



St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine

February 2020

50p



Welcome to
St JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE
The Parish Church of St John's

St John's is far more than the most historic building on the Westside of Worcester; it is the centre of a worshipping and sociable community of people, and a resource for everyone in St John's.

The church is open most weekdays for people to drop in to visit or for quiet; to sit, pray or light a candle.

WEST WORCESTER CLERGY

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD

Day off

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL

Friday

Monday

CHURCHWARDENS

Gordon Templeton, Joy Job.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

These are the **usual** service patterns for each Sunday in the month. Please see the other notices or the Parish Magazine or website for the actual services in a month.

2nd Sunday in month	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist with Children's Worship
2nd Sunday in month		All Age Worship
1st & 3rd Sunday in month	5.00 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)
4th Sunday in month		Service of Wholeness and Healing
5th Sunday in month	Group service: See magazine back cover or other notices for location and time (usually 10am)	

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday to Saturday	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer (4pm during the winter months)
4th Saturday in month	10.15 a.m.	Cafe@10.15
Tuesday	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Thursday (at St Michael's)	10.30 a.m.	Eucharist (Modern language)

OTHER INFORMATION

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: If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact the PCC Safeguarding Representative, Jane Askew on 424811 or any member of the clergy.

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our February 2020 magazine. This month is a veritable pot pourri: The end of Epiphany (up to Candlemas on 2nd February), a period of Ordinary time, four days of Lent (starting with Ash Wednesday on 26th February) and finally the leap day (St Oswald) on 29th February. Our magazine reflects all of these aspects - we hope you will enjoy finding them and reading about them.

To match the pot pourri of church seasons, there's a huge variety of events going on in February - it's a good job there's an extra day to fit it all in! There are many events which we are used to; and a couple which are extra-ordinary:

On 9th February, there is a concert by Ensemble Burletta featuring Lucy Hewson (née Cantrill) - we hope you read the background article in last month's magazine.

On 29th February there's a table top sale - an opportunity to get rid of some bits and pieces that you don't want and also to come along and buy some things that you do want (while raising money for the church in the process).

Alongside the secular events, the worship life of the church also moves through these seasons, with special services for Candlemas (2nd February) and Ash Wednesday (26th February). See you there!

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Next edition (March): Deadline is Sunday 9th February. Available in church on Sunday, 23rd February.

Subscription form: Page 52.

Cover picture: St Oswald (Worcester Cathedral window) photographed by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who have contributed photographs for this magazine including Graham Evans, Joy Job, Colin Nash, and Amy Rees.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

Articles on all aspects of Christian and parish life, letters, jokes and anecdotes are welcome - do contribute if you can. If you have a story to tell, please make contact. Do include your name as anonymous contributions will not be considered. If you can, please use e-mail (address below left). The editors will always acknowledge items sent by email; please try again if you do not receive a response. Please send all written correspondence for the magazine to the Parish Office.

The magazine costs 50p to purchase and can be obtained from the back of church. Subscriptions are available at the discounted price of £5 per year; by subscribing you make things easier for our printing team as we know more closely how many copies to print.

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 52 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 PCC or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

To advertise

Please see page 36.

From Phil Bradford

As he lay dying at Newark in October 1216, his authority in tatters and his realm engulfed by civil war, King John made his will. In it, he stated his desire that his body be ‘buried in the church of the Blessed Virgin and St Wulfstan at Worcester’. His original intention had been burial at Beaulieu Abbey, a house he had founded and whose monks desperately sought his corpse, but by late 1216 Hampshire was deep in enemy territory. So John, along with the earliest surviving English royal will (still held by the Cathedral Library), made his last journey to Worcester, secure and dependable, to be laid to rest beside the last Anglo-Saxon bishop and his patron saint, in a tomb he still occupies.



Yet John was actually lowered into a grave located beside two of the three bishops of Worcester who had been canonised. Until the vandals of the Reformation did away with the saints’ shrines - even Henry VIII’s thugs would not dare to destroy a royal tomb in the cathedral where the king’s brother had been buried a few years earlier - King John’s tomb lay between those of St Oswald and St Wulfstan. Despite this, the subsequent centuries have treated the two saints very differently. Whereas St Wulfstan has been widely recognised and is a popular local saint, Oswald has been largely forgotten. Wulfstan’s feast day (19 January) merits a lesser festival in the Church of England calendar; Oswald’s (29 February, or 28 February in non-leap years) does not even feature.

However, Oswald does not deserve to languish in obscurity, for he made an important contribution to both local and national Christian history. Scandinavian by background, the nephew of Archbishop Oda of Canterbury (941-58), and for some years a monk in Fleury in central France, Oswald was a product of the mixture of cultures found in Anglo-Saxon England and succeeded to the bishopric of Worcester in 961. Together with the man he replaced at Worcester, Dunstan (translated to Canterbury), and Bishop Æthelwold of Winchester, Oswald was key in the tenth-century reforms which revitalised a church recovering from a century of Viking attacks, efforts for which all three would attain sainthood.

It seems likely that none of them were necessarily the most pastoral or friendly of men – Æthelwold in particular emerges as a rather unlikeable disciplinarian – but they were trying to bring new faith and hope back to an English church which had

suffered greatly and was in desperate need of rebuilding and a new direction. With the support of King Edgar, this trio were responsible for founding or re-founding a number of Benedictine monasteries and reviving monasticism.

At Worcester, Oswald was an active and committed bishop. He changed the cathedral from a secular one to a monastic one, building a new cathedral-monastery dedicated to St Mary, replacing the old one of SS Peter and Paul. The monastery survived until the Reformation, while the dedication remains alongside the later addition of Christ. Some traditions also trace the foundation of St Oswald's Hospital (now the almshouses) back to Oswald himself.

When Oswald became archbishop of York (971), he continued simultaneously as bishop of Worcester, a richer diocese, until his death at Worcester in 992. Buried in his new cathedral, he was quickly canonised and moved to a more splendid tomb, in which he still lay when King John became his neighbour 200 years later. Wulfstan may have replaced Oswald's cathedral and achieved greater renown, but his success built upon the work done by Oswald and others a century earlier.

It may seem a strange topic for a magazine letter, but Oswald's proper day only features in leap years, and his story is a reminder of how the history of our faith is built upon the stories of numerous people who responded to the call of their times.

Too often, we overlook how the Christian faith is not an ossified, unchanging text, but rather something endlessly changing and found in living people which changes across the centuries in response to how we perceive God acting in different periods of human history. Alongside the saints of great fame, it is worth remembering those who made a difference on a smaller stage.

Phil

Collect for Candlemas

(The presentation of Christ in the temple)

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever,
Amen.

In Memoriam February

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 2019

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

Aurora Lily Ingram

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

No weddings this month

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 25th November 2019 Aloma Beryl Narraway

d. 5th December 2019 Patricia Smith

DECEMBER SERVICES: Communicants 398. Total attendance all services 1401 (including 172 at funerals, memorials, weddings and baptisms outside the principal service).

A Collect from Ordinary Time (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.

Amen

St John in Bedwardine



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

At 10.15am on
Saturday 22nd February 2020 -

Thought for the Day by
Margaret Rutter.

Come and share with us and have a
little space for you in a busy weekend.

Jenny and Margaret.



West Worcester Anglican Group Churches
Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship & Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our February meeting is on
Saturday 8th February.

8.30am till 10.30am
St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room
Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



Little Lambs



Mondays in Term Time
10:00am to 12:00pm

FREE!

