



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



December 2021

50p



Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY

clergy@wcw.church

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

TEAM OFFICE

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| You can contact the office by email, post or telephone. | | The office is open, by appointment only, Wednesday and Friday 9am-12noon. |
| Postal address: 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, please contact the PCC Safeguarding Representatives shown below.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 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). | |
| Safeguarding: Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy. | |
| The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583. | |
| Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com/424539), Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com/428948). | St Michael's |
| Safeguarding Officer: Liz Edwards (stmichaels.safeguarding@wcw.church) On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above). | |

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our December edition. Our theme is 'At the Heart of Christmas', the Church of England's theme for Advent and Christmas this year. Please see page 17 for more information.

We are delighted to be able to offer you a much more 'normal' magazine with reports on recent events and news of forthcoming ones. We hope that those who feel safe to attend will find events here to tempt them out. To those who do not feel safe yet, we understand! We hope our reports will enable you to enjoy a flavour of some of the events even though you cannot be physically present.

We take this opportunity to wish to all our readers at Christmas, and always, that you will feel the 'peace of God which passes all understanding,' the blessing of Christ's love, and the power of the Holy Spirit to take with you into the New Year.

We leave you with some inspiring and thought-provoking words from the Advent Prose:

*You are my witnesses, says the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know me and believe me.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition (January): Deadline is Sunday 12th December.
Distribution, towards the end of December.

Subscription form: Page 58.

Cover picture: Colin Nash: At the heart of Christmas.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Graham Evans, Sue Fairman, Paul Fulbrook, Joy Job, 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 on page 58 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 PCCs or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

To advertise

Please see page 12.

From Sarah Cottrill

To ask “What is at the heart of Christmas?” may seem a very obvious question – but is it really? Answer honestly; if Christmas was cancelled – and I mean really cancelled, not just scaled down like last year – what would you miss the most? Would it be the family gatherings? The excessive quantities of food and drink consumed?

Would the giving and receiving of cards and gifts top your list, or the decorations in homes, shops and town centres? Perhaps you’d miss singing carols or going round the Christmas

markets? Where on your list of things you’d miss, would you put celebrating the birth of Christ or partaking of a Christmas Eucharist? At the top? Somewhere in the middle? Or so low down it falls off the bottom of the page?

“At the heart of Christmas is the Church of England’s theme for Advent and Christmas this year. Inspired by readings from the Gospels of Luke and John, read at so many Christmas services, At the heart of Christmas is an invitation to everyone to discover – or rediscover – the good news of God’s saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. It is also a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead.”¹

Putting Christ at the heart of Christmas means more than a “nod to him” by attending a carol service or even a Christmas Eucharist on “The Day.” It means putting him first during all the busyness of the preparations too. To help with this, there will be an Advent Course, held on the Wednesdays of Advent, when we will look at the characters represented by the candles on our Advent Ring. This will be useful for some, but Advent Courses don’t have universal appeal. So what can we all do to ensure that Christ is at the heart of Christmas? There are many small but important things - here are just a few examples:

Follow an online programme of Advent Reflections – the Bible Society is offering one, as is the Church of England. I have signed up to receive these emails and can provide hard copies if required.

Send Christmas cards with a Christian picture and text and if you provide Advent Calendars for children, give one that has a nativity scene.

Wherever possible give gifts that not only give pleasure to the recipient but do some good for others – for example Fairtrade items or “virtual gifts” where something practical is given to, or done for, people in a third world country on behalf of your recipient.



More important than any of the above, at the heart of Christmas must be love because, as John wrote in his first letter, God is love and in love He sent Jesus into the world for us.² It doesn't matter if our decorations are not the most flamboyant; our gifts the most extravagant, our tables the most laden or our carol singing the loudest and most tuneful. What does matter is the sincerity and love that lies behind them. Jesus taught against the Pharisees standing on street corners and praying long, loud prayers in order to be heard and admired.³ How much more must he deplore hypocrisy surrounding celebrations of his birth!

This is not to suggest that there is anything wrong in deriving enormous pleasure from giving and receiving cards and gifts; singing carols with more enthusiasm than tunefulness or piety; eating more than you need or delighting in decorating homes and streets. I love all of these and would miss them if we couldn't have them!

The important thing is that we keep them in a sense of perspective, always remembering the real reason that lies behind them and at the heart of our celebrations. I turn to John Betjeman who in the following extract from the last two verses of his poem, Christmas, sums it up so much better than I can.

*And is it true? And is it true?
This most tremendous tale of all;
Seen in a stained – glass window's hue
A baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the earth and sea
Become a child on earth for me?
And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies
No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare –
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.”⁴*

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas.

Sarah

¹ Church of England Website: At the heart of Christmas.

² John 4: 8-9

³ Matthew 6,5

⁴ Christmas – John Betjeman

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 |
| Charles Hubert John Lerigo | 13 December 1983 |
| Jack Taylor | 16 December 1998 |
| Ivy Muriel Rogers | 17 December 2001 |
| Harry Palmer | 19 December 2001 |
| John Goodsell | 21 December 2004 |
| George Frederick Harrison | 23 December 1982 |
| 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.

In memoriam items are included until the fortieth anniversary.
An extension may be requested by family or friends of those named.

From the Registers, October 2021

St John's

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

10th October 2021 Eryn Leia Jones

10th October 2021 Phoebe Amelia Eden

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

No weddings

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 25th March 2020 ** Deborah Ford

d. 7th September 2021 Annette Tremayne

d. 26th September 2021 Ronald Biddle

d. 27th September 2021 Daphne Law

SERVICES: Communicants 191. Total attendance at all services 597 including 341 at a baptism, funerals and memorial services.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 61. Total attendance at all services 76.

** *This date is correct. The service was held back due to the pandemic restrictions.*

The Editors.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in December

Sunday 5th: Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 12th: Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 19th: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Friday 24th: Christmas Eve

Saturday 25th: Christmas Day

Sunday 26th: Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

Monday 27th: John, Apostle and Evangelist

Tuesday 28th: The Holy Innocents

Mid-week services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for December, up to and including 23rd December:

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

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

There will be no mid-week services on Tuesday 28th or Thursday 30th December.

The Three Kings

Part of the story of Christmas, which is sometimes understated, is that of the "Three Kings." How many of them there really were, who they were, where they came from and whether they visited Jesus as a baby in the stable or as a young child in a house in Bethlehem, is largely a matter of speculation and divided opinion. What we do know, however, is that these men travelled a long distance, almost certainly over a period of years, to see and to worship Christ. We also know that their visit resulted in a massacre of young children.

The journey of the "Three Kings" to Bethlehem is being re-enacted across the Worcester City West Team area from December 13th to January 9th. During that period knitted kings, pictures of the gifts brought to Jesus, and stars will appear in the windows and notice boards of our churches and local businesses.

Advertised through the schools and our children's groups, children will be encouraged to use the holiday period to find as many of these kings, gifts and stars as they can.

At 3.00pm on January 9th there will be a service in St Johns Church, featuring members of Little Lambs and Children's Church, followed by drinks and cake. Everybody is very welcome – especially if you can offer help with providing or serving the refreshments!

Sarah Cottrill

Christmas Services

Sunday 12th December

3pm - Carols round the tree (St David's)

Sunday, 19th December

10.30am Carol Service (St Michael's)

3pm - Carols in the Churchyard (St John's)

6pm - Candlelit Carol Service (St John's)

Christmas Eve (Friday 24th December)

5pm - Crib Service (St John's)

9pm - First Communion of Christmas (St John's)

9.30pm - First Communion of Christmas (St David's)

Christmas Day (Saturday 25th December)

10am - Eucharist (St John's)

10am - Eucharist (St Michael's)

Sunday, 26th December

10am - Team Eucharist (St John's)

Online Advent Service

A recording of this year's Advent Carol Service from University College Oxford will be available to download from the College website from 3.30pm on Saturday, 4th December: <https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/live-at-univ/online-evensong/>
Graham Evans

Café Church - 11th December

On September 26th, the congregation of St Clement's was treated to a talk by Shari Lewison-Frisch, the newly appointed Diocesan Ambassador for The Children's Society. Shari gave us an extremely interesting – in parts disturbing – talk about the work of the society and the local situation regarding children's wellbeing.

I am delighted to announce that Shari will be our guest speaker at December's Café Church which takes place on 11th. This meeting will be online, via Teams and everybody is most welcome to join us. If you are interested, let me know and I will send you the link a day or two before the meeting. Then, at 3pm on December 11th, settle down with a cup of tea or coffee, (or something stronger if you prefer), a piece of cake and, from the warmth and comfort of your own home, enjoy a fun quiz, an interesting talk and some lively discussion. See you there!

Sarah Cottrill

Events at St John's



Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish
'Friendship and Thoughts'

No meeting in December

**Open for Tea/Coffee
and Cakes
£2.00**



Wednesday 3pm

15th December

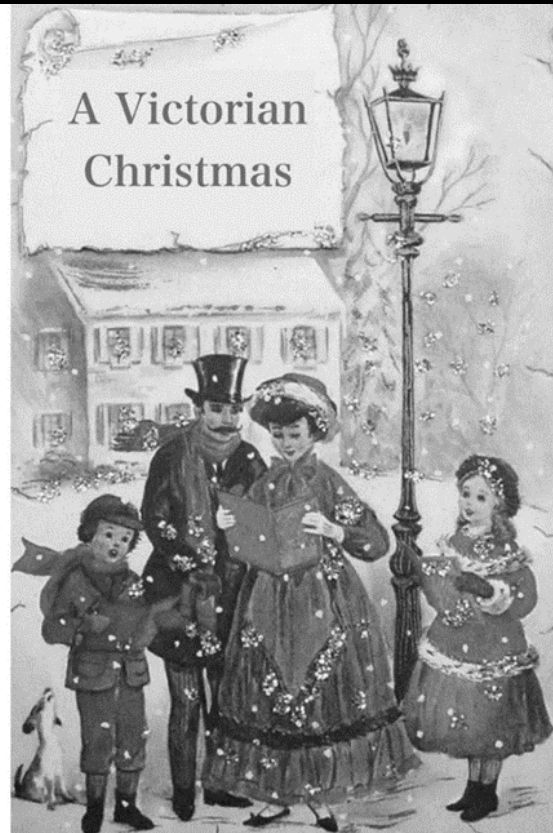
All are welcome.

