

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



July/August 2024

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, 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). On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	St Michael's

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 July/August 2024 edition, covering two months as things get a bit quieter in the summer. Our theme is 'Stewardship' as our churches prepare for a stewardship campaign in September. Phil discusses the theme in general and more specifically in his letter.

This edition is a whopper at 60 pages. Thanks to all our contributors! We hope that you will enjoy all that is in these pages and keep reading throughout July and August.

The editors have to confess to enjoying our month off from producing the magazine. July is our break; in August we are back at work producing the September magazine.

It's holiday season coming up, so we hope that you will find relaxation, refreshment and restoration over the summer. We might even get some sun and some warm weather. Maybe?

Thinking of renewal, we offer you these words from Psalm 51 as a holiday prayer:

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 11th August.

Distribution, towards the end of August.

Subscription form: Page 58.

Cover picture: Time and talents being given for stewardship of our churchyard. See page 19 for more information. Image by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Graham Evans, Philip Evans, Rob Little, Penny Marcés, Colin Nash, Amy Rees 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 58 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 14.

From Phil Bradford

When I was 22, and with my thoughts already on the possibility of ordained ministry, the then principal of the College of the Ascension in Birmingham arranged for me to go to India. Specifically, to go and backpack around some churches in his homeland of South India, to get some experience of the global church. In the midst of a whirlwind of very slow train and terrifying bus journeys between chaotic, sweltering cities, hoping someone I'd never met would be at the other end, I found myself at the United Theological College in Bangalore (now Bengaluru).



At the time, the state of Karnataka was enduring a drought and a heatwave, and one of my more disturbing memories is of abjectly poor people simply lying in whatever shade they could find, dressed in rags and desperate for something to drink. In the midst of this, UTC was an oasis, its lawns bright green and perfectly manicured, an abundance of flowers growing thanks to the water intensive sprinkler systems which seemed to run round the clock. Such an extravagant use of water, just to make the gardens look pretty, made me profoundly uncomfortable in a city where many people lacked access to safe drinking water. It is something which we find across the world, as water looks set to become a major source of global conflict. Look at Dubai, where enormously tall buildings are built simply because they can be built, and then absorb vast quantities of water in a desert. Consider the likes of California, where scarce water is used to keep golf courses green and fill vast swimming pools.

Reflect on this country, where water companies want to pass the burden of years of underinvestment and the need to clean up their pollution to bill payers, rather than the shareholders who have been raking in millions on the back of such practices. Water should be a right for all, but it is increasingly becoming a commodity of the rich, wasted and commercialised for cosmetic purposes and profit.

When Christians talk of stewardship, this aspect - care for the planet, its resources and its people - is one that tends to get overlooked. Our focus tends to be on money, yet, while that is an important part of stewardship, it is by no means the only part.

Christian stewardship is much more holistic than that. It begins in the ideas of Genesis, where God entrusts humans with responsibility for creation. Part of our

Christian witness is thus as stewards of creation, looking after our world. That is the basis of Christian stewardship, recognising that (as we say most Sundays) all things come from God, hence we return of his own to him. It also means recognising that all human beings are made in the image of God, and that his creation is offered to be shared by all, not monopolised by the few who manage to hoard human wealth.

This is where the financial issue does become a significant part of stewardship. It is important to note that no one ‘earns’ the ludicrous sums we see on the world rich lists, for in what way is a hedge fund manager contributing more to society than a teacher? Wise use of the world’s resources, stewardship of creation, this involves ensuring their equitable division and use to allow all humans and the whole of creation to flourish.

St John’s and St Michael’s will soon be starting a stewardship campaign, ‘Time, Talents and Treasure.’ It will obviously focus on the church aspects, but our wider duty of stewardship to creation should always underpin how we approach this matter. It is about recognising our part in something greater than ourselves, and asking how we can act responsibly as part of that greater whole, in terms of what we contribute to it in every sense.

Ours is a world which is very keen on the idea of rights, and much of the changes in recent history which have recognised human rights and righted historic oppression of minorities are to be welcomed. But we talk rather less of our responsibilities, and stewardship is one of the foremost of those for Christians, for this is something with which we are entrusted by God.

Phil

Offertory prayer

God of all goodness and grace,
receive the gifts we offer;
and grant that our whole life
may give you glory and praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

In Memoriam

Dorothy Lock	3 July 1986
Roy Houghton	5 July 2007
Brenda Tithecott	7 July 1995
Joyce Jones	7 July 1995
William "Bill" Hayler	7 July 2017
Hilary Dawn Clifton	7 July 2019
George Harris	8 July 1999
Reginald H Glover	17 July 2003
Annie Powell	21 July 1993
Frank Miller	24 July 1993
Gladys Maskew	24 July 2000
Myra Houghton	25 July 2000
Mary Louise Keating	10 August 1985
Arthur Leonard Sage	11 August 1990

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, May 2024

St John's

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

12th May 2024 Nathaniel Matthew Bailey Louie Harrison Shaw
Harley Henry Passey Dexter Myles Shaw

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

25th May 2024 Phillip Fredrick Vincent King and
Johanna Elizabeth Digger

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 21st April 2024 Rita O'Hara

SERVICES: Communicants 140. Total attendance at all services 410
(including 278 at a wedding and a baptism).

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 66. Total attendance at all services 72.

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled throughout July and August:

Tuesday St John's 10am (Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer)
Thursday St Michael's 10.30am (Eucharist - Common Worship)

Dates for your diary

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

Entries marked * have no meeting in August.**

(J) Mondays in term time, 10am: Little Lambs. *** The last meeting before the summer break is on 15th July. See pages 10 and 30.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 6th July, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 9 and 26. ***
Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Sunday 7th July, 12.30pm: Church Barbeque. , see pages 11 and 13.

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

Sunday 14th July, 2.30pm: Walking Church, see page 10. ***

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 15th July, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union. See page 13. ***

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 18th July, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "D-Day", see page 10. ***

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 27th July, 10.45am: Café Church@10:45am, see page 9. ***

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 15th August, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 23rd August: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

Entries marked * have no meeting in August.**

More dates for your diary

Saturday July 13th, 2pm: Service in Pershore Abbey to celebrate human love and family life in all its forms. Organised by Sarah Cottrill on behalf of Mothers' Union. See page 13.

Saturday 20th July, 10am - 2pm, St Clement's Church Fete.

FULLY BOOKED. Tuesday 23rd July, 9am: Coach trip to Weston-super-Mare.

Saturday 14th September. Ride and Stride (incorporating September's Walking Church) - details in the September magazine.

Sunday 15th September, following the 10.30am Eucharist and licensing service for Rob Little, a party to celebrate Rob being licensed as a Lay Reader.

Saturday 5th October, 9am. Coach trip to the Historical city of Wells, Somerset. To book places, please call Catherine on 07708 297413. See page 15.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in July

Wednesday 3rd July: Thomas the Apostle

Sunday 7th July: Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 14th July: Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 21st July: Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Monday 22nd July: Mary Magdalene

Thursday 25th July: James the Apostle

Sunday 28th July: Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Sundays and Principal Feasts in August

Sunday 4th August: Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 6th August: The Transfiguration of our Lord

Sunday 11th August: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Thursday 15th August: The Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 18th August: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Saturday 24th August: Bartholomew the Apostle

Sunday 25th August: Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

The dentist's psalm

Psalm 81.10b: Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.

Events at St John's

St John-in-Bedwardine



Our next Messy Church is on
Saturday 6th July, 4pm.
The theme is 'Moses.'

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

No Messy Church in August, however
we will return in September!



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on
Saturday 13th July
9.00am until 11.00am

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



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Wednesday 17th July
at 2.45pm in the Church

We welcome the Snoezelen community
to share with us this afternoon. All are
welcome to come and share with us
prior to our holiday in August.

St John in Bedwardine



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

At 10.45am on

Saturday
July 27th

Thought for the day by
Sarah Cottrill
ALL WELCOME

Events at St John's

Little Lambs



**Mondays in Term Time at
St John's Church
10:00am to 11.30am**

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For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962

Come and join the fun!