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

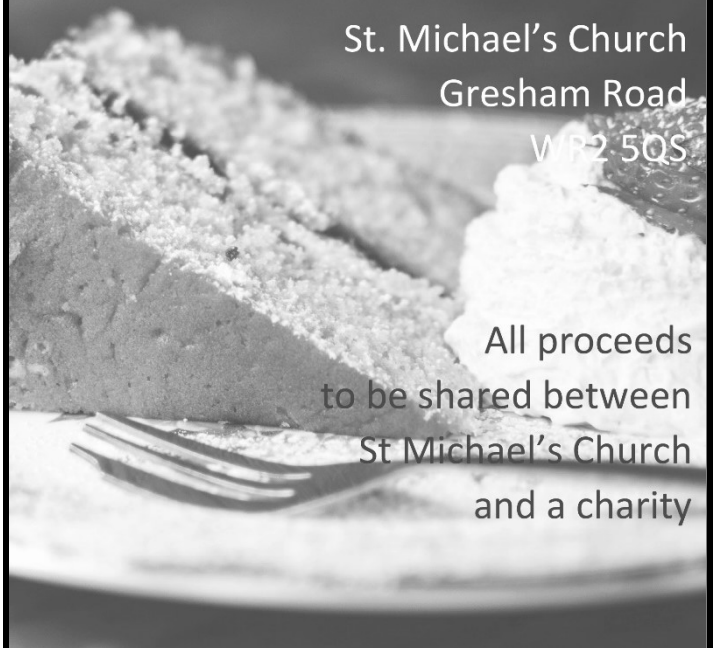
Birth to 4 years old and carers

Come and join the fun!

Coffee, Tea & Cake Afternoon

Wednesday 19th February
2pm to 4pm

St. Michael's Church
Gresham Road
WR2 5QS



All proceeds
to be shared between
St Michael's Church
and a charity

DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Please see the back cover for services on each Sunday.

Unless otherwise stated, the venue for all the events below is

St John's Church, or one of the church rooms.

Keep an eye on the "What's On" board at the back of church.

**See
page**

Saturday 1st February

3.00 p.m. Children's Activities (3-5.30pm) 15

Sunday 2nd February: Presentation of Christ in the temple (Candlemas)

Saturday 8th February

8.30 a.m. Women's Breakfast. 7

Sunday 9th February: Third Sunday before Lent

3.00 p.m. Concert by chamber music group Ensemble Burletta 12

Friday 14th February

1.00 p.m. Discover History - the Roman Festival of Lupercalia 14

Sunday 16th February: Second Sunday before Lent

Wednesday 19th February

7.30 p.m. Craft Group (Blakefield Room) 15

Saturday 22nd February

10.15 a.m. Café@10:15 (Café Church). 7

Sunday 23rd February: Sunday next before Lent

Wednesday 26th February: Ash Wednesday

See opposite for Ash Wednesday services

Friday 28th February:

9.00 a.m. Coach trip to Cadbury World (spaces available - see opposite)

3.15 p.m. Fourth Friday Friendship Group (at 7 Manor Road)
(drop in from 3.15pm)

Saturday 29th February: Leap day (St Oswald)

10.00 a.m. Table top sale (10am until 12 noon) 9/13

FUTURE EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S

Friday 6th March, 1.45 pm: World Day of Prayer service 17

20th March: Discover History talk 14

Saturday March 7th: St John's Community Breakfast, 8.30am till 11.00am. 17

Everyone is invited to come and share breakfast with us. No charge.

Saturday 25th April: Coach trip to Oxford 14

Saturday 27th June: Coach trip to Lacock village and abbey 14

WEEKDAY COMMUNION SERVICES

Every week:

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

Thursday St Michael's 10.30am. (Common Worship, modern language)

Ash Wednesday (26th February):

10.30 a.m. Eucharist at St Michael's

The Ash Wednesday services are all

6.30 p.m. Eucharist at St Clement's

Common Worship Eucharists with

7.30 p.m. Sung Eucharist at St John's

imposition of ashes

SOME EVENTS AT THE OTHER CHURCHES

Wednesday

5th February

St David's: Coffee morning, 10.30am - 12noon

Monday

17th February

St Michael's: 2.30pm: Mother's Union

Wednesday

19th February

St Michael's: Coffee, Tea and Cake Afternoon, 2-4pm

Saturday

22nd February

St David's: Café Church, 3pm, theme Lent

All the events information is correct at the time of going to press, but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.

Table Top Sale

Celebrate Leap Year Day with a good clearing out of your cupboards in readiness for spring! If you have any items for our church table or if you wish to have your own table (£10) then do please come and join us on Saturday 29th February from 10am until 12 noon.

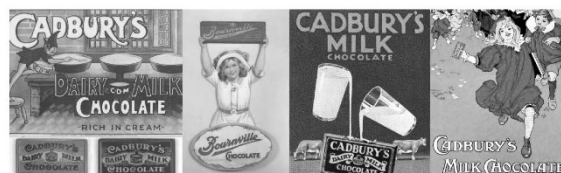
If you would like to help with refreshments or generally then please get in touch. please contact me by email: joy.job@btinternet.com

This venture is to raise much needed funds for our church. Any unsold but suitable items will be taken to St Richard's Hospice.

Joy Job

Coach trip

Heritage Cadbury



Heritage Cadbury

A tour of Bournville with a Cadbury guide. Learn about the family and history of the Cadbury village. Followed by an adult tour of Cadbury World to learn about chocolate production. The day is finished off with an afternoon tea of sandwiches and scone in the Cadbury Cafe. A final chance to visit the Cadbury shop makes this a very special trip.

Friday 28th
February

Total cost
approx £35

Coach will leave
St John's
approx 9am

Church Directory

CLERGY

Team Rector designate	Rev'd Phil Bradford	01905 423794
Vicar of St John's and St Michael's	phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	
Team Vicar designate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill	01905 426257
Vicar of St Clement's	sarah.cottrill@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	
Rural Dean	Rev'd Anne Potter	01886 832355
	revannepotter@gmail.com	

ST JOHN'S PCC OFFICERS

Churchwardens	churchwardens@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Gordon Templeton	gordtemp@btinternet.com	749025
Joy Job	joy.job@btinternet.com	423051
PCC Lay vice-chair	Sue Bale	423257
	Liz Edwards	420490
PCC Secretary	pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Treasurer	Chris Rees	
	treasurer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	

THE MAGAZINE

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August. It costs 50p to purchase and can be obtained from the back of church. Subscriptions are available at the discounted price of £5 per year.

If you would like to subscribe, please see page 52 or contact the parish office and leave details of your name and address. If you wish to advertise, please see page 36 and contact Sue Hussell (details below).

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. Include your name as anonymous contributions will not be considered.

Editors	Sue & Graham Evans	428667
	magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Advertising	Sue Hussell	01684
	sue.hussell@talktalk.net	893397
Subscriptions	To the Parish Office	
Distribution co-ordinator	Mary Hancock	

ST JOHN'S CHURCH - OTHER CONTACT POINTS

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Press Officer	Liz Edwards	420490
	pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
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	Peter Yates	422565
Music Group	pjyates194@btinternet.com	
	Tracey Ward	07961
Tower Captain	bellringers@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
		745628
Church Flowers	Eileen Cantrill	422579
Webmaster	webmaster@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	

OUR CHURCH

St John-in-Bedwardine Church is an active Anglican church which has its roots in the Norman period. The church is open daily, as a haven of peace at a busy road junction in the St. Johns area of Worcester. The church was originally built in 1165 as 'The Chapel of St John' – the parish church then being St. Cuthbert's in Lower Wick. When the church of St Cuthbert's was demolished in 1370, St John's became the parish church.



OUR CHILDREN

See page 54 for the readable version of this poster showing our groups and activities for children at St John's Church.



