

# *The Parish Magazine*

*St John-in-Bedwardine*

*St Michael's*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



January 2024

50p



## Information

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

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

Pastoral Minister: The Reverend STEPHEN BUCKLEY (07746 206905)

### TEAM OFFICE

You can contact the office by email, post or telephone.		The office is open Tuesday 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: <a href="http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk">www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk</a> A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine">www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine</a>
St Michael's	Parish Website and A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/">www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/</a>

### 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, contact the Joint Council Safeguarding Officer, Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: stjohs.churchwardens@wcv.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	<b>St John's</b>
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 sylvia.render@talktalk.net) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email stephenbuckley554@gmail.com). 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). On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	<b>St Michael's</b>

## *A word from the editors*

Welcome to our January 2024 edition! Hasn't it come around quickly? Nikki Groarke starts from that point in her letter! She talks about the priorities of the diocese, and on page 45 you can read about priorities being set at the Worcester Deanery level.

What should be our priorities as the Churches of St Michael's and St John's working together in a Joint Council? What should we prioritise in our work as the Living Church, while also responding to the ugly financial realities that our gas prices have more than doubled (from the middle of December 2023) and our Ministry Share (the payment to the diocese for our clergy, £51,521 in 2023) will rise by 5% for 2024.

Please do respond prayerfully to these questions about our priorities and challenges, and let the clergy, churchwardens, or other joint council members know your thoughts and suggestions - and also think prayerfully how you can be part of the response to those questions and challenges!

*Go before us, O Lord, in all that we do  
with your most gracious favour,  
and further us with your continual help.*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

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## *Important information*

**Email address:** parishmagazine@wcv.church

**Next edition:** Deadline is Sunday 14th January.

**Distribution,** towards the end of January.

**Subscription form:** Page 50.

**Cover picture:** Colin Nash

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine, including Tom Amies, Beth Broadway, Sarah Cottrill, Sue Fairman, Rob Little, Colin Nash, Sandra Nash 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 16.

*From Nikki Groarke  
Archdeacon of Dudley*



*Another new year – how did it come around so quickly?*

Whether you are the sort to make new year's resolutions or not, January is certainly a good time to reflect on what the year ahead might hold, to refocus on our priorities, both personally and as churches together. Having set priorities as a diocese, mapped out a plan for the rest of the decade, it may feel unnecessary to revisit them.

However, as someone reminded me when I spoke recently of our 'nine-year plan', we are now already two years in. There are only seven years left to achieve all we set out to accomplish by 2030, which is a challenging thought!

As a diocese, over those seven years we aim to

- Double the number of children and young people worshipping in our churches.
- Create 100 new worshipping communities offering a range of ways for people to come to faith and worship God. (e.g. Forest Church / Café Church / Walking Church).
- Invest in the renewal of around a dozen churches to ensure that each major area of population has at least one church with 150 people attending weekly, enabling them to support other local churches.
- Underpin these by investing in our clergy and lay leaders, providing training and development opportunities to enable them to grow and feel supported and equipped for mission.

If your church hasn't yet identified priorities to focus on, it may be helpful to do some thinking around some of these. Most of our churches could benefit from engaging more with children and young people, and many could start a new worshipping community. If you want to grow and be better equipped for mission, why not explore the training and development opportunities on offer to



help with this as one of your personal new year's resolutions, and encourage others to do the same?

Many churches are working with a Mission Accompanier to help discern what their priorities locally might be, and there is still opportunity to sign up to the scheme, if you haven't yet started on a journey together towards the formation of a Health and Sustainability Plan.

And of course, in addition to that, we can all make some resolutions about our own personal well-being, making space to do the things which will help us to flourish and be content. That may be about committing to more time with family and friends, getting out into the fresh air more frequently, taking steps to be more environmentally friendly, or, in my case, running a marathon!

Whatever you resolve and prioritise, I pray that you will join me in fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, ... so that you will not grow weary and lose heart, (Hebrews 12:2-3), and that 2024 will be a year of blessing for you.

*Nikki*

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## *New Year prayer*

God of all ages, as the old year passes,  
help us to walk your way.

Help us to greet your future and seize tomorrow's day.

As the old year passes  
we think of those loved ones no longer 'round us'.

God of compassion, heal each ailing heart.

May we feel your loving arms supporting and guiding us.

As the old year passes we cry for our struggling world,  
climate change and wars too often heard.

Jesus, you call us to cherish all you give.

Call us to your future where all in peace might live.

As the New Year dawns, we praise you.

Faithful God, come lead us onward in new ways  
to love and serve you in the faith of Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, people of new life.

We offer these prayers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

*Credit: Dr Ann Sinclair  
Elder at St Andrew's United Reformed Church in Monkseaton*

## *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 2023*

### **St John's**

**FUNERALS:** *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 12th October 2023 Angela Georgina Russell

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

5th November 2023 Felicity Emily Louise Pullin

Freddie Jon Jones

**SERVICES:** Communicants 128. Total attendance at all services 411 (including 103 at a baptism and a funeral) plus "Church full" on Remembrance Sunday.

### **St Michael's**

**SERVICES:** Communicants 72. Total attendance at all services 84.

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## *Sundays and Principal Feasts in January*

Saturday 6th January: Epiphany

Sunday 7th January: First Sunday of Epiphany - The Baptism of Christ

Sunday 14th January: Second Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 21st January: Third Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday 28th January: Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

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

## *Dates for your diary*



<b><i>Location key</i></b> (J) St John's Church    (M) St Michael's Church (V) The Vicarage, 7 Manor Road
--

**(J) Mondays in term time, 10am:** Little Lambs, see pages 8 and 22.  
Little Lambs returns on 8th January 2024.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 6th January, 4pm:** Messy Church, see pages 9 and 28. Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Monday 15th January, 2.30pm:** Mothers' Union - AGM

--- 000 ---

**(J) Thursday 11th January, 1pm:** The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Women of Worcester", see page 8.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 13th January, 9am:** Women's Breakfast, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Wednesday 17th January, 2.45pm:** Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Thursday 18th January, 2pm - 4pm:** West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

**(V) Friday 26th January:** Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 27th January, 10.45am:** Café Church@10:45am, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

See page 11 for details of mid-week services in January.