Little Lambs

*The last meeting
before the summer
break is on
15th July.*

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

PRESENTS

DISCOVER HISTORY



D-DAY

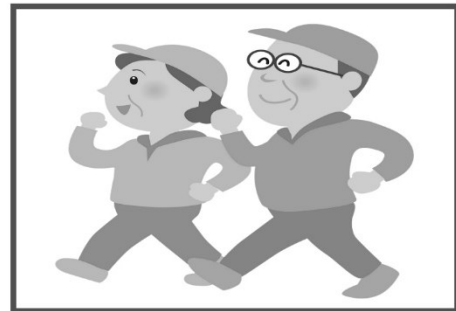


Thursday 18th July

1.00pm

**£4 Admission,
includes refreshments.**

WALKING CHURCH



Sunday 14th July

2.30pm

For a walk & discussion

Starting point:

*Meet at the bus stop on Malvern Road,
opposite Whites Road.*

ALL WELCOME!



Sunday 7th July

St John's Church BBQ

Get ready to fire up your taste buds and soak up the sun!

**Bouncy castle for the children.
Raffle and Bar**

Ticket prices; £10 per person
£5 for children 5-16 years, under 5's free.

12.30pm

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More details on page 13.

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

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Hold the date for Ride and Stride!

On Saturday 14th September, we will have our annual walking retreat, coinciding, as usual, with the National Churches Trust's "Ride and Stride" day. We will start and end with Morning and Evening Prayer in one of 'our' local churches and during the day we will visit various other churches, with prayer activities along the way. This event will also be the 'Walking Church' for September. Anyone is welcome to join in for all or part of the day. More details will be in the September magazine or please ask me in the meantime.

Philip Evans



Church Barbeque

Tickets for the BBQ will be available to purchase from either of us (Jenny English and Margaret Rutter) on Sunday mornings. You can pay in cash on a Sunday or by using the card machine in St John's church.

There is an online booking form where you can buy tickets and choose your food. Go to the following address: <https://tinyurl.com/StJBBQ>

Please do book in advance if you can, any time up to 4th July. We will have some extra food for people who pitch up on the day, but it will be first come, first served!

This is a fund-raising event for the church. There will be a bouncy castle for children and a bar. We hope for a lovely day with our families.

Jenny English and Margaret Rutter

Mothers' Union

As I write we are busy planning our June Strawberry Tea. Val is preparing to make the lovely scones she makes every year, including gluten free ones.

On Saturday 13th July some of our members will be helping at the Service in Pershore Abbey to celebrate human love and family life in all its forms. Sarah is organising it in her role as faith co-ordinator for Worcester Diocesan Mothers' Union. The Service starts at 2.00pm and there will be refreshments afterwards. (See the June 2024 issue of the Parish Magazine for further details).

The speaker at our July Meeting on Monday 15th is our friend Margaret Mandrell, Reader and member of St Stephen's church, who is going to tell us about a trip she made to Nepal.

St Michael's Mothers' Union meets in St Michael's church on the third Monday of the month at 2.30pm. New members are warmly welcomed to join us.

Jo Dowling

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Saturday 5th October

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from St John's Church

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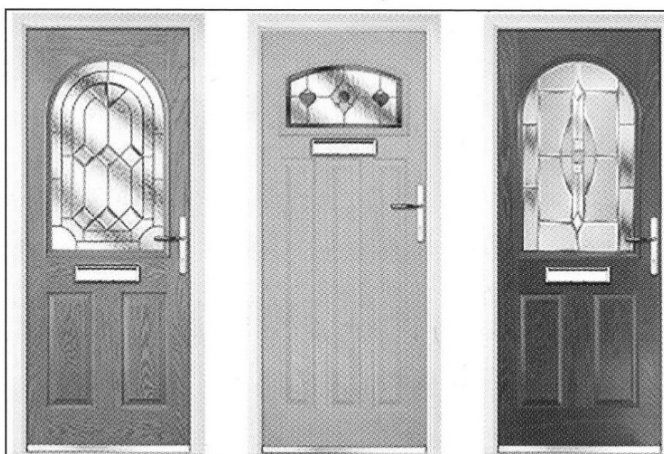
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Walking Church: Revised Format

Since our first walk, just after the lifting of lockdown restrictions, a small group of us has enjoyed many afternoons together, discussing passages of Scripture in an informal manner as we explore footpaths in our local area. As you would expect, along the way we've discovered things that have worked well for us and other things which haven't been so successful! To make the afternoons as enjoyable - and accessible- as possible for as many as possible, we now start our walks at 2.30pm during the summer, moving to the slightly earlier time of 2pm during the winter.

We have recently introduced a new "Walking Church Liturgy" which we use to start our time together and, as reported last month, Anne Burrows has written a Walking Church prayer which provides a perfect conclusion to the afternoon.

Last month, two new innovations were well received and will become a regular feature of future walks: firstly, we used a form of Lectio Divina - adapted to suit a walking group but providing a better focus for the beginning of our walk. Members also appreciated a refreshment stop in the middle, rather than at the end of our walk. While this won't be possible every time, I will try to incorporate it whenever possible.

Walking Church meets on the second Sunday of odd-numbered months, which means that our next venture is on July 14th. We will meet at the bus stop on Malvern Road, opposite Whites Road at 2.30pm. From there we will walk down to Willow Barn (Bennett's Farm Cafe) to start our discussion over drinks and/or ice cream. Obviously, you will therefore need to have money or payment cards with you for this. For any who prefer to deal in cash and would appreciate knowing how much is needed, the prices are:

Hot drinks: range from £2.00 for an Espresso to £3.75 for a deluxe Hot Chocolate. Cold drinks range from £1.65 for a Fruit Shoot to £8.95 for a large (750ml) fruit juice. Ice creams cost between £2.25 and £3.95.

Dogs are welcome both in and out of the cafe and doggie ice creams cost £2.50

As the cafe closes at 3.30pm we will need to make a prompt start to our walk from the bus stop to the cafe.

July's walk is approximately three miles and there are a few points at which it could be cut short for any wishing to do so. Everyone is most welcome to join us but please note that as the walk goes over fields, along narrow paths and over some uneven ground it is not suitable for pushchairs.

The Ride and Stride event on Saturday 14th September (see page 13) will also be Walking Church for that month.

Sarah Cottrill



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St David's news.

Since having our new flooring put down and painting done in the kitchen and vestry area, we have now got the base units in for our new cupboards under the work top surface, so things are really coming along now. Once the doors are fitted these areas will then be completed. A big thank you must go to the Men's Shed for all their help in doing this for us.



In April we had a very pleasant Saturday afternoon Singalong with Carol Sampson. Tea and cake were available to keep people's strength up after all the singing they had done! May saw us have a very successful plant sale which we hope to do again next year.

Our monthly coffee morning on the first Wednesday of the month is still proving to be very popular. Our next one will be on the 3rd July at 10.30am and we would love to see you.

We now have a second Deputy Warden here at St David's, Mrs Christine Powell, who we know will be a great help.

Carole Stone

Stewardship in St John's Churchyard

Over the last few years since I retired, I have spent time looking after the churchyard and during this period I have been assisted by a number of helpers, both members of the congregation and others from the community, who just want to help create a place of peace, tranquillity and beauty for the community.

We have done this by creating various areas and flower beds around the churchyard increasing the number of flowering plants and hence increasing the wildlife that comes into the churchyard.

My latest helpers are Jacqui and Claire. You can see them on the front cover of this magazine: Jacqui on the spade, and Claire pruning back the weeds. They are not members of our congregation, but their volunteering is as important as the money that people donate to help raise the funds to meet our ever-increasing costs of maintaining the church. The time and expertise freely given by them, and their predecessors, make the church an oasis of calm in our busy lives.

