

# The Parish Magazine

*St John-in-Bedwardine*

*St Michael's*

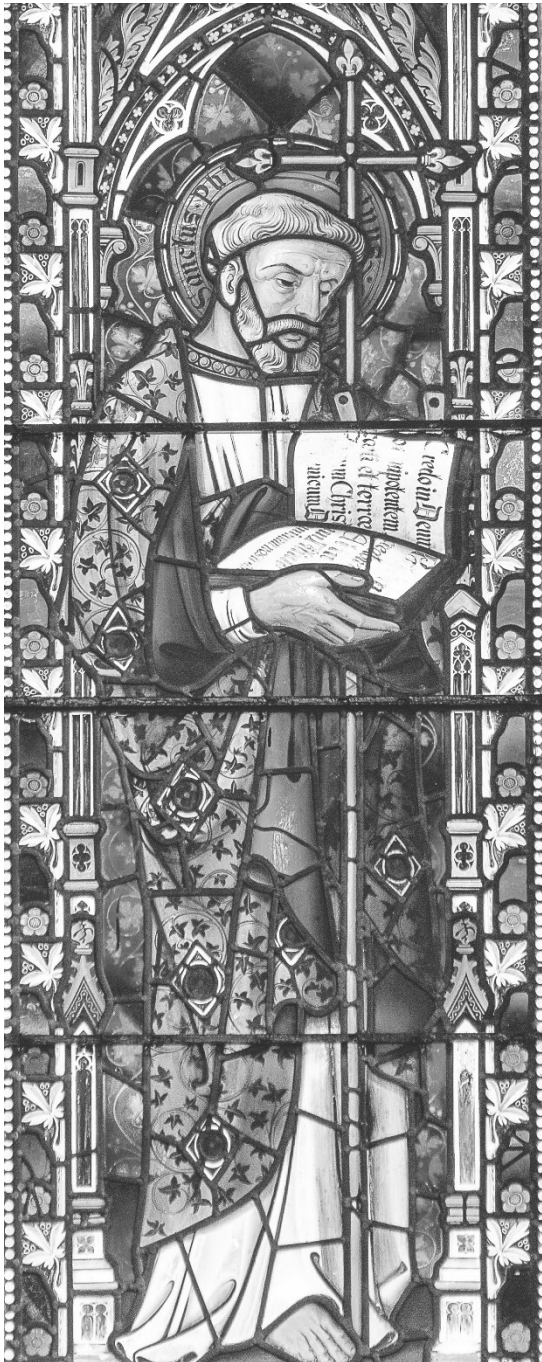


THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



May 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: <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: stjohns.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 May 2024 edition. Our theme is 'Apostles'. Phil digs into this in his letter.

'Bad news' - there won't be an "epic party" on 1st May.

'Good news' - there are lots of events to look forward to, for example the Church Barbeque. See page 11 for details of that, and page 8 and elsewhere in the magazine for details of other events.

There is such a lot to cram into this magazine that we've added 8 pages compared to last month, and it was still difficult to squeeze it all in.

We leave you with a Church of England collect for Apostles and Evangelists:

*Almighty God,  
who built your Church upon the foundation  
of the apostles and prophets,  
with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone:  
so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine,  
that we may be made a holy temple  
acceptable to you;*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

---

## *Important information*

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

**Next edition:** Deadline is Sunday 12th May. Distribution, towards the end of May.

**Subscription form:** Page 54.

**Cover picture:** St Philip (left) and St James ("The Great", i.e. the Apostle) as depicted in stained glass at Worcester Cathedral. Images by Colin Nash.

**Pictures in this magazine:** Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Beth Broadway, Sue Fairman, Joy Job, Rob Little, Colin Nash, Fiona Templeton and Catherine Templeton.

## **The magazine**

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

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

## **Opinions!**

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

## **To advertise**

Please see page 13.

## *From Phil Bradford*

The prompt which the editors gave me for this month's letter was 'Apostles', prompted by the feast of Saints Philip and James on 1st May. Were I Greek Orthodox, then I would be celebrating a 'double name day' on that date, with the two saints for which I am named sharing a feast day. (I am almost certain this was not in my parents' thoughts when they named me, but it is a tidiness of which I approve.)



There would be an epic party and everyone would give me lavish gifts to celebrate...

Back in the real world, this does raise the question of what an apostle is. It is a word used so much in the Church that we never really think about it. There is clearly something special about being an apostle, as is obvious by how desperately Paul tries to prove he is one. 'I am the least of the apostles, unfit even to be called an apostle', he writes in 1 Corinthians, only to declare in 2 Corinthians that 'I am not in the least inferior to these super-officials'. Paul was touchy at the best of times, but apostolic status was something he seemed very eager to have, and he had the hindrance of being the only one of those deemed apostles who had never met Jesus in his pre-crucifixion/resurrection lifetime. This was not something he liked, and he went to great lengths, not least in his tirade to the Galatians, to stress his apostolic credentials.

**It is clear that the apostles are a big deal**

At its simplest, the word 'apostle' derives from a Greek verb meaning 'to send out' or 'to send away'. The apostles ('the sent out ones') only become so after the resurrection. During Jesus' ministry, they are disciples ('pupils' or 'students'), being taught by Jesus, learning and making all the mistakes we might expect from students. Only with his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension are they transformed into apostles. They have done their learning, and now he is no longer physically present to instruct them, Jesus sends them out to teach others and spread his message, making new disciples. From very early on, the apostles were seen to have a special status because they had been Jesus' most literal disciples, and were the ones sent out by him in person. Paul claims his apostleship through his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, but he is the only non-disciple who makes it into these elevated ranks.

Even when it came to the Reformation in the sixteenth century, and English Protestants were highly suspicious of saints and their cults (look at what Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell and their henchmen did to shrines), the apostles were

exempt. Look at the collects and readings in the Book of Common Prayer, and you will discover that aside from the Sunday provisions, plus the principal feasts, it is only the Apostles who are allowed named days and special provisions. No other saint, except Mary, makes it in. Of course, the apostles are those who have been acceptable to the misogynistic culture that has prevailed across much of the last two thousand years: Men. Yet think about some of the women, not least Mary Magdalene (the first witness to the resurrection), who are apostles in every sense we might understand, and, were we not constrained by that misogynistic history, we should call them apostles too. We think in terms of twelve (hence Matthias has to replace Judas after the Ascension), but if you count up the apostles named in the four gospels, you will find fourteen, which means that some have to be doubled up to preserve the fiction of twelve. That number is only to echo the twelve tribes of Israel, not any realistic account of the number of close followers Jesus had.

So, when we think about apostles, it is worth asking how our understanding might be of something more than historic interest. We are constrained by our reading of scripture, but if we think about how there were likely far more than twelve, how a significant number of these were women, and how they were people who had no status or qualification in the world beyond being sent by Jesus, it might remind us that they can remain an example to us today. As they were sent out to live the good news, so their example is a reminder to us that we are likewise sent out, into our own time and context, to make Christ known in the world around us.

**no status or  
qualification  
beyond being  
sent by Jesus**

*Phil*

---

## *Collect for 1st May*

Almighty Father,  
whom truly to know is eternal life:  
teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ  
as the way, the truth and the life;  
that we may follow the steps  
of your holy apostles Philip and James,  
and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory;  
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.

## *In Memoriam*

Nicholas James Carter	1 May 1990
Irene Haynes	1 May 2021
John Bertram Bentley	7 May 1988
Marie Antionette Grosvenor	11 May 2007
Marjorie Mantle	12 May 1988
Norman Jackson	12 May 1996
Colin Russell	15 May 2016
Ron Clayton	16 May 2016
Douglas Charles Haines	18 May 1989
Laura May Bircham	20 May 1989
Terry Sherratt	21 May 1992
Herbert Heaven Williams	23 May 1993
Marjorie Victoria Davies	29 May 1995

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, March 2024*

### **St John's**

**WEDDINGS:** *Those whom God has joined together*

23rd March 2024 James Alexander Mitchell  
Emily Mary Atkinson

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

d.11th February 2024 Laura Elizabeth Preston  
d. 26th January 2024 Moureen Jean Berry

**SERVICES:** Communicants 321. Total attendance at all services 660  
(including 52 at a wedding).

### **St Michael's**

**SERVICES:** Communicants 72. Total attendance at all services 74.

---

## *Weekday services*

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled throughout May:

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

The service at St Michael's on Thursday 9th May will celebrate Ascension Day.

For Ascension Day, there will also be a Deanery service at 7pm at St John Baptist Church, Claines (WR3 7RN). See page 19 for more information.

## *Christian Aid Week 2024 - 12th to 18th May*

Every year, people raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world. This year's appeal focusses on CA's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70% of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

CA began working in Burundi in 1995, assisting people who survived the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, CA helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes, so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.

35 year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay. Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally. She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's building a home for her family.

"I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep. I could never have dreamed I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe my children."

