

#### Information

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

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)Day off: SaturdayPastoral Minister: The Reverend STEPHEN BUCKLEY (07746 206905)The Reverend PHIL BRADFORDOn sabbatical leave until April

Postal 1a Brom		ephone Te	by email, post or  el: (01905) 420490 l: office@wcw.church	The office is open Wednesday and Friday 9am-12noon.						
ON THE WEB										
St John's	Parish Websit	te:	www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk							
	A church near	r you:	www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/							
	Facebook:	_	www.facebook.com/st	tjohninbedwardine						
St	Parish Websit	te and	- www.achurchnearvou	com/church/19689/						
Michael's	A church near you:		- www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/							
	Facebook:	-	www.facebook.com/st	tmichaelsdinesgreen/						

#### **TEAM OFFICE**

#### SERVICES

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

#### SAFEGUARDING

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

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051). 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).

Safeguarding: Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy.

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

Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com/ 424539), Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com/428948).

St Michael's

Safeguarding Officer: Liz Edwards (stmichaels.safeguarding@wcw.church) On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).

## A word from the editors

Welcome to our March edition. Our theme is "Preparation and journeying towards Easter" which sums up what Lent is (or should be) about. Sarah explores this in her letter.

There are plenty of events to tell you about in this edition. Some are Lent related (Lent lunches on page 11 and the Lent course on page 8); others are not specific to Lent. Either way, we hope you will find something to attract you! We also hope that you will find interest and enjoyment in all the other articles our writers have provided.

As you make your personal journey through Lent, towards Easter, we offer you these inspiring words from the letter to the Philippians (4.8-9):

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable; if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice.

And the God of peace will be with you.

Graham and Sue Evans

## Important information

**Email address:** parishmagazine@wcw.church **Next edition:** Deadline is Sunday 12th March. Distribution, towards the end of March.

Subscription form: Page 46.

**Cover picture:** Journeying towards the light, from Parish Pump.

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine, especially Colin Nash.

#### 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 can, 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. send all written Please correspondence for the magazine to the Parish Office.

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 46 or by taking a subscription form from the rack (where the magazines are) at the back of the church. Please return the form and your payment to the parish office.

#### **Opinions!**

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

To advertise

Please see page 16.

## From Sarah Cottrill

## Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

With these words of the Easter Acclamation, church lights are thrown on, bells ring, and, according to the service rhetoric, noise is made! It is a bright and joyful scene, in sharp contrast to the days which have gone before. Holy Week, particularly the



last few days of that week, is a dark and highly emotional time as we commemorate the final days of Christ's life on earth.

We have kept vigil on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, entering, as far as possible, into the feelings of despair and sorrow of the disciples, the huge burden of sin and sorrow borne by Christ himself. Before that final week, we have observed the solemn season of Lent; the period in which we are encouraged to practice disciplines of study, prayer and sacrifice.

Lent has, for many, become trivialised; luxuries are given up without any clear idea of why and with no real sacrifice involved. Lent Courses - whether run in groups or followed as an individual through reading or online - have become an optional extra, observed by relatively few. Yet all these activities - prayer, study, sacrifice - are essential elements of a true and meaningful preparation for Easter. Our joy on that day can only be complete if we have also walked through the dark days of Lent, experiencing, at some level at least, its hardships and sorrows.

At Cafe@10.15 in January, I spoke of the cycle we all go through, of life's highs and lows; of how when experiencing either good or bad days, we can feel that we are in that condition for ever, unable to imagine that we will ever feel the opposite emotion again.

But, of course, we do. Good days give way to bad which in turn give way to good again.

Painful though they are, the bad days - the dark times - are a necessary feature of life and they often form and equip us to meet challenges that lie ahead. In his letter to the Christians in Rome, St Paul expressed this in the following words:

Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

#### Romans 5.3a-5

Few of us would claim, as Paul does, to rejoice in suffering but perhaps we can, when not in the midst of it, recognise its benefits. Suffering can make us more able to empathise with those going through life events we have experienced for ourselves. It can make us wiser, stronger, heighten our perceptions and awareness. Suffering can also make us more appreciative of our many and varied blessings which we could otherwise so easily take for granted.

At the time of writing this letter, my family is preparing for Mum's funeral. We are walking through our own time of sadness and darkness; and yet, beneath the sadness we are also aware that we are travelling to a time of celebration. Mum held a deep Christian faith which she lived out, to the best of her ability, all her life. Her funeral may seem to be "the wrong way round" as she is being buried first, then having the church service. There are practical reasons for this (the place where she is to be buried is too far out for people to wait for a wake until the family returns) but there is another reason too; laying Mum to rest in her grave will be sad. The service afterwards is a celebration of a life well lived and a soul gone humbly but confidently to her God and Redeemer. Mum's final illness prepared her and her family for her passing but that passing was necessary for her to be taken to her heavenly reward. In a sense, to her own small Easter Day!

