

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine
St Michael's



July/August 2022

50p

Sometimes life's journey can seem all uphill and hard work,

and then you can see the wonderful bigger picture that God has helped you achieve.



but take a minute to reflect when you do overcome those challenges

and are able to look back on what you have achieved

Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY

clergy@wcv.church

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

TEAM OFFICE

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

ON THE WEB

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

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

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

A plea from the editors

If you have received a subscription renewal notice with this magazine, please pay it promptly. That will save us the extra work of generating follow-ups and reminders.

Thank you!

A word from the Editors

Welcome to our July/August edition. Our theme for this month is “Journeys”. As Sarah says in her letter, this covers both physical journeys and our journey through life.

As you travel around this magazine, you will find lots of interesting items. Unsurprisingly, there are pictures and words about the Jubilee celebrations. Meshing neatly with the travel theme, there’s a report about the recent Oberammergau pilgrimage. Looking ahead, you might be attracted by the opportunity to Ride+Stride (see page 20). Or, if all this talk of travel has left you exhausted, there’s a quiet day coming in August (see page 11). See page 7 for details of other forthcoming events. Prayers for Ukraine are on page 13.

Sarah has given us one lovely blessing, but as this magazine covers a second month, we offer you a second blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition (September): Deadline is Sunday 14th August.
Distribution, towards the end of August.

Subscription form: Page 54.

Cover picture: Picture and words by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Sarah Cottrill, Philip Evans, Penny Marcés, Colin Nash, and Maureen Ovington.

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 54 or by taking a subscription form from the rack (where the magazines are) at the back of the church. Please return the form and your payment to the parish office.

Opinions!

Opinions expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of the authors concerned and may not represent the views of the editors, our PCCs or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

To advertise

Please see page 14.

From Sarah Cottrill

As we move into the summer, many of you will be going on journeys of one sort or another.

There will be holidays taken in various parts of this country and further afield; visits to family members and friends, and trips out to places of natural beauty or historical interest. Most of these journeys will have a fixed destination

and a set time to spend there before returning to your starting point.

Towards the end of the summer, some may have children or grandchildren making another sort of journey as they leave home to start university. This will be both a physical journey and a significant life journey as they experience a new level of independence, meet new people and follow new courses which will, eventually help to shape their future life.

The whole of human life is often described as a journey. From cradle to grave, we make our way through largely uncharted territory; others may have gone that way before but for each one of us, every experience is new, fresh and untried. It is, in turn, exciting and daunting; exhilarating and tedious; joyful and sad. And each one of us has a unique journey. No two people can ever have exactly the same journey because no two people are exactly the same; different personalities will view situations differently, respond to circumstances differently and create different paths. Just as we all choose different holiday destinations and different routes to get there, so our life journeys will be vastly different from those of the people around us.

Another journey is the one of Christian faith. Here we may all have the same ultimate destination in mind but, again, our routes there will be unique to us. For some, like me, the journey of faith began as a very young child and its origins are lost in the dim and distant past. Christian faith was part of your upbringing and although, at some point, you must have made the decision to continue along that path, you can't imagine ever travelling along any other. For some people, the start of the journey was very obvious; a definite point at which you decided to follow this path. Has the journey been an easy, uneventful one, a clear run up the motorway on a good day, or has it been more akin to those torturous trips along



country roads that bend and twist with steep hills that you struggle to negotiate and reach the top? Perhaps you've found yourself in a dip, with the fog coming in and the road ahead momentarily lost from sight?

For many of us, I suspect, our Christian journey has, like life in general, been a mixture of these. Times when we cruise along not really noticing the road; times when we're at the top of the hill, thrilled by the view and the feeling of being on the pinnacle; times when it's all a bit of a struggle or we can't quite see our way ahead. I am writing this letter on the eve of Trinity Sunday. On my desk is The Church Times, open at the page with a reflection on the readings for tomorrow. Cally Hammond has written:

“On Trinity Sunday we learn that “Truth” is our companion and destination with the Word (the Bible) our guidebook on the journey. The Holy Spirit is our sacred satnav; we input our intended goal, and the Spirit gives us directions. Even though sometimes we ignore the Spirit, thinking we know better, the Spirit exists only to get us home.”¹

For those of you taking a journey for a holiday over the coming months I wish you empty roads, calm seas, clear skies and trusty satnavs.

For all of us, I pray God's guidance on our journeys. that we will discern the way ahead he wants us to follow; that we will have faith to stay on that road, even when the hills seem steep and the fog surrounds us.

Finally, whether your journey be physical or spiritual this summer, these words of a traditional Irish blessing, seem an appropriate way to end:

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Sarah

¹ Cally Hammond: Light for the way ahead. Church Times, 10th June 2022

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
William Walter George Dow	24 August 1982

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 2022

St John's

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 13th April 2022 Sarah Richardson

d. 30th March 2022 Barbara Beach

SERVICES: Communicants 232. Total attendance at all services 465, including 164 at two funerals.

St Michael's

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

Carter Charles Hopkins- Brown

Mid-week services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for 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

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

--- 000 ---

Sunday 10th July, 2.30pm: Walking Church, details from Sarah Cottrill.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 13th July, 10am-11.30am: Little Blessings (***NB last meeting until September as Little Blessings is term time only***).

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 14th July, 1pm: Good Old Days talk, Pompeii, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 14th July, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group, see page 8 for details.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 18th July, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union, speaker Judith Grubb , President of Worcester Diocese.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 20th July, 3pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 22nd July: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 23rd July, 10.15am: Café at 10:15, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Tuesday 26th July: Coach trip to Weston-Super-Mare. Register your interest as this trip will book up fast and seats are limited. No deposit required. Sign-up sheets are available in church or email the office for further information.

--- 000 ---

(V) Saturday 6th August, 10am - 4pm: Quiet day, see page 11 for details.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 11th August, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group, see page 8 for details.

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

Many events are not running in August and will resume at their normal days and times in September.

West Worcester Friendship Group

The inaugural meeting of West Worcester Friendship Group took place on June 9th when five of us met to enjoy home-made cake, tea and, most important of all, a good chat!

This group is intended to offer friendship and support for those who have been bereaved but it is not a “Bereavement Support Group” as such. We don’t offer counselling of any sort – just friendship, tea, cake, and hopefully some light-hearted fun.

We will be meeting at St Michael’s Church on the second Thursday of each month from 2pm to 4pm and anybody is most welcome. Our next meeting will be on July 14th when we’ll be trying our luck at Bingo! Old hand or complete novice, why not come along? On Thursday 11th August, we’ll be having a quiz.

Sarah Cottrill

All Will Be Revealed

At the last session of our Lent Course, Phil and I rashly asked if there were any topics people would like to be covered in future courses and a request was made for a study of the Book of Revelation!

So, as people of our word, we will be running a course on this over a number of evenings – probably Wednesdays – in September. More details will be issued nearer the time.

