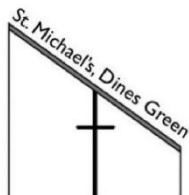




The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



May 2025

50p



Information

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

Phil Bradford (Team Rector) (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

Sarah Cottrill (Team Vicar) (01905 426257)

Saturday

Gilly Maxim (Assistant Curate) (gilly.maxim@wcw.church)

Friday

Stephen Buckley (Pastoral Minister) (07746 206905)

TEAM OFFICE

The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12noon.	
1a Bromyard Road St John's, WR2 5BS	Tel: (01905) 420490 e-mail: office@wcw.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 in person or via safeguarding@wcw.church, or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.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).	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com / 424539) Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com /428948).	St Michael's
On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	

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

A word from the editors

Welcome to our May 2025 edition. Our theme this month is the collect for the fourth Sunday after Easter. A clue before you peek at Sarah's letter – the words sheep, lamb(s) and shepherd appear a total of 45 times in this magazine! Rob has also written about this collect and slipped in a picture from the Lake District (page 19).

In the spirit of the theme, we particularly draw your attention to the article about Little Lambs (page 26) and ask for your prayerful attention to the part about volunteering to help, if you can.

We're not sure which was chosen first for Easter 4, the collect or the set psalm, but the psalm is Psalm 23 and we leave you with part of that (there isn't room for it all).

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil; for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 11th May 2025.

Distribution – towards the end of May.

Subscription form: Page 50.

Cover picture: Lamb with "Ahhh" factor by Colin Nash

Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Beth Broadway, Sue Fairman, Pat Fenner, Liz Forman, Penny Marcés, Colin Nash, Amy Rees and Worcester Diocese.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form near the back of the magazine 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 12.

From Sarah Cottrill

I don't get a daily newspaper and I am not an avid follower of the news. I do, however, like to keep reasonably up to date with world events and so, every few days I will tune in to "Breakfast" and catch the news headlines.



As some of you may know, the Breakfast programme invites viewers to send in photographs, and on one occasion recently the first picture shared was a close up of a lamb's face. It was a delightful image; the lamb's ears were up, its mouth appeared to be smiling broadly and its eyes were alight with the joy of just being alive. I guarantee anybody seeing that picture responded to it with a smile!

I mention all of this because, just a few days after that photograph appeared on TV, I received Graham's email reminding me that it was my turn to write the clergy letter for the magazines, and giving me as my starting point, the Collect for Easter 4 which begins with the words:

*Risen Christ,
Faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep....*

Instantly my mind conjured up the picture of that lamb and I found myself smiling at it again. I read on to the end of the collect:

*That all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Wouldn't it be lovely, I mused, if we really were all gathered into one flock. As followers of Christ, in theory at least, we are all one flock; the flock of our faithful and risen shepherd. So why don't we look and act like it? Why don't our faces reflect the pure joy that I saw on that lamb's face? Why can't we, like lambs, be content with the simple things of life, being joyful just because we're alive and accepting others within our flock without question and without judgement? Why must we have wars, conflicts, misunderstandings and discontent for ever causing rifts between members of families, communities, faiths and countries? The answers lie within the middle lines of our collect:

*"Teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command...."*

We don't behave like people gathered into one flock because, so often, we neither hear God's voice nor follow his command.

Throughout the Old Testament we read of instances where the Israelite people either deliberately disobeyed God or failed to correctly hear his voice. They were led astray by the citizens of neighbouring countries or were attracted by the seeming attributes of other gods. Even the great heroes of the Old Testament – men like David and Solomon – failed to live completely according to God’s commands. They were not faithful; but God was – and God is! True, we read of times when his anger was kindled against the Israelites and they endured his punishment; but that is the action of any good parent, reprimanding their children and showing them when they have gone astray. How else do we learn to distinguish right from wrong and to trust our parents to guide us wisely?

In the New Testament, especially in the Gospels, we find proof of God’s faithfulness as he sends us the most precious thing he has, his Son Jesus Christ, to live, die and rise again for us so that we may be reconciled to God; or, in the words of our collect, be “gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father.”

So, what would this look like? We can’t all go round with expressions on our faces like that of the lamb on TV. We are more likely to win derision than disciples if we did so! But surely, something should shine out of us; some difference should be seen if we were all really striving to hear God’s voice and follow his command. God commands us to honour others, not to kill or steal from them, not to lie to or about them and not to begrudge them their good fortune. He commands us to love one another as he loves us, which means putting the needs of others before our own needs or wishes. If we truly lived like this there would be less poverty in the world because there would be less greed which leads some to grasp all they can, leaving others without enough. There would be less animosity at both local community and global levels as people would be content with the countries and land they have; less anxious to take over the land and rights of others.

Here on the West side of Worcester, we may not feel we are able to usher in a time or state of Utopia. But we can make a start by trying to encourage our local community into a state of harmony. As Harry Connick Jr wrote in his song:

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me!
To the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Sarah

The Collect for Easter 4

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep:
teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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 2025

St John's

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

9th March 2025 Olivia Lottie May Hill

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 13th February 2025 Elizabeth Freda Hood

SERVICES: Communicants 293. Total attendance at all services 456.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 65. Total attendance at all services 81.

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled in May:

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

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

Ascension Day (Thursday 29th May) will be celebrated at 10.30am at St Michael's and at 7pm at St Philip & St James, Hallow (Deanery Ascension Day service).

Daily offices take place in St John's Church from Monday to Thursday. Morning Prayer is at 8.30am. Evening Prayer is at 5pm during British Summer Time (i.e. until October). Occasionally other commitments will prevent a service happening; the schedule for each week will be published in the pew sheet.

Dates for your diary

Location key	(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 9 and 26.

Not 5th May or 26th May. --- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 3rd May, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 8 and 24.

Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 8th May, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "VE Day", see page 8.

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

(J) Friday 16th May, 6.30pm: Bingo Night, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 19th May, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union. Speaker is Peter Platt to talk about, and show us examples of, his work when he was at Worcester Porcelain over many years

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 24th May, 10.45am: Café @ 10.45, see page 9.

From the Events Team

Bingo! St John's Church is putting on a bingo night on Friday 16th May at 6.30pm, and everyone's welcome! It'll be a relaxed, family-friendly evening with plenty of laughs. Bring your own drinks and picnic to enjoy. Entry is £5 for adults, and children can come along for free. No need to book, just pay on the door.

Further events to look out for: The Events Team are busy planning further events throughout the year, in addition to their regular programme of wonderful talks, trips and breakfasts - look out for Hymns and Pimms, the Community Scarecrow Weekend in October, and the return of the Family Quiz. More information about these will follow nearer the event.

Beth Broadway

Events at St John's

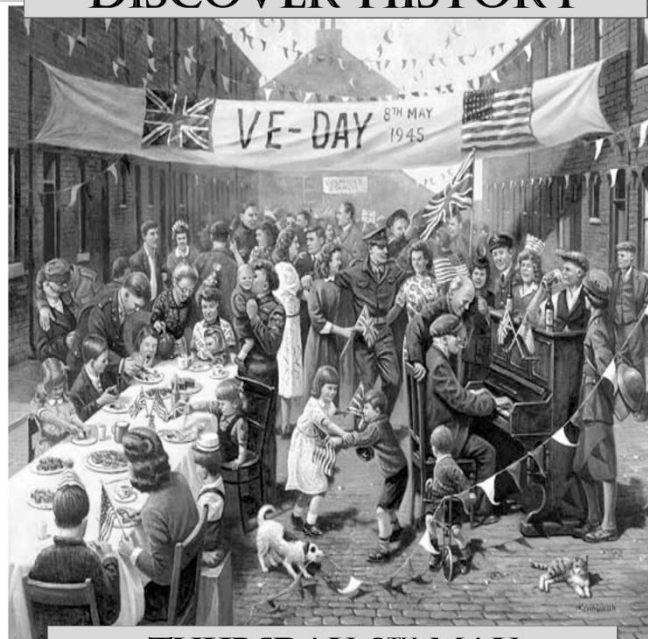


Saturday 3rd May, 4pm.
(doors open 3.30pm with
drinks and biscuits).

