



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



January 2022

50p



Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY

clergy@wcw.church

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

TEAM OFFICE

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

ON THE WEB

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

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

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

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our January edition. In the church year, the season for the whole of January is Epiphany, so our theme this month is “Epiphany – season of joyful celebration.”

At the time of writing, it is unclear what the progression of the Omicron variant will be, and what effect it will have on future planned events (church and personal). It may thus seem that the choice of theme is not appropriate for the times. However, look at the archive piece on page 49, from January 1942. This was chosen before Omicron had become such a major concern, but surely it speaks to us? From an even more painful time, it says “Let us not be weary in doing well.”

Our response should be a familiar one “With the help of God, we will.” But without Christmas and Epiphany we would not know God as we do, and we would not have his help and his light in the gloom. That is why we should celebrate!

*Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition (February): Deadline is Sunday 9th January.
Distribution, towards the end of January.

Subscription form: Page 50.

Cover picture: Colin Nash: Epiphany: “On entering the house, they saw the child”

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Catherine Atkinson, Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Paul Fulbrook, Colin Nash, Maureen Ovington 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 50 or by taking a subscription form from the rack (where the magazines are) at the back of the church. Please return the form and your payment to the parish office.

Opinions!

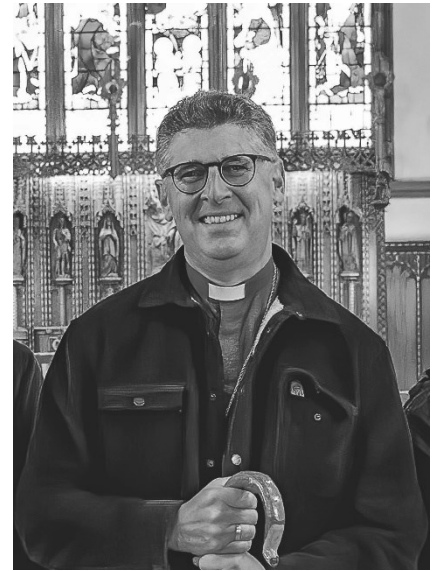
Opinions expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of the authors concerned and may not represent the views of the editors, our PCCs or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

To advertise

Please see page 12.

From Bishop Martin

*And God held in his hand
A small globe. Look, he said.
The son looked. Far off,
As through water, he saw
A scorched land of fierce
Colour. The light burned
There; crusted buildings
Cast their shadows; a bright
Serpent, a river
Uncoiled itself, radiant
With slime.
On a bare
Hill a bare tree saddened
The sky. Many people
Held out their thin arms
To it, as though waiting
For a vanished April
To return to its crossed
Boughs. The son watched
Them. Let me go there, he said.*



The Coming by RS Thomas 1913-2000

I love this poem by the Welsh poet and priest RS Thomas. It speaks of the coming of Christ that we have been celebrating in this Christmas season. But it speaks too of the suffering of our world, the hunger of so many people, the pillage of the earth itself. It speaks of crucifixion. Jesus does not turn away: ‘Let me go there,’ he said.

As 2022 begins we are well aware of the challenges of our times. As the Church of England, we seek to become ‘Simpler, Humbler and Bolder’ in all we do. Climate change demands that we live more simply, more humbly with the earth. It demands that we are bolder with the way we use what power and influence each of us may have to make this world a better place. If we have savings, pensions and investments for example, are they invested in ways that help the planet, or the opposite? Can you find out? Is your church an Eco Church? ** We hope we can become an Eco Diocese this year!

** <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>

It's a good time to reconsider our giving too. How can we be a generous people for the good of God's world? The bible encourages us to tithe, offering 10% of our income to God. Many give 5% to the church, and 5% to other charities, but it is for each person to decide before God what is right for them. What I do know is that financial giving is a spiritual matter, and that money is often the 'sacrament of seriousness' as someone used to put it. January is always a good time to review our giving, and how serious we really are about using what we have been given for good and for God. There is a video on the diocesan website which could be a good place to start (*see below ***).

Finally, thank you for all you do to keep prayer and hope alive in your church and parish. These are such challenging times, but on my recent twelve-day Pilgrimage of Prayer and Hope I was able to pray with people in well over 100 churches in every deanery of the Diocese. It has been such a blessing and encouragement to me to feel the depth of prayer and hope in parishes, to experience the kindness and welcome of its people in church after church.

On your journey with God in 2022, may you know his love always, and perhaps join with me in the Pilgrims' Prayer:

*God of our pilgrimage,
we are a thirsty people in a dry and weary land.
Strike our stony hearts afresh,
restore your springs of life within us.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit.
Let streams of living water
flow through all your Church for the healing of the nations,
for the blessing of the earth
and to the glory of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Bishop Martin

** To find the video, search on the diocesan website (cofe-worcester.org.uk) for "Enabling Giving" or go direct to <https://vimeo.com/508336539>



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
Rose Ashton	13 January 2019
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 2021

St John's

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

7th November 2021 Theodore Christopher Pullin

7th November 2021 Archie Stanley Reginald Jones

SERVICES: Communicants 195. Total attendance at all services 385 including 73 at a baptism service.

St Michael's

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 20th October 2021 Harold Hill

SERVICES: Communicants 79. Total attendance at all services 84.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in January

Saturday 1st: The naming and circumcision of Christ

Sunday 2nd: Epiphany (transferred) [Second Sunday of Christmas]

Thursday 6th: Epiphany

Sunday 9th: The baptism of Christ (Epiphany 1)

Sunday 16th: Second Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 23rd: Third Sunday of Epiphany

Tuesday 25th: Conversion of Paul

Sunday 30th: Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the temple)

Mid-week services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for January:

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

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

The Three Kings

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

The journey of the "Three Kings" to Bethlehem is being re-enacted across the Worcester City West Team area from December 13th to January 9th. Knitted kings, pictures of the gifts brought to Jesus, and stars have appeared in the windows and notice boards of our churches and local businesses. Advertised through the schools and our children's groups, children are encouraged to use the holiday period to find as many of these kings, gifts and stars as they can.

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

Sarah Cottrill

(Provisional &) Dates for your diary

Sunday 2nd January 2pm - Walking Church: Details on this page, below.

--- 000 ---

Saturday 8th January - Women's Breakfast: Details opposite.

--- 000 ---

Wednesday 12th and 26th January 10am - Little Blessings: Details page 15.

--- 000 ---

Thursday 13th January 1pm - Good Old Days talk: 'The Frost Fayre'

--- 000 ---

Monday 17th January 2.30pm: Mothers' Union AGM at St Michael's.

--- 000 ---

Wednesday 19th January 3pm - Tea/Coffee & Cake: Details opposite.

--- 000 ---

Saturday 22nd January - Café at 10:15: Details opposite.

--- 000 ---

Friday 28th January - Fourth Friday Friendship Group: Details on page 11.

--- 000 ---

Thursday 13th February 1pm - Good Old Days talk: 'A Victorian Valentine'

--- 000 ---

Saturday 19th March - Community Breakfast: Please put the date of the next St John's Community Breakfast into your diary.

It mentions hot drink and cakes....

Did you overindulge over Christmas?

Do you need help keeping your New Year Resolution to get more exercise?

Then help is at hand – come and join the next outing of Walking Church at 2pm on January 2nd.

The exact route has yet to be decided but it will almost certainly be all pavement to avoid muddy fields, will end at the vicarage for hot drinks and cake and will take no more than an hour and a half.

Everybody is welcome; just let me know you want to come and I'll make sure you're sent the details.

