

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's

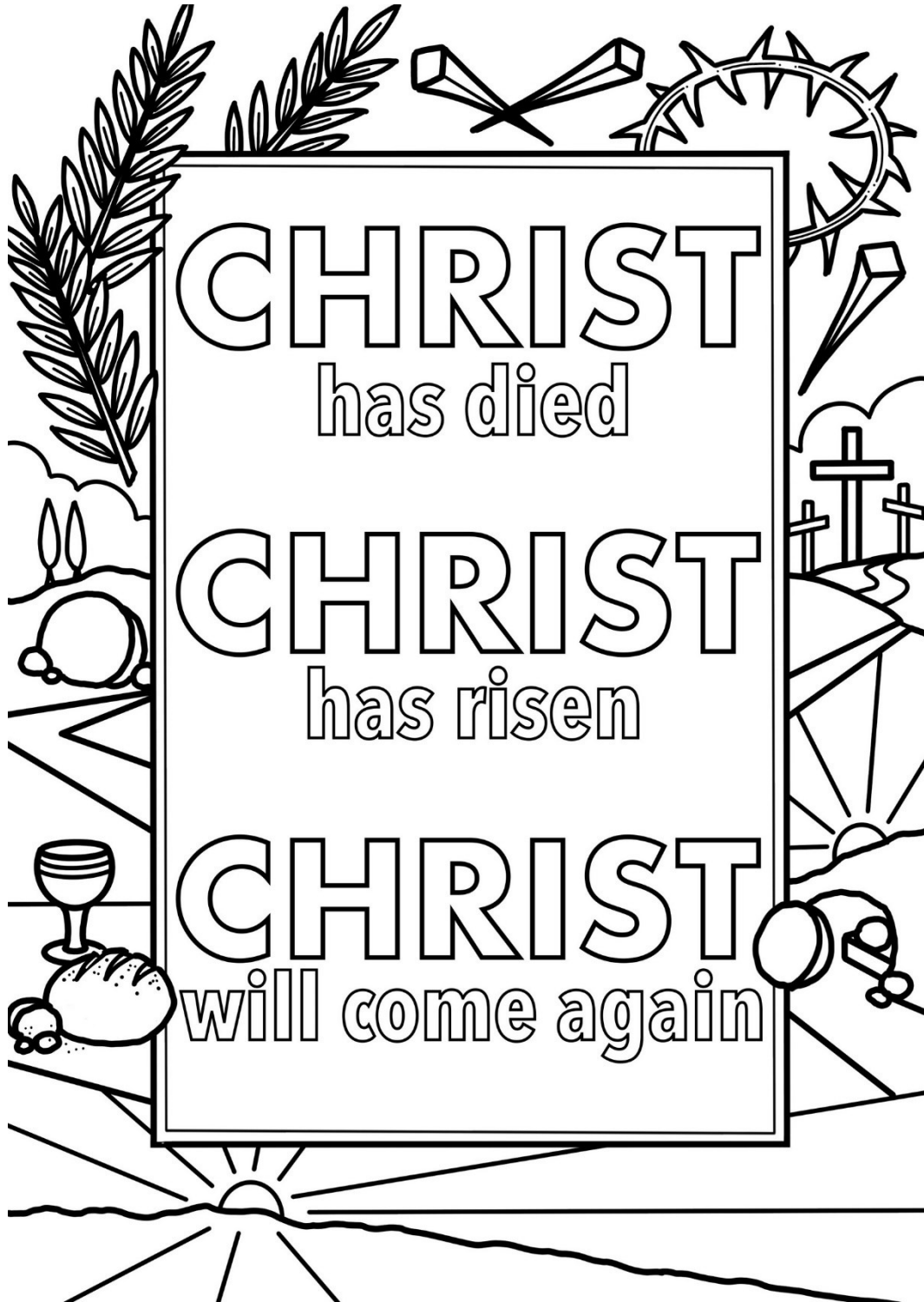


THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



April 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, Wednesday 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: stjohns.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 sylviarender@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 April 2024 edition. Our theme is ‘God calls us to be foolish!’. This was inspired by April Fool’s day falling on Easter Monday and by Paul’s messages in 1 Corinthians. For more on this, please read Sarah’s letter.

In this edition, we report on events that have been happening in our churches and events to come. Sarah is thinking about promoting RED - you’ll have to visit page 23 to find out more. Little Lambs has reached nine years old - as have several young members of our congregation: “Happy Birthday” and “Many Happy Returns” all round!

We couldn’t find many prayers about the sort of faithful foolishness that is the theme of this magazine, but one is enough! We leave you with this, part of what was described as a Franciscan prayer:

*May God bless you
with enough foolishness
to believe that you can
make a difference in the world,
so that you can do
what others claim cannot be done,
to bring justice and kindness
to all our children and the poor.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 14th April. Distribution, towards the end of April.

Subscription form: Page 46.

Cover picture: Parish Pump

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine, including Beth Broadway, Mike Dowling, Rob Little, Colin Nash and Sarah Wilkins.

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 46 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 8.

From Sarah Cottrill

Jesus grew up in a small town by the sea where his father, Joseph ran a small business. Everybody assumed that, on leaving school, Jesus would join his father in the family business and for a few years this is what Jesus did. But it wasn't what Jesus really wanted and at the age of thirty, he announced his intention to leave and become a teacher - not at the local school but as a peripatetic teacher who travelled around. Jesus also had an interest in healing which he hoped to develop.



At first, all went well, and Jesus picked up an enthusiastic group of followers. After just a few years, however, Jesus fell foul of the authorities who had him arrested and put to death. Friends who had questioned the wisdom of Jesus' decision to turn his back on a secure future at home and had followed his subsequent career with interest, probably felt that his end was the sad but inevitable result of his youthful foolishness.

Worse was to come! Just three days after the death sentence was carried out on Jesus, his friends were spreading the story that he wasn't dead but had been raised by God. They had seen and spoken to him and that he was, indeed, the Messiah; the Son of God.

What foolishness all of this is! How grateful we must all be for such levels of foolishness!

The Christian Gospel, as told in the account above, does indeed, seem like a tale of pure foolishness; the sort of "April Fool" tall story only the most gullible would fall for. And yet we know and rejoice in the truth of this story because, unlike the account given here, we also know of all the miraculous signs Jesus performed; we have instances of God himself affirming the special and unique status of Jesus and we know that those original witnesses would not have spoken, acted and suffered as they did for anything less than the truth - incredible as that truth may seem!

