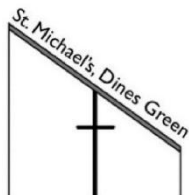




The Parish Magazine

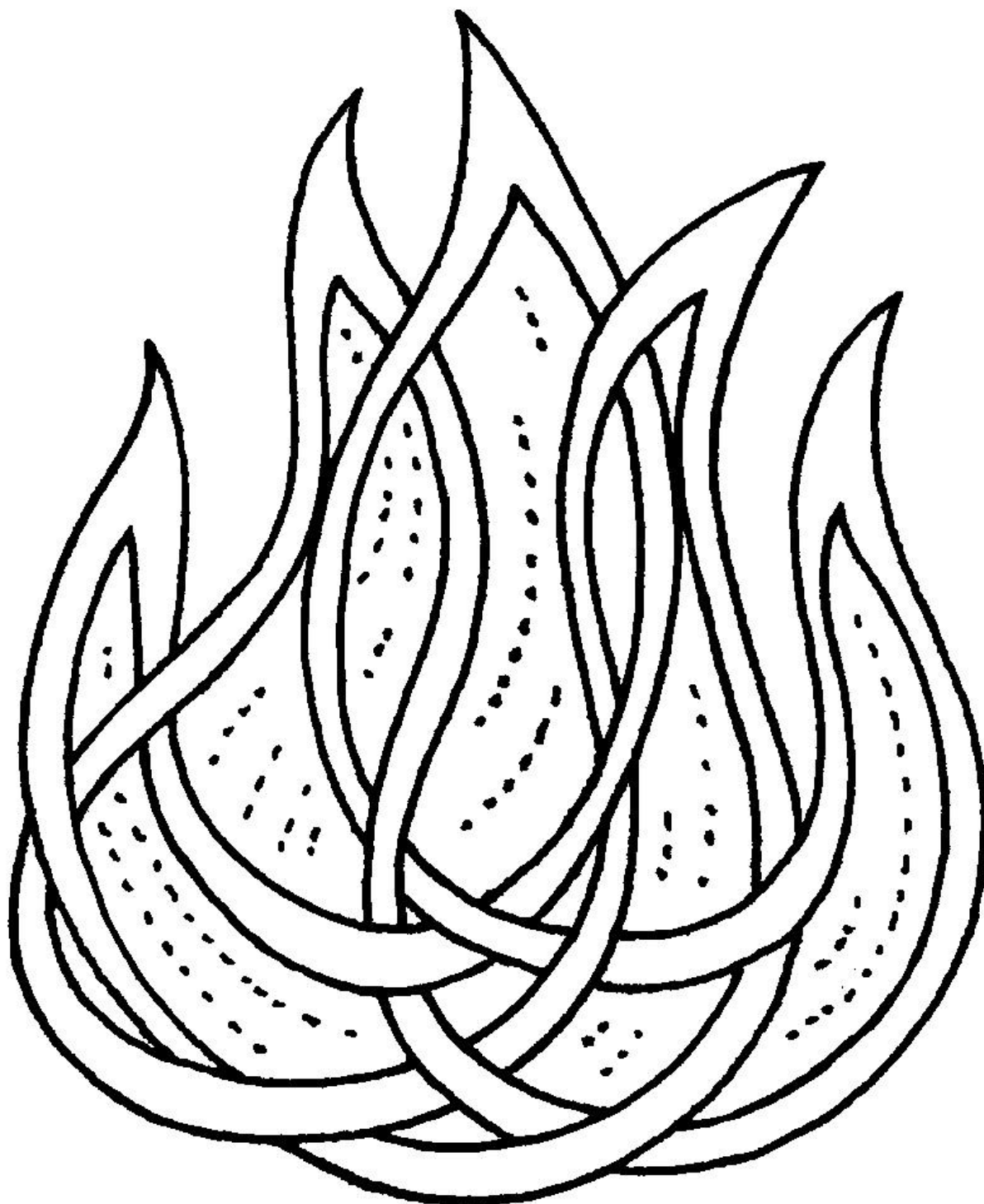
St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



June 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 June 2025 edition. Our theme this month is the collect for Pentecost (which includes “holy fire”).

Phil opens his clergy letter with the Sistine Chapel chimney!

Fittingly for the month which includes Pentecost, June has some noteworthy events. On Sunday 22nd June there is the St John’s Fayre in the churchyard and nearby. The afternoon finishes with Song of Praise at 4pm. See page 7 and posters for more details!

Then the weekend of 28th/29th June is a big one for our curate, Gilly Maxim. On Saturday 28th June, in a service in the Cathedral starting at 2pm, Gilly will be ordained priest. On Sunday 29th June, the 10.30am service at St John’s will be a Team Eucharist, as Gilly presides at the Eucharist for the first time. See page 13 where Phil writes more about this.

In his letter, Phil makes the point that all Christians are called to open themselves to the Holy Spirit to bring about God’s kingdom, so we leave you with the following, a prayer from the confirmation service:

Defend, O Lord, your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom.

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 8th June 2025.

Distribution – towards the end of June.

Subscription form: Page 50.

Cover picture: Pentecost Flames (Parish Pump)

Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Beth Broadway, Sue Fairman, Joy Job, Gilly Maxim, Colin Nash, and Kate Staiger.

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 Phil Bradford

Every decade or two, the world becomes transfixed by a chimney. In the world of 24-hour news cycles and livestreaming, one can watch this chimney in real time, although for around 23 hours and 56 minutes each day nothing will happen. Two or three times a day, smoke will suddenly pour from the chimney, and when it turns white, as it did in the late afternoon of 8th May, the world knows that a new pope has been chosen. At some point within the next hour or so, the cardinal protodeacon will step onto the balcony of St Peter's and inform the world who has been chosen by the cardinals. It is a time of great drama and rejoicing. On this occasion, the man who less than a month ago was Robert Prevost appeared before the globe as the new Pope Leo XIV.



For Roman Catholics, the cardinals do not decide themselves, but are guided to their choice by the Holy Spirit. Non-Catholics might be more sceptical of some of the papal pretensions, not least the unhistorical idea that Peter was the first pope, and sense that the Holy Spirit might be engaged in more of a battle with politics than cardinals care to admit.

Nevertheless, both of the most recent papal elections, of Francis in 2013 and Leo XIV this year, have brought forth men who are in many ways disruptive to the ways of the Roman Catholic Church.

In a world which is increasingly choosing to embrace violence, and rejection of the stranger and refugee, both Francis and Leo have spoken out forcefully in favour of peace and the marginalised. There may be issues on which I disagree strongly with them, not least the role of women, but there is something about the way in which the papacy has gone to men who will stand up to bullies and tyrants of the world which suggests that in some way, the Holy Spirit does move in the process. After all, the Holy Spirit does not simply guide us along in comfortable inaction, but continually disrupts and challenges in ways we cannot predict.

In a rather less international context, later this month Gilly will be ordained priest in Worcester Cathedral. The bishop will lay hands on her head and pray:

*'Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant Gilly
for the office and work of a priest in your Church.'*

Integral to the idea of any ministry, be it priest, deacon, bishop or pope, is the action of the Holy Spirit in guiding and equipping that person to respond to their calling.

I remember fourteen years ago, just before I was ordained priest, that I was struck by a sudden wish that it would all happen in a quick, quiet service in the crypt rather than in front of the whole cathedral. I didn't feel ready or worthy for the immense responsibility about to be entrusted to me.

Yet what I have come to realise is that none of us is ever ready or worthy. To respond to the call of God can be frightening and disruptive, but nevertheless if we are prepared to follow, we will be led to be who we are meant to be, even if that is not always a comfortable or an easy place. We do not invoke the Holy Spirit lightly or in the hope of carrying on as normal. We do so in the knowledge that he will make us who we are called to be rather than who we want to be. For Gilly, it will set her on a path which only God knows where it leads.

