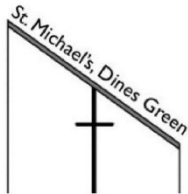




The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



May 2026

50p



Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY (clergy@wcw.church)

Phil Bradford (Team Rector) (01905 423794/phil.bradford@wcw.church)

Sarah Cottrill (Team Vicar) (01905 426257/sarah.cottrill@wcw.church)

Gilly Maxim (Assistant Curate) (gilly.maxim@wcw.church)

Day off: Phil Bradford Friday | Sarah Cottrill Saturday | Gilly Maxim Monday

TEAM OFFICE

The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12noon.	
1a Bromyard Road St John's, WR2 5BS	Tel: (01905) 420490 e-mail: office@wcw.church

ON THE WEB

St John's	Parish Website: www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk A church near you: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine
St Michael's	Parish Website and A church near you: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen

SERVICES

Please check our websites and Facebook pages, or the notices published on the church noticeboards and printed in the magazine and weekly pew sheets.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, contact one of the Safeguarding Officers, Fiona Templeton, Elizabeth Forman in person or via safeguarding@wcw.church, or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	St John's
Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact one of the clergy (as above or email clergy@wcw.church).	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com / 424539) Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com / 428948). On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	St Michael's

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

A word from the editors

Welcome to our May 2026 edition. It's a packed one - even with extra pages we could not get in as much as we wanted to!

Outreach continues to be our over-arching theme this year. In her letter, Gilly explores how we can be changed by meeting and learning about God through the people we encounter through outreach.

What are your thoughts about outreach and how our churches should be approaching it? The Joint Council and the Ministry Team want to know! Please speak to the clergy, ALMs or Joint Council members with your ideas or to offer to join in!

We leave you with a prayer sometimes used by the choir and ministers after a service. Perhaps you could use it too?

*Almighty God,
Grant that what we have heard with our ears,
And said and sung with our lips,
We may believe in our hearts;
And what we believe in our hearts
We may show forth in our lives.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition (June): Deadline is Sunday 10th May.

Distribution – magazines available by Sunday 24th May.

Subscription form: Page 54.

Cover picture: Bishop Hugh preaching at St John's Church, 22nd March 2026 (picture by Colin Nash).

Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Phil Bradford, Graham Evans, Sue Fairman, Rob Little, Penny Marcés 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

What did we learn about God that we could not have known without encountering that person?

I once heard a question like this in a sermon. When I later spoke with the member of clergy who preached it, she was clear that she had never actually said those words! Yet the question has stayed with me. It is the kind of question that does not stay abstract for long, it begins to press itself into daily life and even into prayer. In the alternative collect for Pentecost there is something quietly challenging:

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

At first glance, it sounds gentle, even comforting, asking the Holy Spirit to come, to strengthen, to revive, to renew. But this is not a safe prayer at all. It invites disruption, movement, and change not just “out there” in the world, but within us, because if this prayer is answered, things will shift, we will be moved and we may begin to see things about God that we could not see before.

“Ignite in us your holy fire.”

Fire does not sit politely; it consumes, transforms, and spreads. To ask for holy fire is to ask that our complacency be burned away, that the parts of us content with comfort over compassion might be challenged.

This is not a new image. In the Jewish festival of Shavuot, held fifty days after the first day of Passover, the same day as Pentecost, people remember the gift of the Law at Sinai, given with fire and with a presence that could not be ignored. That fire was not for spectacle, but for shaping a people who would live differently marked by justice, mercy, and care for the vulnerable. To pray for holy fire, then, is not to ask for a passing feeling, or a bit of energy or inspiration, but to be formed into that kind of people.

As churches, we seek to be seen in our communities through quiet, faithful acts of presence, serving food, offering conversation and being places of welcome. But the deeper question is not simply what we are doing, but what we are discovering. What are we learning about God that we would never have known if we had not met the person in front of us?

“Strengthen your children with the gift of faith.”

Faith is more than belief; it is trust that leads to action. It is the courage to step beyond what is familiar, even when we feel underprepared. In parish life, there is always the temptation to wait until we feel ready, fully resourced, or fully confident but faith rarely works that way. Again, Shavuot offers a lens.

Alongside the giving of the Law, it is also a festival of first fruits, an offering made not from surplus, but in trust. Faith begins there not with abundance, but with willingness, and this is not about offering from a safe distance.

There is always a danger that outreach becomes something we do to reassure ourselves, to tick a box, or to be seen as a “good church.” These motivations can be subtle, even unspoken, but the Gospel challenges them at their root. We are not sent out to prove anything, we are sent because Christ has already shown us what love looks like, and asks us to follow. We are also sent because there is something we do not yet know. In every encounter there is the possibility of revelation about God.

Outreach should not leave us unchanged, or confirm what we already think we know, or allow us to remain comfortably in control. The pattern of the Gospel is clear, those who come expecting to give discover that it is Christ, present in the other, who meets them.

“Revive your Church with the breath of love.”

Revival is not measured in numbers or noise, but in life, and the life of the Church is measured in love that is real, tangible, and sometimes costly. The kind of love that notices who is missing, that draws near to those on the edges, and that refuses to let anyone remain unseen. Where that love is present, outreach is no longer an optional activity, it becomes part of the Church’s very identity, and a Church that truly loves will also be a Church that learns; a Church willing to be changed by those it encounters will be drawn deeper into the life of God.

“And renew the face of the earth.”

This renewal is not abstract, it is local, relational, and grounded in ordinary acts: food shared, loneliness interrupted, dignity restored. At Shavuot, God’s people were not only given a gift, but a calling, to become a community whose life together would reflect God’s justice in the world.

To pray for the Spirit’s fire is to ask not only to be sent, but to ask to be changed, and to ask ourselves what did we learn about God that we could not have known without encountering that person?

Gilly

In Memoriam

Nicholas James Carter	1 May 1990
Irene Haynes	1 May 2021
John Bertram Bentley	7 May 1988
Marie Antionette Grosvenor	11 May 2007
Marjorie Mantle	12 May 1988
Norman Jackson	12 May 1996
Colin Russell	15 May 2016
Ron Clayton	16 May 2016
Douglas Charles Haines	18 May 1989
Laura May Bircham	20 May 1989
Terry Sherratt	21 May 1992
Herbert Heaven Williams	23 May 1993
Marjorie Victoria Davies	29 May 1995

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, March 2026

St John's

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 14th February 2026 Doreen Handley

SERVICES: Communicants 378. Total attendance at all services 724 including 47 at a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 46. Total attendance at all services 67.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in May

Friday 1st May: Philip and James, apostles

Sunday 3rd May: The fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 10th May: The sixth Sunday of Easter

Thursday 14th May: Ascension Day

Friday 15th May Matthias the apostle

Sunday 17th May: The seventh Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day)

Sunday 24th May: Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Sunday 31st May: Trinity Sunday

Dates for your diary

Location
key

(J) St John's Church

(M) St Michael's Church

(*) Please contact Sarah Cottrill for details (see inside front cover).

(J) Mondays in term time, 10am: Little Lambs, see pages 8 and 17. Does not meet on 4th or 25th May.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesdays in May, 7.30pm: Bible Course. Come from 7pm when tea and coffee will be available, see page 15.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 2nd May, 4pm: Messy Church, see page 9.

Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Sunday 3rd May, after the morning service: St John's Annual Church Meetings (see page 45).

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 9th May, 7.30pm: Concert by the Film Orchestra Choir.
(see page 9).

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 14th May, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Life in a castle", see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Sunday 17th May, after the morning service: St Michael's Annual Church Meetings (see page 45).

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 18th May, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union. Speaker Graham Evans: "Words from the (magazine) editor."

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 20th May, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 23rd May, 10.45am: Cafe@10.45, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(*) Thursday 28th May, 7.30pm: Mothers' Union. Contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Sunday 21st June, 12noon: Saint John's Fayre (see page 13).

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

**We will not meet on 4th and 25th May
as these Mondays are bank holidays**

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

PRESENTS

DISCOVER HISTORY



**LIFE IN A
CASTLE**

THURSDAY 14TH MAY

1.00PM

ADMISSION £4

INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

**Join us for Tea,
Coffee & Cake**



Wednesday 20th May

2.45pm

Everyone Welcome!

Suggested donation £2.00

**Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship**

**Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!**

Our next meeting is on

**Saturday 9th May
9.00am until 11.00am**

**St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room**

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



Events at St John's

St John in Bedwardine



Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish

'Friendship and Thoughts'

**At 10.45am on
Saturday 23rd May**

ALL WELCOME



Saturday 2nd May, 4pm.

(doors open 3.30pm with drinks and biscuits).

Join us the first Saturday of each month!

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

The Film Orchestra Choir

On Saturday 9th May, we'll be hosting The Film Orchestra Choir as they perform songs and music from a range of TV and film.

If you would like to see a taster of the choir's repertoire, you can find videos from their latest concert on The Film Orchestra's Facebook page.

More details about this are coming shortly – please do keep an eye out at St John's Church and on our website and Facebook page for these.

We look forward to seeing you for an evening of beautiful music.

