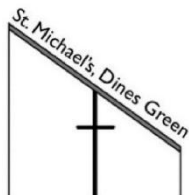




The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



September 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 one of the clergy (as above or email clergy@wcw.church) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email stephenbuckley554@gmail.com).	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com / 424539) Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com /428948). On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	St Michael's

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 September 2025 edition. The summer pause for refreshment is over and we're back to having lots on! See page 7 to see how much is going on.

We have two pictures on our cover this month to alert you to two major items in this edition.

Firstly, the appointment of Hugh Nelson as the 114th Bishop of Worcester has been announced. See page 26 for more information.

Secondly, we need your help to breathe new life into the St John's Church organ. It's suffering from leaky windbags! It's going to cost around £32,000 to fix. Please give generously if you can. Every little helps, including non-monetary support by helping our work or telling your friends. See page 28 for details.

One other strand running through this edition is prayer. Start on page 4 with Phil's letter responding to our theme Collect, then also visit pages 17 and 21.

We're running out of space! We leave you with these words from psalm 150:

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition (October): Deadline is Sunday 14th September.
Distribution – towards the end of September.

Subscription form: Page 54.

Cover pictures: Hugh Nelson (picture from Worcester Diocese) and the St John's organ (picture by John Brierley).

Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including John Brierley, Beth Broadway, Sue Fairman, Rob Little, Margaret Miller, Colin Nash, Maureen Ovington, The Library of Congress and Worcester Diocese.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

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

Opinions!

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

To advertise

Please see page 12.

From Phil Bradford

When he was archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey was asked how long he spent in prayer each morning. His response was that he spent 58 minutes trying to pray, and 2 minutes actually praying. It is likely that such an answer resonates with a lot of Christians. We all know that prayer is absolutely fundamental to our faith, yet sometimes it can be hard to clear our minds, or to find the words to say what we want to say. Those of us who gather in St John's for Morning and Evening Prayer during the week know how hard it is to prioritise what to pray for in a world where there are so many difficult situations, in addition to praying for the parishes and all the people and situations locally. It can be easy to become overwhelmed, or to let the myriad tasks on our mind crowd out prayer. Another temptation is to try to say everything, to assault God with words or (in Eucharistic intercessions) to give a second sermon or 'correct' the original sermon, as if an endless stream of words somehow makes God act in the way we want. It can be easy to make our prayers individualistic and about satisfying our desires, failing to be mindful of how this might affect others. Prayer may be fundamental, but it is not always easy.



That is what lies behind the Collect for Trinity 12, which reminds us that God is 'always more ready to hear than we to pray'. When we come to God in prayer, there is always a risk that we are telling God what we think he needs to know, or making prayer something utilitarian to satisfy our own desires. Prayer is something so very much deeper, something God hears before we speak or think the words, a recognition that we are all ultimately dependent on God in a world which sometimes seems so despairing and when it threatens to overwhelm us or we feel things are not being answered as we want. Or, as Rowan Williams put it far more eloquently than I ever could:

'Our intercession is a sharing in Christ's terribly costly struggle to hold together God and the world, love and suffering, light and darkness. At baptism, Christians are commissioned to "fight under Christ's banner". Intercession is a part of this, planting the flag in the remotest and bleakest places, saying of this or that situation, "Lord, I know even this cannot defeat you or send you away". [...] We do it because our faith absolutely demands this "holding together" operation. We do it even when we can't see what imaginable hope there might be, when we have no idea at all what might happen or how exactly things might get better, no

idea, even, what we can do about the situation. It is a cry of naked faith: in some inconceivable way, God is here too.'

And the consequence, continuing with the Collect, is that God 'pours down the abundance of his mercy'. A God who knows and loves and calls each of us by name, whose ultimate purpose is a kingdom of justice and mercy and peace, knows and responds to the cries of all his children, even when we struggle to cry out or to see what is happening.

At St John's and St Michael's, it is for this reason that we are concentrating so much on prayer and bringing in new prayer services, for a church not rooted in prayer is not a living church of God but a dying church or a social club. The new service of wholeness and healing at St Michael's recognises that all of us are broken in different ways in a broken world, and all of us need to be made whole and healed by God. The Evening Prayer for Peace and Justice at St John's holds incredibly complex, painful situations before God and acknowledges his presence in the midst of them, even if we do not fully understand, and struggle to see the hope. Even when it is difficult, even when we are reluctant, or exhausted, or doubtful, God hears and God is there. We simply plant the flag and trust in the love of God.

Phil

The full piece by Rowan Williams, which is well worth reading, is 'Intercessory Prayer' from a printed collection of his sermons during his time at Westcott House in Cambridge: A Ray of Darkness (1995).

The Collect for the twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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

Mrs RI Dobbins	1 September 1996
Bessie Sage	4 September 1995
Alice Beatrice Ingham	5 September 1999
Beatrice Eva Jones	11 September 1987
Martha Ricketts	13 September 1996
Reg Brunyee	16 September 2006
Florence Smith	17 September 1996
Joan Pauline	19 September 1996
Elizabeth Goodsell	21 September 2003
Doreen Hall	24 September 1987

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, June and July 2025

St John's

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

8th June 2025 James Peter Evans

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 25th April 2025 Brenda Pauline Selwyn

d. 28th May 2025 Ronald Henry Haywood

JUNE SERVICES: Communicants 273. Total attendance at all services 501.

JULY SERVICES: Communicants 239. Total attendance at all services 684 including 41 at a funeral and 160 at a school leavers' service.

St Michael's

JUNE SERVICES: Communicants 55. Total attendance at all services 65.

JULY SERVICES: Communicants 56. Total attendance at all services 80.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in September

Sunday 7th September: The twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 14th September: Holy Cross Day

Sunday 21st September: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Sunday 28th September: The fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Monday 29th September: Michael and All Angels

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 (beginning 8th September), 10am: Little Lambs, see pages 9 and 25.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 6th September, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 8 and 34.
Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 10th September, 2pm: Snoezelen are coming to tea and cake.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 11th September, 1pm: The Good Old Days present
Discover History, "Below stairs", see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 13th September, 9am: Women's Breakfast, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 15th September, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union, see page 13.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 17th September, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 18th September, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(V) Thursday 25th September, 7.30pm: Mothers' Union, see page 13.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 26th September: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for
sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 27th September, 10.45am: Café @ 10.45, speaker Piers Maxim.
See pages 9 and 11.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday/Sunday 4th/5th October: Scarecrow Festival, see pages 15.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 18th October, 9am: Tabletop sale/craft fair, 9am-12noon, see
pages 9 and 13.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 15th November: Quiz night.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 29th November: Community Breakfast, see page 15.

Events at St John's



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

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 13th September
9.00am until 11.00am

Guest Speaker
Rev'd Jennifer Whittaker

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



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Wednesday 17th September

at 2.45pm in the Church

ALL WELCOME

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

PRESENTS

DISCOVER HISTORY



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THURSDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

1.00PM

ADMISSION £4

INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

Events at St John's

**Little Lambs returns on 8th
September.**



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

FREE!

