

The Parish Magazine

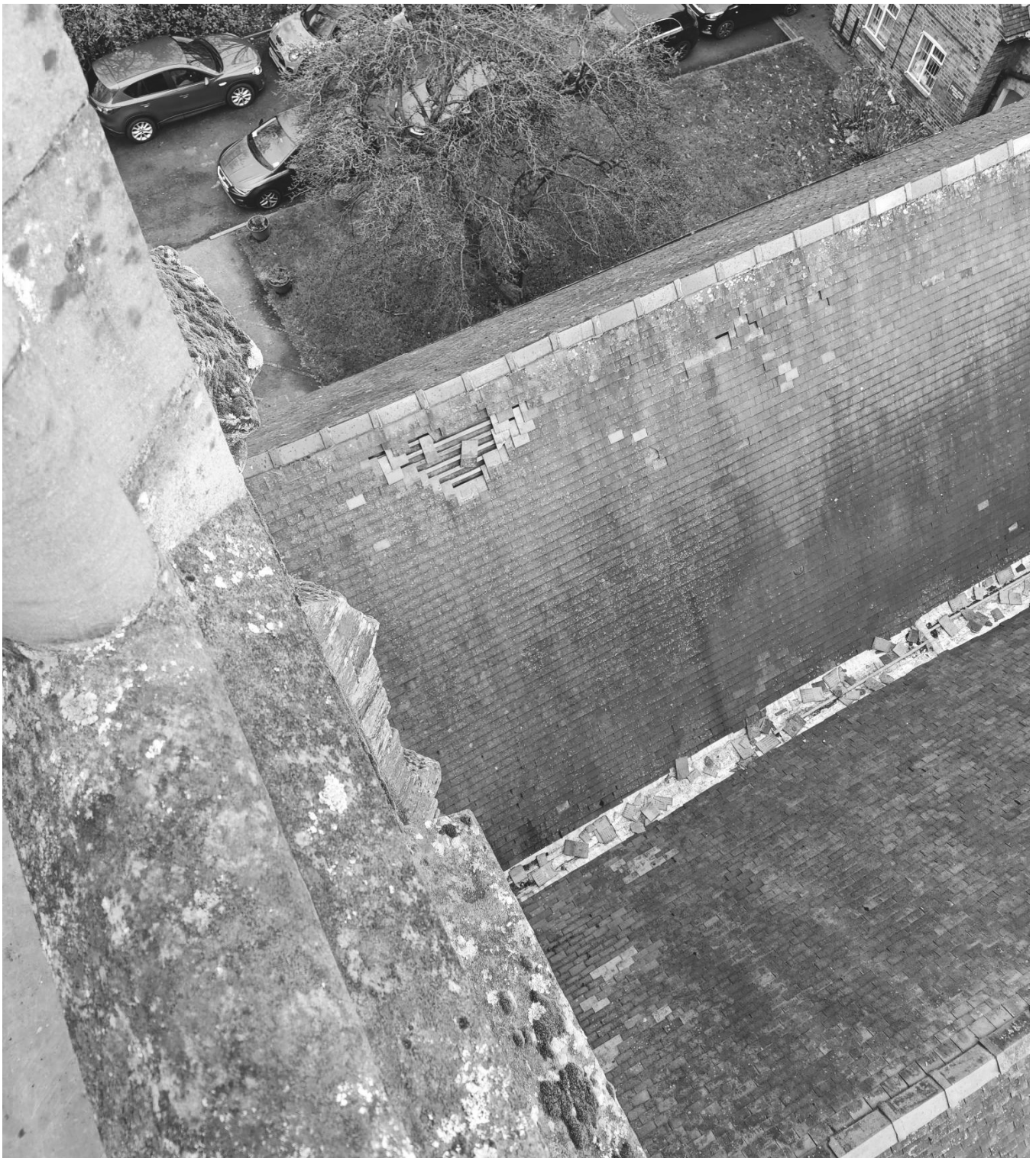
St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



January 2025

50p



Information

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

Phil Bradford (Team Rector) (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

Sarah Cottrill (Team Vicar) (01905 426257)

Saturday

Gilly Maxim (Assistant Curate) (gilly.maxim@wcw.church)

Friday

Stephen Buckley (Pastoral Minister) (07746 206905)

TEAM OFFICE

| | |
|---|---|
| The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12noon. | |
| 1a Bromyard Road St John's, WR2 5BS | Tel: (01905) 420490 e-mail: office@wcw.church |

ON THE WEB

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

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, contact one of the Safeguarding Officers, Fiona Templeton, Elizabeth Forman in person or via safeguarding@wcw.church, or any member of the clergy.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051). | St John's |
| Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email sylviarender@talktalk.net) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email stephenbuckley554@gmail.com). | |
| Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com / 424539) Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com /428948). | St Michael's |
| On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above). | |

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

A word from the editors

Welcome to our January 2025 edition. The Epiphany season reminds us that the message of Christ is for all people, and Stephen Edwards follows that up in the context of church magazines.

Our request to you, dear reader, is to keep your eyes open for opportunities to get the magazine out to people. If you ever need a copy of the magazine to give to a visitor, or to a new neighbour (or to an existing neighbour), please feel empowered to take a copy from the back of church.

Subscribers, and those who pay the cover price for the magazine, we hope that you will not mind subsidising such complimentary copies!

This month, we offer you here not a single prayer but some excerpts from the Collects and Post Communion prayers of the Epiphany season. We pray to God that:

- through us the light of his glory may shine in all the world;
- he will enable us to be his messengers;
- he will help us so to live out our days that we may be signs of his wonders in the world.

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 12th January 2025.

Distribution – towards the end of January.

Subscription form: Page 54.

Cover picture: Storm damage to the roof of the North Aisle, caused by storm Darragh. Picture – Tom Amies.

Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Tom Amies, Phil Bradford, Beth Broadway, Sue Fairman, Penny Marcés, Colin Nash and Gordon Templeton.

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 near the back of the magazine 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 Joint Council or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

To advertise

Please see page 12.

From Stephen Edwards *Dean of Worcester*

A magazine can go through doors that you can't – words from a wonderful book I found in a charity shop many years ago. Published in the 1960s it has tips and suggestions for producing parish magazines which can be used in the Church's mission and ministry. Of course, it paints a picture of a world before computers let alone photocopying and social media. It speaks of sending copy to the local printers or for those more fortunate parishes, how to get the best out of the gestetner – its glimpse into a past age reminds me a little of helping my mother with the parish magazine in the 1980s and what seemed like endless folding and stapling.



Times change but the importance of good communication has never been so critical, and it is the local level sharing of news which is a lifeline to many communities. Parish magazines – in their diverse formats and styles, offer a significant gift to neighbourhoods and are a channel for churches to reach beyond those in the pews each week. I expect I am not alone in being sent copies, or cuttings from other magazines – people keen to share what they have read and often wanting to pass on information they think I might want to see. We can assume that such sharing is common and perhaps encourage it with a note to forward or pass on to a friend or neighbour.

However, although the message remains as important, the context for that message has changed. No longer can we assume that everyone will understand what we mean by the words, phrases, and activities which we so often take for granted. Alongside the notices and write ups of events, services and activities, we find more of an interest than we might imagine for stories about faith, invitations to learn, conversations exploring what it means to be a Christian.

As the year ahead comes into view, so do the possibilities of how this magazine, our pewsheet, our message, might be shared and spread further. As we celebrate the season of Epiphany and think of the Church's mission in proclaiming the good news, now is the time to think about what that means in our context, our locality, for our generation.