But that is the same for all of us as we consider the Pentecost collect that is the theme of this month's magazine. The fire the Spirit ignites in us strengthens our faith to bring love, to revive the church and renew a broken earth. It is an immense and daunting calling, but all Christians are called to open themselves to the Holy Spirit to bring about God's kingdom.

If it is daunting, it is also exciting, for it reminds us that each and every one of us is called just as much as the new Pope Leo XIV, and in our ways we have the power to disrupt and change the world in the ways of justice and peace.

Phil

The Collect for Pentecost

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 2025

St John's

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

6th April 2025 Andrew Jack Charles Thomasson
Ellie Grace Ann Thomasson

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 28th February 2025 Patricia McDonald

d. 26th March 2025 Kathryn Mary Marshall

SERVICES: Communicants 288. Total attendance at all services 759 including 113 at a baptism and a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 54. Total attendance at all services 74.

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled in June:

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

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

<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 9 and 23.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 7th June, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 8 and 24.

Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 12th June, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Medieval Worcester", see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 14th June, 9am: Women's Breakfast, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 19th June, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 16th June, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union. Our annual Strawberry Tea when we invite family members and other guests.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 18th June, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Sunday 22nd June, 12noon - 4pm: St John's Fayre, see below.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 27th June: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 28th June, 10.45am: Café @ 10.45, see page 9.

St John's Fayre

On Sunday 22nd June, we will be having St John's Fayre in the churchyard, King Charles Arcade and the Bull Baiters. It will feature: Dog Show; Stalls; BBQ; Refreshments; Games; Bouncy Castle; Live Entertainment; Tug of War; Arts & Crafts; Re-enactments; Punch & Judy; and more!

The Fayre is supported by: Platform Housing Group; Local City & County Councillors; St John's Church; Worcester City Council; British Red Cross Shop; Worcester Snoozelen; Cruz & Crew pet supplies; and Christopher Whitehead Language College PTA.

The Fayre will conclude with a Songs of Praise service starting at 4pm.

Events at St John's



Saturday 7th June, 4pm.
(doors open 3.30pm with
drinks and biscuits).

“Hannah and Samuel”

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

THE GOOD OLD DAYS PRESENTS DISCOVER HISTORY



MEDIEVAL WORCESTER

THURSDAY 12TH JUNE
1.00PM
ADMISSION £4
INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS



Women's Breakfast Meetings for Friendship and Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on
Saturday 14th June
9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



*St John's Fayre
is on
Sunday 22nd June,
12 noon to 4pm,
followed by
Songs of Praise
at 4pm.*

*See page 7
and posters
for more details*

Events at St John's



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 needs
more volunteers.*

*Please contact
Sue Fairman
(07845 942962)*

*if you would like to attend
(without obligation)
to see what is involved.*

ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

**Open for Tea/Coffee
and Cakes**

Suggested donation £2.00



Wednesday 18th 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
28th June**

Guest Speaker Margaret Rutter

ALL WELCOME



Worcestershire Fencing Ltd.

A local, family-run business, based in the heart of Worcestershire

- ✓ Established 2006
- ✓ Waste Carrier Licence
- ✓ All work guaranteed



Fencing

Domestic & Commercial



Gates

Driveway & Pedestrian



Landscaping

Driveways, Patios, Decking...



Call for a FREE no-obligation quote

Office **01905 887005**

www.worcestershirefencing.co.uk

  @worcestershirefencing



Trustpilot [/review/worcestershirefencing.co.uk](https://www.trustpilot.com/review/worcestershirefencing.co.uk)

Jacksons Fencing
APPROVED INSTALLER

DuraPost
BY BERRYPOLLE
TRAINED INSTALLER



All are welcome

Cafe Church, Saturday 28th June @ 10.45 am. All are welcome to come and share a coffee and Danish with us. Thought for The Day - Margaret Rutter.

Tea and Cake, Wednesday 18th June at 2.45pm. A relaxing afternoon spent with friends, everyone is welcome.

Snoezelen News

Droitwich Rugby Club are holding a fund-raising event for Snoezelen on the weekend of 14th June.

We as a church community have been asked to provide cakes for this event. They would like us to produce tray bakes as they are easier to cut up and also to transport. Tom Amies has said he will collect all the cakes and take them to Droitwich.

Collection of cakes will be on Friday 13th June. Please, if you are willing to support this event, deliver your cake to the Blakefield room on that Friday morning, up until 1pm. Many thanks.

Jenny English

West Worcester Friendship Club

This club is for anybody who lives alone following a bereavement. We meet in St Michael's Church, but are not a "religious" group and all are welcome regardless of their religious views. We aim to provide friendship and company, tea, coffee, cake and a laugh amongst friends, together with the opportunity to talk about loved ones if desired.

Our monthly meetings (on the third Thursday of each month, from 2 till 4pm) offer a varied programme including visiting speakers, quizzes, board games, "just chat" afternoons and twice-yearly parties (at Christmas and our anniversary).

In a break from our "non-religious" tradition, in April we turned our hands to creating Easter gardens. Whilst I don't think our efforts would have won any prizes at a horticultural show, we had a lot of fun creating the gardens!

Our June meeting (19th) sees us celebrating our third anniversary and we will be welcoming the So Ex-Sighted Morris Dancers** to help us celebrate in style.

Please feel free to pass on details of West Worcester Friendship Club – including my contact details – to anybody you feel might benefit from the club. We are a small, friendly group and warmly welcome any newcomers.

Sarah Cottrill

***Google them to find out more about this amazing group of people.*

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.

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

Jeremy Massey Electrics

- ✓ Domestic, Commercial & Industrial
- ✓ All Work Guaranteed, Insured, including indemnity
- ✓ Re-wires and New Builds
- ✓ Additional Sockets, outside and inside
- ✓ Lighting including, Smart, LED, outside and inside
- ✓ Inspection and Testing - including rental properties
- ✓ Armoured cable installation
- ✓ EV Chargers
- ✓ CCTV

Telephone: 01886 888493

Email: masseyjeremar@aol.com



Big step for Gilly on her journey

Time flies, and although it hardly seems a year since I was writing about Gilly preparing to be ordained deacon and join us as curate, we are already at the time for her to be ordained priest.

This will happen in Worcester Cathedral at 2pm on Saturday, 28th June.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and I would encourage all those who can to do so and support her as she begins the next stage of her ministry. Following that, Gilly will then preside at the Eucharist for the first time at St John's at 10.30am on Sunday, 28th June, which will be the only service that day, followed by a chance to celebrate together (watch out for full details nearer the time).

Although she will then be a priest, able to preside at communion, Gilly will continue as curate with us for between eighteen and thirty months, when she will be signed off as an incumbent and be appointed to a parish of her own. While she will be taking more services alone and taking more responsibility, I reiterate what I said last year, that she is not here to fill gaps on rotas. It is important that she continues to work alongside me to prepare her for incumbency, so we will still often be together for services.

It has been a great joy to have Gilly with us, and for me to work with her as a colleague. Do pray for her, and for Piers and the family, at this important time in their life, and also hold in your prayers those who will be ordained alongside her.

Phil Bradford

Sundays and Principal Feasts in June

Sunday 1st June: The seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day)

Sunday 8th June: Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Wednesday 11th June: Barnabas the Apostle

Sunday 15th June: Trinity Sunday

Thursday 19th June: Day of thanksgiving for Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)

Sunday 22nd June: The first Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 24th June: The birth of John the Baptist

Sunday 29th June: Peter and Paul, Apostles

Prayer service

As it would be on the same day as the St John's Fayre and Songs of Praise, the new fourth Sunday Evening Prayer will not take place in June.

Herefordshire and Worcestershire's
friendliest home care and live-in care
provider.



Live-in Care | Visiting Care | Respite | Companionship

Kemble at Home is a multi award-winning,
local, family company providing
OUTSTANDING Live-in Care for people in
Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

www.kembleathome.co.uk

Call Kelly Hennessey-Ford on 01432 382017

Email: kelly.hf@kembleathome.co.uk



JDS

Electrical

**For all your electrical needs
Fully qualified and insured**

JON HALL

07528 183057

jds.electrical@outlook.com



HOSKINS

FUNERALS DIRECT

For Funerals arranged your way, whatever your budget.

