

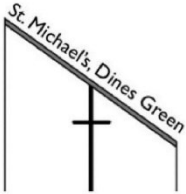
The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



February 2023

50p



Information

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

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Day off: Saturday

Pastoral Minister: The Reverend STEPHEN BUCKLEY (07746 206905)

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD

On sabbatical leave until April

TEAM OFFICE

You can contact the office by email, post or telephone.		The office is open Wednesday and Friday 9am-12noon.
Postal address: 1a Bromyard Road St John's, WR2 5BS	Tel: (01905) 420490 e-mail: office@wcv.church	

ON THE WEB

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

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact the PCC Safeguarding Representatives shown below.

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcv.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	St John's
Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email sylviarender@talktalk.net) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email stephenbuckley554@gmail.com). Safeguarding: Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy. The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com /424539), Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com /428948).	St Michael's
Safeguarding Officer: Liz Edwards (stmichaels.safeguarding@wcv.church) On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	

A word from the editors

Welcome to our February edition. Our theme is “Random Acts of Kindness.” Sarah discusses this in her letter, and there’s another reflection on the theme on page 33. We hope that our theme will also inspire you, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to spread the word and encourage others to perform acts of kindness.

*Go before us, Lord, in all we do
with your most gracious favour,
and guide us with your continual help,
that in all our works
begun, continued and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name.
Amen.*

You can find out more about random acts of kindness online at: <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

Not perhaps strictly a “random” act, but please consider an act of kindness to our link churches in Peru. Recall Bishop John’s letter in last month’s edition, and also read the latest letter from Penny and Juan Carlos, beginning on page 35. (Sorry that this December letter appears in our February edition, but, by the time of receipt on 18th December, the January edition was already put to bed.)

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 12th February.
Distribution, towards the end of February.

Subscription form: Page 46.

Cover picture: Picture by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine including Jenny English, Sue Fairman, Joy Job, Rob Little, Penny Marcés, and Colin Nash.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 46 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 18.

From Sarah Cottrill

In 2011 the UK Christian charity, Stewardship, launched its “Forty Acts of Kindness” challenge. On each day of Lent, participants were encouraged to perform an act of kindness, sometimes for family or friends, sometimes for complete strangers, or for the community as a whole. Challenges ranged from litter picking to paying the grocery bill of the person in front of you at the supermarket.



More ongoing challenges included becoming a blood donor or volunteering for a charity. In my view, anything that encourages kindness and generosity is good, but were these acts of kindness really random? Participants didn’t really have to think about them – the ideas were provided each day; but neither were they spontaneous – they were pre-meditated, if not by the individual then by somebody working at the charity office. The choice of recipient may have been random; the action itself was less so.

Nonetheless, random acts of kindness are being performed on a daily basis, as Mum and I recently experienced for ourselves. On the Wednesday before Christmas I took Mum to Malvern Theatre to see “A Christmas Carol.” We were advised by the theatre that Grange Road was closed and we would need to access the theatre via the park, having used the car park behind the park. For those of you not familiar with Priory Park, the walk is pleasant enough but involves a long slope up to the theatre. Mum was adamant that we didn’t need to follow the diversion signs to find somewhere closer to the theatre; she could and would walk through the park. It very soon became clear that the slope, gentle enough for the able-bodied was a challenge on the scale of Mount Everest for Mum! After having to stop several times to recover her breath, she was almost ready to admit defeat when a kindly woman came along and after one look at Mum raced off to the theatre, returning in a few moments, with a wheelchair. She pushed Mum the rest of the way and saw us safely installed in the foyer.

The walk had taken us a long time and we were both cold. Whereas I quickly warmed up again, Mum didn’t and having found our seats, I took my coat off, pushed Mum’s hands up its sleeves and sat rubbing her hands to warm them. The man in the next seat saw this and, assuring Mum that his hands were always

warm, took her hands in his and for the next ten minutes Mum sat contentedly holding hands with a complete stranger until she felt warm again.

Two random acts of kindness which meant such a lot to two people in a difficult situation. Mum and I don't know the names of our helpers; we will probably never see them again – or recognise them if we do – but their simple acts of compassion and kindness will stay with us.

Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus seized many opportunities to perform random acts of kindness; unplanned encounters which led to healing miracles and the proclamation of God's love through words and deeds. Of all the parables Jesus told, my favourite is that of the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25, 31 – 46). The response of the righteous to Jesus's comment about them feeding, sheltering, clothing and visiting him, shows that their deeds of kindness were indeed random. They did not record them in any "tally." They did not congratulate themselves on their own goodness or piety. They simply recognized a need, met it where and when they could and moved on. They served God unconsciously through their compassion towards others.