The Events Team

Coach trips

(Spaces as at 15th April)

***Saturday 13th June
Llangollen (3 spaces)***

**Tuesday 21st July
Weston-super-Mare (full)**

***Saturday 26th September
Bath (6 spaces)***

***Recently added
Saturday 21st November
National Memorial Arboretum***

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Evening Prayer with Bible Study

The theme for Sunday Evening Prayer with Bible Study on 10th May will be **Jonah**. We will meet in the font chapel.

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. The sessions last about an hour, set within a service of Evening Prayer.

Philip Evans

Children's Church – May 2026

We really enjoyed celebrating Easter last month in Children's Church. We learnt about the events that happen during Holy Week and celebrated Easter Sunday in church with our own Easter Egg hunt, and a retelling of the Easter Story.

In the summer term we will learn more about stories from Jesus' life, learning about some of the things he did and the people who followed him. The children are also becoming more involved in aspects of worship within the main services, with some joining the reading rota and our youngest children taking the collection.

Children's Church continues to run on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays of each month at St John's Church. We have two groups, Scramblers for pre-school children and Explorers for primary school aged children. Everyone is welcome.

Fiona Templeton and Amy Rees

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists and Daily Offices are scheduled in May:

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

** Eucharist for Wholeness and Healing: This is normally on the second Thursday of each month. Exceptionally in May, this will be on the third Thursday of the month (21st May).

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 and at 4pm during GMT.

⁺⁺ On Ascension Day (Thursday 14th May), the 8.30am service at St John's will be a Eucharist, at which incense will be used.

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.

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The Bible Course: Explore the Big Story



Are you curious about the overarching story of the Bible?

Whether you're new to faith or simply want to deepen your understanding, The Bible Course is designed to guide you through the key themes and big questions in a friendly and accessible way.

Running across eight Wednesday evenings from 15th April, each session will kick off at 7.30pm and finish by 9pm.

You'll enjoy engaging video content,

lively discussions, time for reflection, and, of course, refreshments (served from 7pm) to keep you fuelled along the journey.

There is no need to attend all the sessions, so please do come along, even if you've missed some. Come along, explore, and connect with others. No prior knowledge is required. Just bring your curiosity and an open mind!

St David's News

In March, we held a very successful tombola, raffle and a fun quiz afternoon. The quiz was won by Sally Anne Bird who won herself an Easter egg. Thank you to all who supported this event, and to all who helped.

At our April coffee morning we were joined by some members of Manor Park Church who use St. David's to entertain students from the university on a Friday evening. Some of the students also came as they lived too far away to go home for Easter. We have been invited to join them one Friday evening to see what they do.

Carole Stone, Deputy Church Warden

Marooned with Music

The new Bishop of Worcester, Bishop Hugh, will be 'Marooned with Music' at St Clement's Church on Tuesday May 5th at 7pm.

Based on the popular Radio 4 programme, join us for an evening of conversation and music as we get to know 'the man under the mitre.'

Tickets for this event cost £5 which includes cheese and wine.

Sarah Cottrill

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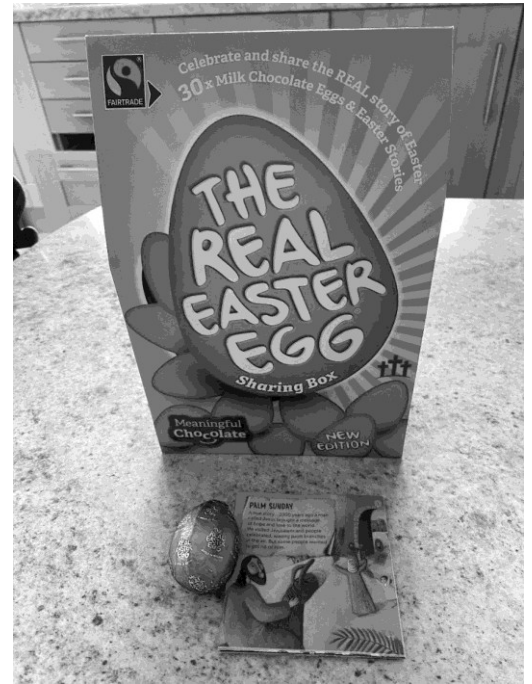


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Little Lambs Enjoy Easter Fun

Thank you church for providing The Real Easter Egg sharing box for us all. We enjoyed the chocolate Easter eggs with their message saying 'Christ is Risen' on the foil and we gave out the Easter booklets to our families.



This month's photos show our children making their Easter cards with egg and chick stickers and their own designs too. Thank you Gail, one of our lovely volunteers, for donating the cards and envelopes. My grandson, Benjamin, also enjoyed using the materials to create his own Easter cards.



By the time you read this, we will have had our tidy up and cleaning session on 13th April and then re-opened on 20th April for lots more fun during the Summer term. We will not meet on 4th and 25th May as these Mondays are bank holidays and our last meeting this term will be on 13th July.

Blessings to everyone from us all at Little Lambs.

Sue Fairman

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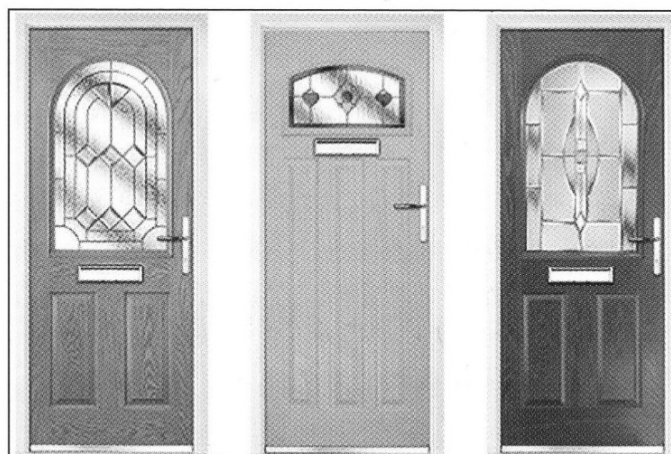
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Café Church at St Michael's

On the afternoon of Palm Sunday, following the more formal service at St John's in the morning, we had a Café Church at St Michael's.



Philip, Jenny, Gilly and I served refreshments, so people were able to enjoy a cream tea while Gilly led an informal service. It was very well received, so we hope to be able to repeat this in the future for other occasions.

Phil Bradford

The picture above includes Frances Morris, a faithful member of the St Michael's congregation, sitting with Philip Evans and Gilly Maxim. Sadly Frances passed away a few days after this event. "May she rest in peace and rise in glory!"

The Editors

On 2nd April we heard the sad news that Frances Morris, who attended St. Michael's church, had passed away. We will miss Frances as we knew her very well and she always supported us at St. David's when we held events. We send our sincere condolences to all her family.

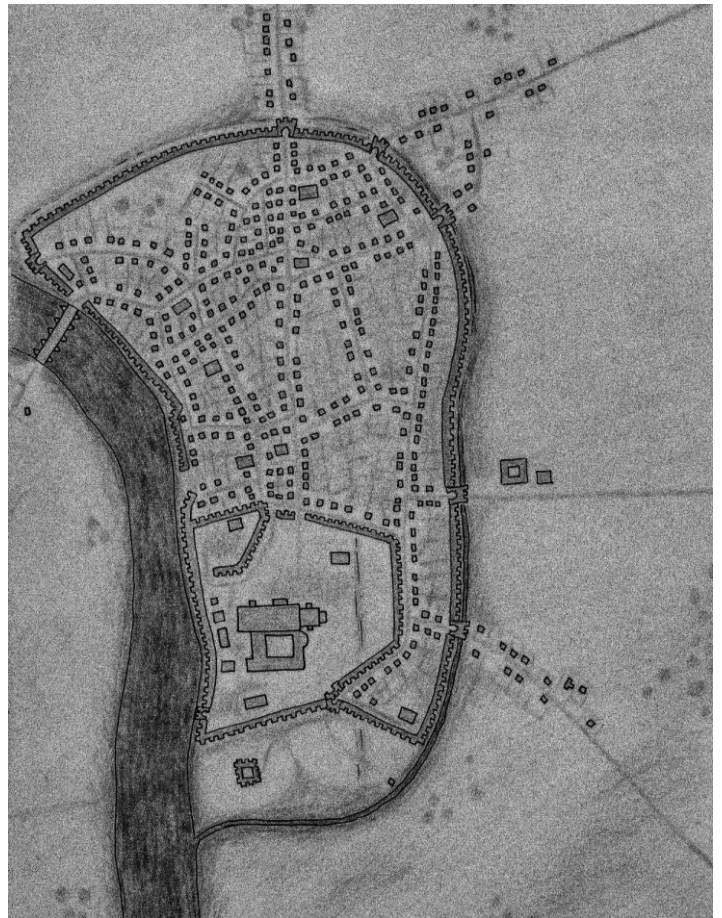
Carole Stone, Deputy Church Warden, St David's

Disorderly women will be punished!