Caring for your family, when you need us.

Simple or complex we can help.

Funerals, Traditional and Bespoke,
Celebrations of Life, Direct Cremations

07942 114560 - 24 hrs - It costs nothing to talk

Keeping our prices manageable & helping you beat funeral poverty

Droitwich, Worcester, Pershore, Malvern and between.

CALL NOW TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS - 07942 114560



Hoskins Funerals Direct
129, Astwood Road, Worcester
www.hoskinsfuneralsdirect.co.uk
01905 27862



@HoskinsFuneralsWorcester



DirectHoskins



hoskins-funerals-direct

V.J. Day – 80th celebration at St David's.

For most people, VE Day marked the end of the Second World War. The real end, however, came with victory over Japan on 15th August 1945. At St David's, we feel that it's important to acknowledge those who continued to serve, to die and to wait for news of loved ones right up until the end of hostilities.

We would therefore like to invite you all to join us on Friday August 15th as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day.

We will be holding a short service – outside, weather permitting – at 3pm, moving inside for a “Street party style” tea, serving sandwiches, (as close in content to those eaten in 1945 as possible), jelly and blancmange, hot drinks and a royal toast. We will also have community singing, featuring the songs made popular by Vera Lynn.

Help us create the spirit of the occasion by coming dressed in 1940s fashion or in patriotic red, white and blue!

This is a free event, but there will be a retiring collection in aid of Help 4 Heroes.

No ticket is required, but to help us with catering, please tell either me (426257/email salocot@gmail.com) or Carole (427483) if you are coming. The deadline for this is Wednesday, August 6th.

Sarah Cottrill

St David's Report

Although it seems a while ago, we were very lucky to be able to start our Palm Sunday Service outside for the Blessing of the Palms before the rain started and we then went into church for the remainder of the Service.

Easter Sunday was a better day weather wise, so we started our service inside and went out for the Eucharist, for which Sarah had provided fresh bread which we all dipped into the wine. Thank you, Sarah, for this. After the service everyone was given an Easter Egg to take home.

As usual May's coffee morning was well attended. The next one is on the 4th June. We did have a cleaning morning in church in early May and will be having another very soon. Thank you to all who helped.

Saturday 10th May we had our plant sale. We had a lovely lot of plants, so thank you to those who donated and to those who helped. Sadly, we were down on numbers, but we had a pleasant afternoon all the same.

Carole Stone
Deputy Church Warden

Computer Problems?

We **FIX** computers!

Sales | Service | Support

Worcesters best loved, family run IT company...



Custom build PC's

Gaming PC's

Repairs

Upgrades

Networking

Anti Virus & Security

Home User Support

Business IT & Support



worcester-computers.com

01905 759111



worcester
computers

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

80th Anniversary of VE day - 8th May 2025



8th May marked the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe (although for those fighting in the Far East, it continued until August). With the Royal British Legion, we held a short service of remembrance, including a time of silence, at the St John's war memorial to mark this anniversary of VE Day. It was an opportunity to remember all those who gave their lives in that terrible conflict, and also to pray for peace in our troubled world today.

Phil Bradford

RHINO WINDOWS AND DOORS LTD



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

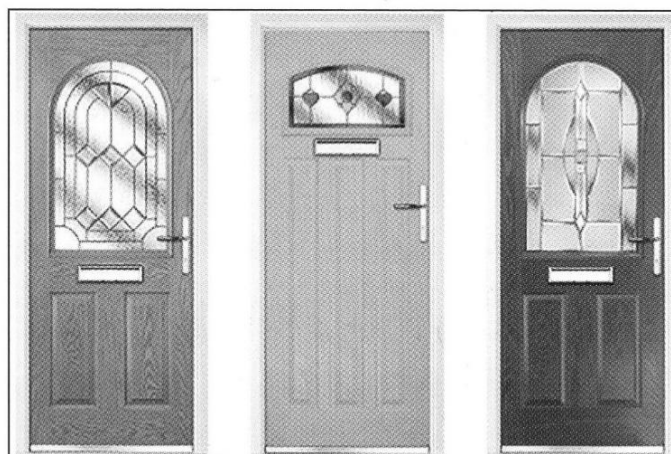
As we have continued to grow and develop our business, we remain committed to complete customer satisfaction.

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

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

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

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



REPLACEMENT WINDOW &
DOOR SPECIALISTS BASED
IN WORCESTER

01684 770437

info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A
FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE



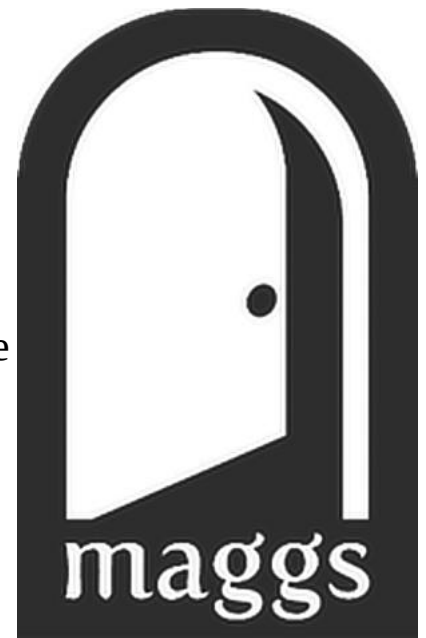
www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

Maggs - 40th birthday

In 2025, Maggs Day Centre celebrates 40 years of compassion; and invites you to be part of the journey.

Many of you will already know and support the work of Maggs Day Centre. This year, Maggs is marking a very special milestone – 40 years of walking alongside people experiencing homelessness in our communities.

Founded in 1985 after the death of John Maggs, a homeless man who died in a derelict building in Worcester, the charity began with a simple but powerful commitment to care for those who are so often overlooked. Thanks to the continued support of churches, volunteers, and local people like you, Maggs has grown into a county-wide service offering not only essential day centre provision but also outreach, harm reduction, a clothing project, and personalised support for those facing complex challenges. In 2024 alone, Maggs supported over 700 individuals – a testament to what we can achieve together.



As part of its 40th Anniversary, Maggs is launching a year of celebration, reflection, and renewed fundraising, with the aim of raising £40,000 to sustain and grow its work into the future. You may already be planning to get involved, and we are so grateful. Whether it is through collections, volunteering, or simply spreading the word, every contribution from your parishes helps us continue our mission.

We're especially thankful for the ongoing generosity and encouragement from the congregation at St John's, whose faithful support has made a real difference to our work over the years.

The celebrations begin with a charity netball tournament in Malvern this June, with further events, community activities, and opportunities to give throughout the year.

From everyone at Maggs, thank you for standing with us. Your continued support helps us offer not only practical help but hope, dignity, and compassion to those who need it most.

To find out more about the 40th anniversary campaign, visit:

www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk/40thanniversary

To donate online, go to: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/27864>

Maggs Day Centre via John Prangnell

Anne

Worcester & Wychavon

bluebird
care®

Expert care.
From Mum's
favourite
armchair.



We're here to give your loved one the support they need, in the place they love.

That's what Home Care is all about. From preparing healthy meals and picking up medication to going on lovely walks in the local park together, our Care Experts will not only put your loved one at ease – they'll help them live the life they want.

See how we can *support you*.

It's good to
be home

Call us for a friendly chat on

01386 764 830

Or email

worcesterandwychavon@
bluebirdcare
.co.uk

*Find
out more*



Prayers for our world

As we pray together this month let us light a candle and watch the flickering flame light up the area around it. If you are praying in a darkened room, watch the light fill the dark corners of your room. Let our prayer fill the dark corners of our world.

Lord you are the light that darkness never conquers. Pour your light into our world, the places, people and countries we pray for. Lord you are the peace, that people need in their lives and that the world is seeking.