Colin Nash



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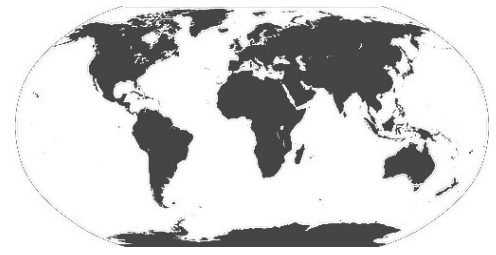


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Prayers for our world



In May we celebrated Pentecost, the coming of The Holy Spirit. In our prayer time together in July and August we are using the phrase “Breath of God, breathe on us,” as we pray for our world and places of conflict.

Lord God, you stretched out your arms on the cross, reaching East and West around our world. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Yemen, Sudan, the Palestinian people and Gaza. **Breath of God, breathe on your people your love and comfort and strength; breathe on the victims of wars.**

Lord God, we pray for all who grieve the loss of family and loved ones; for all who have no place to call home and are seeking food and water and shelter, a safe place to live. We pray for people who are cut off from one another and are lost and isolated from all that they know. **Breath of God, breathe on your people your love and comfort, enable them each day to draw strength and comfort from Your Spirit enfolding them.**

Lord God, we all breathe the same air that surrounds our world. Help us to keep faithful in our prayer time and remember those who are persecuted through war and violence. We pray that with every breath they take your spirit will fill them with comfort and hope. **Breath of God, breathe on us.**

Lord God, we pray for those who make war against others and want to destroy life and democracy. We pray that their hearts will be softened by your Spirit; that they will find ways to create peace. **Breath of God, breathe on us.**

Lord God, we pray for all children suffering violence every day, their minds and bodies have experienced such horror and fear. Send Your Holy Spirit to those who care for them. Strengthen all who serve in caring for children in times of war.

Breath of God, breathe on all your children.

May the light of Your love reach into the dark places where there is hatred;
let there be light.

May the young men and women fighting for freedom and democracy be given courage and strength; **let there be hope**

May all your children receive love and comfort, so that they are not alone;
let there be love,

May the world and its leaders work towards peace for everyone;
let there be peace.

Breathe on us, breath of God. Amen

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Ten years!

This year marks ten years since Sarah was ordained to the diaconate. In some ways time has flown, in others it may well feel far longer than a decade to her!



There have been plenty of challenges over those years, not least working with me, but it is also my hope that Sarah can look back on times of joy and the many ways in which she has made a difference through her ministry over that time.

I doubt she would thank me for indulging in a lengthy eulogy, but on behalf of the Team I would like to wish her many congratulations on reaching this milestone, and to thank her for all that she has done in her time here.

However, after ten years working together, I would also like to thank her publicly for the journey that we have shared, to express my appreciation for her support, willingness and friendship as a colleague, and to wish her the very best for the next ten years of ministry, whatever God may call her to in that time.

Phil Bradford

“How To Hear God” by Pete Greig

Some of you will remember that as a result of my Lent reading, I made reference in a couple of sermons to a book by Pete Greig: “How To Hear God.” At the time I hadn’t finished the book, but I promised to write a review once I had read it. Well, I finished it some time ago, was greatly inspired by it and am - at last - honouring my promise to write a review.

Throughout the book Greig draws on the Easter Day experience of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, demonstrating how God, in Christ, draws near to us in our times of grief, but also through normal conversations and through chance encounters with strangers.

Before outlining some strategies which might help us to be more open to hearing God, Greig identifies some of the barriers we create which prevent us from hearing him:

Psychological; we don’t expect to hear God because we don’t feel worthy of hearing him. It’s true that we’re not, but if God only ever spoke to those who were/are worthy, he would never speak!

Theological; we don’t expect God to speak at all now. The New Testament ended that.

Experiential: we are unfamiliar with God’s voice and so fail to recognise it when he is heard.

Although not given a title, another barrier identified is the fact that we are so often in a rush. We might sincerely want to hear God speak to us, and prepare our hearts and minds in prayer, but then set time limits before rushing on to the next thing. In contrast to this, God is never in a hurry. He has time to wait and will not be bound by our restrictions. We need to practice the art of patience and waiting.

Reading - and studying - the Bible, which he describes as “God’s love letter to our souls” is identified by Greig as a key way in which we can hear God speak to us. He suggests a three- pronged way of reading the Bible to get maximum benefit:

Hear - read Scripture aloud whenever possible.

See - annotate your Bible to make verses that resonate stand out.

Act - put words into action.

This led into what, for me, was the most compelling chapter of all; one devoted to the teaching of Lectio Divina. This is a way of reading a Bible passage slowly, two or three times, aloud and noting any verses that particularly “jump out” for

you. You then ponder this verse, trying to understand its significance and what God might be saying to you through it.

Moving on from this, Greig explores the well-known, but often forgotten fact that prayer was never intended to be a monologue. It is - or should be - a two-way conversation between Father and child. As with any other conversation though, if we want to hear what the other is saying, we must sometimes stop talking and listen to what he is trying to say!

Greig touches on aids to prayer such as meditation and the use of icons before going on to the importance of testing anything you think, or are told, is the word of God being spoken. To do this, he suggests a simple A, B, C

Affirming; does it strengthen, encourage, comfort?

Biblical; is it consistent with the broad teaching and witness of Scripture?

Christlike; is it consistent with the character, mission and message of Jesus?

The above touches on some of the (for me) key content of Greig's book, but I am conscious that this is turning into a summary, rather than a review!

In conclusion, then, I would strongly recommend this book to anybody who wants to deepen their prayer life and be more open to hearing God speak to them, realising that this might happen in unexpected ways. Yes, God might choose to speak through dramatic, attention-grabbing means, but he is far more likely to speak in the quiet reading of Scripture, a normal conversation with a friend or even a chance encounter on a journey or over a pint in the pub!

Sarah Cottrill

“How To Hear God” by Pete Greig was published by Hodder & Stoughton, in March 2022.

West Worcester Friendship Club



We were delighted to welcome members of the Worcester Ukulele Band to our May meeting. Numbers in the band outnumbered our members, but we all enjoyed singing along to the well-known songs they played for us. Needless to say, guests and band alike also enjoyed chatting over drinks and homemade cake!

At our meeting on June 20th, we celebrated our second “birthday” and on July 15th we plan an afternoon of board games.

Sarah Cottrill



It was Red and Yellow...

...and green and brown. June's Messy Church told the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50.

Creativity

The activities this month reflected key moments in the story of Joseph. On the Messy Church board in St John's, you can see a collage of the long robe that Jacob gave to Joseph, his favourite son. This action leads to the first mention of Joseph's brothers hating him, creating opportunities at Messy Church to consider times when we too may have felt jealous of others.



Creating 'Camel ornaments' told the story of Joseph's brothers conspiring to initially kill him, and then deciding to sell him to the caravan of Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver. Historically, camels were decorated with gold ornaments, so we made wax rubbings of coins and threaded them together to make our own camel decorations. To add extra interest to the activity, the coins were from a range of countries thanks to the collective travels of Phil and Liz.

Alongside his ‘coat of many colours’ Joseph is well known for his ability to tell God’s interpretation of dreams, both his own and those of others. Our activities reflected a few of these. Plaiting bread dough to make rolls to take home and bake, we discussed the dreams Joseph had with two fellow prisoners – the chief cupbearer, and the chief bread maker. The dream forewarning the upcoming famine in Egypt was told as we made ‘fat and thin’ cows, using paper plates and a split pin. There is currently an example on the pulpit in St John’s. By interpreting this dream for the Pharaoh, Joseph was removed from prison and gained his authority in Egypt.



Worship

Our worship discussed the story of Joseph further, such as how he went from being sold to becoming a prisoner and ultimately forgave his brothers for their actions. As it is very difficult to consider the story of Joseph and not think of Andrew Lloyd-Weber’s related musical, we sung Joseph’s Coat, which certainly lists a range of colours, including ochre and azure...

