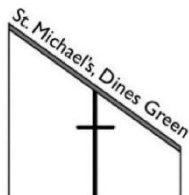




The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



July/August 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 July 2025 edition. We're now into the long march of Trinity. We must admit that we quite like Trinity. It reflects for us the steady application of our faith after the hustle and bustle of Christmas, Lent and Easter. It's time to open our hearts to the riches of God's grace, and seek to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives. See our theme collect on page 5 for the source of those words, and read Sarah's reflections on this collect.

There's a full programme of church activities in July, then many things pause for August - although we are intrigued by "Hymns and Pimms" on 30th August (see page 28). Will the singing be less inhibited by the end??

There are also two new services. See pages 13 and 15 for details!

We leave you with the words of the Post Communion prayer for Trinity 6, to wish you refreshment over the summer, and for God's grace to be in your daily life:

*God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition (September): Deadline is Sunday 10th August 2025. Distribution – towards the end of August.

Subscription form: Page 50.

Cover picture: "Light of the Holy Spirit" created by Graham Evans using Microsoft Copilot.

Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Beth Broadway, Roger Job, Colin Nash, Amy Rees and Sarah Wilkins.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form 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

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things."

So writes St Paul in his letter to the Galatians (5.22-23) and the Collect for Trinity 9 prays for grace to bring forth this fruit, highlighting three - love, joy and peace.



Just as there is no law against such things, neither would many people dispute their desirability for society as a whole, and within the Christian community in particular. But what do we mean when we speak of love, joy and peace?

We all know that words can completely change their meaning according to the context, but we might also be given different definitions depending on where we look. So for example, the Concise Oxford Dictionary focuses chiefly on a romantic definition of love, whilst Compassion International describes it as: "unselfish affection for others; willingness to sacrifice for the well-being of others."

Similarly "Joy" is, according to the dictionary "a vivid emotion of pleasure or extreme gladness" while on YouTube it is described as being "a deep, abiding sense of happiness which transcends circumstances."

For both love and joy it is the second definition which speaks most accurately of how these qualities should appear within a Christian individual or community.

Love is far more than a warm feeling towards a particular person or group of people. Christian love, as modelled by Christ, will always put the needs of others first, sacrificing self-interest for the good of others. This won't always be easy and won't necessarily bring us happiness in the usual sense of the word, but knowing that we are obeying Christ's commandments and following in his way, can bring us the sort of joy spoken of in our second definition of the word: deep, abiding and transcending circumstances.

Once these levels of love and joy are achieved (at least some of the time), we will also find ourselves experiencing the third fruit mentioned in the collect - peace. This is not simply the absence of war or strife for which we all pray. Neither is it freedom from any sort of trouble or sorrow. Rather, it is an inner serenity which can face with courage and fortitude the inevitable ups and downs of life. This peace comes through knowledge of the loving presence of God, and

such knowledge is born from experience, often perhaps painfully won, but of inexpressible value.

So the Christian is to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit and this cannot be done through wishful thinking or even by strenuous efforts. We can only bring forth what we receive and our collect makes clear how we can receive the spiritual fruit - by opening our hearts to the riches of God's grace. Once again, this is not a quick fix, one off occurrence. We all need to spend time practicing being open to God; some will find it harder than others and most of us will experience times when it seems harder to come into his presence than at other times. There may well be times when distractions, or tiredness, make it hard to feel close to God but the good news is: even if we don't feel close to God, God is close to us!

So we practise; we offer ourselves to God and the receiving of his gifts of love, joy and peace, and then we go out and share these gifts in whatever ways we can and with whoever we can. Then, as his Spirit, fills his Church with life and light, so God's Church can be the light and life to his world, shining as a beacon of hope, light, love, joy and peace.

Sarah

The Collect for the ninth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

In Memoriam

Dorothy Lock	3 July 1986
Roy Houghton	5 July 2007
Brenda Tithecott	7 July 1995
Joyce Jones	7 July 1995
William "Bill" Hayler	7 July 2017
Hilary Dawn Clifton	7 July 2019
George Harris	8 July 1999
Reginald H Glover	17 July 2003
Annie Powell	21 July 1993
Frank Miller	24 July 1993
Gladys Maskew	24 July 2000
Myra Houghton	25 July 2000
Mary Louise Keating	10 August 1985
Arthur Leonard Sage	11 August 1990

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, May 2025

St John's

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

24th May 2025 Luke Smith & Emily Pomeroy

SERVICES: Communicants 241. Total attendance at all services 493 including 60 at a wedding.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 61. Total attendance at all services 86 including 10 at a baptism.

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled in July and August:

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

** On the second Thursday of every month this will now be a Eucharist for Wholeness and Healing. Please see Phil's article on page 13 for more information.

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 (7th and 14th July), 10am: Little Lambs, see pages 9 and 28.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 5th July, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 8 and 26. ***
Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 12th July, 9am: Women's Breakfast, see page 8. ***

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 17th July, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Bronze Age Worcester", see page 8. ***

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 16th July, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8. ***

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 17th July, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 21st July, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union, see page 19. ***

--- 000 ---

(V) Thursday 24th July, 7.30pm: Mothers' Union, inaugural evening meeting, see page 19.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 25th July: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 26th July, 10.45am: Café @ 10.45, see page 9. ***

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 21st August, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 22nd August: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday/Sunday 4th/5th October: Scarecrow Festival (see pages 9 & 28).

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 29th November: Community Breakfast.

July entries marked *** have no meeting in August.

Events at St John's



Saturday 5th July, 4pm.
(doors open 3.30pm with
drinks and biscuits).

“Esther”

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



Women's Breakfast Meetings for Friendship and Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on
Saturday 12th July
9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

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Wednesday 16th July
at 2.45pm in the Church
ALL WELCOME

THE GOOD OLD DAYS
PRESENTS

DISCOVER HISTORY



BRONZE AGE WORCESTER

THURSDAY 17th JULY
1.00PM

ADMISSION £4
INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

Events at St John's



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**Toys and Games, Art & Craft, Messy Play,
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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!

St John in Bedwardine



**Join us for Fresh Coffee and
Danish**

'Friendship and Thoughts'

At 10.45am on

**Saturday
26th July**

Guest Speaker Sarah Cottrill

ALL WELCOME

**Last Little Lambs
of this term is on
14th July.**

**Return on
8th September.**

--- 000 ---

Little Lambs needs more volunteers.

**Please contact
Sue Fairman (07845 942962)
if you would like to attend
(without obligation)
to see what is involved.**





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All are welcome

Café Church is on Saturday 26th July starting at 10.45am. Coffee and Danish are served and our Thought for the Day is led by Sarah Cottrill.

Tea and Cake, Wednesday 16th July at 2.45pm. Please do feel free to come along with your friends and share tea and cake, everyone is welcome.

There will be no Tea and Cake or Cafe Church in August.

Date For Your Diary

Community breakfast is on Saturday 29th November. A full English breakfast will be served from 8.30am. This event is open to everyone and is a free event.

Jenny English

VJ Day Service and celebration.

Plans are progressing well for our VJ Day celebration at St David's Church on Friday, August 15th.

A short service at 3pm will be followed by a tea party with community singing.

This is a free event but there will be a collection for Help4Heroes.

To enable us to cater accurately, please let myself or Carole Stone know if you are intending to come. Numbers are needed by August 6th please.