Sarah Cottrill

Sundays and Principal Feasts in July/August

July Sunday 3rd: Thomas the Apostle

Sunday 10th: Fourth Sunday after Trinity / Sunday 17th: Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Friday 22nd: Mary Magdelene

Sunday 24th: Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Monday 25th: James the Apostle

Sunday 31st: Seventh Sunday after Trinity

August Saturday 6th: The Transfiguration of our Lord

Sunday 7th: Eighth Sunday after Trinity / Sunday 14th: Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Monday 15th: The Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 21st: Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Wednesday 24th: Bartholomew the Apostle

Sunday 28th: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Events at St John's



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Thursday 14th July 1pm

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Wednesday 20th July

at 3pm in the Church

ALL WELCOME

St John in Bedwardine



Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish

'Friendship and Thoughts'

At 10.15am on

**Saturday
23rd July**

ALL WELCOME



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on

Saturday 9th July

9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)

This month's speaker will be

Rachel Cramp

Reader in Training from St John the Baptist, Claines



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Quiet days for 2022-23

I have set aside four days over the next twelve months when I will be running quiet days at 7 Manor Road. Two of these will be based on a theme but not led, allowing freedom to drop in at any point and stay for as long or short a time as wanted; the other two will be slightly more formal, being led and with set times. All days will run 10am till 4pm. The dates and themes are below. Please contact me for full details.

August 6th 2022: Not led. Theme: Transfiguration

November 26th 2022: Led. Theme: Advent

February 25th 2023: Led. Theme: Lent

May 27th 2023: Not led. Theme: TBC

Sarah Cottrill

Will there be bangers?

A date for your diaries: The next Community Breakfast is on 5th November.

Jenny English

Congratulations Jenny and John

A little bird has told us that Jenny and John English celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary on 8th July! We send them many congratulations from us and from all their friends at St John's Church.

The editors

Thank you

Thank you for all your recycling donations. Our last bag raised £54 for church funds!

Joy Job

Worcester Talking News fund-raising initiative

“TWO'S COMPANY”, a local theatrical company, who regularly perform the popular play “Love Letters,” around the UK, is teaming up with a Worcester charity to help raise funds for the organisation.

The company will give a public performance of A.J. Gurney's play at St. Peter's Village Hall, Worcester on the evening of Saturday July 23rd 2022, the proceeds from which will all go to local charity, Worcester Talking News for the Blind.

Tickets for “Love Letters”, priced at £8.00 (with refreshments included in the price), are now available from the Tourist Information office in the Guildhall in Worcester city centre, telephone 01905 726311.

Stephen Buckley



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Prayer for Ukraine



This month we continue our prayers for Ukraine, the people, their way of life, their humanity, that are being challenged from every direction by the violence of war.

Lord Jesus, we pray for the people of Ukraine, especially remembering the elderly and infirm. Those who have had to and those who have chosen to remain in their homes and villages, caring for each other.

Lord Jesus Hear their prayer.

The people who live in the towns and villages of Ukraine hear the sounds of war day and night, as their lives are battered by an aggressive army that destroys everything in its path. They live with constant fear, for themselves and each other.

Lord Jesus Hear their prayer.

We pray, Lord, for all those in exile: Mothers trying to make a home, learn a new language and deal with the bureaucracy of a strange country, helping their children to adapt into new schools and make friends. We ask, Lord Jesus, that they will find support and help in all the new situations in which they find themselves.

Lord Jesus Hear their prayer.

Lord Jesus, we pray for all mothers and fathers who have lost their children during this war; that the agony in their hearts will be eased by the presence of your spirit. May they receive your strength to carry the burden of grief.

Lord Jesus Hear their prayer.

We ask, Lord, that mankind will find a way forward, that leads to peace.

Lord Jesus Hear our prayers today.

Jenny English



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

An advert can be full-page, half-page or quarter-page in size.

The booking can be from one month to one year.

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

Why does anyone become a Churchwarden (Mk2)?

As I embark on my eleventh year as Churchwarden at St John's, I thought that it would be a good time to follow up on my co-warden Joy's excellent piece (Mk1) in the March edition of this magazine.

I was first asked if I would consider the role in February of 2011. At that time I declined, mainly because I had only just started attending St John's the previous autumn. Still, the then incumbent wasn't easily dissuaded. By the time he asked me again early the following year, the PCC had appointed an Estates Manager. Realising that this would significantly reduce the day-to-day duties that had previously fallen to the churchwardens, this time I accepted the invitation.

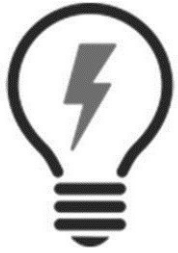
Happily, I received plenty of encouragement from other church members. I particularly recall the helpful guidance from one previous holder of the role – when I asked her if she had any advice to offer me, she replied that it was too late for that as I'd already signed up! And while I had understood that the maximum sentence permitted by the Church of England would be six years, I found out that this was a “rule” that could readily be waived by a simple APCM vote in the absence of other willing lambs.

More seriously though, I would echo Joy in saying that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Churchwarden. I have found it fulfilling and I am content to carry on for now. However, the six-year rule is there for a reason, so for the continuing health and wellbeing of our church, please do consider whether you might be prepared to bring fresh blood to bear to the role at some point in the future.

Much of what it entails is to support the duty Vicar or ALM in the smooth operation of our Sunday services. So, in order to assist your possible deliberation, I will use this opportunity to put up some advance tips on this aspect of the job based on personal experience:

- Check and double check the hymn numbers you put up on the boards. The leader will get confused if they differ from board to board or worse still if you have read them off the wrong sheet and they all relate to a previous week.
- Allow plenty of time before the start of the service to find and bookmark the readings of the day in the lectern Big Red Bible. That bible's indexing is interestingly cryptic: index entries appear in book of the bible order; they reference liturgical calendar days rather than page numbers and if a reading is used more than once in the year only its first

Continued on page 17



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Continued from page 15 occurrence is printed. And don't leave it until the last minute to discover that one of the readings comprised of disjointed verses from the book of Baruch. Appearing in the Apocrypha, such books are not included in either the Red Bible or the pew bibles. This can result in the vicar hurrying away to the office to find and print an online version, followed by the churchwarden trying to staple disparate segments together before the end of the Gloria.

- Carry out a cursory check that the service books you are issuing are all the same and are the current versions. Trespasses and Sins in the Lord's Prayer may boil down to the same thing, but it's best if everyone is praying from the same prayer sheet so to speak.

- It's probably preferable to light the altar candles during the second hymn rather than the fourth, but better still is to get it done before the service starts.

Notwithstanding such occasional frayed edges, I'd repeat that I have found the role of Churchwarden personally satisfying. Thank you to all of you who have done much to make it so, especially to Joy, my partner in crime for most of my tenure.

Gordon Templeton

Jubilee Misconceptions

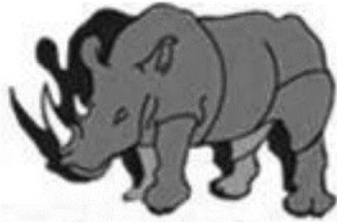
First, I would like to thank everybody who helped in any way at our Jubilee event in June. It was a wonderful community event with an extremely happy and friendly atmosphere.

I must, however, correct some misconceptions which have become known to me.

A range of delicious cakes were kindly made and donated by various church members and these were greatly appreciated by us all. It is not, however, true to say that everything else was donated apart from the band. The prizes for the art competition were kindly donated but the scones, jam and cream; the Prosecco for the Royal Toast, plates, platters and serviettes all had to be paid for. The band, who are professional musicians, gave us a discount of £50 because it was a free event and there is a family connection with one of the members. Their fee of £600, together with all other costs, was met through a successful bid for council funding of £1000 and not, as some believe, out of my personal pocket!