## Events at St John's

The Good Old Days  
Presents

### Women of Worcester

Talk by Discover History

St Johns Church

**Thursday 11th January**

**1pm**

**£4 entry includes  
refreshments**

## Little Lambs



**Mondays in Term Time at  
St John's Church**

**10:00am to 11.30am**

**FREE!**

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

**Birth to 4 years old and carers**

*For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962*

*We return from our Christmas break on  
Monday 8th January 2024. We would  
welcome more adult help this term please.*



**Women's Breakfast Meetings  
for Friendship and  
Christian Fellowship**

**Why not join us?  
Everyone is welcome!**

**Our next meeting is on  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January  
9.00am until 11.00am**

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

*This month's speaker will be*

**Reverend Anne Potter**



## St John in Bedwardine



**Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish**

**'Friendship and Thoughts'**

**At 10.45am on**

**Saturday  
27<sup>th</sup> January**

*Thought for the day by  
Jenny English*

**ALL WELCOME**

## *Events at St John's*

### **ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE**

**Open for Tea/Coffee  
and Cakes  
£2.00**



**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January  
at 2.45pm in the Church**

**ALL WELCOME**

*We wish a  
“Happy New Year”  
to all our readers.*

### *St John-in-Bedwardine*



Our next Messy Church is on Saturday  
6th January, 4pm.

Our theme will be Epiphany.

Please do come along – you'll be sure  
of a warm welcome!

### *St John-in-Bedwardine*



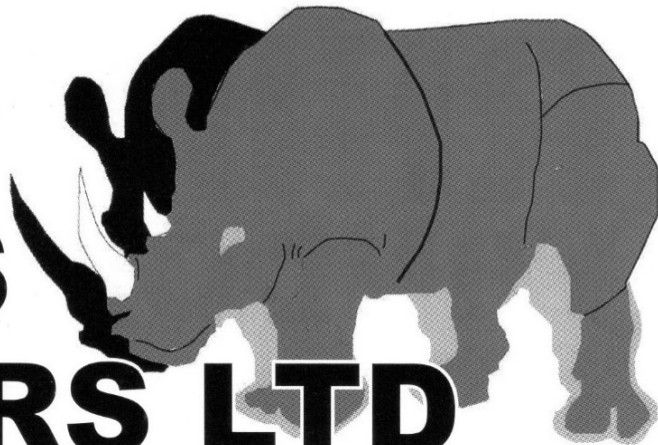
Future dates:

3rd February

2nd March



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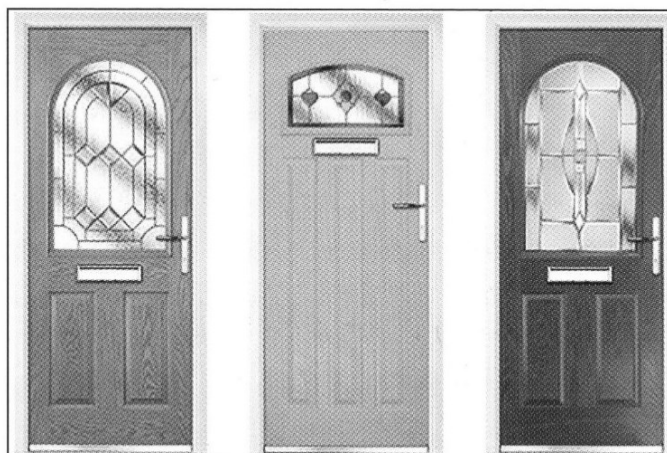
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## *Thank you!*

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and helped with our Table Top Sale on Saturday 18th November. It was a very successful morning with lots of interesting and varied goods for sale. As always, the refreshments and delicious cakes were very popular! A total of £460 was made.

*Joy Job*

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## *Welcome Tom*

We are delighted to welcome Tom Amies as our new Estates Manager following the retirement of Brian Askew at the end of December.

*Graham Evans*



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## *St David's Church News*

By the time you read this Christmas will have been and gone and we will all be looking forward to a new year which we hope will be a good one for all.

In November we held "A Christmas Cracker" fund raising event which was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Phoenix choir came and sang for us and it was a lovely way to end the afternoon. Tim & Julie Crowley kindly donated mulled wine to go with the mince pies so thank you to them.

Wednesday 6th December was our monthly coffee morning and a good time was had by all. Our next one will be on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 10.30am.

We will be having a social afternoon on Saturday 27th January 2024 at 2pm to which you are all invited. There will be refreshments available.

*Carole Stone*  
*Deputy Church Warden*

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## *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)



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## *Beavers in church*

In November, the 2nd Worcester Beavers visited St John's church. Many thanks to Philip Evans and Phil Bradford, who hosted us. Thank you both so much for your time and care. We really enjoyed our visit!

Our visit was part of our badgework for the Beaver Scout Faith badge.



Beavers Faith Activity Badge. To earn your badge: -

1. Write a prayer or reflection.
2. Read or share a prayer or reflection.
3. Find and tell a story about doing your best and helping other people.
4. Visit a place of worship and tell other Beaver Scouts about your visit.

The following week at Beavers I showed the children my photographs and told them that I was very impressed with them all. I also said that Philip was pleased with all the questions they had asked and that Phil was impressed with their prayers and good thinking.





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[www.lafleurflorist.co.uk](http://www.lafleurflorist.co.uk)





In our follow-up discussions, we recalled our Beaver promise, both versions, and talked about how it links with the Faith badge especially the section about doing our best.

### ***Beaver Scout Promise***

*I promise to do my best,  
To be kind and helpful  
And to love God.*

*I promise to do my best,  
To be kind and helpful  
And to love our world.*

On our Beaver notice board, at our Scout hut, I am displaying the photographs that I took as well as sending them to you to enjoy in the magazine.

*Sue Fairman*



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## *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.

The booking can be from one month to one year.

