



# *St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine*

May 2020

50p



**Welcome to**  
**St JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE**  
**The Parish Church of St John's**

**WEST WORCESTER CLERGY**

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD  
The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL

Day off  
Friday  
Monday

**CHURCHWARDENS**

Gordon Templeton, Joy Job.

**SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have advised that public worship is suspended with immediate effect until further notice. All services across the West Worcester Group are therefore cancelled until this advice changes.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**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](mailto:sylviarender@talktalk.net)).

**SAFEGUARDING:** If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact the PCC Safeguarding Representative, Jane Askew on 424811 or any member of the clergy.

**PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office is currently closed but can be contacted by email, post or telephone.

Postal address:  
1a Bromyard Road  
St John's, WR2 5BS

Tel: (01905) 420490  
e-mail: [office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

**ST JOHN'S CHURCH ON THE WEB**

Parish Website: [www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine](http://www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine)  
A church near you: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/)  
Group Website: [www.westworcesterchurches.org.uk](http://www.westworcesterchurches.org.uk)



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

## *A Word from the Editors*

Welcome to our May magazine. These are not usual times and this is not a 'usual' magazine. It is produced while we remain under COVID-19 lockdown (thank goodness for email!), and it is sadly devoid of future events. However, we do have some interesting items for you, so we hope you find it a good read.

Sarah reminds us to raise our eyes heavenwards, not in despair but in hope, love, and trust. Phil was concerned that his reflection (p8) was 'not exactly uplifting' but we were uplifted by its reminder that God can be found in the worst of times; "that God is faithful, that even when we lose hope, God remains and holds us firm".

If you've seen good neighbourliness recently, please let us know so that we can reflect this good news in our next edition. Please see the rubric on the right of this page for how to do so. We leave you with well-known words:

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with us all evermore.*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

### ***Important information***

**Email address:** [magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

**Next edition (June):** Deadline is Sunday 10th May. Distribution, towards the end of May, dependent on circumstances at the time.

**Subscription form:** Page 46.

**Cover picture:** The Ascension, from the ceiling at Great Witley Church, photographed by Colin Nash.

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those who have contributed photographs for this magazine including Graham Evans, Joy Job, Penny Marcés, Colin Nash, Amy Rees, and Sarah Wilkins.

**Distribution (May 2020):** This edition is sent to as many people as possible electronically, to reduce the burden on our delivery resources, but we have printed and delivered by post, etc, so as to reach, as far as possible, all our subscribers.

## **The magazine**

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 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 PCC or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

### **To advertise**

Please see page 12.

## *From Sarah Cottrill*

“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?” (Acts 1:11)

I hope I won't be deemed irreverent when I say that people in the Bible sometimes ask some rather silly questions the answers to which may seem to us blindingly obvious! In Luke's account of the first

Easter morning, first the angels and then Jesus himself ask Mary “Why are you weeping?” Surely it was natural that Mary, finding the tomb empty and without the benefit of our knowledge, would be weeping?! Now, just forty days later, the disciples, having come to terms with the fact that Jesus had indeed risen, having received his commission and promise of empowerment “from on high” have just seen him be taken bodily into heaven and they are asked why they stand staring! I don't know about you, but if I had witnessed something like that, I don't think I would just shrug and go home for tea! Surely it was very reasonable that the disciples remained standing “looking up towards heaven.”

The question perhaps we should ask is not why the men gazed towards heaven, but how they did so? What were their emotions as they stood there on the mountain on that first Ascension Day? Were they straining for their last glimpse of Jesus, reluctant to let him out of their sight? Were they full of joy, wonder, fear, incredulity, sadness, or excitement? My guess is that it would have been a mixture of all those emotions and that in the ten days between then and Pentecost, dominant emotion would have varied.

This year I suspect that Ascension Day (May 21st) will for many of us pass unnoticed, just another day in a stream of days remarkable only for their monotony and loneliness. As I write this in the middle of April, we have just been told that lockdown will continue for at least another three weeks. News bulletins are full of reports of further deaths due to the Coronavirus and the huge challenges facing the NHS. Empty streets and empty supermarket shelves bear witness to the gravity of the situation. We know that many people are facing extreme loneliness and, although we do what we can to alleviate this, nothing can compensate for the lack of human contact, the touch of a loved one. Some have had to face the added distress of being unable to attend the funeral of a loved one because of restrictions on attendance. No wonder so many eyes will be raised heavenwards in bewilderment and despair.

