



The Parish Magazine
St John-in-Bedwardine

January 2021

50p



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

We envisage St John's church as a vibrant hub
for the worshipping and wider community.

WEST WORCESTER CLERGY

clergy@wcv.church

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

CHURCHWARDENS

stjohns.churchwardens@wcv.church

Gordon Templeton (01905 749025), Joy Job (01905 423051).

SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

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

OTHER INFORMATION

PASTORAL CARE: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if
you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact
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SAFEGUARDING: If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a
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Representative, Jane Askew on 424811 or any member of the clergy.

PARISH OFFICE

Current office opening hours are Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 11am.

*Outside of these hours, please send an email or leave a message on the answerphone
and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.*

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ST JOHN'S CHURCH ON THE WEB

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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.



A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our January 2021 magazine. Our theme is 'New beginnings' and is reflected in our cover picture of snowdrops in our churchyard. Given the likely snail's pace at which the pandemic will ease its hold over our lives, would Easter Lilies have been more accurate? The key thing is to concentrate not on what we can't do, but what we can. Though the pandemic has shown that we have to do many things differently, we can still reach out, adapt and achieve, and that must be our focus, as this prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr expresses:

*God, give me grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.*

*Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.*
Amen.

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition (February): Deadline is Sunday 10th January.

Distribution, towards the end of January.

Subscription form: Page 42.

Cover picture: Snowdrops in our churchyard, by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Jane Askew, Colin Nash, Amy Rees, Sarah Cottrill and WikiMedia Commons.

The magazine

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

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 42 or by taking a subscription form from the rack (where the magazines are) at the back of the church. Please return the form and your payment to the parish office.

Opinions!

Opinions expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of the authors concerned and may not represent the views of the editors, our PCC or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

To advertise

Please see page 14.

From Sarah Cottrill

Many a true word is spoken in jest - and it seems to me that a great deal of truth lies behind the sentiment being expressed by many at the end of 2020: that they'd be staying up until midnight on December 31st - not to see the New Year in, but to make sure that the old one really left!

Few, if any of us, I imagine will have been sorry to see the end of 2020; a year dominated for all, by the frustrations of lockdown; for many by anxiety over jobs and finances and for some by bereavement made worse by the limits placed on numbers attending funerals. Even before we'd really heard of Covid-19, we'd been beset by the floods and all the havoc they caused. You probably hardly even remember that now, so here are some pictures to remind you!



Left: Walking the plank to get along New Road.



Right: Browns Restaurant under water.

All in all, 2020 was a pretty grim year.

However, that is the past, and a New Year has begun; a time when we traditionally look forward with optimism; forming fresh plans and aspirations. For some the new year will be bringing a change of job or home; some will be preparing for marriage or to welcome a new baby into the family and all of these are seen as new beginnings, bringing new hopes and fresh opportunities.

Hopefully, we'll see a gradual return to what used to be regarded as normal and this in itself will seem like a new beginning!

So, we enter a new year; we make our New Year's Resolutions – to exercise more; eat less; be organised; give up smoking – whatever we feel the need to address – and prepare for our life-changing new start. How long does it last – a few days? Weeks?

For Christians, we have a new, fresh beginning when we turn to Christ, confess our sins and trust him to lead us in the right way. This isn't a one-off event! As with all our other well-intended resolutions, our resolve to “be a better Christian” (to be more disciplined in our Bible reading and private prayer; to be more forgiving or more patient) will fail from time to time. Where our Christian new start differs from our New Year Resolutions, is that it doesn't matter if we miss the target; it doesn't mean we have failed, and we don't have to wait for a special day to try again. God is always ready to give us another chance as long as we will sincerely ask him.

What, then, are the hopes we, as the Christian community of St Johns, have for the new year? What new beginnings do we look forward to as we go into 2021? We know that we have the new Deaneries coming in at the beginning of February and that will bring us into closer contact with church communities we may not know. New challenges and new opportunities will inevitably arise out of this new arrangement. How we will all respond to these challenges and opportunities remains to be seen. Dare we hope that 2021 will also see us brought together as a Team with the churches of St Clement, St David and St Michael? If this does happen, that again will be a significant new beginning for us all. In one sense, nothing will change; in another, everything will, and we will need to find a way to work together to reach out to our communities and demonstrate to them the love of God.

There are other new beginnings in store for us too. Hopefully in the spring or early summer, a new form of church – Walking Church – will begin. Please watch out for more details of this in future editions of the magazine.

What else do you hope for? Do you hope to see new beginnings in the faith of somebody dear to you? Is there some sort of new development in our corporate discipleship or outreach that you particularly long to see? Could you be the one God is calling to initiate that?

After a time such as we've all had, there is a temptation to give in to despair and despondency; to lose heart and think that there's no point in trying to initiate anything because something will happen to prevent it succeeding. That, however, is not the Christian way. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul writes that he is:

'forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead' (Phil 3.13)

To follow Paul's example is not always easy, but Christ never promised us an easy path. Part of our Christian calling is to seek opportunities in challenges, to embrace new situations with faith and prayer, trusting that God will lead us in the right way.

