

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



December 2024

50p



Information

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

Phil Bradford (Team Rector) (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

Sarah Cottrill (Team Vicar) (01905 426257)

Saturday

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

Friday

Stephen Buckley (Pastoral Minister) (07746 206905)

TEAM OFFICE

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

ON THE WEB

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

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	St John's
Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email sylviarender@talktalk.net) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email stephenbuckley554@gmail.com).	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com / 424539) Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com /428948).	St Michael's
On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	

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

A word from the editors

Welcome to our December 2024 edition. Our theme is the Church of England Christmas theme “Follow the Star, Calm and Bright,” echoing the words of the carol “Silent Night.” See page 13 for the Church of England’s explanation. Phil, in his letter, gives an alternative point of view from Lima!

There are many services and events coming over the Advent and Christmas seasons. The details are throughout this magazine, but we draw your attention particularly to Christmas services on pages 10 and 11, and services and events for children and families on pages 26 and 27.

We pray that you can find God’s peace to calm and sustain you, and God’s brightness to help you live out and proclaim God’s message of love and justice, embracing the noise and chaos of the real world:

*May God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace. Amen.*

*Jesus, Saviour, son of Mary,
you know us and love us;
share our lives and hear our prayer. Amen.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 8th December.

Distribution – from 20th December onwards.

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Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Sue Fairman, Liz Forman, Joy Job, Rob Little, 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 Phil Bradford

As I write this, I am sitting in the back of a car on Avenida Faucett, the main road leading from Lima Airport towards the city.

It is 8.30pm and there is total gridlock. According to the road markings, there are four lanes, but in reality there are at least six entangled 'lanes' of cars in a motorised battlefield of blaring horns and fights for every inch of space as police whistles make a futile effort to bring order to the unorderable, while the driver tries to drown out the cacophony of chaos by turning up the radio. I am so used to the journey and Peruvian driving that I probably wouldn't have noticed were I not writing this, but in this context I can't help a wry smile at the theme for this month's magazine, 'Follow the Star: Calm and Bright,' taking words from the carol 'Silent Night.' The typical Lima cloud means that there are no stars to follow, while no night on the roads of Lima is ever even quiet, never mind silent.

Indeed, my one experience of a Peruvian Christmas suggests that 'Silent Night' would be one of the least appropriate carols imaginable here. From having midnight mass at 5pm because it would be 'too dangerous' to have it later, to the street parties of fireworks let off from people's hands at midnight that were the actual reason, to the crib scenes surrounded by superheroes, Christmas in Lima was a riot of colour and noise.

And though much loved, the carol 'Silent Night' has always said a lot more about Victorian imaginations than it has about the birth of Jesus or how we remember it. That idea of a tranquil, starry night, with a blissful birth followed by a silence broken only by the strains of the angelic host, not only seems totally alien in this Peruvian context, but has very little in common with the human reality of childbirth, in the first century or at any time.

The very point of Jesus' birth, of God taking human flesh and coming among us, is that the human experience was absolutely authentic, and that includes the pain, the disruption and the noise of childbirth. It was not a silent night on which the world stopped and paid attention. It was an ordinary night which passed unnoticed by the world, something so much part of the fabric of normal existence that two of the gospels do not even mention it. At the time, the world kept turning and carried on as normal. Only in retrospect would Christians come to see something extraordinary in something so apparently ordinary.



Indeed, it matters that Jesus was born into a noisy, chaotic world, a world torn by violence and brutality. He was born to show the world a different way, the path of love and justice that embodies God's kingdom. Two thousand years later, how much has changed in essentials? Babies continue to be born into the noise and horror of conflict, not least in the same region where Jesus was born and lived.

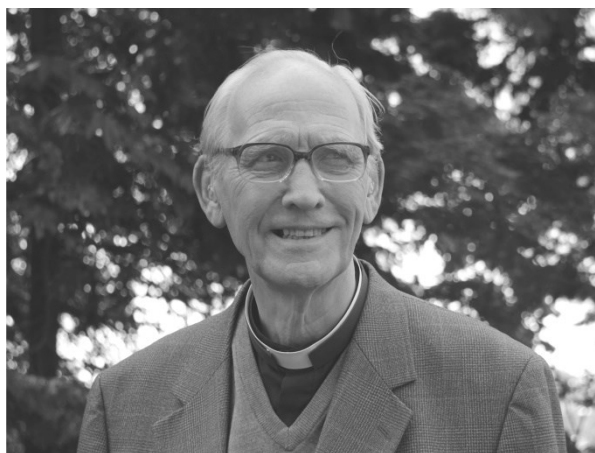
To try to sanitise the reality, to have Jesus born in that Victorian fantasy, negates all that Christmas and the incarnation is about. God made himself vulnerable in a world which is messy and imperfect, to show just how strong was his love for humankind. Rather than seeing Christmas as something set apart, an unreal scene like Silent Night, and trying to make the 'true message' of Christmas a fight to preserve this idealised scene, perhaps we should embrace the noise and chaos, remember that this world is loved so much by God that he entered into it to show it that love.

