

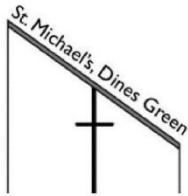


THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine  
St Michael's



December 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 December 2025 edition. We look back on the Remembrance events of early November, and forward through Advent to Christmas. There are fewer routine events in December, but that is more than made up for by all the Advent and Christmas services and other events going on. You will find the details within!

Our theme collect reminds us that God created us in his image. Sarah's letter reflects upon this and how we might respond. We leave you with a prayer from Advent (the post communion for the second Sunday of Advent) which echoes something of Sarah's reflection:

*Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

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## ***Important information***

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

**Next edition (January):** Deadline is Sunday 7th December. **NB this is the first Sunday of the month, not the usual second Sunday.**

Distribution – from 21st December.

**Subscription form:** Page 54.

**Cover picture:** Courtesy of Parish Pump.

**Pictures in this magazine:** Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Beth Broadway, Christopher Whitehead Language College, Graham Evans, Liz Forman, Penny Marcés, Colin Nash and Amy Rees.

## **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 14.

## *From Sarah Cottrill*

*“Almighty God,  
Who wonderfully created us in your own image ...”*

When I read these opening words of the Collect for the first Sunday of Christmas, I was instantly reminded of words from Psalm 139, which I often take as my reading for a baptism service. There, the psalmist writes: “I praise you, because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”. [ Psalm 139, v14 (NIV) ]



Anyone who has ever looked at a new-born baby will know the truth of these words. We marvel at the perfection of tiny hands and feet; a whole body that fits into a hand or can be measured by an arm's length. Thanks to the wonders of modern medical technology, we don't even have to wait until the baby is born. Sonograms can be printed, showing us incredible pictures of the baby who is still being “knit together in (the) mother's womb.” [ Psalm 139 v13 (NIV) ]

Whilst most of us find babies a source of joy and wonder, this is not, of course, universal. There are some to whom all babies look alike - and all look like Winston Churchill!

Although our Collect is one set for after Christmas, when you read this letter, we will only just have started Advent and we are all preparing for Christmas; preparing to celebrate the birth of another baby who, to a disinterested onlooker, appeared just the same as any other. There was nothing in his appearance to suggest that he was any more or less wonderfully made than any other baby born before or since.

And yet, in this baby humankind looked, for the first time, on the God in whose image we are all made. But Jesus came to show us not God's physical appearance, but his nature; the very essence of his being, which is love.

God created the human race in this image of love but through pride, arrogance and greed, we turned away from that image, distorting it almost beyond recognition, until Jesus came to restore it. It is easy to see why the writer of the collect finds this restoration even more wonderful than our original creation.

When God created humans in his image he was starting, so to speak, with a blank page. Put in simple, human terms, he was setting out on a brand new project; there were no limitations, the world was his oyster, full of excitement and endless potential - rather like the life of that new- born baby! But then the

page was soiled; the stain of sin formed an ugly blot that gradually spread. In God's place, we would probably have thrown the page away in despair. But God, in his infinite patience, love and mercy, didn't do that. Instead, he sent Christ to show us how we might return to God and be restored to our place as reflectors of his image.

We know, from the Gospel accounts of his life, how Jesus shared our humanity, but how can we, who are flawed, share the divinity of the One who is perfect? We do it by trying to reflect his image of love through everything we say and do.

Early December may seem a strange time to invite you to make New Year Resolutions, but Advent is the Church's New Year, and so I do invite you to make one resolution now. Beginning today, the moment you put down this magazine, identify one area of your life in which, or one person to whom, you could better reflect God's love. Make it your priority throughout the coming year to allow God to wonderfully re-create and restore you in this one area if in no other, and then rejoice as you share with Christ the life of his divinity.

*Sarah*

---

### ***The Collect for the first Sunday of Christmas***

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

---

### ***Sundays and Principal Feasts in December***

Monday 1st December: Andrew the Apostle

Sunday 7th December: The second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 14th December: The third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 21st December: The fourth Sunday of Advent

Wednesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

Thursday 25th December: Christmas Day

Friday 26th December: Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

Saturday 27th December: John, Apostle and Evangelist

Sunday 28th December: The Holy Innocents (First Sunday of Christmas)

## *In Memoriam*

Alice Moulder	1 December 2009
Sarah Rose	8 December 1985
Vera May Bullock	10 December 1991
William Bishop	10 December 1996
Jack Taylor	16 December 1998
Ivy Muriel Rogers	17 December 2001
Harry Palmer	19 December 2001
John Goodsell	21 December 2004
Eileen Cantrill	27 December 2022
Derek A Bowen	28 December 2007
Ann Smith	28 December 2010
Gladys Mitchem	30 December 1995
Archibald Arthur Lee (Arthur)	30 December 2023

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, October 2025*

### **St John's**

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

d. 28th August	Margaret Drew
d. 7th September	Jill Susan Ann Shillitto
d. 5th September	Glenis Cole
d. 8th September	Shirley Finch

**SERVICES:** Communicants 246. Total attendance at all services 693 including 195 at three funerals.

### **St Michael's**

**SERVICES:** Communicants 63. Total attendance at all services 70.

## ***Where to look for services in December?***

Page 7, opposite, for the Advent Carol Service.

Page 8 for Messy Church.

Pages 10 and 11, for overall details of Christmas services.

Page 13 for weekday services.

Page 15 for Evening Prayer with Bible study.

Page 25 for Blue Christmas.

The back cover for Sunday services.

# Advent Carol Service

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**JOY**

The First Sunday of

# **ADVENT**

Sunday 30th November

Advent Carol Service

5.30pm

*A candle-lit service of lessons and carols  
for the start of Advent.*

*Hot drinks and mince pies served from  
4.45pm.*

This year's Advent Carol Service will be held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

The Church of England's theme for this year's Advent & Christmas period is **The Joy of Christmas**, drawing on Luke 2.10-11: *"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people ..."*. The theme

revolves around the single word "Joy!".

The Advent Carol Service is an opportunity to begin our Advent journey in a quiet, calm and reflective way. It is a candle-lit service with readings from the Bible, prayers and music, which lasts about an hour. There will be Advent music sung by the choir and well-known Advent hymns for all the congregation to sing. Refreshments of hot drinks and mince pies will be served beforehand from 4.45pm.

*Yes, we know this is a November event in a December magazine, but Advent Sunday is so closely linked to December events, it seemed a pity to exclude it. The Editors.*

## *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 23. Last date this term will be 15th December and we will return on 12th January 2026.

--- ooo ---

**(J) Saturday 6th December, 4pm:** Messy Church, see below and page 26. Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- ooo ---

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

--- ooo ---

**(J) Saturday 13th December, 2.30pm:** Practice for the Community Nativity, see page 15.

--- ooo ---

**(J) Thursday 11th December, 1pm:** The Good Old Days present Discover History, "The Festive Story", see page 9.

--- ooo ---

**(M) Monday 12th December, 12.30pm:** Mothers' Union, bring and share lunch.

--- ooo ---

**(J) Wednesday 17th December, 2.45pm:** Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- ooo ---

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

--- ooo ---

**(J) Saturday 20th December, 4.30pm:** Community Nativity, see page 15.



Join us the first Saturday  
of each month!

Saturday 6th December, 4pm.  
(doors open 3.30pm with  
drinks and biscuits).  
December's theme will be  
"Christmas"

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

## *Installation of Bishop Hugh*

Hugh's installation as the new bishop of Worcester will be at 2pm on Saturday 17th January 2026 in the cathedral. This is open to all.