Invite a friend!

Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

*Our next meeting is on
Saturday 11th December
8.30am until 10.30am*



Join us for a talk by Paul Harding from Discover
History

1pm Thursday 9th December

A talk with refreshments £4

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Dates for your diary

Wednesday 1st December 1.00pm: As part of the United Nations Campaign international event "16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence" which takes place annually between 25th November to December 10th, there is to be a service in the Cathedral organised by Mother's Union Worcester Diocese on Wednesday December 1st at 1.00pm. All are welcome.

Jenny Claydon

--- 000 ---

Saturday 4th December 8.30am - Community Breakfast: This is a free event at St John's church and you will be served a Full English breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, black pudding and baked beans plus an unlimited supply of toast and marmalade, tea and coffee. Everyone is welcome.

Jenny English

--- 000 ---

Saturday 4th December 2021 10am: St Clement's Christmas Fayre in Church.

--- 000 ---

Monday 6th December 1pm: Mothers' Union bring and share lunch at St Michael's.

Jenny Claydon

--- 000 ---

Thursday 9th December 1pm - Good Old Days Talk (see the poster on page 9): Paul Harding from Discover History will be visiting St John's church to tell us about 'A Victorian Christmas'. This fascinating 'Talk with refreshments' costs £4. As always, the amazing cake bakers will be baking away to create delicious offerings for you. Please note that there will be a socially distanced area available, but places will be restricted so come early.

Tracey Ward

Walking Church

Walking church: Our next outing is planned for Sunday, January 2nd. The route has yet to be decided but why not note the date now and join us to work off some of those Christmas and New Year excesses? Everybody will be most welcome!

Sarah Cottrill

Would you like to advertise in this magazine?

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.

An advert can be full-page, half-page or quarter-page in size and the booking can be from one month to one year. If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell on 01684 893397 or by email at sue.hussell@talktalk.net

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What makes Christianity different from any other faith?

What do the various parts of the Eucharist service really mean – what is the significance of words and actions?

If Christianity is one, united faith, why are there so many denominations and why don't we all agree on everything?

Was Jesus an actual, historical figure? Are his teachings really relevant to us today?

If you have ever wondered about these and many other questions around the Christian faith, then come along to a series of evenings in the New Year and explore your faith in a relaxed and informal way amongst friends.

Further details in the coming months Watch this space!

Christmas Flower decorations

This year, all being well, we will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday 18th December from 9am-1pm with refreshments about 11am. If you would like to come and help you will be most welcome.

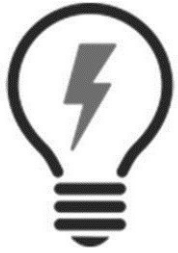
If you have any variegated greenery and/or holly suitable for the decorations this would be most useful. Please leave at the back of the church or in the porch if you are unable to call in on the 18th of December.

It has been the custom at St John's for many years that at Christmas and Easter we ask the congregation for donations of money towards the flowers in memory of family and friends, and the names are included on the memorial list kept on the welcome table. If you wish to donate money please put it in an envelope, with the names of those to be remembered, and hand to the Wardens or Clergy.

The Flower Arranging Team join me in wishing you a very Joyful and Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We thank you for all your support.

Eileen M Cantrill



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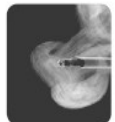
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Notes from the choir



The last time I wrote these notes, it was a year ago and the theme then was very much how we were coming to terms with the thought of a Christmas without singing. Now I am looking forward in hopeful anticipation that there will be singing this Christmas as the choir is back together again and leading the singing on Sunday mornings.

It has been a joyful and uplifting journey back into singing for St John's choir. Back in September safety measures were established and we were given the go ahead to meet for a rehearsal to see how it would be with social distancing in the pews and reduced numbers of singers owing to members who were still shielding. Voices that had not had much use for a good few months were suddenly called on to sing in time and in tune and we started gently with familiar hymns.

Amazingly, it all came together surprisingly quickly and it was so uplifting to be filling the church with song once again, albeit to start with just in practices.

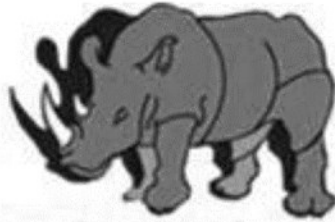
Then came the return to a service. I may not have been the only one who was both eager to be singing on a Sunday morning but also slightly nervous! It is remarkable though how, even with all the differences to the protocols in church in place, we were able to slot back easily into a sense of raising our communal voice in worship.

Singing the setting soon followed and then came the return to singing anthems. We are now accustomed to not being quite so physically close to the nearest singer of our line and our choir practices are, for the time being, no longer punctuated with a tea break. Cake still arrives with Arthur courtesy of Margaret each week though and the laughter and the fun have returned in full. In many ways it feels as though the bond between the members of the choir has strengthened as we are back to doing something we love, but in the knowledge that we can take nothing for granted.

If the theme for this month's magazine is that the Christian message of love, hope and joy is at the heart of Christmas, then I know that singing the praise of our eternal Saviour in the words and music of our best loved carols is a wonderful way to share that message.

I pray that everyone will have a wonderful Christmas full of song in our voices and in our hearts.

Luise Horrocks



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At the heart of Christmas



*But Mary treasured all these words
and pondered them in her heart.*

Luke 2.19

In 2020, many of us experienced a Christmas when so many of the ways we traditionally mark the season were suddenly denied to us.

This year, of course, we hope and pray that many of the familiar experiences that help Christmas come alive return to our homes, our churches and communities. But whatever else December brings, it will offer us an opportunity to enter more deeply into the joyful mystery that lies at its heart: God becoming human in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Inspired by readings from the Gospels of Luke and John, heard at so many Christmas services, 'At the heart of Christmas' is an invitation to everyone to discover – or rediscover – the good news of God's saving love as revealed in the birth of Jesus. It is also a challenge to each of us to ponder in our hearts – as Mary did – what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead.

DailyHope is a free phone number (0800 804 8044) offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The 'At the heart of Christmas' reflections, services and some of the music will be available via DailyHope throughout Advent and Christmas.

www.churchofengland.org

A Collect for Christmas Day

*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.*

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Les préparatifs de Noël

As many will know, the Advent period, and indeed Christmas (Noël) itself, are quite different in rural France. Even the calendar looks different, since each day is devoted to a different named person. This has the advantage that it evokes reminiscence, telephone calls and/or emails, present giving, meetings at cultural events, and indeed visits to friends of the same name!

Here are a few examples from our area in the Lot:

1st December is devoted to all those with the name Florence. We had a neighbour with a daughter of that name, whom we knew well and we visited her in her UK home later in the Autumn of our first meeting.

2nd it is Viviane, the name of our Treasurer of our choir! Mention the name of Barbara (which occurs on the 4th) and the French will regale you with the brilliant artistry and voice of this singer well known on TV (UK equivalent - try Alma Cogan).

Next we have Gerald who sparks for me memories of a quality Tenor voice who sang in one of our choirs. The 6th is Nicholas (Parsons? In UK) which for children will remind them of early school days and a reader, *Le Petit Nicholas*; a lifetime of adventures - try *Rupert the Bear* perhaps in UK for an equivalent.

On the 11th is Daniel; for us our nearest neighbour (just next door), an anaesthetist who often worked for *Médecins Sans Frontières* though his base was in Toulouse.

Mention Lucie (13th) and Margaret will tell you of a holiday visit to a friend in Sweden when she was there for the festival of Lucia (lights). It reminds me of teaching English to students in our locality - and another neighbour's child, Luce, who became very expert in "hands, nose, knees and toes" activities!

14th gives us Odile, two of whom are memorable for me; one who worked with the most deprived families in St Céré, and another who had a role as *Écrivain Publique* (Public Scribe) - a fascinating job of writing quality official documents for ordinary people who did not have a complete literacy!

On the 16th there is Alice - one of my aunts who was so kind to me in childhood.

Anyone with the surname De Winter will celebrate on the 21st December - the first day of winter! (*L'hiver* in French, of course) Just occasionally you come across a young lady with the name *Hiverna* - particularly in Switzerland.

St John's choir will happily remember the 29th for the Davids or the Rogers on the 30th. New Year's Eve is the Saint Sylvestre which is the great feast in France - with all sorts of delicacies put on the festive table!