This is a wonderful model for us to use in our own lives and behaviour. Acts of kindness should not be done in a blaze of publicity, courting attention and praise. Rather they should be done quietly, unobtrusively. They should be performed for those we don't know and for those we know have no means of returning the favour. Returning to the experience of me and Mum, that lady probably had no thought that she was pushing Christ in a wheelchair. I doubt that the man in the next seat considered for a moment that he was holding Christ's cold hand between his own warm ones. Yet Christ honours all such actions as being done for him.

February 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Day with 14th – 20th being designated Random Acts of Kindness Week. You can go online and find a wealth of suggestions for things to do during that week. Like the Forty Acts of Kindness Challenge, this is a well-intentioned initiative and one we could all embrace. But why wait for a particular day or week? Our Lord commanded us to love one another as he loves us. That should manifest itself by always showing love and kindness, every day, every week, for the whole of our lives.

Sarah Cottrill

In Memoriam

Olive Mary Peggy Outram	2 February 1992
William John Davies	3 February 1999
Charles Gordon Burnett	7 February 2021
Frederick Grice	8 February 1983
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.

Inclusion only needs to be requested once; entries are then included until the fortieth anniversary.

An extension may be requested by family or friends of those named.

From the Registers, December 2022

St John's

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

No Baptisms in December

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

No weddings in December

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 19th November 2022 Jillian Hyde

SERVICES: Communicants 195. Total attendance at all services 708.

St Michael's

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 15th November 2022 Barbara McKeown

SERVICES: *Figures not received.*

Mid-week services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for February:

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

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

There will be evening services on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February, at St John's and St Clement's. Please watch the pew sheets and noticeboards for the actual times.

Lent Events

Although, at the time of writing, we are still in the Christmas Season, by the time this magazine appears, Lent will be just a few weeks away. This year I am offering two things by way of Lent preparation and study:

Quiet Day: On Saturday, February 25th, I will be offering a Quiet Day at the vicarage as a preparation for Lent. Running from 10.00am to 4.00pm, the day will include times of worship, Bible study and opportunities for quiet contemplation, reading and prayer. Hot drinks will be available throughout the day but participants will need to provide their own lunch.

To help me with the planning and preparation of materials, please sign one of the lists which will be in our churches from the beginning of February.

This day is intended as a whole day. However, if people can't do that, they are welcome to come to as much as they are able. Ideally that would be the morning or afternoon but I will do my best to accommodate anything.

Lent Course: This will run for six weeks on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.00pm at St John's in the Blakefield Room. The subject of our meetings will be prayer and we will be looking at the theology of prayer as well as some models of prayer which people might find helpful in their private devotions.

The dates of the meetings are: March 1st; 8th; 15th; 22nd; 29th, April 5th.

Each session is complete in itself and there is no obligation to attend every week.

Sarah Cottrill

Befriending Regent House

Helen Parke, the Activities Coordinator at Regent House, has asked if any of our church members would be willing to visit residents to chat, play games, do knitting or other craft activities or generally offer friendship and company. This would need to be a regular commitment but the extent of it would be for you to decide.

If this is something you think would interest you, please let me know and I will liaise between volunteers and Helen to find something that suits everybody.

Sarah Cottrill

Community Breakfast

Our next Community Breakfast is on Saturday 18th March from 8.30am to 11am. All are welcome to come and share a good breakfast and warm fellowship.

Jenny English

Events at St John's

St Johns Church
The Good Old Days
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Wednesday 15th February

at 2.45pm in the Church

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St John in Bedwardine



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At 10.15am on

**Saturday
25th February**

***Thought for the day by
Margaret Rutter***

ALL WELCOME

Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on

Saturday 11th February

9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)

This month's speaker will be

HJ Colston-Inge





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12th September, 10th October, 14th November, 12th December

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11

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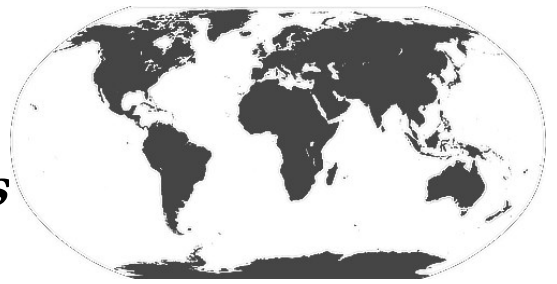
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*Prayers for
Ukraine and
the dark places
of our world*



February is a month of hope - return of lengthening days, warmth of the sun, with flowers emerging. We have so many dark places in our world needing the light of our prayers to shine and illuminate the darkness.

Light your candle today and let us pray together.