This Christian Aid Week – from 12-18 May – supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps

---

### *Sundays and Principal Feasts in May*

Wednesday 1st May: Philip and James, apostles

Sunday 5th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Thursday 9th May: Ascension Day

Sunday 12th May: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Tuesday 14th May: Matthias the apostle

Sunday 19th May: Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Thursday 26th May: Trinity Sunday

Thursday 30th May: Corpus Christi (Thanksgiving for Holy Communion)

Friday 31st: The visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

## *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 28.  
NB Little Lambs does not meet on 6th and 27th May.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 4th May, 4pm:** Messy Church, see pages 9, 10 and 30.  
Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Thursday 9th May, 1pm:** The Good Old Days present Discover History, "May Day Celebrations", see page 10.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 11th May, 9am:** Women's Breakfast, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Wednesday 15th May, 2.45pm:** Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Thursday 16th May, 2pm - 4pm:** West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Monday 20th May, 2.30pm:** Mothers' Union - speaker is Rachael Hodgetts, the Community Builder for Dines Green.

--- 000 ---

**(V) Friday 24th May:** Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 25th April, 10.45am:** Café Church@10:45am, see page 9.

---

## *More dates for your diary*

Sunday 30th June, 10.30am at Worcester Cathedral, ordination service including our new curate, Gilly Maxim. More information in the June magazine.

Sunday July 7th, 12.30pm: Church barbeque. See page 11.

Tuesday 23rd July, 9am: Coach trip to Weston-super-Mare. See page 13 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.

Saturday 5th October, 9am. Coach trip to the Historical city of Wells, Somerset. To book places, please call Catherine on 07708 297413.



## *Events at St John's*

### *St John-in-Bedwardine*



Our next Messy Church is on  
Saturday 4th May, 4pm.

The theme is 'Abraham and Sarah'

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 11<sup>th</sup> May**  
**9.00am until 11.00am**

**St John-in-Bedwardine**  
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



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

**Open for Tea/Coffee  
and Cakes**

**£2.00**



**Wednesday 15th May**  
at 2.45pm in the Church

**ALL WELCOME**

### **St John in Bedwardine**



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

At 10.45am on

**Saturday**  
**25<sup>th</sup> May**

*Thought for the day by*  
*Rachael Hodgetts*

**ALL WELCOME**

## *Events at St John's*

# Little Lambs



**Mondays in Term Time at**

**St John's Church**

**10:00am to 11.30am**

**FREE!**

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

Birth to 4 years old and carers

*For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962*

**Come and join the fun!**

*Little Lambs  
does not meet on  
6th and 27th May.*

*The last meeting  
before the summer  
break is on  
15th July.*

**The Good Old Days**

presents

**Discover History**



**May Day Celebrations**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May

1pm

£4 admission includes refreshments.

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



Future dates (all Saturdays)

4th May: Abraham and Sarah

1st June: Joseph and his coat of many  
colours

4th July: Moses



**Sunday 7th July**

# **St John's Church BBQ**

**Get ready to fire up your taste buds and soak up the sun!**

**Bouncy castle for the children.  
Raffle and Bar**

Ticket prices; £10 per person  
£5 for children 5-16 years, under 5's free.

## **12.30pm**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

*Welcome to a new advertiser*

# **Computer Problems?**

## **We FIX computers!**

**Sales | Service | Support**

Worcesters best loved, family run IT company...



**Custom build PC's**

**Gaming PC's**

**Repairs**

**Upgrades**

**Networking**

**Anti Virus & Security**

**Home User Support**

**Business IT & Support**



worcester-computers.com

01905 759111



worcester  
computers

visit us in-store | 40 Ombersley Road | Worcester | WR3 7HA

## **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.

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

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

The booking can be from one month to one year.

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

## ANDREW'S BUILDING SERVICES



Electrical, EV Installer, Internal Refurbishment & Maintenance, Kitchen Installer, Bathroom Installer.

I cover many aspects of the building trade, so please get in touch to discuss your needs.

Call / Text / WhatsApp me now on:

**07794402356**

Email: [abs.wr2@gmail.com](mailto:abs.wr2@gmail.com)



# JDS

## Electrical

For all your electrical needs  
Fully qualified and insured

**JON HALL**

**07528 183057**

[jds.electrical@outlook.com](mailto:jds.electrical@outlook.com)



## La Fleur Florist

Weddings    Funeral Tributes    Everyday Flowers

Corporate Flowers    Special Occasions

Garden Plants

Victoria Phelps

36 Woodstock Road

Worcester, WR2 5NE

Tel: 01905 421820 or 07842258936

[lafleur@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lafleur@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.lafleurflorist.co.uk](http://www.lafleurflorist.co.uk)



## *An invitation*

# **Franciscan Views on Climate Change**

**A day led by the Rev'd Canon Tim Higgins TSSF**

**The local Franciscans invite you to an Open Meeting  
on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2024 from 10.30am to 4.30pm  
in the Village Hall, Rushwick.**

There will be a Bring and Share lunch or Bring your own lunch.

Everyone is welcome to come for all or part of the day.

A short celebration of Holy Communion will end the day.

For further details contact Susan Parkes 01905 424621

Third Order Society of St Francis

---

## *News from St David's Church*

At the end of March, we held our Easter Service which was led by Sarah in a lovely, decorated church of lilies and daffodils. Our music was provided by Peter Yates, who normally comes to play for us with his wife Marie on the third Sunday of each month. After tea and biscuits, we were all given an Easter egg from Angela Bell. Thank you, Angela!

After having new floor-covering put down in the cloakroom and vestry area of the church, Tim and Julie Cowley have sealed the walls for us, so we are now ready to decorate. Allan Ovington has kindly given us a new chest of drawers and a wardrobe to match for when we have finished the decorating.

As usual, our Coffee Morning (first Wednesday of each month) was well-attended, and you are most welcome to join us at our next one on 1st May at 10.30am.

*Carole Stone  
Deputy Church Warden*

# RHINO WINDOWS AND DOORS LTD



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

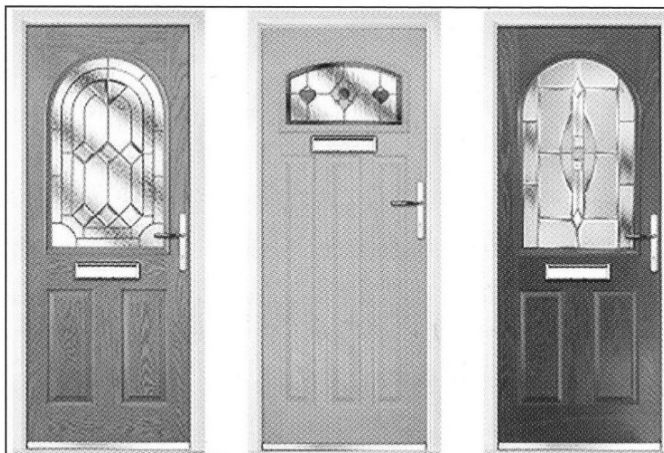
As we have continued to grow and develop our business, we remain committed to complete customer satisfaction.

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

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

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

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



REPLACEMENT WINDOW &  
DOOR SPECIALISTS BASED  
IN WORCESTER

**01684 770437**

[info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk](mailto:info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk)

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A  
FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE



[www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk](http://www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk)



## *Prayers for Ukraine, Gaza and Israel*

I write these prayers in a week which saw 7 Aid workers killed in a drone attack. Men who felt called to help provide food and aid for starving people, using their skills and life's experiences to serve.

Next week Ramadan ends for muslims, a time of prayer and fasting ends with Eid al-Fitr, a celebratory shared meal for family and friends. At the end of April, the Jews celebrate the Passover commemorating the Hebrews liberation from Egypt. They share a Seder meal with family and friends. Christians, on Maundy Thursday celebrate the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples. We celebrate the risen Christ on Easter Day and share a meal with family and friends.

Today let us light our candles and in our prayers throughout May remember world religions, the sharing of meals, and those called to be the hands and feet of God serving others.



Lord Jesus, we thank you and praise you that in all peoples of faith there are those who are called to serve others. Those who have love in their hearts for fellow human beings, who are called to serve communities that are not their own, bringing relief and aid where needed.

Lord      Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, we pray for the families and friends of those who have died serving your people in war torn areas of our world. Comfort them as they mourn and grant them peace and comfort. We pray for those who have died. May they have known your presence alongside them as they served in the communities they lived and worked in.

Lord      Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, we live in a world where people are afraid of each other, their religious differences, the power that is held by others, the politics of those wanting to control and own, beating people into submission. Lord Jesus, you came into our world to change lives, to be a voice of love and hope for all. Come among us and change the hearts of the aggressors to those of peace. Build up communities and restore human dignity and freedom. Make each of us a channel of your peace, where there is despair, let there be hope and let us be faithful in our prayers for a resolution to all the pain and anguish people experience.

Lord      Hear our prayer.

*Continued on page 19*



“Bluebird Care - as near to perfect as possible”

## Care in your home, just as you like it.

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

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

Call our friendly team today.

Bluebird Care Worcester & Wychavon

[bluebirdcare.co.uk/worcester-wychavon](http://bluebirdcare.co.uk/worcester-wychavon) | 01386 764830

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

your life  
your home  
your care  
your way



*Continued from page 17*

Lord Jesus, we pray today for all who are hostages of war, men, women and children. Our prayer today is for freedom for those held, that all will know your presence is with them. Give them hope that hearts will be changed to ones of reconciliation and release. We ask for your presence to be alongside them in the despair and fear. For the people of Gaza, for Palestinians held in Israel, for Ukrainian people and children held in Russia.