Arthur Miller

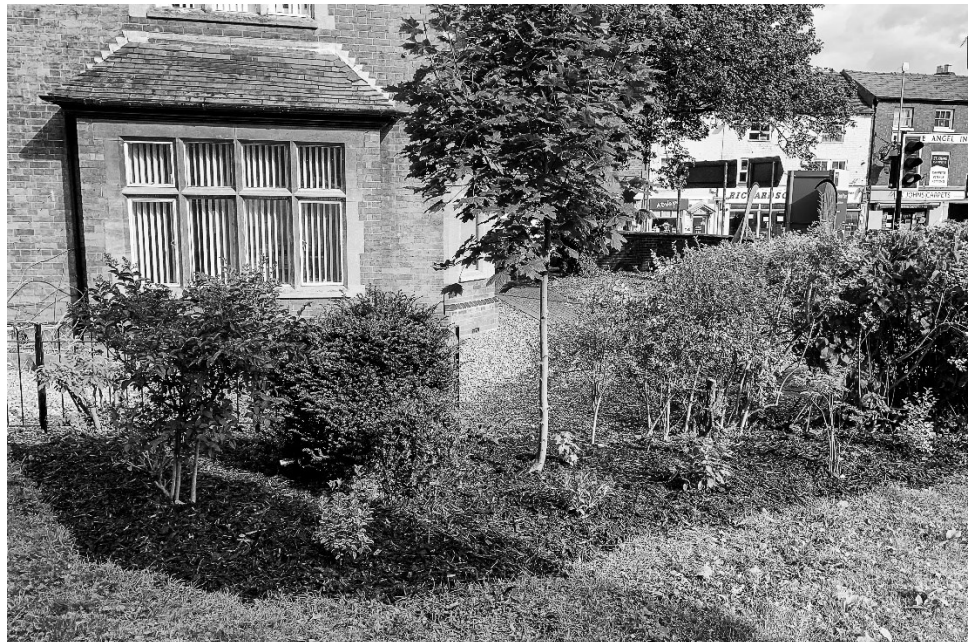
November Churchyard Update

As we come to the end of 2021, I thought that I would update you all on that has been achieved during the year. A highlight for me was the volunteers who have stepped forward from the local community and have started to help improve the churchyard. Jacqui and Angie are two very keen gardeners and their expertise and ideas have helped tremendously to move things forward. We have also been joined by Alex, a Ukrainian who lives locally and he has added some very useful muscle to some of the harder jobs we have tackled during the year. The churchyard would not be anywhere as near pleasant and relaxing for visitors without the tremendous help of these 3, none of whom are church goers but just like to help the local community.

On a downside the wildflower area I started in the autumn of 2020 was nowhere near as established this year as I had hoped, but we will be tackling this area over winter to try and get rid of more of the grass, so that the flower seeds do not have to compete with the grass. However, the area that I started the year before near the entrance to the arcade was significantly better this year. A range of wildflowers appeared during the summer and more butterflies were seen by the locals, so hopefully the rest of the area will improve next year as well.

Apart from a lot of weeding and pruning during the year we have tackled several specific tasks including:

- A new shrubbery has been created at the east end of the church against the boundary with the Dentist, where the old yew tree was and that has improved that area.



- A range of red flowered plants have been planted around the War Memorial and these will be increased so this area has a definite red theme throughout the year. For example, a row of red primulas has been planted at the base of the hedge each side of the Memorial.



- A major task was the clearing of the area in front of all the gravestones and monuments, that lie against the wall at the west end of the churchyard. This was a constant thorn in our side as every time we cleared the weeds, they re-appeared again in what seemed a matter of days. So, we did a thorough weed clearance and then laid membrane down to stop them coming back up, which was then covered with bark and wood chippings. Hopefully this will stop the main weeds coming back and any seeds that take root in the chippings will be easier to get rid of quickly.



- The latest area we have started to tackle is the other side of the entrance to the arcade where the fallen tree is now a feature sculpture with its covering of ivy. This area has been thoroughly weeded and membrane has been put down. As I write this, I am trying to get some more free chippings to cover this area as well. We will be planting some shrubs and ornamental grasses around the sculpture. A Mountain Ash has been planted already to add some height to that area

As we approach winter, we are going to tackle the wildflower area, as I mentioned, and the Wildlife Conservation area, which has become a bit overgrown so needs to be tamed, but kept wildlife friendly. The previous year we lost a tree by the edge of the car park in this area. It just died. Arthur Miller very kindly bought us a Crab Apple tree, which has been planted near the old tree. We hope that this will add some blossom in the spring and fruit for the birds in the autumn and winter.

The money that people very kindly donated earlier in the year has helped us achieve all these projects and I am extremely grateful for all the donations of money, tools and plants, they have all helped to get us to where we are now. I may get my begging cap out again next spring as we decide what we are going to do next year to continue to improve the churchyard.

Our aim is to make it a place that we can be proud of and a place where people from the local community can take time out of their busy lives for periods of rest and contemplation.

Bayleaf the Gardener (Colin Nash)

Experience Christmas

Following the success of a couple of years ago, I would like to offer Experience Christmas at St Clement's Church again this year.

It involves a series of displays which groups of children visit, hear part of the Christmas Story and take part in a short, simple activity. Catherine Atkinson, the Acting Headteacher of St Clements School, is very keen for this to happen and has said that if needs be, teachers could lead the activities as long as we have volunteers to create the stations – although it would also be lovely to have some church members there too!

The week we are looking at is Monday 13th – Friday 17th December, with exact days and times to be confirmed according to the availability of volunteers. If you are interested in helping, or want to know more, please contact me. Thanks.

Sarah Cottrill

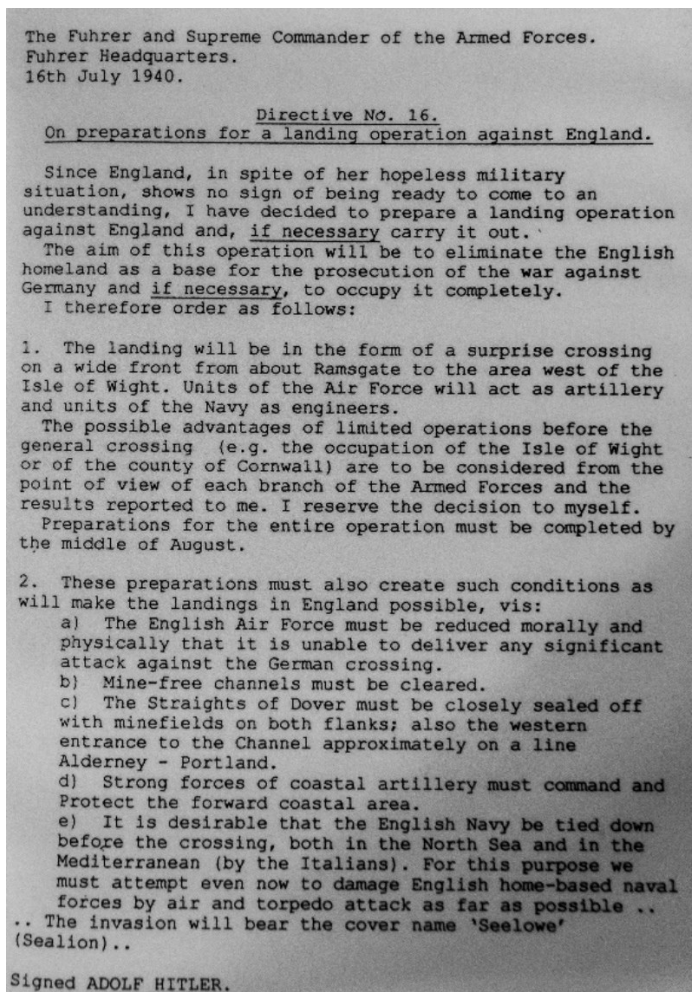
Good Old Days are here again!



Paul Harding, the History Man, restarted our monthly talks with one on the Home Guard. He explained that the Home Guard is remembered so well due to the Dad's Army comedy programme on the TV, whereas the other groups, such as Observer Corps and Fire Guard are not remembered as well as they have not been featured on

TV. He explained that the real Home Guard was not quite the same as Dad's Army version as we will see. The roots of the need for local militia goes back many hundreds of years to times such as the Battle of Hastings. During WW1 there was a Volunteer Training Corps, but they were not the same as the Home Guard from WW2.

At the start of WW2 Hitler put out a directive, Operation Sea Lion, about the need to invade England and to destroy the RAF and Navy.



Our Ministry of Information put out many information leaflets and notices to tell people what to do in the event of an invasion. A government order prohibited the advertising of bus timetables at bus stops. Local Invasion Committees were formed, made up of local councillors.

Our regular home defence force was quite small at the start of the war as many soldiers were deployed overseas. There were so many shortages at the start of the war, such as food and materials, so the newly created Local Defence Volunteers, aged between 16 and 60, were only issued with armbands. In the first few hours of the sign-up day people flocked to join the Local Defence Volunteers and many brought their own weapons, including shotguns and WW1 or older weapons. As the number of volunteers increased and things started to settle down the organisers realised that those older volunteers would not be fit enough to fight the invading enemy and so many of them left.



In the early days of the war, they were mostly used to watch for seaborne or airborne invasions and checking ration cards at roadblocks. This did lead to many arguments between the Police Force and the Local Defence Volunteers as both insisted on seeing the identity cards of the other group.

The Local Defence Volunteers started to get uniforms as Churchill realised that armed people in civilian clothes would be considered by the enemy as spies or terrorists and shot but if they were in uniform, they would be treated as soldiers. In the early stages some of the Home Guard were taught guerrilla warfare tactics at Osterley Park to fight against the invading forces and they were well trained troops. This training was provided by a couple of people who fought in the Spanish Civil War, including Captain Tom Wintringham and Bert 'Yank' Levy. After about a year this training was stopped by the Government and the Home Guard was thereafter trained by the regular army.

When the Local Defence Volunteers became the Home Guard, they became a regular force and were trained to bring the enemy into urban areas so they could be taken on in small pockets rather than trying to fight in open spaces against large numbers. They were taught how the enemy was expected to fight based on the experiences of the early stages of the war in the Low Countries and France so they could counteract them.



One of the key things they were taught was that tanks up close are vulnerable as they could not see troops near their tanks but at a distance, they can easily kill troops with their main gun and machine guns. The Home Guard were taught to put tin plates upside down in the road as they looked like land mines and tanks

would not drive over them. Once stopped the tank becomes vulnerable to close attacks. These tactics had actually worked during the Spanish Civil War, especially when they occasionally put a land mine under a plate so the tank crews could never be sure.