Hospitality

The hospitality of Messy Church is not just about feeding the congregation, but also about catching up with the community, meeting new people and making them feel welcome. This happens from the moment the doors open.

Messy Church next time

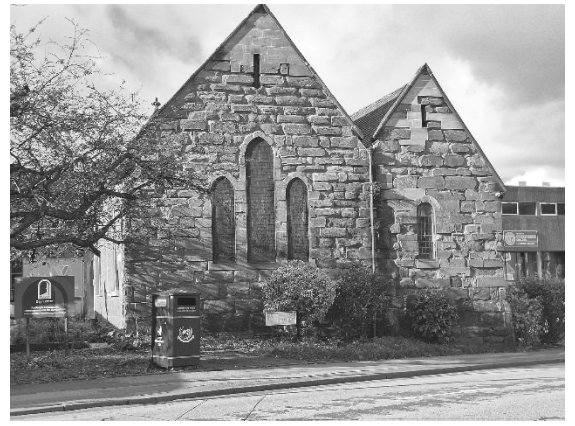
Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 6th July exploring the story of Moses. Messy Church is for adults and children alike, with activities set at various levels of complexity and many offering the chance for mindfulness and contemplation while being creative. Please do come along – you’ll be sure of a warm welcome!

Please note that there will be no Messy Church in August, however we will return in September!

Beth Broadway

Maggs Day Centre

Rough sleeper numbers throughout the county are growing at alarming rates, typically due to mental health and waiting times to access help, cost of living crisis, and housing crisis, to name a few. This means our services are in demand, now more than ever.



How we help is through our two open-door day centres in Worcester and Malvern, where we provide our service users with a cooked breakfast, showers, clothing washing and drying facilities, and a dedicated team of support workers to help them with whatever they need.

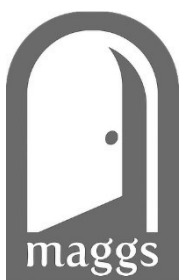
Secondly is our Clothing Project, which is run solely on donations from the public and offers essentials such as underwear, sleeping bags, and toiletries to houseware items like kettles, cutlery etc., to those who have secured housing.

There is also our Accommodation Project, where we either own or rent four buildings throughout Worcestershire and help provide rough sleepers with a 'stepping-stone' back into permanent housing and enable people to develop strategies to cope with the challenges of living in accommodation after having been on the streets for years.

However, for the beginning of the homeless journey, we boast a county-wide Outreach team, whose objective is to 'Engage with the Unengaged.' Our workers are the first to engage directly with service users to build trust, provide pathways and support people off the streets, whether this be to encourage them to access our day centres or deliver clothes and food to their tents.

We are extremely lucky that the St John-in-Bedwardine community has supported us for over 15 years through donations of food, vital clothing and household linen for our Clothing Project and financial gifts. We would like to take this opportunity to pass on our sincerest thank you for your continued support.

If you do have anything you can donate to us, particularly for our Clothing Project, please get in touch with John Prangnell, who can liaise with us on the logistics.



Alternatively, you can donate via Just Giving on our website: www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk or get in touch with us at info@maggsdaycentre.co.uk for more information.

Melissa Blewitt
Marketing and Relations Manager

A Diocesan first!

On June 9th, we were delighted to welcome to St Clement's, Sue Coleman, CEO of West Mercia Women's Aid and Judith Grubb, President of Worcester Diocese Mothers' Union.

Sue spoke, telling us more about domestic abuse and what we can do to help victims. There are many definitions offered for what constitutes abuse, but Sue summed it up when she said abuse occurs "whenever home is not a safe place to be!" She then spoke about the most extreme cases. Extreme, but sadly not rare. Every week two women in Britain are killed by a husband or partner! After sharing some individual stories with us, Sue answered the question "What can we do?" by stressing the importance of listening to - and believing - disclosures of abuse. Our job is to point victims to organisations which can then help them.

We can - and will - continue, as a church to hold victims in our prayers and Sue will keep in touch with practical suggestions of ways in which we can support West Mercia Women's Aid.

Judith Grubb then presented us with our Bronze Award under the Mothers' Union RISE UP campaign. St Clement's has become the first church in Worcester Diocese to achieve this award for which we had to:

- have the endorsement of the PCC;
- commit to praying regularly for victims of domestic abuse;
- display a poster, giving details of where help can be found;
- invite a speaker from a relevant charity or organisation to give a talk about their work and how we can support them.



Photograph shows (left to right): Jo Dowling, Judith Grubb, Sarah Cottrill, Jean Chidlow, and Sue Coleman.

Sarah Cottrill

Little Lambs



Little Lambs

It has been so lovely to be back at Little Lambs while Sue is on holiday. I've really enjoyed catching up with lots of families who I used to see weekly and meeting lots of new faces.



The children have been having fun with mini-beast and nature themed craft to celebrate The Wildlife Trusts 30 Days Wild. We've made caterpillars with stickers and pompom prints, painted butterflies and planted seeds. There are lots of fun activities to get involved in on The Wildlife Trust's website if you'd like some outdoor adventures!





I'd really like to thank Sue and the other wonderful volunteers for keeping Little Lambs thriving, it's such a wonderful resource for our community.

Abi and Matilda have really enjoyed helping out as well. They are not convinced that, when the group first started, they were as small as some of the babies that join us now!



As always, if anyone can pop along for a couple of hours on a Monday morning to help out, you'd be very welcome.

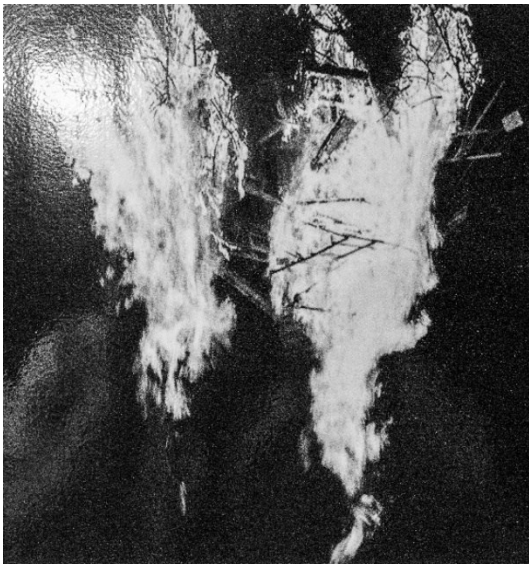
*Love from us all at Little Lambs xx
Amy Rees*

Roman delicacies - Yummy!

Once again Paul Harding from Discover History managed to enthral everyone in the audience with his wide knowledge of our history. This month he told us all about the origins of May Day and the various customs that have taken place over the centuries.



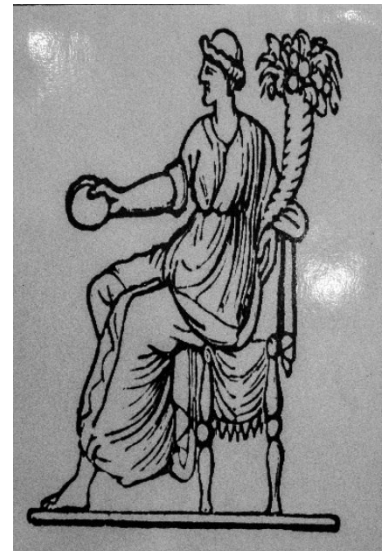
For many celebrations, like May Day, we have to guess at the origins of the event. Early people did not follow calendars but were in tune with the seasons and they would have noticed that come April and May the blossom would appear. This would be a sign of new life and food to come. They would also be happy to celebrate that they did not die during the winter. Winter was a difficult time for early people, as food would be in short supply, and it would be very cold, so they celebrated getting through to spring.



One of the old customs was that they would light two bonfires close to each other at Beltane, which was the Gaelic May Day festival, and then they would bring their animal stock and make them run through the gap. This was to improve the fertility of the animals and to cleanse them. They would bring a burning stick from these fires and take the light into their roundhouse to light their fires to bring in the good luck and gather the ash from the bonfires to spread on their land. They also blacked their

faces with charcoal from the fire. It is thought that this is where the blacking of faces in Morris dancing comes from.