Lord Jesus, we hold before you the people of Ukraine. The darkness of their cities and villages and people who have not been able to leave and now watching their homes and lives being destroyed by war.

Lord Jesus, as we gaze at our candles and see the light illuminating our space, may our prayers illuminate the dark places of war and destruction.

We hold before you Lord the families of all who have been killed as a result of this war, soldiers on both sides of the conflict. Lord Jesus grant all , strength and courage to work towards restoring peace for everyone.

Christ, light of the world, scatter the darkness from before us.

We pray today that all people may find God in the kindness of strangers. In the touch of being held and comforted, of being given a hot drink or food. In the smile of a greeting and in the eyes of each other as people share together in their suffering, grief and pain of living in a war-torn country.

Christ, light of the world, let your light shine in the dark.

Lord Jesus, we pray for all displaced people, living in foreign countries away from family and friends.

We pray for those travelling to escape war, famine and violence. We remember how Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod's fury and the terrible sadness that those left behind had to endure.

Christ, light of the world, let your light shine in the dark.

May Christ be a bright flame before you and a guiding star above you as we offer our prayers today.

In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen

Jenny English

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They have a hymn list!

When I last wrote for the magazine, I was slightly giddy that I had completed my first assignment. I can now reveal that I passed! It's just one step out of many and I'm already getting anxious about the next one, but Historical Criticism of the Hebrew Bible is in the bag at least and I've learned more about Isaiah than I thought possible in the process.

As I write at the start of January, term hasn't started yet although seminars on the New Testament are about to begin and then I have a residential where we are looking at the dynamics of church congregations. That seems to be fascinating - a mix of anthropology and sociology. I've read articles about "Bowen Family Systems Theory" and watched videos of systems models of congregations and how to spot if you are in a cult (spoiler alert - we are not!) My mind is slightly blown by the social science, which is all new to me, but I'm sure when we all get together with our tutor all will become clear. Watch this space as I think I will be doing some practical applications of what we learn and you guys may be my research subjects!

One thing that we will definitely be doing at the residential is re-forming the "readers choir". I've just been sent the hymn list so I'm looking forward to some rehearsals under the keen ear of our choir master.



The new testament reading I have been doing is great. We are reminded that we are doing biblical study, not bible study. It's a more dispassionate, critical approach that considers the historical context that the gospels and epistles were written in. As someone who never got to do much

Continued on page 17

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Please see page 18 for details of how to advertise.

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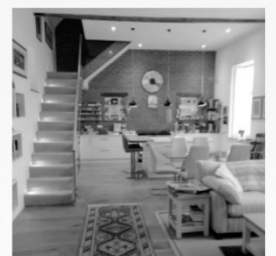
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Continued from page 15

history I'm drinking it all in. For instance, I learned that Vesuvius erupted right in the middle of the period that the New Testament was written. On one level I must have known that, but I'd just never made the connection between what I'd learned as history and what I'd learned as scripture.

And then there is the information about the world that Jesus himself would have grown up and lived in - much of which comes from Jewish scholars who use the New Testament as a great source of historical information. The Roman Empire is constantly in mind affecting all the characters that we encounter, but they weren't all bad and emperor Constantine is particularly important to the development of the New Testament. So far I've just skimmed some of the highlights in preparation for the first seminar, but I'm looking forward to getting stuck into the detail and in particular learning more about Paul.

Rob Little

Sudoku Puzzle

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*The
solution is
on the
inside back
cover.*

							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
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Kindness quotes

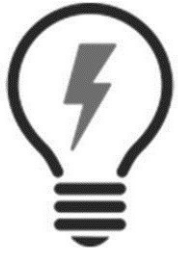
“Kindness is caring for others, even when they may not care for you.” *Anon*

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Mahatma Gandhi

“Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.”

Frank A. Clark



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Christmas Flowers

The Flower Ladies got together on Saturday 17th December to arrange the flowers for Christmas (yes, we realised we were still in Advent!). The morning was tinged with sadness as Eileen was not well enough to join us. However, she was able to enjoy looking at the photos.





We were very appreciative of extra help from Sue, Sally, Margaret and Joyce. We enjoyed being together again and the morning's work was soon completed. We hope you enjoyed seeing our beautiful church looking even more beautiful!





As it turned out the flowers became a fitting tribute to Eileen who sadly passed away on Tuesday 27th December. Her funeral is at 2pm on Thursday, 26th January.

Joy Job

Thank you!

The Flower Ladies would like to thank everyone for the kind donations towards the Christmas flower arrangements, many of which were given in memory of a loved one. We hope you liked them.

Sue Hussell

Christingle Service

“Absolutely Magical.” That is how one of the congregation described our Christingle service as she left the church after it. There were around 200 people at the service.