The main defences in Worcester faced west as it was felt that the Germans may land in Ireland first and then go through rural Wales before getting to Worcester. Worcester was seen as a key crossing point for the enemy to get through to Birmingham and the Black Country and was therefore designated as an anti-tank island as it could be isolated by blowing all the bridges over the rivers Severn and Teme and the canals. The trees along New Road were all to be blown up so that they fell into the road to stop the tanks and anti-tank guns and machine gun posts were on the Worcester side of the River Severn.



The Home Guard stood down in December 1944 as it was felt it was no longer required following the successful invasion of France on D Day.

Colin Nash

Beavers in church (but no dams!)

Phil Bradford and I welcomed the 2nd Worcester Beaver Scouts to St John's Church on the evening of Remembrance Day.



The Beavers learnt about the key features of a church and thought about the question 'what is prayer?'.





They wrote or drew their own prayers and pinned them to the 'Prayer Tree', before paying their own respects at the War Memorial.

Philip Evans

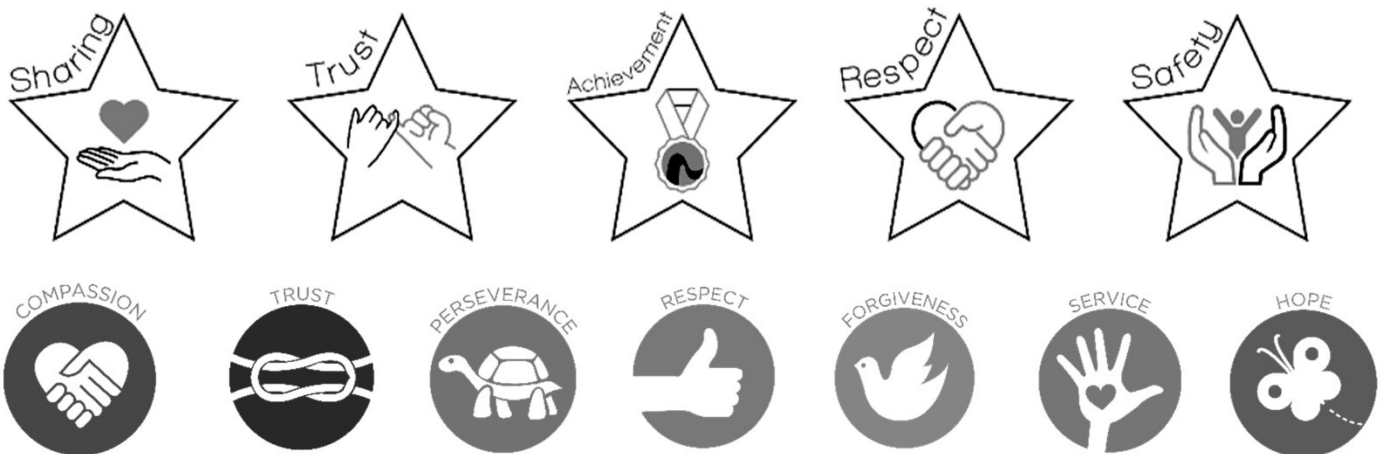
St Clement's CofE Primary School

It gives me great pleasure to write for the Parish Magazine and update you on our work here at St Clement's. If you don't know our school, we are situated next to the level crossing and opposite St Clement's church on Henwick Road. We have 210 children in the school as well as 45 pre-schoolers in our pre-school. On the same site is also the Rivers Teaching Alliance where we offer teacher training, support for teachers at all stages in their careers and other professional development for school staff.

We are one of the founding members of the Rivers CofE Academy Trust which now encompasses 15 schools and pre-schools. Our schools are all of varying sizes, demographics and characters and are across Worcestershire and Sandwell. We feel privileged to be part of a wider group of schools and have recently written a trust curriculum based on the Sustainable Development Goals which aims to 'Teach our children to love, learn and live as global citizens in an ever changing world.'

Our school vision is to Love, Learn and Live.

We follow Jesus' example by valuing and cherishing all God's children in an ever-changing world. We are loved so we can **love**, we **learn** so that we can grow and therefore **live** our lives to the full, flourishing in the eyes of God today and in the future. In order to meet our vision, we follow our STARS values, underpinned by our Christian values.



Our first STARS value is SHARING. This is underpinned by the story in the bible where Jesus feeds the 5,000. Jesus taught the Christian value of compassion in this story and the importance of love, faith and selflessness.

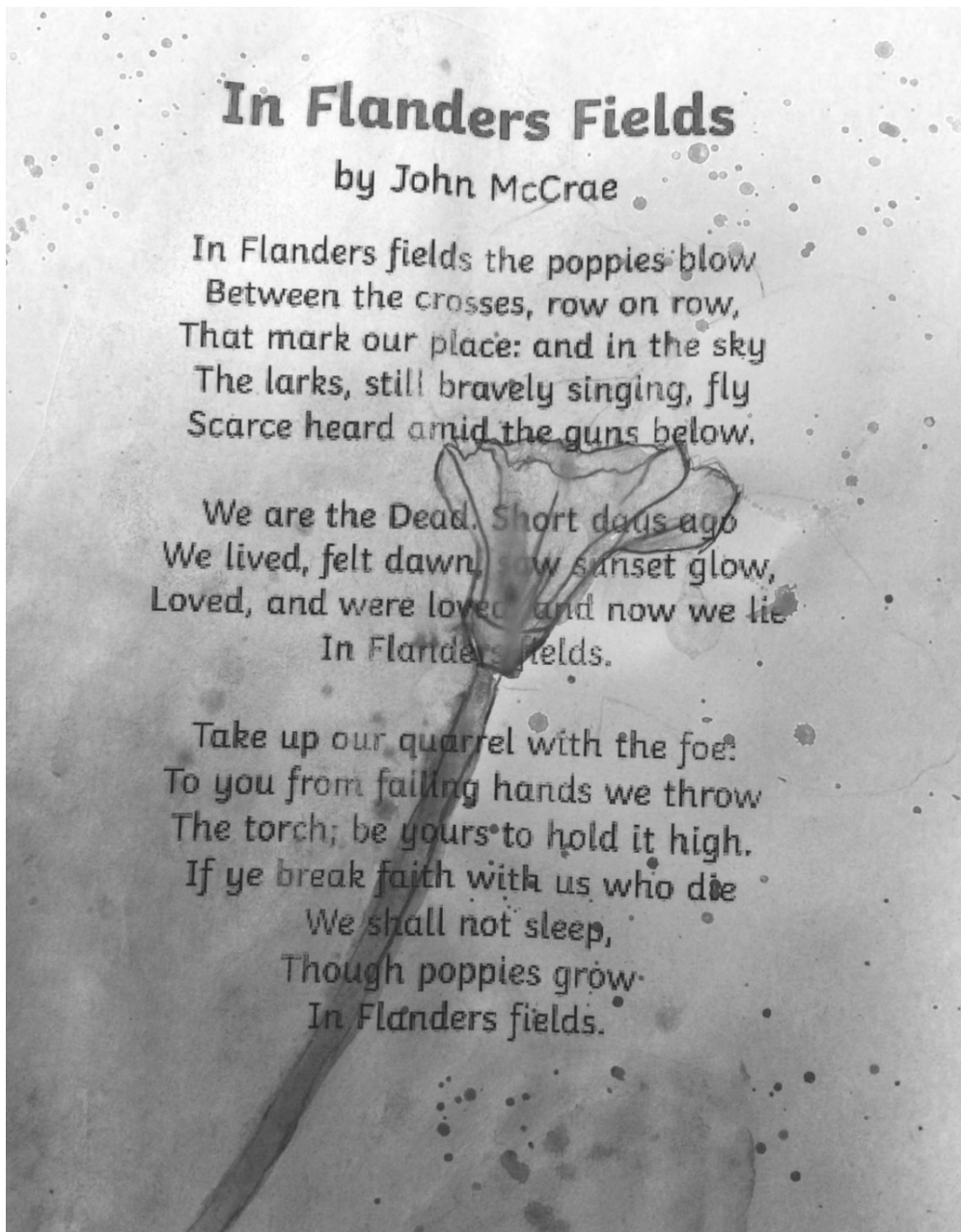
Our second STARS value is the Christian value, TRUST. This is underpinned by the parable Jesus told, 'The Good Shepherd.' Jesus taught his followers to trust in God and that every one of God's children is special and loved.

Our third STARS value is ACHIEVEMENT. Jesus taught his followers to persevere and never give up. We can all achieve, learn from mistakes and be successful. We use the story of Zacchaeus to talk about this.

Our fourth STARS value is the Christian value, RESPECT, inspired by the story in the Old Testament, 'Moses and the Burning Bush'. We respect our 'neighbours', our environment and ourselves.

Our final STARS value is SAFETY. inspired by the bible story, 'Noah's Ark'. By following the Christian value of hope, we are safe and brave and can follow our dreams so that we can flourish together.

This week we had a special afternoon where we looked at the meaning behind the symbol of the poppy for remembrance and would like to share with you a piece of art work by one of our Year 6 pupils.



*Catherine Atkinson
Acting Headteacher, St Clement's School*

Walking Church

At 2.30 on Sunday, November 14th, a small but enthusiastic group gathered at the top of Old Road for the third outing of Walking Church.

Our first stop was at the monument to the Scottish soldiers killed at the Battle of Worcester (September 3rd 1651).



We reflected briefly on those long-ago men, killed so far from home before reading the passage from Romans where Paul urges people to live in peace with each other, doing good to their enemies, and overcoming evil with good. (Romans 12, 14 – end). As we walked across the fields to the riverside and then along the path back to St Johns, we debated what more Chamberlain could have done and what he achieved; why people can't be more ready to live in harmony with one another and what Paul really meant by "heaping burning coals" on the heads of our enemies.

