



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



# The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



June 2021

50p



2020



2019



2021 ?



2017



2018

## Information

### WEST WORCESTER CLERGY

**clergy@wcw.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, <b>by appointment only</b> , Wednesday and Friday 9am-12noon.
Postal address: 1a Bromyard Road St John's, WR2 5BS	Tel: (01905) 420490 e-mail: office@wcw.church	

### ON THE WEB

St John's	Parish Website: <a href="http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk">www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk</a> A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine">www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine</a>
St Michael's	Parish Website and A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/">www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/</a>

### SERVICES

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

### SAFEGUARDING

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

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	<b>St John's</b>
Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email 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).	<b>St Michael's</b>
Safeguarding Officer: Liz Edwards (stmichaels.safeguarding@wcw.church) On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	

## *A Word from the Editors*

Welcome to our June 2021 magazine. Our theme is: "Our church in the community". This month sees the 650th anniversary of St John's as the parish church, so it is an opportune moment to consider this from a long-term perspective. It is also appropriate in the short term as, at the time of writing, we have passed stage 3 of the unlocking roadmap and will (variants permitting) reach stage 4 during June. So, we have Phil's history of the parish reaching 1371 (p30) and his reflections in his letter (overleaf). We also have personal reflections on the theme from two others (pp 22 & 24) and reports from St Michael's annual meeting to add other perspectives. And, great news, we can report that Little Lambs and Children's Worship have been able to resume. We hope you will enjoy these and all the other items in this magazine.

In harmony with the theme, we offer a prayer for our church (building) and for the living church that resides there and in the community:

*Almighty God,  
send down upon your Church  
the riches of your Spirit,  
and kindle in all who minister the gospel  
your countless gifts of grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

### *Important information*

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

**Next edition (July/August):** Deadline is Sunday 13th June.  
Distribution, towards the end of June.

**Subscription form:** Page 50.

**Cover picture:** St John's community events, photographed and composed by Colin Nash.

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Katie and Jim, Alice Evans, Paul Fulbrook, Colin Nash, Amy Rees, and Richard Weatherill.

## **The magazine**

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August (exceptionally, in 2020, there was an August edition).

Articles on all aspects of Christian and parish life, letters, jokes and anecdotes are welcome - do contribute if you can. If you have a story to tell, please make contact. Do include your name as anonymous contributions will not be considered. If you can, please use e-mail (address below left). The editors will always acknowledge items sent by email; please try again if you do not receive a response. Please send all written correspondence for the magazine to the Parish Office.

The magazine costs 50p to purchase and can be obtained from the back of church. Subscriptions are available at the discounted price of £5 per year; by subscribing you make things easier for our printing team as we know more closely how many copies to print.

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 50 or by taking a subscription form from the rack (where the magazines are) at the back of the church. Please return the form and your payment to the parish office.

## **Opinions!**

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

## **To advertise**

Please see page 23.



## *From Phil Bradford*

*“The clergy chanted in the choir, children screamed in the nave; the cries of screaming babies and the grieving of their mothers gave the response to those singing the office.”*



This evocative image, of the monks carrying on with the daily office in the choir while the nave was a scene of chaos, the transcendent song from one mingling with the piteous lament from the other, is a description by a local chronicler of Worcester Cathedral in early November 1139.

Civil War between King Stephen and his cousin Empress Matilda had just begun in earnest, and men from Gloucester, loyal to the empress' half-brother Robert but also seeking to attack their commercial rivals, were marching on Worcester. Forewarned, desperate citizens sought sanctuary in the cathedral with their most prized possessions, turning the church into what a modern historian describes as a 'giant warehouse and refugee camp'. It saved many lives, for although the rabble from Gloucester set Worcester ablaze, none would dare harm a cathedral.

Eighteen months later, as Winchester became a bewildering battleground in which the bishop was besieged in his castle by the empress, who was in turn besieged in the royal castle by Stephen's queen, that city too was condemned to flames in the fighting and the cathedral likewise became a place of refuge. Whether the monks of Worcester and Winchester welcomed people with open arms is not recorded, but the fact is that their cathedrals became the immediate focal points for the populace in a time of great need.

Reflect on that picture for a moment, of the vast space of a cathedral functioning simultaneously as place of worship, hospital and refuge.

Even in less troubled times, churches were places of meeting and business, the one communal space which drew people together. This was the medieval church, the centre of the community and the focal point of any given community's life. Where possible, alms and food would be distributed to the needy. Worship transcended language, for few parishioners could understand the Latin of the mass (and many priests simply memorised words in a tongue they did not know), but the colour and visual actions all helped make it a performance to draw the community together. With no seating, parishioners would stand and mingle freely.

One of the great disservices of later centuries, especially the Victorian age, was to remove this colour, to turn church into something where people sat in



regimented, hierarchically-arranged pews in silence, being talked at rather than participating. Worse still was the notion of the church as a sacred space, set apart from the community, which could only be used for these interminable, colourless services, with infants required to be quiet and any community use frowned upon.

It was a far cry from the medieval church as community centre, which in itself reflected the bustle of the Temple that we find in the Gospels. The people of the Middle Ages built churches in the heart of communities, or communities around churches, because the two were inextricably linked.

In the 800 or more years that St John's Church has existed, we can only imagine what has gone on in the building, how it has been a place of worship, of sanctuary, of support for the needy, of community action, even of commerce and politics. Doubtless some of the unrecorded deeds would horrify us today.

Yet as we celebrate 650 years as a parish church, it gladdens my heart that we are recovering that medieval ethos of the church as a core part of the community. From Little Lambs, with young children destroying the vicar's carefully-constructed railway set, to the parish breakfasts which offer food and fellowship to everyone who wants them, this is what the church should be doing, for this is living God's message.

As we emerge from a devastating pandemic, more than ever we need to be reaching out into a lonely, frightened world, reminding ourselves and others that this place which has stood at the centre of our community for so many centuries has a crucial part to play still. There is much to learn from our history as we celebrate this anniversary, not least the value of what a parish church is for: to bring the love of God into its community in whatever ways are possible.

*Phil*

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## *Collect for Birth of John the Baptist*

Almighty God,  
by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born,  
and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour  
by the preaching of repentance:  
lead us to repent according to his preaching  
and, after his example,  
constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice,  
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

## *In Memoriam*

Eva Stanton	1 June 1987
Stanley Frederick Smith	2 June 1983
Theresa Dedicott	3 June 2008
Ronald Cantrill	5 June 2014
Doris Allen	9 June 1995
Andrew David Brunyee	11 June 1995
Thomas Alec Brown	12 June 1981
Kenneth Edward Cole	12 June 1988
Sophie Perry "Auntie"	13 June 1995
Pete Gleadall	19 June 1996
Henry Frederick Charles Owen	24 June 1985
Arnold Colley	27 June 1991

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.

## *From the Registers, April 2021*

### **St John's**

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

d. 24th March 2021 Rosalie Ann Lilley

**SERVICES:** Communicants 216. Total attendance in person at all services was 287. In addition, 4 services were streamed.

### **St Michael's**

**SERVICES:** Communicants 67. Total attendance at all services 76.

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## *Sundays and Principal Feasts in June*

Thursday 3rd June: Corpus Christi

Sunday 9th June: The First Sunday after Trinity

Friday 11th June: Barnabas the Apostle

Sunday 13th June: The Second Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 20th June: The Third Sunday after Trinity

Thursday 24th June: The Birth of John the Baptist

Sunday 27th June: The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

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## *Mid-week services*

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled to take place in May:

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

Thursday St Michael's 10.30am. (Common Worship)

## *Welcome, Richard*

Hello. I'm Richard Weatherill and I'm just about to complete my first year of training to be a Licenced Lay Minister (LLM or Reader) with the Queens Foundation in Edgbaston. I say "with", rather than "at", because all the teaching so far has been over Zoom and we haven't yet had chance to set foot on campus.



