The Parish Magazine





St John-in-Bedwardine St Michael's





June 2022

50p



Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY

clergy@wcw.church

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)
The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Friday Saturday

TEAM OFFICE

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

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	Parish Website and	- www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/		
Michael's	A church near you:	- w w w.achurennearyou.com/enuren/19089/		
	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@wcw.church	St John's
Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	St John 8

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.safeguardin	g@wcw.church)

On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our June edition. Our theme for this month is "The Patronal Festival"; our celebration of the person (in this case John the Baptist) to whom our church is dedicated. Phil explains more in his letter, and our cover features a sculpture of St John.

Of course, June 2022 is also much about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A number of relevant events are foreshadowed in this edition - and no doubt there will be lots of reports and pictures in the next!

The horror in Ukraine continues and it is important that this is not normalised just because it has gone on for so long. Prayers for Ukraine can be found on page 13.

The month of May also saw the Annual Meetings of our churches. Because of timing, we can feature some of the reports prepared in advance for those meetings, but reports of what actually happened will have to wait until next time (including the outcome of the proposal to form a joint council).

We leave you with a verse from Psalm 85 (set for the Festival of the Birth of John the Baptist)

"Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation."

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition (July/August): Deadline is Sunday 12th June.

Distribution, towards the end of June.

Subscription form: Page 50.

Cover picture: The baptism of Christ by St John, by the 18th Century sculptor Giuseppe Mazzuoli (behind the High Altar in St John's Co-Cathedral, Valetta, Malta); photographed by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Beth Broadway, Sarah Cottrill, Adrian Dowling, Margaret Miller, Colin Nash, Pixabay, Chris Pullin and WikiMedia Commons.

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 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 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 14.

From Phil Bradford

The Christian calendar of saints comes with a definite hierarchy.

At the top is Mary, the mother of Jesus, who receives three separate days celebrating plus her own Sunday of Advent, as well as numerous churches dedicated to her across the world.

In clear second place comes John the Baptist, the patron saint of one of our churches whose



patronal festival we celebrate this month. The patronal is held on the day which appears in the calendar as 'The Birth of John the Baptist', 24th June, an entirely arbitrary choice made to fit in with the fact that Luke's gospel says Elizabeth was already six months pregnant with John at the time of the Annunciation (children in the Bible are usually very obedient about confirming to the official maternity handbook). Yet we also have the Beheading (Decollation) of John the Baptist on 29th August, plus the third Sunday of Advent dedicated to him. John also has a co-starring role in the Baptism of Christ, celebrated in January on the First Sunday of Epiphany. No one else is thus honoured. John the Baptist has a special place in Christian life, his words and ministry woven through our story and liturgy.

John's significance comes from the fact that in Christian theology, he is the bridge between Old and New Testaments. The last in the line of prophets, he is the one who foreshadows and prepares the way for Jesus.

It seems, indeed, that he had his own group of disciples and that this caused some tensions at the start, John's disciples and Jesus' disciples wary of one another. There is a link and a cause of disquiet in John being the one to baptise Jesus. Only after John's death does it appear that his true role became apparent to his own followers, that he was the messenger sent to prepare the way for Jesus. It is that language of preparation which is most associated with our liturgical celebrations of John, especially during Advent.

And it forces us to confront unpalatable elements, for John is hardly the kind of figure one would like to invite for dinner or even the sort of kind, placid character one associates with sainthood. John the Baptist comes across as a much harsher, more challenging figure than Jesus, for his blunt (almost rude) message and totally uncompromising stance is tempered by none of the compassion and gentleness which tempers Jesus' words and actions. He made little effort to fit in,

his habits, dress and attitude not calculated to appeal to the rich and powerful. It is speaking truth to King Herod which costs him his head, but John is not prepared to compromise his disapproval to save his life.

At the heart of John's message is the importance of truth, above all being truthful with ourselves and facing up to those things of which we need to repent in order to accept Christ in our lives. It is a brutal, often discomforting message, one which many might prefer to turn away from in favour of some of Jesus' softer words.

That is why John holds such an enduring place in Christianity, and why it remains instructive for us to consider his message today. In a world of fake news, relativisation of opinions until they become as valid as facts, and a refusal by our leaders to be honest or face the consequences of their actions, truth has come to seem like an impossible dream. Yet what John reminds us is that truth, above all with ourselves, is a non-negotiable part of being a Christian, and that this has costs in a world that prefers the comforts of its own deceptions. What John the Baptist showed was that truth is essential to understanding the way of God, for God calls us by name, as we truly are, not behind the masks and acts we may prefer.

Truth is hard, at times almost unbearably so. But it is only through truth that we can recognise the gulf between the world as it is and God's kingdom. Truth and repentance may not be fashionable in today's angry, polarised world, but it is only through these that we can pull back from the madness and find our way back to God's work.

Phil

Collect for 24th June The 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, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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			
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.				

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, April 2022

St John's

BAPTISMS: We welcome you into the Lord's family

Elsie Lily Lewis

Ella Stone

Arthur Martin Anthony Stone

FUNERALS: Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

d. 27th March 2022 Trevor Arnold

SERVICES: Communicants 247. Total attendance at all services 478, including 126

at two baptisms.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 59. Total attendance at all services 59.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in June

Sunday 5th: Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Sunday 12th: Trinity Sunday Thursday 16th: Corpus Christi

Sunday 19th: First Sunday after Trinity
Friday 24th: The Birth of John the Baptist
Sunday 26th: Second Sunday after Trinity
Wednesday 29th: Peter and Paul, Apostles

Dates for your diary

Location key

(J) St John's Church

(M) St Michael's Church

(V) The Vicarage, 7 Manor Road

(J) Wednesday, 8th June, 10am-11.30am: Little Blessings.

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday, 11th June, 9am: Women's breakfast, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday, 15th June, 3pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 18th June, 9am: Coach leaves for trip to the dreaming spires of Oxford. Approx cost not to exceed £20. Sign-up sheets are available in church or email the office for further information.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday, 20th June, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union, Jubilee Strawberry Tea.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday, 22nd June, 10am-11.30am: Little Blessings.

--- 000 ---

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

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday, 25th June, 10.15am: Café at 10:15, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Sunday, 26th June, 4pm: Healing Service resumes - see back cover.

--- 000 ---

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

--- 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.