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul wrote: "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1.18). At first glance, the message of the cross - and the journey to it - certainly does look like extreme foolishness. Why give up a relatively secure job and future in order to follow such a precarious path? Why, when it was obviously going wrong, would anybody stick with it rather than

admit to having made a mistake and return home? Why continue to follow such a foolish individual clearly bent on self destruction? The answer to these questions lies in Paul's statement a few verses further into his letter. "The foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength." (1 Corinthians 1.25).

This is not suggesting that God is either foolish or weak. Rather that he took a seemingly foolish route to reveal his wisdom and through an act of apparent weakness (submitting to torture and death) demonstrated his ultimate strength in overcoming even death itself!

So what does this mean for us, as we try to follow the example and teaching of Christ? In what ways are we called to be "foolish" for his sake? Let's take just two examples:

In this status and possession driven society, it may appear as foolishness not to pursue the most lucrative career possible. But Jesus taught that you "cannot serve both God and mammon." (Matthew 6.24). If we devote all our energy to creating wealth for ourselves, where will our acts of charity come? Can we be generous towards others if we are preoccupied with storing up riches for ourselves? If we are always working to make more money to afford all the luxuries we deem necessary to our happiness (and I am talking about luxuries here, not the basic necessities), when do we spend time with our loved ones - those people, whether friends or family, whom God has sent to be a blessing for us and to whom we too should be a blessing?

"You can't take it with you" is a well-known phrase, and a wise one. How much wiser and happier would many people be if they could be content with less, materially, thereby giving themselves and others so much more in areas that really matter.

All of us want to be accepted and included within our immediate neighbourhoods and society. This being so, it may seem foolish to draw attention to ourselves by being the one who won't join in certain activities or sign up to particular views. But God calls us to follow certain standards and patterns of conduct. If by standing firm in these, we bear witness to him, perhaps influence just one person to follow our lead and so bring the Kingdom of God just a tiny step forward, that must be the best and wisest of all courses of action!

Easter Monday this year coincides with April Fool's Day, the day on which, traditionally, we try to make fools of friends and family by playing tricks on them, or "spinning a yarn" we can later laugh at them for believing. On the whole, this is done in a spirit of fun with no malice and no hurt intended; a bit of

light-hearted fun. I hope many of you will enjoy some of this with your friends and family. Remember though; all such pranks must stop by midday, or the joke is on you - you become the “fool!”

In contrast, as Christians we are called to be fools for God, not just for a few hours on one day of the year, but all hours of every day. In medieval times the court jester - or fool - could use his position to speak truths in ways others dare not. So, we should pray for grace to be fools, speaking out God’s truth of love, forgiveness and strength in any and all places and situations in which we find ourselves.

Sarah

Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the
risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Weekday services

There are no midweek services in the week after Easter (i.e. 2nd and 4th April).

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for the rest of April:

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

Sundays and Principal Feasts in April

Monday 1st April to Saturday 6th April: Days of Easter Week

Sunday 7th April: Second Sunday of Easter

Monday 8th April: The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 14th April: Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday 21st April: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Tuesday 23rd April: George, Martyr, Patron of England

Thursday 25th April: Mark the Evangelist

Sunday 28th April: Fifth Sunday of Easter

In Memoriam

Florence A Lewis	4 April 1994
Patricia Rosalie Surman	7 April 1986
Rev'd James William Newton	10 April 1988
William Henry Fox	18 April 1984
Doris Drinkwater	18 April 1989

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, February 2024

St John's

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 30th December 2023 Archibald Arthur Lee

d. 18th January 2024 Gillian Yvonne Vaughan

d. 30th January 2024 Amanda Jane Hopkins

SERVICES: Communicants 226. Total attendance at all services 521 (including 156 at two funerals).

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 68. Total attendance at all services 76.

Easter Prayers

Post Communion prayers for the Second and Fourth Sundays of Easter:

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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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
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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 returns from its Easter break on 15th April. See pages 11 and 22.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 30th March, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 10, 11 and 24.
Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 13th April, 9am: Women's Breakfast, see page 10.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 11th April, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Titanic", see page 11.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 15th April, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union - speaker is Jill Crofton, Worcester Archdeaconry Vice-President.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 17th April, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 10.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 18th April, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 26th April: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 27th April, 10.45am: Café Church@10:45am, see page 10.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 4th May, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 11 and 24.

Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

More dates for your diary

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

Tuesday 23rd July, 9am: Coach trip to Weston-super-Mare. See opposite for details. To book places, please call Catherine on 07708 297413.

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



Our next Messy Church is on
Saturday 30th March, 4pm.
The theme is 'Easter'

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 13th April
9.00am until 11.00am

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

This month's speaker will be

Jenny English



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Wednesday 17th April
at 2.45pm in the Church
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St John in Bedwardine



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

At 10.45am on

Saturday
27th April

Thought for the day by
Graham Evans
ALL WELCOME

Events at St John's

Little Lambs



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*Little Lambs returns
from its Easter break on
15th April.*

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**Future dates (all Saturdays,
NB none in April)**

30th March: Easter

4th May: Abraham and Sarah

**1st June: Joseph and his coat of many
colours**

4th July: Moses

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Evangelist? Evangelical?

It's been a busy few weeks since my last update. I've submitted my second assignment for this year and I'm waiting for the result. I finished just in time but when I read it back I had this horrible sinking feeling that I had missed the point...I fear that one won't be a candidate for the parish magazine!

I don't think I've written since my last residential either. That was just fabulous again with our tutor who is so connected with creation. He led the final service of that weekend and it was an early Candlemas celebration, with him singing songs that he had written giving thanks for the new season of spring. Then we made our own candles and it was such a great experience that I stole it and tried it out with the good people of St David's for their Candlemas service (though I did not play guitar and sing songs like Steve had done).

That residential module is about mission and evangelism and that weekend was primarily about evangelism. It was full of practical advice, not least to make clear the difference between an evangelist and an evangelical and I now know that I aspire to be an evangelist...the other...not so much 😊

We learned about some of the ethical implications of evangelism and looked at conversion; if we believe that we are right in our faith then do we not owe it to everyone else to try and teach them our faith, including those of other religions? That took us into a discussion about exclusivism and inclusivism which I found fascinating but also a little scary. Scary because it is very tempting to say that "being good" is enough. This is a topic that I'd really like to learn more about though and it has been very much on my mind as I have been fortunate to spend some time in Himachal Pradesh in the north of India recently. Here, surrounded by some breathtaking scenery, and hearing the sound of prayer bells rung in Hindu temples and seeing Buddhist monks processing through the narrow streets, it's very hard not to feel a closeness with God's creation. Don't worry! I'm not jacking it all in to become a monk, but I never like to miss an opportunity to learn, and I have found their devotion to their own practices quite inspiring.

