

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



June 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 one of the Safeguarding Officers, Fiona Templeton, Elizabeth Forman, or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: stjohs.churchwardens@wcv.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	St John's
Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email 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 June 2024 edition. Our theme is 'Peter or Petertide' and Sarah talks about both of these in her letter.

We are excited to tell you more about Gilly Maxim, who will be ordained deacon at the Cathedral on 30th June and licensed to serve as assistant curate in the Worcester City West Team. Phil tells us more about what to expect on page 23 and Gilly tells us more about herself on page 24.

We've focussed on St Peter in this edition, but the feast on 29th June is actually for Peter and Paul, so here is the collect for that feast covering both of them.

*Almighty God,
whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul
glorified you in their death as in their life:
grant that your Church,
inspired by their teaching and example,
and made one by your Spirit,
may ever stand firm upon the one foundation,
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*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 9th June. Distribution, towards the end of June.

Subscription form: Page 54.

Cover picture: St Peter as depicted in stained glass at Worcester Cathedral. Image by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Anne Burrows, Sarah Cottrill, Jo Dowling, Sue Fairman, Rob Little, Colin Nash, Gilly Maxim and Margaret Miller.

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 Sarah Cottrill

The theme set for this month's magazine is "Peter or Petertide."

I have always had something of a soft spot for Peter. Unlike some of the other saints, Peter is so reassuringly like me. At times hot headed and impetuous; opening his mouth before engaging his brain, he gets so many things wrong! And yet it is this fallible and changeable man that Jesus describes as the rock on which he will build his church. If Peter does nothing else for us, he surely proves that God has a sense of humour!



Again quite unusually, we know, or can surmise, a reasonable amount about Peter. We know, for example, that he was by trade a fisherman and that he had a brother named Andrew who was also one of Jesus's disciples. We can assume that he was a married man as we're told that Jesus healed his mother-in-law.

We know, too, that he was quick - sometimes too quick - to speak his mind!

So, we have his declaration of Christ as the Messiah (Matthew 16:16); his challenge for Christ to call him to walk on water (Matthew 14:27-29); his nonsensical offer to build booths for Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:4); and his reckless assurance that not even the threat of death would make him desert Jesus (Matthew 26:35).

After the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, Peter emerges as the leader of the disciples. It is Peter we find initiating the replacement of Judas with Matthias; Peter who boldly addresses the crowds gathered in Jerusalem at Pentecost, and Peter who in the early chapters of the Book of Acts faces trials and tribulations with courage and fortitude, discovering new insights into the nature of God's love and faithfully following where these took him. What a change in the man who three times denied even knowing Jesus!

At some point, the exact time is unknown, Peter travelled to Rome where, in around AD64, he was martyred in the Neronian persecution. Peter was crucified upside down, at his own request, as he said he was unworthy to die in the same way as his Lord.

The identification of Peter's tomb, under the Church of St Peter's in Rome, was affirmed by Pope Paul VI in 1968. St Peter's Day is celebrated on June 29th, with the nearest Sunday, and the time around, then being known as 'Petertide'.

This is a time close to the hearts of many clergy - my own included - as it is one of the two main traditional times for the ordination of new priests. (The other being Michaelmas, around 29th September).

This year our new curate, Gilly, will be ordained in Worcester Cathedral on June 30th. Within our Team there will only be one service on that day (at 9.00am in St John's) to allow everybody who wishes to attend the service in the cathedral. I hope many of you will go to support Gilly and her family on this important and life-changing day for them all.

Remembering my own early days as a curate, Gilly is in for a time of great joy and excitement as she settles into her new role and way of life. There will be a great deal to learn and she will, almost certainly, often find herself way out of her comfort zone.

Again, remembering my own experience, she will be given understanding and tolerance when she makes mistakes, and plenty of loving support as she puts her capabilities to the test. If we all do this for Gilly, as you all did for me, we will be following the example of Jesus who, faced with the brash, impetuous Peter, saw through all his mistakes and foibles, recognised his potential and took the risk of building his church on this "rock."

We can only be thankful that he did.

Sarah

Collect for St Peter

Almighty God,
who inspired your apostle Saint Peter
to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God:
build up your Church upon this rock,
that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth
and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

In Memoriam

Eva Stanton	1 June 1987
Theresa Dedicott	3 June 2008
Ronald Cantrill	5 June 2014
Doris Allen	9 June 1995
Andrew David Brunyee	11 June 1995
Kenneth Edward Cole	12 June 1988
Sophie Perry "Auntie"	13 June 1995
Pete Gleadall	19 June 1996
Henry Frederick Charles Owen	24 June 1985
Arnold Colley	27 June 1991

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, April 2024

St John's

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

14th April 2024 Abel Geoffrey Edwards

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 24th March 2024 Doreen Anne Ryland

d. 12th April 2024 Terence William Anthony (Terry) Ballinger

SERVICES: Communicants 179. Total attendance at all services 478

(including 206 at two funerals and a baptism).

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 47. Total attendance at all services 57.

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled throughout June:

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

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

Jesus works with us, for all our imperfections

Matthew 16.18: You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.

Matthew 26.74-75: Then Peter began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the words Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

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 22nd 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

Breaking news

I've just received notice that St Clement's Church has achieved its Bronze Award under the Mothers' Union's RISE UP campaign. RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse is Mothers' Union's new campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse. I'll provide more information next month.

Sarah Cottrill

Sundays and Principal Feasts in June

Sunday 2nd June: First Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 9th June: Second Sunday after Trinity
Tuesday 11th June: Barnabas the apostle
Sunday 16th June: Third Sunday after Trinity
Sunday 23rd June: Fourth Sunday after Trinity
Monday 24th June: The birth of John the Baptist
Saturday 29th June: Peter and Paul, Apostles
Sunday 30th June: Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Dates for your diary

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

(J) Mondays in term time, 10am: Little Lambs. See pages 10 and 28.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 1st June, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 9 and 10.

Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 13th June, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "The History of the Toilet", see page 10.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 17th June, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union. It's our annual Strawberry Tea, and we invite friends and family members to join us.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 19th June, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 20th June, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 22nd June, 10.45am: Café Church@10:45am, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(V) Fourth Friday Friendship Group will not be on the fourth Friday in June. Look out for information about the revised date or check with Sarah Cottrill.

More dates for your diary

Sunday 30th June, 10.30am at Worcester Cathedral, ordination service including the ordination of our new curate, Gilly Maxim. See page 23.

Sunday July 7th, 12.30pm: Church barbeque. See pages 11 and 17.

Sunday 14th July, 2.30pm: Walking church

Saturday 20th July, 10am - 2pm, St Clement's Church Fete.

FULLY BOOKED. Tuesday 23rd July, 9am: Coach trip to Weston-super-Mare.

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. See page 13.

Events at St John's

St John-in-Bedwardine



Our next Messy Church is on
Saturday 1st June, 4pm.

The theme is 'Joseph and his coat of
many colours'

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 8th June

9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



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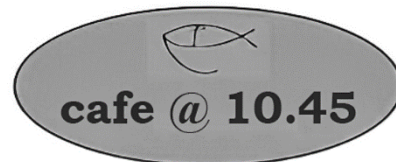


Wednesday 19th June

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
22nd June

Thought for the day by
Jenny English

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

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

THE GOOD OLD DAYS
PRESENTS
DISCOVER HISTORY

St John-in-Bedwardine

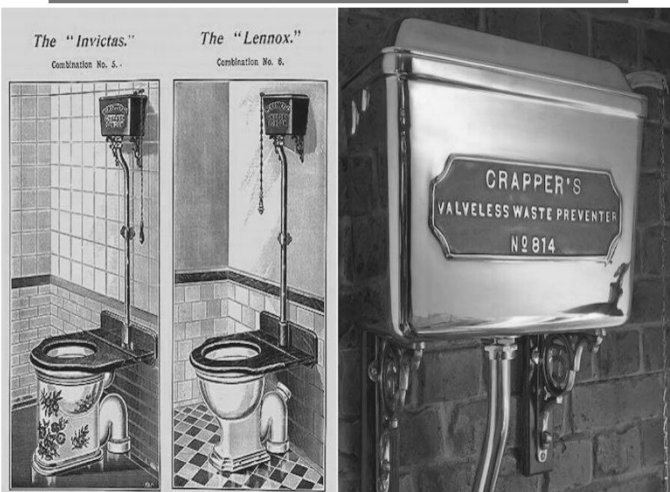


We apologise for the cancellation of
Messy Church on 4th May due to
unforeseen circumstances.

