



St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine

July 2020

50p



Welcome to
St JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE
The Parish Church of St John's

WEST WORCESTER CLERGY
clergy@westworcesterchurches.org.uk

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Day off

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Monday

CHURCHWARDENS
churchwardens@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Gordon Templeton (01905 749025), Joy Job (01905 423051).

SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

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

OTHER INFORMATION

PASTORAL CARE: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email sylviarender@talktalk.net).

SAFEGUARDING: If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact the PCC Safeguarding Representative, Jane Askew on 424811 or any member of the clergy.

PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is currently closed but can be contacted by email, post or telephone.

Postal address:
1a Bromyard Road
St John's, WR2 5BS

Tel: (01905) 420490
e-mail: office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

ST JOHN'S CHURCH ON THE WEB

Parish Website: www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine
A church near you: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/
Group Website: www.westworcesterchurches.org.uk



The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our July magazine. It's showing the first signs of lockdown being eased. Our churches are opening, for private prayer if not yet for communal worship (see the back cover). In that, we are behind France (see page 19). And the events team would like to know what events you would like to see (see page 10).

The friendship and care for each other seen during lockdown are widely seen as the silver lining in all that has happened. Our theme for this edition is friendship: We hope that the silver lining can continue even as the clouds recede. Sarah reflects more on this in her clergy letter (page 4).

As we are travelling out of lockdown, we leave you with a prayer set for 19th July:

*God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Next edition (August): Deadline is Sunday 12th July. Distribution, towards the end of July, dependent on circumstances at the time.

Subscription form: Page 46.

Cover picture: "Friends" photographed by Amy Rees.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who have contributed photographs for this magazine including the Church of England, Wendy Dedicott, Graham Evans, Philip Evans, Sue Evans, Julia Harrington, Penny Marcés, Arthur Miller, Colin Nash, Maureen Ovington and Amy Rees.

Distribution (July 2020): This edition is sent electronically to as many people as possible, to reduce the burden on our delivery resources, but we have printed and delivered by post, etc, so as to reach, as far as possible, all our subscribers.

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 46 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 PCC or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

To advertise

Please see page 12.

*This year there will be an August edition.

From Sarah Cottrill

How many friends have you got? Devotees of Facebook and other social media may claim to have hundreds, but are they really what you can call friends? I suspect that many of these “friends” are the friends of friends; members of the same social club – sports, drama, etc., who you might exchange the odd word with; virtual strangers who could be passed, unrecognised on the street. Would you turn to any of these in times of trouble or distress?



Because that, surely, is what defines a true friend; somebody who will be there for you through thick and thin; somebody with whom you can equally easily laugh or cry; let off steam to or share your dreams with. A true friend is a rare and precious thing! As Solomon expresses it in Proverbs 18: Some friends play at friendship, but a true friend sticks closer than one’s nearest kin. (Proverbs 18:24).

Human friendship, and our innate need for it, has been the subject of poetry, prose and song over the ages, with different views expressed. Writing in the seventeenth century, poet John Donne declared that “No man is an island” but in the twentieth century Paul Simon sang “I am a rock, I am an island” – the thoughts of a recluse, shutting himself away from all human contact, afraid to be hurt.

As I write, we are entering our twelfth week of lockdown and all the evidence suggests that in the Donne versus Simon debate, Donne was right. Great concern is being expressed about the mental health of those forced into isolation. There has been at least one report of a woman attempting suicide simply so that somebody would talk to her! Human beings are, by nature, social animals and human contact and interaction is essential to our well-being.

This is why, during the present crisis, it has been so good to see the many acts of kindness which have been performed by so many. Neighbours looking out for one another, offering to shop or run errands; church members keeping in touch with one another by email and telephone; the weekly clap which has got many neighbours chatting to each other more than they did under normal circumstances.

Despite my somewhat cynical opening remarks, activities such as these may result in real and lasting friendships being forged. Some good can come out of even the grimmest circumstances.

The flip side of this, of course, is that for some, enforced isolation has brought not only the loneliness but also the loss of dearly held independence. They don’t want others to have to do their shopping for them, they don’t like being dependent on

neighbours or family members and find it difficult to accept offers of friendship from strangers. To need people is a sign of weakness. Nothing could be further from the truth!

On July 29th the Church marks the feast of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, companions of Our Lord. The gospels tell us that these three people were important figures in the life of Jesus. They offered him hospitality; Mary anointed his feet; and as he was known to love them, and to weep at the death of Lazarus, we can assume that they also gave him the emotional support and friendship that even Jesus, Son of God yet totally human, needed. If Christ himself needed human friendship, how much more so do all of us.

Although lockdown continues and is likely to do so for some time to come, it is being gradually relaxed. More shops are opening, schools are resuming, albeit with restrictions. Churches are opening for private prayer. There are more permitted circumstances in which family members and friends can meet, provided social distancing is observed. It looks as if, very slowly, life is beginning to return to some semblance of pre-lockdown times.

Provided the process is managed sensibly and safely, we will all welcome this and be glad to move out of lockdown, but it's important that we bear in mind one important fact: not everybody's loneliness was caused by Covid-19! This pandemic has made us aware of loneliness, but many people suffered it long before we'd heard of Coronavirus!

As life makes its gradual return to normal, we must take care not to allow these people to slip back out of our consciousness. Those people we're helping now, might still appreciate a phone call even when they can shop for themselves. Indeed, they might still appreciate somebody offering to do their shopping even when the government and health experts are saying they are allowed to do it for themselves.

Coronavirus has thrown many challenges at us all, not least of which is to rally round and look after each other, becoming friends to our neighbours. Perhaps an even greater challenge lies ahead; how to maintain and sustain these new friendships and spirit of community when the need is no longer quite so obvious.

Sarah

“Thank you”

Many thanks to everyone who contributes to the magazine and to the Team's spiritual and practical awareness during this difficult time.

Susan Parkes

In Memoriam July

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
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

Additions to In Memoriam are not automatic but must be specifically requested via the clergy.

In memoriam items are included until the fortieth anniversary.
An extension may be requested by family or friends of those named.

Information from the church registers will be published when the lockdown ends.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in July

Friday 3rd July: Thomas the Apostle

Sunday 5th July: The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 12th July: The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 19th July: The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Wednesday 22nd July: Mary Magdalene

Saturday 25th July: James the Apostle

Sunday 26th July: The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Wednesday 29th July: Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Companions of Our Lord

Go to page 33 to see what's exciting Phil in the liturgical calendar for July.

