



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



February 2021

50p



Information

WEST WORCESTER CLERGY

clergy@wcv.church

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

TEAM OFFICE

The office is currently closed but can be contacted by email, post or telephone.

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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/

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CHURCHWARDENS: stjohns.churchwardens@wcv.church
Gordon Templeton (01905 749025), Joy Job (01905 423051).

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.

St Michael's

CHURCHWARDENS: Mike Dowling, Val Mason.

SAFEGUARDING: Mike Dowling.

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our February 2021 magazine. As you can see from the top part of the cover, the scope of the magazine has been widened to cover St Michael's, Dines Green (who didn't previously have a magazine). We welcome all from St Michael's who read this. To mark this change our theme is 'Working together'; our cover picture shows many hands together, united by the Cross. Phil, in his letter, reminds us that "to follow our calling to bring about God's kingdom on earth is something we can do only by working together". In St John's Parish (which incorporated the area which is now St Michael's until the mid-1950s) that has been going since 1371 and before. See page 10 for the start of Phil's series on the history of the parish.

From 1st February, we are working together in a new deanery, still with our former colleagues in Martley and Worcester West, but now with the rest of Worcester City and the Saltway Team. There's more on pages 9 and 29.

As you think about 'Working together', we offer you some familiar words as a prayer:

*We are the body of Christ.
In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
And builds up our common life.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition (March): Deadline is Sunday 14th February.
Distribution, towards the end of February.

Subscription form: Page 42.

Cover picture: Hands collage in the shape of a cross, produced by all the folks in our congregation and groups who drew round and cut out their hands (first used on the cover in April 2017).

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Liz Forman, Colin Nash, Arthur Miller, Maureen Ovington and WikiMedia Commons.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August (exceptionally, in 2020, there was an August edition).

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 42 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 14.

From Phil Bradford

It is 48 hours, as I write, since we witnessed the disgraceful scenes which unfolded in Washington D.C. to accompany the confirmation of Joe Biden's election as president.

Twenty years ago, the world watched in horror as 9/11 unfolded on our screens, and once again this week we found ourselves scarcely able to believe what was happening in front of our eyes across the Atlantic. In a way, what occurred two days ago is even more disturbing than the terrible events of 2001. The latter was a naked act of evil by men outside the system. The events of 2021 were incited and encouraged by the man who theoretically represents the highest office of the system, in direct contravention of the oath he swore to uphold the constitution and protect the country.

The Capitol was last stormed by the British during the War of 1812, by an enemy power in a very different era. For Congress to be attacked by a mob acting on the instructions of the president is a very different matter indeed, about as clear an example as one could find of a 'high crime and misdemeanour'. This was not legitimate protest. It was violent mob rule intent on subverting the democratic process.

There are many questions arising from this, not least how a group of terrorists managed to take over what should be one of the most secure buildings in the world. Above all, however, this is the culmination of a presidency which has been grounded in lies and bullying, and especially of two months in which Trump has abandoned even the superficial presence of governance in order to stoke hatred, promote falsehoods and do whatever he can (no matter how desperate or illegal) to cling to power. The checks and balances of the system have always been far weaker than most Americans like to imagine, but it is truly terrifying that the man charged with protecting the state has created a culture in which an enormous number believe that a transparently fair election was rigged, and resorted to violence to try to overturn the result.

As this should remind all of us, there is nothing natural or easy about democracy. It requires laying aside notions of individuality and social Darwinism to accept being part of a complex society, accepting the rights of others and the validity of different opinions. Crucially, it requires agreement on the legitimacy of the system, a willingness to accept defeat. It requires constant vigilance to avoid descent into mob rule or what Tocqueville so presciently warned of when writing about the USA, the tyranny of the majority.



Democracy is imperfect, yet as the quote attributed to Churchill says, a better system than any other yet tried. Because it is imperfect, because it goes against human instincts of selfishness and control, democracy is hard work. It requires a concerted will to make things work, to help everyone have a stake in the system; that is the reason naive, arrogant western attempts to impose democracy through warfare are doomed to failure. What happened in Washington should remind all of us of the urgent need to work together to preserve the values of a system which defends human rights, helps the weak and vulnerable, accepts the role of all people. It is not just in the United States that these values are under threat. We cannot look critically across the ocean if we ignore the dangers here.

As Christians, this working together for the common good is at the heart of our faith. The commandment to love everyone, including enemies, is a radical and novel one which put Jesus at odds with the self-interest of his world.

The message of love, justice and peace put him on a collision course with powerful, wealthy elites who wanted to preserve their riches, status and control. The very fact that he and, by tradition, so many of his early followers ended up brutally executed demonstrates how threatening the powerful found the Christian message.

Much like democracy, the values of the kingdom are not those which necessarily come most naturally to humanity. We have to recognise the importance of working together for those values, to share the love of God in word and deed in a way which shows everyone that they too are a part of that kingdom.

It is hard, it is painful, but to follow our calling to bring about God's kingdom on earth is something we can do only by working together, in truth and love, for a greater good.

Phil

The collect for the second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

In Memoriam

Rose Ashton	13 January 2019
Olive Mary Peggy Outram	2 February 1992
William John Davies	3 February 1999
Frederick Grice	8 February 1983
Stanley Edward Price	11 February 1982
Rosanna Walker	14 February 1990
Eileen Bennett	17 February 2009
Maurice Charles Pearson	24 February 1999
Reginald Edward Osborne	25 February 1984
Emily Jane Haynes	26 February 1976
William Joseph Probyn	28 February 1987
Doris Betty Dear	28 February 1989
Doreen Iavarone	28 February 1998

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, December 2020

St John's

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 19th November 2020 Marjorie Brenda Wheeler

d. 25th October 2020 Jayden Colin Bennett

DECEMBER SERVICES: Communicants 162. Total attendance at all services was 405. In addition, one service was streamed.