The Very Revd Dr Stephen Edwards
Dean of Worcester

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 Plumptre | 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 2024

St John's

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

24th November 2024 Daniel Edward Forman (see page 24)

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

No weddings in November

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 16th September 2024 John Rowland Franklin

SERVICES: Communicants 182. Total attendance at all services 582
including 39 at a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 60. Total attendance at all services 76.

Midweek services

Please see page 7 for information about mid-week services in January.

Dates for your diary

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

(J) Mondays in term time, 10am: Little Lambs. Starts 13th January.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 4th January, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 8 and 28.

Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 9th January, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Empire Day", see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 11th January, 9am: Women's Breakfast, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 15th January, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 16th January, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 20th January, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union, Holy Communion followed by the Annual Meeting.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 24th January: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 25th January, 10.45am: Café @ 10.45, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

Saturday 25th January, 6.30m: Burns Night Ceilidh at St Clement's School.

--- 000 ---



Kingdom Arts...

...is on the following Tuesdays in 2025:

11th February, 11th March, 8th April, 13th May,
11th June, 14th October, 11th November,
9th December.

Coffee from 10am, finishing with a soup lunch.

Held at St George's Church, Worcester,
WR1 1HX. Visit www.kingdom-arts.co.uk

Walking Church

My annual leave meant we couldn't fit in a meeting of Walking Church in November. However, normal service will be resumed in 2025! Our first walk of the year will take place on Sunday, January 12th when we will set off from St Johns Church at 2pm.

Why not come along and walk off some of those Christmas and New Year excesses, whilst enjoying discussion based on the Gospel of the day – and more general friendly chat. All welcome.

Sarah Cottrill

Sundays and Principal Feasts in January

Wednesday 1st January: The Naming and Circumcision of Christ

Sunday 5th January: The second Sunday of Christmas

Monday 6th January: The Epiphany (celebrated here on 5th January)

Sunday 12th January: The Baptism of Christ (The first Sunday of Epiphany)

Sunday 19th January: The second Sunday of Epiphany

Saturday 25th January: The Conversion of Paul

Sunday 26th January: The third Sunday of Epiphany

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled in January:

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

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

Not on 2nd January.

Daily offices take place in St John's Church from Monday to Thursday. Morning Prayer is at 8.30am all year. Evening Prayer is at 4pm (until 30th March 2025). There are occasional days when other commitments prevent a service happening; the schedule for each week will be published in the pew sheet.

Collect for the second Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

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

Events at St John's

St John-in-Bedwardine



Saturday 4th January, 4pm.
(doors open 3.30pm with
drinks and biscuits).

“Jesus in the Temple”

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

THE GOOD OLD DAYS PRESENTS DISCOVER HISTORY EMPIRE DAY

THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY
1.00PM

ADMISSION £4
INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on
Saturday 11th January
9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



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Wednesday 15th January
at 2.45pm in the Church
ALL WELCOME

Events at St John's



**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

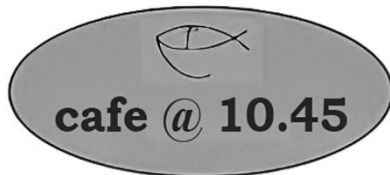
For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962

Come and join the fun!

Little Lambs

We return from our
Christmas break
on 13th January 2025.

St John in Bedwardine



**Join us for Fresh Coffee and
Danish**

'Friendship and Thoughts'

At 10.45am on

**Saturday
25th January**

Guest Speaker Luise Horrocks

ALL WELCOME

The poster has a grey and white tartan background. At the top and bottom, there are white musical notes and a white saltire (Scottish flag) on a grey rectangular background. The text is in white and black.

**Burns Night
Ceilidh**

**Saturday 25th January '25
6.30pm**

St Clement's Primary School

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025

18th to 25th January

It is now 1,700 years since the First Council of Nicaea. Not many people know that. Anyway – so what?

Because the Council of Nicaea, in 325, was the very first ecumenical council that the Christian Church ever held. A serious heresy had crept into the Eastern Church: Arianism, which taught that Jesus Christ was not divine, but only human.

To resolve the crisis, the Emperor Constantine called a council and summoned both the Western Church and the Eastern Church. Constantine knew that the Church had to get together and pull in the same direction. They did, and out of that Council came the Nicene Creed.

Get together and pull in the same direction. That is a good description of what Christ's Church on earth should be doing. That is the hope of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

For 2025, the theme of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity focuses on belief, in commemoration of the Council of Nicaea, held so long ago.

The Scripture passage chosen for the worship service is Martha's confession of faith in Jesus, as narrated in John 11:17-27. Jesus had said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

Jesus is the Messiah. He is divine. Mary believed in Him, and so did the Council of Nicaea in 325. And so do hundreds of millions of Christians today.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to 25th January, the 'octave' of St Peter and St Paul.

This year's resources can be found at:

<https://ctbi.org.uk/resources-for-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2025/>

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in black and white.

There are eleven issues each year,
July and August being a combined issue.

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quarter-page in size.

The booking can be from one month to one
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Admission of children to Communion

In the November magazine, I wrote about the proposal to apply to the bishop for permission to admit children to communion, inviting responses from everyone.

I received twelve written responses, of which eleven were in favour and one against. Those who fed back to me verbally were all in favour. The Joint Council discussed these responses and the proposal at the end of November, and voted unanimously in favour of asking the Bishop of Dudley (in his capacity as acting Bishop of Worcester) for permission to admit children to communion before confirmation, in accordance with the Church of England's Admission of Baptised Children to Holy Communion Regulations 2006.

The next step, subject to that permission being granted, is to prepare those children who wish to receive communion. This will be done in discussion with their parents, whose permission must be obtained. The clergy and leaders of Children's Church will work together on this preparation, which will mainly take place on Sunday mornings. Once this has happened, we will have a special part of the service to mark their first communion.

This is, of course, simply a stage on the journey. As communicants, the children will continue to be prepared with a view towards confirmation in a few years' time. All of us, and this includes those of us who are ordained, continue to grow and develop in faith and understanding throughout our lives. The purpose of including children in communion is to nurture their faith and help them grow into mature disciples, which is a lifelong process for all of us. They are as much a part of the body of Christ as adults, and I reiterate what I wrote last month and I have repeatedly stressed, that children are not the church of the future but a full part of the church of the present.

As part of this, we will also be having a changed service pattern from the start of 2025. It is important that as communicants, children do not simply come in to receive, but have the opportunity to participate in full Eucharistic liturgies. From January, therefore, the second Sunday service at St John's will be a communion orientated towards children's inclusion and participation, like the one we trialled in October. The second Sunday at St Michael's will switch to being a Morning Prayer. While this is unlikely to be the last change, given the eventual reduction in clergy numbers, it is one which helps us to focus in the immediate future on the importance of encouraging everyone, of all ages, towards full inclusion and participation in our churches.

Phil Bradford

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Prayers for the war torn areas of our world



As we look at Rublev's Icon of the Trinity, we too are called to sit with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There is a space at the front of the table as we contemplate the picture, so we too are enabled to be present at the table and offer our prayers.

Lord God, we pray today and during January that a new dawn of peace and compassion will be revealed to all the countries involved in war and famine. Where there seems to be no resolution to conflict and where your people are victims of war and famine.

We pray for a new dawn that will bring respect and care for everyone; that as we pray each day, we may walk in the shoes of the men, women and children, who also pray for peace and an end to their suffering. We pray they may know that your Holy Spirit is present in their lives; that you, Lord God, will be present within the aid agencies, in the health care systems and in all who give comfort and care.

Lord God, we have little understanding of the degree of suffering for your people or how to pray for peace in our time. We hold our open hands before you and pray "Your Kingdom come, your will be done."