Sarah Cottrill

Events at St John's



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

*At 10.15am on
Saturday
22nd January
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*Wednesday 3pm
19th January
All are welcome.
Invite a friend!*



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on
Saturday 8th January
8.30am till 10.30am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room
Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)

*This month's speaker will be
Revd Diane Cooksey*



St John in Bedwardine



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

From 10am-12noon on the following

Saturdays in 2022:

22nd January	28th May
26th February	25th June
26th March	23rd July
23rd April	No meeting in August

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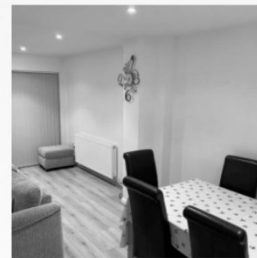
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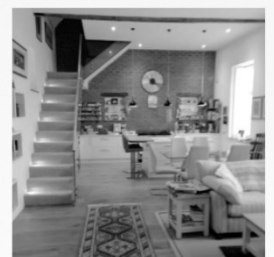
All rubbish taken away



Contact

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What is Christianity REALLY about??

Does it matter if I don't believe everything some other Christians believe?

What makes Christianity different from any other faith?

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

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

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

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

Further details in the coming months Watch this space!

Return of Fourth Friday Friendship Group

We're back! It's been a very long time and you've all been missed but, Covid restrictions allowing, Mum and I will be throwing open the door of the Vicarage again on Friday, January 28th for food, fellowship and fun!

The usual sign-up lists will appear in all four churches from the middle of January so please look out for them. If the rules change again, we'll obviously have to postpone, but keep your fingers crossed, have your jabs, wear your masks, keep your distance and all being well we'll meet again (cue for a song?!) at the end of January.

Sarah Cottrill

Thank you

A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who supported our Table Top Sale in November by hiring a table, helping to set up the tables, generously donating items to sell, baking wonderful cakes and serving refreshments, and then clearing away and tidying up. There was a steady flow of people and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was wonderful to see people chatting together and socialising after such a long time. An incredible total of £616 was achieved for church funds.

As several people have enquired about another sale, it is hoped that one will be held in the early spring.

Joy Job

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or please contact me for further details: Sarah (01905) 360751**

Would you like to advertise in this magazine?

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

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

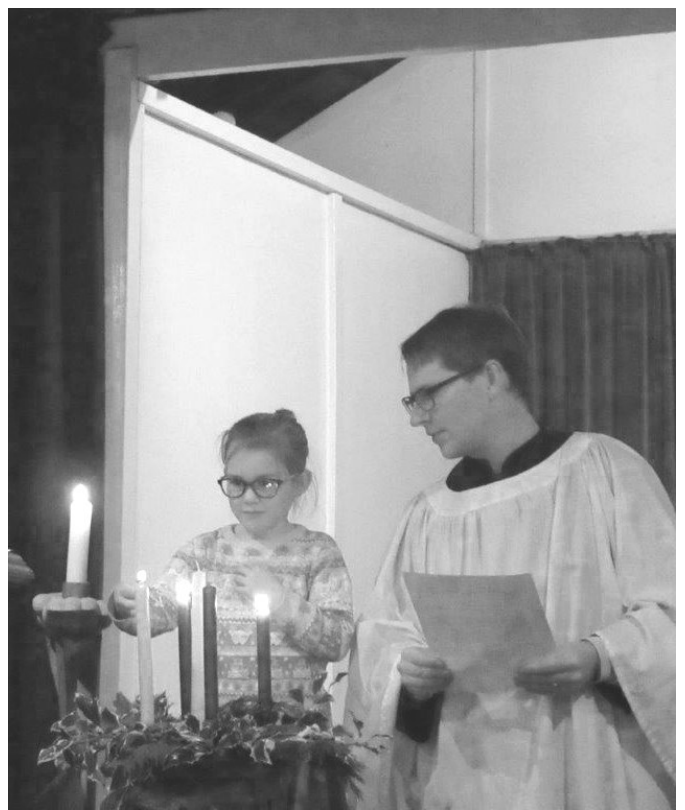
News from St David's



We all enjoyed our “Carols Round the Tree” service on Sunday 12th December. This service was led by ALM Chris Rees and we were all delighted that Amy, Abi and Tilly came along to take part. Having children present at the service lifted everyone’s spirits, as did taking off our masks to sing!

It was good to welcome folk from other churches in our team and we look forward to seeing some of them again in the new year.

Maureen Ovington





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New look Little Blessings

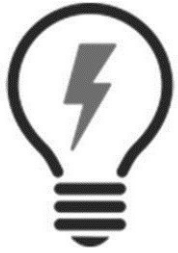


Having struggled with low numbers, Little Blessings has changed time and venue. It is now meeting in St John's Church from 10am to 11.30am on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month.

Children under school age, together with their parents or carers are welcome for Bible based stories, songs and activities.

The first of these new look sessions was held on December 8th when we enjoyed stories and activities around the story of the birth of John the Baptist. The next session is on January 12th.

Sarah Cottrill



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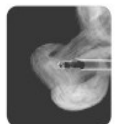


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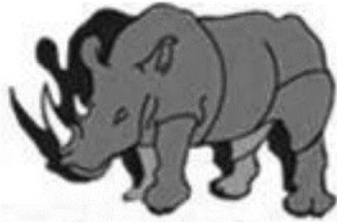


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Little Lambs

We've had a wonderful term at Little Lambs and have welcomed lots of new



families with their little ones. Over the term we have done lots of exciting activities including making clay hedgehogs, firework paintings and Christmas decorations. We rounded off the term with our Christmas party where we were lucky enough to be visited by Father Christmas. Each child was gifted a book of the Nativity and everyone had a wonderful time.

We will be starting back in 2022 on the 10th January and are always on the lookout for new helpers to join our team. Whether it's making coffee, chatting to parents, playing with children, helping with singing time or clearing away you'll be very welcome!

Amy and the Little Lambs team



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Feast of the Epiphany



Perrugino:

Adoration of the Magi (part)

On January 6th in the present calendar Christians celebrate the first showing of the infant Christ to the world of the “gentiles” (the non-Jewish peoples).

The celebration, from around the 4th century in Rome, became an annual event and joined Easter and Christmas as the great Christian festivals.

In the West, the time between December 25th and January 6th is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas,

and the evening preceding Epiphany we call Twelfth Night.

Epiphany is celebrated with special pastries in many countries, and children in several Latin American countries often receive small gifts in their shoes in honour of the Magi’s gifts to the infant Jesus. In Italy, this gifting is done by the witch Befana who arrives with specific gifts for each child. In Bulgaria, a wooden cross is thrown by a priest into the sea, river or lake and young men race to retrieve it. As the date is in early January and the waters are close to freezing, this is considered an honourable act and it is said that good health will be bestowed upon the home of the swimmer who is the first to reach the cross.

In Finland families take down the decorated Christmas tree and cut it into pieces to make a small fire - an event called “loppiainen.” In Austria, Germany and parts of Switzerland groups of young people (singers) go from house to house in their village/area, dressed as Magi and with a “meister” who carries a wooden star in front of them - they bless each house with a traditional song.

