
Matthew 26:36-75

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?



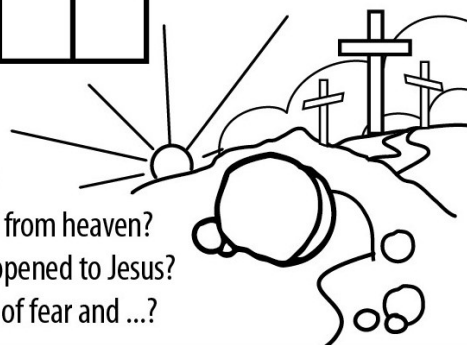
Matthew 26:14-16

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?

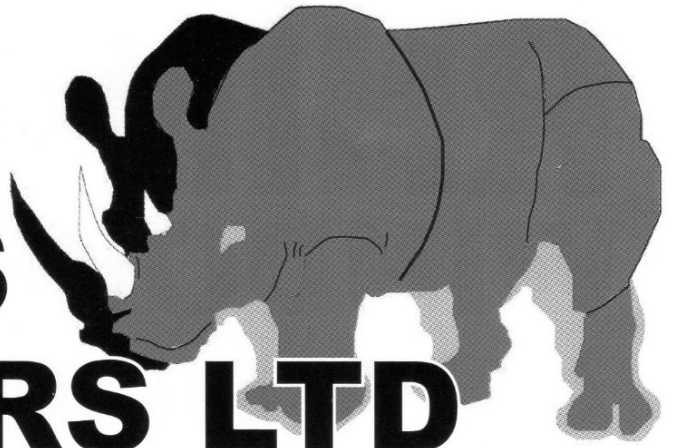


Matthew 28:1-10

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



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## *Fox News*

A few people have asked about the injured fox, so I thought an update was appropriate.

I had assumed the fox was male, but the rescue centre informed me it was female.

She spent two weeks in hospital until the wound had healed over and then the wildlife team were keen to get her back to

her environment and she was brought back to our garden. She arrived just after 6pm in the evening at dusk; a safe time for release. She shot out of her transport cage at the speed of light. I put food out in the garden (peanuts, cat biscuits), set up the wildlife camera and let nature take its course.

Camera recordings showed that the injured fox came back to the garden around 7pm to feed and later in the evening. She didn't show up again for a week but there are two other foxes that visit, and they showed up on the video footage during that time. Injured fox appeared a week later to feed, still limping, but looks in good health other than that. The rescue centre said it could take some time to settle.



I can tell the injured fox from the others by the dark fur on her muzzle, and, at the moment, by her limp. Since she has started coming again, she has been a fairly regular visitor .

*Continued on page 39*

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*Continued from page 37*

On one occasion she moved out of the way and hid behind bushes when a badger called by. They like the peanuts but not the cat biscuits. It's been several months since we saw the badger.



We do get neighbourhood cats calling by, but the foxes stay out of the way. I've seen a fox gingerly move out of the way of a cat; cat claws are not something the foxes want to mess with. There have been “stories” of foxes carrying off cats, but this is not true and will have been foxes moving their own cubs.

Countryside foxes feed mainly on voles and other small rodents, but they are omnivores. Urban foxes help to manage the numbers of urban rodents. They are opportunistic and will clean up after food gets dropped by us. Fox populations are self-regulatory. In any area there will be an optimum number of foxes that can be sustained. There will be a dominant female and if maximum population level is reached, then she will be the only one to produce young and subdominant females will not reproduce.

As humans spread their areas of habitation, we encroach onto wildlife habitats and we are beholden to make as little impact on the balance of nature as possible. We can all do our part to make our gardens as wildlife friendly as possible. I look forward to what the wildlife camera shows in the future.

*Margaret Miller*

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# *Joint Council, January 2024*

## *Summary of the minutes*

Phil Bradford welcomed everyone to the meeting and led everyone in a prayer. There were 12 members present and apologies from 5 members.