“Ruth”

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

THE GOOD OLD DAYS PRESENTS DISCOVER HISTORY



THURSDAY 8TH MAY
1.00PM

ADMISSION £4

INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS



Women's Breakfast Meetings for Friendship and Christian Fellowship

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Everyone is welcome!

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

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



BINGO NIGHT

Friday May 16th
6.30pm

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Birth to 4 years old and carers

For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962

Come and join the fun!

***During May,
Little Lambs will not
meet on the
bank holidays
(5th May and 26th May)***

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Wednesday 21st May

at 2.45pm in the Church

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At 10.45am on

**Saturday
24th May**

Guest Speaker Phil Bradford

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Pastoral Teas at St Clement's

Our Pastoral Teas are a highlight in our regulars' diaries and nobody was disappointed when we gathered in April.

Sally-Ann and her band of helpers had done a brilliant job decorating pillars and tables with Easter-themed stickers, bright tablecloths and baskets of chicks and eggs! A number of artistic ladies had risen to the challenge and came resplendent in Easter bonnets.



By request, I produced a “just for fun” (mainly multiple choice) quiz, also with an Easter theme and we enjoyed a delicious tea. Many thanks to everybody who contributed to our wide range of sandwiches, savouries and cakes.

Coming up are:

June 14th: Summer holidays theme – bring your favourite holiday snaps to show us (old, childhood ones, if you're feeling brave!) - and enjoy a game of Bingo!

September 6th: Back to school theme – come in school uniform, bring along your old school reports and trade stories from “The happiest days of your life!”

Pastoral Teas are from 2pm to 4pm and everybody is welcome.

Sarah

All are welcome

Tea and Cake: Wednesday 21st May at 2.45pm. Everyone is welcome to a time of fellowship and chat and maybe a chance to sew on a poppy!

Cafe Church: Saturday 24th May at 10.45am. Thought for the day is by Phil Bradford. This is the start of half term so come and have a few quiet moments with a coffee and Danish to start the half term break.

Jenny English

Would you like to advertise in this magazine?

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

The booking can be from one month to one year.

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.

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St John's Fayre

On Sunday 22nd June, the nearest weekend to St John's Patronal Festival, we will be having St John's Fayre in the churchyard. Organised by our local councillors in collaboration with the church, Christopher Whitehead Language College, Snoozelen and local businesses, this aims to bring together the community in celebration, making use of a church which sits prominently in the middle of that community.

To allow this to happen, the normal St John's morning Eucharist will be cancelled (there will be a Eucharist instead of Morning Prayer at St Michael's), but the Fayre will conclude in the afternoon with a Songs of Praise service. Full details will follow in the June magazine.

Prayer Service

The Ministry Team have been considering what new services we might offer.

Given all that is happening in the world right now, it was felt that we could try a new Evening Prayer service, which each month focussed on a country, situation or conflict which we could learn a little more about and pray for. Many of these places or situations feature regularly as brief moments in our Eucharistic intercessions, but we never really think or pray more deeply about them. The service will be structured around Common Worship Evening Prayer, but it will be more informal, featuring Taizé chants, a short talk about the issue of the day, and an opportunity for either silent or extempore prayer.

We will trial these services over the summer at St John's at 5.30pm on the fourth Sunday. The first, on 25th May, will focus on Sudan, a country which has suffered heavily with civil war in recent years, but which rarely makes the news here.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in May

Thursday 1st May, Philip and James, apostles

Sunday 4th May: The third Sunday of Easter

Sunday 11th May: The fourth Sunday of Easter

Wednesday 14th May: Matthias the Apostle

Sunday 18th May: The fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 25th May: The sixth Sunday of Easter

Monday 26th May to Wednesday 28th May: Rogation Days

Thursday 29th May: Ascension Day

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

Rogation Days are the three days before Ascension Day, when prayer is offered for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth and on human labour.

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St David's Report

We had a very pleasant afternoon on the 15th March when we had a quiz, refreshments and a raffle. Our next event will be our plant sale. This is on the 10th May at 2pm. If anyone has any spare plants, we will willingly take them off your hands.

Anyone who donated to our window appeal can now see a book which has been made by Maureen Ovington (thank you Maureen) with all the names in. This will be on show in church and can be seen when there is a service (4pm Sundays) and any event taking place in church.

The coffee morning in April was very busy and we look forward to seeing you all again on the 7th May at 10.30am.

Carole Stone
Deputy Church Warden

Celebrate VJ Day

Friday, August 15th is the 80th anniversary of VJ Day – the end of World War 2.

St David's will be marking this important day with a short celebratory service of thanksgiving, followed by a victory tea. Save the date and look out for more details in next month's magazine.

Sarah Cottrill

Maggie box

At the back of church, near the main door, is a box for donations to Maggs. Thanks to the wonders of autocorrect, this became the Maggie box during my email correspondence with John. I asked him for a reminder of what items they want....

Graham Evans

Items for the Maggs Box? Well anything and everything in a way. The charity attempts to settle many of its clients in accommodation, so food and any household items plus clothing are the normal donations. It also deals with rough sleepers so warm clothing and equipment is valued. I have also been given financial donations to pass on.

John Prangnell

"Thank you"

The Flower Team wish to thank you for your very generous donations for the Easter flowers. This year the children also helped in decorating the windows. We hope you have all enjoyed them.

Sue Hussell

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Herdwicks, texels, easy care and Kerry Hill

I'm going to start by being slightly analytical when it comes to the collect that was chosen for this month's magazine theme. Unlike last month's that I really found quite difficult to interpret, this one feels much more accessible. First the opening words re-state all that we learned at Easter. "Risen Christ "it starts; you could almost stop there because in those two words there is so much promise fulfilled and hope offered!

And then we are reminded of just who this Christ is; he is the faithful shepherd of his father's sheep. Faithful insofar as he agreed to his father's wishes despite the great personal cost and shepherd of his sheep, well that's us of course - wayward, wandering sheep who need the firm hand of the shepherd.

Sheep imagery is common in the bible, in fact references to sheep occur 186 times but then the idea of the shepherd would have been familiar in the ancient near east. The shepherd guided and protected his sheep, he could not afford to switch off or give it less than his very best for fear of attack by wild animals or, let's face it, a sheep's tendency to get itself into trouble!

But as with all metaphors, the idea of us being like sheep ultimately breaks down and while, like sheep, we can sometimes be our own worst enemies, I don't think anyone would ever accuse a sheep of being selfish, greedy or cruel. And that brings me to the second half of the collect.

We cannot claim to be like sheep without minds of their own, wandering into difficulty because they don't know any better and needing the shepherd to get them out of trouble. We do know better and the collect prayer is an exhortation to listen to Jesus (who through his sacrifice has surely proven himself worthy of our devotion) and then to follow his command. And what is that command? Well you will have heard this many times before, but I never tire of it and it's an example of the Bible being, in my mind crystal clear:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength... Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. Mark 12. 30-31

Finally like a stuck record I'll refer to a recent experience when I was up in the Lake District. We were out walking near Shap and the fields were full of sheepy mums with their lambs. Kara our dog is too lazy to bother sheep but they don't know that so we keep her on a tight lead when walking through fields with sheep in so she doesn't scare them but nonetheless they will avoid her if they can.