And yet, not all is doom and despondency. Signs of spring are all around; flowers are appearing in the garden; the birds are singing; many of you have posted





pictures on the internet of ducklings and lambs. Spring tells of hope; new life, the end of dreary winter and the promise of summer to come.

We don't know what that summer will look like. It may well be that we'll spend a large part of it in lockdown with planned holidays and family gatherings cancelled. It may be that we'll start coming out of lockdown and some degree of normality will resume. It is unlikely that any of us will emerge completely unscathed. We don't know and, apart from adhering to government advice and doing what we can to help others, there is very little we can do.

But we could turn this situation a little to our advantage. Less traffic means there is less pollution. I've already heard comments on how much brighter the moon seems and one man told me that his grandchildren, living under the flightpath of Heathrow, have heard birdsong for the first time! So perhaps now is the perfect opportunity to take time to delight in God's creation and learn more about it.

Personally, I'm having to overcome my fear of technology. I've attended virtual meetings, courtesy of Zoom and have even set up my own meeting, inviting others to attend. I've encouraged a recently widowed friend to learn how to cook for himself rather than rely on ready meals. What new skill or hobby could you acquire at this time?

"Every cloud has a silver lining" is a rather trite saying but I do believe that out of every bad situation, some good may come. We have seen that in the outpouring of love and help which has been offered within our own communities and across the country. Yes, crises bring out the worst in human nature, but they also bring out the best. In times of trouble, people turn to God; possibly in anger and to blame him but sometimes to implore his help, or maybe just to ask if he's really there. Whatever the reason, their eyes are turned towards heaven and when people look for God, out of despair or in hope, they often find him in ways they did not expect. May our eyes be raised heavenwards, not in despair but in hope, love, and trust.

*Sarah*

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## *Collect for Ascension Day*

Risen Christ,  
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
now and for ever.

## *In Memoriam May*

Nicholas James Carter	1 May 1990
John Bertram Bentley	7 May 1988
Marie Antionette Grosvenor	11 May 2007
Marjorie Mantle	12 May 1988
Norman Jackson	12 May 1996
Christabel Lilly Page	14 May 1983
Lawrence Jack Perkins	14 May 1983
Colin Russell	15 May 2016
Ron Clayton	16 May 2016
Douglas Charles Haines	18 May 1989
Laura May Bircham	20 May 1989
Terry Sherratt	21 May 1992
May Barnes	22 May 1983
Ronald Arthur Barnes	22 May 1983
Herbert Heaven Williams	23 May 1993
Marjorie Victoria Davies	29 May 1995

Additions to In Memoriam are not automatic but must be specifically requested via the clergy.

In memoriam items are included until the fortieth anniversary.  
An extension may be requested by family or friends of those named.

*Information from the church registers will be published when the lockdown ends.*

## *Sundays and Principal Feasts in May*

Sunday 3rd May: The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 10th May: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 17th May: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Thursday 21st May: Ascension Day