My home church is Great Malvern Priory, where I've sung in the choir for almost 30 years. As part of our course, we're expected to undergo a placement within another parish, so I'm very grateful to Phil and Sarah for agreeing to let me spend some time with you in West Worcester. I attended my first service at St. John's on 2nd May, where I received a wonderfully warm welcome. By the time you read this, I'll also have experienced worship at St. Michaels, St. Clement's and St. David's.

Over the coming weeks I hope to have the opportunity to preach on a couple of occasions, the first being at the St. John's Eucharist service on 6th June, and also to lead Morning or Evening Prayer. The fact that I still work four days a week, together with the remaining Covid restrictions, will limit opportunities for pastoral work, but I'm looking forward to joining in with some church groups, such as Little Lambs.

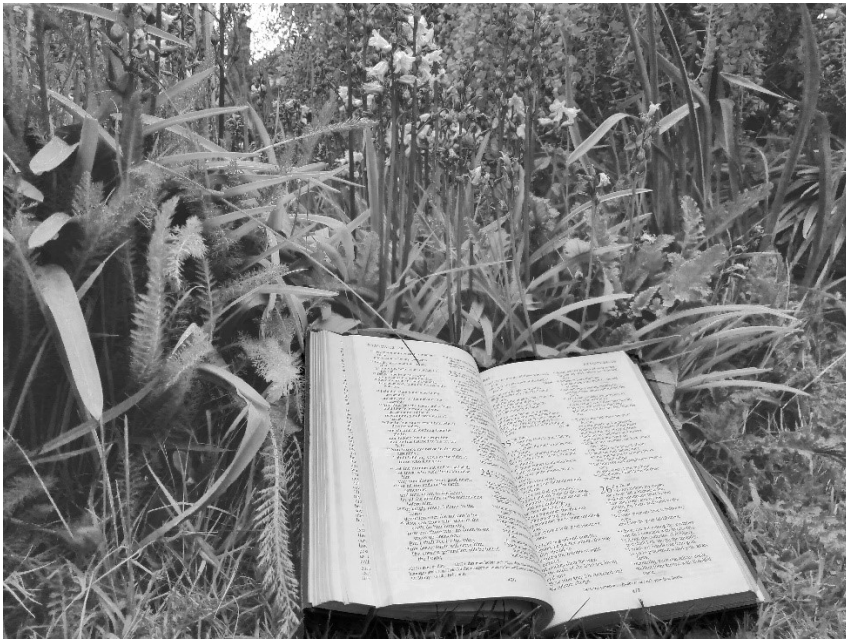
I'm married to Mary (who next month celebrates 20 years as a Reader in the Upton benefice), with three grown-up children, a stepson and a grandson. Many years ago I did a degree in Biblical Studies at Sheffield, but spent most of my career in the IT industry. I've been a magistrate (JP) on the Worcestershire bench since 1998 and am also a Trustee of the Lyttelton Well charity in Malvern.

I've been a Christian since childhood and, over the years, have experienced a wide variety of church traditions, from evangelical Free Church summer camps through to Roman Catholic masses using the Latin Rite and the Orthodox monasteries of Mount Athos. I'm keen to explore how we think about God in the 21st century and passionate about giving young people a good, thoughtful understanding of the Bible.

I'd really like to meet as many of you as possible during my placement, so please do come and have a chat – if you can recognise me behind the mask!

*Richard Weatherill*





## *Eco Church - Giving thanks to God*

At St Michael's Church we are currently working towards attaining a Bronze Eco Church Award. There are 5 key areas in which we must demonstrate our Eco credentials in order to achieve our Bronze award. One area is

'Worship and teaching'. Not only is caring for God's creation rooted (excuse the pun!) in our Christian vocation, but it is important to take the time to reflect and offer thanks and worship to God for the wonder of his creation.

Summer is a great time to get outdoors and experience the wholeness and healing that nature can offer. Worshipping God does not have to happen just in church or during our services, but we can worship and pray wherever we are.

Perhaps next time you go for a walk and admire the carpet of bluebells in the woods or watch the swans gliding along the river or even just pause by the window at home and listen to the birdsong or smell the scent of freshly cut grass; pause and thank God for all that is around you.

Another way we can worship God is through music. As singing is not allowed in church with current Covid-19 restrictions, singing at home is something we can do! What hymns do you enjoy that focus on creation? For me, 'All things bright and beautiful' is the first hymn to come to mind but others such as 'All creatures of our God and King' and even 'We plough the fields and scatter' have some wonderful verses on nature and offer another way of praising God for our environment.

These are just a few ideas, but it would be great to hear from readers what other ways you engage with worshipping God in nature. Are there hymns, psalms or bible verses that you find particularly useful relating to nature or any local spots where you find God's creation especially inspiring? Please do let me know by email as it would be fantastic to share your ideas in a future edition of the magazine and help us all to draw closer to God and to our natural world.

*Alice Evans (alice.evans@wcv.church)  
St Michael's Eco Rep*

## *Walking Church ...*

.... No, the church building hasn't grown legs!

Back in November, I asked if there'd be any interest in forming a Walking Church Group and a few people responded – only to be stopped in our tracks by Covid! However, now that restrictions are being eased, we have met to discuss this further and have come up with what we hope will be a winning formula, as follows:

What? An informal gathering to enjoy a walk in the local area while discussing the readings heard in church that morning. Most of the walks will be planned to take in a tea-shop!

When? Our inaugural walk will be on Sunday, June 27th when we will meet at the Portobello Pub car park at 2pm before leaving for a walk of about 3 ½ miles. (NB This walk involves two stiles). Thereafter there will be a few months of variable dates before we settle into a pattern of meeting on the second Sunday of alternate months.

Who? Absolutely anybody! Although we intend to discuss the day's readings, there is no requirement to have attended church. I can email/deliver the readings if required, or people are most welcome to simply come along, enjoy the walk and company, making any or no contribution to the discussion as they feel comfortable.

The walks will vary in length to suit all levels of stamina. It is likely that longer walks may be scheduled for summer months keeping the winter walks shorter.

Please let me know if you are interested in joining us on our first walk.

*Sarah*

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## *Yummie!*

How about a recipe? Quick and easy - Condensed milk biscuits:

125g butter, 1/4 cup of sugar, flavouring, 200g of condensed milk, 1 and a half cups of plain flour.

If you have a 400g tin of condensed milk double up the other ingredients or use elsewhere.

Beat butter and sugar until creamed. Add the condensed milk and flavouring. Lastly, add the flour.

Place tablespoons on a baking tray with room to spread slightly. Bake at 180 degrees C for 12 to 15 minutes.

Enjoy!

*Margaret Miller*

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# *Walking from St David's Worcester to*

## *St David's, Pembrokeshire*



Like just about every other church in the country, St David's has suffered from a lack of income during the Covid-19 crisis. As we move out of lockdown, thought is being given to how we can raise money and plans are under way for a fair on July 3rd.

Before that, I have promised to walk or cycle the equivalent of the

distance between St David's Church Worcester, and St David's Cathedral, Pembrokeshire. This is a total of 165.6 miles, and I aim to cover the distance in a month (June 3rd – July 3rd) by doing walks or bike rides every day and keeping a tally of the miles covered.

I know that every church is in need of financial support, but any sponsorship will be greatly appreciated by myself and the congregation of St David's.

Sponsor forms will be in all our churches during June, or donations can be made via my JustGiving page:

[WWW.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sarah-cottrill](http://WWW.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sarah-cottrill)



*Thank you.  
Sarah*

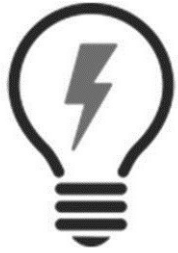
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## *Thank you*

Thanks to all those who have donated money towards the upkeep of the churchyard, it is really appreciated.

