

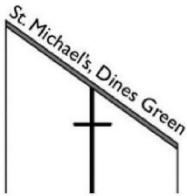


THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# *The Parish Magazine*

*St John-in-Bedwardine*  
*St Michael's*



October 2025

50p



## Information

### WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY ([clergy@wcw.church](mailto:clergy@wcw.church))

Phil Bradford (Team Rector) (01905 423794)	Day off: Friday
Sarah Cottrill (Team Vicar) (01905 426257)	Saturday
Gilly Maxim (Assistant Curate) ( <a href="mailto:gilly.maxim@wcw.church">gilly.maxim@wcw.church</a> )	Monday
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](mailto:office@wcw.church)

### ON THE WEB

St John's	Parish Website: <a href="http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk">www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk</a> A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine">www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine</a>
St Michael's	Parish Website and A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen">www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen</a>

### 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](mailto:safeguarding@wcw.church), or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: [stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church](mailto: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](mailto:clergy@wcw.church)) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email [stephenbuckley554@gmail.com](mailto:stephenbuckley554@gmail.com)).

Churchwardens:  
Mike Dowling ([dowlingm28@sky.com](mailto:dowlingm28@sky.com) / 424539)  
Val Mason ([val.mason@yahoo.com](mailto: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 October 2025 edition. Last time we wrote “The summer pause for refreshment is over”.

Now (writing in the middle of September) it seems like that can be shortened to “summer is over”.

But, we’re not down-hearted! There is so much going on to tell you about. Thank you to our contributors who gave us so much material that we’ve had a problem fitting it all in. We like that problem.

We’ll mostly leave you to explore the magazine and find all the goodies for yourself, but we will highlight two major items - the scarecrow festival (see page 15) and the organ appeal (see page 37).

Our theme collect is the Collect for Harvest Festival. Gilly explores this in her letter. We will therefore leave you with words from another Harvest prayer:

*Lord of the harvest, ....  
by your grace plant within us a reverence  
for all that you give us  
and make us generous and wise stewards  
of the good things we enjoy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

---

## ***Important information***

**Email address:** [parishmagazine@wcw.church](mailto:parishmagazine@wcw.church)

**Next edition (November):** Deadline is Sunday 12th October. Distribution – towards the end of October.

**Subscription form:** Page 54.

**Cover picture:** Picture from a scarecrow festival in the Lake District. Picture by Jane Wise (via Colin Nash).

**Pictures in this magazine:** Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Beth Broadway, Laura Fairman, Sue Fairman, Greg Freeman, Roger Job, Margaret Miller, Ian Montgomery and Colin Nash.

## **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 Gilly Maxim*

The Collect for harvest reminds us that God crowns the year with goodness, and that the fruits of the earth come “in their season.” The rhythm of the natural world is clear: seedtime, growth, harvest, rest. Each stage has its place, and in time the fruit appears.

It’s a rhythm we often long for in our own lives.

We like the idea that our lives might follow a clear order, moving smoothly from one stage to the next. But in reality, life is rarely so tidy. Sometimes spring and winter overlap. A person may be beginning something new, a job, a friendship, or a fresh chapter at the very same time as they are letting go of something long-cherished. Sometimes the years we thought would be fruitful feel barren instead, while unexpected fruit appears at a time in life when we least expect it.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that “for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (3:1). But those seasons do not always arrive when we think they should, or when we want them to. Scripture also tells of long wilderness times, sudden harvests, years of waiting, and surprising new beginnings. The Christian life is not a smooth progression from one stage to another; it is a patchwork of growth, waiting, joy, loss, renewal, and rest often tangled together.

And yet the promise of our harvest prayer is this: just as the earth eventually brings forth its fruit, so God brings forth gifts in us. St Paul calls these the “fruits of the Spirit” love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). These do not depend on our age, strength, or circumstances. They can grow in any season and sometimes even more richly in hardship than in ease.

Paul also speaks of the “gifts of the Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4): wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, discernment, leadership, teaching, service, generosity, encouragement, and more. These are given, Paul insists, “for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:7). They are never for ourselves alone, but for the building up of the whole body of Christ.

I have spoken before about the African concept of Ubuntu, often expressed as: “I am because we are.” Ubuntu teaches that our identity and flourishing are found in relationship with others; that we cannot be fully ourselves without our community. The Christian faith affirms the same: we are one body with many members, and the body cannot function unless every part plays its role. The

Spirit's gifts make sense only when shared, and they find their true purpose only when they serve the whole.

This is why the life of the church depends on each person. The energy and questioning of the young keep us alert and open to God's newness. The stability and service of those in midlife can build trust and resilience. The wisdom and perspective of older members can offer depth and encouragement. Even the vulnerability of those who can no longer do what they once did is itself a gift, for it calls the church to compassion and reminds us that to receive love is as holy as to give it.

The challenge, then, is twofold. First, to recognise and value the gift of our own season, even if it feels hidden or small. Too often we compare ourselves with others and conclude that we have nothing to offer, but God does not measure fruitfulness by quantity or visibility. Sometimes the quietest gift, a whispered prayer, an unnoticed kindness, a faithful word of encouragement is the most nourishing of all. Second, we are called to honour and receive the gifts of others, even when they are very different from our own. A healthy church is one where Ubuntu is lived out: each person's fruit and gift recognised, valued, and shared, so that all are strengthened by it.

So whatever season you find yourself in just now, whether joyful or weary, full of promise or tinged with loss trust that God is still at work in you. The Spirit's gifts are not bound by age or circumstance. God's goodness crowns every year, every stage, every season. And we can be confident, as St Paul reminds us, "that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

The questions for each of us, then, are these: What fruit of the Spirit might be ripening in me in this season of life? What gift has God given me that I might be called to offer, however small or hidden? How might I use that gift for God's glory, for the relief of others, and for the flourishing and well-being of all?

*Gilly*

---

## ***The Collect for Harvest Festival***

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:  
grant that we may use them to your glory,  
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;  
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*

John Bertram Smith	1 October 1990
Jack Render MBE	2 October 1991
June Edith Clayton	6 October 2011
Albert J Cake	8 October 1993
Marjorie Share	8 October 2012
Juliana Maud Godwin	12 October 2010
Neil Kenneth Pritchett	13 October 2003
Marjorie Fisher	29 October 2003
Florence Annie Constance Bosworth	30 October 1999

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, August 2025*

### **St John's**

#### **Weddings: Those whom God has joined together**

16th August 2025    Janina Fensom & Richard Nash

#### **FUNERALS/MEMORIAL SERVICES: Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord**

12th August 2025    John Stanley Bourlet Bennett MBE

**SERVICES:** Communicants 238. Total attendance at all services 685 including 233 at a memorial service and 71 at a wedding.

### **St Michael's**

**SERVICES:** Communicants 43. Total attendance at all services 85.

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## *Sundays and Principal Feasts in October*

Sunday 5th October: The sixteenth Sunday after Trinity (Harvest Festival)

Sunday 12th October: The seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Saturday 18th September: Luke the Evangelist

Sunday 19th October: The eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 26th October: Bible Sunday or The last Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 28th October: Simon and Jude, Apostles

## *Dates for your diary*

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

**(J) Mondays in term time, 10am:** Little Lambs, see pages 9 and 26. Closed for half-term, Monday 27th October.

--- ooo ---

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

--- ooo ---

**(J) Saturday 4th October, 4pm:** Messy Church, see pages 8 and 28.

Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- ooo ---

**(J) Thursday 9th October, 1pm:** The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Murder and Mayhem", see page 8.

--- ooo ---

**(J) Saturday 11th October, 9am:** Women's Breakfast, see page 8.

--- ooo ---

**(J) Wednesday 15th October, 2.45pm:** Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.

--- ooo ---

**(M) Thursday 16th October, 2pm - 4pm:** West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- ooo ---

**(J) Saturday 18th October, 9am:** Tabletop Sale/Craft Fair, 9am-12noon, see pages 9 and 13.

--- ooo ---

**(M) Monday 20th October, 2.30pm:** Mothers' Union.

--- ooo ---

**(V) Thursday 23rd October, 7.30pm:** Mothers' Union.

--- ooo ---

**(V) Friday 24th October:** Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- ooo ---

**(J) Saturday 25th October, 10.45am:** Café @ 10.45. See page 9.

--- ooo ---

**(J) Saturday 15th November, 9am:** Tidy up/Autumn cleaning day 9am-1pm

--- ooo ---

**(J) Saturday 15th November, 6.30pm:** Family Quiz.

--- ooo ---

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

## Events at St John's



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

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

### ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

**Open for Tea/Coffee  
and Cakes**

Suggested donation £2.00



**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October  
at 2.45pm in the Church**  
**ALL WELCOME**

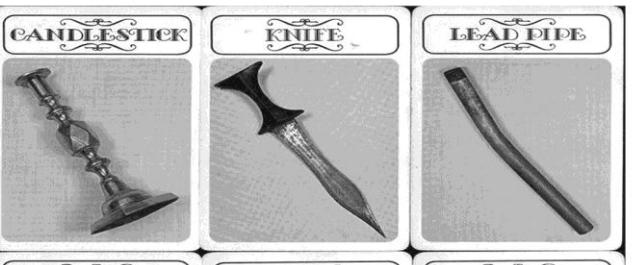
Women's Breakfast Meetings  
for Friendship and  
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?  
Everyone is welcome!  
Our next meeting is on  
**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October**  
**9.00am until 11.00am**

St John-in-Bedwardine  
in The Blakefield Room  
Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



THE GOOD OLD DAYS  
PRESENTS  
**DISCOVER HISTORY**



**MURDER & MAYHEM**

**THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
**1.00PM**  
**ADMISSION £4**  
**INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS**

## *Events at St John's*



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

**FREE!**

Toys and Games, Art & Craft, Messy Play,  
Snacks and Stories, Singing  
Birth to 4 years old and carers

For more details contact Sue Fairman  
07845 942962

More volunteers needed!