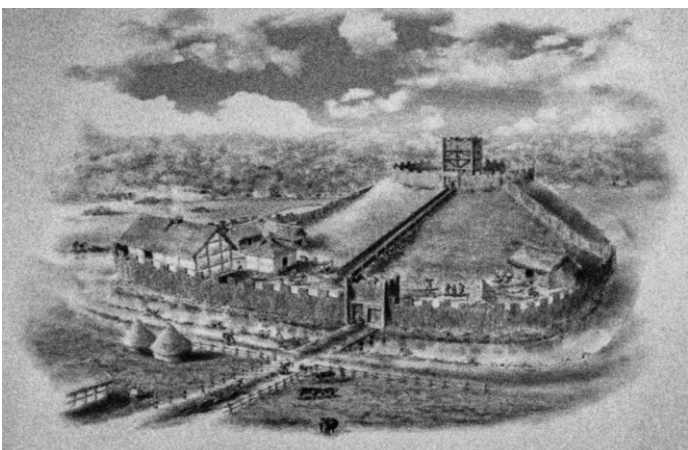


Nearly 100 people turned up to hear this month's talk by Paul Harding, based on one of Discover History's Worcester walks covering the history of the River Severn in Worcester. The walk starts at the south of the city, near Severn Street (Diglis Hotel) and goes north along the river to Pitchcroft racecourse by the Sabrina footbridge.

The whole river is about 220 miles long, so this is just a very small stretch of it. There is a lot of archaeology that shows that the river was used as far back as 10,000 years ago. When the Romans arrived in Worcester they created a port. A vast amount of iron was brought in, and it was smelted down in Worcester to create weapons and armour for the Roman Army. All this was done on the east bank of the river as the west bank was considered to be a dangerous area to the Romans.



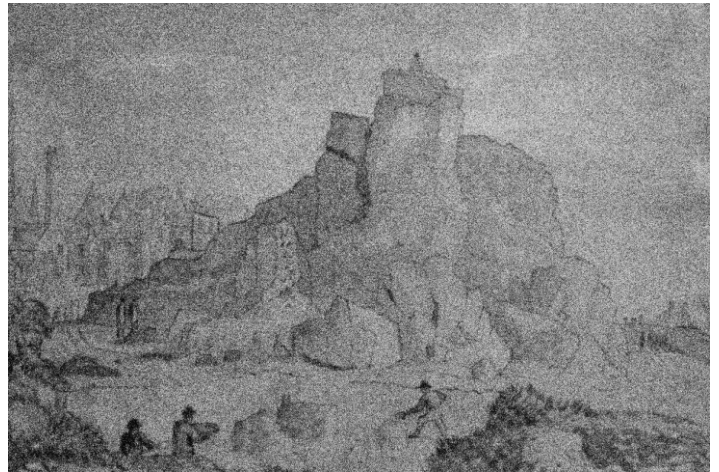
When the weir was added at Diglis in the 1840s it significantly changed the river and caused a lot of damage. It meant that the fish travelling upstream could not get past the weir and it increased the level of the river in the area of the city.



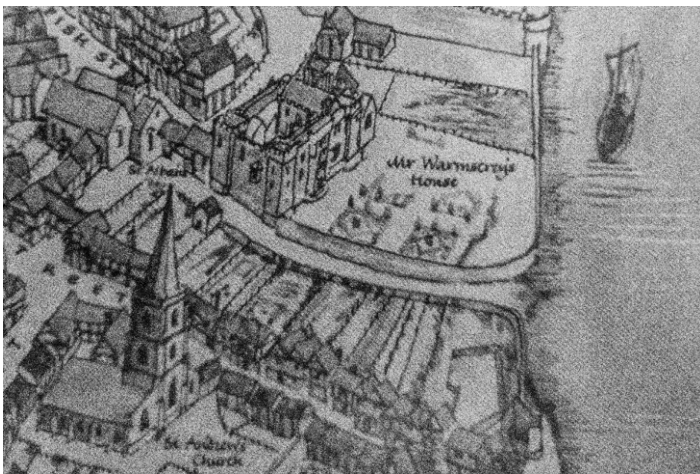
One of the first things that would have been seen in Norman times at the southern end of the settlement is the large man-made mound on which the Mott and Bailey castle had been built, which would have looked like the image on the left.

The castle dominated the bend of the river and from there they could control the traffic on the river. At that time the river was tidal in Worcester and was the equivalent of our main roads today as it was far easier to travel by water than across land.

Once the castle became uninhabited the local population used the wood and stone to build their own homes. Eventually in 1826 the mound was removed, as seen here, and there is evidence that some archaeology investigations took place at that time and various objects were found.



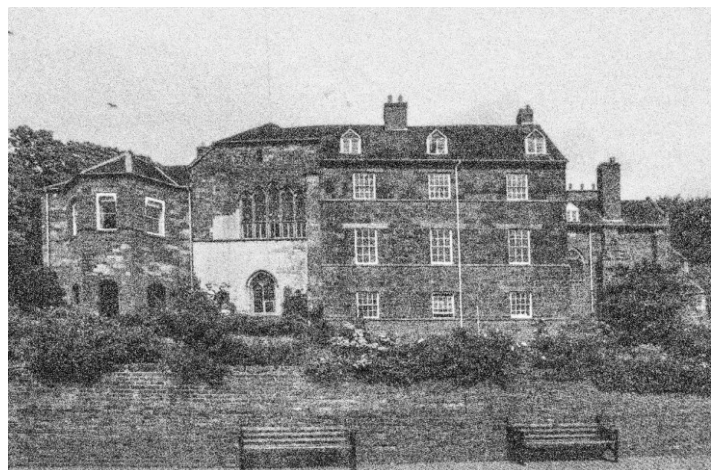
The next area we reach is the site of the first settlement, where the current College Green is and beside it the Cathedral was built, although originally it was a monastery. At the bottom of College Green is the Watergate, which would have been the main entrance to the Monastery from the river. Shortly after Watergate is a small niche in the wall, this was the drain, or sewer, for the monk's latrine that was above the wall there. The effluent would then flow straight into the river from there.



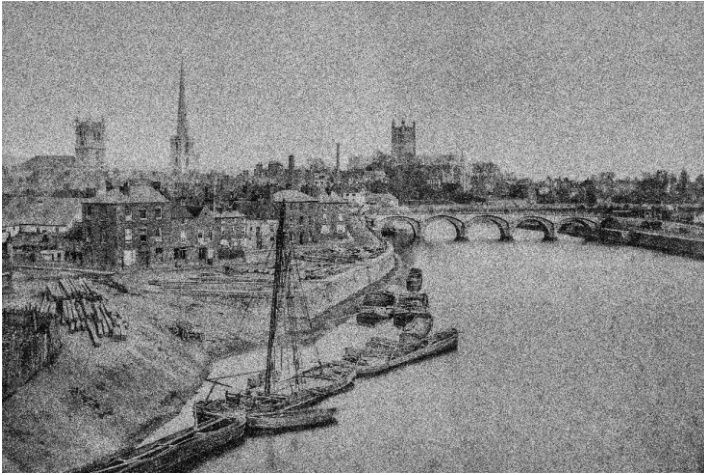
A bit further north was Warmstry House, which was a Tudor manor house, bought by Dr Wall where he started his porcelain industry, he later moved to the site of the Worcester Porcelain Works. The house was then bought by the Dent brothers who set up a glove factory in the buildings.

The Bishop's Palace was a neighbouring house to Warmstry House.

It was originally a medieval building. However, as can be seen in the photo it was later modified by the inclusion of a Georgian manor house. In this area of the wall beside the river there is the top of an arch that used to be where the bishop moored his boat.



The west bank of the river was just farmland, such as the Chapter Meadows opposite this area and some of the hedges there can be traced back to the Civil war era.



The next area we see as we go north is the Quayside. Originally the docks were around the Diglis Basin, but this area silted up and they moved them to South Quay. As this area of the river was a bit shallow there could be an issue for unloading and loading of cargo, so this led to the building of the weir in the 1840s. A special type of ship

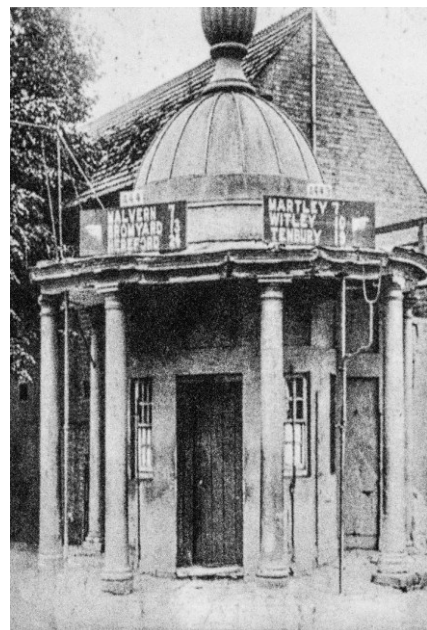
was used on the River Severn, the Severn trow. This had a shallow draught and could navigate the shallower areas of the river. One was found in the river, and it was scrapped as it was in the way of other traffic. A group of enthusiasts rebuilt it, and they offered the renovated boat to the City Council, but the offer was turned down. It did find a good home though as it ended up at the Ironbridge museum.