St Michael's

DECEMBER SERVICES: Communicants and total attendance at all services 60.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in February

Tuesday 2nd February: The presentation of Christ in the temple (Candlemas)

Sunday 7th February: The second Sunday before Lent (Sexagesima)

Sunday 14th February: The Sunday next before Lent (Quinquagesima)

Wednesday 17th February: Ash Wednesday

Sunday 21st February: The first Sunday of Lent

Sunday 28th February: The second Sunday of Lent

See page 35 for Phil's January liturgical calendar.

Mid-week services

Subject always to possible changes, the following mid-week services are scheduled to take place in February:

Tuesday services at St John's have been suspended for the time being.

Thursday services at St Michael's (10.30am) on 4th, 11th and 25th February.

There will be three Eucharists on Ash Wednesday (17th February):

10.30am St Michael's

6.30pm St Clement's

7.30pm St John's

News from Peru

On Sunday 10th January, four people were ordained deacon in the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd in Lima: Charles McCoy, Daniel Centeno, Raúl Taipe and Teófila Salazar. These were the first ordinations in our partner diocese under Bishop Jorge, who became bishop in 2017.

It was an occasion for joy at the end of a very difficult year in Peru. I hope to be able to include a fuller piece about this in next month's magazine, but meanwhile do please pray for the new deacons and the communities in which they will serve.

Phil Bradford

27th February: George Herbert, priest and poet

George Herbert was a prolific 17th century writer, a gifted speaker and musician.

He was a graduate of Cambridge University, a favoured politician of King James (of the 'King James Bible') and a distinguished poet but all his life he felt God was calling him and much of Herbert's poetry expressed his inner spiritual conflicts.

When the King died in 1625, Herbert responded to God's call and became a priest in a small Anglican church in Bemerton in Wiltshire. Here he found inner peace at last, serving God in the local community (in an era when many clergy were absentee incumbents, paying someone else to do the parish work while they lived elsewhere). His poetic talent continued to flourish along with his musicianship as a skilled lutenist. After only three years as a priest, he died of tuberculosis aged 39 on 1st March 1633.

His hymns, such as 'Teach me my God and King', 'Let all the world in every corner sing' and 'King of glory, king of peace.' are still sung today.

Courtesy of Parish Pump

Bob Bell

29.8.1920 – 18.12.2020

It was with sadness that we learned that Bob had died on 18th December, just less than four months since he celebrated his 100th birthday.

Bob first got involved with church organisations at St David's and St Clement's in 1948 and he met Angela at the badminton club there.

He started to help in the Sunday school at Comer Mission Church

in 1949 (later re named St David's). He was appointed church Warden at St David's in 1955, a position he held for 59 years!

Over many, many years Bob was the anchor man at the church and helped every new member of the clergy to settle in. He spearheaded many church fund-raising events and in later years was always to be seen rolling the drum on the tombola stall at the annual Fayre.



He worked tirelessly, and being an engineer there wasn't anything he couldn't tackle. Every few years he even creosoted the church building. Until 1992 the church also looked after the Institute (now the Community Hall) and Bob was just as enthusiastic in his care of that building.

Bob's work and worship at the church and his friendship and kindness over many years gained him many friends in this area.

Even in the last few years with failing health, sight loss and some hearing loss, Bob was still an inspiration to many and attended church most weeks with Angela, Christine, Mark and Matthew.

We send our condolences and love to Angela and all the family and we thank God for Bob's long life.

RIP Bob, a very special gentleman.

Maureen Ovington

Deanery reorganisation

At the end of July 2020, the Bishop of Worcester opened a consultation into proposed changes to the Deanery structure, reducing the number of deaneries from 13 to 6. This would be brought about by a “Bishop’s Pastoral Order”.

The consultation ran until 4th December, and the diocese was grateful to receive more than 80 responses – from individuals and on behalf of the PCCs, Deanery Standing Committees or Deanery Synods.

Bishop John said:

“I am delighted that so many people contributed to the consultation on the changes to our deaneries, resulting in a number of amendments to the Pastoral Order. This new structure is an important step in ensuring our diocese is fit for purpose going forward, allowing us more flexibility in deploying ministry and organising mission. Over the next few months, as teams are formed and chapters, deanery synods and other groups are able to meet, I pray that it will result in new partnerships and ideas for taking the love of Jesus out into our communities.”

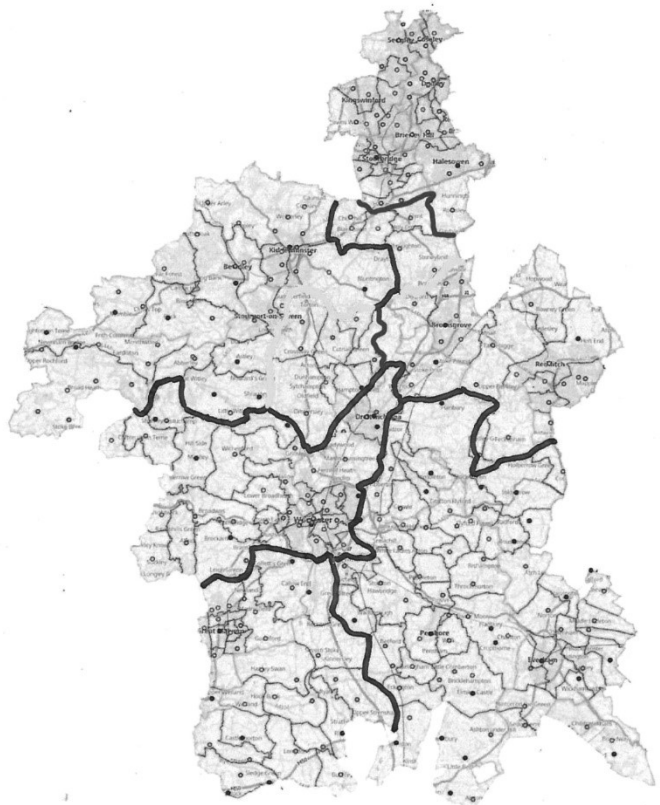
A new deanery structure which will move us to six deaneries will now come into effect on 1st February and Bishop John will shortly be in touch with all licensed clergy about the appointment of new Area Deans.