## Events at St John's



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

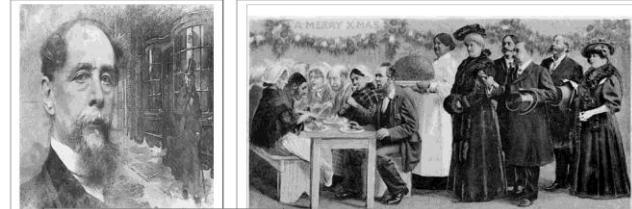
### FREE!

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

More volunteers needed! For more details  
contact the Team Office - details on the  
inside front cover.

Last date this term will be  
15th December and we will return on  
12th January 2026.

### THE GOOD OLD DAYS PRESENTS DISCOVER HISTORY



### THE FESTIVE STORY

THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
1.00PM  
ADMISSION £4  
INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS



Women's Breakfast Meetings  
for Friendship and  
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?  
Everyone is welcome!  
Our next meeting is on  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**  
**9.00am until 11.00am**

St John-in-Bedwardine  
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



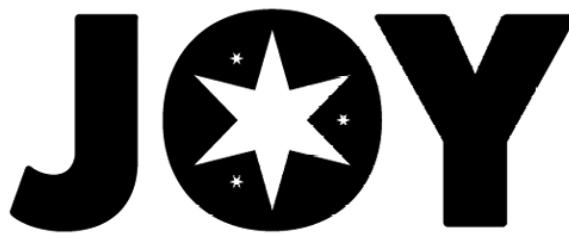
## ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

**Open for Tea/Coffee  
and Cakes**

Suggested donation £2.00



**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
at 2.45pm in the Church  
ALL WELCOME**



## **Our Advent & Christmas services**

We are offering lots of different services this Advent & Christmas season. You are invited to join us at any of them.

### **\* Advent Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November**

#### **St John's 5.30pm Advent Carol Service**

*A reflective service of Advent hymns, Bible readings and music by the choir.  
Lasts about an hour. Hot drinks & cake served from 4.45pm.*

### **\* Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **St David's 4pm Advent Carol Service**

*A service of Advent hymns and Bible readings.*

### **\* Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **St John's 7.30pm Blue Christmas**

*Christmas can be a difficult period with feelings of sadness, loss or pain. This informal service seeks to provide space to acknowledge Christmas without the enforced jollity. It has more reflective Christmas carols and we will light candles to symbolise the things we find difficult. With refreshments.*

### **\* Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

#### **St John's 4.30pm Community Nativity**

*A short performance by the children of the Christmas story.*

### **\* Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

#### **St John's 6pm Carols by Candlelight**

*Traditional service of carol singing, Bible readings and music by the choir.  
Lasts about an hour. Followed by seasonal refreshments.*

### **\* Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

#### **St John's 3pm Carols in the Churchyard**

*Informal outdoor service with popular Christmas carols. Dog friendly!  
Hot drinks including hot chocolate will be served.*



## **Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

### **St Michael's 2pm Carol Service**

*Service of Bible readings and Christmas carols followed by mulled wine & mince pies. Lasts about 45 minutes.*

### **St John's 3pm Crib Service**

*We think about Mary & Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and prepare the manger for Jesus' birth. Particularly for younger children & families seeking a quiet and calm atmosphere. Lasts about 20 minutes. Hot drinks available afterwards.*

### **St John's 5pm Christingle**

*A service for everyone, aimed especially for children. A lit Christingle candle for every child. Includes Christmas carols. Lasts about 30 minutes.*

### **St David's 9pm First Eucharist of Christmas**

*Join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Includes singing Christmas carols. Lasts about an hour.*

### **St John's 11.30pm Midnight Mass**

*Join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing as we celebrate the start of Christmas Day. Christmas carols led by the choir. Lasts about an hour.*

## **Christmas Day, 25<sup>th</sup> December**

### **St Michael's 10am Christmas Eucharist**

*Join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Includes singing well-known Christmas carols. Lasts about an hour.*

### **St John's 10.30am Christmas All Age Eucharist**

*Join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Christmas music and hymns led by the Music Group. Lasts about an hour.*

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

### **St John's 10.30am Parish Eucharist**

*Join us as we continue celebrating the Christmas season and share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Everyone welcome. Followed by refreshments.*

### **St. Michael's 10.30am Morning Worship for Christmas**

*A service offering prayers and praise to God as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season, including singing of Christmas carols. Lasts about 40 minutes.*

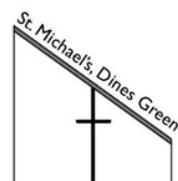
### **St David's 4pm Carols Round the Tree**

*Join us as we sing Christmas carols around our Christmas tree.*



St John-in-Bedwardine  
Bromyard Road, WR2 5BS

St David's Church  
Comer Gardens, WR2 6JA



St Michael's, Dines Green  
Gresham Road, WR2 5QS



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# Angels Are Coming!

Keep your eyes peeled from Saturday 29th November....

A much-loved Angel Bomb is coming!

On that day, knitted angels will begin to appear around Dines Green, perched on benches, bus stops, fences, and doorsteps, each one carrying a message of hope, peace, and blessing. These little angels are a small way of reminding our community that they are loved and not forgotten as we move into the Advent season.

Every angel has been lovingly made by members of our St Michael's and St John's congregation, each stitch a prayer for whoever might find it. Please do take one if you spot it, or pass it on to someone who could use a little encouragement.

If you'd like to help with placing the angels or with next year's knitting, we'd love to hear from you, there's always room for more hands (and halos!).

Let's fill our community with kindness and joy this Advent.

*Gilly Maxim*

## *Weekday services*

The following mid-week Eucharists and Daily Offices are scheduled in December **up to and including the morning of Wednesday 24th December.**

After that, the normal midweek pattern will be suspended over the Christmas and New Year period, resuming on Monday 5th January.

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

\*\* On the second Thursday of each month (11th December) 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 4pm during GMT and at 5pm during British Summer Time. 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,  
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)**



## ***Children's Church Update – December 2025***

We have had an exciting Autumn term, finding out about God's creation in September, celebrating Harvest in October and remembering the Saints in November. As we move into December we will be learning about Advent and waiting (patiently!) for Christmas to come.

This year Children's Church will again be hosting a Community Nativity. It will be held on Saturday 20th December at 4.30pm and we are inviting any children who would like to join us to take part. There will be a practice on Saturday 13th December at 2.30pm at St John's Church. You do not need to book in advance, simply turn up on the day. There are speaking parts available for anyone who wants one. We look forward to seeing you there.

Our regular Children's Church sessions continue to run on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sunday of every month at St John's Church. We have two groups:

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.

If you're considering attending a session and would like any further information, please speak to either of us at a Sunday service.

*Fiona Templeton and Amy Rees*

---

## ***Evening Prayer with Bible Study***

The theme for Sunday Evening Prayer with Bible Study on 14th December will be Simon - Bargaining with God, Acts 8:9-25.

These services are held 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 Blakefield Room, otherwise they will continue in the font chapel. Wherever it is being held, please gather in the church beforehand.

*Philip Evans*

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## ***Christmas Flowers at St John's Church***

The Flower Team will decorate the church on Monday 22nd December between 9am and 1pm. If you have any holly/variegated greenery it would be most welcome. This is a time when we particularly remember family and friends and you may care to make a donation towards the Christmas flowers in their memory. Their name(s) will be included on the Memorial List which will be placed on the Welcome Table, just inside church, on Christmas Eve. Cash donations can be passed to the Churchwardens, Dorothy Little or Sue Hussell. Please place these in an envelope with the name(s) of those you wish to be remembered.