Future dates (all Saturdays)

1st June: Joseph and his coat of many
colours

4th July: Moses



The History of the Toilet

Thursday 13th June

1.00pm

Admission £4

Includes refreshments



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

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More details on page 17.

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

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Coach Trip to Wells



Enjoy a day in the Historical city of Wells, Somerset.

Saturday 5th October

£18 Coach to Wells

£27 Coach to Wells with entry to The Bishops Palace

To book your place call Catherine on 07708297413

The Coach will leave at 9am

from St John's Church

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.

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Bishop John to retire

Bishop John has announced that he will retire in October.

Bishop John will withdraw from ministry in mid-September with a farewell service in the Cathedral at 4pm on Sunday 29th September, to which all are welcome. His retirement will then formally come into effect on 9th October.

Bishop John was enthroned as the 113th Bishop of Worcester on 1st March 2008, coming here from the Diocese of Ely where he was Bishop of Huntingdon. As Bishop of Worcester, he has been the Chief Pastor for parishes across Worcestershire and Dudley as well as serving in the House of Lords since 2012 and as Lord High Almoner to HM The Queen and then HM The King from 2013.



He said: “Being Bishop of Worcester has been an enormous privilege. By the time I leave I shall have been here nearly 17 years, the longest I have lived anywhere in my life. I have lived through the best of times and the worst of times in my personal life during those years and am more grateful than I can say for all the love and support I have received. I am not anxious to retire – I am deeply attached to Worcestershire and Dudley and love being Bishop here! However, I shall be 70 in February and feel, under God, that now is the right time to leave.”

Following Bishop John’s announcement, the process will begin to find the next Bishop of Worcester. This will be led by a small group of people from across the Diocese as well as from the national church and will involve wide consultation with those in our parishes. During the vacancy, the Bishop of Dudley, Martin Gorick will become Acting Diocesan Bishop. Further information on the process for selecting the next Bishop of Worcester will be available shortly.

Bishop John will be retiring to Wiltshire with his wife H-J Colston-Inge.

Worcester Diocese

For more information about Bishop John’s career, see page 49.

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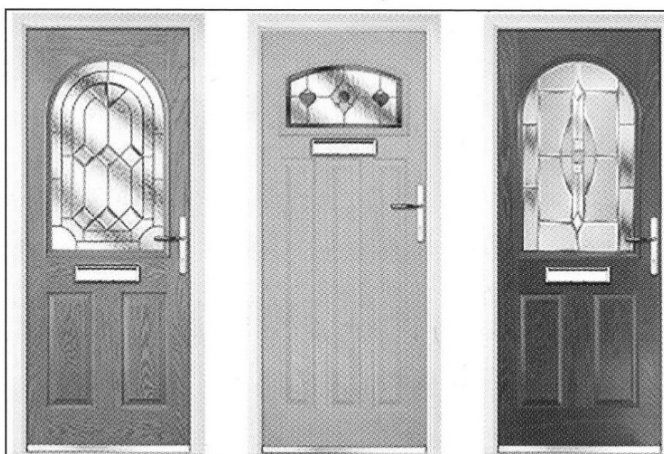
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Don't take anything for granted!

The April meeting of the Fourth Friday Friendship Group was, as usual, full of fun and laughter. After lively chat over cups of tea or coffee and our meal, we gathered round the table for a game of Articulate your life. We should have known better! The original edition stretches our capabilities - some of our regulars get very easily confused - and the Life edition is even more taxing! Not only do they have to know their colours (apparently not something to take for granted!) but there are also two different timers to get right - not to mention the dice!

Neither team actually made it all the way round the board, but we laughed a lot and raised £55 for the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability.

Anyone is welcome to join us; just look out for sign-up sheets in church.

Sarah Cottrill

West Worcester Friendship Club

As our April meeting was within a few days of St George's Day, we took that as the basis of the meeting and enjoyed a quiz all about England. This was both preceded and followed by chat over tea and cake and, as usual, a good time was had by all.

This club, which meets in St Michael's church on the third Thursday of every month, is open to anybody who lives alone following bereavement.

To give you an idea of the things we do, in the next few months we will welcome the Worcester Ukulele band coming to entertain us and we will celebrate our second anniversary with a visit to St Peter's Garden Centre. Later in the year we will be welcoming So X-Sighted, a group of partially sighted Morris Dancers!

Sarah Cottrill



Church Barbeque

Tickets for the BBQ will be available to purchase from either of us (Jenny English and Margaret Rutter) on Sunday mornings, and at 'Tea and Cake' in June. You can pay in cash on a Sunday or by using the card machine in St John's church.

There is an online booking where you can buy tickets and choose your food. Go to the following address: <https://tinyurl.com/StJBBQ>

This is a fund-raising event for the church. There will be a bouncy castle for children and a bar. We hope for a lovely day with our families.

Jenny English and Margaret Rutter



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your way



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.

Sue Allen's enrolment took place on Sunday 5th May during the Communion Service in St Michael's. The celebrant was Sarah Cottrill.



The Diocese of Worcester spring council was held on Saturday 11th May at St Peter's Church, Pedmore. Faith Co-ordinator, Sarah Cottrill and Jo Dowling attended the meeting. Sarah led the opening worship and midday prayers. The President, Judith Grubb,

and other trustees reported on their particular Communities of Interest including communications, accounts, fundraising, and membership and governance. After lunch we went into small discussion groups to look at the future of MU and the membership.

The June Meeting is 2.30pm on Monday 17th June, at St Michael's, when we shall have our annual Strawberry Tea. We invite friends and family members to join us.

Jo Dowling

Love is in the air! ♥

On Saturday, July 13th there's a service in Pershore Abbey to celebrate human love and family life in all its forms. I'm organising it in my role as faith coordinator for Worcester Diocese Mothers' Union, but all are welcome.

Whether you're a married or cohabiting couple wanting to renew your vows or reaffirm your love; a widow or widower wanting to give thanks for a dearly remembered spouse; a single parent wanting to acknowledge the joys, and challenges, of children; a single-sex couple wanting to renew your commitment to each other; or a single person wishing to remember the family in which you grew up: all are welcome and all will, I hope, find something in the service that speaks to them.

The service starts at 2pm and there will be refreshments afterwards. Families with children are encouraged to bring along a picnic and a teddy or two. Others are also welcome to picnic - as long as you're not afraid of bears!

Sarah Cottrill



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Walking Church



Our May walk took a slightly different format from normal as, for part of our walk, we experimented with a form of Lectio Divina - looking at a passage of Scripture, identifying verses that particularly spoke to us and discussing them. This part of the walk took us to St Michael's church where we paused for drinks and discussion. Anne Burrows reminded us that I'd set them a challenge to write a "Walking Church Prayer," and she'd risen to the challenge! Our official Walking Church Prayer is printed below - thank you Anne!

Dear Lord

We thank you for bringing us together today in fellowship on a walk.

We have shared our thoughts with each other and tried to understand your word.

Please bless us all for thy name's sake

Amen

Another first for us was that our youngest member - George Evans - showed off his new skills by walking some of the way!

On leaving St Michael's we'd planned to go to Oldbury Road and from there join the footpath back to Meco Alley but rain overtook us, so we went by the more direct route. On the way we discussed whether or not Judas was the villain he's generally held to be and why the other disciples might have wanted to blacken his name as much as they did!