When I get back after the end of term, I start my next module and I'm at the beginning of writing an assignment about the difference between Anselmian and Abselardian atonement theory, which I'm sure will be more fun than it sounds (well...maybe).

Continued on page 15

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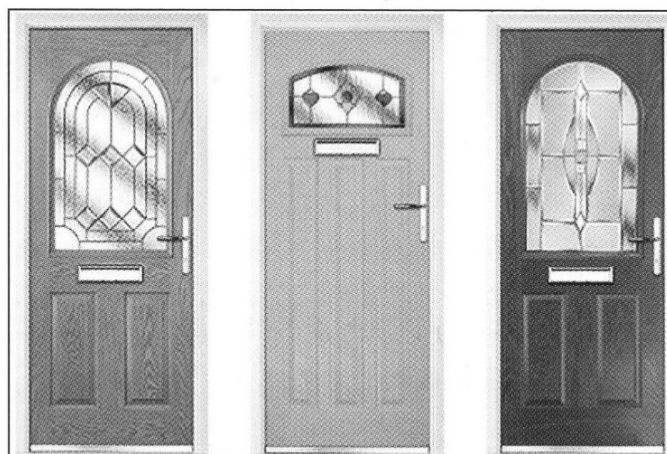
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Continued from page 13

I will sign off with three pics that I took while I was away. The first is of a Hindu Temple to their god Shiva, then of a Stupa at the Dalai Lama's temple complex and finally something a bit more familiar, St Johns in the Wilderness Anglican Church...when you were inside, you wouldn't have known you weren't in England (except that the lectern was sponsored by Mahindra's driving school).



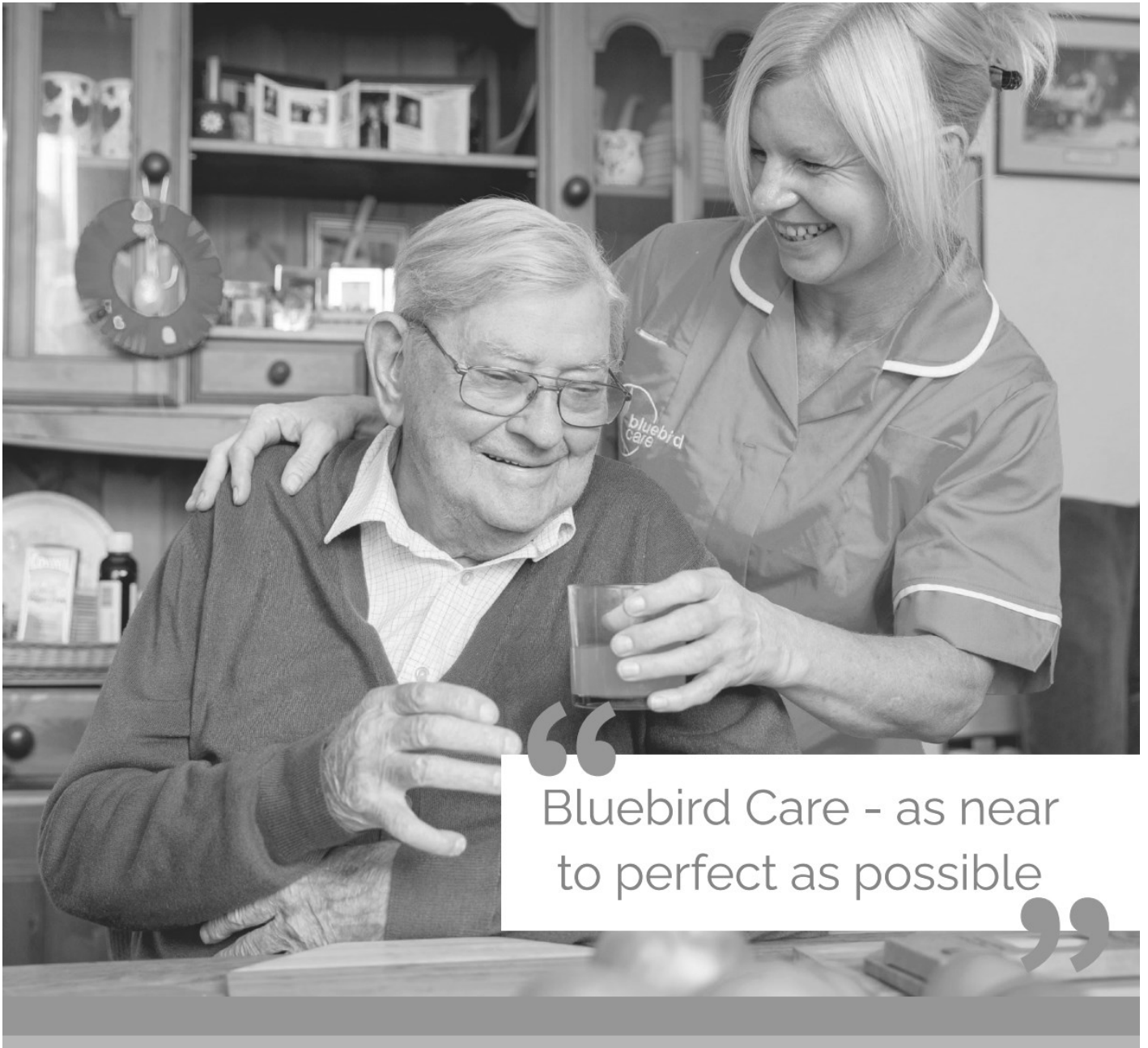
Left: Hindu Temple to their god Shiva

Right: Stupa at the Dalai Lama's temple complex



Left: St Johns in the Wilderness Anglican Church

*God bless,
Rob Little*



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Prayers for our world

For the men, women and children of Gaza

For the hostages held by Hamas

For all people who are victims of political upheaval in our world

We light our 3 candles representing Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as we pray to the God of peace, asking Him to come among us.