Donations can also be made by using the card reader at the back of church or via <https://givealittle.co/c/Flowers2025> In order to include the name(s) of your loved ones by either of these methods, please either complete the list (on the table) at the back of the church, or email [suehussell4@gmail.com](mailto:suehussell4@gmail.com)

The Flower Team wishes you a very happy and blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. Thank you for your support.

*Sue Hussell*

---

## ***St David's news***

You will be pleased to hear that we no longer have water gushing from our guttering as both sides of church now have new guttering. Thanks must go to Peter Yates for dealing with this for us.

November coffee morning was again well supported and our next one will be on Wednesday 3rd December at 10,30am.

November 8th saw us have a very successful fund-raising event, namely a Tombola, Raffle and a Gift stall and of course tea and cake. Thank you to all who supported this event and a big thank you to all who helped to make this event such a success.

Lastly, St David's would like to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

*Carole Stone  
Deputy Church Warden*

---

## ***St Clement's Christmas Fayre***

St Clement's Church Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 6th December from 10am to 1pm. There will be: Homemade cakes, tombola, children's sparkly tattoos, pickles and chutneys, hot pork stuffing rolls, children's lucky dip and more!

All are very welcome.

*Philip Prince*

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## *Events Team News*

At the time of writing this (to ensure we meet the magazine deadline), the Family Quiz Night has yet to happen. However, we're really looking forward to it and hope (by the time you read this), to have seen many of you there!

With Christmas on the horizon, or at least more on the horizon than when it started to appear in the shops, the church is now pretty busy with services and our community nativity. So, the Events Team is now looking to 2026.

We'll be bringing back a few events, including the January ceilidh. Save the date - Saturday 24th January! We've got the band, we've got the venue, we're just finalising the last few details before we make tickets live. This event sold out last year, so be sure to keep an eye out on the St John's social media page and church indoor notice board for when tickets go live. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Beth Broadway*

## *Thank you*

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and helped with our Table Top/Craft Sale on Saturday 18th October. It was a very successful morning with lots of interesting and varied goods for sale. As always the refreshments and delicious cakes were very popular! A total of £400 was made.

*Joy Job*

## *Sudoku Puzzle*

© 2008

*KrazyDad.com*

*The solution  
is on the  
inside back  
cover.*

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

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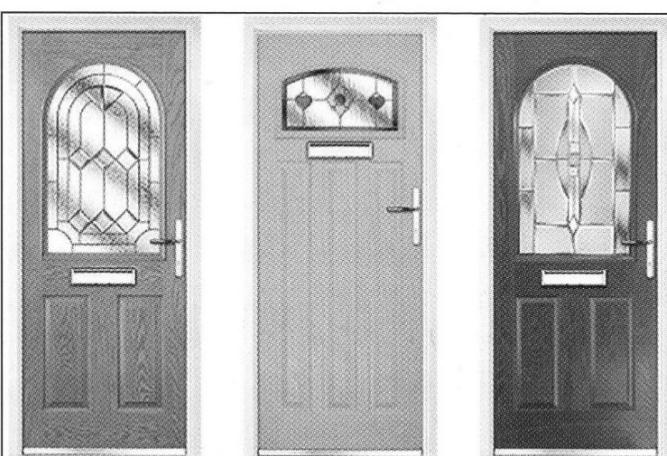
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## ***Prayers for our world - Syria***

In October, our Evening Prayer for Peace and Justice focussed on Syria. Since 2011, the country has been wracked by violence and civil war, in our prayers for over a decade but little understood. The land we call Syria is ancient, with Aleppo and Damascus among the oldest continually inhabited cities on earth, but the borders of the modern state are a colonial construct, part of the division of the Middle East by the British and French at the end of World War I. It was ruled by France until independence in 1945, then had a quarter of a century of deep political instability and coups (plus a brief merger with Egypt into the United Arab Republic between 1958 and 1961), before Hafez al-Assad seized power in 1970. His brutal regime continued when he was succeeded by his son, Bashar, in 2000. The brutality against his own people made him a prime target for protestors when the Arab Spring broke out, but he resisted fiercely, and both this and the self-interested interventions of the United States, Israel, Turkey and various fundamentalist groups turned Syria into a bloodbath.

The sudden collapse of the regime in December 2024, with Assad's flight to Moscow, ended the main civil war, but violence continues in places and the work of reconstruction is daunting. Many ordinary Syrians are suffering the effects of years of warfare and natural disasters, with starvation and displacement of refugees being major problems. If the main war has ended, the future is still uncertain, and Syria continues to need our prayers.

*Almighty and eternal God, source of all compassion,  
the promise of your mercy and saving help fills our hearts with hope.  
Hear the cries of the people of Syria;  
bring healing to those still suffering from the violence,  
and comfort to those mourning the dead of many years.  
Empower and encourage Syria's neighbours in their care and welcome for refugees.  
Convert the hearts of those who still take up arms,  
and strengthen the resolve of those committed to peace.  
O God of hope and Father of mercy,  
your Holy Spirit inspires us to look beyond ourselves and our own needs.  
Inspire Syrian and international leaders to choose peace over violence  
and to seek reconciliation with enemies.  
Inspire the Church around the world with compassion for the people of Syria,  
and fill us with hope for a future of peace built on justice for all.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace and Light of the World,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*

Peter

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## ***Little Lambs***

I've had so much fun helping out with Little Lambs while Sue has been away. It's been so nice to chat to all the parents and play with the children.



We have enjoyed painting autumn trees and stamping glittery firework pictures.



You can see some of the beautiful creations from the children on the board in children's corner.



Going into December I'm sure the excitement levels will start rising and hopefully some of our Little Lambs families will be able to take part in our community nativity on 20th December.

Thank you to all the helpers and families for welcoming me back - I'm sure I'll see you soon!

*Amy Rees*

## *All Souls' Day*

On Sunday 2nd November, the All Souls' service held at St John's Church was a poignant and moving occasion, when people came together to remember departed loved ones. As the welcome in the order of service puts it:

“In the Church, All Souls' Day, or the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, is an opportunity to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known and who have nurtured us in various ways in our lives. All of us have come here today having lost people we love. For some, that loss may have been very recent and the grief still strong. For others, more time may have passed, although the sense of loss never disappears. In this service we remember those loved ones and demonstrate that we do not forget them, as we hold them before God and remember that they are safe in his hands.

We hope that in this service you will find a sense of peace and God's presence.”



The service included the reading of names of those to be remembered, and an opportunity to place a candle in memory of loved ones, as well as times of reflection.

*Graham Evans*

## *Blue Christmas*

December is a busy month with all our Advent and Christmas services. Most of these are familiar by now, and a full list is on pages 10 and 11. There are also leaflets available in church giving a little more detail on each service, such as who it is aimed at and how long it will last. This information is also available on the website and our A Church Near You pages (see the inside front cover for the links).

However, we have one new service this year which calls for a little more explanation. Our Blue Christmas service will be on Wednesday 17th December at 7.30pm in St John's, with tea and coffee available from 7pm and throughout the service. Blue Christmas originated in the United States in the 1980s, and takes place around the longest night of the year (to avoid the connotations of the Elvis Presley song, some churches call this service 'Longest Night'). In this darkest period of the year, when so much seems to be about celebration and happiness and time with families, this service reflects the fact that this is not the reality of Christmas for everyone. Instead, Blue Christmas recognises that for some, Christmas is a difficult period, one in which the primary emotions are sadness or loss or pain.

