

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



January 2023

50p



Information

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

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Day off: Saturday

Pastoral Minister: The Reverend STEPHEN BUCKLEY (07746 206905)

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD

On sabbatical leave until April

TEAM OFFICE

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

ON THE WEB

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

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

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

A word from the editors

Welcome to our January edition. Our theme is “New beginnings” to encourage us to think ahead and work out how we might serve God in the new year. How can we serve him in our church and in our community? How can we spread his message? How can we encourage others to join us in worship and in God’s work?

In this issue you will find information on events running in the new year.

None of these events run themselves! Perhaps your “New beginning” could be to join in the running of a church activity? Getting involved while the activity is running means you are lightening the load for others and keeping the activity sustainable. We’ll throw in that the magazine could do with some help administering the subscriptions!

The prayer we offered you last month, with one alteration (can you spot it?) is fully relevant to this month’s theme, so we shamelessly repeat it!

*Lord, by the leading of a star
you revealed your glory to strangers.
Teach us to know you
and to make you known to others
this new year and always.
Amen.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

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Distribution, towards the end of January.

Subscription form: Page 50.

Cover picture: A cute little lamb 😊. Picture by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine including Rachel Cramp, Sarah Cottrill, Joy Job, Rob Little, Colin Nash, Wikimedia Commons and Worcester Diocese.

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 18.

*From
Bishop
John*



Happy New Year! For me, it is always exciting to stand at the start of a new year with feelings of hope and potential for the year ahead.

Of course, it's not that way for everyone. For many 2023 will already feel very daunting with the cost-of-living crisis, increased use of food banks and worries about being able to afford to put the heating on. I pray that those who are worried will find the support they need and that 2023 might not be as bad as they fear.

I have just returned from visiting our partner Diocese of Peru - going there is always an affecting experience. Poverty there is of a different order of magnitude: no running water or electricity, no work, no social security, no health care; enough food barely to survive. It's a very humbling experience.

Although there is wealth in Lima, the majority of the several million inhabitants live in shanty towns. Elsewhere, the people are predominantly very poor. It is among them that the Anglican church mostly ministers. It was moving to visit and be offered hospitality in the poorest areas of Arequipa, at a food kitchen which we have supported financially. Money goes a long way there and donations from churches in the Diocese of Worcester during Lent 2020 enabled it to continue during the pandemic. It is one of quite a few projects among the poor which the Diocese of Peru organises.

Easter is early this year and Lent will be upon us before we know it next month. This year, we'll be once again raising money for our friends in Peru. The need continues to be enormous, and I hope that many of us will be able to afford to share a little of what we have with them.

In the meantime, please pray for all who are finding life difficult and for whom the new year is not as happy or exciting as it might be for many of us.

+ John

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
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.

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

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

From the Registers, November 2022

St John's

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

6th November 2022 Richard David William Denslaw

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

No weddings in November

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 7th October 2022 Patrick Firminger

SERVICES: Communicants 172. Total attendance at all services 905, including 244 at a baptism and a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES: *Figures not received.*


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)

Forthcoming coach trip



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Members

Kingdom Arts

Exploring faith through creativity

Kingdom Arts takes place at St George's Church, once a month on a Tuesday with coffee from 9.30am and finishing with a soup lunch. It is a morning of different crafts, painting and clay, colouring and writing, with time to talk and share with others but also spaces for quiet reflection and prayer. Coffee and tea are available.

This is such a peaceful morning with space from our busy lives to come together with others. I find it enormously uplifting. The first six 2023 dates are: 10th January, 14th February, 14th March, 18th April, 9th May, 13th June.

Jenny English

Dates for your diary

Location key (J) St John's Church (M) St Michael's Church
(V) The Vicarage, 7 Manor Road

(J) Wednesday 11th January, 10am-11.30am: Little Blessings.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 12th January, 1pm: Good Old Days talk, 'Worcester in the Stone Age', see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 14th January, 9am: Women's breakfast, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 16th January, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union - AGM.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 18th January, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 19th January, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 25th January, 10am-11.30am: Little Blessings.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 27th January: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 28th January, 10.15am: Café at 10:15, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 18th March, from 8.30am: Community breakfast (everyone is welcome!).

--- 000 ---

(J) Friday 24th March, 9am: Coach trip to Tyntesfield, see opposite.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in January

Sunday 4th, 11th, 18th: Second, Third, Fourth Sundays of Advent

Saturday 24th: Christmas Eve

Sunday 25th: Christmas Day

Monday 26th: Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

Tuesday 27th: John, Apostle and Evangelist

Wednesday 28th: The Holy Innocents

Food for thought

How easy it is to stop to think, and then forget to start again.

St David's Needs Friends!

In common with so many other groups and organisations, St David's Friends have suffered from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. There have been no meetings or events and we are in danger of becoming defunct!

We are therefore planning a "grand relaunch" on Saturday, January 21st.

Existing members, potential new members and anybody just wanting to enjoy a pleasant afternoon out, are warmly invited to come along to St David's Church at 2pm when drinks, nibbles and good company will be freely available.

There will be some explanation about the purpose and aims of our Friends Association and a chance to renew or take out membership.

Sarah Cottrill

Befriending Regent House

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

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

Sarah Cottrill

~~Prayer squares~~ Teddies

The hospital chaplains are very grateful for all the prayer squares that you have been busy knitting! However their store cupboard is now full so please hold fire until stocks have depleted.