Please rest assured, your vicar will not be reduced to bread and water, or "selling her wares on the bridge" as a result of this event!

Sarah Cottrill



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St David's Spring Fayre

We were delighted to raise £900 at our Spring Fayre on 5th May. Thanks to all who supported us and all who donated prizes, items to sell, made cakes and marmalade, sewed items and grew plants!



Not forgetting all who helped to set up, manned stalls and cleared away. Money raised is vital to ensure we continue to have a church in Comer Gardens in which to worship. THANK YOU ALL!

Maureen Ovington

St Clement's School

As I have mentioned previously, our curriculum is underpinned by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and our vision for children 'To live, love and learn as global citizens in an ever-changing world.' We are very mindful that our work around the goals must be meaningful and relevant for our children. Recently, Year 6 have taken a walk around St Johns to explore the driving question of their unit, 'Is our local area sustainable?'

Here are a few of the things that they noticed:

SDG 2 Zero Hunger

- Food donation point at Sainsbury's

SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

- Solar panels on top of the Worcester Arena

SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing

- The reading block in the green space around St John's Church
- The pharmacy and health centre
- St John's Sports' Centre
- Defibrillators
- Cycle routes

The children will be using the information they gathered as well as other research to write to our local MP about what they feel could improve the area even further for the future. I hope you will agree that involving children in this kind of learning will help them to become the good citizens of the future as well as having an input in their local community.

Catherine Atkinson
Acting Headteacher, St Clement's School



*A day's retreat for
Ride+Stride!*

Saturday 10th September

Every year in September the National Churches Trust promotes the Ride+Stride. Ride+Stride is a sponsored cycle ride or walk in which people from all over the country walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside.

I am once again organising a route that will combine the Ride+Stride with a “Day Retreat”, incorporating the month’s activities for ‘St David’s Café Church’ and ‘Walking Church’. The route includes timetabled stops (shown in bold below) for Morning Prayer, Prayer During the Day, Café Church and Evening Prayer and will include quiet, riverside paths, well away from the roads to enjoy the sounds and sights of nature. We will visit or pass at least 8 churches. In total the route will be about 6.9 miles and we will start at 10am at St John’s for Morning Prayer and finish at St Clement’s at 5.30pm for Evening Prayer.

Plan for the day

10am	Morning Prayer	St John’s Church
10.30am	Walk 1	From St John’s Church to St Mark’s in the Cherry Orchard via the Diglis footbridge
11.45am	Bible reflection	St Mark’s in the Cherry Orchard
12.15pm	Walk 2 – <i>Walking Church</i>	From St Mark’s Church to St Philip & St James’ Church, Whittington
1pm	Prayer During the Day	St Philip & St James’ Church, Whittington
1.15pm	Lunch	Picnic lunch around Whittington Church <i>or</i> lunch in the Swan at Whittington.
2.15pm	Walk 3	From Whittington Church to St Martin’s, London Road
3pm	Café Church	St Martin’s, London Road
4.15pm	Walk 4	From St Martin’s to St Clement’s <i>via the Cathedral</i>
5.30pm	Evening Prayer	St Clement’s Church

Please note: Final timings and meeting points for prayer activities will be confirmed nearer the time. Please contact me (Philip Evans) to ask for full details.



The plan is for a group to walk the route with people joining for all or part of the walk and other people joining in for some or all the prayer activities.

How you participate is up to you! You could:

- Walk the full route with us and join in with all the prayer activities.
- Drive or cycle between the stopping points and just join in with the prayer activities.
- Just join in with one prayer activity.
- Walk with the group and enjoy the countryside but not join in with the prayer activities.
- Do this as a “sponsored” activity and seek sponsors and fundraise for whichever church you choose, or you could join in and treat it wholly as a Retreat.

Anyone who wishes to join in will need to bring their own food or drink or buy it en route.

If you would like to find out more or sign up, please speak to me or email me at philip.evans@wcw.church.

Philip Evans

Jubilee Flowers

On Friday 27th May the church was a hive of activity as the Flower Ladies were at long last putting together their special creations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In the weeks leading up to the day a lot of discussion and planning took place. There were also quite a few headaches too! Due to the Bank Holiday falling on a Friday we had to do the arrangements a week early and just hope that they would last well.

Each arrangement had a special significance to the reign of Her Majesty and here are pictures of a selection of them, taken by Colin Nash.

We were also mindful that the celebrations coincided with Pentecost. We had a wonderful supply of flowers including some unusual exotic ones such as the Bird of Paradise and also Protea which were used to denote the Commonwealth.

We hope you enjoyed looking at the displays and appreciated all our efforts!

Joy Job

In the porch – Platinum Jubilee

By the entrance – Welcome to Church



On the
high altar –
Coronation



At the font – Baptism



In the Lady Chapel -
The Commonwealth

Platinum Jubilee

Celebration



It was perhaps inevitable, after the Golden and Diamond Jubilees, that the weather would realise what was happening and once more create problems for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. While London stayed dry for Trooping of the Colour and the Jubilee Concert (complete with the Queen's tea with Paddington Bear), the rest of the country was not so lucky for the celebrations on Sunday. Although we had planned celebratory tea and cake in the

churchyard for the afternoon of 5th June, one look at the weather forecast on Saturday convinced us to hold the event inside the church. As rain poured down from leaden skies on the Sunday morning, the decision was fully justified.