Continued on page 19

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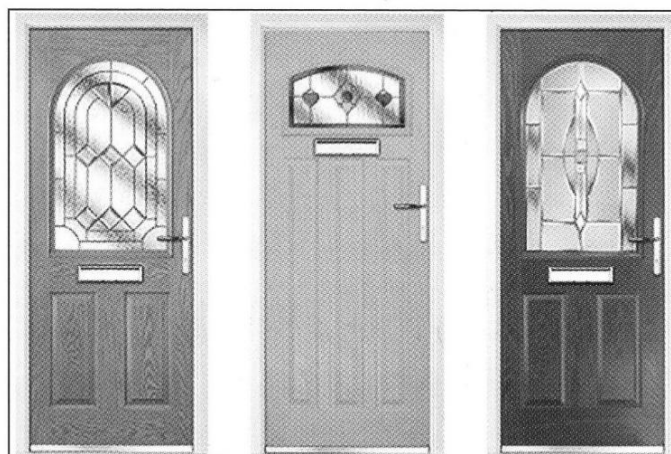
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Continued from page 17

We came to a gap in a wall to walk into the next field and a sheep saw us and decided we were a bit close for comfort and so ran off. But that caught the attention of another sheep who followed suit and then another and another and before we knew it dozens of sheep were hurtling past. But what struck me was the variety! There were herdwick, texels, easy care and a variety we had never seen called Kerry Hill and yet when they got far enough away from us to feel relaxed again, they all resumed eating; part of one great big flock. It made me think how there is so much more that should unite us and yet we seem to dwell on our differences and use them as an excuse to love our neighbours less than ourselves.



Keld Chapel near Shap (which we passed on our walk)

So in this time with the joy and hope of the risen Christ still very firmly at the front of our minds, let's rededicate ourselves to obeying that simple yet all important commandment that all God's people may be gathered into one flock.

Rob Little

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid week runs from 11th-17th May 2025. There will be envelopes in church and information about Christian Aid in church. See last month's magazine for more details.

Anne

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Prayers for our world

We pray together this month for the people of Gaza, the Ukraine and Sudan who are living under a regime that is not of their choosing.

The people of Sudan living with civil war, not knowing who to trust or share with and living in refugee camps.

The people of Gaza being forcibly removed from one area to another and living with the shadow of death while still trying to care for their families. The Israeli hostages who hope for their freedom.

The people of Ukraine who live in places that are now occupied and controlled by the Russian aggressor. People who are trying to keep their Ukrainian heritage alive while at the same time protecting their families; people hoping for a return to democracy

Risen Lord, we pray to you for all people who live daily with threats of death and a lack of food and water and fears for their families, that we in the west cannot imagine. We ask for your grace to be with all who live in these situations. Lord, we pray for you to be their shepherd who nurtures and comforts and will lead them through the dark valleys and into green pastures.

Risen Lord, by your resurrection, you are the king of life. We ask that you will draw to you all who suffer and that you will deliver your people from the evil that surrounds them.

Risen Lord, we pray today for all children who live in the deserts of war and violence; places where there is no school. We pray for those whose families have died and for the Ukrainian children now being indoctrinated into Russian ways. We pray for their protection that they will not be drawn into the violence and that they will have adults around them who will talk of peace and justice and teach about democracy.

Risen Lord, we pray for all Aid workers, for their protection as they are your hands and feet bringing comfort and hope to all who they serve.

Psalm 23 and this collect teach us that it is God's care which is present for all who live in hardship and danger. He calls us all to pray to him for the situations we are facing in our world today and that we will be faithful in our prayer.

*The Lord is our shepherd;
We shall not be in want.
He leads us beside the still waters.
He is our guide. Amen.*

Jenny English

Coach Trip to Shrewsbury

On Saturday 5th April the latest coach trip organised by Catherine and Sandra left the church on a lovely sunny morning to go to Shrewsbury for the day. The coach was almost full, as can be seen here. Everyone was looking forward to a lovely day out to Shrewsbury.



There is a lot to see and do in Shrewsbury and the town centre is quite compact, making it easy to walk from one area to another. It still has a number of small independent shops as well as the large chains. One of the key places to visit was the covered market, which has won many awards, such as the best covered market. It has a wide range of stalls from food to crafts and some lovely cafes as well, and is on two floors.



The River Severn almost completely surrounds the town centre and there are some lovely walks along the riverside to enjoy, especially around the grassed area known as the Quarry. There were many families out enjoying the sunny day



on the grass. In the centre of the Quarry there is a beautiful garden, known as The Dingle. It has a lake with trees and areas of bedding displays, which were superb, with loads of spring flowers and bulbs in full bloom. It is obviously well tended, and many people were enjoying the displays.

The castle, now a Regimental Museum is at the other end of the town and has some wonderful views over the surrounding area from Laura's Tower. There are some very old buildings on the road leading up to the castle.



The coach driver had noticed that the M54 was closed in the direction of Birmingham on the way to Shrewsbury, so she took us on an alternative route home. We enjoyed a really pleasant drive down to Ludlow and then over the Cleve Hills before heading back through Great Witley to Worcester with fantastic views from our elevated position in the coach. This was far better than another motorway trip and not much longer. Yet another highly successful and enjoyable trip organised by the church but enjoyed by many of the local community.

Coiln Nash

Old Testament gems

Question from an 8-year-old after sitting through a sermon on the first chapter of Genesis: "When we get to the last chapter of Revelation, how old will I be?"

--- 000 ---

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But you forget," interrupted the politician, "that somebody had created the chaos first!"

--- 000 ---

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah, she turned into a pillar of salt. One youngster nodded in a knowing fashion. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he confided, "and she turned into a lamp post."



We have a king who rides a donkey

Messy Church took place a week later in April, to tie in with the beginning of Holy Week and Easter. Each activity focused on different days.

Exploring **Palm Sunday**, when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey, the congregation were invited to make palm leaves out of paper and write their hopes and prayers on them. Slightly messier, it turns out that if you paint a foot, it becomes the perfect shape on paper for a donkey head, and hands make excellent palm leaves!



Conveniently, after getting feet and hands covered in paint, the **Maundy Thursday** foot washing was symbolised with bowls of water to wash the paint off! The second activity was to make a plasticine chalice and patten, or loaf of bread to symbolise the Last Supper.

Good Friday explored the Crucifixion and involved hammering nails into wood in the shape of a cross (with children being supervised by an adult!). These then had wool wrapped around them bringing out the shape of the cross.



Celebrating **Easter Sunday** brought activities around the common themes – eggs for new life, flowers and of course, chocolate. We made egg decorations to hang up, melted chocolate mini egg nests and tissue paper flowers, which you can see in St John's this Easter – do take a look! We also made Easter cards, with masking tape in the shape of a cross, to be peeled back once the paint had dried, showing the cross in silhouette.



Our worship focused on the symbolism within some of the activities that we had taken part in, and explored the Easter story a bit further. This month's hymn was easy to pick up, We have a King who rides a donkey, being sung to the tune of What shall we do with a drunken sailor!

The sandwiches for our shared meal were happily munched upon after our worship, with the chocolate nests forming dessert.

Messy Church returns to its normal schedule in May, taking place on Saturday 3rd May, where our theme will be Ruth. Please do join us, and let others know about Messy Church. Doors open 3.30pm, for a 4pm start, we look forward to seeing you there.