We meet again in July and anyone is welcome to join us.

Sarah Cottrill

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Introducing our new curate

On 30th June, we will only have one service in the Team, a 9am said Eucharist at St John's. Everyone is then invited to attend the ordinations in Worcester Cathedral at 10.30am. Gilly Maxim will be ordained deacon in that service and licensed to serve as assistant curate in the Worcester City West Team.

Officially, in the Church of England, the incumbent is the curate as s/he is the person with the cure of souls in a benefice, which is why Gilly will officially be licensed as assistant curate. However, assistant curates are universally known as curates, and that is obviously how Gilly will be known during her time here. Today, a curacy lasts between 2½ and 3½ years, and is a training role, after which a curate is hopefully ready to take on an incumbency as vicar or rector. The first year is served as a deacon, then (normally) at the end of that first year, ordination as priest follows. From that point, the curate can undertake all priestly functions (such as celebrating the Eucharist, absolving and blessing, and anointing), but continues in the training role to prepare them for incumbency. In Gilly's case, she is joining us as a full-time, stipendiary (paid) curate, which means that after her curacy she will move to an incumbency elsewhere.

It is important to note that a training role does not mean that Gilly comes to us with nothing. She has undertaken theological training at Queen's in Birmingham for the past two years and arrives from her job with the Diocesan Board of Education with much experience. The piece she has written for this magazine (next page) shows that she brings plenty of life experience, and there will be much that I (and all of us) can learn from her. What is new is diaconal and priestly ministry, and it will be that to which Gilly brings her skills and previous experience while learning to inhabit that vocation. It also means that she will undertake regular diocesan training sessions (Initial Ministerial Education) and be required to attend curates' weekends and days, which the diocese require her to prioritise above parish events.

What is important is that we do not see Gilly as an extra pair of hands to plug gaps in the service rota. She is here for a limited period, and her curacy is not about her taking services so we can postpone difficult decisions and changes which need to be made to our pattern of services. For the first few months, she will be primarily accompanying me, preaching once a month, acting as liturgical deacon, and getting to know the area and the role. Later in the year, she will be taking more services like Evening Prayer and Evensong. As her training incumbent, I have to mentor and supervise her, and initially this means I will be with her at most services. As time goes on, she will be doing more and more

alone, until she is ready to be ‘signed off’ and move to her own parish. From the beginning, she will be involved in pastoral work, and it is very likely that she will bring fresh ideas and suggestions to what we do. Part of a curacy is about having the freedom to develop and explore ordained ministry, and to help Gilly flourish in her vocation.

Much can happen in three years, so there is little point speculating too much on exactly what she will do while here. For now, at the beginning of her ministry, I am delighted that Gilly is joining us and on behalf of us all, I would like to extend her a very warm welcome and wish her a very happy time in West Worcester.

Phil Bradford

Meet our new curate

I was born in Sussex and grew up in Cheshire. My love of church was from a very early age and at the age of 3 I refused to go to Sunday School anymore as I felt that I was missing out on better things in church.



Music for me has always been fundamental in expressing worship and I became a chorister at the age of 10 where my love for music and church aligned. My first degree was in Music and that is when I met my now husband, Piers. Piers and I have four children Amelia (21), Abigail (20), JJ (17) and Florence (nearly 16) and a very ‘churched’ goldendoodle, Jerome.

Between having the children and moving around (London, Brighton, Glasgow, Brussels and Malvern) my career has been varied. I started work as a Concerts Manager for an orchestra in Brighton and then the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. When we moved to Brussels, I worked for an international law firm and although far removed from my degree and previous work, I loved it and was incredibly sad to leave to come back to the UK.

I started working for the Diocese in the Education Team 9 years ago and felt my move there to be vocational. My experience with policies and procedures combined with my passion for education and my love for the Church of England seemed to collide with supporting Church of England schools in areas of governance and policy, and I felt that God had called me to that role and that is where I would stay.

Then during lockdown when I was working full-time from home, home-schooling four children, and in the research part of my Masters, I felt an almost physical tapping of God calling me to do “more.” It was so intense that I slammed down the lid of my laptop, looked up and shouted, “I am actually quite busy!” I thought I could hear God laughing, as if to say, “You’re busy?!!”

I emailed the Director of Ordinands to ask him what sort of role God could be calling me to as I was definitely not going to be a vicar! But God had other ideas and my journey towards ordination began.

I am greatly looking forward to moving to St John’s and getting to know you, serving you, and walking with you on your faith journeys.

Gilly Maxim

Obligatory St Peter joke

For reasons unknown, Bill Gates and the Captain Smith of the Titanic reach the pearly gates at the same time. Captain Smith is questioned and admitted to heaven.

Saint Peter starts to question Bill Gates and is hesitant about admitting him. Bill argues with Peter “How come the captain of a sunken ship gets in easily and not me, the inventor of the Windows operating system?”

Saint Peter replies, “Well, the Titanic only crashed once.”

Prayers for June

Let us light our three candles and sit down looking out into our world. A world so troubled, with millions of people fearing for their lives.

Let us together, bring them before the Lord - asking for His healing and His embrace in their lives.



Lord God, we hold before you men, women and children fleeing from one part of Gaza to another, trying to find a safe place. In their fear and in all this trauma may they know your presence with them. We pray that they may find a safe place to set their tent, that they will find food and clean water, medicine for the sick and for there to be an end to conflict and suffering.

Lord God, we pray for all aid agencies trying to help the Palestinian people. The early disciples for many years were scattered and persecuted yet their faith remained strong- they became your messengers spreading the Good News to all people. The new message Christ brings of loving one another as he loves us.

Strengthen and guide Lord all agencies trying to bring relief. Give wisdom and strength to all doctors and medical staff from around our world who are called to help the sick and maimed. Lord God let all who serve be filled with your presence as they serve the people of Palestine.

Peter became the rock on which the early church was founded. Standing up for a different way of living in community. Of living with the new commandment that Jesus gave to us all. “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Lord God, we continue to pray for all world leaders endeavouring to be voices of reconciliation, of restoring peace and hope and trying to build something new, where people can live in safety and freedom. Help them all to be strong and resourceful as they try to work together for peace.

Today and during June we pray for all soldiers in Ukraine, who are weary and battle worn with trying to repel the Russian onslaught. Lord God, we pray that your presence strengthens their resolve to keep fighting for the defence of their nation and the Ukrainian people.

We pray for all the new recruits who are now being trained to fight for their country. Send your Holy Spirit, Lord, and give them the strength and knowledge needed to fight for the freedoms of democracy and all who live in Ukraine.

Let us remember in our prayers during June to be faithful to our calling to pray for the needs of the world. Remembering the new commandment that Jesus gives - to love one another as he has loved us - so that all people shall be reconciled to each other as we share in each other's lives.

Keep us faithful, Lord, in our prayers, as we seek to live the new commandment.



Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Amen

Jenny English

Little Lambs



Our 0 to 4 year olds

This month's article features our youngest and oldest children.

We say welcome to our new families and tiny children and soon we will say goodbye to our oldest children as they will start school in September. Where has the time gone?



The two babies above were just 3 and 5 weeks old. I can't remember if I even got out of the house when mine were that small!



My grandson Benjamin is one of our oldest now! He and several other children will be starting big school in September, so we wish them well. Our oldest are such a pleasure as they are really at home and enjoy all our activities. We will miss them.



Thank you Gail for our lovely flower craft, summer ☀️ arrived at Little Lambs. Thank you Amy with Abi and Tilda who were such a help too.



Blessings to all our families and amazing volunteers.