The Romans had a festival, Floralia, in honour of the Goddess Flora where they would celebrate spring. She is often depicted carrying a cornucopia, the horn of plenty, as a symbol that food was coming. People started to wear May flowers in their hair. The Romans would feast at this time on food such as baked dormouse dipped in garam, rotted fermented fish guts, yummy!! They left food on the altars as gifts to the gods for good harvests to come later in the year.





By the Middle Ages people would put up a summer pole, not a May pole, and these would be planted in the earth. This could be linked to the tree of life. It was also used to mark the spot where people would gather to celebrate the festivals. There would be dancing, eating and drinking at these festival celebrations.

In the 15th Century someone decided that it would be a good idea that someone would be made the May queen. It was about this time that Morris dancers started to appear with their black faces.



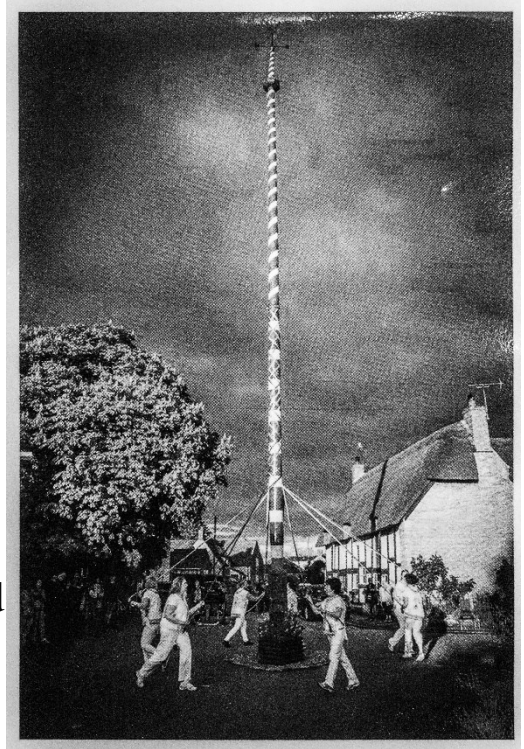
The Puritans thought that these celebrations were pagan, and in 1640 they banned the erection of a May pole. Cromwell's soldiers would cut down the May poles to stop the drunken revelry. Along with Christmas, May Day was banned by the Puritans.

When Charles II was made King again in 1660, he erected the first May pole in The Strand in London and brought back all the banned festivals and celebrations.

One of the oldest May poles in the country is in Offenham but there are several other old ones in Worcestershire as well.

Another tradition is the Bringing in the May, where people would go out and collect May blossom and bring it into their houses to freshen up their houses after the dark winter. The May queen and Morris dancers also appeared again at this time as part of the celebrations.

By the 1750s Jack in the Green started to appear in some areas. He was a new idea and is not linked to any pagan festivals. Most people now would say that he was a representation of the Green Man.



Jack in the Green would be disguised and wore a series of wicker hoops which would be covered with greenery. The Green Man represented summer and the new growth of life whereas winter was represented by the Frost Queen.

Ladies would go out early in the morning to wash themselves in the May dew as this would make them lucky and beautiful.

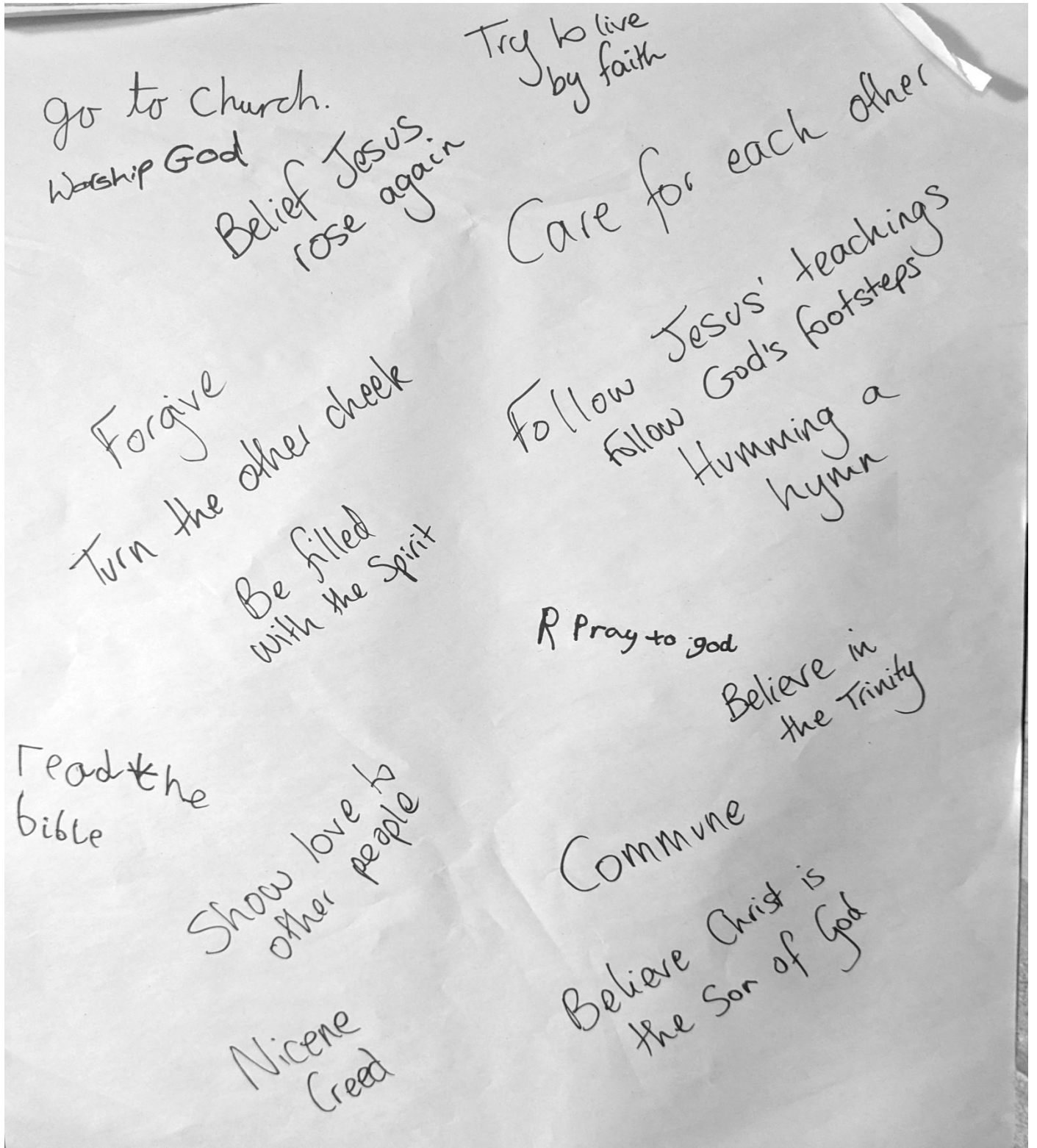
If you found a clear spring it was known to be pure, unlike the river water they usually drank! They started to decorate the springs, to celebrate the pure water, as is still done in Malvern to this day.



Colin Nash

How to recognise a Christian?

At the Morning Worship service in June, Philip Evans said that an alien had landed upon the Earth. For some reason, the alien had decided to investigate this group it had heard of: "Christians." Philip asked the congregation, on behalf of the alien, how to recognise a Christian. Here is the sheet written by Philip and his helpers showing the answers received from the congregation. Thank you to Philip for photographing this and sharing it with the readers of this magazine.



Graham Evans

The Jaffa Cake Heresy?

Hello everyone from a slightly stressed reader in training!

I'm in the final half of my final term now and it's all very exciting, but time seems to be moving far faster than it should and as I write I am juggling two assignments that are due in quick succession.