Beth Broadway had organised the event and brought people to help prepare the Christingle kits and then others to help hand out the kits before the service.



The children made their Christingles during the service as the elements of it were explained to them. Phil Bradford gave an explanation of the meaning of each element.



Then Rob Little and Beth Broadway helped demonstrate to the congregation how to build the Christingles.



The service was held with the lights on until the Christingles were lit...



and then the main lights were switched off creating a wonderful setting for the final carol.



It was a truly wonderful service. If you missed it, then keep an eye out for 24th December 2023 for the next one.

Colin Nash

He's been!

This picture was taken at Little Lambs playgroup on 12th December. Many thanks to Father Christmas for coming to visit us all and for the present of a Christmas story for my grandson, Benjamin.



Benji enjoyed seeing Father Christmas. He commented on his red suit, white gloves and black boots and he told Father Christmas that he would like presents for Christmas, good idea!

Sue Fairman



February 2nd, Candlemas

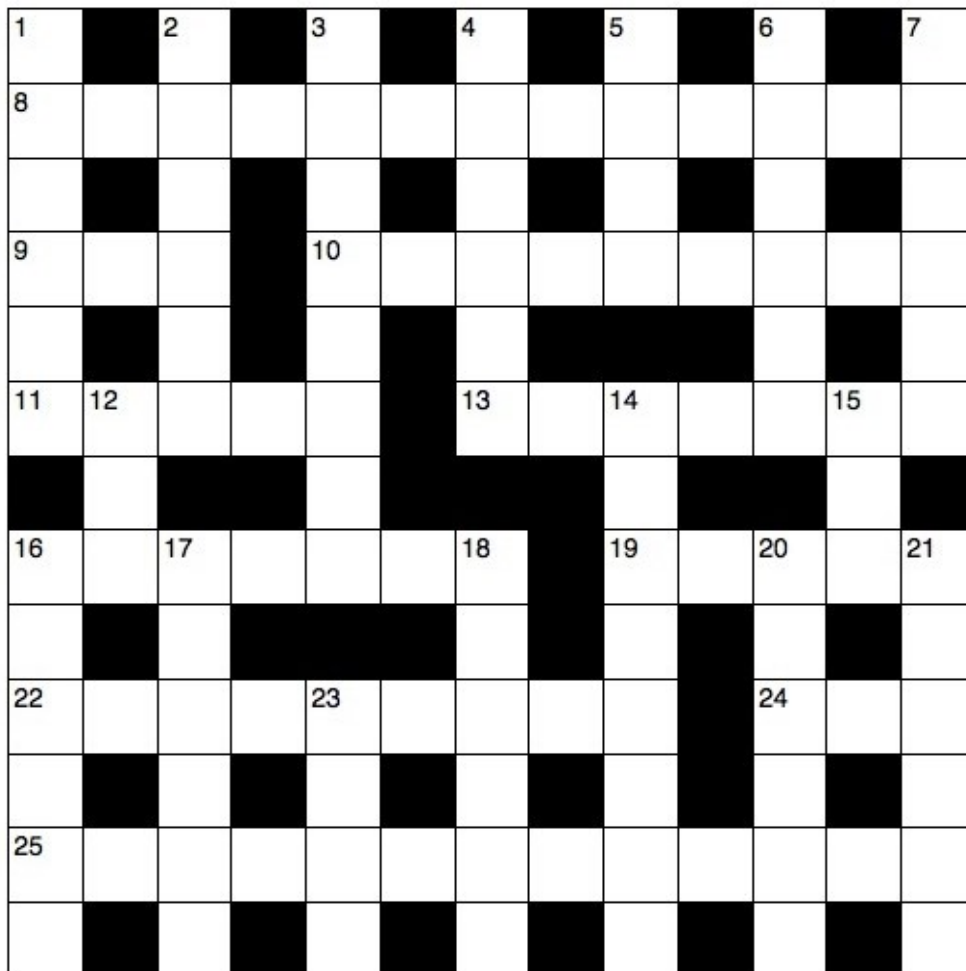
Candlemas is celebrated 40 days after the birth of Jesus. Mary goes to the temple in Jerusalem for purification after her delivery and Jesus is presented to God by his thankful parents. Simeon recognised the Christ child as the son of God, the light of the world.

In pre-Christian times the day was known as the Feast Of Lights, celebrating the increasing strength of the life-giving sun. Candlemas, February 2nd is halfway between winter and spring.

Snowdrops appear in February and are a symbol of hope. Creation stirring and new life revealing itself after the dark of winter. The light comes into the world and into our lives through Jesus as he becomes Our Light of the World. Snow drops are also known as Candlemas bells and by their Latin name of Galanthus Nivalis.