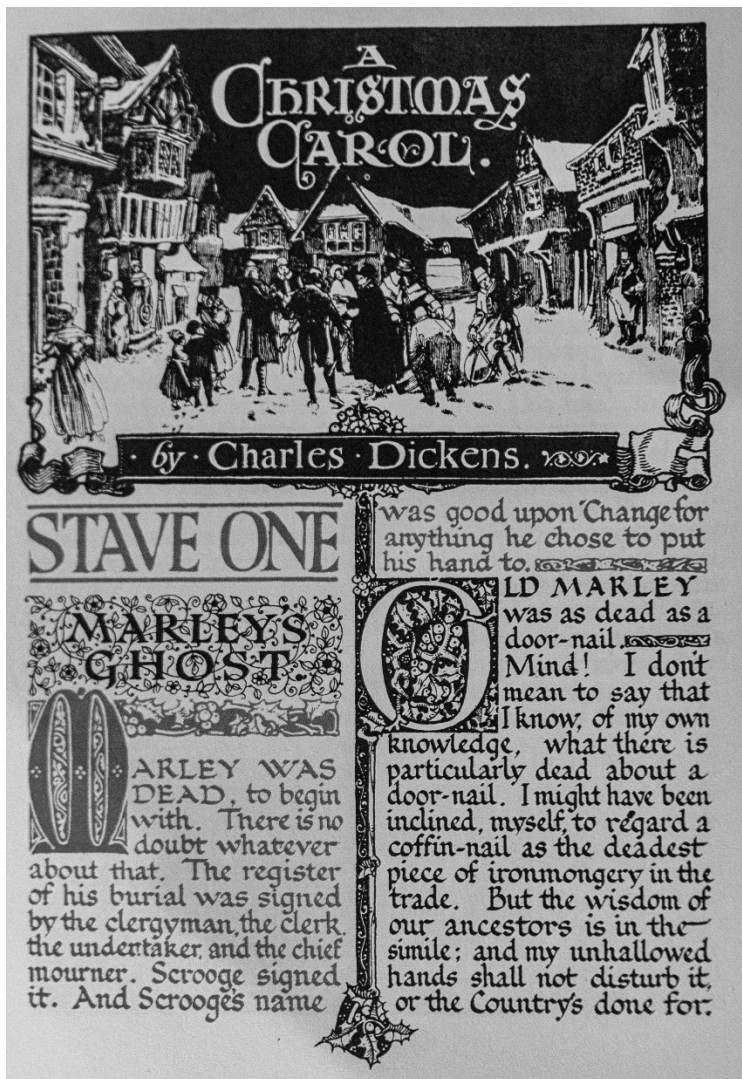
Since the Epiphany is one of the seven great feasts of the Coptic Orthodox Church, it is a day of strict fasting, and several religious celebrations are held on this day. In many eastern countries, as a reflection of Jesus’ baptism, the priests carry out the blessing of houses with holy water which can take many days beyond Epiphany tide!

Epiphany has also been considered a time to bring gifts to the people who are in need and has thus been a time to promote the Mission of the church to the poorest in society. Several charities therefore send out appeals for funds too. *Arthur Miller*

Victorian Christmas

Christmas was banned by the puritans and went out of favour for many years after the ban was lifted, people just did not celebrate Christmas. A Christmas Carol, written by Charles Dickens helped to re-invigorate Christmas in the Victorian era. Charles Dickens read passages from this book in the Cornmarket in Worcester. Some believe that Scrooge represents the feeling after the ban but by the end of the book Christmas is popular. In Victorian times Christmas was celebrated over quite a short period, not starting at the end of August as the big retailers would want us to do now!

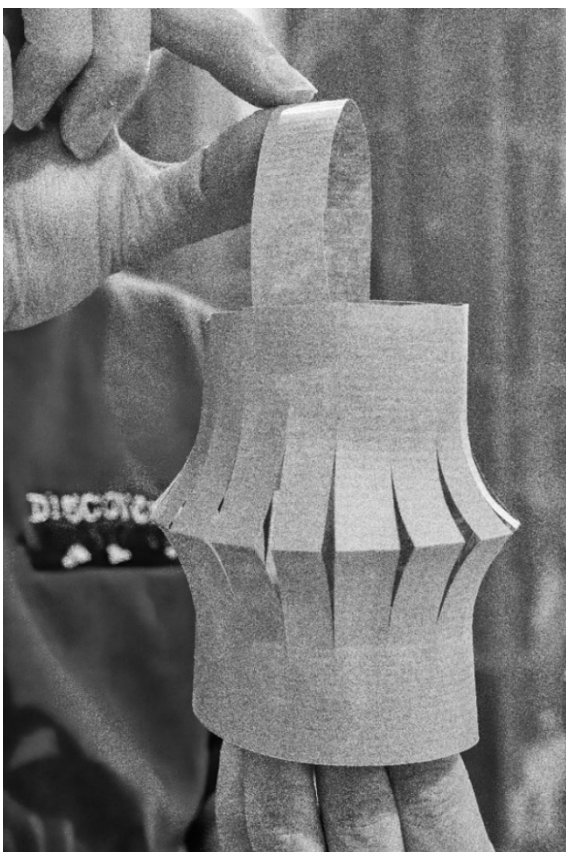
Evergreen plants were brought into the houses as they showed there was life in deep winter when most people,



especially in towns, only saw grey times with all the smoke around. Mistletoe was a fertility symbol; Holly had been seen as a sinister plant, but people saw it resembling Christ's crown of thorns, so it was included.

The Victorians made lots of things for Christmas, decorations had started to appear in the early 1800s. Paper chains were one of the earliest decorations and they were made from whatever paper they could find, and flour and water was used as the glue for them.

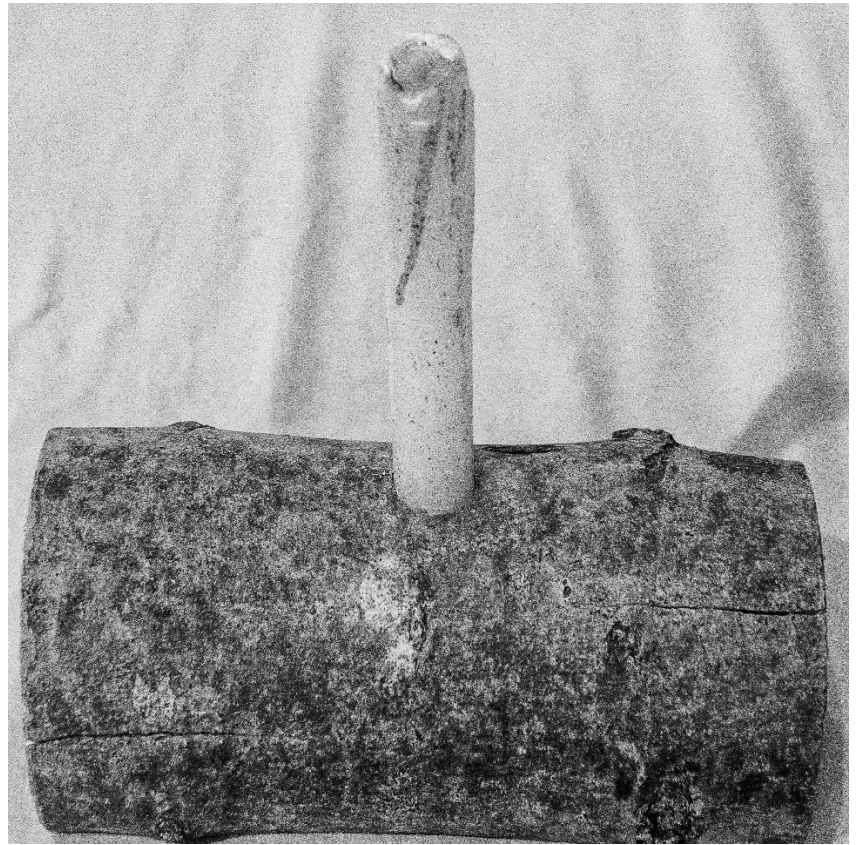
The Victorians started to make paper lanterns by folding paper in half and then cutting one side.