*If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell by telephone on 01684 893397 or by email at [suehussell4@gmail.com](mailto:suehussell4@gmail.com)*

## *Fourth Friday Friends and Mary's Meals*

Mary's Meals is a charity which provides school dinners for children who, due to general poverty, war or natural disaster, would otherwise go hungry. This seemed like a very appropriate cause to support, as Fourth Friday Friends sat down to our meal in November, and chatted about our forthcoming Christmas celebrations which will, of course, involve a good deal of eating!

Our donations came to £42 and when I sent the money I was delighted to learn that a generous supporter of the charity is matching donations up to £1 million! So we actually made £84 which, I was told, will feed two children for the next year! As we have decided to make our next meeting purely social, on a bring and share basis, this was our last fund-raiser of 2023 and it's lovely to go out on such a high note!

I would like to thank all regular attendees for their generosity over the last twelve months and for making the fourth Friday of each month so much fun.

Our first meeting of 2024 will be on Friday, January 26th when anybody wishing to join us will be most welcome. Just sign the list in church to say you're coming.

*Sarah Cottrill*

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## *St David's Coffee Morning*

Despite the cold outside, it was the usual warm welcome inside St David's Church when we gathered for the last coffee morning of 2023! About 45 people joined us for chat over tea, coffee and (of course) plenty of home-made cake. Thanks to the efforts of Carole, Wendy and their team



of helpers, the church looked beautifully festive with Advent Ring, Christmas Tree and Crib as well as the table decorations (see page 19 for pictures).

These monthly coffee mornings have become a well-established highlight on many people's calendars and I send heart-felt thanks to all who give so generously of their time and baking skills to make the mornings so successful. Thanks too, of course, to all those who come along and are equally generous both with their donations and the warmth of the welcome they extend to newcomers.

Our next coffee morning is on Wednesday, January 3rd 2024 but before that, at St David's, we have our Carols Round The Tree at 2.30pm on December 23rd and First Eucharist of Christmas at 9.30pm on Sunday, December 24th.

*Sarah Cottrill*



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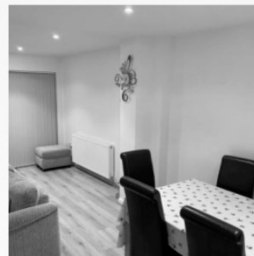
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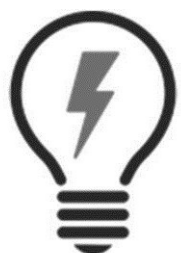
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## *St David's Coffee Morning - pictures*



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## *Notes from the choir*

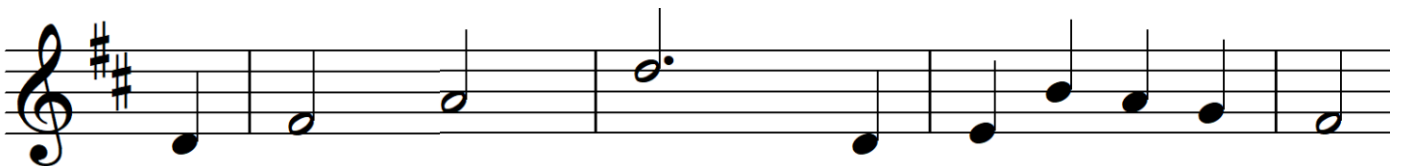
As another new year approaches, we look forward to what is to come and look back, taking stock of what has happened in 2023. It seems to have been a year where division between people has become more pronounced. The ferocity of the war in Israel and Palestine, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the seemingly never-ending suffering of the inhabitants of Yemen and Syria. And, according to news reports the gap between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have nots’ in our own country is growing even wider. In a recent episode of the rebooted Doctor Who series the ‘baddie’ sought to bring about the destruction of humanity by exaggerating individuals’ beliefs that they are absolutely right about everything, never hearing another’s point of view but defending their own perspectives with violent determination not to listen to anyone else.

This was of course a fictional world where, in the end, the Doctor triumphed, the evil was defeated, and people got back to their normal way of life. It did though capture a sense that, in this 21st century, we are becoming less willing to hear different points of view or to take the time to listen and to seek to work together,

It may seem strange but singing in a choir is as much about listening as it is about making sound and it is the coming



together of individual voices that brings about a melodious outcome. So, on a Thursday evening in our choir practices we learn to listen. Following the instructions of our conductor, blending the parts of the music and understanding how to make a piece of music come together in a harmonious whole. We have to be in time and agreement with each other or the whole falls apart. Which of course, in practices, it often does! So, we work on listening to what went wrong and then set about putting it right so that we can sing to the best of our collective ability.



Of course, I am going to say let’s have more singing in 2024! And if there is anyone out there who wants to come and sing with our choir in St Johns then please do contact John Brierley our choir director or come along on a Thursday evening at 7pm to find out more. In the meantime, on behalf of the choir, I wish you all a very Happy and harmonious New Year.

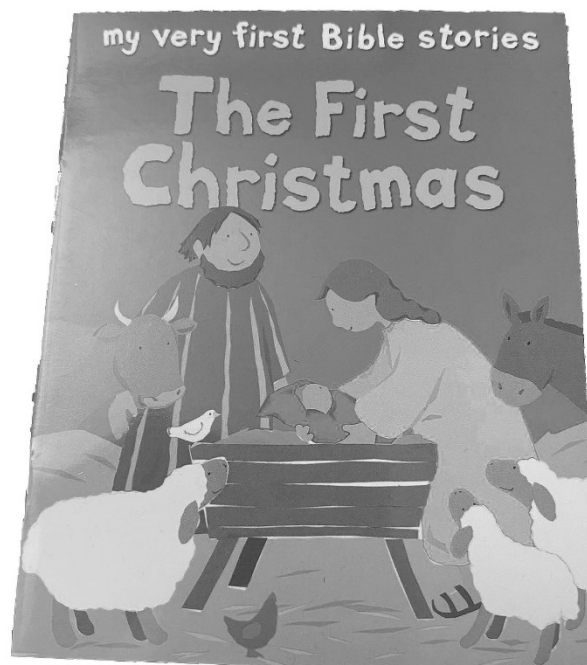
*Luise Horrocks*

## *Christmas excitement*

Little Lambs had an amazing last session before Christmas with a visit from Father Christmas which made everyone very excited!