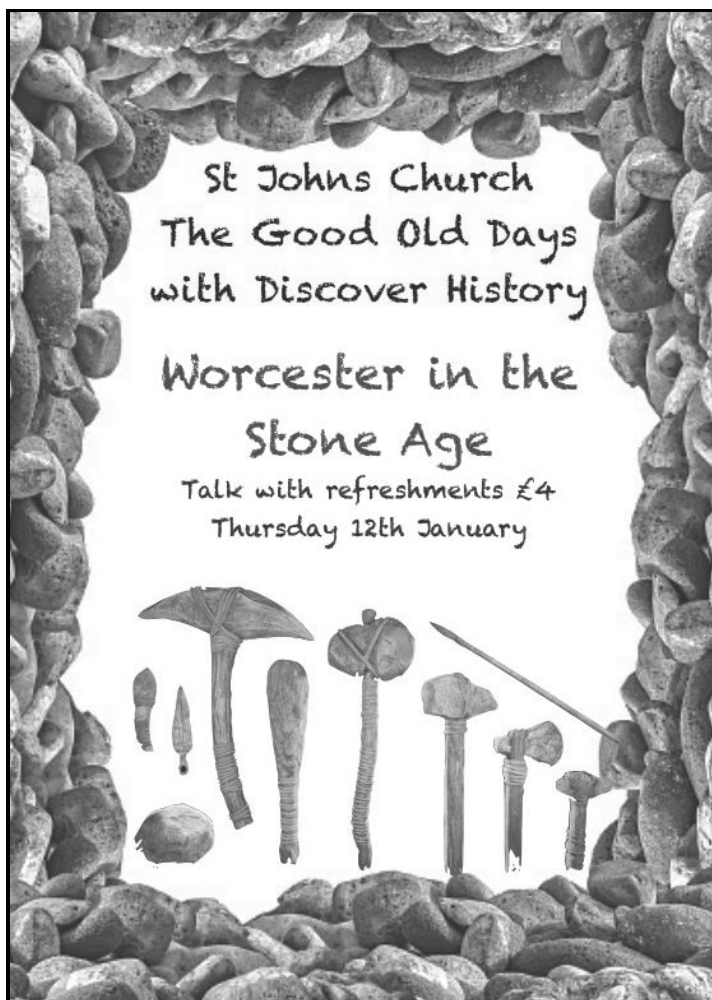
They were wondering if instead, some 'very small teddy bears' could be produced for their younger patients. No set pattern is necessary so any contributions will once again be much appreciated.

Joy Job


Worcester Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival

This remains open until Sunday 8th January 2023 (not 25/12/22) 10am - 5pm Monday to Saturday and 1-3pm on Sundays. Booking is not required this year, so just turn up and enjoy the avenue of glittering Christmas trees displayed in the atmospheric medieval cloister!

Events at St John's



St Johns Church
The Good Old Days
with Discover History
Worcester in the
Stone Age
Talk with refreshments £4
Thursday 12th January



ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

Open for Tea/Coffee
and Cakes
£2.50



Wednesday 18th January
at 2.45pm in the Church
ALL WELCOME

St John in Bedwardine



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

At 10.15am on

**Saturday
28th January**

*Thought for the day by
Revd Sarah Cottrill*

ALL WELCOME



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on

Saturday 14th January

9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room
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St David's Coffee Morning

The monthly coffee mornings at St David's are getting ever more popular! Each month we have over thirty people gather to enjoy a range of home-made cakes, hot drinks and, most importantly of all, good company and cheerful chat.



We thought the cold weather in December might deter people from venturing out – especially as the church building isn't very warm(!) – but as you can see from the pictures, this wasn't the case.



Continued on page 13

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Continued from page 11

My thanks, as always, to the fabulous team who work so hard every month – some of them are pictured here in their festive jumpers!



We meet again on January 4th 2023 – everybody welcome.

Sarah Cottrill

Sudoku Puzzle

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*The
solution is
on the
inside back
cover.*

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

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West Worcester Friendship Club

Our final meeting of 2022 took place on December 8th when, inevitably, there was a Christmas feel to the afternoon. With carols and other Christmas music playing quietly in the background, we tested our festive knowledge with a short quiz, pulled crackers, inflicted the terrible jokes on each other (!) and tucked into a wonderful assortment of food provided by our members.



We discussed the programme for next year which promises to be a lot of fun with a range of activities and some visiting speakers.

From January, we are moving to the third Thursday of each month - so our first meeting of 2023 will be on Thursday January 19th.

The group is open to anybody who has been bereaved so if that's you, or you know anybody who might like to join us, a warm welcome awaits. For more details, speak to me, Jo Dowling, Mike Dowling or Val Mason.

Sarah Cottrill



Worcester, Droitwich & Malvern

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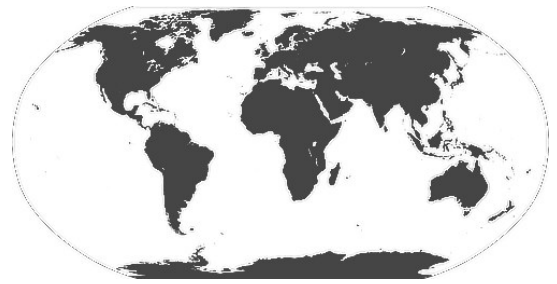







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Prayers for our world



 To help you pray today, light a candle and try and sit at a window, looking out onto our world.

Lord Jesus your light shines in the darkest corners of our world. May your presence bring hope and healing in the pain and violence that your people have to endure.

We bring before you the people of Ukraine, those without food and heating, those who are sick and grieving and heartbroken because of the violence they have to endure. Give them courage to endure and we ask, Lord, for a resolution to the conflict, that broken families and lives may be rebuilt and peace reign once again.

We pray for the people of Haiti, living in a country where the Government has been replaced by gang warfare; where innocent people are in the centre of conflict and aggression. We pray that mob rule will fail and be replaced by democracy and a willingness to save the country from destruction.