Collect for 29th July

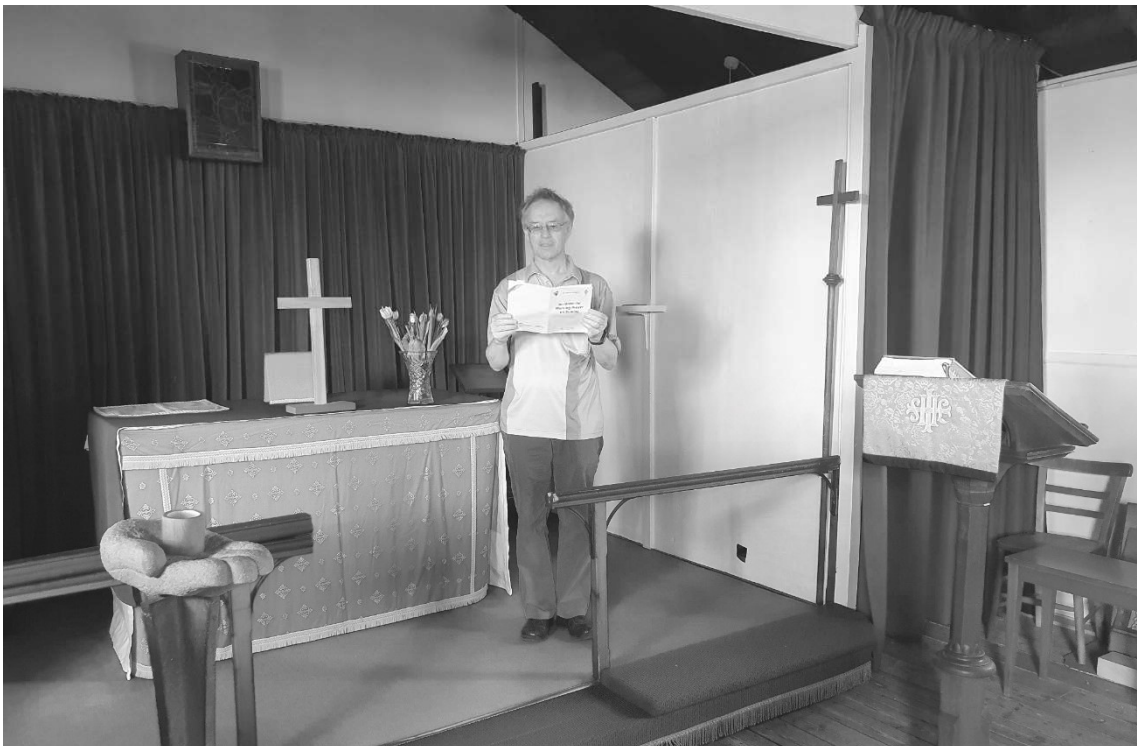
God our Father,
whose Son enjoyed the love of his friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus,
in learning, argument and hospitality:
may we so rejoice in your love that the world may come to know
the depths of your wisdom, the wonder of your compassion,
and your power to bring life out of death;
through the merits of Jesus Christ, our friend and brother,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Prayer in our churches

Following the announcement by the Church of England that private prayer by the clergy and worship leaders could resume in our churches, our clergy and ALMs have been in all our churches each Sunday.



We showed pictures from St John's and St Michael's last month. Here are pictures from St Clement's and St David's.



Graham Evans

Reflection from Phil Bradford

It is hard for me to remember the most afraid I have ever been.

The first time I was aboard a plane, gathering speed along the runway, was fairly terrifying for a sixteen-year-old who had no idea how the metal tube was going to get airborne, let alone stay that way for four hours.

The moment I stood on the edge of a Scottish cliff, my back to the drop I was about to walk into, supported by only a rope, is not one I am in any hurry to repeat.

The dark, airless claustrophobia of scrambling through the Cu Chi Tunnels in Vietnam can only have been undertaken as a moment of madness.

Staring into the face of an adult male lion in the African desert, close enough to reach out and touch, his mane stained with blood from the night's kill, was one of the most thrillingly nerve-wracking moments of my life.

Perhaps, though, nothing has ever surpassed the dread I felt every time I had to prepare myself to speak in public, the leaden feeling I got in my stomach in anticipation every time I had to face the ordeal, until well into my thirties. All are different kinds of fear, which some will recognise and others not. We all have our own particular sources of dread. I rather like spiders, but some would run in fear; some like throwing themselves off bridges attached to an elastic band, an idea which leaves me in a cold sweat.

Fear is an important and natural part of being human.

There are things of which we are rightly afraid through experience and common sense. Millions of years of evolution has allowed us to realise we need to be wary of venomous snakes or that walking off cliffs is generally a bad plan.

Very few fears are completely irrational; it is fear which can save our lives. We need to bear that in mind when we confront the Biblical passages exhorting us not to be afraid. They are not a licence for idiocy, to engage in stupidity with some misguided hope that God will save us from it like some Olympian deity capriciously manipulating human affairs. Rather, when we read this beautiful passage from Isaiah, we are reminded that life can be incredibly difficult and we face all manner of problems, but that God is with us through them and that his love will ultimately triumph.



*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.*

As human beings, we rightly fear certain things. As Christians, we may experience fear, but we must overcome our fear of being human and living in God's love. It is very easy to allow fear of life to paralyse us to the point where we fail to live, for God calls us to fullness of life in our humanity.

It is a point we desperately need to cling to right now, for fear has gripped this world and is omnipresent.

For more than three months, fear has been the predominant emotion on people's faces. We were already living in a dangerous climate where people were afraid of difference, reflected in the growth of racism, xenophobia, homophobia and all manner of other intolerance.

Since March, however, social distancing has led to a fear of all other people. Witness it as people give each other a wide berth on the pavement. Witness it in queues outside supermarkets. Witness it in a thousand everyday situations. An overwhelming fear of death has led to us merely existing, not living, to stave off death, fearing other people as agents of that death.

A species which needs contact and human warmth has been reduced to biological units of primal fear, afraid of anything human because our own non-deaths have become the all-consuming priority.

That is why at some point, we must move beyond this. There may be good reasons for social distancing for a period, but ultimately it is nothing more than the most visible sign of the fear which grips us.

The Christian counter to fear is hope, hope in the God of love whose way will ultimately triumph. It is that hope which we must bring to our world of fear, to help people live once again as human beings in community and communion.