Lord Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus as we pray for our brothers and sisters who live with war each and every day, help us to be faithful in our prayer. Let us together weave the threads of our prayer into the tapestry of love and healing that God is creating. Threads of hope, love and peace for all who are victims in this country and around our world.

Lord Jesus, you came into our world to bring change for your people. Through the Holy Spirit we are given strength and wisdom to serve you in all that we are, so that we become your disciples.



Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Amen

*Jenny English*

---

Worcester Deanery Celebration for

# Ascension Day

Service of Holy Communion

Thursday 9th May

7pm



St John Baptist Church,

Claines

Claines Lane

WR3 7RN

Car Parking is available along the  
lanes near the church

Guest Preacher: Rev'd Canon Dr Georgine Byrne

*A deanery gathering to share in worship,  
fellowship and refreshments.*



## **Footnotes UK**

**174a London Road  
Worcester**

**WR5 2EJ**

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

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

Or email inquiries to [info@footnotesuk.co.uk](mailto:info@footnotesuk.co.uk)

Racheal Sharman and the Footnotes UK Team

HCPC registered



# **HOSKINS**

**FUNERALS DIRECT**

For Funerals arranged your way, whatever your budget.

Caring for your family, when you need us.

Simple or complex we can help.

Funerals, Traditional and Bespoke,

Celebrations of Life, Direct Cremations

**07942 114560 - 24 hrs - It costs nothing to talk**

Keeping our prices manageable & helping you beat funeral poverty

Droitwich, Worcester, Pershore, Malvern and between.

**CALL NOW TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS - 07942 114560**



## **Hoskins Funerals Direct**

129, Astwood Road, Worcester

[www.hoskinsfuneralsdirect.co.uk](http://www.hoskinsfuneralsdirect.co.uk)

01905 27862



@HoskinsFuneralsWorcester



DirectHoskins



hoskins-funerals-direct

## *Mothers' Union*

St Michael's Mothers' Union meets in St Michael's Church on the third Monday of the month at 2.30pm. New members are warmly welcomed to join us.

The April meeting was held on Monday 15th when we welcomed Jill Crofton, Vice-President for the South Archdeaconry of the Diocese. Her talk was entitled "Cowpats, corals and the climate crisis – Christian hope for our beautiful world." A thought-provoking description of the problems the world is facing in these difficult times. However, there are many ways individuals can, in their small way, contribute to helping climate change.

The meeting in May is on Monday 20th when the speaker will be Rachael Hodgetts, the Community Builder for Dines Green, who will tell us about her work, and what she has achieved already in her exciting role.

The Diocesan Spring Council is being held on Saturday 11th May at St Peter's Church, Pedmore at 10am.

The Canterbury Provincial Gathering is being held on Saturday 22nd June at The King's Centre, Oxford. The event is open to all members and you are welcome to bring friends with you.

*Jo Dowling*

---

## *Lent Lunches*

The Lent Lunches held each Wednesday during Lent in the Blakefield Room at St John's raised £180 for Maggs Day Centre.

Many thanks to all who came.

*Margaret Rutter*

---

## *Why Whitsun?*

Within the Anglican and Methodist churches, the word Whitsun, Whitsunday or Whit Sunday is sometimes used instead of Pentecost. It falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's disciples, and the birth of the church (as described in Acts 2).

It used to be a tradition in some churches to baptise adults at Pentecost and the newly baptised people would wear white robes on that day, so Pentecost came to be called "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday" after these white baptismal garments.

*Sally Churchus  
Association of Church Editors*

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

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



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

**Visiting Care**  
**Live In Care**  
**Specialist Care**  
**Companionship**

Call our friendly team on:

**01905 950 409**

[www.severnvalhomecare.co.uk](http://www.severnvalhomecare.co.uk)

[care@severnvalhomecare.co.uk](mailto:care@severnvalhomecare.co.uk)

Good



Homecare  
Association

We are a  
**Living  
Wage**  
Employer

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

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

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

# Notes from the Choir



The composer Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) is a beloved son of Worcestershire in musical circles. He had a deep religious faith, and this is often reflected in his music, not least in the oratorio *The Apostles*. It is a huge work, featuring soloists, full choir and orchestra with the addition of a ‘mystic chorus’ and tells of the calling of the disciples and their experiences of being with Jesus through his life, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. Elgar chose texts from the Bible but wanted to focus on the humanity of the apostles and their reactions. Some of the most moving music in the piece is allocated to Judas and his descent into despair following his betrayal.

*The Apostles* is not performed as often as it might be due to the length of the work and the resources required. However, Elgar is also known for his more accessible choral music and here in the choir one of our favourite anthems is his setting of *Ave Verum Corpus*. It is in essence a Eucharistic hymn and the Latin words translate as:

*Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary  
Having truly suffered,  
Sacrificed on the cross for mankind,  
From whose pierced side water and blood flowed;  
Be for us a sweet foretaste in the trial of death,  
O merciful, O sweet Jesus, son of Mary.*

Elgar made a preliminary sketch of this anthem in 1887 while he was working as the organist at St George’s church in Worcester to commemorate the death of his friend, William Allen. The version we now sing was revised in 1902 and forms part of a set of three religious motets for choir accompanied by organ. It is a beautiful, reflective work ideal for a communion service. It is in two sections both of which start with the tune being sung by the sopranos before the rest of the choir join in. It finishes with a short coda which brings the whole to a peaceful resolution.

Having made an appearance on the music list for April it may be a little while until the choir get to sing this beautiful anthem again, but do listen out for it as it will no doubt reappear soon.

*Luise Horrocks*

## *A Crown Of Fire*

The Holy Spirit came sweeping through  
It came as a crown of fire  
We sat and watched each other  
Silent and amazed.

It had been a sad few weeks  
Such a cruel and belittling thing  
A crucifixion.  
That took our Lord away.

We saw Him again, the women first,  
They were overjoyed.  
Thomas touched his hands and feet  
It was real he was with us once again.

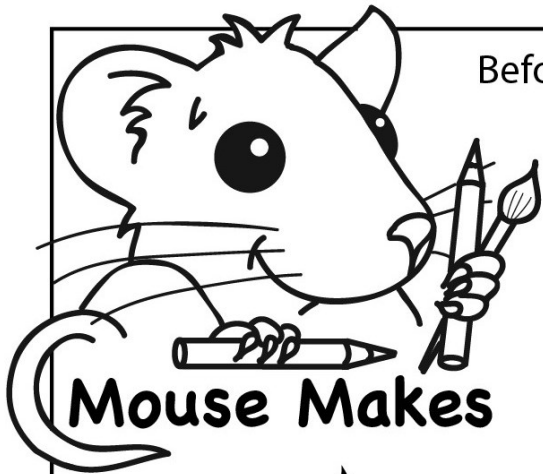
He kept saying “I am with you for a short while.  
I will give you my Spirit to help you.  
Feed my sheep, spread my word.  
Understand God’s will for all creation.”

We didn’t understand. It only dawned over time.

The crown of fire filled us with joy,  
Hope, strength, wisdom and understanding.  
It gave us a purpose to go out,  
It inspired us to spread his word, empowering others.