Farewell to Vienna: A New Beginning

Ensemble Burletta
Music for clarinet and strings



Bach-Mozart - Fugues
Gál - Clarinet Quintet
Horovitz - Concertante
Brahms - Clarinet Quintet

**3pm Sunday 9 February
2020**

St John-in-Bedwardine
Church
1A Bromyard Road
Worcester WR2 5BS

Tickets £12 / £10 concessions,
under 18's free

from **Worcester Live Box Office**
Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate
01905 611427
worcesterlive.co.uk

or on the door

Tea, coffee and cake served during the interval

St John in Bedwardine

WE'RE HAVING A

TABLE TOP SALE

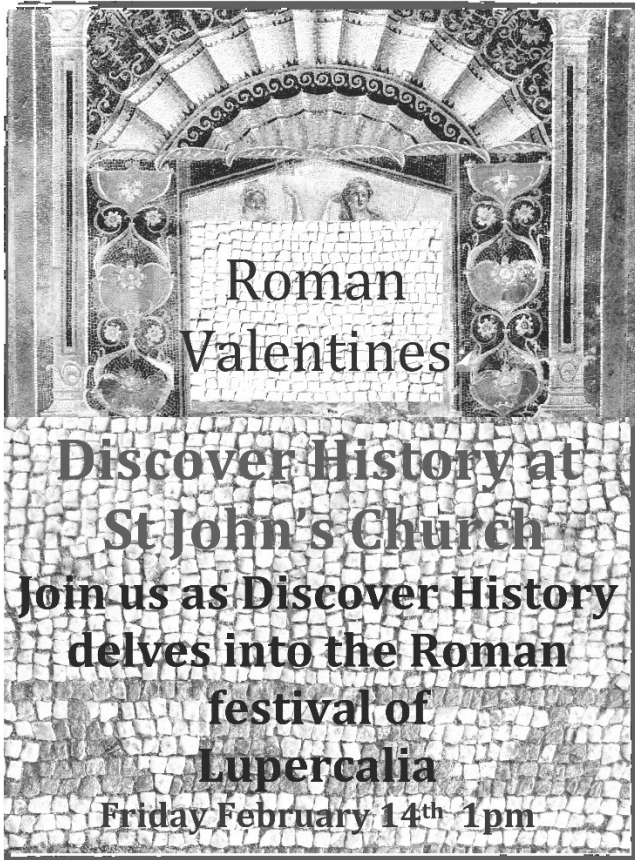
SATURDAY 29TH FEBRUARY

10AM TO 12NOON

With Refreshments

***Book a table for £10. Contact the Parish Office on
01905 420490 or email joy.job@btinternet.com***

Friday 14th February 1pm



Roman Valentines

Discover History at St John's Church

Join us as Discover History delves into the Roman festival of Lupercalia

Friday February 14th 1pm

As always a free talk with donations welcomed

Friday 20th March 1pm

The Spitfire and its role in the Battle of Britain with Discover History at St John's Church



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CARRY THE STORY FORWARD

Coach trips 2020

The dreaming spires of Oxford



A free day to explore the dreaming spires, the Botanical Gardens or one of the fascinating museums or galleries.

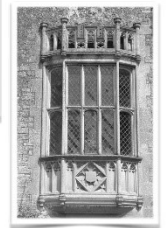
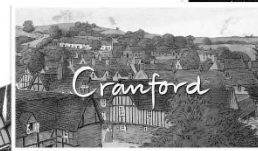
There may be an opportunity to visit one of the colleges but numbers would be restricted and on a first come basis.

Saturday 25th April

Approx cost £20

Coach will leave St John's Church

Lacock Village and Abbey



A real must for fans of a period drama or Harry Potter. Downton Abbey, Pride and Prejudice, Cranford and Wolf Hall all had scenes filmed here in this beautiful N.T. Village. A photography buff? Fox Talbot lived in the Abbey so you can see his famous Oriel Window.

Saturday 27th June

Approx cost
Coach only £15
Inc the Abbey for non members
£30

Coach will leave St John's Church at 9am

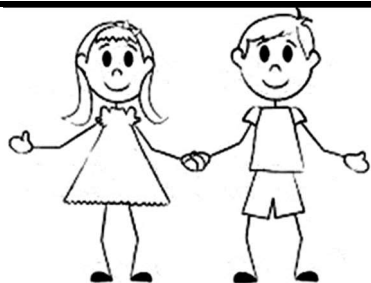
Craft News

Our next session will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 19th February 2020 in the Blakefield Room. Feel free to come along or telephone 424811, for details. The cost is £5.00 to include refreshments and all materials.

We started off 2020 making sure we had some cards ready for the year. For February we will be making something for the home.

We always welcome new ideas so if you have a craft you would like to share with us, let us know. We aim to finish what we are making in the session so that we don't have any more unfinished projects in our cupboards.

Brenda Price and Jane Askew



Children's Saturday Activities

The next children's activities will be on Saturday 1st February 2020, 3.00pm – 5.30pm.

At our January session, we started with lots of discussions about Christmas and our gifts. We then thought about the New Year in front of us. We thought about the quote, 'God's gift to you, 365 brand new days. How will you use them for Him?'

This started a talk about how we can help other people. The children are interested in The Foodbank, they understand how it works and why it is needed. They all realised how lucky they are. They are keen to support the Foodbank and we are looking at ways we can do this as a group.

Our craft activity was making pom-poms, the children could make them into a bookmark or just for decoration. We had a few disasters when the pom-poms opened up all over the floor!

The February session will be thinking about Valentine and sharing God's love with everyone around us.

The Saturday Group

Hymns for occupations

Crown Him with many crowns...

Dentist

The Church's one foundation...

Builder

There is a green hill far away...

Golfer

Let all mortal flesh keep silent...

Librarian

Welcome to a new advertiser

Holiday in tranquillity

Set in the peaceful gentle undulating countryside in the southern part of the Gers region of South West France, near to Marciac, our two self-catering holiday units are spacious and fully equipped for up to 4 or 6 persons.

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- Contact John or Joy Errey on johnerrey@hotmail.com for more information.
- Facebook page- Marciac Gites-SouthWest France Holidays



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VIKING GARDEN SERVICES

Do you need a hand with the gardening or have a garden which needs a bit of an overhaul? I'm a qualified horticulturalist with over 40 years' experience and would love to come and help you out.

So whether you need a help with mowing, digging, weeding, strimming, pruning, trimming, cutting back or any other garden jobs, then please call me. I offer competitive rates and no job is too big or too small!

Call Kevin on 01905 767923

M: 07741 496210

E: kevin@lingermadsen.co.uk

Facebook: Viking Garden Services



World Day of Prayer

All will be welcome at the Westside 2020 World Day of Prayer Service to be held at St John's Church at 1.45pm on Friday 6th March. Members of Westside churches and our music group will be taking part in the service which this year focuses on Zimbabwe.

As we participate in this service, we are part of a great wave of prayer encircling the globe, which begins as the sun rises over Samoa and ends some 36 hours later back in the Pacific as the sun sets over American Samoa. We will be joining with people in over 120 countries and islands around the world.

Each year the service is written by a different country. This year it has been prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe who call us to "Rise! Take up your mat and walk". We are encouraged to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future and invite us to support them as they continue their often-turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.'

Other World Day of Prayer services in Worcester include the main Worcester City service at The United Reformed Church, Albany Terrace at 10.30am and an evening service at The Quaker Meeting House at 6.30pm.

Sally Mills

St John's Community Breakfast

The next community breakfast is taking place on Saturday March 7th from 8.30am. Everyone is welcome to come and share with us. We will have bacon, eggs, black pudding, baked beans plus tea, coffee and toast.

We will set up on Friday 6th at 6pm.

Jenny English



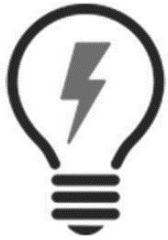
You are invited....

Christopher Whitehead Language College and Sixth Form has once again extended an invitation for members of the community to come along to its Impetus Programme of visiting speakers.

The next event is:

Wednesday 18th March, 3.20pm. Prof. Michael Scott, University of Warwick
Delphi: Centre of the Ancient World.

If you wish to attend, please telephone 423906 and leave a message for Beth Morgan, the programme co-ordinator, or email her on b.morgan@cwlc.email.



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07432 465649**

or visit: www.languageforfun.org

New classes starting in St John's

It's t-hat time again

Last year over £2,000 was raised for Age UK Worcester and District by people knitting or crocheting tiny hats. These hats were sent to Innocent Drinks to appear on their bottles in the shops. Age UK Worcester and District received 25p for every knitted hat. Some of you kindly knitted some of these hats and helped to raise this fantastic sum.

The scheme is starting again this year. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting and would like to support a local charity you can help by making hats. Every hat counts!

A simple pattern is included below. Crochet patterns and more knitting patterns can be found online at <http://www.thebigknit.co.uk/knitting-patterns>



Using double knitting yarn and some small (size 8 or 9) needles, cast on 28 stitches. Knit 2 rows.

Then, starting with a knit row, work in stocking stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row, knit 1 row etc) for 12 more rows.

For the next row, knit 2 together to the end (14 stitches). And for the row after that, purl 2 together to the end (7 stitches).

When you've finished, cut the yarn leaving about 25cm.