We pray today for Ukraine and its people; for families that are split, with partners left to fight for their freedom and women and children living in other countries. We pray for the thousands of children taken into Russia and being indoctrinated with Russian values. We pray for mothers and fathers who seek where the children have gone and their return and for the terrible grief they hold. Let your light Lord shed hope into the hearts of all the grief and pain.

We pray for those who now live under Russian rule in Ukraine. Lord, let your light shine into the hearts and minds of all, to bring peace, healing and hope.

Lord, you are the love that casts out fear, we pray for the children of Gaza. For those who are dying of starvation and lack of medical support. We pray that the blockage of humanitarian aid will cease. We pray for all men, women and children who are being moved from one place to another and who are permanent refugees in their own land, that they may find a safe place to rest.

We pray for a change of heart for all those who influence and control the conflict in and around Gaza. Lord, hear our prayers for love, mercy and compassion for all victims of war in Gaza and the surrounding area.

Lord you are the vine in whom we all abide, that holds your suffering people.

Lord, we know you weep with those who weep, and you rejoice when love and compassion are shown in our world.

We ask Lord for your light to shine into the darkness of people's hearts who seek war and violence. We ask for your love to be with all those who suffer.

We are all branches that are attached to your vine. Keep us faithful in our prayers for the victims in our world and we pray for peace and wisdom to guide all into the way of peace.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer. Amen

Jenny English

Mothers' Union Report

At our June meeting on Monday 16th we shall be holding our Annual Strawberry Tea when we invite family members and other guests.

New Project at HMP Long Lartin. Diocesan Mothers' Union will be starting a new project called 'Keeping in Touch' (K.I.T.) during May. 45% of prisoners lose contact with their families. Initially the project will be undertaking a piece of research to look at the causative factors and identify how the MU can help to improve matters. We are seeking grant funding for a full project to follow this piece of work, which is aimed at a full launch in 2026. During 2025-2026 we will be using creative methods to develop and test ideas so that the affected prisoners enjoy the ideas as well as picking up skills on 'a need to know' basis. We will be seeking assistance for their families hopefully from MU in other dioceses, around the country in the area in which they live. We have gathered a team of senior staff to work with us.

During the last 30 years, our Diocese has made tremendous progress to support Prisoners' family life. This time we are targeting prisoners who have little contact with their families so that we reach out to them to improve their family contact and hopefully improve their literacy skills at the same time.

Jo Dowling

Sudoku Puzzle

© 2013

KrazyDad.com

*The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.*

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



Little Lambs - Help needed

Hello all. We hope you saw our May article. Please think about who you know and spread the word that we have fun and would love some more volunteers. This is an extract from the Annual Parochial church Meeting report that I wrote:

Thank you so much to our volunteers who help us every week and who show such care and commitment in so many ways, such as to prepare and tidy the church, provide delicious refreshments, organise interesting crafts, spend time with our families and so much more. Little Lambs would not be able to run without this support. We would love some more volunteers to come and enjoy the fun with us.



Picture perfect



Name writing

Please contact me on 07845 942962 for more information and to come along for a one-off no obligation visit.

Thank you and blessings

Sue Fairman (lead volunteer) and the Little Lambs team



Where you go, I will go

Starter for 10. This article's title comes from which book of the Bible? Congratulations if you knew the answer is Ruth, which was the theme of May's Messy Church.

The Book of Ruth tells how a young Moabite woman shows extraordinary loyalty to her mother-in-law Naomi after both are widowed. Insisting she stays with Naomi, Ruth moves to Bethlehem with her. While gleaning the fields (collecting leftover crops from fields after harvest), Ruth meets Boaz, a kinsman. Boaz is impressed by Ruth and her devotion, so offers to marry her, providing security and lineage for Naomi and Ruth's family. They went on to become ancestors of King David.

Our dolly peg characters activity had everyone dressing clothes pegs as Ruth, Naomi and Boaz using scraps of material, as we thought about the story. We also created cheerful friendly faces that were attached to pencils reflecting on the importance of friendship, just as Ruth demonstrated to Naomi and Boaz to the women.

Not many pictures were taken at this month's session, but we did capture the moment where the colouring in activity captivated Phil and Philip - they do say it's good for mindfulness! They did allow others to join them though...



And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favour."

The gleaning activity proved particularly popular. Set up was a trough filled with hay where the congregation searched for hidden treats in a "lucky dip" style game. Liz had painstakingly wrapped treats such as spiral crisps in advance, so it was great to see it being enjoyed! Alongside this, we took turns transforming ears of wheat into flour using a pestle and mortar. We also attempted to make musical straw pipes (with mixed results!), with the craft bringing a play on

words to make us think about straws of wheat. These encouraged us to talk about traditional harvest jobs like milling and threshing, as Boaz was in Ruth 3.

Armed with paper, scissors and glue, we had a go at paper weaving, symbolising how our lives are woven together. Similarly Ruth, Naomi and Boaz's lives are woven together with each other, David and Christians who now read their story.

The 'I believe' handprint activity invited everyone to make a painted handprint on a sheet of paper with "I believe in God" written in large letters. This became a colourful sign of loyalty to God, as we reflected on how Ruth's story reminds us to stay faithful in our relationships with both people and God.

During our worship time, we heard the full story of Ruth and reflected on the idea of loyalty and friendship.

The next Messy Church service will be on Saturday 7th June at 4pm (doors open 3.30pm for a cuppa). Our theme will be Hannah and Samuel. We look forward to seeing you there!

Beth Broadway

Easter Joy



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. You can see some pictures of the flowers in the following pages.

Sue Hussell

Easter Joy



As part of a joyous service on Easter Sunday, we admitted the first three children to communion ahead of confirmation.



We had a short act of admittance before The Peace, and they were then first in the congregation to receive.

Each was presented with a suitable Bear Grylls Youth Bible and a certificate to mark the occasion. They had been prepared over the previous months for this special occasion, and it was a real blessing to welcome them to become communicants with us.



As they now enter into the next stage of their Christian journey, please continue to pray for them and give thanks for all they offer as part of our congregation.

Phil Bradford



At the Easter service I was rather excited and more than a little nervous. I was proud when I saw the flower arrangements that I'd helped with. As I walked up the steps to the altar, I knew this was a day worth remembering. I was given a Bible (it has lots of things to help you understand) and a certificate and I went back to my seat in the pew with Mum, Dad, my family and my sister Abi. I joined in with the prayers and went up to Phil to take the blessed bread and wine. I felt ever so special and proud! Others took communion while I waited to take the candles. I knew I would remember this day for ever and ever. And I will.

Matilda Rees

Before the service I was quite excited and a bit nervous too! My grandparents and godparents came, it was very exciting!

Soon, the service began and we carried the candles up to the high altar. As we returned to our seats, I was even more excited than before! In the church I really like how all the surfaces were draped in gold and crimson. On the windows and hanging baskets there were stunning flowers and leaves. Phil, Gilly and Rob all had beautiful robes of gold and crimson. The music from the organ was light, meaningful and happy. We sang joyous hymns and the anthem was just wonderful. The prayers and readings were all about Easter and joy.

Before communion Tom, Tilda and I went up onto the little platform. Phil admitted us to communion. He gave us a Bear Grylls Bible. They were brightly coloured and inside there are boxes that explained why different things happened. We also got a certificate. Soon we had Communion. It was so special! I can't really say what else it felt like, but it was amazing! After we were given cards and it was so special having a special dairy free cake. Then we said goodbye to everyone and went home with our family.



Abigail Rees





All the cakes were swiftly eaten!

Over 110 people turned up to hear Paul Harding talk about Victorian Medicine and Surgery and its links to Worcester. This is the highest number that we have had at one of these talks.

Also, this month we were joined by pupils and staff from a GCSE History group from Christopher Whitehead Language College, who are studying this period in their curriculum.



Paul explained that every time they have built medical care facilities in Worcester, they have never been built large enough for the population at the time.

During Victoria's reign a lot of major changes in medicine occurred. In the early part of her reign most people went to chemist shops selling pills, potions, lotions and preparations. Many of these promised complete cures for all sorts of different ailments. One even included cocaine that was for children's toothache/teething problems, and it 'guaranteed' to relieve the pain and leave a happy child for the parents, or one so high that they did not know about the pain!