Lord Jesus, we hold before you the people of Somalia, suffering years of drought and famine; people who are refugees living in tents and displaced. We ask Lord that the aid agencies will be able to provide the food and health care that is needed.

As your light shines in the darkness, Lord, we pray for all those in Great Britain who are suffering as a result of fuel poverty and those living in cold homes.

We pray for men, women and children who are hungry. You Lord fed the 5000, help us to give generously to the food bank and to help the person living in a doorway in our city with food and drink.

We pray for those living alone with no family that they may not be forgotten.

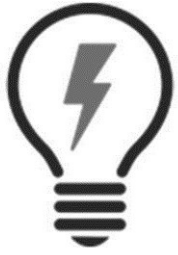
Lord Jesus, we pray for the child who is being abused as we say our prayers today, be with them in the fear and panic and grant them courage and hope for a better future and someone to listen.

 Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.
Amen.

Remember the light of your candle reaches to the darkest corner of life.
Christ brings hope and healing and stands alongside those in distress.



Jenny English



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July and August being a combined issue.

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The booking can be from one month to one year.

If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell

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What to do while the wine's being poured?

Over 60 people attended December's talk by Paul Harding from Discover History, which was about Christmas in medieval times.

Paul explained that there are several festivals that predate the Christian celebration of Christmas including the Pagan Winter Solstice on 21st December, Saxon Festival of Yule and Roman



Saturnalia. As there are no references to the actual date of Christ's birth in the bible, the Pope decided that the date of Christ's birth would be set as 25th December and that the festival would run for 12 days.

By the medieval times Christmas was being celebrated in a Christian way and it was all about the celebration of Christ's birth. Paul believes that the medieval Christmas is the truer one as it does not have the trappings of commercialisation that came later, where adverts for Christmas parties seem to appear at the end of August.

The Christmas morning church service was the most important one for people, and everyone was expected to attend. They were expected to walk to church rather than ride as it was part of the Christmas pilgrimage. There would also be several other services during the day, so a busy day for the clergy.

The people would prepare for the feast by hunting for boars in Worcester. The boar was considered a warrior animal and would have been killed by the Lord or King. King John came here in 1214 and 1215 for his Christmas. The first year there was much celebration and he ordered 1000 ells of linen for tablecloths (an ell was the equivalent of 6 spread hand breadths). The celebrations were more muted in 1215 as he was preparing to sign the Magna Carta and then he died in 1216 and came back to Worcester where he is buried in the Cathedral.

The early decorations consisted of greenery gathered from the forests, such as holly, ivy and mistletoe. These were considered by some to still be Pagan symbols, for example Mistletoe was seen as a fertility symbol. Early Christians tried to explain the use of holly by saying that the berries were white until the blood of Christ dropped on them and then they turned red.

The Yule log, left over from the Saxon Festival, was supposed to burn for the whole of the 12 days of Christmas. Again, the early Christians trying to turn

pagan symbolism into something that could be used by Christians. The log would be lit just before the guests arrived on Christmas day.

The setting of the tables was very important. The top table was higher than the others so the most important guests could be seen by everyone in the hall. The top table would have at least three layers of linen tablecloths with the best one on the top to show off your money. The lower down the table the poorer the quality of the linen used.



The top table would have silver cups, plates and cutlery, only spoons and knives were used then. Large knives would be provided to cut the meat but then the guests were expected to pick up the cut meat with their knife. Further down the tables pewter would be used and finally at the bottom tables they would get wooden plates or trencher

loaves to put their food on and they had to bring their own cutlery.

The feasts would have masses of food so that there was more than enough food for everyone. They could be served with up to 26 courses. It was more like a buffet than set plates of food and the guests would pick from the food put in front of them. These banquets had set rules to be followed and they were written down in the Book of Courtesy. People could get thrown out of the banquet if they broke these rules. We often see dogs being fed in pictures depicting medieval banquets but this would not have happened as it was against the rules. It was seen that the food was not good enough for people and only fit for the animals and therefore an insult to the host.

Traditionally beef, pork and goose were the meats eaten as people could not go out and kill wild animals such as rabbits, unless they were on common land. Most land was owned by someone, and poaching was severely punished with punishments up to and including hanging. The staff would spend a lot of time spit roasting the animals for the feasts as they would be cooked whole.

At the start of the feast people would wash their hands. Firstly, the bread would be brought in and passed round after being cut up by the host, this was followed by the wine, including spiced or mulled, or ale – water was not drunk at the time. The salt would be brought out next, as this was a valuable seasoning. This would be placed in such a position so that the King or Lord and his family were above the salt and the more common or lower standing people were seated below. Hence the phrase about someone being below the salt.

The Boar's head would then be carried in and everyone would stand, and a fanfare would be played. However, this was not eaten as it was considered decoration. Next, prayers would be said, which could go on for a long time, so people could be sat waiting for a very long time before they were able to eat. Finally, the food would be brought in, and they would start at the top table. Those at the bottom of the hall, seated nearest to the kitchen, would see all the good food be taken up to the top table knowing that they still had to wait for their food, and it would not be of the same quality.



The guests were not allowed to leave the table for any reason during the feast, even to go to the toilet. So, the guest would call over a boy with a bucket and then use the bucket under the table to go to the toilet. The Book of Courtesy even stated that it was best to use the bucket whilst wine was being poured out so that the sound would not be so obvious.



After the feast a Mummers play would be put on to entertain the guests. These plays were thought to be the origins of our modern pantomimes. At the end of the feast the leftover food would be handed out to the poor.



As usual the ladies of the church did us proud with the selection of cakes for the refreshment break, which were very popular as can be seen. Not many cakes were left after our feast.

Colin Nash

Mother's Union

On Wednesday December 7th, members of the Mother's Union from across the diocese gathered in the Lady Chapel of the cathedral for a service as part of the global campaign “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence”, which aims to raise awareness and calls for elimination of violence against women and girls.