There could be many reasons for those feelings, including bereavement (recent or not), estrangement from family, relationship circumstances, absence of close family, trauma or painful memories. This service seeks to provide a space for people who primarily experience Christmas in this way, and who want to acknowledge Christmas without the enforced jollity. It has Christmas carols, but more reflective ones, and during it we will light candles to symbolise the things we find difficult. There will be prayers, including an entirely optional opportunity to write anything for which you especially want prayer to be placed on our prayer tree in the Lady Chapel. It will be an informal, quiet, intimate service: the focus will be on the nave platform, with subdued lighting, and people will be able to sit wherever they like in the church and slip into the Blakefield Room if they would like refreshments or simply need some space. Above all, this service is a safe space for anyone, no matter what the pain they bring, in which it is absolutely OK to cry or to need to take time out.

We come before God from our places of darkness and ask him to hold us, recognising in the Christmas message the light of hope he offers us, stripped of the commercialism and expectations in which the world wraps everything. We come simply to be with God, to be accepted by God as who we are, and to feel his comfort in our need.

*Phil Bradford*



## *Light*

Jesus is the light of the world, and that should be celebrated. Our November Messy Church was therefore all about light. With a more general theme, the activities did not explore parts of or messages behind a story, but rather showed the importance of light and how we can reflect Jesus' light, using it to shine on ourselves and others.



Activities that related directly to light included making lanterns out of jam jars and stained-glass windows. The lanterns had tissue paper glued to the outside and used glow sticks inside, making them wonderfully colourful. Our

stained glass windows were made by grating crayons and then ironing them between two sheets of greaseproof paper. They were really effective! (We've mentioned the greaseproof paper part in case you want to try making one at home.)



Other crafts made us reflect about ourselves and the light that we can bring. On the Messy Church notice board you'll currently see illuminated letters, all the first letters of our names. These are inspired by medieval Bibles and the decorated letters monks would have included, bringing light to God's word and emphasising its beauty.

By picking letters associated with our names, we reminded ourselves how we can bring the beauty of God's word to light. We also drew outlines of ourselves (yes, a bit like one might at a crime scene!) and then painted them with bright colours, showing how we are full of light and can share Jesus' light.

It wouldn't be Messy Church without a food activity. This month we made 'Sweet Bible Scrolls'. Fondant icing rolled out as a scroll, write on it with icing a Bible quote such as 'Let there be light' or 'God is light', use a cocktail stick with sweets on the end as scroll handles, then roll it up into a scroll.

Is a celebration complete without a pinata? Possibly. However, when it's a celebration of light and that pinata is a star - well, it had to be included! It was also incredibly popular. Everyone had great fun trying to break the sweets free, as the pictures show.



Thinking about the importance of light, our worship included a moment where all of the lights were turned off, before Phil turned on a torch, showing the impact of light in a world of darkness. We talked more about our theme and how we should celebrate the light of Christ.

The next Messy Church is on Saturday 6th December, where we will be focusing on Christmas. Doors open at 3.30pm and Messy Church starts at 4pm. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there.

*Beth Broadway*

## ***Poppy Drop***

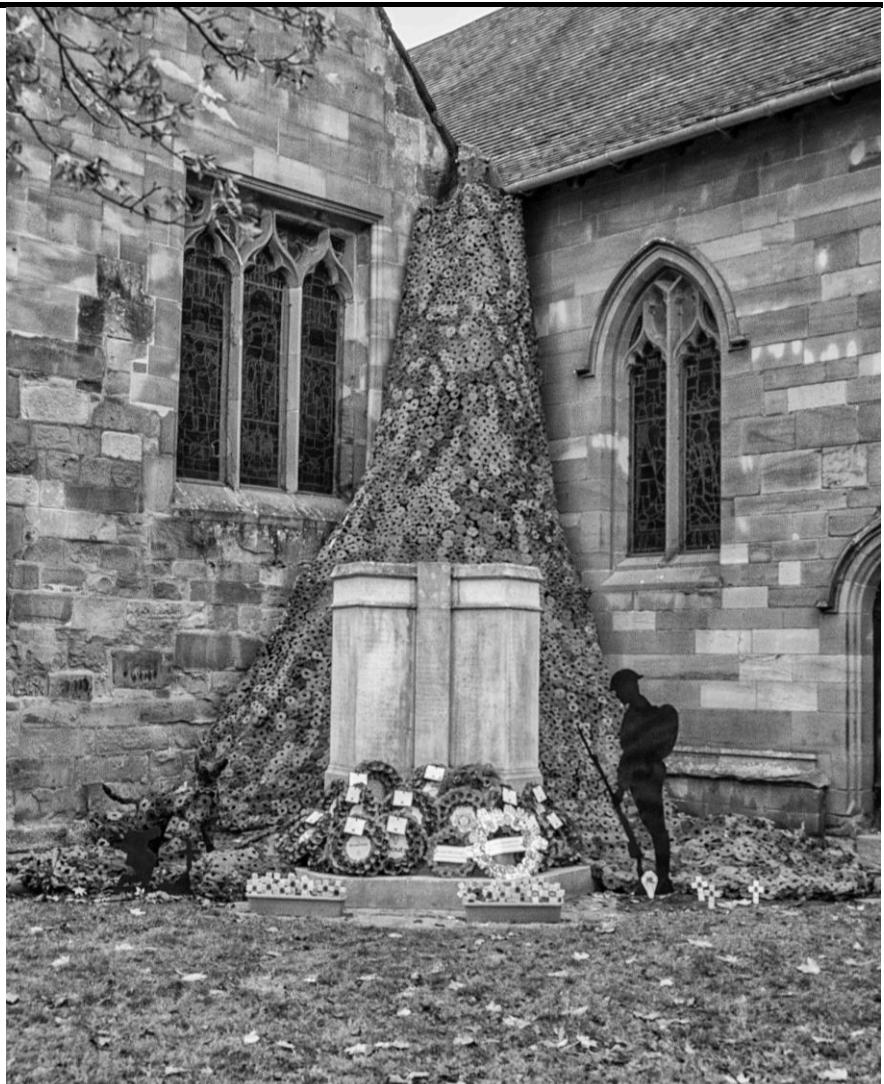
Last month's edition reported the completion of the poppy drop for St John's Church.

It contains 8000 poppies and took over 2500 hours sewing!

Here it is in place. The result is impressive.

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in any way.

*Graham Evans*



## *Remembrance Sunday*









## *Act of Remembrance at the tomb of Woodbine Willie*



*11th November 11am*



*Pupils attended from  
St Clement's School,  
Perryfields Primary PRU and  
Poppins Nursery.*

# ***Christopher Whitehead Language College***

I was thrilled to become Headteacher of Christopher Whitehead Language College this September. It is a fantastic school in the heart of St Johns. Since September we have welcomed over 1400 parents and prospective students who visited our school for our Open Days and Evenings. We hope to welcome many of these next September.

The end of our first half term saw our sixth form join in Breast Cancer Awareness Week, raising over £180 for Breast Cancer Research through their pyjama day and fundraising activities.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November we held our memorial service. This is always emotional and very well observed by our students.



Some of our Health & Social care students worked together to create a memorial display.

We have a number of community events lined up this half term – starting with this year's Christmas Fayre which is always popular with the local community and helps us to raise vital funds for the school. Next up will be the Community Christmas lunch on 9th December and our very own Carol Service in St John's Church on 10th December.

