

The Parish Magazine

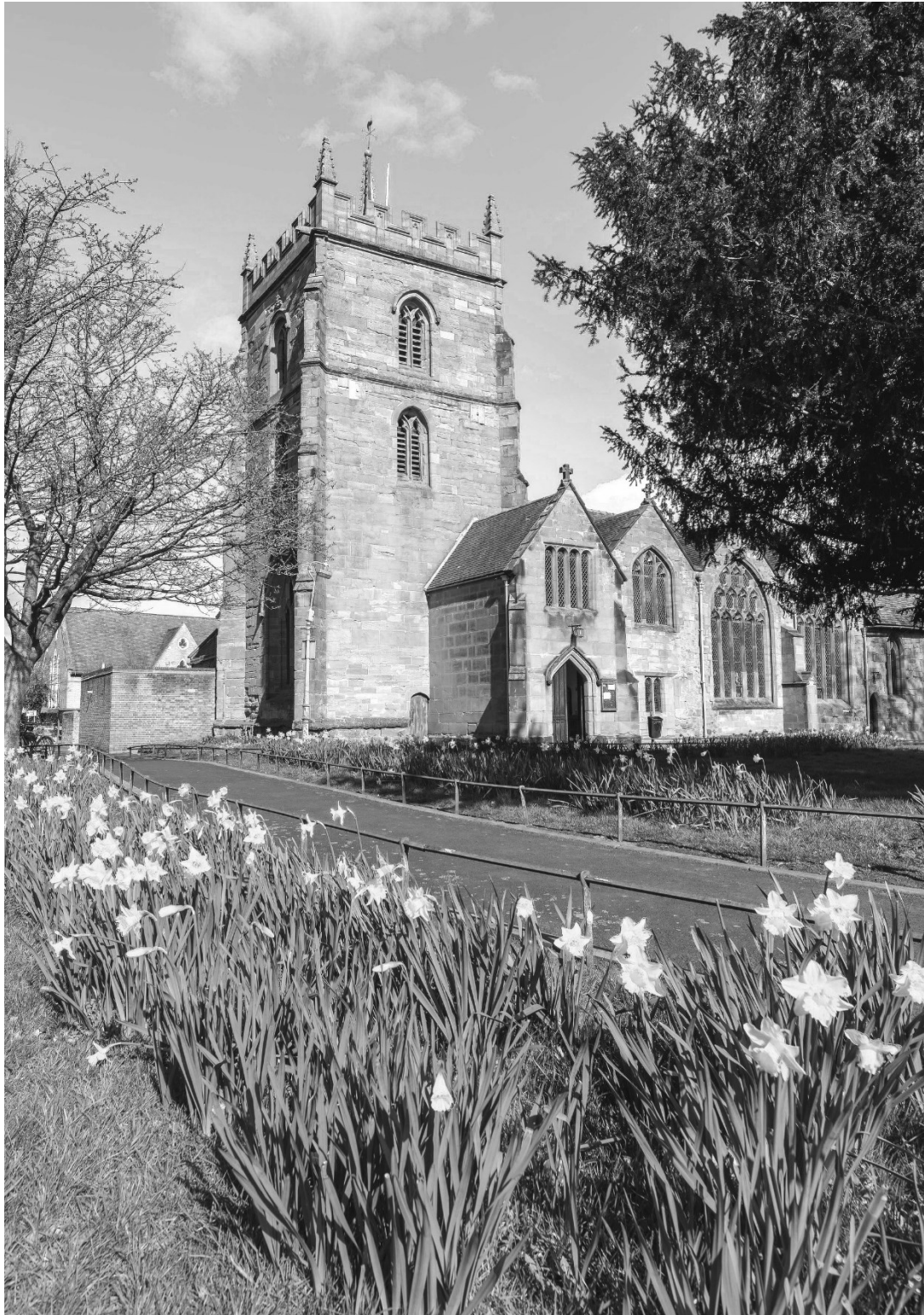
St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



March 2025

50p



Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY (clergy@wcw.church)

Phil Bradford (Team Rector) (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

Sarah Cottrill (Team Vicar) (01905 426257)

Saturday

Gilly Maxim (Assistant Curate) (gilly.maxim@wcw.church)

Friday

Stephen Buckley (Pastoral Minister) (07746 206905)

TEAM OFFICE

The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am-12noon.	
1a Bromyard Road St John's, WR2 5BS	Tel: (01905) 420490 e-mail: office@wcw.church

ON THE WEB

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

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, contact one of the Safeguarding Officers, Fiona Templeton, Elizabeth Forman in person or via safeguarding@wcw.church, or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	St John's
Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email sylviarender@talktalk.net) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email stephenbuckley554@gmail.com).	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com / 424539) Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com /428948).	St Michael's
On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	

Worcester St John-in-Bedwardine and St Michael's Joint Council is a charity with the Registered Charity Number 1205354.

A word from the editors

Welcome to our March 2025 edition. We welcome Gilly as she contributes her first 'Clergy letter.' We've chosen the collect for Ash Wednesday this month as our theme and, in her letter, Gilly reflects on this and leads us to consider ideas of repentance and restoration arising from this collect. See also the Picture Parable on page 35.

Our magazine gives details of many events taking place because of our church community. Please don't keep the news of these events to yourself! Do tell your friends and neighbours about them.

In these events, we can come together for fellowship, for enjoyment, for outreach, and for learning. Each of these events is, in its own way, a route to grow closer to God: "a God of encouragement and hope and love."

Talking of 'hope', please see page 19. We leave you with part of another March collect:

*Almighty God,
mercifully grant that we,
walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than
the way of life and peace.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition: Deadline is Sunday 9th March 2025.

Distribution – towards the end of March.

Subscription form: Page 50.

Cover picture: Daffodils in the churchyard. Picture by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Thanks to those who have provided pictures for this magazine, including Beth Broadway, Sue Fairman, Colin Nash, and Worcester Diocese.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

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

Opinions!

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

To advertise

Please see page 12.



From Gilly Maxim

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is a call for us to reconnect with God. It marks the start of the 40 days before Easter when we gather, repent, and seek mercy. Often, we think of this period in terms of seeking mercy or forgiveness for personal sins, but this is not just about us as individuals. We also gather to ask God to show compassion by forgiving the sins of others.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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.

Ash Wednesday can feel heavy or difficult especially after ‘Pancake Day’ or Shrove Tuesday, which is a day of indulgence and sweetness and fun. Ash Wednesday, in contrast, can feel like a day of discipline and accountability but more than anything, Ash Wednesday can make us feel vulnerable as it asks us for honesty, it asks us for fearless self-awareness. Ash Wednesday and the whole of Lent calls us to practise that self-awareness, which seems essential for our wholeness and well-being.

We all know that we fall short of the Glory of God and fall short of the Ten Commandments.

Sometimes we may covet, we may lie, we may steal, we may treat others and ourselves badly. We may do this in small ways or in large. Perhaps we covet what we once had rather than what someone else has. Perhaps we steal attention

rather than objects. Perhaps we lie to ourselves rather than to others. Perhaps we justify not observing a day of rest because it is fine to not rest so long as we don't take a life.

So, to some degree, we all fall short. I say this, not to make ourselves feel guilty but, as an invitation to search for the truth. Repentance isn't about feeling guilt and shame for our shortcomings. Repentance is about accepting our sense of lacking or brokenness, and acknowledging that healing is needed, and therefore the Lenten practices of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are not only relevant today but perhaps more needed than ever.

It's in giving up our reliance on those things we don't absolutely need, giving to those in greater need than ourselves, and giving in to God's presence in our lives that we are able to look at our own lack of honesty. It's how we become aware of both the blessing and the brokenness of our human condition. Bonnie Gray writes in her book *Whispers of Rest*, that instead of struggling upstream, what would it feel to float downstream with Jesus? I read that about six years ago and it is amazing to me how many times it comes to mind.

The dust of Ash Wednesday reminds us that life has far more meaning than our individual experiences of it. Through Ash Wednesday we are given a moment to reflect on and receive a physical reminder of God's grace. A reminder that God is a God of second, third, fourth, infinite chances; a God of forgiveness and limitless patience; a God of encouragement and hope and love; and a God who hates nothing that he has made.

As some of you know, I spend one day a week working as a prison chaplain. In our society, for those who have caused criminal harm, jail remains the dominant response. There are nearly 100,000 people currently in prison in the UK. When I speak with the men residing in HMP Hewell I see that they are broken, vulnerable and in need. And I also see that they are entirely made in the image of God who is loving, merciful, and kind.

As we seek restorative forgiveness for our sins, I wonder what restorative justice would look like for prisoners. A restoration that would provide an opportunity for those who have caused criminal harm to re-establish a right relationship with others and with themselves.

When repentance, mercy, and justice collide it produces healing and hope for victims, offenders, and society. When repentance, mercy and justice collide it produces healing and hope for us all.