The early pagan Festival of Yule involved a tree being cut down and burnt in the large Feasting Hall fireplace, lighting the new Yule log from the ashes of the old one.

By Victorian times the fireplaces were very small, so they made a small Yule log and put a candle in it to represent the burning log and this was put on a table.

The tree was only put up on Christmas Eve. The Christmas tree goes back to the fifteenth or sixteenth century in Europe.



In England, it was Queen Charlotte who put up the first tree in 1800, long before the Victorians.

A picture in Punch magazine showed Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with their children around a tree and that popularised the use of trees. Early trees only had small candles on the trees. It is thought that the tradition comes about because Germans walking through woods, such as the Black Forest, could see the stars through the trees, so the candles were used to represent the stars. By the end of the Victorian period, they were putting all sorts of things on the tree, like dried fruit, gingerbread, and cones of sweets for the children.

It is thought that stockings were hung by the fire from the late 18th Century. Saint Nicholas was often depicted riding across the sky on a white horse and he threw coins across the rooftops which went down the chimneys and people found the money in the morning.

Unlike Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas never entered a house, but Black Peter followed him, and he would hunt down the naughty children. He did enter the houses to track them down and beat them. Parents would leave a coin in the stocking for the children and that has come down the years to the gold chocolate coins that are given now. Fruit and nuts were also left in the stockings, and this meant that the children would enter the new year with money and food to sustain them.



After opening the stockings, the Victorians would usually walk to church, making a pilgrimage, like early Christians. After church it was the Christmas dinner, roast

meat (normally goose as turkey was not popular at the time), roast potatoes, vegetables such as sprouts, stuffing and gravy. Dessert followed, the Christmas pudding, this could have come from plum pudding or figgy pudding. The Victorians started to put things in the pudding like silver coins or rings for good luck. The setting fire of the pudding goes back to the Yule log and the sun rising as the days lengthen.

After dinner they would play games like the Handkerchief game where a footstool was placed on the ground and a handkerchief placed on top of it. Each person then had to hold their right ear with their left hand and hold their left foot with their right hand. Then they had to try to pick up the handkerchief with their mouth. Another suggested game was Snapdragon. Here a bowl of alcohol had dried fruit, such as currants, put in it. The winner was the person to get the most currants out of the bowl. Oh, did I mention that they set fire to the alcohol before trying to get the fruit out!



In the 1840s, Tom Smith invented crackers and Henry Cole invented the Christmas card, so that he could send a message to friends to wish them a Merry Christmas. The first card showed a family toasting the recipient of the card with alcohol, including young children. For some reason this was condemned by both the

Temperance Society and the Salvation Army. The robin soon became the most popular illustration on the front of the card. The earliest cards were postcards not folded cards.

Some believe that the Victorians invented the Pantomime, which was based on a moral story with lots of fun, like the Christmas story. Others believe that they could also have come from the medieval Mummers plays.

Christmas finished on Boxing Day and then they went back to work.

Colin Nash

Community Breakfast



On Saturday 4th December we held our Community Breakfast at St. John's church. We served 66 full English breakfasts and it was so good to see every one being able to enjoy the food and hospitality that was given.



All event information should be regarded as provisional and checked near the time



We did have food left over and it went to making sandwiches and a meal for the Worcester Street cafe, for those people who live on the streets of Worcester.



Thank you to everyone who helped and to all of you who came.

The next breakfast will be on 19th March 2022.

Jenny English

Please help!

Children's worship has had to have a break over the last term which is really sad. Unfortunately, due to family health and other things outside our control, Chris and I have struggled to run it. Children's worship should never be the responsibility of just one person, if only for the reason that there needs to be someone to step in in times of illness.

We're appealing for help with both the younger and older children. Please speak to a member of the clergy or me or Chris if you think you could help.

We're reluctant to advertise the work we do with children until we have more volunteers in place. Before covid we were in a wonderful place with a growing group of children and together we can definitely get there again!



For now, the children will have sessions on the first and third Sundays of the month with activities available in children's corner for the other Sundays. We're looking forward to working together to support the youth of our church community.

Amy Rees

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

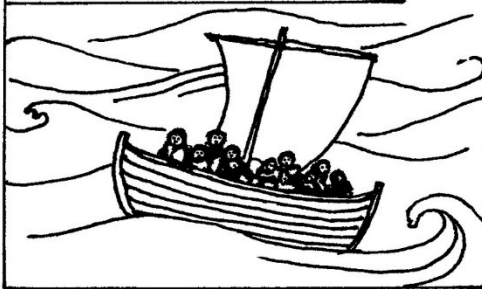
It can be read in the Bible in
Mt 14:13-22, Mk 6:45-52, Jn 5:16-21

After Jesus had fed the crowd, he sent his disciples off in their boat and the crowd away. He went up the mountain to pray.

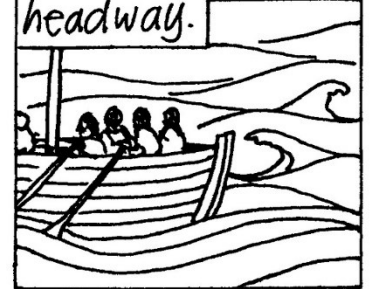
Jesus spent the evening with his father God.



A strong wind started to toss the boat around.



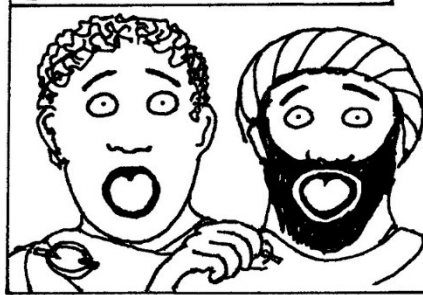
They tried rowing but could make no headway.



Not long before morning they saw someone walking past them on the water.



They thought it was a ghost and screamed!



Don't be afraid! It's me, Jesus.



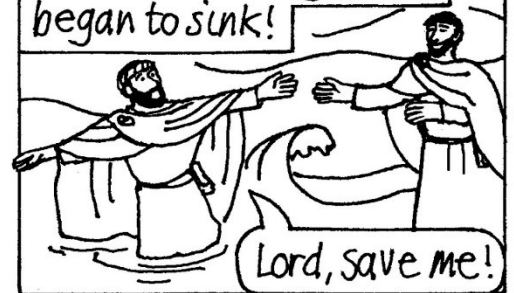
Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you!



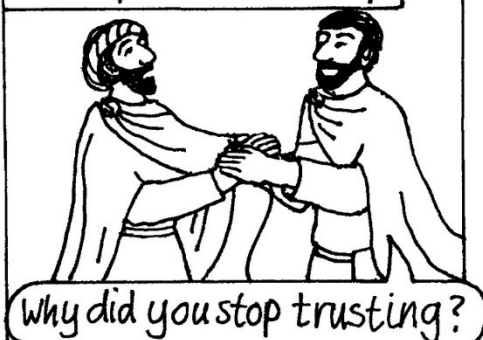
Peter started walking towards Jesus..



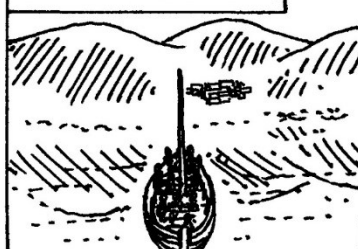
he saw how strong the wind was and took fright. He began to sink!