*Cath Clark  
Headteacher, Christopher Whitehead Language College*

## ***Guides remember***

As Remembrance Day fell on a Tuesday this year, we took the opportunity at Guides to look at how Guides responded to the needs of their communities during the two world wars.

Guides stepped up and supported others in a variety of ways on the Home Front.

To investigate this, we had fun practising bandaging skills,



building air raid shelters,

and working out how to make and use make-shift stretchers.

The Guides also devised entertainments to keep people entertained during an air-raid,



and practised putting out fires.

During both World Wars Guides in the UK provided a huge amount of service. As well as providing help and support to bombed-out communities and to evacuees,

they raised huge amounts of money for various projects including raising £50,000 (the target had been £20,000) for air ambulances for the forces, and helped with collecting materials that were needed. This included collecting cotton reels for the RAF. Again they far exceeded expectations in this. The RAF had asked for 15,000 cotton reels, and ended up with 42,000 within a week.

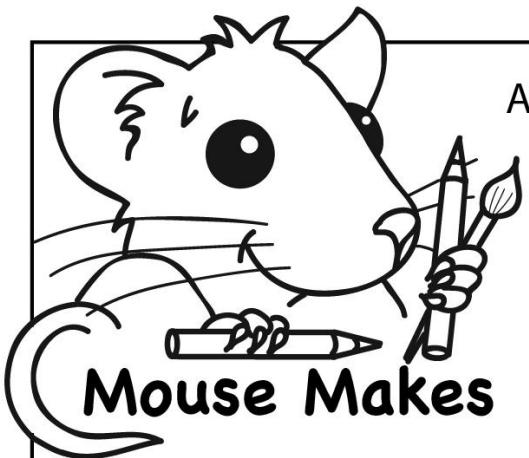
Guiding was an international movement from very early on - by 1914 there were Guiding movements in over 30 countries, and by 1939 this had risen to well over 80. Within individual countries the Guides will have provided similar help and support to their local communities, but Guiding was also important on an international level. Guide companies were set up or reformed, sometimes covertly, in internment and concentration camps. As well providing support and entertainment for themselves, in some places they also worked to improve the lives of all inmates, helping in kitchens and hospital facilities. At the end of the First World War, a team of Rangers was asked to go and act as messengers for the Paris Peace Treaty negotiations, and were present at the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. Towards the end of the Second World War the Guide International Service (GIS) was formed, and teams of Rangers and Guiders went into Europe to work in various camps for displaced persons and helped to rebuild communities and provide training. A GIS team was amongst the first people to enter the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp when it was liberated. The GIS continued to work in the field until 1952 when it was eventually disbanded.



Although we had a lot of fun doing the activities during our meeting on 11th November, we also reflected on whether we could step up in the same way as girls did then. Whilst we agreed the will to help was still there, we weren't sure we had the same level of skill in areas such as first aid as Guides would have done in either 1914 or 1939.

Thankfully it's a long time since the Movement has been tested in this way – at least in this country – but it's a reminder about how important the act of remembrance is, and why it's important to take part in the Parade each year.

*Liz Forman*



At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour coming into the world as a baby, and we look forward to the time when Jesus will come again, not as a baby but as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

**read**

John 14:3

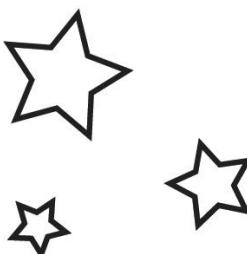
A baby needs clothes to keep warm like a snuggly sleep suit or a vest and nappy.

*What were you dressed in?*

Jesus was wrapped in

.....  
.....

**read** Luke 2:7

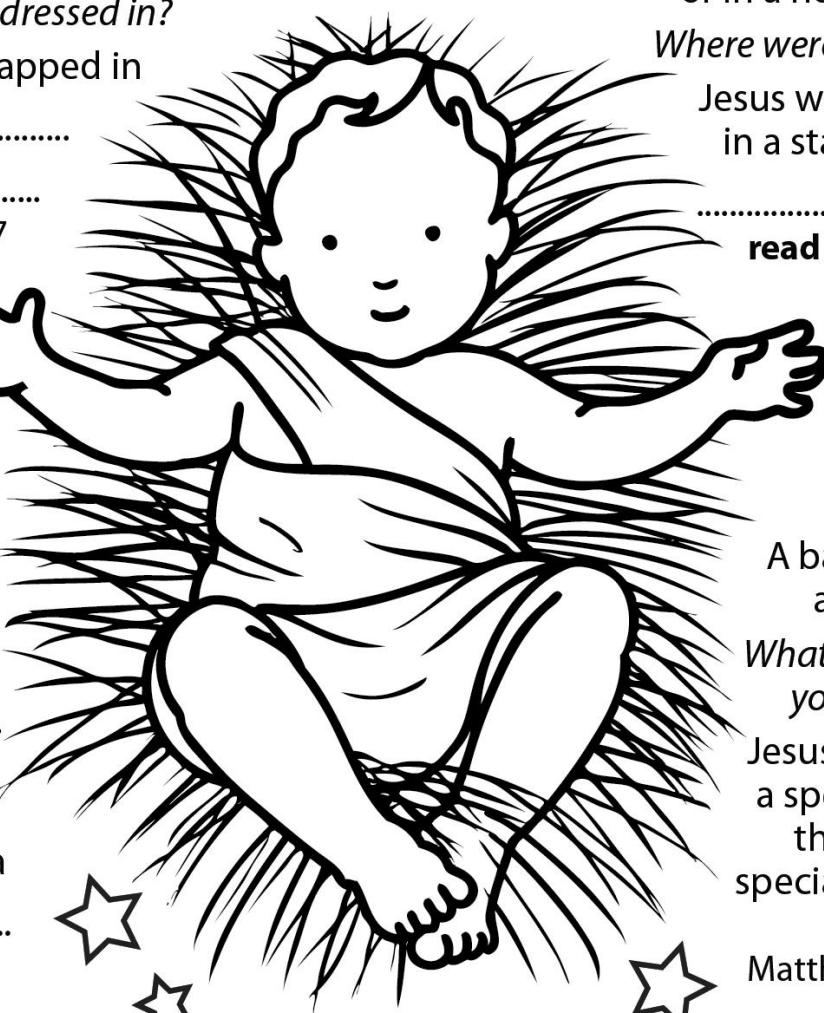


A baby needs somewhere to be born like at home or in a hospital.

*Where were you born?*

Jesus was born in a stable in

.....  
**read** Luke 2:1-6



A baby needs somewhere to sleep like a crib or a cot.

*What did you sleep in?*

Jesus slept in a

.....  
**read** Luke 2:7

A baby needs a name.

*What name were you called?*

Jesus was given a special name that had a special meaning.

**read**

Matthew 1:21-23

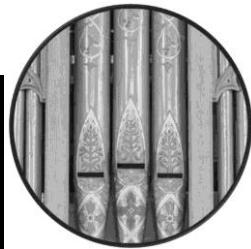
# HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ☆ NOLLAIG CHRÌDHEIL ☆ NOLLAG SHONA

JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN

## *Update - Breathing new life into the organ*

**Update:** Towards the end of October, the organ got worse and worse and it seemed total failure was imminent. However, the organ repairer was able to do some temporary patching which should see us through to Christmas.