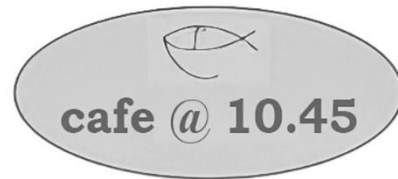
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'Friendship and Thoughts'

At 10.45am on

**Saturday
27th September**

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Saturday

18th October

9am-12pm

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Scarecrow Festival October 4th & 5th



See page 15 for more information.



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All are welcome

Tea and Cake restarts on Wednesday 17th September. From 2.45pm, this is an opportunity to bring a friend and to come and have a chat and share tea and cake with us. Everyone is welcome. Suggested donation of £2.00.

Cafe Church at 10.45am restarts on Saturday 27th September. We welcome Piers Maxim who is coming to share his Thought for the Day with us. We welcome everyone who would like a coffee and Danish and a time of refreshment on a Saturday morning.

Snoezelen are coming to tea and cake on Wednesday 10th Sept at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come and join us.

Jenny English

Evening Prayer with Bible Study *Exploring Scripture Together*

The third (and final) service in this current series will be at 5.30pm at St John's Church on Sunday 14th September. Each month, we focus on a different person or people, uncovering their story, struggles, faith, and what we can learn from them today. For this service the theme is 'A blind beggar - Seeing Jesus with open eyes.'

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.

Mark your calendar and join us on Sunday 14th September for an hour of gentle prayer, reflection, and shared discovery.

Philip Evans

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled in September:

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 (11th September) this is a Eucharist for Wholeness and Healing.

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. in 2025 until 26th October), and at 4pm during GMT. Occasionally other commitments will prevent a service happening; the schedule for each week will be published in the pew sheet.

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,
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Mothers' Union

On Saturday, 9th August, members of the Claines, St George's and St Martin's, London Road branches of Mothers' Union joined those of St Michael's, Dines Green, for a service to celebrate our founder, Mary Sumner.

A short but joyful service was followed by equally joyful drinking of tea and eating of cake! It was lovely to have the opportunity to chat to friends we rarely see and we are all looking forward to similar - and even more joyful - occasions when we celebrate our 150th anniversary next year.

Meanwhile, our newly formed evening group will meet in the Vicarage (7 Manor Road) at 7.30pm on Thursday, September 25th, by which time our new members will have been enrolled! This will happen during the morning service at St Michael's on Sunday, September 7th. I encourage as many members as possible to be there to support our new ladies.

In September our usual Monday afternoon meeting will take place on Monday 15th September at 2.30pm.

Sarah Cottrill

Mothers' Union - Canterbury Province Gathering 2025

Canterbury Province is holding a gathering for all members on Saturday 27th September at the King's Centre in Oxford. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet members from across the province; share information about what we are doing in our local dioceses; enjoy fellowship; and worship together. There will be plenty of time during the day for socialising. Come and meet new friends and make new ones.

Tickets will cost £20 per person and are available now at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/mothers-union

To receive an information pack, email canterburygathering@mothersunion.org

Tabletop Sale

A Tabletop/Craft Fair will be held at St John's on Saturday 18th October 2025 from 9am until 12 noon. Refreshments will be served.

Tables can be booked for £10. To book a table please contact the Parish Office on W 420490 or by email to office@wcw.church or charlotte.tidder@wcw.church

St John's Church will have a table so if you wish to donate any items for sale then please bring them to church beforehand. There will also be a tombola stall.

Donations for this would be most welcome!

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Scarecrow Festival

October 4th & 5th

Following the Events Team's focus on August's Hymn & Pimms event, we are now looking forward to our next major event - a Scarecrow Festival!

The festival takes place on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October, with entries being received on Friday 3rd October. Come along during the weekend to see the scarecrows and vote for your favourite. Drinks and snacks will also be available on Saturday morning.

You can get involved as an individual, group or organisation and get creative with your scarecrow creations, to be displayed in St John's church.



Get as artistic and inventive as you like. There are only a few simple rules for your scarecrow:

- they must be hand made
- keep it clean!
- they must be able to stand upright on their own or remain in a seated position

Scarecrow entry forms and full details will be available online and the link will be shared online and on Facebook shortly. Alternatively, you can fill out a paper form, available at the back of St John's church.

We look forward to seeing you at the Scarecrow Festival. Please do spread the word!

Beth Broadway

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

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Prayer

One of the things that the Ministry Team has recently been considering is how we use St John's as a place of prayer. Prayer should be absolutely fundamental to our life as Christians and as a worshipping community. This has led us to introduce the two new types of Evening Prayer service on the second and fourth Sundays, and we are beginning the process of renewing our prayer boards and chapels. There will be future changes as we acquire new boards and redesign the layout, but at the moment the Lady Chapel board contains the themes from the fourth Sunday Evening Prayer for Peace and Justice, as well as the prayer tree for personal prayer requests. The Font Chapel contains information and prayer requests about our mission partners in Lima.

For a long time, we have had a book for healing, but lately this has not been much used and tends to be mentioned incidentally in Sunday services. Our plan is now to retire this book, and instead introduce a box in the Lady Chapel into which people can put prayer requests (the names of themselves or others, or situations). These requests will then be used during the intercessions at Morning and Evening Prayer during the week.

We already use the parish prayer diary to pray for those on the electoral roll, the streets of our two parishes and our regular activities, as well as those we know to be sick or in need. In addition, we would like to offer people the opportunity to request specific prayers for that week or a specific period. You are welcome to put as much or as little information as you like on a request, and you can also e-mail clergy@wcw.church. As a default, we will pray for everything in the box during that week, unless a longer period is specifically requested.

Everyone is always very welcome to attend the daily offices (Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer), which are held Monday to Thursday at St John's (see page 11 for details) and join in praying for our parishes, community and world.

Phil Bradford

Lessons in Ukrainian

Literal meaning of Ukrainian saying	English equivalent
to show where the crayfish is wintering	to teach someone a lesson
mute as a fish	will keep a secret; 'Mum's the word'
the only free cheese is in the mousetrap	there's no such thing as a free lunch

Sourced from the Internet. I do not speak Ukrainian!

Graham Evans

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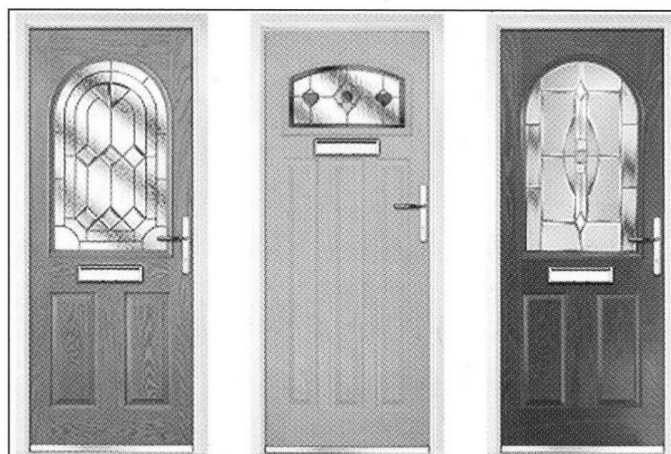
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Children's Church Update – September 2025

This term we have some exciting changes to the way we're doing Children's Church at St John's. Due to the growing number of younger children, we are now going to have two groups on a Sunday morning. Our sessions run on the first, third and fourth Sunday of every month.