*Jenny English*  
10/4/2023



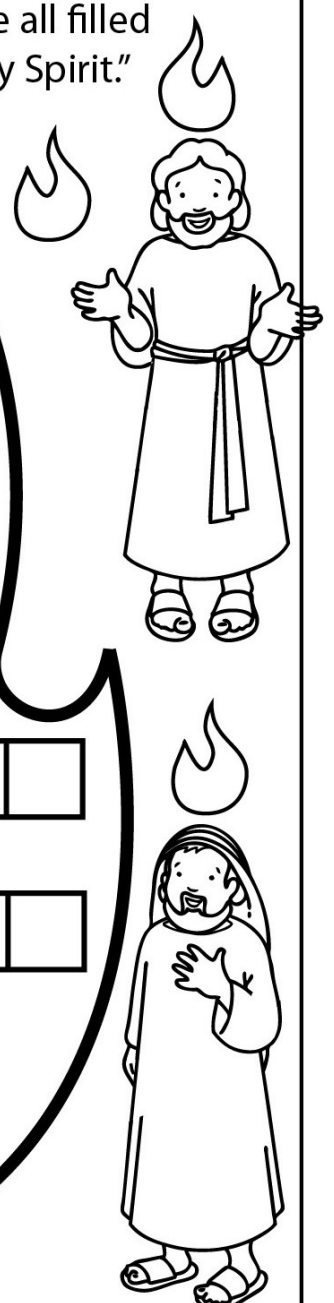
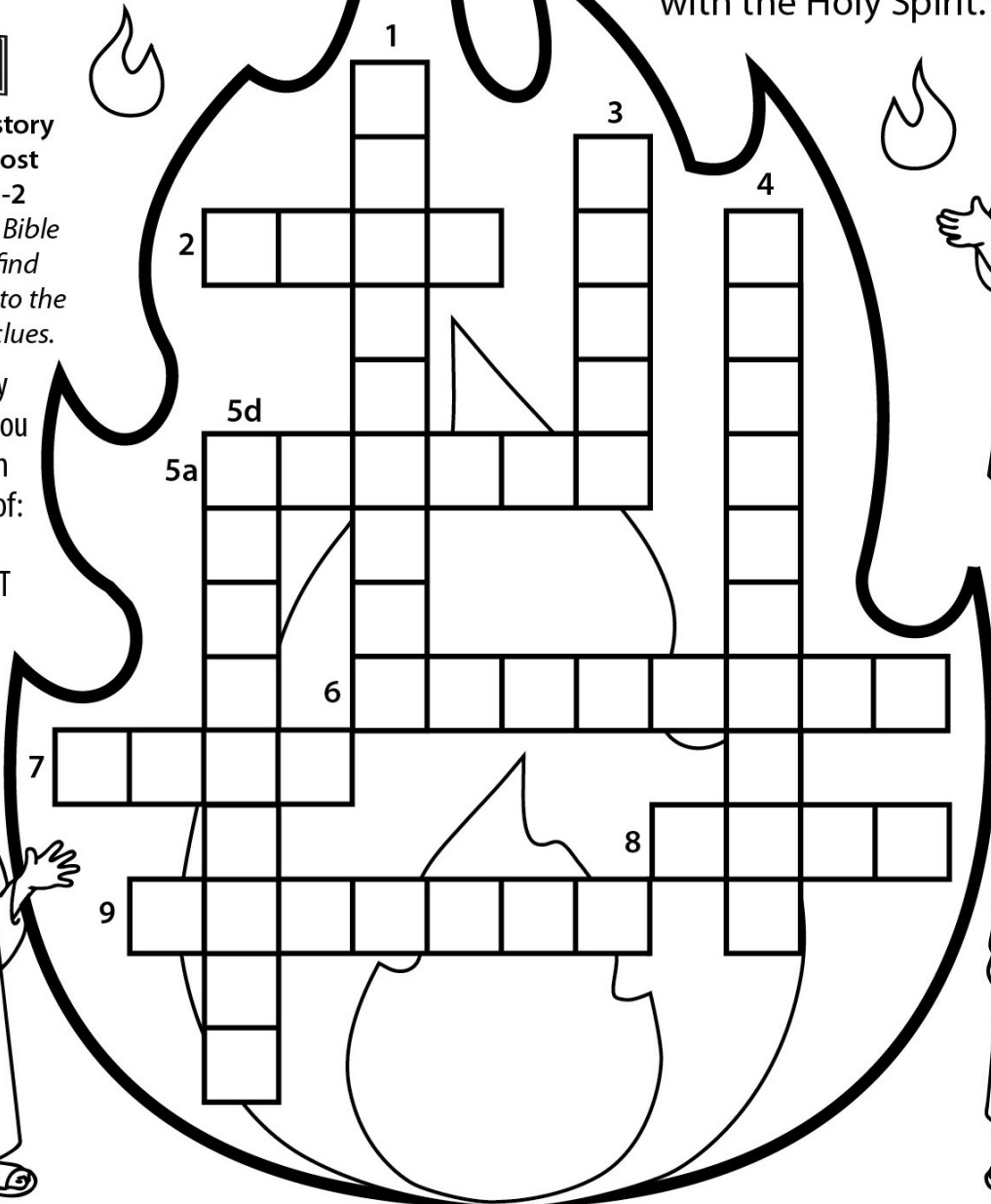


Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples  
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit  
 has come upon you, and you will be my  
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea  
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...  
 ...When the day of Pentecost arrived,  
 they were all together in one place,  
 and they were all filled  
 with the Holy Spirit."



READ the story  
 of Pentecost  
 in Acts 1-2  
 Look up the Bible  
 verses to find  
 the answers to the  
 crossword clues.

How many  
 words can you  
 make from  
 the letters of:  
 DAY OF  
 PENTECOST



- 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? *Acts 1:12*
- 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? *Acts 1:14*
- 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? *Acts 1:26*
- 5d Which special day was it? *Acts 2:1*

- 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? *Acts 2:2*
- 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? *Acts 2:3*
- 4 What were the disciples filled with? *Acts 2:4*
- 9 What did they start speaking in? *Acts 2:4*
- 3 Who spoke to the crowd? *Acts 2:14*
- 7 Who had prophesied this? *Acts 2:16*

## *How I went 'plastic-free (ish)' for Lent*



As a Christian, I believe that caring for the world that God gifted us is very important, so this year, I set myself the challenge to try and not buy any new plastic during Lent. I was baptised as a Christian last October, so this year, Easter had a very different feel. Having my son, Benji, and wanting to pass on a better world to the next generation are also what spurred me to take on this challenge.

I quickly learnt though that going plastic-free is very difficult! During Lent, I started to realise just how many products and items in supermarkets and corner shops are wrapped in single-use plastic - even medication (which is essential) comes in plastic! Not only that, if you buy an eco-friendlier product that uses recycled plastic or compostable materials, it's often more expensive.

It was a difficult task, but I have learnt that there are so many simple things that were cheap and easy for me to do. So much so, that I'll continue to do them from now on.

### **Some of my 'Go plastic-free' tips include:**

- ditching buying bottled water and putting reusable water bottles in the fridge (chilled Worcester tap water is rather nice!)
- putting leftover food in reusable storage boxes and oven dishes (with lids), rather than wrapping in single use bags or reaching for single use foil
- buying loose vegetables and fruit, and carrying them in containers, paper bags or reusable bags (which I now make sure are always stored in my car boot!)
- buying compostable cling-film or toilet roll packaged in compostable wrap or paper
- buying natural soap, shampoo and conditioner bars – they smell lush and make your hair and skin really smooth. They also last ages, which makes them really good value for money
- ditching single-use dish sponge for a plant based compostable loafer; it lasts so much longer than I thought
- committing to buy a few things at the 'fill your own container' (Zero waste) shop such as 'Pack it in' in Worcester town centre

- avoiding buying items that can't be recycled
- recycling properly, for example recycling medication packs at the pharmacy, soft plastic and used batteries at the supermarket. Have a look at the Recycle Now website: <https://www.recyclenow.com/>

On a more general level, I've found that it helps to plan meals, freeze in bulk and do big food shops instead of shopping in a rush every day or in corner shops (where nearly everything is wrapped in plastic). I have now also installed a compost bin in my garden as Worcester Council doesn't take food waste.

This Lent in particular has been quite a journey for me. At times, I found myself getting too obsessed and worried about where and when I could find plastic-free items. Having this kind of anxiety is something that goes against my beliefs, because God does not want us to worry; He wants us to hand over all of our burdens and fears to Him. I spent time praying and seeking God's help to know how best to divert my time and energy. I prayed for those in power to make environmentally friendly decisions on a global level. I realised that I can do my bit, but feeling this fear was not my burden to carry because 'through him all things are possible' (Matthew, 19:26).

Christians are called to help and serve others, and walk in peace as they trust God to provide what we truly need and help us make the right decisions. Knowing this, I felt so much consolation during the difficult times in Lent. Climate change is massive and complex, but there are charities that help protect the earth to help make changes at a global level, such as A Roche UK <https://arocha.org.uk/>. I felt guided to give financially, and I set up a small direct debit to the Soil Association <https://www.soilassociation.org/> – a charity that promotes planet friendly food and farming.

Looking forward, I'm going to keep up with my new eco-friendly habits. I'm even going to spend my Easter weekend growing lettuce in pots out in my back garden as a fun, green activity! There are also lots of good alternatives to plastic packaging such as wood pulp that I'm going to keep my eye out for and I hope that in time, more products will use this.

Overall, I think going entirely plastic-free is just not possible yet! But I think for me, a sensible compromise is to use far less plastic and avoid products that are not yet recyclable.

There's so much I could say on this so if you are inspired or want to talk more about it, please feel free to chat to me in church one Sunday.

*Laura Fairman*

# Little Lambs



*Looking forward  
to more fun!*

Thank you so much to Sally for writing a lovely, interesting article for the April magazine. Yes, wow, nine years and counting! Well done and thank you to all past and present volunteers.

As Sally said, Little Lambs is a popular and happy group, we are so pleased to see our regulars and new people often come every week.

I know Easter was a while back (wasn't it early this year?), but we had lots of fun on our last session on 18th March just before Easter. Our families really enjoyed making Easter cups and cards and of course the little bunny chocolate eggs were much appreciated.





At that last meeting before Easter, we talked to parents about the Easter services and events at church, particularly Messy Church and the Easter breakfast and craft mornings. I was very pleased that some Little Lambs families and some Beaver Scout families came along. Benjamin and I enjoyed these sessions too, especially the Easter hunt around church. Thank you to Beth for all her hard work and enthusiasm.

Now we are at last in summer, so we look forward to meeting and having more fun. If anyone would like to come and help us, and enjoy the activities with us and our families, please just come, you will be very welcome.



If anyone feels they could volunteer to help for a couple of hours on a Monday during term time, please contact me on 07845 942962.

We will not meet on the Bank Holiday Mondays 6th and 27th May and our last session before the summer break will be on 15th July.

*Thank you everyone from us all at Little Lambs xx  
Sue Fairman*



## *Easter at Messy Church*

Our last Messy Church was moved a week forward, falling on Holy Saturday, between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. There was therefore, only one topic that could be explored – Easter!



It was brilliant to welcome new congregation members to Messy Church, seeing its growth and giving us encouragement for its future congregation size. With it being the Easter weekend, the best way to open the doors was with an Easter Egg hunt which was great fun, before we considered the Easter Story and began getting creative.