By the time this magazine is in your hands, we will have entered the season of Lent. Flowers will have been removed from our churches; services will have taken on an extra solemnity; Lent lunches, the Lent course on prayer and other Lent initiatives and challenges will have been launched. There are many ways in which you can prepare hearts and minds for the events of Holy Week and, ultimately, to enter into the wonder and joy of Easter when, once again, we will joyfully proclaim the victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Until then, I wish you a prayerful, meaningful and holy Lent.

Sarah Cottrill

#### In Memoriam Joan Kathleen Burgess 1 March 2009 Robert Leslie Osborne 6 March 1986 Henry Barrow 8 March 1998 **Ronald Victor Roberts** 10 March 1995 Lily Williams 15 March 1983 Marjorie Mary Jones 22 March 1984 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 2022 St John's

FUNERALS: Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

d. 16th December 2022 Dawnette McFarlane

d. 22nd December 2022 Velma Box

d. 27th December 2022 Eileen Cantrill

**SERVICES:** Communicants 192. Total attendance at all services 574 including 276 at three funerals.

#### St Michael's

**SERVICES:** November: Communicants 64. Total attendance at all services 70. December: Communicants 58. Total attendance at all services 76. January: Communicants 62. Total attendance at all services 79.

## Sundays and Principal Feasts in March

Sunday 5th: Second Sunday of Lent.
Sunday 12th: Third Sunday of Lent.
Sunday 19th: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday).
Monday 20th: Joseph of Nazareth.
Saturday 25th: The annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Sunday 26th: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins).

## Dates for your diary

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for March:

TuesdaySt John's 10am. (Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer)ThursdaySt Michael's 10.30am. (Eucharist - Common Worship)

## "Lord teach us to pray"

The Lent course will run for six weeks on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9pm at St John's in the Blakefield Room. The subject will be prayer and we will be looking at the theology of prayer as well as some models of prayer which people might find helpful in their private devotions.

The dates of the meetings are: March 1st; 8th; 15th; 22nd; 29th and April 5th.

Each session is complete in itself and there is no obligation to attend every week.

Sarah Cottrill

## Popular presentation

On Friday March 17th Chris Wilkinson will be in St Clement's church at 7pm to give one of his popular presentations on a special vintage railway in Worcester, now no longer in existence. There will be light refreshments during the interval, after which he will talk about a special project taking place in the basement of Crowngate and he will include old photos of St Johns. Admission will be £5 by ticket or on the door and will include the refreshments.

Angie Harris Fundraising team, St Clements Church

## Community Breakfast

Our next community breakfast is on Saturday 18th March from 8.30am to 11am. All are welcome to come and share a good breakfast and warm fellowship.

Jenny English

## Dream of Gerontius

Worcester Festival Choral Society, with Meridian Symphonia, are presenting Elgar's 'The Dream of Gerontius' at Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 18th March at 7.30pm. The soloists are Marta Fontanals-Simmons (mezzo soprano), Marl Wilde (tenor) and Njabulo Madlala (Baritone). The conductor is Samuel Hudson.

Tickets are £15 to £27 from WCFS online (0333 666 3366). TicketSource: Local call rate and booking fees apply.

Ruth Reeves

## Handmade cards

Don't forget! A selection of my handmade greetings cards are available for sale at St Michael's church. All proceeds go to church funds.

Sue Evans

## Events at St John's



### ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

Open for Tea/Coffee and Cakes £2.00





Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 2.45pm in the Church ALL WELCOME



Vomen's Breakfast Meetings for Friendship and Christian Fellowship

Why not join us? Everyone is welcome! Our next meeting is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 9.00am until 11.00am

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

This month's speaker will be

Patricia Fenner





# Castle Farm Designs Ltd E: info@castlefarmdesigns.co.uk

## T: 07841500735

Handcrafted wooden garden furniture for sale & for hire

# Take back your garden!

Fencing, Decking & Garden Clearance



@CastleFarmDesigns

www.castlefarmdesigns.co.uk



## Good aks Quality Care at Home

Good Oaks' award-winning home care enables you to stay safe and independent at home.

From 30-minute visits to 24-hour live-in care our simple, surprisingly affordable prices ensure you only pay for what you need.

Call or email us to find out more

01905 950409 worcester@goodoakshomecare.co.uk

goodoakshomecare.co.uk/ worcester

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers



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

Birth to 4 years old and carers



ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

Soup, bread, cheese and fruit with tea or coffee



Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

In the Blakefield Room

12.30pm to 2pm

Suggested donation £4 for Bishop John's Lent Appeal

## Kingdom Arts

exploring faith through creativity Painting, collage, craft, creative writing.

> St George's Church, Worcester WR3 1HX www.kingdom-arts.co.uk

#### Tuesdays 2023

14th March, 18th April, 9th May,13th June, 12th September,10th October, 14th November,12th December

Coffee from 9.30am Finish with a soup lunch





## *Prayer for Ukraine, Turkey and Syria*



Today we light 3 candles representing Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We pray for Ukraine, Turkey and Syria, asking Father, Son and Holy Spirit to surround all those living in these nations.