My prayer for each one of us is that, as we turn from 2020 to 2021, we will, with confidence and faith, embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and echo the words of Timothy Dudley-Smith's hymn, 'Lord for the years':

*Past put behind us; for the future take us;
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.*

Sarah

Collect for the Second Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in January

Friday 1st January: The naming and circumcision of Jesus

Sunday 3rd January: The second Sunday of Christmas

Wednesday 6th January: The Epiphany (*celebrated on 3rd January*)

Sunday 10th January: The Baptism of Christ (The first Sunday of Epiphany)

Saturday 17th January: The second Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 24th January: The third Sunday of Epiphany

Monday 25th January: The conversion of Paul

Sunday 31st January: The fourth Sunday of Epiphany

See page 35 for Phil's January liturgical calendar.

Mid-week services

Subject always to the vagaries of the difficult times that we are living through, the mid-week services are scheduled to take place throughout January:

10am Tuesday at St John's, BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Thursday at St Michael's, Common Worship Eucharist

In Memoriam

Alfred Victor Bishop	5 January 1979
Vera Rolph	5 January 1995
Gladys Eileen Price	8 January 2010
Ada Halls	11 January 2011
Margaret Tolley	12 January 1995
Mary Bishop	12 January 2010
Mildred Christina Waterson	13 January 2007
Edith Mayall	15 January 1999
Kenneth Plumpton	15 January 2012
Frances Lillian Griffiths	19 January 1995
Jack Shearer	24 January 1986
Joseph Lowe	26 January 1982
Beatrice Louisa Lerigo	26 January 1988
Vera Mabel Glover	28 January 1990
Rose Margaret Haynes	28 January 2020
Charles Hodges	29 January 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, November 2020

BAPTISMS: *We welcome you into the Lord's family* (No baptisms)

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together* (No weddings)

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord* (No funerals)

NOVEMBER SERVICES: Communicants 53. Total attendance all services 142.

After 5th November, due to Coronavirus lockdown, public worship was not permitted (except for acts of remembrance on 8th November), so services were streamed with 114 remotely 'attending' these services.

Alternative collect for Epiphany

Creator of the heavens,
who led the Magi by a star
to worship the Christ-child:
guide and sustain us,
that we may find our journey's end
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity 2021
Abiding in Christ
18th - 25th January*

Our spiritual well-being is as important as our physical well-being. In the past year both of these have been seriously challenged: the Covid-19 pandemic has caused us to be careful about our own health, taking precautions such as washing hands and wearing facemasks and maintaining social distance. Some of us have been ill or have lost someone close to us. Meanwhile the working lives of many have been disrupted and families kept apart, often at huge personal cost. Perhaps it has made us all more anxious about our health and more aware of our vulnerability. At the same time church buildings have been closed and worship has been taking place online. Opportunities to worship and pray together have been seriously curtailed. We may well be feeling a sense of isolation from God as well as our neighbour.

The period of lockdown that we have lived through has caused us to take a step back to think again about our priorities and the things and people that we value, that make our lives whole. The long periods of absence from extended family and friends, and the inability to share a meal together or celebrate a birthday or a wedding, are examples of this.

When it comes to our spiritual life, what is it that is most important for our well-being? As Church life was to a large extent paused for the first time for most people, what does it mean to be part of the one Church, the Body of Christ when all we see of our sisters and brothers are on the screen of a laptop?

When the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity invited the sisters of the Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland to produce the material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2021 they could not have foreseen the pandemic and its impact. Yet the Sisters of Grandchamp have offered us something uniquely precious: an opportunity to engage with a form of prayer that is both very ancient and yet at the same time so apposite for our times. The ancient rhythm of prayer found in many religious orders and their traditions teach us that when we pray, we pray not just on our own or with those who share the same physical space, but with the whole Church, the Body of Christ, of Christians in other places and in different times.

This rhythm of prayer, with its traditional forms of structure, hymns and psalms and perhaps most importantly, silence, might well be an important gift from the

ancient Church to the Church of today struggling with pandemics and lockdowns and more widely with some of the serious challenges that our world faces, most particularly climate change, racism and poverty. This tradition of prayer and spirituality, despite the things that hurt and separate us, invites us into shared prayer and silence together. Surely a most precious gift in troubled times. Come with us this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and enter into a place of community and blessing. Simply “be” in this place and be carried by the prayer and the reality that it is God, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit, who carries us and accompanies us. Always.

Bob Fyffe

General Secretary, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Introduction to this year’s theme

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community’s vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

The Grandchamp Community has its origins in Europe in the 1930s, when a group of women of the Reformed tradition sought to rediscover the importance of silence and listening to the Word of God. Today the community has fifty



sisters, women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.

In producing the material for the WPCU 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

In John 15 Jesus said to the disciples, “abide in my love”. He abides in the love of the Father and desires nothing other than to share this love with us: “I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father”. Grafted into the vine, which is Jesus himself, the Father becomes our vinedresser who prunes us to make us grow. This describes what happens in prayer. The Father is the centre of our lives, who centres our lives. He prunes us and makes us whole, and whole human beings give glory to the Father.

Abiding in Christ is an inner attitude that takes root in us over time. It demands space to grow. It can be overtaken by the struggle for the necessities of life and it is threatened by the distractions, noise, activity and the challenges of life.

We live in a time that is both troubling and magnificent, where we are challenged by pandemics, wars, violence, poverty, racism and climate change. As Christians seeking reconciliation, justice and peace, we also know the full value of a spiritual life, have an immense responsibility to unite and help each other create forces of calmness, refuges of peace, vital centres where the silence of people calls on the creative word of God. It is a question of life and death.