Sarah Cottrill

Sundays and Principal Feasts in July and August

Thursday 3rd July: Thomas the Apostle

Sunday 6th July: The third Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 13th July: The fourth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 20th July: The fifth Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 22nd July: Mary Magdalene

Friday 25th July: James the Apostle

Sunday 27th July: The sixth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 3rd August: The seventh Sunday after Trinity

Wednesday 6th August: The transfiguration of our Lord

Sunday 10th August: The eighth Sunday after Trinity

Friday 15th August: The Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 17th August: The ninth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 24th August: Bartholomew the Apostle (Tenth Sunday after Trinity)

Sunday 31st August: The eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

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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Eucharist for Wholeness and Healing

From July, the 10.30am Eucharist at St Michael's on the second Thursday of every month (10th July, 14th August, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November and 11th December for the rest of 2025) will be a Eucharist for Wholeness and Healing.

As Christians in a broken world, we believe that we are all in need of God's healing, in a spiritual as much as a physical sense. As the theological introduction to the relevant texts in Common Worship says:

Healing, reconciliation and restoration are integral to the good news of Jesus Christ. For this reason prayer for individuals, focused through laying on of hands or anointing with oil, has a proper place within the public prayer of the Church. God's gracious activity of healing is to be seen both as part of the proclaiming of the good news and as an outworking of the presence of the Spirit in the life of the Church.

For those unfamiliar with wholeness and healing within an Anglican context, or who would like to know more, I would encourage you to read the whole of that introduction. See *** below for where it is available online. I would also be very happy to talk to anyone who has questions or concerns about this ministry.

The intention is that this Eucharist is a quiet service at which we can come together to pray for God's healing for ourselves, for others and for our world. Laying on of hands and anointing with oil will be offered, but there is no obligation to come forward if you simply wish to be present. It is not about sudden miracles or replacing the skill of medical professionals, but about placing ourselves and others in the hands of God, seeking his wholeness and peace in our lives. If you are able, do think about giving this service a go. I also recognise that a weekday morning is not the best time for everyone, and depending on how this works, we may look at providing an additional time in future.

Phil Bradford

*** The introduction to Wholeness and Healing is available on the Church of England website. The full address of this item is:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/wholeness-and-healing/wholeness-and> (Yes it does stop there!)

Or try going to <https://www.churchofengland.org>, use the search icon,  and search for "Wholeness and healing"

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Exploring Scripture Together

A three-part series of Evening Prayer with Bible Study

Reading the Bible on our own can be really helpful. Hearing it in church can be inspiring. But there's something different about sitting down with others and talking it through together. That's what this three-part series of Evening Prayer with Bible Study is all about: creating a relaxed, welcoming space where we can share thoughts, ask questions, and learn from one another as we explore Scripture side by side.

A peaceful time of prayer and conversation: We'll meet on the second Sunday of the month at 5.30pm at St John's Church for about an hour - specifically 13th July, 10th August and 14th September - for three special evenings of prayer and reflection. Each session is built within a service of Evening Prayer with time to focus on a Bible reading and explore it together in conversation.

Our Bible study theme will be “**People of the Bible**,” a closer look at some biblical characters. Each month, we'll focus on a different person or people, uncovering their story, struggles, faith, and what we can learn from them today.

13th July: Anna & Simeon - Growing old with God

10th August: A throwaway woman - Redeemed by Christ

14th September: A blind beggar - Seeing Jesus with open eyes

Come to one, two or three: Each session is standalone. There's no pressure to attend them all - just an open invitation to join in with whatever you can.

Refreshments and fellowship: Light refreshments will be served during the Bible study, so while we're reflecting on the Bible reading, you can enjoy a warm drink and a few treats in a relaxed, friendly setting.

Come as you are: Whether you've been reading the Bible for years or are just starting to explore, this is a space for you. So why not give it a try? Bring a friend if you like, bring your questions, and come as you are. We hope you will find....

It's peaceful - a chance to slow down and reflect before the week ahead.

It's thoughtful - we'll dig into Scripture in a way that's real and relevant.

It's welcoming - no experience needed, just curiosity and an open heart.

It's flexible - come to one, two, or all three sessions—whatever works for you.

So, mark your calendar and join us on the **second Sunday of these months at 5.30pm** for an evening of prayer, reflection, and shared discovery. Let's explore Scripture together!

Philip Evans

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The great Saint Clement's walk

One Saint...

Two churches...

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Between the church of Saint Clement's in Worcester, and one of the same name in Rome, there is a distance of 1,246.7 miles. I know this because, in a moment of madness (and I don't think I'd been drinking!) I offered to walk the equivalent distance to raise money for St Clement's Church, Worcester. I suggested starting on my return from holiday on May 19th, aiming to finish on St Clement's day, November 23rd.

That allows me 188 days, so the daily distance is not too daunting; 6.6 miles.

For the first two weeks all went well. By the end of week one I was very slightly ahead of schedule, having covered 46.8 miles. My route took me (virtually) through Pershore, Evesham, Broadway (Fish Hill was a killer!) Bourton-on-the-Hill, Moreton-in-Marsh, Chipping Norton and I was on my way towards Woodstock.

As I "arrive" at each place, I try to discover interesting facts about it, and so I have learned that:

- Pershore Abbey dates back to 681 when land was given to fund a monastery.
- Evesham town centre is prone to floods, the worst recorded being those of 2007.
- Bourton-on-the-Hill has a population of just under 300. Its name derives from the Saxon word Burgh, meaning fort or camp, and ton, for village or settlement.

Week two went equally well, covering another 54.6 miles - well ahead of schedule! This week I "visited":

- Woodstock, which is best known for its connections with Sir Winston Churchill, with his birthplace of Blenheim Palace and his grave at nearby Bladon. Both are well worth a visit.
- Oxford where the Bodleian Library holds a copy of every book ever printed in England since 1662 and visitors can elect to stay in the former Victorian prison, the Malmaison!
- Tetsworth has no post office and "pillars of the community" are listed as being the church, the primary school, the village hall, sports on the green and the village pub!

Then, on June 1st, disaster struck! Putting vanity before sense, I walked, in highly unsuitable shoes, to a Christening in the city centre. Hurrying back for my afternoon service, I twisted my ankle and by the time I got home (now changed

Continued on page 19

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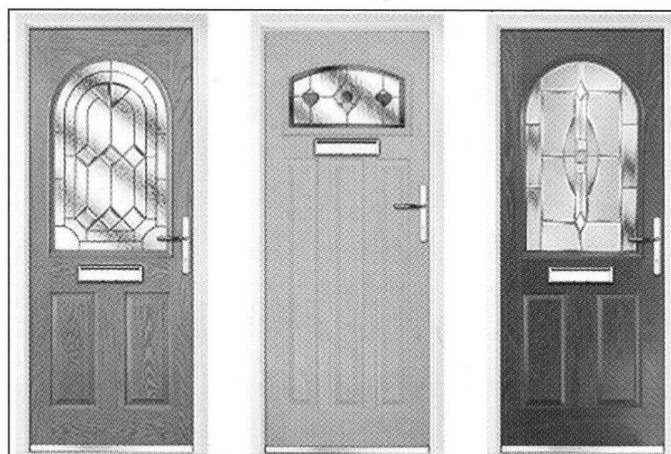
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Continued from page 17

into sensible, flat shoes), I could hardly put foot to floor! June 2nd was spent with my foot up and only 0.5 mile was covered as I hobbled from room to room! Fortunately, as the week progressed, so did my recovery and by the end of the week a much lower but still respectable distance of 23 miles had been covered. Places visited included:

- Beaconsfield which is home to the world's first model village.
- Uxbridge where RAF Uxbridge houses the Battle of Britain bunker.

At the time of writing, (teatime on June 8th) I have covered a total of 128 miles and am approaching Paddington.

Any support - particularly sponsorship- would be greatly appreciated. Forms are available in all four churches or visit our JustGiving page, the link for which is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stclements-church-1>

*Thanks
Sarah Cottrill*

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union will meet at 2.30pm on Monday, July 21st in St Michael's Church. There is no meeting in August.