Mid-week services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for June:

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

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



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tea Party St John's Church on Sunday 5th June

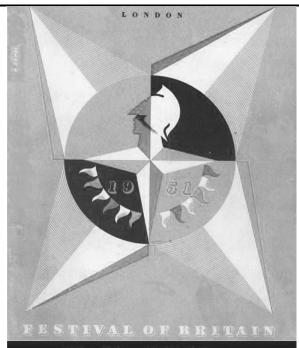
Free Event

3pm to 5pm

--- 000 ---

Saturday 11th June: Christopher Whitehead Language College and Sixth Form are running a Platinum Jubilee Festival from 12 noon until 8pm. All are welcome and entrance is free. There will be live music from local bands, musicians and choirs, dance performances, walkabout theatre, circus skills, drama, poetry readings, arts workshops, face painting, activities and games, a small fairground ride for younger children, a licensed bar provided by The Brunswick Arms, afternoon tea for elderly residents, festival food and much more.

Events at St John's



The Good Old Days

present Discover History

at

St Johns Church Thursday 9th June 1pm A talk with refreshments only £4

St John in Bedwardine



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

At 10.15am on

Saturday 25th June

Thought for the day by Jenny English

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Wednesday 15th June

at 3pm in the Church

ALL WELCOME

1 1000 "

Women's Breakfast Meetings for Friendship and Christian Fellowship

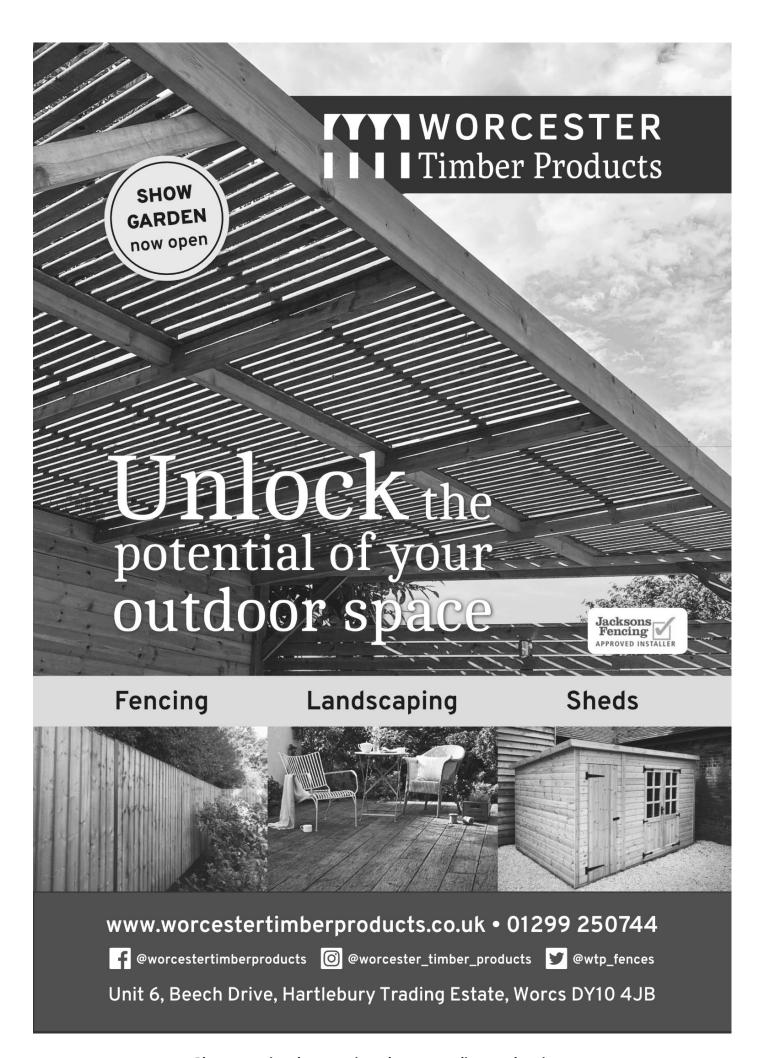
> Why not join us? Everyone is welcome! Our next meeting is on

Saturday 11th June 9.00am until 11.00am

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

This month's speaker will be Rev Katherine Pickering Bromyard Road Methodist Church





Quiet days for 2022-23

"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46, v10).



Sometimes it's difficult to find time to just be still and rest in God's presence. Our busy lives are full of things to do and there are so many distractions all around us.

At 7 Manor Road I am extremely fortunate in having a large house with plenty of room – both inside and out – to offer people space to sit and be quiet. In the past this has been appreciated by some when I've offered occasional quiet days. I would now like to make these days a regular feature of our church life and have set aside four days over the next twelve months when I will be running quiet days. 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. Full details will be provided later but for now the dates and themes are:

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



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Contact

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Prayer for Ukraine UA



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 to you on behalf of the people of Ukraine. The men, women and children who are unable to leave their country and are now trapped by the violence being perpetrated that surrounds them and their lives.

Lord, we are unable to imagine their suffering, fear and isolation as they live with so much violence and hatred. We are unable to imagine the mental trauma of seeing their loved ones and homes destroyed and the loss of all that they know.

Lord Jesus, you died on a cross for each of us. We ask that you be with the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom and democracy. That each person is held and loved by your spirit, that they are sustained in all the pain and suffering and feel your presence with them.

Lord, we hold before you all world leaders as they seek to bring peace. That your wisdom Lord will fill their hearts and minds in how to take the necessary steps to bring peace and a resolution to the conflict.

Merciful Father, we ask you in the name of Jesus Christ to hear our prayers and the prayers of the people of Ukraine.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

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.

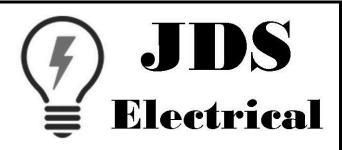
If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell on 01684 893397 or by email at sue.hussell@talktalk.net

Another significant milestone!

On Maundy Thursday, Jo and I celebrated our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.



This picture, taken by our son Adrian, shows us at St Michael's prior to a service for our Diamond Wedding renewal of vows.



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M: 07741 496210

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Silver Jubilee reminisence

All the coverage of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee reminds me of my father, Robert Dedicott (known as Bob), who was honoured with a Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal. My father, a city councillor who died in 1984, was awarded this medal for services to the disabled.