Lord God, we pray for the perpetrators of war, that there will be a willingness to withdraw from aggression, to make concessions to those who suffer and work towards a peaceful resolution. We hold before you the peacemakers of our world that your grace will give them strength and courage to continue working for peace.

God calls each one of us, to be his hands and feet and we are invited to sit at the table of Rublev's Icon with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and offer our prayers for his redeeming love to bring peace and restore hope for all.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen

Jenny English

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St David's

Since our very successful Harvest Supper in conjunction with St Clements we have been busy in clearing out unwanted items, some of which have been put on our sales table, the proceeds then going to our window appeal.

We have had our normal services on Sundays, but one was slightly different in that Philip Evans, who took the service, got us all to take part in the intercessions. It was most enjoyable and we hope we can do it again in the future.

Our Coffee morning in December was very busy. Our next one will be on Wednesday 1st January at 10.30am when we shall be pleased to see you.

We shall also be having an afternoon of tea, cake and a quiz on Saturday 11th January at 2pm and a small donation of £4 would be appreciated.

Carole Stone
Deputy Church Warden

January 2025

As you will see from this year's lectionary, we are now into year C which has some interesting differences from the year just past.

Firstly, we have a number of important saints' days which fall on a Sunday so can be observed in our normal Sunday eucharists. Likewise, there are one or two *Red letter days* which fall on either Tuesday (BCP Eucharist at St Johns) or Thursday (Common worship Eucharist at St Michaels) so the astute observer will hopefully see the colour changes (vestments etc).

Whereas Advent commenced on the 1st of December in 2024, the start of Advent 2025 begins on the last day of November with the start of year A, so displacing St Andrew's day. The 18th to the 25th January sees the week of prayer for Christian Unity so look for special events during this week at a number of churches around us. Worthy of note too, is that the Epiphany season ends with Candlemas on Sunday 2nd February.

And for your New Year resolution why not add Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer to your agenda – see the pew sheet for details.

Arthur Miller

Mothers' Union

We had a bring and share Christmas lunch on Monday 9th December - a good time was had by all. It was memorable for me, as I received a certificate for having been a Mothers' Union member for 40 years.

Val Mason

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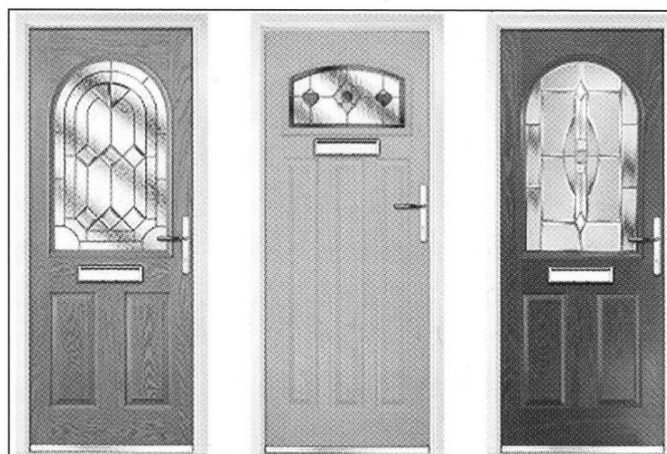
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Repairs to the roof

Following the damage to the church roof (see the cover picture), caused by storm Darragh on Saturday 7th December, our Estates Manager, Tom Amies, acted very quickly and had a roofer on site making repairs on Monday 9th December.



Graham Evans

Anne

Worcester & Wychavon

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Jolabokaflod

A lot of our security is based on traditions: Friday night fish and chips, the Sunday family meal, football matches with your son. In schools, we are desperately trying to embed and retain good habits, habits for life that will ease the intense pressure of instantaneous communication sharing and ‘oversharing’ that is part of our everyday pressurised world.

It is therefore disappointing but unsurprising that the latest National Literacy Trust report has indicated that only 34% of 8 – 18 year olds surveyed said that they enjoy reading in their spare time. This is an 8% drop since last year and the lowest result since 2002. Yet, students are still expected to read swiftly under pressure to move forward and gain qualifications. You need to read approximately 1,000 words in an English exam five minute preparation time; over 1,000 words in Maths exams - often it’s the decoding that is the area of difficulty not the numeracy concerns. Reading fluency brings success.

As a society, we need to preserve the habit of reading and highlight the benefits of reading. Libraries give us so much more than a warm space. Those who read have increased memory development, have fewer signs of depression, sleep longer, have better mental wellbeing and achieve better. Indeed, research has shown fluent readers, those who escape to a world of pleasure, have larger brain areas and a capacity to problem solve – all attributes for all of us to aim for.

It is therefore lovely to ‘steal’ the Icelandic Christmas tradition of ‘Jolabokaflod,’ pronounced yola bok a flod, whereby books are given as Christmas presents and opened on December 24th after which the evening is spent reading the books and drinking hot chocolate. Why did we not know this when our young children were excitedly rampaging on Christmas Eve?

Adapting this to the school term, we have endeavoured to undertake a Christopher Whitehead ‘Jolabokaflod,’ whereby staff and students initiate a book swop and have a quiet break reading – with obligatory hot chocolate – a tradition that I hope becomes embedded.

Neil Morris
Headteacher, Christopher Whitehead Language College

An Advent Midrash for the Prodigal Son

At the time of writing, we are halfway through our Advent course which is studying Luke – the man and his writings.

In week one we looked at what we know about Luke himself, the background to his writing of the Gospel and compared some of his accounts of events to those found in the other Gospels.



*Saint Luke the Evangelist,
Toros Roslin (13th century)*

For our second session we turned our attention to some of the parables only found in Luke's Gospel:

The rich fool (12.13-21)

The Good Samaritan (10.30-37)

The Prodigal Son (15.11-32).

To each of these we applied a different model of Bible study:

A traditional "What might this mean/how can we apply it?" approach to the rich fool

Lectio Divina to the Good Samaritan

Midrash to the Prodigal Son.

This final format involves the reader trying to understand the text more fully by seeing the situation described through the eyes and emotions of one of the key figures. As a group, Ellen, Margaret, Sally, Liz and I decided to try to re-tell the parable of the Prodigal Son through the eyes of the father. On the next page, you can see the result of our combined efforts. Perhaps it will inspire you to try the exercise yourself from the viewpoint of one of the two sons?

Sarah Cottrill

The Parable of The Prodigal Son

Told by the father.

My younger son has always given me trouble. Perhaps I have indulged him too much. But when he asked me to give him his share of my property, I hoped it would be the making of him; that he'd put it to good use and make me proud of him. But he just took it and disappeared. I was really hurt. For years we heard nothing from him. I had no idea where he was, how he was or what he was doing. I couldn't even be sure he was alive. I was really worried.

Every day I looked for him, hoping he would come back; desperate to know he wasn't dead. At last, one day, there he was in the distance. Joyfully I ran to meet him. I threw my arms around his dirty, thin body. His clothes were in rags and he didn't even have any sandals on his feet. For a moment neither of us could speak; we just hugged each other and sobbed!

Then my son began to tell me that he'd sinned and wasn't worthy to be my son. Of course I dismissed this. Joyfully I told the servants to clothe him richly and to prepare a feast to celebrate his safe return.

When my older son came home and heard what had happened, he was angry and refused to even come inside. That made me very sad as I wanted him to join in my joy and the celebrations. I went out to reason with him; to tell him how important he is to me, but he wouldn't listen. He just complained that he'd never been treated so well. He simply couldn't understand my joy. I wonder if he ever will?