Thread the cut end of the yarn through a sewing needle, run it through the loops and remove the knitting needle. Tighten the yarn and sew the little hat together at the side. Once finished, turn it right-side out so that the seam you've just sewn runs up the inside.

When laid out flat, the hat dimensions should be about 5-7cm along the bottom and at least 3cm high. Optionally, sew a little bobble onto the top of the hat.

Please return hats to me, or leave them in the parish office.

Age UK Worcester and district helps over 50s in Worcester love later life. See their website <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/worcesteranddistrict/> on the services they offer, and their activities and events.

Sue Evans



La Fleur Florist

Weddings Funeral Tributes Everyday Flowers
Corporate Flowers Special Occasions
Garden Plants

Victoria Phelps
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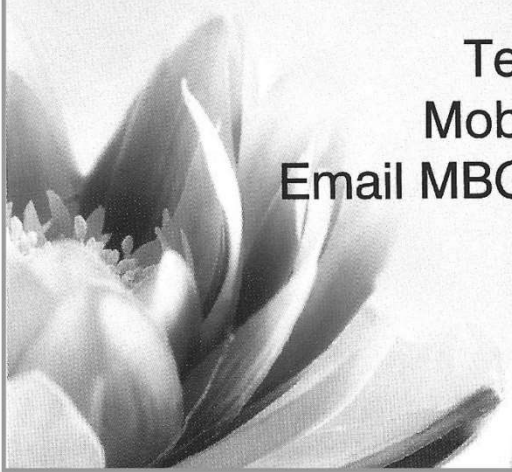
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Christmas thank yous

For those who helped:

On behalf of Gordon and myself, we would like to say a belated 'thank you' to all of you who helped with welcoming, candle lighting and extinguishing, furniture moving, baking and providing of numerous mince pies and serving of refreshments, washing up and generally tidying away after the various Advent and Christmas services.

Your help and support were greatly appreciated by us both and ensured that the wonderful services went smoothly, without mishap, and were enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Joy Job

For the twelve days of Christmas pictures:

How many times did you sing the 12 days of Christmas? I hope you had a chance to see the collection of photographs along with the biblical explanation in the south aisle!

Our thanks to Colin Nash for his creative images of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Joy Job

For the Christmas flowers:



Thank you to our flower team who made the church look absolutely amazing over Christmas. The flower displays were stunning.

I heard many complimentary comments about them.

Graham Evans

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Have you noticed a difference?

The coffee we use at church has changed. We are still getting it from Indigo Valley, but we are now using ‘Coffee of Angels’ instead of ‘Rain Forest Coffee’. Indigo Valley describe this coffee as “A smooth and balanced coffee, light and silky with notes of roasted nut, dark chocolate and subtle peach, and a clean sweet finish.”

Coffee of Angels is made by a cooperative of women in Peru. The cooperative is run by women for women and so the money goes to raise their children and help with schooling.

Jenny English

We certainly noticed the difference!

On the Saturday morning before Christmas the Flower Team were joined by some willing helpers to decorate the church so beautifully. It was good to get together again after our break during Advent but we were very sorry that Eileen was not able to be with us. However the morning quickly flew by and we were able to enjoy a well-earned coffee break!

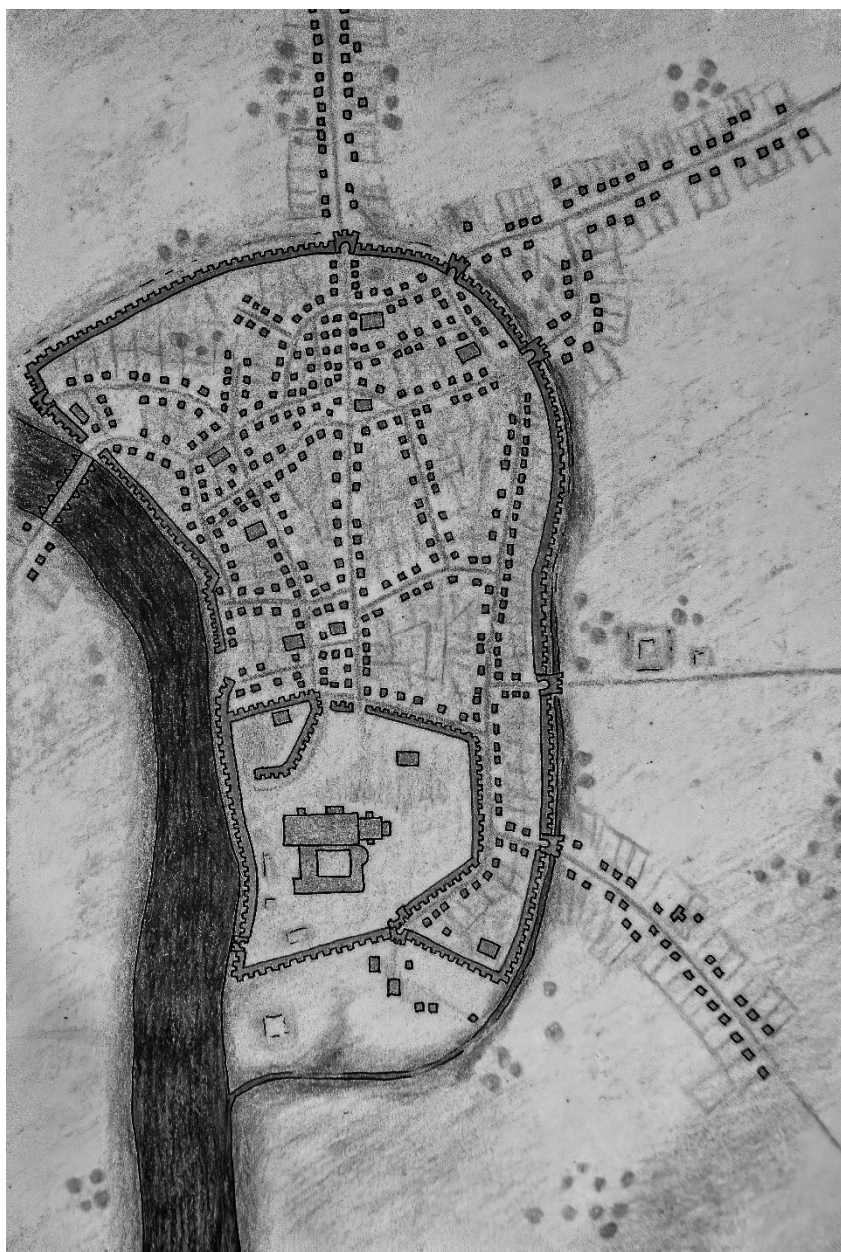


We were very grateful for the donations for the flowers which were given in memory of loved ones, and also for all the variegated greenery and berried holly. I’m sure you’ll agree that the church looked splendid.

Joy Job

Discover History – Oliver Cromwell and Christmas

Over 80 people turned up to hear Paul Harding talk about Oliver Cromwell and whether he banned Christmas. He started by asking whether we had heard about the banning of Christmas and if we thought Oliver Cromwell was responsible. There was a mixed response, but some had heard and thought that he was responsible for it.



Paul set out to show that Oliver Cromwell was a great man, from a humble background, but that most people only see him as bad. His military tactics are still studied at Sandhurst as good examples of strategy and tactics. In 1642 Worcester, shown in the map on the left was described as a den of thieves. There was a great period of collecting funds for the Royalists at the start of the Civil War as the Parliamentarians had London with the Royal Mint and all the defensive weapons in the Tower of London. In 1646 there was a major siege where there was a lot of destruction in the City and St Johns. Worcester was the last places to surrender to the New Model Army.

The Puritans wanted the purification of the Church so that it could go back to its roots. They wore humble plain clothes. Cromwell was a member of the Puritan church but not a leader of it. The Puritans handed out a lot of pamphlets during the Civil War targeting things that they did not like, such as horse racing, (“sin to waste money”), and the theatre (“house of vice”), and sports such as bull-baiting and cock-fighting (“gambling”).

The Puritans said that the Civil War happened to cleanse the sins of the country. The world seemed to be ending to people then, with lots of disease being rife and there was a mini ice age so there was a lot of strife and unrest.