Scramblers – is for pre-school and Key Stage 1 children. We will share a simple Bible story and join in with familiar songs and crafts. There are always toys and games available for the very young.

Explorers – is for Key Stage 2 aged children. We will look at a Bible story in a little more detail and complete a craft or related activity. As children get older we begin to make more links to what is happening in the main Sunday service.

Each week children have the opportunity to share what they've done with the adults in church, if they would like to.

Special Events This Term

In October, we will be participating in the St John's Scarecrow Festival, making our own scarecrow. This will be displayed in church during the Festival on 4th and 5th October.

At Christmas, we will be doing another Community Nativity! This will take place on Saturday 20th December. We will be welcoming any child who would like to participate – further details will be coming soon!

If you're considering attending a session and would like any further information, please speak to Fiona or Amy at a Sunday service.

Fiona Templeton and Amy Rees

All in the month of September

Courtesy of Parish Pump, we learn that it was:

1,100 years ago, on 4th Sept 925, that England gained her first ever king. Aethelstan was King of the Anglo-Saxons (924-927) and then King of England (927-939). He was grandson of Alfred the Great, and 30th great-grand uncle to Queen Elizabeth II.

200 years ago, on 27th Sept 1825, that the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England.

100 years ago, on 7th Sept 1925, that Laura Ashley was born. The Welsh designer and businesswoman was known for her traditional printed fabrics, soft furnishing and women's clothing.

70 years ago, 26th Sept 1955, that Bird's Eye frozen fish fingers went on sale in the UK.

Anne

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*be home***

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Prayers for our world

In July, the focus of our fourth Sunday Evening Prayer for Peace and Justice was Burma or Myanmar. The name of the country is problematic. Burma was the colonial name, changed by the military regime in 1989 for political reasons to Myanmar. Many never acknowledged that change at the time, and although an improvement in the political situation led to greater acceptance of Myanmar, this is still not universal. Burma was a British colony, originally treated as a province of India, then as a separate province from 1937, becoming independent in 1948. From 1962 to 2011, it was under various forms of military dictatorship.

The major problems facing Burma are: natural disaster, with climate change affecting the country especially badly with more devastating flooding, earthquakes and tropical storms; poverty; and ethnic tensions which has resulted in almost continuous civil wars in various parts of the country ever since independence, most recently and famously with the Rohingya people near the border with Bangladesh. Western governments have tended to view the major issue as political reform and democracy (defined by them), which means Burma is poorly understood in the West and has suffered badly from the limitations of western ideology.

Among the prayers we said at the service was the following.

Let us pray for all the peoples of Burma, in the pain caused by ethnic conflict and violence, for all who feel marginalised or threatened, and for courageous dialogue that will lead to lasting peace.

Amen.

Send your Spirit, O Lord, to the people of Burma,
that no matter what their ethnic background,
their religion, their job or their status,
calm heads may prevail during this time of ongoing tension,
and peace win the day.

Grant wisdom and insight to the country's leaders,
that they may see the common bond
that makes all your children and sisters and brothers to one another.

In order that all that is done be for the common good, we pray, Lord,
that you set the feet of all to walk the way of respectful and nonviolent dialogue,
and make the hands of all to labour towards constructive cooperation.

Amen.

Phil Bradford

Harvest Thanksgiving – Sunday 5th October

Join us for a joyful **Harvest Thanksgiving** as we come together in celebration, worship, and community support. This year's celebration is woven into the vibrant atmosphere of the **Scarecrow Festival**, making it a weekend full of creativity, reflection, and generosity.

Services

We warmly invite you to attend one of our special Harvest Thanksgiving services:

St. Michael's Church

- 10:30am – Harvest Eucharist.

St. John's Church

- 10:30am – Harvest Choral Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments.
- 4:00pm – Songs of Praise. An informal service of harvest hymns and prayers followed by refreshments.

These services will be filled with music, prayer, and gratitude for the abundance we enjoy, and a reminder of our call to share with those in need.

Supporting Our Community

As part of our harvest offering, each church is supporting a local cause:

- **St. Michael's** – Donations will go to the **Worcester Foodbank**, helping families in need with essential supplies.
- **St. John's** – Supporting **Maggs Day Centre**, a charity dedicated to helping the homeless and vulnerable in our community.

Please bring along non-perishable food items, toiletries, or other essentials to contribute. Shopping lists of items currently needed by each charity are included on pages 23 and 24. Please tear out these lists and keep them.

Learn more about Maggs

Before we get to our Harvest Thanksgiving, Maggs will be visiting St. John's for the Parish Eucharist on Sunday 21st September, offering a chance to learn more about the work of Maggs and how our donations help with a Question and Answer style sermon.

Messy Church & Scarecrow Festival

In the midst of the Scarecrow Festival, **Messy Church** will be running creative and family-friendly activities from 4pm to about 5.30pm, including a meal.

Philip Evans

Worcester Foodbank
(Latest shopping list from their website)



Helping People in Crisis

Latest Shopping List

Our top priority is Supermarket Gift Cards: Gift cards from shops like Asda, Tesco and Aldi allow us to purchase the items that we need when we need them. However, the following are **always** gratefully accepted. Thank you for all your support.

Cereal	Packet rice	Small Washing Up Liquid
Tinned Potatoes	Curry sauces	Unisex Deodorant
Tinned Vegetables	Mixed Herbs	Anti Bac Spray (no bleach sorry)
Tinned Fruit	Sugar	Single Adult Toothbrushes
Tinned Rice pudding	Cooking Oil	Shampoo
Tinned custard	Packet Seasoning	Toilet Roll
Tinned meat & fish	Tomato Puree	Sanitary towels
Noodle Pots/Mugshots	Tomato/Brown Sauce	Soap
Treats & Crisps	Salt & Pepper	Shaving foam/gel
UHT Juice	Spices	Nappies size (5,6 & 7)
UHT milk	Gravy or stock	
Cream crackers	Hot Chocolate	
Cat and Dog Food	Instant Coffee	
Dried pasta	Tea	
Pulses		

Please note we can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods which are still within their "use by" date.

We accept money and gift cards to enable us to buy what we need when we need it.

You can also donate online at www.worcester.foodbank.org.uk

Donate to: Worcester Foodbank, Unit 7, Lowesmoor Wharf, WR1 2RS, OR your local participating food store / organisation.