Half-term break:  
Monday 27th October

**Scarecrow Festival**  
October 4th & 5th



**St John's Church**

See page 15 for more information.

## **St John in Bedwardine**



Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish  
'Friendship and Thoughts'  
**At 10.45am on  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>  
October  
Guest Speaker  
Jenny English**

**ALL WELCOME**

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

**TABLETOP SALE  
&  
CRAFT FAIR**

**Saturday  
18th October  
9am-12pm  
With Refreshments**

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## *Evening Prayer with Bible Study*

### *The exploration continues*

After an initial trial for three sessions, by popular demand, Sunday Evening Prayer with Bible Study will continue. The sessions will be on the second Sunday of each month at 5.30pm at St. John's Church with hot drinks and sweet treats (cakes or cookies) available. During the cooler months the sessions will be held in the Burroughs' Room, otherwise they will continue in the font chapel. Wherever it is being held, please gather in the church beforehand.

The theme of the next three sessions will be:

- 12th October: Mary Magdalene - Loving Jesus in Practical Ways, Luke 8:1-3; Mark 15:37-47; John 20:1-18
- 9th November: Thomas - Disciple of Doubt, John 14:1-7; 20:19-31
- 14th December: Simon - Bargaining with God, Acts 8:9-25

*Philip Evans*

---

## *Weekday services*

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled in October:

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

\*\* On the second Thursday of each month (9th October) this is a Eucharist for Wholeness and Healing. On 30th October this will be an All Souls' Service.

Daily offices take place in St John's Church from Monday to Thursday. Morning Prayer is at 8.30am. Evening Prayer is at 5pm during British Summer Time (**i.e. 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.

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## *How safe are you?*

We attended an open day at Malvern Link Fire Station, and they were promoting their FREE Home Fire Safety Visits. They are very keen on fire prevention and fire safety, as you might expect.

You can get more information and request a visit by calling 0800 032 1155.

You can also complete a free online Home Fire Safety Check at [www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc](http://www.safelincs.co.uk/hfsc)

*Graham Evans*

# *Would you like to advertise in this magazine?*

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

The booking can be from one month to one year.

The Parish Magazine is published A5 in size, in black and white.

There are eleven issues each year,  
July and August being a combined issue.

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

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**Email: [masseyjeremar@aol.com](mailto:masseyjeremar@aol.com)**



## ***Tabletop Sale***

A Tabletop Sale/Craft Fair will be held at St John's Church 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](mailto:office@wcw.church) or [charlotte.tidder@wcw.church](mailto:charlotte.tidder@wcw.church)

*Joy Job*

---

## ***Donations requested***

At the Tabletop Sale/Craft Fair (see above!), St John's Church will have a table and will be running a tombola. If you have any items to donate for sale, or which will be suitable as tombola prizes, then please bring them to church up to 17th October.

*Joy Job*

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## ***Talk at St Clement's***

International Author and Historian, Dr Robert Kenny will present a talk entitled “The Argyle Theatre Birkenhead. The lost ‘Cradle of the Stars’ ” on October 25th at 2pm, at St Clements Church. Admission £5.

This follows his very successful presentation “Old Mother Riley.”

All are very welcome. Includes tea/coffee and a chance to have a chat with Robert.

*Philip Prince*

---

## ***Sudoku Puzzle***

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is on the  
inside back  
cover.***

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

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# Scarecrow Festival

## October 4th & 5th

The Scarecrow Festival takes place on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October, with entries being placed 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 are available online at

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/gaL4QxszDH>

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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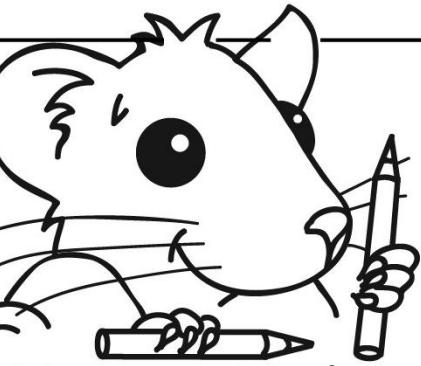
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## Mouse Makes

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.

He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains  
at the right time. He makes sure that we  
have the harvest at just the right **time**."

- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from  
heaven and good harvests  
at the right times. He gives  
you plenty of **food** and  
fills your hearts with **joy**."

- Acts 14:16-17

"May the people **praise** you **God**...  
The **land yields** its harvest, God,  
our God **blesses** us."  
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the  
**Lord** with your  
wealth and the  
first part of  
your **harvest**."  
- Proverbs 3:9

"So the one who **plants** is not  
important, and the one who **waters**  
is not important. Only **GOD** is  
important because He is the one  
who makes things **grow**."  
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

D	E	B	R	E	A	D	C	R	O	P	S
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Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the  
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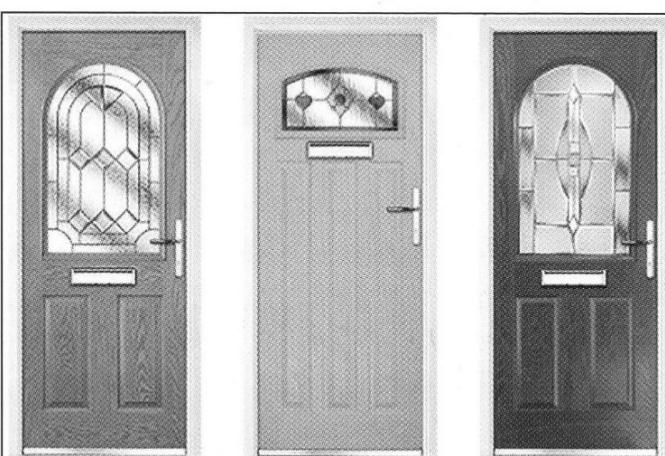
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# ***Children's Church Update – October 2025***

This term we have made some exciting changes to the way we do Children's Church at St John's. Due to the growing number of younger children, we are now running 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 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 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, to be displayed in church during the Festival on 4th/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*

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## ***Hymns and Pimm's***

The Hymns and Pimm's event held on 30th August was not blessed with the best of weather (understatement!) and so moved inside the church. This did not stop those who attended from having a good sing and a good time!



*Graham Evans*

*Anne*

Worcester & Wychavon

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# Harvest Thanksgiving – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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:

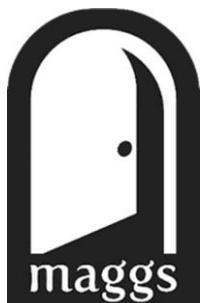
- **St. Michael's** – Donations will go to the **Worcester Foodbank**, helping families in need with essential supplies.
- **St. John's** – Supporting **Maggs Day Centre**, a charity dedicated to helping the homeless and vulnerable in our community.

Please bring along non-perishable food items, toiletries, or other essentials to contribute. Shopping lists of items currently needed by each charity are available in church and were on pages 23 and 24 in last month's (September's) magazine.

## 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



## ***Prayers for our world***

In August, the focus for our Evening Prayer for Peace and Justice was Peru. I have a longstanding connection with this country, so it is somewhere I could speak about from personal experience, and seemed appropriate ahead of my latest visit.

While not war-ravaged or a failed state, the people of Peru have still faced many problems in recent years, beyond those caused by widespread poverty and economic injustice. Covid hit the country extremely hard, with the world's worst per capita death rate. Mining companies, now mainly from China, are exploiting communities in mineral-rich parts of the Andes, causing widespread pollution and particular problems with water. Drug trafficking makes parts of the Amazon bordering Brazil and Colombia very dangerous and ensnares many vulnerable people.

Corruption is a major problem in politics, with every living former president in prison or under house arrest (there is even a special president's prison), and the current president will be joining them as soon as her term ends. Violent protests have wracked the country in recent months, with particular disquiet at the president's decision to grant a blanket amnesty for all state officials and armed forces members involved in human rights abuses during the terrorist years (1980-2000).

Ordinary people are being hit hard, especially in Lima, by extortion by criminal gangs, and the authorities are under-resourced and under-motivated to respond. For many people, life in the country is difficult and even dangerous, which we acknowledged as we held the country before God in prayer. Among the prayers we used was the following.

O God, the author and giver of peace, in whose image and likeness each of us has been created with a human dignity worthy of respect on earth, listen to the cry that rises from every corner of Peru, especially from those torn by conflict.