Lord God, in our Northern hemisphere spring is awakening in our lands. Green shoots appearing through the earth, seeds scattered last summer and autumn showing signs of life emerging into day light. Dark buds on the trees swelling and showing a hint of green. We thank you Lord for all these signs emerging within creation and we ask Lord that we may see signs of resurrection in all areas of conflict around our world.

Lord God, we pray that the darkness of war surrounding the Palestinian people, the people of Israel and Ukraine will cease. That your light will be their light, for fears to be subdued, and that you will hold your people in your right hand, giving strength and hope to all, for peace, love and resurrection.

Lord God, we pray for all victims of war, and poverty that in their pain at the destruction of family life and homes and in the desperation of trying to find food, water and medical care, your people will be given the will and strength to work together, to comfort one another and to share in their sadnesses as they live each day. May there be signs of hope and resurrection.

Lord God, we pray for all leaders of the Palestinian and Israeli governments that they will work together, to create a place where people of all faiths are accepted, where there is freedom of movement and people are able to live in harmony, serving each other yet still recognising the different ways of cultures and nationalities.

Put peace into our hearts and let the resurrection of Christ, that we celebrate this Easter, be present for all.

Continued on page 19



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Continued from page 17

Lord God, we pray for all hostages living under the threat of more violence and fear of being subject to another's brutality. We pray for the Jewish people held by Hamas. For the people of Ukraine being held in Russia. The refugees fleeing war, scattered across Europe, separated from family and their own countries.

Lord God, let the resurrection of your son help us find a new way of living, a new way of loving each other, in peace and harmony, remembering that we are called by name to serve you and each other.



Let thy will be done and thy kingdom come
for all those who are suffering.

Amen

Jenny English

News from St David's Church

At our Candlemas service Rob Little surprised us all by getting us to make a candle from beeswax strips. In addition, we each received some beeswax to make another candle at home.

Our coffee mornings, which take place on the first Wednesday in the month, continue to be well supported, so thanks to you all who come.

We held a social afternoon on 24th February which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to those who helped. Our next event will be a sing-a-long on Saturday 20th April at 2pm. Refreshments will be available.

Our Patronal Festival, led by Sarah, was held on 3rd March and was followed by refreshments. Before leaving, Sarah gave everyone a small bunch of daffodils, so thank you Sarah! Thanks also to Phil Prince for playing the organ for us.

On 6th March we said goodbye to a very dear friend, Ginny Harrison, who passed away on 8th February, aged 77. Ginny was a member of the church for many years and will be sadly missed. Rest in peace Ginny.

Carole Stone
Deputy Church Warden

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Mothering Sunday preparations at St Michael's



Jo and Val got well and truly stuck in, making bunches of daffodils for our Mothering Sunday service.

Mike Dowling



Nine years and counting!

In the March magazine there were delightful picture of some of our current 0-4s who come to Little Lambs on a Monday morning. It is now just over 9 years since Amy Rees offered to start a mother and baby group for toddlers in the area. After the required checks of volunteers and equipment she was in business with Barbara Willis serving snacks and coffee for adults from the kitchen. Meanwhile the rest of us tried our hands at helping with the children's crafts, chatted to parents, grandparents and carers. We took toy kitchen items out of soft toys and vice versa. We retrieved plastic balls, bricks, playdoh etc and we made sure children took their works of art with them at the end.

There have been changes.

Margaret Rutter manages the kitchen and children's snacks which now are eaten in the Blakefield room. A great help when clearing up.

We have more space than when we started and a baby corner near the font is becoming popular.

Mary Hancock reminded me of a particular 'Houdini' little girl. A delightful escape artist who very nearly managed to slip away. She also mentioned the fake snow the children found such fun one winter session. Never again! We were still finding bits when sweeping up the following June!

These days it is so good to see more parents get down on the floor with their children to play. Recently a complicated train track system was played with for an entire session before being dismantled. A week or so ago a mother pointed out to me that parents are much less on their phones these days, making Little Lambs their "child's time". So good to hear.

Little Lambs has thrived! It is an amazing community asset. Anne Everitt and I, two of the original volunteers, will vouch for this. As will Gail Johnson who was recruited soon after we started and has proved a willing and good singing leader stand-in, as well as having a flair for craft.

The original group of volunteers included Barbara and Graham Willis, Mary and Lawton Hancock, Sylvia Render and John English. Unfortunately, all of these as well as Jill from BRMC are unable to volunteer with Little Lambs anymore.

The remaining volunteers can appreciate this. We are, although we hate to admit it, not as young as we were! The floor gets further away, the tables heavier and little ones and their toys an increasing trip hazard. We thoroughly enjoy helping but we need more help during the session and with setting up beforehand and with clearing away at the end. Even though Amy was a hard act to follow, Sue is doing a marvellous job but she needs more support.

We are so grateful to Catherine Templeton and others for setting up much of the equipment after Sunday service and for standing in when Sue is away, and of course to the others including parents who help when they can.

If anyone feels they could commit to a couple of hours on a Monday during term time please contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962.

Sally Mills

RED Tuesdays

Don't worry - this is not a statement of my political views! RED stands for

Read, Eat, Discuss!

I recently read an excellent book - *The Infernal Word: Notes from a Rebel Angel* - by Nicholas Papadopoulos, which looks at events in Scripture as seen by one of the angels banished with Satan. It was in equal part, amusing, profound and thought provoking and I found myself thinking "I should share this with others!" That led me to think of other books with a spiritual theme which I've read and from there came the idea of "RED Tuesday". - a monthly gathering on a Tuesday (lunch time or evening depending on those interested) when we enjoy a light meal and discuss a book we've read over the last month. To give some idea of the sort of things I have in mind, my other suggestions so far are:

The Shack by William P. Young: fictional account of one man's struggle with faith after the abduction and murder of his daughter.

God On Mute by Pete Greig: tackles the difficult issue of unanswered prayers.

God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew: an autobiographical account of smuggling Bibles into countries behind the Iron Curtain.

The time and venue for this group will be decided once I know what, if any, interest there is. I anticipate starting in September, once I'm back from my holiday at the beginning of that month. If this is something you are interested in, please let me know, stating a preference for daytime or evening.

Sarah Cottrill



The Animals came in Two by Two

It's been raining so much over the last month that it felt appropriate that our theme this month was Noah.

Upon arrival, congregation members were given a piece of paper featuring a part of Phil's excellently drawn ark and asked to colour it in. The end result was a multicoloured 'jigsaw' which we then pieced together. This can now be seen on the Messy Church board in St John's.