The new deaneries are:

Greater Dudley
Redditch and Bromsgrove
Kidderminster and Stourport
Worcester
Malvern and Upton
Pershore and Evesham

Worcester Diocese

Our former deanery of Martley and Worcester West is united with the deanery of Worcester East and the Saltway Team Ministry (Droitwich) to form the Worcester deanery - shown middle left on the map.



The editors

Read more on page 29 about how the Diocese thinks deaneries and deanery synods might develop and be re-imagined following the changes.

How old is this church?

‘How old is this church?’ It is a question I get asked frequently by all manner of visitors, but it is not one to which I have ever managed to give a straight answer. Instead, my response normally begins with the twelfth-century columns in the nave and progresses via a potted history of varying length to the twenty-first century removal of the North Aisle pews. Schoolchildren then frequently become obsessed with how many skeletons have accumulated under their feet in that time, which I guess is as good a measure of the church’s antiquity as any other.



Like so many churches in this country, St John’s is steeped in history and built (quite literally) on past generations. Over the centuries it has grown and changed. What we see today is the result of that long process, a building which has continually been altered in response to shifting needs and trends. Churches are not meant to be static mausolea or museums, but rather living symbols of the presence of God in the community.

However, in the long history of St John’s, one date which is of unambiguous significance is 17th February 1371. It was on that day that William Lenn, bishop of Worcester, gave orders that St John-in-Bedwardine should become the parish church for the area facing Worcester across the Severn. Although the church had been in existence for some time, it had been as a chapel of ease to a parish

church of St Cuthbert in Wick Episcopi (or Bishop's Wick, now Lower Wick). Now, with shifting populations, it made more sense for the parish to be based at St John's and the bishop accordingly commanded the change.

17th February 2021, which is also coincidentally Ash Wednesday, will thus mark the 650th anniversary of St John's becoming the parish church. Back in 1371, Edward III's long reign was in its twilight years and England was still adapting to the changed post-Black Death World. Much has happened since and in the intervening centuries there have been enormous changes, the church and local community now very different indeed.

As we come to terms with the effects of another devastating pandemic, I had hoped that we might be able to celebrate this anniversary fully and give thanks for these years of witness with a programme of events.

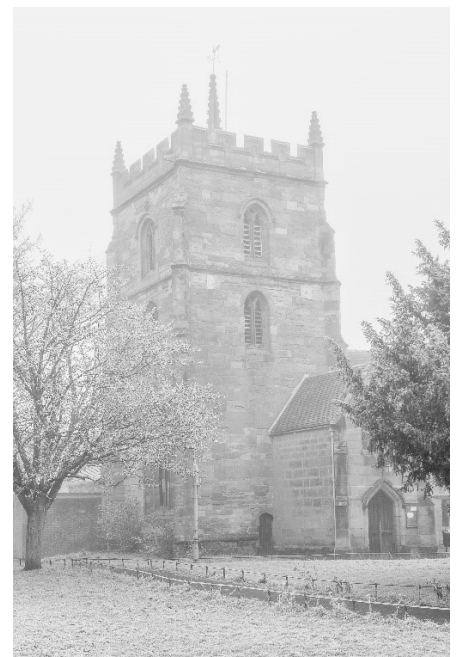
It looks as if circumstances will now prevent that.

What it will not prevent is the vicar indulging himself and looking at the history that has brought us to this point. In the magazine over the next few months, I intend to chart that story. St John's may only have been a parish church for 650 years, but as a building it is older still and the Christian presence here dates back into at least the seventh century. Amidst a time of gloom and despair, there is no harm in seeing where we have come from and what the church here has survived.

In the meantime, whether or not you are able to attend church in person on Ash Wednesday, perhaps you will be able to remember and give thanks for all those who have lived and shared the faith in this place before us, upon whose legacy and witness we build. On this occasion, the collect for the Dedication Festival is perhaps an appropriate way to end this introduction.

*Almighty God,
to whose glory we celebrate
the dedication of this house of prayer:
we praise you for the many blessings
you have given to those who worship you here:
and we pray that all who seek you in this place
may find you,
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Phil Bradford



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Working together...

In our church communities we have been used to efforts - in many domains - working for the common good - everything from community lunches, pilgrimages, fund raising activities, etc. The arrival of Covid-19 has curtailed so much of this work that our present calendars look bereft of all that was “normal” and although the arrival of vaccines may bring relief we know it will be some time before the old normality will return.

A great deal of collaborative activity has gone on-line of course with Zoom meetings, WhatsApp conversations, Messenger group meetings, and the greater use of email exchanges.

YouTube has given an opportunity to share worship from both our local churches and further afield, irrespective of denomination, language and

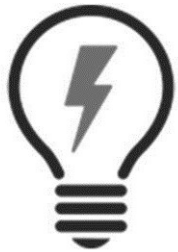
location. The Archbishop of Canterbury in his kitchen offering a sermon, or Pope Francis giving his Urbi et Orbi message from the small chapel in the Vatican, without all the usual crowds in St Peter’s Square, or also the quiet reflections of the Dalai Lama for the Great Contemplation in November, and the Bangala dancing with all the lights for Diwali Festival - all these have been highlights of the year despite (or perhaps because of) the need to be involved from the “comfort” of our own homes.

There are many things which we miss desperately. Personally I miss enormously the lack of singing in church and the camaraderie which our weekly choir practices used to give at St John’s. I am sure each one will have their personal list of activities which they miss too. The nature of our participation in the Eucharist has changed for some, with the need to return to the Eucharist in one kind (host only) - the chalice being considered one major potential cause of transmission of the virus (note - the Roman church has offered Eucharist in one kind only for many years past). Reflect also on those who may be deprived of home visits and thus participation in the Eucharist, where they are confined by current restrictions and where visits from “outsiders” not in their “bubble” are not permissible!