We are starting a monthly evening meeting for those unable to join us in the afternoon. The first of these will be at my home on Thursday, July 24th at 7.30pm.

We will be looking at ways in which we might support the MU prisons project and anybody is welcome to join us.

Sarah Cottrill

Sudoku Puzzle

© 2013

KrazyDad.com

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

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

Anne

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Prayers for our world

In May, we had our first Evening Prayer for Peace and Justice, with Sudan and South Sudan as our theme. Civil war and violence have devastated these two countries (separate since 2011) over recent decades, yet they rarely attract much attention in the western media. The violence, along with repeated drought, has led to widespread displacement and many being forced to live in refugee camps, as well as famine and hunger for many of the two countries' poor. These are two of the prayers we used at that service to remember the suffering people of the two Sudans:

Heavenly Father, we come to you as the source of all comfort asking that you send your Spirit to surround and uphold the people of Sudan and South Sudan, especially all those who are grieving, all those who are suffering, all those in fear, and all those in captivity.

May the arms of comfort and compassion overwhelm the arms of war.

We come to you as the source of all peace asking that you send your Spirit to strengthen and uphold those pursuing an end to violence, embolden those with a heart for truth and justice, and amplify voices of wisdom and restraint.

May the light of peace and reconciliation, overwhelm the darkness of destruction.

We come to you as the source of all hope, asking that you send your Spirit to bring about a future, where neighbours embrace despite their differences, where love conquers hate, humility surpasses pride, and where forgiveness is treasured as a fundamental strength.

May the hope of a day when weapons of conflict will be transformed into tools of reconciliation be realised soon, so there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away.

Amen.

Heavenly Father, whose son is the Good Shepherd, no refugee is a stranger to you, and no one is ever far from your loving care.

Watch over refugees and the displaced in Sudan and South Sudan, and strengthen all those who travel in fear and live in camps or away from home. Shelter their souls and their bodies, heal the hearts of refugees who have endured unimaginable tragedy and trauma, and comfort them until they may once more know your peace and justice in their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Phil Bradford

Lent lunches

This year's the lent lunches were well attended and thanks to everyone's generosity we are able to send £380 to Juan Carlos and Penny Marcés, our mission partners in Lima, Peru. The donation will be used to support the two communal kitchens they are involved with, Corazón de Jesús (Heart of Jesus) and Señor de los Milagros (Lord of Miracles).

The kitchens are supported on a weekly basis. Corazón de Jesús provides food for about a hundred daily. The meals are collected in buckets or pans and taken home. Señor de los Milagros provides for about eighty people daily. Few eat outside the kitchen and the rest take away. The meals consist of rice, chicken or fish, vegetables and sometimes lentils and beans. There are some very poor people in the areas of the communal kitchens and this meal may be the only food they have for the day.

Thank you for the support for the lent lunches and the generosity of the donations.

Margaret Rutter

New Area Dean

The Bishop has announced the appointment of Revd Kalantha Brewis (Vicar of Hallow) as Area Dean for Worcester Deanery. On her appointment, Kalantha said:

“It's a huge privilege and responsibility to take on the role of Area Dean, and particularly to be doing so as I follow in the steps of Diane Cooksey, who did such an outstanding job.

I am committed to doing everything I can to enable our Deanery to flourish- both its laity and clergy. I want to thank all those who serve as Deanery Synod Reps- your input of time, talent, prayer and energy is invaluable [...]. I am confident that, together, we can grow in holiness and love as a Deanery, showing and sharing the Love of God.”

Discounted insurance

Ecclesiastical Insurance offer a discount of 10% on household insurance to anyone who is a charity worker or volunteer at a registered charity. Minimum premiums apply. Simply quote 'charity worker' on the phone or on your online quote. Go to <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/home-insurance/> or ring 0345 777 3322.

As they say “YMMV” (Your Mileage May Vary); when I looked at our home insurance renewal last year, they were not the best value for us, but I will certainly check them out again this year.

Graham Evans

The doctor and the ill person



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS CALLED MATTHEW - A TAX COLLECTOR TO BE HIS FOLLOWER.

JESUS EVEN WENT TO MATTHEW'S HOME.



THIS SET PEOPLE'S TONGUES WAGGING. THEY THOUGHT JESUS WAS LETTING THE SIDE DOWN!

BUT JESUS EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO TALK TO EVERYONE!

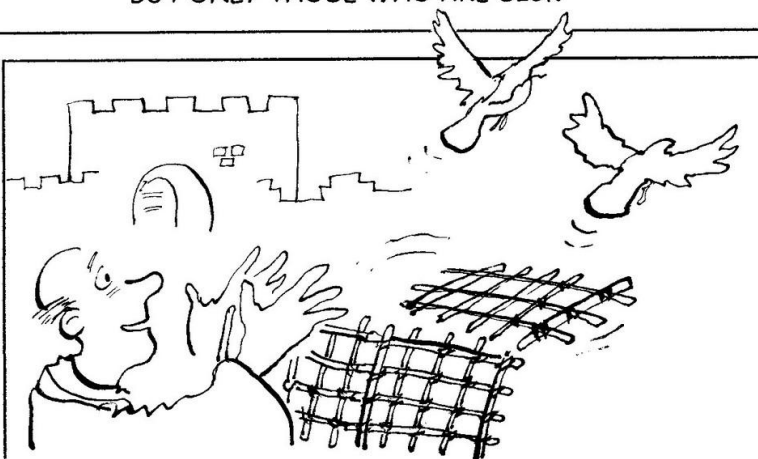


"PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL DO NOT NEED A DOCTOR"



"BUT ONLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK"

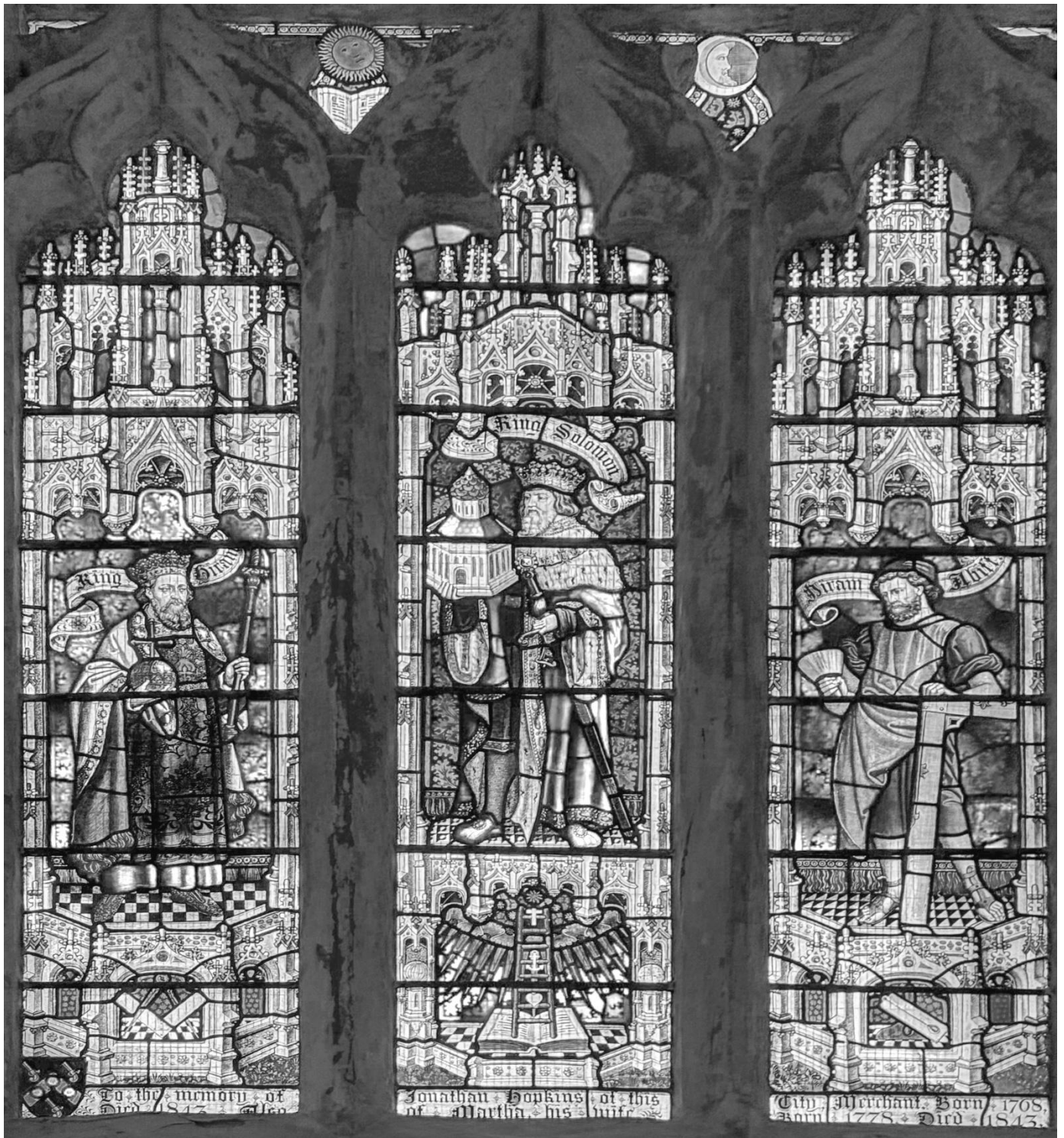
"IT IS KINDNESS THAT GOD WANTS"