During the war he worked in a factory which formerly stood where the large Co-op supermarket in St John's was situated.

There was a power cut and a lot of metal fell on his left foot severing the arteries of his toes. After much treatment it healed but some infection was still inside because a few years later he had broken chilblains. After many visits to Worcester Royal Infirmary (Castle Street) the chilblains did not heal and gangrene developed, eventually resulting in the amputation of his left leg below the knee at the QE Birmingham.



Invacar model 70 at Riverside Museum

Geni, CC BY-SA 4.0 https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

He had an artificial leg and was provided with a one-man blue disabled car. The older ones of you will probably remember seeing them. This was ideal for going to work but meant the disabled could never take out family or friends.

My father founded
Worcester disabled person's
club which met weekly in
Unity House, Friar Street.
He talked to fellow disabled
people and hired somebody

who had a lorry to take some of their disabled cars to a government office in London and handed in a petition requesting that ordinary cars be adapted for the disabled to drive. This resulted in the creation of an automatic gearbox enabling disabled people to drive an ordinary car and for this he received the award which I still possess.

Wendy Dedicott



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Walking Church

On Sunday 8th May, a beautiful, sunny afternoon, six of us met on the corner of Watery Lane and Bromyard Road for the sixth outing of Walking Church. Our walk took us through Laugherne Brook Nature Reserve, following the brook along some very pleasant, wooded paths until we arrived at Hawkwood Crescent. A short distance on the road led us to Ferry Bank and down to the riverside which we followed until returning to Henwick Road, Tybridge Street and, eventually, St Johns – in total around three miles.



The Gospel that morning was John 10, 22 - 30 and, as we walked, we discussed some of the things Jesus said in that passage:

"My sheep hear my voice" – how do we know when it is really God's voice speaking to us? What do we do when two equally sincere, mature Christians say God is saying different things?

"They are not my sheep" – why were the hearts and minds of some hardened? How do we feel about the issues of free-choice and predestination?

"I give them eternal life" – what do we think this is like? If we believe in eternal life, do we also believe in eternal damnation?

Meaty topics, but our conversation wasn't limited to just these matters. We also talked about forthcoming holidays and – I suppose inevitably – the arrival of a certain vicar's first grandchild!!

Walking Church meets again at 2.30pm on July 10th when anybody will be most welcome to join us.

Sarah Cottrill

19

Looking forward to painting, gardening and travelling!



Christingle 2019

Chris Pullin, who was Vicar of St John's from 1992 to 2008, retired on May 9th from his post of Canon Chancellor of Hereford Cathedral. We asked him to tell us a bit about his life in ministry and his plans for the future.

The Editors

Growing up in Surrey, I was ordained in Southwark Diocese in 1980. I was curate at All Saints Tooting, London SW17, until early 1985; I met and married Catherine while there. We moved to New Eltham, London SE9, where I was vicar, until moving to St John's in 1992. By then we had three children, but we added two more (as some may remember) early in our Worcester years. Each of those parishes was special and unique, and I have happy memories of them all. Of course, it wasn't always easy, but one soon discovered fresh things (and people especially) for which to be thankful.

Along the way I developed my interests in the Benedictine way of life, painting, Dante and philosophy, and added film and ecology. That led to many occasions when I took groups of people to Llangasty Retreat House and other places to get away and talk, pray and relax together with films, or a book, or for a quiet retreat.

While at St John's I became involved in the life of the cathedral as I was able to sing the services and so ended up as the regular deputy for the succentor most Wednesday evenings in term time; that in turn led to the bishop pushing job adverts for cathedral posts under my nose! Although I explored some of those it never felt right until the opportunity of being the chancellor of Hereford Cathedral came along, to which we moved in 2008.

By then I had gained a further degree, in the philosophy of religion. The move to Hereford involved a step-change in life and ministry, and my interests in philosophy and history and other matters in which I had always kept my reading



Welcoming the
Prince of Wales to the
Hereford Cathedral library

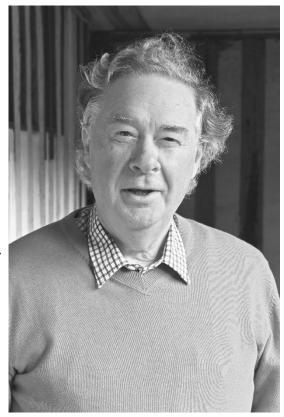
As I conclude 42 years of ministry, I have great cause for thanksgiving. My time at St John's was the longest I was anywhere, and I am glad to be nearby still.

Two of my children live in St John's, Lizzie and Lawrence, now married and with children of their own, so we are often quietly back in the parish. What will retirement hold? Let's see how we land and then decide. But painting, gardening and travelling will surely be part of it.

Chris Pullin

up came to bear fruit. Suddenly I was called upon to represent the cathedral and its treasures on TV and all over the world, the greatest occasion for which was the 37,000-mile three-month trip I made to nine major cities on three continents with our Magna Carta in 2015 (the 800th anniversary of King John's sealing of the first charter of liberties).

Another great privilege was accompanying our choir to Rome in 2018 when they sang at the papal mass in St Peter's Square for the Feast of Ss Peter and Paul, and we were presented to the pope afterwards. My day job, of course, apart from participation in leading the daily round of worship, has been overseeing all the cathedral's education work and responsibility for the library and archives, a huge honour.



Enjoying a relaxed Saturday morning

Get your dose of vitamin G!

Watching Gardener's World coming from Malvern Spring Festival they mentioned a study undertaken by Sheffield University on vitamin G – the health benefits of gardening and gardens. I have a tiny garden which I enjoy but also get great benefits from appreciating God's glorious globe by visiting larger gardens open to the public. In recent weeks I have visited three.

Last year we visited Hergest Croft Gardens in Herefordshire and this year I wanted to go back to see the azalea and rhododendron section. I was not disappointed. I also had the delight of the bluebell woods and the vibrant colours of the acers in new leaf. Hergest is about 35 miles from Worcester and is a pleasant drive through countryside and villages like the black and white village of Pembridge.



Hergest Croft Gardens

The gardens were set up by the Banks family and now counts 5 generations of planting. There are 1,000 acres running along the sides of the Arrow valley so sensible shoes are recommended. A good day can be spent here wandering through the kitchen garden, azalea garden, maple grove, rhododendron valley and pool. It has many rare trees, extensive hydrangeas, peonies, philadelphus, magnolias and blue cedars. It has one of the largest UK species of the paper handkerchief tree.