Foodbank Opening Times: 11-2pm each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (Not Bank Holidays)

Telephone	01905 780400
Email	info@worcester.foodbank.org.uk
Internet	www.worcester.foodbank.org.uk
Twitter	@Worcs_Foodbank
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterFoodbank/

Please tear out and keep

Maggs Harvest Appeal, October 2025



MAGGS HARVEST APPEAL OCTOBER 2025



CLOTHING

- HATS/GLOVES
- MEN'S JOGGERS
- MEN'S T-SHIRTS
- MEN'S UNDERWEAR
- MEN'S BOOTS (SIZE 7+)
- THICK SOCKS

TOILETRIES

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- DEODORANT
- SOAP/SHOWER GEL
- TOOTHBRUSHES
- RAZORS/SHAVING FOAM
- SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER
- SANITARY PRODUCTS

FOOD

- UHT MILK
- PASTA/RICE
- CAKES
- CEREAL BARS
- CRISPS
- SQUASH
- TEA & COFFEE
- POT NOODLES
- EGGS } SHELF
- BREAD } STABLE
- TINNED SAUSAGES } RING
- TINNED BEANS/SOUP } PULL

MISCELLANEOUS

- DOG/CAT FOOD
- ROLL MATS
- DOG LEADS
- DOG BOWLS
- TIN OPENERS
- SLEEPING BAGS
- WASHING POWDER
- LARGE RUCKSACKS

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MAGGS CLOTHING PROJECT

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY FROM 9AM - 12PM

WE ALSO HAVE AN OUT-OF-HOURS DONATIONS BIN
AT THE BACK OF THE BUILDING VIA BRITANNIA ROAD

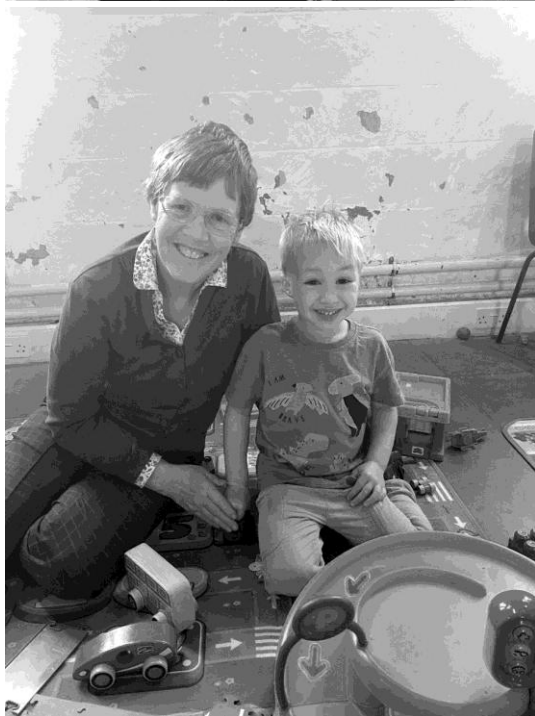
For more information, contact maggsclothingproject@maggsdaycentre.co.uk

Please tear out and keep

Little Lambs – Thank You and Moving On

At our last session of Little Lambs in July, we said goodbye and well done to the children who are leaving us to start at primary school in September. We will miss you and your families so please come and see us if you can one day. The children were pleased to receive a personal certificate which said goodbye and good luck.

Our photos show some of our older children all ready for school. We look forward to welcoming new children next term. Thank you to our lovely volunteers who make our playgroup such a success.



We will return for more fun on Monday 8th September. See you then.

Sue Fairman

Next Bishop of Worcester announced

Downing Street has announced that His Majesty the King has approved the appointment of Hugh Nelson as the 114th Bishop of Worcester.

Bishop Hugh is currently the Bishop of St Germans in the Diocese of Truro, a position he has held since 2020, serving as the Acting Bishop of Truro from Sept 2023 until May this year. He is also Bishop to the Armed Forces, providing spiritual and pastoral leadership to Anglican Chaplains serving in the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force, a role which he will continue to hold as Bishop of Worcester.



Ordained in 2008, Hugh served his curacy in six rural parishes in East Kent before serving for eight years as the parish priest of Goudhurst with Kilndown, two village churches in the Diocese of Canterbury. Before ordination, Hugh spent 13 years living and leading the community of L'Arche London, part of an international network of ecumenical Christian communities where people with and without learning disabilities share life together.

Bishop Hugh said:

“It is an enormous privilege to be appointed as the next Bishop of Worcester. I am so looking forward to joining you in Worcestershire and Dudley on your journey as Kingdom People; getting to know the different communities across the Diocese and finding out what God is up to in its villages, towns and cities.

“The Diocese of Worcester is full of so much that is good and holy, with plans to double the number of young disciples, to create 100 new worshipping communities, to renew churches right across the area and to underpin all this by resourcing clergy and lay leaders. And all of that building on the faithful, generous service of people in churches of every size, tradition and place from Dudley to Bredon, and from Malvern to Redditch.”

Welcoming our new Bishop of Worcester



The initial announcement about Bishop Hugh's appointment was made at a 'Lightbox' drop in event for young people at St Helen's Church. Two teenagers from All Saints Church, introduced Bishop Hugh, praying for the start of his ministry and welcoming him on behalf of young people in all our communities across the Diocese.

Next, Bishop Hugh, his wife Lizzie and Bishop Martin visited the Wildgoose Training Care Farm. They met staff and students there and heard about the support from the local churches. Over lunch he chatted to some rural clergy to hear about the challenges facing our rural churches and their communities.



Both bishops then headed up to St Thomas' Church in Stourbridge to meet the Area Dean and Sub Deans of Greater Dudley Deanery as well as some of our renewal church leaders. Following a couple of media interviews, there was the chance to chat to them over a cup of tea and learn more about our transformation priorities and the signs of hope in many of our churches.



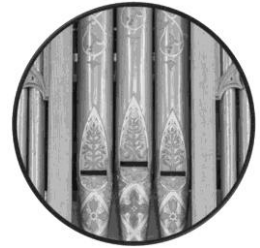
Back in Worcester, Bishop Hugh met diocesan and cathedral staff and other Area Deans and Lay Chairs. He finished the day attending Evensong at the Cathedral.

"Thank you for welcoming me! My hope for the churches in this glorious part of the world, is that we will continue to be communities of hope, that point towards God – I can't wait to join you properly. I would start tomorrow if I could!"

Details of Bishop Hugh's start in the Diocese will be available in due course. It is likely that his installation service in the Cathedral will take place in January.

Worcester Diocese

Breathing new life into the organ



What's the problem?

In short - we've got leaky windbags in our organ! These are made of leather, and were last replaced in 1954. There is now critical deterioration, and the organ will soon become unusable.

We need your help to raise the money to make the necessary repairs and "breathe new life into the organ."

Windbags? Seriously!

Yes! The electric blower in our organ blows air into reservoirs (bellows) which temporarily store the air under controlled pressure. The air is then used to blow the pipes. The leatherwork on four out of the five reservoirs is at the end of its working life. The corner gussets and ribs have perished causing significant wind leakage. The fifth reservoir is in better condition, but we aim to do all the reservoirs at the same time due to the amount of dismantling (including all the other four reservoirs) needed to reach it.

What problems does the leakage cause?

While the organ is running it now makes a continuous hissing noise which is steadily getting louder (ask the choir!).

The air which leaks out is not available for the organ pipes. The organ now cannot be played with too many pipes at once, and is liable to run out of breath on big passages of music.

Soon the organ will become unusable.

How much will the repairs cost?

We need around £32,000 for this essential work. Although this is a sizeable sum it is perhaps best viewed in the context of the stewardship of an important, much used and well-loved asset whose total replacement cost would be somewhere in the region of one million pounds.