BALDWIN'S
WIND & DIGESTIVE
PILLS
CURES
INDIGESTION, DYSPEPSIA, WIND,
PAINS IN THE CHEST AFTER MEALS,
LOSS OF APPETITE,
And Natural Relish for Food,
SOUR BELCHINGS,
HEARTBURN. VOMITING.
Price 6^d & 1/- Per Box

Arsenic was very popular to get rid of rats but also used to get rid of people! Some of the early chemist shops included Steward's and Mr Lea's, who later joined with Mr Perrin to create the sauce and gave up his chemist business.

In the professional area of medicine, they did not believe in all these snake oil treatments. This was because healthcare was not free, and people had to pay so

they were losing business. People would have to make choices, such as ‘Am I going to eat or pay to see a doctor?’



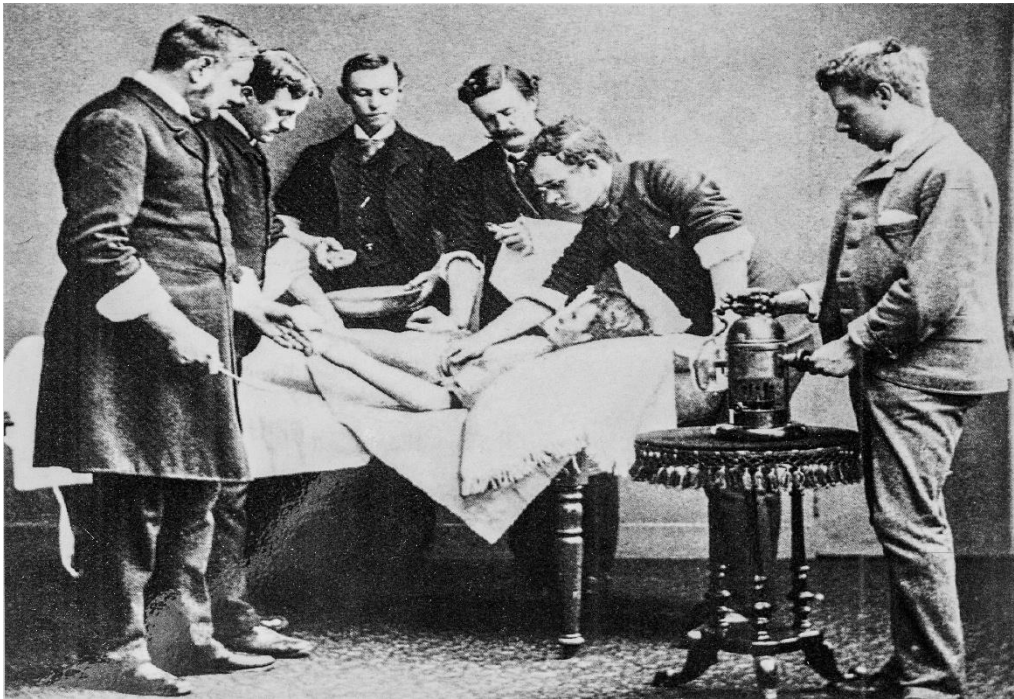
Nearly all doctors were men during early Victorian times, but Elizabeth Anderson, seen here, was very unusual as she was one of the very first female doctors.

Dr Snow investigated the drinking water and discovered that it was full of sewage. Cholera was not associated with water until Dr Snow linked it to dirty water. He mapped the water pumps, and the cases of cholera associated with particular pumps. Sir Charles Hastings looked at similar instances in Worcester and found that the Bull Entry had 44 families living there and only one toilet and one pump. Louis Pasteur was a key person in looking at microscopic things in water etc. that led to illnesses.



Sir Charles Hastings from Worcester was a very important person in improving the health of the population and he linked diseases to particular trades, such as lead poisoning if you worked in the porcelain works or Needler's Rot in the lungs if you worked in the needle factories in Redditch. The latter was caused by breathing in the iron filings from grinding the needles.

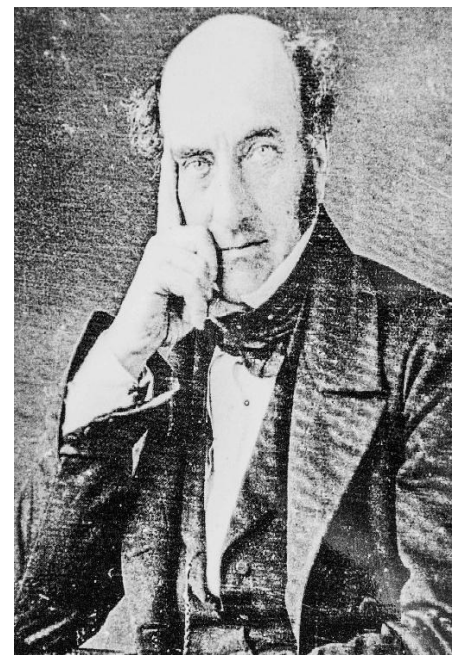
The original Infirmary, built in the late 18th century was quite small and had an entrance up a set of stairs, great for anyone having problems walking! In Victorian times extra wings and buildings were added. When archaeological investigations were done in recent times they found many individual body parts, such as arms and legs, which had been removed during operations. The infirmary was a teaching hospital and after the Anatomy Act of 1832 only bodies from the Workhouse or those executed could be used for students to dissect during teaching. The bodies were taken to the infirmary across the road from the prison to the Infirmary in Castle Street. People complained about this, and a tunnel was built under the street so they could not see the dead bodies being moved.



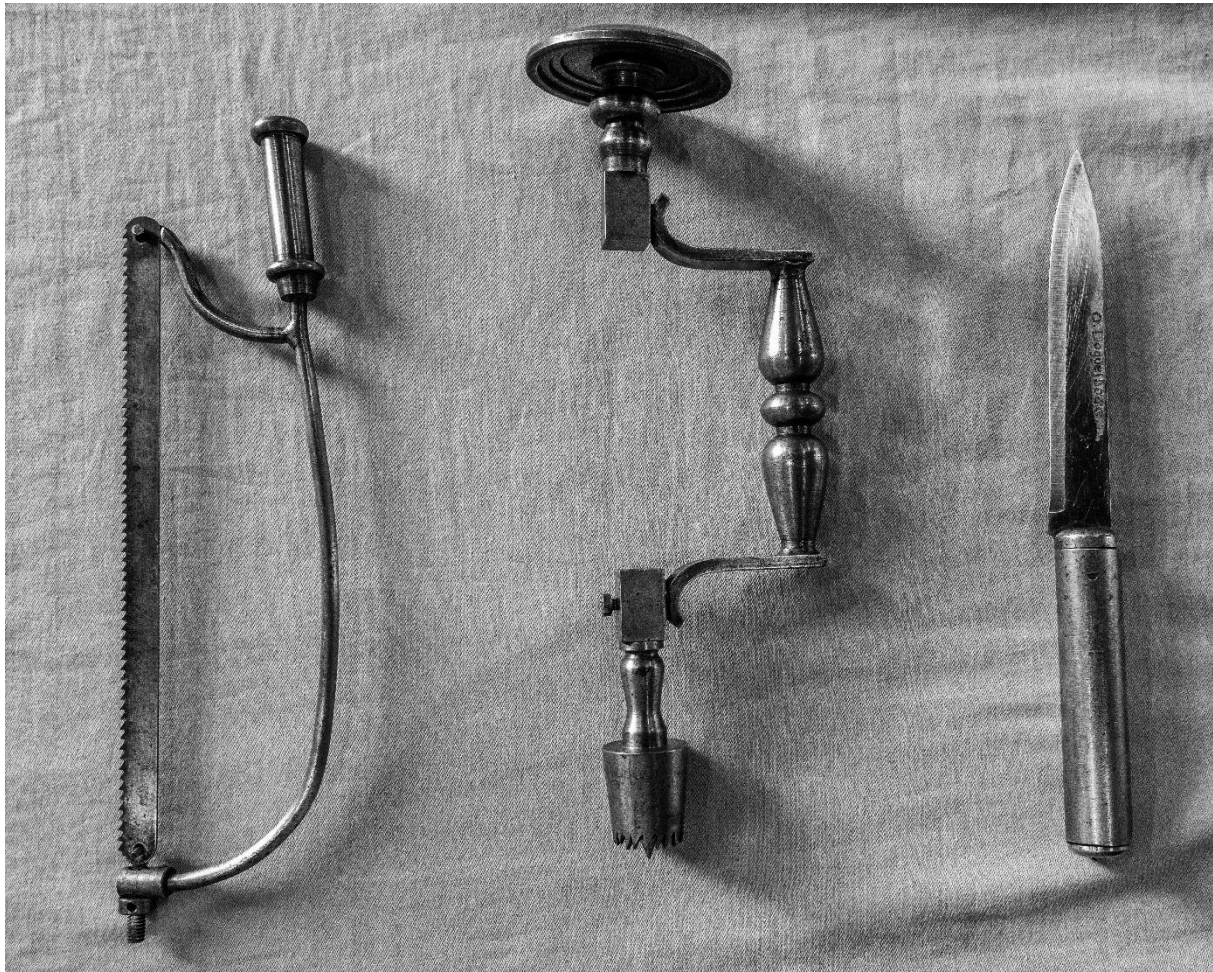
The surgeons would wear an apron, and it was believed that the patient would select their surgeon by picking the one with the bloodiest apron as he was seen to be a skilled and experienced surgeon whereas the one wearing a clean apron would be seen to be inexperienced.