Our prayers this year (2021) are going to be required for a number of important national and international events - all of which will need formidable co-operation and much working together if they are to be brought to fruition. Climate change is one such event - with the international conference



Continued on page 15



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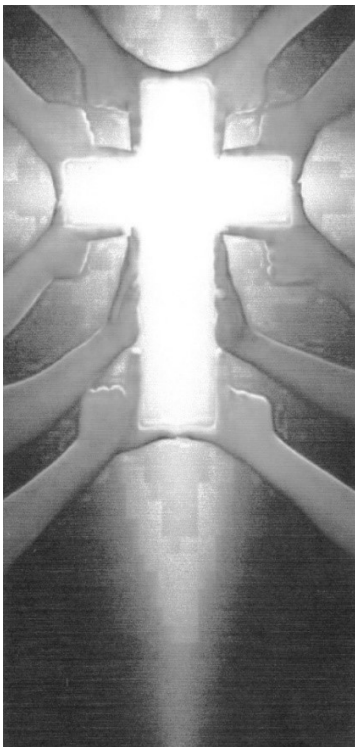
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Continued from page 13

taking place in Edinburgh this October. There are several nations (some small and territorially insignificant) which will be hoping that progress will be made urgently on the speedy reduction of carbon emissions by some of the world's largest nations/economies.

We shall hope and pray that the Olympics in Tokyo will pass without any negative effects - be it Covid, controversy or political protest - and that it will assist the co-operation of nations rather than the contrary. For many it will be a delight to see the public back at sporting events!

On the domestic agenda we have local government elections in May. This year it is likely the discussions and debates will be more lively and contentious given the effects of differences in the approach to Covid-19 that has been taken in the four nations of the "united kingdom". The "border" in the Irish Sea, the pressure for another Scottish independence referendum, the place of Irish and Welsh languages in their respective parliaments, and the demand (by some) for a purely "English" parliament will almost certainly provide a few column inches before voters go to the polls.

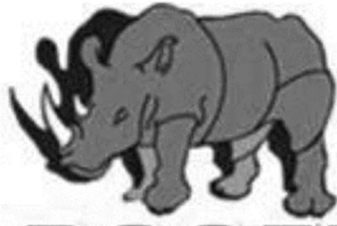


On the Ecumenical front we hope to see more advances made toward some agreement on what should constitute a British education programme that will truly reflect our increasingly diverse society. Islam, Buddhism, Sikhism and Christianity are represented by considerable populations in the UK, and each of the four nations will need to reflect upon what that means for their distinctive cultural, linguistic, economic groupings - and then be drawn together in a supra-national decision making process. It may well be time to re-write the National Curriculum! There are some who argue for a more secular than religious morality - a neutral territory where all religions can find a basis to provide their particular contribution to the student's education.

Mohammed sought to bring concord and avoid feuding;
Buddha argued that personal interior development would bring greater fulfilment, since most relationships were by their nature imperfect;
Christians would find comfort from the words of Confucius - What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others.

We thank the Lord that he is merciful when we acknowledge our discretions and misdeeds. May you be thoughtful and discerning in this year. Above all, stay safe.

Arthur Miller



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Trees battered and beautified by Bella

In April 2017, the magazine recorded that “The Redwood in the corner of St John’s churchyard was one of many victims of storm Doris.” By a strange resonance, as we use again the cover picture from April 2017, we record the falling of another tree in the churchyard. This time the storm responsible was ‘Bella’. Curiously, this tree survived the worst of the storm on Saturday 26th December and was still standing on the Sunday morning, but then it fell overnight and was found and photographed by Colin Nash on the Monday morning.



Colin also took the beautiful picture below and the one on page 19.



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Sudoku Puzzle

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KrazyDad.com*

*The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.*

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

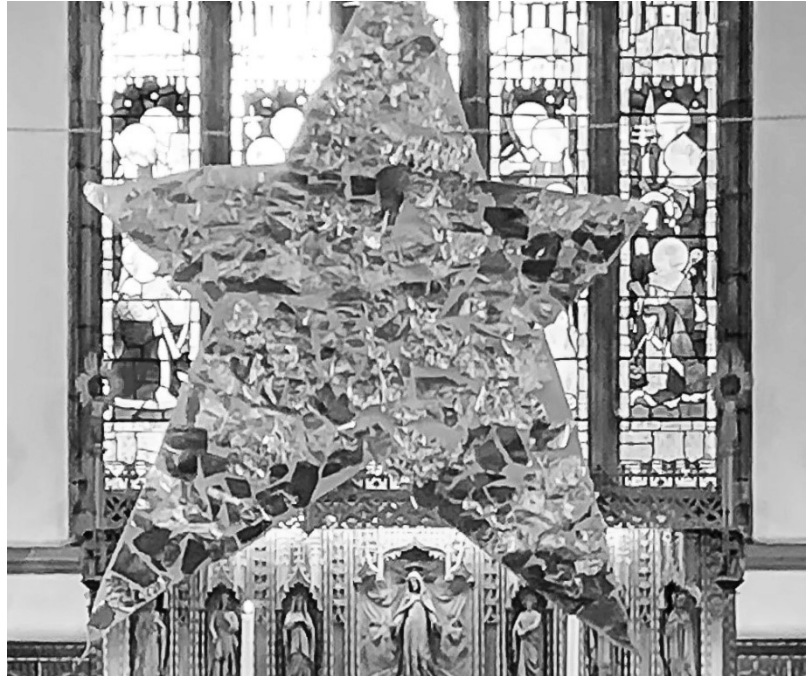
Diddy Disciples' Nativity Play

On the Sunday before Christmas, the Diddy Disciples presented their Nativity at the morning service. The editors managed to cram one picture into last month's magazine, but now here are a few more. The event featured.....

Thomas Pound as narrator,



and a magnificent star,



*plus four more Diddy Disciples
and a little adult help!*



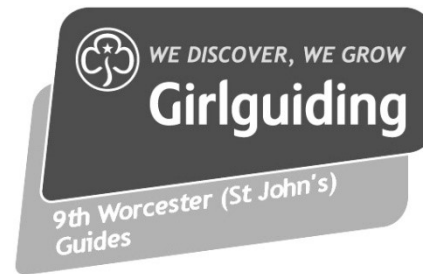


Everything was so different this time, but the children were just as excited as usual to celebrate Jesus' birth!