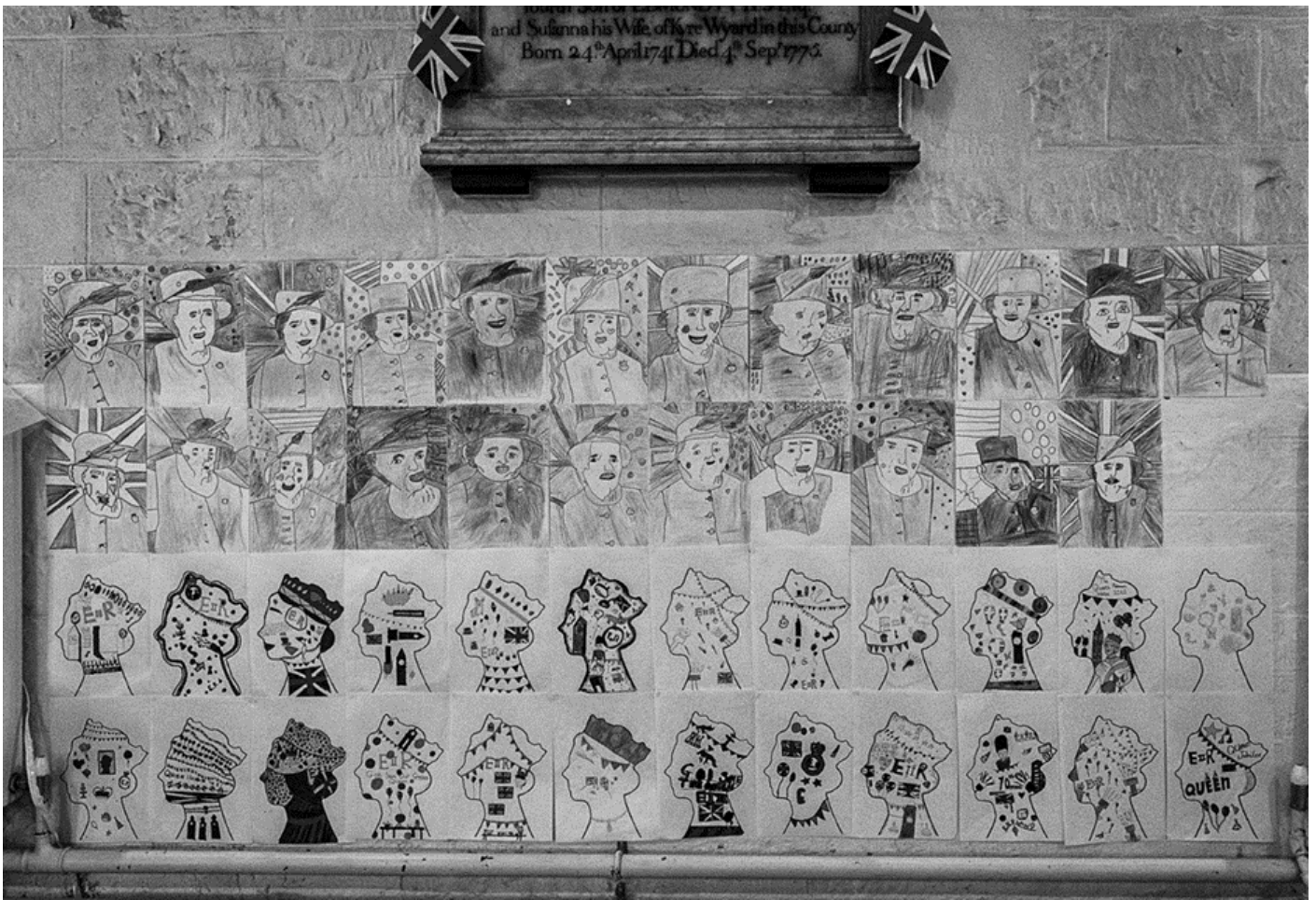


Yet the weather could not dampen the mood and it was a fantastic occasion in a church suitably decked out for the occasion. It had been some months in the planning, thanks to the efforts of a hard-working group of volunteers, and the council had given us a grant to help make the party a community event open to



all. More than two hundred people partook of tea, scones and cake during the afternoon, with Granny's Attic providing background music and glasses of Prosecco handed round to toast Her Majesty.





Children from the local schools had done artwork to display, and prizes were awarded for the best piece in each category.



There was a great atmosphere and it was a delightfully celebratory occasion. Thanks are due to all those who worked so hard, both beforehand and on the day, to make the party such a success.

Phil Bradford

Jubilee Weekend Art Competition

Having been asked to submit pictures of anything which they felt represented the Queen, our local school children provided a rich variety of pictures; from the Queen herself, to guardsmen, corgis and the palace. The pictures provided a colourful addition to our Jubilee celebration and with the wide range of talent on display, I was grateful not to be the one called on to judge the entries. This task fell to Rachel Hatfield who selected winners in each of the three age groups: Pre-School and Reception; Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The winners were:

Rayma – Reception at Our Lady Queen of Peace;

Elena – Key Stage 1 at Our Lady Queen of Peace;

Nwancha – Key Stage 2 at St Clements.



Thanks to everybody who took part in this competition and to Barbara and Graham Willis for providing the prizes.

Sarah Cottrill

Oberammergau Pilgrimage

Day 1 – Travel to Austria

Nearly 4 years ago Sandra and I signed up to go to the Passion Play in Oberammergau in May 2020, but then early in 2020 the pandemic hit, and life was put on hold. Rather than cancel the play the organisers postponed it to 2022 and so we waited. Eventually things started to get back to normal and the play was confirmed. So, in the early hours of the 18th May a group of pilgrims from Worcester met at St John's Church to catch a coach to Birmingham Airport. We picked up more in Alcester and met the rest of our group at the airport. Our group was 19 strong and led by John Green, a previous vicar of St John's and Phil Bradford, the current incumbent.

We were a little worried about check-in as there had been many stories of long delays and people missing flights at Birmingham Airport, however, we sailed through relatively easily, in plenty of time for our flight and took off on time. We were met at Munich Airport by our McCabe rep, Denise, who would be looking after us for the whole week. It was her first day of working for McCabe and we were her very first group. She was obviously a little nervous, but her enthusiasm shone through, and she could not do enough for us during the week.



We were soon on the road and heading for the Bavarian Alps and then on to the Austrian Tyrol, finally arriving at our hotel in the village of Arzl, just outside Imst, in the late afternoon. The Hotel Arzlerhof is a medium-sized family run hotel and we soon felt part of the family, they were so friendly and helpful. Our cases were delivered

to the rooms, and we unpacked and changed for dinner. The food at the hotel was wonderful, each night we had a choice of main course and dessert but then there was also a local salad, mixed salad and soup, I do not think anyone went hungry. Breakfasts were a similar wide range of courses.

Day 2 – Kaunertal Valley

Our first trip out was to the Kaunertal valley where we were taken up a scenic alpine road to 9000ft where the glacier was, and people were still skiing and snowboarding. On the way we stopped at the large reservoir, Gepatsch-Stausee,

where we were quite surprised to see how low the water was in the reservoir, considering it was at the end of spring. After the reservoir the road became steeper



and more bendy as we rapidly gained height, giving us some spectacular views of the valley and the mountains. We stopped at the end of the road where the ski-lifts were, and more importantly, an Alpine restaurant where we had lunch.

On the way back down the valley we stopped at the Kaltenbrunn Pilgrimage Church. In 1511 the church became part of the Soldier's Pilgrimage from Tyrol to Flemish Netherlands. We were given a short organ recital by the organist and sang a hymn as part of our act of worship. Finally, we were taken to a local family-owned weaving mill where they still make the Tyrolean cotton products. We were shown how they make the complicated designs, before going into the shop to buy some of their products.



Day 3 – Village Walk

A leisurely day with a walk from the hotel, through the woods to the centre of Arzl, via a café of course, and then into the local supermarket to see what goodies they had. In the evening the hotel laid on an evening of Tyrolean music and we had a fantastic time. Denise dressed in a typical National Tyrolean outfit of the Dirndl and the male staff were in Lederhosen. John Green led the dancing for most of the evening, but we were not sure he could walk the following day!

Day 4 – Free day

The group sub-divided into smaller groups that then went off to do their own thing for the day. Some caught the local train and went further afield while others

took the opportunity to visit Imst, the large local town. Sandra and I decided to go up the cable car, Bergbahn, on the other side of Imst and Margaret Rutter and Sally Mills joined us. There was a mix up with the bus timetable and so the owner of the hotel got his minibus out and took us to the Bergbahn. We had some wonderful views from the other side of the valley and could even see our hotel.



As usual in Austria there was yet another restaurant at the middle station of the Bergbahn. I decided to have a Tyrolean lunch platter, it was meant to be for one but as you can see it was a feast and could easily have been shared between two, just for the record I did not manage to finish it!