### **Creativity**

A special thank you to Arthur and Margaret Miller for leading the creation of the beautiful Easter Garden which was on display in St John's church. It looked wonderful on Easter Day for the Sunday congregation to enjoy.



Alongside creating the garden, crafts included decorating hardboiled eggs to look like people and rolling marbles dipped in paint to symbolise the rolling of the tomb stone (an activity that was very popular with the children!). Reflecting on the symbol of the cross and how Jesus died, we decorated crosses and made paper palm

crosses. Remembering the Last Supper, and thinking about Holy Communion, we also made chalices from yoghurt pots and cotton reels – thank you to everyone who donated these so that we could create our chalices.

## **Worship**

What is the connection between the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Easter eggs that we share today? That is the question that was talked about during this Messy Church's worship session. With the resurrection came new life, symbolised through eggs, known for growing and creating a new life when they hatch.

## **Hospitality**



The hospitality of Messy Church is not just about feeding the congregation, but also about catching up with the community, meeting new people and making them feel welcome. It is encompassed from the moment the doors open. Vice versa, the theme of Easter was not forgotten during the meal, with the earlier crafts of chocolate crispy nests and jammy dodger tombs eaten for dessert.

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 4th May exploring the story of Abraham and Sarah. 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 is:

Saturday 4th May: Abraham & Sarah

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

Saturday 4th July: Moses

*Beth Broadway*

## *Easter Flowers*

The Flower Ladies enjoyed meeting up on Holy Saturday to arrange the flowers for Easter. It was a very busy morning and we were grateful to Sue, Margaret, Poppy, Pam and Angie for their help.



Thank you for your generous donations in memory of loved ones.

*Joy Job*



## *Easter Sunday*



Easter Sunday was celebrated with the high altar in a new position. It was brought forward onto an extended platform which was constructed by Keith Staiger, to whom we are very grateful. This enabled Phil, ably assisted by Rob Little, to celebrate the Eucharist from behind the altar, with plenty of room to move unhindered. The high altar will also be used for smaller congregations in Eucharist services when the choir is not present as people will be able to sit in the choir stalls.

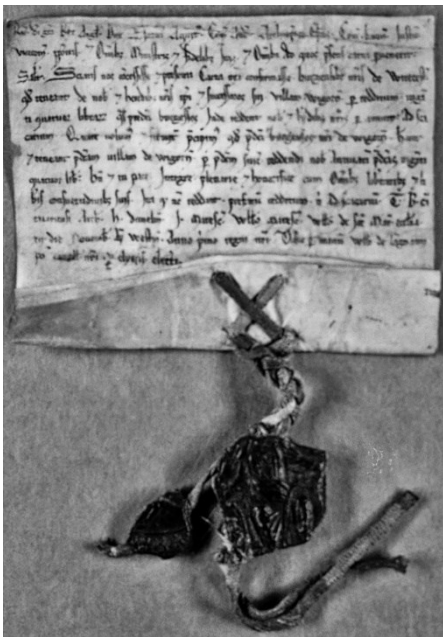
*Joy Job*

# *The Glover, Draper, and Porcelain Painter*

Nearly 100 people turned up to hear Paul Harding from Discover History tell us about the industries that have been operated in Worcester from early years to the modern times, for example the Glover, Draper and Porcelain Painter.

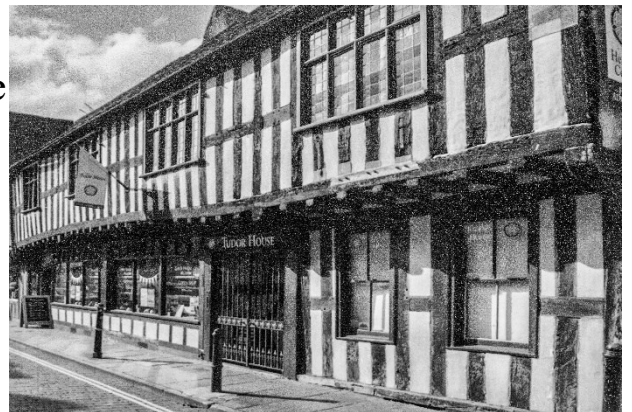


Worcester Bosch, Mazak and Worcestershire Sauce are the main industries that Worcester is known for now, but previously there were many other industries operating in the area. Going back to pre-Roman times the area was known for the very good quality iron that was found locally. The Romans, with their road infrastructure, made this a centre for iron smelting. The clock tower in Crowngate is situated where it is because it is over the site of a previous very good bell casting foundry.



In 1189 Richard I granted Worcester a charter, which allowed the city to govern itself. The charter cost the city £24 and over the years Worcester had new charters from each monarch.

In medieval times Worcester became a centre for the wool and cloth trade and the medieval merchants made lots of money out



of the wool trade. The only weavers' cottages remaining in the city now form Tudor House, in Friar Street. The men were the weavers, and the young women were the spinners, which is where the name spinster comes from.



In 1642 the Battle of Powick Bridge starts the Civil War, and Worcester is hit very hard during this period with some 85% of the city destroyed. By the 1700s the wool trade is in the doldrums and the next main event is the appearance of Dr Ward and the creation of the Infirmary. Dr Ward, shown of the left, loved drinking tea from imported bone china cups. He started to experiment with the

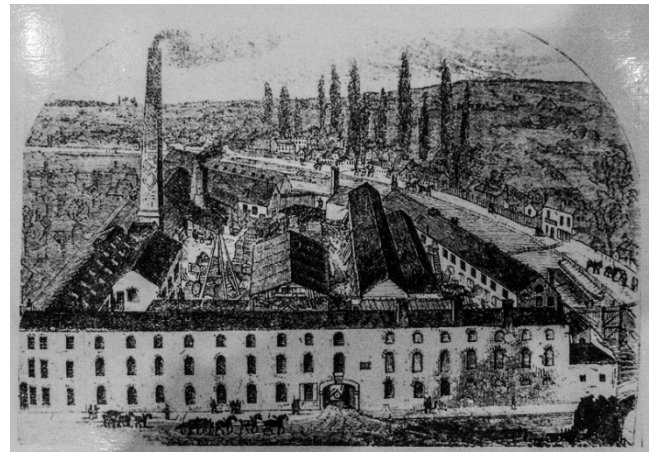
making of bone china and was successful. So he bought premises, Walmstry House, a Tudor Manor, in which to produce his bone china, or porcelain. The river was used to send the porcelain across the country as the roads were too rough for the china and would have resulted in many breakages.



The porcelain works were moved to Severn Street and Dr Ward sold Walmstry house to a Mr Dent, who was a glover, in 1777. Dent's Gloves still have a Royal Warrant of Appointment, but the company has now moved on from Worcester. Fownes soon followed with their glove works. Graingers,

makers of porcelain, also followed and they were able to produce cheaper versions of porcelain, by using transfers instead of hand painting.

In 1815 it was decided to connect the River Severn to Birmingham, and it was decided to use the course Frog Brook, in the south of the city in the area of Diglis. There was great concern that boats would go to Birmingham rather than South Quay, which was proved correct, and manufacturing in Worcester declined after this point. Hardy and Padmore did build an ironworks on the edge of the canal in the 1830s where they built lamps, such as those on the Worcester Bridge, and other iron objects.



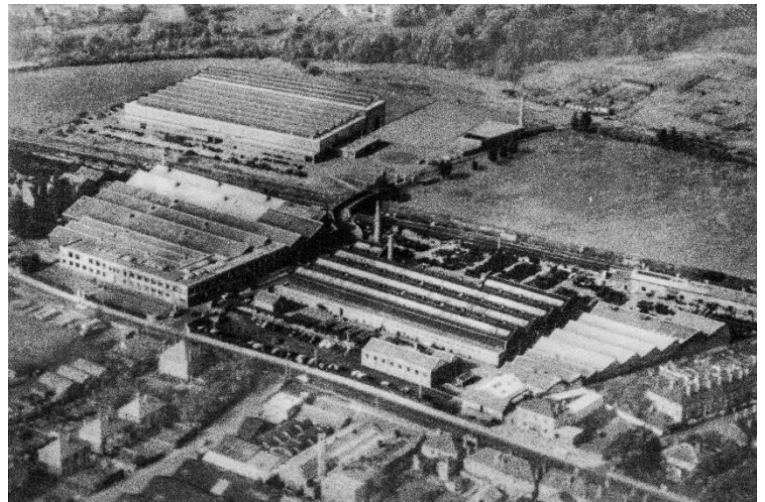
A Webbs Horsehair factory was set up in the area that is now Crowngate, and started by making hard-wearing carpets, but they could not keep up with the Kidderminster carpet factories. They then moved on to making horsehair padding for chairs. Webbs were one of the first businesses to start educating children so they would be able to read and write and would be able to get promoted within the company as Webbs realised they would need the skilled workforce in the future.

Henry Willis built a shoe making factory to use the people who had been skilful leather workers in the declining glove industry. He also opened a second factory in Watery Lane, St Johns, that became the Cinderella Works.

In the 1830s Lord Sandys came back from India and declared English food to be bland. Mr Lea and Mr Perrins, chemists on Broad Street, tried to make him a sauce, but when they tried it, they found it to be disgusting and put it in the back of the workshop. 18 months later they found it and tried it again and found it had vastly improved. Due to the popularity of their sauce, they gave up their chemist practice and moved to a factory in Midland Road and just made the Worcestershire Sauce.