Jenny English

Crossword puzzle



The solution is on the inside back cover.

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 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — — (3,2,3)
- 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
- 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
- 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
- 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
- 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
- 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
- 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
- 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
- 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
- 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
- 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

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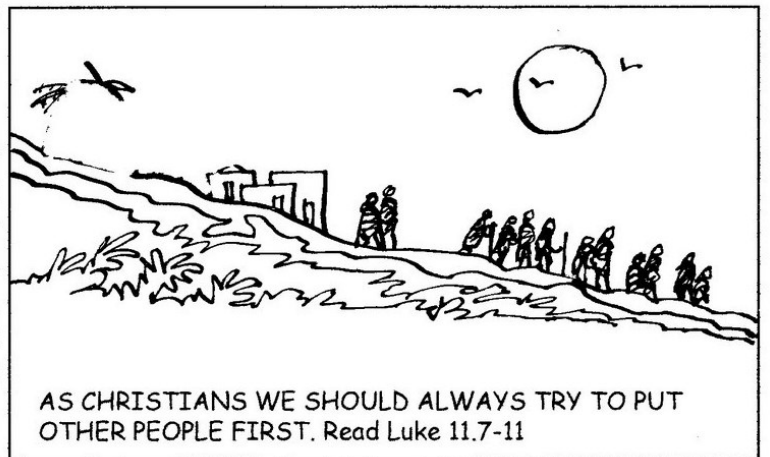
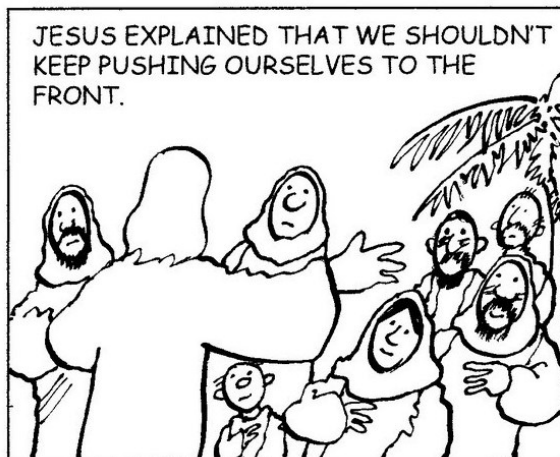
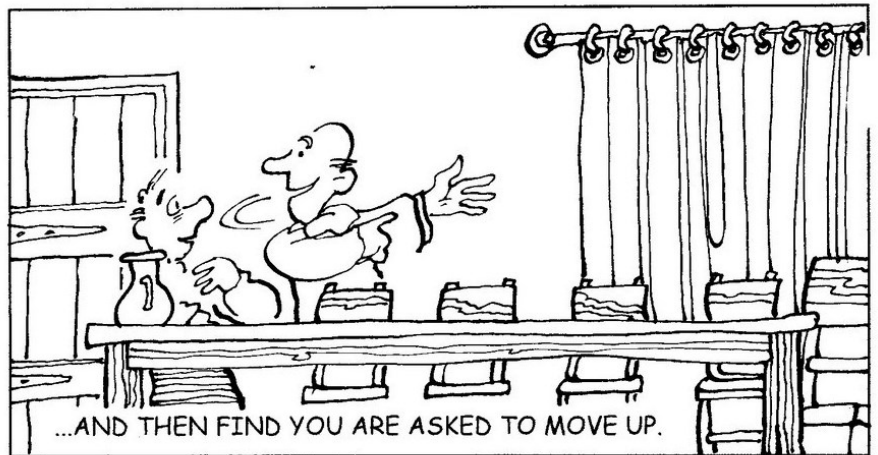
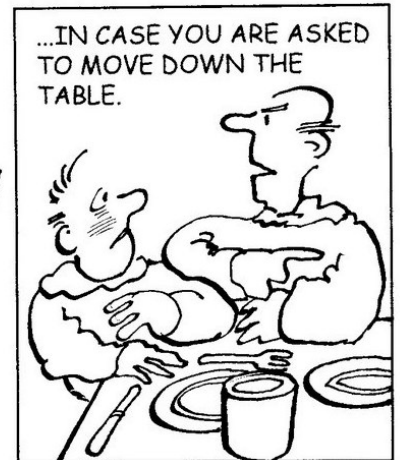
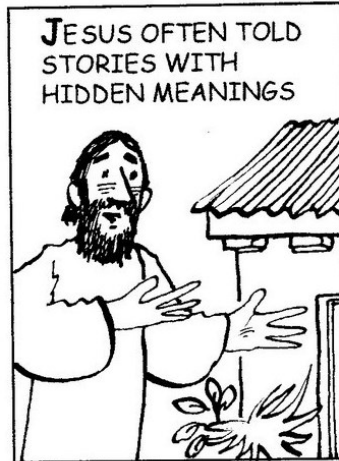
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“Random acts of kindness” - a reflection.