The first is quite fun. We have to produce the outline of three sessions to introduce someone with no prior experience to Christianity...using secular material!

I have chosen:

A book - The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

A film - Star Wars a New Hope

A Song - Sunrise by New Order.

I flip flop every hour or so about whether this is an act of genius that will have me proclaimed as the new Billy Graham, or an act of utter madness that will see my tutor having a quiet word in Bishop John's ear! There is some method in my madness though and I will be trying to evoke ideas of spiritual wonder at the transformation of a tiny egg into a beautiful butterfly, asking if God can work through non-Christians when we see them exhibiting Christian behaviours like Obi Wan laying down his life for the others, and what it is like to be in relationship with God including sometimes having a rant like the psalmists of old. I'll let you know how it turns out!

The other assignment is altogether more scary. We must have a 30 minute conversation with one of our tutors about the Joseph story, but specifically that story seen through a particular lens. I have chosen a liberation theology lens as this continues to interest me and we had a wonderful lecture recently from a Korean researcher on this topic who was able to share how he reads the bible is informed by his experience of Japanese colonialism. Lots of work still to do on that one!

In other news Ellen and I continued our tour of churches in the North East Lake District a few weeks ago and found the lovely St Patrick's in Patterdale. We were there for Trinity Sunday and I couldn't help but smile to myself as the vicar sought to use a Jaffa cake to illustrate the mystery of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I rather naughtily had the phrase "The Jaffa Cake Heresy" running through my mind, but we got to eat the Jaffa Cakes so I didn't take it any further. It was especially interesting because it was a combined Anglican/Methodist congregation which I hadn't encountered before. They were very involved in

their community which is at one end of Ullswater and I couldn't stop staring at a tapestry they had hanging up.



I've always jokingly called that area a little piece of heaven but this artist took it a step further and has Jesus being born not in Bethlehem, but there on the shoreline. I hope you are all keeping the 15th September free as, all being well, I will be licensed then, and it would be great to have as many of you who have supported me along the way as possible.

*God bless!
Rob Little*

Sudoku Puzzle

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

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

Marcés Mailing

Dear everyone,

As we get older the days seem to pass faster, but finally here is our latest prayer letter. To those who wonder if they missed one, the previous one was sent in December [*and set into the magazine produced in January, so appeared in the February magazine*].

Thank you for all your prayers, which encourage us so much. We give thanks to God for answered prayer, but please CONTINUE to pray, as we see too where the enemy is trying to attack in so many ways, both small and large.



The one who is in you
is greater than
the one who is in the world.
(1 John 4:4)

Mayor es el
que está en ustedes
que el
que está en el mundo.
(1 Juan 4:4)



Please pray for:

Juan Carlos + Penny: appropriate use of time
JC's mother Hilda

Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in San Juan Evangelista;
Ministry in Arequipa

Penny: Ongoing responsibilities in J el N (lay rector);
Diocesan responsibilities (Children's Ministry & materials)

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Diocese: Discipleship courses (MOCLAM and others);

Jesús El Nazareno: new Mums and tots group starting in June;
for the formation of a teenagers' group;

El Nazareno area: communal kitchens, & other human needs

S Juan Evangelista: contacts with families through Compassion
development of a music ministry

Cathedral (English): search for a new Rector

Country of Peru: corruption and lack of stability;
economic challenges for many;
environmental challenges

Dear friends,

As the verse we have (hopefully!) learnt in May in Jesús el Nazareno says “The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world” (1 John 4:4), and in a country where (yet again) trying to impeach the President is an issue, it is good to be reminded that we are not dependent on what seems to be going on around us.

Since we last wrote, (yes, it WAS before Christmas), our activities have changed - in Penny’s case there is a slightly reduced responsibility, whereas Juan Carlos now has the extra pastoral responsibility of **San Juan Evangelista** (SJE), situated relatively near where Jesús el Nazareno is. Originally for 6 months (March to Sept) it is now open-ended, which has the advantage of giving opportunity to make future plans with the Church Council. Compassion has been working here; this project (like all Compassion projects in Lima) has not received new children for over 12 years but there are still a few working through the system. One result of this ongoing support is that the teenagers in the Compassion project are about to start music workshop (guitar and singing), to which others can be invited – please pray for this.



Mothers´ Day celebration SJE



In **Jesús el Nazareno** we held the now-normal summer holiday club, but this year with the great advantage of having Edward’s help and thus offering English classes at 2 levels (according to age rather than ability). The Bible teaching was “In

Paul’s footsteps”, and the most spectacular class was without doubt that of burning books at Ephesus (pages from pre-2000 copies of Readers´ Digest, in case you wonder!)

Thinking of fire, the Holy Spirit as fire was the theme presented by one of the Churches in S Lima (of which both Jesús el Nazareno and San Juan Evangelista are part) at the recent Pentecost celebration. These occasional



celebrations provide opportunities for fellowship, especially for younger people. This particular event was held in **Jesús el Salvador**, where we ministered for many years; it was great to see some faces from then, especially the then-children who are now young adults.

Another metaphor used for the Holy Spirit, that of water reminds us of the importance of **water** in daily life. A fact brought home especially when you have none (frequently the case in El Nazareno, where apart from those who have no running water anyway there are frequent cuts in the supply). Whilst most people take precautions and have water in reserve (taking care to protect this reserved water from the dengue-carrying mosquitos which have been all-too-prevalent recently), we are sometimes caught unprepared. Such was the case on Maundy Thursday; I suspect Jesus did NOT send any WhatsApp messages to the disciples saying “I will be washing your feet; please bring water”. Then, when the water comes back and has been gushing for 2 days (tap not turned off), we use 96% of the income from the recently-held flea market to pay the bill (Churches are charged for water at commercial rate – 4 times the domestic rate). Yes, water is a blessing and needs to be respected!



Apart from the 2 Churches, we both continue to have other responsibilities. JC continues to spend approx. one week a month in **Arequipa**, where he is currently organising the first English-speaking service there for many years, with full support of the British consul there. This service will be on 9 June – please pray. Having been concerned about what English speaking



member of clergy could help, it was wonderful to discover that this date coincided with the visit of a SAMS Ireland group who will be leading some training seminars in Peru 4-14 June. God obviously had it all in hand!

Penny continues to produce the **Sunday School materials** used in different parts of S America, a project which will hopefully end soon. Technically she has more time to complete this, since the big change for her is that since Easter she is no longer technically part of the leadership at the **Good Shepherd**, following Bliss’ ordination in January, although she and JC continue to be involved in some things such as follow-up of the person in the halfway house, and a wedding.



Finally, a big **domestic change** for us. We have at last (later than most!) become empty-nesters, Becky having moved out a couple of months ago after starting a new job in Jan. The “empty nest” is even emptier following the recent death of our much loved 16 year old dog Trika. On the other hand, we now have more rooms available for visitors, so if you would like to visit us in this beautiful country - just let us know....



- JC building up relationships in SJE
- Formalisation of possession of a property where SJE is holding a small annexe
- The start of English speaking services in Arequipa
- The start of “Tesoros del Señor” for mums and tots in JEN

Please pray....



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

Please pray for activities in Lima & those leading:

- Sun:** 6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service (Penny)
7.00pm San Juan Evangelista service (JC)
- Tues:** 6.30 pm Prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
7.30 pm Prayer meeting (San Juan Evangelista)
- Sat:** 4.00 pm Children’s activity (J. el Nazareno)

Specific dates:

- 30 May – 2 June:** Perú Tres Días men’s weekend (JC)
- 6 & 7 June:** leadership workshop led by SAMS Ireland in Lima
- 9 June:** 1st English-speaking service in Arequipa for many years
- 12 & 13 June:** repeat of leadership workshop in Arequipa
- Mid June:** start of “Tesoros del Señor” – mums and tots group 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 and Penny
psmarcesinlima@gmail.com*



2024 Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs)

St Michael's APCM was held on Sunday 12th May, with St John's on 26th May. We started publishing reports last month. We're spreading out the reports over more than one edition to avoid overwhelming the magazine. For the same reason, most reports have been trimmed or summarised by the editors.