It will be used to great effect to improve the grounds and make them an even more welcoming and tranquil place for the local community to pass through or sit and chat or meditate.

*Colin Nash*



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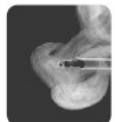
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## *Little Lambs*



We have been so excited to return to Little Lambs! There are some changes such as mask wearing for adults, no messy play and no coffee or snacks but it is wonderful to be back together. When we closed last March, we had no idea it would be for over a year – the children have all grown so much and there are lots of new additions as well! The children and adults are loving being back playing, painting, building and chatting. We're really looking forward to the coming term!

Unfortunately, over lockdown our nursery rhyme prop sack was invaded by mice so if anyone would be kind enough to knit or crochet us some new props we'd be ever so grateful. The ones we'd be looking for are:

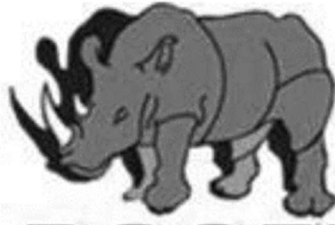


Humpty Dumpty, a soldier, star, rabbit, monkey, scarecrow, turtle, moon, alien, bus, spider, black sheep, mouse, duck, farmyard animals, currant bun, frog, horse, crocodile or boat, dolly, flower, fish, teapot, sausage, car.

Please do let us know if you might be able to make a couple – they only need to be small 5-10cm.

*Thanks,  
Amy and the Little Lambs team*





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## ***An answer to prayer: Albie's family says 'Thank you!'***

Earlier this year, baby Albie and his parents, Katie and Jim, were added to our prayer lists. Albie had been born two months premature, weighing just 4lbs and with medical issues which meant he needed surgery. Katie and Jim had to leave Albie in hospital and not visit him because Katie tested positive to Covid-19. It was obviously an extremely distressing and anxious time for them and a mutual friend asked for prayers for the family.



***Right - Albie at a few days***

***Below - Albie after a few weeks***

***Bottom - Albie at a couple of months***



Although I was only asked for my own prayers, I suggested adding them to the prayer lists in all our churches and this offer was gratefully accepted.

Since then Albie has made amazing progress. At the beginning of May I was invited to meet Albie and Katie and Albie looked the perfect picture of a healthy baby. The doctors are very pleased with him.

Katie asked me to thank you all for your prayers and gave permission to share these pictures with you so you can see for yourselves the difference a few months – and a lot of prayer – can make!

Thank you all.

*Sarah Cottrill*



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## *Children's Worship*

April was a very exciting month for the children as we were allowed to meet together in the service to worship again. The children were so excited to be back which was lovely to see. So far, we have drawn pictures of Jesus breaking bread with his friends and discussed the resurrection as well as decorating shepherds' staffs with wool to remind us how Jesus is like the good shepherd who will



never abandon us. We are in need of volunteers to help out with both groups. If you'd like to be involved with children's worship, please talk to either of us.

*Amy and Chris Rees*

### ***Sudoku Puzzle***

*Copyright 2013  
KrazyDad.com*

*The  
solution is  
on the  
inside back  
cover.*

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

## *Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)*

If it doesn't seem that long since the last set of APCM reports appeared in the magazine, that's because it isn't! Because of lockdown, APCMs were delayed until autumn 2020 and the reports appeared in the November and December 2020 editions of the magazine.

This year, we have been required to hold our APCMs by the end of May.

The St Michael's APCM was held on 16th May and the St John's one (still in the future at the time of writing) is on 23rd May.

Phil has written a single Vicar's report for both St Michael's and St John's. In this edition we print that letter in full, plus summarised/shortened St Michael's reports. In the next edition we will print a summary of the St John's reports.

*The editors*

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### *Vicar's Report (St Michael's and St John's APCMs)*

To say that 2020 was a difficult year would be to take understatement to extremes, especially as we remain in a global pandemic and there is no clear picture of when it might end. To write a report on the activities of the parish in a year when, at least from March onwards, almost everything ceased is thus far from easy.

Many of us were deeply affected by the extreme response of the archbishops in closing the churches and not even allowing clergy to use them for prayer or streaming during the first lockdown, and the realisation that the Church of England leadership were clueless about the importance of parish churches in times of crisis. Even when services were allowed to resume, then halted again, then resumed again, we have faced the trauma of a very different kind of worship which feels alien, with people hidden behind masks and singing forbidden. Many have felt the absence of fellowship, while restrictions have prevented us doing anything much in terms of mission and outreach. The plans for reordering are on hold, possibly indefinitely, as with so many institutions we face serious financial problems. While it is not a crisis at this stage and we have weathered things so far, the financial picture looking ahead is far from promising. It was a grim year and there is little point in pretending otherwise.

However, if I was hugely disappointed by the manifest failings and lack of support from the national church, I took enormous heart from the local church in the parish. Sarah and I were both overwhelmed by those whose immediate response when lockdown began was to be in touch to offer help, by putting their name forward to be a point of contact or support, by delivering pew sheets or magazines, by making phone calls or writing to the isolated, and generally

ensuring people had some contact and were not left alone. The generosity and willingness to help was a magnificent example of how the church should respond to the community in times of crisis, and we are profoundly grateful. I would especially like to thank all the church officers who have undertaken their duties in extremely challenging circumstances with constantly-changing and constantly-late guidelines, and done so with a dedication I can only admire. While I don't want to begin naming everyone, I feel it would be wrong not to single out Philip Evans, who has worked so hard and given so much time to ensure that since the second lockdown we have been able to provide streamed services, and thus reach people unable to come to church.

It was a year of adapting and rapid learning; if there is plenty I want to forget, I do want to pay tribute to all who helped us survive and showed something of the values the Church is meant to embody.

*Phil Bradford.*  
*Priest-in-Charge*

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## ***St Michael's APCM reports (edited highlights)***

**Parochial Church Council:** The PCC were only able to meet together once physically during the last year, so the PCC did most of its business by correspondence. Others conducted meetings by Zoom or similar methods. We were therefore still able to conduct church business and make decisions as necessary.

Over the year the PCC received financial reports and agreed budgets. It has made small grants and agreed a change of energy supplier. Support was also given to the Summer Community Café held in the DG Den. The proposals and funding for a Toddler Group were agreed in principle to be acted upon when circumstances permit. Liz Edwards has been appointed Parish Safeguarding Officer for St Michael's with Mike Dowling as on-site representative.

**Finance:** 2020 was an unusual year! With two lockdowns, the suspension of services and the banning of social gatherings, it is difficult to compare with previous years or to make forecasts for future years. Due to the suspension of services, cash donations did not come in at the normal regularity. Instead, people gave when they were allowed to come to church.

I am pleased to be able to report that our income increased in 2020. This is mostly down to people's generosity following the 2019 "Time, Talents and Treasure" stewardship campaign. Excluding the grants and costs for the Summer Holiday Community Café, our income in 2020 increased by £1,200 over 2019, while costs increased by about £800. Overall, in 2020, we had a surplus of about £335.

In summary, with a large caveat that we don't know what 2021 will bring (!), I still describe our financial position as being "encouraging". Despite all that 2020 has thrown at us we have strengthened our resources and been able to deliver a large project to help our community. We can therefore go forward once more excited about how we can use our resources to join in with God's mission and not worrying about just keeping the ship afloat!

**Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments:** The church building remains in good order and the garden at the rear appears to be maturing well.

**Church Warden's Report:** After an initial lockdown we were able to open our church with the chairs positioned to enable the congregation to be socially distanced in the appropriate way. everyone wearing masks and sanitising their hands. We have been able to have both Sunday and Thursday services, plus it was so great to have an Easter Service this year too. Great thanks go to Phil and Sarah and the ALMs who have kept us going. Thank you all for your support.