*Love,
Amy and family*



Guiding in lockdown



When I started thinking about what I was going to write in this article, I had a look back through all the photos I've taken of the Guides over the last year or so. Face-to-face meetings with all of the Guides at once and without any thought of social distancing now seem like a very distant memory, although of course we started 2020 with normal meetings and were only vaguely aware of a virus called

Covid-19. All too soon however Covid-19 became our day to day reality, and Guides, along with everything else, was locked down.

We have had to find new ways of Guiding over the last year, and as always the girls have risen to the challenge.



Initially we sent out a newsletter each week with activity suggestions including crafts, quizzes and other activities to do at home. Soon we were receiving photos of completed crafts, baking, and quiz answers, with many of the girls engaging well with the activities suggested. Some of the girls completed Interest badges or Challenge badges, and we had some younger siblings joining in too!

After Easter we ventured on to Zoom which meant we could talk to the girls again which was great, although not all the girls found managing Zoom particularly easy. It was good to have at least some contact with the girls, although they're far quieter on Zoom than they are in normal meetings!

Scavenger hunts worked well, as did Pictionary on the shared whiteboard, and one of the most popular activities over the summer was making mug cakes in the microwave.



In the summer holidays, as the restrictions eased, we were able to return to face-to-face meetings outside, and we had a lovely afternoon one Sunday in August with half a dozen of the girls in the church grounds doing a treasure hunt, litter-



picking, and lighting fires. In the autumn term we were able to meet indoors, and continued to meet at church as we were not allowed to meet in the Scout Hut, and we're very grateful to St John's for allowing us to do this!

Of course there were restrictions on how we met, we could have a maximum of fifteen girls only, so we split the Unit in half, meeting with the older girls one week, followed by the younger girls the next.

We all had to wear masks whilst inside, and do our best to keep socially distanced and ensure good hand hygiene.



We spent the first few meetings outside playing games and lighting fires, then as the evenings got darker we moved inside to use either the Blakefield Room or the north aisle of the church.

The girls decorated pebbles to represent what values and beliefs are most important to them, played games that involved them working together whilst keeping socially distanced, and finished the term with a Christmas party. Of course for most of November we had to return to Zoom due to the second lockdown, but we got a little more adventurous on Zoom and as well as trying various craft activities we had a pilates class via Zoom!

One of the things we worked on at Guides during the autumn term was the Investigating Interest Badge which has three clauses – be a forensic investigator, be a scientist, and be a journalist.

For the forensic investigator clause, we had planned to set up a crime scene in the church, but the second lockdown prevented this.



Undeterred, I set up a crime scene in my kitchen, and the girls solved the crime successfully over Zoom!

For the be a scientist clause we had two fantastic evenings at Nicholson Consulting at the Malvern Science Park finding out about microscopes, chromatography, and blood, amongst other things!

We're now facing another term of Guide meetings via Zoom, and

although I long for the time when we can meet face-to-face again, we are trying to make the best of it. We are planning a virtual tour of the Guiding World Centres over the next few weeks in the run up to World Thinking Day on the 22nd February. As you may remember from my previous articles, World Thinking Day is a day on which we think of all the 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the world, and how, if we work together, we can make a difference.

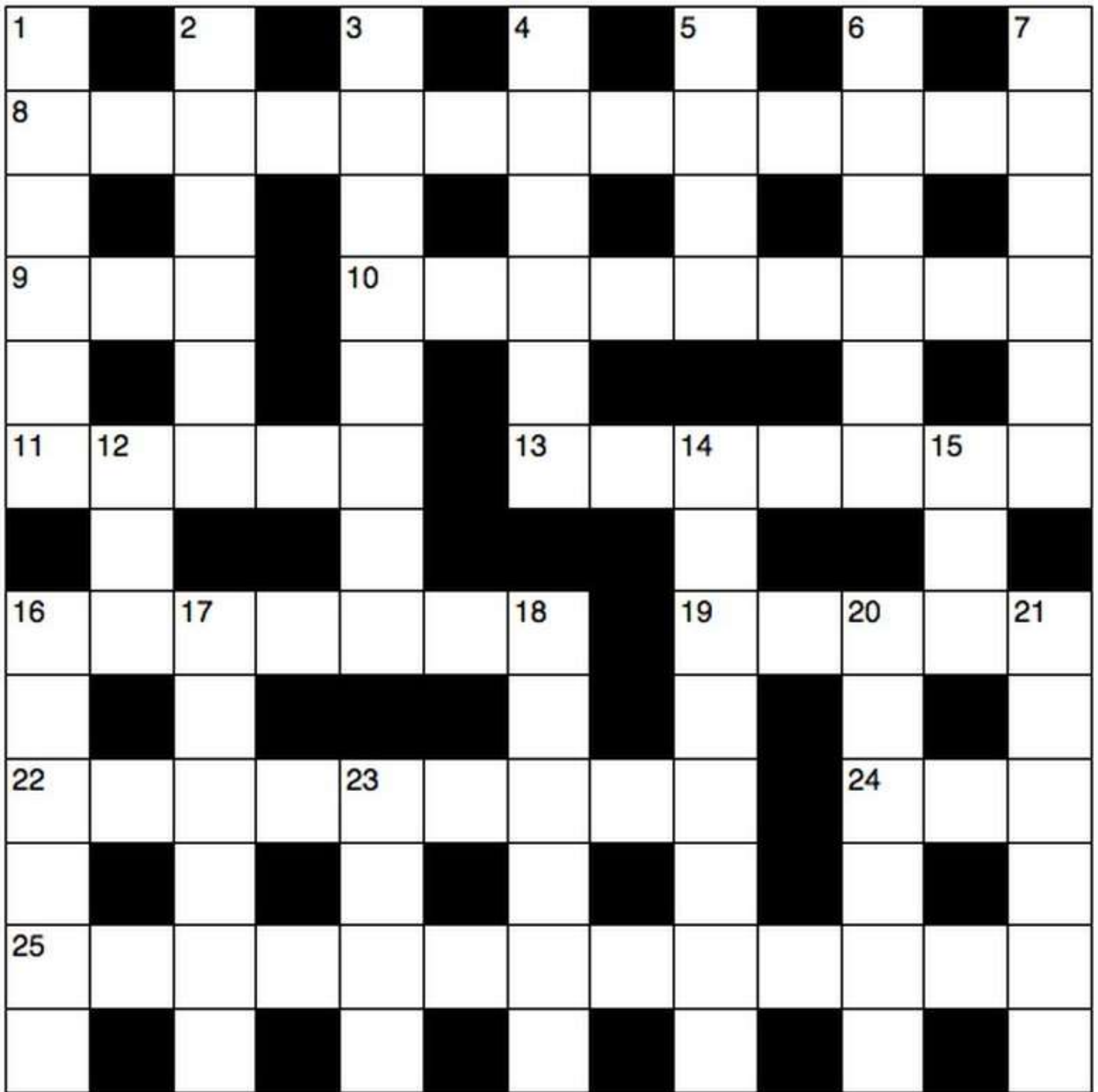
Working together is the theme for this magazine, and I've been reflecting on how the girls have done this over the last year, even though we've not been able to meet as normal. At a time when essentially we've all been separated, I think we have managed to maintain a team spirit, even if we haven't always been able to work together directly. The e-mails and pictures I've received from the girls and their parents have kept me going through what has been – and continues to be – a very difficult time at work. The way in which the girls have adapted to different ways of meeting has been brilliant. They've worked well together on Zoom, from things as simple as being honest about who shouted out an answer first if I couldn't work it out (it's hard when you can't see them when you're sharing the whiteboard!), to more complicated activities like working in teams to storyboard a story for the rest of the girls to guess. When we have been able to meet face-to-face they've put up uncomplainingly with having to wear masks, wash or sanitise their hands regularly, and sit apart – even if they need a bit of reminding about social distancing from time to time!