"NOT ANIMAL SACRIFICES!" see Matthew Ch. 9 v.9-13

Lady Chapel Stained Glass Window

The beautiful window in our Lady Chapel is dedicated to the memory of Jonathon and Martha Hopkins. Jonathon was a hop and seed merchant whose business was conducted from premises in Quay Street, and later moved to the Hop Market, both in Worcester. He was born in 1768, and although the inscription says he died in 1843, the General Register Office records show that he died in 1844 at the age of 76. The stained glass was made by Burlison & Grylls* at the request of their son J.M. Hopkins, although it was many years later (1889) before it was actually installed.



Jonathon Hopkins was a local Freemason, and the window is full of masonic symbolism. It depicts the First Temple in Jerusalem, or King Solomon's Temple (1 Kings Ch.7), which was completed around 957 BCE. Using allegory, masonic tradition describes Hiram Abiff as chief architect working alongside King Solomon and Hiram King of Tyre. Hiram King of Tyre is depicted on the left with an orb and sceptre, Hiram Abiff is depicted on the right with a maul and square, and King Solomon is in the centre holding a sceptre and a model of the temple.

Below the three figures are symbols which represent the three rulers of a masonic lodge, the master and the two wardens. The square and compasses (left) represent the master, and the plumb rule and level (right) represent the two wardens. The central bottom panel depicts the entrance to the temple with the two great pillars on either side of a black and white mosaic pavement, and Jacob's Ladder resting on an open bible. The ladder is decorated with symbols depicting faith (a heart), hope (an anchor), and charity (a cross).

Jacob's ladder is a metaphor for the ascent of man through virtue, by which it is possible to rise from earth to heaven, by amending and correcting one's habits.

The two small motifs at the top of the window depict the Sun and the Moon. The Sun symbolises man's quest for truth and enlightenment amidst the complexities of life, so signifying mankind's relentless pursuit of knowledge and self-improvement. The Moon symbolizes knowledge, wisdom, and enlightenment.

The heraldic shield at the bottom left of the window depicting a black shield with three red roses on a gold chevron between three gold pistols is the Hopkins family crest, or coat of arms.

Roger Job and Simon Dupernex

With acknowledgement to the Worcestershire Museum of Freemasonry:

*Burlison & Grylls was founded in 1868 by John Burlison and Thomas Grylls and established a reputation for their fine stained glass work, particularly in churches and cathedrals. There is also a local example of their work in the south aisle of the Lady Chapel in Worcester Cathedral. Although the company closed in 1953 after the death of the son Thomas Henry Grylls, they had effectively stopped trading in 1945 when their London premises were bombed with the loss of all records.



We can always pray

June's Messy Church explored the story of Hannah and Samuel, with a particular focus on prayer. Drawn from 1 Samuel, we heard how Hannah prayed for a child and promised to dedicate him to God's service. Her prayers were answered with Samuel, who grew up in the temple. This month's crafts drew particular attention to praying and speaking to God.



On arrival, the congregation got to work creating a tunnel down the central aisle, which was very popular. They used ropes, blankets and groundsheet to build the tunnel before crawling through.

This reflected Samuel's journey through the dark temple when he heard God calling his name, thinking it was Eli speaking to him.



Communication with God was explored further through our phone line activity. The well known, and slightly nostalgic, traditional 'phone' of tin cans linked together with string, helped us think about prayer as simply talking to God, like you might talk to someone on the phone.



Creating blessings boxes from decorated matchboxes filled with printed blessings gave everyone the opportunity to share God's love with others. If desired, congregation members might hand out blessings to others, asking God to give that person good things. Meanwhile, the tuck box



activity, had us putting edible treats in ice cream cones, imagining what Hannah might have brought Samuel during her visits to the temple.

When you're next in St John's church, please do take a look at the current Messy Church board. Everyone was encouraged to draw faces showing different emotions they'd experienced recently. Alongside this, we were asked to paint a mood in a separate activity, painting what we thought a particular mood might look like. These activities reminded us that whatever we're feeling, we can always bring those emotions to God in prayer.

Our prayer hand activity saw everyone drawing around their hands and writing different groups of people to pray for on each finger. The decorated hands became beautiful prayer reminders to take home. The Lego prayers saw some wonderfully creative constructions, as people built whatever they liked to symbolise something or somebody that they would like to pray for. This demonstrated how doing an activity prayerfully, can in itself be a form of prayer.

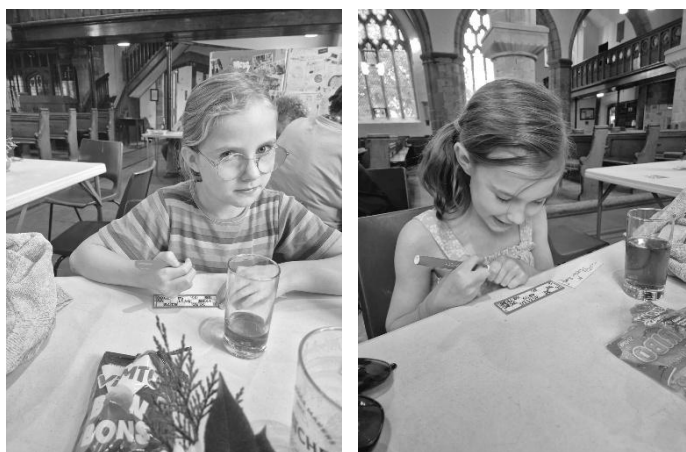
During our worship time, we heard Hannah's full story and reflected on prayer. We talked about how it doesn't matter what mood we're in, or where we are – we can always speak to God and pray.

The next Messy Church service will be on Saturday 5th July at 4pm (doors open 3.30pm for a cuppa) where we will be discovering the story of Esther. There is no Messy Church in August, but we will be back in September!