**Electoral Roll:** Now 28, up from 26.

**Social media:** 2020 saw the anniversary, in September, of the launch of our Facebook page. We are pleased with the growth in the number of people who have 'liked' and/or 'followed' our page. Over the year, we have communicated news about services, posted about prayer and shared items about other local organisations. During the year we also launched a YouTube Channel. This was launched to enable us to post videos in lockdown that could be shared with both Facebook and our website. Initially it was in the name of St Michael's, however as lockdown progressed and we moved to live-streaming services for the whole West Worcester Group, the Channel evolved to become a "West Worcester Group" Channel. Given that we have not really promoted the Channel other than for streaming online services, we are pleasantly surprised to report that we had attracted 14 'subscribers' by the end of the year (and this has continued to grow).

**Deanery Synod:** The Synod met in February 2020 when Mark Wild, the Diocesan Surveyor and Environmental Officer, talked about Eco-Friendly churches. Due to Covid-19, further meetings were business only and held via Zoom. Prior to 1st February 2021, St Michael's Church was part of the Martley and Worcester West Deanery but in the middle of 2020 we were informed of a diocesan proposal and consultation to restructure the deaneries in Worcester Diocese from 13 to 6.

**Eco Church** progressed by making purchases with Eco Church in mind e.g. buying toilet paper made from recycled paper and choosing more eco-friendly items for the Summer Holiday Community Cafe.

**Young Adults** (a fun social group for those aged 18 to 40 who worship in the West Worcester Group of Churches) had fewer face-to-face get togethers in 2020 than usual. However, we did start 2020 with a social gathering at the local ten-pin bowling alley. During the rest of the year we have had a few Quiz Nights via Zoom. New members are always welcome and attendance at events is not compulsory.

**Events and meetings:** Mothers' Union; Coffee, Tea and Cake Afternoons; and Community Breakfasts were severely curtailed by the pandemic and the lockdowns. The Summer Holidays Community Café went ahead during August 2020 (*Editors - the outcome was reported in the October 2020 magazine*) and the DG Den Community Café starts on 21st May (*Editors - see below*).

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### ***St Michael's PCC Officers***

At a short PCC meeting, immediately following the St Michael's APCM, the following PCC Officers were elected:

Lay Vice Chairman – Mike Dowling

PCC Secretary – Jenny Claydon

Treasurer – Philip Evans

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### ***D.G. Den Community Café***

Opening on Friday 21st May, we will be serving hot and cold drinks and cake.

Social distancing will be in place. Those who would like to sit down will be asked to stay in their seats and wait for someone to take their order. It will be explained that people will be asked to only stay for one hour.

There will be opportunities to talk to someone if needed. It is hoped to share prayer and the Gospel. There will be a table of clothes and toys available for anyone in need.

*Valerie Mason*

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### ***Provisional dates for your diary***

St Clement's: Saturday 14th August 2021, "Fun Day" at church, 10am until 4pm

St David's: Church Fayre, Saturday 3rd July.

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### ***Ain't misbehavin'!***

A blind man walks into a pub with his guide dog. All of a sudden, he picks up the lead and begins swinging the dog over his head. The landlord runs up to the man and asks, "What are you doing?!" The blind man replies, "Just looking around."



## *A church in the community [a personal reflection]*

England was covered by monastic Christian communities within a few years after the Conquest of 1066 because of the desire of the Conqueror to give thanks to God for his success. In addition to defensive castles therefore, both abbey churches and monasteries were established, in the traditional forms found on the other side of the Channel, in Normandy.

Populated by priests brought from Northern France -the responsibility of these “new” clergy was to assure the education, nurture and pastoral “control” of the surrounding population - preparing them for their “afterlife” in the bosom of the Lord God.

Before the dissolution of the monasteries these ingrained traditions of the monastic communities became central to the administrative, legal and religious life of the “Anglo-Norman” populations wherever they were found. After the dissolution, however, they had to be taken up by both secular institutions and the “new” Church of England authorities - for which many priests and lay people needed training.

Education became a most important aspect of religious development. Children have to be nurtured in the faith from baptism onwards. Therefore it is necessary to educate in order that there will be an understanding of the place in personal development of the sacraments that mark our passage through our life. The Jesuits asserted this central role by arguing that if the child was educated by them (from 8 years old) they could “show to the world the adult man” - whole and in control of himself as well as being at one with God.

Even though we live in a more secular-dominated society, surely it is necessary for a church (indeed, The Church) to develop a close working relationship with its schools (irrespective of denomination or tradition). In that way, children have at least contact with the church, and the opportunity of developing an understanding of what the church in their locality will/could contribute in later life.

When I first came to St John’s I was Director of the County Resources Centre (then located in Pitmaston House), and Chris Pullin was the Vicar. Colin Heath was Headteacher at Pitmaston School, where I was Chair of Governors and Chris Pullin was vice-chairman. The resultant close working relationship led to the school having several visits to church both at the class level and whole school. Thus, children felt “at home” in the building, understanding both its history and its importance in their future lives.

No doubt there was a similar relationship at St Clement’s School too.

Our churches need to have an active working relationship with our schools, if it is not there already. What is true of schools is also true for our surrounding businesses and services - not just by using the car park, important as that may be!

Perhaps we should have more events where representatives of these village “actors” are formally invited to be present and get involved in “their” church - giving them a specific reason to be there and amongst us. Should we have a community committee/action group - active in approaching supporters? How should our churches be proactive?

It’s worth looking at the Church of England Community Action web site for ideas.

As we emerge from lockdowns, social distancing, and all these restrictions which we have had in the “new reality”, what future do we want to develop and how will we build the Kingdom of God?

Do you have any ideas or opinions about this? Please write to the editors of the magazine or speak to me to discuss.

*Best wishes  
Arthur Miller*

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***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](mailto:sue.hussell@talktalk.net)***

## *St John's in the Community – A Personal Perspective*

Since joining St John's church, I have tried to get involved in the church and its association with the local community. The church has done well over the years in supporting the community and hopefully this article and the images associated will bring back memories of those happier times.

Obviously over the last year it has been exceedingly difficult to do anything much with our own congregation, let alone the wider community, and all our day trips and history talks have had to be cancelled, but we look forward to being able to resume these and other events and the various teams are starting to think about when we can realistically restart these activities.

The following images demonstrate just how well the church has been involved with the community through a wide range of events.



Over the years we have held various fairs (or fayres) and fun days that enticed people into the church.

Remember the dog shows?  
This one was in 2011!







There were the various concerts that were held on behalf of the community such as when the Choirs from the Twin towns visited in 2013....

.... and the Last Night of the Proms in 2018.



We have celebrated our monarchy....



.... with garden and tea parties in 2016 and 2017.



We held a very successful Christmas Tree Festival in 2015.

Over the years many people from the local community have attended the various carol concerts and Christmas fairs that have taken place in the church....

.... and Father Christmas has made very regular trips to the church to the delight of young and old within the community.







The History Man, Paul Harding, has delighted his many audiences. People come from far and wide, to listen to his captivating stories of Worcester and its history. We started with a few people in the Blakefield Room....

.... and ended up catering for up to 100 people in the main part of the church.



Then there have been the coach trips to various locations over the past few years, such as Gloucester in this image.



Who can forget the wonderful activities that were put on for the community for the special Remembrance Day, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of the Great War? This culminated in the outdoor evening service and poppy drop from the Tower.



Of course, we cannot forget the breakfasts that have been organised for the local community and attended by many of the homeless over the years as well. Each one now catering for well over 120 people.

Lastly the local cub scouts got involved when I was starting on the wildlife area of the churchyard and made a fantastic Bug Hotel for us, which still stays hidden in the undergrowth for the local insects.