Mummers plays were often put on in the streets but by this time the plays were nothing more than a ‘pub crawl with a script.’ Originally these plays were about religious themes but by the time of the Civil War they were horrific plays with murders and lots of drinking. Here Paul has one of the Mummers masks.



One pamphlet, ‘The Complaint of Christmas’, was aimed at Christmas as it was sinful, because there were a lot of links to pagan rites. For example, the eagle on many church lecterns is a throwback to pagan times as it was the messenger of the gods.

Even the date of 25th December was of concern as Pope Julius the first, a human, created the date as the birth of Christ in the 3rd or 4th century as he wanted a Christian festival to counteract the pagan winter festivals.

The puritans also did not like the name “Christmas” as it was a Catholic derivation from Christ Mass.

They were against having to buy expensive candles to celebrate Christmas, as this was a waste of money. People normally burnt cheap bulrushes dipped in animal fat. Holly, ivy and mistletoe are brought into the houses during Christmas, all of which have pagan origins.

Christmas was also a time of great feasting and a medieval feast could have 26 courses, which again is very wasteful, and expensive. Goose was the main celebratory bird. They also believed that people drank too much.

All this was making those people who had little money scrimp and save to celebrate Christmas and, of course, commit all the sins the Puritans associated with Christmas.



Following these pamphlets, in 1647 there was an Act of Parliament banning the celebration of Christmas. This Act was renewed each year until 1658. The Civil War was very important for relationship between Parliament and the Monarchy and we still have the effects of it now. For example, the Monarch must ask to enter Parliament and the Army is controlled by Parliament and not the Monarch.

By 1651 Cromwell was in charge of the New Model Army and therefore he got the blame for the banning of Christmas even though he was not in charge when the original Act of Parliament was enacted. Cromwell is known to have celebrated Christmas at least twice during the period of the ban; this is known from the Cromwell family records.

When Charles II was re-instated, he brought back all the good times and in 1660 the Act of Parliament banning Christmas was repealed.

As usual the ladies of the church provided a wonderful selection of cakes, and trifle, together with copious amounts of tea and coffee! Being December, there was a Christmas theme to the cake selection.

Colin Nash



***Sudoku
Puzzle***

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KrazyDad.com

*The solution
is on page
53.*

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

Epiphany Tart (Galette des Rois)



With tea and coffee on the morning of Epiphany Sunday, members of the congregation had some slices of a very special tart available for them.

This is a French traditional tart of two layers of flaky pastry with frangipane (a bit like soft marzipan) in between. In each tart is put a ceramic figurine, which each year has a different theme (this year - the crèche).

This tradition has its historical basis in the period of time when what we now call France (then called Gaul) was occupied by the Romans. They had a tradition associated with the festival of Saturnalia where the bakers made a



round soft bread which was coated with sugared egg paste to resemble the flaming sun. At the festival feast the bread was distributed by slaves to the important guests who were seated at the high tables. Failure to do this in the correct order could lead to being put to death! So better to get it right!





In France, for the time of Epiphany, French bakers (from the small boulangeries to the big supermarkets) make the Epiphany gateau. Some 32 million of these gateaux are eaten in France each year!!

With families, at home, a child, hidden under the table, makes the choice of which slice is given to which guest. Anyone who gets the figurine is given the honour of being Le Roi (King) or La Reine (Queen) for the day!

Each gateau comes with a card crown - the honoured guest wears it during the meal!

At St John's on Epiphany Sunday we had one figurine in each of the several tarts - so we had quite a few crowns and quite a few kings/queens.



Worth noting too - there are avid collectors of the figurines ("fevres") - some historically important ones command high prices!

We hope that everyone appreciated this little taste of *Épiphanie à la Française* at St John's this year, and thank you to Margaret for making them!

Arthur Miller

Children's Worship

The Diddy Disciples have been starting to learn about Epiphany. We started out by following the star to Bethlehem with the Magi. We made our own stars and thought about the hard journey the Magi had to find Jesus. Next, we will find out about the gift Jesus was given and then John the Baptist. The Explorers (ages 7 and up or KS2/3) have been looking at the readings from the Sunday services and have also been thinking about Epiphany.

Please do sign up to our visiting rota as we would love to welcome you to one of our children's worship groups. Don't forget that the older children would love to welcome you into Explorers as well. There are sign-up sheets at the back of church or speak to Amy, Fiona or Chris.

If you would like to help out in either of the children's worship groups (however frequently!) or think you know someone who would enjoy it, please speak to Amy, Fiona or Chris. We need helpers for both groups but there is real need at present with the older children.

Amy Rees and Fiona Templeton

Little Lambs



Hello,

Little Lambs started back on the 13th January with 43 children attending! It was so lovely to see everyone back after the Christmas break and the children enjoyed painting some masterpieces.

Over the next month we are going to make some birds, Valentines crafts and start (hopefully!) thinking about spring.

As always if you think you could help us, however frequently, please do get in touch!

*Speak soon,
Amy Rees and the Little Lambs team*

Notes from the Choir



Those whose birthdays fall on February 29th have especial cause to celebrate this year as they can enjoy the anniversary of their birth on the actual day, it being a leap year.

The premise of a special leap year birthday formed part of the story line in Gilbert and Sullivan's famous operetta, 'The Pirates of Penzance' and the date has certainly attracted its fair share of traditions and customs. Perhaps the most well known is the notion that on the 29th February women can ask a man to marry them rather than waiting for the man to make his move!

One of the most popular hymns that the choir gets asked to sing at weddings is: 'Lord of the Dance.' It has a folk-like feel and is so well known that it seems to have been around for a long time. It was however, written in 1963 by the English composer Sydney Carter. Perhaps its traditional feel comes from the music, which was based on the Shaker tune known as Simple Gifts.

The Shakers or Shaking Quakers came to prominence in the 18th century. They were a Christian sect known for their celibacy, their teaching of the imminent second coming of Christ and for dancing or 'shaking' in services. For the Shakers, dancing was a spiritual activity as mentioned in the Old Testament in such verses, from Psalm 149, as 'Let them praise his name in the dance.' It is a sect that many people associate with America, but one of their most important figures was born in Manchester. Ann Lee or Mother Ann as she became known emigrated to America and was influential in setting up Shaker churches there but she was born in England on the 29th February 1736.

Sydney Carter was a Quaker and took the theme of dancing and praising God in the dance for The Lord of the Dance. He used the Shaker tune to salute that heritage and the theme of the hymn is Christian life as a dance with Jesus as the leader, who 'dances that shape and pattern which is at the heart of our reality'. Carter went on to describe his hymn as 'a dancing kind of song, the life of which is in the dance as much as in the verbal statement.' The music itself has a joyous and uplifting rhythm and it is easy to sing and feel the energy of the phrases.

So to all those who are getting married in this leap year and those who are celebrating their special birth 'day' we wish you a very happy and joyous celebration with much music and dancing.

Luise Horrocks

Marcés Mailing December 2019



I bring you good news
that will cause great joy
for all the people.
(Luke 2:10)

Please pray for:

Juan Carlos & Penny: leading Jesús el Nazareno

Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in J el Nazareno and Diocese

Penny: Responsibilities in J el N and Children´s Ministry

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Jesús El Nazareno: for a desire to reach out to their
neighbours

Country of Peru: political tensions

(yes, the same as last time!)

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés Reynaldo Morón 215,
Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 33, PERU

Tel.+51-1- 448 - 8264. Email: psmarcesinlima@gmail.com

The February magazine may seem rather late for the December mailing to appear, but the December magazine was produced in November, and even for the January magazine the deadline was 8th December.

The editors

Dear friends

“The ends of the earth”.... Juan Carlos has just arrived back from Ushuaia (Argentina) in Tierra del Fuego, where he, along with representatives from other Anglican Dioceses and from CMS, celebrated the 150th anniversary of Waite Stirling’s consecration as Bishop of the Falkland Islands – the first Anglican Bishop consecrated in S America. He travelled to S America not long after the first Anglican missionary group, led by Allen Gardiner, died of starvation without seeing any conversions, and called himself “God’s lonely sentinel”, feeling God’s call to preach the Gospel to the local people (Yagán) rather than working with English-speaking colonies. The prefab house he had, ordered from UK at a cost (in 1869) of £300, was later transferred to Chile. There is no longer an Anglican presence in Ushuaia BUT there are several evangelical churches who all know their roots in Waite Stirling’s ministry. A challenge to us...