Though we, as Christians, abide in the love of Christ, we also live in a creation that groans as it waits to be set free (see Romans 8). In the world we witness the evils of suffering and conflict. Through solidarity with those who suffer we allow the love of Christ to flow through us. The paschal mystery bears fruit in us when we offer love to our brothers and sisters and nurture hope in the world.

Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Abiding in Christ, we receive the strength and wisdom to act against structures of injustice and oppression, to fully recognise ourselves as brothers and sisters in humanity, and to be creators of a new way of living, with respect for and communion with all of creation.

The summary of the rule of life that the sisters of Grandchamp recite together each morning begins with the words “pray and work that God may reign”. Prayer and everyday life are not two separate realities but are meant to be united. All that we experience is meant to become an encounter with God.



*Churches Together in
Britain and Ireland*

They're Off!!!



The shoeboxes have finally gone. With all the problems we have had this year, it was pleasing to be able to send 30 boxes to children around the world to brighten their Christmas.

We were so lucky to have had so many beautiful hand-knitted hats to be able to put one into every box. Those we had left were sent to the local distribution point to add to boxes that they make up. A big thank you to all our nifty knitters.

Thanks to all of you who have helped us this year to continue to be part of this caring effort.

We wish you all a very safe, blessed, beautiful Christmas.

Jane Askew

Some thoughts for the year ahead...

Speak your kind words soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late. *Anon*

Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart rather than a piece of our mind. *Attributed to Ritu Ghatourney*

Friendship flourishes at the fountain of forgiveness. *William A Ward*

There is nothing stronger than gentleness. *Ralph W Sockman*

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Food for the body and food for the brain

Here is an easy recipe for you if you have a jar, or part of a large jar of mincemeat left over and the thought of more mince pies leaves you cold. This makes a light, moist, mincemeat cake.

150g butter

150g light soft brown sugar

2 eggs

225g S.R. Flour

75g sultanas

450g jar mincemeat

25g flaked almonds

Oven at 160C, 140C fan, gas 3. Greased and lined 8inch/20cm round cake tin.

Place all ingredients in a bowl except the almonds and beat until blended. Turn into tin, level and sprinkle with almonds.

Bake for 1 and 3/4 hrs until golden brown, shrinking from sides. Leave to cool in the tin then remove the paper and store in an airtight tin.

Margaret Miller

Sudoku Puzzle

*Copyright 2008
KrazyDad.com*

*The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.*

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



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The Parish Magazine is published A5 in size, in black and white. There are eleven issues each year, July and August being a combined issue.

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

Summary of St John's PCC meeting (held on 9th December by Zoom)

Phil opened the meeting with a prayer.

The treasurer gave a report on the financial position. No-one has cancelled their standing orders and people have kept up to date with envelope collections. The end of year position is predicted to be a deficit of £5k which is better than originally budgeted. £6-8k of parish share will be paid from the encashment of small funds held by the diocese, as agreed at the last meeting.

Phil advised that he has nothing to report regarding the formalisation of the Worcester City West Team. The PCC resolved to write to the diocesan secretary to express their dissatisfaction with the delay.

The Deanery Consultation has been completed. There will now be 6 deaneries instead of 13. Martley and Worcester West will be merging with Worcester East and the Droitwich Saltway Team Ministry to form Worcester Deanery.

The plans for Christmas services have now been made, following consultation with the congregation.

Phil will not be taking a sabbatical after Christmas as previously arranged.

Amy hopes to re-start Little Lambs in the New Year following a risk assessment. A ticketed system will be in operation.

In 2021 it will be 650 years since St John's became the parish church (previously it was the Chapel of Ease to St Cuthbert's in Lower Wick). Plans are underway to make this an occasion to celebrate.

These are 'edited highlights'. The full minutes can be found on the church noticeboard.

Liz Edwards PCC Secretary / Graham Evans, PCC member

Guidance for contributors to the magazine

Prepositions are not words to end sentences with.

And don't start a sentence with a conjunction.

It is wrong to ever split an infinitive.

Avoid cliches like the plague. (They're old hat.)

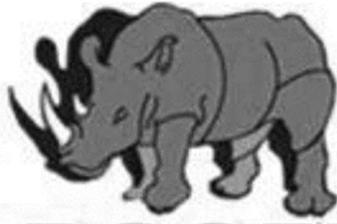
Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are (usually) unnecessary.

Always avoid annoying alliteration.

Be more or less specific.

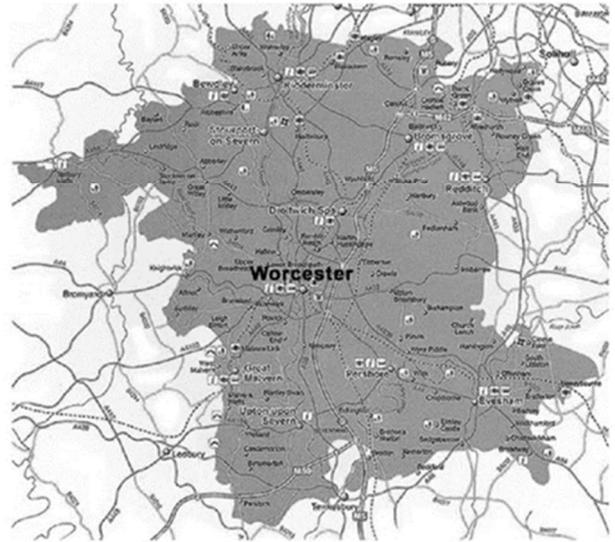
One should NEVER generalise.