Phil Bradford

“Tell us what you want!”

Ok, so it's not the best quote I could find but it hits the mark.
We have started planning for some fun times and we need your help.

Shhhh! There's talk of Christmas.

Anyone fancy a coach trip?

Anyone fancy a

'Good Old Days'

(Shhhh! Christmas) talk and cake extravaganza?

We need your ideas and we need them now!

The Black Country Museum, Blists Hill and Abbey-Cwm-Hir have all been requested but what do you want, really, really want?

Paul Harding and Discover History have been spending their time creating new talks and have some exciting new ideas for us.

But tell us what you want, what you really, really want!

Get in touch with us on email
nannyouse@gmail.com

Virtual huge hugs and we will see you all soon, cake or raffle tickets in hand ready to serve.



Tracey Ward

Dines Green Summer Holiday Community Café

At the beginning of the year a group of people from West Worcester churches and Hope Church got together to discuss how we could help the large number of disadvantaged families living on the Dines Green Estate. We particularly wanted to help parents whose children receive free school meals during term time, to provide nutritious meals during the long school summer holiday.

To get us started, St Clements Church donated the remaining £900 from their Lottery funding and other grants were successfully applied for, making this a feasible venture.

Then Covid-19 and Lockdown struck!

Far from removing the need, however, this has increased, as many families have reduced incomes and the children have been at home for an even longer period of time. We are, therefore, still hoping to operate the scheme although we have obviously had to rethink the exact format it will have. For instance, instead of having a café, we will have to operate a take-away service.

At the moment, we are trying to find suitable premises which not only have adequate facilities, but are also large enough to allow volunteers to observe appropriate social distancing.

Assuming that all difficulties are overcome, and we are able to go ahead with this scheme, we will be looking for volunteers. If this is something you would be able to help with and would like more details, please contact Philip Evans, Phil Bradford or me.

Sarah Cottrill

“Thank you”

Our thanks to subscribers who have been receiving their magazine electronically; reducing the number of paper copies has eased the pressure on our distribution resources. If an electronic copy really does not work for you, please let us know and we will see what we can do.

You are invited...

... to take a virtual tour of Christopher Whitehead Language College. This was prepared for year 6 students who will be joining CWLC in September, but everyone is invited to have a look. Go to

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUf_IfdiGno

Graham Evans.

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To advertise in the magazine

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

An advert can be full-page, half-page or quarter-page in size and the booking can be from one month to one year.

If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell on 01684 893397 or by email at sue.hussell@talktalk.net.

Bookshop re-opening

Daisychain Benevolent Fund bookshop is welcoming customers from 22nd June and is following Covid-19 social distancing guidelines which means that there will be some changes to the access into the shop and inside too, to ensure that customers, staff and volunteers feel safe while they shop and work.



We greatly appreciate that many of our customers have taken the opportunity of lockdown to clear out their bookshelves. Initially, donations will only be accepted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to meet infection control guidelines. We will be happy to receive donations at the back entrance, accessible via the car park opposite Sainsbury's. Donors will be asked to place their donation in designated areas where they will remain for 72 hours prior to handling.

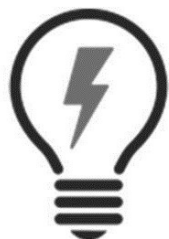
The shop opening hours have been slightly modified to allow staff to restock the shelves while the shop is empty. The shop will be open 10-4 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and 11-4 on Wednesdays and Fridays.

We are introducing an email address (dbfbookshopworcester@gmx.com) to enable customers to make book requests and if the books are available we will hold the books for collection.

We are looking for more volunteers to help in the shop, so anyone who can spare a few hours a week to help support us, please get in touch either in person or via email.

Finally, thank you to all our customers who have supported us in the past and we look forward to welcoming you again soon.

*Julia Harrington
Shop Manager*



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New classes starting in St John's

Don't fall for it! Fight back!

CYBER security experts have been lifting the lid on some of the online scams which the British public have reported to a pioneering new Suspicious Email Reporting Service.

Emails reported to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) include callous attempts by criminals to exploit the coronavirus through fake offers of face masks and testing kits.

The NCSC has shared some examples of what it has removed with the help of the reporting service. These include:

- Scam web pages that have been flagged up include mock-ups of official GOV.uk and TV licencing websites. Visitors are lured into giving their billing information to scammers posing as these legitimate organisations.
- There have also been scam web pages purporting to sell coronavirus linked bogus products such as testing kits, face makes and even vaccines. The NCSC noted a rise in cyber crime exploiting the coronavirus pandemic last month.

You too can report any messages that you suspect to be fakes or scams to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service. Simply forward any suspect emails to:

report@phishing.gov.uk

If emails forwarded are found to link to malicious content, this will be taken down or blocked, helping prevent future victims of crime. In just over two weeks, the public passed on more than 160,000 suspect emails and more than 1,400 links to scams were removed.

Ciaran Martin, Chief Executive of the NCSC, said:

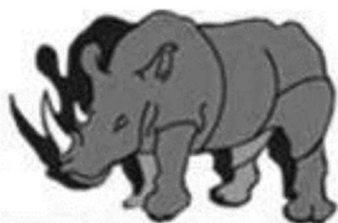
“This really is a phenomenal response from the British public. I would like to thank them for embracing our reporting service as well as the many organisations which have promoted it.

“While cyber criminals continue to prey on people’s fears, the number of scams we have removed in such a short timeframe shows what a vital role the public can play in fighting back.

“I would urge people to remain vigilant and to forward suspect emails to us. If it looks too good to be true, it probably is.”

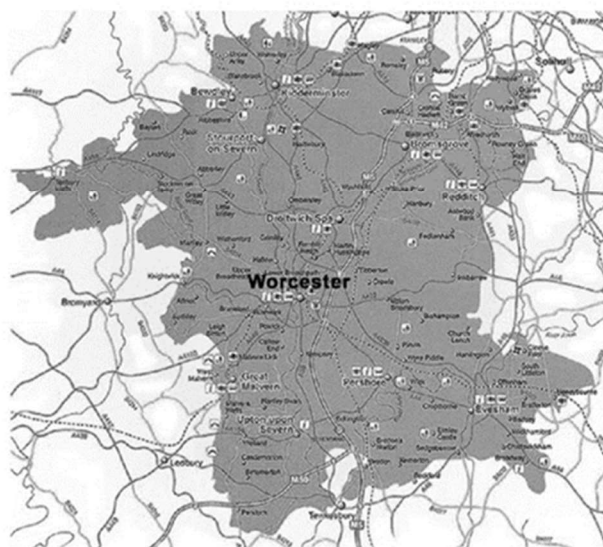
You can also report fraud and Cybercrime at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

National Cyber Security Centre



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Mind the Yucca

We are all missing seeing our church friends and look forward to the day when we can resume services and coffee mornings at St David's Church. I think it will be quite a long while yet.