Gilly

In Memoriam

Joan Kathleen Burgess	1 March 2009
Allan Wordsworth	5 March 2023
Robert Leslie Osborne	6 March 1986
Henry Barrow	8 March 1998
Ronald Victor Roberts	10 March 1995
Susan Alice Potter	23 March 1990
Frederick John Halls	24 March 1987
William Hooper	27 March 1985
Stanley Norman Frank Parrott	28 March 1987
Samuel Frank Hodgetts	28 March 2005

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, January 2025

St John's

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 3rd January 2025 Mary Smith

d. 5th January 2025 Jennifer Oldfield

SERVICES: Communicants 235. Total attendance at all services 442
including 32 at a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 67. Total attendance at all services 90.

Weekday services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled in March:

Tuesday	St John's 10am (Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer)
Thursday	St Michael's 10.30am (Eucharist - Common Worship) (not on 6th March – see below about Ash Wednesday).

Daily offices take place in St John's Church from Monday to Thursday. Morning Prayer is at 8.30am all year. Evening Prayer is at 4pm (until 30th March 2025). There are occasional days when other commitments prevent a service happening; the schedule for each week will be published in the pew sheet.

On Ash Wednesday (6th March), there will be Eucharists at:

St Michael's (10.30am),
St Clement's (6.30pm),
St John's (7.30pm).

Dates for your diary

Sunday 30th March, 1am: Clocks go forward.

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

(J) Mondays in term time, 10am: Little Lambs, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 1st March, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 8 and 26.

Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 8th March, 9am: Women's Breakfast, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Sunday 9th March, 2pm: Walking Church will start from St Johns Church.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 12th March, 12.30pm: Lent Lunch, 12.30pm to 2pm, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 13th March, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Ancient Greek Olympics", see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 15th March, 10.45am: Spring clean event, see page 15.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 17th March, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union, see page 13.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 19th March, 12.30pm: Lent Lunch, 12.30pm to 2pm, see page 9.

(J) Wednesday 19th March, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 20th March, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 22nd March, 10.45am: Café @ 10.45, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 26th March, 12.30pm: Lent Lunch, 12.30pm to 2pm, see page 9.

(J) Wednesday 26th March, 7.30pm: Lent Course, see page 11.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 28th March: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 29th March, 8.30am to 11am: Community Breakfast, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Friday 16th May, 6.30pm: Bingo Night.

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

Events at St John's

St John-in-Bedwardine



Saturday 1st March, 4pm.
(doors open 3.30pm with
drinks and biscuits).

“Lent”

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



Women's Breakfast Meetings for Friendship and Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on
Saturday 8th March
9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)



THE GOOD OLD DAYS PRESENTS DISCOVER HISTORY



ANCIENT GREEK OLYMPICS



THURSDAY 13TH MARCH
1.00PM
ADMISSION £4
INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS

ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

Open for Tea/Coffee and Cakes

Suggested donation £2.00



Wednesday 19th March
at 2.45pm in the Church
ALL WELCOME

Events at St John's



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

FREE!

**Toys and Games, Art & Craft, Messy Play,
Snacks and Stories, Singing**

Birth to 4 years old and carers

For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962

Come and join the fun!

ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

LENT LUNCHES

*Soup, bread, cheese and fruit
with tea or coffee*



Wednesday 12th March

Wednesday 19th March

Wednesday 26th March

Wednesday 2nd April

Wednesday 9th April

Wednesday 16th April

In the Blakefield Room

12.30pm to 2pm

Suggested donation £4

St John in Bedwardine



**Join us for Fresh Coffee and
Danish**

'Friendship and Thoughts'

At 10.45am on

**Saturday
22nd March**

Guest Speaker Gilly Maxim

ALL WELCOME

WELCOME



Free

Community Breakfast

Saturday 29th March

8.30am to 11.00am

*All are welcome to come and share a full English
breakfast with unlimited supplies of tea, toast and coffee*

St John's Church



Registered Charity
No: 1205354



Worcestershire Fencing Ltd.

A local, family-run business, based in the heart of Worcestershire

- ✓ Established 2006
- ✓ Waste Carrier Licence
- ✓ All work guaranteed

✓ **Fencing**
Domestic & Commercial

✓ **Gates**
Driveway & Pedestrian

✓ **Landscaping**
Driveways, Patios, Decking...



Call for a **FREE** no-obligation quote

Office **01905 887005**

www.worcestershirefencing.co.uk

  [@worcestershirefencing](https://www.instagram.com/worcestershirefencing)

★ **Trustpilot** [/review/worcestershirefencing.co.uk](https://www.trustpilot.com/review/worcestershirefencing.co.uk)

Jacksons Fencing 
APPROVED INSTALLER

DuraPost
BY BERRICOMPLE
TRAINED INSTALLER



Clergy wear different outfits!

When attending church services, you are usually handed a book to follow, joining in with text in bold. You may notice that some words change with the time of year or the type of service, whereas others are constant. Clergy wear different outfits and perform various manual actions. Certain parts of the church are used for certain things. Sometimes we sing.

None of this is random. The services we have, the variations, and the way we worship are all the result of centuries of historical and theological development. Our way of worshipping in West Worcester is not the only way; there is a great variety of liturgical material and ways of using it in the Church of England.

For four weeks during Lent this year, we will look at our liturgy in more depth.

We will look not just at liturgical texts, but at everything that accompanies and supports them: vestments, church architecture and furnishings, people. Our focus will be both historical and theological as well as focussed on the present, looking at how we have the services we have as well as how we devise and use liturgy today.

No specialist knowledge is required, just interest and a willingness to ask if there are things you want to know or explore.

Sessions will be in the Blakefield Room at St John's:

Week 1 (26th March) - Liturgy before the Reformation

Week 2 (2nd April) - The Book of Common Prayer

Week 3 (9th April) - BCP to Common Worship

Week 4 (16th April) - Liturgy Today

Tea and coffee will be served from 7pm, with sessions starting at 7.30pm and finishing by 9pm. If anyone has any queries, please just let me know!

Phil Bradford

Sundays and Principal Feasts in March

Sunday 2nd March: The Sunday next before Lent

Wednesday 5th March: Ash Wednesday

Sunday 9th March: The first Sunday of Lent

Sunday 16th March: The second Sunday of Lent

Wednesday 19th March: Joseph of Nazareth

Sunday 23rd March: The third Sunday of Lent

Tuesday 25th March: The Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 30th March: The fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

Would you like to advertise in this magazine?

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

The booking can be from one month to one year.

The Parish Magazine is published A5 in size, in black and white.

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

If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell
by telephone on 01684 893397
or by email at suehussell4@gmail.com

Jeremy Massey Electrics

- ✓ Domestic, Commercial & Industrial
- ✓ All Work Guaranteed, Insured, including indemnity
- ✓ Re-wires and New Builds
- ✓ Additional Sockets, outside and inside
- ✓ Lighting including, Smart, LED, outside and inside
- ✓ Inspection and Testing - including rental properties
- ✓ Armoured cable installation
- ✓ EV Chargers
- ✓ CCTV

Telephone: 01886 888493

Email: masseyjeremar@aol.com



News from St.David's

In January, we had planned a fund raising event on a Saturday afternoon. On arrival on that morning, we found that we had no water, due to frozen pipes. Luckily for us, Dan, who lives next door, came round to sort things out. He was assisted by Phil (Prince), who then got us two heaters for the kitchen and toilet to stop this happening again. A big “thank you” to Dan and Phil!

We shall be having our patronal service at 4pm on Sunday 2nd March, to which you are most welcome. The service will be followed by light refreshments.

On Saturday March 15th we are having a fund raiser – namely a piece of cake, a cup of tea and a fun quiz. There will also be a raffle. A donation of £4 would be appreciated. In May we shall be having a plant sale, so please do remember us if you have any spare plants.

*Carole Stone
Deputy Church Warden.*

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union branch at St Peters, Cradley is holding a festival service on Saturday 1st March at 2.30 pm to celebrate 100 years of their branch.

At St Michael's, we will welcome the Reverend Mike Gardner to lead a Lenten Bible study on Monday 17th March (St Patrick's day) at 2.30pm.

Please note, there will not be a meeting in April as the third Monday (April 21st) falls on Easter Monday.

Jo Dowling



Kingdom Arts...

...will be held on Tuesday 11th March, and then on the following Tuesdays in the remainder of 2025: 8th April, 13th May, 11th June, 14th October, 11th November, 9th December.

Coffee from 10am, finishing with a soup lunch.

Held at St George's Church, Worcester, WR1 1HX. Visit www.kingdon-arts.co.uk

Kingdom Arts is a morning of painting, collage, craft, creative writing and clay. It begins with a cup of coffee, a short piece of worship and short talk. It ends with us sharing our morning's activities, and soup lunch at about 12.45pm plus fellowship. It is open to anyone who would like to come.

Jenny English

Herefordshire and Worcestershire's
friendliest home care and live-in care
provider.



Live-in Care | Visiting Care | Respite | Companionship

Kemble at Home is a multi award-winning,
local, family company providing
OUTSTANDING Live-in Care for people in
Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

www.kembleathome.co.uk

Call Kelly Hennessey-Ford on 01432 382017

Email: kelly.hf@kembleathome.co.uk



JDS
Electrical

For all your electrical needs
Fully qualified and insured

JON HALL

07528 183057

jds.electrical@outlook.com



HOSKINS
FUNERALS DIRECT

For Funerals arranged your way, whatever your budget.

Caring for your family, when you need us.

Simple or complex we can help.