**Matters Arising:** There was a discussion about getting the Charity Committee re-started and applying for funds from the Henry Smith Charity. The JC discussed the services for Christmas 2023, which had gone well. The size of the congregations was pleasing and it was nice to see some people who were not regular attenders. It was agreed to plan for a community nativity service on Saturday 21st December 2024. The Crib Service and the Christingle would then take place on 24th December. The need for welcomers was discussed and it was suggested to recruit for volunteers early so that there was not a shortage at different services. We will also look at inviting Honeywell Primary School to St Michael's for a Christingle.

Phil presented a briefing paper on the use of 'Prayers of Love and Faith' in services. It was agreed that the prayers should be made available, but it will be made clear before services if they are going to be used. Jenny said that there were plans for the prayers to be discussed at a Deanery Synod meeting.

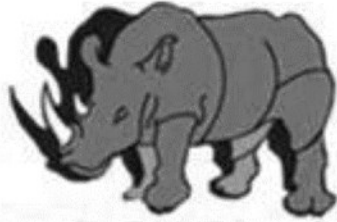
There was a lot to be covered under the heading of **Finance!**

Philip Evans shared the interim 2023 end of year accounts. These were approved preparation for independent examination. It was noted that a legacy had helped enormously. Planned giving was down significantly. Phil will liaise with Grahame Lucas over the independent examination of the 2023 accounts.

There was a discussion about taking collections during services. The vicar and churchwardens of both churches will consider this further and make a final decision. Phil thanked the finance team, recognising the enormous amount of work that has gone into this area during this year.

There was a long discussion about the 2024 budget. Based upon what we are doing now, with known factors like increased energy prices factored in, the bottom line is a £13,500 deficit predicted at the end of the year. It was reluctantly decided that, for the purposes of setting a budget, this would be budgeted to come from reserves, whilst making best efforts to try things such as a Stewardship Campaign which will help to mitigate the situation. It must be a genuine 12-month effort to help get costs down and income up. Some ways of doing this were discussed. Heating is the biggest cost at both churches. It was agreed as a high priority to hold a Stewardship Campaign scheduled for April or May of this year.

*Continued on page 43*



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*Continued from page 41* Changing the default amount on the card donation machine at St John's will be investigated. Philip is preparing the application to the diocese for a grant to support the cost of ministry share.

Budgets of £250 and £900 for 2024 were agreed for Children's Church to fund children's activities during Sunday services and Messy Church respectively. An application is being prepared for a grant of £1000 from the diocesan Kingdom People fund for Messy Church. A budget of £3000 was agreed to cover all aspects of the Estate Manager's role.

Work is underway to open a new bank account in the name of the JC. The next stage is to collect signatures on the application form from all members of the JC.

Two additional members of the finance sub-committee (Tom Fairman and Ellen Little) were approved. Gordon Templeton said he would like one or two more people on the Accommodation sub-committee [*See page 31*].

The rental on our rented house has not been increased for some time. Gordon and Tom Amies will liaise with the agents and the tenants to agree the rent going forward.

**Administration: SharePoint and Life Events Diary** - Philip explained that SharePoint is an online place to store documents. He and Phil are currently looking at how best to centralise where various documents are stored. It is a slow process, but progress is being made. The Church of England pays for the 'Life Events Diary.' It allows people to record the details of key events and supports administrative tasks (e.g. sending invoices). It can also allow online room bookings and payments. Phil felt it is a very useful tool which we are in the process of learning to use.

**Safeguarding** - it was agreed to adopt 'Promoting a Safer Church' as the Joint Council's safeguarding policy. Phil went through various items in the action plan on the Safeguarding Dashboard:

- Phil gave an assurance that there are effective measures in place for the management of known offenders.
- All safeguarding records comply with GDPR guidelines.
- Churchwardens are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.
- The JC authorised Children's Church and Messy Church at St John's and West Worcester Friendship Club at St Michael's.
- Role descriptions for all roles involving working with children and young people had been circulated and were approved.
- Phil will check about Safeguarding training and DBS checks for JC members.