Phil

Collect for Christmas Night

Eternal God,
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ

Late news



We have been informed that the former Archdeacon of Worcester, Frank Bentley sadly died on Friday 15th November. Frank had been in hospital and died of heart failure aged 90.

Frank was ordained in 1958, serving in the Diocese of Bath and Wells before moving to Worcester to become Vicar of St John in

Bedwardine in 1976. He served as Area Dean and an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral before he became Archdeacon of Worcester in 1984. He continued to serve in that role until his retirement in 1999. From 1994 he was also Chaplain to HM The Queen.

Worcester Diocese

In Memoriam

Alice Moulder	1 December 2009
Albert Harold Southall	3 December 1984
Sarah Rose	8 December 1985
Emily Potter	10 December 1984
Vera May Bullock	10 December 1991
William Bishop	10 December 1996
Hubert Mitford Harvey	12 December 1984
Jack Taylor	16 December 1998
Ivy Muriel Rogers	17 December 2001
Harry Palmer	19 December 2001
John Goodsell	21 December 2004
Ivy Hooper	25 December 1984
Derek A Bowen	28 December 2007
Ann Smith	28 December 2010
Gladys Mitchem	30 December 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, October 2024

St John's

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

13th October 2024 Chester William Jackman

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

19th October 2024 Charles Dawodu & Charlotte Bester

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 3rd Sept 2024 Winston Bernard Morris

d. 20th Sept 2024 Betty Buckman

d. 26th Sept 2024 Aeileish Watts

SERVICES: Communicants 172. Total attendance at all services 504
including 199 at a wedding, a baptism and 2 funerals.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 75. Total attendance at all services 92.

Midweek services

Please see page 13 for information about mid-week services in December.

Dates for your diary

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

(J) Mondays in term time, 10am: Little Lambs. See pages 9 and 34.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 7th December, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 8 and 32.

Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 12th December, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "1950's Christmas", see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 14th December, 9am: Women's Breakfast, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 14th December, 3pm: Second rehearsal for Community Nativity.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 9th December, 12.30pm for 1pm: Mothers' Union, bring and share lunch.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 18th December, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 19th December, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 21st December, 4.30pm: Community Nativity performance, see page 26.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 20th January, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union, Holy Communion followed by the Annual Meeting.

--- 000 ---

(V) Date tbc: Fourth Friday Friendship Group will not be 27th December! Sarah will confirm the date after talking to the regular attendees. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

(J) There is no Café Church at St John's in December.

Events at St John's

St John-in-Bedwardine



Saturday 7th December, 4pm.
(doors open 3.30pm with
drinks and biscuits).

“Christmas”

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



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on

Saturday 14th December
9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

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and Cakes**

Suggested donation £2.00



Wednesday 18th December
at 2.45pm in the Church
ALL WELCOME

**THE GOOD OLD DAYS
PRESENTS
DISCOVER HISTORY**



1950's Christmas

Thursday 12th December

1.00pm

Admission £4

Includes refreshments

Events at St John's



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

FREE!

**Toys and Games, Art & Craft, Messy Play,
Snacks and Stories, Singing**

Birth to 4 years old and carers

For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962

Come and join the fun!

Little Lambs

Our last Little Lambs date in December is 16th, when we will have a special visitor and we will return on 13th January.



Advent Carol Service

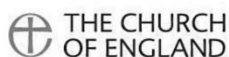
**St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Church**

5.30pm

Sunday 1st December

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

*Hot drinks & cake served
beforehand from 4.45pm*



Candlelit Carol Service

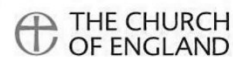
**St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Church**

6pm

Sunday 22nd December

A candlelit service of lessons and Christmas carols

*Followed by seasonal
refreshments*





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, Sunday 1st December

St John's 5.30pm **Advent carol service** *a reflective service of Advent hymns, Bible Readings as well as music by the Choir. Lasts about an hour. Hot drinks & cake served beforehand from 4.45pm.*

Saturday 21st December

St John's 2pm **Community Nativity** *a short performance by the children of the Christmas story.*