Vice Dean Stephen Edwards led the Eucharist. He was assisted by Barbara Davies, deanery leader, who had organised the service and who led the intercessions, accompanied by members lighting candles.



After the service Jenny presented Vice President Jill Crofton with 12 teddies that had been knitted by members.



These are to go in the gift bags to be given to children attending the visitor centre at the local prison this Christmas. Special mention on our Worcester Mu Facebook page was given to Pat Bridges, knitting elf in chief, who had made 8 of them.

We also took part in the Christmas tree festival at the cathedral by decorating a tree with items that represented our projects and campaigns.

Further information and more pictures about MU can be found on our Facebook page by searching for “worcestermu” within Facebook.

Jo Dowling and Jenny Claydon

Thoughts for the new year

God loves us; not because we are loveable but because He is love; not because he needs to receive but because He delights to give. *C S Lewis*

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. Anon

A glimpse of the next three feet of road is more important than a view of the horizon. *C S Lewis*

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree





As you can see, our Christmas tree at church looked magnificent.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to Liz Forman and her guides for decorating it!

Joy Job

Churchyard update, December 2022

Well, here we are at the beginning of a new year and another year's work completed on the churchyard, so I thought that I would update you all on what we have been able to achieve. With the help of Angie Wall and Jacqui Adam we have made some significant progress over the last year. It doesn't always feel like it, but we have.

Several members of the congregation have made some significant donations towards various projects during the year for which we are extremely grateful. I will not name names as some wish to remain anonymous and I do not upset anyone by forgetting someone, suffice to say you know who you are, and we and the rest of the church and local community are very grateful for the outcomes.

We managed to acquire a couple of truckloads of wood chippings which, together with some weed suppressant fabric, have made some areas of the churchyard much tidier and give us far less work to do. This has really worked around all the gravestones along the south and east walls and around the elephant ivy sculpture fallen tree, by the entrance to the arcade.

Round the east side we have managed to create a small shrubbery beside the hedge where the old yew tree was. The yew did not completely die, and we have the basis of a small tree or large bush growing from the old tree. This and several newly planted shrubs have transformed this old area of weeds.

One of our main achievements of the year was the planting of trees for the Queen's Green Canopy, altogether we have planted seven trees over the last year and four of these were registered as being part of the canopy. We have tried to plant trees that will help the wildlife, either through nectar for the insects or fruit for the birds, and these have included crab apple, hawthorn, rowan, and cherry. As previously reported, I was very grateful for the support of Liz Forman and her guides during the planting.



With the dry spell during the summer, I was watering these trees two or three times a week to ensure they established themselves. It does now look as though this work was worthwhile.

Recently Jacqui and Angie came up with the idea of approaching local businesses to see if they would be interested in supporting our work to keep the churchyard as a place of beauty, peace, and tranquility for the local community and as a wildlife hub. The response to this exceeded our expectations and to date we have raised over £500. Amongst the organisations that contributed were G A Roberts, Bill's Sandwich Bar, Gardiner Fosh, ReVamp, The Property Centre and Quality Solicitors and we are extremely grateful to these kind sponsors. The original aim was to plant a complete row of different types of Salvias all along the railings beside St Johns. At the time of writing, we have planted the left side and are well on the way to having the right side prepared for the next batch of plants.

Over the last couple of years I have been trying to turn the area of semi-grass along the arcade wall into a small wildflower meadow. It has got better each year but now with the extra cash we have raised we will be able to buy some plants to put in here to speed up the creation of the wildflower meadow instead of relying on seeds that take longer to establish.

As many of you know we had a bad period of vandalism in the churchyard with damage and graffiti. At the moment, apart from the usual rubbish left around the benches, we have experienced a period of calm. However, we will be buying some pyracanth and berberis plants to go in front of the wall they used for the graffiti, which we hope will put people off as both shrubs are well covered in thorns. Usefully they also produce berries, which are loved by various types of birds.

The city council do a much better job now of mowing the grass and the edges and they do regular rubbish patrols as well. They have also put in new, larger, rubbish bins, which hopefully will be used more now and will not overflow when full as they have a much larger capacity. Some people may have noticed that the streetlamp outside the porch is not working now. We have been advised by our Estate Manager, Brian Askew, that the council will replace the lamp, but it may take a few weeks.

Another task we have set ourselves for the coming year is to increase the size of the small garden near the gravestones. We are hoping to plant several rose bushes so that it becomes a colourful rose garden filling that corner.



Along with all the good jobs to do there are the others like sweeping the leaves from the carpark and cutting back the hedges, neither of which are top of the jobs that I like to do but both have to be done otherwise we will end up with an accident and someone falling over.

An eventful year and I feel that we have achieved a great deal during it. Certainly, there has been an increase of wildlife from insects to birds and the occasional fox during the year. I don't think a week goes past when I am working there that someone does not come in to walk their dog or just to sit and read or have their lunch on one of the benches.

Colin Nash

New Beginnings

As the new calendar year joins our new church year, I thought it might be helpful to tell you where you can find more information about our annual cycle of readings and celebration.

Advent is the start of the ecclesiastical year. It began on 27th November (2022) and continues until 3rd December 2023. In this year, we shall celebrate all the seasons with which we are familiar and the activities we associate with them.

Details for Common Worship and Book of Common Prayer services are to be found in the Church of England lectionary for 2023 (available from the Cathedral Bookshop, or on-line from a number of providers). Our readings follow a three year cycle (called imaginatively years "A", "B" and "C"). This year is Year A.