A pleasant café with views from the house completes the package. Entrance is £7 per adult and open spring to autumn 7 days a week from 11.30am to 5pm.

On the return journey we called at Westonbury Water Gardens which is between Kington and Pembridge. This garden was begun in 1969 and is still a work in progress, with new owners last year. It is 3.5 acres of massed planting of colourful water loving plants around, what is described as, a tangle of streams and ponds.

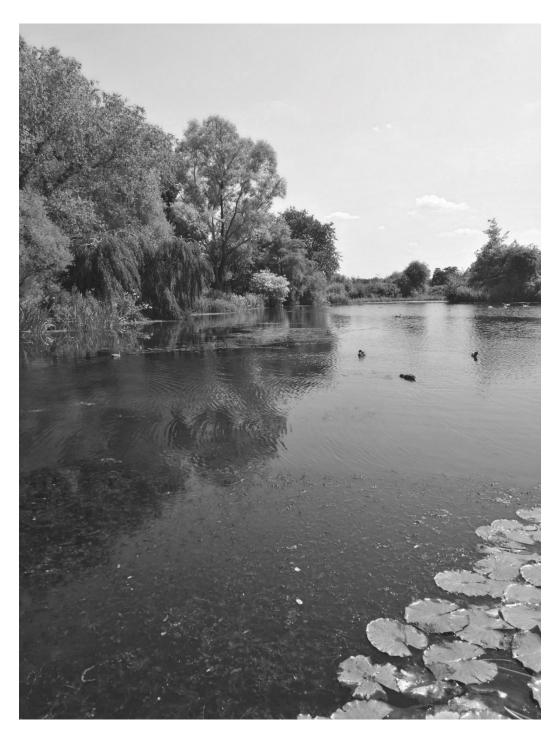


Bottle grotto at Westonbury Water Gardens

The quirky aspect of this garden is its follies which include a bottle igloo (lovely light effects when you are inside), large (and I mean large) water driven cuckoo clock, dovecote with a water lifting wheel and African hut seating area.

This can be explored in a shorter time than Hergest, has level access and would be enjoyed by children but must be well supervised. Adults pay £7 and you pay in the café which is at the entrance. It is open 1st April to end of September, 7 days a week, 11am to 5pm.

Closer to home many of you will have visited Spetchley Gardens. This is a 30 acre site belonging to the Berkeley family for the last 400 years. Their tombs are in the church that is open to the public too. Like Hergest it contains a kitchen garden which has had recent work done and has more planned, parkland dissected by paths,



The lake at Spetchley

formal and informal planting, woodland gardens and lake. See if you can find the donated bench dedicated to "sanity after lockdown". I sat there enjoying the ducklings trying to keep up with mum and dad. The café is nestled in the gardens with indoor seating or out amongst the greenery. I sat facing a cherry tree in full blousy bloom with a carpet of pink fallen petals. Exhibitions and events are held throughout the year from spring to autumn, open Wednesday to Sunday from 10.30am to 5pm; adults £9 but a season ticket is to be recommended.

All three gardens are well worth a visit, but I would recommend Spetchley and Westonbury for those with any mobility problems. They are all treats for the eyes and with benefits from the exercise and fresh air.

Easter Flowers



The Easter flowers were beautiful. Many thanks to the flower team!

Easter Children's Crafts and Breakfast

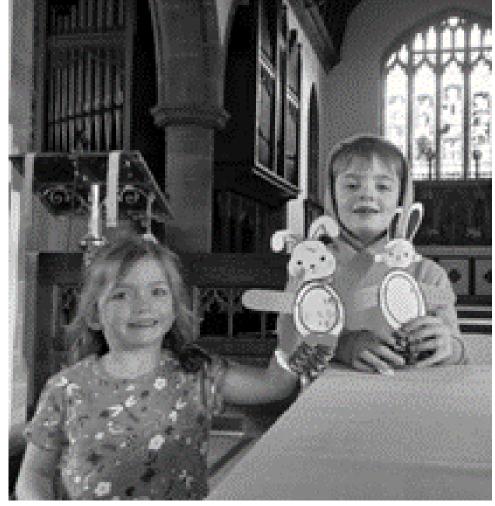
During the Easter holidays, families enjoyed Easter crafts and breakfast sessions in the church, one morning each week. The sessions were free (donations invited) and were aimed at families in the community, providing affordable entertainment during the school break, and raising awareness of the church's family events and activities.



Across the two mornings, we were delighted to welcome around 40 children, both familiar smiling faces from our congregation and Little Lambs and new ones visiting for the first time. It was lovely to see families

exploring St John's and having a fun time, though apologies go out to adults who got landed with the cutting out!

Crafts included making woolly paper plate sheep, rabbit masks and bouncing leg bunnies. In the second week, families also explored the church, reading parts of the Easter story and trying games and activities. Thank you to those who helped with take down after the sessions and to Catherine for helping throughout in the second week. Special thanks too, to Tom and Evie for their help packing up at the end!





Outside in the churchyard, a salt dough bunny hunt was laid out, including bunnies made by children who attended the morning crafts.

Families really liked the idea and were keen to go out and look for them at the weekend. Bunnies included a superhero, game of hopscotch and a baker, alongside other scenes and more generic bunnies to discover.

Overall, the activities and bunny hunt were a success, with families really appreciating the mornings and many taking an interest in the church and its groups. Many expressed an interest in returning for more events and groups and some also made donations. It was a

lovely Easter holiday and thank you to all the families who came and supported it.

Beth Broadway

Sudoku Puzzle

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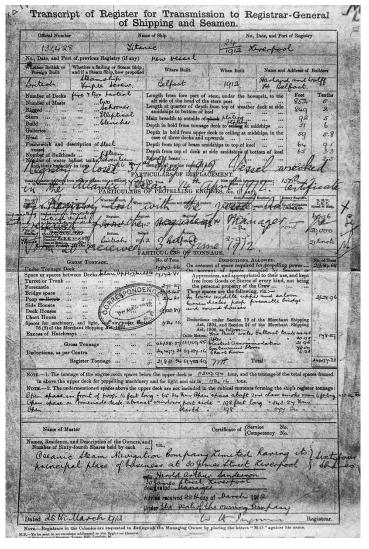
The solution is on the inside back cover.