Dan & Emma who live next door to St David's have rented the piece of land behind the church from the owners. They have made a wonderful vegetable garden and also have chickens. If you are passing on your daily exercise walk, pop down the side of the church and have a look. Take care when passing the



pointed leaves of the yucca plant!

Brian and I are lucky enough to manage a daily walk and we often walk along the riverside path to Ferry Steps. There has been a swan sitting on a nest along there since the beginning of lockdown! According to Google, incubation is 42 days so we are not quite sure what is happening! Watch this space!

Thanks to David Ricketts who has continued to grow plants for our May Fayre which didn't happen! Thanks also to Pat Lloyd who has collected cash from folk who've bought the plants and delivered it to me! Well done everyone!

Ginny Harrison & Maureen Ovington

Sudoku Puzzle

*Copyright 2011
KrazyDad.com*

*The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.*

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

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Updates from France

23rd May (3pm): There are now only TWO categories - red & green - red in Paris and some areas around it.

Because of a legal challenge in the courts, the "déconfinement" (exit from lock down for the churches) starts this Wednesday, so there will be some public celebrations of Pentecost in the churches [though distancing still applies!]

We have to supply hand cleanser at the entrance(s), the celebrant must wear protective gloves to hand the "host" to communicants, which must be placed in their hands and cannot be placed on the tongue as was the practice in many areas! Coins placed in the collection plate (not soft pouches) must be cleansed, and, together with notes, must be stored safely for 48 hours BEFORE counting to avoid virus transmission via solid surfaces. There may yet be other measures introduced in the light of experience! In our churches I have had to add printed arrows to the floor information and I'm in the process of making new notice boards for the information of visitors to give clear guidance on the internal procedural arrangements.

Hopefully this information will be useful too as the UK comes out of severe restrictions. "Vive le déconfinement des églises en Angleterre."

23rd May (7.30pm): The churches in France will be open for public worship tomorrow! The Order was signed in the Senate today. We shall be able to celebrate Pentecost Sunday therefore. The distancing controls will still be in place of course.

24th May: Pictures as an update on preparation for services, taken before 9am Mass this morning. A view of the Nave from the altar towards the door. Then the font - which does NOT have water in it [not permitted] but has a self-service hand sanitiser bottle!



There will be Masses in both our major churches in the parish on Pentecost Sunday - at St Martial it will be Saturday evening beforehand.

With warm greetings from Lacombrade (24C this afternoon!)

30th May: 24 out of 32 places taken for the first Mass since the opening of churches - at St Martial - all at 2metres distancing, & all wearing masks!



8th June: I was at the church at Latronquiere for Trinity Sunday - a 9.30am Mass with a newly established deacon and our local Curé Jean-Pierre Rigal.

There were about 40 people present, some in family groups. Mum/Dad/4 children was the largest and others were suitably socially distanced!

I am at Lacapelle later this morning and will take some pictures there to how it is organised there in fixed pews (so different to Saint Martial where we have chairs).

On Thursday I have another Vespers Service with the special prayers for memoir of Saint Barnabas.

On Sunday 14th, after Sunday services, we have a round table with all the deacons, assistants and the Curé, to discuss the future planning and the visit of the Bishop - scheduled for 8th to 14th December (for which I shall be in the UK).

There has been a consultation with the local church committees about services (in January) which needs reflection/discussion. (as with the UK it is about the art of the possible - since demand is always greater than supply of time and personnel!)

8th June (This morning at Lacapelle): Looking towards the south door. All doors open today. Taken just after the end of the local market! Church of St Mary and All Saints (translated).

Just across the road from this church is the Post Office above which are the offices of the Parish and the apartment that is the presbytery.

This is the main church for the groups of parishes - so they get larger congregations - there is no limit here IF socially distanced!

You will see the distancing is less here - 1 metre because of the nature of the chairs-all-attached!



Mass here every Sunday at 11am - children's catechism every Tuesday afternoon(after school hours) - young person's activities on Fridays in the early evening. All this has restarted since 1st June. Average group size 10 - 15. The next nearest meeting place for such activity is at Figeac about 35kms away (nearest large town to Lacapelle).

Relative sizes - Sabadel-Latronquiere (95 inhabitants) ; Lacapelle-Marival (1900 inhabitants); Figeac (8500 inhabitants).

11th June (St Martial - Fete de St Barnabé): Altar set for our Mass at 9am this morning - Saint Barnabas - with our "prière ecumenique" including the prayer for "St Jean en Bedwardine d'Angleterre" as well as the collect for today which I was able to add in English!

The saints' day altar cloth was made by Margaret as were the other elements on the altar - so quite a contribution from Worcester!!



*With you all in prayer
Arthur Miller*

Notes from the choir



To carry on a bit of a theme from these notes last month, we are still dealing with a new way of working and socialising despite some lifting of the lockdown restrictions. The digital age continues apace! Teaching, meetings, quizzes, family get-togethers, workout sessions and many, many more activities are online. Even church services are streamed and there are many choirs who are not able to sing together physically but have managed to do so digitally.

There is nothing, though, that can replace that feeling of being together in person and singing with a group of friends. Singing draws people together and those who might be strangers to begin with soon find friendship and fellowship blossoming through being in a choir. When one person feels down, others can lift the spirits and the feeling of being one with the music can ease the distress. Tiredness can be replaced by renewed energy and there is always lots of laughter to be had!

In these difficult times perhaps the words of the singer, activist and philanthropist Clay Aiken make some sort of sense and tell us how, through the power of music and the power of the friendships music can forge, the world can really be a better place: ‘A song can be more than words and music...when sung with soul, a song carries you to another world, to a place where no matter how much pain you feel, you are never alone’.

This month’s music recommendation retrospectively reflects the celebration of St Peter and Paul’s day in the Church’s calendar at the end of June. Palestrina was an influential composer in 16th century Italy and his beautiful setting of *Tu es Petrus* is well worth listening to. And for those of you who are missing the organ there is a wonderful piece by the French composer Henri Mulet called *Tu es Petra*.