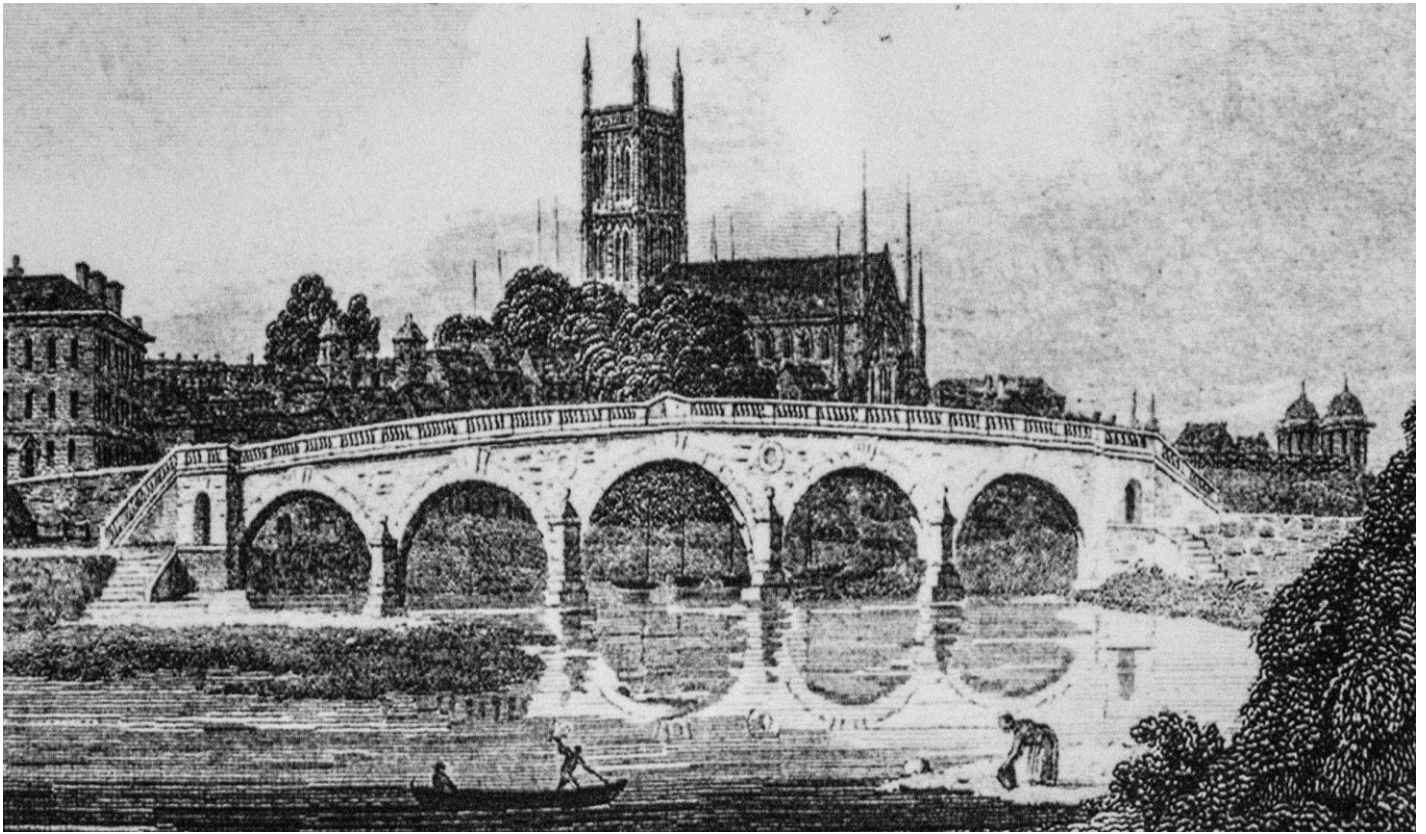
Copenhagen Street was originally called Cucken Street, because there was a cucking stool at the water's edge, which was used for the punishment of disorderly women. The road was renamed when Admiral Nelson visited Worcester shortly after he had won the Battle of Copenhagen.



The original narrow medieval bridge crossed the river between Tybridge Street and Newport Street. This was replaced by the John Gwynn bridge in the latter half of the 18th Century.

As this was so expensive there was a toll house built in St John's to collect the toll for using the bridge. At the time there was a range of costs associated with crossing the river, much the same as the M6 toll road. For example it cost 1½d for a pack animal or 6d for a horse-drawn carriage to cross the river.





Finally in the 1930s this bridge was expanded to the current bridge by building out both sides and the toll house was demolished. It is still possible to see parts of the original bridge in the arches under the river.

The viaduct was built in the 1880s to link Hereford by train with the rest of the country to the east of the river. There was a small narrow-gauge railway that ran along the east bank of the river to the North and South Quays so goods could be moved to and from the docks.

The parish St Clement's began life on the east side of the River Severn serving the communities who relied on the river for their living. The church was known as the Watermen's church. The site of the church flooded regularly and following a re-organisation of parishes in the city, the parish church was rebuilt on the high ground at Henwick Road and was consecrated on 23rd March 1823.



Before the talk our organist, John Brierley, updated the audience on the repairs to the organ, as the bellows had been put back in during the previous week. Then, whilst the audience were enjoying the usual array of wondrous cakes, he played the organ so that they could hear how it now sounded.

Colin Nash

Notes from the choir



Here are some more of my memories of being in the choir over the last 50 years.

Before being able to sing with the choir, I had to have an audition. I was asked by David Lindop the organist and choirmaster to choose a hymn to sing and I chose “My Song is Love Unknown.” I was very nervous, but thankfully was allowed to join the choir.

I joined in January 1976 during the interregnum between Rev. Malcolm Richards and Rev. Frank Bentley. I was confirmed that year just before Easter.

The first psalm I remember singing was Psalm 122 - “I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.” This has remained one of my favourite psalms throughout my years in the choir.

From time to time, we sang at various events in the Cathedral. I was fascinated to see the different styles and colours of the robes that the different choirs wore. When I joined, the St John’s choir robes were a burgundy colour. Sometime, I think in the 1980’s, it was decided to have new robes and the choir were asked what colour they might like to have. Much discussion went into this!! Some wanted scarlet but we weren’t allowed to have this as we were told that it could only be worn by the Chapel Royal in Windsor. Purple was also mentioned. The most voted for colour was blue. We were all measured for our gowns by Lionel Buswell, one of the basses, who owned a menswear shop in town. These are the robes we still have today.

In May 1980, I remember singing at a very large outdoor service at the Worcester Cricket Ground. Robert Runcie the Archbishop of Canterbury came to preside over a Diocesan Eucharist. It was to celebrate the 1300th anniversary of the founding of the Worcester Diocese.

Jumping forward in time, many years later, the choir sang for a church harvest supper at the cricket ground. The work we performed? “There’s a spider in the bath” by Flanders and Swann!

At Easter 1981, the choir performed Stainer’s Crucifixion. We practised this for several weeks prior to the performance. This was the event that drew Graham into the choir.

As I mentioned in my last piece in the March magazine, Graham and I were married at St John’s in June 1982 by Rev Frank Bentley and had photographs taken with the choir following the service. It was very special to have all our choir

friends singing for our wedding. We had “Widor’s Toccata” for our recessional music. Every time I hear this played it brings back wonderful memories - most recently on Easter Sunday 2026.



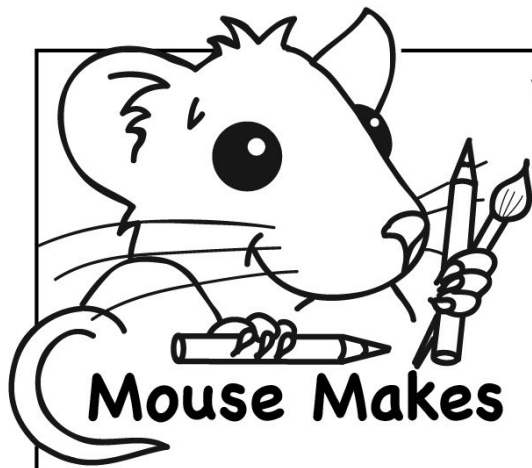
Members of the choir sang at two recordings of BBC Songs of Praise, broadcast from Worcester Cathedral. The first was broadcast in January 1987 for Epiphany and the second one was broadcast in about the mid 1990's. We rehearsed in the cathedral on two consecutive evenings and had to make sure that we wore the same clothes and sat in the same places for the continuity shots. The choir also sang at St John's Church for a radio broadcast for BBC Hereford and Worcester.

One very special memory is of singing at St John's when Ruth Wintle celebrated communion here for the first time after being ordained priest in May 1994. I was almost moved to tears when she held the chalice aloft. Ruth was among the first women to be ordained priest after it was allowed.

For many years, on Rogation Sunday (the 5th Sunday after Easter), the able-bodied members of the choir would climb to the top of the church tower and sing a hymn at the end of the morning service. The hymn was “May the grace of Christ our saviour and the Father's boundless love.”

I hope I will be able to make many more happy memories in the years to come!

Sue Evans



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Spirit of

Genesis 1:2

The

of the Father.