Day 5 – Oberammergau

We drove back through the Austrian Tyrol and Bavarian Alps to the village of Oberammergau, where we were booked into a local hotel for the night. Oberammergau is a typical Bavarian village with the beautiful houses and hotels covered with various murals. After checking in we made our way down into the centre of the village where we had lunch before going into the Play. For those that are not aware of the Play here are some of the facts about it:



- In 1633 the Oberammergau villagers promised to perform the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ every tenth year, in so far as no one was to die of the plague anymore. The villagers were answered by God and therefore in 1634 the first Passion Play took place. The promise has been kept until today. The 42nd Oberammergau Passion Play takes place from 14th May to 2nd October 2022 and is on 5 times a week.
- To be in the play you must have been born in the village or have lived there for 20 years. There are about 5000 eligible people, and we were told that about half are involved in the play in one way or another.
- The play lasts 5 hours, the first half is from 2.30pm to 5pm and then there is a 3-hour dinner break, followed by the second half from 8pm to 10.45pm.

- In 2010 they raised 12 million euros for good causes and built a swimming pool for the village. This year they intend to totally upgrade their sewage system so it can better cope with the influx of people.
- All the people in the play still do their normal work during the period of the play so you may be served by a member of the cast in the restaurant during the interval.
- The youngest members of the cast, children and babies are given 2000 euros



in an education trust fund and the older children are given 4500 euros for their trust fund. Therefore, most children have no worries about affording their education when it comes to it.

- We believe there were about 400 people on stage during the big crowd scenes, this also included at various times 2 horses, 2 camels, a flock of sheep and goats and doves/pigeons that

were released during the clearing out of the temple. There is also a choir of over 60 and a full orchestra.

The play was an extremely moving experience and well worth the 2-year extended wait. Obviously, it was all in German, but we were provided with English translations of the script, and it was fairly easy to keep up with the story. Hopefully most of us knew the main parts of the story!

Day 6 – Return to Arzl

We had the morning to walk around the Passion Play Museum and local shops, including the world-famous Kathe Wohlfahrt Christmas Shop in Oberammergau and have lunch before returning to our hotel in Arzl. On the way back we stopped briefly at the incredible Ettal Abbey for a quick look at the Baroque Abbey building.

Day 7 – Innsbruck

In the morning we were taken to Innsbruck, stopping on the outskirts to see the incredible Wilten Basilica (Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception). The Catholic Baroque churches of Austria and southern Germany are incredibly ornate with statues everywhere and gold leaf all



over the place, which I found to be a little over-the-top at times, more like a museum than a place of worship, but that is a personal opinion.



After visiting the Basilica, we were taken into the centre of Innsbruck, where we met up with a local guide who took us around the centre of Innsbruck. We saw the Habsburg Palace and the famous Golden Roof, before having time to have lunch and walk around on our own for a short time. On leaving Innsbruck we went to Stamms Abbey on

the way back. This was another incredible Baroque Abbey where there were even more golden ornaments, including 8 life-size statues of people involved in the history of the Abbey, all of which were completely covered in gold leaf. Our wonderful guide Denise, who had been with us every day, apart from the free day, left us at the hotel on our return. She had to pick up a new group from Munich the following day. They were arriving earlier than we had to be back at the Airport.

Day 8 – Return to UK



Because of the changes in flight times, we were not due to leave Munich until 10pm so we had a leisurely final day. In the morning people either sat in the hotel or went for a walk in the local area and to get lunch. We left the hotel for the last time at 2pm, with a lot of sadness as the staff had been so wonderful to us during our stay. We had a couple of stops planned for us on the way back, the first



was a quick photo opportunity stop at the fairy-tale castle of Neuschwanstein. The image here is from when I visited the castle in 2018 and shows a closer view than we had. Then we drove on to Landsberg am Lech in Bavaria where we had an hour or so to walk round the medieval town. It was a beautiful town with the River Lech running through the centre.

Following this we were taken to Munich Airport where we had no queues at check-in or security. We took off a few minutes late but caught up during the flight, landing at 11pm. There were some sad farewells at the airport. Everyone had got on so well during the week and new friends had been made. The coach was waiting for us and after dropping off in Alcester we finally got back to St John's about 1am.

On reflection this was our first pilgrimage and first coach holiday and we thoroughly enjoyed it. That was because it was organised well by McCabe Pilgrimages; our leaders, John and Phil, used a light touch to keep us all in order and Denise was a wonderful rep from McCabe. Her enthusiasm and helpfulness stayed with us for the whole trip, and she went out of her way to make sure we enjoyed ourselves. All-in-all a wonderful trip that will stay in our memories for years to come.

Colin Nash

Sudoku Puzzle

*Copyright 2008
KrazyDad.com*

*The
solution is
on the
inside back
cover.*

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

Marcés Mailing

June 2022



For I know the plans
I have for you,
declares the LORD,
plans to prosper you
and not to
harm you,
plans to give you
hope and a future.

Please pray for:

Juan Carlos: Cathedral responsibilities (Dean et al)
Diocesan responsibilities (Christian formation)
JC's mother Hilda

Penny: Responsibilities in J el N (lay rector) & Cathedral;
Diocesan responsibilities (Children's Ministry, AMA)

Juan Carlos + Penny: working out priorities and use of time;
supporting each other; adequate rest; plans to visit UK

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Diocese: writing of safeguarding protocol

Jesús El Nazareno: children's work- for helpers; growth in
Biblical knowledge; Abundant Life course

El Nazareno area: communal kitchens, schooling

Cathedral (English): Search for a new Rector

Cathedral (Spanish): For growth

Country of Peru: political, economic and education situations,
and all those affected by them

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés **Reynaldo Morón 215,**
Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 15039, PERU

Tel.+51-1-448-8264; +51-992612987

Email: psmarcesinlima@gmail.com

Letter sent by: Mrs Alison Everness (Penny's sister-in-law),
23 Glebe Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3DS (01306-882817)

Dear friends,

As Penny ate her (authentic) Peruvian homemade orange marmalade sandwich, sitting in Lima, it was good to see a Peruvian flavour in the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Why in LIMA not UK? – plans changed and plan A (UK from April to Aug) changed to plan B and is now plan C. What happened?



Plan A began well, with visits from Becky, Lizi and then Oli (Becky's partner whom we met for the first time). During their stay we enjoyed amongst other things some lovely days in Paracas, where one memorable experience was listening to hundreds of new-born seals on the beaches of the Ballestas Islands.

Penny was also able to hold the literacy classes for a group of children going into 3rd grade but in some cases with basically NO reading ability, followed by the Summer Holiday Bible Club. The latter gave us a new experience.



Obeying social distancing meant limiting numbers, so people were warned that latecomers might not get in. Even so, it was a surprise to discover children had started queuing 30 mins before the class; the queuing continued the whole time, even though we never did have to turn anyone away.... Just practising for the rest of their lives when they will

experience LONG queues for banks, making hospital appointments, picking up medicines, getting onto the train station... Sadly, now that there are lots of other things on offer, coming to Church is no longer the big attraction it had been for a long time during the pandemic.