The lectionary provides a wide range of information that defines our procedures during services. It details the readings and psalms that we hear; the saints and other Christians we celebrate in our festivals; the colours of our regalia and altar frontals. It also lists the many other special occasions that may be celebrated at times in keeping with the Agricultural world, and Royal and National Activities. Of special mention are the Holy Family (St Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary), the apostles and Christian martyrs for whom we may have special services.

Similarly, the textual base of our worship is enhanced by the music selected to match the theme of each service; and of course there is the commentary provided in the sermon!

So, with a new year beginning it could be a good time to take a look at this extra information - freely available also on the Church of England website for those adept at using computers and the internet!

Arthur Miller

23 hours 29 minutes early

It's done! I have submitted my first written assignment and boy is it a relief! Last time I wrote I said I had had some helpful advice and so after a lot of reading I put pen to paper (or rather fingers to keyboard) and made a start. After some considerable time I was only half way through the first question but felt I needed some feedback and so I shared what I had with two trusted friends at which point it became clear, despite their gentleness and positivity, that I would be best off starting from scratch. And so late one evening I rewrote it in one sitting and went to bed feeling very proud. I then re-read it in the morning and deleted it forthwith! But I had learned something. Something so obvious that I had overlooked in my rush to "get it done". I was not answering the question that had been asked and so I set about it once more, repeating the specific words from the question like a mantra.

This time it felt more natural. With each paragraph I could refer to the question...do these words relate to "the insight I have gained from critical historical analysis"? Or is it just waffle? Finally I had something that I thought was worthy of re-presenting to my kind proofreaders and with a little more work thanks to their feedback, I submitted the essay nearly a whole day early!

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TMM1031 C1 - OT Essay

Due: Thursday, 8 December 2022, 1:00 PM

✓ Done

Submission status

Submission status	Submitted for grading
Grading status	Not marked
Time remaining	Assignment was submitted 23 hours 29 mins early
Last modified	Wednesday, 7 December 2022, 1:30 PM

A first for me who literally had to sprint to his tutor's office at Uni to get his dissertation in. But once the excitement (and panic) was over, I was able to begin to reflect on what I had learned. I'd said in my interviews to become a reader that I didn't necessarily want answers to the "big" questions, but rather to be able to ask better questions. I feel I am just starting to ask those questions and to learn where I might go to find answers or, as is sometimes the case, to be able to decide for myself which of the competing scholarly opinions I find most persuasive.

After Christmas the new term starts with our exploration of the New Testament and I'll be sorry to leave Isaiah, Jonah, Proverbs and Exodus behind but I'm no

longer scared of those books and I'm beginning to see the important part they can play in my understanding of God.

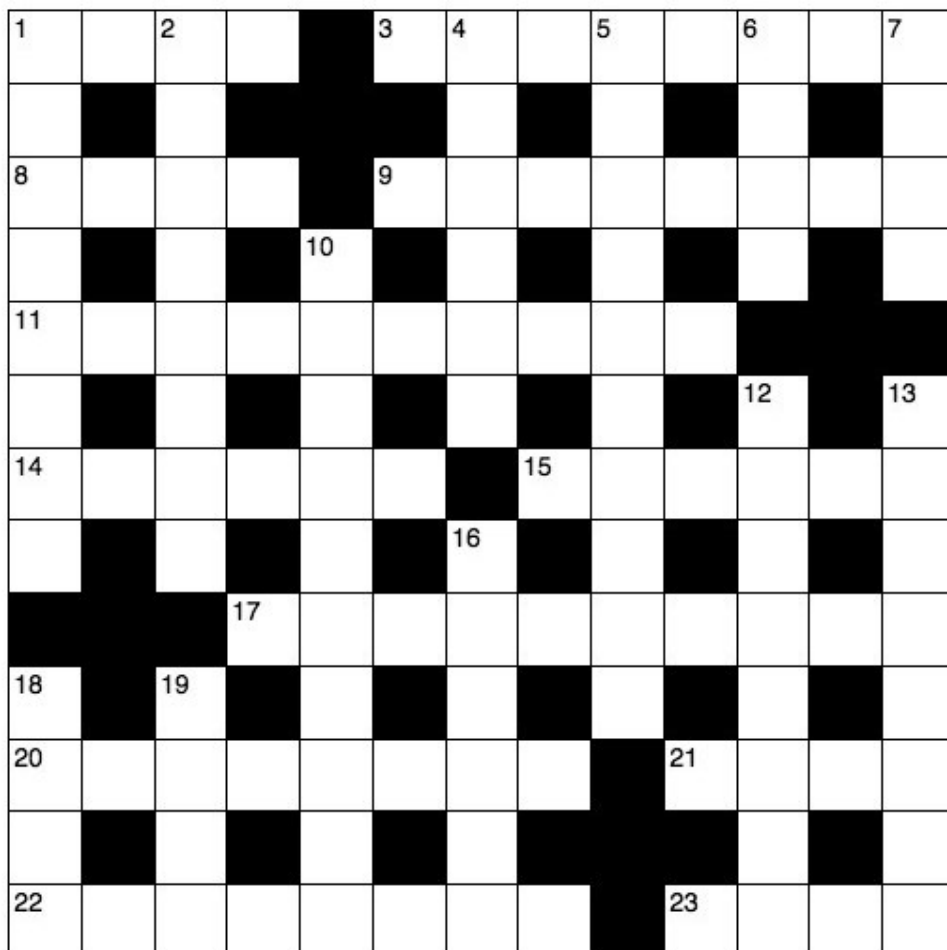
Our final seminar this term was about what they called Committed Readings - I don't think it's a very good name for what is a fascinating topic. The idea here is that everyone who comes to the bible sees it through the lens of their own experience. We touched on Womanist and Feminist Theology using artwork to help us think of the portrayal of women in the bible, Black Theology and the language that Martin Luther King used to draw parallels between the experience of Black people in the United States and the liberation of Israel from exile and we talked about Liberation Theology and how in Central America the dissonance between what was preached as God's word and the behaviour of some church leaders led to conflict. You could spend a lifetime thinking about just one aspect of just one of those topics and in my head I keep writing and rewriting my reading list for the summer.