Sudoku Puzzle

© 2008

KrazyDad.com

***The
solution is
on the
inside
back
cover.***

| | | | | | | | | |
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“We welcome you”

It was a joyous occasion, on 24th November 2024, when we all welcomed Daniel Edward Forman into our church family.

He was baptised by his Grandmother, Liz’s Mum.



Thanks to Gordon Templeton for these pictures.

Graham Evans

Community breakfast

St John's church have been serving a community breakfast, twice a year, since May 2013. We celebrated our 21st breakfast on Saturday 30th November. We served 142 meals and a most enjoyable morning was spent by all our visitors.







A big thank you goes to all who came, all the helpers and to the Guides.

A gentleman came up to me and said how much he enjoyed the breakfast. He praised all the Guides who served him and said what a pleasure it was to be treated so respectfully.

Many thanks to everyone.

Jenny English



Love Your Neighbour

Messy Church's theme this month was Christmas. We knew that it was still Advent (we covered that last year), but this was the last time we would get together as a congregation before Christmas, so we went with it!

In the time between doors opening and officially starting, the congregation were given a challenge. On the floor were pieces of Christmas cards that had been cut up – could they put them back together? Once successfully achieved, we were asked to spot what was missing from them all. The answer? Jesus, shepherds, stables, angel, wise men (yes, technically they weren't there anyway at that point) – these were all secular Christmas cards! This led to a conversation about the Christmas story in Christianity, with the religious cards which highlight these elements stuck to the Messy Church board in St John's. Thank you to everybody who donated their old Christmas cards last year to make this possible.



Considering the whole Christmas story, we made Nativity Paper Chatterboxes. Glueing images to the flaps of these, when a flap was selected, we had to tell that part of the Christmas story. So, for example, if we lifted the flap showing a donkey, the part of the story to tell was their journey to Bethlehem.

‘And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.’ Luke 2:7

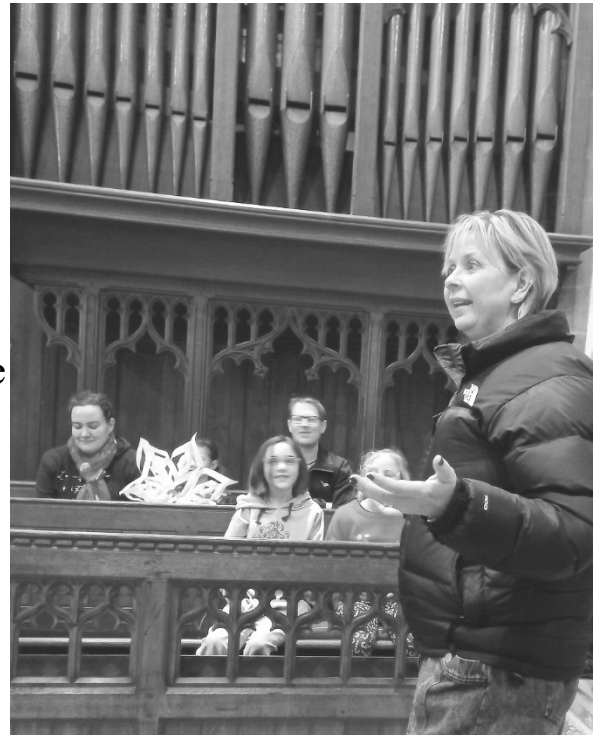


The main focus of our activities was thinking about Jesus' birth. Alongside making 'edible Jesus' (a jelly baby, wrapped in fondant icing and laid on a bed of shredded wheat), the St John's manger was brought down, and the congregation were encouraged to write prayers to lay in it.

The Messy Church banner was also completed, with a tissue paper candle, representing Jesus as the Light of the World. This will soon be on

display in St John's church – please do take a look when you're next there.

Gilly led our worship this month as we reflected on our favourite things at Christmas. It's fair to say, there was much excitement! Though not everyone was convinced by brussels sprouts as a favourite food, they were made slightly more palatable by the suggestion of adding butter and bacon. When it came to gifts, we were encouraged to consider Jesus as God's gift to the world, and how he is the gift that keeps on giving.



As normal, Messy Church concluded with a wonderful hot meal, and we'd like to say a massive thank you to Brinley and Freya-Grace for making our yummy cupcakes for dessert!

The next Messy Church service is on Saturday 4th January and our theme will be Jesus in the Temple. Please do come along



and join us! Doors open 3.30pm for a cuppa, with activities beginning at 4pm. With crafts, worship and food, Messy Church lasts approximately 1.5-2hrs.

Beth Broadway

Little Lambs - Countdown to Christmas

This month our photos show us printing decorations on a Christmas tree shape. This was a clever and very suitable idea that Catherine found, so thank you very much for that. If you want to try this, we used cardboard toilet tubes dipped in paint to print the circles and used smaller tubes too. The decoration stickers were a bargain in The Works and looked pretty too. The amusing aspect of this activity was that time was against me to make a tree template, so I just got the chalk out and the parents drew their own trees. These were much better than mine and they enjoyed it too. Says it all really and why not??



As I am writing this on a very windy and stormy day (7th December), I am thinking about how fast we are coming up to Christmas now and everything that may be happening. Next week we have a lovely craft activity provided by the church to make a dove of peace to hang up at home and we will talk about where it could hang, maybe on a tree or I hope in a window to show the message of peace to our community. We have given out the Christmas service invitations to all families and many have talked about when they hope to come, I am looking forward to the services too.



Our last session this term will be on 16th December when our special visitor will join us all clothed in red! His special helpers will be Phil and Gilly and we have a Christmas Nativity book for each child ready to give out.

The message here will be fun and faith coming together so I will invite Phil or Gilly to pray for us all.

Thank you so much to all our lovely willing group of volunteers who come every week and support our group, without them Little Lambs would not happen.

Please hold Margaret, Sally, Gail, Catherine, Sandra, Amy and Philip in your prayers and all who help us sometimes or are no longer able to come due to their health. Thank you to all at St John's too for your prayers and support.

We look forward to more fun from 13th January 2025. Could the change that you make in the New Year be to come and enjoy yourself at Little Lambs too? We would love to see you please!

Blessings to all from The Little Lambs team

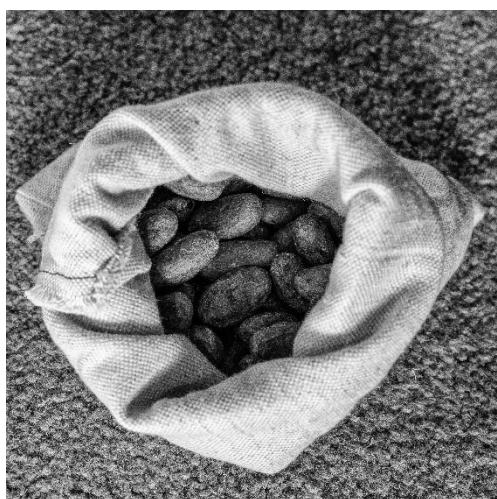
Sue Fairman

The History of Chocolate

On a sunny November afternoon nearly 100 people turned up to hear Paul Harding from Discover History give us an amusing but highly informative talk on the history of chocolate.



The cocoa beans are really awful to eat as a raw bean and they need to be processed to make them edible. The beans grow in large pods where they are surrounded by a white pulp. Both the beans and the pulp are used in the production of chocolate. It originally grew in Central America, and it was only in the 16th century that people in Europe found out about it. Chocolate was originally just used as a drink and the indigenous Aztec, Olmec and Mayan people were the first to drink it. They would drink it before sacrificing a human by cutting out their heart as part of a ceremony to pray for a good year ahead.



The Aztecs would also use the beans as currency, even though they had gold.