Plan A had assumed that JC would have a prostate op early in the year – a reasonable assumption since he had his pre-op checks in Jan/early Feb. Not the case! – he was given the date 31 May, thus making a trip to UK from April to Aug no-longer-feasible. Change of plan – plan B would be visiting UK Aug to early Dec.

Just as well plan A had been aborted since at the end of Feb the English-speaking congregation of the Good Shepherd was suddenly left without a Rector. Given that JC is Dean of the Cathedral anyway, the need to have an English-speaking member of clergy to officiate at Communion Services (and the dearth of these) led to his becoming responsible for the Communion part of the services, helped by Penny who leads other bits.



Thankfully, a few weeks later, Archbishop emeritus Greg Venables was appointed interim Rector, but with a slight logistics hitch – he lives (and has a ministry) in Paraguay! However, given that we are now all experts in Zoom,

this was no problem for preaching, so most sermons come from Paraguay via Zoom. But clearly he is NOT here to take the communion service so Juan Carlos continues to do this.

Another positive outcome of the change from plan A to plan B was the fact that JC's mother fell in early Feb and broke her femur. Thankfully she is making very good progress, but JC is one of the 2 siblings on hand to coordinate with doctors, carers etc. Please pray for her full recovery.

We thus settled into a rather hectic routine, with Good Shepherd English responsibilities fitting into our responsibilities in Jesús el Nazareno and Good Shepherd Spanish (plus of course the Sunday School coordination and the Christian Education coordination)

We are encouraged by Jesús el Nazareno, where Penny is Rector. You may remember that when we were in UK last time (2019), we shared with some of you the prayer request for 7 men (at the time there were 2, including JC). How exciting to realise one week that there were 7 men in a normal service!



Thank you for your prayers. It is particularly encouraging that a group of young people have decided they WILL commit – to the extent that our new Council excitingly has 2 under 30s and 2 over 60s. Please pray for the Abundant Life course just starting; time constraints for people have meant that the only time some are available is 4.30pm on a Sunday afternoon, immediately before the service. One special moment recently was the service on Maundy

Thursday, where we had foot-washing. There were several children there; most wanted their (VERY dirty!) feet washed but 10 year-old Luana, having had her feet washed then asked a few minutes later “Can I help, Sister?” (“Sister” being the generic term for Christian women). Good to know SOMEONE got the message of “You also should wash one another's feet”.

One improvement in the services in all 3 congregations over the last few weeks has been the music ministry. There is a beautiful organ in the Good Shepherd which has recently been repaired, and it was played for the first time a few weeks ago – what a wonderful sound! So hymns are no longer YouTube downloads, but singing with an organ again. The Spanish congregation has always had Penny on the guitar – NOT the most satisfactory solution. However, a few weeks ago a couple appeared at the Church and are now helping out with the music ministry; the arrival of a professional singer has enhanced it even more. And in Jesús el Nazareno, guitar classes have started in a nearby Church so (in faith!) we will have 2 new players soon.



As the weeks went past, various factors made us realise we should be open to changing to plan C - the Good Shepherd English-speaking congregation is still shaky, JC's Mum is still in a a changing situation with carers etc, and other things. So Plan C is the current one – remaining in Peru until next year BUT taking a month's holiday in UK for a rest.



- a wonderful time with family in Feb
- JC successful prostate op (end May)
- Jesús el Nazareno – encouragements
- Provision in the ongoing communal kitchens, both in El Nazareno and at Diocesan level
- a return to in-person schooling – still not 100% but getting there.....
- Covid situation – very few cases now

Please pray.....



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

Weekly activities

- Sun:** 10.00 am English speaking service (Good Shepherd)
11.30 am Spanish speaking service (Good Shepherd)
4.30 pm Abundant Life (J. el Nazareno)
6.00pm Jesús el Nazareno service
- Tues:** 8.00 pm Bible study /prayer meeting/music (GS Spanish)
- Thurs:** 7.30 pm Prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
- Sat:** 4.00 pm Children's activity (J. el Nazareno)

Coming soon.... (pray for dates, or for planning!)

- June:** Start of (*postponed!*) Course for couples (JEN)
- July: (28)** Pray for Peru's National Day
- 15 Aug-13 Sept:** Holiday in UK

Thank you again to those who have been supporting us (and the communal kitchens and other needs) in so many ways. By supporting us and the ministry here, you too are part of what happens here, both in the Anglican Church in Peru, and in Peru. Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987.

God bless you and keep you secure in Him, now and always,

Juan Carlos & Penny



St John's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

St John's APCM was held on Sunday 29th May after the morning service. Here are the reports to that APCM. Some reports have been trimmed or summarised by the editors. Items common to St John's and St Michael's were: The Deanery Synod report (April magazine), Summary of the Joint Council proposal (May), Young Adults Group report (June), Magazine report (this month).

The Editors

Team Rector's report to St John's APCM

2021 was another challenging year, as we continued to live with the restrictions and uncertainties of Covid-19. The main difference from 2020 was that we did not face any compulsory suspension of services, while the vaccination programme allowed us to gradually open up throughout the year and (despite the blip of Omicron) look forward to 2022 with more optimism. If the pandemic still dominated much of 2021, at least we found ourselves being able to begin to look at other issues and confront some of the other challenges we face.

Although the country went into lockdown at the start of 2021, we were given the option of whether or not we closed the churches. Sarah and I were adamant that we should continue to offer worship in person, and I am very grateful to the standing committee and the PCC for their resolute support in that. We did offer a few months of online services in addition, which provided access to worship for some who would otherwise have been unable or unwilling to participate in person, and I am enormously grateful to Philip Evans for all the hard work he put into making this happen. Ultimately, however, I believe it was extremely important that we remained open for worship, as it provided a vital service to those unable to access the internet or for whom it was sometimes the only personal contact they had all week. Thanks are due to the ALMs who were willing to continue leading services across the churches, as well as to those who worked behind the scenes to ensure that we were able to continue to stay open while complying with the law.

There were, of course, sadnesses within this; worship with masks and distancing, and especially without singing and wine at communion, did not feel the same. Nevertheless, the key thing was that we did continue to have communal worship, and as restrictions eased through the year, we began to return to something more normal as singing, then the choir, then the chalice returned. If all was not quite as

before by the end of 2021, given concerns over Omicron, we entered 2022 in a much better position than we had begun 2021.

Nevertheless, the aftermath has left us with serious challenges to confront. If numbers recovered somewhat from the lowest point during Covid, only the Tuesday morning congregation has returned to pre-pandemic levels. Sunday morning attendance remained down, and while this can in part be attributed to Covid (some were frightened of returning, others did not enjoy worship subject to restrictions), it is not the only cause. The Church of England neglected many of its members during the pandemic with its relentless focus on online provision, and doubtless we as a local church failed some people. There is also the reality that when a church loses its own vicar and the clergy are spread more thinly, pastoral care and congregation numbers suffer. With several deaths during the last couple of years, there has been a notable reduction in the size of the electoral roll. Financially, therefore, we are in a difficult position, with reduced income. While we have let the refurbished flat once again, the renovation did come at a cost, albeit one largely absorbed by the Feoffees. The new ministry share demands are high, which places further pressure on the budget, and we are facing the possibility of some major repair work on the tower. While we need urgently to look at the matter of the pews, which in their current form are inhibiting key parts of our ministry and outreach, we lack both the resources to do anything and a person to drive such a project forward. There are thus considerable challenges to face in the immediate future.