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

*Love from us all at Little Lambs xx
Sue Fairman*

Fateful journey

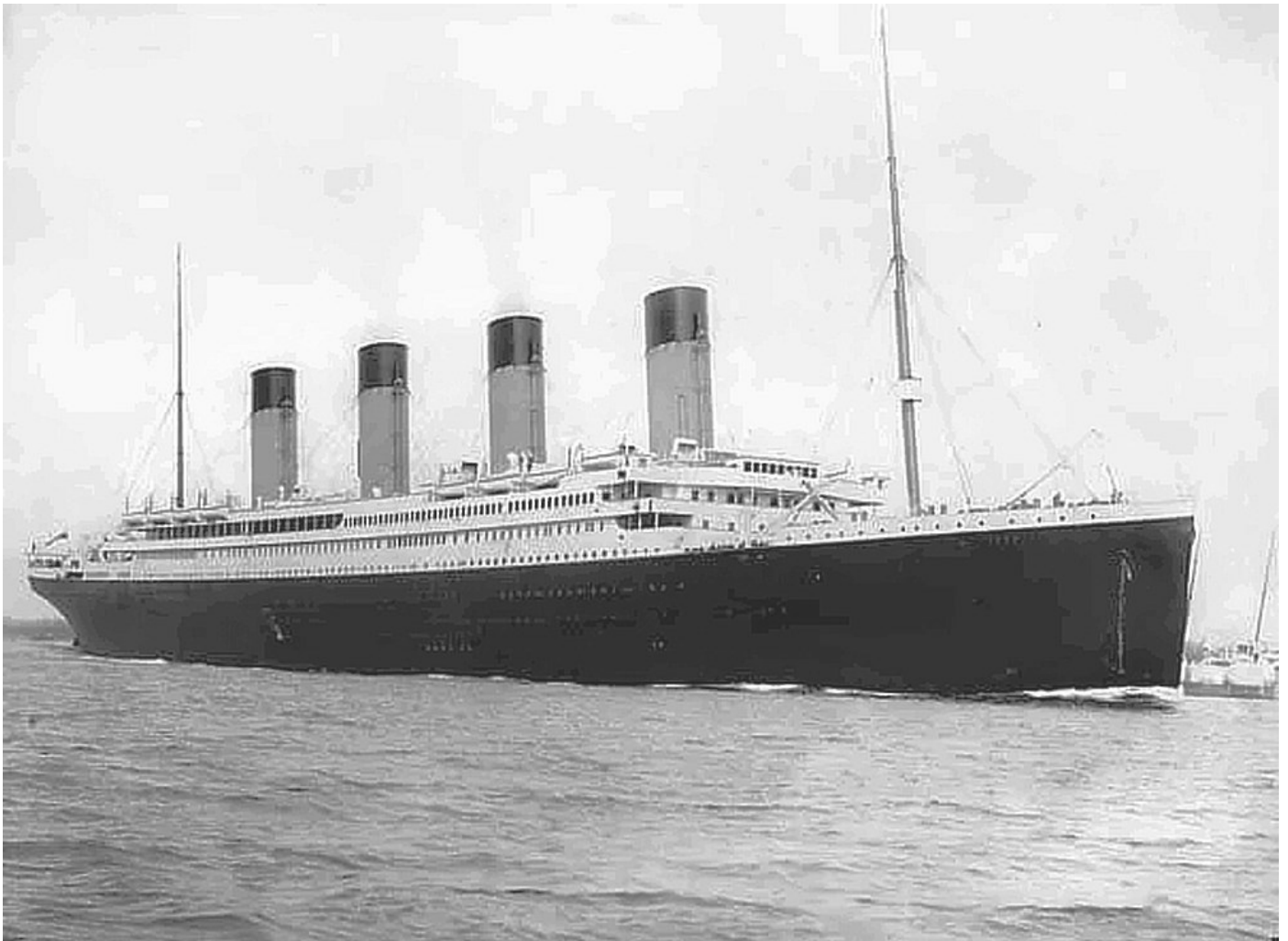
Our senior reporter for our monthly talk from Discover History was unavailable (garden leave, literally) so I stepped in.

As our monthly Discover History talk for April fell on the eleventh, it was fitting to hear about RMS Titanic as this is the date she began her fateful crossing of the Atlantic in 1912. Around 90 participants thought so too.



Paul Harding explained that RMS signified Royal Mail Ship and so not just a passenger ship. She had been built by Harland and Wolff in Belfast and had been launched on 31st May 1911.

There had been a great deal of hype around the building of this ship. She was built to beat many records and tickets were sold for the launch as well seeing parts being fitted out. Paul showed reproductions of leaflets that were produced to publicise the ship by the White Star Line, the parent company. One folded leaflet showed the 45,000 ton steel ship fitted out to state-of-the-art standards. 6 pictures showed first class cabins and facilities (several restaurants, state apartments, ballrooms etc.), 4 pictures of 2nd class cabins and 2 pictures of third-class cabins. A further leaflet showed the ship on its end against the pyramids and St Paul's showing it was longer than they were high.



The hype was that Titanic was unsinkable and very safe. It had more safety features than was legally required, including bulkheads to secure the compartments of the ship.

The design flaw was that the bulkheads were meant to go to the top of the ship but the need to have first class facilities without the bulkheads showing meant they stopped short and that allowed water to run along corridors and fill other compartments.

There were not enough lifeboats. Although they had 20 more than was legally required; the heavier the ship the less lifeboats and other floatation aids required.

The lifejackets did not have a strap between the legs so that when you jumped into the water it rose up quickly and likely broke your neck. Water temperature was just above zero so the time of survival in the water was a matter of minutes.

Titanic had the latest communications equipment, Marconi, with telegrams being sent frequently.

700 to 750 were first class passengers who were issued with a ticket and a brochure listing other important people aboard for networking purposes.



Two of the crew were from Worcester along with three passengers including (pictured on the left) Henry Moreley and Kate Phillips (eloping with a local confectioner).

A man from Japan survived but was ostracised on his return (women and children first). Over 1,000 died including women.

On the 14th April the ship was well on its way. Paul talked about the menus of their final day which were copious for the first class and very acceptable for the third class. One of the passengers was a White Star representative and regarded later as the cowardly villain. Bruce Ismay was only there for the first sailing to ensure that records were broken and persisted in asking the Captain to speed up despite the engines being new and requiring to be 'run in'. At mealtimes he would press the Captain to go faster.



Jack Phillips was the main Marconi operator who was on duty on the fateful day. As passengers were sending so many telegrams this was stopping incoming messages although they did receive messages from other ships that icebergs were in the shipping lane. Captain Smith knew that icebergs had never been known as far south as they were. A further iceberg warning was received, and so Captain Smith altered course slightly but that put them into the actual path of the iceberg. Two men were in the crow's nest but didn't have binoculars. Since this was in the dark that would not have been any help. By 11.15pm the crow's nest rang down to the bridge to say that an iceberg was dead ahead. The sea was very calm so waves breaking on the iceberg would not have been seen sooner than the actual sighting and haze on the water created optical illusions.

First Officer Murdoch was steering the ship and he responded in textbook manner; putting the ship into reverse and slow and steered away. Had they hit the iceberg head on they would have survived but it was a side on hit at 11.40pm. 300 feet along the side of the ship was involved. Rivets were found to be substandard and 4 to 5 compartments were compromised.

Telegrams were sent out that the ship had struck an iceberg and was sinking and for other ships to come to the rescue. The Captain was informed, damage report requested, and compartments were closed.

Two ships were in the area; the Carpathia was four hours away and they changed their route to go to the rescue though estimated time to sinking was two hours. SS California was closer but didn't have their radio on as Titanic had requested they stopped sending messages earlier. They thought that distress fireworks they saw from the Titanic were from celebrations. By midnight the ship was extremely low in the water with the stern rising. As we know, the Captain went down with the ship, the orchestra played the hymn "Nearer my God to Thee" and the White Star representative got into a lifeboat. The first boat to arrive was the Carpathia who met a sea of white lifebelts with frozen bodies and a small collection of boats. There were 675 survivors. The largest proportion was from first class passengers. Of the dead who were recovered, those of steerage class were buried at sea.