With the theme firmly established – let Messy Church begin!



Creativity

What are the colours of the rainbow? We became very familiar with these during this service's activities which included making lolly stick rainbows, and 'growing rainbows.' How do you grow one? Colour the ends of a sheet of kitchen roll in the colours of the rainbow, place either end in a bowl of water, and watch the water spread the colours!



We also enjoyed creating rainmakers to imagine what it might have been like sitting in the ark listening to the rain, colouring in animal masks thinking about all of the animals that would have been on the ark, and created concertina winged doves to hang up at home. We love to add an edible craft, and this month we included making an edible ark – a

cocktail sausage, slice of cheese for the sail and a piece of cucumber on the top

for a flag. They looked fab! The final craft tested our folding skills with origami boats, which we then named, smashed a milk bottle sweet over (champagne felt a bit excessive!) and floated on water. It was all great fun and wonderful to see the creativity of our congregation.

Worship

If we learnt one thing from this month's worship – it's that the most popular song we've sung so far is The Animals Came in Two by Two. There was some very enthusiastic singing of the 'Hurrah's! We also focussed on the story of Noah with questions such as, how many of each animal were there? (According to one response "Two of everything and plenty of poo bags") How many times did Noah send out a dove? Why did he send one? This final question and the activities themed around rainbows led to the consideration of the olive branch and how we should always have hope.

Hospitality

It was lovely to see the tables full as we all tucked in to jacket potatoes with a choice of tuna, cheese, beans – or a combination!



Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 30th March exploring the story of Easter.

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 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 is a second Messy Church session in March and none in April.

Beth Broadway

Homes Through Time



Again over 80 people turned up to hear Paul Harding tell us all about homes through time and relating them to houses in Worcester where possible. He started by explaining that people started to move in to 'homes' to keep dry and for security reasons, although many cave lions and bears also lived in the early caves!

Coming right up to date we had to stay in our homes more recently for health security reasons during Covid.

Early people started to move into caves but there were no caves in the Worcester area so not many of the Palaeolithic people lived here. Generally, the early people were nomadic following where the food was so going into a new cave was always a problem, due to the lions and bears. So, people started to live in tents made of animal skins that they could move around.



As the Neolithic people appeared, they started to build roundhouses, which were very strong.

There was evidence found under Worcester Cathedral of roundhouses, but, unfortunately, there is not much remaining evidence of these houses as they would completely disintegrate over the years.

Once the Romans appeared they started to build rectangular houses in towns and brought people together in towns rather than leaving them living miles apart. They used roof tiles to keep the houses dry. These tiles would be left on the ground to dry out before being used and therefore many tiles have been found with footprints of animals on



them. They also made the interior better by using murals and mosaics. There is evidence of Roman houses, including mosaics, in Worcester but they are buried under soil now, following archaeological digs. We can only imagine what the Anglo-Saxons would have thought of the Roman roads and buildings while they were still living in roundhouses.

Early medieval buildings can still be found in Worcester, from 1085, such as The Commandery. Unfortunately, it has been changed over the years, so it looks very different now and has been used for many purposes, but it was built as a house. The second oldest building in Worcester is The Greyfriars, which was originally built around 1480, so it is towards the end of the Medieval period. This was built as a large wealthy merchant's house.

These medieval houses were built using a timber frame. These were made off-site and then transported to the site where they were pegged together. The gaps between the frames were filled with wattle and daub, cow dung, and straw etc. The walls were then covered with a thin layer of lime plaster. The main frames were not painted but the walls were painted with comely colours for the visit of Queen Elizabeth 1. Worcester did not have thatched roofs as they were banned due to fire security reasons, so tiles were used instead. Some houses had windows of glass, but these were small panes with lead between them. Most houses just had open holes with shutters on the outside that could be closed. They even tried using sliced cow's horn for windows, these let light in but could not be looked through.



The timber framed buildings stayed around for a long time and there are few differences between a medieval house and a Tudor one, such as Tudor House in Worcester. This used to be three weavers' cottages and over the years was transformed to the single building it currently is. It has had many different uses over the years including a pub, coffee house and a medical health centre. The Tudor houses did have slightly bigger windows and chimneys for the first time so that the smoke from fires was taken out of the house.



By the 17th Century the buildings were made higher as there was a lack of space to build houses. The tallest one is Nash house in New Street, which was built in 1605. After the Battle of Worcester in the Civil War many houses were lost. The city had about 7000 inhabitants, but the royalists brought in 12 to 15,000 Scotsmen and the Parliamentarians brought 30,000. Bricks started to be used from the Georgian period and the main reason was that we had been using trees for building homes since the Bronze age and we had run out of trees. The trees that were left had to be used to build ships for the Navy to protect our islands.

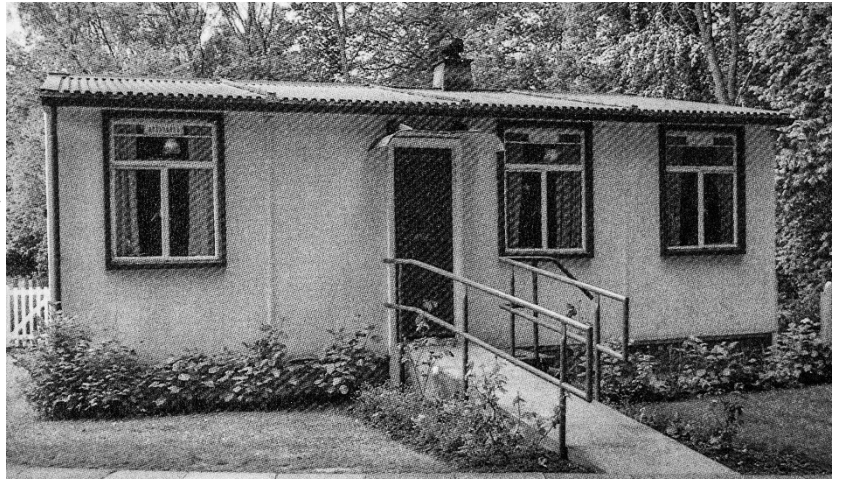
The Georgian buildings were made to be very ordered, with a symmetrical frontage and large rooms and high ceilings indoors. Places like Brickfields in Worcester is where they made the bricks for all these new buildings. They have larger windows with bigger panes of glass, but these still had problems with rippling in the panes. It was only the Victorians with their industrial processes that were able to make better glass.