One bean bought a tomato, four a pumpkin and ten a small rabbit. The first word to describe chocolate - xocolatl, which means bitter water.

The Aztecs would grind the beans add in cornflour and water, they also added chili and pepper to the mix. This produces a bitter drink with a quite horrible taste. The priest would pour the drink from one cup into another from a great height, which added air to the mix and produced a frothy drink.

One of the first explorers who went across the Atlantic was Cortez, from Spain. Cortez found the Aztecs and decided that they were savages. The King of the Aztecs at that time was Montezuma, and the Spaniards and Aztecs fought many battles. The Spaniards had muskets and armour whereas the Aztecs had wooden swords, so it became a very one-sided battle. Once conquered, the Spaniards brought back gold and silver, many unknown plants, such as pumpkins and chocolate, and many other goods to Europe.



People in England heard about this and the Royal Navy went out to Central America where there was a battle in 1587, which the Navy won. After the battle they plundered the Spanish ships, including gold and cocoa beans. However, the Navy thought that the beans were ballast or rubbish, and they threw them overboard.

The beans finally arrived in England in 1615 following the marriage of King Louis XIII of France to the daughter of King Philip III of Spain when chocolate started to move out of Spain. Initially it was only the Royals who drank the chocolate, and they soon dropped the chilli and pepper from the recipe.

As chocolate started to become more widely drunk by non-royals, chocolate houses started to appear starting in 1657 in London, such as the Francis White's



Chocolate House in Queen's Head Alley. These were places where men could meet to discuss science and politics and women were not allowed in!

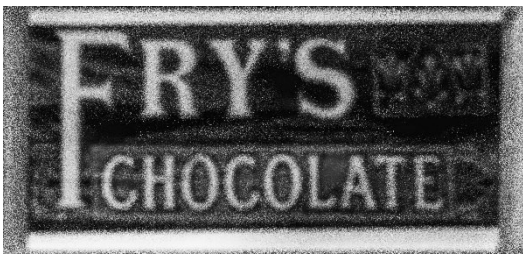
The early implements to make the chocolate were a chocolate pot and a basic whisk. They started to add sugar to the mix to sweeten it and then alcohol, such as port was added.



In England they created a mug specially to drink the chocolate from. King Charles II had a Chocolate Maker who made his chocolate for him.

In 1777 Frys built the first factory to make a product that people could buy to take home to consume. They started to add milk to the chocolate to improve the flavour of the drink.

In 1824 John Cadbury, a Quaker and shopkeeper, decided to make a product that could be used to make a bar of chocolate so that people could make the drink at home. This was a failure as nobody bought it!

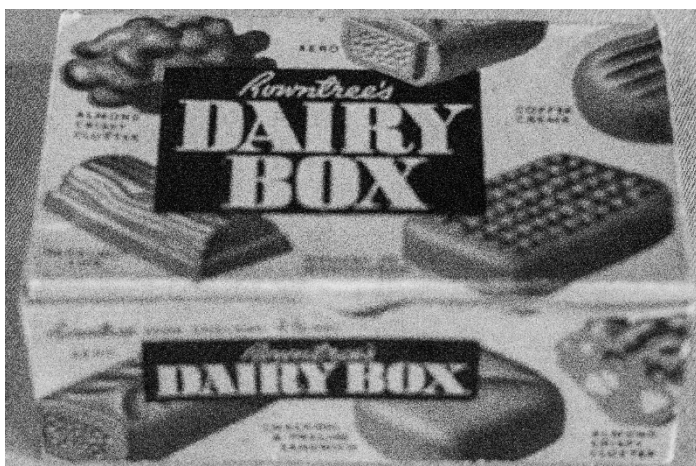
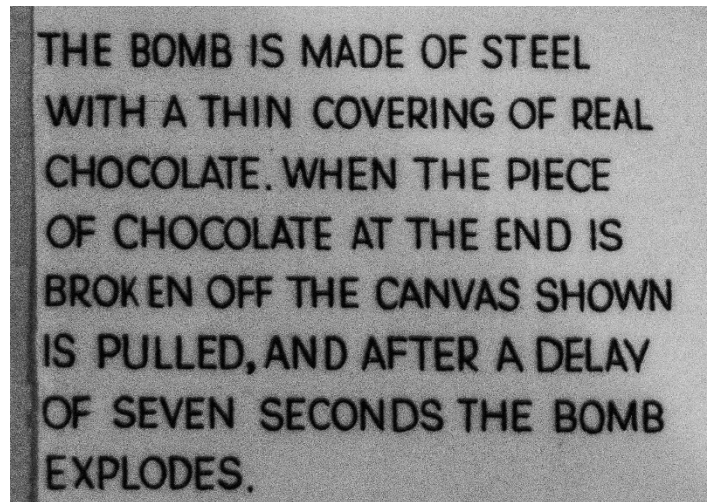
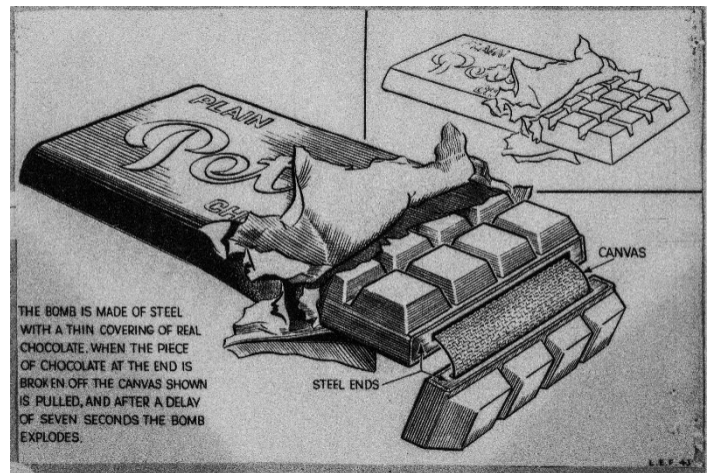


In 1840, Joseph Fry made a bar of chocolate that could be eaten instead of drinking it. The Cadbury family then decided that they would also make a similar product from a factory in Bournville. The mass production brought the

price of chocolate down so that it became more affordable. The companies started to experiment with flavours, such as dark chocolate and white chocolate, which does not actually have any cocoa beans in it. In Blackpole, Worcester, Cadbury's bought an old munitions factory in the 1920s for the production of chocolate products.

During WW2 there was a problem as the production of chocolate is reliant on the importation of cocoa beans and sugar. These products along with milk were rationed during the war. Most labelling was blue during the war as red ink was needed for the war effort, so KitKats had blue wrappers for the period of the war.

During the war SOE created an exploding chocolate bar complete with a detonator, snapping the end would start the detonation process.



It was only in the late 1950s that the production of chocolate matched pre-war levels. In the 1960s the production grew massively, and chocolates were sold for events such as Christmas and Valentine's Day. Fancy boxes were created for these special events as well, followed by Easter Eggs.

Colin Nash

Celebrations and challenges in Peru

On the fourth Sunday of Advent in 2009, I stood in the pulpit of the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd in Lima for the first time. I was three-quarters of the way through my four-month placement in Peru, and the Dean had decided that I needed to preach, although John was at least merciful enough to let me do so at the English service. Preaching has never been one of my strengths, so naturally enough, I was terrified, but I managed to survive without being put on trial for heresy or chased from the pulpit. I have written and spoken often about how that placement in Peru revitalised my vocation and fundamentally transformed me. However, it was at the cathedral that I faced probably the two most daunting occasions of that time, the sermon having been preceded a fortnight earlier by a tenor solo in the carol service. It was a building in which I was confronted with my fears and forced to overcome them.