Amongst all this theological debate, there was also time to exchange less lofty chat and admire the scenery – and a beautiful late afternoon view of the Malvern Hills.

We were unanimous in our view that we are very fortunate to live where we do!



A very pleasant walk ended back at 7 Manor Road where, thanks to Mum, we enjoyed tea and cake!

Our next outing is planned for Sunday, January 2nd. The route has yet to be decided but why not note the date now and join us to work off some of those Christmas and New Year excesses? Everybody will be most welcome!

Sarah Cottrill

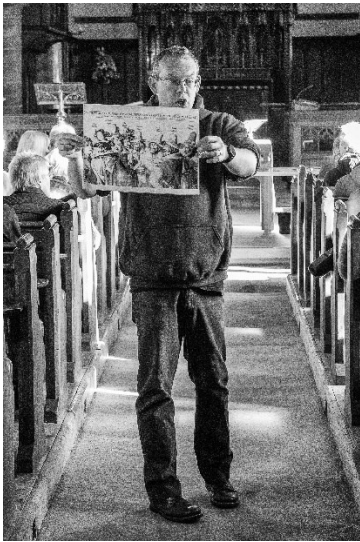
Gunpowder, treason and plot

Over 60 people enjoyed the talk by Paul Harding, the History Man, about the Gunpowder plot and how it related to Worcester, which culminated in the arrest of Guy (or Guido) Fawkes on 5th November 1605.



Paul explained that many books and TV series actually get the facts very wrong. For example, Guido Fawkes was born a Protestant and his mother married into a Catholic family. He was, in fact, a mercenary who would work for whoever paid him.

Robert Catesby was the leader of the plot. His family had always had issues with the Royal Family. A news sheet from 1606 described the executions and goes into great details about the plot. Worcestershire was a well-known Catholic supporting county, and many people were involved in the plot and suffered the same fate as the main protagonists. Sets of playing cards were sold describing the plot.



Some people believe that the roots of the plot go back to Henry VIII and his dissolution of the Monasteries. The issues between the Protestants and the Catholics came to a head after Henry made himself head of the Church of England and banned Catholic worship. King James I was not a well-liked man. He was not a strong king, or a warrior king and he had health problems. At the start of his reign, he was happy with the Catholics doing their own thing and then he started to put laws in against the Catholics. Robert Cecil was the King's main man against the Catholics. The only church services allowed were those of the Church of England and Catholics were fined or imprisoned if they did not attend the Church of England services. Some wealthy Catholic families built their own chapels or hidden rooms within their house that they could use to worship. Latin was banned in all services.

Robert Cecil told local militia to watch Catholic homes for visiting priests. The Catholics became very clever in hiding the elements of the altar and icons that they used in case the soldiers approached. Some of the main Catholic homes in Worcestershire were Hagley Hall, Hindlip Hall, Paddington Court and Harvington Hall. Harvington has the most Priest's Holes in a home in the country, built by Nicolas Owen, the most famous builder of them.



Catesby was the leader of the plot and by the autumn of 1604 there were 13 main plotters. They were regularly meeting in various places, mainly in London but in other places as well, including Worcestershire. They tried writing to the King expressing their concerns, but they had no replies, so the plot was hatched to kill the King and attack Parliament. The State Opening in 1605 was selected as the time for the attack.

The plan also included a large rebellion to be started in the Midlands with the aim of kidnapping Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James I, and put her on the throne as a puppet Queen following the death of the King. They started stockpiling weapons and horses for the rebellion, stealing many horses from Warwick Castle. Catesby decided that they would blow up the King in Parliament as the best way of killing him as most pistols and muskets of the day were so large that they could not hide them to get close enough to shoot the King. The weapons were so inaccurate that you had to be very close to be sure of a kill. Paul suggested that most people killed in battle were not the ones aimed at but in the vicinity of the person being aimed at.

The plotters knew of a John Johnson, who was a war veteran and an explosives expert. He was known to them as Guido Fawkes, but some documents refer to Johnson. He decided that they needed 36 barrels of gunpowder, which they managed to secretly order from the makers. The first lot of gunpowder got wet where it was stored, and somehow, they managed to obtain another 36 barrels.

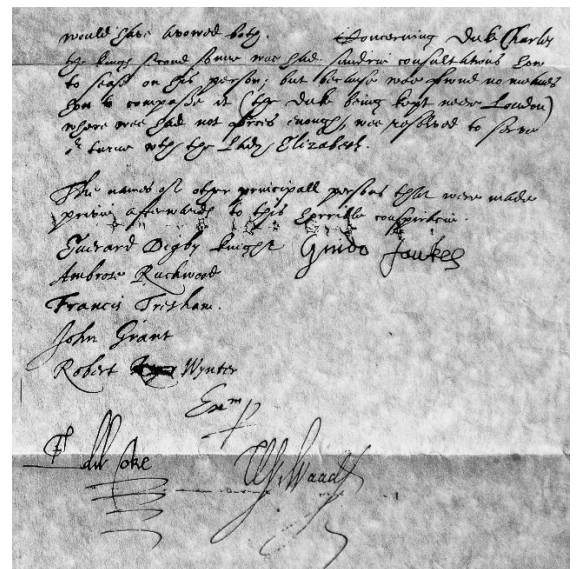
Some historians now believe that Cecil and the King knew about the plot. They note that the plotters were able to get the two lots of the gunpowder so easily. Also, they were going to tunnel under the road into Parliament but found that they could not, due to the poor condition of the soil. Then suddenly the cellars under Parliament became available to rent.

Lord Monteaule received a letter from one of his relatives, who was one of the plotters. The letter said that there would be a ‘terrible blow at the opening of Parliament’. He was told to burn the letter, but he gave it to Cecil. On the 4th the Yeoman Warders searched Parliament but found nothing untoward. Fawkes was in the cellars on the day ready to set the fuse. Modern experts believe that 36 barrels would have taken out a large area of London. For some reason the King ordered a second search, another clue to the fact he knew what was going on and this found Guido Fawkes and the gunpowder. The information distributed afterwards showed that the King saved Parliament, and this helped to make him a more likable King.



In the Midlands everyone was waiting for news that the King was dead, but they realised it had failed. Many of the plotters fled to Holbeche House in Staffordshire. The Sheriff of Worcester, Sir Richard Walsh, was ordered to find them and on the 8th of November found them at Holbeche House with 200 militia. Following a battle they were either arrested or killed.

Fawkes was terribly tortured in the Tower but did not reveal any information, until he knew that it was over and then he confessed, revealing the full plot and named the plotters. The scrawl of his signature gives some idea of the pain he went through.



The plotters were all hung, drawn and quartered. Many people, either involved or thought to be involved were executed in Worcester. Where the executions took place there is a memorial cross in Red Hill, near ncw (New College Worcester). The cross is dedicated to a priest, Father Oldcorne, and all Catholics persecuted in Worcestershire.

Colin Nash

Remembrance Sunday 2021

Remembrance Sunday 2021 saw a large turnout of people for the service in church, for the Act of Remembrance outside at the war memorial, and to watch the parade by the uniformed organisations.



(Above, L to R) Liz Forman, Leader for 9th Worcester (St John's) Guides, and Bedwardine District Commissioner; Sarah Cottrill; and Paul Carpenter, Group Scout Leader for 2nd Worcester Scout Group.



The flowers in church were beautiful!







Graham Evans

Marcés Mailing

October 2021



Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm.

Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Please pray for:

Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in the Cathedral (Dean, and in charge of Spanish speaking group);
Diocesan responsibilities (Christian formation)

Penny: Responsibilities in J el N (lay rector);
Diocesan responsibilities (Children´s Ministry, AMA)

Juan Carlos + Penny: working out priorities and use of time;
supporting each other in the two Churches; adequate rest

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Diocese: safeguarding course (6 weeks)

Jesús El Nazareno: children´s work: for helpers on Saturdays;
General: more people taking responsibilities eg leading services

El Nazareno area: soup kitchens, schooling

Cathedral: Alpha course; for people to attend in-person services

Country of Peru: political, economic and education situations

If you wonder, dear reader, why the October Marcés Mailing appears in the December magazine, here's the reason: The mailing reached us in October, but not in time to be included in the November magazine. Hence it appears in the magazine prepared in November; the December edition. The Editors.

Dear friends

Greetings again from a STILL red-listed country! (Why? – no obvious reason; to object, <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/597406> is the relevant petition). Also, a reassurance that if you receive this you have not missed any letters - we are just extremely late in writing; the “urgents” take precedence and the “important” gets left.

Welcome now to **Saint Matthew Passage**. Not, in this case, a Biblical reference, but the translation of the name of the street where Jesús el Nazareno Church is situated (Pasaje San Mateo). The Church was called “Jesús el Nazareno” after the local area (“El Nazareno” - the Nazarene), with streets named Nazareth, Galilea, etc; it’s a shame people don’t use these for giving their address but rather the official plot grid numbers; the Church is Manzana N, lote 2. Pasaje San Mateo is a narrow street of 100m, gated at each end (for security). The 25 buildings which open onto the passage are mostly either occupied by an extended family, or have rented rooms, so the population is over 200; about 70 are under 18 whilst less than 10 are over 70. It is also a place where there’s no need to watch soap operas on TV; some residents lead colourful lives....



Commercial activity (Shopping and eating out): Before covid, Pasaje San Mateo had a little stationer’s stall at the front of one house. Now, there is



also a greengrocer’s stall, and 2 small grocery stalls. In addition, as is common in Peru, there are frequent “activities” to raise money, eg “pollada” is fried chicken with boiled potato. This month we will support: medical costs of 43-yr old Roberto who had a stroke 18 months ago (he and his wife now attend the Church); payment of a debt from a loan of years ago; costs to pay the right to a bed space in a prison (for someone accused but not yet tried, let alone sentenced). (Yes, the cooking is taking place in the road).