#### UKRAINE

Lord Jesus, we continue to pray that your Holy Spirit will surround the people of Ukraine. For those fighting to protect others and to defend democracy and freedom, so that the rights of ordinary people can live in peace within their own neighbourhoods.

We ask that your Holy Spirit will protect those who are trying to restore water supplies, electricity and food to a nation that is besieged with violence and hate.

We pray for all to have peace and resolution for this war and that leaders will have courage and wisdom to find ways of seeking peace for all.

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

#### TURKEY and SYRIA

Lord Jesus send your Holy Spirit into this terrible disaster, where people are suffering terrible grief and loss: Where people have been made homeless; where water and food are scarce; where Aid workers are having such difficulties in bringing relief to millions of people.

We pray that the Holy Spirit will bring comfort to those who mourn. We pray especially for all children who have been made homeless and for those who are now orphans and victims of this terrible tragedy.

Lord in your mercy; Hear our prayer.

May our prayers today rise before you as incense, that as we walk with you through Lent, we may in our prayer, walk with the people of Ukraine, Turkey and Syria in all their suffering.

Lord Jesus hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

#### Amen

Jenny English



SHOW GARDEN now open

# **JALOCK** th potential of you outdoor spa

Fencing

Landscaping

Sheds

lacksons Fencing ROVED INSTALL



www.worcestertimberproducts.co.uk • 01299 250744

f @worcestertimberproducts 👩 @worcester\_timber\_products У @wtp\_fences

Unit 6, Beech Drive, Hartlebury Trading Estate, Worcs DY10 4JB

## Easter flowers at St John's Church

Easter Sunday falls on 9th April this year and so the flower team will be decorating the church on Saturday 8th April from 9am until 1.00pm. You are welcome to come and help if you wish. Refreshments will be available from about 11am. Gifts of greenery will be most useful.

If you wish to remember friends or relatives you can do so by making a donation towards Easter lilies and flowers. Please give your donation, in an envelope with the names of those to be remembered, to the church wardens, members of the flower team or Sue Hussell. Names of those remembered will be included in a memorial list which will be placed on the 'Welcome' table.

The flower team wish you and your families a blessed and joyful Easter, and thank you for your support.

Sue Hussell

## Random act of kindness

I saw this on the Lower Wick Facebook page: A lady was saying thank you to an unknown local lady. The mum who posted sent her son to the Co-op for ingredients for his school cookery lesson.

Whilst he was there, he also picked up a treat for his brother. He didn't have enough to pay so the lady behind him in the queue paid the difference. The mum was thanking the lady for the act but also for the lesson to her son about kindness.

Margaret Miller

## Prayerful support

It is with great sadness that I announce the death of my Mum, Pat Bridges, on 1st February. She and I have been grateful for your prayerful support during the time of her illness. *Sarah Cottrill* 

## Mother's Union

We were all extremely sad to learn of the death of Pat, one of our members. She had been an MU member for over 30 years, initially at Claines and then joining us when Sarah came as curate to our group. She will be greatly missed by us all.

She was able to attend our meeting in December and brought with her several knitted teddies that she had made and that were forwarded to be part of the Christmas gift bags given to children visiting relatives in one of the local prisons.

Jenny Claydon



A well established family business offering competitive rates and a friendly, reliable service. Customer satisfaction is our priority.

#### Services

General Plumbing & Heating Painting & Decorating Hedge Trimming Lawn Mowing Decking Pruning Internal & External Wall Repairs Tree Felling & Pollarding Household Clearance Jet Washing Weeding Fencing





Contact

Julian Shuttleworth 07557 027001 info@jspropertyandgardenservices.co.uk www.jspropertyandgardenservices.co.uk

Areas Covered Worcestershire & surrounding areas Garden Clearance All rubbish taken away





## *Would you like to advertise in this magazine?*

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.

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 by telephone on 01684 893397 or by email at sue.hussell@talktalk.net

## *"Formative" = "For practice"*

Well...there was great drama at our Queens residential! The weekend started well with a lovely Shabbat meal with Rabbi Debbie and her family. The Shabbat meal marks the start of the Jewish day of rest and is on a Friday night. We heard prayers that Debbie and her husband sang and shared bread and a glass of wine (well, grape juice given the diverse ecumenical nature of the group).

But when we got to our seminar, we could tell something was up and it turned out there was a gas leak and the whole of the Queens complex had been cut off. Now lovely as Queens is, it is not the cosiest of places at the best of times and so the decision was made that we could manage one night without heat but not two and so we would finish on Saturday afternoon. All this being a long-winded way of saying that there was no reunion of the readers' choir on Sunday morning.

We did cram plenty into the time we did have though and, at the time of writing, I have started work on that module's assignment. My thanks go to those who gave me words for the word cloud or allowed me to ask them some questions about the history of St Johns. More on that in the future.