 *Just joking - the editors*



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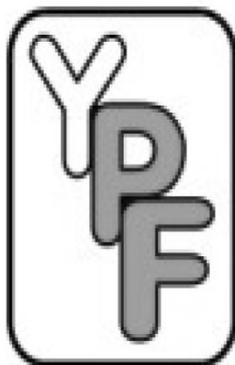


Our thanks to Colin Nash for these “Ahhh” pictures which he took while on holiday in Lake District last year.

The Editors

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Christmas Outdoor Carol Service

Given the current horrendous conditions that we are all living under now, it was decided that we would try to hold an outdoor Carol Service to allow people to join in and sing the carols. Following a Risk Assessment, it was decided that we could provide a socially distanced outdoor Carol Service and then we just had the weather to worry about. Despite rain at lunch time the weather cleared, and we were able to go ahead with the service.



The Mixed Blessings Music Group provided the backing music. This group is a combination of the St John's and Our Lady Queen of Peace Music Groups, so we had the weather, the music and hoped some people would turn up. They did, as you can see from the photo. We had some 70 people and children scattered across the churchyard staying socially distanced.



It was obvious that the service was just what they all wanted and soon voices were raised singing a mixture of well-known carols. The service only lasted 30 minutes but was really enjoyed by everyone attending.

Our thanks go to the Rev Phil and Mixed Blessings for putting on this service that allowed people to forget COVID for a short time and remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Colin Nash

Christmas 2020 - season of comfort & joy?

For many British people across the EU this year the Christmas season and the New Year, in particular, will be anything BUT filled with comfort or joy - but rather filled with apprehension & the prospect of serious changes!

Ever since the result of the UK referendum on EU membership, many believed that the politicians would manage to sort out the problems that were in prospect by a sensible set of arrangements/accommodations that would mean that life could carry on almost as before.

This was particularly true for those families that had bought property in Spain, France & Italy [the most popular destinations] and other countries in Europe, but who were unable to take part in the referendum voting because of the 15 year rule which deprived them of taking part (absent from UK for more than 15 years).

Many had sold their properties in UK in order to purchase, or supplement the purchase, of property in their new country of residence. For some the sale of their UK assets were to pay for the refurbishment, renewal or added development of the new abode. Sunshine, a different way of life, a new language, people with different cultural activities and even communal way of life seemed very attractive!

But, such activity is subject to fluctuations in the financial markets, of course, and particularly in the currency exchange rates, especially the £ - € for those in the Eurozone. You may have seen some of the new “poor” on your TV screens when families needing to return to UK for whatever reasons (often family or health) could not sell their homes because of a drop in value (often more than 60 to 80%). Also they have been unable to purchase again in the UK property market so are forced to rent accommodation - at the very worst cases they are reduced to even more extreme situations, living on the streets - also needing support of food banks.

I have heard some people say “It serves them right! Should have been more careful!” - but sometimes the new “poverty” is as a result of the loss of a loved one who was also the bread winner, or equally very poor advice given by profiteering property sales people only interesting in the profits they can make from purchasers.

I remember, when I hear such cases - “The poor we have always with us”, and, the reminder of Our Lord - “In so far as you have done it for one of these, you have done it to me” - a real imperative to offer help!

Whatever the outcome of the negotiations currently taking place between the UK and the EU, we must remember that there will be some whose lives will be greatly changed for ever, by matters over which they can have no control.

A very special thought for them at this time may be a real comfort - not a solution, of course, but a sense that at least we care about their plight.

Have a happy, but thoughtful, New Year

Arthur Miller

Motorist's prayer

Good Lord, I invoke Thy blessing:

Impress upon me my great responsibility when I turn the key of my car. Remind me I have within my own hands the power of pain, injury and death.

Inscribe upon my conscience that I and all who drive upon our nation's highways can in one unguarded moment, end the joys of life for a child, a member of my family, someone else loved by others.

Help me to be alert, tolerant, and patient . . . in full control as I drive.

Help me to remember that courteous driving saves lives.

And dear Lord, help me to extend the same kindness and consideration on the highway that I would expect others to extend to me.

Amen.

Thanks to Barbara Willis who gave us this prayer. We have laid it out in the same style as the original.

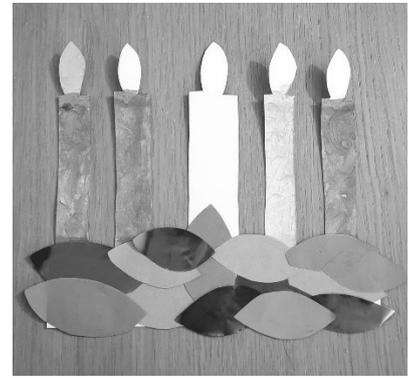
The Editors

Diddy Disciples

Hello,

We started off the Advent season online as we were still in lockdown, but that didn't stop us from starting to get ready for Christmas!