Luise Horrocks

Update from Worcester Cathedral

Worcester Cathedral re-opened on Monday 22nd June 2020 for individual prayer and reflection. Initially, the Cathedral is open every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Measures to keep people safe will include limiting entry to just the Nave, limiting the number of people allowed inside at any one time, much reduced seating in the Nave, hand sanitisers at appropriate points, cleaning throughout the day and systematic cleaning at the end of each day, and new signage to remind people of the health and safety around social distancing. The Cathedral Cloister Café, shop and the toilets will not be open at this time and will be part of a later phase.

Slowly re-opening



On Thursday 18th June, St Michael's was the first of the group churches to be able to open its doors for general private prayer. This was followed by St John's on Monday 22nd June.



Graham Evans

Diddy Disciples

Hello everyone!

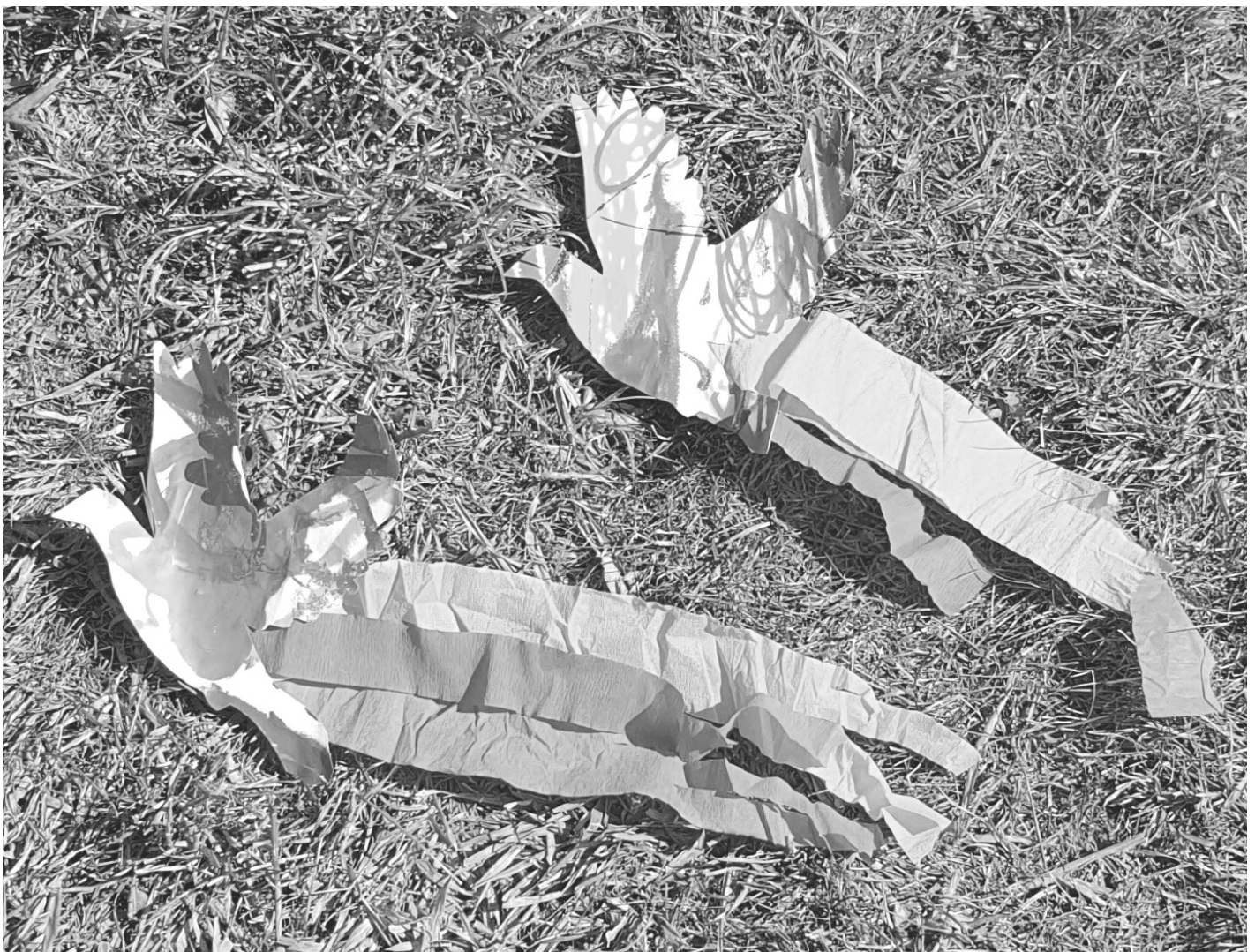


We've been continuing to tour the churches of the group this past month and we are still enjoying filming Diddy Disciples for all our friends.

If you've watched a service you'll see that filming with two small children does present its challenges....



This month's unexpected challenges included the beetle of St Michael's and some tricky Trinity questions – there's a reason I'm not a vicar!



With some of the changes in lockdown rules we're starting to allow ourselves to look forward to the time when we can worship together in church and share the children's learning with you in person.

*Speak soon,
Amy, Chris, Abigail and Matilda Rees*

Zooming in for worship



The West Worcester Group held its first Zoom service on Ascension Day and has since held further services to celebrate Pentecost and St John's patronal festival.

As you can see, the Ascension Day service was well attended, with more people than Zoom could show at once. In addition to the 36 people that you can see above, Liz Forman was definitely there as she was doing the practical side of hosting. I'm sure I remember Mel, Cecil and Joyce, and Margaret being at the service too (and my apologies to anyone else I've forgotten).



The Pentecost service was hosted by Liz Forman and she ably handled putting us all into break-out rooms before and after the service, which allowed us some social time in addition to the worship which was at the heart of the occasion.

We all look forward to when we can be back together in person, but in the meantime these virtual services have been a very welcome opportunity for us to get together.

Thank you to all who have been involved in making them happen.

Graham Evans

New Archbishop of York to be confirmed



Bishop Stephen Geoffrey Cottrell will be confirmed as the 98th Archbishop of York this month.

The service, at 11am on Thursday 9th July, will be broadcast entirely via video conference due to the Coronavirus restrictions. The service will be available on the Church of England website. Arrangements for Bishop Stephen's enthronement service will be announced later in the year.