Tell me more about these reservoirs

We have four single-rise reservoirs (3.5ft x 3ft) and one double-rise reservoir (4ft x 2.5ft). These reservoirs (bellows) store air under controlled pressure which is then used to blow the pipes. Air is supplied by an electric blower.

Here's what the reservoirs look like:



How can I help breathe new life into the organ?

We need £32,000 to replace the organ's 70-year-old wind bellows. Will you help to breathe new life into the organ? Every donation, however small, will help to ensure the organ sounds for another 70 years!

- Donate **via the card machine** at the back of St John’s Church.
- Donate **online** at <https://givealittle.co/c/Organ2025> or by scanning this QR code:



- You can donate **by cheque** by sending it to the Team Office (1a Bromyard Road, St John’s, Worcester, WR2 5BS)
- You can donate by **bank transfer** to:
Account number: 20150628 Sort code: 82-12-08
Account name: WORCESTER ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE AND ST M
Reference: ORGAN Bank: Virgin Money/Clydesdale

If are able to make a Gift Aid declaration, please use the subscription form on page 54 and fill it in like this:

		Total
Magazine subscription (as above)	£5 / £23.15	NO
Additional Donation (if applicable)	ORGAN	Amount
GRAND TOTAL		Amount

PS Please tell everyone you can about this organ appeal!

Gilly's Ordination as Priest
28th June 2025



Gilly's First Celebration of Communion

29th June 2025



Coach trip to Weston

Once again the ladies, Catherine, Sandra and Charlotte, organised a coach trip to Weston-super-Mare. This year two trips were organised as an earlier one, funded by the Henry Smith fund, had offered free places to deserving children of our Parishes. The coach for the earlier trip was not as well filled but the children who went really enjoyed their day at the seaside.

For the annual trip everyone gathered in time for the 9 o'clock departure and we were away on time. We had travelled all the way to the edge of Worcester



(junction 7 of the M5) when we were brought to a sudden halt on the roundabout! We found a police car in the middle of the 2 lanes, and it had a flashing 'Do Not Pass' in its back windscreen so we stopped and waited. We then realised that there was another policeman standing by the southbound exit. After a wait of about 5 minutes, he

suddenly stood up and threw a Stinger trap across the exit, just before a large black car shot out of the exit. With sudden flat tyres the car stopped rapidly and then 7 other police cars appeared at the exit and surrounded the car. Very quickly they got a couple out of the car, handcuffed them and took them off in separate cars. The police then quickly moved all the cars and we were allowed to pass. An exciting start to our trip to Weston!

The rest of the journey was uneventful, and we arrived just before 11am. It was obvious when we met back to catch the coach home at 4pm that everyone had thoroughly enjoyed their time walking along the promenade, on the pier and the beach and, from the bags that appeared on the way home, shopping in the town centre.



I decided to capture some images of the day of people enjoying Weston-Super-Mare, mainly not from our group but general images of the atmosphere of the town and beach.



As can be seen here even though it was school holiday time the beach was not busy at all. Talking to the owner of the donkey rides, it appears that Weston has really suffered over the last few years, especially since Covid. Whereas years ago they enjoyed a 7-month season that is now only a 3-month season and even then he said some days it is not worth taking the donkeys down to the beach.



Things like the fact that the town has lost nearly all its caravan parks, not being able to easily take children out of school for a day trip and overseas all-inclusive ‘cheap’ foreign holidays are really killing the trade in UK seaside resorts.



Some things never change though! The seagulls are still very active along the promenade and beach and people need to be very wary when eating any food! And, the pier still has a welcome committee consisting of the mascot and female escort with a T-Rex looking over their shoulders!

Colin Nash





Standing up to injustice

July's Messy Church explored the book of Esther. Not being one of the most well-known stories, at least in comparison to Noah or Joseph and his coat of many

colours, the session was started by colouring in pictures which depicted different parts of the story. We then went through them in order with Liz and as many in the congregation were children, the story was simplified to focus on how Esther spoke out for justice.

We heard that Esther, who had been raised by her older cousin Mordecai, became the queen to King Ahasuerus. The king thought that she was very beautiful, and

threw a lavish banquet for her. At the time of their marriage, the King did not know that Esther was Jewish.



These parts of the story were reflected in activities such as Drawing Beautiful Faces (What do we consider beautiful? A smile? Kindness? Draw a face of a 'beautiful person') and Pamper Corner. There was a hand pamper kit, symbolising the cosmetic side of 'beauty', but also exploring

how our take on 'pampering' makes us feel happy and like we treated ourselves.

Jumping forward in the book of Esther to chapter 3, Haman was appointed into the king's court, and chose to attack the Jewish people, because he did not like Mordecai. Haman persuaded King Ahasuerus that the Jews were not following the

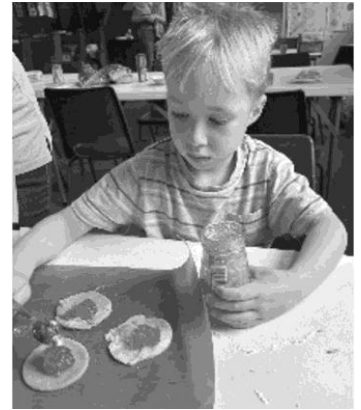


king's laws and so should be persecuted. In order to help her people, Esther went to the king's throne room and asked him and Haman to attend a banquet that she had prepared. After the banquet, she begged the king to stop persecuting her people. The king was horrified that this had happened and Haman was replaced in his role by Mordecai.

The activities that explored these parts included 'Banquet Buns' (making iced brioche buns), making a throne room from cartons and cardboard (thank you to those who donated food trays!) and taking part in

Amnesty International's Write for Rights. Members of the congregation were encouraged to write letters to authorities on behalf of people who are facing injustice, as Esther spoke up for her people.

We also explored how Esther is celebrated during Purim in the Jewish faith. We made Hamantaschen, traditional biscuits eaten during the celebration, which provided an excellent dessert for our meal later! We also made noise shakers to represent how during the retelling of Esther's story, loud noises are made to drown out Haman's name.



Our Worship focused on how Esther spoke out for her people and stood up to injustice. We thought about how we might act around injustice and would we also have the courage to speak out?

After our summer break, Messy Church returns on Saturday 6th September, 4pm, doors open 3.30pm. Check out the St John's website or Facebook page where we will announce the theme. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Beth Broadway

More pictures from Weston



Maureen Ovington

St David's News

Over the last few weeks it has been fairly quiet due to people being away on holiday, but several of us spent one morning cutting back bushes and pulling out unwanted weeds in the church grounds. These were then taken to the tip for us by Tim Long for which we thank him. There is still plenty to do so we shall be having another gardening morning very soon.

August's coffee morning was very busy but we had time to sing Happy Birthday to Peter Platt on his forthcoming 90th birthday and to his wife Marion who celebrated her birthday the day after Peter. We also had the pleasure of congratulating Stuart and Glennis on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding which took place on the 5th August, due to them being seen in St Clements on the day remembering their Wedding day 60 years before.

On Saturday September 13th we are having a "Pop up Shop" of clothes from 10.30am until 12noon. Tea and Coffee will be available so do please come and have a look.