Since the last article I have done two formative assignments (these are the practice ones where you get feedback but not a mark) - one was on the impact of COVID on worship and the other was on Paul's letter to the Corinthians, specifically the passage about head coverings. It really is fascinating stuff prompting so many questions and our tutor knows so much and can point us to articles and new perspectives that really make you question what you thought you knew. It can be pretty challenging sometimes. Realising that long held beliefs were built on false assumptions or scriptural misunderstandings can be pretty uncomfortable but it's done in a safe and supportive environment and when you come out the other side you are stronger for it and, all being well, in a better place to share what you know through your ministry.

My current focus is on the next summative assignment (the marked one). That is about just twelve verses from Matthew's gospel describing the arrival of the Magi. It's hard to believe so much could be written about just a few verses that you might think are pretty uncontroversial but my reading list says otherwise! I'm sure you'll get to hear all about it if I'm leading a service next Epiphany.

Thanks as ever for your interest and support and I look forward to giving further updates as the term progresses.

Rob Little

### Worcester in the Stone Age

Over 70 people turned up to hear Paul Harding talk about the Stone Age. He told us that this is his favourite period of history, or pre-history, that he talks about.

33,000 years ago, a glacier covered much of Europe during the Ice Age and this massive sheet of ice, seen in





white in this image, reached down as far as the Midlands. In Worcester we were at the edge of habitable land. The Stone Age is actually 3 separate periods, called Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic, lasting from millions of years ago to about 3,300 BC.

Back then woolly mammoths, reindeer and woolly rhinos

would have roamed our local area along with boar and aurochs. There would have been lions roaming around, including cave lions, evidence of the remains of which have been found near Bredon.

At that time, Britain was attached to Europe so the animals were able to freely walk great distances in search of food. As the ice age receded the water flooded the low-lying areas, and the English Channel and the North Sea were formed.



In the Stone Age flint was the most common type of stone used as it was very hard and adaptable, but there is none available in Worcestershire. However, there are many examples of flint objects and tools found in our area, so they had to be brought to the area, either as the Stone Age people moved about or they traded goods with others.

People would hit the flint with gravel rocks or reindeer horns made into hammers. The gravel rocks were smooth and round, so easier to hit things with. The shards



that were created had very sharp edges, which they could use to cut things to make better tools or cut meat. They also made large sharp stones which they then made into spears to kill animals when they went hunting, as in the image on the left.

Stone Age people made 'hand axes.' These were not used to

chop down trees but for butchery of animals. Stone Age hand axes have been found in Worcester. A Reginald Smith found one in Henwick in a pit, and it is held in Worcester Museum, seen in this image.

Flint tools were found in 1915 in St Johns, at the old Pitmaston garden nursery



and the sewage works, by William Brunton, a tailor in St Johns with an interest in history. He found these items and saw that they had marks on them made by humans.

During the Stone Age there were very cold winters as it was coming out of the Ice Age. The stone age people had to evolve to live. They moved into caves to keep warmer and drier, but this had its drawbacks as we have already heard about cave lions and there were bears who also liked to live in these caves. Simple tools were developed initially to help them feed themselves and as they evolved, they used the simple tools to make other more complex ones.

Similar to the migration of animals, already mentioned, the Stone Age people were hunter/gatherers and they had to follow the animals to eat, so there was not a permanent population in Worcester.

They would have had to eat the food quite soon as it rapidly went off and larger animals would also be interested in eating the food they had caught. Everything would be used, they would drink the blood, as some tribes in Africa still do.

The skins would be taken off and small flint tools, scrapers, would be used to take off all the meat from the skin to clean it.

Evidence has been found of bone needles, made from the animal bones, that would have been used to sew the skins together. The evidence for this is that the needles have eyes which means they would have something to put through the eye of the needle, either using sinews of the animals or basic threads created from plants.





As we move towards the Neolithic period simple structures have been found to show that people made basic 'houses' for protection from the elements and animals.

It is believed that initially these were made from old mammoth leg bones with skins placed over them. However, as

they developed, they started to use wood and create more permanent structures.

Evidence has been found in Worcester of these early Neolithic structures. Wood, found driven into the ground near the River Severn, when dated was found to be from this period. It is thought that structures would have looked like this image.





As usual the ladies of the church provided a wonderful array of cakes for the audience during the break. The cakes were much appreciated and they soon disappeared with the cups of tea and coffee.

Colin Nash

Sudoku		2	4	3	8				
<b>Puzzle</b> Copyright 2011						6			7
KrazyDad.com		5	8				4		
The solution	4				1				
is on the inside back				7		5			
cover.					2				8
			1				6	7	
	3			5					
					4	9	2	1	

## Journeying toward Easter.

This year in the week before Palm Sunday I shall be on the other side of the Channel and so shall be preparing those last moments before the Easter Vigil in my local church, Saint Martial, at Sabadel-Latronquiere. I thought it might be of interest if I share with you the aspects of preparation there and the prayers and activities which we can engage in for those days up to Easter.