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

Good Old Days - Titanic Talk

Nearly 70 people turned up to hear Paul Harding from Discover History talk about the RMS Titanic.

Titanic was a Royal Mail Ship and would be transferring mail between UK and New York. The Titanic sank on the night of 14th/15th April 1912 and very shortly afterwards books were published about the ship. Titanic was 45,000 tons when it set sail. The register for the ship also records its loss, so it was both its birth certificate and death certificate.





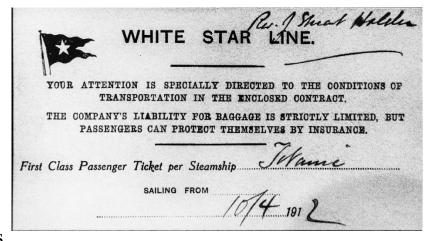
Tickets were sold for the launch of the ship, which was built up to be a massive event. For its first sailing it would be the largest thing afloat on the seas. It was expected that it would break the crossing time from UK to New York.

There were 3 classes of passengers on the ship, first class, second class and third class or steerage. Steerage cabins were below the water line. It was marketed as being unsinkable and had bulkheads to cut-off any flooding. However, they only went as high as second class and when they hit the iceberg the water flooded up through steerage and second class into first class and then flooded through first class and down into the lower levels.

The Titanic only had 20 wooden

lifeboats and other collapsible lifeboats. Even this was more than the legal requirement at that time. Most of the lifeboats were on the upper deck where the first-class passengers were, and they did not want to cover that area with lifeboats.

A first-class ticket was £750, which included a suite with bedroom and lounge and access to a gym and saltwater swimming pool. There was only one first-class ticket that survived, which belonged to the Rev Stuart Holden who did not make the sailing. Steerage tickets

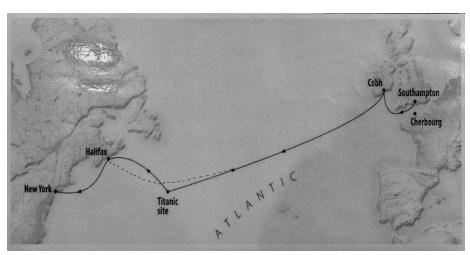


were about £7 for a shared room. There was still a massive class divide at that time and the different classes of passengers would be kept very separate. There were 350 first class, 305 second class, 800 third class and 903 crew on board at the time of the sinking.

Captain Smith was on his last voyage before retiring and was a very experienced sea captain. He was last seen in the wheelhouse and went down with the ship. Thomas Andrews from Harland & Wolff was making notes during the journey to improve the experience for future passengers. He was last seen throwing items overboard for people to be able to use to help them float and also went down with the ship.

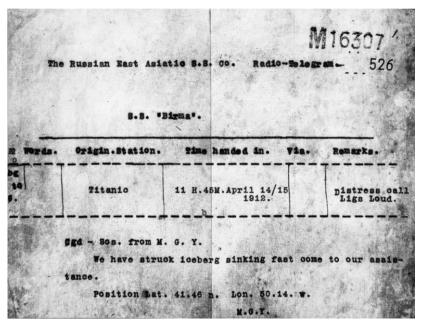
There were two passengers on board the ship and one member of crew who were from Worcester. One gentleman who was a passenger was travelling with a lady who was not his wife under an alias. Many passengers travelled under aliases on the Titanic.

On the day of the sinking the temperature was dropping. First class passengers were starting to wear their fur coats. The Captain was getting regular updates on the weather and potential icebergs, and he altered course to travel



away from the known area of icebergs. He also ordered 2 crew members up to the Crow's Nest on the evening of the 14th, both of whom survived and were blamed for not noticing the iceberg soon enough. It was a calm night and therefore there were no waves breaking on the iceberg. They were not given binoculars to watch with as these were locked up and the person with the key got off in Southampton.

However, when they saw the icebergs, they shouted down 'Iceberg right ahead'. The First Mate slowed the ship and turned away from the iceberg, which was the right procedure at the time. So instead of hitting it head-on, which might just have damaged the front, it side-swiped the iceberg and it tore a hole 300ft long in the side.



The Captain reckoned that they had two hours before the ship would sink, so both CQD and SOS signals (the old and new distress signals) were sent by Jack Philips in the wireless room. Most ships that heard the SOS were 4 to 5 hours away. The closest ship, the Californian, had closed its communications channels. At that time they were often switched off overnight.

Some of the reasons that it sank were that the bulkheads were not correctly built and secondly, they had used poor quality rivets during the build which ruptured under pressure.



To help keep the passengers calm, the orchestra played on the deck, while the life jackets were being given out. About 1,500 lost their lives in the sinking, it is still the worst peacetime maritime accident. The first ship to arrive saw a sea of white, which they thought was the iceberg but in reality, it was thousands of life jackets. The cold of the sea killed many people who escaped the actual sinking.

There were public inquiries in both the UK and USA after the event and the British inquiry concluded that Smith had followed long-standing practice which had not previously been shown to be unsafe.

The disaster also led to major changes in maritime regulations to implement new safety measures. These included ensuring there were sufficient lifeboats for everyone on board and that all ships must always monitor their radio equipment. In addition, an international ice patrol system was set up to monitor icebergs in the North Atlantic.



As usual, the talk was accompanied by tea/coffee and excellent cakes!

Colin Nash

Have you ever wondered....?

Where you can buy 64 watermelons without anyone wondering why? *A maths lesson*.

What holds up the Vicar's underpants? *Ecclesiastic*

The History of St John's Parish XIV: The Modern Era

This month, St John's celebrates its patronal festival, and this is perhaps an apt moment to draw this series about the history of the parish to a close. It has, of necessity, been episodic, but as we come to the present day it hopefully helps us reflect that a church and a parish are never static entities, but rather things which change as the mission of the Church in a local setting changes with the passage of time. We have galloped through the centuries, the scale and pace of change rather more obvious to us than to those living it at the time. While we have the luxury of hindsight, it is perhaps worth remembering how so little of what happened could have been predicted, how the history of this place has constantly surprised its parishioners and not infrequently met with opposition.