This phrase sums up an aspect of the February “Make kindness the Norm” campaign which sits happily with the spirit of the commandments at the heart of our Christian faith.

Every Tuesday morning at Saint John’s we have a Eucharist using the Book of Common Prayer (often referred to just as BCP) and I often wonder how often folk read the prayers and other texts that are not used during the ceremony. They are worth our observation and reflection.

After the sentence “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” there is a double page of scriptural quotations, many of which are quite apposite for this campaign.

“Whatsoever ye would that men do unto you, even so do unto them; for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

“He that soweth little shall reap little; he that soweth plenteously shall reap plenteously.”

“Give alms of thy goods, and never turn thy face from any poor man.”

It is also heartening to hear courteous gestures offered to people during daily interaction and to see people giving way on the footpath or opening the shop door for someone who has limited mobility.

Following my frequent visits to France, I have often remarked to folk here that over there they are most ready to wish you “Good Morning” or “Enjoy your meal” when you are just sitting down to a meal in a restaurant. In shops you are likely to receive as a reply to your simple “Thank you” the retort “It is we who thank you!” making your experience as a customer so much more pleasant.

Small things that bring pleasure and have no cost.

So, this February is the time for a late New Year resolution. Spread a little happiness as you go on your way.

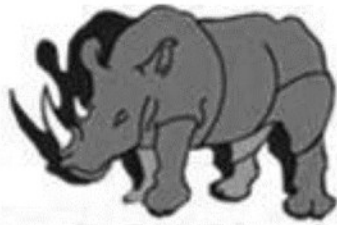
Arthur Miller

RAK quotes

“Kindness is doing what you can, where you are, with what you have.” *Anon.*

“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”
Robert Louis Stevenson

“For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.” *Audrey Hepburn*



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Marcés Mailing December 2022

Dear everyone,

18th December 2022

This WAS going to be a Christmas letter. But things in Peru are, as you know, not exactly normal right now so it actually has a lot of up-to-date news as well...

Please continue to pray, as we give thanks also that we have a God who is involved in the world in which we live.

God bless

Penny and Juan Carlos



Be still, and
know that I am God!
I am exalted
among the nations;
I am exalted
in the earth.
(Psalm 46:10)

Please pray for:

Juan Carlos: Finishing at the Cathedral; preparing for Arequipa Diocesan responsibilities (Christian formation)
JC's mother Hilda

Penny: Responsibilities in J el N (lay rector) & Cathedral;
Diocesan responsibilities (Children's Ministry)

Juan Carlos + Penny: working out priorities and use of time;
travel; supporting each other; adequate rest; plans to visit UK

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Diocese: writing of safeguarding protocol

Jesús El Nazareno: children's work- for helpers; growth in
Biblical knowledge; Abundant Life course

El Nazareno area: communal kitchens, schooling

Cathedral (English): Search for a new Rector

Cathedral (Spanish): For growth

Country of Peru: political, economic and education situations,
and all those affected by them

Continued on page 37



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Continued from page 35

Dear friends,

This extremely overdue letter WAS being written with updates on such happy memories as

- A wonderful family break in the UK mid Aug to mid Sept (see photo on front page!)

-  The effort being made by some (sadly not all!) of the Abundant Life group, who finished the sessions at the beginning of Dec. Half the group are barely literate, so a written exam is totally out of the question (and not, after all, the point of the course). Unfortunately general busy-ness means that the theory of spending time with each of these people doing an oral exam has not yet happened.....

- The small music group in Jesús el Nazareno. Whilst several of those who enthusiastically started attending the practices have now dropped out, there is a still a core of 3 who show commitment



- The formation of a choir in the Good Shepherd to sing at the Carol Service. Apart from the pretty good musical level, at least 2 of those taking part for the first time commented on how lovely it was to learn to serve God in a new way

HOWEVER, as most of you (if not all!) are aware, Peru has suddenly become an item of world news. On 7 Dec, the day Congress was going to discuss the President's impeachment for the 3rd time since he took office in July 2021, I was sitting on a bus on the way to the Cathedral to set up and generally get things ready for the evening Carol Service when one of the people due to read sent a message – “Are we still having the Carol Service?” A somewhat confusing question since I was totally unaware of anything that would mean NO. I was enlightened a few minutes later by a call from Juan Carlos who put me in the picture.....There followed a few bizarre hours which included