Beth Broadway

Smile lines

There was a manager, an engineer, and a programmer driving down a steep mountain road. The brakes failed and the car hurtled down the road out of control. Halfway down the driver managed to stop the car by running it against the embankment, narrowly avoiding flying off a cliff. They all got out, shaken by their narrow escape from death, but otherwise unharmed.

The manager said, "To fix this problem we need to organise a committee, have some meetings, exchange ideas, develop a solution."

The engineer said, "No that would take too long, and that method never works. I have my trusty pen knife here and will take apart the brake system, isolate the problem and correct it."

The programmer said, "I think you're both wrong! I think we should all push the car back up the hill and see if it happens again."

--- 000 ---

A toddler was found in the garden, chewing on a slug. After the initial surge of disgust his mother asked, "Well what does it taste like?"

"About the same as the worms," was the reply.

--- 000 ---

The owner of a new sports car was reluctant to allow his wife drive it, even to the local shops. After she insisted, he finally relented, cautioning her as she departed, "Remember, if you have an accident, the newspaper will print your age!"

--- 000 ---

Had a slight headache this morning but felt much better after following the instructions on the aspirin bottle: "Take two and keep away from children."

Little Lambs does Gardener's World



We were very well prepared for Mothering Sunday as the primroses in a local store looked so good. They were just bouncing off the shelves, so it had to be flower planting time at Little Lambs. Our parents/carers and children really enjoyed this and some asked if there was a charge; just pop in a donation as usual we said.

There were a few plants left, so Gail and I planted them in the church garden so that we can all enjoy them there.

This week some parents told me that their plants are still growing well. I heard that 2-year-old Arthur's plant is flowering well in a pot by the front door, and when he waters it, he says that it is his playgroup flower. Also, Oscar's plant is flowering very well in their garden and brings a smile to his family.

When I shared these comments with our volunteers they smiled too, these are the sort of response that make it all so worthwhile and why we enjoy our playgroup time.



Volunteering at Little Lambs

We would welcome some more volunteers to come and join our team and have fun too. I hear you ask, what would I do? It is of course very flexible and you would not need to be available for every session. We thought about a few ideas that might be helpful as follows:

Mostly available on Mondays from about 9.30am – 11.45am.

Have a sense of humour.

Enjoy spending time with children aged 0-4 yrs and their families.

Perks include excellent tea/coffee/biscuits and great company.

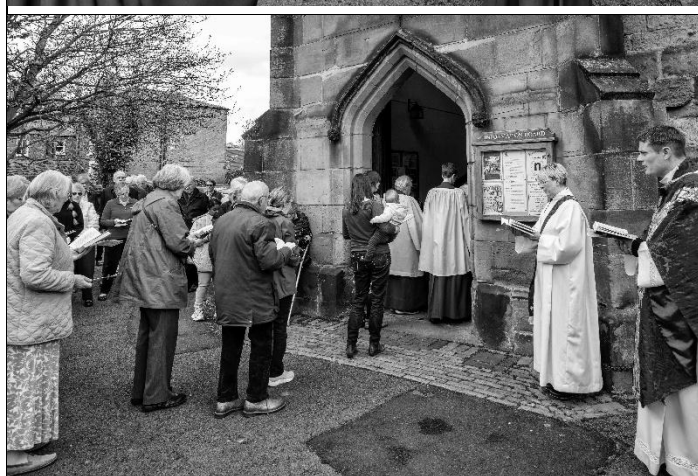
You are very welcome to drop in for a taster and enjoy some coffee to see what we do on a Monday morning, no commitments. Please contact me on 07845 942962 for more information and to let us know if you would like to come.

We will meet on 28th April but we will not meet on 5th May or 26th May as they are bank holidays. Thank you and blessings from us all at Little Lambs.

Sue Fairman, lead volunteer.

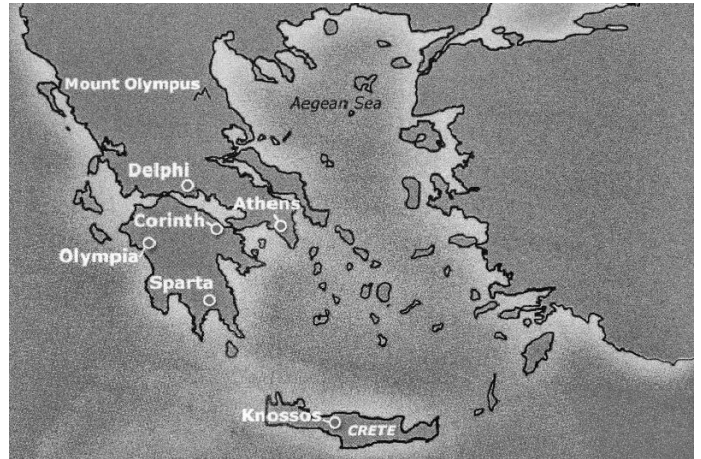
Recent events at St John's Church

Thank you to Colin Nash for these images from the recent Community Breakfast and from Palm Sunday.

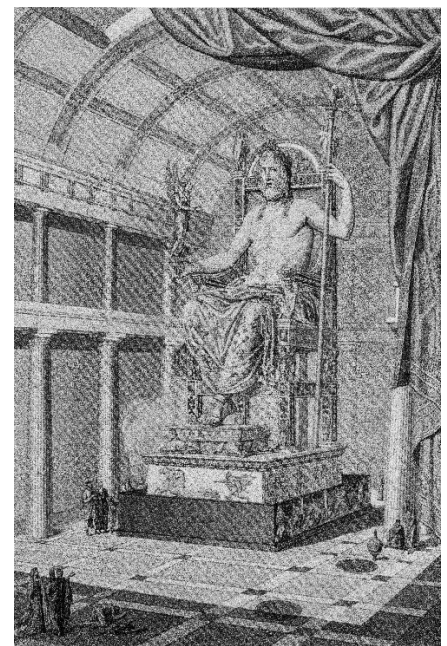


Ancient Greek Olympics

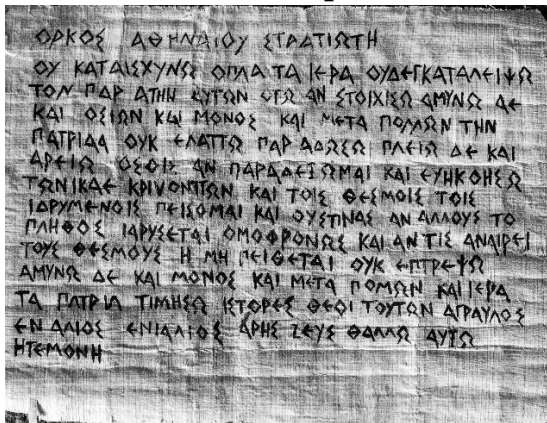
In the Bronze Age there were no countries as we know them today and so in Ancient Greece there was not a country actually called Greece as we now know it. People started to live around cities, such as Sparta and Athens. The Spartans were a warrior group and were always fighting other people. The people from Athens were known for poetry and philosophy and were the intelligentsia.



All the people of the Greek area developed a love of competing. Legend says that the gods competed against each other to find the god of the gods, which Zeus won. In this image he has Nike in his hand, Nike was the messenger of the gods. This was a massive statue that was later destroyed.