Funerals, Traditional and Bespoke,
Celebrations of Life, Direct Cremations

07942 114560 - 24 hrs - It costs nothing to talk

Keeping our prices manageable & helping you beat funeral poverty

Droitwich, Worcester, Pershore, Malvern and between.

CALL NOW TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS - 07942 114560



Hoskins Funerals Direct
129, Astwood Road, Worcester
www.hoskinsfuneralsdirect.co.uk
01905 27862



@HoskinsFuneralsWorcester



DirectHoskins



hoskins-funerals-direct



+ Join Us

**Saturday,
March 15th,
9am-1pm**

Help us clean together!

St. John-in-Bedwardine Church

SPRING CLEAN EVENT

Please sign up on the list at the back of church
so that we can provide refreshments.

Computer Problems?

We **FIX** computers!

Sales | Service | Support

Worcesters best loved, family run IT company...



Custom build PC's

Gaming PC's

Repairs

Upgrades

Networking

Anti Virus & Security

Home User Support

Business IT & Support



worcester-computers.com

01905 759111



worcester
computers

visit us in-store | 40 Ombersley Road | Worcester | WR3 7HA

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025 Friday 7 March

A service for everyone!

West Side Service

at

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church

All welcome!

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*



World Day Of Prayer is being celebrated at Our Lady Queen of Peace church this year on 7th March at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

The service has been put together by a group of ecumenical women from The Cook Islands in the Pacific. They are calling us all to celebrate with them the creation in which we live, and ourselves created in Gods image.

Jenny English

RHINO WINDOWS AND DOORS LTD



Rhino Windows and Doors was formed on values of the very best customer service and the highest quality installations.

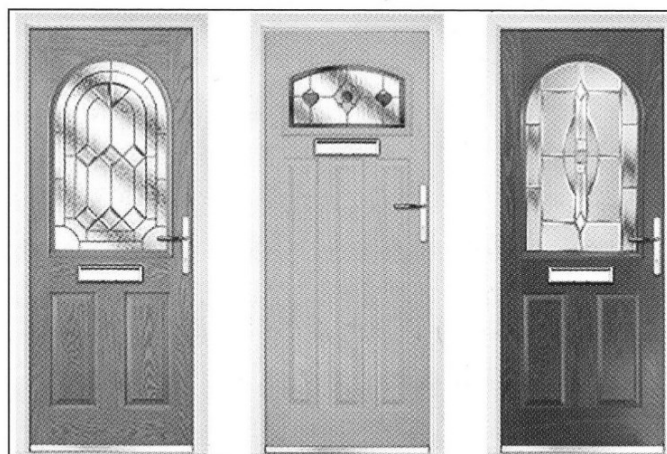
As we have continued to grow and develop our business, we remain committed to complete customer satisfaction.

Our services are wide ranging from UPVC windows and UPVC doors/ composite doors to conservatories.

Our windows and doors are made using the finest quality materials and manufactured to the highest standards.

All of our UPVC Windows and Composite Doors are energy efficient, reduce noise pollution and incorporate the latest security features.

We offer a range of designs options that will complement virtually any property style and age.



REPLACEMENT WINDOW &
DOOR SPECIALISTS BASED
IN WORCESTER

01684 770437

info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A
FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE



www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

Lent to Easter 2025

In Lent we journey with Jesus on the difficult and thorny road that leads all the way to the cross on Good Friday – and beyond, to the transformation of Easter Day.

The Church of England's Lent theme for 2025 is **Living Hope**.

God invites us to bring to him our own journey through everyday life. In the

disappointment of daily setbacks and the pain of deeper hurts, we discover that God is present with us. And God promises a future where all things are healed and made new.



Living Hope offers us the opportunity to deepen our hope in God and be part of what God is doing to bring hope in the world.

During Lent, the Church of England will be publishing daily Bible readings with

reflections. You can access these in many ways, for example purchasing a hardcopy booklet (£2.50); via the Everyday Faith app; or by signing-up for a daily email.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5th March.

This year Children's Church, who normally meet at St John's during the Sunday morning service, will be helping to prepare the ash by burning last year's palm crosses. This ash will then be used at special **Eucharists for Ash Wednesday** at 10.30am at St Michael's and 7.30pm at St John's.

On the last Sunday in March, 30th March, St John's will be hosting a special, non-Eucharistic **Service for Mothering Sunday** at 10.30am with music led by the choir. Recognising that this can be a difficult time for some people, on this day St Michael's will be hosting a **Eucharist for the Fourth Sunday of Lent** at 10.30am.

Our Lenten journey continues into April with a **Service of Music and Readings for Passiontide** at 5.30pm on Sunday 6th April. This can be thought of as a "carol service" in terms of the shape and flow of the service. Like the Advent Carol Service in December, there will be refreshments served beforehand from about 4.45pm. There will be many more services in April to look forward to, about which more details will be published in next month's edition.

Philip Evans

Anne

Worcester & Wychavon

bluebird
care®

Expert care.
From Mum's
favourite
armchair.

Inspected and rated

Good



CareQuality
Commission

We're here to give your loved one the support they need, in the place they love.

That's what Home Care is all about. From preparing healthy meals and picking up medication to going on lovely walks in the local park together, our Care Experts will not only put your loved one at ease – they'll help them live the life they want.

See how we can *support you*.

It's good to
be home

Call us for a friendly chat on

01386 764 830

Or email

worcesterandwychavon@
bluebirdcare
.co.uk

*Find
out more*



All are welcome

TEA and CAKE is on Wednesday 19th March, at 2.45 pm. Everyone is welcome to come along.

If you are knitting poppies for our poppy drop do bring your knitting with you and join the fun.

CAFE CHURCH is on Saturday 22nd March at 10.45 am. Thought for the day is being given by Gilly Maxim. Coffee and Danish will be served.

A little bit of peace and quiet in our busy world is a good treat after a busy week, to give yourself on a Saturday morning.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST is on Saturday 29th March from 8.30 to 11am.

Everyone is welcome to come and please bring family and friends.

We celebrate Mothering Sunday on the 30th, so this event could give all Mums a day off from cooking breakfast on Saturday and get her weekend off to a brilliant start.

Jenny English

COMING TO ST JOHN'S IN APRIL!

The Elgar Chorale of Worcester

Director of Music - Piers Maxim

Organist - Peter Shepherd

GOD IS GONE UP

Music by Walton, Finzi, Parry and Stanford

Saturday 5th April 2025 at 7:30 pm

St John-in-Bedwardine Church

Tickets: £18, Concessions: £16 Students: free

Under 18s accompanied by an adult: free,

Prayers for our world

We light our candles for The Middle East, The Congo, Sudan and Ukraine. Shine your light Lord into the dark places of our world and onto your suffering people. As we share our prayers together, create in us Lord a contrite heart, that in the busyness of our lives, we may be faithful in our prayers.

God of all mercy, we pray for the peace settlement in Gaza to hold. We pray that there will be similar peace settlements for Lebanon, The West Bank, The Congo and Ukraine. We pray for all who are involved in the decision making processes, to seek peace, and help to create a return to democracy for all.

We pray Lord, for the people of Gaza seeking to return home, finding their homes have been reduced into a concrete jungle. Grant them strength and hope to enable them to work with others in rebuilding their lives and a way of life together.

We pray Lord, for all refugees, wherever they may be in your world; homeless and stateless. Be with them as they seek somewhere to call home.

Lord hear our prayer.

God of all mercy, we pray for the hostages of war. As they are released into freedom, may they be given all the help they will need as they enter back into the world, into their homes and families. Lord, we ask that you will be present helping them in their recovery.

Lord hear our prayer.

God of all mercy, be with all who grieve for the loss of family and friends, with pain and sadness that overwhelms. Lord, we hold before you the souls of those who have departed this life and those who mourn. Be their comforter. Grant each one peace and hope and comfort each day.

Lord hear our prayer.

God of all mercy, we pray for all children caught up in war and aggression. We remember those who have no living family. We pray that they will be cared for and loved by a loving stranger. We remember those who are maimed and need medical care. We pray that they can be treated in the hospitals offering help.

We remember all children whose minds have been damaged through war. Create and remake them in your image, Lord. Restore their minds to be able to share in love and laughter once more.

God of all mercy, hear our prayers for peace in the war torn areas of our world.

Amen

Jenny English

Ceilidh

Thank you to everybody who joined us for our Burns Night Ceilidh in January! The evening was a great success with a lot of fun and laughter had by all. We were expertly led by ceilidh band The Whole Caboodle, who guided everyone through the steps, and entertained us between breaks with their great music.



It was wonderful to see both familiar church faces, and people from the community who had seen it advertised come along, covering a wide range of ages too. The event sold out with 95 people attending and we're delighted to have made a small profit for the church as well.

Thank you to Gordon Templeton for his 'blessing of the Haggis' and reading of Robert Burns poems before we all tucked in to either a haggis, pork, jackfruit roll or hot dogs for the kids.

The next event for your diaries is a Bingo Night at St John's Church on Friday 16th May at 6.30pm. Tickets will be £5, pay on the door and bring your own picnic. We look forward to seeing you there!