The Georgians brought in the window tax and many windows were bricked up for many years. This became a problem when the population increased in the Victorian era and houses became multiple occupancy homes and some people would then have to live in rooms without windows.



In the late Victorian period terraced houses started to appear followed by semi-detached and detached houses. Many of these survive to this day. However, in some areas, this did create slums, such as Dolday and Copenhagen Street in Worcester. In the 1930s they started to build homes for heroes of the Great War.

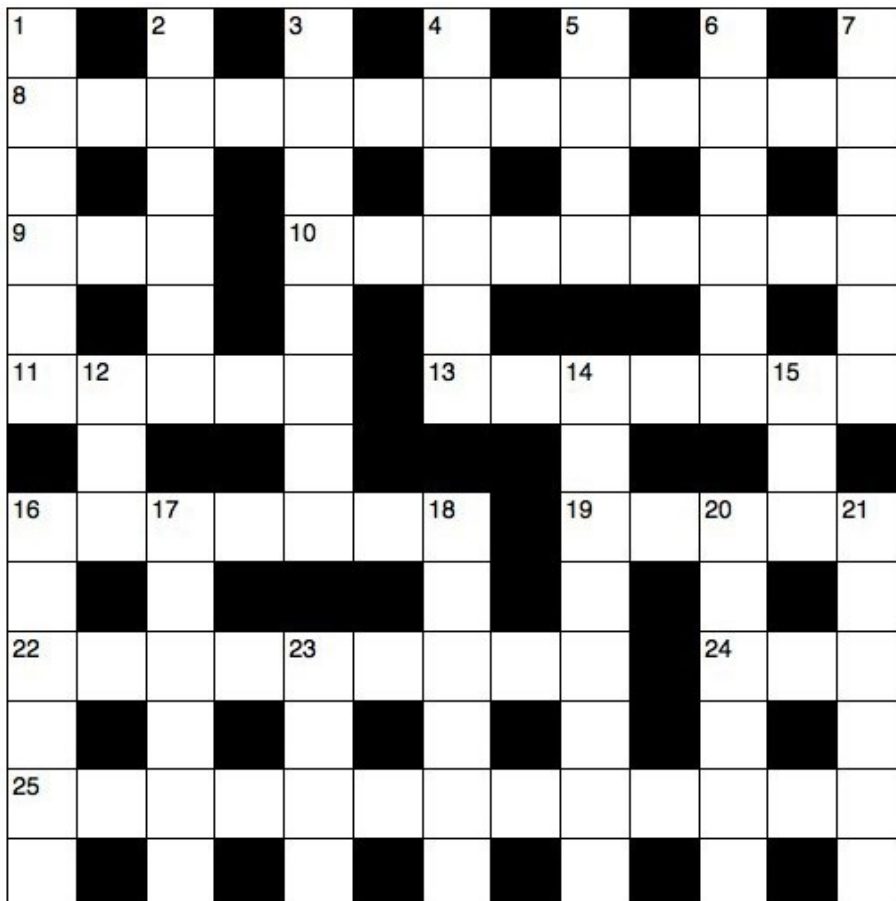
Following World War 2, during which many homes were destroyed, they needed to build lots of homes very quickly and a massive building programme was started. They built many prefab houses around the country to provide quick homes for people to live in.



These were followed by large council house estates with identical houses.

Colin Nash

Crossword



The solution is on the inside back cover.

Across

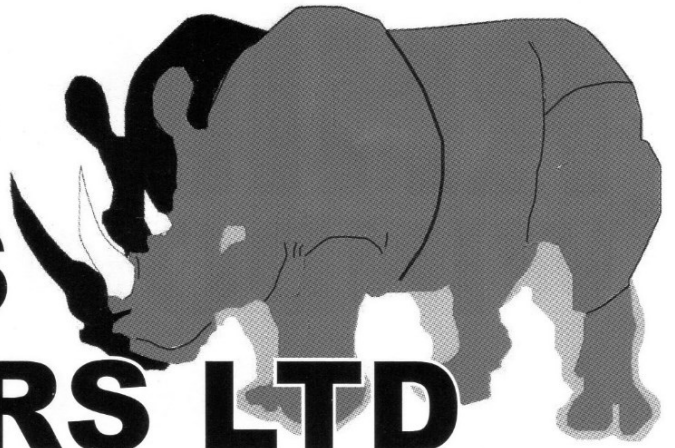
- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

The Bible version used in our crosswords (supplied by Parish Pump) is the NIV. Crosswords reproduced by kind permission of BRF and John Capon, originally published in Three Down, Nine Across, by John Capon (£6.99 BRF).

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Modern Slavery - a modern problem.

Say the word “slave” and the likelihood is that most people will think in terms of times past; of people in Africa or America working on various types of plantations; of galley slaves rowing large ships; of the slaves of Romans or other far off places and long ago times. Few of us like to think about slavery as a modern issue relevant to our country, let alone our city.

At the time of writing, we are halfway through our Lent Course which is studying Paul’s letter to the Galatians and looking into the issues of modern slavery. The material does not make comfortable reading but it has made us stop and think, and to realise that we can’t afford to be complacent. Modern slavery is very much a present evil and the very fact that we aren’t aware of it happening is what makes it so dangerous and so evil!

Those of us following the course, felt we should share some of the material more widely, so here are some of the grim facts and figures produced by the World Council of Churches.

Modern slavery includes sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude.

There are 27.6 million people in situations of forced labour on any given day. No region in the world is spared from forced labour. Asia and the Pacific accounts for more than half of the global total 15.1 million but when taken as a proportion of the population, forced labour is highest in the Arab states where it accounts for 5.3 per 1000 people.

Every year, 12 million girls marry before the age of 18. Among child victims, 44% were forced to marry before the age of 15, with some as young as 9.

The five sectors accounting for most adult forced labour are: manufacturing, services, construction, agriculture (excluding fishing) and domestic work.

Migrant workers are three times more likely to be in forced labour than non-migrant workers.

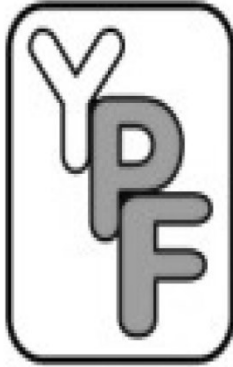
Perhaps the most shocking fact of all those is that most of us are, to an extent, guilty of helping to keep the exploiters in business! Most of us look for a bargain, going for the lowest costing items or services. Even in our churches we do this; if we need a job done, we get three quotes, usually going for the cheapest, but do we ever stop to ask how this contractor is able to undercut the competition? How closely do we look into the ethics of workers or companies we use or employ?