The inquiry that followed cited a catalogue of issues. Books were written about the sinking, postcards were produced, special hankies produced for the widows. This was the biggest maritime tragedy in the world. It led to many safety enhancements including an international ice patrol, 24-hour communications and improved lifeboat provision.



It goes without saying that the half-time refreshments were much appreciated.

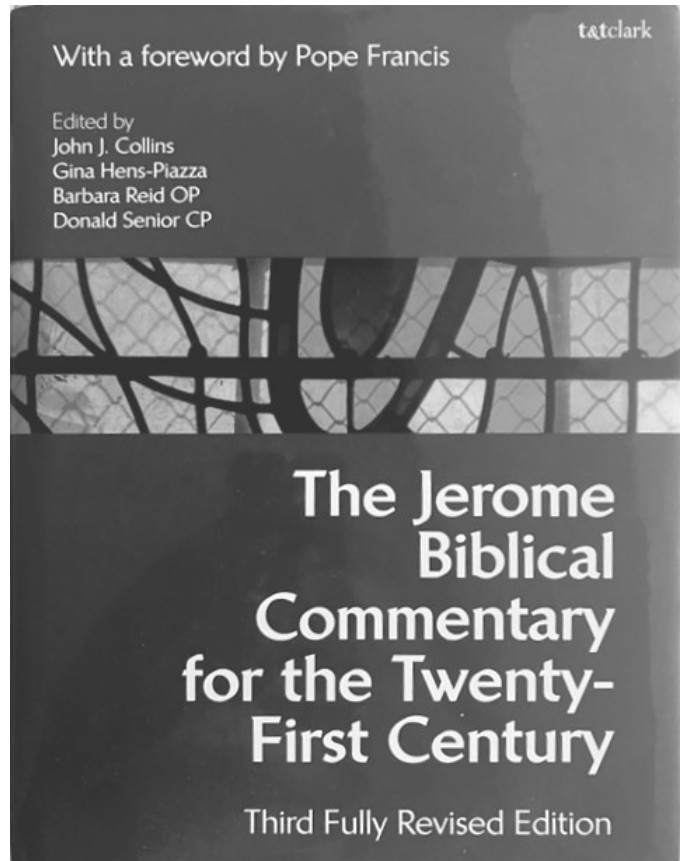
Margaret Miller

Text, co-text, intertext and context

Hello and thanks for reading another of my articles! I have started my final term now and the current module “Using the Bible Today” is as interesting as I’d hoped, although rather daunting.

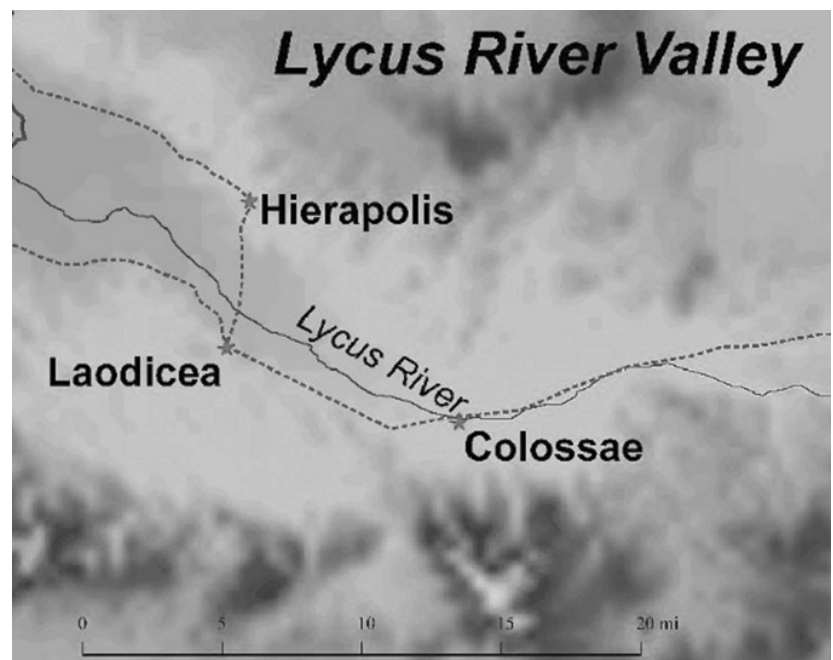
We have started by looking at a concept I have heard of and thought I had a bit of an idea about and that is “exegesis.” Exegesis is the interpretation of scripture and we are being taught how to consider:

- The **text** - that is the actual words written on the page, for example in Matthew 1 vs 17 the word “fourteen” appears three times when showing Jesus’ genealogy. Is that significant? And if so how and why? Well, apparently it’s a bit of a word game to cement the idea of Jesus’ heritage back to David and to fulfil the prophesy. In Hebrew David is written with three letters - the equivalent of “D-V-D.” Those letters have a number associated with them. D is 4 and V is 6. So, $4+6+4 = 14$ and by saying that between Abraham and Jesus there were three times 14 generations the author was saying ever more loudly, “Jesus is related to David”, “JESUS IS RELATED TO DAVID”, “**JESUS IS RELATED TO DAVID!!!**”
- And then there is the **co-text** - those words and verses that appear very closely around the verse we are reading. We looked at John’s gospel and Jesus’ “I am...” statements. In vs 10 he says he is the “gate” and also “the good shepherd”. These fit into a pattern that starts in chapter 6 and continues to chapter 15. Recognising that helps to flesh out each individual “I am” statement into a fuller view of who Jesus is.
- There is also the **intertext** - which looks at where there might be references to the passage we are studying elsewhere in the Bible. For example, Jesus was baptised in the Jordan, but the Jordan appears in lots of places in the bible and is often associated with liberation and self-realisation. By looking at these



*My Biblical Commentary
I think it's going to get a lot of use!*

- previous references to the Jordan, we can build up a fuller picture of the significance of that as the location for Jesus' baptism.
- And finally the context - Revelation 3 includes a letter to the church in Laodicea. Verse 16 says "because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold, I am about to spit you out." We all assumed this was a reference to them not committing one way or another, but apparently, if you know the context, then you'd know that Laodicea is midway between Hierapolis (which was famed for its hot springs) and Colossae (which was famed for its cool streams). By the time cool Colossian water or hot Hierapolian water had been transported to Laodicea it had become lukewarm and not something to be prized at all.



And this is why I say that this is all rather daunting! Hearing our lecturer share these insights is fascinating - but how on earth would I ever know to check to see if "lukewarm" was a reference to the Roman systems of viaducts in the first century, or that if you convert the Hebrew for David into a numeric code then it makes 14? I get it once I've been told it, but will I ever come to these conclusions myself?