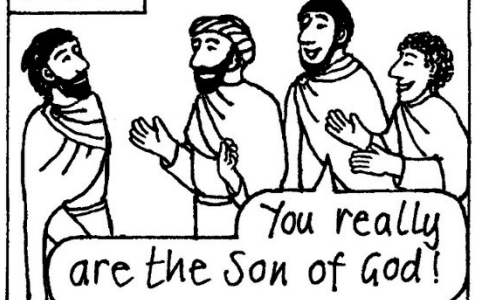
Jesus pulled Peter up.



As Jesus and Peter got into the boat the wind died down.



The disciples worshipped Jesus.



St Clement's CofE Primary School

At Rivers schools we follow a curriculum which has the United National Sustainable Development Goals woven into it to ensure that we prepare our children to 'Love, learn and live as global citizens in an ever-changing world.' Here are a couple of projects that children have worked during the Autumn Term.

Year 6 Design Technology Project

Year 6 hosted a Meat free Monday event. They designed and prepared a selection of meat free dishes. We invited staff to come along taste our dishes and complete an evaluation.

Check out the impact calculator to see the difference having just one meat free day a week will have on our planet. <https://meatfreemondays.com>



Year 5 Design Technology Project

Children in Year 5 have made fidget blankets for people with Alzheimer's. They have researched the interests of the people and used their compassion, independence, perseverance, resilience and determination to produce some amazing blankets. They will be delivered to Regent this week.



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

Culture of a Secondary School

I had my two minutes of fame – well Hereford and Worcester radio asking how schools were coping post COVID?! Two minutes were not long enough to describe the current, complex, challenging situation, but post COVID we most definitely are not coping! Since September we have had 17 staff suffer with COVID and amongst our crucial Year 11 students, 117 and counting have suffered with COVID, at least ten crucial schooldays missed by each one.

It is therefore imperative that we focus on our culture, the ethos, feel of our school, monitored strictly by those amazing, unsung heroes, the volunteers, the Governing Body. Critical friends of Christopher Whitehead, they can and do have constructive, critical conversations that make a difference and their support throughout this crisis has been invaluable. Our culture is much more than our stated ambition to be an inclusive outward-facing school where all can safely thrive. The evidence that this term we have got it right can be seen in:

- Our vibrant Christmas Fayre, attended by over a thousand people in a lovely atmosphere where the community came together. Something for all ages with students and staff leading many stalls.
- Our international charity, ‘People in Motion’ – toiletries and sanitary provision collected and dropped off. We are now collecting useable, clean sleeping bags, tents- a small dent in the refugee crisis. Donations can be dropped off at Reception.
- Our ongoing support of Worcester Foodbank.
- The delivery of hard-hitting assemblies, where the weekly theme: refugees, hate crime and, most recently, the White Ribbon Campaign (sixteen days of activism to address male violence towards women) has produced some lively debates.

There is so much more to a good school than academic achievement! We also do that very well, but getting our culture right will ensure all the rest follows and respectful citizens are created.

If you wish to find out about being a Governor at Christopher Whitehead, please email office@cwlc.email entitled Governance.

Neil Morris
Headteacher
Christopher Whitehead Language College and Sixth Form

Summary of St. John's PCC meeting (17th November)

The meeting was held in the church with 10 members present. Apologies were received from 5 members. The meeting was opened with prayer.

Matters arising: All three PCCs have agreed to ask the bishop for a Team Marriage Measure and the request has been sent to the diocese. All three PCCs have agreed to investigate the options for a joint PCC.

Mission and Outreach Group: Sarah gave an overview of the group. It consists of nine people from all four churches in the Team.

The first project was a questionnaire which has had a good level of response. Philip Evans has spent time collating the information and the group will respond to the results. They are also working on a joint welcome pack for all four churches.

Discipleship courses should involve laity. A series of evenings looking at Christianity will be organised in January, involving Sarah and ALMs.

The Mission Group are also working on an Epiphany Trail and Service. This will involve local schools and businesses by asking them to display knitted kings, stars, or gifts in their windows. Children will be given a map and encouraged to see how many they can spot. The Epiphany Service will be on 9th January at 3pm, followed by tea. Little Lambs and Children's Church will be invited.

Eco Church: The PCC had previously seen an email from Revd Sue Adeney, Chair of Eco Church within Climate Crisis Group. Alice Evans is the Eco Champion for St Michael's. Sarah will ask Alice if it is possible to work towards a Team Eco award, and if so, if she would be willing to co-ordinate this.

Safeguarding: Jane Askew (Parish Safeguarding Officer) had circulated a report. Five ALMs have completed Leadership (C2) training. All PCC members need to complete C1 Foundation Training. New positions (voluntary or paid) will need a specification and risk assessment to determine if a DBS check is needed. Jane will ask for a list of who needs to do what, and when and why it is needed. There have been no safeguarding incidents since the last PCC meeting.

Finance: A report on the budget and accounts had been circulated to the PCC. Plans are in action for a Stewardship Campaign.

The budgeted fundraising income for 2022 has been increased. A summer event will be needed. A Team fundraising event towards the Team Ministry Share was suggested. Currently reduced income from the flat should improve once there is a tenant in the flat.

The Standing Committee will have a detailed look at future finances. The PCC adopted the budget for 2022.

Irene Haynes has left St John's Church a legacy of circa £30k.

The treasurer was thanked for his hard work on the accounts.

Churchyard: The PCC thanked Colin and his team for all the work they do to maintain the churchyard.

Ministry Share: The Ministry Share for 2022 is a 30% increase from the Parish Share - £112k across the Team. A diocesan transition grant will be applied for.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

*PCC minutes by Liz Edwards (PCC Secretary)
Summarised by Graham Evans (PCC Member)*

Mothers' Union

Around 70 members of the Mother's Union from across the diocese gathered at Worcester Cathedral for a special Eucharist Service as part of the National 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. It was a simple but poignant event and several people visiting the Cathedral stayed to listen and pray with us.

St Michael's branch December meeting was a bring and share lunch, attended by a total of 12 members and friends. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Jenny Claydon

Sudoku Puzzle

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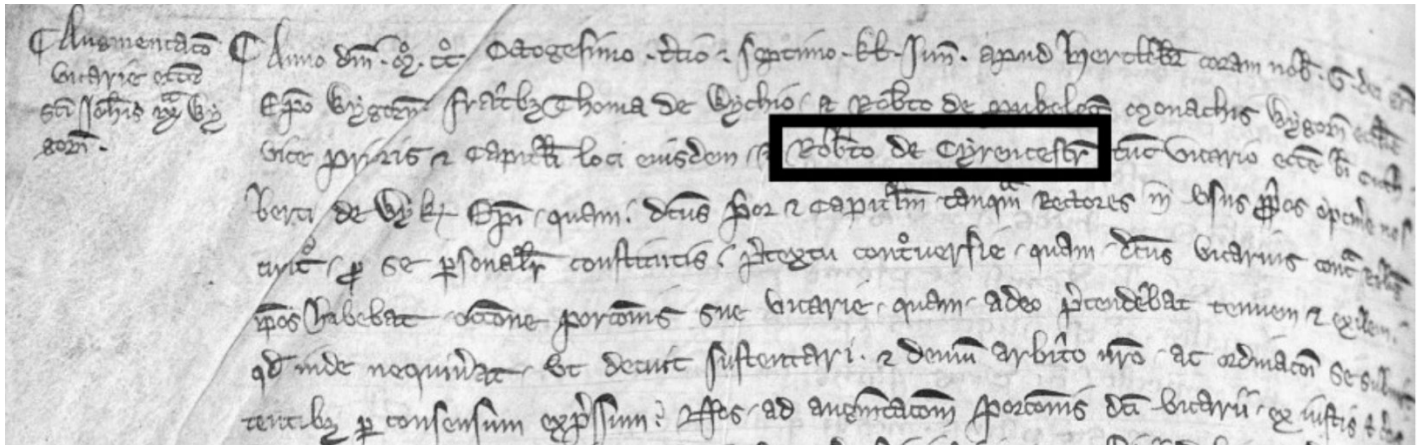
*The
solution is
on the
inside back
cover.*