On the course the not unreasonable question has been asked: “But what can I do?”

Continued on page 35

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Continued from page 33

I've just mentioned one thing we can all do, which is to look more closely into business ethics before using a worker or company. We can also try to be more aware of signs that slavery or forced labour is taking place and what to do if we suspect someone is a victim.

Here is some of the advice issued by World Council of Churches. Look out for:

- A victim may show signs of physical abuse and untreated injuries.
- They may look malnourished, unkempt, wearing the same clothes every day.
- He or she may not wear safety equipment even when their work requires it.
- He or she might live and work from the same address, or appear unfamiliar with the area in which they live or work.
- A victim of modern slavery might avoid conversation or making eye contact and be afraid of the police or those in authority.

What to do if you think somebody is a victim of modern slavery?

- If you think they're in danger, call 999.
- Report non -emergency suspicious activity to local police on 101
- Ask for advice by calling:
 - Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline - 08000 121 700
 - Salvation Army - 0300 303 8151
 - NSPCC Helpline - 08008 800 5000

Sarah Cottrill

Sudoku Puzzle

© 2008
KrazyDad.com

The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.

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

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General Synod update

The General Synod of the Church of England met in London at the end of February. Parish Pump has provided articles about many of the items discussed, but to carry them all would take much more space than we have available. To give you a flavour, here are the headlines from the Parish Pump items:

Ukraine is paying for our security ‘with money and blood’ – Archbishop Justin

Bishop (of London) welcomes MPs' recommendations for end-of-life care

Safeguarding independence: next steps discussed by General Synod

General Synod backs code of conduct for Parochial Church Councils

General Synod calls for redoubling of efforts to create new churches on estates

Synod affirms work as key to ‘human dignity and purpose’ in the face of Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution

Living in Love and Faith: ‘the work goes on’ Bishop Martyn tells General Synod

General Synod backs legislation to prevent bullying by lay officers

General Synod backs action to tackle biodiversity crisis

General Synod backs call for ‘crucial resources’ to remain available for racial justice work

Graham Evans

Diocesan Course?

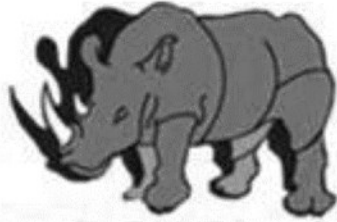
This course may or may not have been in the latest ‘Training Opportunities’ email from the Diocese:

Telepathy for all

1st April 2024 10am-12 noon.

A chance for members of the church to learn how to find out from their clergy what they need to know about their church even when the information is no more than a flicker of brainwaves in their Vicar’s mind. In this session, we will be looking at what your responsibilities are to attend events even when you have not actually been told about them. We will look at how to read clergy thought patterns and interpret what they mean, why telepathy is important and how to do it, the different kinds of thoughts a Vicar’s mind can hold, and look briefly at how we integrate this into our faith.

Graham Evans



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The
Tale of the
**TWO
BUILDERS**



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES

THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.

SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.

THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.

BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME...

...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND THE RAIN FELL...

...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!

BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.

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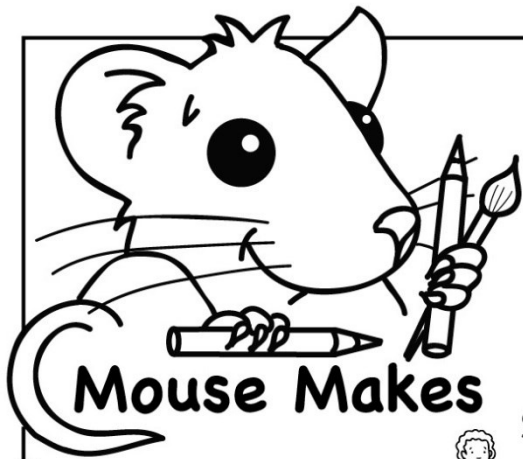


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He said to them "Throw your net out onto the right side of the boat and you will catch some." So they did and they and they caught so many fish they could not pull in the net. Then John recognised the man, "It is the Lord!"



READ

the story in **John 21**

How many times had the risen Jesus revealed himself to the disciples before this?

Read John 21:14

How many disciples were there? Who were they?

Read John 21: 11

How many fish did they catch? Read John 21: 11



DISCIPLES • TIBERIAS • SEA • SIMON PETER • THOMAS • NATHANAEL • JOHN • DAY FISHING • BOAT • NIGHT • CAUGHT • NOTHING • WATER • SHORE • FISH • CAST • NET • RIGHT • FIND • HAUL • LORD • FULL • LAND • FIRE • BREAD • BREAKFAST • JESUS

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ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

The library is closed on Good Friday (29th March), Easter Monday (1st April), and May 6th May and 27th.

Core (staffed) opening times:

- Monday: 2pm - 5pm
 - Tuesday: 10am - 5pm
 - Wednesday: 10am - 1pm
 - Thursday: 2pm - 5pm
 - Friday: 10am - 5pm
 - Saturday: 10am - 1pm
-

Libraries Unlocked:

- Monday - Saturday: 8am - 8 pm
-

Message from the Worcestershire Libraries Team

Libraries Unlocked will go-live at St John's Library on Thursday 14 March, extending library opening hours for Libraries Unlocked members to 8am – 8pm, Monday to Saturday.

Any library member aged 15 or over can upgrade to free Libraries Unlocked membership and use their library card to visit St John's library outside core opening hours, when staff are not present. Library members who are under 15 can visit St John's Library in Libraries Unlocked opening hours if they are accompanied by a Libraries Unlocked member.

Libraries Unlocked will see a change to staffing hours, so upgrade to free Libraries Unlocked membership and use your library card to visit the library from 8am to 8pm Monday to Saturday. It is free to upgrade to Libraries Unlocked membership once you have completed a short, face to face induction. To arrange a Libraries Unlocked induction please visit St John's Library during core opening hours when staff are available or call 01905 822722 to make an appointment.

Libraries Unlocked members can enjoy a range of services, including borrowing and returning books, utilising free library computers and Wi-Fi, accessing dedicated study spaces, participating in community events, and hiring meeting rooms.