Amidst that, however, let us not lose sight of the positives. A focus on Sunday congregation numbers can blind us to the important outreach and community work being done elsewhere. The resumption of Little Lambs has proved popular, and it has returned to full strength, to the extent that we are struggling with helpers and lack of space. Community breakfasts are now supplemented by popular coffee and cake afternoons once a month, along with Café Church and Women's Breakfasts. Discover History has started again and is once more attracting many people. There is a wider focus and interest, and all those who work so hard to put on these events and reach out to the local community are to be commended and thanked.

The Worcester City West Team finally came into existence on 1st July 2021, after numerous delays and years of frustration. St John's remains a separate parish within the Team, but we must actively look at closer collaboration with the others. This has already happened with St Michael's, as we now share a magazine, and they pay towards office costs. However, we are also looking towards more formal links (including a Joint Council) which will reduce unnecessary duplication of roles and workload, allowing us to concentrate together on our vision and mission in West Worcester in the years ahead. While there are issues which face St John's alone,

not least the question of the building and its maintenance/reordering, the question of how best we serve the local community and minister in it is one we need to address on a Team level. This is especially important given the considerable amount of new housing which will be built in the local area in the near future.

There are many people to be thanked for their work in such a challenging year, and I cannot name them all here. However, I must extend my thanks to Gordon and Joy for all they have done as churchwardens, for the job is hard enough without the added pressure of a pandemic, and I am immensely grateful to them for all their support. St John's relies upon the hard work and commitment of so many people, and for that I would like to extend my thanks even if I cannot list everyone. We leave 2021 with considerable challenges, but with hope that we may gradually be able to put the misery of the pandemic behind us, and aware that we have many faithful people willing to work hard on our vision for the future.

Phil Bradford

Treasurer's Financial Review (St J)

At the end of 2021, our total funds were £594k, up from £577k at the end of 2020. Income in 2021 was £101k, up from £91.6k the previous year; expenditure was £98k, down from £105k the year before. The net surplus was £3.7k. During 2021 the PCC paid 80.5% of our allocation for parish share. This year, with the rental incoming and increase in giving, it will be much easier to fulfil the required quota.

There are several dedicated volunteers who perform many functions of the treasurer job and this is greatly appreciated as it makes the task manageable.

Notable achievements in 2021 are that the Stewardship campaign had some positive responses; the flat refurbishment is complete; and there is a new tenant in the flat and room hire has resumed. We received grants from the Feoffees towards maintenance and the estate manager's salary. We were able to claim on the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme for part of 2021. This year has continued to be difficult although there is sign of recovery.

Looking ahead, the financial challenges facing the PCC include seeking to increase our income to match the longer-term ambitions of St Johns; funding the regular maintenance costs of our historic church building; anticipating the costs of reordering and redecoration of the church to improve our church buildings; raising the contributions towards our asset management plan; and funding of new projects coming out of our plans for the future.

Chris Rees, PCC Treasurer

Report on the proceedings of the PCC (St J)

Following the APCM in May 2021 the PCC had 15 members (one vacancy) and one Deanery Synod Representative (two vacancies). The PCC met 6 times during the year (May 2021 to May 2022). Each meeting opened with a prayer and closed with 'The Grace'. A summary of the minutes of each PCC meeting is placed upon the main church noticeboard and is published in the magazine. The PCC operates through a number of formal sub-committees and other groups/teams. Membership of the committees etc (except the Standing Committee) is not restricted to members of the PCC. During 2021 a Mission Group was formed, with people from all 4 parishes.

In May 2021 the PCC approved expenditure of up to £20K for the work on the flat (1a, Bromyard Road) to bring it up to standard to be rented out again.

The Worcester City West Team (St John's, St Michael's, and St Clement's with St David's) came into place on 1st July 2021. In September 2021 the PCC agreed they were happy to look at the possibility of forming a joint council.

When planning our activities, the PCC is aware of, and takes into account the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion. The specific activities are reported throughout this document.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Safeguarding information is clearly visible on the front page of the church website. The safeguarding policy was reviewed and reapproved in March 2022.

Liz Edwards, PCC Secretary

Electoral Roll (St J)

One person has been added since the 2021 APCM and five have been removed. The new roll is 113 (a decrease of 4).

Parish Magazine (St J & St M)

Once again, the Parish Magazine did not stop during the pandemic lockdowns. Operations are now back to usual with a mix of subscriptions (delivered and collected from church) and sales at church. Financially, the magazine (through sales and advertising) more than covers its costs and makes a net contribution to our income.

Continued on page 43

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Summary of other reports (St J)

Standing Committee: The St John's Standing Committee acts for the PCC in relation to employment matters, church maintenance and management of the parish properties.

Safeguarding: All ALMs and people with a leadership role must take in-depth safeguarding training. The regulations for appointing people into roles paid or voluntary now have to be carried out. This can sometimes be very time consuming. As always, at St Johns we take safeguarding seriously. Please continue to be vigilant and report anything you are concerned about regarding the safety of vulnerable children and adults.

Church Wardens: We have reviewed the church terrier and there has been no change in 2021 to the inventory of church ornaments. Our thanks to Brian Askew for his efforts ensuring that our buildings are maintained in good order, and Colin Nash and his team for their work in maintaining and enhancing our churchyard.

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments: During 2021, the priority was to ensure that the building remained safe and that nothing was festering which could cause long term damage. Routine checks on various items did not raise any issues. The main item was the refurbishment of the flat above the Parish Office. A new tenant moved in just before Christmas and all seems to be going well.

Measures have been taken to tackle the ongoing damp problem in the disabled toilet. So far, the signs are good – but it's a bit too early to claim a total success.

Attention will be needed before too long on the equipment in the kitchen (now 15+ years old) especially the dishwasher. Also, the exterior stonework on the tower needs some serious restoration.

Churchyard: Things have gone very well during the last year in the churchyard. With a team of four regularly working on a Tuesday morning, we could get on with more tasks. Future plans include planting some trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, extending the wildflowers all the way to the road, and increasing the size of the Rose Garden in the corner by the gravestones. Thanks to everyone who has donated time or money towards the work in the churchyard.

Charities Committee: The Charity Committee has given small amounts of financial aid to individuals experiencing difficulties over this period.



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Continued from page 43

Pastoral Care Group: Over the past year the pastoral care team has continued to offer support to members of the congregation who are ill and unable to attend church by phoning and sending cards to ensure our thoughts are with them.

We hope to restart visiting care homes in our area to offer residents some contact with the church. Healing services will hopefully re-commence soon.

Community Breakfast: We were able to have our first Community Breakfast for nearly 2 years on December 4th, 2021. On that occasion we served 66 full English breakfasts. Our next breakfast was held on 19th March 2022, and we served 103 breakfasts. This is always a free event but those who participate are very generous and we have always covered our costs and had a float ready for the next breakfast. Thank you to so many people who come and help serve and chat to the visitors, which is so important at this event.

Friends of St John-in-Bedwardine: It has continued to be difficult with the restrictions that Covid has placed on everyone for social events. However, we were able to attend the Christopher Whitehead Language College Christmas event and also had a table at the church's fundraising events. With restrictions easing, when the church arranges more events, we will be able to promote The Friends and gain new members. An old historic building, such as St Johns, can never have too many friends.