The service, which had been due to take place in York Minster, will be in two parts. A legal ceremony with readings, prayers and music, will be followed by a film marking the start of Bishop Stephen's ministry as Archbishop of York.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell says: "I am looking forward to beginning my ministry as the 98th Archbishop of York. This isn't quite how I imagined it would begin. It is certainly the first time an Archbishop's election will have been confirmed via video conference. But we're all having to re-imagine how we live our lives and how we inhabit the world.

"These are difficult times. My hope is that through this service the love of God that is given us in Jesus Christ will shine out, perhaps even to those who while never attending a service in York Minster, might have a look online.

Following in the footsteps of my many predecessors, I look forward to serving our nation and bringing the love and peace of Christ to our world, especially here in the north.”

Words courtesy of Parish Pump / Image Church of England website

I hope to help the church be more joyful and more effective in sharing the gospel and bringing hope and unity to our nation.

Bishop Stephen Cottrell

Biography

Born in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, in 1958, Stephen Cottrell was educated at Belfairs High School, Leigh-on-Sea, and the Polytechnic of Central London. He found faith as a teenager through the work of youth organisations in his local church.

After a brief spell working in the film industry, he began training for ministry at St Stephen’s House, Oxford, in 1981 and was ordained deacon at the age of 26. He later studied for an MA with St Mellitus College.

Serving his curacy in Christ Church and St Paul’s, Forest Hill, south London, in the mid-1980s he was priest-in-charge at St Wilfrid’s, in Parklands, a council estate parish in Chichester from 1988 to 1993. He also served as Assistant Director of Pastoral Studies at Chichester Theological College at the same time.

He then moved to West Yorkshire, as Diocesan Missioner and Bishop’s Chaplain for Evangelism in the Diocese of Wakefield and in 1998 he took up the role of Springboard Missioner and Consultant in Evangelism. During his time in the diocese he adopted Huddersfield Town as his team alongside his beloved Spurs.

In 2001, he was called south to become Canon Pastor of Peterborough Cathedral and three years later was consecrated as Bishop of Reading. He took up his current role as Bishop of Chelmsford in 2010.

Author of more than 20 books including children’s books, he enjoys poetry, music and art. His 2013 book on the artist Stanley Spencer, *Christ in the Wilderness*, prompted a recent podcast reflection with Russell Brand, discussing the crucifixion and resurrection.

A founding member of the Church of England’s College of Evangelists, he chairs a group of bishops with an interest in the media and is one of the authors of the Church of England’s Pilgrim course, a major teaching and discipleship resource.

Stephen is married to Rebecca, who is a potter. They have three sons.

Condensed from the Church of England website

Update from Peru

Greetings again, from a rather dismal Lima. Winter has arrived - grey skies, high humidity and cool temperatures. No central heating, so 14C outside means about the same inside. We wrap up warm!

When you read this, the situation here may have changed, but right now Covid-19 still causes concern, and the number of deaths continues to rise. Please pray for hospitals, some of which have now collapsed. Problems with supplies, especially of oxygen mean some people being cared for at home (in the absence of sufficient hospital beds) have died because oxygen (bought by relatives, often at vastly inflated prices) is not available.



Despite the fact that numbers are not yet decreasing, lockdown IS being lifted gradually. For those now able to work, albeit not much, this is a huge relief.

However, many still have no income, and our system of vouchers to be used at a local market stall continues. Recipients have changed; some of those who received earlier now have money (therefore no longer need the vouchers), whereas others who DID have savings now have nothing.

It was a surprise and joy when someone who had received vouchers cashed in her pension fund, and gave some money back to the market stall, in gratitude and in order to help others still suffering.

We are also now providing economic support for a local “comedor” (soup kitchen), about to restart and (in order to meet the increased need) requiring more than the government/council supplies; the government recently announced a 50% increase in funding for this scheme so hopefully increased supplies will arrive sooner rather than later.



A grateful family



Stall with new protocol for protection

As in the UK, no meetings are allowed yet, and we continue to minister to all those we can through technology available – telephone calls, WhatsApp and Zoom. For children, Aprendo con Pedro – I learn with Peter –ends on Saturday after 50 sessions, with a Diocesan Zoom meeting. Participants will include all of the children who have followed Peter during the past 10 weeks. Online schoolwork means many children no longer have time to do activities daily, so the next series (the patriarchs) will be sent out 3 times a week plus Sundays.

We give thanks for those learning much more about the Lord and pray that they will remain firm, despite the difficult times. We are convinced that God does not change and that His love and power will uphold us and them.

With thanks for your concern and prayers

*God bless you all too,
Juan Carlos and Penny Marcés*

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Will it be dry on 15th July?

It is impossible to resist opening July with two sixth-century men commemorated on the 1st in the Celtic lands: **Serf** in Scotland and **Euddogwy** in Wales.

To recover from such excitement, we are allowed the next day off, before we come to the feast of the apostle **Thomas**, unfairly remembered for his doubting, on the 3rd (unless you are using the BCP, in which case it is 21st December).



*Llanbeblig Hours:
A bishop, possibly
St. Peblig*

You may accuse me of making these up, but my book assures me that on the 4th, Wales remembers Abbot **Peblig of Llanbeblig**; alternatively, 4th July 2020 marks ten years since I was ordained deacon (not that this features in the Church of England calendar yet). You may start to wonder if the lectionary needed to fill some gaps in July by the time we reach the 6th and recall the distinctly obscure **Palladius** (Scotland) and **Moninne of Killeavy** (Ireland). If you prefer, that date is also the commemoration of **John Fisher**, the bishop of Rochester executed in 1535 for opposing Henry VIII (no mention is made of another man executed around the same time, as neither Sarah nor I acknowledge his sainthood).

Via **Kilian**, an Irish bishop to whom many cathedrals in pre-Reformation Austria and Germany were dedicated, on the 8th, we arrive at **Benedict of Nursia** on the 11th. Known as the ‘father of western monasticism’, Benedict was the sixth-century Abbot of Monte Casino and it is from him that the Rule of St Benedict, and consequently the Benedictine order, takes its name.

An obscure Scot named either **Drostan** or Tristan occupies the 12th and **John Keble**, one of the founders of the Oxford Movement, the 14th. On the 15th, we all need to hope it doesn’t rain, for it is St Swithun’s Day. The remains of **Swithun**, a ninth-century bishop of Winchester, were moved in 971 to a new shrine in the cathedral, despite warnings of terrible storms if this was done; the legend goes it then rained for forty days, and that if it rains on St Swithun’s Day we can expect a repeat of this Biblical-style inundation, although after last February I doubt it would surprise us much.