Of course, many other events have taken place for the community over the years, which I have not been able to record photographically. However, in ending this short trip down Memory Lane of our church's links with the local community, I must thank all those people who have put in so much time and effort to make all these events happen. There are too many of you to mention and if I did start I might miss off a name or names. You know who you are, and I and the community thank you for all your hard work and efforts. Every single event that I have attended has been really appreciated by those attending and it is always obvious that they are enjoying themselves.

I look forward to future happier times when we can start to put on similar events again for our local community.

*Colin Nash*

### *Parishes in our new deanery*

Someone asked us if we could publish a list of the parishes in our new deanery. Here it is! The list is ordered by the "New Parish Code" although we have not shown that as we assume that it is unlikely to be of great interest to our readers!!

*The editors*

Claines	Warndon, St Nicholas
Droitwich Spa	Worcester, Holy Trinity & St Matthew
Salwarpe & Hindlip with Martin Hussingtree	Worcester, St Mark
Grimley	Worcester, St Martin with St Peter
Hallow	Whittington, St Philip & St James
Holt	Worcester, St Michael
Worcester, St John in Bedwardine	Crown East, Rushwick
Alfrick & Lulsley	Worcester, St Barnabas with Tolladine
Lower Teme Valley	Lower Broadheath (Christchurch)
Clifton on Teme	Worcester, St Clement with St David
Lower Sapey	Worcester, St Stephen
Martley	Worcester, St Wulstan
The Shelsleys	Worcester, St George with St Mary
Suckley	Worcester, St Paul & Old St Martin with St Swithin
Wichenford	Worcester, St Nicholas & All Saints
Leigh & Bransford	



# *The History of St John's Parish*

## *IV: The Parish of St Cuthbert*

At Bennetts Farm in Lower Wick is a large barn which is built on a medieval sandstone base. According to the Pevsner Guide to Worcestershire and other sources, this base is the twelfth-century remnant of St Cuthbert's Church, although the authors of the Victoria County History were more guarded and suggested it could also be the remains of a medieval house. Nevertheless, it is undisputed that St Cuthbert's stood in this area. (In 1876, the twelfth-century font was found in the farmyard and given to St Thomas', Crown East, which was then being built.) Although now hidden away, this was the original parish church, constructed in the shadow of an important diocesan centre in the Middle Ages.



The medieval Diocese of Worcester was considerably larger than today, comprising Worcestershire, Gloucestershire (including most of the city of Bristol) and much of Warwickshire. With a far larger area to cover and much slower transport, the bishop could not be based at Worcester all the time and undertake his duties across the diocese, especially as there were no suffragans.

Consequently, he had manors and castles scattered across the diocese where he could stay: In addition to the bishop's palace in Worcester (now the Old Palace) and a London house (demolished when Somerset House was built), there was a

major castle at Hartlebury with manors at Alvechurch, Bibury, Bishops Cleeve, Blockley, Brendon, Fladbury, Hampton Lucy, Hanbury, Kempsey, Ripple, Weston Subedge and Withington.

A favourite manor of several bishops, as demonstrated by the dating clauses of documents showing them to be in residence, was Wick Episcopi, overlooking the cathedral city. It is likely that the manor had its own private chapel for the bishop and his household, which was probably also the location for ordinations when these are recorded as happening at Wick, but it was the chief manor of a sizeable farming estate. It is for that reason that a church was probably built at Wick, to cater to the spiritual needs of the workers on the bishop's lands.

The origins of this chapel are as obscure as those of St John's, not least as we have only the disputed remains of a building to work with archaeologically. Like St John's, however, it was probably also built in the twelfth century, although here too we have no way of knowing whether there was an earlier wooden church.

As St John's was a dependent chapel, it would be logical to assume St Cuthbert's was the earlier foundation, although relationships between linked churches were not always as straightforward as logic would suggest. The dedication to St Cuthbert is intriguing. While common in his native North East, it is rarer elsewhere and extremely rare in the Midlands.

Long into the thirteenth century, St Cuthbert's and its dependent chapels (among which we know St John's, Laughern(e) and Goldenwick) still seem to have been ministered to from St Helen's, St Cuthbert's itself remaining a chapel rather than being a parish church. In the mid-1230s, according to the Annals of Worcester, agreements between the bishop and the cathedral priory granted rights over Wick and Wichenford chapels (including dependencies) to the cathedral. Wick, however, is clearly still described as a chapel and there is no mention of how its parishioners would receive the sacraments and pastoral ministry. St Cuthbert's lapses back into obscurity for half a century, until it reappears in the register of Bishop Godfrey Giffard in 1283, this time as a parish. All that can be said for certain, therefore, is that parochial status was achieved at some point between 1236 and 1283, among the last group of English parishes to be created.

The parish of St Cuthbert's, Wick Episcopi, was a large one by local standards, incorporating (in addition to the modern parish of St John's) what are now the parishes of St Michael's Dines Green and St Thomas' Crown East, along with all of the modern St Clement's parish except the narrow strip between Henwick Road and the river and the floodplain around Tybridge Street. Its eastern boundary was the River Severn, the southern boundary the River Teme. The parish church was

thus right in the south-easternmost corner, showing why additional chapels for the more distant populations developed; it would otherwise have been a long walk for a labourer living near the boundaries with Cotheridge or Hallow to attend a service.



The 1283 entry in Giffard's register is undated, but dates on the surrounding entries would place it in later May or early June. It is a record of a letter sent to two monks of the cathedral who were representing the prior, concerning 'the augmentation of the portion of the vicarage'. Each parish was a benefice or living, and tithes had to be paid by the parishioners to the incumbent of this benefice or living, both to support his ministry (that is, feed and clothe him) and to pay for the upkeep of the church. In some cases, the person who had the living and the priest were one and the same, in which case this priest was a rector. However, this was quite rare; livings were usually held by noblemen or, much more commonly, an institution such as a monastery or Oxbridge college. In this case, the institution had to appoint a priest to undertake the spiritual duties on its behalf, and this priest was known, as at St Cuthbert's, as a vicar (from the Latin vicarius, deputy or substitute). The institution was meant to share an adequate proportion of the tithes with the vicar, but monasteries and Oxbridge colleges could be stingy, in which case the bishop had the right to step in and 'augment' the vicar's proportion to a fairer level. This is presumably what was happening in 1283, the cathedral 'persuaded' to give the vicar of St Cuthbert's more of the tithe income.

Interestingly, however, while it is the ‘vicar of the church of the Blessed Cuthbert of Wick Episcopi’, it is the ‘vicarage of the church of St John next Worcester’. In other words, the vicar’s house was at St John’s, not St Cuthbert’s, much more central to the parish but nowhere near his parish church. This suggests that the vicar of the parish has always lived near the church in St Johns, irrespective of the location of the parish church.

It is also in this record that we have the first named vicar of the parish, Robert of Cirencester. The board in the church porch is wrong on two counts here (besides using a perversely archaic Latin form of a name for which there is a perfectly good English equivalent). Robert was vicar of St Cuthbert’s, Wick Episcopi, not of St John-in-Bedwardine which was only a dependent chapel. Also, Robert had clearly been appointed before 1283, as the entry refers to him as already in post at this point. We otherwise know nothing of him. A Robert of Cirencester was instituted by Bishop Giffard at Oxhill in Warwickshire in 1276, although if this was the same man there is no record of his move to St John’s. However, that it was a common name is shown by the fact that a Robert of Cirencester was ordained deacon in 1285, who can hardly be the same man. All we know of St Cuthbert’s first identifiable vicar is his name and the fact that he was appointed sometime before 1283. We cannot even know if he was the first or whether others before him are simply lost to history.

The next vicar whose name we know is Thomas de la Feld, appointed by the prior and convent of Worcester and admitted as vicar on 7th November 1349. Although he appears second on our board, it is obvious that there must have been others between him and Robert of Cirencester, unless we are to believe Robert was still being propped up by the altar at the age of a hundred or more. Again, we know nothing else of Thomas.