The frenzy of activity begun by the Victorians did not end with the death of Queen Victoria. While the external shape of St John's church remained unchanged (apart from the construction of the Blakefield Room complex), alterations continued inside. A new wooden reredos was installed behind the high altar in 1908. The 1930s saw the pews cleared out of what is now the Lady Chapel, with an altar restored there so it could be a chapel once more. The pews were also removed from beneath the tower in the present Muniment Room. In 1945, with unusual foresight for the time, pews were swept away to create the Children's Corner. The side galleries were dismantled in 1974, leaving only the western gallery and creating a much lighter interior. The 1990s saw the introduction of the nave platform and altar, while in 2005 the pews were taken out of the North Aisle and the font relocated. The modern period has thus seen major changes and some of you will have begun worshipping in a rather different building to that we use today. There were external changes as well, with the gravestones cleared from the closed churchyard, the demolition of the school and the creation of the car park. With the vicarage moving to Malvern Road, the Burroughs Room and Parish Office were created. The layout and usage of the church complex, however historic it appears at first glance, underwent major changes between the diamond jubilees of Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II.

This was also true of how the building was used and what took place inside. For centuries, the rhythm of the liturgy had been the same: Book of Common Prayer, Morning and Evening Prayer more frequent than Communions. In the second half of the twentieth century, diversity appeared, with Series 1-3, then the ASB, and finally Common Worship providing alternatives to the BCP. The nave altar meant eastward-facing celebration at the high altar was no longer the default. A

changing liturgy and style of worship necessitated reshaping the liturgical space accordingly. There was controversy too; the unauthorised moving of the war memorial led one vicar to end up in the Court of the Arches. One constant throughout history has been colourful clergy.

For most of its existence, St John's had been a predominately rural parish in the vicinity of a cathedral city. Over the twentieth century, it became a distinctly urban parish as a suburb of Worcester. Fields and orchards were built on as the city crept relentlessly outward. The area had quite a lot of industry for much of the twentieth century, as shown by St Johns seeing the bombing of the MECO factory in October 1940. The creation of the Dines Green estate in the 1950s led to a new parish being carved out, based at the new St Michael's church. What was left of St John's parish continued (and continues) to change and develop rapidly with socioeconomic and cultural changes. It lost its own railway station as part of the Beeching cuts. The rapid growth of the university since the 1990s has had a significant impact on the local area. Most recently, in 2021, the parish was absorbed into the Worcester City West Team, making me the final vicar of St John's. Pastoral and parochial reorganisation has brought both challenge and opportunity.

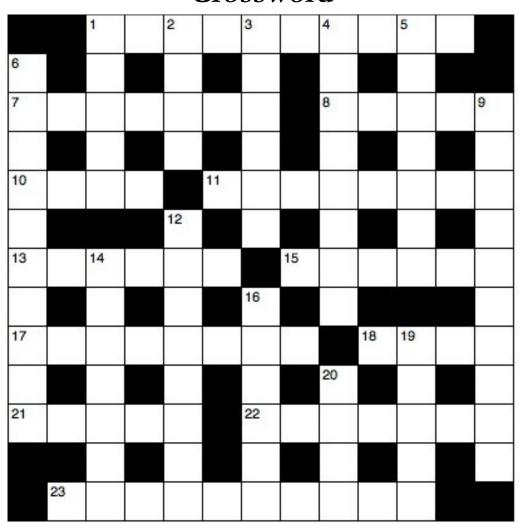


St John's Church and its parish have been transformed enormously since the twelfth century, when we have our first record of the building. A parishioner of that original church would find the modern building and its surroundings unrecognisable, the little rural chapel now a far larger building in a busy

city suburb. For all that, the church remains in the same place, overlooking a busy road junction and witnessing to the Christian faith to all those who pass by, as it has done in its different appearances for some nine centuries. This is, of course, far from the end, but someone else will write the next chapter, for we have not yet lived it. We are but custodians of this place, which is at the heart of a living story.

Phil Bradford

Crossword



Clues Across

- 1 Evil (Genesis 6:5) (10)
- 7 Musician called for by Elisha when he met the kings of Israel, Judah and Edom (2 Kings 3:15) (7)
- 8 The request that led to the institution of the Lord's Prayer: 'Lord, us to pray' (Luke 11:1) (5)
- 10 'We are hard pressed on every—' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (4)
- 11 Fraud (2 Corinthians 6:8) (8)
- 13 'His troops advance in force; they build a siege ramp against me and around my tent' (Job 19:12) (6)
- 15 Where Rachel hid Laban's household gods when he searched his daughter's tent (Genesis 31:34) (6)
- 17 'Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be—' (1 Corinthians 12:1) (8)
- 18 Nomadic dwelling (Genesis 26:25) (4)

- 21 'As for man, his days are like—, he flourishes like a flower of the field' (Psalm 103:15) (5)
- 22 Or I live (anag.) (7)
- 23 Those guilty of 1 Across (Romans 13:4) (10)

Clues Down

- 1 'God so loved the that he gave his one and only Son' (John 3:16) (5)
- 2 'Away in a manger, no for a bed' (4)
- 3 Mob ten (anag.) (6)
- 4 'Each group made its own gods in several towns where they settled' (2 Kings 17:29) (8)
- 5 Began (Luke 9:46) (7)
- 6 Speaking very softly (John 7:32) (10)
- 9 Workers Ruth joined when she arrived in Bethlehem with her mother-in-law Naomi (Ruth 2:3) (10)
- 12 Put in jail (Acts22:19) (8)
- 14 Ace turn (anag.) (7)
- 16 Discharge (Acts 21:3) (6)
- 19 'All these—come from inside and make a man "unclean" (Mark 7:23) (5)
- 20 'Let us rejoice and be glad and him glory!' (Revelation 19:7) (4)

Smile lines

I told my boss that three companies were after me and therefore I wanted a pay rise. He asked what companies wanted me.

"Gas, water and electricity."

--- 000 ---

The poster on the bus stop asked: "Where will you be on judgement day?" The graffiti below read: "Still waiting for the bus."

--- 000 ---

You know that indestructible black box that is used on aeroplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

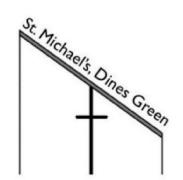
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I had a ploughman's lunch the other day.

He wasn't very happy about it.

--- 000 ---

Anyone who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.