Beth Broadway

Easter Flowers at St. John's Church

Spring is on its way and the Flower Team is planning the decoration of church for Easter. This year Easter Sunday falls on Sunday 20th April and the team will be decorating the church on Saturday 19th April from 9 a.m. until 1.p.m.

Refreshments will be available from about 11 a.m. Any gifts of greenery which you may have to spare would be most welcome.

If you wish to remember relatives or friends, you can do so by making a donation towards the Easter lilies and flowers. Please give your donation, in an envelope, with the name(s) of those to be remembered, to the church wardens, Dorothy Little or me. The names will be included in the memorial list which will be placed on the 'Welcome' table.

The Flower Team thank you for your continued support, and wish you and your families a blessed and joyful Easter.

Sue Hussell

Poppy drop

The Royal British Legion are organising a Poppy Drop for this year's Remembrance Sunday which will be the 80th Anniversary of the end of the 2nd World War. It will be hung on the outside of the church behind the War Memorial on the church wall. 6000 poppies are needed for this venture!

Your help in knitting poppies (pattern opposite) or crocheting them would be very much appreciated! Different groups in the community are already involved.

You can hand your poppies in at church. Thank you!

Joy Job

Smile lines

God is talking to one of his angels and says "Do you know what I have just done? I have just created a 24 hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth. Isn't that good?"

The angel asks "Yes, but what will you do now?"

God says "I think I'll call it a day."

--- 000 ---

Sign at an airport: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

--- 000 ---

Temper tantrums: Parents should avoid these so as to not upset the children.

--- 000 ---

Puddle: A small body of water that draws other small bodies wearing dry shoes into it.

Knitted Poppy Pattern

Abbreviations

K = knit.

(RS) = right side.

KFB = increase by knitting forward and back into stitch

Sl1 = slip 1 stitch.

K2tog = knit 2 stitches together.

psso = pass slip stitch over

Poppy petals (make 5)

Using red wool cast on 5 stitches

Row 1 (RS) K

Row 2 KFB, K to last 2 stitches, KFB, K1 (7 stitches)

Row 3 As row 2 (9 stitches)

Row 4 As row 2 (11 stitches)

Rows 5, 6, 7 & 8 knit

Row 9 Sl1, K2tog, psso, K to last 4 stitches, K2tog twice (7stitches)

Row 10, 11 & 12 K

Row 13 As Row 9 (3 stitches)

Row 14 Cast off leaving a long strand of wool.

Centre of Poppy (make 1)

Using black wool cast on 16 stitches. Cast off.

Sewing together

Petals

Weave in the wool strand at the top of each petal; assemble all 5 petals into a circle, overlapping the petals as you go.

Using the lower strands of wool, sew the petals firmly together.

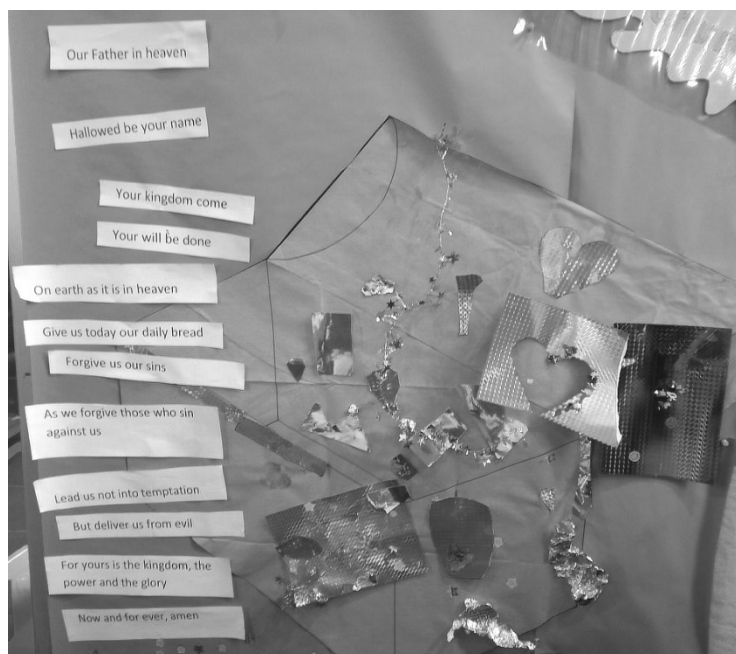
Centre of poppy

Coil the black centre into a circle and sew into the centre of the petals.



The Lord's Prayer

Messy Church's theme for February was The Lord's Prayer. Featured in both the gospels of Matthew and Luke, we took a closer look at the words and really considered their meaning and what we're asking God.



The current Messy Church board scene shows an open treasure chest, covered with gold and sparkles. This was the start of our conversation, as we discussed that the prayer was a gift from God, and that it was taught to us by Jesus. We then went through each line of the prayer and stuck them next to the chest.

Each of our crafts was inspired by a different line from The Lord's Prayer:



Our Father – We made parent and child figures out of pipe cleaners, using beads for hands and feet.

Hallowed be your name – How do you describe God when you're thinking or talking about him? Using Hallowed as a jump start for coming up with more words, we made 'word mobiles' to hang at home.

Give us today our daily bread – This definitely lends itself to the Messy Church name! We used different sauces and condiments to

write the word 'daily' onto a slice of bread – and of course, eat it.

Forgive us our sins – This more reflective activity involved us writing down our sins, or sins that others had done to us and burning them over a candle (with adult supervision!) symbolising God forgiving us, and us forgiving others.

Lead us not into temptation - We made lolly stick gates thinking about how gates can lead us and guide us onto certain paths, and asking God to lead us through the right gates to stay on his path, away from temptation.

Deliver us from Evil – Another foody craft, much to the children’s joy! Thinking about how we use life belts to deliver us to safety at sea, we made ‘life belts’ made from apples slices and cheese as we ask God to deliver us to safety from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory – We celebrated the glory of God through making sparkly boxes.



If you pop into St John’s church over the month, you will also see in the North Aisle (as pictured above) the banner that we were making over the last 3 months of 2024. Each third represents Love – Love the world, Love God and God’s love for us. Please do have a look at it.

The next Messy Church service is on Saturday 1st March and our theme will be Lent. Please do come along and join us! Doors open 3.30pm for a cuppa, with activities beginning at 4pm. With crafts, worship and food, Messy Church lasts approximately 1.5-2hrs.

Beth Broadway

Little Lambs do MasterChef! 🍰 🍕 🥘 🍷

At Little Lambs, our kitchen and food area are always busy and they are firm favourites. We love having picnics and cooking up delicious dinners. Last week one little girl asked me if we had more pizza toppings, so we looked in our box and found them. We are sure we have some budding master chefs, especially when the children wear the chef's hat and really look the part.



Our café customers have recently enjoyed using our new cups, saucers and plates, thank you to Gail.

We think we need an extension as it is such a popular café, but the question is “Where can we build it?” Hmmm! All suggestions are welcome please.



Thank you, children, for doing the ironing and looking after our dolls too. We are blessed to have such kind and helpful children.



Thank you everyone, we have such fun every week.

Blessings from me and Little Lambs team

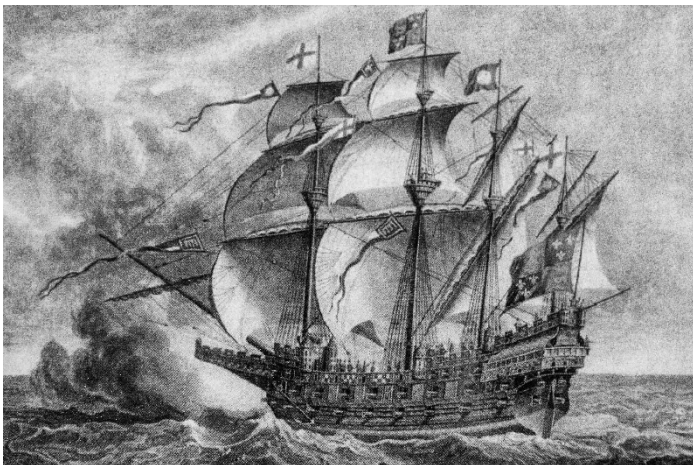
Sue Fairman

Empire Day

Over 50 people turned up on a very cold and frosty January afternoon. Paul started by asking who knew about Empire Day, and there were not many in the audience who did. Technically, Empire Day was aimed at school children. Celebrating it started in 1902. It evolved firstly into British Commonwealth Day and then Commonwealth Day, which is still celebrated in March.