The early competition of the gods took place on Mount Olympus. The ‘tribes’ of ‘Greece’ decided that they should have a competition, and messengers were

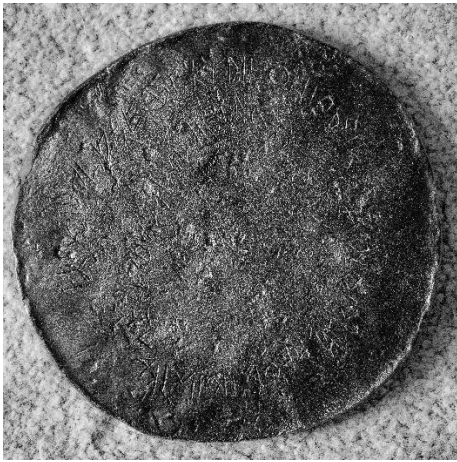


sent round to call the people together to compete, like the gods had done many years before. In the message it says that if you have issues with other ‘tribes’ you must come to the games in peace. Afterwards they could all go back to fighting each other. This is still part of the Olympic code.

Only men could take part, and women could not even attend. The competitors had to be named people and not slaves. Surprisingly, given the means of communication and distances, the people all managed to turn up at the right time. Before the competition the competitors would go through a ritual cleansing process by covering the whole body in olive oil and after exercising to get warm, they would use a scraper to take off the oil along with the dirt and sweat. The competitors would then put on their finest clothing.

There would be a lot of dancing and music and the sacrificing of bulls. One of the trials they would do is bull leaping, where a competitor would run naked

towards a bull, running directly at them and trying to leap over the bull without hurting themselves. After this the bulls would have their throats cut as part of the sacrificial ritual. All the athletes were naked, and this was to show that they were unarmed and that they came in peace. The very first race was the equivalent of the modern 100m sprint. Then they went to the pentathlon to combine events.



Many early sports were based on the elements of fighting. One of these was the discus and the early ones were inscribed with “Let this fly as far as the gods can see”.

The javelin was a spear, and it was about accuracy.

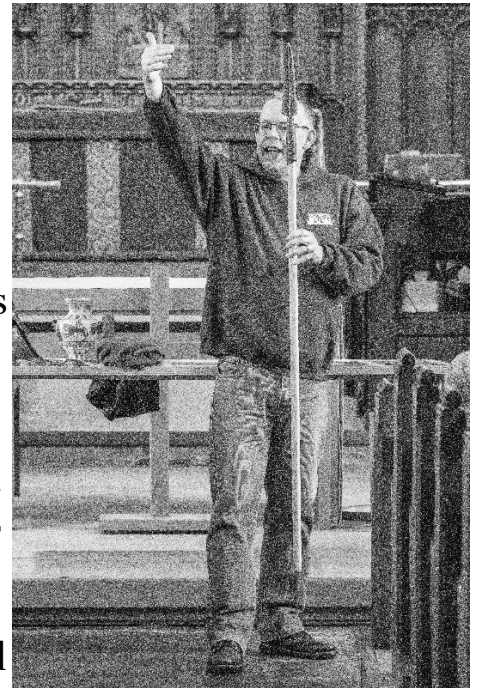
Could they accurately hit a target, rather than how far they could throw it, as accuracy is required in fighting.

Long jump was a standing jump, and they would hold a stone weight in each hand, which they would swing their weighted hands back and forward and then jump when the weights are forward.

Boxing had rules. For example, hitting the groin area and gouging were banned. It was all about punching and was judged by a referee. The strangest game was an endurance run where athletes wore full armour including a heavy helmet and breast plate and carried a large shield, sword and spear. They ran until only one person was left running. The winner won a red cloak, a fine vase filled with the best olive oil for washing and a wreath for their head.

Later the people of Rome started to expand their own empire and as they were powerful, they soon controlled vast swathes of the Mediterranean area. After they took over ‘Greece’ the games still continued under Roman control. Even later, Christianity came along, and they got rid of the sacrificing and the other gods, and the Olympic Games ceased for hundreds of years.

Paul also told us about the revival of the Olympic Games in modern times beginning in Athens in 1896. He mentioned that 3 people from Worcester took part in the 1908 Olympic Games: Alfred Goodwin from the Suffolk Regiment entered the Pentathlon; Muriel Freeman won a silver medal for fencing; Ernie Paine was a member of the St John’s Cycling Club and won a gold medal.



Colin Nash

Marcés Mailing – April 2025



Please pray for:

Juan Carlos + Penny: appropriate use of time and energy
JC's mother Hilda

Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in San Juan Evangelista
& San Francisco

Overseeing final revisions & production of book

Penny: Ongoing responsibilities in J el N (lay rector);
Children's ministry & producing materials

Diocese: Bishop Jorge Luis;
discipleship courses (MOCLAM and others);

Jesús El Nazareno: Mums and tots group;
Sunday School
formation of music & youth ministries;

S Juan Evangelista: development of children's & music
ministries
Ministry in San Francisco de la Cruz

Country of Peru: escalating crime, especially extortion
disillusionment with government / congress
environmental challenges

Dear Friends

Congratulations if you have been reading prayer letters from Penny or from the Marcés family since Penny left UK! – you too can celebrate 40 years when God has shown His faithfulness through many different situations - joyful, challenging or downright difficult. On 12th April there will be a celebration entitled “God is faithful”; over these 40 years I have been privileged to be part of many different aspects of life in the Anglican Church in Lima, and



(hopefully!) people will share about the importance of children's ministry and music, amongst others. It will be held in Jesús el Salvador, where Penny was based before marriage, and then JC was pastor from 1996 to 2009.

In San Juan Evangelista there was a celebration for Gregoria as she celebrated 90 years (NOT usual here; 2.5% reach 80), during which she succeeded in talking about the importance of having Jesús in our lives. She was also present at the first “Almuerzo para Abuelitos” (lunch for senior citizens) in SJE in March. In JEN these lunches continue to be popular, especially since most of those who attend are “founders” of El Nazareno which was founded in 1981 (when, like Villa el Salvador, there was no running water, electricity etc)



Senior lunch JEN

At the other end of the age scale, the mums-and-tots group continues; the start of a new school year has resulted in a few of the children leaving so the dynamics change as they get used to new children. Please pray for the children, and for the mothers/carers as they not only enjoy the choice of toys but also have the chance to sing some Christian songs (including “1,2,3 Jesus loves me” – in English).

Work with the school age children is ongoing. During the summer we had a Bible club in JEN entitled “Gente en Genesis” – some stories of the first chapters of Genesis; they seemd to particularly enjoy the story of Jacob deceiving Esau – does this reflect the level of deceit and falsification happening in Peru? (Yes, the photo is God’s promises to Noah – NOT Jacob!)



During the pandemic, when we continued to be in lockdown on Sundays for months and months, but children COULD accompany parents on other days we started having our children’s activities on Saturdays. We have finally returned to having the activities on Sundays; this is NOT proving popular with those who had got used to Saturdays so please pray that the children continue to come. (In Jesús el Nazareno, as in San Juan Evangelista and most churches in less wealthy áreas, children go on their own to the Church whilst most of the parents do NOT)

Writing of children’s materials, and coordinating children’s work continue. We were able to buy illustrated children’s Bibles for each Church to have one – wonderful when the time to purchase concided with a “60% off” offer!

As for work with young people, in SJE there is now a new leader for the group – Luis. Please pray for him as well as for Deyanira and Esteban, the young people who have been doing this. They have had a bonfire on the little hill by the Church, been to see a Chrisitan film at the cinema, and other activities.



In JEN we now have a date for starting a group for 12-16 year olds. The group will be led by Karla and Melany, and will start on 2 Aug after the Peruvian National Independence celebrations. Please pray for this initiative; some of this group are currently attending the Sunday School so that Will change too. Pray too for a male to be prepared to take part, even if not to lead directly.