Acts 1:4

The Spirit of

A Romans 8:15

H John 14:26

The Spirit of

John 16:13

The Spirit of

Acts 16:7

The Fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22-23

— O —

— Y —

— C —

— T —

— I —

— N —

S —

N —

What
happened when
the Holy Spirit
came at Pentecost?

read
Acts 2:1-41

How many believers
were baptised
that day?

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

Look up the Bible verses and fill in the
missing words. Look for them in the
word search then look for these words below.

HOLY • SPIRIT • COUNSELLOR • COMFORTER
ADVOCATE • TEACHER • LORD • PROMISE
GLORY • GRACE • FAITH • DOVE • FIRE • WIND

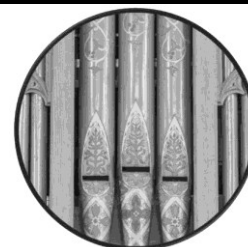
Lent Lunches 2026

Thank you to all those who helped with lent lunches and those who attended, enjoying the good food and fellowship. Donations raised for Maggs Day Centre were £147.68.

Margaret Rutter

Organ Update

The organ is now fully re-assembled, with leaky windbags successfully repaired. We are very glad to have it back!



Individual donations continue to trickle in (thank you!).

We are very grateful to the British Legion and the Crown Inn who recently held an Easter Egg Raffle and raised over £500 in support of the organ restoration.

BUT there's still a funding gap! Please...

- Donate via the card machine at the back of St John's Church or online at <https://givealittle.co/c/Organ2025>
- Donate **by cheque** by sending it to the Team Office
- 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 you need to make a Gift Aid declaration, please contact the office (details on the inside front cover).

Sudoku Puzzle

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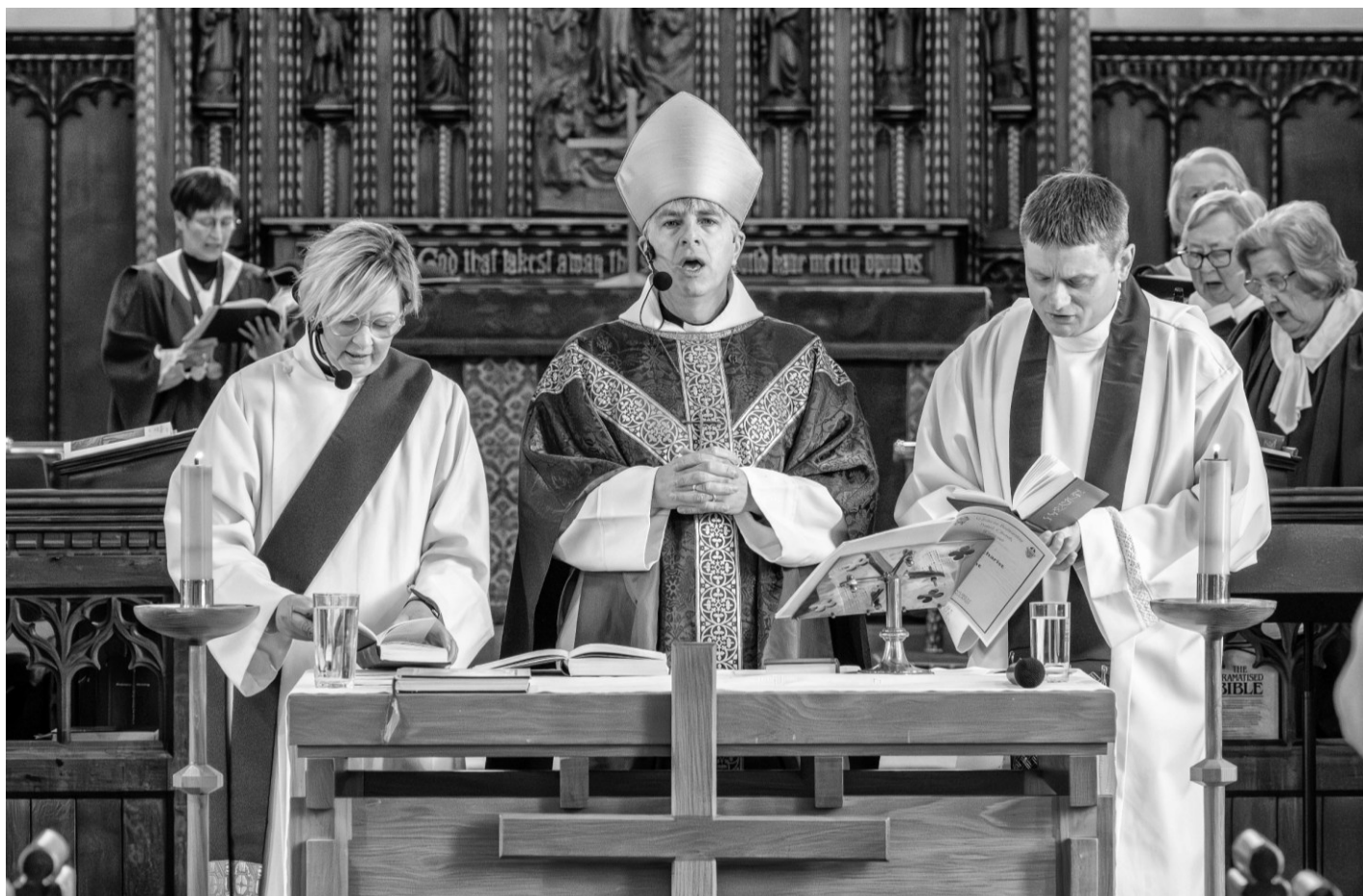
KrazyDad.com

*The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.*

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

Picture Gallery

On 22nd March 2026, our new bishop, Bishop Hugh, visited us for the first time.



The following week, we had Palm Sunday with our customary dramatised reading of the Passion Gospel.



170 Breakfasts! (Bacon was served)

It is with great pleasure that we can report on yet another very successful community breakfast held in the north aisle, on Saturday 21st March 2026, our 24th in the last 13 years.

It was a really lovely occasion when we had the opportunity to welcome not only members of our own family, but also friends from across the community including visitors from the Maggs Day Centre.



We were blessed by having 15 adult volunteer helpers plus the very efficient and enthusiastic company of guides. Both groups carried out their varied tasks with great cheerfulness and enthusiasm, and the whole occasion was orchestrated with great skill and good humour by Jenny (seen above briefing us before the doors opened) who managed to keep us all in line. We should note that we owe her an enormous debt for her continuing commitment to ensuring that these breakfasts work so well.

You will be delighted to learn that we served 170 breakfasts, plus some of our visitors simply enjoyed the coffee and companionship. We were able to cover our costs from the morning's donations, mainly as a result of a particularly generous one from the Mark Benevolent fund.

There was a real buzz about the occasion and, on the basis of observing the behaviour and talking to volunteers and visitors, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the conviviality and friendship which was apparent. The breakfast, though mainly a social occasion, provided a very welcome meal for some of our guests: for a few it was the only hot food that they would have access to over the weekend.



Reflecting on the morning, we should feel justifiably pleased with this significant opportunity for mission in reaching out to the community of St John's and beyond.

*John Prangnell
On behalf of the volunteers*

The Light of Easter - and bacon sandwiches!

It's mid-April as I write and despite some occasional lovely weather, there is still a dusting of snow on the fell tops, but when you read this it will be May and that will mean we have been here in the Lakes for nearly a year! The landscape changes so fast at this time of year; early snowdrops gave way to the most incredible display of daffodils that have lasted well over a month and we can see that the woods next to us are about to burst forth in a sea of wild garlic and blue bell flowers. It's a similar story with church as we experience events in the church calendar for the first time and the Easter season gave plenty of opportunity as you might imagine!

Things started with a reflective Ash Wednesday service at St Michael's church in Shap and then we enjoyed a weekly bible study where we all took turns to lead.

People came from churches across the benefice and seeing different people's styles and preferences was fascinating and we were just the right sized group to really get to know each other and open up. When we started in February, we were fully in winter's grip and it was dark when we left the house, but by the end we were enjoying some spectacular sunsets and I got the sense that nature was giving us a taste of the light of Easter.

Palm Sunday did not involve a donkey, but Ellen and I were part of the group that did a dramatic retelling of the story of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem at St Peter's Askham. I was Pilate but Ellen's attempts to be Jesus were frustrated once again and she had to settle for Pilate's wife. It was the first time we had done it that way at St Peter's but it was a resounding success and we were already discussing ideas for next year at the end of the service.

Holy Week involved morning prayer taken from the Northumbria Community's "Celtic Daily Prayer". That gave us a chance to bag two more churches off our benefice list: St Cuthbert's in Clifton and

All Saints in Bolton. All Saints, 12th Century and grade 1 listed, is a beautiful place to worship but a maintenance nightmare! Storm Dave put paid to our plans to join the walk of witness to Shap Abbey, but Easter morning dawned bright and clear and we were up and at 'em for the 7am service where the Paschal Candle was lit from a bonfire in the churchyard. The flame was used to light lanterns for each of the other churches in the benefice



and representatives from each church took them back for the start of their Easter services - it was a really lovely way to demonstrate our connection to each other through Jesus. The service finished with bacon sandwiches which were very welcome!