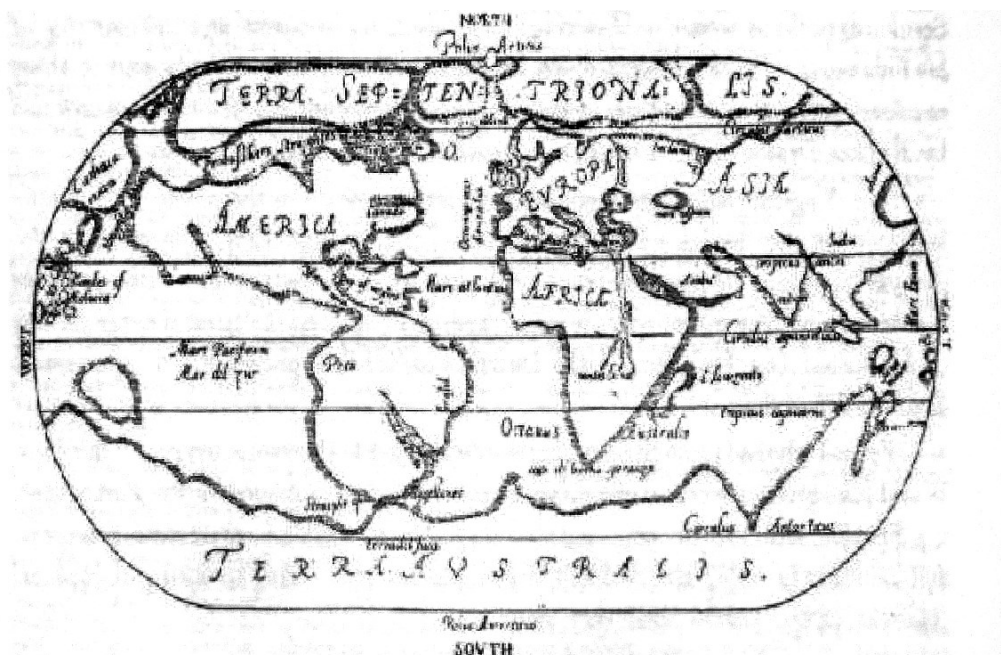


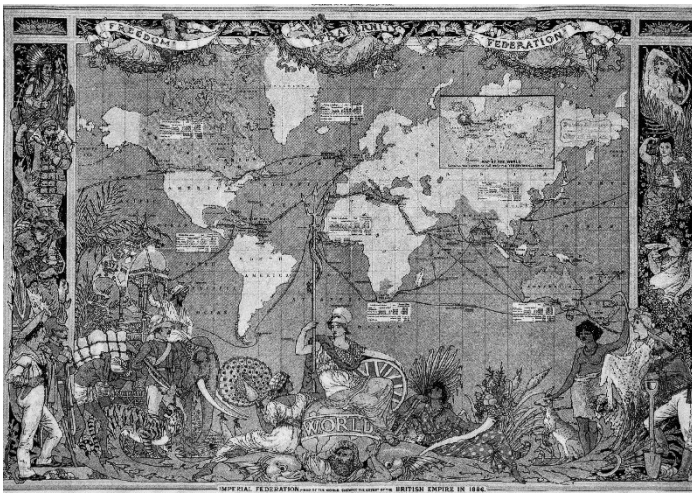
Anything involving the word empire is no longer a welcome term as it usually meant that a country had grabbed land from a local population and that is why the name was changed to Commonwealth. Commonwealth is more about a common purpose and working together. Many other countries also had empires, but these are not as well-known as the British Empire, going back to the Roman Empire.



The Royal Navy back in the 16th/17th centuries was the best organised in the world. It was very powerful and modern. This is one of the main reasons Britain started to acquire an empire.

Paul showed a map from the 16th Century that showed what the British thought the world looked like.





In the 18th Century the British Empire covered vast areas of the world, and it was said that ‘the sun never set on the British Empire’. By the 19th Century we were bringing back many raw materials from the countries of the Empire. This was the main reason for having an Empire, we could improve our country by using these materials.

For example, we could not grow enough wheat in this country to supply the needs of our people. In 1914, we imported 85% of the grain we used for bread and beer. Going back to the Romans and Vikings who invaded Britain, they also both came for raw products. The Romans were looking for metals such as gold and lead and the Vikings were looking for farmland where they could grow food.

The two big staple imports into the country were tea and sugar. Tea originally came from China and the Chinese were very secretive about how the tea plants grew and how to make the tea. Britain was eventually able to find out how and get hold of some tea plants which they took to India, an Empire country, and then grew the tea there.

In 1894, Canada first put forward the idea that we should celebrate the British Empire. Weirdly Britain was not very keen on the idea. The Canadian Government then petitioned Queen Victoria, and they suggested that the day was celebrated on Queen Victoria’s birthday. In 1902 the British Government sent out messages to all the countries of the empire stating that Empire Day would be celebrated on Queen Victoria’s birthday, 24th May. It said, ‘To nurture a sense of collective identity and responsibility amongst young Empire citizens.’

The Union Flag was the key symbol of the empire, and it appeared in all the photographs associated with Empire Day. It consists of the St George’s red cross, St Patrick’s red cross and the St Andrew’s blue. One King, one fleet and one flag was the original strap line for Empire Day. Children would salute the flag, and people would sing songs that would rouse the throng such as Rule Britannia and Jerusalem.



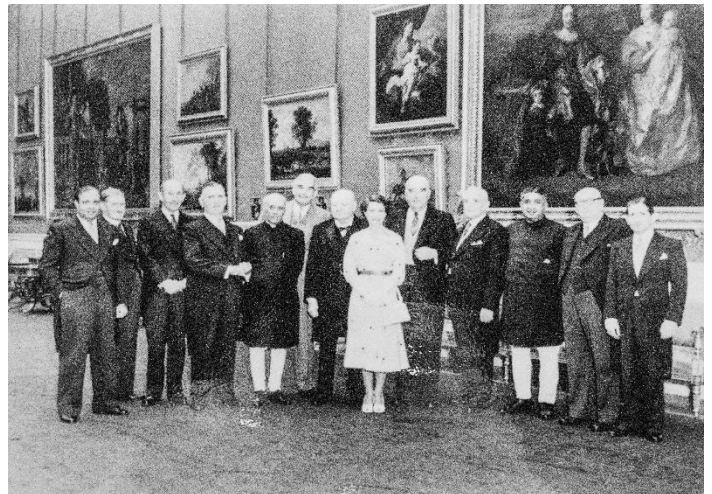
When Empire Day fell on a school day then schools would close at lunch time so that the children could join in the celebrations. People would dress up in fancy dress as part of the celebrations. Some of them would dress as people from the countries of the empire, something that would not be appropriate in modern times. Britannia was a very popular costume, and children would often dress as young sailors, links to the Royal Navy's role in creating the empire.

When we entered the Great War in 1914 it was not Britain who took on the Germans, but it was the whole of the British Empire that did. In the Great War over 1.4 million Indians, 628,000 Canadians, 412,000 Australians, 136,000 South Africans and 128,000 New Zealanders supported the war effort. In WW2 even more from each of these countries stood beside Britain. The wars started the thoughts that an empire was not appropriate. In the 1930s, talks was starting to consider a Commonwealth of countries that worked together and stayed together for common purposes. This was effectively put on hold with the start of WW2.

Finally on 26th April 1949 the British Commonwealth was created and in the early 1950s this was changed to the Commonwealth. The statement included

‘A Commonwealth becomes official; countries can join and not be forced to be part of it.’

The photograph issued with the statement only includes one woman, the Princess Elizabeth. Commonwealth Day was moved to a date in March instead of the May date previously used for Empire Day.



As per usual the ladies from the church produced a wonderful array of very tasty cakes that disappeared rapidly during the break along with many cups of tea and coffee.

Colin Nash

Paul Field 50th Anniversary tour - March 8th

Bromyard Road Methodist Church are pleased to welcome Paul Field, a Christian song writer, to perform as part of his 50th Anniversary tour.

The performance is on Saturday 8th March 2025, at 7pm, at Bromyard Road, St Johns, Worcester WR2 5DL. Tickets are available from:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/76405>

From the Diocesan newsletters

What's happening with the Vacancy in See?

During January the members of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) who will appoint our new Bishop met together to continue to take forward the process.

This group of people will put together the person specification for our new bishop which will be sent to prospective candidates alongside our Statement of Needs and a report from the Archbishop and Prime Minister's appointment Secretaries following their consultation in the Diocese.

It is anticipated that candidates will be shortlisted in May with interviews happening on 12th and 13th June and an announcement in July.

The CNC is made up of six people from our diocese who were elected from our Vacancy in See Committee alongside six representatives from the national Church, the Archbishop of York and the Bishop of Oxford (sitting on our CNC in the place of the Archbishop of Canterbury).

New chair for the DAC

The former Archdeacon of Worcester, Robert Jones, is to become the new voluntary Chair of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC). The DAC is a statutory body of volunteer specialists who give their time freely to assist parishes in the care and development of their churches and churchyards, also overseeing the implementation of the Faculty Jurisdiction permission system.

Most works of repair, adaptation and improvements to churches are considered by the DAC and the committee also aids churches in fundraising and in the general management of churches. As Chair, Robert will lead the work of the committee alongside the Church Buildings Team in the diocesan office.

During his time as Archdeacon of Worcester, Robert was part of the DAC and acted as the committee's Interim Chair during a previous vacancy. He was appointed as Chair by Bishop Martin after consultation with Bishop's Council, the Church Buildings Council and the Diocesan Chancellor.

Robert said: "I always enjoyed serving on the DAC when I was Archdeacon. The work of the DAC is all about bringing together the beauty of our church buildings with the beauty of the people who look after them and the beauty of the local community. Our churches are being used for all kinds of different things and ensuring they can continue to do that in the future is all part of the beauty of holiness."

Your Local Worcester Home Care Company



"Carers are always so friendly and helpful, always on time and couldn't do enough for me. Would recommend to anyone."