Sunday 24th May: The Seventh Sunday of Easter

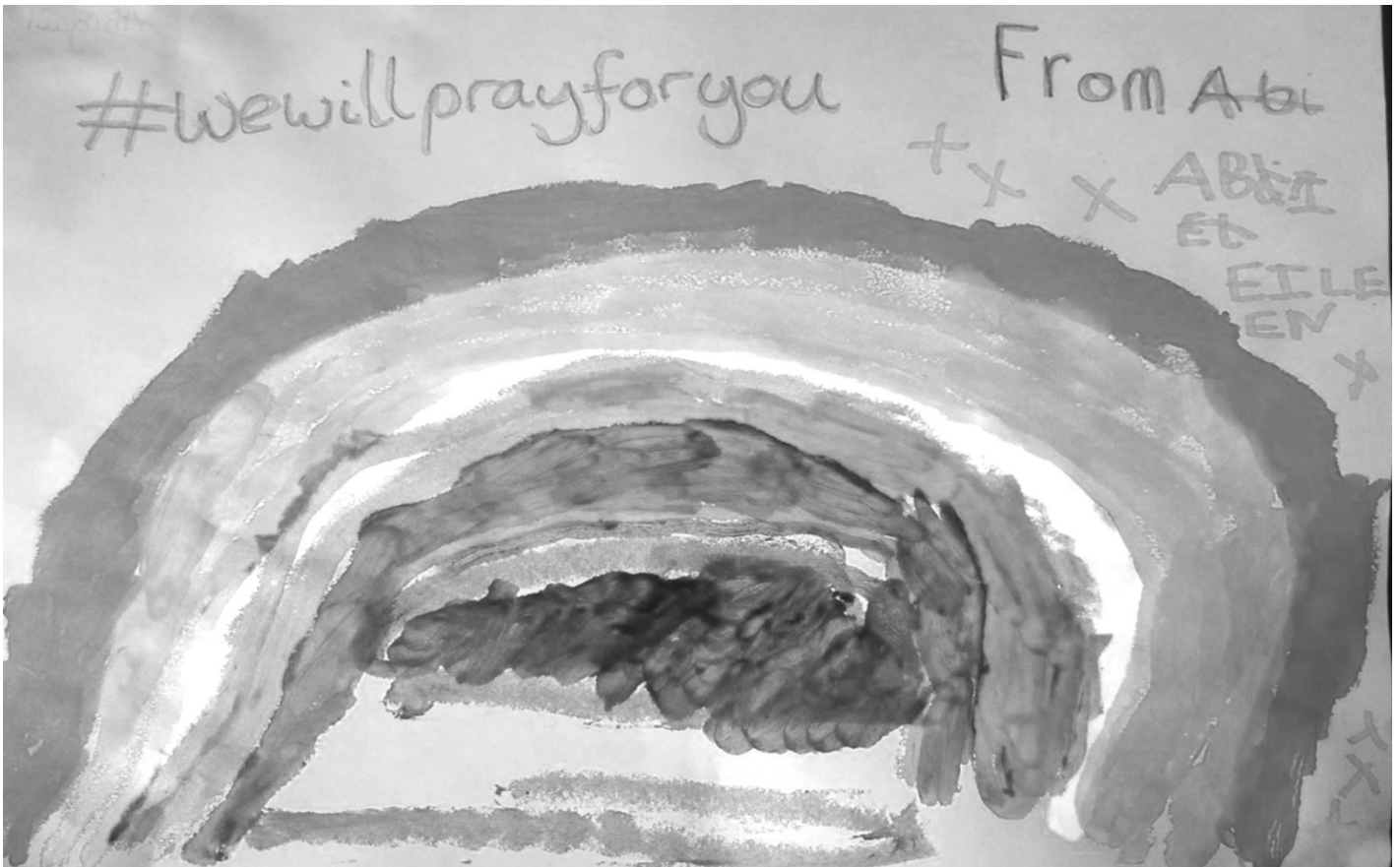
Sunday 31st May: Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

See page 31 for Phil's canter through the liturgical calendar for May.

## *Collect for the Day of Pentecost*

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,  
ignite in us your holy fire;  
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,  
revive your Church with the breath of love,  
and renew the face of the earth,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## *Colourful responses*



We've been delighted to see the responses of some of the youngest members of our congregation to the present situation. We're sorry that our monochrome publication cannot do them full justice!

*The editors*



## *Reflection from Phil Bradford*

Rather unusually, I think my favourite book of the Bible may be Lamentations. Studying this text was the highlight of an otherwise terribly-taught Old Testament course during my theology degree. It is a curious, oft-overlooked little book. Whoever the anonymous author was, he was a skilled writer and composed a complex, elegant piece of poetry.



Lamentations was written following the great catastrophe which overshadows the entire Old Testament, the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile of the Judean elite to Babylon in 587 BC. As the title suggests, it laments the depopulation of Judah and Jerusalem, the way in which God has rejected his chosen people and cast them out of the promised land. It is a text weaved through with despair, bitterly regretting the way in which all the certainties and familiarities of normal life have suddenly been ripped away, the world around the author having crashed into ruins. Written against a backdrop of utter calamity, it seeks to make sense of what seems utterly senseless.