We have plenty going on in the coming weeks: I am leading my first service, Ellen is getting involved in the weekly community meal in Askham and then I will be helping in the kitchen again at the next youth weekend. Wherever we landed was always going to have big shoes to fill, but we are really feeling fully part of our new church family.

God bless, and more in a month or so!

Rob Little

I boarded a Yugoslav car ferry...

As some of you observed, flying south to warm up for the winter would normally stop well short of Antarctica. Yet despite the sceptics out there, it did indeed turn out that the southern continent was warmer than the vicarage in January, even if this is an alarming sign of climate change. The journey to the highest, driest and windiest of the world's continents was certainly the trip of a lifetime, one which managed to exceed already high expectations.

After an unscheduled trip to Rome - snow (ironically, given the ultimate destination) caused us to miss the connection in Paris and be rerouted - there were a couple of nights to enjoy the midsummer warmth of Buenos Aires before heading down to Ushuaia. The world's southernmost city, right at the bottom of Argentina, is a 3.5-hour flight from the capital (it's roughly equivalent to flying from here to Athens), a very uncomfortable journey as most planes in Latin American are built for the vertically challenged individual. Ushuaia has the feel of a frontier town, for it is from there that some 90% of tourists to Antarctica set off, but we also had a glorious summer day to take the 'End of the World Train' (built by prisoners when Ushuaia was a prison camp) and explore the beautiful Tierra del Fuego National Park. Then, on a sunny Monday afternoon, we boarded the



MS Expedition. Originally built as a Yugoslav car ferry in the 1970s, it has been converted into a polar vessel capable of dealing with Antarctic travel, and had stabiliser fins attached. Those imagining a cruise ship might need to think again; there were 124 passengers and the communal spaces consisted of a

rather cramped dining room and equally cramped lounge, on a vessel designed for exploration rather than luxury.

We headed out along the Beagle Channel, separating Argentina from Chile, into the Drake Passage, the stretch of ocean dividing South America from Antarctica. As there is almost no land anywhere in the world at that latitude, ferocious storms can build up with nothing to stop their progress, and the Drake Passage is infamous for rough seas and seasickness. To the incredulity of our crew, the weather treated us so kindly that it was like crossing a pond, luck that held for almost the entire trip. It meant I could spend happy times on deck, appreciating the wandering albatrosses (with their enormous wingspans) which came to follow the ship and viewing the breaching humpback whales.

There were also plenty of lectures from the onboard experts, about history, geology, geography and wildlife, to prepare us for our destination. In such favourable conditions, it took less than 48 hours before we set eyes on the bewitching Antarctic landscape.

Definitions of Antarctica vary, but politically it includes everything which lies south of 60 degrees S latitude. Our trip took us to the Antarctic Peninsula, the most accessible part of the mainland continent, where we began at the southernmost point we reached, the Yalour Islands. The evening we arrived, there was the option to do the 'polar plunge', jumping from a platform into the freezing waters of the Southern Ocean. Seeing no reason why I needed to leap off a nice warm ship into freezing cold salt water, I opted to observe the lunatics. Next morning, we layered up, donned our red parkas (which made it very easy for the crew to keep track of us against the snow, just in case anyone wandered off), our waterproof trousers and our special knee-high mud boots, and boarded the Zodiacs (army grade dinghies) from the dedicated platform just above water level. For our first landing, conditions were good and we only had to step ankle deep into water, before scrambling onto the rock and up into the snow.



Here, walking a trail carefully laid out to avoid the treacherous crevasses hidden beneath the snow, we encountered our first penguin colony. These were Adelies, the classic black-and-white penguin, one of the two species found exclusively in Antarctica. The rules stated that we were meant to stay five metres away from penguins (and all wildlife) at all times. As we discovered throughout the trip, no one had told the penguins. Penguins are afraid only of things in the sea (whales

and seals) and in the air (skuas and petrels). Having no land predators, they have no fear of humans and are curious about them; trying to stay the requisite distance from an inquisitive penguin while not falling over in the snow is quite a challenge, especially when they gang up and approach from all sides. Yet the feeling of walking among penguins in the Antarctic ice for the first time was indescribably special, one we were fortunate to have multiple times over the following days.

The afternoon took us to Booth Harbour and a colony of Gentoo penguins, a cheeky, attractive species which is among the most widespread of the penguins, against the stunning backdrop of an iceberg graveyard. The next day, on a trip full of the spectacular, was a strong contender for the most memorable of our voyage. As the sun shone in a clear blue sky, we sailed up the Gerlache Strait, the water acting like a mirror to reflect the ice-covered mountains and glaciers on either side.



The endless array of colours ice and icebergs have, depending on the light, is incredible. Around lunchtime, we found ourselves witnessing a pod of killer whales hunting a penguin around the boat, the adults teaching the youngsters about hunting, giving us a prime view of something rarely seen. While knowing it was only nature, we rooted for the valiant but ultimately doomed penguin for half an hour. Humpback, fin and minke whales also put in an appearance as we made our way into the breathtaking, ice-filled Andvord Bay, to visit another Gentoo colony.

Day 3 in Antarctica saw us spend the morning at the wonderfully-named Two Hummock Island, walking among a colony of comical Chinstrap penguins, before an afternoon exploring Spert Island from the water. The next day was Brown Bluff, where all three penguin species we had seen so far intermingled on a shingle beach, and another Zodiac exploration at Kinnes Cove



on Joinville Island. These full four days of landings and explorations should have been all for Antarctica, but so well was the weather holding and so good were the conditions, that next morning the crew decided we would attempt a landing on Elephant Island, at the extreme end of the South Shetland Islands. The location, Point Wild, was where Frank Wild had survived for four months with his crew in 1916 while Ernest Shackleton sailed for help after his doomed Endurance mission. None of the crew had ever landed there before, and while it was tricky and required six people to hold each Zodiac in place for a very wet landing, the Chinstrap penguins occupying the rocky outcrop bemused by their unexpected visitors, it was an exhilarating end to the Antarctic segment.

Phil Bradford - To be concluded next month

Climb up two levels to the ground floor?

Following weeks of cold, wet and miserable weather we approached the first coach trip of the year with some trepidation! However, the day dawned bright, but with an early morning frost, and slowly warmed up during the drive to Nottingham. It turned out to be a beautiful day, and many people were seen walking around the city centre in t-shirts.

Being a trip to a city centre there was a bomb-burst from the coach when we arrived as the 58 people all set off to see various attractions and shops. The city centre is definitely bigger and better than Worcester with the likes of John Lewis and M&S along with several large shopping centres.

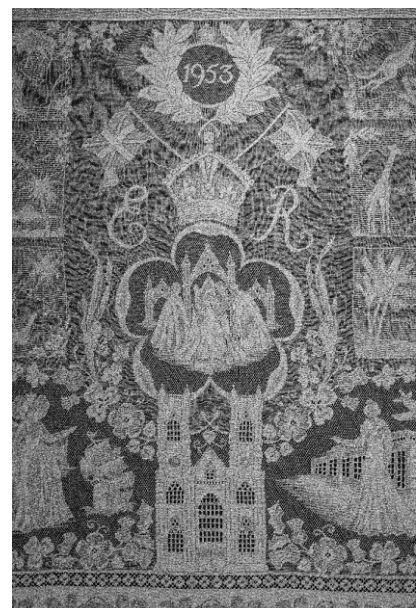


Nottingham has a castle, but not as you would expect, as over the centuries it has been pulled down and replaced by more modern buildings. The current incarnation is a renovated 'Palace' or Georgian building and has been converted into a museum about Robin Hood and local industry. It is on a hill, and

you enter at the lower basement level and climb up 2 levels to the ground floor.



There are a number of displays showing various aspects of life in Nottingham, including, of course, Robin Hood, the Civil War, lace making and art.



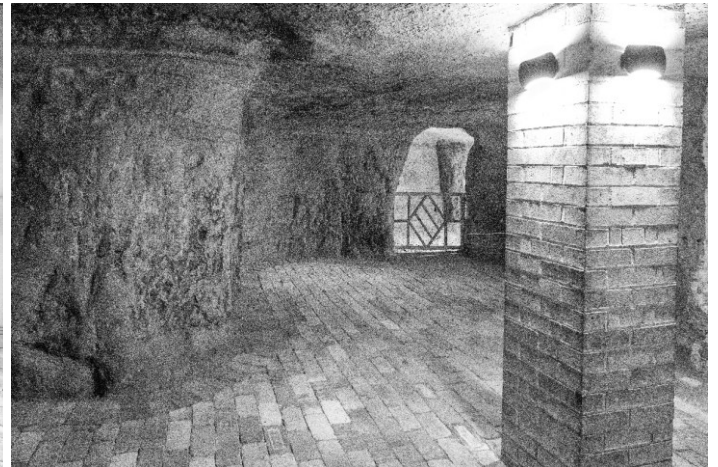


Naturally Robin Hood also appears! There is the picture below, by the artist Daniel Maclise, depicting Robin Hood and his Merry Men entertaining King Richard.