Hopefully it won't be too long before our Guide meetings return, I'm sure that initially there will be restrictions, but I'm keeping everything crossed that we'll be back to 'normal' in the not too distant future. Until then we will continue working together to find different ways to keep the Guiding flame burning!



Liz Forman

Crossword



Across

- 8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)
- 9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)
- 10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)
- 11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)
- 13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)
- 16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

- 19 ‘Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices’ (Romans 12:1) (5)
- 22 David’s plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: ‘On — — let them escape’ (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)
- 24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1)
- 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

- 1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)
- 2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)
- 3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)
- 4 ‘Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but — him as if he were your father’ (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)
- 5 One of Esau’s grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)
- 6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)
- 7 God’s instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ‘ — salt to — your offerings’ (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)
- 12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)
- 14 ‘All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me’ (Psalm 56:5) (8)
- 15 The crowd’s reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow’s son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)
- 16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)
- 17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn’t rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)
- 18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)
- 20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)
- 21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6)
- 23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

The solution is on page 43.



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Developing our Deaneries



Following extensive consultation during 2020, a new Deanery structure launched on 1st February 2021. This article summarises our thinking and outlines how we might re-imagine Deaneries and Deanery Synods.

What is a deanery for?

Deaneries play a significant part in the life of the Church of England. A fully functioning deanery is so much more than the work of the Deanery Synod.

Deaneries provide an opportunity for parishes to come together and support one another in ways that are not possible across a whole diocese. They can lift the horizon of clergy and lay people beyond the parochial and even multi-benefice groups to wider issues and opportunities for mutual support and engagement in God's mission.

As we grow as Kingdom People – breathing fresh life and purpose into our deaneries is essential if the Church is to respond to the challenges and opportunities that surround us.

Our hope for deaneries is that they strengthen to become local networks of churches, characterised by mutually supportive relationships, collaborating together on mission planning and joining up to serve their communities.

Shared leadership

The sharing of leadership begins with the cure of souls in each parish being shared between the Bishop and the incumbent. It continues with each PCC sharing responsibility for the life of the parish with the incumbent.

The Deanery Leadership Team will have between 4 and 6 members including the four key roles of Area Dean, Lay Chair, Deanery Secretary and Deanery Treasurer.

The Deanery Leadership Team should also model shared leadership. It is to be led by the re-named Area Dean with support from the Lay Chair, and undertakes the following four key tasks:

- Enabling churches across the deanery to collaborate and support one another, sharing in mission and ministry across the area.

Continued on page 31

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Continued from page 29

- Helping churches across the deanery understand what it means to be healthy and sustainable and to work towards this, facilitating local discussions as appropriate to ensure thinking is not limited to within existing parish boundaries.
- Being effective as a Deanery Synod – engaging with Deanery wide mission and ministry planning, building relationships and effective collaboration whilst managing business efficiently and carrying out necessary business.
- Acting as a conduit to and from the wider diocese, reflecting local needs, joys and challenges within the diocesan context.

Deanery purposes

Our Deaneries will be characterised by three overlapping and complementary purposes. Different deaneries will have varying needs over time, and will look and feel different, but our hope is that each deanery is characterised by:

Mutually Supportive Relationships:

- Churches collaborate in offering a range of opportunities for worship – including new and creative ones. Diversity is seen as encouraging. Mutual support is of particular importance during vacancies.
- Hosting healthy support forums for different groups – not just Clergy chapters, but as appropriate for Readers, PCC treasurers and secretaries, or Parish Safeguarding Representatives.
- Developing mutual support and encouragement for churches, including establishing good ecumenical relationships.
- Encouraging the sharing of expertise, including administrative support.
- Encouraging locally accessible training events for laity and clergy.

Effective Mission Planning

- Taking an area view of the deanery to consider churchgoing and community; and to develop plans at a deanery level. These plans honour and encourage effective local initiatives, and identify ways of enabling them to be even more effective on a wider canvas.
- Developing specific initiatives and projects – both one off events and ongoing commitments, including the formation of new worshipping communities.