To leaders and politicians in Peru, grant the wisdom to see beyond human boundaries to that common humanity that makes all your children brothers and sisters to one another.

To those who have taken up arms in anger or revenge or even in the cause of justice, grant the grace of conversion to the path of peaceful dialogue and constructive collaboration.

To the innocent who live in the shadow of violence and terror, especially the frightened children, be a shelter and strength, their haven and hope.

And to those who have already lost their lives as victims of human cruelty and state repression, open wide your arms and enfold them all in the embrace of your compassion, healing, and everlasting life. Amen.

*Phil Bradford*

## *A joyous yet spiritual occasion*

Over the years, you may have noticed that I usually time my visits to Peru for November, which is late spring or early summer in the southern hemisphere. Lima is not a fun place in winter when it comes to the weather, unless you happen to be using Gilly's weather app, which assured her it was bright sunshine and 24 degrees and which she preferred to believe despite my daily pictures proving the contrary. Herman Melville wrote in *Moby Dick* that with 'her cathedral-toppling earthquakes' and 'the tearlessness of her skies that never rain', Lima was 'the saddest, strangest city thou canst see', a city which 'has taken the white veil; and there is a higher horror in the whiteness of her woe'. It is a coastal desert influenced by the Humboldt Current, which means that what should be a tropical climate actually sees long winters of suffocating white cloud and not a drop of rain. August would not therefore be a time I would usually head to Peru, but this was not a normal trip.

Confusion began the moment we touched down in Lima; not at the familiar airport of the last 16 years, but a brand new terminal, within sight of the old. There had been talk of a new airport for some years, but I had never imagined it would actually be built, never mind so quickly, and no one had warned me it was open. True, it is not yet completely finished and they haven't sorted out the access roads properly, but in the light of HS2 and numerous other projects here, it was a little embarrassing to discover that major projects could actually be realised. Then, in a sure sign of climate change, over the following days we actually experienced some rain (light drizzle, in British translation) and a couple of afternoons of sunshine, both previously alien to the Lima winter. The certainties of my world were crumbling, although reassuringly the dreadful traffic and abominable standard of driving in Lima remained quite unchanged.

The reason for the trip was to attend the consecration of Victor Condori as bishop coadjutor of Peru, following his election in May. (We don't have coadjutors in the Church of England, but they are common in the United States. They are basically suffragan bishops who work alongside the diocesan bishop for three to four years, then when the diocesan bishop retires, the coadjutor succeeds.) Victor and I have known one another for some years, so as well as attending in my official capacity as representative of the Diocese of Worcester, I was also going to support a friend.



*Members of the electoral committee inform the archbishop of a valid election*

On the Friday evening, we were invited to a pre-consecration event at the diocesan office. Joining with the representatives from South Carolina, we took an extremely circuitous route from the cathedral to the diocesan office, the driver taking a series of bizarre shortcuts to avoid the traffic, the only problem being that everyone else was taking the same shortcuts. We thus arrived late, to discover that (amazingly, for Latin America) the service in the chapel had started on time and was well underway. Given we had only been in the country a day, and my head was telling me it was gone 1am, I was perhaps less appreciative than I might have been of the extremely lively service being conducted by the Bishop of Bolivia, and my eardrums were thankful when we were ushered up onto the roof to be given anticuchos (a delicious Peruvian dish of hearts on a skewer) and picarones (a kind of local ring doughnut), all accompanied by some Peruvian dance demonstrations. Quite what the purpose of the gathering was rather eluded me, as I had just been told to attend (maybe I would have found out if we'd arrived on time), but it was a very jolly, convivial event.

On the morning of Saturday 30th, we arrived nice and early at the cathedral to get a good seat. Not having been given any information or told to bring robes, I intended to sit in the congregation. I lasted around three minutes there before I was unceremoniously dragged from my pew by the bishop-elect, who informed me that I was on the list to process and I was certainly not sitting in the congregation. Five minutes later, I found myself vested in a robe and stole borrowed from the dean (not entirely flatteringly, given he is a few inches shorter than I am), and happily catching up with him and the assembled mass of Peruvian clergy. The procession had been organised with military precision, and I duly took up my place towards the back with visiting clergy from Australia, Chile and the United States. With around eighty clergy and twelve bishops, the procession outside the main door ran along the pavement and around the corner, causing more than one passing car to almost crash as they goggled at the sight of a dozen bishops from eight countries taking selfies.



*Archbishop Brian asks Bishop-Elect Victor to confirm his calling to his new ministry (with a certain person in the background looking very solemn...)*

I found myself sitting in the stalls, right behind Victor and his family, so had a perfect view of the service. In addition to the consecration, two priests and two deacons were ordained, and fourteen lay ministers licensed, so it was a busy and lengthy service, just shy of 2 1/2 hours, including over an hour standing at one point. It was presided over by the Bishop of Argentina and Archbishop of South America, Brian Williams (his unlikely name a testimony to Welsh ancestry in Argentina - he is a bilingual Argentinian), a joyous yet spiritual occasion in which I was very privileged to participate.

Outside, we discovered that the reception we had been told was at 4pm was actually right now, so we were all unceremoniously herded onto a coach and driven to the diocesan office. The outside yard had been transformed into a dining area beneath a huge tent. I was peckish by now, but we had to have speeches first. Unfortunately, all the bishops decided they wanted to speak. As pretty much every South American country had bishops present, this was a rather long process. The food was cold by the time we were able to eat it - this is entirely normal in Peru, so I was unsurprised. Although I had not exactly done very much, it had been a surprisingly busy and emotional day, and I was very glad to have attended.

The pace of the rest of the week was a little less frenetic. There was time to visit some community kitchens (article next month!), and I had some meetings with Bishops Jorge and Victor to discuss changes to canon law, clergy training and other matters. There was also a very pleasant dinner with both bishops and their wives, and opportunities to catch up with various people in the diocese that is my second home. I did also vanish off for a morning of birdwatching, in (successful) search of the wonderfully named 'many-coloured rush-tyrant', to the mild consternation of those clearly unfamiliar with Europeans wandering around coastal swamps with binoculars. In Peru, though, one never asks why. One just gets on with it and accepts that somewhere, by the grace of God, there must be a reason. It is one of the many things I love about the country.

*Phil Bradford*

*Photos are courtesy of Ian Montgomery, former Dean of Lima.*



***The archbishop and the Bishop of Bolivia pray for the new bishop and his family***

name a testimony to Welsh ancestry in Argentina - he is a bilingual Argentinian), a joyous yet spiritual occasion in which I was very privileged to participate.

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*Phil Bradford*

*Photos are courtesy of Ian Montgomery, former Dean of Lima.*

## Welcome back to Little Lambs

Wow, there's a queue to come in and lots of smiley families! Fantastic!

Our first meeting in September on 8th September was very busy and we were delighted to welcome our regular families and new families to Little Lambs. We all caught up with our summer news and painted autumn leaves and hands too.



My job for next week is to make new playdough but the large wooden threading beads were popular instead. They came from my loft and were used by my sons many years ago. One of our older children commented that the plastic cotton reel was different to the wooden beads. “Well noticed” I said. Another family came with three children aged 4,3 and five weeks. The baby just slept through it all as they cooked pizza and organised our kitchen.

By the time we see this magazine it will be Harvest and Little Lambs are hoping to make a scarecrow, and mini scarecrows as well. We regularly sing ‘Dingle Dangle Scarecrow’ and it sounds good.



Thank you to our lovely volunteer team and we are very pleased to welcome Kathy from St John's church as she has volunteered to help us.

*Blessings  
Sue Fairman and the Little Lambs team*

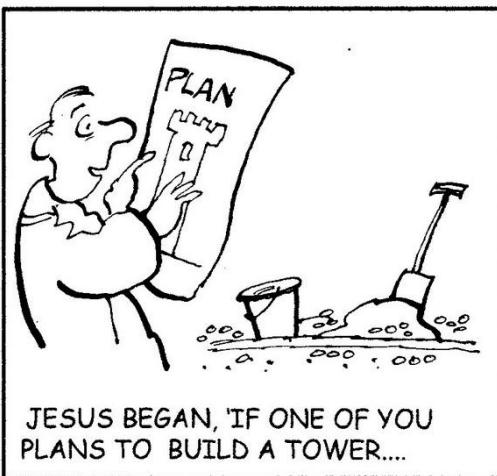
# The tale of the Tower Builder



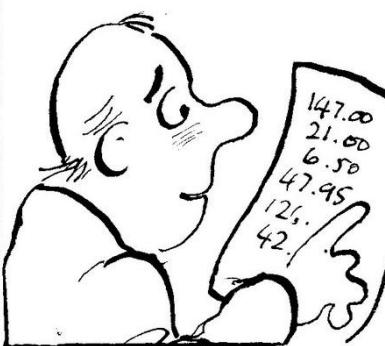
JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



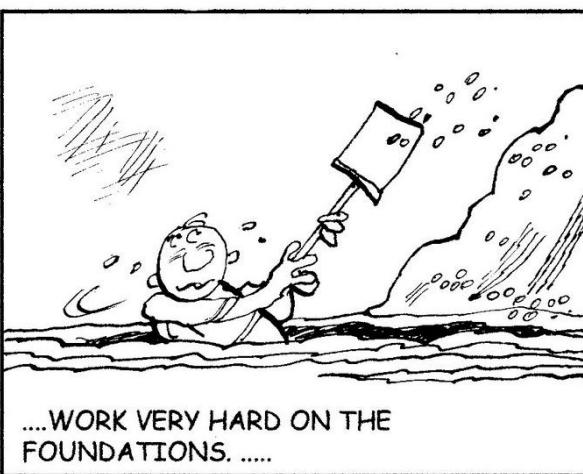
JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....



IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

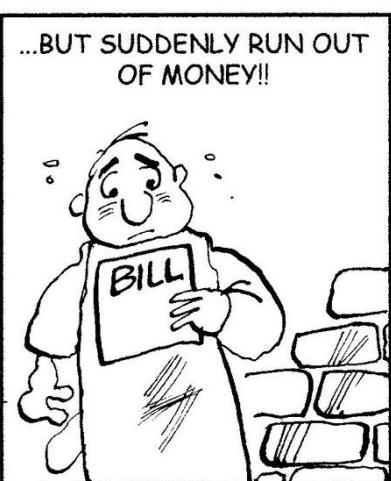
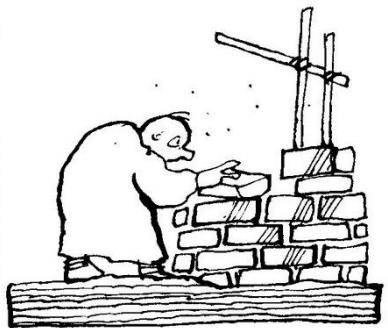


...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START, ....

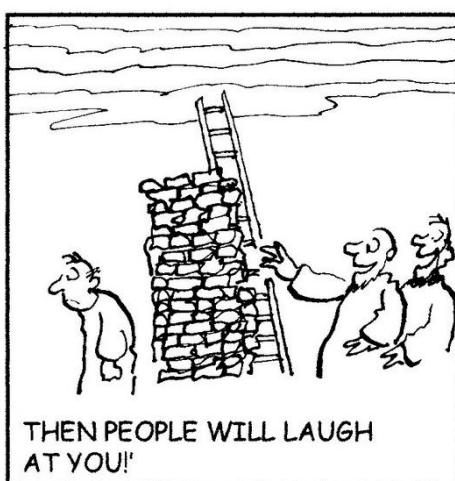


....WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS. ....

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS....



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!



WE NEED TO REALISE THAT ALTHOUGH FOLLOWING JESUS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.; IT'S ALSO A GREAT CHALLENGE.



## ***Who is God?***

Just a small question to cover in September's Messy Church! It was wonderful to welcome new faces at Messy Church this month and see them enjoying the crafts exploring the theme of Who is God?

If you look at the Messy Church board in St John's Church, you will see words that the congregation came up with to describe God. How many of these do you agree with? What would you add?

With such a wide topic to cover, this month we focused mainly on creation and all of the fantastic things God has made. These were reflected in crafts such as leaf printing, gingerbread planets and flowers, making jewellery with starry beads and creating sunrise collages with red, oranges, yellow and black paper. The nature scavenger hunt was a challenge to find items in the churchyard that started with each letter of the alphabet – we're still looking for x and z, so do let us know your suggestions! Milk fireworks – a reaction between washing up liquid and milk, reminded us that God is also present in science.



A couple of activities took a different perspective of God. The quiet corner was a moment to take a break and simply pray to, listen to, or simply contemplate God. The Trinity Triangles were a simple craft making triangles with lollipop sticks, reminding us that while we focus on God, we consider him part of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



The wider discussion about the Holy Spirit was left for another time – Who is God is already a big enough question!



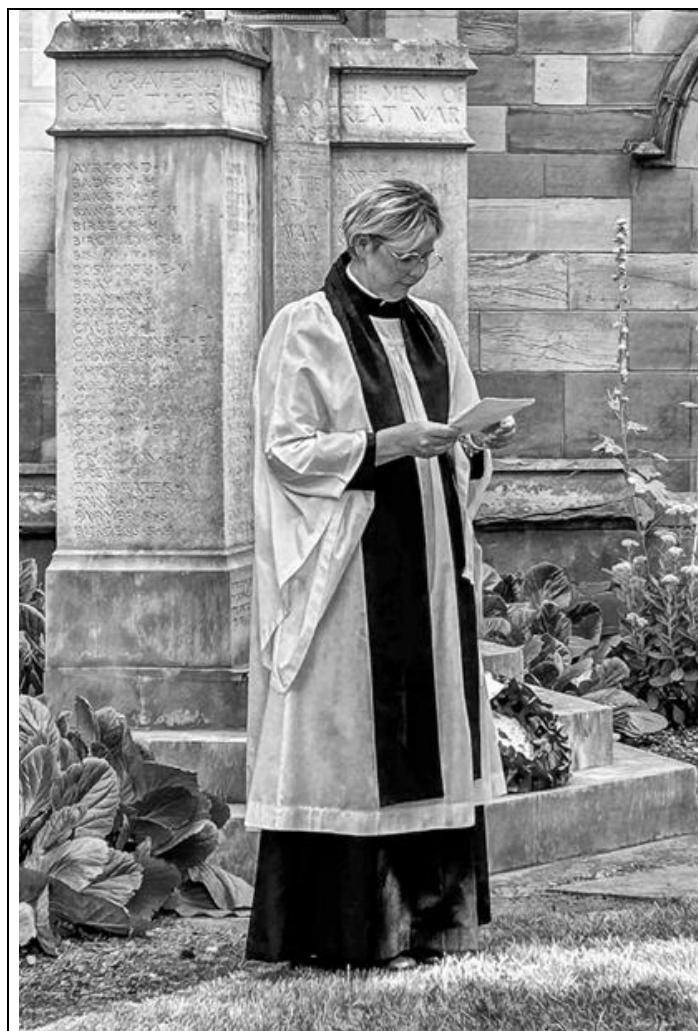
Our Worship focused on where we can particularly see God. Gilly shared with us the story of having to attend morning prayer one morning when she'd really have stayed asleep in bed, only to arrive and discover the beautiful scene of sun beams coming through the window behind the High Altar. Our hymn took many Millennials back to their primary school days with 'Who Put the Colours in the Rainbow?' We rounded off Messy Church with a delicious chilli and our gingerbread planets for dessert.

Messy Church returns on Saturday 4th October, 4pm, doors open 3.30pm. Our theme will be Harvest. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there.

*Beth Broadway*

# *VJ Day*

VJ Day was marked with a short service at the War Memorial.

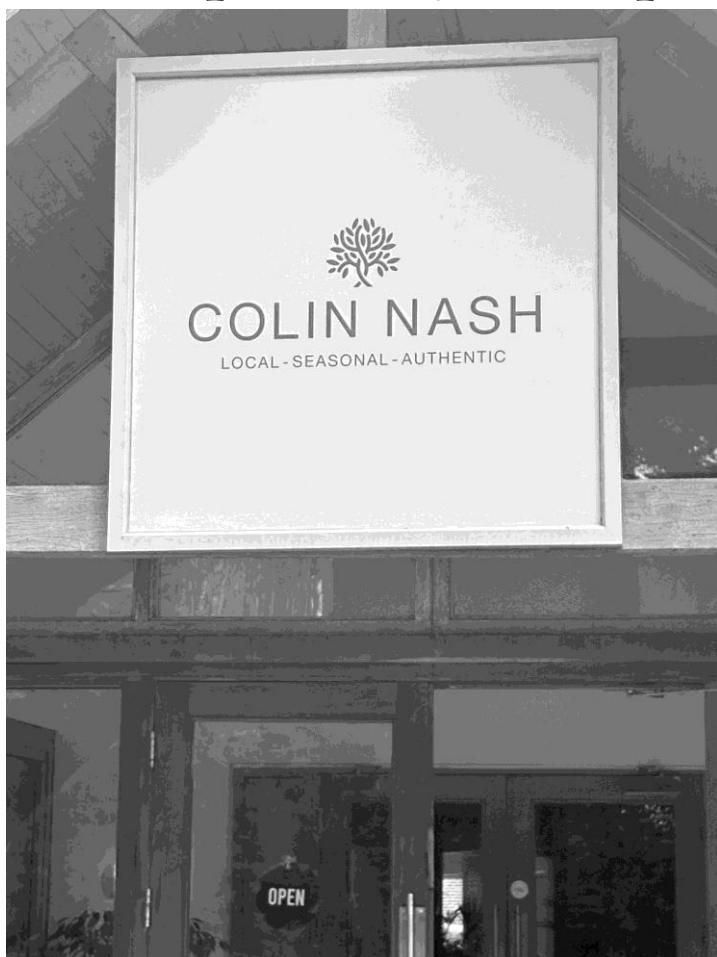




*Colin Nash*

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*Spotted by our reporter in Christchurch*



This Mr Nash has a restaurant in Christchurch and the sign was above the door.