Shortly before his arrival, and not long after the death of Bishop Wulfstan Bransford (6th August), a crime wave had hit the parish. The first entry for the vacancy in the Sede Vacante register is as follows.

‘Order by the Prior of Worcester to the abbot of Pershore, and all abbots, priors, etc. in the Archdeaconry of Worcester, that, under pain of excommunication, they shall cite those sons of iniquity (of whose name the prior is ignorant) who went to the mill of the Prior and Convent of Worcester, next to the river of La warn [Laughern] [...] within the manor of Wyk Episcopi, with arms, and entered the said mill, beat the keeper of the same, and cut off the ears and tail of a palfrey [riding horse], the property of the church, whereby the incurred sentence of the greater excommunication.’



It is not recorded whether these ‘sons of iniquity’ were ever brought to justice.

At the same time, the Black Death was sweeping through England, causing devastation. The population plummeted and in some areas labour became scarce. Four vicars followed Thomas in quick succession. It is possible that it was this which lay behind the abrupt decline in the fortunes of St Cuthbert’s, which by 1371 was apparently in poor repair. If the farming population had been reduced by plague, it would explain why there was insufficient population around the parish church, and in turn insufficient contributions to pay for its upkeep. In these circumstances, given that St Cuthbert’s had always been on the very periphery of its large parish, it made sense to transfer the parochial centre to the more populous St John’s, which was more central, where there was already a substantial church and where the vicar lived in any case.

So it was that the bishop approved the transfer in 1371. The immediate downfall of St Cuthbert’s was unusual, as it seems that it stopped being used for worship immediately rather than limping on as a chapel; perhaps the building really was in a state that made expensive repairs pointless in the new circumstances. Thus, St Cuthbert’s passed into history after only a century or so as a parish church, beginning its journey to becoming a dairy farm as parish business moved up the road.

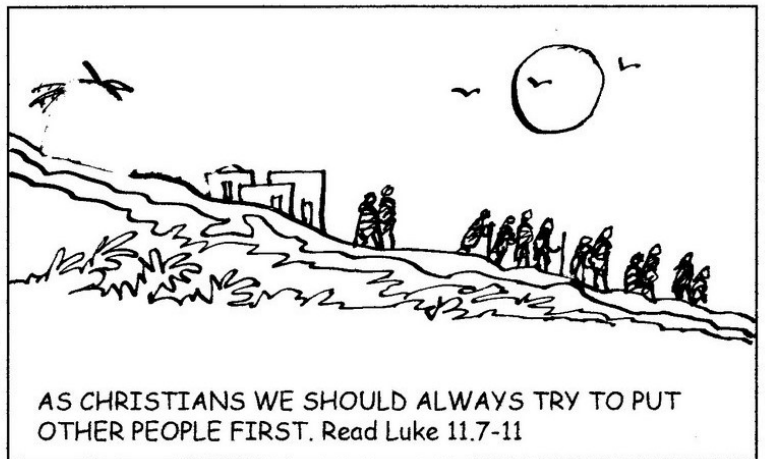
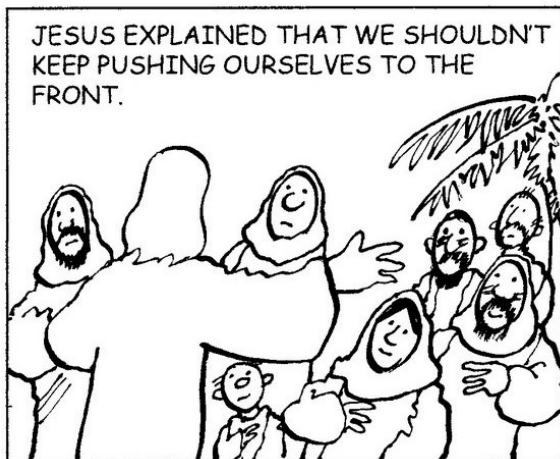
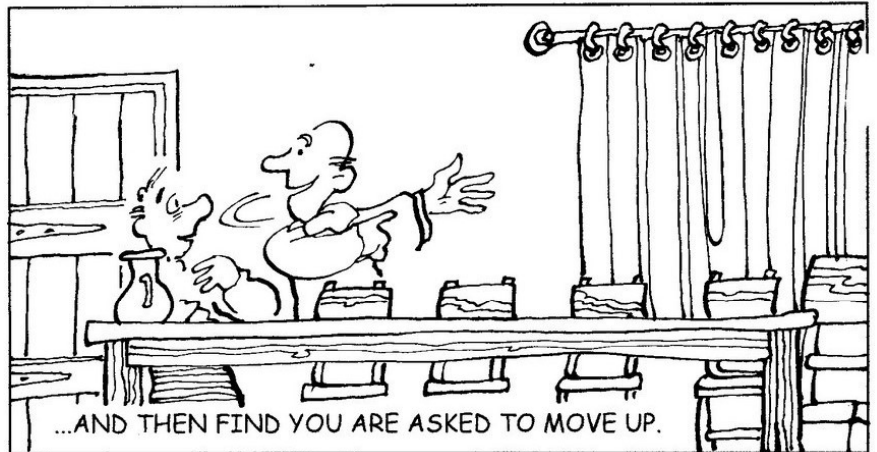
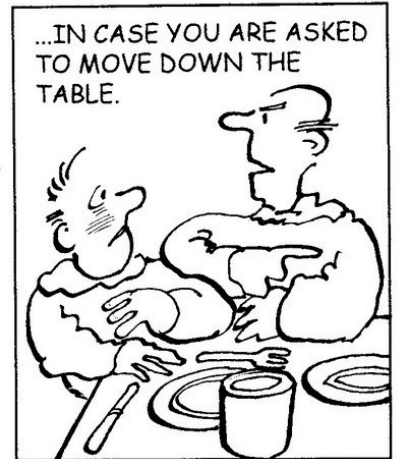
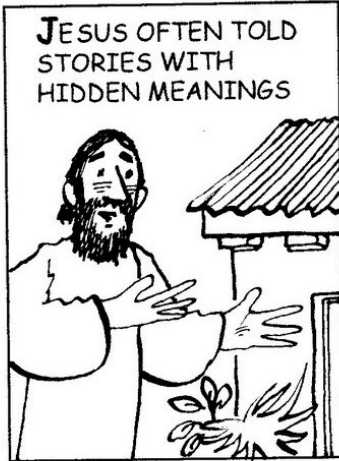
*Phil Bradford*

### ***Note on Sources***

The agreements of the 1230s are found in the Annals of Worcester (Annales de Wigornia), a chronicle of events kept by the monks at Worcester Cathedral. Most of the other details are found in the registers of the relevant bishops, or the Sede Vacante register (kept, as the name suggests, when there was a vacancy in the bishopric).

There is nothing surprising that only chance snippets of information survive. Medieval bishops’ registers depended on the interests and competence of the episcopal staff and thus vary enormously in usefulness; only a small proportion of the correspondence ever made it into the official registers.

Details about the vicars after Thomas de la Feld are only found in unpublished registers, which cannot currently be accessed at The Hive because of Covid restrictions. I hope to remedy this at a later date by writing more about the vicars of St Cuthbert’s/St John’s.



# Marcés Mailing

## April 2021



Therefore we do  
not lose heart.  
(2 Corinthians 4:16)

Preparing for the (Cathedral) online Marriage Course; couples were sent materials and extras by delivery at the beginning of the course. An Alpha Course is planned to start in May.