Our first activity for advent was to make our own advent wreaths which the children have been colouring in each week. As I write this excitement is running high in the Rees household as there is only one Sunday left to colour!



The next week we were back at church and the Diddy Disciples were very happy to see each other.

They found out about Mary being visited by the angel Gabriel and drew pictures of what they thought she looked like. They thought of some fantastic words to describe how she was feeling including happy, amazed and confused.

The Explorers discussed promises made by God and how he keeps them so much better than the ones we make.

Today we have filmed our online Christingle (with surprisingly few mishaps!) and had a run through of our Nativity for the Sunday before Christmas.

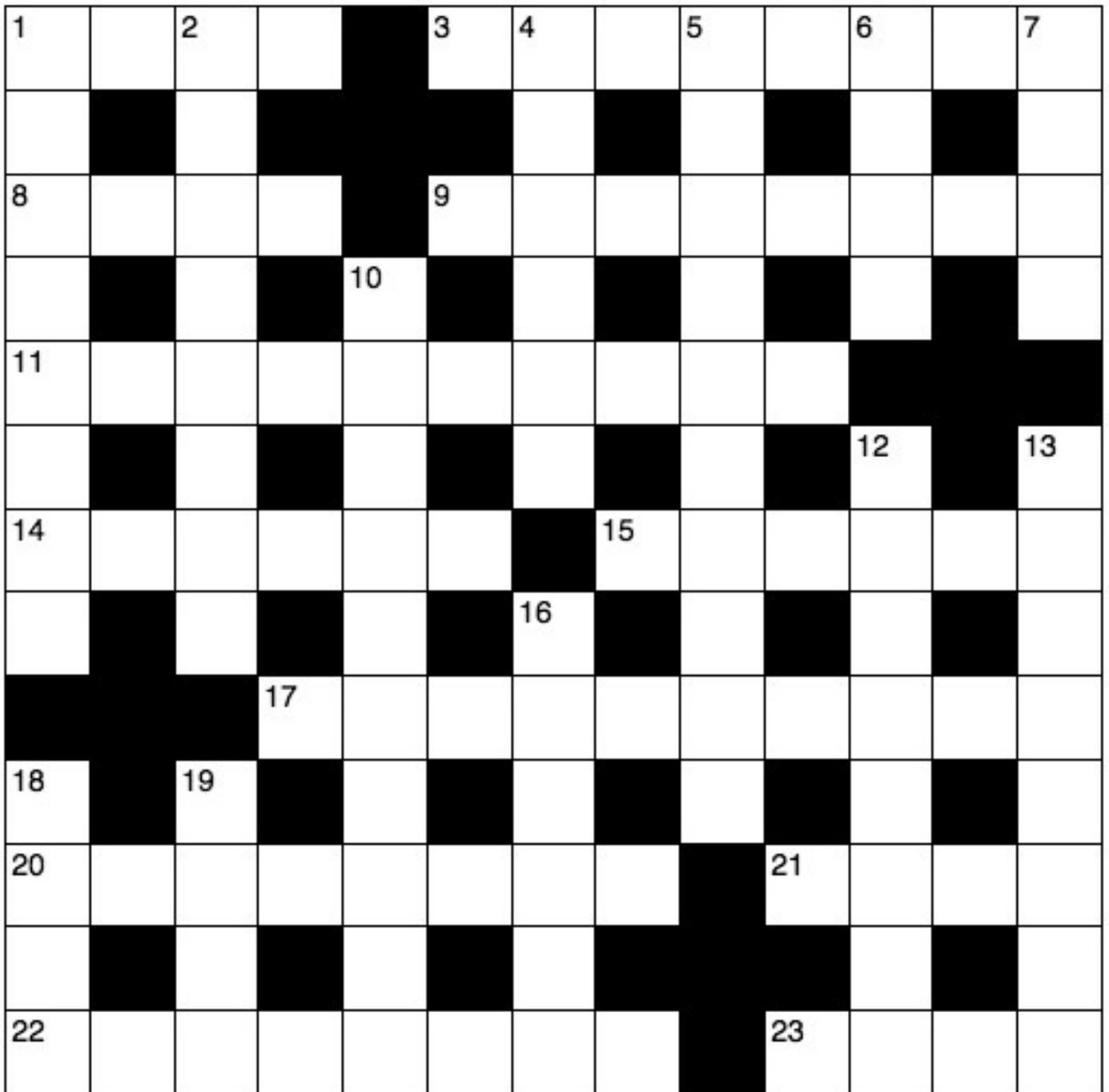


Everything is so different this year, but the children are just as excited as usual and they are all looking forward to celebrating Jesus' birth!

Hopefully, the new year will bring some normality back to our lives.

*Love,
Amy and family*

Crossword



Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a —— began to crow'
(John 18:27) (4)
- 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
- 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
- 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2–4) (8)
- 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
- 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)

- 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
- 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
- 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
- 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
- 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
- 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

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)

The solution is on page 43.

If you are struggling with the crossword, here are some light bulb moments

How many Charismatics does it take to change a light bulb?

One, since his/her hands are in the air anyway.

How many Anglo-Catholics does it take to change a light bulb?

None. They always use candles instead.

How many Brethren does it take to change a light bulb?

Change?????

How many Atheists does it take to change a light bulb?

You can ask them to change it as often as you like, but they'll still be in darkness.