Sunday 22nd December

St Michael's 10.30am **Carol Service** *a service of Bible readings and Christmas carols followed by mulled wine & mince pies. Lasts about 45 minutes.*

St John's 2pm **Carols in the churchyard** *an informal outdoor service with popular Christmas carols. Dog friendly! Hot drinks including hot chocolate will be served.*

St John's 6pm **Candlelit carol service** *a traditional service of Bible readings, congregational carol singing and carols sung by the Choir. Lasts about an hour. Followed by seasonal refreshments.*

Christmas Eve, 24th December

St John's 3pm **Crib service** *we think about Mary & Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and getting the manger ready for Jesus' birth. Particularly for younger children and families seeking a service with a quiet and calm atmosphere without congregational candles. Lasts about 20 minutes. Hot drinks available afterwards.*

Christmas Eve, 24th December continued

- | | | |
|------------|---------|--|
| St John's | 5pm | Christingle <i>a service for everyone, aimed especially for children. A lit Christingle candle for every child. Includes Christmas carols. Lasts about 30 minutes.</i> |
| St David's | 9.30pm | First Eucharist of Christmas <i>join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Includes singing Christmas carols. Lasts about an hour. Hosted by St David's Church, Comer Gardens, WR2 6JA</i> |
| St John's | 11.30pm | Midnight Mass <i>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.</i> |

Christmas Day, 25th December

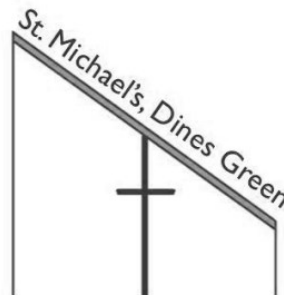
- | | | |
|--------------|------|--|
| St Michael's | 10am | Christmas Eucharist <i>join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Includes singing well-known Christmas carols. Lasts about an hour.</i> |
| St John's | 10am | Christmas Eucharist <i>join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Christmas music and hymns led by the Music Group. Lasts about an hour.</i> |

Sunday 29th December

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|--|
| St Clement's | 10am | Team Eucharist <i>join us as we continue celebrating the Christmas season and share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Everyone welcome. Hosted by St Clement's Church, Henwick Road, WR2 5NP</i> |
| St. John's | 10.30am | Morning Worship for 1st Sunday of Christmas <i>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. Followed by refreshments.</i> |



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Calm and Bright

The Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas 2024, Follow the Star: Calm and Bright, draws on the world-famous carol, Silent Night:

*“Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright...”*

One of the reasons that this carol is so universally loved is the way it invites us into the still centre of the Christmas story, to contemplate Mary holding the new-born Jesus, the Light of the World.

The angelic messages we encounter in the biblical story of Jesus’ birth typically hold together the need for calm in the present (“Do not be afraid” ... “Fear not”) with the hope of a bright future (“for you have found favour with God” ... “for behold I bring you tidings of great joy”).

www.churchofengland.org

Sundays and Principal Feasts in December

Sunday 1st December: The first Sunday of Advent

Sunday 8th December: The second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 15th December: The third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 22nd December: The fourth Sunday in Advent

Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

Wednesday 25th December: Christmas Day

Thursday 26th December: Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

Friday 27th December: John, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday 28th December: The Holy Innocents

Sunday 29th December: The first Sunday of Christmas

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled in December:

Tuesday St John’s 10am (Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer)

Not on 24th or 31st December

Thursday St Michael’s 10.30am (Eucharist - Common Worship)

Not on 26th December

Daily offices take place in St John’s Church from Monday to Thursday. Morning Prayer is at 8.30am all year. Evening Prayer is at 4pm (until 30th March 2025).

There are occasional days when other commitments prevent a service happening; the schedule for each week will be published in the pew sheet. Please make sure to check especially for the weeks commencing 23rd December and 30th December.

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in black and white.

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

An advert can be full-page, half-page or
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The booking can be from one month to one
year.

If you are interested to advertise, please
contact Sue Hussell by telephone
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Christmas Flowers at St John's Church

As the Advent season arrives, the flower team are thinking about decorating the church for Christmas. We will be doing this on Saturday 21st December between 9am and 1pm. If you have any holly and/or variegated greenery to spare it would be most welcome. This can be brought into church on the day or left in the porch on Friday 20th.

You may also wish to remember loved ones and you may care to make a donation in their memory towards the Christmas flowers; their name(s) will be included on the Memorial List which will be placed in church on Christmas Eve. Cash donations can be passed to 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 online into the Flower Fund account, or via the card reader at the back of church. Please contact me for details (01684 893397 or by email to suehussell4@gmail.com), or see me in church, if you wish to use either of these methods.