In France, Lent is known as Carême and Easter is Pâques. There is a website called Câreme dans la ville. This is an opportunity to share prayers specific to each day, and especially the Sundays of Lent, with reflections on the way in which each day's prayers can enrich the Lenten experience for each individual.

In addition, the idea of a Lenten pilgrimage (pélérinage) is explored with details of places to visit which will deepen the value of reflection, discussion and contemplation during the preparation period.

There are some parishes where the whole congregation make one of these visits and we have a number of impressive places in our region to go to.

One example is Conques (in the Aveyron) where the monks are very welcoming to all visitors and where scriptural recitals are shared as well as the evening meal taken in the refectory.

At a more local level there is a range of activities in the church of Saint Sauveur in Figeac, including a Lenten course focussing this year on the life of Saint Paul and the conclusions for him of his life as "Apostle" of Christ.

Palm Sunday brings worshippers to each church carrying branches of buis (better known as box hedging in UK). These branches are blessed during the service after which they are carried home to be hung in the porch of each house.

The Easter Vigil is preceded by the dressing of the cross with a purple cloth and then the stations of the cross are rehearsed with all the congregation attending and many participating in the readings or reading character parts.

This is followed by a litany of prayers which continue into the late evening. In many churches there are elaborate stations of the cross on the walls round the church so that people can move from one to the other for the reading of the appropriate text and prayers.

On Easter Day we shall be sharing the same joyous celebration as your congregation at St Johns, and probably at about the same time - 9.30am with us since we are one hour ahead of Greenwich!

Arthur Miller

## Leave space for the butterflies!



Eileen was one of our stalwarts at St John's church and she will be greatly missed. Apart from being the very helpful wife of Ron, a Churchwarden for a great number of years, she certainly had a 'can do' attitude! She had been a paediatric Nursing Sister and a playgroup leader whilst bringing up her 3 children. She became the sacristan - the one in charge of all the vestments and altar frontals - and she regularly laundered the altar linen. She also organised the flower ladies and up until last summer she would go into Worcester to buy the flowers. She was very economically and environmentally conscious. Nothing was ever wasted and we were mindful of resurrecting flowers! Eileen always

maintained that our Friday morning meetings were about more than just arranging flowers. It was our friendship and fellowship supporting each other during good times and bad. She would also be the point of contact for brides to discuss which flowers they would like for their wedding.

She had a wonderful way with words and had a great sense of humour. She often reminded me of 'Talking Heads' in the way she would tell a story about whatever had happened to her be it on a bus or train journey, and the people she had met recently or way back when. I would be doubled up in a fit of giggles and laughter! We could share a joke together. She could also be very wise and knowledgeable about all things liturgical and ecclesiastical, and she gave me a great deal of support in my role of Churchwarden, for which I am very grateful.

With regard to my own very limited flower arranging capabilities she always encouraged me and also filled me with great apprehension when giving me the High Altar arrangement to do, saying 'now Joy I want you to be able to do every pedestal!' "Erm, yes ok Eileen"! "And don't forget to leave space to let butterflies flit about!"

What else can anyone say about Eileen? She was just one of the best and she will be sorely missed.

On the following two pages are some of the flower arrangements which the Flower Ladies created for Eileen's funeral.





## Crossword puzzle



#### Across

The solution is on the inside back cover.

- 1 These letters come between Romans and Galatians (11)
- 9 'You will not me to the grave' (Psalm 16:10) (7)
- 10 King of Moab to whom the Israelites were subject for 18 years (Judges 3:14) (5)
- 11 Town possessing mineral spring (3)
- 13 Mede (anag.) (4)
- 16 High-fidelity (abbrev.) (4)

17 He succeeded his father Rehoboam as king of Judah (1 Kings 14:31) (6)

18 A son of Simeon (Genesis 46:10) (4)

20 Controversial religious book of the 1970s, The --- of God Incarnate (4)

21 'He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you — and hear' (Acts 2:33) (3,3)

22 'You — me together in my mother's womb' (Psalm 139:13) (4)

23 Edit (anag.) (4)

25 'Who has believed our message and to whom has the — of the Lord been revealed?' (Isaiah 53:1) (3)

28 Abraham's brother (Genesis 22:23) (5)

29 'When Mordecai learned of — that had been — , he tore his clothes' (Esther 4:1) (3,4)

30 Sympathetic (Proverbs 11:16) (4-7)

#### Down

2 'That was why his parents said, "He is — —; ask him" (John 9:23) (2,3)

3 Integrated Services Digital Network (1,1,1,1)

- 4 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his of thousands' (1 Samuel 18:7) (4)
- 5 Concept (John 8:14) (4)
- 6 'Do we, then, the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law' (Romans 3:31) (7)
- 7 Industrious (2 Timothy 2:6) (11)
- 8 'I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you (Ephesians 1:18) (11)
- 12 'Out of the same mouth come and cursing' (James 3:10) (6)
- 14 This was how many of the Jewish leaders described Jesus (John 10:20) (3)
- 15 Vitality (Job 20:11) (6)
- 19 He urged David to kill Saul at Hakilah (1 Samuel 26:8) (7)
- 20 'So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul with the church and taught great numbers of people' (Acts 11:26) (3)
- 24 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord – ' (Deuteronomy 6:4) (2,3)
- 25 Parched (Matthew 12:43) (4)
- 26 'In the image of God he created him; and female he created them' (Genesis 1:27) (4)
- 27 Disparagement (Psalm 15:3) (4)

## Why not Speedwell?

Over 80 people turned up on a sunny afternoon to hear Paul Harding talk about the sailing of the Mayflower to America in 1620. A series of events were planned in 2020 to commemorate the 400th Anniversary but unfortunately after Covid hit the world they were all either cancelled or went online.