Meanwhile, here in technically tropical Lima (we are 12° south of the Equator), we continue to try to reach all people with the good news, aiming to become more involved with the needs of the community. The meal for



community leaders went well, and now, having realised that in El Nazareno there is not much for older citizens, we have held 2 “almuerzos para abuelitos” (lunches for grandparents), good opportunities to talk to older people (over 75s) and their families.

Not that everything always goes as planned; last week, having organised everything, the person in charge of cooking was told the day before that she needed to go to the other side of Lima for a legal meeting about compensation following her son’s tragic death in a car accident 3 years ago. The day of the lunch, we discovered that there was no water supply in the area.... Obstacles were overcome (finishing with someone going in and washing up the next day); the meal was delicious, it was good to see that the visitors were from all parts of the estate, and more than half the church had been involved in some way, from moving tables to cooking.

As for the other end of the spectrum, ie babies and toddlers, there is no equivalent of “mums and toddlers”, so we hope to start something when the new school year starts next March. Not wanting to start World War 3 with squabbles over the toys, the main challenge is to obtain enough toys and equipment for a significant number of children to use at once. But

God is good, and after a couple of “coincidences“ in finding people getting rid of out-grown things, we are doing well. Whilst finding over 75s in El Nazareno is NOT easy (there are very few), finding under 3’s is no challenge at all!

...”you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8) is one of the key verses in the MOCLAM

theological course that about 20 of us have been studying for the last 3 months. The first course, “From creation to new creation” is a basic Introduction to the Bible. MOCLAM (Moore College in Latin America) offers courses which can be taught in small groups, providing advice and assessments; after several years those who persevere and work through the courses available at the different levels may obtain a degree. It is exciting to see this taking place; one of the needs that has been recognised in the Anglican Church here is that of Biblical formation.



Having previously mentioned that we recognise the value of working as a couple through the Marriage Course, thank you to those of you who have been praying for this. Only one couple is working through it, but for them it IS making a difference to them and their family so we don’t mind. However, we have also spent time preparing the 2 couples in the Church getting married – Santiago and Idu, and then Leo and Dina (known as Diana). Leo is now someone regularly attending Church, so thank you too for praying for the men!



We were encouraged by the visit of a team of 3 from the Recife Diocese, whose main aim was to pray and help us to deepen our ministry in prayer. They had a busy schedule, visiting several places; since they stayed with us (we now have 2 available rooms!) we received even more blessing.



As for the family, Becky is now working in Harrogate and continues to live in Leeds. She paid a lovely 18 day visit to us in Nov. Lizi is currently living in Barcelona but this may change. Jonny is finishing his law degree, with a specific interest in constitutional law but also with good knowledge of international humanitarian law; in the immediate future he will continue working where he is.





As we come to the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, this photo is from Tierra del Fuego, and those who saw this as they left Puerto Williams in Chile were reminded of God's promises. Here in Peru, as in UK, the political situation is "interesting", It is good to know we have a God who doesn't change and can be trusted as we face new challenges in the New Year..



- encouraging visit from group (3) from Recife
- MOCLAM course lunches for senior citizens
- growing relationships with community leaders in El Nazareno
- support from Spanish speaking Cathedral congregation for our Sunday School at Christmas



Please pray.....

Weekly activities in Jesús el Nazareno

Sun: 4.30pm Sunday School
7.00 pm service
Thurs: 7.30pm prayer meeting

General:

- Work with couples: Santiago/Idu; Leo/Diana; M/J
- follow up to contacts through lunches and children's work
- plans for mums' & tots' group
- Our children Becky, Lizi & Joni

Specific dates

- **28 Dec** Messy Church (the first)
- **26 Jan** Interim Congress elections
- **27-31 Jan** Training week Lima (Juan Carlos giving a talk on evangelism, and Penny on Sunday School)
- **3-7 Feb** Training week Arequipa
- **11-26 Feb** Children's holiday Club (Tues and Wed)
- **March** inauguration of mums' and toddlers' group
- **13-15 Mar** Diocesan Synod

Thank you for your fellowship with us; you too are part of what happens in Peru. Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987

God bless you, this Christmas and always

Juan Carlos & Penny



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Does the UK school system kill creativity?

Most of us have some sort of memory of creative lessons in primary schools. With PVA glue and coloured paper or felt tip pens and acrylic paints. Even up to year six I have fond memories of creative projects that allowed us to use our imagination and show off our individuality to the class. But where did this go?

After the transition to year seven I can't remember a lesson that this same creativity and individuality could be expressed. Some might argue that high school isn't meant for creative lessons, it is meant to be a place to learn and to be taught life skills that will help our future. But teaching kids that creativity isn't a thing that should be free and expressive but should be confined to a strict mark scheme, doesn't sound like a good life skill to me.

If a young Picasso were to take a high school art lesson do you really believe that he would be praised? Ernest Hemmingway is seen as a god of literature, but his creative writing would've failed an English writing lesson. He would've been told to use more adjectives or use a simile here and metaphor there.

The idea of the dreaded mark scheme is to clarify the ability of the student but what it has ended up doing is teaching kids that in order to succeed, you must conform. It seems like you must take all individuality out of your work and simply do what the mark scheme tells you to do.

Don't get me wrong, I am not at all blaming the teachers for this. They are just doing what they can to get the students the best result and the school the best reputation. It is purely the fault of the narrow mark schemes and exam boards that aim to get thousands of near identical pieces of work to judge on ability.

With the rise of mental health issues in teens due to stress and anxiety, some sort of creative outlet within school that isn't there just to be marked, may help. The Artis Foundation said that 'The arts can inspire and motivate children's creativity – allowing them to find their voice and open up their imagination – as well as give them a space to explore challenging themes more openly outside of the classroom environment. It can also build skills such as confidence, resilience and self-esteem.' Mental health issues sometimes come from the feeling of a lack of identity. In order make your own identity you must show some individuality and creativity in your work which schools are not promoting.

Perhaps if the government were to judge schools on the wellbeing of their students rather than the grades that they receive, we could integrate more opportunities for creativity into the curriculum.

Natalie Winwood

Year 12, Christopher Whitehead Language College and Sixth Form

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Sexism in sport

Sport is defined as ‘an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment’. Within this definition, gender is not mentioned and, furthermore, need not play a part, as sporting activities are not restricted to one sex. However, in the society that we live in, sexism and inequality dominates the sporting industry, all in favour of men.

The biggest dispute, which is the figurehead of sexism in sport, is the pay gap between men and women. An example which clearly demonstrates this was in the FIFA World Cup where the US women’s national team, the winners of the 2015 world cup, received £1.5 million. This seems like a large sum of money, until we realise that, just a year earlier at the men’s 2014 FIFA World Cup, the winners, Germany, received £26.5 million. How is it fair that although they play the same sport at the same level and in the same competition, the difference in winnings is £25 million, clearly displaying the ignorance and blatant sexism of the leaders at FIFA?

Another recent example comes in the 2017 Women’s Euros in which the England national team reached the semi-finals and received €700,000. Once again this seems large. However once compared to the men’s earnings just a year earlier at the men’s Euro 2016, it is unbelievable the difference in money. Each participating men’s team received €8 million to begin with and further earned an extra €1million for a win and €500,000 for a draw. Additionally, as England reached the round of 16 before being beaten by Iceland they received another €1.5 million. Consequently, overall the team earned €11.5 million, meaning the women, although they reached the semi-finals, considerably further than the men, received €10.8 million less. As football is a passion of mine, I’m unable to understand or accept how there is such a huge difference in pay and why women are treated differently, even though they are at the same level as the men. While the women’s European Championships were also going on, only certain matches were broadcast and they were only shown live on Channel 4. Although this is an improvement from recent years, it still begs the question of why the matches are not shown on ITV, BBC or Sky Sports: the leading channels on television.