Leisure activities: Being gated, Psj S Mateo seems relatively safe for children (mostly boys) to be out on the street. Groups of boys play football; even toddlers may be seen wandering around alone. Adults are not left out; volley became a popular leisure activity for some (though currently out of fashion!), whilst others preferred the possibility of an outside pub. Sadly, the

activity that attracts a crowd most rapidly is an unprogrammed fight (usually fuelled by drink). The children's activities at Church sometimes attract interest – please pray that we will return to open children's meetings soon so that anyone who wants can attend.

Schooling: Owing to the weaknesses(!) in the current educational system, too many children are NOT receiving an education. Over the last couple of months Penny has been giving classes to 2 2nd-grade boys who still don't have the most basic literacy teaching; one is responding well whilst the other has a much less positive attitude. Given that most of the other 2nd-graders in the area are also struggling, maybe in the summer we will set up a basic literacy course to help them all revise. Covid willing of course. A few schools are back part-time in person; despite what the govt says, it seems doubtful that most will be back in-person before the next academic year begins in March 2022, but we shall see.



Church: Of course, Psj S Mateo also has Jesús el Nazareno Anglican Church. Given the size of the street, it is unsurprising that our Church is physically small. This shouldn't mean it has to stay numerically small.... Give thanks for those who go on Saturdays; pray that the adults come to know the Lord too (please pray also for helpers!): Pray too that those in the street –& further afield–come to prefer going to Church to hear about the Lord rather than drinking &/or fighting. Today was actually the funeral of someone who went -her coffin was carried from her house (not in Psj S Mateo) and inclined outside the Church for her to say “goodbye” on the way up the hill to the (not at all formal) cemetery – but the story of the wake and funeral is not for now.

The Cathedral? ...is rather less like a soap opera. (See prayer requests)

Is there a book about all this? For several months there have been plans to write a book about the history of the Anglican Church in Peru, as part of the national Bicentenary celebrations (mostly non-existent, due to covid and political constraints). However, there is basically no money to do this; if anyone would like to support the project, please let us know!



And finally... all 3 of our children now have full time jobs: Becky near Leeds, Lizi in London, and Jony (who became a member of the College of Lawyers last week) in Lima. Becky FINALLY managed to visit us in Sept, albeit for less than 3 weeks – it was great to see her (she quarantined in Spain).



- improving health situation (covid and vaccines)
- in-person meetings
- non-Churchgoing parents attending the “family meetings” for children in JEN
- Provision in the ongoing communal kitchens, in El Nazareno and at Diocesan level
- children’s weekly materials

Please pray.....



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

- Sun:** 9.00 am WhatsApp chat form of service sent (JEN)
11.30am In-person /Zoom service (Cathedral)
6.00 pm in-person service (J. el Nazareno)
- Tues:** 8.00 pm Zoom Bible study /prayer meeting (Cathedral)
- Wed:** 8.00 pm Diocesan safeguarding course “Protégeme”
- Thurs:** 6.00 pm in-person prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
8.45 pm WhatsApp group call prayer meeting
- Sat:** 7.30pm Online Alpha

Specific dates

- 7 Nov:** Installation of Penny as Lay Rector of J.el Nazareno (yes, it IS rather delayed; should have been Jan)
- 26 Nov:** celebration of anniversary in communal kitchen “Corazón de Jesús”; still to be organised!
- 28 Nov:** Visit of Pat Blanchard to J el Nazareno to say goodbye (she was Rector for several years & is now leaving Perú)
- End Nov:** delivery of Christmas boxes from San Silvestre to Cathedral for sorting and sending to Cusco/Arequipa

Thank you again to those who have been supporting us (and the communal kitchens and other needs) in so many ways. By supporting us and the ministry here, you too are part of what happens here, both in the Anglican Church in Peru, and in Peru. 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

Summary of St. Michael's PCC meeting (8th November)

The meeting was held in the church with 9 members present. Apologies were received from 2 members. The meeting was opened with prayer.

It was reported that a form requesting data regarding October Attendance Statistics had been received from the Archdeacons and Diocesan Secretary. It had been completed by the Church Wardens and returned.

Finance: The Treasurer had forwarded to members prior to the meeting detailed summaries of the church's income and outgoings over the first 10 months of 2021. Some areas were showing a small under-spend against the budget but this may not be the case by the end of the year. It is difficult to compare streams of income with last year as circumstances were different.

The Reserves Policy and updated Asset Management Plan were explained and agreed by the PCC.

The Treasurer had also prepared a draft budget, as far as was possible at the moment as some final figures for 2021 were not available. The PCC were also asked to consider priorities for spending, including the Mission and Evangelism budget. It was felt our priority should be with projects in the community. The draft budget was approved by the PCC.

The treasurer was thanked for his hard work and skill in explaining the figures to the rest of the PCC.

Ministry Share:

The Joint PCC meeting with the Diocesan Secretary had taken place (*reported in last month's magazine - The Editors*). The overall impression was that if we are not able to raise the extra Ministry Share that the proposals are indicating, then in due course, we are likely to lose one of the clergy. The PCC decided to request a visit from Alison Maddocks, Dean of Smaller Churches, to discuss all the issues involved. She will be invited to the next meeting.

Team Council/ Joint PCC: The PCC agreed that the best way forward was to work together with the other churches. St. John's had also agreed to this. A Joint PCC was being investigated.

Safeguarding: The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer had sent an "ALM Recruitment Safeguarding Policy" regarding the recruitment requirements for new ALM's as these are now authorised by incumbents. The policy sets out the DBS check needed (either basic or enhanced) depending on the role and contacts of the new ALM. If a Basic DBF check is required, the policy states that the cost should be reimbursed by the PCC.

Mission and Outreach Group: The group is working on information gathered from the survey. An Epiphany trail and service are being organised. There will be a children’s trail to find pictures or small models of kings in shop windows or other places. An Epiphany service followed by tea will be held on January 9th at St John’s.

Reports from other organisations:

Mother’s Union. There will be a bring and share lunch on December 6th. There is to be a service in the Cathedral on December 1st at 1.00pm as part of “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence” which is a United Nations international event which takes place annually.

Community Cafe. The cafe which is held in the DG Den on Dines Green is well attended. It has started to provide meals as well as cake and snacks. The organiser will be invited to a PCC meeting.

“At The Heart of Christmas” is the Church of England theme for Advent and Christmas in 2021. Resources are available and may be used by the Mission Group.

Toddler Group: It is necessary to put plans on hold for now.

Servers for Eucharist: This remains under review.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

Jenny Claydon, PCC Secretary

***Sudoku
Puzzle***

*Copyright 2013
KrazyDad.com*

*The
solution is
on the
inside back
cover.*

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The History of St John's Parish

VIII: An Interlude

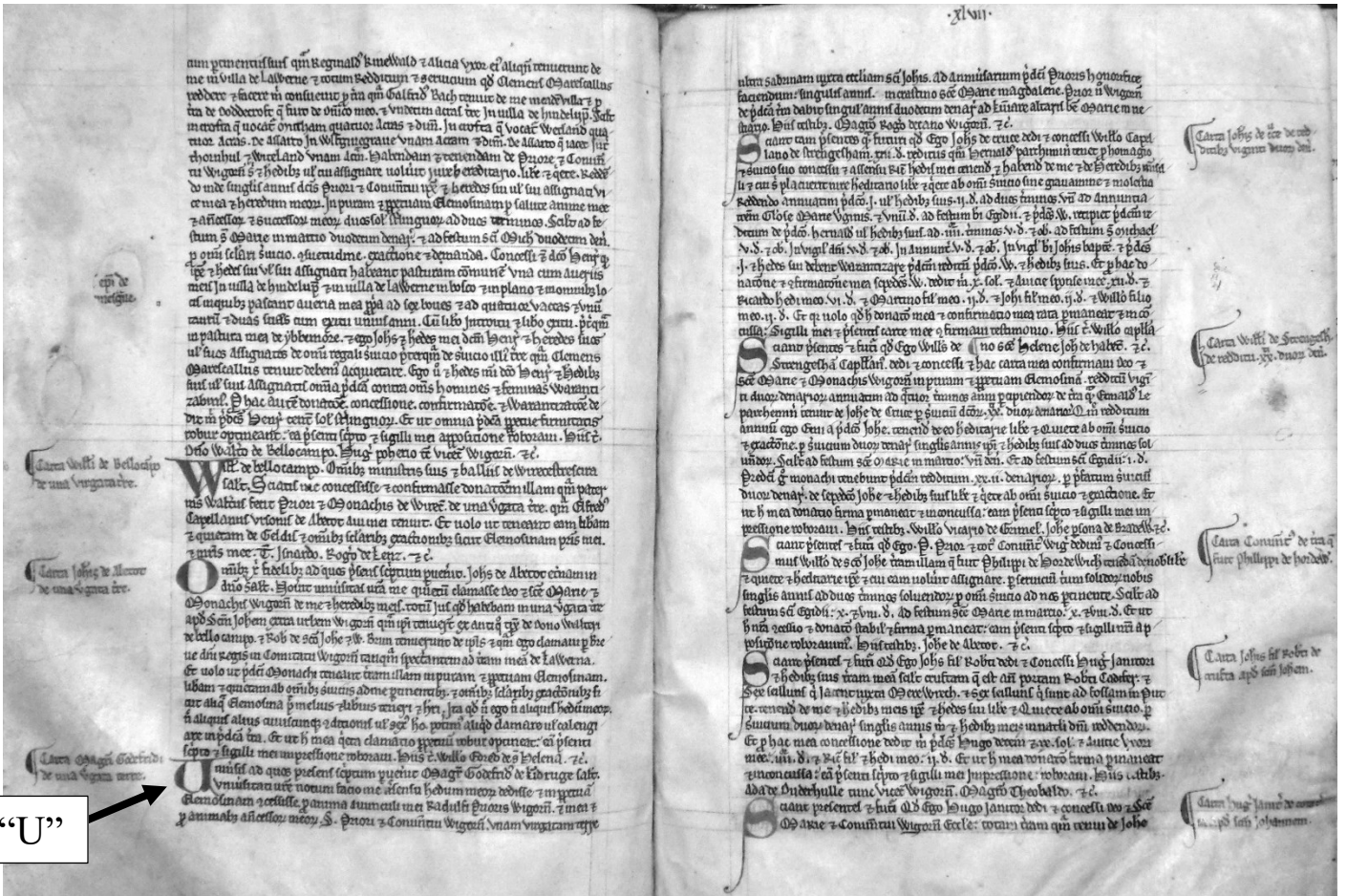
The writing of history is always a provisional endeavour, subject to amendment and revision as new evidence comes to light or old evidence is re-examined. That said, rarely does it fall to the same historian to revise their own work after less than a year, as I shall now do. When I began this series about the history of the parish, as part of a commemoration of St John's replacing St Cuthbert's as the parish church 650 years ago, I accepted the received wisdom found in the printed sources, that this event took place according to a writ by Bishop William Lenn of Worcester dated 17th February 1371.