So once again, thanks for reading this and all the support - It's been a pleasure being able to speak to so many people about what I've been doing and I look forward to sharing more in the new year.

Rob Little

Crossword puzzle

The solution is on the inside back cover.



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)



StreetLink turns 10

We launched a decade ago to give people a way to take positive action when they see someone sleeping rough; a way to make a real difference by connecting that person with local support services. Our service acts as vital intelligence for street outreach teams, helping them to reach the people in need of their help more swiftly.

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Your alerts have opened doors to thousands of people, helping them off the streets and linking them to the support they need to achieve a better future. A StreetLink alert can be the first step in this important journey to escape rough sleeping. We thank you all for the part you have played.

But sadly, the number of people sleeping rough is on the rise again and we are concerned that this will worsen, with more people at risk of finding themselves on the streets as the cold winter sets in.

How does it work?

If you are concerned about someone over the age of 18 that you have seen sleeping rough in England or Wales, you can send an alert to StreetLink. The details you provide are sent to the local authority or outreach service for that area, to help them find the individual and connect them to support. If you think the person you are concerned about is under 18 please do not contact StreetLink but instead call the police.

Your support, whether by sending an alert, spreading the word about our service or even volunteering is hugely appreciated. You can contact us in the following ways:

- Website: www.streetlink.org.uk
- Mobile app: 'StreetLink' from Apple iTunes / Google Play store
- Phone: 0300 500 0914 (The phone service can get busy so wherever possible we advise people to use either our website or mobile app).

We want to make sure that we can continue to support as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, connecting them to essential local services that can help to end their homelessness.

No one should have to sleep rough. On our 10th anniversary, we ask that you #DontWalkBy.

Fiona Colley, Director of StreetLink

The Cathedral - Storm Arwen One Year On



It was wonderful to be back in the quire for the morning Eucharist on Advent Sunday, almost exactly one year since storm Arwen caused extensive damage to the cathedral when part of a pinnacle from the tower fell through the roof.

12 months on, and the repair works are now complete and the new pinnacle, crafted by the cathedral's own team of stonemasons, is taking shape.

The pinnacle will commemorate both the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the coronation of King Charles III in 2023. It incorporates all of the home nations, featuring a lionhead with a crown for England, a unicorn for Scotland, a dragon for Wales and shamrocks for Northern Ireland.

Since the storm, scaffolding has been up at various points, both outside and in. Repairs have taken place on the roof and vaulting that were damaged by the fallen masonry, more than 3,500 pipes have been removed, cleaned and restored in the quire organ, dust has been cleared (several times) and adjustments have been made to keep the cathedral operating during this lengthy period of repair.

The 2021 storm happened on a Friday evening, just two days before the beginning of Advent.

The Dean, Peter Atkinson, said: "Scores of experts have been working hard over the past 12 months to repair the damage caused by Storm Arwen. And we are very happy to report that work is now complete.

"Those of you who have visited recently will have seen scaffolding in the quire, which remained in situ until all of the organ pipes were reinstated. And you may also have heard the organ being re-tuned over the past couple of weeks; I know I have!

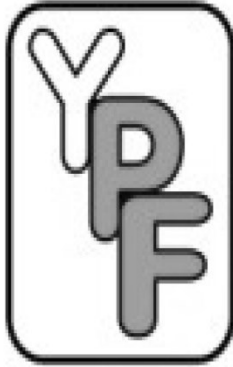
"It was wonderful to be able to return to the quire for the morning eucharist on Advent Sunday and to have the cathedral and quire organ back in action in time for Christmas.

"It has been a lengthy process and we are extremely grateful to everyone involved in repairing the cathedral."

Worcester Cathedral

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The Isaac family

In the October 2022 magazine, Colin Nash wrote about St John's east window and noted that a record of the contents of the window also contained a dedication:

To the Glory of God
and in memory of John Whitmore Isaac,
who fell asleep Easter 1884,
this and the adjoining Windows,
are erected by his friends.
January 20, 1885.



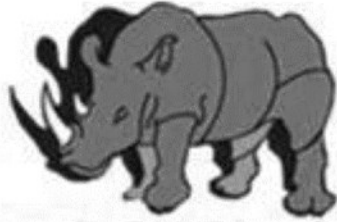
Inspired by Colin's article, I started to look at this family.

Any strange spellings you may spot in what follows are due to me copying what is written on the census!

John Swinton Isaac born December 1807 and baptised 2nd Jan 1808, father Elias, banker of Worcester Old Bank and mother Harriet. They lived at Boughton Fields which is described as a fashionable area of Worcester St Johns. John went into banking with his father. He and his sister Harriet had their pictures painted around 1829. The paintings, by Edward Villiers Ripplingille, are now in Bristol museum and art gallery (images from Wikimedia Commons).



Continued on page 39



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Continued from page 37

John married Charlotte Holland. According to the Worcester Journal they were married on Thursday 14th March 1833 at Dumbleton by the Rev. William Lister Isaac who was his brother and later became the vicar of Pirton.



Charlotte was the daughter of the late Swinton Colthurst Holland Esq. of the Priory, Roehampton, Surrey.

These were the times when upper middle class ladies came with a dowry when they got married. Her father, born 27th Nov 1777 in Over Peover in Cheshire, had died 27th Dec 1827 age 50. Charlotte was born in Malta. As a flavour of Charlotte's family, later relatives were an Admiral in the Royal Navy and another was Royal Navy Officer Commodore in charge of Hong Kong 1891-1899.