The 16th brings us to **Osmund**, Norman bishop of

Continued on page 35

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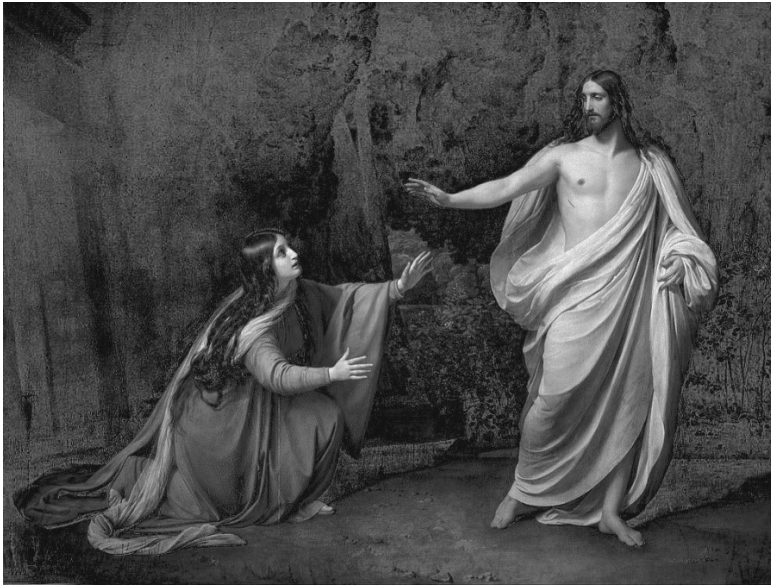
TO THIS COMMUNITY and SURROUNDING AREAS

The Coach House, 30 Bromyard Road, Worcester. WR2 5BT.



Continued from page 33. Salisbury (then located at what is now Old Sarum) and involved in the compilation of Domesday Book. We recall the first deaconess of the Church of England (licensed in 1862), **Elizabeth Ferard**, on the 18th, followed by **Bishop Gregory of Nyssa** and his sister **Macrina**, teachers of the faith in the fourth century, on the 19th.

A commemoration is set aside on the 20th for **Bartolomé de las Casas**, a 16th century Spanish theologian and Dominican priest who challenged the inhuman and unjust treatment of natives in the Americas during the Spanish Conquest.



The 22nd is a festival as we remember **Mary Magdalene**, first witness to the resurrection and one of Jesus' prominent female disciples.

By way of **Bridget of Sweden**, fourteenth-century abbess of Vadstena (the 23rd), we arrive at the feast of **James** on the 25th. This apostle is often known as James the Great, to distinguish him from the other James among

the disciples (James the Less, celebrated with Philip on 1st May), and he is the one commemorated at Santiago de Compostela in Galicia (where, with my spoilsport hat on, I have to say he is most definitely not buried).

The 26th sees **Anne and Joachim**, parents of the Virgin Mary; while Mary must have had parents, the names are not historically attested and seem to have been invented in the second century. It would be churlish of me not to mention **Brooke Foss Westcott** on the 27th, a nineteenth-century bishop of Durham after whom my theological college was named and whose correspondence spent a term under my bed while I was there after I rescued it from a basement.

For the 29th, we have **Mary, Martha and Lazarus**, the siblings who feature several times in the gospels.

Appropriately in current circumstances, the 30th marks a commemoration of a trio of anti-slavery campaigners: **William Wilberforce** is well known, **Olaudah Equiano** and **Thomas Clarkson** less so.

Finally, on the 31st, those of a certain persuasion may want to remember **Ignatius of Loyola**, the Basque founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), although in Wales space is found for **Joseph of Arimathea**.

Phil Bradford



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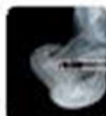
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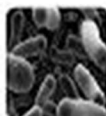
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Extracts from Wendy's 1982 scrapbook

July 1st - Bible group super. Bessie led at Nancy's. We talked of friendship and breaking the ice.

Friday July 2nd - Service lovely. Spoke to Frank about Broadheath. Jim asked how I was.

Sunday 4th July - Lovely sermon by Frank. The rich young man. He was willing to go so far, so are we. A part of our lives we will not surrender to God. God is interested in what we are, not what we do.

8th July - Group at Lees. Jim there. I led on Pentecost 5. From the opening prayer: 'O how lucky we are to have you as our God and ever-present friend.'

Friday 9th July - Lovely communion service. Knelt by dear Judith and Owain Bell. I read O.T., Owain the epistle and Frank the Gospel. It was such a happy day.

Sunday 11th July - Frank at Powick church. Jim Leverton rang and asked me to read Luke 15.11-33. Jim preached on the prodigal son.

Sunday 18th July - Choral evensong, excellent sermon by Frank.

SUNDAY 18th JULY

The choir will lead our worship with a full Choral Evensong. The setting for Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis will be the popular "Stanford in Bflat". There will be familiar hymns and plenty of congregational participation.



The poster in the window says "MONDAY 12TH JULY"

Continued on page 41

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Continued from page 39

Thursday 22nd July - Group went to Rev. Patrick Hobson's at Shelsley Walsh and then after to Clifton vicarage.

Friday 25th July - good service led by Frank. He thanked Judith and I for going weekly.

Sunday 27th July - Rev Chris Green's farewell service at Dines Green. See things where we are.

Thursday 29th July - superb at Eileen Dowling's - her sister, Nancy, Stan + Joyce, Bessie + Arthur, Marney + me. Had a note from Judith and John at Lee Abbey. Arthur told us Jim will probably be going to Dines Green.

SUNDAY 25th JULY

The three parishes of West Worcester, St. Clements, St. Michaels, and St. Johns will share in a UNITED SERVICE AT ST. MICHAEL'S, DINES GREEN.

At the end of August the Revd. Christopher Green is leaving St. Michael's in order to take up an appointment on the staff of Worcester's School for the Blind.

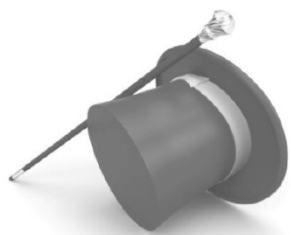
Chris was a schoolmaster before he became a priest. In his new appointment he will be able to use both sides of his professional ability. Already he has begun to master the skill of reading and writing in braille. He should be able to read his pupil's work!!

The various church councils all agreed to recognise that part which Chris has played in bringing the parishes of West Worcester closer together by organising this act of shared worship.