The Editors

Treasurer's Report to APCMs

The role of treasurer for the Joint Council combines managing the finances of both St Michael's and St John's parishes. It is unreasonable for one person to undertake all aspects of this very large role. To spread the workload across a wider group of people, we have formed a Finance sub-committee, including everyone who is in some way involved in managing the finances. I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Finance sub-committee for their work.

We are still looking for more volunteers – the more people we have, the less work there is for each person to do! For example, we would value someone being the Parish Giving Representative to promote the scheme, encourage new sign-ups and prepare an annual 'thank you' to all people who donate via it.

The role of Treasurer should now be seen as one of oversight, rather than one of "doing everything".

At this point I highlight that I would like to stand down as Treasurer. I was Treasurer for St Michael's for five years and have taken on the extra workload over the past 18 months as we have transitioned the finances from being two separate parishes to one Joint Council. I encourage anyone who would be willing to consider having this oversight role to discuss and ask any questions about it.

Looking at the financial figures, a high-level summary is that we need to increase our income or reduce our outgoings or both.

A substantial legacy was received in 2023. This has resulted in the financial situation looking better than it would otherwise have been. If the legacy had not been received, then the accounts would be showing a deficit – meaning more money went out than came in.

In the budget for 2024, the Joint Council took the decision to use some of the reserves to 'balance the books'. Obviously there is not an endless amount of

money and if we were to spend more money than we received every year, then eventually it would run out. As a church we therefore need to think about how we can increase our income (which could include increased donations or making more money from our assets) or by reducing the amount of money we pay out.

Philip Evans

Report on the proceedings of the Joint Council

The Joint Council of St John-in-Bedwardine and St Michael's came into force on 1st January 2023, and the PCCs of the two churches were placed into abeyance.

The Joint Council met five times in 2023. Each meeting opened with a prayer and finished with the Grace. A summary of the minutes of each meeting is placed on the main church noticeboard and published in the magazine.

St John's is eligible for three Deanery Synod representatives, and St Michael's for 2 (based on electoral roll numbers). One member has been for each church, leaving two vacancies at St John's and one vacancy at St Michael's.

In 2023 St John's had four weddings and fifteen baptisms (none at St Michael's). At St John's, there were fifteen funerals in church and ten for the parish at the crematorium. For St Michael's there was one funeral held at the crematorium.

Standing Committee report

The Joint Council (JC) has a Standing Committee with the power to act for the JC between JC meetings (as laid down in the JC scheme). The JC has explicitly delegated to the Standing Committee to carry out the employment and landlord responsibilities of the Joint Council. A report of Standing Committee decisions and actions is provided to each JC meeting.

Deanery Synod report

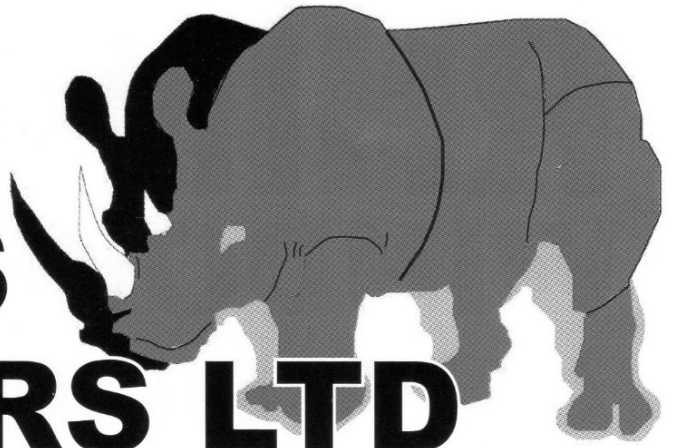
The Worcester area Deanery Synod has been established for three years. In the last year there were three formal meetings of the Deanery Synod and one gathering of members for the Ascension Day Service.

Our Deanery currently has 42 church buildings not including the Cathedral; 12 Benefices; 31 Parishes; 14 Stipendiary Clergy; 6 Stipendiary Curates; an unknown amount of priests with Permission to Officiate (as some live in, and some outside, the Deanery...); 2 self-supporting Curates; 13 LLM's (and some in training); and 27 ALM's (last year) of differing vocations.

Each meeting had a visiting speaker and synod discussion of various topics.

Continued on page 45

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Magazine Report

There are no major changes to report about the Parish Magazine. Our monthly print run is currently 155, with about 115 subscriptions (delivered and collected from church) and the remainder going through sales at St John's and St Michael's. Financially, the magazine (through sales and advertising) more than covers its costs and makes a net contribution to the churches' income.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the magazine, we would love to hear from you. New contributors (regular or occasional) are always very welcome.

Children's Church

Over the past year we have seen a rise in the number of children attending church at St John's. Currently, we have 14 children of various ages who attend regularly. As a result, in January we re-started a regular Children's Church running during the main service, three times a month. At present this predominantly caters for the primary school age children, although toys are always set out for younger ones to use. We are covering a wide range of topics from both the Old and New Testaments. Sessions typically include a story and some sort of craft activity. We have a rota of helpers who run the sessions and new volunteers are always very welcome.

We are discussing how to further integrate the children in the worship at St John's by including them in elements of the main services so that they feel part of the whole church community. We are planning to stage a second community nativity, following the first one which took place back in 2019. We hope this will be a way to bring young people from the local area into church to celebrate Christmas.

Messy Church Report

In September 2023, we held our inaugural Messy Church service. The aim is to widen the offer of worship styles within the Team and hold one every month. To date the sessions have been very successful with about 30 people present at each, and more recently closer to 40. A wide range of craft and other 'messy' activities are on offer, appealing to different ages and temperaments. Each month has a different biblical or seasonal theme. After the activities, we bring together, in a short worship session, all the strands of what we've been thinking about, and then we all enjoy a meal together. There are faces which would be familiar to those who attend on a Sunday morning, but we also get attendees who do not normally come on Sunday mornings and are building up a regular congregation.

A huge thank you to all those who help in any way.

Continued on page 47



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Little Lambs

Little Lambs continues to be a very popular, welcoming and happy church playgroup for 0–4-year-olds and their parents/carers. It is an important part of our church care and outreach for the community and has been running for over 9 years.

We have a wide variety of activities including craft, playdough, dressing up, tracks and role play and a baby area. Singing time is fun too and at the end each week we remember that we are in church, so we say our Little Lambs prayer and sing “He’s got the whole world in His hands.”

Thank you so much to our volunteers who help us every week and who show such care and commitment in so many ways. Little Lambs would not be able to run without this support. We would welcome some more volunteers to come and join the fun.

Thank you to everyone at St John’s for all your support and prayers.

Events Team (St J)

The last year has been even more successful for the team with the audiences to the Good Old Days Talks, by Paul Harding from Discover History, reaching up to 100 people. Most of the attendees are from the local community and further afield.

The attendees pay £4 a head for the talk and refreshments so we can collect over £300 per talk for the church, as the kind ladies of the congregation make all the fabulous cakes for us. A full programme has been agreed and advertised for the coming year, and we hope that more people will join us as they feel able to.

The team organised several coach trips including Weston-Super-Mare, Bristol and Leicester. Each of these trips were almost full coaches and people certainly enjoyed them. More are planned for this coming year.

Communications Report (St J)

Our two websites continue to be well supported with regular updates of what is happening in the church. On Facebook, we use our church page and the WR2 Resident’s one. The WR2 page has been very useful in getting information out to non-church members, especially for events such as Messy Church and the monthly history talks.

On the more basic methods of communications, we still find that the banners attached to the fence railings are a very good way of communicating with the local community, especially the ones by the traffic lights.