In the grounds there is a statue of Robin Hood.



In addition to the main castle museum there is a group of four cottages in the grounds of the museum, where life over the different centuries is depicted. These cottages are also connected to some of the many caves running under the castle.



Nottingham actually has the greatest number of man-made caves in a town or city in the country. Some of our group were able to get on one of the tours and said that it was very interesting.

All-in-all it was a very pleasant day out and everyone enjoyed themselves; well worth the trip!

Colin Nash

Marcés Mailing - March 2026

Editors' note - This mailing was received in late March so did not get into the April magazine; hence it appears in this, the May edition. By the time you read this, Penny and Jaun Carlos' visit to St John's (26th April) will already have happened - to be reported in the June magazine!



**'I the Lord
do not change"
(Malachi 3:6)**

Our night-flowering
cactus...



Please pray for:

Juan Carlos + Penny: visiting UK
JC's mother Hilda

Juan Carlos:
Overseeing final revisions & production of book
(yes, STILL not complete)

Penny: Ongoing responsibilities in J el N;
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;

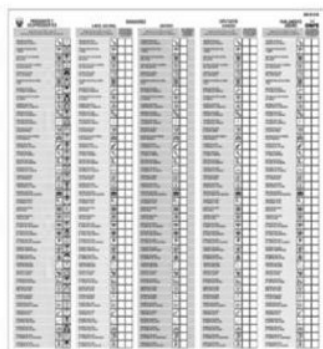
S Juan Evangelista: development of children's ministry
Ministry in San Francisco de la Cruz

Country of Peru: - escalating crime, especially extortion
- political stability
- environmental challenges

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés, Reynaldo Morón 215,
Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 15039, PERU
Tel.+51-1-448-8264; +51-942612987
Email: psmarcesinlima@gmail.com

Dear friends,

“I the Lord do not change”. In this unstable world it is wonderful to be able to trust in this fact. We last sent a letter in October, when a new President had just taken office. Given that we have the 5-yearly **elections** in April, we did NOT expect to have ANOTHER President already, but we do.... For the



election on 12th April, the voting form is a mass of names and symbols measuring 42cm x 44 cm, since it is not JUST a Presidential election, but also elections for: Congress; Senate (recently re-introduced after 35 years); and Andean Parliament (cp EU MPs). To cast a valid vote is daunting for University graduates, let alone the barely literate. Please pray on 12th April! Also pray that whoever the new President is, (s)he action will be taken to stop the extortions and assassinations of small businesses and bus drivers.

The nation of Peru is seeing changes in leadership, and so is the Anglican Church here. Bishop Victor Condori has now been Assistant Bishop for 6 months, and episcopal decisions are now taken by the 2 Bishops together. One recent decisions is that **Churches will be paired**, taking into account leadership in the Churches; San Juan Evangelista and Jesús el Nazareno will become a “pair”. These pairs are NOT a permanent unification of the 2, but the idea is that there will be sharing of leadership etc.

Juan Carlos has in fact NOT been in overall charge of San Juan Evangelista for several months; at the end of last year **Juan Rivera** was instituted as Rector. This is a great answer to prayer as to who could take over when we retire. Juan has arrived at a time when people in the Church have been deepening their commitment to the Lord and to Church, and there is now a healthy group of leaders for different aspects of ministry. Juan Rivera is not new to the Church – he began his Christian life there and indeed Penny taught him when she first arrived in Peru, when he was 11. His call to accept the ministry there came when he was preaching on Zaccheus and Jesús said “Come down out of the tree”.



As from August, we will be together in Jesús el Nazareno, praying for who will take over there - it will certainly be nice to be together in ministry after several years where we have been leading in different Churches! Something we have already been asked to lead is a course or **Bible study for couples** – something sorely needed.



Continued on page 41



Peter

Worcester & Wychavon

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In Jesús el Nazareno we continue to be very encouraged by the group of 12-13 years olds who are about to finish studying **Acts**. Over the last year they will have literally read and studied every verse in Mark and Acts – considerably more than most adults have achieved. Whilst talking about Paul's report to the Church in Jerusalem in Acts 15 they were asked "What do you think I will say about YOU in the UK?", opening up a teaching session on what exactly we DO whilst in UK; most people think we are having a long holiday. It was also interesting to see how they perceived what MIGHT actually be said... Having seen that the next book in the Bible after Acts is Romans, they asked if we would study that next – what do you think the answer was? We will finish Acts just in time for the celebration (pizza) before we leave for our UK trip. There is no one to replace Penny in this group, so we have to decide how to continue to encourage them to read the Bible whilst we are over 6,000 miles apart. These young teens are also part of the teenagers' group, some of whom were able to attend a Diocesan camp in Feb on the theme "Faith in a difficult world".



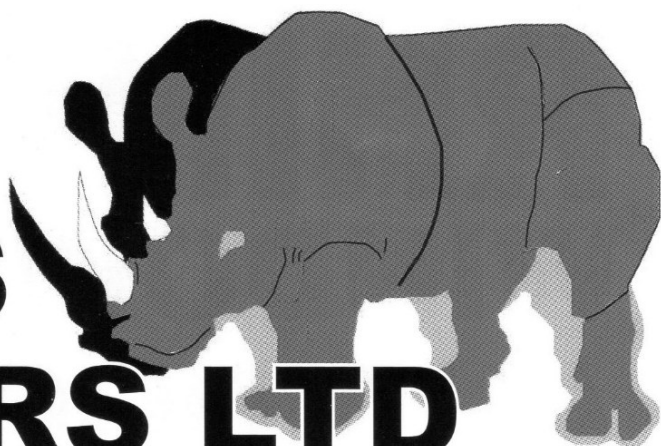
Having organised the Christmas Box Project over 15 years, based on the **Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child** ministry, and sending personalized boxes to groups mostly in rural parts of Peru, this year both San Juan Evangelista and Jesús el Nazareno (along with several other Anglican Churches) registered for the official "Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child". The distribution was delayed by the 50+ containers for Peru getting a red light in Customs in the random system for checking; they decided to open and inspect EVERY container (fortunately not every box in each container!). We have been praying for a growth in the Sunday School in San Juan Evangelista, and the hope is that those contacted through this project will start attending Sunday School (or the youth group); please pray for this. Many of the recipients in Jesús el Nazareno were at the Holiday Club, twice a week for 6 weeks over the summer and entitled "Learning with Peter" – one of the things they learnt best was that Peter made mistakes. Pray that contacts made will continue to attend; sadly, most do NOT.



Immediately after the elections we leave Peru to visit the UK. This will be our last official visit to our link Churches, after 40 years' partnership with some. It will also include Joni's marriage to Sharon; the first time in several years that all 5 of the Marcés family have been together!

Continued on page 43

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- growth and commitment in S Juan Evangelista
- Juan Rivera in leadership in San Juan Evangelista
- young teens reading & studying the Bible in JEN
- health and strength to continue to serve

Please pray....

(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

Please pray for activities in Lima & those leading:

- Sun:** 10.30am Children's work (Jesús el Nazareno - Palmira,
San Juan Evangelista- Carmen & Gaby)
6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service
6.45 pm San Juan Evangelista service (Juan Rivera)
- Tues:** Prayer meetings (JEN:6.30pm; SJE: 8.00pm)
- Wed:** 10.00 am Mums and tots (JEN) - Sarah
- Sat:** 5.30 pm Young teens (J. el Nazareno Melany & Karla)
6.30pm Teenagers (San Juan Evangelista- Deyanira)

Specific dates for Church visits et al:

- 12 April:** General elections in Peru
Farewell for Juan Carlos in San Juan Evangelista
- 14-15 April:** Travel to UK
- 19 April:** All Saints', New Eltham, London
- 26 April:** St John-in-Bedwardine, Worcester
- 3 May:** Malvern Priory, Malvern
- 10 May:** Holy Trinity, Springfield, Essex
- 16 May:** Marriage of Joni and Sharon in London
- 24 May:** St Peter's, Ipsley, Redditch
- 31 May:** St Peter's, Littleover, Derby
- 7 June:** St John's, Harborne, Birmingham
Second round of Presidential elections in Peru
- 14 June:** St Mary's, Maidenhead
- 21 June:** St Paul's, Dorking
- 25 June:** Trentside. Burton-on-Trent
- 5 July:** St Germain's, Edgbaston, Birmingham
- 12 July:** St Ann with Emmanuel, Nottingham
- 21 July:** Return to Lima
- 23-26 July:** JC at Perú Tres Días men's retreat
- 28 July:** Peru Independence Day, and change of government
- 30 July-2 Aug:** Penny at Perú Tres Días women's retreat

In a world which is changing we are grateful to those who share with us in our ministry in Peru, and we hope to see as many of you as possible whilst in UK! Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987.

God bless you and keep you secure in Him, now and always,
Juan Carlos & Penny



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Our annual meetings

Both parishes will have their annual meetings in May: 3rd May at St John's and 17th May at St Michael's. The meetings will take place after the main Sunday morning service at each church.

At these meetings we elect churchwardens, receive reports from the Joint Council, various committees and the financial 'Annual Report & Accounts' and the laity (everyone who isn't clergy) elect various representatives.