COVID and school time – the new norm

Since March 22nd, a new language has been introduced to our school, our community. The language of COVID. Are you in direct proximity? Masked? Socially distancing? Remote learning today? In your bubble? COVID has dominated for so long as we, like the rest of the country, have struggled to find a way to cope with the pandemic, a way to provide anxious parents, staff and students a way forward, a time for normality, a safe structured school, a place to thrive.

The new norm has become staggered start and departure times, rooms with strict prohibitive lines for teachers to teach from the front in their own bubble, one-way systems (why did we not introduce this before?) and new policies for those who need to follow/adhere to a process. Then there are the weekends merging into the week as we respond to positive cases, dealing with staff and sadly sending some students home to isolate and yearn for the normality that school brings.

Yet, amidst all the loneliness, isolation and worry - staff testing positive, one remains very ill - there is cause for hope and positivity. Staff continue to work hard, relentlessly optimistic in their desire to support our fabulous community. Happy to be at school, not teaching to blank screens, a remoteness that can equate to loneliness.

Slowly, the new routines have been established and there is a happy rhythm to the school, brought about by the hopeful vibrancy of our young people whose resilience in the past year has often been overlooked. Then there is the generosity of all in our community as we continue to provide support wherever possible, with this half term:

- Remote care home visits.
- Poppy sales.
- Production of 60 individual hampers that we hope will bring some Christmas cheer – donations from all in our community.
- Promotion of worthy causes, such as the White Ribbon Campaign, a pledge that male violence against women is unacceptable, unaccepted, a mature discussion that will, hopefully, bring about change.

Christopher Whitehead is the largest school in Worcestershire and is proud of the committed, coherent response to the COVID challenge, grateful for our community's support.

I hope you will enjoy some short pieces written by our year 7 to 9 students in the following pages. If you would like to follow our positive news stories, newsletter or Headteacher's blog, please visit our website <https://christopherwhitehead.co.uk>

Neil Morris, Headteacher (23rd November 2020)

*From the Christopher Whitehead
'Phoenix' magazine (December 2020 edition)*

2020 By Ellie Mitchell

2020,	July,
A year to remember.	Quick get your hair cut,
January,	Shops are open,
Australian Bushfires.	Lockdown has eased.
February,	August,
What is coronavirus?	Summer holidays,
Floods,	Eat out to help out.
Land became water.	September,
March,	Back to school,
This is coronavirus,	A lot has changed,
Get out your hand gel,	Wear masks in the corridor.
Stay at home,	October,
Lockdown begins,	Remember the rule of 6,
Supermarket shelves are bare,	Halloween,
No toilet paper.	Cannot go trick or treating.
April,	November,
Can't see people,	Remember, remember the 5th of November,
What shall we do?	And no more than 6,
Stay at home,	Bonfire night,
Protect the NHS,	Can't have gatherings,
Save lives.	Remembrance Day,
May,	Back to lockdown,
Help us,	Schools are still open.
We are bored.	December,
June,	Come out of lockdown,
Get out your masks,	Hopefully see friends and family,
What is going on?	Christmas!! 😊

Continued on page 29



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Continued from page 27

The (mental) beauty of sport ***By Leo Wilford***

Football, Rugby, Basketball, Netball, Cross-country, Tennis, Swimming are just some of the sports which can give you a break and allow you not to stress over anything else. Play sport. Any sport. It gives you time away from stresses and lets you be yourself. Inside, outside, in swimming pools, at the beach.....sport has no limits. I would 100% recommend just stepping outside just to play with a family member or friend. It doesn't necessarily have to be competitive – just have fun and smile.

Myself and my friends don't all enjoy the same sport, but we are all healthy, happy and have a passion for what we enjoy. Personally, my favourite sport is football because it decreases my stress levels and makes me so happy – I've enjoyed football for many years now and it's helped me make so many friends, especially attending out of school clubs.

Sport also helps you mentally as well as physically. It will make you healthier, stronger, fitter and faster – in terms of your mental health it will give you a much more positive attitude to approaching tasks and learning overall.

Back in lockdown over the summer when we all had to stay indoors lots of individuals (including myself) felt a lot less mentally healthy – however since I came to Christopher Whitehead, I have felt so much better because of regular exercise during PE lessons.

So please, if you can, get outside and enjoy yourself.

Littering! ***By Hannah Kenney***

Littering is something we have all probably done at some point, myself included. Depending on what the item is, it MAY biodegrade like a piece of paper or lolly pop stick. But plastic cannot and if you're a person who litters plastic cans and wrappers then DON'T! Do you realise how detrimental that is to the planet? Do you know about all the animals who suffer or have died because of litter?

For example, turtles often get stuck in plastic bags/can holders as they easily mistake plastic for food. This also applies to small fish, dolphins and pelicans even. Moreover, hedgehogs can also get trapped in plastic – do they really deserve this? No wonder hedgehog numbers are rapidly declining.

So, what can we do today about this? We must stop littering; we must litter pick and we must warn others about this major problem. When you've finished your

Continued on page 31

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Continued from page 29

McDonalds (or even a salad sandwich) make sure your rubbish goes where it belongs – in the bin. If someone throws their litter on the floor, then don't be afraid to challenge them to be more responsible.