If you need care or have older parents, whose health has taken a sudden change, we can tailor responsive, companionship led care from 30 minutes through to 24/7 care in your own home.

01905 950 409

www.severnvalhomecare.co.uk

care@severnvalhomecare.co.uk

Good



Homecare
Association

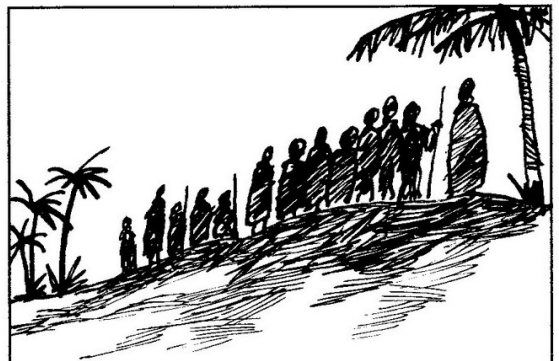


Your local, award winning, home care company

The Doctor and the Patient



JESUS HAD MANY FRIENDS



BUT SOME WERE EXTRA SPECIAL. THESE WERE HIS 'DISCIPLES'.

JESUS ONCE ASKED A TAX-COLLECTOR CALLED 'MATTHEW' TO BE ONE OF HIS TEAM



YES!

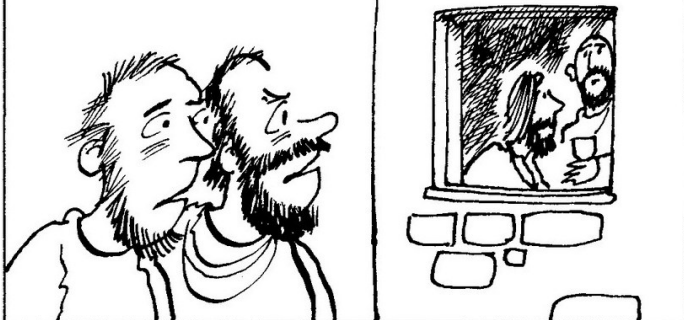


MATTHEW AGREED TO FOLLOW JESUS

JESUS WENT TO HAVE A MEAL AT MATTHEW'S HOUSE

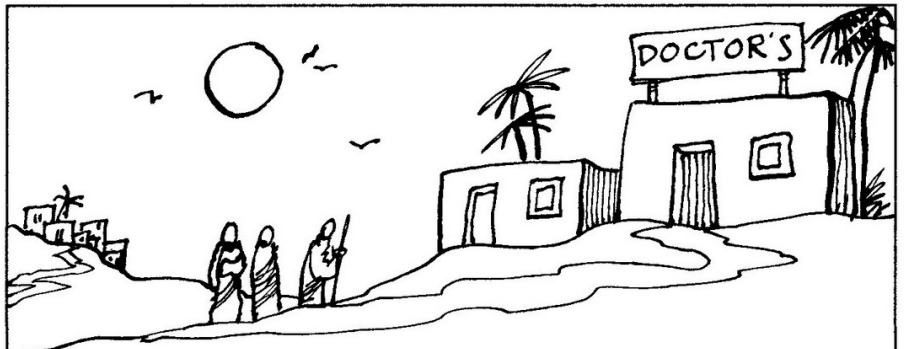


BUT MANY PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS. THEY THOUGHT MATTHEW WAS A BAD MAN - AND JESUS SHOULD IGNORE HIM.



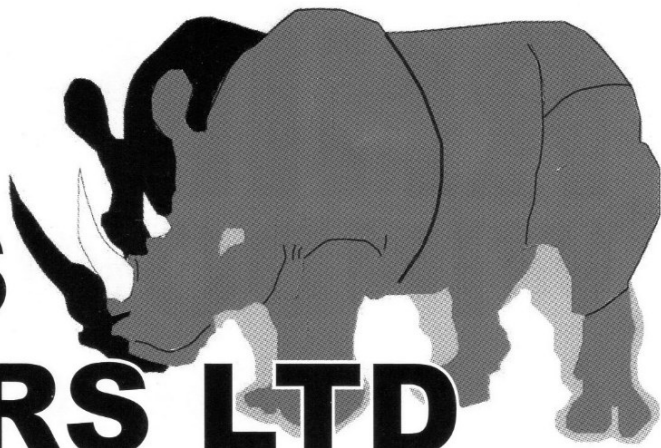
JESUS' REPLY WAS VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD.

HE EXPLAINED THAT MATTHEW NEEDED HELP, NOT CRITICISM,



"IT'S NOT THE WELL THAT NEED A DOCTOR - BUT THE SICK!"
see Luke 5:27-32

RHINO WINDOWS AND DOORS LTD



**A TILED ROOF WILL KEEP YOUR CONSERVATORY
WARM IN WINTER & COOL IN SUMMER**

Rhino Windows & Doors can enhance your conservatory and make it easier to enjoy year-round – we can even add skylights and lighting. Contact us today for details of how to get more from your conservatory

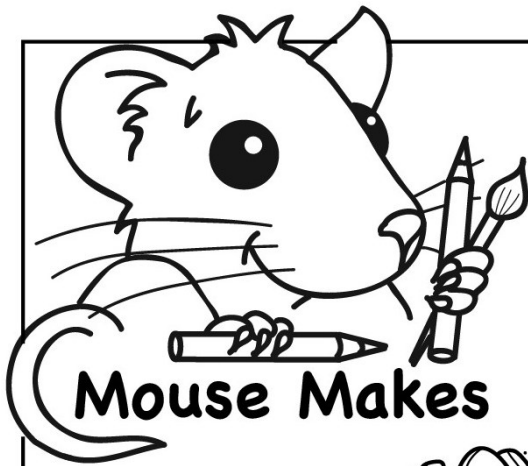
**TELEPHONE:
01684 770437**

info@rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk

REPLACEMENT WINDOW &
DOOR SPECIALISTS BASED
IN WORCESTER

CONTACT US TODAY FOR A
FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE

www.rhinowindowsanddoors.co.uk



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised who led him into the wilderness?

_____ *Luke 4:1*

For how many days was Jesus tempted by the devil?

_____ *Luke 4:2*

Who did Jesus say you should ONLY worship and serve?

_____ *Luke 4:8*



READ

the story in
Luke 4:1-13

Jesus said not to put the Lord your God to the...

_____ *Luke 4:12*

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

_____ *Luke 4:3*

What happened after the temptation of Jesus?
see *Luke 4:14-15*

JESUS • LED
WILDERNESS
DESERT
TEMPTATIONS
DAYS • DEVIL
HUNGRY • SON
STONE • ROCK
KINGDOMS
WORLD • GLORY
WRITTEN
SCRIPTURE
WORSHIP • ONLY
SERVE • LORD
JERUSALEM
HIGH • TEMPLE
THROW • DOWN
JUMP • ANGELS
HANDS • HOLD
LIFT • FOOT

R	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	H	A	N	D	S	D
L	I	F	T	W	P	A	H	D	J	U	M	P	A
E	L	O	R	D	K	I	O	E	D	O	S	E	Y
D	D	O	A	N	G	E	L	S	E	K	T	M	S
F	E	H	U	N	G	R	Y	E	B	R	O	C	K
O	R	E	J	E	S	U	S	R	Y	O	N	L	Y
R	N	S	S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E	U	H
T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	G	T	S
Y	S	T	D	S	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M
B	S	H	O	E	H	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	S
R	F	R	W	R	I	T	T	E	N	E	R	P	O
E	O	O	N	V	G	G	O	C	E	V	Y	L	N
A	O	W	V	E	H	O	L	D	K	I	W	E	
D	T	E	S	T	V	D	W	O	R	L	D		

Find the words from the questions too!



La Fleur Florist

Weddings Funeral Tributes Everyday Flowers
Corporate Flowers Special Occasions
Garden Plants

Victoria Phelps
36 Woodstock Road
Worcester, WR2 5NE
Tel: 01905 421820 or 07842258936
lafleur@hotmail.co.uk
www.lafleurflorist.co.uk

Worcester Chiropractic Clinic

102 Bromyard Road, St Johns, WR2 5DJ

Expert treatment for a range of conditions:

- Sciatica
- Headaches
- Sports Injury
- Trapped Nerves
- Back Pain
- Carpal Tunnel
- Tendonitis
- Osteoarthritis
- Neck Pain
- And more...