All the children received a gift of a book, telling the story of Christmas (thank you church for paying for these gifts).



Phil did a great job too as Santa's little helper by giving out the books and I introduced him as the vicar too.







Thank you so much Father Christmas (aka Colin Nash) for fitting us into your busy Christmas schedule. Colin made an amazing Santa (as last year). I have booked him again for next year!

We all sang Jingle Bells to make Father Christmas feel welcome!



The children and adults were delighted with Father Christmas's visit. Their faces just said it all!



Huge thanks to all volunteers and families.

If anyone else could volunteer to help us, you would be very welcome!



We hope everyone has a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

We look forward to seeing you all when we return from our Christmas break on Monday 8th January 2024.

*Sue Fairman*



## *A buzz of chattering*



On Saturday 2nd December we held our Community Breakfast and what a celebration of our community life it was.







A buzz of chattering, good food being cooked and consumed by all who came. A group of willing helpers and the guides who were as always so helpful, serving, clearing up and chatting to everyone who came. The kitchen staff were amazing.



Thank you to everyone who gave such a warm welcome to all our guests.

*Jenny English*



## *Advent and Angels*

December's Messy Church was a bit too far away from 25th to be Christmas focused, so this month's theme was Advent and Angels (with a touch of Christmas). It was lovely to see regular Messy Church attendees, alongside new faces who came along to give it a go. As always, thank you to everybody who came and a massive thank you to all who volunteered, especially as we had all been involved in the wonderfully successful Community Breakfast that morning.



This month's theme was not based on a particular Bible passage, but rather encouraged us to think about the Advent period, and angels especially.

Following the Messy Church values, our Creativity activities included lots of angel making. Particularly popular with the children from our congregation were the fondant icing angels, made around an ice cream cone – mainly for the edible factor involved!

Sadly, while Phil's excellent example made it through to the 10.30am Eucharist the following day, the angel decided that was enough and fell slightly apart. You can still see Phil's other creations on the pulpit when you're next in St John's Church.





Alongside these, you may also see our Christmas archway. We were encouraged to look at decorations and Christmas cards and choose which side of the arch we thought it should be placed – secular or religious. Images included a nativity scene, reindeer and Father Christmas. The arch was also decorated by the children – so it's very sparkly and tinsel filled! Other activities included decorating an advent candle, lolly stick angels and making an angel picture.



Our short worship session, celebrating God, Jesus and this month's message was led by Phil. We started our worship looking for angels in the quire and then were given a question – what does ‘angel’ mean? The answer (in case you don't know and Phil one day quizzes you on it in his sermon) is messenger. We thought about the importance of this role and the messages that they were delivering from God. We concluded with the hymn ‘Little Donkey’, led by Liz, to mark the beginning of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

With Messy Church's value of Hospitality, our shared meal was pizza, followed by cake and custard. It was great to sit down and share a meal with everyone. Thank you so much to Darren and Sarah for running the kitchen for us, particularly as Darren had been in the kitchen all morning as well.

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 6th January with the theme Epiphany. The following Messy Church will be 3rd February. Messy Church is for all ages, with activities set at various levels of complexity and many offering the chance for mindfulness and contemplation while being creative. Please do come along – you'll be sure of a warm welcome!

*Beth Broadway*



*Prayers for  
Ukraine,  
Gaza and Israel*



Let us together light three candles, representing Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and hold in our hand the woven cord, that we made last month, as we join our prayers together.

Lord Jesus, we pray for leaders of our world, that they may work together to bring about peace in our fractured world. We ask Lord for all leaders to have a greater understanding of what it means for innocent people to have bombs and missiles rain down on them. We pray that all leaders and terrorist groups will reach a place where they ask for forgiveness and repent of all the violence that is being perpetrated.

Lord God, in you we put our hope for change.

Lord God, we pray for all who suffer. The refugees in Ukraine where homes are flattened and people displaced. Where people in Afghanistan flee persecution and travel across the world for a safe haven.

We pray for all those in Gaza, seeking shelter and living in bombed out buildings and tents made of plastic sheeting, with no money, food or clean water and no means of escape from the hatred and evil that surrounds them.

We pray for the people of Israel - praying for families and friends held hostage and for those violated on October 7th and since.

Lord God, we put our hope for change in Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who are bereaved, grieving for those maimed and lives lost in the midst of war. We pray for the souls of men, women and children who have died in the conflicts of Ukraine, Gaza and Israel. We pray for those who are now grieving and seeking hope for a future life.

Lord God in you we put our hope for peace, and healing for all.

Lord God, we hold before you all who work for peace. The United Nations, and the leaders of neighbouring countries.

We pray for those who bring aid to the suffering and work to protect the vulnerable in a war of such violence.

For doctors and nurses caring for the sick and injured with very little medicine and help from the outside world. May those working for peace be your voice, your hands and feet in these places of mayhem.

We join our prayers with all who pray for peace and reconciliation across our world.

Lord God, in you we put our hope that the voice of peace will be heard.

Jesus, your coming into our world is to bring Salvation for all. For the marginalised, the poor, the children and men and women. Help us to see past the violence and hatred and look into the faces of all who suffer at the hands of others. To pray with them for peace and restore hope into all hearts where there is despair.

Lord God, in you we put our hope that you will comfort and be present for all your people. Abide in them as we abide in you.

Amen

*Jenny English*

---

### *Turn your love*

... Turn your love to Him, who in His love  
Upon a cross, our souls to save today,  
First died, then rose, and sits in heaven above;  
And now will fail no-one, I dare to say,  
That will His holy heart upon Him lay!  
And since He best to love is, and most meek,  
Why should we feigned love go to seek?

*Geoffrey Chaucer (1343 - 1400)*

### *Let nothing disturb thee*

Let nothing disturb thee, nothing affright thee;  
All things are passing; God never changeth';  
Patient endurance  
Attaineth to all things;  
Who God possesseth  
In nothing is wanting  
Alone God sufficeth.