We can all feel lazy sometimes but there can never be a reasonable excuse for littering. As for seagulls, you'll regret it if you start to leave food for them on the ground...just use the bin!

Global Warming By Glenna Pacheco

Global warming and climate change are getting extremely serious as for every sunrise, there are deathly consequences inching closer and closer. A dry, deserted void awaits us as a result of selfish and careless actions. Each time a light switch is left on un-necessarily, it represents us turning a blind eye to the consequences of our actions.

Within our precious earth, an immense amount of beautiful locations are slowly yet surely perishing in front of our very eyes. In urban cities, fuel and gas emissions pour out of factories, chimneys and cars which battle against our supply of clean air. What we do NOW in the present will affect all of us in the future – we need to show our true colours in a positive light. Where do you think all of our rubbish and litter actually goes? Thin air? No, it chokes and strangles innocent and harmless animals. We have already threatened extinction to the tune of 16,306 different species (and also wiped out a further 571 tropical species) since 1750.

We cannot easily reverse this devastating trend against Nature, but we must learn our lesson before it's too late for our planet. We must recycle more; we must look at reducing plastic use; we must reduce toxic chemicals from transport if we are to enjoy a future with a sustainable earth.

Books v Computers by Holly Beacham

I firmly believe that students' textbooks should be replaced by electronic devices because you can find more research and information more quickly. Books remain harmful to the environment because chopping down trees reduces our carbon dioxide levels. Students would also be able to work independently and locate information far more easily.

Continued on page 33



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Continued from page 31

However, the problem remains that some students may not be able to afford modern technology and other gadgets and devices. If a student brings an expensive device to school, then it could quite easily get misplaced or stolen. However, if schools were able to supply such devices, then individuals would not need to worry about such matters, and they can be stored centrally in school. This relies ultimately on the quality of technology though, which can be variable at best. If students are sensible and responsible (and are careful with password protected work for example) then I see no reason why this move should not be supported.

Textbooks or iPads? By Jack Prosser

Some people argue the case for textbooks to be replaced in school by iPads, notebooks, computers or tablets which may then help students in their learning. Would this really be the case though? What about security issues for example?

If we changed all textbooks to iPads or laptops it would arguably be more hygienic as only one person would touch it, that being the student or owner. This would mean that illnesses would not spread so widely – very important in the current climate. Also, it would theoretically make it easier for the teacher as they would not need to organise and oversee whose book belongs to who; each student would have a SINGLE iPad or notebook computer for ALL their lessons.

However, if we did decide to change from textbooks to other forms of modern technology, then it would be more expensive to maintain and to upkeep. Another issue is the fact that some students misplace books all the time so they will, in all likelihood, lose other forms of technology which will be extremely expensive to replace. For these devices to run smoothly, they will require a form of server (and paid maintenance staff) so that each school can keep track on what each device is being used for.

To conclude, I believe that all schools should not replace textbooks on reflection; it would require a significant amount of money to maintain and may well prove to be logistically difficult for some students.

Our thanks to all the Christopher Whitehead students who wrote the above items, and to James Bishop, the English teacher who organised the Phoenix magazine from which these items have been drawn.

The Editors

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Seraphim, Munchin and Mungo

While most of the world recovers from hangovers, and rejoices that 2020 is over by celebrating New Year's Day on 1st January 2021, the Church year began on Advent Sunday and in the Christian calendar that day instead marks the festival of the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus.

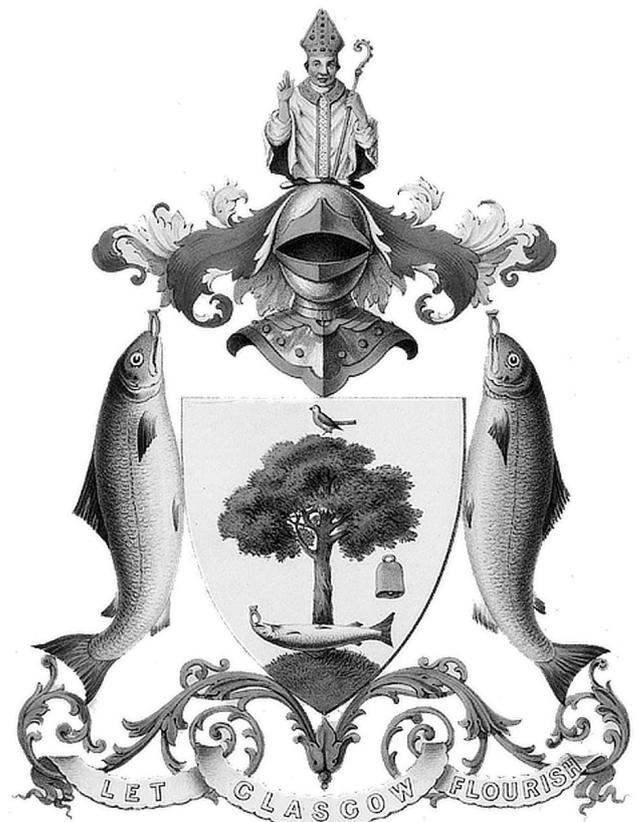
On the 2nd, the main commemoration is that of Basil the Great and Gregory of Nazianzus, teachers of the faith whose Trinitarian doctrine was adopted by the First Council of Constantinople in 381. The more esoterically minded might like to recall the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Russian monk Seraphim or, in Ireland, the shadowy seventh-century monk Munchin, patron saint of the city of Limerick.