There will be NO EVENSONG AT ST. JOHN'S on SUNDAY 25th JULY. Lists for those needing transport to S. Michael's will be on the table at the Parish Church.



Above is the reflection in the window - turned around.



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Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for our library users

Six of Worcestershire's libraries are currently due to re-open on Saturday 4 July.

The re-opening of library buildings from 4 July will be carefully phased, managed and monitored in line with phase three of Central Government's relaxing of lockdown restrictions.

Libraries re-opening to customers during the first phase are:

The Hive, Redditch, Kidderminster, Malvern, Bromsgrove, Evesham.

Libraries will be unable to provide space for reading, studying, relaxing or meeting friends until social distancing restrictions are relaxed or removed. To ensure the safety of library customers and staff, several changes to service provision will be in place:

- A 'Reserve and Collect' service will replace browsing and borrowing in libraries - customers will be able to reserve items and collect them from a library that has re-opened
- A limited number of public computers will be available each day on a booking only basis
- All library items on loan can be returned to the libraries that are open - the return dates for all items on loan will be extended to 31 August 2020
- Library Service at Home customers will begin to receive book deliveries to their homes
- Library events will continue to be on hold due to social distancing restrictions but customers can access a wide range of online library activities, from streamed Storytimes and Rhyme Times, readers groups and computing clubs to business webinars and job-seeking support, at the Digital Library Hub

Customers are encouraged to continue using the Digital Library Hub to complement the limited services available in libraries.

Procedures for the Reserve and Collect service and how to make a PC booking will be communicated as we move closer to the July opening date.



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From the magazine archive (July 1953)

THE VICARAGE,

16th June, 1953.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

During the last few weeks the nation once again has seen history in the making. Through the medium of the wireless and television and in other ways, not only those in the Abbey and in the London streets but people throughout the nation and Empire were able to take their part in the most moving and impressive Service of the Consecration and Coronation of the Queen in the Abbey. To those who saw it the scene must have been unforgettable in its colour and splendour, and indeed to everyone of us that day was one when we realised more fully than before what a dignified act it is when a young woman as our Queen dedicates herself so sincerely to the service of her people. The obvious reflection to every mind was that the least we can do in loyalty and in trying to be at our best in our own sphere, is to forego many of our selfish aims and to try very hard to do more for the good of others.

On Coronation Sunday itself we had excellent congregations, and one felt an atmosphere of intense sincerity that we were taking the solemn act of Coronation in the right spirit. What we have to do now is to see to it that in coming back to the routine of common life, with all the flags and bunting taken down and with no sounds of bands or marching men, we do not forget the ideals which were clear to us then.

The Coronation also makes it plain that authority can only be rightly exercised with divine help; apart from God it will easily be perverted to selfish and evil purposes. A nation which forgets God soon becomes selfish and often tyrannical. The Coronation in a very real sense is a call to the nation to acknowledge the Sovereignty of God and to obey His laws. Who can tell what would happen in this confused world if there were one nation where the people were sincerely trying to dedicate themselves to human service without thought of their own individual aims? Let this be our humble desire and let that humble desire be expressed day by day in quiet and sincere prayer. So shall our Coronation live with us, and abiding power to live acceptably through these critical years through which we are passing.

Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM H. RICHARDS.

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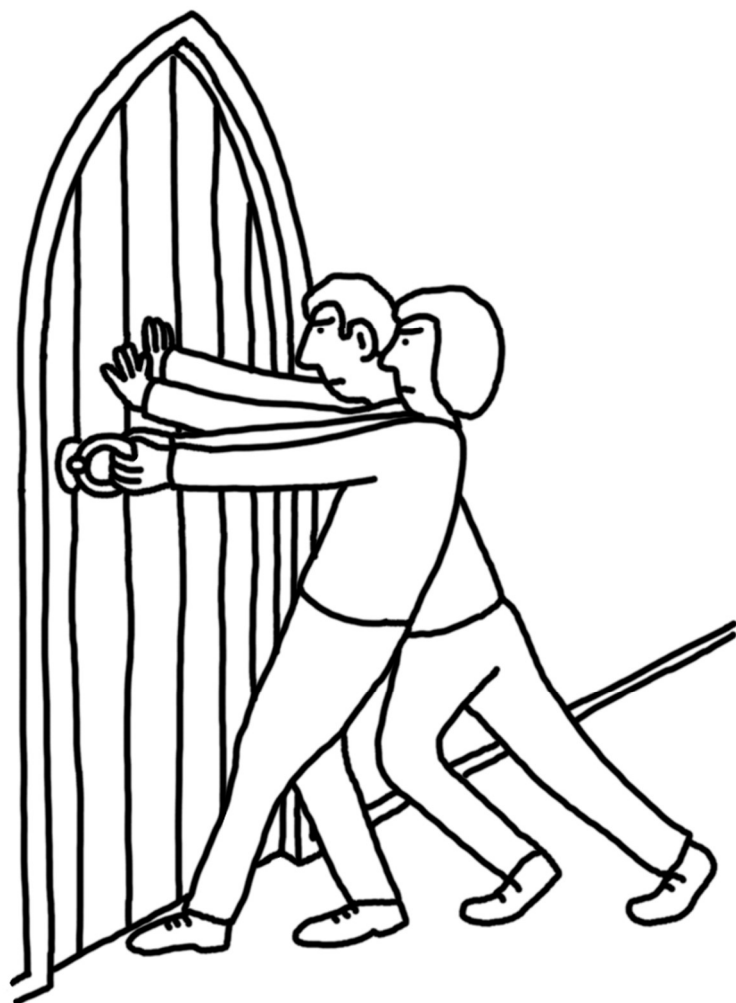
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Puzzle solution

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

And finally....



*The church
mice rather
liked having
the building to
themselves....*

*....and had
barricaded the
door.*

From 4th July, churches are permitted to reopen for public worship, subject to distancing guidelines and other restrictions, and weddings with a maximum of 30 guests. At the time of publication, St John's and St Michael's are open limited hours for private prayer. Clergy and ALMs continue to say private services in all the Group churches every week. While we hope to be able to reopen the churches for worship as soon as possible, we need to undertake appropriate risk assessments and ensure we are compliant with all regulations. As the situation will change rapidly in the next few weeks, please check our websites and Facebook pages, or the notices published on the church noticeboards and printed in the weekly pew sheets, for the latest information.

Phil Bradford and Sarah Cottrill