Please continue to pray for Peru. President Dina Boluarte has an approval rating of 4%, as does Congress. Extreme poverty is about a third of the population (several families in both JEN and SJE are in this



category) despite Peru having one of the best economic growth levels in Latin America (due to copper prices). However the main concern continues to be safety on the streets; any improvement is unseen so far. Head teachers at private schools were recently given a course on how to cope with extortion threats, and police will now be able to shoot anyone caught in the act of committing crimes endangering the police.



- For 40 years of God's faithfulness to Penny in Peru, & for improved health
- For the results of the "prayer walk" near S. Juan Evangelista, & good relationships with neighbours
- For the Holiday Club in Jesús el Nazareno
- Becky (Lima); Lizi, (London), Joni (London) – all working

Please Pray



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

Please pray for activities in Lima & those leading:

- Sun:** 10.30 am Jesús el Nazareno children's activity
(1st Sunday in month - Family Service)
6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service (Penny)
6.45pm San Juan Evangelista service (JC)
- Tues:** 6.30 pm Prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
8.00 pm Prayer meeting (San Juan Evangelista)
- Wed:** 10.00am "Tesoritos del Señor" mums and tots (J. el Nazareno)
- Sat** 6.00 pm Youth meeting (San Juan Evangelista)

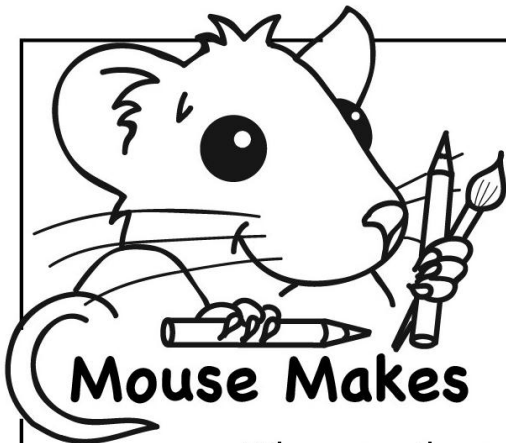
Specific dates:

- Sat 12 April** "God is faithful" celebration of Penny's 40th anniversary in Peru
- Sat 3 May** "Crossing to the other shore" workshop for S.Lima
- Fri 30/Sat 31 May** Diocesan Episcopal Electoral Synod
- Thurs 26-Sun 29 June** Peru Tres Días women's Retreat (Penny)
- Thurs 3-Sun 6 July** Peru Tres Días men's Retreat (JC)
- Fri 11/Sat 12 July** Safeguarding renewal course
- Mon 28/Tues 29 July** Peruvian Independence celebrations
- Sat 2 Aug** Start of teenagers' group in J el Nazareno – Karla + Melany
- Sat 5 Sep** Presentation of book "History of the Anglican Church in Peru" (JC)

As we thank God for His faithfulness, thank you too for your support of us and so many others here – in the Church, communal kitchens, etc. Please contact us at WhatsApp +51-942612987 or email psmarcesinlima@gmail.com

May our faithful God bless you and keep you secure in Him

Juan Carlos & Penny



MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11

People carried the sick into
the streets so that when Peter
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

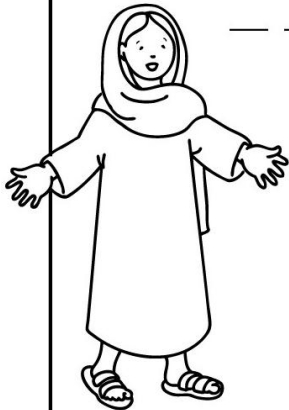
How long had Aeneas
been paralysed for?

years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?
in the

Acts 9:36-42



"And the word
of God
continued to
increase,
and the number
of the disciples
multiplied
greatly."
Acts 6:7

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

After Jesus
ascended into
heaven, the
Holy Spirit
came upon
the Apostles
and Peter was
able to perform
many miracles
in Jesus' name.
**See the book
of ACTS**



PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE

Find the words from the questions too!

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Canon John Paul Hoskins - RIP



It is with enormous sadness that we announce that Canon John Paul Hoskins, Precentor at Worcester Cathedral, died suddenly at his home on 1st April, at the age of 50.

Dean of Worcester, Stephen Edwards, said: “JP was a much-loved friend and colleague and will be greatly missed among the cathedral community. Our prayers and thoughts are with his family at this time.”

The Bishop of Dudley and Acting Bishop of Worcester, Martin Gorick said: “It was such a shock to hear about John Paul’s sudden and

unexpected death. My prayers and the prayers of all the diocese will be for him, his family, and everyone at the cathedral at this time. John Paul was a gifted priest and will be well remembered by all those who have been blessed by his careful and kind ministry as Precentor. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.”

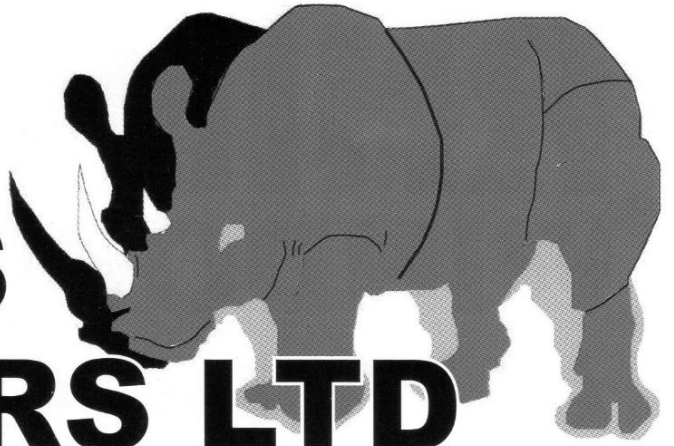
John Paul was installed as Cathedral Precentor in January 2022 and had particular responsibility for the Cathedral’s music and liturgy. He joined the Cathedral Chapter from the Diocese of Gloucester, where he was Priest-in-Charge of Winchcombe and previously a Minor Canon of Gloucester Cathedral and Chaplain to two Bishops of Gloucester. He was ordained in the Diocese of Derby in 2007 and served his curacy in the Bakewell benefice. Before ordination he was a Lay Clerk at Guildford and Durham Cathedrals. He was married to Liz and they have one daughter.

Stephen continued: “We ask that the privacy of John Paul’s family is respected while they are grieving. We will circulate funeral details as soon as they are available.”

*Merciful Father,
hear our prayers and comfort us;
renew our trust in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead;
strengthen our faith
that John Paul and all who have died in the love of Christ
will share in his resurrection.
In Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen*

Worcester Diocese

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March 2025 - Summary of Joint Council minutes

Phil Bradford welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer. There were 14 members present, with apologies from 5 members, including Gilly Maxim who was at Deanery Synod.

Under matters arising, it was reported that an offer has been accepted on Heron Close. The PCC charity has now been deregistered from the Charity Commission.

The Standing Committee agreed the required boiler repairs at St John's (nearly £3,000). Tom is now looking into what our longer term heating options will be. The boiler in the Blakefield complex is also not working properly. Graham suggested requesting a Feoffees grant to cover some of the cost of the boiler work. The roofer is coming back to look at the roof over the office. Some work has been previously approved but it is expected more will need to be done.

The Charity Committee has not met yet.

The Special Services Committee finalised the plan for Easter services and flyers will be printed for this. 22nd June is the St John's Fayre, which will run from 12-4pm, concluding with a Songs of Praise service. There will need to be a discussion about what services need to happen on that morning. On 29th June, there will be a special service, and a bring and share lunch for Gilly's first Eucharist.

The Events Team reported that the Ceilidh sold out and made £236 profit. The next Community Breakfast is on 29th March. Bingo is happening on 16th May. Colin commented on the success of the history talks which have recently had over 100 people attend. At a cost of £4 per person, these are making a good profit.