Continued on page 33



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- Finding collaborative ways to engage with groups and organisations which are wider than benefices, such as schools and local councils.
- Enabling the Church to connect with people who relate to local networks and not to places.
- Identifying and facilitating partnerships among churches.

Serving and Transforming Communities

- Understanding and addressing social issues across the deanery, for example through food-banks, debt services, dementia support.
- Supporting parishes and benefices with the tools and training to engage effectively with local communities and their specific needs, in both rural and urban settings.
- Enabling straightforward partnering opportunities with local councils and other agencies working for regional community transformation.

Deanery Synod

The primary role of the Deanery Synod will be to work with the Deanery Leadership Team in enabling the deanery to flourish in these three purposes.

Deanery Synods have business that they are legally required to do – but not that much! An effective Deanery Synod will be the coming together of the church across an area – sharing joys and sorrows, finding new ways to collaborate and support one another, and mapping out the road ahead.

Resourcing

As well as meeting expenses of office, each Deanery Leadership Team will be offered a contribution towards the cost of administrative support.

Additional support will be available to help with training and deanery based mission initiatives. This will come from trust funds and from reallocating budgets so there is no additional cost to Parish Share.

Training will be delivered at diocesan level for Area Deans and Lay Chairs, and locally delivered material will be made available for members of Deanery Leadership Teams, Deanery Synods and PCCs.

Vacancy.

Your business could be advertised here.

See page 14 for details.

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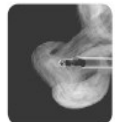
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Who wrote 'King of glory, king of peace'?

February opens on the 1st with Brigid (or Bridget), purported to be a contemporary of Patrick whose legend seems to be mixed up with that of a pagan, Celtic mother-goddess of the same name and thus contains some distinctly bizarre elements.



The distinctive cross of St Brigid

The 2nd is the feast of Candlemas, or the Presentation in the Temple, or the Purification, marking the story in Luke where Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem and they encountered Simeon and Anna. This also brings the Christmas season to an end and marks the return to Ordinary Time.

Anskar, ninth-century archbishop of Hamburg and later Bremen, as well as a missionary in Scandinavia, falls on the 3rd. On the 4th we remember Gilbert of Sempringham, eleventh-century founder of the Gilbertine order, England's only indigenous monastic order with its mother house in Gilbert's Lincolnshire home town.

The Accession of Queen Elizabeth II, as supreme governor of the Church of England, is marked on the 6th, as the Queen completes 69 years on the throne. Also on that day, we recall the Martyrs of Japan, Christians crucified at Nagasaki in 1597.



St Teilo in Holy Trinity Church, Abergavenny

The 7th is this year the Second Sunday before Lent. The rest of February is then rather quiet. Teilo, a contemporary of David and one of the patron saints to whom Llandaff Cathedral is dedicated, is commemorated in Wales on the 9th.

The splendidly-named Scholastica, sister of Benedict of Nursia and founding abbess of Plombariola (Italy), falls on the 10th. Ignoring the claims of the semi-mythical figure adopted as the patron of nauseating commercialism on the 14th, we instead should celebrate Cyril and Methodius, Greek missionaries to the Slavs; Cyril was responsible for devising an alphabet for Slavonic (hence the Cyrillic alphabet) and translating the scriptures into that previously unwritten language. Sadly, they are displaced this year by the Sunday Next before Lent.

Continued on page 37

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Continued from page 35

On the 15th, there is a choice between Sigfrid, an eleventh-century missionary sent by King Æthelred to evangelise Norway and Sweden, and Thomas Bray, founder of SPCK in 1698.

Janani Luwum, the archbishop of Uganda murdered by Idi Amin's regime in 1977, is normally remembered on the 17th, but in 2021 he loses out to Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

The Scots recall Colman, bishop of Lindisfarne who led for the losing 'Celtic' side at the Synod of Whitby in 664, on the 18th. In Wales, the 20th is devoted to the Saints, Martyrs and Missionaries of Africa.

On the 21st we have the First Sunday of Lent.

The 23rd is the festival of Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna (modern Izmir in Turkey) and an early Christian martyr in 155. Finally, on the 27th, we recall George Herbert, the seventeenth-century priest and poet whose hymn 'King of glory, king of peace' is sung to this day.

The month finishes with the Second Sunday of Lent on the 28th.

Phil Bradford

Did you spot it?

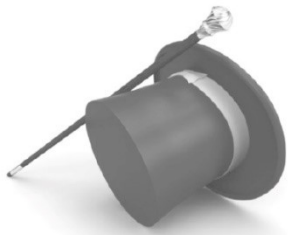


Eagle-eyed readers of the liturgical guide in the January magazine may have spotted the inconsistency in the spelling of the name of the 11th Century Bishop of Worcester - his name was spelt "Wulfstan" in the text, but it appears as "WULSTAN" in the accompanying picture of his window at the cathedral.

We asked Chris Guy, who is the Archaeologist at the Cathedral, about this. Apparently the change in spelling used happened around 1995 when research indicated that the original spelling was

"Wulfstan" and that "Wulstan" was a later medieval corruption of the name. Chris noted that spelling of names was not consistent until fairly recently and also that the letters f and s can look very similar on monumental inscriptions.

The Editors



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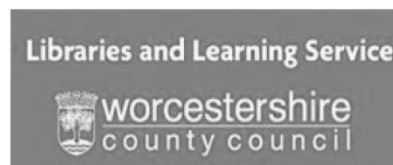
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From the magazine archive (February 1953)

JUMBLE SALE

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of the Girl Guides will be held on Saturday, February 7th, at 3 p.m. in the Parish Room. Please send gifts either to the Parish Room on the morning of the Sale or to Mrs. Withers, 33 Graham Rd.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

WE had a very good Party last month, but as usual the weather decided to behave badly. In spite of this the attendance was good, and everyone had a delightful time. We extend our thanks to the Committee for all the hard work they put in to it, and also for the wonderful spirit in which they worked.