Christmas flowers 2023

The Flower Team thank you for your continued support and wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Sue Hussell

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Remembrance Sunday at St John's

Many thanks to Colin Nash for his Remembrance Sunday pictures which we have included over the next few pages.

The Editors



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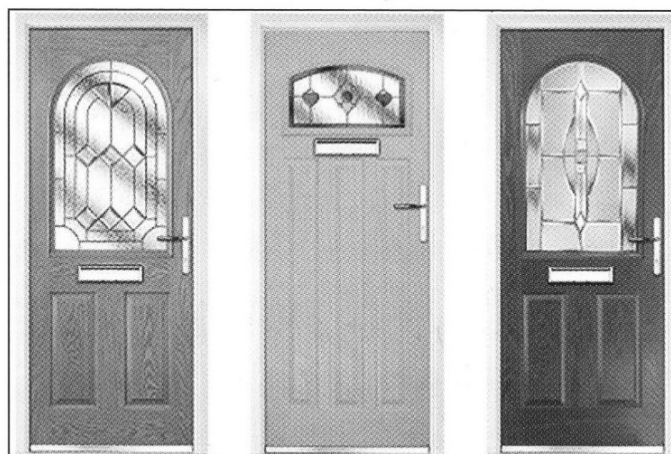
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your life
your home
your care
your way

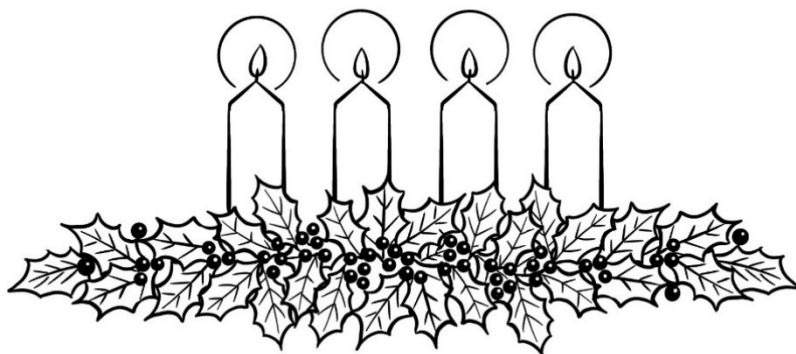




Prayers for Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, Lebanon

As we come together in prayer during December, let us remember that we pray with Christ for his mission in our world.

Light a candle and allow your mind to be still as you contemplate how one small candle can dispel the darkness. Christ is the light that came into our world and which we celebrate at Christmas.



During the First World War men in the trenches called to God in prayer by singing “Silent night, Holy night, All is calm, all is bright.” The canopy of the night sky with stars hanging in space called to them to pray for the carnage of war to cease.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayers as we call to you for the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza and Lebanon. We remember all those facing the violence of war, the desecration of life and livelihood. We pray for those living with the fear that is forever present when nowhere is safe; where people are being forcibly moved from place to place, so that their last place of safety can be destroyed by the perpetrators of war.

God of love let your light shine into the darkness, enabling harmony and peace for all.

We pray, Lord, for all aid agencies who work in places of war and famine. Those who help with food distribution; those who provide medical help and bring relief to the injured; those who dig in the rubble trying to find and rescue families and friends and the stranger.

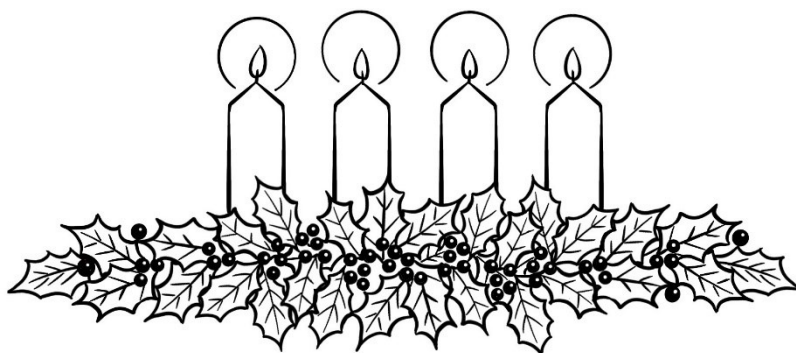
We pray for the despairing and those who feel they are abandoned. We ask your Holy Spirit to be present, for there to be glimmers of light and hope for all people, as we pray with them for peace and harmony, an end to the conflict.