*As of early November, the amount raised has passed £5,500.*

**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.

*We urgently 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. Please help us towards that goal. 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:*



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	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<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 the organ appeal!*

## ***Murder and Mayhem***

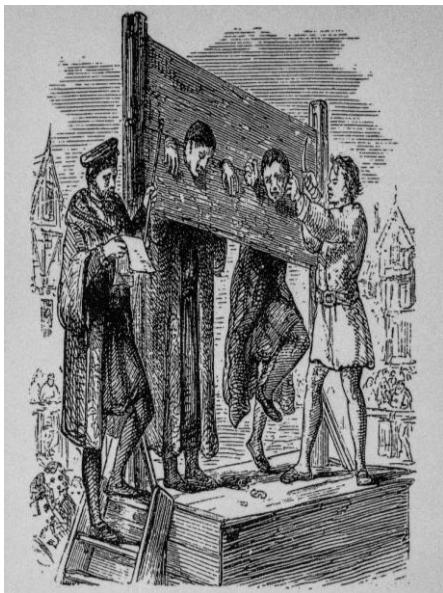
The talk is based on one of the walks that Paul Harding, from Discover History, does around Worcester. This walk is always popular at this time of the year as we approach Halloween. Around 80 people turned up to hear Paul's gory tales of murder and mayhem.



Paul started with King John who came to Worcester and never left; he is buried in the Cathedral. There have been many stories that he was murdered, however it is now thought that he died of dysentery.

Originally his tomb was highly painted. Unfortunately that cannot be seen in the black and white image shown here. It had jewels all over it, but all that is left now are the holes where they were, as they were stolen over the years. John really was a very bad person, even to his family, and in order to help his way to heaven he asked in his will to be buried between the two saints in Worcester Cathedral. It was also said that he was buried in a monk's cowl to also help him on his way. This was proved to be false when his tomb was opened in 1797 and they found he was in his royal robes.

In medieval times life was much more dangerous than today and there were many murders. Everyone carried at least a knife, and they used them on other people. The only justice was the Sheriff, who would hear the evidence and decide whether the person was guilty. For murder the person had to be caught in the act of killing someone. Even if they were coming out of the room covered in blood they could not say whether they had killed the victim.



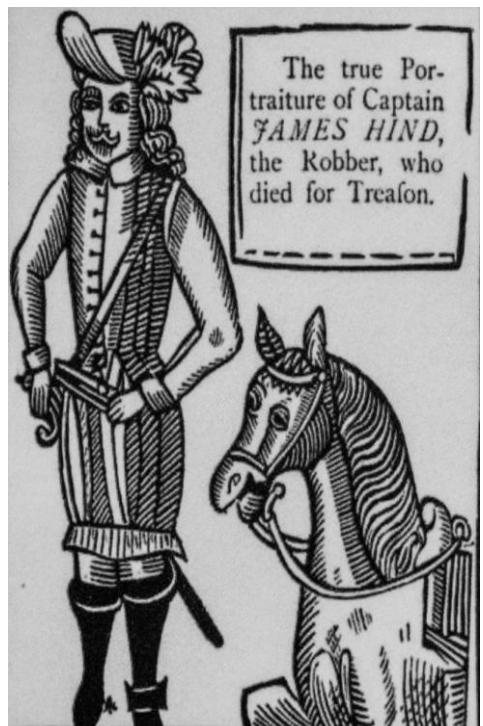
Being called an outlaw meant that a person was outside the law and therefore if they were in the pillory they could be killed, and the murderer would not be charged as the person was outside the law. In Worcester, the stocks and pillory were put in the Cornmarket.

The ducking stool was at the end of Cooken Street, now Copenhagen Street, beside the river. In Worcester it was called the Cooken Stool, hence the name of the road. The ducking stool was also used as a punishment for all sorts of crimes.



In England suspected witches were not put on the ducking stool but they would have their thumbs tied to the ankles and then have rope tied around their waist. They would then be dragged along the river, if they survived, they were a witch and were executed but if they died, they were innocent! The punishment for murder was always death.

James Hind was a local highwayman and a Royalist during the Civil War. After the Battle of Worcester in 1651 he made a pact to carry out a 'resistance' and rain war on the Parliamentarians. He kept robbing parliamentarians but also made 'mistakes' and robbed anyone. He tried to say that he was working for the cause, but this was rejected, and after his trial in 1652 he was taken to the top of London Road where he was hung, drawn and quartered.





In the 17th Century King Charles II decreed that there should be night watchmen who would stand on the corner of roads. They were also called Charlies as it was King Charles who introduced them. This photo is of the last Charlie in Worcester in 1900.

As time went by, the authorities started to lock up people who had committed crimes. In Worcester they were locked up in the old Worcester motte and bailey castle. If the Charlies caught someone doing something wrong, they would take them to a holding area in the castle while they waited to be judged.

The Guildhall was the original courthouse and had two court rooms and two cells. On top of the building there is a statue of Blind Justice.

Children would originally be birched in the yard behind the courthouse but people working locally complained about the screaming so they then birched them in the cell so their screams could not be heard.

The County Jail was built in the area of Castle Street; it looked like the gatehouse of a castle hence the name of the road. Executions took place in the jail. Even children were hung for crimes as they did not distinguish between adult and child or male and female.



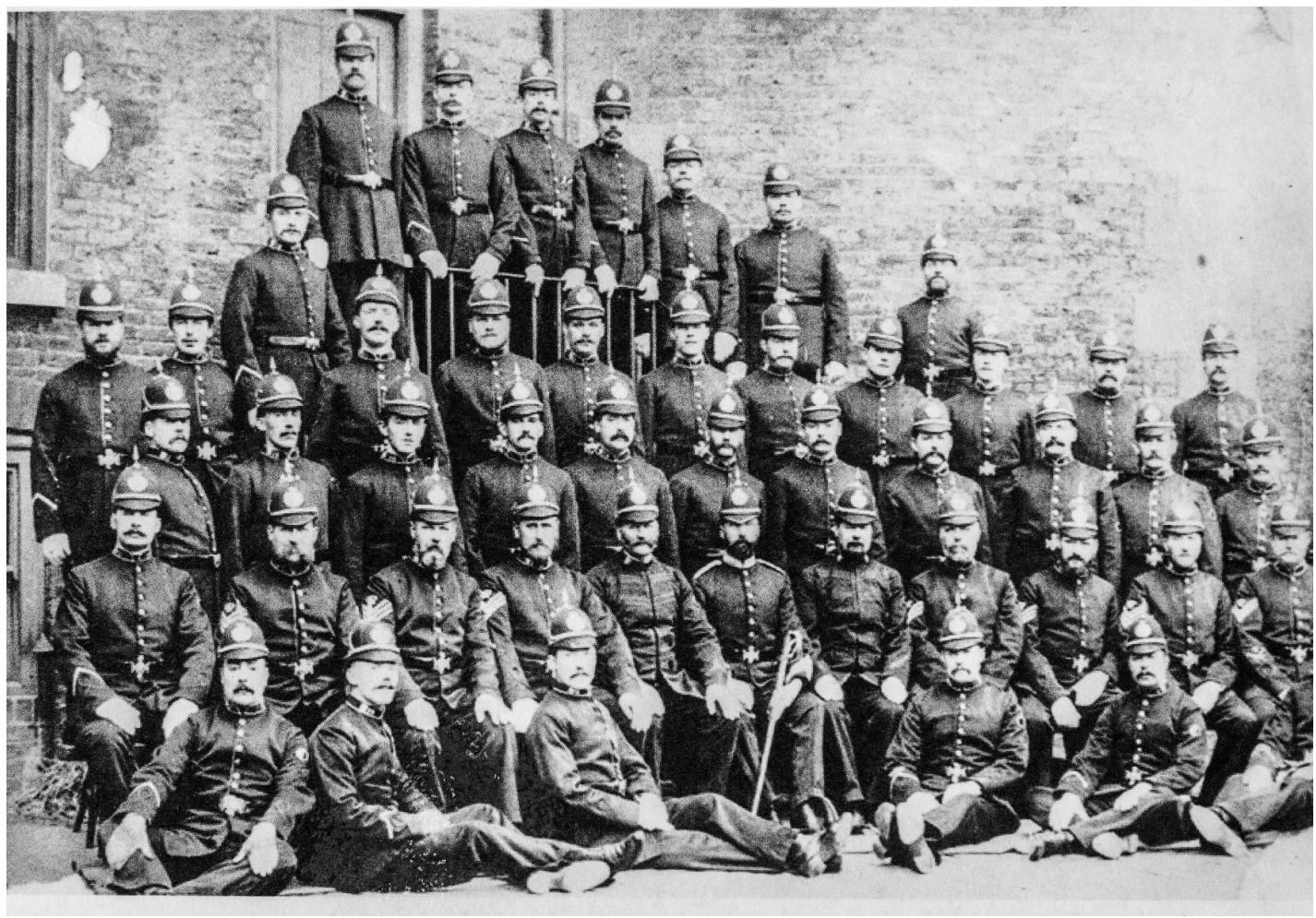
In the 18th Century they started to lock people up for crimes instead of using the pillory, stocks etc. for punishment. However, even back then people realised that these places became universities for criminals. The prisoners would go in for a minor infringement and soon were taught skills to carry out more major crimes.