The Bishop of Peru and the clergy who concelebrated the 75th Anniversary Service in the Cathedral.

I could scarcely have imagined back then that, fifteen years later, I would be back in that same pulpit, having delivered several sermons from there in the intervening years, invited to preach at the service to mark the cathedral's 75th anniversary.

By happy coincidence, 2024 also marked 175 years of the Anglican Church in Peru, the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Peru, and 25 years of AMA (the Anglican

Women's Association), so it was a cause for celebration on multiple fronts.

I was touched to be presented, before the service, with one of the white stoles given to all Peruvian clergy to mark the 50th anniversary.

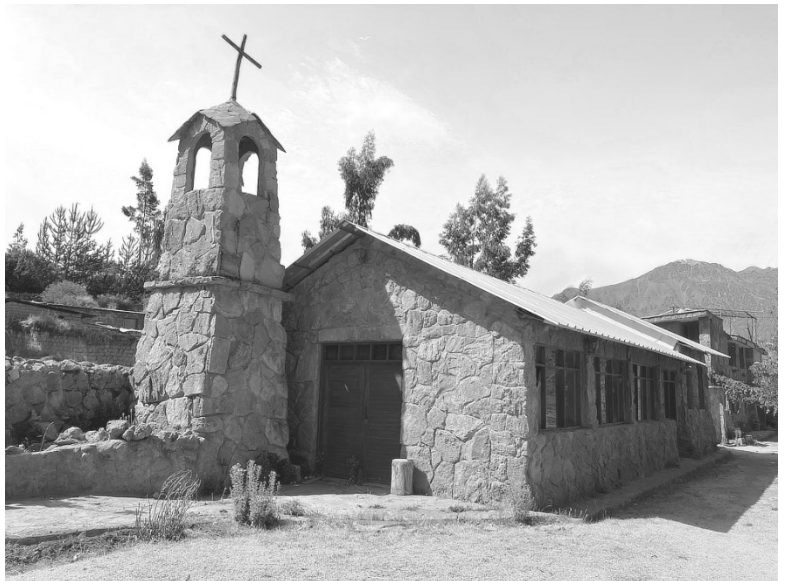
There is always going to be a part of me which belongs in Peru, and to be included in this way was a special part of an excellent occasion in which I was privileged to be involved. Afterwards, in my capacity as Chair of the Diocese of Worcester's Peru Group, I was presented with a plaque to mark the thirty-two year partnership between Peru and Worcester.



Although this occasion was the main purpose of the visit, it was a busy ten days in all respects. The day after arriving in Peru, it was straight up to Arequipa, the second city and focus of the diocesan work in the south of the country. The aim was to see most of the churches, missions and projects in the region, but Peruvian politics intervened. Since the removal of the previous President shortly after my last visit in 2022, Peru has been very volatile under a replacement President with a very dubious human rights record, and frequently rocked by violent protests. This visit coincided with the 2024 APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum) summit being hosted in Lima, leading to three days of protests and strikes across the country. One place badly affected was the Andean town of Juliaca, which meant we were unable to travel there safely.

We did manage a brief day trip to the church of San Felipe in Cabanaconde, at the end of the Colca Canyon, although this was a gruelling ten hours of driving involving roads ascending to 16,000 feet.

Meetings with the clergy gave an insight into their current situation. Most are now non-stipendiary, and we met the priest of one church above his shop during a break.



San Felipe Church, Cabanaconde

Back in Lima, the morning in the cathedral was followed by celebrating the Eucharist at Jesús El Nazareno, where Penny Marcés is the lay minister in charge.



This was a contrast to the cathedral, which feels like a large, displaced English church; here I presided over the Eucharist in a simple room, where the lectern/pulpit was a converted oil drum, among people with little grasp where England was, but who welcomed me with immense warmth.

Continued on page 39

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Continued from page 37

Over the course of the next few days, we travelled to Puente Piedra at the very north of Lima, three hours drive along polluted, traffic choked streets; to Ventanilla on the coast; to San Juan de Miraflores; and to San Juan de Lurigancho.

These are Lima districts in which no tourist ever sets foot, and it was (as always) a real privilege to see the work going on in these places and meet people involved. One highlight was visiting San Francisco, the newest mission on a dusty, grimy hilltop overlooking the immense Lima sprawl below, the ‘church’ consisting of some rotting plywood walls and a tin roof.



**San Francisco Mission,
San Juan de Miraflores, Lima**



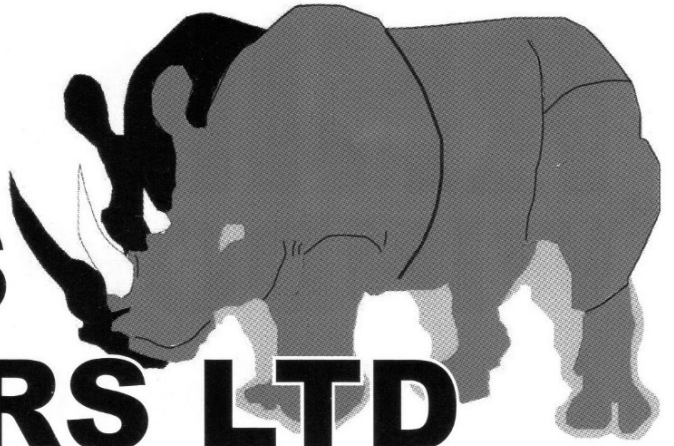
**San Andreas Church,
Puente Piedra, Lima**



View of Lima from San Francisco Mission

Continued on page 41

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Continued from page 39

Naturally enough, there were also meetings. I managed to attend three equivalents of deanery chapters in six days, which is as many as I have managed to attend in Worcester all year! Yet I have known most of the Peruvian clergy for fifteen years, since I was a student at theological college, so in a very real sense these are my colleagues in ministry and I am always pleased to be able to meet and share these occasions with them, and to learn from them. I also participated in meetings about reshaping the Peruvian canons, and I was pleased to be able to provide support and advice to the group charged with this



*Statute of Paddington
outside the
British Embassy in Lima*

responsibility. As in England, safeguarding has become a major concern and priority; the news of the archbishop of Canterbury's resignation broke the morning after I arrived, and I spent a lot of time fielding questions on this subject.

On the morning before flying back, there was time for one final engagement. There was something remarkable about Margaret and I being on a crowded metro train with the bishop and the diocesan treasurer, then walking from the station to the school, participating in an ordinariness that was surprisingly humbling. San Mateo school suffered terribly as a result of flooding in 2017, yet we saw a rebuilt school which was flourishing, and it ended things on a real high.

There are major changes in store for Peru in 2025. The diocese has received permission to elect two suffragan bishops in May, one to look after the southern area, the other to work alongside the diocesan bishop and prepare to succeed him when he retires. So, at this time of transition, as Peru turns from its first half century as a diocese to discern the vision for the next stage, please hold Bishop Jorge and the Diocese of Peru in your prayers.

Phil Bradford



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Marcés Mailing October 2024



We are sorry that this Marcés Mailing has appeared a bit late. It arrived too late for the October magazine and the December one was full. The Editors.

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

*Please pray for: Juan Carlos + Penny: appropriate use of time and energy
JC's mother Hilda*

Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in San Juan Evangelista & San Francisco

*Penny: Ongoing responsibilities in J el N (lay rector)
Children's ministry & producing materials
Health*

*Diocese: Bishop Jorge Luis
Discipleship courses (MOCLAM and others)
Jesús El Nazareno: Mums and tots group
Formation of music & youth ministries*

*S Juan Evangelista: Contacts with families through Compassion
Development of children's & music ministries*

Cathedral (English): Search for a new Rector

Country of Peru: Escalating crime, especially extortion; disillusionment with government / congress; environmental challenges.