John Lister looked at the conditions under which operations took place and tried to cut down on the infections that would affect people after an operation.

John Liston, seen here, was known as the fastest surgeon and was capable of removing a limb in under a minute. This was needed as there was no anaesthetics available and therefore the operation needs to be done as quickly as possible. He was known to have killed 3 people during his operations.



Various tools were used, such as the hand drill, which was used to drill holes in the skull to relieve pressure. Amputation knives could be straight or curved and originally the curved knife could be used to go round the limb to cut the flesh. Finally, a bone saw would be used to cut the bone to remove the limb.



The blood vessels would be cauterised to help stop the blood flow, these were heated in a fire and applied to the blood vessels. Unfortunately, this killed some of the flesh and often another operation would be required to get rid of the dead flesh. As a result, they moved to tying off the ends of the blood vessels.

Outcomes improved when things started to be cleaned by carbolic soap, and they wore clean clothes for the operations. Also, the introduction of anaesthetics helped as they were able to slow down the operations and take more care instead of trying to do the operation as fast as possible.

In 1832 Sir Charles Hastings started the forerunner of the BMA and the main point of this group was to share information across the country on improvements to surgical procedures.

It does not matter how gory the talk is! All the cakes were swiftly eaten during the break. Our thanks go to the dedicated group of ladies who regularly make cakes for these talks and for other events, such as the monthly Tea and Cakes.

Colin Nash

Dementia Awareness

Spending a day looking at dementia may not be everybody's idea of fun, but it's what I did on the Wednesday of Easter Week. And I'm very glad I did!

Organised by Worcester and District RAFA (Royal Air Forces Association), the day covered symptoms of dementia, how to communicate with someone who has the illness, some reasons why they might act as they do, and what to look for in a care home which claims to be "dementia friendly."

I am very fortunate in that nobody close to me has, to date, displayed symptoms of dementia – although some of the things we were told did lead me to wonder if Mum did, in fact, have the early stages.

Like many with little or no experience of the condition, I thought that an early symptom was loss of short term or recent memory. This can, indeed, be a symptom and the reason for this was explained by the comparison to a bookcase, in which the heavy books on the bottom shelf are the oldest memories, working through to the most recent memories – the lightest books – on the top shelf.

Dementia causes the brain's "bookcase" to wobble and the books on the top shelf will be the first to fall off.

This can explain why someone with dementia may suddenly announce a need to meet their (long grown-up) children from school. The clearest memory they have is of the times when their children were young and needed to be collected from school. It is therefore logical that they feel the urge to do this. The falling of books from the shelf can also explain why a much-loved spouse is unrecognised or a grandchild is mistaken as being the spouse. If recent memories have been lost, the older-looking and grey-haired lady or gentleman will not be recognised as the spouse remembered on the middle shelf of the bookcase. The younger grandchild however, who may be the same age of the spouse when married, triggers that memory and so is identified as being the spouse.

Other symptoms which I had never known about are shuffling and the loss of peripheral vision – and these two are linked. An early symptom of dementia is the loss of peripheral vision. To give an idea of what this is like, make "binoculars" of your hands and try walking around. Your peripheral vision is lost, making walking quite a scary undertaking – and hence the shuffling walk. This loss of peripheral vision also explains why some people with dementia may seem to develop violent tendencies. Again, put on your "binoculars" and ask somebody sitting slightly to the side of you to feed you something with a knife, fork or spoon. All you will see is something – which could easily be a weapon –

coming at you and instinct then says to defend yourself – or lash out! Do this a few times and you are then deemed to be violent and so unwelcome in homes!

Someone with dementia is unlikely to distinguish between surfaces, especially if they are the same or similar colour. This can lead to falls, especially if stepping from a grey pavement into a car with a grey seat and grey floor (something that happened to Mum on several occasions).

Top tips then, for communicating with someone with dementia are:

- Keep calm and be patient.
- Avoid saying “You must remember ... “which will only frustrate and distress them, using instead “Do you remember?”
- Sit opposite, rather than to the side of them, and take their hand to guide them if helping to eat etc. They will then be able to see you and won’t feel threatened.

If you need to find a home for a loved one with dementia, things to be aware of:

Floors that are tiled black and white will confuse somebody with dementia. The black tiles look like holes, and they will try to avoid stepping on them for fear of falling down the hole. In the same way, dark rugs by beds will appear to be holes to be edged round, delaying visits to the bathroom etc.

Bathrooms where all the furniture is white. Somebody with dementia will not be able to tell the difference between all the white items, and in particular may not recognise the toilet seat. This should be of a different, bright colour.

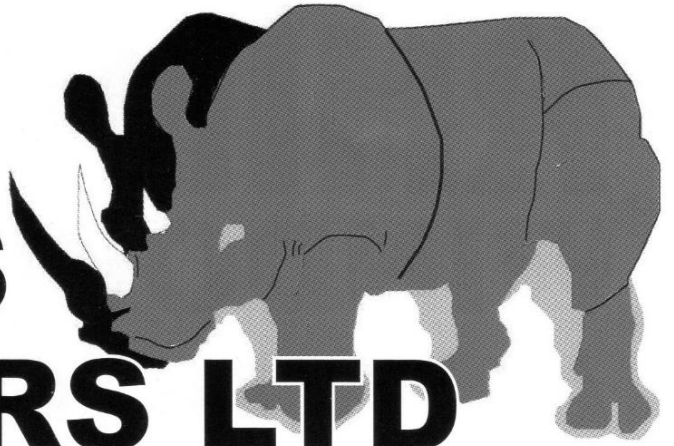
Light switches which blend into the wall. For the same reasons as given above, light switches should have a surround of a different colour, to make them stand out and be easily seen.

Room doors that are all the same. If all the doors to residents’ rooms are the same, it is easy to become confused and enter the wrong room, which can be distressing for both the person making the mistake and the rightful occupant of the room. A much better system is to have “proper front doors” to each room, each painted a different colour or with other distinguishing features.

This is a very brief “Thumb-nail sketch” of what was included in a very full and informative day, but I hope it is of interest and help. The most useful piece of advice we were given though is this: if you think you or a loved one is developing dementia, see a doctor and begin the process of a diagnosis. A diagnosis can take a year to complete and although there is a great deal of help available to dementia patients and their families, none of it can be accessed without a diagnosis. So don’t delay – act today!