Lord God, we pray for the leaders of our world who exert power and control over their neighbours by using weapons of war and aggression, destroying all of

creation. May your light bring a change of heart and a glimmer of hope into the dark hearts of mankind.

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who work for peace and an end to the conflicts: May they be given strength and wisdom as they urge others to seek new ways of resolving the conflicts.

God of love may we all work for peace and harmony for all.



Lord Jesus, as we look to the heavens and see the canopy of stars, experiencing the silence of the night sky, and sing “Silent night , holy night,” this Christmas, may we remember that it is your gift of light that pierces the darkness in our world and in the hearts of mankind - your light, calling us all to pray for peace and harmony for our world.

Amen

Jenny English

Sudoku Puzzle

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KrazyDad.com

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

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



Our Advent & Christmas services especially for children and families

We are offering lots of different services this Advent & Christmas season.
The ones listed here are particularly suitable for children and families.
You are invited to join us at any of them.

Community Nativity

St John's Church,
Bromyard Road, WR2 5BS
2pm Saturday 21st December

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



Carols in the churchyard

St John's Church,
Bromyard Road, WR2 5BS
2pm Sunday 22nd December

*An informal outdoor service
with popular Christmas carols.*

Hot drinks including hot chocolate will be served.

Everyone welcome, including dogs!





Crib service

St John's Church,
Bromyard Road, WR2 5BS

**3pm Christmas Eve,
24th December**

Join us as we think about Mary & Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and getting the manger ready for Jesus' birth.

Particularly for younger children and families seeking a service with a quiet and calm atmosphere without congregational candles.

Lasts about 20 minutes.

Christingle

St John's Church,
Bromyard Road, WR2 5BS

**5pm Christmas Eve,
24th December**

*A service for everyone,
aimed especially for children.
There is a lit Christingle candle
for every child.*

Includes Christmas carols.

Lasts about 30 minutes.



Light Party

On 31st October we had a Light Party in church. If you haven't heard of one before, it's a party celebrating Jesus's light in the world- with plenty of glow sticks!



We had 15 children attend and we had so much fun! We started off with a game of 'find the keys' where we had to listen really carefully as we couldn't see. After a chat about light and dark it was activity time.



The children made tealight holders with clay, constellations out of spaghetti and marshmallows, coloured stars, used toothbrushes to spray paint for starry skies and made shadow puppets.

They had glow in the dark tattoos....



... and investigated light with prisms and a light tablet.



We then enjoyed some parachute games and a song before gathering around the (electric) campfire to reflect on Jesus's light and to say a prayer.



Finally, we enjoyed a delicious dinner together and shared out some sweets.

The feedback from children and parents was really lovely and we'll definitely be running a Light Party again next year.



Many thanks to Beth, Sue, Sally, Chris and Jenny for making it happen.

Amy Rees



Love Your Neighbour

Messy Church's theme this month was Love Your Neighbour, with the parable of the Good Samaritan. Taken from Luke chapter 10, verses 25 to 37, it tells the story of a man attacked by robbers and the one person who helped him.

(Verse 29)

Wanting to justify himself, the lawyer asked Jesus:

“And who is my neighbour?”

One of our main considerations while exploring this parable, was this exact question, asked by the lawyer testing Jesus. We made friendship chains – writing our names on strips of paper and joining them together in paper chains – as we thought about those closest to us and the immediate obvious answers. We also added to our Trinity banner, a banner being created over three Messy Church services, with flags from across the world, reminding us that our neighbours go beyond this, to people far and wide.

(Verses 33 and 34)

But a Samaritan while travelling came near the injured man; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them.

Reflecting on these verses, the congregation made items that we might need as a traveller. It's important to have some trail mix, as well as your own mini first aid kit, which proved very useful for the Samaritan so that he could help others.



A lot of fun was had while having a go at bandaging, though some were very nearly turning into Ancient Egyptian mummies! Making sandals also provided the opportunity to imagine stepping into our neighbours' shoes and thinking about their experiences and feelings associated with these.



Many adults in the congregation were then sent back to their primary school days during the worship, with this month's hymn 'When I Needed A Neighbour.'

We used our worship time to discuss the whole parable, covering how the priest and the Levite walked on by before the Samaritan arrived. Considering the first question above, we then thought about what we can do to be like the Samaritan and help our neighbours, drawing inspiration from the parable's final verses:

(Verses 36 and 37)

Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

The lawyer said, "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The next Messy Church service is on Saturday 7th December and our theme will be Christmas. Please do come along and join us.