Continued on page 49

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Flower arranging team (St J)

The team continues to meet on Fridays between 10am and noon, except during Lent and Advent. Flower arrangements have returned to the 'normal' pattern with no national milestones to celebrate. However, as well as enhancing the church every week there is always the joy of decorating for festivals – Easter, Trinity, Harvest and Christmas.

Quality flowers have become expensive, but they are longer lasting. Members of the team continue to bring foliage when they can, and we get some from the shrubs in the churchyard. We thank all those who so generously support us throughout the year, both practically and financially.

Organist & Choirmaster's Report (St J)

Music continues to play an important part in our worship. The choir provides a lead and support to the congregational singing whilst offering choral music in worship. We are a friendly group, and I am always delighted to hear from singers interested in joining the choir.

Music Group (St J)

With a few interruptions the Music Group continued its mission to provide the musical ministry whenever requested. Our pattern is now focussed on second Sunday at St John's and third Sunday at St David's with occasional one-off services at other times (and places) too.

Women's Breakfast (St J)

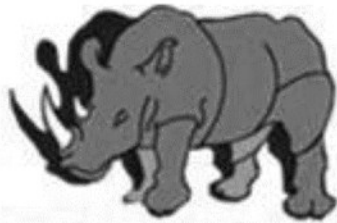
We had another enjoyable year at women's breakfast with fun, fellowship, and delicious breakfasts thanks to Sally Mills. Between ten and fifteen women came on the second Saturday of every month from across the team churches and Our Lady Queen of Peace church. Speakers inspired and encouraged us on our Christian journey with a variety of topics. Do think about joining us, a warm welcome, a delicious breakfast, fun and fellowship guaranteed.

Café @10.45 (St J)

We had a very successful year with many interesting speakers for our 'Thought for the Day.' Coffee and Danish were enjoyed by all our visitors.

Our numbers have declined due to illnesses and people's busy lives. We are keeping this in mind for the future of cafe Church.

Continued on page 51



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Bellringers' Report (St J)

This year has been a great year for us. We welcomed two new ringers to the band and have three more learners. At St John's we ring for Sunday services and special occasions. Last year we all rang for the King's Coronation and this year we will mark the 80th anniversary of the D Day Landings in June.

We hosted the Western Branch Striking Competition last year where six teams from across the Branch took part and were judged on their performance. We supplied tea and cake, and a good afternoon was had by all. We have visiting bands come to St John's throughout the year, with one coming from Southampton.

Churchyard Report (St J)

We are a small group of volunteers who meet each week, weather permitting, to keep the churchyard looking as good as we can for all users of the area. People often stop as they are passing through while we are there to say how much they like the churchyard and the peaceful nature that has been created.

The wildflower area has really improved over the last year and there are now many flowers along the fence and a larger rose garden on the west wall. In the wildlife conservation area we have recently created a woodpile where we have planted ferns in amongst the wood and stumps.

We have carried out a review of the churchyard and have a very long list of the things that we would like to achieve this year but will tackle them one at a time!

Thank you to everyone who has donated time or money or plants.

Churchwardens' Annual Fabric Report (St J)

There has been no change in 2023 to the inventory of church ornaments.

Thanks to Brian Askew, who has now retired as Estate Manager; we are pleased to welcome Tom Amies as his replacement from January 2024. We also thank Colin Nash and his team for their work on our churchyard.

Brian provided a comprehensive Estate Manager's report detailing the many routine and one-off tasks undertaken in maintaining our church building (including the Blakefield Room and kitchen, the tower, the clock and the bells), the Parish Office and flat above, and our tenanted property at Heron Close.

The End!

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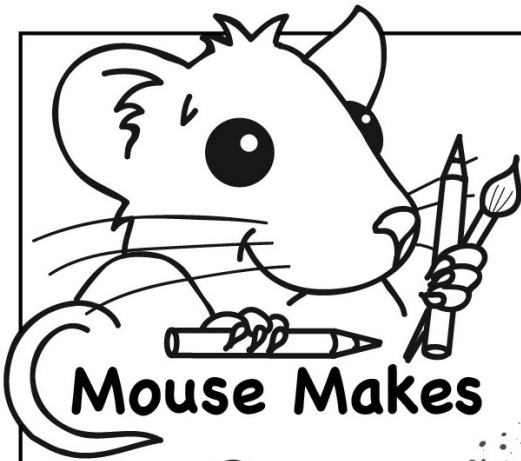
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Mouse Makes

How many days did the Lord tell Joshua to march around the city of Jerico?

_____ *Joshua 6:3*



What did the priests carry that were made from rams' horns?

_____ *Joshua 6:4*

What was carried along behind the priests?

The _____ *Joshua 6:4*



On the seventh day how many times did they march around Jerico?

_____ *Joshua 6:6*



Who was saved from Jerico along with her family?

_____ *Joshua 6:17*

READ
the story
in *Joshua*
5:13-6:27

D A Y S A W A L K
A J O S H U A R K E
S E V E N I O F L A T W
Y N T R F X U E L B O I
I P R I E S T S O U N D
A A U C L I S W R R C A
R I M O L K I B D N E W
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 - 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 (11 & 25 July, 8 & 22 August), fortnightly every other Thursday, 2:00pm to 3:30pm.

Crime Readers' Group (Friday, 5 July & 2 August), monthly on the first Friday, 12:00pm to 1:00pm.

Photography Group (Friday 19 July & 16 August), monthly on the third Friday, 2:00pm to 3:00pm.

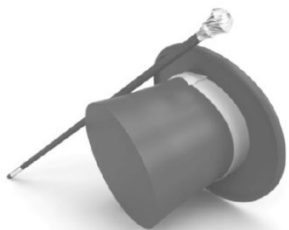
Crime Film Group (Friday 26 July and 23 August), monthly on the fourth Friday, 12:00pm to 1:30pm.

Councillors' Surgeries (Saturday 6 July and 3 August), monthly on the first Saturday 10:00am-to 12:00pm.

Meet the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, St Johns and Bedwardine, on Tuesday 16th July and Tuesday 6th August, 10:30am to 11:30am.

** To arrange a Libraries Unlocked induction please visit St John's Library during core opening hours when staff are available or call 01905 822722 to make an appointment. For more information about Libraries Unlocked visit:

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From the magazine archive, July 1930

House-to-House Collection.

It used to be our custom to have (1) a House to House Collection in May for the Hospital Sunday Fund, and (2) a House to House Collection in November for the Nursing Fund, Owing, however, to the new scheme in connection with the Infirmary, the first of these is now given up. Consequently the whole year is open to us for the second, and the month of July has been selected. I hope that all parishioners will support our collectors very heartily in their efforts during July for such an admirable object. The nursing of the sick poor is surely a matter which will appeal to all.

Our Sidesmen.

The sidesmen on duty for July are Messrs. Coombs, Cowley, Drew, Drinkwater and Finch.

Annual Church Cleaning.

The annual special cleaning of the Church will take place during the week of Monday, July 7th. The usual week-day services will be suspended from Monday to Thursday inclusive. On the Friday and Saturday the services will be as usual.

August 1930

Devotional Services.

(1) Confirmed lads and young men are invited to attend a Devotional Service in Church at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 31st, to prepare for Corporate Communion on Sunday, August 3rd. (2) Confirmed girls and young women are invited to attend a Devotional Service in Church at 8 p.m. on Thursday, August 7th, to prepare for Corporate Communion on Sunday, August 10th.

House-to-House Collection for Nursing Fund.

Collectors are asked to be kind enough to bring their books and money to the Church Vestry on Wednesday, August 13th, at 8 p.m.

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

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(£5) I will pick up my magazine from the church whose box I have ticked
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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

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

And finally....



*The start of the
European Football
Championship
was the cause of
universal joy.*

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 – July/August

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
7th July	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
14th July	10.30am Morning Worship	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
21st July	10.30am Eucharist	10am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
28th July	10.30am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
4th August	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
11th August	10.30am Morning Worship	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
18th August	10.30am Eucharist	10am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
25th August	10.30am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer

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.