You will be very glad to know that we have gone ahead and ordered the new Banner, as we have had the offer of half the cost from the daughter of one of our oldest members who recently passed on to Higher Service, namely Mrs. Taylor. It is very kind of her daughter to do this, and we are extremely grateful to her for her offer. It has enabled us to go ahead with confidence knowing that you will do your utmost to get the rest of the money. The Banner should be ready by July 1953 so what we aimed at is really coming to pass—to get a new Banner for 1953 Coronation Year, and we shall have it. I do thank you all and I know the Committee are with me when I say this, I know to many of you it means sacrificing, but rest assured it will be well worth while. E.A.C.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

OUR meetings have restarted and again we have full attendance, and I hope our programme for the coming year will be both interesting and beneficial to all of you. The first Tuesday in February we hope to have a visit from the Vicar, and on the 17th a Social afternoon, as this will be Shrove Tuesday, and one of the days we can make merry before Lent arrives. Our Services during Lent will be held in Church and will be taken by the Rev. H. M. Glasgow, of Kempsey, and after the service we shall go to Werneth Lodge for our cup of tea.

I know you will support this venture as you have done in the past. Lent is the time for our spiritual Spring Clean, and should bring us into closer touch with God.

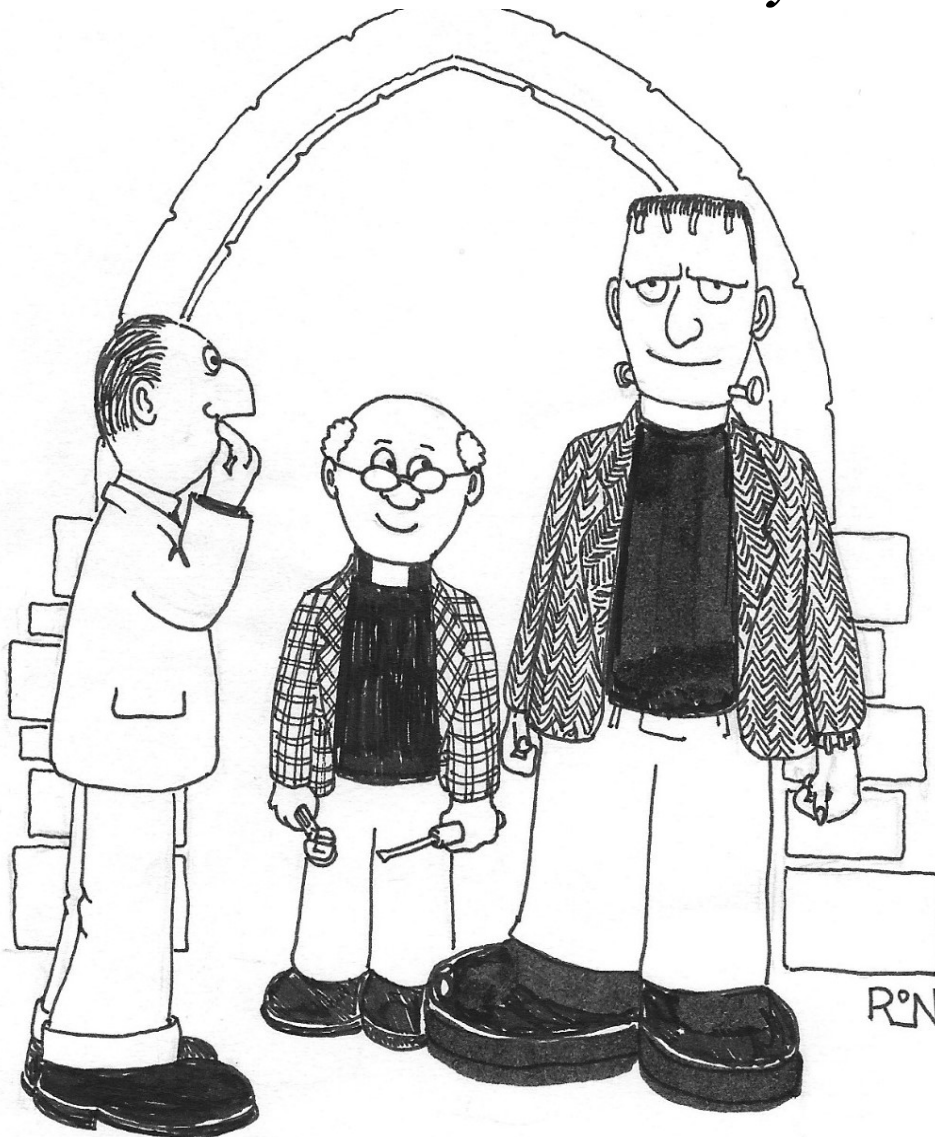
E.A.C.

Puzzle solutions

3	2	1	9	6	7	4	8	5
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5	7	9	2	4	8	3	1	6
7	5	4	6	9	2	8	3	1
6	8	3	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	1	2	4	8	3	6	5	7
4	6	8	1	7	9	5	2	3
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And finally....



*Church funds
would not
stretch to hiring
a security guard
to enforce social
distancing...*

*... so David had
made his own.*

*Image: Parish Pump
Caption: Graham Evans*

The information below is provisional at the time of going to press and 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.



Sunday Services in the West Worcester Group - February 2021

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
7th February	10.30am Eucharist 5pm See below **	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
14th February	10.30am Morning Worship **	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
21st February	10.30am Eucharist 5pm See below **	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
28th February	10.30am Morning Worship **	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
7th March	10.30am Eucharist 5pm See below **	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

**** Streamed services.** Please contact the clergy for them to email you a 'link' to attend via the internet.

At 5pm on 7th February, 21st February and (provisionally) 7th March, there will be a streamed service of Evening Prayer with hymns. There is no congregation in the church for these services; please do not turn up at the church!

The services of Morning Worship at St John's on 14th and 28th February are open to attend in person, but will also be streamed (for those of a shy nature - the congregation are NOT in view of the camera).