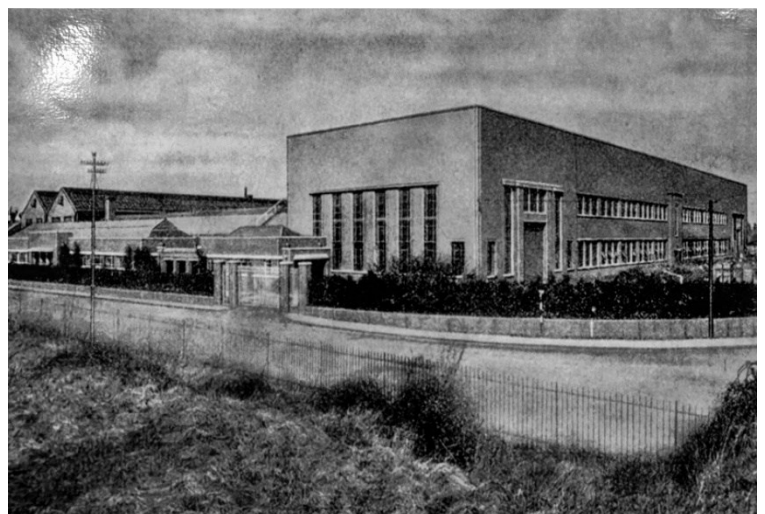


The railway then came long and was sited to the east of the city so although Worcester had the river, canal, and railway they all really bypassed the city. However, slowly, factories were built to make use of all these transport infrastructures. In the first World War they built a munitions factory in Blackpole, where they made millions of bullets. Originally, the factory was built in the countryside outside the city but made use of the nearby railways.



Other factories built in the 20th Century included the Meco mining works, which we heard about in a previous talk when it was bombed in the Second World War.

Archdales engineering works (on the right) was built in the Blackpole area and Metal Castings opened on the Droitwich Road. In recent years the Worcester Bosch and Mazak have become large employers in the city.



For once we very nearly ran out of cakes as so many people turned up for the talk so we may need more supplies for next month.

*Colin Nash*

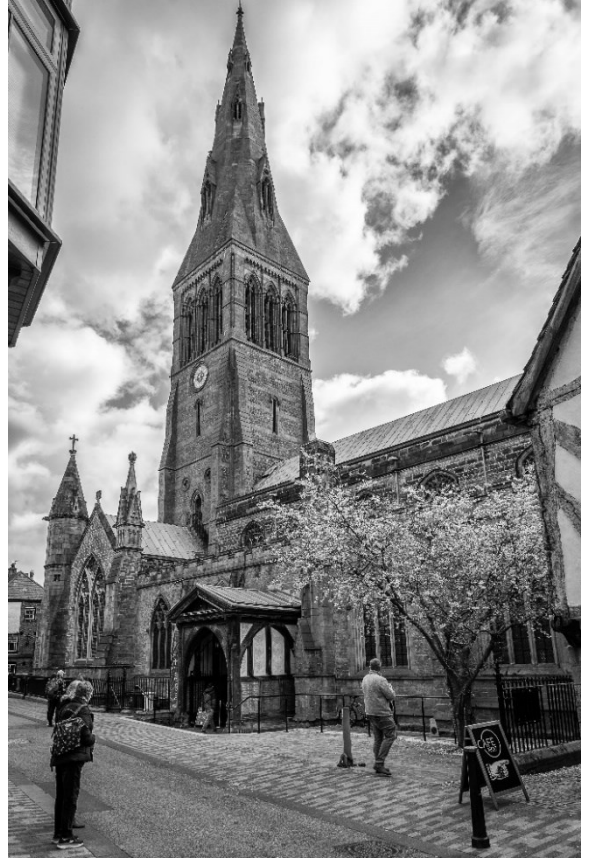
## *Leicester Coach trip*

Well, the forecast was not brilliant for the day but, in the end, we were lucky with the weather for our trip to Leicester, arranged by Catherine Templeton and Sandra Nash. Numbers were down a bit this time, but we still had over 40 people on the coach and made a small profit.

People could be dropped off in the city centre or be taken on to the National Space Centre on the outskirts of the city. Sandra and I decided to have a look round the city centre as we had not been there before, and one of us was not interested at all in the Space Centre!

We found that the city centre was a lovely mix of old and new, with an area called The Lanes, which had small independent shops around several streets, and contrasted with the modern shopping precinct, Highcross, with many of the main high street names in it. We headed to the cathedral first where we were able to get a refreshing drink and cake in the cathedral café.

We found the cathedral to be quite small. It was previously a large parish church until it was made the seat of the Bishop of Leicester in 1927. The main attraction in the cathedral was the tomb of Richard III, which is where he was reburied in 2015 after being found in a nearby car park. The tomb is made from a solid block of marble. There is a fascinating video of how they moved the 2.5 ton marble block into the cathedral.



The cathedral was also interesting in that all the pews had been taken out in the past and now the altar is in the centre and the chairs are all round it, as can be seen here.

It looked light and airy, the way they had created the space for the services.

After the cathedral we went to a museum, but the guide felt it would take about 90 minutes to go round, so we decided to come back another day to do that. Others did go round and said it was very interesting.

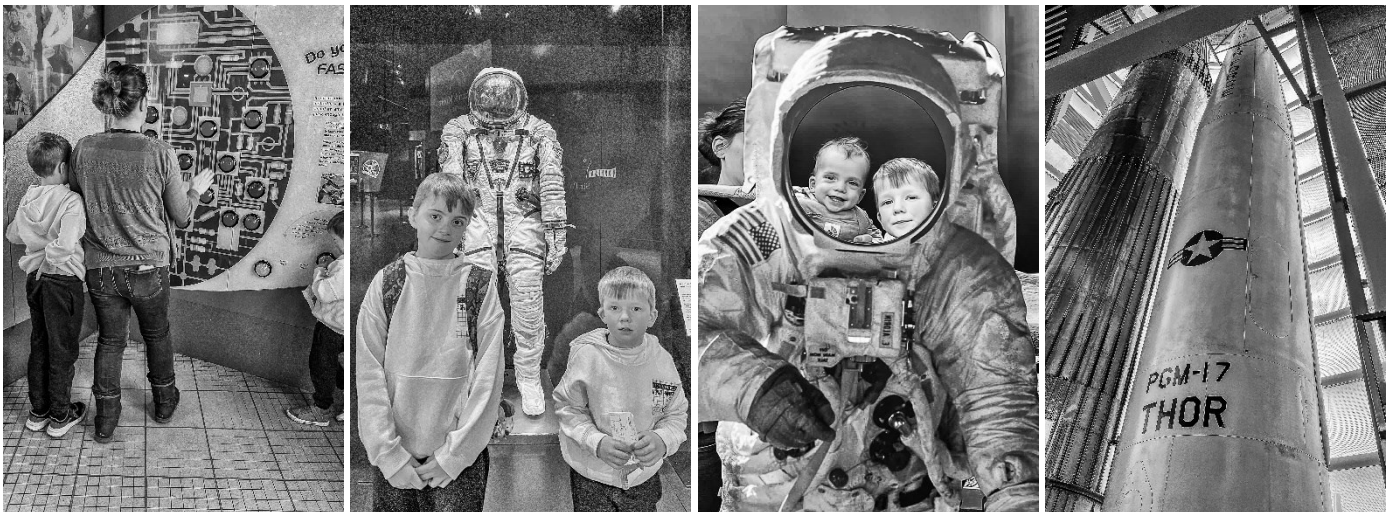
We walked around The Lanes and found a lovely café for lunch, “Mrs Bridges” a recommendation by the guide in the museum. Following this we had a mooch around the centre and found a thriving market area, with great fresh meat. Cheese, fish, and vegetables, also worth going back for.



I bought some very tasty Red Leicester cheese, well actually two different sorts of the farmhouse varieties!

At the end of the day, we walked back to the pick-up point where we met the coach and all the people who had gone to the Space Centre - including Fiona and Catherine Templeton who provided the following words and photos:

A few intrepid explorers left Leicester city centre behind to travel to the National Space Centre. Soon after our arrival, we headed to the Planetarium to learn about the potential for life on other planets, and the conditions that would need to be present for it to survive. The galleries provided lots of information about our Solar System and the Universe beyond, along with lots of interactive exhibits to keep the young space explorers happy.