- Chaos as people tried to get home (in the totally understandable fear that troops on the streets could well lead to some very nasty things)
- The vote by Congress (who had refused to accept the President's decision to close Congress, on the (defendable) grounds that this was an unconstitutional move) to impeach him
- The arrest of the previous President by his own police escort, thus avoiding him reaching the Mexican Embassy and asylum; this news was greeted (in Lima) by the equivalent of cheers on car horns (all those people in traffic jams.....) (He is currently in preventive detention in a prison which formerly held just one prisoner – ex-President

Continued on page 39

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Continued from page 37

Fujimori; so it is still a prison exclusively for ex-Presidents but now has 2 residents)

- The swearing-in of the new President Dina Boluarte (previously vice-President)

So by 4pm on 7 Dec things seemed fairly calm. And indeed life DID continue. We had the postponed Carol Service on 11th Dec, and schools etc worked normally on



Monday and Tuesday. However, trouble was brewing. Discontent was not only against the previous President. 83% of people want new GENERAL elections, involving both President and Congress, but it was clear that most Congress members are not thinking of moving on until they have to (July 2026). So, in some areas of Peru (mostly those already known for disturbances and for violent uprisings), the unrest began, leading to the declaration of a state of emergency for 30 days with a curfew in most of the country (though not Lima). In Lima there is still mostly calm, but parts of Peru, especially in the South (eg Arequipa) are cut off, with damage to government buildings, power lines and other things. "Collateral damage" from the blocking of main roads and closure of provincial airports means that the Christmas Box boxes, prepared and ready to go to the Arequipa and Cusco areas, are now stuck in the Cathedral until ???, and Idú from Jesús el Nazareno who went to spend her birthday with her mother is now stuck there, again until ????

Thank you to those who are already praying. Please continue to pray (see next page)

Meanwhile, we are preparing for Christmas. Both Becky and Lizi will be arriving Dec 23, Lizi for 3 weeks (during which time she will work from here, getting up at 4 am to do so), whilst Becky is returning to Peru to settle here. She has learnt a lot from her time in the UK but has decided she feels far more Peruvian than British.

And then in 2023 there is a big change ahead. Juan Carlos will be based in Arequipa whilst Penny continues in Lima, BUT one week in 4 JC will be in Lima and another week Penny in Arequipa. So we will see each other 2 weeks out of 4, but do a lot of travelling..... Quite how this will work has yet to be seen; JC will spend from mid Jan to mid April sounding things out, and then after our time visiting UK (yes, we hope to see lots of you!) will be able to settle into whatever is in store..... Please pray for this new move!

Continued on page 41



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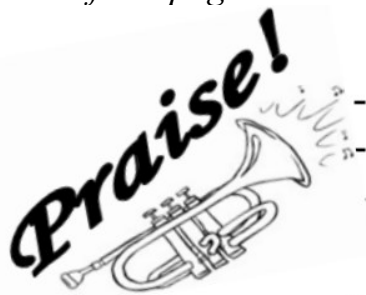
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- a wonderful time in UK mid Aug-mid Sept
- Growth in Cathedral English congregation
- J el Nazareno – completion of Abundant Life course
- Jesús el Nazareno – new music group
- Cathedral in English – excellent Carol Service
- Provision in the ongoing communal kitchens

Please pray....



- That the violence will cease
- That those stranded in different parts of Peru be able to continue their journey
- That Congress, who REJECTED a motion to bring elections forward to Dec 2023 (instead of April 2026), would listen to the people whom it has been elected to represent, and reconsider this decision
- That the “professional” troublemakers who form a significant part of those causing the unrest would be prevented from continuing
- That the interim government would listen to good advice
- For the economic effects of the unrest. It has been calculated that Peru loses over US\$ 25 million DAILY, money badly needed for basic things like health and education

(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

- Sun:** 10.00 am English speaking service (Good Shepherd)
11.30 am Spanish speaking service (Good Shepherd)
6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service
- Thurs:** 6.00 pm Prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
- Sat:** 4.00 pm Children’s activity (J. el Nazareno)

Coming soon.... (pray for dates, or for planning!)

- 2-6 Jan:** CMS Regional conference in Ushuaia (Penny)
- Mid January:** JC moves to Arequipa for ministry
- Mid April to end July:** UK Church visits

Thank you again to those who have been supporting us (and the communal kitchens and other needs) in so many ways. By supporting us and the ministry here, you too are part of what happens here, both in the Anglican Church in Peru, and in Peru. Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987.