*St Teresa of Avila (1515 - 1582)*

# *Diary management, 2024*

*From Parish Pump, the world-hardened cleric, Eustace, writes to his nephew, eager curate Darren:*

## On how to run your Diary for 2024

My dear Nephew Darren

So, you have just attended a course on ‘Diary Management’, to get you prepared for another year. If you had visited me, I could have told you all you need to know in half the time. Allow me to provide you with useful information which was probably not provided in your conference hand-outs.

First, buy the smallest diary you can find. Large blank pages only encourage you to fill them with too many appointments; the smaller the page, the easier it can be made to appear that your days are fully booked.

Second, make sure that it is of a size that will conveniently fit into any pocket. When dates are being arranged for subsequent meetings, you can theatrically start going through jacket, trouser and overcoat pockets. By the time you discover it was in your briefcase all along, all the dates will have been fixed and no one will notice you never got any of them.

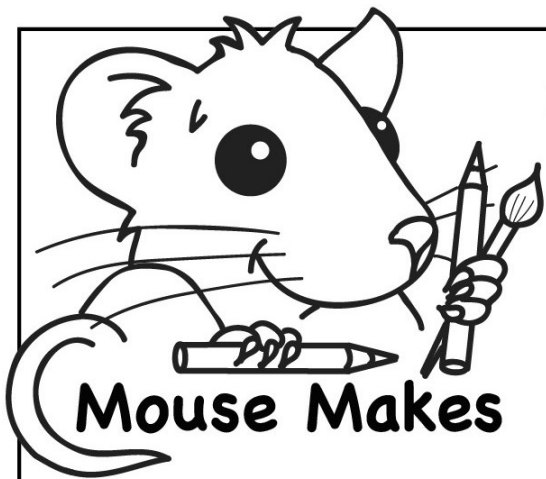
Third, adopt your own private code for bookings. This means that any parishioner looking over your shoulder and seeing ‘1.30pm PLS’ or ‘7.30pm WTD’ will assume you are attending important church meetings. The fact that they mean ‘Post Lunch Sleep’ and ‘Walk The Dog’ will be known to you alone – although do have alternative possibilities for your acronyms should you ever be challenged. My congregation know I am assiduous in attending the ‘Pauline Letters Seminars’ and my membership of the ‘World Theology Directorate’ is of many years standing.

Fourth, record everything in pencil so that once you return home, you can rub most of it out and can then deny you knew anything about those meetings you were supposed to attend – and to prove it, you can show the blank page in your diary.

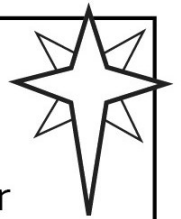
Fifth, put someone else’s address inside your diary. Should you ever have to resort to the ultimate act and need to lose it, you do not want some Good Samaritan returning it to you from the churchyard compost heap.

So, you see, your day of flip charts and group discussions were quite wasted – and I would gladly have presented my course for half their price.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



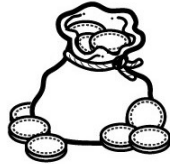
**EPIPHANY** is the time in the Church year that we remember when the 'wise men' or 'Magi' followed a star that led them to the Christ child Jesus. They bowed down, worshipped him and left *three* special gifts.



Where was Jesus born?

-----

Luke 2:1



What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus?

-----



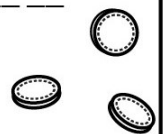
Who was the king?

-----

Luke 2:1

and -----

Luke 2:11



Where did the wise men come from?  
the -----

Luke 2:1

How were the wise men warned not to return to Herod?  
In a -----

Luke 2:12

What had the wise men seen?

a -----

Luke 2:2



C H I L D S T A R J D K  
J E S U S W A E B O B I  
E S R E J O I C E Y O N  
W H A C H R I S T H R G  
S E E E O S J C H U N O  
Y P L A U H R U L E R L  
G H I S S I T H E R O D  
I E M T E P I P H A N Y  
F R A N K I N C E N S E  
T D R S W I S E M E N E  
S M Y R R H D R E A M I

JESUS  
WISEMEN  
WORSHIP  
SHEPHERD  
KING • JEWS  
CHRIST • CHILD  
BORN • RULER  
ISRAEL • REJOICE  
JOY • HOUSE • MARY  
GIFTS • EPIPHANY