Beth Broadway

Events Team update

Thank you to those who attended the Bingo Night at St John's on Wednesday 16th May. We hope that you had a great evening and congratulations to all those who won prizes! The evening included a combination of Bingo styles, with a few rounds of traditional bingo, followed by a round where song lyrics were played which featured numbers.



The events team are now 'onto the next' as they say, with more events in the pipeline. On Saturday 30th August, join us for Hymns and Pimms in St John's churchyard, as we sing along to popular hymns while enjoying a glass of Pimms (or non-alcoholic alternative). Don't worry – if it rains, we'll hold the event inside the church!

Also on the way is a Scarecrow Festival! Linked with harvest weekend, anyone in the community is invited to create a scarecrow to display in St John's church on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October. Business and charities are also welcome to join in. Pop in over the Scarecrow Festival weekend to see the marvellous creations and vote for your favourite.

More details about these events will be coming soon, so please look out for more information on the St John's Church noticeboards, in the pew sheet and on Facebook.

Beth Broadway



**Mondays in Term Time at
St John's Church
10:00am to 11.30am**

Summer holidays approaching

The last Little Lambs meeting of this term is on 14th July.

We will return on 8th September.

We wish everyone a happy summer and look forward to seeing you.

Thank you from Sue and us all at Little Lambs.

Sue Fairman (lead volunteer) and the Little Lambs team

Borneo bound



I am now in the middle of my GCSE exams. When they're over, however, I am very much looking forward to embarking on an expedition to Borneo being run by my school.

Borneo is an extraordinary conservation destination, renowned for its rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems. The island is home to some of the world's most endangered species, including the Bornean orangutan, pygmy elephants, and the Sumatran rhinoceros. Vast rainforests, intricate river systems, and towering mountains create a breathtaking landscape that is as varied as it is beautiful.

I love to travel and am fascinated by the culture and geography of other countries. Organised through True Adventure this trip will truly be an adventure. For visitors like me, participating in these activities provides a unique opportunity to witness and contribute to vital conservation work.

My three weeks there from early July begins with time to acclimatise before heading into the heart of Borneo's rainforest, where our team will engage in hands-on conservation efforts. These include tree planting, seed collection, and nursery work, all aimed at restoring and protecting the local ecosystem.

At KOPEL, a community-led conservation initiative, we will contribute directly to re-forestation and biodiversity preservation while also connecting with local communities through shared activities and cultural exchanges. The itinerary then takes us to Sepilok, where we will encounter iconic Bornean wildlife such as orangutans and sun bears, deepening our understanding of species conservation.

The adventure continues with a multi-day jungle trek through primary and secondary forests. Along the way, we will learn jungle survival skills, observe wildlife during night walks, and participate in further forest restoration projects. We'll be sleeping in hammocks! The experience culminates with a marine conservation day, snorkelling among coral reefs and marine life in a protected national park.

I feel very lucky to have the chance to experience this amazing trip. Our group, comprising Year 11 and Lower Sixth students have been working together all year to prepare; we had a training weekend (in Shropshire) in March, and my friends and I have worked together to organise book sales and a sponsored hike to help contribute to our individual fund-raising targets. Should anyone wish to contribute to the fundraising for my trip please get in touch via my father, John Pound via obstantia@icloud.com or donate via this link <https://monzo.me/johnpound>

Thomas Pound

VE Day History Talk

On the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day our talk by Paul Harding, from Discover History, was appropriately about VE Day. The talk followed on from the laying of a wreath by the Royal British Legion at the War Memorial earlier in the day at 11am. Over 70 people turned up to hear the talk.



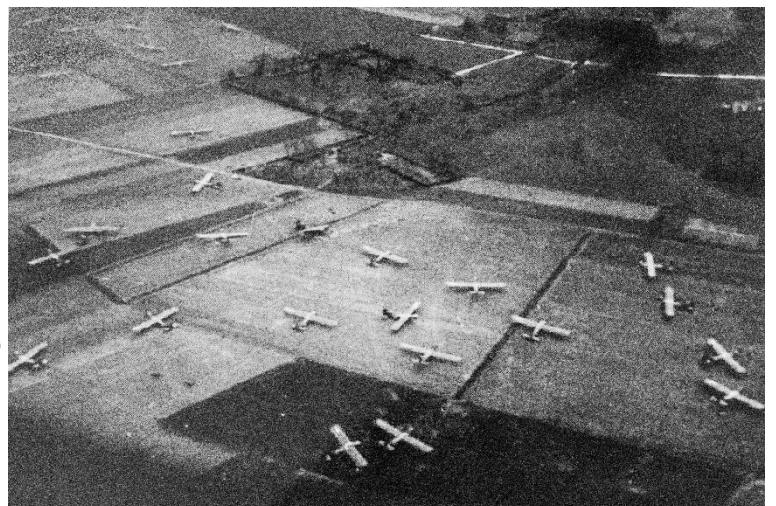
Paul started his talk by explaining what had happened to the local regiments 53rd Worcestershire Yeomanry and the Battalion Worcestershire Regiment following D-Day. The 53rd were pulled back to UK after Normandy but were then redeployed when the Germans tried to counter-attack in Belgium with the Battle of the Bulge. The Worcestershire Regiment continually moved forward and were in sight of Arnhem in support of Operation Market Garden but had a Panzer Division between them and the airborne troops at the bridge.



Following this they prepared to cross the River Rhine; this was a major operation and included the largest ever airborne attack under Operation Varsity. This included 78 gliders that were carrying the Worcestershire Yeomanry.

Unfortunately, many of the gliders did not make the landing zones for various reasons. A massive smoke

screen was deployed on the Allied side of the Rhine and under cover of this they prepared for the attack. The first Yeomanry gun was fired within 15 minutes of landing. Once the Rhine was crossed all forces were told to press east as fast as possible to meet up with the Russian forces who were pushing westwards.





Both Worcestershire regiments reported in their respective war diaries about the horrendous level of destruction they came across in Germany. The towns and villages had been so destroyed that it was difficult to find the roads because of the massive amounts of rubble.



The other hinderance to moving forward was the incredible number of prisoners of war, as many of the Germans wanted to surrender to British/American troops rather than the Russians.

By 4th May both Regiments were at their final locations and the troops were told that Hitler had killed himself, much of the fighting actually stopped then. General Montgomery met with the German High Command on Luneburg Heath to start the discussions about surrender.

The Germans were initially prepared to only surrender the troops in Germany, but General Montgomery said that it would be an unconditional surrender of all German forces wherever they were. This was finally agreed on 7th May and on the 8th May the war in Europe stopped.

With the surrender in Europe people were able to relax more but it would be another 90 days before the war finally ended in Japan. For the troops there was always the possibility that they would be deployed to the Far East to support the war there. The Yeomanry were told to fire a 19-gun salute, but they only had live shells, so they were told to fire out to sea. After the 5th gun it was noticed that there was a rowing boat out at sea, which had 3 Royal Engineers Officers in it who had decided to go fishing now that the fighting had ceased!

Back home the 8th of May was declared Victory in Europe Day and the 8th and 9th were declared as public holidays.



The papers and wireless were full of the announcements and the King and the Prime Minister both spoke to the nation over the wireless. The streets were full of people, many of whom had been out celebrating all night. In the local paper three areas were mentioned as being very busy, the High Street, the Guildhall and The Cross.