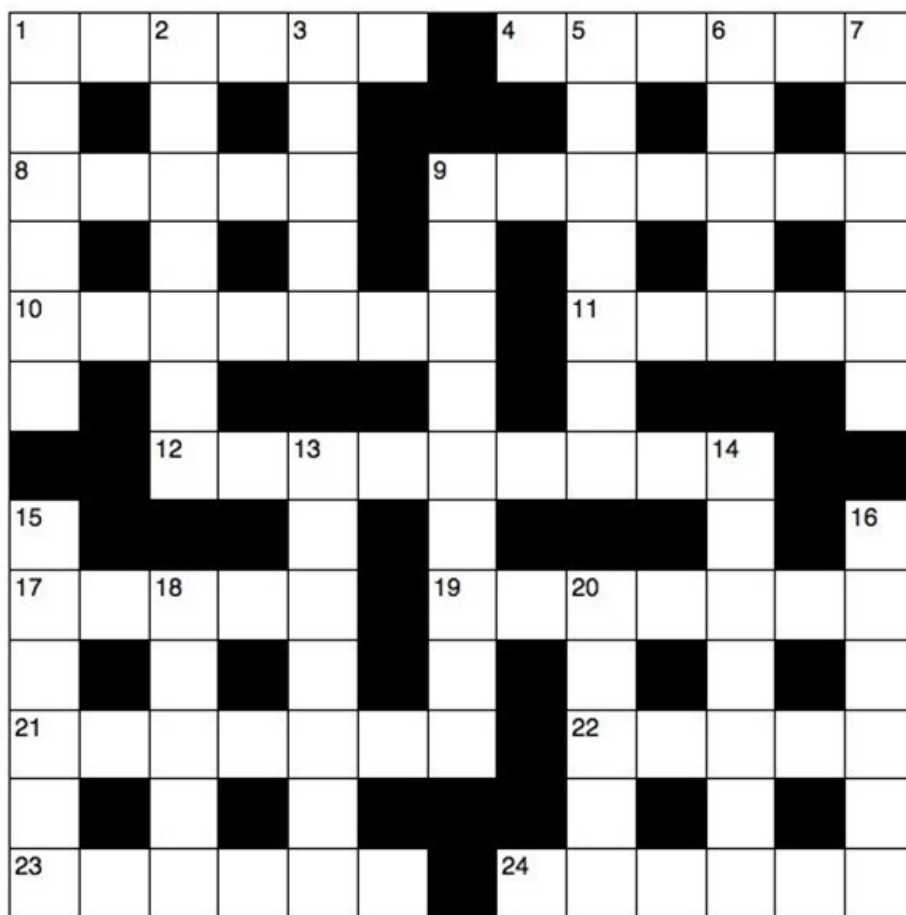
And if I'm to be honest, I don't think I am entirely convinced by all these arguments...what I sometimes call a solution looking for a problem! Well, we're only three lectures in so there is plenty more to learn, but I was somewhat reassured that our lecturer did say that even as a PhD biblical scholar she is constantly finding new exegetical insights so maybe the trick will be to know where to look!

It looks like I won't be able to make the final residential weekend, as I'm still recovering from a minor op, but we do have an end of year celebration event a few weeks later so all being well I will have some nice pics from Queens to share in the next article.

Rob Little

Puzzles

The solution is on the inside back cover.



The Bible version used in our crosswords
(supplied by Parish Pump) is the NIV.

Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 ‘When Moses’ hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it’ (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes’ harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 ‘I have just got — , so I can’t come’: one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)

24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)

2 Art bite (anag.) (7)

3 ‘The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles’ (Acts 14:4) (5)

5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)

6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)

7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)

9 ‘You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth’ (Psalm 52:3) (9)

13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)

14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)

15 ‘A — went out to sow his seed’ (Matthew 13:3) (6)

16 How Jesus described Jairus’s daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)

18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)

20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)

***Sudoku
Puzzle***

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

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



2024 Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

St Michael's APCM was held on Sunday 12th May, with St John's on 26th May. To avoid overwhelming the magazine with APCM reports, we're spreading out the reports over more than one edition. For the same reason, most reports have been trimmed or summarised by the editors.

The Editors

Team Rector's Report to APCMs (St J & St M)

It seems only yesterday that I was thinking about and planning my sabbatical, yet as I write this report it is already more than a year in the past. The sabbatical covered the first three months of 2023, but both churches were still standing when I returned, so clearly the Team Rector being in the southern hemisphere causes no problems. It was, as sabbaticals are meant to be, a time of refreshment, and I certainly returned energised to plunge straight into Holy Week. I was also appointed to an additional diocesan role as Co-Warden of Readers.

On 1 January 2023, the individual PCCs of St John's and St Michael's went into abeyance and the new Joint Council for the two churches came into effect. We were the first place in the diocese to enact such a scheme, and among the first in the country, so I must reiterate my thanks to Graham and Philip Evans for the enormous amount of work they did in creating a legal scheme with no precedents to work from and no one in the diocese able to assist. That we have created and implemented this has made us something of a positive example in the diocese. It is an unfamiliar experience to write that about something involving me!

Over the first year, of course, a lot of time has been taken up with bedding in the new Joint Council, which has required a lot of technical work and administrative frustration, not least with bank accounts and the Charity Commission. Nevertheless, as it has begun to bed in, we can hopefully begin to see a reduction in duplicated roles and work and focus on mission and ministry across the two parishes, as was the intention of forming a Joint Council. As ever, my thanks to the four churchwardens (Gordon, Joy, Mike and Val) for all that they do, so much of which is done behind the scenes and without fuss, and to Colin as Lay Vice-Chair of the Joint Council. While it is early days, I feel very positive about the closer working between St John's and St Michael's, as well as the relationship being built with St David's. This is a good grounding for working together in West Worcester.

2023 also saw two of our employees leave. Liz Edwards, our Parish Administrator, departed to live in Devon, while our Estates Manager Brian Askew went into a well-deserved retirement. We expressed our gratitude to both for all that they have done over the years, and while it was sad to see them go, it has been exciting to welcome Charlotte Tidder to replace Liz in the office, and Tom Amies to replace Brian, and we are pleased to have them with us.

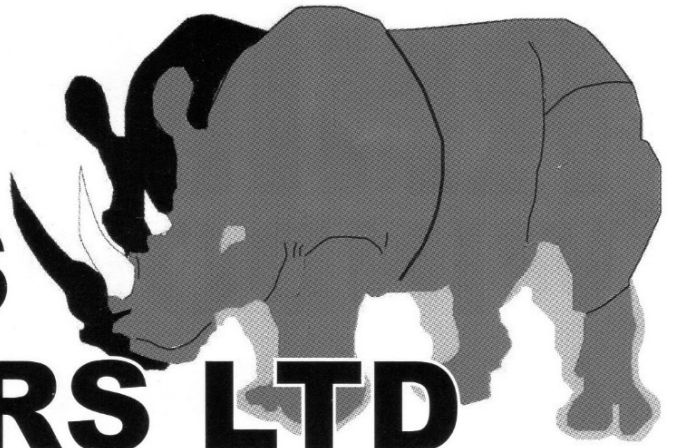
There were many positive developments during 2023. Among these were the introduction of a monthly Messy Church and the resumption of a Sunday Children's Church, both of which have started very positively. Along with Little Lambs, our outreach to children, young people and families is improving greatly, and I want to do all possible to nurture this work. I am very grateful to Beth, Fiona, Liz, and Sue, plus all those who support them and volunteer at those events, for all their hard work in making these three things happen. While the Tuesday service numbers have been declining, there has been a notable improvement in Sunday services. Outreach and social work have remained important, with the breakfasts, tea and cake, the history talks and various other events, and thanks are due to all those who work so hard to make St John's a church at the heart of the community.

While the congregation and community of St Michael's has remained faithful and supportive, we do face more difficult questions there. Post-Covid numbers have been low and falling, and there we need to look at a vision for how the church functions in relation to the Dines Green estate. We need to establish a balance which is sensitive to the needs of the existing congregation, recognising the way in which they have sustained that church against often considerable odds over the last two decades, but also engages afresh with a challenging context. At both St John's and St Michael's, we continue to face questions over the number of volunteers filling roles, and our financial sustainability.

The question of the future is not one we can avoid. I am enormously grateful to our retired clergy: Stephen Buckley for Sunday cover and pastoral work that he does, and Ken Boyce for covering one Tuesday service a month, as well as those who help more occasionally. Our ALMs have been an invaluable part of the ministry team: Graham, Mike, Philip and Rob on the main Sunday service rota, and Jenny, Margaret, and Sylvia in the less traditional services like Café Church. However, we do face questions about sustainability of services, as we face a reduced number of ALMs and (ultimately) clergy. After many years of avoiding the question and failing to provide any support, the diocese seems to have finally realised that doing nothing is not an option, although it

Continued on page 41

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Continued from page 39

remains to be seen how helpful they will be. For all the positive things noted above, there are difficult and painful choices to be made. There will be two significant changes in 2024. One is that from the end of June, a curate will be assigned to me as training incumbent. This is something exciting to look forward to, although we must avoid seeing her as simply an extra pair of hands; she will be with us for only around three years, and it is a training role. The second is that I will be working, alongside a small team, with a Mission Accompanier. This is a diocesan scheme which helps us to develop a church ‘health and sustainability plan’, so that we can begin to make decisions about the future. Churches never remain static, and a question that faces us is how we minister and undertake mission in the changing context in which we find ourselves. There is much to build upon, but we now must look ahead to how we answer that question.