Beth Broadway

Little Lambs

Memories on Remembrance Day 2024

I wrote this article on Monday 11th November just after Little Lambs playgroup. As it was Remembrance Day, we were pleased to be invited by Gilly to attend the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial so several of us attended with local people, British Legion members and a group of young children and staff from Poppins Nursery.

Our craft today was to decorate our Lest We Forget poster with red tissue paper poppies and it was as popular as usual.



During the Remembrance service at church yesterday the names on the War Memorial were all read and for each name a paper poppy was dropped from the pulpit by scouts from 2nd Worcester Scout Group. There were some of these poppies left at church, so I showed them to Little Lambs at singing time and some families took one home.



Just to add that the photo above showing a school bus is a memory from our family. The bus is a Little Tykes toy and it is ideal for our older children. It belonged to my sons; they loved it and we kept it safe. Benjamin (my grandson) enjoyed it too and now it has found a new home at Little Lambs. It was very good today to see it being played with which shows it has stood the test of time!

*Blessings to all
Sue Fairman and the Little Lambs team*

2nd Worcester Scout Group

Remembrance Sunday

Thank you so much to all members of 2nd Worcester Scout Group for attending the Remembrance Sunday parade and service.

All our Scouts looked very smart, were very respectful and they were a credit to themselves, their families and us all.





Continued on page 39.

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Continued from page 37



Well done especially to Squirrels, our new Scout section at 2nd Worcester. Squirrels are aged 4 to 6 years and they wear the red jumpers.



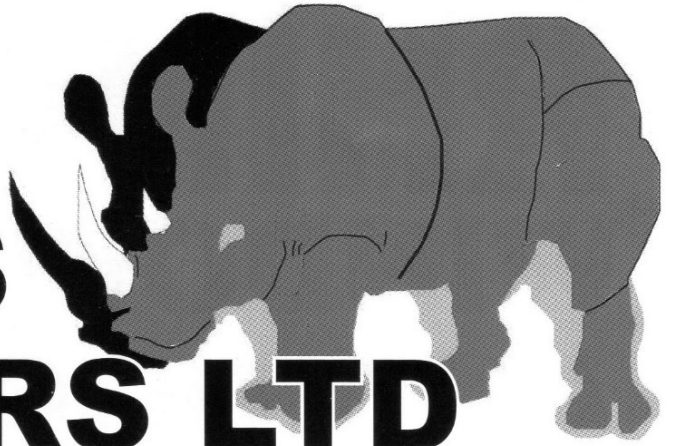
Thank you to the British Legion for organising the parade and to everyone at St John's church for the service.

Scouts 2nd Worcester Facebook page entry:

We are always proud of our members, young and old. At Remembrance we are always super proud. They show up to be seen in the community, do their duty, and act as community citizens.

*Sue Fairman
2nd Worcester Beaver Scout leader*

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Ichthys – also known as....?

Hello all! I'm back again after a couple of weeks up in the Lakes, but not a holiday this time, we've been seeing what it will be like to actually live there and it went rather well.

There was time, of course, for a little exploring and one place we ended up was Kirkoswald, a small village in the Eden Valley. It has a beautiful small church that dates back to 1130.

In the churchyard there is a well, dedicated to St Oswald (see next page). He was a king of Northumbria in the 7th Century. Here (and on the next page) are a couple of pics to continue my occasional "Churches of the North West" series.



Just before we went away I had the opportunity to help out at Hallow Church. The vicar there was poorly and I was invited to lead their cafe church on Sunday. It was a bit daunting to step into a new setting and although I had been given lots of notes, delivering someone else's material can be tough. As it happens it was great and they were all lovely and very glad the service could go ahead, but they did seem to be quite relieved I couldn't find the playdoh for one of the activities!

Continued on page 43



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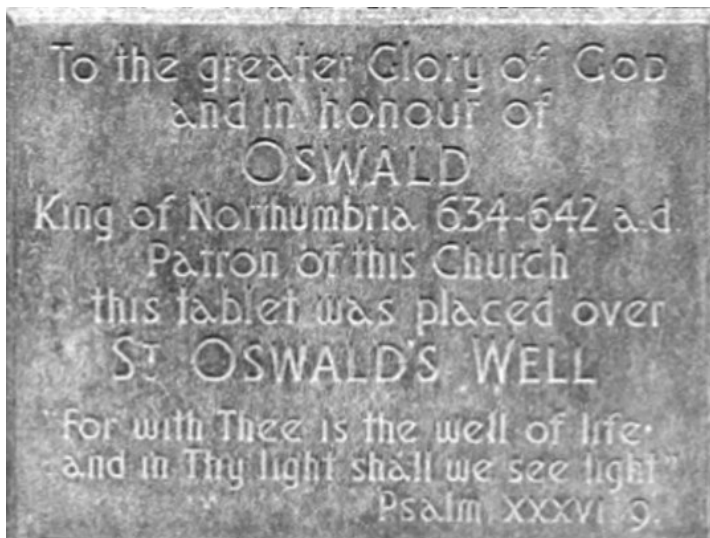
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This did make me reflect (again) on how my confidence has grown over the years and, combined with the Apologetics course, I resolved to be a bit bolder! I've always been a bit shy when talking about my faith outside church and generally "didn't make a thing" of it at work; part of the reason I got my ichthys (aka Jesus fish) where I did was so it couldn't be hidden and to spark conversations.