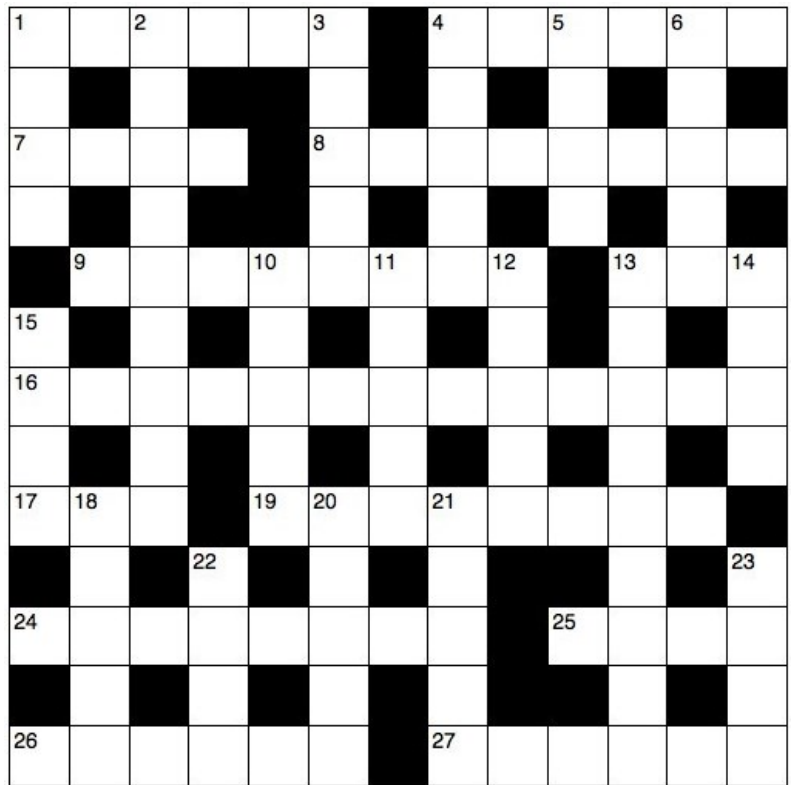


For the more adventurous, a new simulator ride has recently been launched which catapulted participants onto a voyage to Mars. The children loved solving the puzzles to help get everyone back to Earth safely.

It was a brilliant outing, much enjoyed by everyone.

*Colin Nash*

# Crossword



## Across

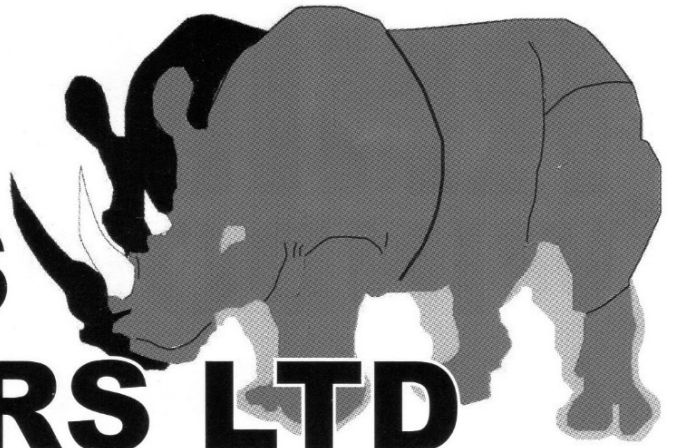
- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

## Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

The Bible version used in our crosswords (supplied by Parish Pump) is the NIV. Apologies for the compressed layout! The solution is on the inside back cover.

# **RHINO WINDOWS AND DOORS LTD**



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

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

**TELEPHONE:  
01684 770437**

[info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk](mailto:info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk)

REPLACEMENT WINDOW &  
DOOR SPECIALISTS BASED  
IN WORCESTER

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A  
FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE

[www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk](http://www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk)



## *Anselm and Abelard contrasted*

I'm starting to think the stereotypes about lazy students are true! I am on the break between terms; we finished before Easter and I still have a couple more weeks off. But I know that I'll still be rushing to keep up as soon as term starts. When I last wrote I had just submitted an assignment. It was about the fourth mark of mission which I'm sure you all remember is:

*To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation*

It was really interesting to research and I read lots about South American Liberation Theology but also what some churches are doing here in the UK and the direct action they are taking. It made me realise just how broad the Church of England is with stories about vicars who were being spied on by the military and successful campaigns to keep supermarkets open in deprived areas! All very exciting.

I've not long finished my 3rd assignment of this year with the snappy title of:

*“With attention to historical context, compare and contrast Anselm's and Abelard's understanding of the Atonement. What might the strengths and weaknesses have appeared to be at the time and how could they be perceived differently today?”*

I think I borrowed more books for this than any other assignment and it was all fascinating, but especially the historical aspect. I've never really studied history before and so getting an idea of life in the Middle Ages was great. I found myself reading way too much that wasn't really relevant to the question because it was so interesting. I now know more about the models of the atonement than I ever expected too and so does poor Ellen as she very kindly proof reads my assignments! There are some amazing online resources that help set the scene too.

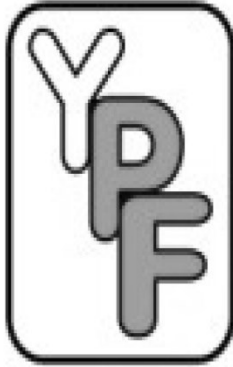
So, I learnt about these two theologians, Anselm (died 1109) and Abelard (1079-1142). I had to get my head around the big question that sets them apart, which is this: “Just how did Jesus save us?” It's a bit much for the parish magazine, but no doubt it will creep into a sermon at some point!

The module for next term is called “Using the Bible today” and I'm looking forward to it very much. There are a couple of books for us to read but one is called “Searching for Meaning - An Introduction to Interpreting the New Testament.” It's hard not to be excited at the thought of learning how to engage with and use these books that describe Jesus' life and that of the early church.

*Continued on page 43*

# Your Picture Framer

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



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



[www.yourpictureframer.co.uk](http://www.yourpictureframer.co.uk)  
[info@yourpictureframer.co.uk](mailto:info@yourpictureframer.co.uk)

01905 423300 or 07730 539168

2A Great House Road  
Worcester  
WR2 4HS

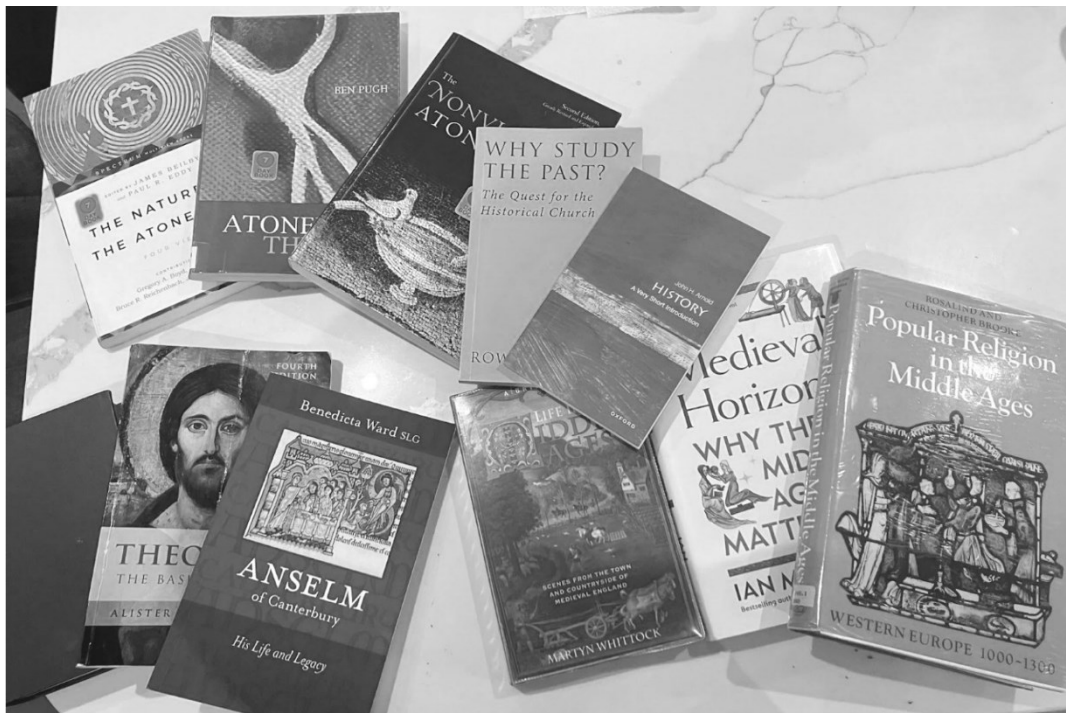
## Worcester Chiropractic Clinic

102 Bromyard Road, St Johns, WR2 5DJ

Expert treatment for a range of conditions:

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

01905 428 956



*Some of my books for the Atonement Assignment*

There's so much in them I'm looking forward to how to share the best of them and in the right way...but you'll all be guinea pigs for that!

So cheerio for now - three more assignments to go, I've even made a start on one that's not due until June!

*Rob Little*

***Sudoku Puzzle***

© 2008  
KrazyDad.com

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

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

# Safeclean<sup>®</sup>

BY  GUARDSMAN

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



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

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

**Contact Elliot for a free, no obligation quote**

**Call: 0808 144 8161 or 07748 328 597**

**Email: [elliott@safeclean.co.uk](mailto:elliott@safeclean.co.uk)**

**Web: [www.safeclean-cheltenham.co.uk](http://www.safeclean-cheltenham.co.uk)**

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

# *Joint Council, March 2023*

## *Summary of the minutes*

Colin Nash welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 11 members and the secretary present, with apologies from 5 members (including Phil Bradford who was unwell).

Sue Fairman, Little Lambs leader, joined the first part of the meeting to discuss Little Lambs and raise concerns she felt the Joint Council should be aware of.

The group is running very well with approximately 35 children aged between 0 and 5 who attend regularly. The group is free, and Sue expressed gratitude to the church for providing the service for free by way of heating and a budget.