Street parties were quickly organised all over the country. A random selection of tables and chairs appeared from the houses and set up in the middle of the roads. Flags and bunting appeared from the houses and decorated the parties. Even though rationing was in place people stockpiled food in the run up to VE



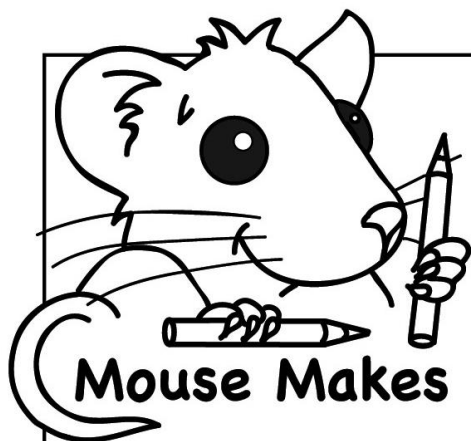
Day as they knew the day was coming but not actually when, so they started to prepare for the day. The bread would be cut very thinly and spread thinly with margarine, which was made from all sorts of fats, or not if they were using jam as that would moisten the bread. Liquid paraffin was also used as a binding agent for cakes, unfortunately this was also a laxative!



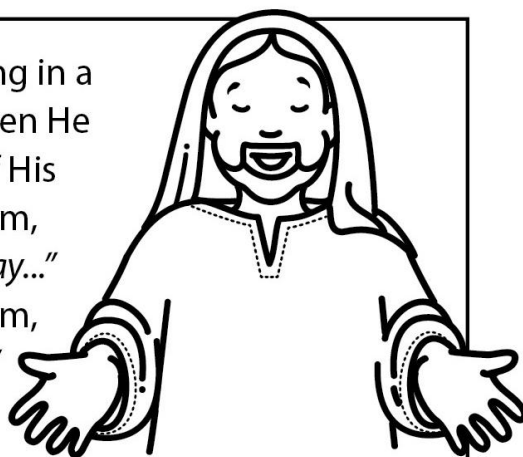
People were overjoyed that they could light up the streets and did not have to put up the blackout curtains. Searchlights and floodlights were used to light up buildings. When they lit up the cathedral there was a loud roar that started outside the cathedral and rippled all along the High Street.

Not everyone was able to fully celebrate as they either had family members listed as missing in action, presumed dead, or in prisoner of war camps, and of course there was still fighting in the Far East. Victory in Japan (VJ) Day would not occur until 3 months later on August 15th. Also, over 70,000 civilian people had died on the home front during the war, and these would have been mourned at this time as well.

Colin Nash



"Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." And He said to them, "When you pray, say..."



Our _____
in _____,
hallowed be your
_____, your
_____ come,
your _____ be done,
on _____ as it is in
_____.

Give us today our daily
_____.
_____ us our
S _____ as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into

_____ but _____
us from _____.

For the kingdom,
the _____ and
the _____ are
yours now and forever.
Amen

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



Fill in the missing words of the Lord's Prayer then find them and these extra words in the word search:

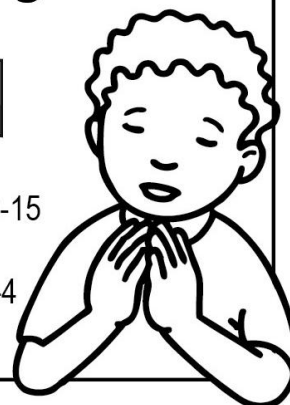
LORD'S PRAYER
DISCIPLES
JESUS
GOD
WORLD
NEEDS
FORGIVENESS
TRESPASSES
PROTECTION
REPENTANCE



The versions of **The Lord's Prayer** we say today come from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.
Which version do you use in your church?



Read
Matthew 6:9-15
and
Luke 11:1-4



“Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church”

In addition to being the start of the Trinity 9 collect, the above words also reflect a cruciform element in the Holy Rosary, which some of us are reciting in this month of June, and that we shall meet again in the month of October when that month of the Rosary arrives.

Many Christians use this form of contemplative prayer throughout the year with a different focus on saints' days and other special seasons of the church's year. Most elements of the Rosary are prayers, sentences, psalm extracts, and biblical texts that have special meaning for us in each season - but that we may also find in our daily or weekly services.

You may know that the recital of the Rosary follows a set of beads which are grouped into sections, separated by a single bead (as a marker), and which begins (and ends) with a cross or crucifix which may have 3 beads attached.

The sequence of beads with the Anglican Rosary is as follows:

Cross
Invitatory
Cruciform 1
Week Beads (7)
Cruciform 2
Week Beads
Cruciform 3
Week Beads
Cruciform 4
Week Beads
Dismissory
Cross

The meaning and symbolism in this sequence is ably explained by Jenny Lynn Estes in her book: *The Anglican Rosary*. For a deeper explanation of how the Rosary relates to the seasons and festivals, and prayers in daily life, another book is: *Praying the Anglican Rosary* by William Ingle-Gillis.

It is worth noting that use of the Rosary can reflect the daily offices of Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline.

Interested? Want to know more? I am always happy to help!

Arthur Miller

29th August - Beheading of St John the Baptist

This year at St John's we will be celebrating our patronal festival on 31st August, marking the beheading of John the Baptist. This is the nearest Sunday to 29th August, the actual set date of the festival.

Usually we celebrate our patronal on the Sunday nearest 24th June (the festival of the birth of John the Baptist), but that would have been on 22nd June and would have been tricky to fit in on the date of the St John's Fayre.

Handy to have a choice!

You can read the main accounts of the imprisonment of John and his beheading in Matthew 14.1-12 and Mark 6.14-29.

Here is what Parish Pump says about John the Baptist:

Spare a thought for John the Baptist: however rough your local sandwich bar may be, it probably doesn't serve you locusts with a honey dip; you won't be imprisoned for saying derogatory things about the local MP's wife, and even the boss from hell is unlikely to have a daughter who wants to hip-hop about with your head on a platter.

John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique job God gave him to do, which has to be the best PR job of all time: act as God's press officer.

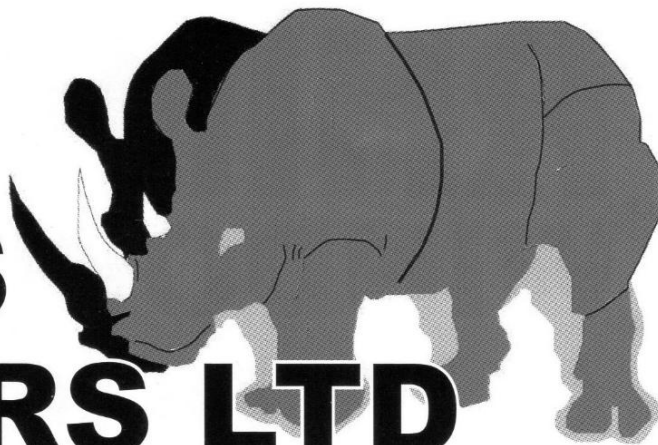
This was quite literally the PR job from heaven: with God as his client, John the Baptist's job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever attempted anything like that.

It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised him in the Jordan at the start of his ministry.

PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even the most dedicated press officers literally lose their heads over a client.

Grahm Evans / Parish Pump

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Joint Council (JC) meetings

The Joint Council held a short meeting on 11th May 2025 to give specific minuted approvals required for the sale process of Heron Close. Rental of car parking spaces at St John's was also raised. It was agreed that we would lease a maximum of six spaces (giving us one back on the previous arrangement).

4th June 2025 - Summary of the minutes

Phil Bradford welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 13 members present, with apologies from 2 members. Officer and the Standing Committee were appointed: Lay Vice Chair, Colin Nash; Secretary, Fiona Templeton; Treasurer, no candidate, so the position remains vacant; Electoral Roll Officers, Graham (St John's), Jenny Claydon (St Michael's). Membership of the Standing Committee was confirmed.