If you have anything you would like to donate we will be happy to accept things at our next coffee morning on the 3rd September at 10.30am.

Carole Stone
Deputy Church Warden

Sudoku Puzzle

© 2008
KrazyDad.com

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

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

Community Fayre

22nd June 2025



Discover History - Medieval Worcester

With an audience of around 85, Paul noted this talk, 'Medieval Worcester', was one of his favourites. For those that say Worcester has changed, Paul points to the city centre where High Street, Shambles and Tybridge Street are exactly where they were at this time.



Medieval Worcester was compact, home to 6 to 7,000 people. The suburbs were in Foregate and Barbourne, a large suburb in Lower Wharf; a boggy area where clay was used to make clay pots, and a smaller suburb along London Road. The gates were locked at night. There were some houses in St John's where the bridge into the city was from Tybridge Street to Newport Street.

There were 6 gates into the city, later increased to 8 and then reduced. The main 4 gates were on the north/south, east/west axis which intersected at The Cross:

- North - Foregate (forest gate), top of the Butts.
- South - offset due to the Cathedral, Sidbury (south defence) ; money was spent on this gate as it was the entrance used by any visiting monarch.
- West - Bridge Gate.
- East - St Martin's gate.

Early Worcester was palisaded which was strengthened by the Romans and later by the Anglo Saxons under King Alfred. By the 12th and 13th century there were sandstone walls with large gatehouses. The stone came from Holt and Ombersley transported on the river.

Worcester was an important city with rich merchants from the wool trade. The first true charter granted to the city was in 1189, the seal being the equivalent of the King's signature. This allowed the formation of a guild of elders, men, from trades and businesses who could make local decisions, meeting in pubs.

Under Henry III a charter dealt with arguments over which pubs were used by allowing the building of the Guildhall. This was behind High Street, the present-day High Street being much wider than its medieval counterpart. Over the years the Guild became the Corporation and then the Council. Shops were knocked down on the eastern side of High Street when the new Guildhall was built.

It is not known what the original Guildhall looked like but probably similar to the one in Lavenham or Stratford. It is known that it had a stone foundation and timber frame. The cells in the basement of the present Guildhall are part of the original building. The Guild paid £24 a year for the charter authorising this build; in 1189 King Richard was off on the Crusades and he needed the money. Many cities paid similarly at this time. This was the building where the elders made ordnances (laws).

The city's population was composed of various trades. Top of the list were the wool merchants who had large houses; John Nash was one of a long line of very rich wool merchants. Other trades were shepherds, fullers, dyers, carders, combers, spinners, weavers, and trades associated with the river, the castle and the churches.

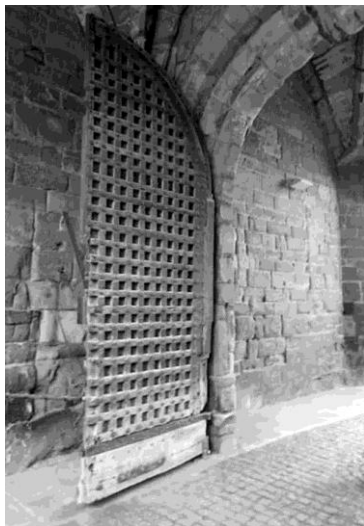
1066 to 1485 is considered the medieval period. Worcester was the 7th largest city at this time. The dark side was criminality; bar fights, stabbings (20-30 a day).

The Shire Reeve dealt swiftly with cases. This was an Anglo-Saxon tradition which later became Sherriff. Punishments were stocks (ankles), pillory (head and hands), whippings at a post, and ear nailed to the stocks. Humiliation was the purpose. Mutilation was also used (cutting off fingers for theft). Stocks were in the Cornmarket.



Grain was sold at the bottom of Mealcheapen Street (means grain market street). Crimes deemed not too serious were dealt with by the cucken stool at the bottom of Cucken Street (Copenhagen Street - renamed after Lord Nelson visited and named after his battle victory), where miscreants were dunked in the river; a very polluted river. Serious crimes saw prisoners dragged on a wooden sledge backwards to a place of execution; out of Sidbury Gate to the top of London Road to Redhill. The Calvary marks the site. After execution, the head would be displayed on spikes on Worcester bridge.

The church is, and was, independent from the City governance. The council still asks permission for the Mayor to go into the Cathedral when full regalia is worn. Another wall ran around the Cathedral - the precinct. Criminals could enter and claim sanctuary for 24 hours. There were three gates into the precinct. Worcester people used the Lychgate (death/corpse gate). St Michael's was the parish church for Worcester, the Cathedral was a priory.



Edgar Gate and tower (left) was the grand entrance for dignitaries and Watergate (below left) was entered by boat where the flood levels are now marked.

The cathedral dates from 680 and has been remodelled many times. Dedicated to Bishop Oswald and Bishop Wulfstan, it is built on a mound on the site of a bronze age settlement and later Roman settlement. It started as a timber framed monastery and enlarged, such that, by the 15th century, it was vast. It had a separate bell tower where the war memorial is now. The sandstone construction was whitewashed and could be seen for miles.

King John stated in his will that he was to be buried in Worcester Cathedral through his belief in the miracles

associated with Oswald and Wulfstan (and money he paid to support these beliefs). This fact led to the saving of Worcester Cathedral during the reign of King Henry VIII when many church buildings were ravaged as Henry was loathe to disrespect his ancestor. Henry's brother Arthur is also buried here. The tomb of King John is the oldest likeness of a monarch on a tomb and was painted, gilded and jewelled originally. King John spent Christmas of 1215 in Worcester and there is a plaque in the Great Hall of The King's School. Part of the castle wall runs through the photocopying room of The King's School and their garden and boat house is the site of the 1066 motte and bailey castle. All to say, the medieval Worcester remains with us when you know where to look!

Margaret Miller

News from our Northern correspondent

Well! We actually did it! After years of thinking, hoping and planning, in the end it all happened very fast and before we knew it, we found ourselves in a slight daze in a north-east corner of the Lake District. It's been a frenetic few weeks with some big building jobs needing to be done and, just as we had hoped, lots of visitors! The term "messy hospitality" has never been so appropriate, but we have loved showing people around and the decorating can always wait for another day. My slight fear about moving to a place where I'd only ever holidayed was that after a week or two the novelty would wear off and I'd be bored. I can tell you that six weeks in, that has very much NOT been the case, and we are constantly itching to get back outside and explore our surroundings. We find it such a beautiful place that it would be easy to want to revere or even worship it, but it's important to distinguish creation from the creator. What I can say though is that it's very easy to recognise the hand of the creator here and that is such a wonderful, hopeful feeling.