Sarah Cottrill

RHINO WINDOWS AND DOORS LTD



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

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

**TELEPHONE:
01684 770437**

info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

REPLACEMENT WINDOW &
DOOR SPECIALISTS BASED
IN WORCESTER

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A
FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE

www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

2025 Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

St Michael's APCM was held on Sunday 4th May, with St John's on 18th 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 (but not the one below) will be trimmed or summarised by the editors.

The Editors

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

Looking back on 2024, I feel very positive about the direction we have taken and the things we have achieved. Having the first Joint Council in the Diocese meant that in many ways we have had to deal with certain teething problems around implementation, and I am especially grateful to Graham and Philip Evans for their tenacity in dealing with both the Diocese and the Charity Commission over these. We are now in a position where much of the initial procedural work has been addressed, and we can begin to look more intensively at our vision and mission as churches in West Worcester. This has only been possible thanks to the willingness of Joint Council members from both churches to make a partnership between our two churches work and find constructive ways of sharing a vision which recognises the different contexts. I am particularly grateful to our four wardens, Gordon, Joy, Mike and Val, for all that they do behind the scenes to help things run smoothly.

In terms of worship, it is very pleasing to see that St John's has largely recovered to its pre-Covid Sunday attendance. We are getting new people joining us, and I sense an energy and enthusiasm in worship that is very heartening. The work Fiona, Amy and others do with Children's Church is excellent, and we have obtained permission from the bishop to admit some children to communion in 2025.

Supported by Liz and Beth's work with Messy Church, I am pleased with how we are engaging with young people and families. Our priority is very much to make everyone feel like this is their church, and for children to be as much a part of our community and worshipping life as anyone else, nurturing the discipleship of those of all ages, and I am delighted with how many people have worked to ensure this shift in culture. I am especially grateful to St Michael's for agreeing to switch one of their Eucharists for a Morning Prayer, to allow the second Sunday at St John's to become an 'All Age' Eucharist from the start of 2025, following a successful trial in October. Now we are making positive advances in this regard, I am mindful that we do not neglect other aspects of our community, especially the isolated, the elderly and those without families. Looking at how we can also minister in this respect will be a priority during 2025.

Continued on page 39



La Fleur Florist

Weddings Funeral Tributes Everyday Flowers
Corporate Flowers Special Occasions
Garden Plants

Victoria Phelps
36 Woodstock Road
Worcester, WR2 5NE
Tel: 01905 421820 or 07842258936
lafleur@hotmail.co.uk
www.lafleurflorist.co.uk

Worcester Chiropractic Clinic

102 Bromyard Road, St Johns, WR2 5DJ

Expert treatment for a range of conditions:

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

01905 428 956

Continued from page 37

While I cannot name everyone, I am grateful to all those who contribute to our worshipping life as servers, readers, intercessors, welcomers, servers of refreshments, flower arrangers, cleaners, or in any other way.

While the midweek communion at St Michael's has continued to do well, the midweek at St John's and the Sunday morning at St Michael's have dwindled in numbers. A further priority will be to look at how St Michael's links into the Dines Green estate and how we can engage more fully in mission in that area, asking questions about new ways we can seek to reach out to people there. The St John's midweek is our only BCP communion and does serve a need for those who do not come to other services, but we always need to keep things under review. Jenny and Margaret continue to run Café Church. The reintroduction of the daily office means that clergy (sometimes joined by laity) are praying in the church daily, including for the parishes now we have updated prayer diaries, and I hope this is a reminder of the centrality of prayer in the life of a church; we will continue to explore new ways to emphasise this.

2024 also saw the formation of a ministry team, encompassing all those, lay and ordained, who have a licence or authorisation to minister in the Team. We meet every six to eight weeks, to pray together, discuss rotas, think about future services and consider our worshipping life and vision. I have found this enormously beneficial, and I think that the way we are working together as a ministry team is extremely positive. Obviously, the main change in 2024 was Gilly joining us as a curate, having been ordained deacon at the end of June. It has been a great joy to have her as a colleague, and I am delighted that she has become such an integral part of our team so quickly. Stephen and Mike have continued to be generous with their time in providing clergy cover and support, and we are pleased to have two new retired clergy, Alan and Richard, who are willing to help as well as be part of our church life. Rob was licensed as a Reader in St John's in September, which was a special occasion for us as a church (city runs and road closures notwithstanding), and while it is sad that we have him for only a short time, it has been a privilege for us to share this journey with him. Graham, Philip, Mike, Jenny and Margaret continue to be generous with their time and gifts as ALMs. One of the things we will be reviewing as a ministry team in 2025 is what new services and ways of reaching out we might consider. We feel that we are in a positive place that allows us to try new things and undertake mission in different ways. It is important not to lose sight of our fundamental role as a place of mission in the community.

Continued on page 41

Safeclean[®]



BY GUARDSMAN

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



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

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

Contact Elliot for a free, no obligation quote

Call: 0808 144 8161 or 07748 328 597

Email: elliot@safeclean.co.uk

Web: www.safeclean-cheltenham.co.uk

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

Continued from page 39

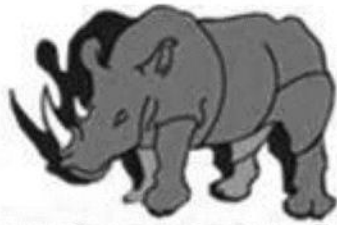
Our aim has been to be a church at the heart of our local community, and it was heartening that we were able to give generously to Maggs in 2024 (being one of their main church supporters), continue to provide support to the Food Bank, and develop links with Snoezelen. The community breakfasts, so capably organised by Jenny, continue to grow and be a great success, and the monthly tea and cake sessions are especially valuable in the winter. The coach trips and The Good Old Days talks are thriving, and in 2025 we plan to have a Fayre in the summer. Our boards at the back of St John's show how much is always happening at St John's, and I would like to pay tribute to all those who make this possible.

Some cautionary notes need to be sounded. The first is about finances. We are just about breaking even financially, and as a Joint Council, St John's and St Michael's is committed to paying Ministry Share equivalent to one full stipendiary priest. We had a good response to the 2024 stewardship campaign. However, the situation is still precarious, not least because we have had several expensive repairs to the office/flat complex and the church boilers at St John's, and the replacement which will ultimately be required will be expensive and complex. While we can currently cover our bills, it is not hard to foresee a scenario where that will become more problematic, and we do not have much scope for more ambitious mission and ministry spending.

The second main worry is volunteer numbers and capacity. This is especially acute at St Michael's, but in certain areas (especially when it comes to financial administration) we are also very stretched at St John's. A lot of people work very hard, but some of those are at or beyond capacity. Without new people taking on some of these roles, we are going to have to look hard at what is manageable and accept that we may have to stop doing some things, however desirable they may be. We must work within the bounds of the possible and be realistic; sometimes difficult choices must be made about what that means.

I will end, though, on a positive note. By the end of 2024, I had been in West Worcester a little over eleven years. We have seen our share of problems and difficulties in that time, but as we enter 2025, I sensed that we are in a good place and that God is guiding us in an exciting direction. That would not have been possible without all of you listening to that call and supporting our response, and I am grateful to all of you who play their part in making St John's and St Michael's what they are.