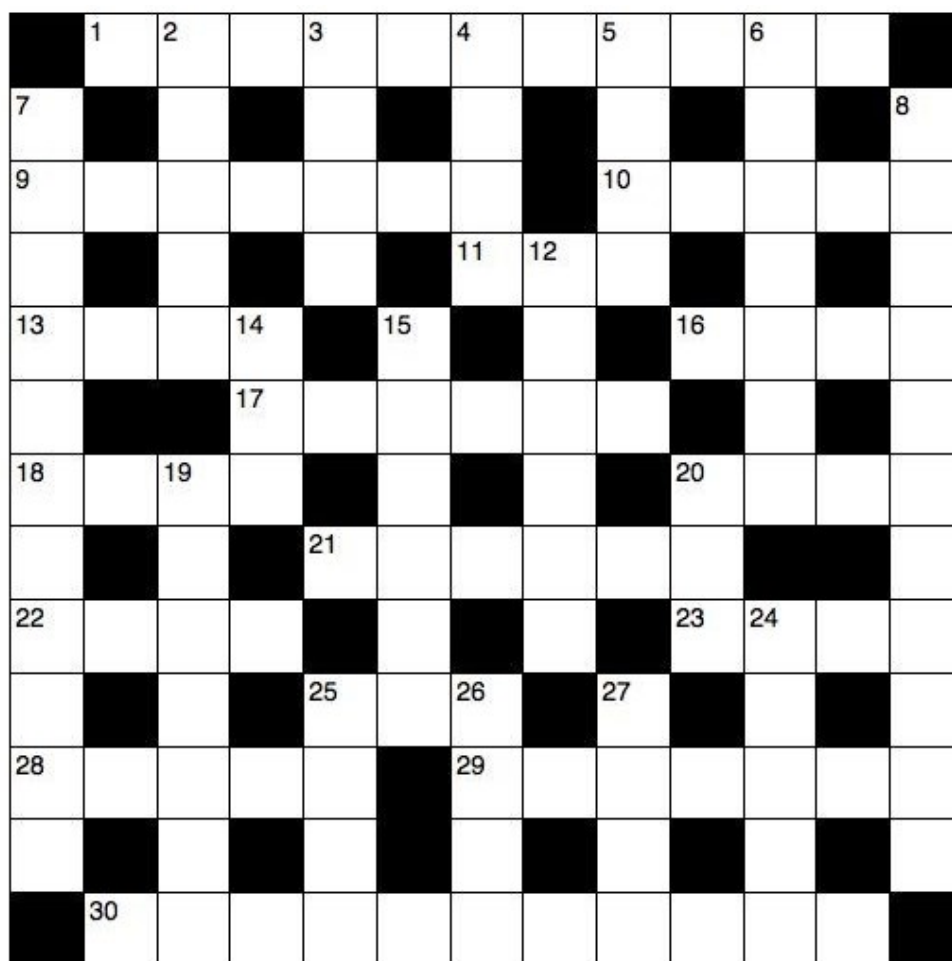


Look up the Bible verses, fill in the blanks, find them in the word search then look for the words opposite.

How many other words can you make from the letters in EPIPHANY?

## Puzzles

The solution is on the inside back cover.



### Across

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God ‘is being revealed from heaven’ against this (Romans 1:18) (11)
- 9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10 ‘But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee’(Matthew 26:32) (5)
- 11 ‘Take and —; this is my body’ (Matthew 26:26) (3) 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)
- 16 ‘Woe to those who — iniquity’ (Micah 2:1) (4)
- 17 ‘How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?’ (Hebrews 2:3) (6)
- 18 Opposite of evens (4)
- 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)
- 21 ‘There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife’ (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)
- 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)
- 23 Beat (anag.) (4)
- 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)
- 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)
- 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)
- 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

## Down

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)  
 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)  
 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)  
 5 Tidy (4)  
 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)  
 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)  
 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)  
 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)  
 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)  
 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)  
 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)  
 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)  
 24 Rarely used musical note (5)  
 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)  
 26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)  
 27 See 26 Down

## *Sudoku Puzzle*

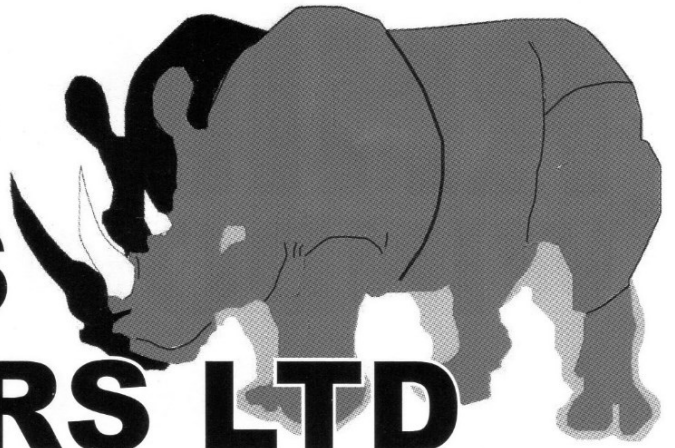
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*The solution  
is on the  
inside back  
cover.*

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



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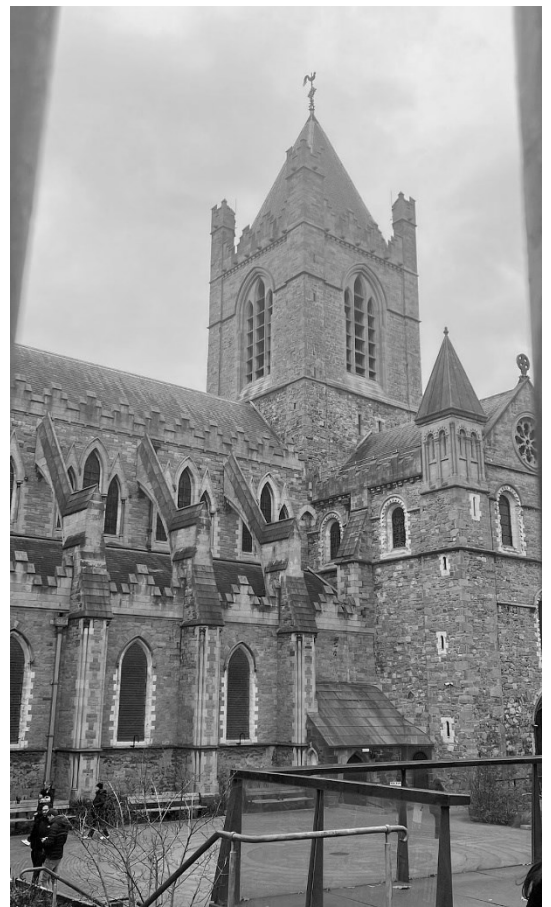
## *No guinea pigs were harmed!*

Goodness me! How time flies. I'm now in the Christmas break from my studies although (confession time), I couldn't get my marked assignment in on time so I had to ask for an extension. It's nearly done and I'm actually giving myself a change of mental scene by writing this! The assignment is to write an article about the Creeds for a fictional parish magazine so watch this space; if I get a decent mark it may make an appearance here. If you never see it, then you'll know I got a "D- Must try harder".

This has certainly been our hardest term so far with so much discussion about what I think I'd consider pure Theology. There is so much special language to learn and the good people of St Clements were my guinea pigs as I tried to explain the concept of "perspicuity of scripture". I just couldn't get my head around this until I had to write a practice assignment and then it sort of clicked. How well it clicked, and how well I was then able to explain it, you'd need to ask our friends around the corner! But my tutor gave me some pretty decent feedback which was a welcome boost when my head was swimming and I thought I'd never get it.

We've also been wrestling with ideas of Sola Scriptura (that's not too bad), and then the Creeds and the Trinity. That really is a struggle, but it's funny how something that seems so esoteric and opaque can be percolating in the back of your mind, waiting to make an appearance when you least expect it. I had one such experience with the "Filioque clause" a couple of weeks ago. This is all about a few extra words added to the Nicene creed to say that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, as opposed to just the Father and it caused a bit of a stink back in the 6th Century. In fact it led to the split between the Eastern and Western churches that persists today. I'd read about this and heard our tutor talk about it but it was just not going in.