The ministry team continues to meet and discuss services and rota patterns.

The JC confirmed the membership of its committees for 2025-26 (Finance, Accommodation, Special Services, Events and Charity). The Accommodation committee reported on work on the Parish Office roof, the Heron Close sale, the car park and provision of a loudspeaker in the Blakefield Room during services. The Special Services committee reported on feedback from Christmas and Easter services and planning for Harvest/Scarecrow Festival weekend. The Events Committee reported on recent events and forward planning. The Charity Committee has not met, so the JC confirmed some planned giving (£500 to Maggs, £500 to Snoezelen and £750 (already agreed) for the children's coach trip to Weston.

The safeguarding action plan and action summary were circulated ahead of the meeting. Phil explained that there is a welcome move from the diocese towards making the dashboard more about the church's culture rather than simply a 'tick box' exercise.

Under Health and Safety it was noted that the lone worker policy needs to be reviewed. This will be done by email.

The office computers need replacing. A budget of £1250 was agreed to do this.

The problems with the sound system at St John's were discussed at some length. We need to understand exactly what we want from the sound system and get expert input on what to do. There was a discussion about 'making our buildings fit for the 21st Century,' reviewing and prioritising some of the things we could do. At St John's, a couple of items were considered

Continued on page 39



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Continued from page 37 'operational' and will be dealt with now (provision of more mugs; improvement to the Blakefield toilets, including provision of sanitary bins). A list for St Michael's was also looked at.

The lack of volunteers for Little Lambs was discussed.

Under finance, it was reported that the organ needs some expensive work (the wind reservoirs are leaking badly and need to be renewed). The cost is £32,000 including VAT, although it may be possible to claim the VAT back.

Financial reports and reporting for 2024 are being dealt with. It was noted that we do not have a Treasurer so the JC needs to consider what will happen for 2025 reports when the time comes. The Joint Council paid 100% of its Ministry Share last year and is on course to do the same again this year.

The Tidy Up Day in March worked well and was a good community event. One approximately every six months was suggested with the next after the scarecrow festival.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

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

Reports to 2025 Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

Last month we printed in full the Team Rector's Report to the APCMs. This month we have some brief highlights from the other reports to the APCMs.

Joint Council (JC): 2024 was the second year of the JC, which met 6 times. A summary of the minutes of each meeting is placed on the main church noticeboard and published in the magazine. The JC Standing Committee can act for the JC between JC meetings and is explicitly delegated to carry out the employment and landlord responsibilities of the JC.

Electoral Roll reports: In 2025 the Electoral Rolls were re-compiled from scratch. St Michael's now has 23 on the roll (28 previously) and St John's now has 89 (previously 107).

Communications: We use a range of media to communicate, including weekly pew sheets, the monthly Parish Magazine and online we use Facebook, the website A Church Near You and the St John's Church website. At St John's, banners attached to the railing remain very effective!

Continued on page 41

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St Michael's Churchwardens: The Service Pattern for St Michael's has worked well during the past 12 months, with all scheduled services covered. There has been a steady number in the weekly and mid-week congregations. There are always willing volunteers for readings and intercessions, for which we are very grateful. No additions have been made to the fixtures/fittings. The fabric of the building is in good order. All vestments and altar cloths and linen are in good condition.

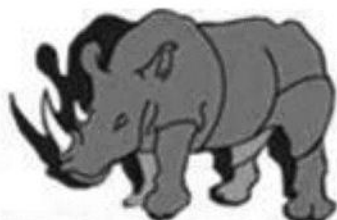
St John's Churchwardens: There has been no change to the inventory of church ornaments. Estates Manager, Tom Amies, in his first year in the role, has done sterling, proactive work to ensure that our buildings are maintained in good order. He took over management of our flat and Heron Close properties from the estate agents giving a significant cost saving. Following a Joint Council decision, the sale of the Heron Close house is underway; the resulting proceeds will be placed in a trust fund for the future benefit of the church.

Deanery Synod met three times in the past year. The first Synod was an opportunity to meet the new Archdeacon, Mark Badger. He encouraged us to think about mission with a particular focus on engaging with people moving into new housing developments but also thinking about how we connect with new people moving into existing homes in our parishes. The second meeting had a focus on financial challenges with treasurers invited. The third meeting looked at New Worshipping Communities and the 'Church and School Partnership Award' in our Diocese.

Safeguarding Report: The safeguarding team has met at regular intervals throughout the year and has made good progress working through the Safeguarding Dashboard.

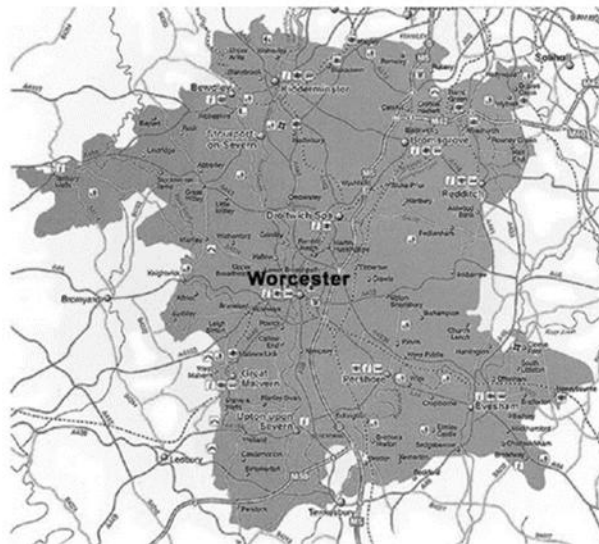
Parish Magazine: There are no major changes to report about the Parish Magazine, the magazine for St John's and St Michael's. Our monthly print run is currently 150, with about 110 subscriptions and the remainder going through sales at the churches. Financially, the magazine (through sales and advertising) more than covers its costs and makes a net contribution to the churches' income. The magazine is a valuable form of outreach and communication to the church family.

Events Team Report 2025 (St J): The last year has been even more successful for the team with the audiences to the History Talks, by Paul Harding from Discover History, reaching up to 100 people. The team organised several coach trips each with an almost full coach. The Events Team gained new members in mid-2024, to begin running a programme of larger events. *Continued on page 43*



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Continued from page 41

They brought a bouncy castle to the Summer Barbecue, ran a fun family quiz in November and organised a sell-out Burns Night Ceilidh. The team is busy planning more events for 2025 and beyond.

Flower arranging (St J): The well-established pattern of the flower team continues, meeting on Friday mornings except during Advent and Lent. The team has adjusted now to the alternative methods of arranging, inter alia using wire netting, pebbles, sand etc. The support and encouragement we receive from all quarters continues to spur us on.

Organist & Choirmaster (St J): Music continues to play an important part in our worship. The choir provides a lead and support to the congregational singing whilst offering choral music in worship. I am always delighted to hear from singers interested in joining the choir.

Music Group (St J): With a few interruptions, the Music Group continued its mission to provide the musical ministry whenever requested. Our pattern is now focussed on the second Sunday at St John's and the third Sunday at St David's, with other services from time to time on other occasions (and 'Feasts') and other places too.

Bellringers Report (St J): Another great year with two new young ringers starting who are doing really well. We even saw Gilly up the tower one night having a good go. The Worcestershire Youths (including three St John's ringers) will be entering a team in the National Youth competition in the summer. We hope to put a St John's band in for the striking competition this year which will be held at Croome D'Abitot.

Women's Breakfast (St J): This continues on the second Saturday morning of the month from 9am to 11am in the Blakefield Room at St John's. Women from across the group of churches and friends from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church attend. Lay and clergy speakers have given interesting talks which have inspired and encouraged us on our Christian journey.