God bless you and keep you secure in Him, now and always,

Juan Carlos & Penny

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- Friday: 9am - 5pm
- Saturday: 9am - 4pm

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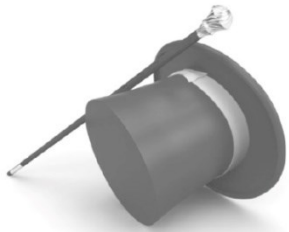
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- Chess Group. Meet every Tuesday 2.00 to 4.00pm. Cost 50p
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- Film Club. Meet alternate Thursdays. 2.00pm. Free of charge
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Parish Organisations

SUNDAY SCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN

3 p.m. in the Infants' School.
Superintendent: Miss Coombs.
St. John's (Pitmaston) Kindergarten S.S. 10.30 a.m. Superintendent: Mr. R. Houghton.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Boys and Girls over 8: 3 p.m. in Church.

Leaders: Miss M. Walters.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

3 p.m. each Tuesday in the Parish Room.

Leader: Mrs. F. N. Platts, 64 Bromwich Road.

Secretary: Mrs. E. Withers,
33 Graham Road.

MOTHERS' UNION

3 p.m. on first Monday in each month in the Parish Room.

Enrolling Member: Mrs. T. M. H. Richards.

Secretary: Mrs. W. Davies,
Laugherne Road.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Carwardine,
Henwick Avenue.

ST. JOHN'S SCOUT GROUP

Cubmaster: Miss J. Glover.
Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Scoutmaster: Mr. D. Hines.
Friday, 7.15 p.m.

Scoutmaster (S.): Mr. K. Cole.
Wednesday, 7.45 p.m.

Rover Leader: Mr. N. Hanley.
Meetings as arranged.

Group Scoutmaster: Mr. E. B. Hirst, 56, Whinfield Road,
Claines, Worcester.

ST. JOHN'S GIRL GUIDES

7 to 9 p.m. each Tuesday in the Parish Room.

Captain: Miss L. Mee.

ST. JOHN'S BROWNIES

CHOIR PRACTICE

Boys: Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Full Choir: Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.

SERVERS' GUILD

Secretary: Mr. William Powell, 4 Winchester Avenue.

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Secretary: Miss M. Turberfield, 40 Bromyard Rd.

CENTRAL FUND

Secretary: Mr. F. N. Platts, 64 Bromwich Road.

FREE-WILL OFFERING FUND

Secretary: Mrs. Laffin, 8 Homefield Road.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Secretary: Miss E. Harwood.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY

7.30 p.m. each Tuesday at Henwick Grove School.

President: Mr. F. N. Platts, 64 Bromwich Road.

Secretary: Mr. Jack Glinn.

PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr. A. D. Arbuckle.

Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. F. W. Davies, J.P., Graham Road.

SCHOOLS

Boys' School Headmaster: Mr. N. Ratcliffe.

Girls' School Headmistress: Miss D. Hodges.

Infants' School Headmistress: Mrs. Earl.

ST. JOHN'S

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Meetings each month on Wednesdays in St. John's School, by arrangement.

Chairman: Mr. N. Ratcliffe.

BELL RINGERS

Ringling Master: Mr. W. H. Lewis,
169 Oldbury Road, St. John's.

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PARISH MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

The Vicar, Miss E. Bund, Mr. T. Grosvenor, Mrs. M. Richards.

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And finally....

In a chancel, in a galaxy, far, far away - the altos' lament

It's tough to be an alto when you're singing in the choir
 The sopranos get the twiddly bits that people all admire,
 The basses boom like loud trombones, the tenors shout with glee,
 But the alto part is on two notes (or, if you're lucky, three).

And when we sing an anthem and we lift our hearts in praises
 The men get all the juicy bits and telling little phrases.
 Of course the trebles sing the tune – they always come off best;
 The altos only get three notes and twenty-two bars rest.

We practise very hard each week from hymnbook and the Psalter,
 But when the conductor looks at us our voices start to falter;
 “Too high! Too low! Too fast! – you held that note too long!”
 It doesn't matter what we do – it's certain to be wrong!

Oh! shed a tear for altos, they're the Martyrs and they know
 In the ranks of choral singers they're considered very low.
 They are so very 'umble that a lot of folk forget 'em;
 How they'd love to be sopranos, but their vocal cords won't let 'em!

And when the final trumpet sounds and we are wafted higher,
 Sopranos, basses, tenors – they'll be in the Heavenly Choir.
 While they sing 'Alleluia!' to celestial flats and sharps,
 The altos will be occupied with polishing the harps.

Anon



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – February 2023

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
5th February	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
12th February	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
19th February	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
26th February	10.30am Eucharist 5pm Healing Service	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
5th March	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	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.