Dear friends,

As we continue in Jesús el Nazareno to (attempt to) learn a Bible verse a month, this month we have looked at the fact that Jesus came to serve. A theme which



fits with our own calling to serve, and appropriate because this year the Diocese of Peru is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the formation of the diocese. Given that the diocese was founded by Anglican mission partners, Penny has been asked to talk at

the central celebration about how a missionary feels as they leave their home – different in many ways in 2024 to the reality in 1985 when Penny left, and even MORE difficult to imagine how

Continued on page 45

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Continued from page 43

Allen Gardiner (founder of SAMS) felt when he left UK 200 years ago. Please pray that the whole celebration is both encouraging and at the same time challenging as we look towards the future. On a related theme, Juan Carlos is overseeing the production (NOT the writing!) of a book on the history of the Anglican Church in Peru; originally it was hoped that this would be ready for 2nd November, but not all contributors have been punctual with their contributions, so it is sadly NOT ready.

As we continue to work with the churches where we each serve, there are new joys and new challenges. The biggest joy recently has been the start of the



“Tesoritos del Señor” group for mums and toddlers in Jesús el Nazareno. Originally planned for April 2020, the pandemic, and then the fact that the co-leader’s child got to nursery age so she went back to work, delayed the start just a bit(?!). It is a real blessing for the mum of 9 month old twins, and for 14 month old Oliver living with his parents and 2 older siblings in one room with no space to run around at

home. We have also started a family service once a month, faithfully attended by one family and with others who sometimes come.

However, there are also challenges. Hopes in Jesús el Nazareno that a group for teenagers would begin last year came to very little, and no-one else was prepared to accept leadership. This was the case until a few weeks ago, when the WHOLE music group (5) suddenly decided that teenagers’ group is indeed an urgent need. Wonderful – except that they suddenly abandoned the music. We are currently praying for BOTH ministries.....

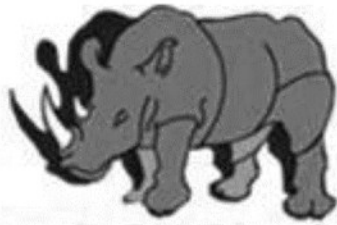
In September Teófila, who had been pastoring the San Juan Evangelista Church, announced that she would definitely NOT be returning to Peru for at least two



San Francisco
de la Cruz

years. Thus, Juan Carlos is now formally in charge in San Juan Evangelista, and a small mission point in an area called San Francisco de la Cruz. Several years ago, San Juan Evangelista was a thriving church, but a combination of the then-pastor’s death, shortly followed by covid and other factors, have resulted in a very reduced group - who are very faithful.

There is still a group of 17 older teenagers sponsored by Compassion, and Juan Carlos is working with Deyanira and Esteban to encourage these, and hopefully bring more of them into the church. The church would also long to see the children’s ministry thrive again- give thanks for the children who HAVE started to come again. *Continued on page 47*



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Continued from page 45

Meanwhile, Juan Carlos' involvement in Arequipa (700 miles away), has inevitably been affected by his responsibility in San Juan Evangelista. The first English-speaking service in the city for years was indeed held in June, with the British consul and his predecessor present (plus a bagpipes player), and was well received by those who went, but how this is now to be followed up remains to be seen.



All this against a backdrop of increasing instability and disillusionment in Peru. According to the Institute of Peruvian Studies, President Dina Boluarte has a current approval rating of 5%, as does Congress. In Lima bus drivers are holding strikes NOT for higher wages/better conditions but to apply pressure for recent changes to a law on "criminal organisations" to be repealed, since the changes actually make it more difficult to charge people with extortion (or assassination). Most people were in favour of the strike, since victims of extortion include: construction workers, people having e.g. house extensions done, bus drivers, schools, communal kitchens – anywhere where money is being used.

Please pray for Peru!

Finally, at the end of June, Penny had an unwelcome reminder that hearts can object to prolonged bad habits – in this case not getting enough sleep. 3 months later, tests so far show that the heart itself is in good form; "just" the unstable blood pressure and some other things to sort out! One part of the solution has been to cut down on activities – thus giving up any leadership in either AMA or Peru Tres Días. It was great to go to the recent AMA retreat and NOT be in charge!



- JC building up relationships in SJE
- Formalisation of possession in San Francisco de la Cruz
- The start of "Tesoritos del Señor" for mums and tots in JEN

Thank you again to those who have been supporting us (and the communal kitchens and other needs, which are sadly ongoing) in so many ways. You are part of all that happens in Peru! Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987, or even by visiting us. God bless you and keep you secure in Him, now and always,

Juan Carlos & Penny

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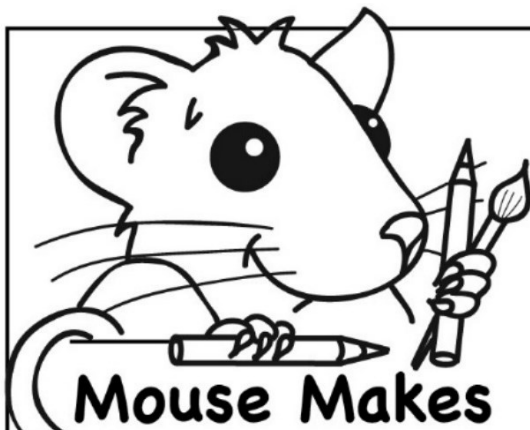


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After Jesus was born in Belthlehem, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem looking for the child born to be king of the Jews. They had seen his star and had come to worship him. King Herod was troubled so met with the wise men to tell them to let him know when they found him.



When they saw the star rest over where Jesus was they rejoiced and gave him three special gifts. God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod so they went home by another way.

J E W S
M A R Y
W S O N
O T N A



How many
other words can
you make from:
EPIPHANY

EPIPHANY
is the Greek
word for
MANIFEST
which means
'to show'.
God shows
us who He is
through His son
Jesus Christ

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

Herod wanted to destroy Jesus,
but God told Joseph to flee
to Egypt to be safe.
*Where did Jesus
finally grow up?*



READ
the story of the
wise men in
Matthew
2:1-23



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

E G O D
B O R N
F L E E
L D G E



WISE • MEN • EAST • STAR
REST • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • GIFTS
GOLD • FRANKINCENSE • MYRRH
WORSHIP • SON • CHILD
BORN • KING • JEWS • CHRIST
SHEPHERD • JOY • GOD
HEROD • KILL • BOYS • TWO • CRY
ANGEL • DREAM • JOSEPH • MARY
FLEE • EGYPT • LAND • NAZARETH





**Your home care experts providing quality home care in
Worcester & Surrounding areas**

home... there's no place like it.

Being able to live at home can be one of the most important comforts in any person's life and because family and friends can't always be there, Home Instead are here to help in your area.

Our award winning services include:

- Companionship
- Light housekeeping
- Meal preparation
- Help with medication
- Shopping
- Personal care
- Specialist dementia and alzheimers care *and much more...*

If you would like an informal, no obligation chat to discuss your needs **OR** if you feel like you have the right qualities to become one of our Care Professionals please call:
01905 420404 and our experts will be at hand.