Cafe@10.45 (St J): The timing of Cafe Church altered a little during 2024 and we now start at 10.45am. It is a good way of having a break from your routine and stopping for coffee and Danish. Everyone is welcome. During the year we had some very interesting Thoughts for the Day all of which made us reflect on God's presence in our world and how we are all affected by His presence with us.

Community Breakfast (St J): During 2024 we held two community breakfasts, serving 262 people between them. Thank you to everyone who makes it possible. This event, which is free, has always covered the costs, with all the generous donations.

Continued on page 45

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Children's Church (St J): We have a regular group of primary school age children. Their sessions usually feature a Bible story with an associated craft. Three of our older children were admitted to communion (before confirmation). We are delighted to see their personal faith growing and developing. We have a growing number of babies and toddlers in church; we are looking at the provision we can put in place for them to enjoy.

Little Lambs (St J): A very popular and happy church playgroup with a warm and welcoming atmosphere for 0 to 4 year olds and their parents/carers. It is an important part of our outreach for the community and has been running for over 10 years. We vary what we offer each week to keep it interesting and engaging. We would love some more volunteers to come and enjoy the fun with us.

Messy Church (St J): Numbers are steady at between 30-40 people each time, and both children and adults enjoy the range of activities available. We welcome both those who would be familiar to the Sunday congregation, and those who do not normally come on a Sunday.

Estates Manager: For St Michael's, dealt with the landlord, to get the guttering on the West side of the building replaced. For St John's, there has been a wide range of activity including:

- Dealing with power issues for the Blakefield kitchen.
- Roof repairs after storm Darragh.
- Repairs to the main church boiler and other boilers (all three gas boilers are now between 9 and 19 years old).
- Various testing, monitoring and safety checks (PAT, boilers, bell and bell tower, monitoring of cracks in the structure, lightning conductor).
- Internal and external maintenance and repairs to the flat, the office and the Heron Close property. Also the sale process for Heron Close.
- Removal of church flagpole, which was in a dangerous condition.
- Energy survey.

Churchyard: We continue to have a small core group of volunteers who meet each week, weather permitting, to keep the churchyard looking as good as we can for all users of the area. The last year has been very much about maintaining the areas that we have created, such as the Rose Garden, Wildflower Meadow and the wildflower area. The salvia border that we created last year has gone from strength to strength and is now well established.

The End!



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*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
Bank holiday closure:	Monday 25th August

Events at St John's Library

Weekly events:

- Creative Tales, weekly every Monday, 3:30pm to 4:15pm (not 25 August)
- 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.
- LEGO Club, weekly every Saturday, 11:00am to 12:00pm.

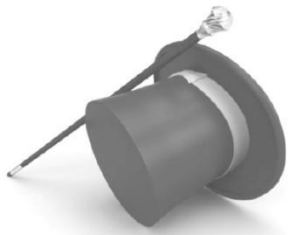
Other regular events:

- Classic Film Club, Thursday 10 & 24 July, 7 & 21 August, 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Film Group: Friday 25 July, 22 August, 12.00pm to 1.30pm
- Crime Readers' Group: Friday 4 July & 1 August, 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Photography Group: Friday 18 July & 15 August, 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Councillors' Surgeries: Saturday 5 July & 2 August, 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, St Johns and Bedwardine, on Tuesday 22 July & 12 August, 10:30am to 11:30am.

More about....

Creative Tales: Join us every Monday at 3:30pm for our Creative Tales story session. Each week we will be reading a story and doing an activity based on the book. Suitable for ages 3+, children must be accompanied by an adult. No booking required. Excluding bank holidays.

Get School Ready! (11th July, 11:30am to 12:00pm) Want to build your child's confidence and enhance their school transition? Come and join us, in the library, for some engaging 'Get School Ready' Sessions. No booking required, for ages 3+. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



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From the magazine archive, July 1930

Parish Memorial to the late Mr. E. R. Bowen.

In the March Magazine I reported the receipt of £41 8s. This has now been augmented to £63 5s. by gifts from Ald. P. J. Roberts, Miss Edith Isaac, Miss James, Canon Isaac, Mr. R. Clarke, Rev. G. H. Poole; Mr. and Mrs. Jefferies; Mrs. Ravenhill, Mrs. Collins, Mr. Mattock, Mrs. Rimell, Mr. Bayliss, Mr. J. W. Noake, Mr. Hayes, Mr. Milward, Mr. McMurtrie, Miss Horton, Mrs. Lewis, Col. Needham, Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. James, Mrs. Brown Col. and Mrs. Lees; Mr. Stiles, Mr. Bulgin, Mrs. T. Smith; Mr. Severn; Mrs. Cassidy, Mr. C. Randall, Mr. Walker, Misses Price, Mr. Crump, Mrs. Webb; Mrs. Ellicott, Mr. Painter, Mr. Turner, Miss Skinner, Miss Bloodworth; Mr. Hammond, Mr. Shelton, Mr. Philpott, Mr. Christian; Mr. H. Stokes, Mr. H. J. Blakeway, Mr. A. Blakeway, Mr. Norman, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Baldwin, Miss Worster, Mrs. Hawtin; Mr. and Mrs. Griffin; Mr. W. Page; Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Fisher, Mr. Taylor; Mr. Pearce, Mr. Annis, Mr. Owen, Misses A. and G. Keeling, Mr. J. Roberts, Miss Fawkes, Mr. R. Randall, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Bowkett, Miss Hadley; Mr. Stephens, Mr. Wassell, Mr. and Mrs. Wells; Mr. Owen.

The Parochial Church Council decided to appeal to the parish for £250 or more for this Fund. They believed that Mr. Bowen's unwearied labours in St. John's for so many years and in so many capacities should be recognised in this marked fashion. The Council unanimously selected, as the principal object of the Memorial, something that was a necessity, not an ornament or a luxury, namely, the restoration of the Church Organ. The Council considered that this work, which should be taken in hand at once, would provide a memorial in harmony with Mr. Bowen's own wishes, also that it would be of like character with his own work — useful, unobtrusive, and in connection with the music of the Church.

It is clear that much more money must come in before anything can be done, and so I press this matter upon you all. There are two reasons for generosity:—The one, respect for Mr. Bowen's memory; the other, the need itself.

Donations may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. C. Griffin, 19, Nelson Road.

*£250 in 1930
is equivalent
to about
£14,500 now.*

The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

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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)

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GRAND TOTAL		

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

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4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.



Puzzle solution

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

And finally....

A little boy was asked in a school exam to explain what 'lying' is. He wrote:
"A lie is an abomination unto the Lord, but a very present help in trouble."

--- 000 ---

The choir was practising the anthem. The choirmaster said to the trebles: "Now don't forget, when the tenors reach 'The Gates of Hell,' you come in."

--- 000 ---

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his mother for the reason of his distress, he gulped: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."

--- 000 ---

Two children watched their grandmother reading her Bible. "Why does she do that?" whispered one. "I expect she's studying for her final exams," came the reply.

--- 000 ---

The vicar was ill in hospital and so the churchwarden went to visit. Trying to cheer him up, the churchwarden said: "We missed you at PCC last night. We even put forward a resolution to wish you a speedy recovery. It was passed by 14 votes to 12."

--- 000 ---

The vicar announced that an additional font would soon be placed in the church, so that babies could be baptised at both ends.

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 – July/August 2025

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
6th July	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
13th July	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer with Bible study	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
20th July	10.30am Eucharist		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
27th July	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer (focus on Myanmar)	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
3rd August	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
10th August	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer with Bible study	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
17th August	10.30am Eucharist		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
24th August	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer (focus on Peru)	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
31st August	10.30am Patronal Eucharist	Team Eucharist at St John's		

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.