### Please pray for:

**Juan Carlos:** Responsibilities in the Cathedral (Dean, and in charge of Spanish speaking group);

Diocesan responsibilities (Christian formation)

**Penny:** Responsibilities in J el N (lay minister in charge);

Diocesan responsibilities (Children´s Ministry, AMA)

**Juan Carlos + Penny:** working out priorities and use of time; supporting each other in the two Churches; adequate rest

**Bishop Jorge Luis:** wisdom in leading the Diocese

**Jesús El Nazareno:** children´s work: in-person in Church, and providing materials

**El Nazareno area:** soup kitchens

**Cathedral:** Alpha course starting 15 May

**Country of Peru: 6 June:** Presidential run-off (Castillo/Fujimori)

**28 July:** National Independence Day celebration (200 years)

Change of government (President and Congress)

**Ongoing battles:** covid, economy, climate change

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés **Reynaldo Morón 215,**

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*Note from the editors: Penny sent this Mailing in April, but it arrived after the preparation of the May magazine; hence why it appears in the June magazine.*

Dear friends

“The strife is o’er, the battle done,  
Now is the victor’s triumph sung”

What a great eternal truth to be able to take hold of – the battle over sin and death HAS been won! Being able to sing with a link church is great; one positive thing about this last year has been the ability to take part in meetings thousands of miles away! Returning to the hymn, it is wonderful to be able to have confidence and security in the midst of other battles being fought here. The battle over sin and death has been won, but some battles definitely continue – health, economy, politics, climate change...

The **political battle** is currently top headline news. The outcome of elections for President and Congress on 11 April were not foreseen by ANY “experts”! From 2021-2026, 130 Congress seats will be shared between 10 parties, with between 3 and 36 seats. General dissatisfaction with the status quo led to either blank and votes (the highest result!), or for those offering extreme measures, and the run-off for President on 6 June reflects this. Castillo is very left wing, citing Cuba and Venezuela as examples (to the horror of the almost one million Venezuelans who came to Peru to escape Venezuela); Fujimori is very right wing and faces opposition from those opposed to her father, plus those opposed to her personally. MOST people are against both. Please pray!



Party symbols:  
Castillo (pencil),  
Fujimori (K=Keiko)

Meanwhile, the **battle against covid** continues. Peru is in an unenviable position –near the top of the table for deaths per capita (even using official covid figures, which are about 40% excess death figures), whilst towards the bottom in vaccinations given. Sadly, NOT having had many cases in El Nazareno at the beginning of the year, many then succumbed to one of the variants (probably Brazil). Desperation to find oxygen, or available ICU beds, has again become a frequent subject for conversation. However, encouragingly, vaccination of public in general has now begun; currently over-80s. The hope is that by the end of July all over 60s will have been vaccinated, but this of course depends on whether sufficient vaccines have arrived.....



Lockdown and other restrictive measures to control covid are unfortunately, limited by the **economic battle** – the country simply cannot afford to have people not working. Soup kitchens are greatly appreciated in many areas; the Anglican Church now supports several in Lima, Arequipa & Juliaca. Thank you, on behalf of the hundreds of beneficiaries each day, to all who have supported this. We pray for you too.



*Continued on page 39*





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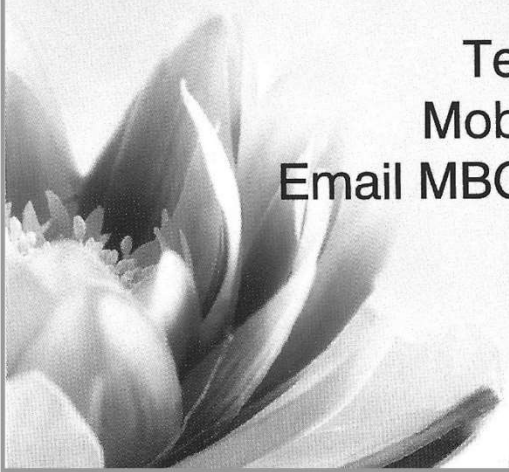


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Continued from page 37

What about **Church**? It seems to be “now-you-can, now-you-can’t” with restrictions. Churches went back to 0% capacity in Feb, but then started mid March – except that Easter weekend was total lockdown and 11 April was elections with no public meetings. As from 26 April we are back to 20% capacity, but 9 May (Mothers Day here) is total lockdown again. Confusing! Since in-person meetings are important in El Nazareno where many do not have adequate technology, we will have what we can while we can, all protected by the (compulsory) double face covering and (preferably) face shield .... The Good Shepherd is, however, quite happy with Zoom.



Dajiro studies on his mum's mobile whilst she attends the pet food stall in the market.

And **children**? They continue school studies online, apart from 14 schools in rural areas where there is no covid, where they are having some in-person classes. Some mothers make a big effort to teach their children, even whilst at work (resulting in interesting “classrooms”). Others do not... During Holy Week we stuck Jn 3:16 on the walls of the soup kitchens and Church (plus quite a few market stalls etc); the first phrase is “Dios amó tanto al mundo” which is easy to read, and is thus a phrase Penny has helped several 6 year olds to learn to read as part of their “general education”..... The times we have been able to



have a small number of family groups in Jesús el Nazareno have been much appreciated; it will be good to start again! Children not in these groups will be given materials to work on at home.....

In the midst of the urgent battles, the beautiful and diverse country of Peru also faces a long-term battle: **climate change and the environment**. It is universally recognised as a country badly affected, as statistics show:

- 25% of glaciers in an area of the Andes have melted since Penny came to Peru in 1985, resulting in a reduction of water supplies



- About 1000 sq. miles are lost in the rainforest through deforestation each year, resulting in decrease in oxygen, increase in CO<sub>2</sub>, loss of wildlife  
- The Pacific ocean off Peru, one of the richest fishing grounds in the world, is affected by warming

of sea resulting in less plankton (and less fish)

- UV levels are dangerously high in many parts of Peru.

As people prepare for COP 26 in Glasgow in Nov, pray that Peru, along with other countries, will be able to take steps to improve this sad situation.

As for the family, Jony continues to live with us, working from home. Becky is in Leeds, working “in” Skipton (from home!). Lizi is in Leeds job-hunting; she came to visit which was lovely.

Continued on page 41



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- non-Churchgoing parents attending the “family meetings” for children in JEN
- “Animals in the Bible” children’s WhatsApp materials during the summer
- Marriage Course based at the Cathedral
- Provision in the soup kitchens, in El Nazareno and at Diocesan level
- children’s weekly materials, used in Peru, Argentina and elsewhere



“Behold the ant” ...

## Please pray.....



(See also summary at beginning of letter)

### Weekly activities (in faith!)

- Sun:** 9.00 am WhatsApp chat form of service sent (JEN/Cath.)  
 10.00am WhatsApp group call for service/prayer  
 11.30am Zoom service (Cathedral)  
 6.30 pm in-person service (J. el Nazareno)
- Wed:** 8.00 pm Zoom Bible study /prayer meeting (Cathedral)
- Thurs:** 7.00pm in-person prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)
- Fri:** (under discussion...)WhatsApp group call prayer meeting
- Sat:** 7.30pm Online Alpha

### People we work with:

Church Council in Cathedral: Mark, Steve, Carla, Andrew, Sandra, Lily

Church Council in Jesús el Nazareno: Etelvina, Palmira, Santiago

AMA committee: Livia, Pat, Marivel, Etelvina, Lula;  
 (Province - AMARE) Catherine

Formation: Victor

Children: Palmira, Teófila, David, Luis, Luisa, Edith, and more....

The battles continue, with insecurity in many ways. But our God is greater, and has overcome, giving us security where it really counts!