The 3rd will see us mark the feast of the Epiphany, transferred from the 6th to the nearest Sunday, as we recall the visit of the Magi to the infant (not baby) Jesus as recounted in Matthew's gospel.

A long pause for reflection then follows, with no one to remember until the 10th. This would be the commemoration of William Laud, Charles I's High Church archbishop of Canterbury who met his end at the scaffold on Tower Hill during the Civil War, except, as it is a Sunday, the date is instead this year the Baptism of Christ.

We then move north, with the Scots remembering King David I (an eager monastic founder) on the 11th, and England recalling his one-time courtier Ælred of Hexham, twelfth-century abbot of Revesby and Rievaulx, on the 12th. Another Northumbrian abbot, the seventh-century Benedict Biscop of Wearmouth, shares the date with Ælred.

The fourth-century bishop of Poitiers, Hilary, is celebrated on the 13th, having particular significance in that for many years his name was given to the English legal term beginning in January and still designated the middle term of the academic year at the University of Oxford. The day is also that of Kentigern, alias Mungo, to whom Glasgow Cathedral is dedicated.



St Mungo appears at the top of the coat of arms of the City of Glasgow.

Continued on page 37

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Continued from page 35

The 17th, this year the Second Sunday of Epiphany, normally marks Antony of Egypt, the father of desert monasticism, with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity running from the 18th to the 25th.

Our attention switches to this city on the 19th with the feast of Wulfstan, eleventh-century bishop of Worcester who rebuilt the cathedral and was the longest-surviving Saxon bishop beyond the Norman Conquest, not dying until 1095, when his tomb joined that of Oswald as a major pilgrimage site.

Agnes, celebrated as a child martyr at Rome in 304, falls on the 21st, although genuine details of her life are scant. Another martyr in 304, Spain's first, falls on the 22nd: Vincent of Zaragoza perished in the Diocletian persecutions.

The 24th is the Third Sunday of Epiphany, although would otherwise give a choice between Francis de Sales, counter-Reformation bishop of Geneva, and Cadoc, somewhat mythical sixth-century Welsh abbot.

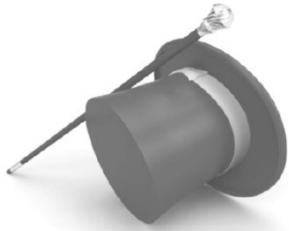
The month's only apostolic feast falls on the 25th and celebrates the Conversion of Paul on the road to Damascus, with his companions Timothy and Titus commemorated the next day.

The 28th is set aside for Thomas Aquinas, the Dominican venerated as one of medieval Christendom's greatest theologians. Charles, king and martyr (King Charles I of England and Scotland), beheaded on 30 January 1649, is remembered in the Church of England of which he was supreme governor on the anniversary of his execution; until the reforms of Victoria's reign this date used to be marked by a special state service in the Book of Common Prayer.

January ends on the 31st with the Fourth Sunday of Epiphany.



Phil Bradford



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From the magazine archive (January 1950)

WELSH LADIES CHOIR AT ST. JOHN'S

CHRISTMAS music formed a most delightful part of the Concert given on Thursday, December 15th, by the Worcester Welsh Ladies' Choir conducted by Mr. Llechid Williams.

The group of very lovely but little known Carols included Terry's setting of "Lullay, mine lkying", in which a boy soloist's voice contrasted most beautifully with the full Choir of women's voices. The soloist was the son of Mr. Llechid Williams, and, like his father, he is a Cathedral Chorister.

The Welsh Choir is now so well known that it is hardly necessary to mention the discipline, the light and shade, and the perfect diction which are characteristic of their performances.

But audiences are always surprised afresh by their keen and delicate appreciation of mood and phrase. The lovely rendering of Elgar's part song, "The Snow", with its fine shades of colouring, was a tremendous success, and amply illustrates their ability in this direction.

Caroline Godwin's fine soprano voice and keen dramatic sense combined in an effective rendering of "The Holy City" and other well chosen pieces.

Pianoforte duets, played by Ida Tappenden and Olwen Chivers introduced another seasonable note with Bach's, "Sheep may safely graze", played with admirable lucidity. The Mozart G minor Symphony, generally associated with strings and wood-wind instruments, sounded rather strange in the two pianos arrangement. The artistes, however, conveyed most beautifully the sense of freedom which is characteristic of Mozart's works.

The large gathering enjoyed the music and the performers were cordially thanked by the Vicar. Some amusement was caused when the Vicar called upon the Rev. C. H. Carver to thank the Choir in Welsh. The Curate was even more amused when several members of the Choir asked him to translate what had been said into English.

J.M.

Puzzle solutions

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

C	O	C	K		S	H	A	C	K	L	E	S	
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C	A	P	I	T	A	L	S		U	S	P	G	

And finally....



*Phil was
delighted
with the
cloak....*

*but not so
sure about
the face
mask.*



Sunday Services in the West Worcester Group - January 2021

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
3rd January	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
10th January	10.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
17th January	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
24th January	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
31st January	10am Group Eucharist			
7th February	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

The information above is provisional at the time of going to press and may have to be altered in accordance with lockdown regulations and Government and Church of England guidance.

Please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.