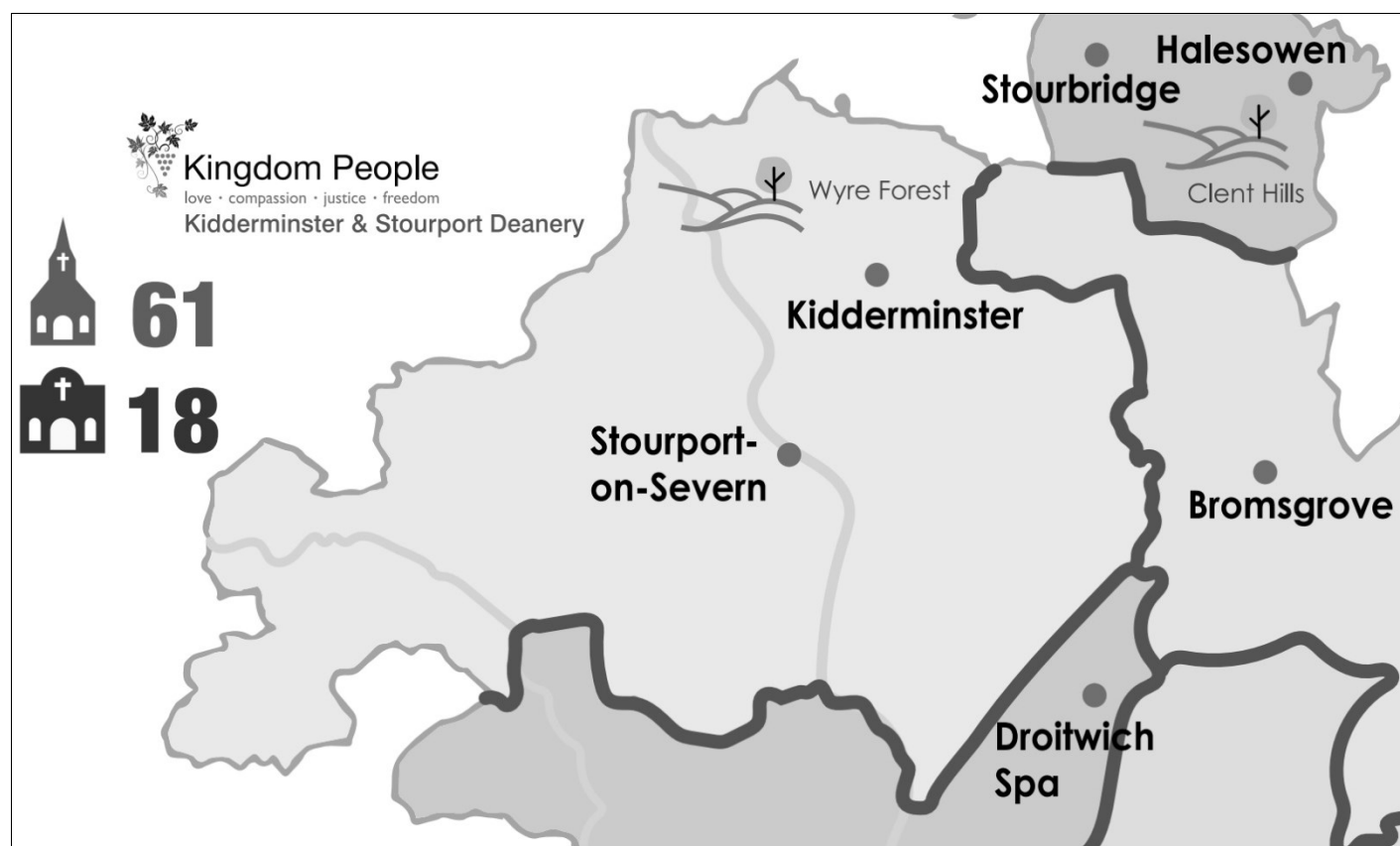
01905 428 956

Let's explore our diocese!

The Editors: Within the Diocese of Worcester 'Statement of Needs 2024' (compiled for the process for appointing Worcester's new bishop) is a page about each of the deaneries in our diocese. We are using this information each month, as space allows, to explore our diocese. Last month we started off with our deanery, Worcester. This month we go north to Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery.

Kidderminster and Stourport Deanery

The Deanery of Kidderminster and Stourport encompasses both rural and urban areas of Worcestershire stretching from the borders of Herefordshire in the West to Droitwich in the South-East.



The symbols show that the deanery has 61 churches and 18 church schools.

A deanery restructuring process still being finalised has created more distinct rural and urban parishes better able to support one another. In the West of the deanery, we are developing a collegiate group working across a large rural area covering 26 churches. This 'Muddy Boots' mission area seeks to relish being rural Christians, sharing the joys and challenges that life in the countryside brings. We hope and pray our learning can inform and inspire others.

The deanery leadership team is keen that all synods have a purpose and have been concentrating on the diocesan priorities and how

Continued on page 41

Safeclean[®]



BY GUARDSMAN

**Quality cleaning services from
the furniture care experts**



**Safeclean will help keep your
home fresh, bright & beautiful**

- Carpets • Fabric & Leather Upholstery
- Curtains • Mattresses • Hard Floors

Contact Elliot for a free, no obligation quote

Call: 0808 144 8161 or 07748 328 597

Email: elliott@safeclean.co.uk

Web: www.safeclean-cheltenham.co.uk

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

Continued from page 39 to achieve them in the deanery. A recent synod heard about the ‘Gather’ initiative with churches given the opportunity to discuss how this could work in their own area.

At the last synod we learned how to create Sustainable Flower arrangements in churches (a movement which started in one of our churches) and even had a Generation Game style flower arranging competition between Bishop Martin and Area Dean Tim!



Each year the deanery meets to celebrate the Eucharist together and join in worshipping outdoors in the glorious Worcestershire countryside. We pray together during Thy Kingdom Come with churches across the deanery praying the same prayers at the same time with one united voice. Our Chapter meets bi-monthly to share news and to support one another. The deanery leadership team meets together regularly and works to serve this beautifully diverse community. Many of our churches are Eco churches or are working towards obtaining their bronze or silver certificates.

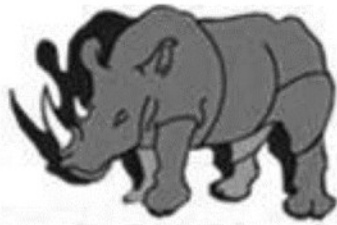
Sudoku Puzzle

© 2008

KrazyDad.com

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

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



RHINO ROOFING LTD

- FLAT ROOFING REPAIRS
- RE-ROOFS
- FLAT ROOFS
- CHIMNEY WORK
- FASCIAS
- SOFFITS
- GUTTERING
- LEADWORK
- RE-POINT RIDGES AND VERGES



Genuine OAP Discount

If you are looking for trained professionals to fix your roof, look no further. Rhino Roofing Ltd is a very professional and established company. You can put your trust in us to give you the best as we have over 20 years experience and still counting! Contact us for a

FREE QUOTATION – CALL US ON 01905831364



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



https://instagram.com/rhino_roofing_ltd/



<http://www.rhinoroofing.co.uk/>



rhinoroofingltd@hotmail.com



Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

Joint Council (JC) meetings

As I was preparing to summarise the minutes of the January meeting, I realised that there had been no magazine summary of the November meeting.

The main decision taken at the November meeting was to approve an application to the Bishop for permission to admit children to Holy Communion prior to confirmation.

January 2025 - Summary of the minutes

Phil Bradford welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer. There were 16 members present, with apologies from 3 members.

It was noted that a poppy drop for Remembrance 2025 was agreed by correspondence.

The ongoing process to sell the property at Heron Close was discussed. It was agreed to authorise money for work including improvements to the flat roof and the kitchen, plus some basic decorating throughout the property.

It was noted that repair of the boiler in the office had cost £1,200.

Terms of reference, and membership up to the APCM, for the Charity Committee were agreed.

Feedback on Christmas services, and preparation for Easter services were discussed. On March 29th (Mothering Sunday/Lent 4), there will be a Eucharist Service for the fourth Sunday of Lent at St Michael's (i.e. explicitly avoiding Mothering Sunday) and a Mothering Sunday service at St John's.

The re-formation of the Events Committee was reported with a summary of some of the planned events.

Phil reported that the Bishop has approved our application to admit children to Holy Communion prior to confirmation. He outlined the next steps leading to their first Communion on Easter Sunday.

Opening and closing of the church building, hiring of the church and rooms, and church cleaning were discussed.

Various practical finance issues were reported. Philip Evans has now handed over the role of the Treasurer. Charlotte Tidder has taken on some aspects of this role, although there will still need to be people to take on the aspects of the role Charlotte cannot do. Ellen Little and Graham Evans are doing the monthly bookkeeping. As it stands at the moment

Continued on page 45

BEDWARDINE FUNERAL SERVICES

A COMPLETE & COURTEOUS 24 hr SERVICE

PERSONAL ATTENTION
PRIVATE CHAPEL of REST
MONUMENTAL MASONS

HOME ARRANGEMENTS
DAIMLER FLEET
FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

GOLDEN CHARTER PRE PAYMENT PLAN

01905 748811



*INDEPENDENT & LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS
OFFERING*

EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

TO THIS COMMUNITY and SURROUNDING AREAS

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

Continued from page 43 accounts can be produced and the required reports to the Charity Commission can be made.

Phil reported that the Royal British Legion would like to restore the war memorial. [*Editors' note – it used to have a cross on it which was removed, many years ago, in contentious circumstances*]. Phil is happy for this to go ahead subject to the RBL running the project, which will involve consultation in the community.

The meeting closed with all saying The Grace.

*Minutes by Fiona Templeton (JC Secretary)
Summarised by Graham Evans (JC member)*

We will start Lent together

As I write, Margaret and I will soon be departing for a month on the other side of the Channel in France. We hope for suitable weather for doing all the work that awaits us at the house and garden since our last visit in October 2024.