After marriage, John and Charlotte lived at Henwick House, Hallow where they are on the 1841 census and their first children were born there, John 7 and Edward 5 plus a daughter 1 month old but without a name. She was later named Charlotte Sophia. The household included 2 male servants and 5 female servants.

Father Elias and wife Harriet on the 1841 census were still at Broughton Fields, St Johns with a housekeeper, 3 female servants and a male servant. The next record on the 1841 census to their residence states Bransford Rd. Elias died at the end of 1841, buried 27th Nov St Johns Church and after this time his son and wife Charlotte moved into the house. Harriet has proved difficult to find later although she died in Worcester in 1867 and was living with her son the Rev William Lister Isaac at Pirton in 1851.

The 1851 census shows John, age 43, Banker private firm at Boughton House, St Johns. In the house is wife Charlotte, son John Swinton, daughters Louisa, Charlotte and Anne M along with a governess, butler, coachman, page, housekeeper, upper maid and lady's maid, upper house maid, kitchen maid, under nurse and under house nurse. Also living with them are Charlotte's niece and nephew, age 2 and 7 months with their upper nurse and an under nurse who are employed by Captain Holland R.N. It would appear Charlotte is taking care of her brother's children whilst he serves in the Navy and possibly following the death of his wife.

The adjacent property in the census is Broughton Lodge housing the gardener and his wife who is laundress.

Continued on page 41



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Continued from page 39

By 1861 Boughton House was home to John, banker, wife Charlotte, son John S, aged 26 and now a banker, daughters Louisa H, Charlotte S, Anne M along with a governess from Leipzig, housekeeper, 2 ladies' maids, housemaid, kitchen maid, butler (who is appropriately named Charles Boughton), footman, coachman, and a visitor, Eliza M C Moore, aged 20, from Westmorland. The next property is again the same couple living in The Lodge although his wife is now seamstress. At the age of 75 it is not a surprise that she has given up the washing!

1871 John is now 63, banker and deputy Lieutenant (presumably of Worcestershire), wife Charlotte, son John S who is noted as a widower although he was unmarried on the previous census, Charlotte S, Anne M plus grandchildren Edith M ,4 and Mabel A, 2, both born at Powick, children of their son John. The butler remains the same Charles Boughton and the rest of the household is coachman, footman, housekeeper, ladies' maid, under ladies' maid, upper house maid, under house maid, nurse, under nurse, kitchen maid and scullery maid. The next property is The Lodge housing a new gardener, wife and children. It also notes this is Bransford Rd.

Finally 1881 sees John as a widower, banker, living with daughter Charlotte S, unmarried and now a school misstriss, butler Charles Boughton, footman, housekeeper, ladies maid, 2 house maids and 2 kitchen maids. Next property, The Lodge, has another new gardener and his family. The property after this is Diglis Weir with a water bailiff which hadn't been mentioned in previous censuses.

Louisa Harriet Isaac married second quarter of 1863 to Rev Herbert George Pepys. Edward Whitmore Isaac was not with the family in 1851 and I was unable to find him, but he then appears in 1861 as a lodger to a family at an address in Kidderminster and is a curate at St Johns, Kidderminster. He then marries Lucy Apollonia Wodehouse in 1867 at Upton on Severn and in 1881 he is vicar at Hanley Castle. A very Victorian pattern of first son follows father into the business and second son goes into the cloth!

As I mentioned above, any strange spellings you have spotted are due to me copying what is written on the census.

John Whitmore Isaac was a shareholder of the Great Western Railway and on his death these shares, around 3,500, were transferred to his son John. John was his executor and his estate for probate on 23rd May 1884 was valued at £82,708 14s 2d. This equates to approximately £12 million in today's terms.

Margaret Miller

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Living in Love and Faith (LLF)

From the website of Church House Publishing, the official publisher of the Church of England:

Issues of gender and sexuality are intrinsic to people's experience: their sense of identity, their lives and the loving relationships that shape and sustain them.

Living in Love and Faith sets out to inspire people to think more deeply both about what it means to be human, and to live in love and faith with one another.

It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understandings and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change.

The above words describe a book about LLF, but they also describe very well the LLF process going on in the Church of England, referred to below in the letter overleaf from Bishops John and Martin. Here's more about the book:

The Living in Love and Faith book was commissioned and led by the Bishops of the Church of England. It has involved many people across the Church and beyond. They bring a great diversity and depth of expertise, conviction and experience to exploring these matters by studying what the Bible, theology, history and the social and biological sciences have to say.

The book takes readers on a journey that begins with reflections on God's gifts of life, relationships, marriage and learning. A survey of what is happening in the world with regard to identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage is followed by an exploration of how Christians are to understand and respond to these trends in the light of the good news of Jesus Christ. The book then examines the ways in which Christians seek to hear God and how it is that they draw different conclusions.

The book can be downloaded at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-book>

In our own diocese, Bishops John and Martin have written to all clergy setting out their views on same sex marriage in church following the Living in Love and Faith process. Overleaf on page 45 is the text of the letter they have sent to clergy and made available on the diocese's website.



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Dear Colleagues,

As you are probably aware, the College of Bishops met earlier this week in the first of a series of residentials to consider the way forward following the Living in Love and Faith process. The meeting was confidential, but we can say that, though there remains a divergence of views, we are all determined to continue to walk together. Like the bishops gathered at the Lambeth Conference earlier this year, we remain committed to listening and walking together even when we disagree.

Up until now we have been asked, as bishops of the Church of England, to hold the LLF process of reflection, learning and discernment, rather than express our own views. That is exactly what we have tried to do, listening rather than talking. Now, though, in the interest of transparency, we think it right for us to make our own beliefs and hopes plain.