It's been reasonably effective but the other day I was invited to a face to face meeting with colleagues from my company, our clients and partners. We were all invited to complete a "manual of me"...some key bits of information to help us get to know each other better and one of the questions was "what was your proudest moment." Well, there have been plenty, but it seemed the ideal opportunity to talk about my recent licensing. I've been working with these people for over two years and we know each other pretty well so it should have been a safe space but I was still nervous that some preconception may have suddenly changed their opinion of me and being blunt - they might not like me any more.

I couldn't have been more wrong and after some initial curiosity our relationship hasn't changed - or has it? I feel an additional responsibility now...if I'm having a bad day and start getting grumpy then people won't be saying "Oh look, Rob's grumpy," they'll be saying "Oh look, that person who claims to be a Christian is grumpy." But equally, it's an opportunity to demonstrate what a "lived Christian life" might look like in the hope that someone may think - I'll have some of that!

Rob Little

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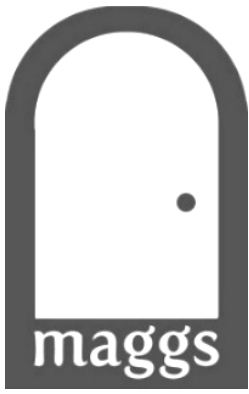
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Maggs launches its 2024 Christmas campaign

We're excited to launch our Christmas 2024 campaign to raise much-needed funds for our charity and keep our services going to support the homeless and vulnerable throughout the county. We also want to raise as much awareness as possible for those who need it and the conditions they face at a difficult time of year.

There are no holidays or breaks for people experiencing homelessness, and Christmas is no exception. Currently, we are experiencing a significant rise in the number of rough sleepers throughout the County. Our Day Centres are providing more hot meals, one to one support and advice and guidance. Our Outreach teams are also engaging with more individuals who have found themselves homeless.

We aim to bring light in what can be quite a dark time for others; however, we cannot do this without your help. How can you help us?

Donate, donate, donate. Imagine a cold, dark Christmas with nowhere to turn or go. This is the harsh reality that some of our service users face during the festive period. Your donations can help us bring joy to those with the bare minimum, and however big or small your contribution is, you will truly be making a difference and allow us to continue our services, especially during the colder months.

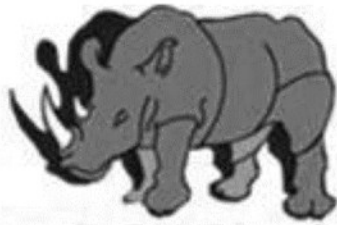
Donate via our Just Giving platform on our website: www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk

Organise a festive fundraiser. With Christmas being such a busy time, full of many events and things to do, why not organise an event and raise money for charity simultaneously? We have a Christmas fundraising pack, equipped with tips, ideas and forms to make your fundraising efforts as easy as possible and a new office advent calendar, new for 2024.

Volunteer your time. If you want to do something meaningful over the holiday period, we have several volunteering opportunities to help us support our service users throughout Christmas. Whether this is cooking breakfast in our day centre, helping in our Clothing Project or even volunteering your skills in another capacity, please get in touch!

If you do have anything you can donate to us, particularly items for our Clothing Project, please get in touch with us at info@maggsdaycentre.co.uk

*Melissa Blewitt
Fundraising, Communications and Relationships Manager
Maggs Day Centre*



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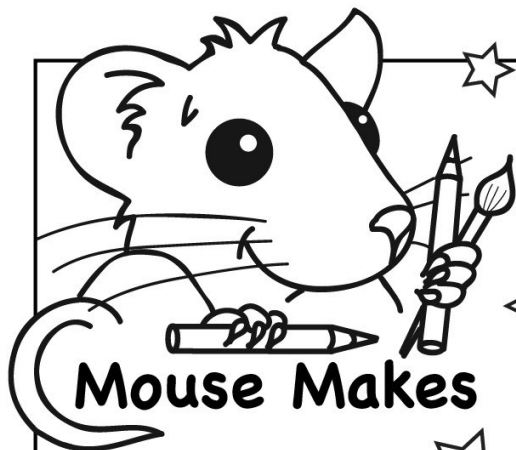
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Mouse Makes