The key issue is that the volunteer team is becoming depleted in numbers because the volunteers are becoming older and more frail. Appeals for more volunteers have not, so far been successful. New volunteers are still urgently required. Before she left the meeting, the Joint Council thanked Sue and all the volunteers for all their hard work in running the group.

Gordon Templeton reported that he now has members for the accommodation committee; this will meet about 5 times a year. As previously agreed, the unused St Michael's altar rails have been removed and are going to the Men's Shed. Some building issues at St Michael's were raised and will be passed to Tom Amies, the Estates Manager, to investigate and follow up with Platform.

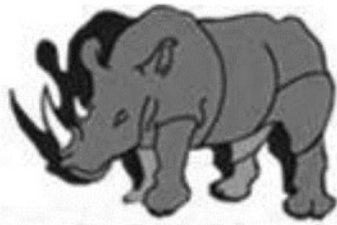
At St John's, Gordon reported that the clock chimes are switched off because the mechanism to automatically silence them overnight is broken, with an estimated repair cost of £2,000. There might be grants available to do this, but it was agreed that this should not be mended at the expense of other church projects.

As the tenants may move out, there were discussions about the house on Heron Close, including the cost of renovations, the service we are getting from the letting agents, and whether we should consider selling the house as it is taking too much time for something that is not our primary purpose.

Tom Amies has made progress on the sound system, with the help of a friend he works with at Snoezelen. The loop system failure is hopefully fixed, and assistance on the replacement of broken chancel speakers has been offered. As a quid pro quo it was agreed that the church could host a tea party for Snoezelen, as long as they were responsible for running the event.

There was nothing further to add on Health and Safety.

*Continued on page 47*



# RHINO ROOFING LTD

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



## Genuine OAP Discount

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

**FREE QUOTATION – CALL US ON 01905831364**



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



[https://instagram.com/rhino\\_roofing\\_ltd/](https://instagram.com/rhino_roofing_ltd/)



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



[rhinoroofingltd@hotmail.com](mailto:rhinoroofingltd@hotmail.com)



Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

*Continued from page 45*

A potential Mission Accompanier (David Nobbs) has been allocated to us, subject to confirmation by Healthier Churches who fund this. He will work with us remotely as a remote consultant to help grow our churches here.

Development of Children's Church at St John's - Sessions are going well with a group of around 8 primary school aged children who attend church regularly. In addition, there are currently 2 babies and 3 teenagers who are regular church attenders. There was a discussion about how children could be more included in services. This needs to be done in an appropriate way that is right for the whole congregation. Two easy to implement suggestions were made: Involving the children in the procession on a rotation basis, and them being on the coffee rota – so that they feel involved and have meaningful jobs. There was a brief discussion about other, more significant ways services could be adapted to meet the needs of the young people, and it was agreed that this should be revisited regularly.

The Council were in general agreement that we want to continue to support our children's ministry so that the children feel part of our churches, and we want to keep this going as they become older and more independent.

There were a number of finance related items to cover:

- The Treasurer role needs to be reviewed ahead of the APCM when Philip Evans would like to step back a little.
- Ministry (Parish) Share - The total due across the three parishes in the team is £126,764. Each church has committed to paying the following amounts:
  - St Michael's £6,847 (5.4%) - has applied for grants to cover the gap to 33.3%.
  - St John's £42,254 (33.3%) - paying in full
  - St Clement's £10,000 (7.9%)

The Joint Council is responsible for the payments for St Michael's and St John's. Once we know the support to be given we will pay by monthly standing order. There should be no issue with the amount of the monthly payments.

- A 2024 Budget, Reserves Policy and a Legacy Policy were approved. An Expenses Claim Policy will be circulated for approval by correspondence.
- The draft End of Year (2023) Accounts were reviewed and agreed. Colin thanked Philip and the rest of the finance committee for all their hard work getting the accounts completed.

*Continued on page 49*

# **BEDWARDINE FUNERAL SERVICES**

**A COMPLETE & COURTEOUS 24 hr SERVICE**

PERSONAL ATTENTION

HOME ARRANGEMENTS

PRIVATE CHAPEL of REST

DAIMLER FLEET

MONUMENTAL MASONS

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

GOLDEN CHARTER PRE PAYMENT PLAN

**01905 748811**



*INDEPENDENT & LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS*

*OFFERING*

*EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD*

*TO THIS COMMUNITY and SURROUNDING AREAS*

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



*Continued from page 47*

- The card donation machine is failing. It was agreed to purchase a new one.
- Setting up a new bank account for the Joint Council is still held up by Lloyds.

Philip reported that he is working on the central collation of various documents so that things are organised and work is not duplicated. This is an ongoing process.

The Memory Log has been updated by the Standing Committee prioritising existing items and adding two new ones.

Safeguarding - Sarah Cottrill said that the diocese are going to conduct an audit into safeguarding and it is important that everyone is trained and qualified to the right level for their role. There needs to be some clarity as to who needs to do what. Sarah had enquired as to whether the diocese could provide in person training for people who would prefer that option, but this is not forthcoming. Fiona Templeton asked if there was any option for one person to complete a sufficient level of training so that they could then train others in church.

Sarah reported that the current service pattern is not sustainable. We do not have enough ALMs and we need to look at different ways of being able to do things. Plans for changes are not yet confirmed, but they will need to happen.

Graham Evans explained that every year the electoral roll has to be updated. Graham shared the update plans for both parishes.

Gordon raised the Stewardship Campaign. This is paused until the new bank account is ready to go. He suggested separating the volunteer side of this from the financial side if the new bank account could not be set up soon.

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

---

## ***Groans***

How did the maggots hiding in fruit get onto Noah's Ark?

They went on in pears.

--- 000 ---

Why didn't the snakes leave Noah's Ark when Noah told them to 'go forth and multiply'?

They were adders.

--- 000 ---

Where did Noah keep his bees?

In the Ark hive.



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

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

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

---

**Our award winning services include:**

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

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

## *ST JOHN'S LIBRARY*

The library is closed on May 6th May and 27th.

---

### **Libraries Unlocked:**

- Monday - Saturday: 8am - 8 pm

---

### **Core (staffed) opening times:**

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

---

### *Message from the Worcestershire Libraries Team*

Libraries Unlocked went 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 saw a reduction of 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:

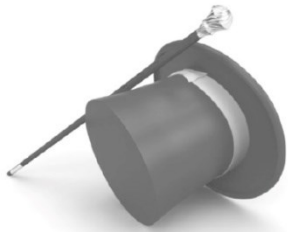
<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/worcestershire-libraries/libraries-unlocked>

---

### *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*



# Worcester Funeral Service

## 01905 23499

Independent Family Funeral Directors



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

Golden Charter   
Funeral Plans



Kilbury Drive, Worcester, WR5 2NE

[WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk](http://WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk)

*From the magazine archive, May 1951*

THE DRAMA GROUP

*present*

A YORKSHIRE FARCICAL COMEDY

“WHEN WE ARE MARRIED”

*by*

J. B. PRIESTLEY

*in the*

BOYS' SCHOOL at 7.30 p.m.

*on*

TUESDAY, 22nd MAY

WEDNESDAY, 23rd MAY

THURSDAY, 24th MAY

*Tickets 2/- from*

Mrs. Laflin, Bromyard Road

Miss H. M. Davis, 56, St. John's

or Members of the Drama Group.

---

### PARISH MAGAZINE

DURING the past 18 months our magazine has been of a very high standard and an effort has been made to make it as attractive as possible.

The vast amount of information and news each month led to a substantial increase in the size and consequently we have been forced to run it under a subsidy of well over £100.

Lately the cost of printing and paper has been considerably increased and therefore we are forced to reduce the size of the magazine to four pages.

This means that we shall be forced to “cut” the reports which are sent in, but we will endeavour to do this by careful editing—thereby including as much information as possible.

We shall try to maintain our high standard and give you a magazine of which we can still be proud.

#### *Inflation*

*The Bank of England inflation calculator says that £100 in 1951 is about £2,600 today. You can see why they could not afford to keep running the magazine at a loss like that!*

*The Editors*

# The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

*Pick up  
at  
St John's*

*Pick up  
at  
St Michael's*

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

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

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

## Your details:

Title:

.....

Forename:

.....

Surname:

.....

Email

address:

.....

Address (including post code):

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

**Send your payment** in an envelope, or as a cheque made payable to St. Johns Parish Church, with this completed form to The Parish Office, 1A Bromyard Road, Worcester WR2 5BS. **Or, to pay by bank transfer**, please email [parishmagazine@wcw.church](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*

*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*

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

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

### *And finally....*

Over-long sermons are not new!

Acts chapter 9, beginning at verse 7:

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third storey and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “He’s alive!” Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left.

The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted

--- 000 ---

How do we know the Apostles drove a Honda?

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one accord.”

--- 000 ---

Why were the apostles Peter, Andrew, James and John the best letter writers?

Because as fishermen they learned to drop a line.

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 – May

	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Clement's</b>	<b>St. David's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>
<b>5th May</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	10am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>12th May</b>	10.30am Morning Worship	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
<b>19th May</b>	10.30am Eucharist	10am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>26th May</b>	10.30am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
<b>2nd June</b>	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.