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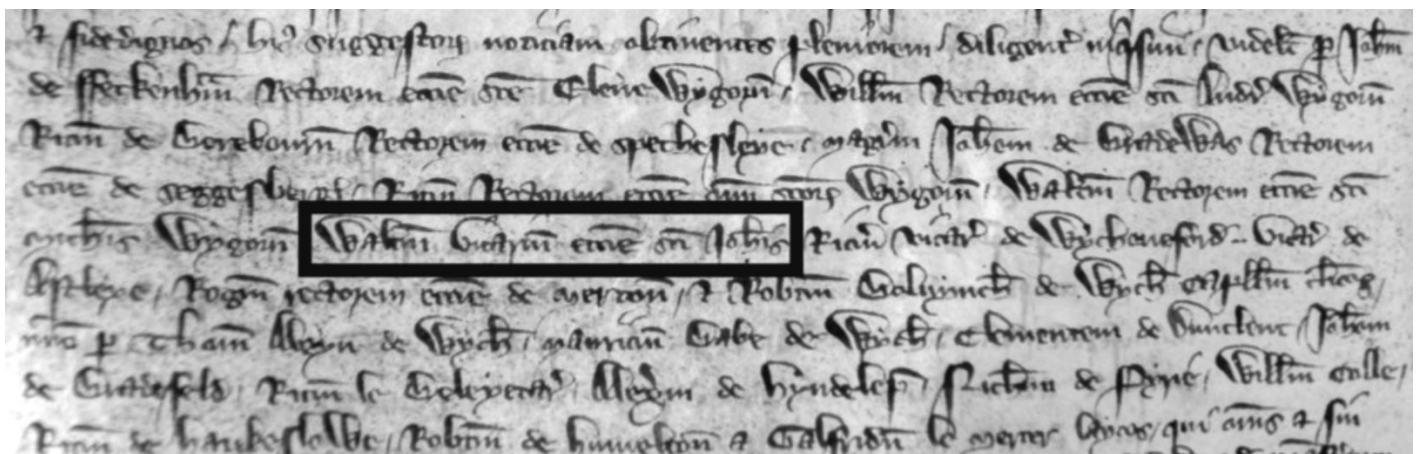
The History of St John's Parish

IX: The documents

Last month, we printed a picture of the document with the first reference to St John's church. This month, we are showing a selection of other documents, all found in diocesan archives, from which the story of our parish and its clergy is pieced together. The bracketed details at the end of each piece of explanatory text are the reference numbers of the relevant document in The Hive.



This extract from the register of Bishop Godfrey Giffard (1268-1302) dates from 1287 and concerns an agreement with the cathedral about augmenting the proportion of the tithes paid to the vicar. This is the first time a named vicar of Wick Episcopi appears in the written records: Robert of Cirencester. (716.093, BA 2648/1(i), p. 304)



This 1313 extract is from the register of Walter Reynolds, bishop of Worcester from 1308 until he became archbishop of Canterbury in 1313. The highlighted text reads (in translation) 'Walter, vicar of the church of St John.' This is a vicar who appears to have previously been overlooked (he does not appear on the board in the porch). While he was technically vicar of Wick Episcopi, it is clear from this and other evidence that the vicar was always resident at St John's. (716.093, BA 2648/1(iii))

This lengthy piece, dated 17th February 1372 and from the register of Bishop William Lenn (1369-73), is a copy of the order which made the chapel of

A page of a medieval manuscript with dense Latin text in a Gothic script. The text is arranged in a single column and appears to be a legal or ecclesiastical document, possibly a charter or a record of a church's history. The ink is dark, and the parchment shows some signs of age and wear.

A page of a medieval manuscript with dense Latin text in a Gothic script. The text is arranged in a single column and appears to be a legal or ecclesiastical document, possibly a charter or a record of a church's history. The ink is dark, and the parchment shows some signs of age and wear.

St John's the parish church in place of St Cuthbert's, Wick Episcopi, which is in a dilapidated condition. (716.093, BA 2648/4a(iii), pp. 71-72)

A page of a medieval manuscript with dense Latin text in a Gothic script. The text is arranged in a single column and appears to be a legal or ecclesiastical document, possibly a charter or a record of a church's history. The ink is dark, and the parchment shows some signs of age and wear.

Here, in the register of Bishop Nicholas Heath (1544-51), is a record of the appointment of Thomas Hugh as vicar in 1544. Hugh's was the first appointment after the Reformation and he was thus the first Church of England vicar of St John's. (716.093, BA 2648/9b(iv), p. 4)

The following two documents concern the appointment of James Badger to vicar in 1676. A letter in Latin from William Thomas, dean of Worcester, informs the bishop that the cathedral is presenting Badger to the vacancy. The other, in Latin and English, is Badger's bond. The 1670s was a tense time in the Church of England and Badger was the first vicar appointed after the Test Act of 1673, which required all who held public office to swear: 'I, N, do declare that I do believe that there is not any transubstantiation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, or in the elements of the bread and wine, at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever.' (732.4, BA 2337/26, 987 and 988)

Isaac by Divine Permission Bishop of Worcester To the Reverend Philip
 Inalida Doctor in Divinity our Official Principal and Vicar General Health in the Lord.
 Whereas by a Patent consisting and appointing You Official Principal and Vicar General
 of the Diocese of Worcester You are among other Things authorized and empowered to admit
 institute and induct or cause to be inducted into any Benefice or Benefices which become vacant
 in the Diocese of Worcester aforesaid any Clerk or Clerks lawfully presented whom We or our
 Successors or Persons deputed by us or them for that purpose shall by our Handwriting
 approve as fitly qualified to be so admitted instituted and inducted. AND Whereas the Dean
 and Chapter of our Cathedral Church of Worcester have presented Edwyn Sandys Bachelor
 of Laws to the Vicarage of Saint John in Bedwardine in the County and Diocese of Worcester
 aforesaid We do hereby under our Hand approve of the said Edwyn Sandys as fitly qualified
 to be instituted and inducted into the said Vicarage of Saint John in Bedwardine aforesaid
 and do direct and empower You to proceed to institute and induct the said Edwyn Sandys
 accordingly We having first taken such Oaths and made such Subscriptions as are by Law
 in this Case appointed and required. In Witness whereof We have affixed
 our Seal which we use in this behalf this thirteenth Day of February in the Year of
 our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and forty five and in the third Year of our
 Translation.

Marginal note from the document below

20th May 1704. D. Quilley

To the Right Reverend Father in God James by Divine Permission Lord Bishop of
 Worcester his Vicar General in Spirituals or to any other Person or Persons having
 sufficient Authority in this behalf John Waugh Doctor of Laws Dean of the Cathedral
 Church of Christ and the blessed Mary the Virgin of Worcester and the Chapter of the
 same Church Your Lordships Devoted Sons and Servants the true and undoubted
 Patrons of the Perpetual Vicarage and Parish Church of Saint John in Bedwardine
 in the County and your Lordships Diocese of Worcester Do Present unto Your
 Lordships and to the Vicarage of the Parish Church of Saint John in Bedwardine
 aforesaid now void by the Natural Death of the Reverend Edwyn Sandys Clerk the
 last Incumbent and to our Presentation in full Right belonging our beloved in
 Christ Lewis Crusius Doctor in Divinity humbly Praying that your Lordships
 would be graciously Pleas'd to admit and Canonically to institute him the said
 Lewis Crusius to the Vicarage and Parish Church of Saint John in Bedwardine
 aforesaid to invest him with all and singular the Rights Members and
 Appurtenances thereunto belonging to cause him to be inducted into the Realm
 actual and Corporal Possession thereof and to perform whatsoever else belongs
 to your Lordships Pastoral Office. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our
 common Seal Dated this Twentieth Day of May in the Year of our Lord One
 Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Four.