And then Ellen and I were at the Sunday service in Dublin Cathedral ....

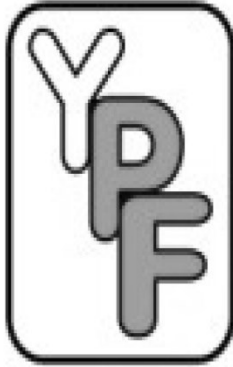


*Christchurch Cathedral,  
Dublin*

*Continued on page 39*

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*The image on the ceiling in Dublin Cathedral showing the relationship between the Godhead and God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.*

.... and there on the ceiling above the nave was an image I had seen during our lecture and as I pondered it we came to the creed and said the words "...who proceeds from the father and the son" and I suddenly realised why it matters. Heresy warning, this is what is making sense to me at the moment, but if the spirit does not proceed from the son as it proceeds from the father then the father and the son cannot be co-equal...and we believe that they are...but that is an essay in itself. Once the assignment is done I have one more thing to write, one of the unmarked practice exercises and then a meeting with Doug and Phil just before Christmas in my favourite venue...The Plough. A happy and blessed Christmas to you all and in the new year I will be able to tell you about the next residential weekend.

*Rob Little*

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## *Quietly challenging*



At Christopher Whitehead we have been trying to ensure all our children, not simply the loudest, have a voice. As we head into the new year, we have tried to ensure that all appreciate how fortunate we are to live in a relatively safe, prosperous country. At the time of writing, many children are suffering:

- 4,500 children killed in the city of Gaza – a densely populated city about the size of Worcester.
- Afghanistan only allowing 1 in 5 children to attend school, no girls over the age of 11 – the Taliban rules restricting so many ‘bright’ children, and I would suggest restricting their nation’s progress.
- Somalia – just 10% go to primary school and the list could go on.

Not all my students would agree with the old adage ‘school days are the best days of my life’ but for many, fear of failure inhibits their progress. Ensuring they have belief, confidence and wide-ranging opportunities to excel in a variety of specialisms, hopefully means there is something for everyone:

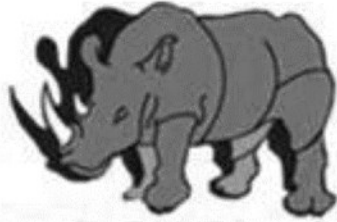
- 27 A-level/BTEC courses
- Hairdressing salon
- Over 50 extra-curricular clubs from chess club to history club to Mandarin.

After all, some of the most famous people didn’t give up:

- Edison was ejected from school because his teacher labelled him as ‘retarded’. 1000 failures before he made a workable light bulb He said “I didn’t fail 1000 times. The lightbulb was an invention with 1000 steps.”
- Stephen King had his book ‘Carrie’ rejected 30 times – it has now sold over 350 million copies.
- Walt Disney was fired from his first job for not having enough imagination!

For many, the loudest have taken over even if they have nothing to say. Therefore ‘phone free Fridays’ is becoming an increasing trend with many students handing in their phones - source of the repeated noise - to ensure quiet. Quiet Fridays prevail. Some staff have also followed this ideal trend.

*Neil Morris*  
*Headteacher*  
*Christopher Whitehead Language College & Sixth Form*



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# *“Joyeuse nouvelle année”*

*‘Joyous new year’*

“Joyeuse nouvelle année” is the greeting that our French neighbours say to us when we meet, usually followed by sending a new year card conveying best wishes for good health and wealth in the year ahead. Such greeting can be sent at any time between the 2nd and 30th of January since it is a month of greeting.

January is still a time for gifts too! For your postman/woman it is a small sum of money (say, about 20€) which you give in exchange for a calendar/almanac of La Poste and which has lots of very useful information about where you live - City or town, Département, Région, and a host of places to visit, with maps.

It’s useful to have a couple of bottles of either Ratafia, port, sherry, or fine wine (for example Eiswien - a wine made from grapes that are gathered only after the first hard frosts). Why? So that you can invite your neighbours for an evening light meal, known as an Apéro Dinatoire. This consists of a finger buffet, some sweet truffles or other sweet dishes. All washed down by some of your choice liquid offerings. It is also a time when you can exchange new year cards. Always a very convivial time, often helped by some suitable musical offering also.

During the month you are likely to get a visit from your local fireman/woman who will be collecting funds (in exchange for a Fire Service calendar). The funds go towards a special meal that is provided in early February for all the old folk who live in the area (often alone) so that they can share a time of reminiscence and socialising with their generation, often accompanied by some local traditional dancing/music.

Towards the end of the month, it is likely that your local “Pépinériste” (equivalent of a garden centre to us) will invite you to a preparation for spring event, where all the items you want for your early plantings will be on display (and sale, of course). There is no obligation to buy, but many invitees do so however, and it is accompanied by all the necessary advice on planting, nurture and care to ensure success with your purchased plants.

Finally, it is worth reminding you of the Galette des Rois, which choir members will know well since we celebrate this each year. Timed at Candlemas, it is the preparation of a special gateau which is divided between participants and contains “favours” (fêves) - the “winner” of which wears the king’s crown for the day!

Alors, Joyeuse Nouvelle Année!

*Arthur Miller*

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## *This is the deanery (Worcester Deanery) that we are in!*



There's a new look to the Worcester Deanery Leadership Team with Sue Roulstone from Christ Church, Lower Broadheath (on the right in the picture) becoming the new Lay Chair and Rob Pearce moving to be Treasurer. Diane Cooksey (on the left in the picture) continues as Area Dean, Paul Fulbrook

continues as Secretary and Paul Wilcox and Anne Potter complete the team. The team have been working with the deanery synod to develop a vision for the deanery.

Sue moved to Worcester four years ago from Bristol and has served on deanery synod for the past three years as a way of getting to know the Church better.