In short, we believe that the time has come for the Church to celebrate and honour same sex relations. People do not choose their sexuality and all should be able to express it within loving committed relationships.

Our preferred option would be for same sex couples to be able to be married in Church. We hope and pray that this will be the outcome of the LLF process. There isn't space to set out our reasons in this letter, but either of us would be happy to talk them through. Suffice it to say that we believe our conclusion to be consonant with the Biblical witness. We could do no better in expounding our views than the Bishop of Oxford has done in his booklet *Together in Love and Faith: Personal Reflections and Next Steps for the Church*, which has great theological rigour. You can find a link to this on the Diocese of Oxford website.

We recognise that others feel very differently from us and we believe that the right of every Christian to act and minister according to his or her own conscience on this matter must be protected. If the outcome of the LLF process is what we hope it will be, those who hold to a traditional view should be honoured and they certainly will be in this diocese as long as we remain your bishops.

It will be some time until firm proposals emerge from the College of Bishops and we do not know what those will be, let alone what Synod will decide. Having expressed our own views, we commit to abiding by whatever decision is made. We recognise that even the contents of this letter will be difficult for some, and we commit to listening to any who wish to talk to us.

*With our very good wishes,
Yours,
Bishop John and Bishop Martin*

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

Please telephone or 'drop in' for the latest dates and events or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslibraryworcester/>

New Year opening times:

- Saturday 31st December: Close at 5pm.
- Sunday 1st & Monday 2nd January: Closed.

Friends of St John's Library - Coffee Mornings

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Children's Activities

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- Bounce and Rhyme. Meets every Tuesday at 11am

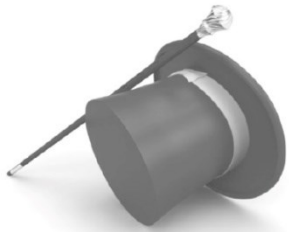
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From the magazine archive, January 1952

MOTHERS' UNION

ANOTHER Party has come and gone, and I trust that the happy spirit that prevailed will continue to go with us during the year 1952. I take this opportunity of thanking the Committee Members for all the time and help they give so unstintingly throughout the year. It is a great help to know that they are always ready to help and advise, and they do the job cheerfully and well. My thanks to you, ladies.

The next Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday, February 4th, at 3 p.m., when the speaker will be Mrs. John, of Stourbridge.

Greetings and God's Blessing upon you and yours for the year 1952. E.A.C.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

I WOULD for this New Year of 1952 like to pass on to you a message, for as it dawns we know that there will come with it joys and perplexities. I can think of no words better than these to help us along the road.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness
Till all our strivings cease,
Take from our souls the strain and stress
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of Thy peace.

I trust that they may be a help to you, and I wish you all God's blessing.

The Meeting will re-commence on Tuesday, January 15th at 3 p.m., and the next Corporate Communion will be on Thursday, January 3rd, at 10.30 a.m. E.A.C.

RISING PRICES

THERE is no need to tell you that the cost of living is now higher than ever it has been, and that the increased cost of materials and higher wages must inevitably bring about higher prices for everything.

For the past two years we have endeavoured to keep our Parish News Letter at the low cost of 3d. per month by meeting the large deficit out of our parochial income.

The Parochial Church Council have concluded, quite rightly, that this cannot go on and have recommended that the price be increased to 4d. per month in order that there may be a decrease in the annual loss.

I think you will agree that our Magazine is a very good one and well worth taking into your home.

One has only got to set it alongside some of the peculiar publications devoted to imaginary romances, for which very much more is paid, to realise the value of our own monthly paper.

I do hope you will understand why this increase is necessary and that you will continue to receive our monthly message into your home and family. J.M.

The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Pick up at St John's

Pick up at St Michael's

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

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

(£17.75) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted.

Postage and Packing costs £12.75 (Large Letter, 2nd class postage, £1.05 from April 2022)

Your details:

Title:

.....

Forename:

.....

Surname:

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Address (including post code):

		Total
Magazine subscription (as above)	£5 / £17.75	
Additional Donation (if applicable)		
GRAND TOTAL		

Send your payment in an envelope, or as a cheque made payable to St. Johns Parish Church, with this completed form to The Parish Office, 1A Bromyard Road, Worcester WR2 5BS. **Or, to pay by bank transfer**, please email parishmagazine@wcv.church to give your name and address details, and you will be given a reference number. Then make a bank transfer to the following account:

Account number: 64670460

Sort code: 30-99-90

Account name: St Johns Parish Church

Please put in the reference number you have been given, as the reference for the recipient.

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Please make your money worth 25% more!

Please tick:

I want St. John-in-Bedwardine Parish Church to treat the enclosed donation as shown in the Grand Total box above, as a Gift Aid donation.

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

Signed:

Date: //20.....

NOTES

1. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
3. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity.
4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.



Puzzle solutions

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

In a chancel, in a galaxy, far, far away

Immortal, invisible, God only knows
 How tenors and basses, sopranos, altos
 At service on Sunday are rarely the same
 As those who on Friday to choir practice came.

Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,
 Nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their throats.
 The descant, so piercing, is soaring above
 A melody only a mother could love.

They have a director, but no one knows why.
 No one in the choir deigns to turn him an eye.
 It's clear he is waving, he wants them to look
 But each of them stands with his nose in the book.

Despite the offences the music rings out.
 The folks in the pews are enraptured no doubt.
 Their faces seem blissful, their thoughts appear deep,
 But it is no wonder – they're all fast asleep.

Anon



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – January 2023

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
1st January	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
8th January	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
15th January	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
22nd January	10.30am Eucharist 5pm Healing Service	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
29th January	10am Team Eucharist (St John's)			
5th February	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
The information above is correct at the time of going to press but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.				