We will attend a Mass on each Sunday, and we shall be praying for you all.

I shall miss Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer at St John's, but it will be replaced by Morning Rosary and Evening Vespers in a number of different churches around the area, so I shall be kept suitably busy in prayer.

If you are interested in these services, here is some information about them.

Morning Rosary is said in its abbreviated form:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Short extract from a psalm of the day | • Intercessions and Lord's Prayer |
| • Te Deum | • Gloria |
| • The collect for the day | • and finally, the Dei Gratia. |

Evening Vespers consists of:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| • Salutation | • Intercessions |
| • Act of Penitence, | • Nunc Dimittis |
| • Psalm of the day | • Lord's Prayer |
| • Magnificat | • Benediction |
| | • and finally, The Grace |

In our second week away, we shall celebrate Ash Wednesday with the same readings that you have at St John's and the imposition of ashes (cross on the forehead) in the same way. Thus, we will all start Lent together!

We shall be back with you for Easter, of course.

With many blessings to you all,

Margaret & Arthur Miller



**Your home care experts providing quality home care in
Worcester & Surrounding areas**

home... there's no place like it.

Being able to live at home can be one of the most important comforts in any person's life and because family and friends can't always be there, Home Instead are here to help in your area.

Our award winning services include:

- Companionship
- Light housekeeping
- Meal preparation
- Help with medication
- Shopping
- Personal care
- Specialist dementia and alzheimers care *and much more...*

If you would like an informal, no obligation chat to discuss your needs **OR** if you feel like you have the right qualities to become one of our Care Professionals please call:
01905 420404 and our experts will be at hand.

ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

Library opening hours

Libraries Unlocked

Monday - Saturday: 8am - 8 pm

Core (staffed) opening times:

- Monday: 2pm - 5pm
- Tuesday: 10am - 5pm
- Wednesday: 10am - 1pm
- Thursday: 2pm - 5pm
- Friday: 10am - 5pm
- Saturday: 10am - 1pm

Events at St John's Library

Weekly events:

- LEGO Club, weekly every Saturday, 11:00am to 12:00pm.
- Bounce and Rhyme, weekly every Tuesday, 11:00am to 11:30am.
- Chess Club and Scrabble Club, weekly every Tuesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm.
- Crochet and Chat, weekly every Wednesday, 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Storytime and Song, weekly every Friday, 11:00am to 11:30am.

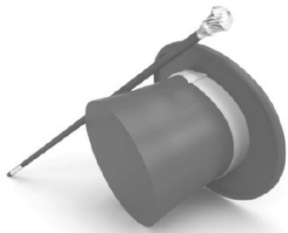
Other regular events:

- Classic Film Club, fortnightly, every other Thursday (6 & 20 March), 2:00pm to 3:30pm.
- Crime Readers' Group, first Friday of each month (7 March), 12:00pm to 1:00pm.
- Photography Group, third Friday of each month (Friday 21 March), 2:00pm to 3:00pm.
- Councillors' Surgeries (Saturday 1 March), 10:00am to 12:00pm.
- Meet the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, St Johns and Bedwardine, on Tuesday 4 March, 10:30am to 11:30am.

The Hive - Health Walk Group

- Every Wednesday - 10:30am

Meeting outside The Hive entrance every Wednesday from 10:30am, the Health Walk group offer two walks (long and short) taking in local Worcester scenery. Most walks are on flat ground but can include slopes and some steps so please wear sensible shoes. Walks take approximately 1 hour and usually finish with coffee at a local café. Walks are free of charge, and you don't need to pre-book.



Worcester Funeral Service

01905 23499

Independent Family Funeral Directors



Craig is available 24 hours a day.
Please call for any assistance.

Golden Charter 
Funeral Plans



Kilbury Drive, Worcester, WR5 2NE

WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk

FRIENDSHIP EVENING

The first meeting took place on the 22nd January and there were approximately thirtyfive people present. There was one big disappointment and that was so few men supported the meeting. It was hoped that this type of gathering would give an opportunity for husbands and wives, of all ages, to share a meeting connected with the church, and also give advice on promoting friendship to attract both sexes. In most churches there are several meetings for women, but it would be great if St. John's became a pioneer for a type of meeting which appealed to all. Why not give this a thought?

The Vicar once again presided and gave a very interesting talk on 'How I came to be a Vicar'. This gave us a real insight into his home background, and how unexpectedly he felt the call to devote his life to the ministry. It made one realise that God does show he will open the doors for some to fulfil a calling to His service. In an aside - why does not everyone spend their lives doing what they would really like to do ? We could have a great debate on this subject.

At the meeting, suggestions for future programmes were requested, and the following were made:- photography, play reading, quiz, slides, books and authors, Mr. Ogle to talk (he has already been booked for later in the year), and the Canon from Bromsgrove (who does a cooking programme with the Rabbi on television). This variety in subjects should be an attraction to a number of people.

In March it is not possible to hold the meeting on the fourth Wednesday because it falls during Holy Week. It was arranged that this will take place on Wednesday, the 12th, when Mr. Pat Clifton has kindly consented to present a musical evening on the lines of 'Desert Island Discs'.

The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

☐ Pick up
at
St John's

☐ Pick 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.

☐

(£23.15) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted. Postage and Packing costs
£18.15 (Large Letter, 2nd class postage is now £1.55)

Your details:

Title:

.....

Forename:

.....

Surname:

.....

Email

address:

.....

Address (including post code):

		Total
Magazine subscription (as above)	£5 / £23.15	
Additional Donation (if applicable)		
GRAND TOTAL		

Send your payment in an envelope, or as a cheque 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: 20150628

Sort code: 82-12-08

Account name: WORCESTER ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE AND ST MICHAEL'S JOINT COUNCIL

Please put in the reference number you have been given, as the reference for the recipient.

giftaid 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:

Date: //20.....

NOTES

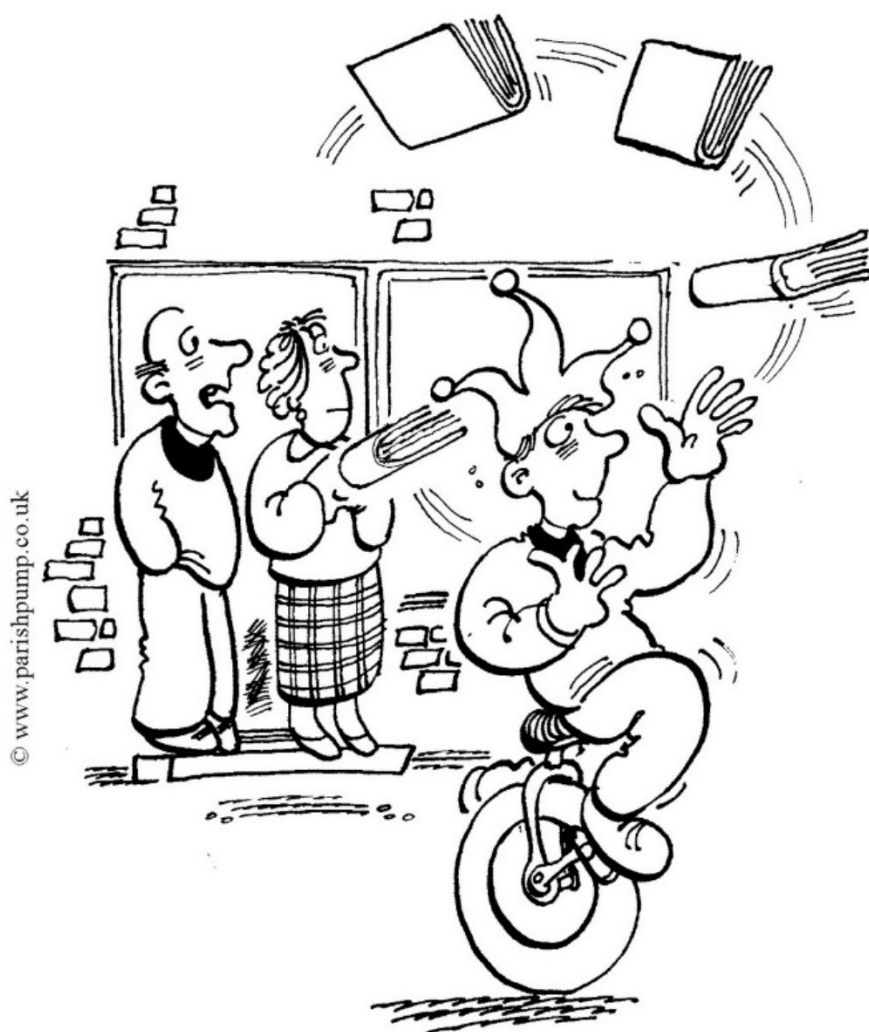
1. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
3. If you are 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 solution

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

And finally....



*I think I must
have missed
that module
when I was at
theological college*



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – March 2025

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
2nd March	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
9th March	10.30am All Age Eucharist	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
16th March	10.30am Eucharist		4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
23rd March	10.30am Eucharist	10am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
30th March	10.30am All Age Worship for Mothering Sunday	10am Eucharist for Mothering Sunday		10.30am Eucharist for Lent 4
6th April	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Service of music and readings for Passiontide		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.				