Edward Winslow was an important member of the group that sailed in the Mayflower. His family were big salt makers in Droitwich. Edward, after being educated at the King's School, spent some time in the Americas, after which he came back and worked for Oliver Cromwell.

Following the split from the Catholic Church, several splinter religious organisations appeared, many of which it was illegal to be a member of. Winslow became a printer and printed many items for the splinter religious groups.

William Brewster was a puritan separatist who wanted to help other separatists. He helped move the separatists to areas where they could follow their faith such as Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire where there were some religious freedoms. As things became more difficult in England, he helped them move from these counties to Leiden in Holland. This was quite a busy town and very different from the rural counties they had come from so many did not settle well. There were also strong indications that a religious war was coming so they started to plan a move to an area where they could practise their religion in a rural area.



John Carver, who was a key player in the settlement in Holland, started to arrange the crossing by successfully negotiating for land in Virginia and obtaining funding for the voyage. The aim was to set up a plantation in Virginia to grow the new wonder drug, tobacco. Tobacco was only available in apothecaries as it was used to help with chest colds!

They set up a company and bought 2 ships, Mayflower and the Speedwell. The Speedwell was a terrible ship that leaked, and both these ships were cargo ships and not designed for passengers. They finally decided in





Plymouth not to take the Speedwell and so a hundred people were crammed on to the Mayflower. Only 30 people were the religious separatists, and they were called the Saints, the rest were called the Strangers, who also wanted to travel to the New World and had the skills needed to create a new life a very long way from home.



The captain of the Mayflower was Christopher Jones (left), and the pilot was John Clarke (right). They both had key roles in navigating safely to America. The ringing of a church bell as they departed was the last accurate time they had for the journey. All they had was a thirty-minute sand timer which had to be turned over every half-hour. They also used a ship's log which



was a reel of string with a 'log' on the end. The log was dropped over the rear of the ship and timed out over a period. The number of knots in the string that fed out indicated the speed of the ship. The other key tool was a compass to show the direction they were travelling in. The direction and speed were then marked on a tool every 30 minutes and this was given to the captain at the end of the watch so that he could plot where they were on the main maps. *Continued on page 31.* 



Call in and see our retail space and studio where we continue to provide our great customer service and fine bespoke framing.



- We can frame almost anything
- No obligation advice
- Home/Office visits available
- Computerised pricing no guessing
- Out of hours appointments offered
- Latest techniques
- Top quality materials



www.yourpictureframer.co.uk info@yourpictureframer.co.uk 01905 423300 or 07730 539168

2A Great House Road Worcester WR2 4HS

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

#### Continued from page 29.



Sailings to the Americas usually took place in May to July so that they had the best of the weather. However, due to many factors, including getting all the people together from England and Holland and provisions for the voyage they actually left UK on 16th September 1620. They were then liable to be hit by the autumn storms, which they were. A child

was born during the journey and at least one person fell overboard, who could not be rescued.

The Mayflower arrived in America on the 9th of November, but they were not exactly where they had planned to be. They described hearing 'savages' on the shoreline and heard wolves. They thought the safest option was to stay on the ship rather than going to the land. They had been living



onboard for a long time and were comfortable, also going ashore they may be attacked by the natives. In the first few weeks they experienced heavy snow and freezing conditions and during the first winter lots of the people died due to the



harsh conditions. However, they did manage to create a settlement.

By March 1621 a 'savage' came into the settlement and the only words he knew were 'Beer' and 'Drink'. On 1st April another one arrived and he arranged for the chief to come down and they created a peace treaty between the

Continued on page 33



# 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: elliot@safeclean.co.uk Web: www.safeclean-cheltenham.co.uk *Continued from page 31.* Wampanoag community and the Settlers. They think the tribe did this because they were being attacked by three other stronger tribes and by aligning with the English, they knew they would help them

if they were then attacked by the other tribes.

At the end of the first year, they held the first Thanksgiving Day as they had survived the year and were becoming stronger. In this image of this first dinner it shows many women but in reality a greater proportion of women had died in that first year.



Native Americans do not celebrate Thanksgiving Day and they call it the Day of Mourning as it is when they lost their country. A monument to the Day of Mourning was erected at Plymouth, Massachusetts, by the native Americans to the memory of all who lost their lands and lives following the arrival of these and other people from Europe.