Phil Bradford

Electoral Rolls

Saint Michael’s: The number on the electoral roll stood at 26 at the 2023 APCM. There have been three additions to the roll since the 2023 APCM and one name has been removed. The number on the roll is now 28.

Saint John’s: The church electoral roll stood at 110 after the 2023 APCM. Four people have been added since the 2023 APCM and six have been removed. The new roll is 108.

Safeguarding Report

One of our main safeguarding priorities over the past year has been to bring our practices in line with the Church of England’s Safer Recruitment guidelines.

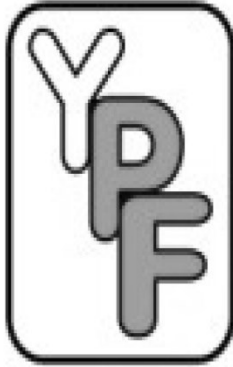
For all our activities involving children and young people, the Joint Council has agreed role descriptions for all helpers, risk assessments have been carried out, and all relevant people have had DBS checks at the appropriate level. The next stage of this process will be to ensure that appropriate role descriptions and procedures are in place for all other roles.

Members of the Joint Council need to undergo DBS checks and do the two initial safeguarding modules, as they are charity trustees with responsibility for work involving children and young people. This can be done online, but offline sessions will be organised for those who cannot access the online version. Work will also be undertaken with the Joint Council safeguarding officers to ensure that the safeguarding dashboard is fully up to date.

Continued on page 43

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Continued from page 41 The approach of the Church of England often makes safeguarding seem like a tick box exercise, but safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole church community and about the creation of a safe culture where everyone can feel safe and valued. The online training is available to everyone, and it is everyone's duty to ensure that they play their part in being aware and reporting any concerns appropriately and helping to create that positive culture.

Phil Bradford

Communications (St M)

At St Michael's, we use the following communication channels:

Parish Magazine (monthly), Pew sheets (weekly), Facebook, A Church Near You page (used as our website), Google Profile, Bing profile.

All these channels need content and coming up with the content can be time consuming. Any of the "channel owners" will appreciate any suggestions!

Community (St M)

The Hope Café in Dines Green is open on Fridays from 10 00 am to 2pm. It is a Café supporting the community of Dines Green.

There is a good menu which has recently been revised. The prices are very good and if someone comes in who needs a meal and cannot pay, they are provided with a meal. We have a good number of people who come in, most are regulars, so it is a venue for socialising and if someone needs to talk there is always someone to listen.

West Worcester Friendship Club

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at St Michael's and aim to provide company and friendship for people living alone following bereavement. We offer a varied programme of visiting speakers, games afternoons, quizzes, two parties (Christmas and our "birthday") and a summer outing - last year was to Worcester Garden Centre. Every meeting involves tea, cake, and lots of chat and laughter.

Mother's Union Report (St M)

St Michael's Mothers Union meets in church on the third Monday of the month at 2.30pm. New members always welcome. Our branch has members from St. Michael's and St. Clements, and we would be delighted to have members from the other churches in the team too. During the last year our meetings have included varied and interesting speakers. We also had an enjoyable afternoon singing our favourite hymns and sharing why they were our favourites. We also enjoyed our annual Strawberry Tea and Christmas Lunch. There

Continued on page 45

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Continued from page 43 are also various diocesan services and activities (for examples see page 19 - the editors). In November we were part of the worldwide campaign “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence”. Campaigning on behalf disadvantaged people and to strengthen family life is a big part of MU’s work, both nationally and internationally.

Churchwardens’ report (St M)

During the past year there were no cancellations of services. The service pattern we have been using appears to be just right for the Dines Green congregation. Numbers attending have been steady throughout the year, with a mix of Eucharist and Morning Prayer.

Nothing has been added to the fixtures/fittings. However, it was decided to dispense with the altar rails, which had been used for many years in the previous building; they have been donated to the Men’s Shed for recycling projects.

The fabric of the building is in good condition, with the exception of the guttering on the West side, which is not fit for purpose. This is an ongoing problem which is the responsibility of the landlord, Platform Housing.

All vestments and altar frontals are currently in good order and should last for many years.

There have not been any problems with gas, electricity or water supplies. Fire alarms are tested regularly, as are the fire extinguishers, which are replaced as required.

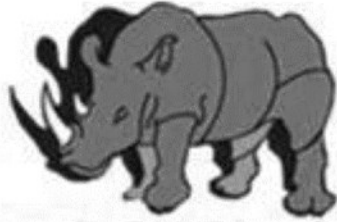
It is hoped that the garden can be tidied again by the students of CWLC, who did an excellent job a couple of years ago.

We would like to offer our warmest thanks to all who help to keep St Michael’s going as a centre of worship in the community.

Fourth Friday Friendship Group

As the name suggests, we meet on the fourth Friday of each month. We meet at the Vicarage, Manor Road. Our main purpose is to enjoy friendship and each other’s company which we do over cups of tea or coffee, a meal, and games. We share a great deal of laughter and fun. We also raise good amounts of money for charity as, in exchange for their meals, guests donate to that month’s nominated charity. Anybody is welcome to join us – just look out for the signup sheet in church or speak to Sarah Cottrill.

More reports next month



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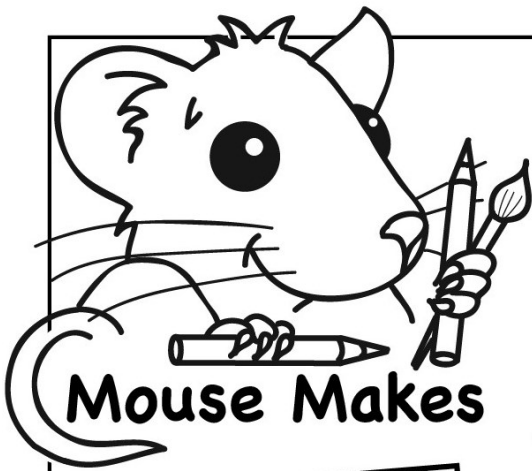
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Mouse Makes

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

TFF XIBU LJOE PG
 MPWF UIF GBUIFS
 IBT HJWFO UP VT
 UIBU XF TIPVME
 CF DBMMFE
 DIJMESFO PG HPE
 POF KPPIO UISFF: POF

Solomon's father defeated a giant and became a King. Who was he?

1 Samuel 48-50

Whose daughter was healed by Jesus?

Mark 5:21

A G A D A U G H T E R E G
 V A S E Z E C H A R I A H
 J M O S E S A J A C O B O
 A Z L I B O F A T H E R P
 I J O S E P H J A N O A H
 R O M A D A V I D G E H N
 U B O A E I D A S O N A O
 S V N C E E Z E A D A M A

WHO IS MY FATHER?

Who was created by God and became the first father?

Genesis 2:20

Who had a son when he was very old?

Genesis 21:5

Shem Ham and Japheth's father built a huge boat, who was he?

Genesis 6:10-14

Who gave his son Joseph a robe of many colours?

Genesis 37:2-3



This Roman puzzle square reads the same from the top, bottom and sides and translates:

"Arepo the sower guides the wheel with skill."

ROTAS
 OPERA
 TENET
 AREPO
 SATOR

If you rearrange the letters it can spell **PATER NOSTER** which means "Our Father".

A P A T E R N O S T E R O

Look up the Bible verses to find the fathers then look for them and the words below in the word search.