Letters have been sent to the local schools about the proposed trip to Weston-super-Mare for disadvantaged children. The coach trip to Shrewsbury in April is sold out, and the next one will be to Weston in July.

The latest safeguarding action plan has been shared. Churchwardens confirmed that they are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities and have completed the required training. All elected members of the JC have completed the required safeguarding training. Fiona will follow up with the Bell Captain about the necessary safeguarding training. One further group requires a risk assessment.

Health and Safety: The first aid kits need to be replaced. The risk from drawing pins in the boards by the children's area was raised. Jenny and Charlotte are researching possible alternative noticeboard types. Jenny shared examples of three possible boards types. The prices of suitable

Continued on page 39



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Continued from page 37 boards are £100 to £500. We will see what boards we already have available. Then, depending upon what is needed, spending on such boards was delegated to the standing committee.

The council discussed our 'Vision for the future' looking first at 'Service Pattern, Ministry and Outreach.' Phil reported feeling positive about the growth of children and families work at St John's. He is keen to ensure that we do not neglect vulnerable, elderly, lonely or single people. We need to think about how we reach to these demographics.

Phil asked how we can develop our offer moving forward. Worship and service patterns - Are there other things we could be doing? We must review what we do and not be afraid to stop things which are not working. Discussion touched upon possible services focussed around Bible study; prayer for specific situations; possibly including more of an element of worship in Café Church. Phil reminded everyone that we must not forget the core purpose to exist as a church is prayer and worship and we must not get away from it.

Joy highlighted the importance of talking to new people when they arrive at church. Gordon asked about the mission accompanier. Phil said they are still in contact and will help with the sustainability plan for the church.

We think three children will take communion for the first time on Easter Sunday. The second part of the discussion of our vision for the future was to consider making our buildings fit for purpose.

A document was circulated to all members about possible developments to the buildings - ideas, not things we are necessarily going to do. The list needs to be discussed and prioritised. It may be in the future we need to look at proper feasibility studies, grants and possibly paid fundraisers if we decide we want to undertake a very expensive project. This will be discussed further at the next meeting when people have had a time to consider it.

Philip provided finance reports to the end of January. Allowing for distorting factors, our income and expenditure are broadly in balance. The budget assumes no income from Heron Close but does factor in the costs we have while it is empty. Once Heron Close is sold, the capital money is endowment, so we can only spend the interest. This should be similar to what we were getting in rent without having to worry about the risks associated with renting a property.

There was a discussion about progress on closing the remaining Lloyds bank accounts as we move over to Virgin Money.

Continued on page 41

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In 2024, as a team, we paid 89% of the requested Ministry Share. St John’s and St Michael’s paid their full contributions as previously agreed. St Clement’s did not pay their full portion. They promised £10,000 but only paid £8,000, of which St David’s contributed £2,500. This year the Joint Council (St Michael’s and St John’s) will be paying the equivalent of one parish ministry share, which is £56,000 after LiNC (Lowest Income Communities) funding has been taken into account.

Proposals were agreed:

- To purchase some sacks for secure disposal of confidential office waste.
- To get quotes for nappy and sanitary bins in the toilets at St John’s.

We were given £250 towards the Community Breakfast finances. We have ordered a new toaster.

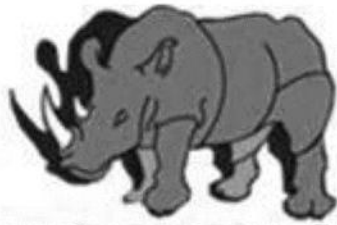
The APCMs this year are 4th May (St Michael’s) and 18th May (St John’s). Reports will be due for these meetings shortly, to be sent to Charlotte.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

*Minutes by Fiona Templeton, JC Secretary
Summarised by Graham Evans, JC member*

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

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



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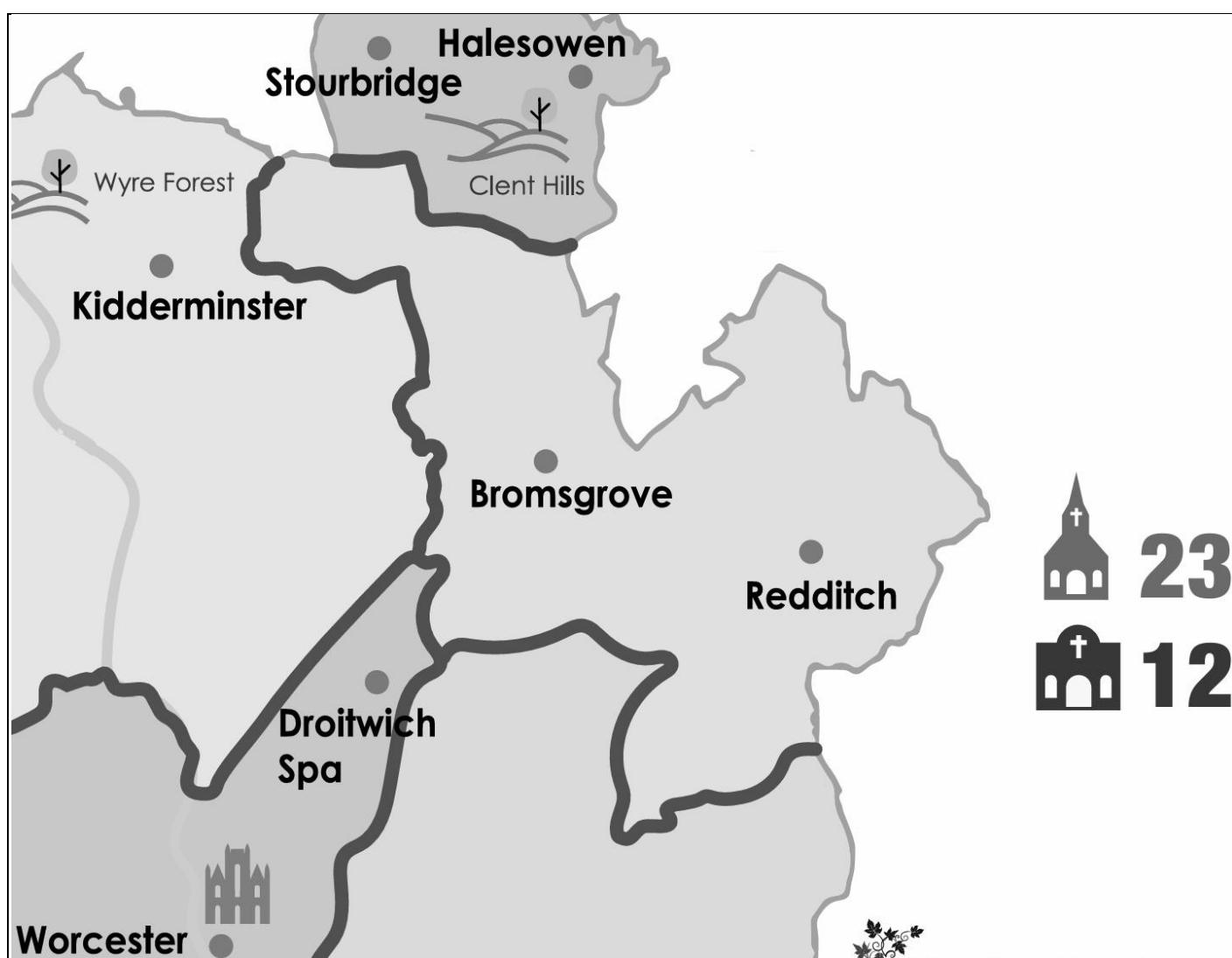
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Let's explore our diocese!