Churchwardens:

Two churchwardens are elected each year for each parish. They are elected for one year.

Representatives of the laity to the Joint Council:

St Michael's has two vacancies. For St John's there are five vacancies.

Representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod:

St Michael's has two vacancies and St John's has three vacancies.

Find out more!

If you'd like to know more about any of these roles before committing yourself, please speak to any of the current post-holders or one of the clergy.

Joint Council (JC) meeting 11th March 2026

Phil Bradford welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were 14 members present, with apologies from 2 members.

There were two guests, Carole Stone and Wendy Long from St David's.

Annual Report and Accounts

The draft end of year report has been circulated. These accounts need to be formally approved so that we can send them to the independent examiners. Approval was given, subject to any significant changes being made by the independent examiner.

Thanks were expressed to Graham Evans and Philip Evans for putting the reports together. Responsibility for making the annual finance report to the diocese was delegated to Philip.

Reports for the APCMs will be collected by the Parish Administrator. The meetings are on 3rd May at St John's and 17th May at St Michael's.

Continued on page 47

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Finance

Finance reports had been circulated. Plate collections at St John's are going well, but card donations are down so this needs to be monitored.

Chris Rees has volunteered to come back onto the finance committee helping with the coding and other jobs as necessary. His appointment was agreed.

The reserves policy has been updated to the current numbers. This was approved.

It was agreed to update the broadband in the parish office.

Accommodation Committee

Tom has agreed a rent increase for the flat, subject to some improvements being made, including some repairs to windows and secondary insulation.

There was a discussion about the best way to improve access to the chancel. A combined safeguarding, accessibility and inclusion audit was suggested.

Gordon said that it has been difficult to secure a fire risk assessment from the fire service. Fiona offered to pass on details from a service that she has been used at work.

The results of trying a heated pew cushion were reported. It was agreed to purchase twenty plus an appropriate charging solution (budget £700).

A CCTV policy was agreed. We will need to do register the CCTV with the information commissioner's office.

The service information on the two blue noticeboards at St John's is out of date. It was agreed to revise them to show minimal information, guiding people to where they may find out about current events.

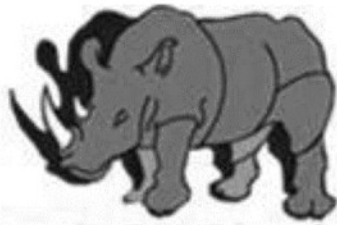
Special Services Committee

The feedback from Advent and Christmas services was overwhelmingly positive. The feedback we have received will be taken into account when planning Advent and Christmas services for this year.

There is a plan in place for promoting the services over Easter. Information will be sent to Colin to put on Facebook. Philip asked for any volunteers to join the special services committee.

Events Committee

The Ceilidh raised about £150. There were lower ticket numbers than last year. Feedback was more positive this year as there was more space.



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Charity Committee

This has not met. People suggested some possible recipients: Dines Green Food Bank for some Henry Smith money; Penny and Juan Carlos when they visit in April.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding dashboard is at 96%. Phil thanked people for doing the actions that need to be completed.

Social media use was reviewed.

Training up to date for people in key roles. Risk assessments are mostly up to date. The remaining one will be organised. Some specific activities were authorised.

Health and Safety

Tom Amies is going to update the Health and Safety policy.

We had a meeting with the police in December, to advise on general safety in light of some recent events. Some of their recommendations will be/are being implemented (e.g. CCTV).

Organ

The organ will be up and running again very soon. The Standing Committee agreed to bring forward payment of a significant amount of the final organ invoice in an attempt to be able to reclaim the VAT. We are waiting on the outcome.

Website, social media and online presence

The website and social media presence is good and has been commented on positively by the diocese.

There was a discussion about how accessible the website is. Is 'A Church Near You' (ACNY) more accessible? Is it necessary to have both ACNY and our own website? It was agreed to delegate this to an ad hoc technical group.

AOB

The current difficult situation at St Michael's, with few people to run things, was raised. St Michael's feel they need more support.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

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

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From the Magazine Archive, May 1949

MR. BISHOP AND THE CHOIR

THE performance of Stainer's "Crucifixion" on Good Friday at 7.30 p.m. was surely a fitting climax to that day of devotion. Some weeks ago, Mr. Bishop informed me that in spite of obvious difficulties—shortage of time, etc., we intended to lead the Choir on Good Friday in the performance of this sacred work. Several persons remarked "It was a lovely and sincere rendering of the Crucifixion". This was a fitting tribute to Mr. Bishop and our Choir. I wish Mr. Bishop, Mr. Hicks and Mr. Griffin (soloists) and the whole choir to accept our heartfelt thanks.

FLORAL DECORATIONS

I WISH to thank all those who helped to decorate our Church in such a lovely way at Easter. At one stage of the decorating, I counted no less than twenty-one ladies at work. It was a magnificent display and most worthy of the great occasion. We also thank all those who sent such lovely flowers which were used to the best advantage. At one point, I noticed a goods' van being unloaded—a mass of colourful foliage was carefully and reverently borne to the Church. There were those who came quietly with a lily in memory of a loved one. True to the spirit of this grand Parish—everyone gave of their best and for the good and happiness of us all.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

A LARGE and representative company filled the Hall of the Boys' School at the A.P.C. Meeting on Thursday, 21st April, following on the Vestry Meeting.

The proceedings were according to the Act, but in an atmosphere of cheerful and expectant appreciation. Reports were read and adopted on finance, fabric, goods and ornaments, and on the work of the P.C.C.

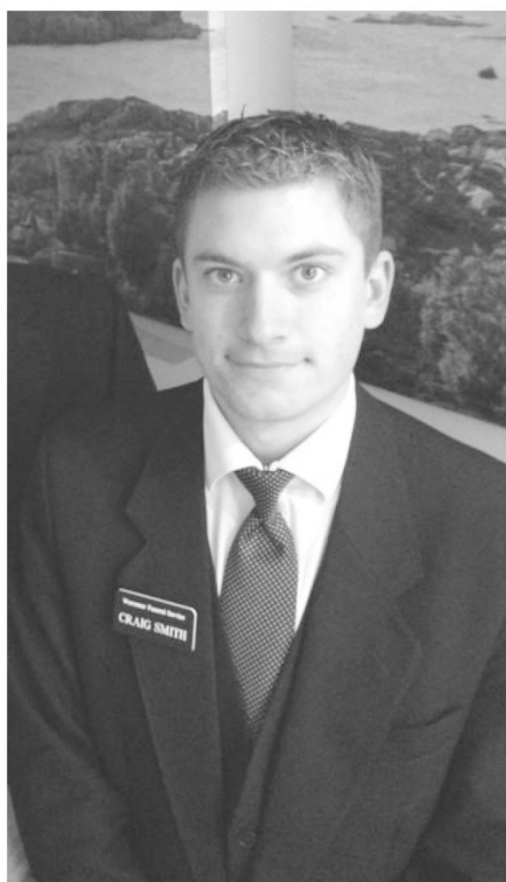
The principal business was, of course, the election of the new Council for 1949. Serving members were re-elected, and to these were added twelve new members, resulting in a happy union of ripe experience and new enthusiasm.



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Libraries Unlocked

Monday - Saturday: 8am - 8 pm

Core (staffed) opening times:

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

Bank Holidays

The library will be closed on the following dates:

- May Day Monday 4 May
- Spring Monday 25 May

Events at St John's Library

Weekly events:

- Creative Tales, weekly every Monday, 3:30pm to 4:15pm (not 4 or 25 May).
- Chess Club, weekly every Tuesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Cost 50p which can be paid on arrival.

- Crochet and Chat, weekly every Wednesday, 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Storytime and Song, weekly every Friday, 11:00am to 11:30am.

Other regular events:

- Classic Film Club, alternate Thursdays, 14 & 28 May, 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Readers' Group: First Friday of each month (1 May), 12:00pm to 1:00pm.

Join this local Crime Reader's Group to share your thoughts on the chosen crime book of the month. Meet in your local library with friendly, regular group members.

- Photography Group: Third Friday of each month (15 May), 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

Free, but booking essential (01905 822722).

The information above is from the County Council website on 15th April.

- Councillors' Surgeries: First Saturday of each month (2 May), 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet your local policing team: Tuesday 19 May, 10:30am to 11.15am.

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☐

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3. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity.
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Puzzle solution

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

And finally....



*“Whilst I appreciate
the thought,
would whoever it is
please stop tweeting,
‘So far, so good.’ ”*

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

Sunday Services – May 2026

	St John's	St Michael's	St David's
3rd May	10.30am Eucharist followed by APCM 5.30pm Evensong	10.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist
10th May	10.30am All Age Eucharist 5.30pm Evening Prayer with Bible study	10.30am Morning Worship	4pm Evening Prayer
17th May	10.30am Eucharist	10am Eucharist followed by APCM	4pm Eucharist
24th May	10.30am Eucharist	10.30am Morning Worship	4pm Evening Prayer
31st May	10.30am Eucharist	10.30am Morning Worship	4pm Eucharist
7th June	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	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.