St Michael's Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

St Michael's APCM was held on Sunday 15th May after the morning service. To avoid overwhelming the magazine with reports from St Michael's and St John's APCMs, we're spreading out the reports across several editions. For the same reason, some reports have been trimmed or summarised by the editors. The Deanery Synod report was in the April magazine, and a summary of the Joint Council proposal was in the May magazine. Both those items were common to both APCMs. We will continue to point out which reports are common to both churches, and we will print them only once.

The Editors

Team Rector's report to St Michael's APCM

2021 was, it is safe to say, a better year than 2020.

Although we operated under various pandemic restrictions for much of the time, we were at least able to remain open for services throughout the year. I think that our decision to stay open between January and March was fully justified at a time when many other churches chose to remain closed and focused on online services. That would not have been appropriate for St Michael's, as it would have excluded a large proportion of our congregation who valued the chance for in-person worship.

The requirements for distancing and masks, plus the ban on singing made the experience different and often difficult, but it was far more important that we were able to gather. As the year progressed and those restrictions eased, we began to return to a more normal situation, despite the temporary blip with Omicron before Christmas. For all the challenges, the situation opened our eyes to just how valuable communal worship is, especially for the isolated and lonely. We can only hope that we now move definitely away from lockdowns and restrictions.

Obviously, this had a significant impact on our finances, mission and ministry. Naturally enough, our focus was on keeping what we could running, but it meant that we had little opportunity to engage with the wider needs of the community and forge links there. As we move beyond Covid, this needs to be a real priority for us. Discerning the needs of Dines Green and seeking to reach out to people, especially

through collaborative working with other partners, is going to be very important. We need to avoid too narrow a focus and seek to remember our wider mission.

Away from the pandemic, there was a significant moment when (at long last) the Worcester City West Team came into existence on 1st July 2021. This ended the legal link between St Michael's, Dines Green and St Thomas, Crown East. St Michael's remains a separate parish within the Team, although we are exploring ways of much closer working together, especially with St John's. This is essential if we are to be able to focus on a future vision, as at present we are duplicating roles and work which could more productively be shared. We have a real opportunity to work collaboratively to shape that vision, one which we should focus upon in the coming year.

For all that, I would like to express thanks to all those who have worked so hard to keep everything going in the most trying circumstances. A special thanks is due to Mike and Val as Wardens, Jenny as PCC Secretary and Philip as Treasurer for all that they have done and continue to do, but I know that many others contribute in different ways behind the scenes. If we can hope, tentatively, that 2022 brings brighter times, there remain challenges ahead which we can only meet through shared faith and commitment, and that is something entrusted to us all.

Phil Bradford

Treasurer's Financial Review (St M)

Like 2020 before it, 2021 was not a 'normal' year! We had a long lockdown along with a ban on social gatherings. This once again makes comparisons with previous years difficult, however it is encouraging to look at the 'bottom line' and I am pleased to be able to report that whilst in 2019 we had a deficit (made a loss) of about £700, in 2020 we had a surplus (made a profit) of about £335 and again in 2021 we had a surplus of £267. This is mostly down to people's generosity. As I have said in my previous reports, without people giving either their time and talents or their money, we would not have the resources to do God's work.

The detail

Focussing in on the actual figures, when comparing 2021 with the previous year, we can see that on face value our income decreased from £13,970 in 2020 to £9,016 in 2021. However, this comparison is distorted by the fact that in 2020 we received £3,850 in grants for the Summer Holiday Community Café. Therefore, comparing the figures without these one-off grants, we can see that our income decreased from £10,120 in 2020 to £9,016 in 2021. This is a reduction of about £1,100.

Likewise, on face value it appears that our costs decreased from £13,636 in 2020 to £8,750 in 2021. Again, this comparison is distorted by Continued on page 39

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Continued from page 37 the Summer Holiday Community Café. Comparing the figures without this project, our outgoings decreased from about £9,785 in 2020 to about £8,750 in 2020. A reduction of about £1,035.

A concern?

Although this is good, I am concerned that it hides an underlying issue. In 2021 our income was lower than in 2020. Yet we were still able to have a surplus (make a profit) because our costs were lower than in 2020. In some respects, reducing outgoings is no bad thing if it is because efficiencies have been made that mean each pound spent 'does more'. However, for us in 2021 it represents a reduction in our spending on Mission & Ministry compared with 2020. I am in no way advocating reckless spending (!) but I think that we as a church need to ensure that we actively look for ways to show God's love in our community and ensure that we use the resources God has given us to achieve this, whether that be by giving our time and talents, spending money or by using our position as a charity to apply for funding to support this work. In 2020 we showed that with the Summer Holiday Community Café we can do this!

Summary

We have the money to keep the ship afloat. Jesus called his disciples to be fishers of men. Let's use our resources to cast those nets!

Philip Evans, PCC Treasurer

Report on the proceedings of the PCC (St M)

The PCC met on 4 occasions since the last APCM. Some business was conducted by correspondence. There was also a Joint PCC with the other churches in the team.

Some important changes took place over the year. On July 1st a Pastoral Scheme came into effect and St. Michael's became part of Worcester City West Team Ministry. Phil became the Team Rector and Sarah became the Team Vicar.

The second change was that the Diocese introduced "Ministry Share" which replaced Parish Share. This is the amount of money that parishes are required to send to the diocese to pay for clergy stipends and other expenses. Under this new scheme the amount required had increased significantly. This was the reason for the Joint PCC meeting. The Diocesan Secretary was invited to this meeting to give a background for the introduction of this new scheme and to discuss concerns about how the payment was to be met.

In January the PCC invited Alison Maddox, Dean of Smaller Churches, to share with us her advice for coping as a small church.

Continued on page 41

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Continued from page 39

Other business included considering a Joint

Council and receiving updates from the treasurer on the finances. The Annual Financial Statement and Accounts was approved. Some outstanding issues with the diocese were followed up. The PCC also receive reports from Deanery Synod and other organisations such as Mother's Union and the Community Cafe.

Thanks again are due to Philip Evans as our Treasurer who guides us in all financial matters and makes sure we are able to pay bills.

Jenny Claydon, PCC Secretary

Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments (St M)

The building remains in good condition, although the guttering on the west side of the building is still an issue. We are still trying to get this item sorted.

There has been one addition to the goods, in that a copy of "The Gospels of Christ" was presented to St. Michael's by Jo and Mike Dowling on the occasion of their diamond wedding. The altar frontals and vestments are in good condition.

The garden area at the rear of the church has matured and arrangements are in hand for it to be weeded and generally tidied up.