The Editors: Within the Diocese of Worcester 'Statement of Needs 2024' (compiled for the process for appointing Worcester's new bishop) is a page about each of the deaneries in our diocese. We are using this information each month, as space allows, to explore our diocese.

Redditch and Bromsgrove Deanery

Redditch and Bromsgrove are significant urban centres in the Diocese of Worcester. The deanery as a whole serves over 140,000 people with 23 parish churches in areas of varying affluence and social dynamic in urban, suburban and rural contexts.



The symbols show that the deanery has 23 churches and 12 church schools.

We are working and learning collaboratively in mission and ministry to grow as the family of God.

We strive to make our deanery a place which brings our parishes together to promote a culture of sharing ideas and developments and of lifting our horizon beyond the parochial and benefice groups. Our key

Continued on page 45

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Continued from page 43 priority is ‘collaboration’ as we seek to discern how we can work better together to fulfil our mission. We are working for all centres of worship across our area to be healthy sustainable fellowships living out their unique call to be Kingdom People.

The Deanery Chapter includes six full time stipendiary ministers and six self-supporting ministers alongside other active ministers with permission to officiate. Chapter is a relaxed and supportive space where we share in fellowship and prayer and seek to support each other. Our lay members bring valuable experiences and skills to support the life and work of the church and the deanery. Our synod meetings seek to provide information and support and grow relationships.

We have a number of exciting and innovative projects taking place.

In Bromsgrove we are looking to make strategic appointments to allow this part of the deanery to embrace its distinctive identity.

In Redditch we are developing the Redditch Mission Area (RMA). This project seeks to realise the benefits of churches working more collaboratively to enable each to become healthier and more sustainable. We want to provide practical, centrally funded support, enabling our churches to develop their local missional identity, and encouraging people to share in areas of mission which are better done collectively. A recent example of such collaboration was the Christmas toy appeal that brought volunteers together from across the RMA. This successful venture was recognised with an award from the High Sheriff and is a testament of what can be achieved when churches all work together. In addition to this we have a significant, centrally funded, church renewal at St Stephen’s Church in Redditch town centre, where a new Renewal Lead Minister joined in September.

These are exciting times for us as a deanery and diocese.

Fun facts about the Deanery:

- In 1967 Avoncroft Museum was opened to the public following the rescue and reconstruction of a medieval merchant’s house from Bromsgrove, and soon became England’s first open-air museum. It now has over 30 rescued and restored buildings.
- At one time 90% of the world’s needles were manufactured in Redditch and its surrounding areas.



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Library closures

- May Day - Monday 5 May
- Spring Bank Holiday - Monday 26 May

Library opening hours

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

Events at St John's Library

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, fortnightly, every other Thursday (1, 15 & 29 May), 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Readers' Group, first Friday of each month (2 May), 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Crime Film Group, fourth Friday of each month (23 May), 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Photography Group, third Friday of each month (16 May), 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Councillors' Surgeries (Saturday 3 May), 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, St Johns and Bedwardine, on Tuesday 13 May, 10:30am to 11:30am.

More about

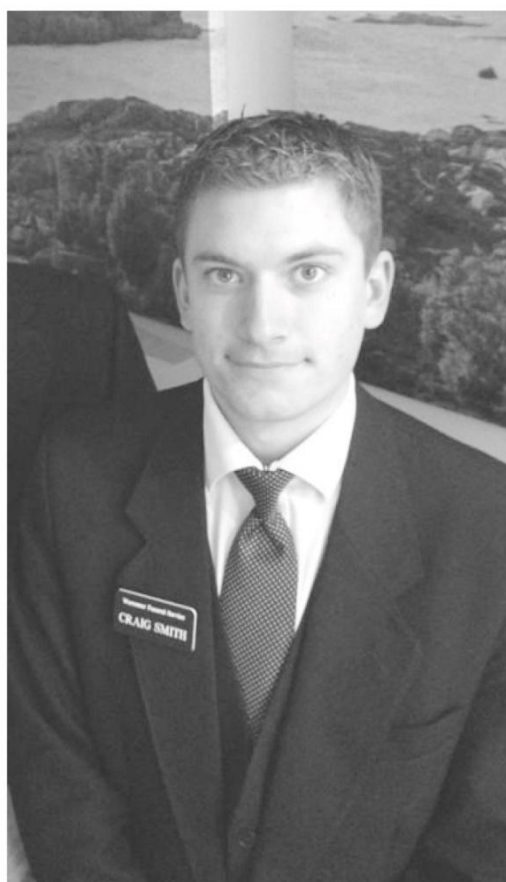
Classic Film Club: Do you enjoy watching classic films, meeting new people and chatting about your favourite films? Join our friendly group of individuals fortnightly in the library.



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Boy Scouts—St. John's "A" Group.

Parents Social. — About 120 parents and friends attended the annual parents evening in the main hall of Pitmaston School, held there because of the lack of facilities at the Scout H.Q. whilst re-building is in process. They were entertained by each section of the Group in turn, with a mixture of songs and sketches, and after refreshments joined heartily in a camp-fire sing-song.

During the evening Thanks Badges were presented to Mrs. Powell and Mrs. Smith for their loyal and devoted service over the six years they have served on the Group Committee.

Easter Camp. Six of the Senior Scouts attended a District Camp at Dormston, and in spite of bitterly cold weather had a most enjoyable time.

Date to remember. The annual Scout Fete will be held in the Christopher Whitehead Girls' School playground on **Saturday, June 20th.** Please give this your continued and generous support.

Girl Guides—St. John's Coy.

Back in the news this month with a warm welcome to four Brownies newly up from the Brownie Pack. They are: Deborah Burrows, Susan Allison, Angela White, Jacqueline Done.

Deborah and Angela are First Class Brownies, and we hope all of them will become First Class Guides.

Congratulations to Marian Morris, now enrolled as a Guide.

The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

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usually from the 4th Sunday of the preceding month).

☐

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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.



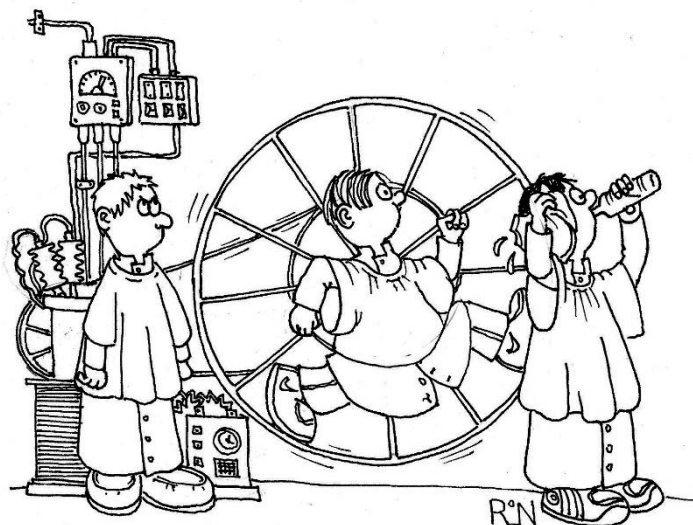
Puzzle solution

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

And finally....

Two cartoons this month as the first one may become dependent on the second!

The theme of this morning's service is... 'Preaching a Gospel of simplicity'



When the solar panels weren't working, there was plan B.

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 2025

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
4th May	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	10am Eucharist followed by APCM
11th May	10.30am All Age Eucharist	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
18th May	10.30am Eucharist followed by APCM		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
25th May	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer (focus on praying about Sudan)	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
1st June	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong		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.