Colin Nash



- 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** 



## Letter from Peru (21st January 2023)

Dear everyone,

As you know from our last letter, (a mere 6 weeks ago) the former President was (to cut a very long story short) ousted and arrested. A few hours later, his vicepresident - Dina Boluarte - became President and was sworn in, as is the process according to the constitution currently in place. However, since then, in some parts of Peru the rejection of this process has been shown by staging protests including destroying government buildings. Until a few days ago this was the situation in some of the provinces, mostly in the south of Peru; Lima (home to a third of Peru's population), where the previous President has never had any significant support, was not really affected apart from an increase in prices. However, as some of you are aware, in the last few days several thousand protesters have come to Lima for a "Takeover of Lima," and last night the (expected) violence resulted in a big fire in the centre of Lima. Whilst it is true that certain parts of Lima are definitely not safe at the moment, the rest of Lima has not been affected directly by these attacks, and life has continued fairly normally. Surprisingly, there is not even a curfew in Lima.

Although there is not widespread violence in all parts of Lima, this does not mean there is no effect at all on our personal lives. Juan Carlos had a plane ticket to Arequipa for tomorrow. The airport in Arequipa, one of the three attacked by protesters yesterday, is still closed and flights have been cancelled. (Roads from Lima to Arequipa have been blocked in places for weeks). He HOPES to be able to travel midweek next week. But of course no-one knows right now what the situation will be.

What are the protesters asking for? They are demanding that elections be brought forward; they SHOULD have been April 2026 and HAVE already been declared for April 2024 (they have to be declared at least a year before they happen), so it isn't clear quite how soon elections could happen anyway. They are also demanding that President Dina resign. If she did resign, the new president would be the current President of Congress. Who knows what will happen next?

Just as an extra note, Evo Morales, the ex-President of Bolivia, was declared "persona non-grata" in Peru a few weeks ago. This was after he spent some time trying to persuade part of this same part of Peru that is now protesting, that they should form a breakaway movement and become a separate republic.

So, please continue to pray for Peru. Thank you!

God bless.

Penny and Juan Carlos

## 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

## **Mike Bentley Gardening**

Garden Design & Maintenance

Regular gardening work undertaken Pruning, mowing and hedge cutting Overgrown gardens cleared

Tel. 01905 422401 Mobile 0779 205 1775 Email MBGardening@outlook.com

> RHS Diploma in Horticulture Fully insured

mikebentleygardens.com
## Looking

Gazing through our Café window Looking at the trees Watching as the leaves descend In the Autumn breeze

Coloured yellow, red and brown Stubborn green ones that still lingers Bare branches reaching out With twigs like bony fingers

Dogs chasing after balls Children kicking leaves People sitting on the benches Taking life at ease

Pine tree standing straight and tall Foliage of emerald green Sunlight glinting on the clock Creates a magic scene

Squirrels scamper up and down The robin sings his songs Looking through our café window At the churchyard in St Johns

Beautiful

Martin Cole Big Bill's Café, St Johns

# **BEDWARDINE FUNERAL SERVICES** A COMPLETE & COURTEOUS 24 hr SERVICE

PERSONAL ATTENTION PRIVATE CHAPEL of REST DAIMLER FLEET MONUMENTAL MASONS

HOME ARRANGEMENTS 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.





## HOME. There's no place like it.

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

Our Award winning Services Include:

- Companionship
- Light housekeeping
- Local transportations and errands
- Meal preparation
- Convalescence support
- Shopping
- Personal care
- Specialist dementia and Alzheimer's care and much more...

For us nothing is more important than providing a convenient and reliable care solution that works for everyone, from an hour to full time cover.

For an informal, no obligation chat to discuss your needs, <u>OR</u> if you feel you have the right qualities to become one of our CAREGivers please call: *Samantha Smith on 01905 420404*.



# Summary of Joint Council meeting

The St John-in-Bedwardine and St Michael's Joint Council (which has taken on all the functions of the PCCs of those two churches) held its first meeting on Tuesday 7th February 2023 at St Michael's church. This was a meeting specifically called to report the appointment of officers (done by email correspondence) and to appoint the Standing Committee. 12 members were present. Apologies were received from 7 members.

The Meeting was chaired by Colin Nash who led the opening prayer.

The Joint Council resolved to appoint four churchwardens to the Standing Committee, namely:

Gordon Templeton Joy Job Michael Dowling Val Mason

The Joint Council resolved to appoint four other members of the Joint Council to the Standing Committee, namely:

Colin Nash Chris Rees Philip Evans Graham Evans

A report was given of decisions by email correspondence.

The following officers of the Joint Council have been elected: Secretary - Liz Edwards (as a non-member of the Council) Lay Chair - Colin Nash Treasurers - Chris Rees and Philip Evans Safeguarding Officer - Jane Askew Co-option of Member - Jill Shinton Payroll Officer - Graham Evans

There was no other business.

The date, time and location of the next meeting will be set by email correspondence.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

Original minutes by Jenny Claydon; summarised by Graham Evans.