I did ask Colin if the description was accurate!!

*Roger Job*

## *Daniel was too young to drive cars* ☺

Those of you who came to the Community Breakfast back in March may remember that three of the Guides were selling various things as a fundraiser for our trip to the Kent International Jamboree this summer. I thought you might like to know what a fantastic time we had!

The jamboree was billed as a 'Festival of Scouting and Guiding' and had a festival feel with live bands every night. During the day the girls took part in a huge range of activities. These included finding out about various charitable projects that Scouting and Guiding are involved in overseas; high-adrenaline activities such as quad biking and getting the chance to drive a car (high adrenaline when you're 12!); engineering projects and inflatable fun. There were 8,000 Guides and Scouts participating with a further 2,000 adults either accompanying their units or running activities. I'm not sure exactly how many countries were represented in total, but I think it was between 30 and 40. We were camping with a couple of units run by friends of mine in Bristol, so the girls already had new friends before leaving our pitch!



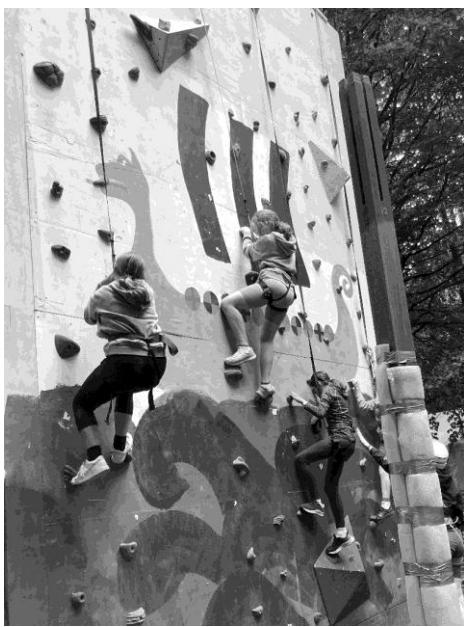
I asked the girls for their thoughts...

Aimee says: I was extremely lucky to be a part of the 2025 jamboree. I had lots of amazing experiences including a driving a car, live performances, and camping shared with 8,000 Guides and Scouts. I am more confident and I collected a lot of badges! I feel very, very lucky.

Emily says: I am glad I had the opportunity to go to the 2025 jamboree this year. It was full of things to do and experience. Some of the things that I enjoyed doing were driving the cars, shooting and the fun run with the coloured pigments to throw at each other. The fun didn't stop in the evening

too with music and firework displays. One memory I will keep is sleeping under the stars with my friends. I would recommend the experience for others.

Maya says: My first jamboree was amazing! At first I was really nervous because it was my first time staying 7 nights away from my parents. I was also a little



nervous about sleeping in a tent but it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. I really enjoyed the activities and being with new people and my friends. The food was great there (that's great coming from a fussy eater) and I almost never went hungry. The fireworks at the end of the week were AMAZING! They were better than any fireworks I had ever seen before! Overall the jamboree was great and I would definitely go again in 4 years.



Daniel and I also had a great time. Of all the jamborees I've been to it was the most accommodating for those of us who needed to bring our own children with us. Daniel was too young for it, but there was a special programme for children aged 2-9 who were there with their parents which my friend's children really enjoyed. They didn't get to drive cars, but they did get a chance to do most of the other activities. Watching 5 year olds axe throwing was an experience!

The girls were (as always!) helpful and polite and it was great to watch them grow in confidence through all their new experiences.

Looking forward to this term with Guides, we've just started back with 30 girls which means we're full which is great! We've got lots planned with an extended range of Interest Badges to investigate (24 new Badges for Guides were released over the summer with new ones for the other Sections too), the Innovate Skills Builder to work towards, a Community Breakfast to help at, and lots of other fun activities. Look out for our Scarecrow during the Scarecrow festival and the Christmas tree in church which we'll be decorating again!

As always, if you, or anyone you know, would like to get involved in Guiding please get in touch with me.

*Liz Forman*

# Discover History - Bronze Age Worcester



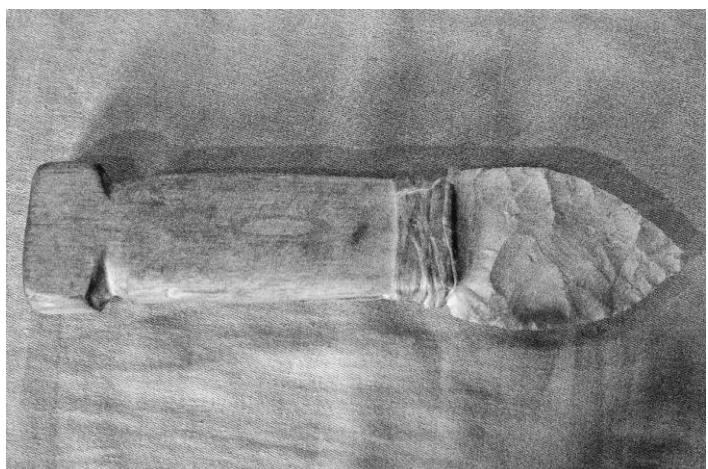
Despite being a week later than usual over 90 people turned up to hear Paul talk about Worcester in the Bronze Age. Although it is called the Bronze Age over 90% of the objects found during this period are made of stone. So why is it not still called the Stone Age (or Mesolithic period)? See below!

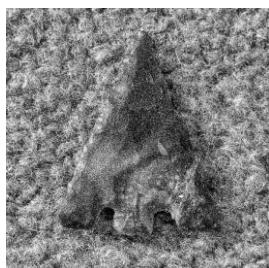
During this period people moved around hunting and foraging, picking the nuts or fruit until they ran out and they moved again. When they started mixing metals, copper and tin, to make bronze they started to stay in one area rather than continually moving. Between the Stone Age and Bronze Age there was a short period of a Copper Age.

The settlement in the Worcester area is actually older than the one in London, around 10,000 BC. Any towns with 'cester' at the end were Roman settlements. A couple of historians/archaeologists, Willis Bund and Mattley Moore knew that Worcester was a Roman city, but they believed that it had much older roots.

At the start of the Bronze Age people started cooking meat, instead of eating it raw. They discovered that some stones they used around the fire, as they got hot, bled a liquid that sparkled when it cooled. They also noticed that some stones did not bleed, and others actually exploded. They noticed that some of the green stones bled a green/brown metal, which was copper. In other areas of Britain they noticed that stones bled a silver liquid, which was tin. The different stones were generally found in different areas of the land so they started to live between the 2 areas. Someone then discovered that they could melt the 2 metals together and make a new metal that was stronger than either of the 2 individual metals (bronze).

A big development was when they started shaping the metals so they could make stronger tools that could then be used to shape the stones such as flint. They could make stronger knives from flint and were able to sharpen them much better and fix wooden handles to them, so they were able to use them more safely without cutting themselves.





They were now able to make arrow heads so they could shoot animals from a distance rather than running up to the animals and trying to stab them with a spear.

They were able to create saws that could be used to cut wood.



They made axes where the stones were mounted on a wooden shaft and sickles where small teeth were added to channels allowing them to cut plants.

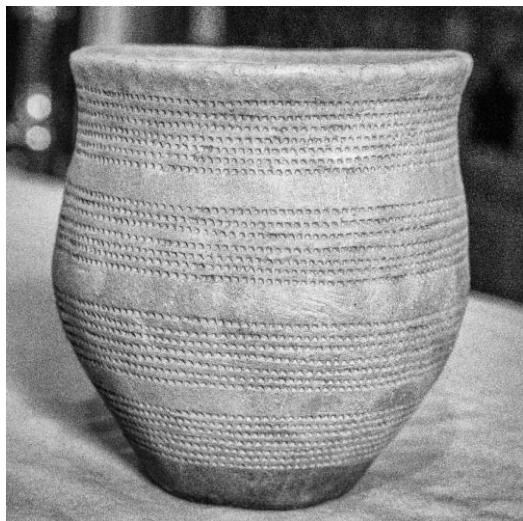


So, that was the key. Bronze could be used to make better stone items - hence why most of the objects found from this period are still stone.

As the climate warmed up after the last Ice Age, plants began to grow and trees started to appear. In the Bronze Age they then started to clear areas of trees, which gave them areas where they could live and grow food. Also, the wood was used to keep them warm by burning it and to make tools. This gave reasons to stay in one place rather than the previous nomadic life that they had lived. They were able to fence in animals so the animals would not roam, and they could kill them easier. The people started to move from hunter-gatherers to a farming culture and planted

crops that they could eat. They realised that the seeds of grass if ground down created a powder, flour. Somehow, they were able to evolve wheat, barley and oats from the grass seed. From this they were able to make bread.

They looked after the animals and over the years they bred pigs from wild boars, white sheep from brown coated sheep and cows from Oryx. The sheep had white wool as it was better to dye, brown wool just becomes a muddy colour when dyed. They used the Oryx/cows to plough the ground. They also hunted with wolves and from there domesticated dogs started to appear.