Perhaps more than any other in the Bible, Lamentations is a book for our times. The despairing, haunting opening line – ‘How lonely sits the city that once was full of people!’ – resounds with force in a world where social distancing and isolation have become the foundations of existence, where places which once teemed with life and energy lie deserted.

*Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?  
Look and see  
if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,  
which was brought upon me,  
which the Lord inflicted  
on the day of his fierce anger.*

This, arguably the most famous verse in the book, echoes in a world where so many of us are at least occasionally inclined towards self-pity, where preservation of the self has become the only purpose of existence. Lamentations is a text permeated by despair, by loneliness, by anger, by bitterness, by fear, by all those emotions we can so readily understand in 2020.

Yet as I re-read it in these circumstances, I do so from a new perspective.

One of the debates in scholarship has always been whether Lamentations is the product of a single author, or whether it is the composite work of two or more people. Fuelling this discussion are the abrupt shifts in mood we find in the text.

Overall, it is an intricately-worked pattern of hopelessness and recrimination, but there are a couple of occasions when the text suddenly becomes more cheerful and hopeful. There are scholars who see these shifts in mood as too abrupt, arguing that the positive notes are from a different pen, interpolated into the gloomy.

However, the experience of the past few weeks has made me realise that it is very easy for one person, in a context of uncertainty and despair, to oscillate wildly between various emotions. In the bleakness of his situation, there were moments that the author of Lamentations dared to hope, to believe that things would improve and the exile end. More frequently, he confronted his reality with a mournful honesty. The exile lasted for decades and the author never lived to see his compatriots return from Babylon. There is something deeply human about searching for any sign of light in the darkness. Lamentations is testament to one man's struggle with abject despondency, to the internal battle between realism and faint hope.

That is why Lamentations speaks to me more than anything else in the Bible right now, because it is so raw, so real. As it lays bare, optimism and false hope are not true hope. I have grown weary of all the groundless optimism around, the assertions that it will all be fine and that things will get back to normal. I cannot honestly see that. No one seems to know how we will get out of this situation, for if we are going to live in constant fear of this particular death, then there is no way out. There is no guarantee a vaccine will be found. The best we are being offered right now is that we might be allowed out of the house a bit more, but much like the author of Lamentations (albeit for very different reasons), I look into that bleak, empty future where I may never see friends and relatives again, never set eyes on places like York and Paris which have played such a role in my life, with a self-pitying despair.

Yet read Lamentations again, carefully, and you will notice that the barely-discernible fabric onto which this despair and misery are woven is made up of trust and faith. The author retains his faith in God. He continues to believe that God can redeem the situation, even if he is not sure how or if he will see it in his lifetime. His hope is not a superficial one, in everything suddenly becoming magically better again around him. It is rather in the God who ultimately redeems humankind and the entirety of time itself. What matters is that God is faithful, that even when we lose hope, God remains and holds us firm. Amidst transience and uncertainty, we can be sure of the steadfastness of God, the God who knows the agonies of humankind and will stop at nothing to bring us to his eternal peace.

*Phil*

## *Our Church*

St John-in-Bedwardine Church is an active Anglican church which has its roots in the Norman period.

The church is open daily, as a haven of peace at a busy road junction in the St. Johns area of Worcester.

The church was originally built in 1165 as 'The Chapel of St John' – the parish church then being St. Cuthbert's in Lower Wick. When the church of St Cuthbert's was demolished in 1370, St John's became the parish church.



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## *Our Vision*

*We envisage St John's church as a vibrant hub for the worshipping and wider community.*

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## *Our Magazine*

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August. It costs 50p to purchase and can be obtained from the back of church. Subscriptions are available at the discounted price of £5 per year.

If you would like to subscribe, please see page 46 or contact the parish office and leave details of your name and address. If you wish to advertise, please see page 12 and contact Sue Hussell (details below).

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. Include your name as anonymous contributions will not be considered.