In the early 19th Century, there were a number of times of civil unrest, one in 1819 and one in 1831.

In the first instance the Worcester Yeomanry were sent to put down the unrest, but they recognised many of their friends and tradesmen, so they regrouped in the Star Inn, Foregate Street, where they stayed until it was quiet.

In the second the Hussars from Droitwich were sent for and the unrest was put down using cavalry charges and muskets were fired.

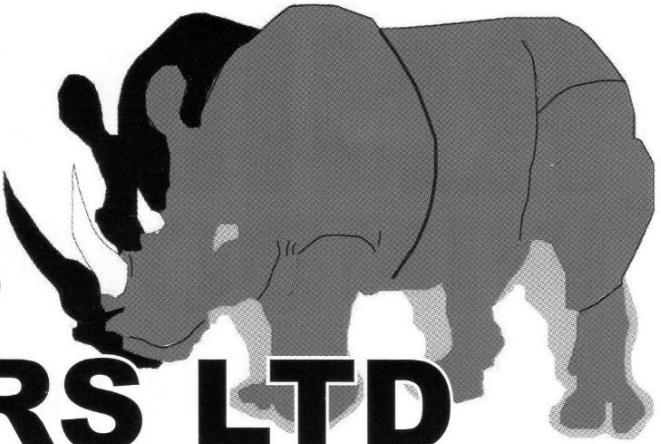
Worcester City had a police force in 1839 before this was required by law.



Within a short period, there was both a City Police Force and a County Police Force. As usual the audience enjoyed a wide range of delicious cakes with their tea or coffee during the break.

*Colin Nash*

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# Marcés Mailing

## October 2025



Fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.  
(2 Timothy 1:6-7)



### Please pray for:

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

**Juan Carlos:** Responsibilities in San Juan Evangelista & San Francisco  
Overseeing final revisions & production of book  
(now reprogramed for Jan)

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

**Diocese:** Bishops Jorge Luis & Victor;  
discipleship courses (MOCLAM and others);

**Jesús El Nazareno:** Mums and tots group;  
Sunday School & young teenagers  
formation of music ministry;

**S Juan Evangelista:** development of children's ministry  
Ministry in San Francisco de la Cruz

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

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés, Reynaldo Morón 215,  
Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 15039, PERU  
Tel.+51-1-448-8264; +51-942612987  
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*Continued on page 45*



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Dear Friends

“Penny, do you know where the **fire** in Pamplona Alta is?” A massive fire less than 500m from Jesús el Nazareno, which became **VERY** spectacular when it reached one of the shacks which was in fact a clandestine firework production centre, miraculously killed no one and resulted in only a handful of superficial injuries. On the positive side also, an amazingly effective response from authorities meant that within a few hours affected families had nearly all been given tents, mattresses and blankets in 2 nearby concrete pitches. The communal kitchen system, plus an outpouring of personal donations of food from those living nearby meant that for the first few days there was literally too much... A week later, the **REAL** need will be seen; of the 80 shacks totally destroyed in this “invasion” (12 years ago) it appears that less than half were actually inhabited, the others having owners who actually live in “proper” housing elsewhere. **BUT** there are over 100 claimants for bedding, and especially for free land (with basic structure, electricity and water supplies provided) being offered by the government in another part of Lima. The Anglican Church has a fund, which we will use as needed, probably to provide a little extra for the communal kitchens in the same as some of you have been helping with for over 5 years for some of these kitchens nearest the Church.



The flame on **Mila**’s birthday cake as we sang to her at the weekly prayer meeting was much smaller! She is possibly the most loved member of the Church, attending (and playing the tambourine) with great enthusiasm. **THIS** flame was planned, unlike a few weeks ago when they arrived for her mother to tell us that they had just had a fire in their very simple house. Milagro had put water to boil on the gas cooker, and when she went to check 15 minutes later it was to find part of the kitchen on fire – **NOT** from the gas stove but from damp electricity cables causing a short circuit (a common problem here – and we **MUST** get the wiring checked in JEN since sparks appeared when we plugged something in....) Since Milagro is sometimes left on her own, we praised God that this happened when someone could discover it before a disaster occurred. At 76, Milagro has become a great evangelist, especially at the Senior’s bimonthly lunches in JEN. She told them that she is trying to memorise the Bible since soon she will be blind and unable to read, and encouraged them to do the same.

*Continued on page 47*

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Continued from page 45

Flames have also been part of the teaching recently in JEN whilst studying the letters to Timothy and the need to “fan into flame the gift of God” given



to us. One group showing a “flame” is that of the 11-12 year olds in JEN who have just finished a weekly study of the **gospel of Mark**; over 25 weeks we have simply read Mark and filled in sheets – no games, crafts etc. Even better, they are thrilled that we will continue - Acts will be next. These pre-teens are also part of the teenagers group started

in August, and we pray that not only they but also their families will put roots in the Lord; the mothers of 2 HAVE now started attending Church.

Sparks rather than flames were on the Anniversary cake in **San Juan Evangelista** in May. This event provided an opportunity to fan into flame relationships with people who USED to attend, but drifted away; a specific effort was made to invite members of the youth group from 20 years ago, many of whom DID attend. Pray for Pray also for the outreach in San Francisco de la Cruz, that God will lead clearly as to the future development of this mission.



Cake also featured in the April celebration of 40 years of **God's faithfulness** to Penny since she came to Peru. It was a wonderful celebration, held in Jesús el Salvador where we had the privilege of seeing the current building erected, with many present from different churches in Lima, but unfortunately we forgot

to take a photo of everyone! Different people spoke about aspects of ministry like children's work, women's work, music, and social outreach.

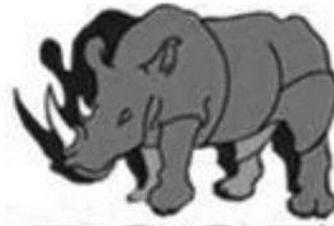
And a further celebration was at the end of August when Victor Condori was consecrated as **Assistant Bishop**.