There was a need to create a means of storing the grain and meat, so they made basic pots/jars from mud/clay. As their farming lives developed, they started to build homes to stay in one place. Mostly these were roundhouses. They had to be careful not to starve themselves if the crops ran out, so they had to start planning their crops. The other disadvantage of not moving was that diseases started to appear, and this unfortunately killed off some of the families.

They also discovered that once the grain had been ground then the fibres in the stems could be twisted together to create thread. From this thread they could make basic clothes. Then they created a basic loom and were able to weave cloth to make better clothes. By using different colours of wool they were able to create patterns in the material.

Around 750 to 700 BC Worcester would have resembled this picture. The main settled area was around the Cathedral, as this was on a high point so defensible and close to water.

As the Bronze age progressed, they were able to create more elaborate bronze daggers and



swords, but these were mostly used as status symbols by the key elders.

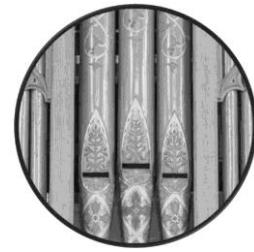


*Colin Nash*

# *Breathing new life into the organ*

## What's the problem?

In short - we've got leaky windbags (wind reservoirs) 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.”*

## How can I help?

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:

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

With your help, we hope to start the work at the beginning of 2026, and have the organ back, in full working order, for Easter 2026.

PS Please tell everyone you can about this organ appeal!

## *Short mission trip to the All4Women centre, Lesvos, Greece.*

At St Peter's Baptist Church at the start of 2024 and 2025 we did vision board sessions, i.e. praying and asking God what the year ahead had in store. I asked how did God want to use me? Flicking through magazines and resources, I bypassed the holiday ads and new kitchen ads and was drawn to pictures of those in need. I was drawn to an article about a Mission organisation, pictures of poverty, appeals for help with a deep need to pray and help on a practical level. I did not know where this was all going, but one morning in St John's listening to the prayers of intercession, I thought 'It frightens me. I am not one for public speaking, but I think I am being called to join the intercession rota.' This "feeling" did not go away. I prayed about it and about a year later there I am up at the front reading carefully crafted prayers.

Further doors were opened with the setting up of a World Mission Team (WMT) at St Peter's church which I promptly joined. One of our WMT church members works with Reach Beyond. He feels he is being called to lead a short mission trip to the All4Women centre in the refugee camp community on Lesvos, Greece.

Reach Beyond is a Christian world mission agency aiming to reach people who have never had a chance to hear the Gospel, using practical works in the name of Jesus. They work alongside in-country partners such as the charity All4Aid sending people on short term mission trips. This helps support their ministry both financially and practically. I was amazed to discover an email asking me to prayerfully consider joining the Lesvos mission trip. I did a fair amount of praying and have received an overwhelming amount of emotional and practical support from work, family and friends, which means that going on the trip is achievable. The trip plans are in the early stages. We are awaiting dates for our trip, but we hope to go before the end of March 2026. My attendance is also subject to a formal application process. I have 5 prayer partners lined up to pray for me and the wider trip. If the trip goes ahead for me there will be further training from Reach Beyond and post trip support and debrief. I have a variety of feelings. I am excited but slightly anxious about the potential sadness and huge need I will inevitably witness. However strangely I have an underlying peace about the decision to go; it is the right thing to do. I am sure this is the Holy Spirit at work in me, guiding and equipping me for the work ahead, hopefully with a loving, willing and cheerful heart!

Many women and children are fleeing war and poverty in countries like Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. They arrive on Lesvos by boat seeking refuge in Europe searching for safety, dignity and a future. As a Christian I feel called to serve, to

be the hands and feet of Christ, to respond, to love our neighbours like Jesus did, because that's who refugees are, neighbours in need.

The All4Women Centre relies on volunteers to help their work and focuses on serving women and girls by offering:

- 8 safe warm showers;
- Laundry facility with 10 commercial washing machines;
- A shop (distribution area) providing clothing and personal hygiene items (nappies, wipes, feminine pads, bras, etc.);
- A hospitality area where female guests are served tea, take part in activities and workshops, as well as receive manicures, pedicures, hairstyling, etc.;
- A baby bath area for mothers to bathe their infants in a warm, safe environment;
- A sewing workshop with 10 robust and portable mechanical sewing machines.



I am a firm believer that if God wants me to go on this trip, he will make a way. If the trip does not go ahead, I will donate the money to Reach Beyond and All4Aid. I invite you to partner with me in this ministry, through prayer and/or financial support, or however you feel God is calling you to be part of his work. I will need to fund the mission trip myself (which will be somewhere around £1,000), so raising any amount will be helpful. I will be doing 2 events to raise awareness and there will be the opportunity to support me financially:

(1) I will swim 160 lengths (2 miles) on 22nd October 2025. Please scan this QR code or visit my JustGiving page to sponsor me: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/laura-fairman>



(2) I will have a stall at the Tabletop sale at St John's church on 18th October. Please do visit me for a chat. If you like, pay a small donation to have a chance at winning a big cake if you find the buried "treasure" hidden on the island of Lesvos (with thanks to Philip Evans who came up with the clever idea). My sponsored swim form will be available too for those who wish to do things the traditional way and donate via cash.

*Laura Fairman*

*"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in." (Matthew 25:35)*

## ***Fruits of a busy summer***

Christopher Whitehead is a school that continues to grow. From its humble beginnings of 25 students and 7 staff in 1934, it now has over 1,600 students and 183 staff. Such a large school with a variety of buildings and education spaces requires a significant amount of investment and maintenance to provide the facilities for staff and students to achieve their potential.

The summer is always a busy time, making the most of an empty school. As educational staff and students enjoy their holidays, the operations team have been busy in many areas of the school.

The latest six weeks holiday has seen over £300k invested into a variety of projects including fire safety, window replacements, decoration, floor restoration, maintenance works, IT upgrades and refurbishment of Sixth Form spaces.



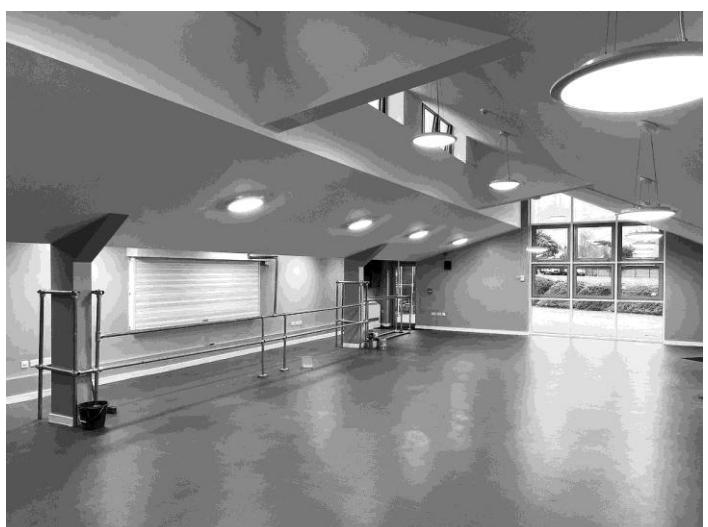
***6th form first floor, before***



***6th form first floor, after***



***6th form first floor, after***



***Canteen, after***



*LSC windows, before*



*LSC windows, after*

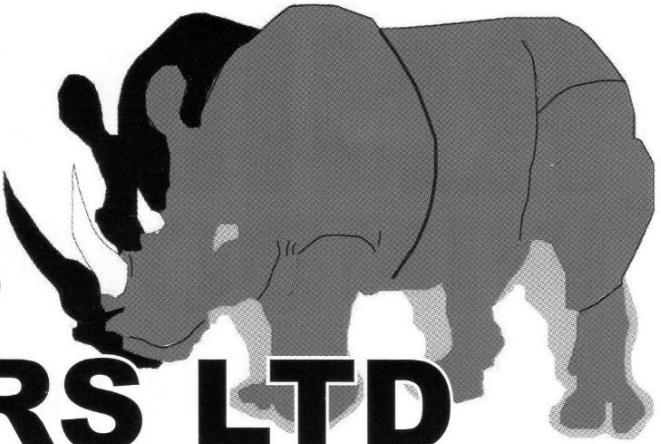


*Minibus, wrapped*

The school continues to open its doors to the community by hiring spaces out to local sports groups, theatre and music schools, dance classes, choirs and clubs.