Following the problem of broadcasting matches, another instance which, to me, doesn’t make any sense was during the Women’s Cricket World Cup in 2017. This event was huge, not only because it was hosted in England, but also because we beat favourites India in the final. Furthermore, an event of this significance and magnitude would be expected to be displayed on either Sky Sports or live on a free popular channel. However, instead it was put on Sky sports mix.



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Additionally, the reason why in my opinion this is wrong is because that channel also has programmes like Red Bull diving and drone racing. Furthermore, to me it suggests that Sky doesn't take the women's game as seriously as the men's as they have their own channel called "Sky Sports cricket" which you need to pay £18 a month to view.

So why is it that to see the men's games you have to pay for the specific channel whereas the women's are just put on any channel which is spare or available? Statistics which also prove this are that the final, where England won, received 180 million viewers, whereas an average Premier League game on Sky Sports Premier League - another channel which you need to pay for - only receives around 850,000 people. This is a considerable amount less.


Bar the winnings and coverage, probably the biggest problem is the wage difference between the two genders. For example, Steph Houghton, the best paid female footballer in England, receives £65,000 a year which is a substantial amount. However, Harry Kane, the best paid men's footballer in England, gets £200,000 a week; a staggering £10 million a year. To put it in perspective: Both Kane and Houghton play 90 minute matches, at the highest standard possible, at two of the biggest clubs in Europe, however the worth of women playing football compared to men is an unimaginable difference of almost £10 million.

Tom Atkinson

Year 12, Christopher Whitehead Language College and Sixth Form

Room hiring at the church

The church has two meeting rooms and a large space in the church available for hire.

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Scouts championing reconnection

Matt Hyde, the Chief Executive of Scouts: “Leavers and Remainers need to learn the lesson of the Scouts and put divisions of Brexit behind them.”

The new year is a time for resolutions – and a new decade is an opportunity to set our sights even higher. That’s why so many of us have resolved together to make this decade, the 2020s, one of reconnection in our society.

It’s natural for Scouts to be among the first to champion this vision of reconnection. Bringing people together is what Scouts do – and have done for over a century. When Baden-Powell brought 20 young people together at the first experimental Scouts camp on Brownsea Island, Dorset, he was bridging the social divides of his day – young people from different backgrounds realised they had more in common than divided them.

Today, in a world that’s changing faster than ever, there is increasing pressure on young people. Changing technologies bring new freedoms – but online culture can alienate us from each other as much as it connects. We need to help young people develop the character and skills for jobs that may not yet have been invented.

Quite simply, Scouts connects people. It helps them develop those vital skills of empathy, teamwork and active listening. We help young people stand together, speak up and play their part. And the research backs this up too: a 2018 YouGov poll said 9 out of 10 British adults believed Scouts develops empathy. Our own research shows that Scouts are likely to be nearly 10% more effective as communicators and 8% more likely to get along with people of different races, cultures and religion.

Finding ways to make a difference

I have huge confidence in the next generation. As a volunteer for my local group, and in my national role as Chief Executive, I see the strength of young people’s commitment to their communities – wanting to find meaningful ways to make a difference.

Young people are driving our social action campaign, A Million Hands, creating real change on issues that matter to them most, such as homelessness, mental wellbeing and the environment. Scouts are not bystanders; they make change happen and they know it can only happen when they work together.

Scouts has grown by over 160,000 members in the last ten years, precisely because it’s meeting this need: helping them to develop skills to create positive

Continued on page 45.

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Continued from page 43.

change. We depend too, on tens of thousands of volunteers who give up their time – and need to find more to offer these opportunities to even more young people.

The last few years have shed light on divisions in our cities, towns, and even our own families. We see divisions across social classes, faiths and ethnic groups that have been neglected for too long. But we should not let these divisions define us.

A sense of empathy

Instead, we need to do more to foster our sense of empathy with each other – and what we share too. That is not about having to agree about everything.

Disagreement is an important part of our democratic society – as long as it is founded in respect for the views of others too. Whenever we sit down with each other, we can usually find some common ground.

Scouting is empathy in action. It means spending time with people who are different from you, placing yourselves in their shoes, and working to achieve something together. We see this at Scouts meetings every week, up and down the country, as well as at our international jamborees. It's what's created a worldwide movement 50 million-strong; what our Chief Scout, Bear Grylls calls 'an unstoppable force for good.'

National leaders can help set the tone – and find the policies to champion civic engagement. Yet the task of knitting a society together again is a challenge for us all – from simple individual acts to repair one relationship with family or friends, or to make one new connection with a neighbour who we often see but don't yet know.

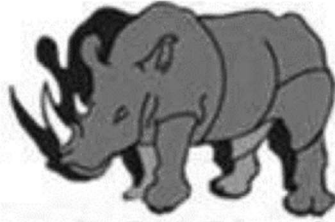
Building bridges

The idea of a decade of reconnection offers us all, across many different fields, the chance to highlight that this is fundamentally a society of decency and kindness. It's about each of us asking what more we can each do to bridge society's divides.

We can make this a decade of reconnection, but only if we are each willing to step up and play our part, and to foster that sense of empathy to create a shared society, rooted in kindness and compassion.

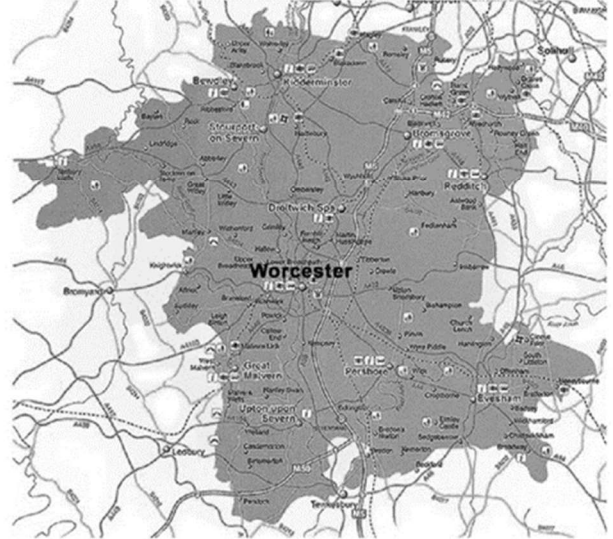
*Matt Hyde
Chief Executive, Scouts*

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Extracts from Wendy's 1982 scrapbook

February 1982

Feb 4th - group at Heron Close. Joyce, Stan, Marny, Maureen, Bessie + Arthur, Jim. Nancy called in. Wisdom. God has a plan.

Feb 5th - Went to early service. Judith ill.

Feb 7th Jim preached.

Feb 11th - group met at Judith's, Lower Broadheath. Theme healing. Jesus came to preach, teach and heal. We have neglected healing. Jesus can use situations to make people whole.

Feb 14th - Frank preached on healing. The love that was greater than the illness.

Feb 18th - went to Owain Bell's healing group. 17 there.

Feb 21st - Jim on his own. Frank went to Clifton-on-Teme. He talked about celebration and the power of modern hymn words. Judith away at Crowhurst retreat.

Feb 24th - Ash Wednesday service, 27 present.

Thursday 25th - group at Parrott's. I led again. John came back.

Clipping in the scrapbook from the Parish Magazine:

GENERAL INFORMATION - 1981

From the figures recorded in the Church Registers we note the following totals for 1981. The average for the past five years is in each case shown in brackets beside the 1981 number.

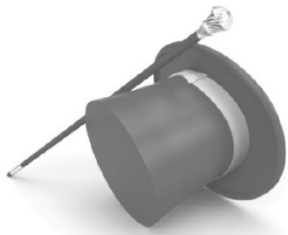
BAPTISMS - 80 (69)

MARRIAGES - 29 (30)

FUNERALS - 94 (94)

It is interesting to see that while the number of marriages and funerals last year was almost exactly the average figure there was an increase in baptisms of more than 15%.

Total number of communicants for the year was 10,756 an increase of 6½% on the 1980 figure, which in its turn had been a record year. It is likely that this increase would have been more than 9% had not the December and Christmas figures been affected by the weather.



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From the magazine archive (February 1950)

CHILDREN'S CORNER—FEBRUARY, 1950

FEBRUARY—this is the month when the earliest flowers of the year appear. Those that come first are the Snowdrops or February Fairmaids as they are sometimes called. These little flowers will even push their way through the snow.