Events Team: The team have started to bring back people into the church with the Good Old Days talks. Beginning in October 2021, when we had 40 people, the numbers have slowly increased, and we are now getting about 60. A full programme is now underway for the coming year, and we hope that more people will join us as they feel able to. A proposed coach trip towards the end of 2021 did not go ahead, but two trips are planned already for this year. We are hopeful that coach trips will become regular events again, taking those people that find travel more difficult these days to places that they would not otherwise be able to visit.

St. John's Flower Arranging Team: Due to Covid this last year has still been rather strange, wearing masks etc., but the vaccination scheme has made it possible to continue each week. All members of the team have been very faithful, and we enjoy meeting to keep the church looking cheerful! Thanks to all who have supported us so generously over the year, and the extra ladies who come to help at festival times. We continue to meet 10-12 on Friday mornings and welcome any visitors.

Continued on page 47

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Continued from page 45

Communications: Our website, www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk, continues to grow with new users visiting on a regular basis. Facebook is also becoming key to getting our message out to the local community www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine. Our posts regularly reach 300 people, but we have had some notable posts reach nearly 3,000.

We also still use 'A Church Near You'.

Organist and Choirmaster: The choir was not allowed to sing for much of 2021 but music still played an important part in our worship, and I enjoyed providing rather more organ music than usual while singing was not allowed. In August we began choir practices again. In September, spreading ourselves out in order to maintain safe distance from each other, we saw the joyful return of congregational and choral singing.

Music Group: Another strange year - only getting back to normal(ish) in 2022. We have resumed our normal pattern of supporting All-Age Worship, and we hope the Healing Service will resume soon. Hopefully our days of pre-recording material for on-line services instead of in-church worship are behind us now.

Bell ringers (St John's Clangers): We are thrilled to report that we have bucked the trend among the bell ringing fraternity. Far from losing ringers, we have not only retained our members, but had an influx of ringers keen to help us from our local district.

Women's Breakfast Meeting: Women's breakfast re-started in September 2021. Numbers were low at the beginning but have gradually got back to pre-pandemic levels. We have had some encouraging and inspiring speakers from diocesan clergy and our own members. We hope you will consider joining us.

Café Church: We restarted in July 2021 and we have had some thought provoking 'Thought for the Day' speakers. Those who come, or drop in, do enjoy their Danish and coffee on a Saturday morning. If you would like to try a different sort of church do come and join us on the 4th Saturday of the month.

Fourth Friday Friendship Group: We were delighted to resume after a two-year enforced break. Each meeting has raised an amount for a charity but the main purpose is to provide friendship and fun and we have an abundance of these! We enjoy a lot of chat over tea or coffee, a two-course meal, and huge amounts of laughter over a variety of board and card games. Anybody is welcome to come along, although please tell Sarah Cottrill, for catering purposes.

The End!



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The Doctor and the Sick



THE PEOPLE JESUS CHOSE TO BE HIS CLOSE FOLLOWERS WERE OFTEN QUITE UNUSUAL.



ONCE JESUS STOPPED BY A TAX-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO A MAN CALLED 'LEVI'.



LEVI'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY MEETING JESUS.



LEVI WANTED ALL HIS FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS TOO, SO HE CALLED A BIG PARTY FOR HIS TAX COLLECTOR FRIENDS



IN JESUS' DAY TAX COLLECTORS WERE VERY UNPOPULAR. THE PEOPLE THOUGHT JESUS WAS MIXING WITH A BAD BUNCH!

...BUT I AM HERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!



SURELY IT IS THE UNWELL PERSON WHO NEEDS THE DOCTOR - NOT THE WELL?!



see Luke 5:27-32

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ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

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- Monday: 09:00am - 5:00pm
- Tuesday: 09:00am - 6:00pm
- Wednesday: 09:00am - 5:00pm
- Thursday: 09:00am - 5:00pm
- Friday: 09:00am - 5:00pm
- Saturday: 09:00am - 4:00pm

St John's Library Bank Holiday closures

- Summer - Monday 29th August

Find us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslibraryworcester/>

Adult Activities

Scrabble Club. Meets every Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm

Chess Group. Meets every Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm

Poetry Group. Meets alternate months, first Saturday in the month 12.45 - 3.45pm

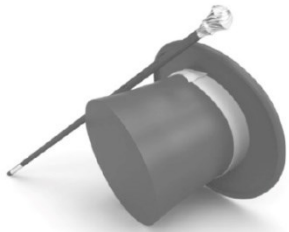
Children's Activities

Storytime for under 5's. Meets every Friday at 11:00-11:20am

Bounce and Rhyme. Meets every Tuesday at 11.00am

Please telephone or 'drop in' for the latest dates and events!





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From the magazine archive, August 1949

THE NEW ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

I AM sure you will be interested to learn that I have appointed Mr. T. R. C. Protheroe, of Worcester Royal Grammar School, to fill the position of Organist and Mr. Llechid Williams as Choirmaster. Although this appointment is the prerogative of the Incumbent, I should like to say that I have received an immense amount of help from the Church Council. I wish to thank them for their keen interest, as the importance of this appointment cannot be over-estimated. I must add that when I explained my intentions to the Council, they received the news with acclamation. It might be held by some musicians and others that a system of dual control is not a practical proposition. I am sure that in this instance we have taken quite the right course. I know that we shall prepare to give Mr. Protheroe and Mr. Williams a real warm-hearted welcome and give them full support. J.M.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

THE Outing to Windsor was very much appreciated and enjoyed by all. The beauty and majesty of St. George's Chapel and of the Castle will long live in our memories. We arrived back at St. John's at 9.45 p.m., with tired feet, and some, I presume, with tired throats!

MOTHERS' UNION

THANKS to all who, in spite of the weather, attended the July meeting in Church, and helped to make a success of the "Bring and Buy" Sale at the Vicarage.

We were very fortunate in the choice of July 12th for the outing to Weston. Setting out at 8 a.m., with Sister Caunt in charge, the journey proved very pleasant. Arriving in brilliant sunshine, we all enjoyed several hours of relaxation before meeting for tea. Although the numbers were a little disappointing, the party unanimously agreed they were well satisfied with the trip.

As usual, there is no meeting in August.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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--

(£5) I will pick up my magazine from the church whose box I have ticked
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(£5) I live in St John's but need my magazine to be delivered.

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

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

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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.
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4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.



Puzzle solutions

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

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Miscellaneous musings

As everyone is now desperate to go green, I've invented a solar-powered laundry dryer. It's called a clothes line.

Helpful hint for those going camping this summer - A tuba placed outside your tent will keep the spaces on either side vacant.

Why suffer in silence? That would take all the pleasure out of it!

Young at heart. Slightly older in other places.

And finally....



Not everyone has a natural gift for rural ministry.



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – July/August 2022

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
3rd July	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
10th July	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
17th July	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
24th July	10.30am Eucharist 5pm Healing Service	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
31st July	10am Team Eucharist (St Michael's)			
7th August	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
14th August	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
21st August	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
28th August	10.30am Eucharist 5pm Healing Service	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
4th September	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

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