*Greg Freeman,  
Director of Finance and Operations,  
Christopher Whitehead Language College and Sixth Form*

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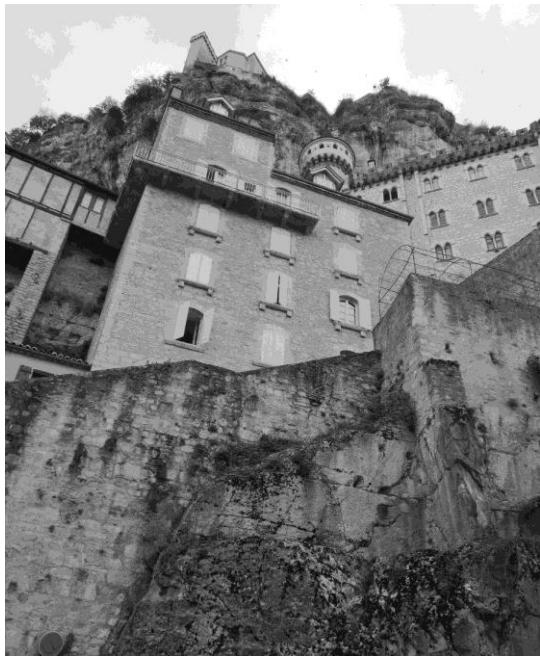
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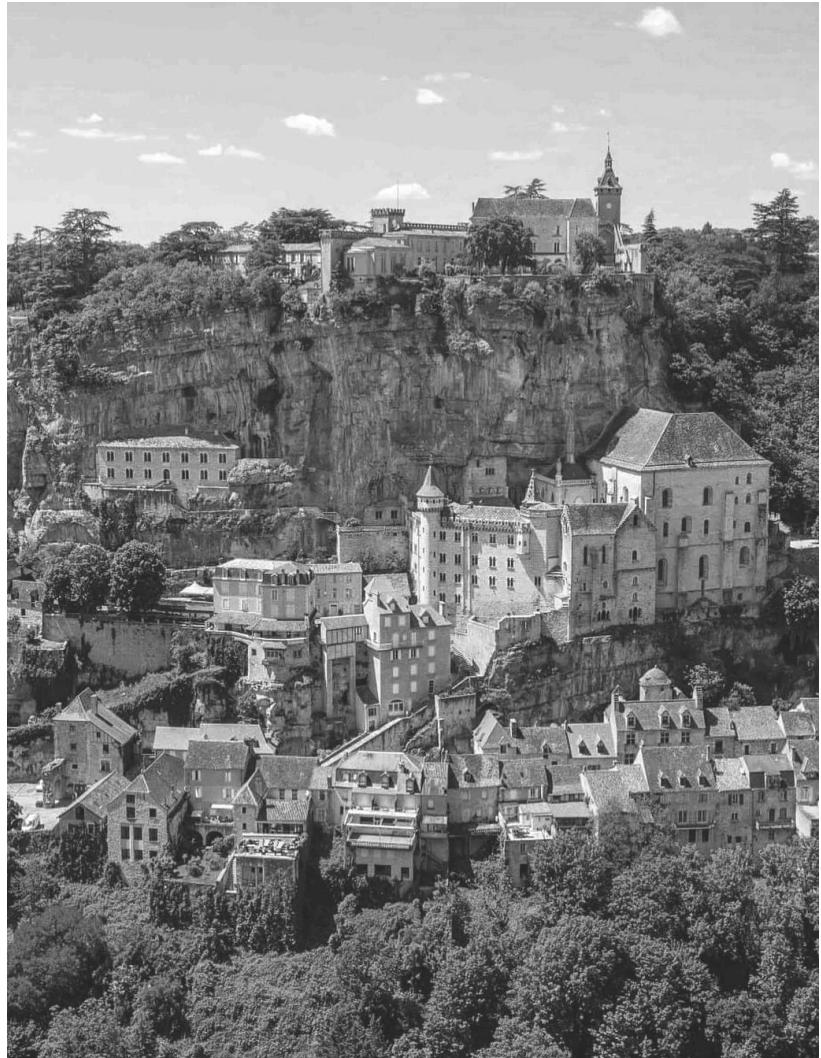
## *From our correspondent ‘en France’*

During our late summer visit to our house in the French department of the Lot, we welcomed friends who wished to visit Rocamadour.



Rocamadour is around 45 minutes drive from our house. It is one of many villages in France that has the title of “plus beaux villages de France” (most beautiful villages in France). It is also a religious site and part of one of the pilgrim routes to Compostella in Spain. It is built on the cliff side on the sides of one of the tributaries of the Dordogne. There are caves in this cliff which have been inhabited since Palaeolithic times and some were used as the base for building the medieval site.

The 3 levels of Rocamadour date from the middle ages and reflect the 3 orders of medieval society; knights above, religious clerics in the middle and the lay workers below. A document of 1105 references a small chapel built in the shelter of the cliff. This still exists as a chapel to the Black Madonna where many visitors and pilgrims visit. It is particularly known as a chapel where sailors and their families pray for a safe voyage and an old, masted sailing boat hanging from the ceiling pays homage to that. A larger church was built at the side later. It was in this church that Arthur and I made our last visit when we sang with a local French choir for a concert.



*Continued on page 45*



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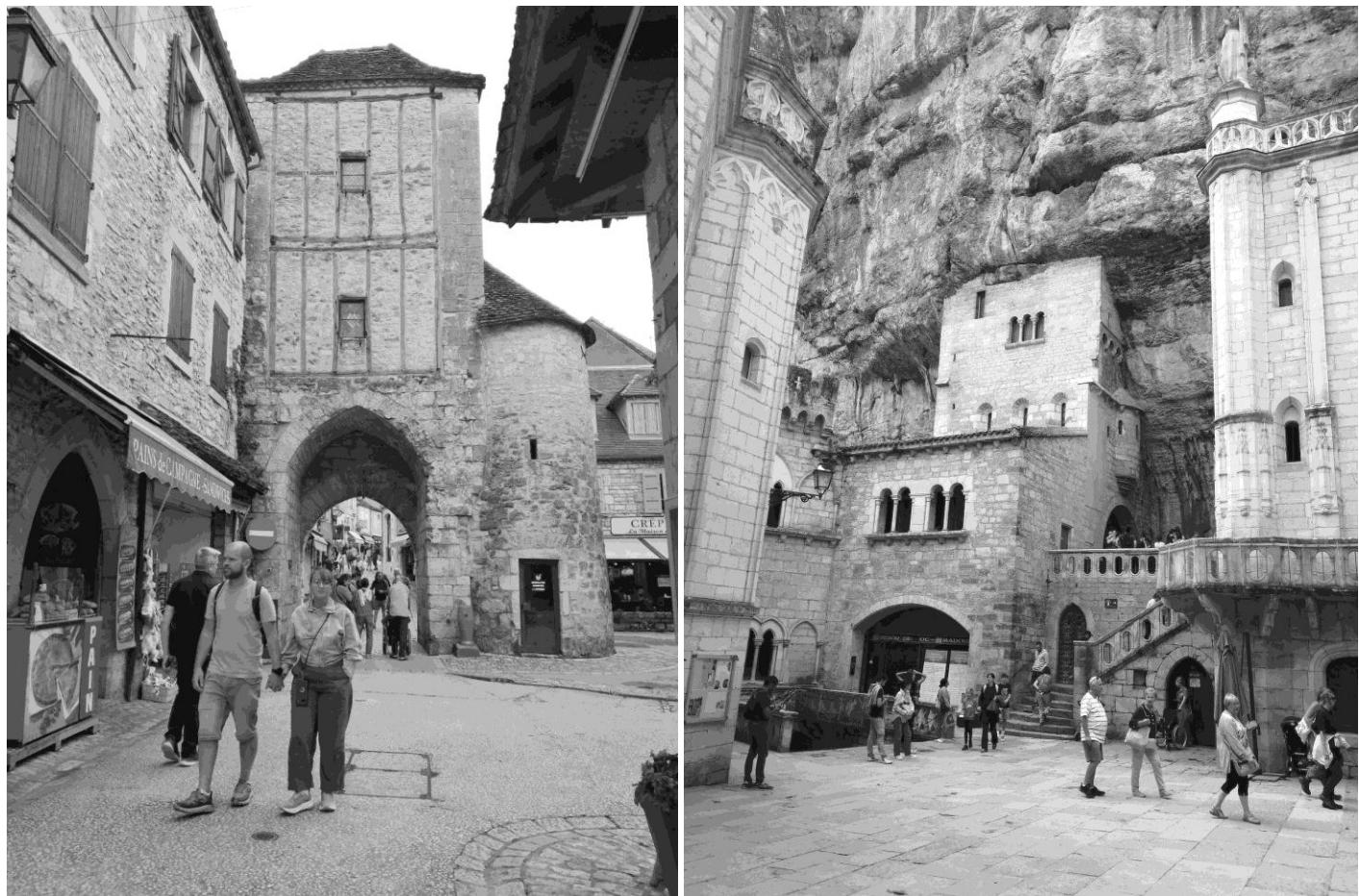
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*Continued from page 43*

The Abbott of Tulle began the religious development of the site and settled there in 1112. In 1148 the first miracle was announced which attracted pilgrims to pay homage to the Virgin Mary. A statue to the Black Madonna was introduced in the 12th century. Abbot Gerand built the majority of the religious buildings between 1152 and 1188. Excavations in 1166 for a grave in front of the entrance to the chapel uncovered an intact body and that was named as Saint Amadour. The body was burned during the Wars of Religion and only a few bones remain.



The turn of the 12th century saw many historical pilgrims including Henry II of England who went in 1159 to thank the Virgin for healing his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine. Other notables include Simon de Montfort, Blanche of Castille, Saint Louis IX of France, Saint Dominic and Saint Bernard Clairvaux. Part of the pilgrimage was to climb the stone steps from the bottom level up to the chapel on your knees. Apparently French kings had servants moving cushions up the steps so their penance wasn't so painful.