This story tells you how the first Snowdrops came to earth.

One morning Eve was walking through the bare fields of the Earth. She and Adam had left the Garden of Eden where it had been so pleasant. There the birds had sung so sweetly and the garden had been full of flowers of every colour. Here it was cold and the ground was bare. If they wanted a garden they would have to make one.

Besides, it was so cold all the time, the winds blew chill, how could anything grow? It began to snow; soon the bare ground was white. How Eve longed for the sunshine, the flowers and the birds of the Garden of Eden!

She began to cry she felt so miserable. Then she heard her name called softly, "Eve, dry your tears and listen." Eve looked up, there before her stood a beautiful angel. At once Eve felt happier for she had often seen angels when she lived in the Garden and the sight of this one brought back to her all that she had lost. Once again she seemed to be back in that beautiful garden with the flowers all around her.

Then the wind blew coldly and Eve remembered where she was. But the angel looked kindly at her and smiled. He spoke to her. "I have come from Heaven to bring a gift to you," he said. As he spoke he caught a flake of snow. Then he breathed upon it. To Eve's wonder and joy she saw the snow-flake change into a delicate flower of pure white and green; it was the first snowdrop. This tiny flower gave Eve more joy than all the bright flowers in the Garden for it was the first flower she had seen on Earth.

Then the angel spoke again. "In Heaven", he said, "we have seen how sad you are so this little snowdrop is sent as a messenger to tell you that Summer days are coming when all the flowers that grew in the Garden will grow here to bring you happiness again."

With a rustle of wings the angel flew away and where he had stood Eve saw a cluster of snowdrops growing in the snow.

Please subscribe to the magazine

Why subscribe to the Parish Magazine?

- You'll only need to pay once a year.
- You'll only pay £5 per year (rather than £5.50).
- You'll have a guaranteed copy.
- It helps us know how many to print, reducing wastage.
- If you can Gift Aid, the church will receive an extra £1.25 without it costing you a penny more (HMRC rules allow this for charity magazines).

Please tick one of the boxes below and fill in your details:

(£5) I will pick up my magazine from the church (subscribers' magazines are put out at the back of church, usually from the 4th Sunday of the preceding month).

(£5) I live in St John's and need my magazine to be delivered.

(£14.50) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted.
Postage and Packing costs £9.50 (based on Large Letter, 2nd class postage which costs 83p from March 2019).

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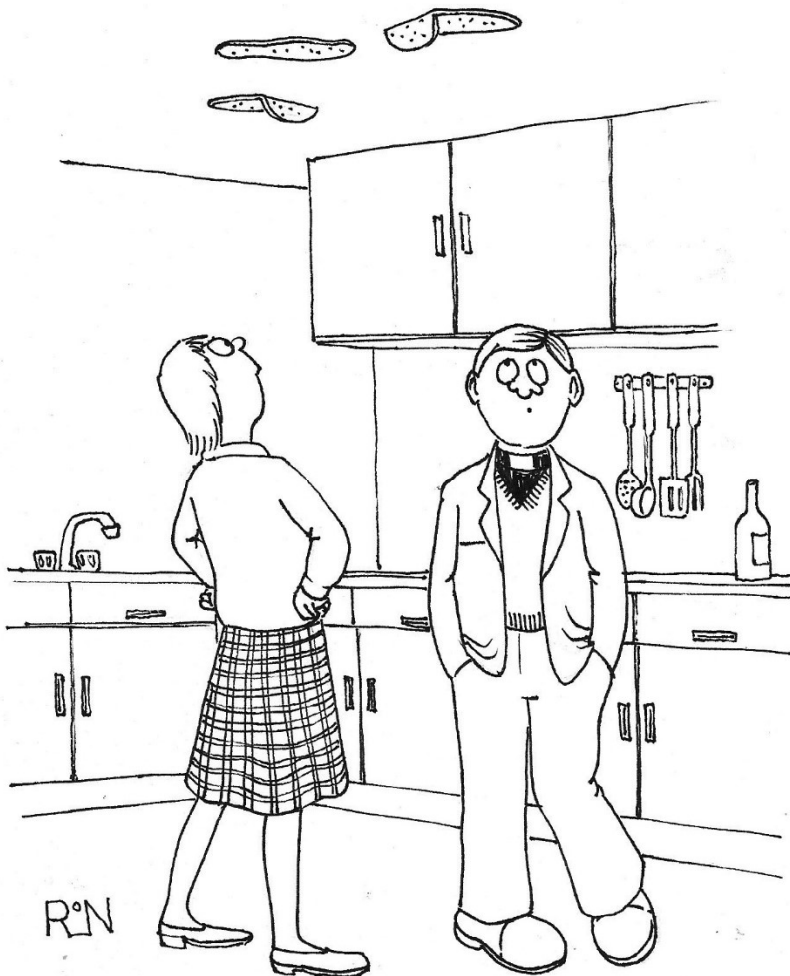
Parish Magazine, The Parish Office, 1a Bromyard Road, Worcester WR2 5BS



Puzzle solution

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

And finally....



“Pancake party?” said Phil, “What pancake party?”

Sarah was not convinced.



Little Lambs

Join us for toys and games, arts and craft, snacks, stories and singing. Mondays in Term time, 10-12, for children aged 0-4 and their carers.

Little Blessings

For bumps, babies, pre-schoolers and their carers. Join us for Bible stories, craft and Christian discussion on Fridays at 7 Manor Road. Contact Sarah on 01905 426257 or talk to Amy at Little Lambs for details on times.

Children's Activities

The first Saturday in the month 3pm-5pm for children aged 3 - 14 years. During the afternoon we do a variety of Christian based activities including sharing stories, singing songs, playing games, craft activities and finishing off with a light tea. Do come along and join us. Phone 424811 for more details.

Sunday during the 10.30 service, do come along - we'd love to see you!

Diddy disciples (ages 0-7)

In Diddy disciples we sing lots of songs, tell stories and make crafts to help us learn about our faith.

Explorers (ages 7 and up or KS2/3)

Explorers are encouraged to look more deeply into the weeks readings and enjoy some interesting conversations as well as craft as we continue to explore our faith.

SOME OF OUR CHURCH GROUPS

To avoid disappointment, in case the arrangements are different in any particular week, please contact the person shown before turning up at one of the groups.

BELLRINGING

St John's has a fine peal of eight bells. If you are interested in ringing, or learning to ring, please contact the acting Ringing Master, Tracey Ward 07961 745628.

CHOIR

The choir practises on Thursday evenings and sings at most Sunday services. If you can sing (or are prepared to learn) do speak to the Choir Master, John Brierley, 358474.

MUSIC GROUP

This meets on Fridays in church at 7.30pm to play contemporary Christian music, and provides music for worship on a regular basis. Contact Peter Yates, on 422565.

LITTLE LAMBS (play group)

Free and for all children birth to 4 years old and their carers. Term time, Mondays 10am to 12 noon. All are welcome! Turn up on the day or contact the Parish Office for more information.

LITTLE BLESSINGS (for parents and carers with any children who haven't started school)

Meets on a Friday morning. Contact Sarah Cottrill on 426257 for more details.

YOUNG ADULTS

A group for young Christians aged 18 to 40, with social and other events. Find us on Facebook or email young.adults@westworcesterchurches.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE

1a Bromyard Road
St John's, WR2 5BS
Tel: (01905) 420490

From the church car park, walk up the Bromyard Road side of the church to the green door.
Answerphone outside office hours.

e-mail: office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Normally open for general enquiries and messages (please ring to check):

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9am to 11am; Thursday, 10am to 11.30am

For booking baptisms and weddings: Please visit or telephone the office during the normal opening hours on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Also open **by appointment only** for these bookings on the first Thursday of each month from 6.30pm until 7.30pm.

St John's Church on the web:

Parish Website: www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine
A church near you: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/



Group Website: www.westworcesterchurches.org.uk

The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.



Sunday services in the West Worcester Group, February 2020

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
2nd February	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Worship 5pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
9th February	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
16th February	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Worship 5pm Evensong	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Morning Prayer
23rd February	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Worship 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9.30am Eucharist	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
The information above is correct at the time of going to press, but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.				