Thank you again to those who have been supporting us in so many ways. By supporting us and the ministry here, you too are part of what happens 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*



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## *Churches in our (new) deanery*

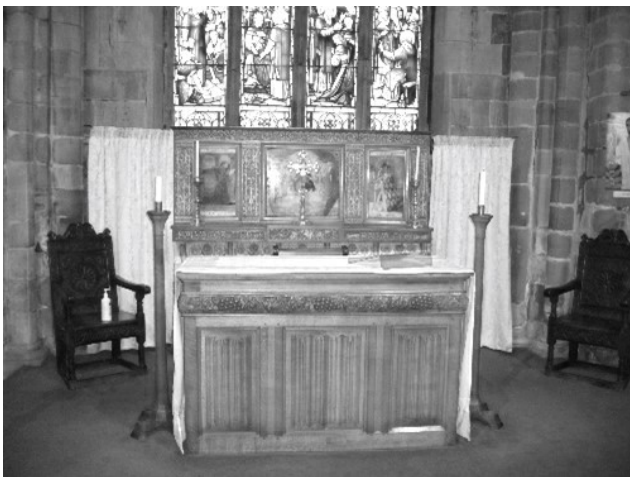
St Augustine, Dodderhill - The church on the hill in Droitwich!

I have been meaning to visit this church for years. Anyone who has visited Droitwich cannot have failed to notice its blackened outline looming over the town or marvelled at the illuminated Cross or Star depending on the Christian festival that appears to 'hang' in the sky as you drive down the old salt road on a winter's evening and gives a lovely warm feeling of a Christian presence to the historic town. My thanks to Churchwarden Richard Rose who took the trouble to welcome me for a church tour and chat.



'The Old Parish Churches of Worcestershire' states: "As begun in the 1190's and consecrated in 1220 it was cruciform with a central tower. From it, there remain the four crossing arches, but a new chancel was built in the early 14th century which takes us to the Black Death era and all building stopping for a while."

Clearly a very good defensive position up on the hill, research has shown that the church was originally built on a Roman Camp. The Parliamentary Army used it as a garrison during the Civil War and a lucky shot by the Royalist's exploded a powder store within the building - losing the church its nave and south transept. The stone from these ruins was later used to build the imposing tower on the site of the South transept, leaving a T shaped church. Reordering in the 1990s moved the altar to the west end so that it may be seen from all areas.



West end of Chancel: Eucharistic table and West Window. The usual direction has here been reversed. The 14th Century Chancel has the modern Baptismal Font.

This direction suits the building far better, but it is interesting to remember that through that window once extended a lengthy Nave before the wrath of war took it from us.

For those that are not familiar with this area, Droitwich 'floats' on a lake of brine several hundred feet down and I well remember in

*Continued on page 45*



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*Continued from page 43* the 1970's visiting the salt extraction factory at Stoke Works and watching the salt granules pouring out of the hoppers after extraction. Of course, prior to that factory, salt extraction was by way of the pits in Vines Park, near the church, and coal burning evaporation pans are the reason for the blackened tower of the church.

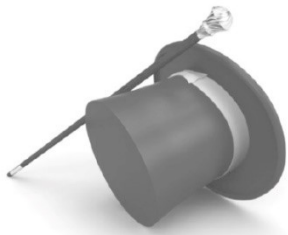
Almost nothing is known of the early life of Augustine, the man who brought Christianity to medieval England. He was most likely living as a monk in Rome when in 595, Pope Gregory the Great chose him to lead a mission to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons to the Christian faith. Christianity had been present in England during Roman times, but with the arrival of the Saxons, most of the country had once again reverted to paganism. There is a very strong suggestion that the Mitre Oak on the A449 at Hartlebury is where the famous meeting between Augustine and the Bishop of the Britons took place in AD.603 and a depiction of this is in the stained glass of the west window. ("Tradition has it that the British Bishops, hearing that Augustine was a haughty and proud man, and not of the humility of Christ, watched with care the way he received them. 'Should he,' they say, 'remain seated on his throne as they approached, and not rise and come to meet them, they would know that this was not the true way of Christ.' Augustine made no attempt to rise, and, after polite exchanges, they left; and he went back empty-handed.")

Please note though, that two other parishes in our Deanery also lay claim to that meeting, Alfrick and Martin Hussingtree. Perhaps the church dedication to St Augustine is because if he travelled by land, he would likely have passed through Droitwich on one of the Salt Roads.

Richard also reminded me of the connection with Thomas Cantilupe of Hereford and that impressive reliquary in Hereford Cathedral. Thomas was rector here before 1275 when he resigned the benefice, later becoming Bishop of Hereford and after falling out with the Archbishop of Canterbury and travelling to Rome to be exonerated, died of a fever in foreign lands. He was canonised in 1320 (700th Anniversary last year) as St Thomas of Hereford, one of the last canonised Englishmen. It appears he had five other parishes and four prebends, such were the ways of the time, but is recorded as giving liberally to the poor of the parish. Richard said that curiously, in his Sussex childhood they were taught that the last English Saint was none other than Richard (always of Chichester there, and never de Wyche) - but he suspects this is because St Richard de Wyche is the last in the BCP calendar, which doesn't include St Thomas Cantilupe.

*Paul Fulbrook*





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## *From the magazine archive (June 1949)*

### ROUND THE PARISH NEWS

THE month of May has been crowded with a wonderful series of events—Spiritual and Social. In the first place, I should like to say that we have had some very inspiring Services in our lovely Church. Mr. Bishop and our Choir have done excellent work and the singing of the congregation has been grand. Everyone is taking a very active part in the Services.

The month commenced on the Social side with the Opening nights of the Dramatic Society. This has been fully reported by the Secretary of the Society but I must emphasise my gratitude to the Producers, Mr. F. Platts and Miss Davies and all concerned in the production of these plays. It was a magnificent effort which was fully appreciated by all who were able to be present. On May 7th we had another of the Parochial Dances. This dance breathed a festive atmosphere in so far as decorations were provided. Everyone seemed to enjoy a happy time as it should be. The organisers of these dances do a great job of work. On Sunday, May 8th we witnessed the first performance of the Choral Society. This has also been reported in another column. But I owe a warm word of praise and thankfulness to Mr. Frank Green, the Conductor, and all who were connected with the Society for their work. I felt this was a great act of witness. Mr. K. Laflin played the organ magnificently. On May 9th we had the first meeting of the newly appointed Church Council. I should like to say this proved to be a most active meeting in which every Council member was encouraged to play a part. I could not imagine a more lively body of persons, and this augers supremely well for the future. On May 15th our Scouts and Guides, Cubs and Brownies, paid a visit to Martley for a Parade Service. The loveliness of this occasion is reflected in the Parent's letter. I am glad that I was able to attend. The Cricket Club is developing in an enthusiastic manner. Mr. R. Baker has been elected Captain. Mr. Edwards, jnr., Vice-Captain. The Cricket Committee consists of the Captain, Vice-Captain, Mr. Edwards, senior, who is also Coach and General Manager and Mr. R. Gammon. The interest of parents and other parishioners has been most gratifying.

From the non-St John's section of the magazine:

*Slippers.*—To make your bedroom slippers last longer, use adhesive tape where the first split at the sides of the soles appears. The tape will also keep the tip of the toes together. Bedroom slippers are as expensive now as a cheap ordinary shoe used to be.—Miss N. MISSELBROOK.

*Jellied Beetroot.*—Dice a medium-sized cooked beetroot and put it in a glass dish. Dissolve a lemon jelly in three-quarters of a pint of boiling water, and add to it quarter pint of vinegar. When the jelly is nearly cold and on the point of setting, pour it over the beetroot, then leave it to set. Can be served with salads or cold dishes of all kinds.—MRS. PAYNTER.





## *Puzzle solution*

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

*And finally....*



*“It’s a novel approach to surge testing!”*

Image: Parish Pump  
Caption: Graham Evans



## Sunday Services in the West Worcester Group - June 2021

	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Clement's</b>	<b>St. David's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>
<b>6th June</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>13th June</b>	10.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
<b>20th June</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>27th June</b>	<b>10am Group Eucharist at St John's (for the patronal as part of the 650th anniversary)</b>			
<b>4th July</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

**Sunday afternoon provision at St John's is still to be decided.** Please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.

The information above is correct at the time of going to press but may have to be altered in accordance with lockdown regulations and Government and Church of England guidance. Please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.