*ST JOHN'S LIBRARY**Library Closures*

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Wednesday 1 January | Closed |
| Thursday 2 January | Normal opening times |

*Library opening hours***Libraries Unlocked ****

Monday - Saturday: 8am - 8 pm

Core (staffed) opening times:

- Monday: 2pm - 5pm
- Tuesday: 10am - 5pm
- Wednesday: 10am - 1pm
- Thursday: 2pm - 5pm
- Friday: 10am - 5pm
- Saturday: 10am - 1pm

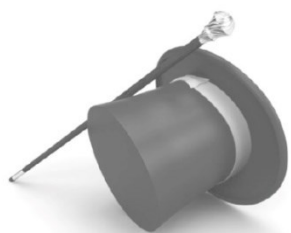
*Events at St John's Library***Weekly events:**

- LEGO Club, weekly every Saturday, 11:00am to 12:00pm.
- Bounce and Rhyme, weekly every Tuesday, 11:00am to 11:30am.
- Chess Club and Scrabble Club, weekly every Tuesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm.
- Crochet and Chat, weekly every Wednesday, 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Storytime and Song, weekly every Friday, 11:00am to 11:30am.

Other regular events:

- Classic Film Club, fortnightly, every other Thursday (9 & 23 January), 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Film Group, fourth Friday of each month (24 January), 12:00pm to 1:30pm.
- Crime Readers' Group, first Friday of each month (3 January), 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Photography Group, third Friday of each month (Friday 17 January), 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Councillors' Surgeries (Saturday 4 January), 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, St Johns and Bedwardine, on Tuesday 14 January, 10:30am to 11:30am.

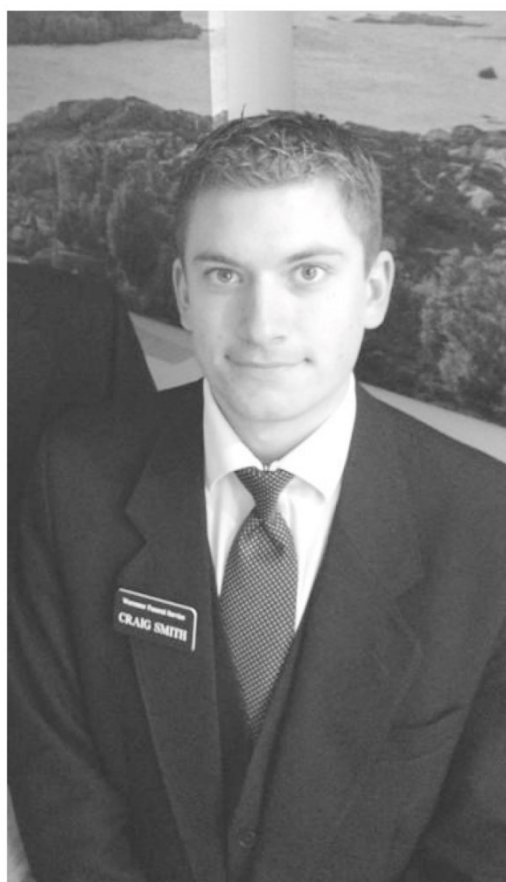
There is a weekly "Nature in Art" adult learning course starting on 14th January at St John's Library for five weeks. On 9/12/24 there were still three places. Contact the library for details if you are interested.



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 1930

I have received a further 10s. from the Mothers' Union Working Party for the Parish Room Electrical Installation Fund. This makes a total of £15. Now I confess that I like to do a job thoroughly, and that I dislike half measures. At the Parish Room we want (i) a proper scheme for electric lighting, which will be quite complete, (ii) improvements in the heating of the Class Room and the Kitchen, (iii) improvements in the plan at present in use for boiling water. BUT the total cost of all the above is £37 15s. This means that a further £22 15s. is required.

The Parish Room is very much in use. On Sunday mornings and afternoons there is the Sunday Kindergarten. On Monday afternoons the Mothers' Union. On Monday evenings, first the girls of the King's Messengers, and then the boys, and after that my Men's Bible Class. On Tuesdays there is the St. John's Church Company of Girl Guides. On Wednesdays and Fridays the Working Men's Club. On Thursdays the Junior Section of the C.E.M.S. And, in addition, there are various functions held from time to time on Saturdays.

So it really would be well worth while to do this particular piece of work thoroughly and well. Hence I put the matter before you, hoping that you may be moved to send me donations to cover the £22 15s. aforesaid.

--- 000 ---



To the left is a recent picture of the former Parish Room (in Blakefield Road).

The total of £37 15s (£37.75) mentioned above is equivalent to about £2,100 at 2024 prices.

The Editors

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 is now £1.55)

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 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: 20150628

Sort code: 82-12-08

Account name: WORCESTER ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE AND ST MICHAEL'S JOINT COUNCIL

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

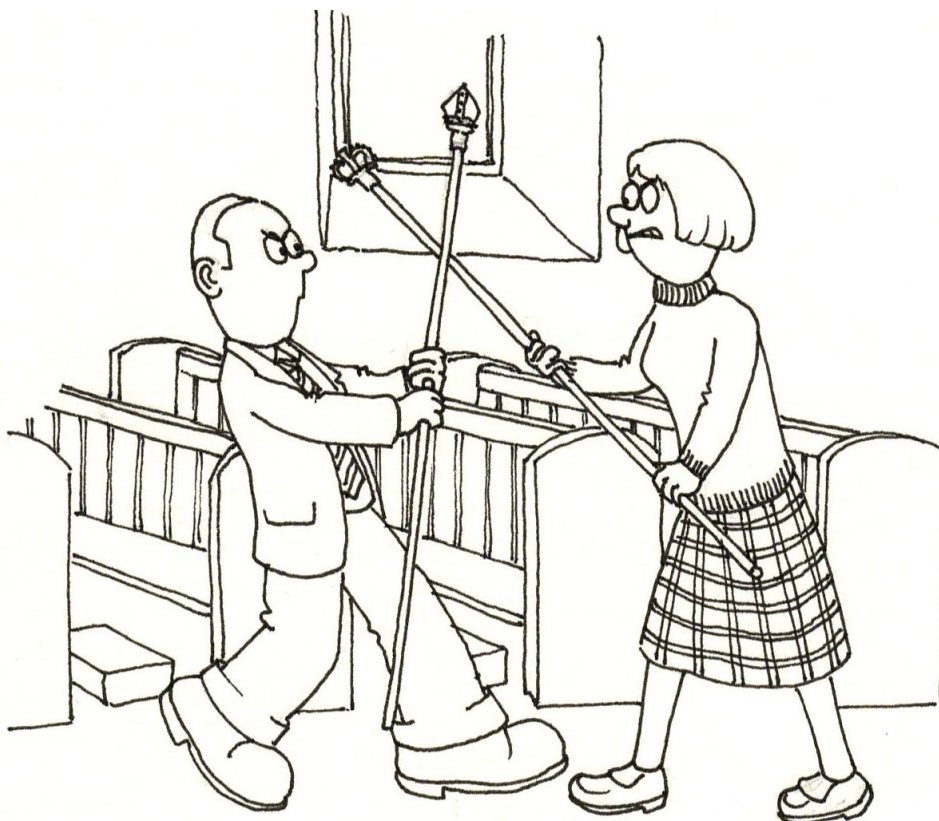
1. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
3. If you are 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 solution

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |

And finally....



In a tradition dating back to 1977, the churchwardens re-enacted "Star Wars"

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 2025

| | St. John's | St. Clement's | St. David's | St Michael's |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 5th January | 10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong | | 4pm Eucharist | 10.30am Eucharist |
| 12th January | 10.30am All Age Eucharist | 10am Eucharist | 4pm Evening Prayer | 10.30am Morning Prayer |
| 19th January | 10.30am Eucharist | | 4pm Eucharist | 10.30am Eucharist |
| 26th January | 10.30am Eucharist | 10am Eucharist | 4pm Evening Prayer | 10.30am Morning Prayer |
| 2nd February | 10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong | | 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.