"Jesus said,
I am the ____ Y
and the ____ U ____
and the ____ I ____.
No one comes to the Father
except through me."
John 14:6

"The child to be born
will be called
H ____ , the
____ of ____ "
Luke 1:35

"For unto you is born
this day a
S ____ who is
____ R ____
the ____ R ____"
Luke 2:11

THE GREATEST GIFT

"She will bear a son,
and shall call his name

for he will save his
people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

"Jesus said,
I am the

and the life."
John 11:25

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Smile Lines

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

--- 000 ---

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man. "Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?" "Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

--- 000 ---

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas.

Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy."

Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be.

He replied, "They are all nocturnal."

--- 000 ---

A couple visited their son and his family for Christmas, and admired their beautiful nativity set in the hallway. The grandfather asked his young granddaughter if she knew what it was.

"Oh yes," she said immediately. "Of course I do. It's breakable."

--- 000 ---

The five year old looked intently at the nativity scene and the baby Jesus permanently moulded into his manger. "Why does Jesus need a car seat," he asked, "when they are all travelling on a donkey!"

--- 000 ---

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house.

--- 000 ---

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Monday 23 December	Normal opening times
Tuesday 24 December	Close at 1:00pm
Wednesday 25 December	Closed
Thursday 26 December	Closed
Friday 27 December to Monday 30 December	Normal opening times (The Hive closes at 6pm)
Tuesday 31 December	Close at 5:00pm
Wednesday 1 January	Closed
Thursday 2 January	Normal opening times

*Library opening hours***Libraries Unlocked ****

Monday - Saturday: 8am - 8 pm

Core (staffed) opening times:

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

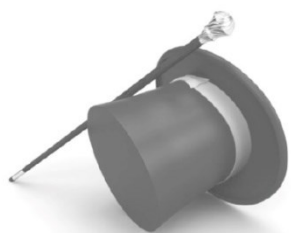
Events at St John's Library

Weekly events – please check with the library about events over the Christmas and New Year period:

- LEGO Club, weekly every Saturday, 11:00am to 12:00pm.
- Bounce and Rhyme, weekly every Tuesday, 11:00am to 11:30am.
- Chess Club and Scrabble Club, weekly every Tuesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm.
- Crochet and Chat, weekly every Wednesday, 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Storytime and Song, weekly every Friday, 11:00am to 11:30am.

Other regular events:

- Classic Film Club (12 December), 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Readers' Group (Friday, 6 December), 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Photography Group (Friday 20 December), 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Councillors' Surgeries (Saturday 7 December), 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, St Johns and Bedwardine, on Tuesday 3rd December, 10:30am to 11:30am.



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From the magazine archive, December 1950

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APPLICATIONS will be received at the Church on Friday, December 8th at 2.30 p.m. It must be clearly understood there can be no guarantee that *all* applicants will derive benefit. I am deeply concerned that these gifts shall pass to persons who really need assistance. My experience of the past two years has taught me two things. In the first place, there were some persons who were too shy to make application. And secondly, there were *some* persons on our list who did not need help. We must be kind but we must be fair—and just to those persons who made these bequests.

From the letter of the Vicar, John Mort.

O that we all may retain or regain the child-like spirit.
O that the Holy Child, who is once again in our midst,
may teach us to feel the eternal in the passing moment.
O that we may catch the rustle of God's garment in the
swift movements of our time, to be burdened neither
with vain regrets nor with anxious fears.

May I suggest that you use this little prayer?

O God, Who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thy Son,

Give us open and child-like minds, a new vision and a new charity,

That the eternal message of Christmas may be hailed as the good news of the new age; through the same thy Son who comes as on this day to make all things new, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Yours sincerely,
John Mort.*

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Puzzle solution

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

And finally....




*“I’m sorry – even if
you have changed
your ringtone to
“Silent Night” it’s
still ALL mobiles
OFF.”*

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



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – December 2024

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
1st December	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Advent Carol Service		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
8th December	10.30am Morning Worship	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
15th December	10.30am Eucharist		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
22nd December	10.30am Eucharist 2pm Carols in the churchyard 6pm Christmas Carol Service	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Carol Service
29th December	10.30am Morning Worship	10am Team Eucharist at St Clement's		
The information above is correct at the time of going to press but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.				