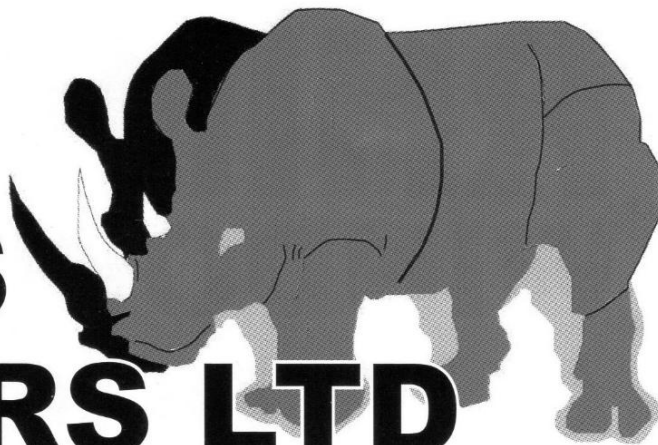


St Peters, Askham

Church life is a bit different here. We are in the North Westmorland Benefice and there are thirteen churches, so we have played a bit of "chase the vicar" to get a feel for the theology (I have been rather spoiled in West Worcester). But first impressions count for a lot and when we first went to St Peter's in Askham (our closest church) and there was a banner saying

Continued on page 43

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Continued from page 41

“I ♥ Jesus” with a rainbow and a smiley face, I thought this feels good! It’s funny how certain habits get ingrained though, and I was temporarily horrified to see that there is no common cup and all wafers are intincted by the celebrant! I’m getting used to soggy wafers now and I suppose there are bigger theological fish to fry, but it did make me chuckle.

Everyone, both in and out of church, has been lovely and so welcoming and the other week we had a great chat with the curate here. He used to be a vet so I’m looking forward to some ‘All Creatures Great and Small’ style stories. It was interesting to hear the challenges of pastoral care in a rural benefice with one vicar, one curate and churches that can be a 30 minute drive apart, but they manage a service in most churches each week with the help of various lay leaders and retired clergy. I’ve started the conversation about my path to licencing in the Carlisle Diocese, although it was when Ellen mentioned she knew her way around a lemon drizzle cake that his ears really pricked up 😊.

Thank you all so much for your best wishes as we started this new chapter in our lives - we truly felt loved as we departed and if you are ever up this way we can’t stress enough how welcome you will be...we may have finished decorating and you may even see a red squirrel (the latter is more likely than the former I suspect).

I’ll leave you with a couple of pics of St Peter’s: One of the church itself, on the previous page, and one of the altar hanging. It is quite something - more on that soon!



*God bless, and until next time,
Rob and Ellen Little*



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Leukaemia Awareness

1st September is World CLL day; Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia. This is the most common of the leukaemias, although leukaemia is a rare disease at 0.004% of the population. I was diagnosed with this disease in 2014. Around two-thirds of patients are diagnosed with no symptoms, often after a routine blood test. Around one-third of patients never need treatment; it can depend on which genetic mutation has been acquired.

There are over 100 leukaemias and related blood diseases. Each leukaemia affects a different white blood cell so symptoms can vary. Whether a child or adult, chronic or acute condition, two major problems are created - red blood cell shortage and breakdown of the immune system. Leukaemia can flood the body with white blood cells but they are faulty, so infections are more frequent and recovery is longer.

September is designated as World Leukaemia Awareness Month. Early symptoms can be easily dismissed but early diagnosis has better outcomes. That is the key reason for raising awareness; helping more people get an early diagnosis.



A poster with a black circle containing the word "Spot" in white, followed by "Leukaemia" in black. Below this are five black dots. To the right of the dots are three "z" characters. The poster lists six symptoms in a mix of bold and handwritten-style fonts: "Why am I always so tired?", "Why do I keep getting bruises?", "Why am I always FEELING ILL?", "Why do I ~~sweat~~ so much at night?", "Why do my JOINTS always hurt?", and "Why am I so breathless?". At the bottom, it states "These could be signs of leukaemia."

Spot Leukaemia

••••• zzz

Why am I always so *tired*?

Why do I keep getting *bruises*?

Why am I always *FEELING ILL*?

Why do I ~~sweat~~ so much at night?

Why do my *JOINTS* always hurt?

Why am I so **breathless**?

These could be signs of leukaemia.

If you have any of these symptoms you should get them checked by your GP. But remember, they can all be caused by other conditions. Most people with these signs will not have chronic leukaemia.

For more information go to <https://www.nhs.uk/> and search for “CLL”.

Margaret Miller

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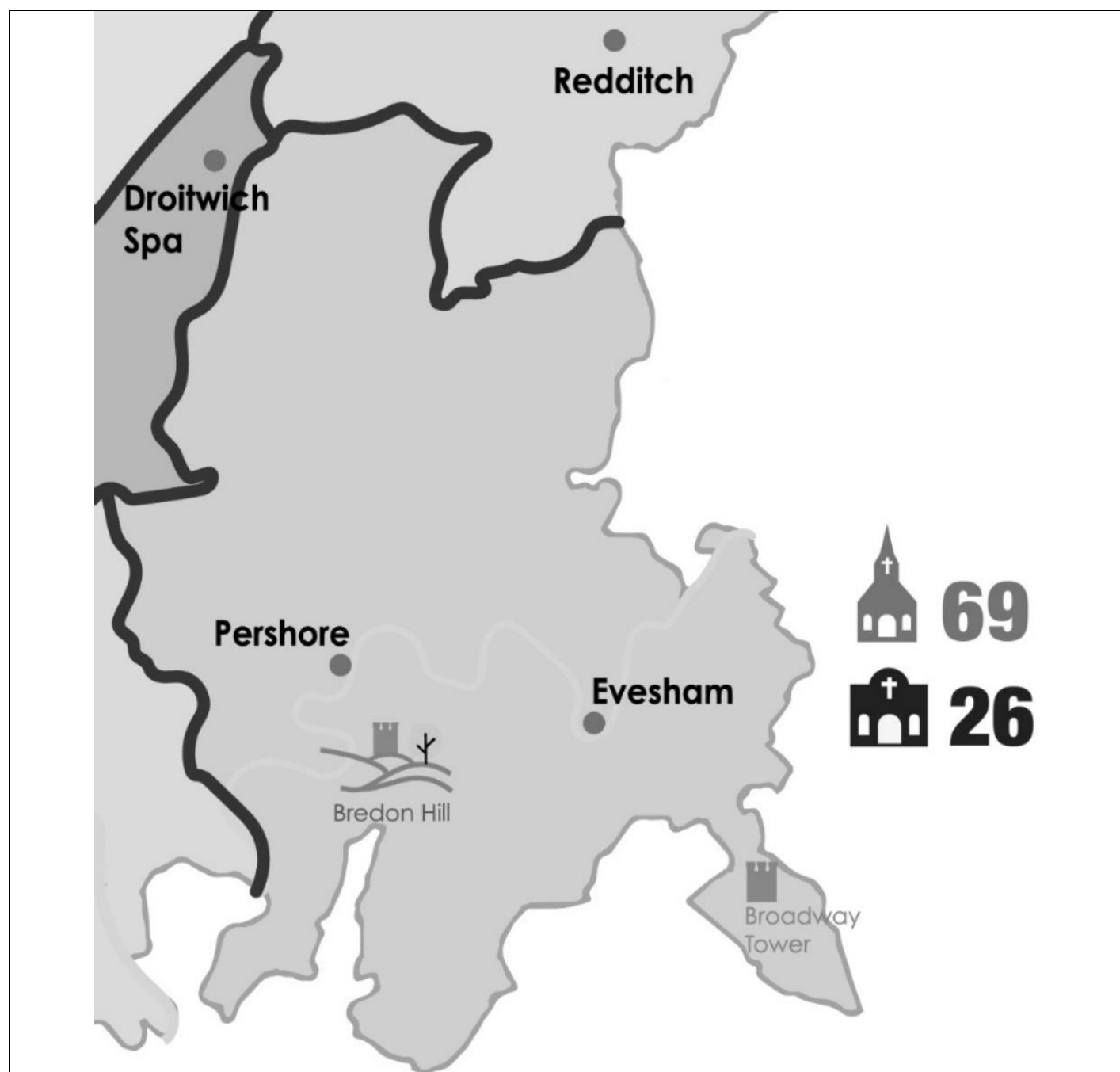
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Let's explore our diocese!