W. Oliver. Chapt. Clerk.

In 1764, John Waugh (you can see his name in the third line of the document at the bottom of page 37), dean of Worcester, wrote the above to “the Right Reverend Father in God James by Divine Permission Lord Bishop of Worcester” (17??-??) to present Lewis Crusius (line 11) as the cathedral’s choice for the new vicar of St John’s. The letter notes that the vacancy had arisen because of ‘the natural death of the Reverend Edwyn [sic] Sandys’ (line 9). From the eighteenth century, it becomes much easier to determine when and why vacancies arose. (732.4, BA 2337/43, 675)

There are, of course, plenty of other documents, but this is just a selection to show how things changed over time.

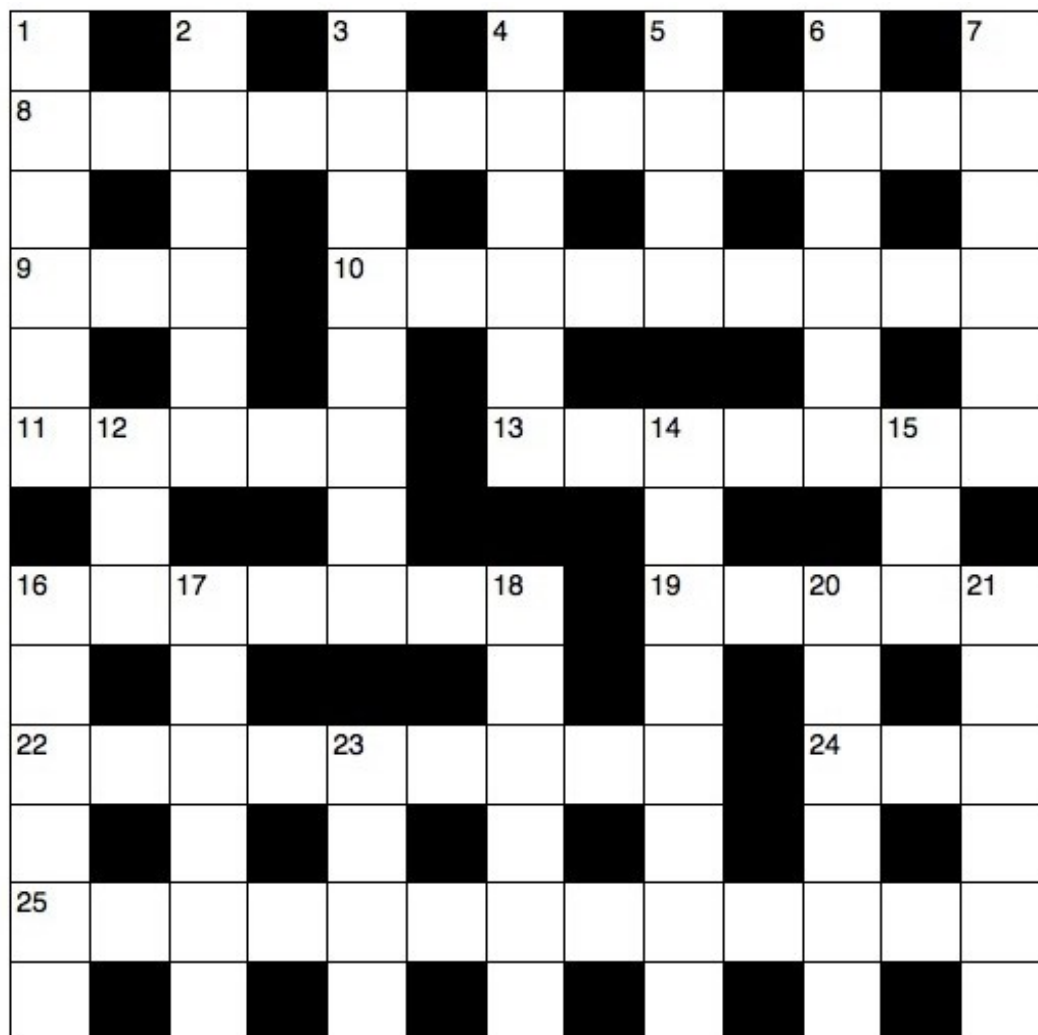
Phil Bradford

Acknowledgements

The photos were taken by Colin Nash. I am very grateful to Colin for his patience while I sought all these out at The Hive and for calmly taking pictures of whatever document I put under his camera, no matter how strange! Copyright is held by the bishop of Worcester and these images are reproduced with his permission.

Crossword

The solution is on the inside back cover.



Clues Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
- 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
- 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
- 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
- 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)
- 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
- 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
- 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
- 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

Clues Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
- 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
- 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
- 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
- 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
- 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
- 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
- 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1)
- 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
- 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
- 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
- 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
- 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
- 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
- 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
- 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)



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Churches in our (new) deanery

For this month's 'Deanery church of the month' I visited St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey (actually the hamlet of Harpley), in the Worcestershire West Rural Team Ministry (WWRT).

It doesn't take too much to confuse me and you should therefore also excuse 'The Diocese' for still thinking that this church is in Lower Sapey when it moved (with



the then Bishop's permission) in 1877 to the village of Harpley because (as stated in one document) it "being a more convenient location".

The Herefordshire boundary erupts like a mushroom into Worcestershire near here and this Church is only 6/10ths of a mile in a straight line from the border which is on the main B4203 'High Lane' between Great Witley and Bromyard. I pondered at any cross-fertilisation with Hereford Diocese parishes close by but was told that there is none.

St Bartholomew, one of the twelve apostles, is said to have been martyred for having converted Polymius, King of Armenia. He was skinned alive and beheaded. He is often depicted in iconography holding his flayed skin or with the curved flensing knife with which he was skinned) and he is the patron saint of leather workers.



The crest on the board in this church listing the churchwardens ably demonstrating the three knives commonly displayed in pictures. He is also the patron for plasterers which is apt as this church has unfortunately suffered a ceiling collapse. At the warm welcome given to me for my visit, I was warned that it was now a 'hard-hat' area. The church interior photo on the next page is from the internet.

Continued on page 43

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Continued from page 41.

I was generously shown around the church. I recommend to you that later this year, when the weather is warmer, and hopefully when some of the works will have been completed, that you also travel out to this delightful church on the hill which is about a mile from the old St Bartholomew. Walking between the two churches across fields is not far and a nice round trip can be made.



My reference books suggest that the windows were deliberately set at irregular distances to give an impression of ‘age’ and certainly the church appears on first glance to be a traditional English village church rather than a Victorian one. Some of the stonework touches are excellent and show not only a pride in the mason’s



art but also that cost was not skimped. I would especially bring to your attention the enigma of the chancel window. Whilst on the one hand it looks unexceptional, with Mary and child at the adoration, a closer inspection of the ‘Three Kings’ shows an anomaly of two Kings and a ‘black?’ Queen. The Pevensey Worcestershire guide states the window is by Hardman C.1925. A reference to the Queen of Sheba perhaps? The round bowl font is probably 13th Century and that it was brought from the old church gives a lovely link to all the generations. It has now been placed on a new base.