Sue said "I see my role as being a lay support to Diane. I want to understand what people's issues are and find ways to support and be a voice for the laity."

Over the last couple of deanery synod meetings, the Deanery Leadership Team have been asking parishes what they think the deanery might be for, what their church priorities are and how the deanery might support them with those. They have developed three priorities for the deanery – praying for one another, communicating effectively and working collaboratively where appropriate.

"We are now working out how these priorities will work in practice," said Diane. "Possibilities include making sure we devote time to prayer in deanery synod meetings, setting up an online prayer group and developing a deanery newsletter and Facebook page. We will also be looking at other ways in which we can helpfully work together across the Deanery."

The team are now looking to put together a more structured plan, finding ways in which they can help people feel like they belong to the deanery. They hope that different parishes will link together to reach new housing developments. They are also planning some deanery worship, for example a youth service.

"The Deanery Leadership Teams are so important for helping to make the connection between parishes and things happening at a diocesan level," said Diane. "We can also be a facilitator for ideas – sharing them so that other parishes can benefit. We hope that all these things will make a difference and that it is a journey that the whole deanery is on, not just the leadership team; a journey that started with listening to deanery synod."

*Worcester Diocese press release (edited)*



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  - Tuesday: 9am - 6pm
  - Wednesday: 9am - 5pm
  - Thursday: 9am - 5pm
  - Friday: 9am - 5pm
  - Saturday: 9am - 4pm
- 

### **December/January opening times:**

- Sunday 24th December - closed
  - Monday 25th December - closed
  - Tuesday 26th December - closed
  - Wednesday 27th December to Saturday 30th December - normal opening times
  - Sunday 31st December - closed
  - Monday 1st January - closed
  - Tuesday 2nd January - normal opening times
- 

## *Weekly events at St John's Library*

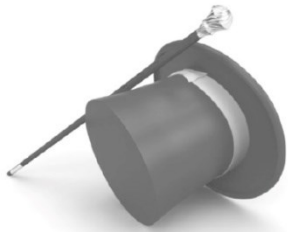
Check the information above for dates when the library is closed.

- Bounce and Rhyme - Tuesdays, 11.00am-11.30am
- Scrabble Club - Tuesdays, 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- Chess Club - Tuesdays, 2.00pm to 4.00pm
- Crochet and Chat - Wednesdays, 10.00am to 12.00pm
- Storytime and Song - Fridays, 11:00am to 11:30am
- Lego Club - Saturdays, 2.00pm to 3.00pm

## *Other December events at St John's Library*

- Crime Readers Group Film Club - Monday 22nd January, 11.00am to 1.00pm
- Crime Readers Group - Monday 29th January, 11.00am to 1.00pm
- Photography Group - Thursday 25th January, 11.00am to 12.00pm





# 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, January 1953*

(“these appeals” and “them” refers to a request for people to give a gift of a new hymn book or prayer book)

### CHURCH FINANCES

IN view of these appeals it may be wondered by many why we cannot afford to pay for them ourselves. The impression with so many here and elsewhere is that we are a wealthy church. That is not true. The parish of St. John's (that is the thousands of folk living in it) may have plenty of money, I do not know. But the finances of our Church have a different complexion. The truth is that we are dependent on extraordinary functions (Autumn Fayre and Big Threepenny Bit Scheme) to meet our commitments, and they are heavy with the increased costs of Church maintenance and all that goes with it. If anyone doubts this, as I believe some do, it would be helpful and illuminating if they examined the accounts. They are available for scrutiny. The truth is that we shall have to cut our coat to suit our cloth and to face the New Year with sensible expenditure. We cannot afford to bury our heads and common-sense and say that God will provide. That is not faith. That is bad theology. A Bible College adopted that kind of faith not long ago. It became bankrupt and the Principal landed in gaol.

We shall look to the New Year, therefore, not like Mr. Micawber that ‘something will turn up’, but with hope **and** expectation, that each member of our Church making his own direct contribution financially to what he considers his Church deserves from him, we shall see ourselves ultimately in a position when we shall have no recourse to ‘beg or appeal’, or to *rely* on extraordinary ventures to pay our way.

As a Finance Committee we are also mindful that we hold in trust other people's money, and as trustees of it we are morally obligated to put it to its best and rightful use for the needs of our Church here.

# 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.

**(£23.15)** I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted. Postage and Packing costs £18.15 (Large Letter, 2nd class postage, £1.55 from October 2023, up by 40p!)

## Your details:

Title:

.....

Forename:

.....

Surname:

.....

Email

address:

.....

Address (including post code):

		Total
Magazine subscription (as above)	£5 / £23.15	
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@wcw.church](mailto:parishmagazine@wcw.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.

*giftaid it*

*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*

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

	G	O	D	L	E	S	S	N	E	S	S		
G		D		A		A		E		E		G	
E	G	O	T	I	S	M		A	F	T	E	R	
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S	O	R	T		O		P		P	L	A	N	
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O	D	D	S		T		L		I	D	E	M	
N		E		N	O	F	E	A	R			O	
I	D	L	E		P		S		A	B	E	T	
T		I		A	I	L		W		R		H	
E	A	V	E	S			A	C	H	I	E	V	E
S		E		I		S		I		V		R	
	G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R		

### *And finally....*

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning: "Windows frozen." Her husband texted back: "Try some lukewarm water."

The wife texted back five minutes later: "Smoke coming out of computer!"

--- 000 ---

We are delighted to announce that the youth group has raised almost £500 for drug abuse.

--- 000 ---

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last pewsheet: 'Lunch will be gin at 12:15.' Please note this should have read '12 noon.'

--- 000 ---

Left over from the table top sale: For sale, we have a gents three-speed bicycle, and also two ladies in good running order.

--- 000 ---

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the north and south ends of the church. Children will be baptised at both ends.

--- 000 ---

Cats know how we feel. They don't care, but they know.

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Worcester St John-in-Bedwardine and St Michael's Joint Council is a charity with the Registered Charity Number 1205354



## Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – January

	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Clement's</b>	<b>St. David's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>
<b>7th January</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>14th January</b>	10.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
<b>21st January</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>28th January</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
<b>4th February</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

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