Recently, however, the lifting of lockdown restrictions means I have had the opportunity to go into the archives at The Hive and check the original document, which is found in Lenn's episcopal register. Having done so, I am now convinced that the received wisdom is wrong and that we have been celebrating the anniversary a year early, which at least means we get another chance next year, when we can hopefully make more of the occasion. In essence, everything hinges on the dating clause, which reads 'the 17th day of February in the year of our Lord 1371 and of our translation the third' (die xvii mensis Februarii anno domini Mo CCCmo Septuagesimo primo Et Translacionis nostre tercio). While this seems to be obviously 1371, at that time the year changed on the Feast of the Annunciation, 25th March. Unless there is very good evidence that an alternative dating system was in use (some scribes were a little eccentric), medievalists conventionally change the year of dates between 1st January and 24th March so they match our understanding. This, and the evidence of the surrounding documents in the register, points to a date in our system of 17th February 1372.

The issue is clouded somewhat by the 'third year' of Lenn's translation. The approval of his move from Chichester to Worcester was dated 11th October 1368, but he did not receive the temporalities of the see (officially becoming bishop of Worcester) until 4th June 1369. Taking the former date would make it 1371, the latter 1372. Without rehearsing a lot of technical arguments, general practice would have involved dating from when he actually became bishop. Taken together, these two clauses indicate that we should be celebrating the 650th anniversary of St John's elevation to a parish church on 17th February 2022.

A similar issue arises with the dates of some of the medieval vicars as they appear on the board in the porch. This might seem like a rather technical issue, but it shows how the story of St John's must be carefully pieced together from

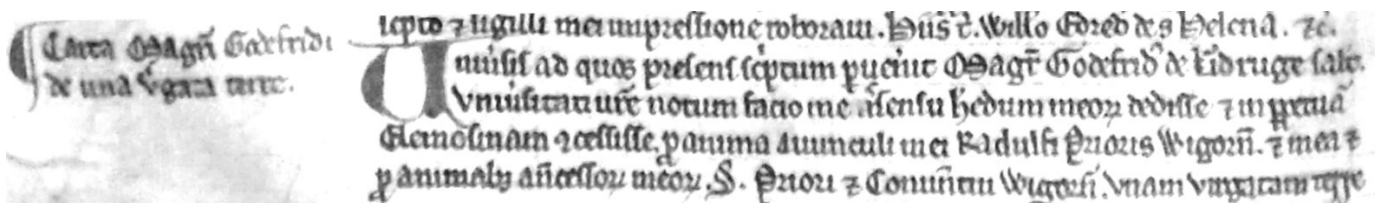
fragmentary, often unclear evidence. This month, to give people's brains a rest (assuming they haven't already overheated with the convolutions above), we have a picture of one of those pieces of evidence.

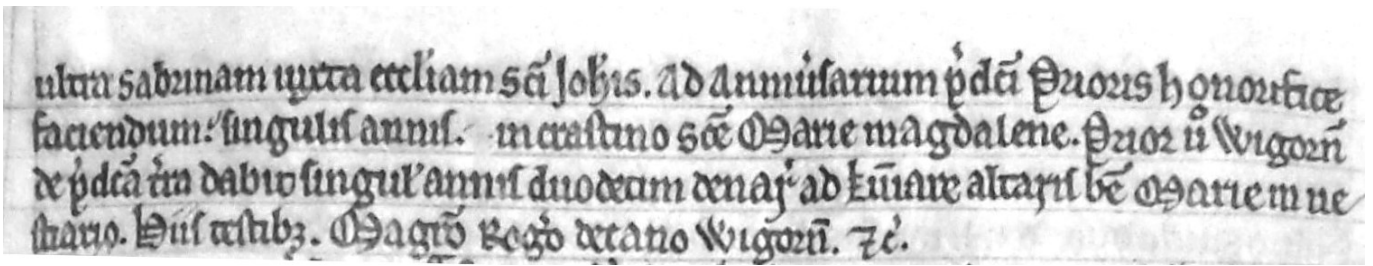


These two pages are from the Cartulary of Worcester Cathedral, written around 1240 (with subsequent additions). It is a record of charters, grants and other documents relating to the Cathedral from Anglo-Saxon times. In the middle of the thirteenth century, a scribe gathered all these together in this volume, writing them all out neatly. While the authenticity of some of the documents is open to challenge, the one which concerns us is genuine.

It begins at the bottom of the first page, with the large 'U' marked with an arrow. In the margin, the scribe has noted, in red ink, 'Charter of Master Godfrey concerning one virgate of land' (Carta Magistri Godefridi de una virgata terre).

The text is that which I translated for the May magazine, the relevant extract being the following from the bottom of the first page and the top of the second.





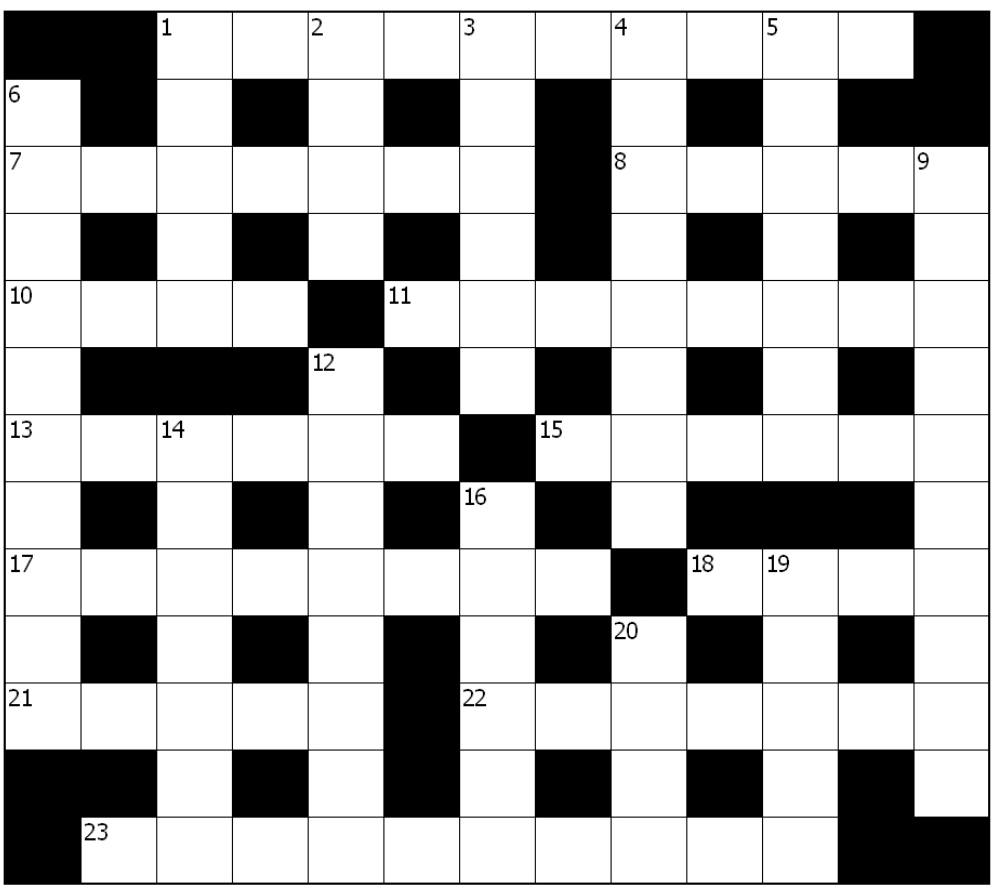
This is the first surviving reference to St John’s church (you may be able to read the first words from the top of the second page, ‘ultra sabrinam iuxta eccl[es]iam s[an]c[t]i Joh[ann]is’ (‘beyond the Severn next to the church of St John’).

Had this been lost, the next reference is not until the 1230s, followed by 1287. It is a reminder of how fragile and imperfect our knowledge is and why history is constantly subject to revision as new evidence comes fortuitously to light. I only hope that my revision of this month is not the last, and that new evidence will continue to be found which increases our knowledge of what happened in this place before us.

The photograph is by David Morrison, Worcester Cathedral Librarian, and is reproduced by permission of the Chapter of Worcester Cathedral. I am very grateful to David for his assistance with this, especially for taking the photo (twice, after I gave him an incomplete reference) while the Cathedral Library is closed.