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 SON • DAUGHTER
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Bishop John's biography

Bishop John Inge attended Kent College in Canterbury and studied for a BSc in Chemistry and then an MA and PhD in Theology at Durham University. After completing a PGCE at Oxford University, Bishop John taught Chemistry at Lancing College in Sussex before studying at the College of Resurrection, Mirfield and becoming ordained deacon in 1983 and, the following year, ordained priest in the Diocese of Chichester.



Bishop John was appointed as chaplain at Lancing College and then Harrow School, where he also continued to teach.

He then spent six years as vicar of St. Luke's Church – an inner-city church on Tyneside – before moving to the Diocese of Ely in 1996 where he became Residentiary Canon of Ely Cathedral, with responsibility for education and mission. He became Vice Dean of the Cathedral in 1999 and Bishop of Huntingdon in 2003 before being enthroned as the 113th Bishop of Worcester on 1st March 2008.

As Bishop of Worcester, Bishop John provides leadership across the whole diocese and also has a number of specific national responsibilities and roles. He was introduced to the House of Lords as a Lord Spiritual in 2012, and has a particular interest in Culture and Heritage, International Development, and Media and Communications. Bishop John is Chair of the Archbishop's Examination in Theology and has previously Chaired the College of Evangelists. In September 2014 he was appointed lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings and in February 2013, he was appointed Lord High Almoner to Her Majesty the Queen.

Bishop John is fascinated by international affairs and cultural variety and has taken groups to Africa, India, South America, Russia and the Holy Land. He fostered Indian and African links while in the Diocese of Ely and has been a passionate advocate for the Diocese of Worcester's links with Tanzania, Peru and Germany. He has also fostered strong links with the Roman Catholic Church as Bishop of Worcester.

Bishop John has published books on the Christian Theology of Place and the Christian message in Alexander McCall Smith's No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series of books.

He is married to H-J and together they have four children.

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Libraries Unlocked **: • Monday - Saturday: 8am - 8 pm

Core (staffed) opening times:

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

Events at St John's Library

Meet local author Jay Jones, Friday, 7 June 2024, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

We are delighted to invite local author Jay Jones to join the Crime Readers Group meeting on Friday 7th June 2024 to introduce her recently published, award-winning, debut crime thriller I, SAID THE FLY. Please join us as we chat to Jay about the inspiration for her book, the characters, and her experience of publishing it. Drop in, no booking required

Weekly events:

LEGO Club, weekly every Saturday, 11:00am to 12:00pm

Bounce and Rhyme, weekly every Tuesday, 11:00am to 11:30am

Chess Club and Scrabble Club, weekly every Tuesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Crochet and Chat, weekly every Wednesday, 10:00am to 12:00pm

Storytime and Song, weekly every Friday, 11:00am to 11:30am

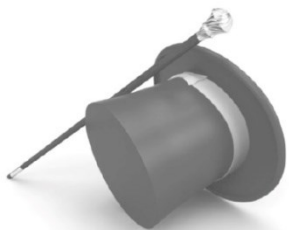
Other regular events:

Classic Film Club (13 June & 27 June), fortnightly every other Thursday, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Crime Readers' Group (Friday, 7 June), monthly on the first Friday, 12:00pm to 1:00pm

Photography Group (Friday 21 June), monthly on the third Friday, 2:00pm to 3:00pm

** 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. For more information about Libraries Unlocked visit: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/worcestershire-libraries/libraries-unlocked>



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From the magazine archive, June 1950

From the Vicar's letter:

We thank God, then, for the life and work of St. John the Baptist, and as we thank God, let us not forget to pray for grace to follow his good example. As he bore witness to the presence and the greatness of His Master, SO MAY WE. As he was valiant for the truth and uncompromising in his attitude towards wrong, SO MAY WE EVER BE. As he worked and laboured unceasingly, but always with an eye on the coming of the kingdom, SO MAY WE WALK AND LABOUR. And as he was content to shine in the reflected light of his Saviour, SO MAY WE TOO SHINE.

*Yours sincerely,
John Hunt.*

THE GARDEN FÊTE ON ST. JOHN'S DAY,
JUNE 24TH

THIS Fête will be held in the grounds of CLAVERHAM HOUSE, St. John's, by kind permission of G. A. Turner, Esq. We thank Mr. Turner for his generous concession. I should like to write a few words in support of this Fête, and to remind you that the proceeds will be given towards expenses in connection with the Boys' Camp at St. Helens (I.O.W.) and the Girls' Camp at Shanklin. Please come along, if you can, to the Fête! I wish that no boy or girl shall be deprived of the holiday if the parents are unable to afford the cost. Such cases will be treated in strict confidence. What a lovely thought it is—that these boys and girls are having a seaside holiday, and maybe some of them would never go but for this effort. Details of the Fête will be issued in the near future.

THE LADYE CHAPEL

A WORD of thanks to all those kind friends who have given so freely and willingly the beautiful flowers from their gardens for use in the Chapel. H.M.D.

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

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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.

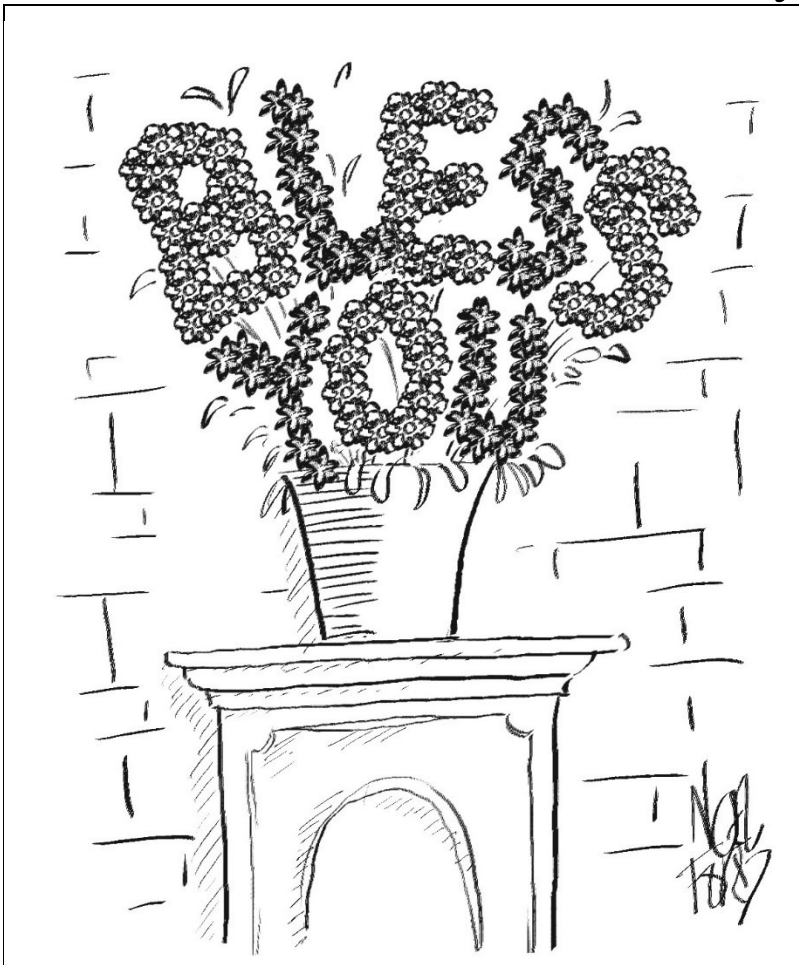


Puzzle solutions

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

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

And finally....



*When it was
Mrs Wilson's turn
to do the
flower arrangements,
she always kept
the vicar's hayfever
in mind.*

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 – June

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
2nd June	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
9th June	10.30am Morning Worship	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
16th June	10.30am Eucharist	10am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
23rd June	10.30am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
30th June	9am Team service at St John's - Said Eucharist 10.30am Ordination service at Worcester Cathedral including our new curate, Gilly Maxim.			

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.