*Continued on page 45*

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Continued from page 43

**Health and Safety** - It was agreed that the Standing Committee should review a Health and Safety policy based on a diocesan template to be adopted by the JC.

**Other business:**

Phil will create a leaflet advertising the services on offer at our churches which could be distributed to residents of new houses being built near Dines Green.

The Archbishop is visiting on 3rd February including Worcester Cathedral.

Catherine Templeton and Sandra Nash were formally approved to run the coach trips and the Good Old Days on behalf of the JC.

It was agreed to hold a celebration for Rob Little when he completes his training as a Reader when he is licensed at St John’s on 15th September, and also a summer barbecue as a fundraiser.

Sarah explained about an event on 8th June called ‘Dine Fest’ celebrating 70 years of the Dines Green Estate. Sarah attended a planning meeting and suggested hosting some kind of service at St Michael’s. Even if we don’t end up having a service it would be great for members of St Michael’s Church to be in attendance.

The meeting closed with ‘The Grace.’

*Minutes by Fiona Templeton (JC Secretary)  
Summarised by Graham Evans (JC member)*

***Sudoku  
Puzzle***

© 2008  
KrazyDad.com

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

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



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## 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
- Bank holiday closures are not yet listed on the County Council website (as at 15/2/24).

### *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, 11.00am to 12.00pm

### *Other March events at St John's Library*

- Photography Group - Thursday 28th March, 11.00am to 12.00pm

*Crime Readers Group Film Club and Crime Readers Group are not showing in the County Council Events diary for March (as at 14th February).*

YOUR

## WEST MERCIA POLICE

## 'SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM'

AT

## ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

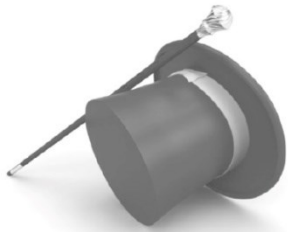
Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) are a group of local police officers dedicated to serving our local community.

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): 19th March, 16th April, 7th May, 18th June

Time: 10:30 to 11:30.

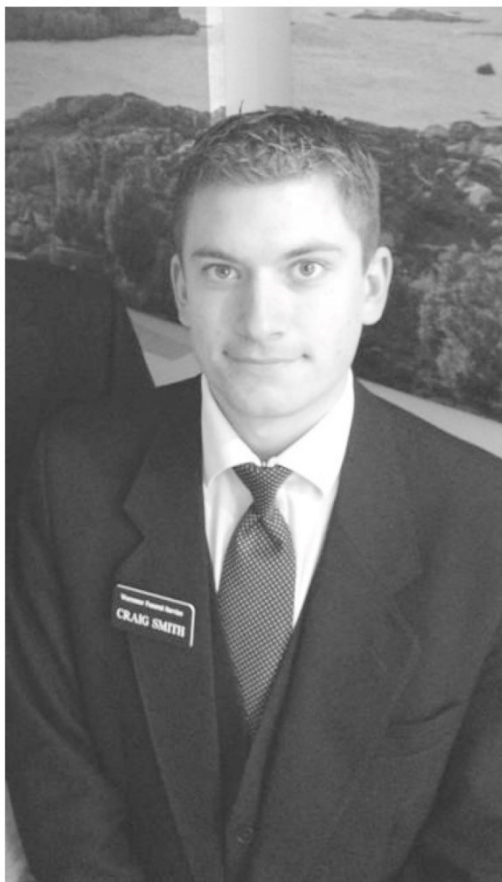




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*From the magazine archive, March 1950*

THINK ON THESE THINGS

We are not here to make a *living* but a LIFE.

God regards more with how much affection and love a person performs work, than with how much he does.

What a wonderful hymn of praise is the Te Deum.

What a wonderful thrill in the words—"We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy precious Blood."