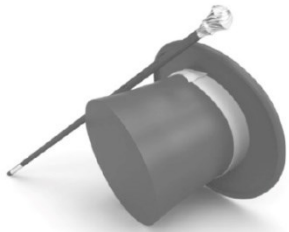
For more information about Libraries Unlocked visit:

<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/worcestershire-libraries/libraries-unlocked>

Events at St John's Library

I have been told that the regular events at St John's Library are continuing to run at their usual times.

The Editor



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From the magazine archive, April 1924

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S. John's Magazine.

GIRLS' SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT.

On February 28th an entertainment was given by the girls of St. John's Senior School. As usual the room was filled to overflowing, and a very good entertainment was enjoyed by all. If the audience enjoyed the evening as much as the performers, we know that they had a very good time. Grateful thanks are due to those who so kindly supported us by taking tickets, by giving in the collection, and by lending chairs. It is always a great encouragement to see so many friends and supporters of the school gathered together to appreciate the children's efforts.

DANCE.

We wish to remind our young friends in the parish that a Dance will be held in the Infants' School on Thursday, April 24, at 7.30 p.m. The last dance was so very much enjoyed by all present that we can promise a very enjoyable evening to all. Tickets, price 1/6, can be obtained from Mr. A. J. Morton, or Members of the Committee. **Secure your tickets before they are all gone.**

OFFERINGS AT S. JOHN'S

	£	s.	d.
Feb. 20-24 : Sick and Poor.....	15	6	1/4
Feb. 24 : Church Expenses.....	2	8	11
Feb. 25 29 : Sick and Poor.....	4	2	
March 2 : Sick and Poor	5	0	1/2
March 2 : Choir Fund	1	15	0
March 2 : S.P.G.	1	7	
March 2 : Altar Fund	1	4	10
March 5-7 : Diocesan Rescue Work	5	11	
March 9 : Sick and Poor.....	1	2	2 1/2
March 9 ; Church Expenses ...	2	8	5
March 12.13 : Diocesan Rescue Work	3	0	
March 16 : Sick and Poor.....	16	1	1/2
March 16 : Church Expenses....	2	16	10
March 16 : Ember Pence.....	10	4	

OFFERINGS AT CROWN EAST CHAPEL.

	£	s.	d.
Feb. 24 : Broadheath Mission Room	14	11	
March 2 : Chapel Expenses.....	13	1	
March 5 : C.E. Waifs & Strays	1	9	
March 9 : Chapel Expenses.....	13	3	
March 16 : Chapel Expenses.....	9	11	

Inflation

The Bank of England inflation calculator says that £1 in 1924 would be worth almost exactly £50 now.

One shilling (s), a twentieth of a pound, is therefore equivalent to £2.50 today and an old penny (d - a twelfth of a shilling or 1/240 of a pound) would be worth about 21p.

The dance tickets are therefore priced at £3.75 in our terms.

Working out all the amounts of the offerings is left as an exercise for the reader, but, as a starter, the offering for 'Sick and Poor', Feb 20-24 comes out at about £39.

The Editors

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(£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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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.

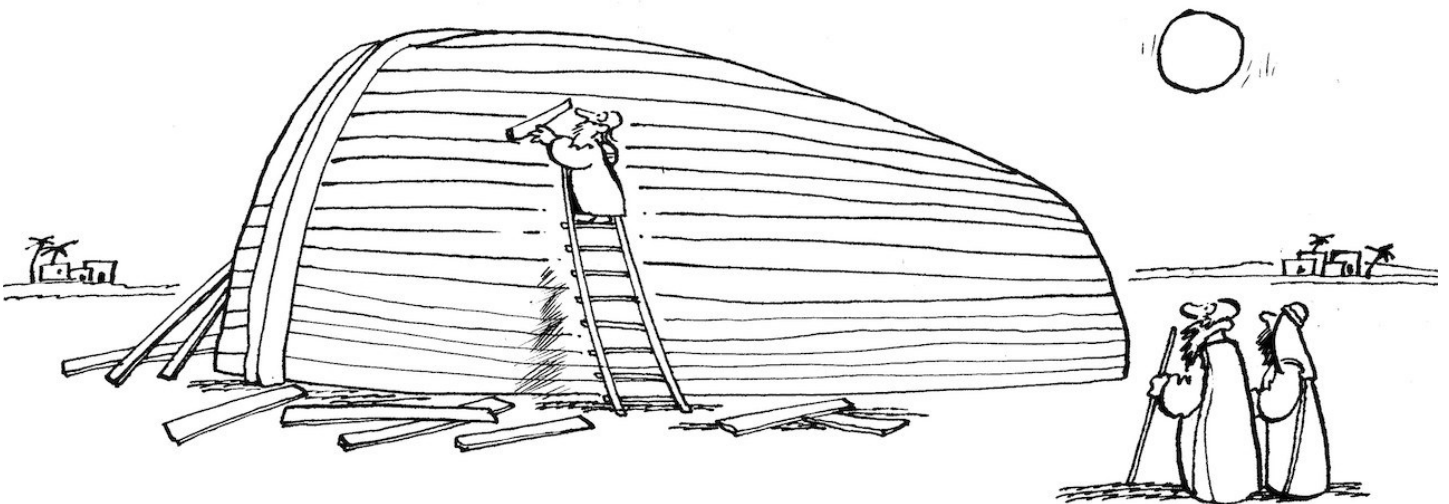


Puzzle solutions

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

U		E		A		A		I		T		A
T	R	A	N	S	G	R	E	S	S	O	R	S
M		S		S		C		I		H		A
O	U	T		E	P	H	E	S	I	A	N	S
S		E		M		E				N		O
T	H	R	O	B		R	A	M	A	D	A	N
	O			L				O				P
N	E	A	R	E	S	T		N	E	A	T	H
U		P				I		A		R		A
C	H	I	L	D	L	E	S	S		A	N	T
L		E		O		D		T		R		R
E	X	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	C	A	T	E
I		E		E		P		C		T		D

And finally....



“I haven’t got the heart to tell Noah that he’s got the plans upside down.”

Biblical foolishness!

Proverbs 26.17: Interfering in someone else's argument is as foolish as yanking a dog's ears.

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 – April

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
7th April	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	10am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
14th April	10.30am Morning Worship	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
21st April	10.30am Eucharist	10am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
28th April	10.30am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
5th May	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	10am 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.