Phil Bradford

Crossword



The solution is on the inside back cover.

Clues Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14-15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 WWI heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith ____ (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Clues Down

- 1 '____ and see that the Lord is good' (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 'The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ____ as a lion' (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19-20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 'Offer your bodies as living _____, holy and pleasing to God' (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 'You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ____ his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21) (4)



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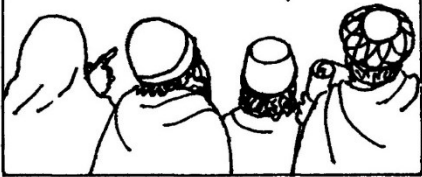
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Matthew 2:1-10

Around the time of Jesus' birth, in a land far to the east of Israel, there were men who studied the stars...

When they saw a new star they believed it showed a special king had been born. ✨



They set off to see that king.



They reached Jerusalem, the home of King Herod.



The Romans had made Herod king of the Jews about 30 years earlier. He was ruthless.



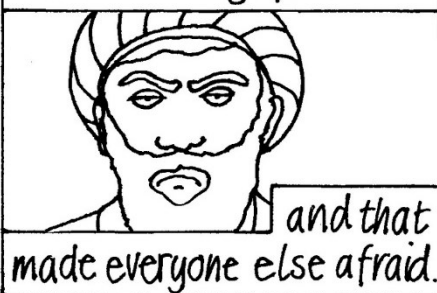
The Jews hated him and he was always worried that people were plotting against him.



He had them killed even if they were his wife or children...



So what the wise men said about a new king upset Herod



Herod got the teachers and priests together and asked about the king's birthplace.



That would be Little Bethlehem*



Herod secretly met the wise men and asked when they had first seen the star.



Go to Bethlehem and look for the child. When you find him let me know so I can come and worship him.



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Churches in our (new) deanery

This month's church is St Michael & All Angels (Martin Hussingtree) in the benefice of Droitwich and Salwarpe and Hindlip with Martin Hussingtree.

“Simon Wood died unmarried in c1746 and Merton passed to Pynson II.” This brought the manors of Merton and Hosintre together into one Manor and Pynson II (a Vicar at Halesowen)

was now Lord of the Manor of the combined Martin Hussingtree. I am indebted to Mr & Mrs Jauncey for supplying me with a fascinating book by Gill Lawley on this area which is full of little snippets of information.



This church building, about halfway between Worcester and Droitwich, was originally dedicated to St Nicholas. It appears that the name was changed at about the time of the Reformation to St Michael and All Angels.

The church is on a small area of high ground above the Martin Brook with the redundant Parish of Hindlip to the South-East.

St Michael's was probably in existence as a church with its previous name from about the 10th century. The manors of Merton, Hosintre and Hindlip were being recorded for King William and probably made their money supplying wood and charcoal to the salt industry at Droitwich for boiling off the brine. Martin belonged to Pershore Abbey and Hussingtree to St Peters, Westminster. The Lords of the Manor in each case were tenants. Several 'Green Lanes', now no longer in use, cross the parish but the principle routes of the 'Saltway' and 'Lower Saltway' are still A Class roads.

Continued on page 53



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Continued from page 51

Inside, St Michael is a surprisingly large church and not at all the cramped space that could be thought from looking at the outside. The west wall, which we are told is 3 feet, 2 inches thick, houses a beautiful stained glass of St Michael and his dragon. The window was placed there in 1898 by the Worcestershire Hunt in memory of the Field Master who after being dismounted on Valentines Day that year was further injured by his horse treading on his chest. Other glass, some stained and some painted, is also of interest.



Notable is the octagonal baptismal font which was placed in front of the west window in 1883 but now resides in the south aisle. This font was apparently removed following the Act of 1644 banning holy-water fonts and buried in the churchyard. It was at a later time, dug up, and re-installed in the church.



I was particularly heartened to find a plaque to Thomas Tomkyns, a noted composer and one time organist of Worcester Cathedral (until it was closed by Oliver Cromwell in 1649). An organ-scholar friend of mine waxes lyrical on the 'contrapuntal' skills and wrote to me "The skill with which Tomkyns weaves the various voices together and the many deliberate discords is matched by few other composers of any time."

Paul Fulbrook

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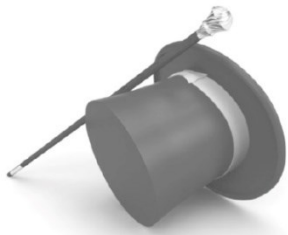
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From the magazine archive (December 1946)

DEACONESS SYKES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Excerpt from the Vicar's letter:

(1) On Friday, September 13th, after Choir Practice, I had the honour of handing a presentation of money to our old friend Mr. Mark Willshaw from the senior members of the Choir and other well-wishers.

(2) On Sunday, September 29th, there were no fewer than ten baptisms.

(3) From October 1st the charge of the Tower and Church Clock has been placed in the hands of Mr. W. H. Lewis by the request of Mr. W. H. Thomas. Mr. Thomas will be resigning his other Church appointments on December 31st.

(4) On Thursday, October 24th, Mr. P. B. Chatwin and Mr. B. Davis held a consultation in Church with regard to the memorial to Miss Worster and also in the matter of attention to the Church Porch.

(5) My attack of neuritis has now lasted about fourteen weeks. It is improving, but still prevents my full participation in parochial work.

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NOTES

1. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
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4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.

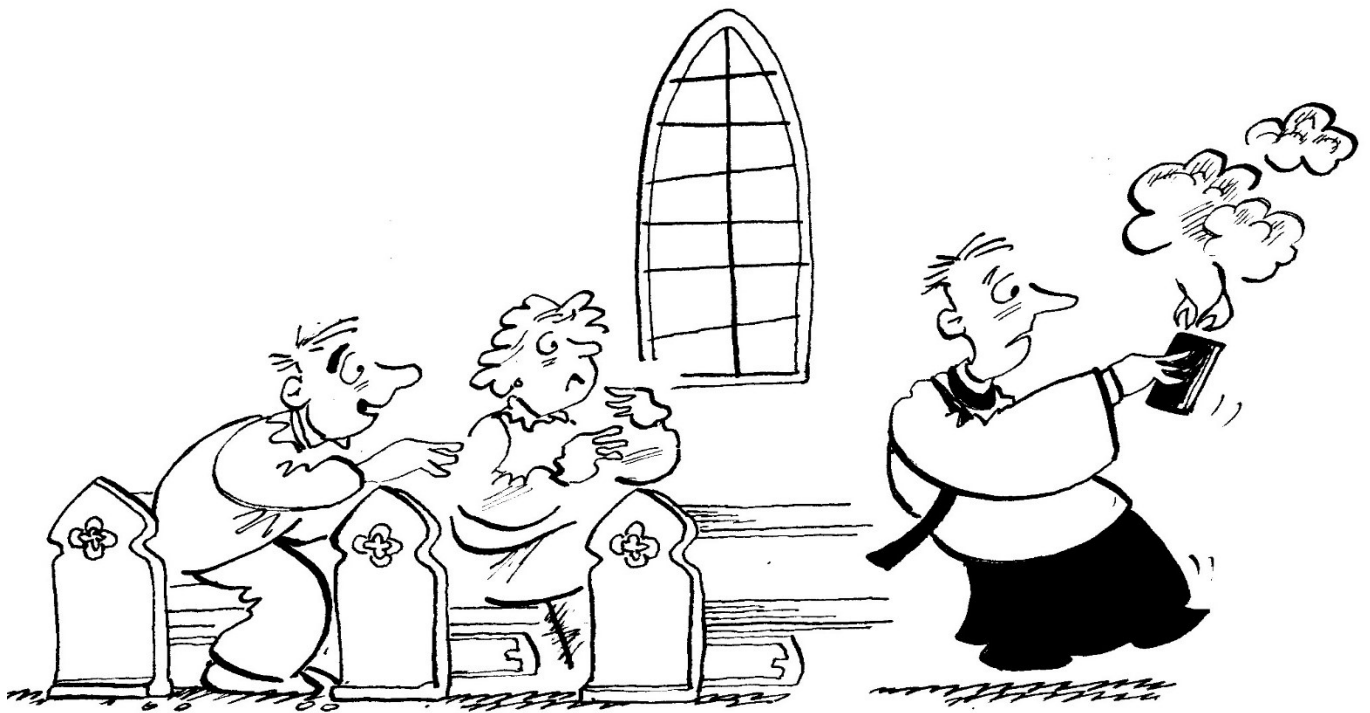


Puzzle solutions

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| S | O | N | A | R | | | A | M | A | Z | I | N | G |
| | | S | | A | | T | | V | | S | | S | |
| | | S | E | T | T | L | E | M | E | N | T | | |

And finally....



...relax Miss Pugh... he's not introducing incense - he's just got a new phone with a faulty battery!



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team - December 2021

| | St. John's | St. Clement's | St. David's | St Michael's |
|----------------------|--|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5th December | 10.30am Eucharist | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 4pm Eucharist | 10.30am Eucharist |
| 12th December | 10.30am All Age Worship | 9.30am Eucharist | 4pm Carols round the tree | 10.30am Eucharist |
| 19th December | 10.30am Eucharist 3pm Carols in the Churchyard 6pm Candlelit Carol Service | 9.30am Morning Prayer 6pm Candlelit Carol Service | 4pm Eucharist | 10.30am Carol Service |
| 26th December | 10am Team Eucharist (St Johns) | | | |
| 2nd January | 10.30am Eucharist | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 4pm Eucharist | 10.30am Eucharist |

For a full list of Christmas services see page 8.

The information above is correct at the time of going to press but may have to be altered in accordance with lockdown regulations and Government and Church of England guidance. Please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.