The end of the 13th century was the height of Rocamadour's influence and the building work was completed. Wars of Religion in 1562 saw some destruction of the site and it was also looted during the French Revolution.

*Margaret Miller*

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## ***Joint Council meeting 3rd September 2025***

Gilly Maxim, in the chair as Phil was away, welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 13 members present, with apologies from 3 members.

It was noted that the JC had agreed by correspondence the authorities to sign the final documents for the sale of Heron Close, which has now gone through. We have received our expenses since the property became vacant. The remaining sum from the sale is now in an endowment fund - we can only spend the interest.

The Ministry Team reported that new format services have been trialled over the summer and will be reviewed at the next meeting. The Special Services Committee provided information about proposed Harvest and Christmas 'Special Services'. Philip Evans explained the proposals in more detail and answered questions. There was a question about 'Blue Christmas'. Philip explained that this is a service aimed at people for whom Christmas can be a difficult time. This has not yet been scheduled, but is something that we would like to offer.

The Finance Team reported that, on a day-to-day basis, the accounts are running and people know what their different roles are. The problem remains a lack of a treasurer, which means there is nobody looking into the figures in a more strategic way. On the reports provided we have had £60k in and £80k out so far this year, which is not sustainable. On closer inspection there are mitigations, but they do not completely balance the deficit. Over the year the likely deficit is about £8k.

Hiring someone to work as treasurer was suggested, but a service that can be bought in likely only covers the roles that are already being covered. We need a person to have a strategic overview, analysing the figures and understanding how situations may change over time. A suggestion was made to investigate the possibility of creating a 'business manager' role possibly across several churches. This is something Gilly will bring up at Deanery Synod.

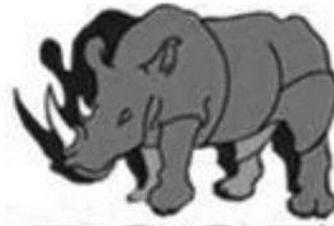
The Accommodation Committee reported that our apple tree needs to be felled - a large branch recently fell off. Financial approval was given to get this done.

The Safeguarding Team had no issues to raise. They will meet soon to review the dashboard. Separate from our own safeguarding, there has been a breach of data protection at the company who run the DBS checks. People affected will be contacted.

Under Health and Safety, the issue was raised of drawing pins on the boards in the children's area. Fiona Templeton will ensure this area is free from drawing pins.

The Events Committee reported on Hymns and Pimm's. The people who attended gave positive feedback. There was an update on

*Continued on page 49*



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*Continued from page 47*

forthcoming events: The Scarecrow Festival, The Table Top sale and the Family Quiz. The Burns Night Ceilidh will return in January - the events team are looking for a larger venue.

It was reported that work on the organ will start in January. We can fund it from existing resources, but any funds raised from the organ appeal will help significantly. The grants applied for so far were unsuccessful. The events team are considering fund-raising concerts in the spring.

There was a discussion about the ongoing work to improve working of the sound system. Gilly said that as a church it is important to ensure we have a sound system that works reliably for all purposes.

As part of the ongoing discussion about 'Vision for the Future – Making our buildings fit for purpose' Philip Evans has grouped related items together and further prioritised them to make it easier to see what we want to work on in the short term. It was agreed to prioritise the first four items on the list (sound system; feasibility study on future heating systems; install under-pew heaters in the chancel; install ramp or other access route to the chancel). The accommodation committee will pick up these items. The problems with the toilets in the Blakefield complex are being dealt with as routine maintenance.

There was a discussion about noticeboards and welcome signage. Philip will research options for external welcome signage and report to the standing committee.

Under Children and Young People, Fiona Templeton said that the loudspeaker and toys should be placed in the Blakefield Room every week for any people who wish to use it. There was a discussion about how to ensure this happens for every service, especially when children's church is not running. Children's church will continue to run on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday with two groups (due to the spread of ages of children who attend). 2nd Sunday is an all age service. Fiona will put a 'friendly' message in the children's corner to ensure families know the Blakefield Room is available for young children if they wish to use it.

Jenny English summarised the last Deanery Synod meeting.

Under AOB, Jenny English reported that the prayer table in church has been updated. There was a discussion about cups as we do not have enough for large gatherings. It was agreed to buy the cooking equipment required for the Community Breakfast as some loaned items are no longer available.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

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

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<b>Libraries Unlocked</b>	Monday - Saturday: 8am - 8 pm
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***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 2, 16 & 30 October, 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Readers' Group: Friday 3 October, 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Photography Group: Friday 17 October, 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Crime Film Group: Friday 24 October, 12:00pm to 1:30pm
- Councillors' Surgery: Saturday 4 October, 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet your local policing team: Thursday 9 October, 10:30am to 11:15am.

*“This community meeting gives you the opportunity to raise any concerns and to find out what we are doing to tackle the issues that matter to you. Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you there.*

***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/>

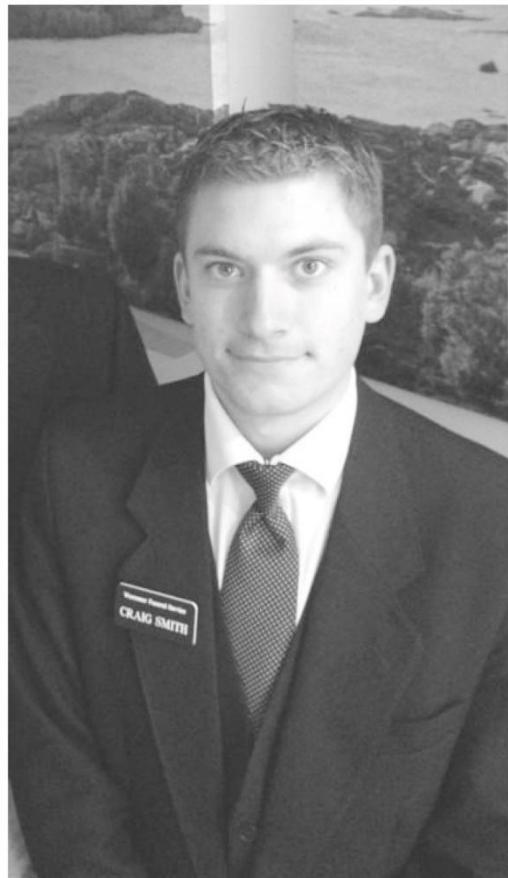
- Local History Drop-In (Free) Saturday 4 October, 10am-2pm
- Family History For Beginners (£13) Saturday 18 October, 10:30am - 12:30pm (BR)
- Behind The Scenes Tours (£6) Saturday 1 November, 2pm-3pm (BR)



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## *From the magazine archive, October 1930*

### **Harvest Thanksgiving, Thursday, October 2nd, at 7.30 p.m.**

The work of decorating the Church for the Harvest Thanksgiving may be begun any day that is convenient after Preparation Sunday. I sincerely trust that those ladies who have had charge of special parts of the Church will be so good as to repeat their kindness of former years, and that they may be well supported by the offerings and labour of many others.

The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thursday, October 2nd, at 7.30 p.m. Our special preacher is the Rev. Dr. Murray, Vicar of Pershore.

### **Sunday, October 5th.**

The first Sunday in October is the appointed Sunday for holding our Dedication Festival, a festival of thanksgiving for all the spiritual benefits which we receive through the existence of our Parish Church. Associated with the Dedication Festival will be the continuation of the Harvest Thanksgiving. All Communicants are earnestly asked to make a Communion on this important day. There will be celebrations of the Holy Communion at 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m. (choral) and 12.15 p.m. The preacher at 11 a.m. will be the Rev. Sheldon Painter, Rector of St. Helen's. There will be a special service for our younger people in the afternoon at 3 p.m., when we shall ask all departments of the Sunday School, including the Bible Classes, to attend. At the evening service at 6.30 p.m. the preacher will be your own Vicar.

Noticed in the July 1971 magazine:

1954: Rebuilding of Organ by Nicholson & Co. Ltd. of Worcester. Work begun on January 1st, and completed May, 1954, at a cost of £3,000. Organ Fund Appeal started October, 1953. £1,000 donated by January 1st, 1954.

Dedication Service May 23rd. Recital given by David Willcocks, Cathedral Organist.

### **Inflation calculator!**

£3,000 in 1954  
is equivalent to  
£72,000 in 2025.

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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*

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

---

*And finally....*



***“Good news on the lottery funding for the organ repairs, Vicar - three of our numbers came up for £25.”***

For the actual fund-raising appeal for the organ, please see page 37.

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

## Sunday Services – October 2025

	<b>St John's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>	<b>St David's</b>
<b>5th October</b>	10.30am Eucharist 4pm Harvest Songs of Praise	10.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist
<b>12th October</b>	10.30am All Age Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer with Bible study	10.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Evening Prayer
<b>19th October</b>	10.30am Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist
<b>26th October</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer (focus on Syria)	10.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Evening Prayer
<b>2nd November</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm All Souls' Service	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.