He will take over from the current Diocesan Bishop Jorge Luis when he retires (sometime in the next 4 years)



All this against a background of political instability – last week President Dina Boluarte was voted out of office (her support was 2.5%) so we have another **new President** José Jerí – the 7<sup>th</sup> president in 9 years. The terrible situation with extortions and murders was the main reason; please pray for effective measures, as corruption in the police/judiciary makes progress even more difficult.

Continued on page 49



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Continued from page 47

And finally, **family news**. We will be in UK mid April to July, which will make it easy to attend Joni's marriage to Sharon, his girlfriend of over 5 years, in London in May. Becky and Lizi both continue with their lives, Becky in Peru and Lizi in London.



- For the pre-teens group enjoying Bible studies
- For new people attending S Juan Evangelista
- For those who live for Jesus day by day
- For those who are enthusiastic about Jesus

## - Please Pray



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

### Weekly activities

*Please pray for activities in Lima & those leading:*

**Sun:** 10.30 am Jesús el Nazareno children's activity  
(1st Sunday in month - Family Service)  
6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service (Penny)  
6.45pm San Juan Evangelista service (JC)

**Tues:** 5.00pm Bible Study with pre-teens – Acts (JEN)  
6.30 pm Prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)  
8.00 pm Prayer meeting (San Juan Evangelista)

**Wed:** 10.00am "Tesoritos del Señor" mums and tots (J. el Nazareno)

**Sat** 6.00 pm Youth meeting (San Juan Evangelista)  
6.30 pm Meeting for 12-16 yr olds (J el Nazareno)

### Specific people:

**San Juan Evangelista:** Luis F – leading youth work

Sara A – leading women's work  
Ricardo – leading in San Francisco  
Carmen - general help

**Jesús el Nazareno – Palmira –** children's work

Karla & Melany – 12-16 group

### Specific dates:

**Sun 26 Oct** Jesús el Nazareno Anniversary celebrations

**Fri 31 Oct** Light Party - Central children's celebration for S Lima

Preparations for **Christmas celebrations**

Thank you again – from us and from those with whom we work - for your support in so many ways. Please contact us at WhatsApp +51-942612987 or email [psmarcesinlima@gmail.com](mailto:psmarcesinlima@gmail.com)

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

*Juan Carlos & Penny*

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## ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

### *Christmas and New Year opening hours*

Wednesday 24 December 2025	Close at 1pm
Thursday/Friday 25/26 December 2025	Closed
Saturday 27 December 2025	Normal opening times
Monday/Tuesday 29/30 December 2025	Normal opening times
Wednesday 31 December 2025	Close at 5pm
Thursday 1 January 2026	Closed
Friday 2 January 2026	Normal opening times

### *Usual opening hours (all subject to the above)*

<b>Libraries Unlocked</b>	Monday - Saturday: 8am - 8 pm
---------------------------	-------------------------------

#### **Core (staffed) opening times:**

- Monday: 2pm - 5pm
- Tuesday: 10am - 5pm
- Wednesday: 10am - 1pm
- Thursday: 2pm - 5pm
- Friday: 10am - 5pm
- Saturday: 10am - 1pm

### *Events at St John's Library*

#### Weekly events:

- LEGO Club, weekly every Saturday, 11:00am to 12:00pm. Age 4+. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Creative Tales, weekly every Monday, 3:30pm to 4:15pm
- Bounce and Rhyme, 2 & 9 December, 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, 5, 12 & 19 December, 11:00am to 11:30am.

#### Other regular events:

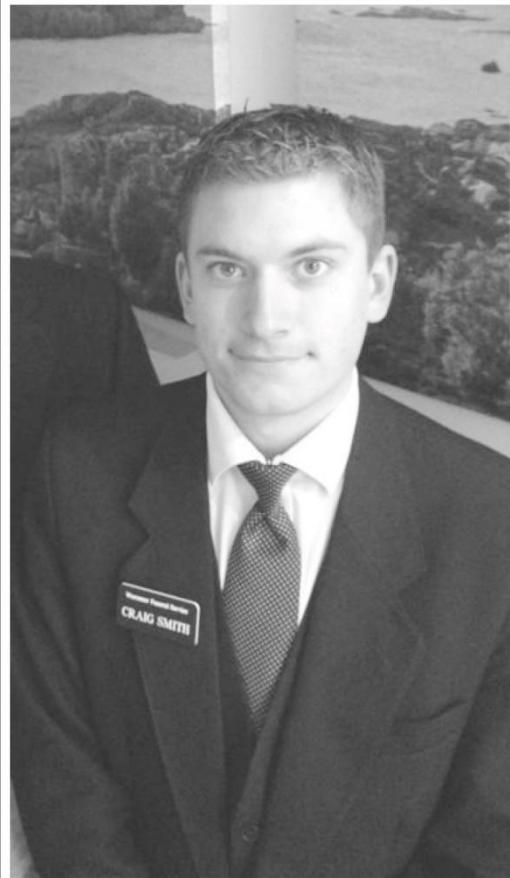
- Classic Film Club, 11 December, 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Readers' Group: First Friday of each month (5 December), 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Photography Group: Third Friday of each month (19 December). 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Councillors' Surgery: Saturday 6 December, 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet your local policing team: Tuesday 9 December, 10:30am.



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## *From the magazine archive, December 1946*

*Official Woman Worker:*  
DEACONESS C. M. SYKES, M.A.,  
73, Winchester Avenue, Malvern Road.

### DEACONESS SYKES

The Vicar's appreciation of Deaconess in the September Parish Magazine very naturally expressed his own sense of personal obligation.

We feel that we, too, have a tribute to make.

For twelve years we have had the devoted services of a lady who is an accomplished scholar, a good organiser, and a tireless worker.

"In quietness and confidence shall be your strength" said Isaiah, and, knowing this, Deaconess accomplished her best work where it was least spectacular—amongst women and girls, amongst the sick and suffering and with the aged and bereaved.

Sometimes this work was of a delicate nature, where the "smoking flax" and "the bruised reed" called for womanly sympathy and understanding.

In the grim war years, despite the blackout, Deaconess kept up all her activities. Again and again we have been told how much her visits were appreciated, how often she brought hope and comfort to homes of despair and grief.

We congratulate Deaconess on her appointment and extend to her our best wishes.

We feel that we should like Deaconess to take with her some token of our esteem, and to this end the Vicar has started a fund to which all are invited to contribute.

Subscriptions may be sent to any of the undersigned.

ROBERT SMITH, 7, St. John's.

ARTHUR P. HIGGINS,

2, Albany Terrace, Britannia Square.

O. H. LAFLIN, 8, Homefield Road.

MISS H. M. DAVIS, 5b, St. John's.

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(subscribers' magazines are put out at the back of church,  
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**(£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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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*

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

---

*And finally....*



*The new curate  
preferred to let the  
congregation work out  
the hymns for  
themselves.*

## **Sunday Services – December 2025**

	<b>St John's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>	<b>St David's</b>
<b>7th December</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	10.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist
<b>14th December</b>	10 am All Age Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer with Bible study	10.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Carol Service
<b>21st December</b>	10.30am Eucharist 6pm Candlelit Carol Service	10.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist
<b>28th December</b>	10.30am Eucharist	10.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Carols round the tree
<b>4th January 2026</b>	10.30am Eucharist 4pm Epiphany Songs of Praise	10.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist
In case there are any changes to the above, please watch the weekly church newsletters and websites for the latest information.			