Mike Dowling. Church Warden

Church Warden's Report (St M)

It was again a year with restrictions with rules changing frequently. The church was organised to follow the Covid rules with socially distanced seating, etc. Singing was not allowed for much of the year and administration of communion also had to be adapted. Social activities, such as coffee after communion, did not happen for some of the time. As restrictions were gradually lifted and as people began to feel safer, more members of the congregation returned. It was good to see them. Some had been isolating for some time.

We are very grateful to Phil, Sarah and the ALM's for all they did to keep the church functioning. Hopefully, as things return to normal, we can begin to look forward again.

The wardens are very grateful to all those who help support and look after the church in any way. Each one is needed.

Valerie Mason and Mike Dowling. Church Wardens

Electoral Roll (St M)

The Electoral Roll number has remained at 28.

Jenny Claydon. Electoral Roll Officer Continued on page 43

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Summary of some other reports (St M)

Eco church: We have continued to purchase more eco-friendly church supplies. Praying for the environment has also become more frequent in the Intercessions which has been really inspiring.

Alice Evans

Life Cafe at the DG Den: This goes from strength to strength. We started with cake and drinks for a small donation. The cafe is now providing a cooked meal at very reasonable prices. Through the rest of the day people come from the estate for lunches and refreshments. The cafe is a community cafe and is a place for fellowship and for people to find a welcome. All those who help are volunteers. The Life Cafe started with a group from Hope Church and St. Michael's helped with a donation of £100.

Valerie Mason

Social Media: 2021 saw the 2nd anniversary, in September, of the launch of our Facebook page. Our number of 'Likes' and 'Followers' increased from 2020 to 2021, although some other statistics (e.g. comments and our pages being shared) went down. Over the year, we have communicated news about services, posted about prayer and shared items about other local organisations. The most popular posts seem to be posts about prayer. We also have a YouTube Channel which enabled us to post videos in lockdown that could be shared with both Facebook and our website. It was also used for streaming online services. *Philip Evans*

Mother' Union: We were able to meet during the last four months of 2021. In September we had an informal get-together as it had been such a long time since we had met. For October and November we took the opportunity to remind ourselves of the wider work MU undertakes in Advocacy and Campaigning. For our December meeting we held a bring and share lunch in the church which we all enjoyed.

The Theme for 2022 is Transformation. Diocesan and Deanery events are planned for later in the year.

Jenny Claydon

West Worcester Churches Young Adults Group (all churches): We are a fun social group for those aged 18 to 40 who worship in the churches of the Worcester City West Team. With lockdowns and restrictions, there were few opportunities to meet face-to-face. We continue to be a group of friends - there have been few 'formal' events as we all seem to be so busy, but we are keen to restart meeting up again.

New members are always welcome and attendance at events is not compulsory. Just pop along to what interests you! Members are always welcome to suggest ideas!

Speak to any one of us or email us at young.adults@westworcesterchurches.org.uk



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St John's has benefitted from the National Churches Trust in the past, so we are pleased, as they have requested, to print this proclamation. Watch out for details in future editions of the Ride and Stride event (in September) which raises funds for our churches and the Trust.

The Editors

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- Spring Thursday 2nd June
- Platinum Jubilee Friday 3rd June
- Summer Monday 29th August

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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

Art Group. Meets every Tuesday at 10.30am

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From the magazine archive, June 1952 INSTITUTION OF READERS

We welcome as Readers, Mr. Armson and Mr. Martin-Doyle. As you will remember, they were instituted on Sunday, May 4th, by the Bishop of Worcester. In addition, Mr. Victor Dowse was instituted for service in another part of the diocese. We know Mr. Armson and Mr. Martin-Doyle so well, and look forward to their work amongst us. I recall the heavy showers of rain on May 4th, and it was wonderful to see so many present at the service.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

WE have been requested to acknowledge the following gifts, with grateful thanks.

Mrs. Laflin: One gross of name tapes for Choir Cassocks and Surplices.

Mrs. Probert, 5 Bromyard Road: One thousand Whist Score Cards.

Mrs. R. Hemming: One crochet Altar Frontal.

JUMBLE SALE

PLEASE note a Jumble Sale will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday, June 14th, and the proceeds will go to swell the Camp Funds for the Camp to be held at Ryde in the Isle of Wight. If you have any saleable goods to spare, we shall indeed be very grateful for the same. Please help to make this Sale a bumper one.

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH CLUB

On Thursday, 1st May, members spent a very enjoyable evening at the City and County Fire Station. They were shown the machinery and workings of this important social service and also two enlightening films on fire prevention.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Pick up at St John'sPick up at St Michael's(£5) I will pick up my magazine from the church whose box I have ticked (subscribers' magazines are put out at the back of church, usually from the 4th Sunday of the preceding month).							
(£5) I live in St John's but need my magazine to be delivered.							
(£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, £1.09 from April 2022)							
Your detai	ls:						
Title:				Address (including post code):			
Forename:							
Surname:							
 Email	•••••						
address:							
				I.	Total		
Magazine subscription (as above) £5 /				£17.75			
Additional Donation (if applicable)							
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GRAND TOTAL							
Send your pa	ayment in an	envelope, or as a che	que made	payable to St.	Johns Parish Church, with		
this completed form to The Parish Office, 1A Bromyard Road, Worcester WR2 5BS. Or, to pay by							
bank transfer, please email parishmagazine@wcw.church to give your name and address details,							
and you will be given a reference number. Then make a bank transfer to the following account:							
Account number: 64670460 Sort code: 30-99-90							
Account name: St Johns Parish Church							
Please put in the reference number you have been given, as the reference for the recipient.							
iftaid it							
Please make your money worth 25% more!							
Please tick:							
☐ I want St. John-in-Bedwardine Parish Church to treat the enclosed donation as shown in the Grand Total box above, as a Gift Aid donation.							
You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity							
reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).							
Signed: //20							
NOTES							

NOTES

- 1. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
- 2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
- 3. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity.
- 4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.



Puzzle solutions

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



And finally....



"It's most kind of the church to donate these things, but I wish they'd check there wasn't anything left inside, first!"



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team - June 2022

Syn of Churche	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
5th June	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
12th June	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
19th June	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
26th June	10.30am Eucharist 4pm Healing Service	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
3rd July	10.30am Eucharist	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.