Think of that prayer going up from every part of the world—of the thousands of voices singing it together—"Whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy Precious Blood."

Why worry if we pray?  
Why pray if we worry?

Just as a single sunbeam will chase away many shadows—so a kindly smile will chase away depression from those who receive it. For there is not enough darkness in the world to extinguish the light of one small candle.

Nails would not have held our Blessed Lord fixed to the Cross, had Love not held Him there.

A man said:—"When I feel like finding fault, I always begin with myself, and then I never get any further."

St. Augustine told of a man who prayed, "O God, why dost Thou not remove this wicked person from the earth?", and of the terrible Voice which thundered out of heaven, "Which?"

If God gives you much to suffer, it is a sign that He would make a saint of you.

--- 000 ---

LOST PROPERTY

A PAIR of black satin dancing sandals were left at the Parish Room after the recent Guides Social. The owner can retrieve them by calling upon Mrs. Annis, 79 Bransford Road.

# The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

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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!)

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

**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](mailto: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*

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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.

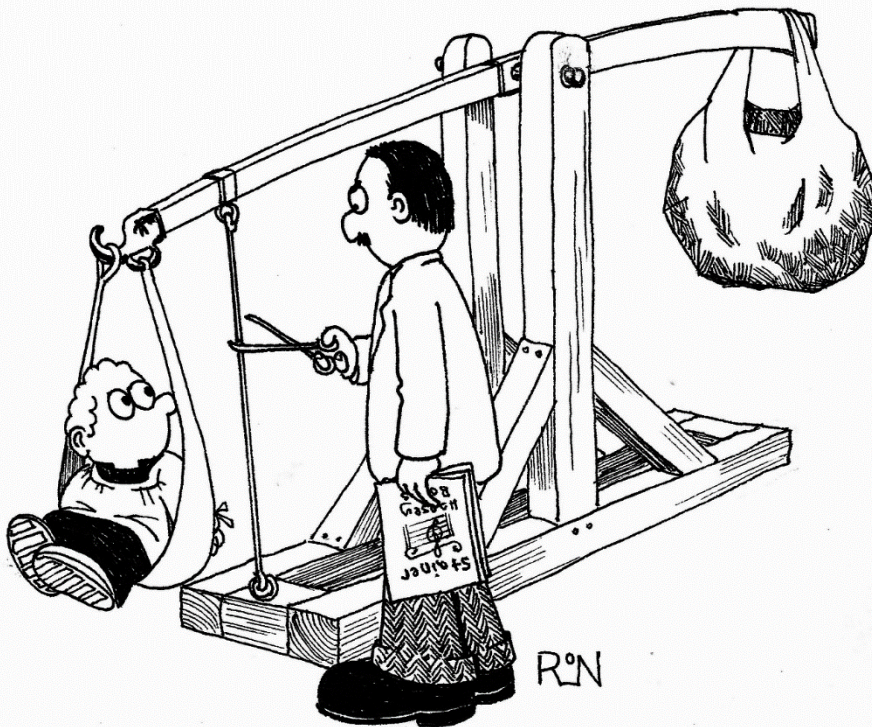


## *Puzzle solutions*

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

W	I	N	E		T	H	E	A	L	E	R	T	
R		A			E		S		N		U		
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N		E		B		L		E		Y		N	
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A		E		F		H		B		I		T	
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A		T		N		O				A		R	
F	L	O	G	G	I	N	G			S	T	Y	E

*And finally....*



*The choir had foolishly agreed to tackle the high-level cobwebs.*

*Image: Parish Pump  
Caption: Graham Evans*

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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 – March

	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Clement's</b>	<b>St. David's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>
<b>3rd March</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>10th March</b>	10.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
<b>17th March</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Passiontide Service	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>24th March</b>	9.45am Liturgy of Palms at St Clement's with procession to St John's		10am Team Eucharist (St John's)	
<b>31st March Easter Sunday</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>7th April</b>	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.