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

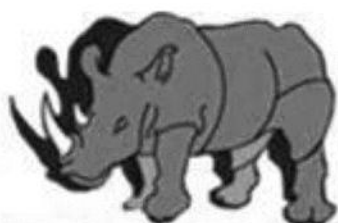
Pershore and Evesham Deanery

We are a deanery of 69 churches, with two towns, many villages and hamlets. In many places, people still identify with the local church building and their community even though most commute for work, school and recreation.



The symbols show that the deanery has 69 churches and 26 church schools.

Continued on page 49



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Continued from page 47

Increasing numbers of lay and ordained people work together across parishes to support the mission and ministry of the Church. Our vision for 2025/2026 is to create three or four mission areas to encourage this collaboration and improve our engagement with younger people, reduce governance, and support the development and wellbeing of lay and the ordained.

We have two large towns with further housing planned. In both centres we are already seeing the early fruits of investing in children and young people's ministry. Smaller grants are also enabling youth ministry in some benefices working alongside the Diocesan Lead for Children and Young People.

Three major strategic housing developments are planned for this deanery.

- Worcestershire Parkway with 10,000 new houses and 50 hectares of employment land. Building is expected to start in the late 2020s.
- Throckmorton new town with 5,000 houses and 60 hectares of employment land.
- Mitton with 1,000 new houses.

The larger two developments offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the Church to invest in Christian education and establish New Worshipping Communities. While such developments will change the physical and social landscape where they happen, existing, largely rural communities want to keep their identity alive and their local church buildings and schools open. The challenge faced by long standing, faithful volunteers is to find new volunteers and a financial commitment for this to be a reality. It does though offer opportunities for creative partnerships between people and church to celebrate local culture, build community and connect with people's innate spirituality. With many such events happening outdoors, it also offers opportunities to engage with local green agendas.

Fun facts about the Deanery:

- The church in Hanbury was the venue for a wedding in the Archers (and the pub in Inkberrow is also regularly mentioned!)
- For centuries, the Vale of Evesham has been regarded as the fruit and vegetable basket of England. It is internationally renowned for its production of asparagus or 'Gras' as it is locally known.

Smart car

A clergyman was raving to his friend about his new 'smart' car.

"On Sunday I got into the car to drive to church, and the digital display lit up. It said "Time for next service."

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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

Events at St John's Library

Weekly events:

- Creative Tales, weekly every Monday, 3:30pm to 4:15pm
- 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:

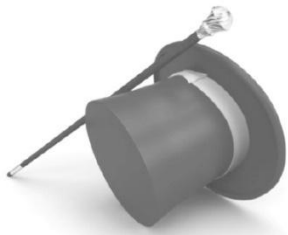
- Classic Film Club, Thursday 4 & 18 September, 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Readers' Group: Friday 5 September, 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Photography Group: Friday 19 September, 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Councillors' Surgeries: Saturday 6 September, 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, St Johns and Bedwardine, on Tuesday 9 September, 10:30am to 11:30am.

Explore the past events at The Hive

For "Drop-In" events, no booking is required. For events marked (BR) booking is required. To book (or for more details of any event) go to:

<https://www.explorethepast.co.uk/events/>

- Maps Workshop (£18) Saturday 6 September, 10am-1pm (BR)
- Conservation Drop-In (Free) Monday 22 September, 11am-1pm
- Local History Drop-In (Free) Saturday 4 October, 10am-2pm
- Family History For Beginners (£13) Saturday 18 October, 10:30am - 12:30pm (BR)
- Behind The Scenes Tours (£6) Saturday 1 November, 2pm-3pm (BR)



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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

I WISH to thank for the hundreds of holiday cards which I have received from our Parishioners. These cards were posted from post offices stretching from Penzance to Ayrshire. I was so glad to receive these greetings, and to know that so many of you have been able to have a good holiday. Mr. Carver tells me that many such cards have been aimed in his direction, and wishes to associate himself in these sentiments of gratitude.

ST. JOHN'S DARBY AND JOAN CLUB

THE Vicar, as we all know, is very interested in both young and aged; he feels he would like to have you all know some of the activities of the Darby and Joan Club which is being run so very efficiently by Mrs. Edith Jackson of the W.V.S. and her band of helpers, under the Presidency of Mrs. Urry, our St. John's councillor. You will be interested to know some of the enjoyable outings, etc., they have had, and in due time are having.

They have been to the Evesham Vale in the blossom-time, travelling on to Stratford-on-Avon. They have been to Porthcawl. On 25th August they went to Chistleton Manor, this being open to them for views.

In the near future they are going to the Elan Valley, which, as you know, is a wonderful sight.

On these outings they are served with really beautiful refreshments, and also on every Thursday afternoon.

Each Thursday there are various forms of entertainment for their happiness, appreciation of which is always shown on their faces, in addition to applause. They are delighted when our Vicar or Curate can pay them a visit.

A large party is being organised to run in conjunction with the Church outing to Blackpool for the illuminations, Mrs. W. Stockley having undertaken this.

The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

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(£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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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

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

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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

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

And finally....

In case you've not noticed 😊, St John's is holding a Scarecrow Festival on 4th and 5th October (see page 15 for details). Here are some scarecrow jokes to keep you smiling while you make your scarecrow for the festival:

What is a scarecrow's favourite fruit? Straw-berries.

--- 000 ---

Why is it hard to hug a scarecrow? Because you're clutching at straws.

--- 000 ---

What is a scarecrow's favourite part of Sunday lunch? Stuffing.

--- 000 ---

Have you heard about the scarecrow who changed his profession? He went into a different field.

--- 000 ---

What did the scarecrow say to his girlfriend? You look a-maize-ing.

--- 000 ---

What do you call a scarecrow that's not being used? A sparecrow.

--- 000 ---

What is a scarecrow's favourite Beatles song? Hay Jude.

--- 000 ---

I went to see a scarecrow comedian the other night: All his jokes were corny!

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

Sunday Services – September 2025

	St John's	St Michael's	St David's
7th September	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	10.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist
14th September	10.30am All Age Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer with Bible study	10.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Evening Prayer
21st September	10.30am Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist
28th September	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer (focus on Somalia)	10.30am Patronal Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer
5th October	10.30am Eucharist 4pm Songs of Praise	10.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist
The information above is provided by the Joint Council Ministry Team and is correct at the time of going to press. Please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.			