Footnotes UK 174a London Road Worcester WR5 2EJ

We have expanded our private practice! We now have 3 chiropodists in the clinic and a home visit chiropodist to take care of all your foot needs! Please visit our website to meet our team and book an appointment <u>www.footnotesuk.co.uk</u>

You can telephone for an appointment on 01905 360079 / Mob: 07974 650 775

Or email inquiries to info@footnotesuk.co.uk

Racheal Sharman and the Footnotes UK Team

HCPC registered



Footnotes**UK** Foot Care, Foot Treatment & Podiatry

## ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

## Normal opening times:

- Monday: 9am 5pm
- Tuesday: 9am 6pm
- Wednesday: 9am 5pm

## **Children's Activities**

- Storytime for under 5's. Meets every Friday at 11:00 to 11:20am
- Bounce and Rhyme. Meets every Tuesday at 11.00am
- Lego Club Ages 6+ every Saturday at 2.00pm

## **Surgeries**

- St. John's Councillors Surgery: 7th March 2023 5.00pm to 6.00pm
- West Mercia Police, Safer Neighbourhoods Team: 14th March 2023 10.30 to 11.30am

Please telephone or 'drop in' for the latest dates and events or find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslibraryworcester/

**Facilities** 

- Library Service at Home
- Wi-Fi
- Exhibition facilities
- Meeting room
- Internet public access terminals
- Printing (A4)
- Access for wheelchairs
- Self Issue Terminal
- Scanner
- Photocopying (A4)
- Photocopying (A3)
- Public toilets
- Disabled toilets
- Baby changing facilities
- USB Memory Sticks available to buy
- Earphones available to buy





orcestershire

- Thursday: 9am 5pm
- Friday: 9am 5pm
- Saturday: 9am 4pm

# Worcester Funeral Service 01905 23499

# Independent Family Funeral Directors



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





Kilbury Drive, Worcester, WR5 2NE

# WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk

## From the magazine archive, March 1953

(The first duty of the PCC is to set out a budget showing the expenditure required)

### **Raising the Money Required**

The second duty of the P.C.C. is to take such steps for raising the necessary funds as seems advisable. In the past, collections in Church were regarded as the main source of income and the balance required to make ends meet was usually raised by subscriptions given by individuals in response to urgent appeals from the Churchwardens at the end of the year.

To rely only upon collections in Church, which are affected by smaller congregations consequent upon bad weather, holiday seasons, or other causes, is not only unbusinesslike but it obscures the very principles of almsgiving. If the collections are not to be regarded as the main source of supply, what is to take their place.

The answer is-the voluntary offerings of Christians given in another way. This is called the "Freewill" Various Freewill schemes have been devised system. such as the one we have here blending with offerings to the Central Fund. But these schemes all rest upon the principle laid down by St. Paul: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." This is the foundation of the system, claiming from each member of the church his due share irrespective of his attendance at public worship. Each should ask not "How little need I give?" but "How much is it my duty to give?" Each person must decide for himself, after careful thought and prayer, what proportion of his income he should give; but the decision, once made, should be honestly and consistently carried out.

Church finance is not merely the means whereby stipends, pensions, wages, "housekeeping expenses", repairs, etc., are met. Christian giving should express the reality and depth of the belief professed by Christian people who give sacrificially when they realise the sacramental nature of money.

I hope, therefore, what I have written may be of some practical help and may help to answer sensible and other sorts of questions which are being asked on how the organization of our Church operates and what is demanded of us. Above all, let us "do things decently and in order".

Yours sincerely,

#### MALCOLM H. RICHARDS.

## **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.

(£17.75) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted. Postage and Packing costs £12.75 (Large Letter, 2nd class postage, £1.05 from April 2022)

#### Your details:

Title:	
Forename:	
Surname:	
Email	
address:	

Address (including post code):

	I	
		Total
Magazine subscription (as above)	£5/£17.75	
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: 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.

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 solutions

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



# And finally.... In a chancel, in a galaxy, far, far away.... The choristers' confession

Almighty and most merciful Conductor: We have erred and strayed from thy beat like lost sheep; We have followed too much the intonations and tempi of our own hearts; We have offended against thy dynamic markings; We have left unsung those notes we ought to have sung And we have sung those notes we ought not to have sung; And there is no support in us.

But Thou, O Conductor, have mercy upon us miserable singers: Succour the chorally challenged; Restore thou them that need extra note-bashing; Spare thou them that are without a pencil; Pardon our mistakes; And have faith that hereafter We will follow thy direction and sing together in perfect harmony. *Anon* 

WCW Bann of Churches	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
5th March	5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	
12th March	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Evening Prayer	
19th March	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Eucharist	
26th March	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Morning Praye
	5pm Healing Service		4pm Evening Prayer	
2nd April			Palm Sund	ay procession:
Palm Sunday	10am Team Eucharis	st (St Clement's) <sub>F</sub>		s and noticeboards for detai

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.