Continued on page 45



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Continued from page 43

(Old) St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey.

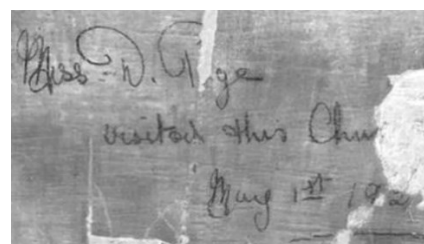
This church simply should not be here any more as it was supposed to have been reduced to a mere shell with walls lower than six feet high!

Agricultural buildings though, being useful things, the building survived in a dilapidated state until according to one writer it was not even fit for hens to live in. Some of the photographs that I have

seen of it show it looking in a very sorry state but hopefully that is now all forgotten as it is in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

At the time of writing, it is again open to visitors. Parking on the roadway by the farm and leaving room for the farm should not cause any problems. Hope Lane is certainly not for faster traffic! I was assured that one reason for the church being here was because it was on an ancient trackway between Shrewsbury and Tewkesbury. Searching the maps and footpath descriptions did not help me find any such routes and it seems the reason for this little church's survival is that "it is tucked away in a deep and remote little valley...and the fact that the road to it leads nowhere." The guide booklet (provided upon a modest payment) states that Sapey is first mentioned in a deed of 781; it is in the Domesday Book of 1086; and a skeleton discovered after a landslip was of a Christian burial (facing East and with arms crossed) and that person dated as living in the 730's AD.

Paintings inside the church have been found, and one, a Royal Coat of Arms had been overpainted four times. I didn't find any paintings or consecration marks, but I did find quite an amount of graffiti demonstrating that the building has been on the 'tourist trail' for quite some time.



The base of the font is still here but that and the 18th century communion table were moved to Harpley. In recent years, since introduced in 1984, services have been held in the church on the last Sunday in August. So, two lovely churches to visit at the western edge of our Deanery. Happy exploring and please remember the Harpley ceiling in your prayers.

Paul Fulbrook

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**Racheal Sharman BSc (Hons) MChs,
Podiatrist/Chiropodist HCPC reg. CH14966**

174A London Road

WORCESTER

WR5 2EJ

How we can help

- **General foot care**
- **Diabetic assessments**
- **Heel/foot and leg pain**
- **Orthotics/biomechanical assessments**
- **Acupuncture / strapping/ therapeutic ultrasound for pain**

Telephone for appointments 01905 360079 / Mob: 07974 650 775

Email: info@footnotesuk.co.uk

Book online by visiting www.footnotesuk.co.uk

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ST JOHN'S LIBRARY**



Opening Times:

- Monday: 9am - 5.00pm
- Tuesday: 9am - 6.00pm
- Wednesday: 9am - 5.00pm
- Thursday: 9am - 5.00pm
- Friday: 9am - 5.00pm
- Saturday: 9am - 4.00pm

** Classic Film Club Returns! **

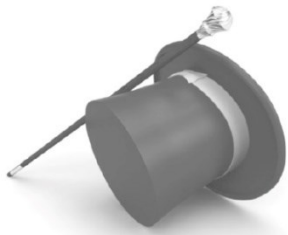
** Games Clubs: Scrabble and Chess *
Every Tuesday from 2 pm until 4 pm*

** St John's Readers Group Returns **

** West Mercia Police 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' *
on Tuesday, 11th January at 10.30am until
11.45am, come along to discuss your issues or
concerns.*

Please telephone or 'drop in' for latest dates and events!





Worcester Funeral Service

01905 23499

Independent Family Funeral Directors



Craig is available 24 hours a day.
Please call for any assistance.

Golden Charter 
Funeral Plans



Kilbury Drive, Worcester, WR5 2NE

WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk

From the magazine archive
(The magazine cover, January 1942)

MOTTO FOR 1942:

"Let us not be weary in well doing."—Gal. vi 9.

St. John = in = Bedwardine
Worcester,

New Series, No. 205. JANUARY, 1942. Price Twopence

Vicar: THE REV. C. T. POWELL, M.A., The Vicarage.

Assistant Curate: THE REV. H. M. STONE, B.A.,
Elsham, Croome Road, Hanbury Park.

Official Woman Worker:

DEACONESS C. M. SYKES, M.A.,
73, Winchester Avenue, Malvern Road.

Churchwardens:

MR. ROBERT SMITH, 7, St. John's.

MR. A. P. HIGGINS, St. John's Hotel, 2, Bransford Road.

Hon. Secretary of Parochial Church Council:

MR. O. H. LAFLIN, 8, Homefield Road, Bromwich Road.

Organist and Choir Master:

MR. H. G. BISHOP, 78, St. Dunstan's Crescent.

Sexton: MR. ALBERT SMITH, 6, Church Terrace.

Clerk: MR. W. H. THOMAS, 17, Bromyard Road.

The Prayers of the Church.

Persons desiring the Prayers of the Church either for themselves or for others are asked to communicate with the Clergy.

Pastoral Visitation.

Parishioners are most earnestly requested to inform the Clergy of cases of illness, and also to tell them of any cases where a pastoral visit would be specially appreciated.

Private Celebrations of the Holy Communion

Will be gladly arranged for those who are too ill to come to Church.

Parochial and Diocesan Finance.

All parishioners and members of St. John's congregation are earnestly asked to become subscribers either to the Central Fund (annual or quarterly payments), or the Free-Will Offering Scheme (weekly payments). The Hon. Sec. of the Central Fund is MR. T. E. HUGHES, Helston House, 49, Comer Road. The Hon. Sec. of the Free-Will Offering Scheme is MRS. O. H. LAFLIN, 8, Homefield Road, Bromwich Road.

George Williams and Berrows Ltd., The Trinity, Worcester.

Puzzle solutions

9	4	2	6	8	5	3	7	1	A		S		W		F		U		A		A
6	1	7	4	9	3	5	8	2	B	O	T	T	O	M	L	E	S	S	P	I	T
3	8	5	2	1	7	9	4	6	D		R		N		O		C		A		H
4	7	1	8	5	2	6	3	9	I	C	E		D	E	C	A	L	O	G	U	E
8	5	3	9	6	4	2	1	7	E		A		R		K				A		N
2	6	9	3	7	1	4	5	8	L	I	M	B	O		S	E	C	O	N	D	S
1	9	6	5	4	8	7	2	3		O			U				R			Y	
7	3	4	1	2	6	8	9	5	C	R	I	M	S	O	N		E	A	G	E	R
5	2	8	7	3	9	1	6	4	R		N				E		A		A		E
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									V		O		E		D		I		L		E
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And finally....

A teenager asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said, "If you get good A level grades, study your Bible and get your hair cut, then we'll talk." The boy agreed.

Some time later, the father said, "I'm pleased with your grades and I note you've been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed with your long hair."

The boy said, "OK, but I've noticed in my studies that Samson, John the Baptist, Moses and probably Jesus all had long hair."

His father replied, "And did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

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Two monks stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that said, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!"

"Leave us alone, you religious nuts!" yelled the first driver as he sped by. Then from around the curve they heard a big splash.

"Do you think," said one monk to the other, "we should just put up a sign that says 'Stop! The bridge has been washed away' instead?"



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team - January 2022

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
2nd January	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
9th January	10.30am All Age Worship 3pm Epiphany Service and tea	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Eucharist
16th January	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
23rd January	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
30th January	10am Team Eucharist (St Clement's)			
6th February	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

Given the uncertainty of the pandemic situation, we emphasise the provisional nature of this information and the importance of checking.

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