Phil Bradford



RHINO ROOFING LTD

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



Genuine OAP Discount

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

FREE QUOTATION – CALL US ON 01905831364



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



https://instagram.com/rhino_roofing_ltd/



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



rhinoroofingltd@hotmail.com



BEDWARDINE FUNERAL SERVICES

A COMPLETE & COURTEOUS 24 hr SERVICE

PERSONAL ATTENTION
PRIVATE CHAPEL of REST
MONUMENTAL MASONS

HOME ARRANGEMENTS
DAIMLER FLEET
FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

GOLDEN CHARTER PRE PAYMENT PLAN

01905 748811



*INDEPENDENT & LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS
OFFERING*

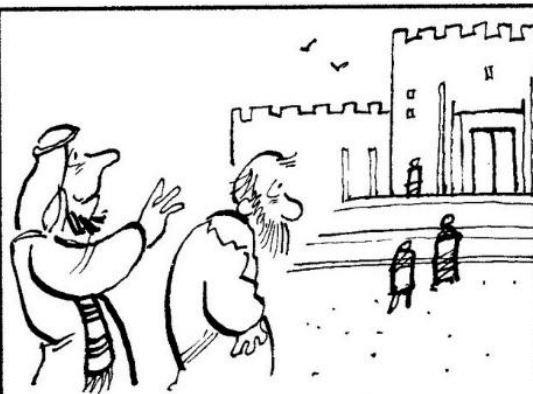
EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

TO THIS COMMUNITY and SURROUNDING AREAS

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

The
Tale of the
**TWO MEN
SAYING
THEIR
PRAYERS**

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO
WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY



ONE WAS A PHARISEE
(A MAN A BIT LIKE A PRIEST)

THE OTHER WAS A TAX
COLLECTOR. (NOT A POPULAR
MAN IN JESUS' DAY!).



THE PHARISEE BEGAN
TO PRAY



WHAT A GREAT CHAP I
AM! I NEVER DO
ANYTHING WRONG!!



I AM SO PLEASED WITH MYSELF,
ESPECIALLY AS I AM NOT A SCOUNDREL,
LIKE THIS TAX COLLECTOR!



BUT THE TAX
COLLECTOR COULDN'T
EVEN RAISE HIS HEAD



DEAR GOD... I AM VERY SORRY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR
ALL THE WRONG THINGS
I HAVE DONE.



IT WAS THE TAX COLLECTOR,
NOT THE PHARISEE, WHOSE
PRAYERS WERE HEARD!



JESUS EXPLAINED -
'DON'T BE PROUD WHEN YOU
PRAY - INSTEAD BE HUMBLE'.



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

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

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

Our award winning services include:

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

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

ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

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 (12 & 26 June), 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Readers' Group, first Friday of each month (6 June), 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Photography Group, third Friday of each month (20 June), 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Councillors' Surgeries, first Saturday of each month (7 June), 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, St Johns and Bedwardine, on Tuesday 3 June, 10:30am to 11:30am.

More about

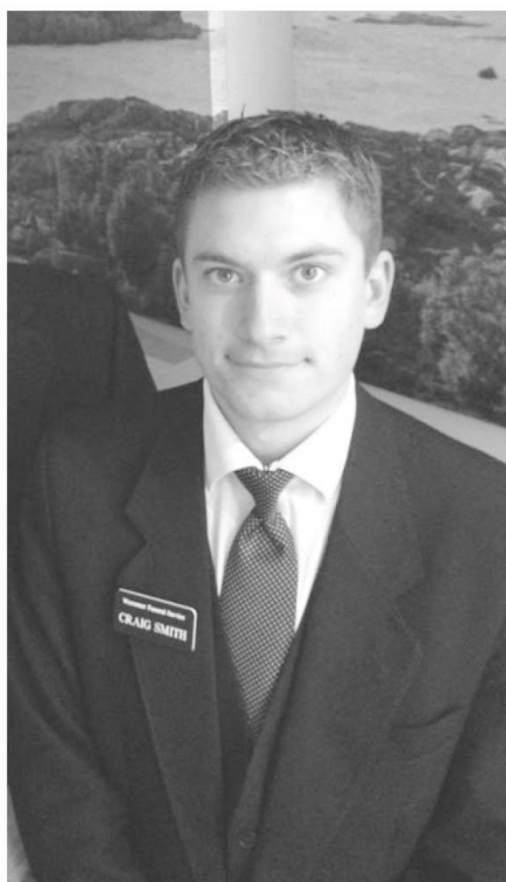
Photography Group: Love photography or want to learn? The photography group is open to anyone who is interested in photography regardless of their photographic experience or ability. Whatever camera you use right down to a phone camera, learn how to use your camera functions and improve your photographs. Monthly projects available to help inspire your creative eye. Booking essential (email sjlib@worcestershire.gov.uk or phone 01905 822722).



Worcester Funeral Service

01905 23499

Independent Family Funeral Directors



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

Golden Charter 
Funeral Plans



Kilbury Drive, Worcester, WR5 2NE

WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk

Other Matters.

(1) Last March an umbrella was by mistake taken from Church. It has a silver band inscribed "George Freeman." It is hoped that it may be returned to 85, Foley Road. (2) The Parish Room Electrical Installation Fund has been increased from £33 2s. 6d. to £35 12s. 6d. by a gift of 10s. from Mr. T. B. Cowley and £2 from St. John's Girl Guides (part profit on Concert). The amount required is £37 15s. (3) Our School Managers have appointed Miss Edith Harwood a teacher in the Infants' School in place of Miss Badger, who has resigned to take up another appointment; and Mrs. Jefferies a teacher in the Boys' School in place of her husband. We are all most sorry that Mr. Jefferies' state of health has caused his retirement, and we earnestly hope that he will soon be much better. (4) The Worcestershire and Districts' Association of Church Bell Ringers rang a peal of Stedman Triples, 5,040 changes, Thurstan's Four Part, in three hours, eight minutes, on Saturday, May 3rd. This is the first peal rung on the bells since their augmentation to eight. The following took part: S. T. Holt, treble, J. J. Jefferies, D. R. Morris, C. G. Bowkett, W. Lewis, T. Lewis, W. Page (conductor), and J. Woodyatt, tenor. (5) The Girl Guides' Concert on Tuesday, May 6th, was a very great success. Hearty congratulations to all concerned. The profit of £5 13s. 10d. has been allocated as follows:—Company Funds, £3 3s. 10d.; Parish Room Electrical Installation, £2; Headquarters Building Fund, 10s. (6) The Rev. F. E. Benison paid me a visit last Tuesday. I was very glad to see how well he was looking, and to hear such good accounts of Mrs. Benison and their children.

The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

☐ Pick up
at
St John's

☐ Pick up
at
St Michael's

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

☐

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

☐

(£23.15) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted. Postage and Packing costs
£18.15 (Large Letter, 2nd class postage is now £1.55)

Your details:

Title:

.....

Forename:

.....

Surname:

.....

Email

address:

.....

Address (including post code):

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

Send your payment in an envelope, or as a cheque made payable to St. Johns Parish Church, with this completed form to The Parish Office, 1A Bromyard Road, Worcester WR2 5BS. **Or, to pay by bank transfer**, please email parishmagazine@wcw.church to give your name and address details, and you will be given a reference number. Then make a bank transfer to the following account:

Account number: 20150628

Sort code: 82-12-08

Account name: WORCESTER ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE AND ST MICHAEL'S JOINT COUNCIL

Please put in the reference number you have been given, as the reference for the recipient.

giftaid it

Please make your money worth 25% more!

Please tick:

- ☐ I want St. John-in-Bedwardine Parish Church to treat the enclosed donation as shown in the Grand Total box above, as a Gift Aid donation.

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

Signed:

Date: / / 20.....

NOTES

1. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
3. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity.
4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.



Puzzle solution

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

And finally....

Before retirement, I taught 6 and 7 year olds at a school in Malvern. One day a child asked ‘When we all go into the hall every morning, why do we always say “Amen” at the end of every prayer? When don’t we ever say “Our ladies”?’

Wendy Dedicott

And, inspired by the sheep theme of last month’s edition....(readers of a sensitive nature should probably look away now!)

How does a sheep wake up in the morning?

With a lamb clock.

Where do sheep go to get their wool cut?

A baa - bers

What do young sheep come to church?

To get baa-ptised.

What is a sheep’s favourite Christmas carol?

All I want for Christmas is ewe.

How do you wish a sheep merry Christmas?

“Fleece Navidad”

Where do sheep go to get educated?

Ewe-niversity

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 2025

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
1st June	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
8th June	10.30am All Age Eucharist with baptism	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
15th May	10.30am Eucharist		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
22nd June	4pm Songs of Praise	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
29th June	10.30am Eucharist	Team Eucharist at St John's		
6th July	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.