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<b>Subscriptions</b>	To the Parish Office	
<b>Distribution co-ordinator</b>	Mary Hancock	

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# *Church Directory*

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Team Vicar designate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill	01905 426257
Vicar of St Clement's	sarah.cottrill@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	
Rural Dean	Rev'd Anne Potter	01886 832355
	revannepotter@gmail.com	

## ST JOHN'S PCC OFFICERS

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Gordon Templeton	gordtemp@btinternet.com	749025
Joy Job	joy.job@btinternet.com	423051
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<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Liz Edwards pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	420490
<b>Treasurer</b>	Chris Rees treasurer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH - OTHER CONTACT POINTS

<b>Pastoral Care Coordinator</b>	Sylvia Render	422654
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<b>Verger</b>	Catherine Templeton	749025
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<b>Archives Officer</b>	Philip Evans	426869
<b>Press Officer</b>	Liz Edwards pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	420490
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<b>Music Group</b>	Peter Yates pjyates194@btinternet.com	422565
<b>Tower Captain</b>	Tracey Ward bellringers@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	07961 745628
<b>Church Flowers</b>	Eileen Cantrill	422579
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## *To advertise in the magazine*

The Parish Magazine is published A5 in size, in black and white. There are eleven issues during the year, July and August being a combined issue.

An advert can be full-page, half-page or quarter-page in size and the booking can be from one month to one year.

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

## *Christian Aid Week*

Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, the CEO of Christian Aid, has written with updated guidance to all of those involved in helping with Christian Aid Week (10th - 16th May) this month:

“Many of you will have been planning house-to-house collections and events. Under the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house collections and delivery-only collections should not go ahead. In particular, along with many churches, events such as Big Brekkies or Lent lunches, where food is shared, cannot go ahead.

“We are working on alternative plans that will allow people to take part in Christian Aid Week in different, creative ways - by post, by text and online - that strengthen our communities during this challenging time. Christian Aid Week is our single-most important fundraiser, so we would welcome your ideas on how we can creatively show love for our neighbours at home and abroad, as a community.”

As for the work of Christian Aid around the world,

“Christian Aid and our partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and we will build on this experience. People in poorer countries are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty, or in overcrowded humanitarian camps. They also do not have good healthcare infrastructures. We will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19.”

More at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>

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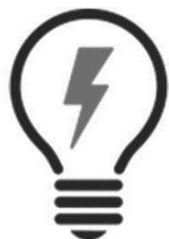
## *From another plague*

When the bubonic plague was at its peak, Martin Luther wrote:

“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence.”

“If God should wish to take me, He will surely find me and I have done what He has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others.”

*Courtesy of Parish Pump*



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**New classes starting in St John's**

## ***Florence Nightingale***

It is a fitting tribute to Florence Nightingale - the founder of modern nursing - that the emergency hospital just opened at the ExCel Centre in London is called the NHS Nightingale Hospital.

Florence Nightingale was born 200 years ago, on 12th May 1820. Best known as the Lady with the Lamp who saved many lives in the hospitals of the Crimean War, she was also a social reformer, a statistician and the founder of modern nursing.

She was named after the Italian city of her birth, but the family moved back to England the following year, and she was brought up in Derbyshire. Here – and elsewhere – she had several experiences that she believed were calls from God to devote her life to the service of others.

She never married, but among her several close friends was Sidney Herbert, who became Secretary of War and helped to make her work in the Crimea possible. Some claim that she reduced the death rate in hospitals there from 42% to 2%. She introduced hand-washing and other hygiene improvements, but she never claimed personal credit for reducing the death rate.

Her work inspired nurses in the American Civil War, and in 1883 she became the first recipient of the Royal Red Cross. In 1907, she was the first woman to be awarded the Order of Merit. She died in 1910. Her image appeared on the reverse of £10 banknotes issued by the Bank of England from 1975 until 1994.

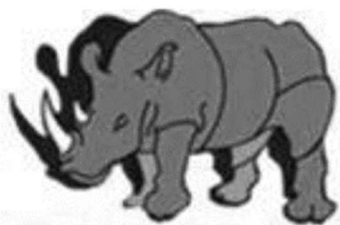
*Courtesy of Parish Pump*

### ***Sudoku Puzzle***

*Copyright 2013  
KrazyDad.com*

*The solution  
is on the  
inside back  
cover.*

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



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## *Remembering VE Day*

I was 15 in May 1945, when Britain celebrated VE Day. It stood for Victory in Europe and followed an agreement by the Allied powers following the German surrender. Needless to say, although the war with Japan was not over, it was a noticeable moment. No more bombs, missiles and blitz - and the 'boys' would come home!

I have two very clear memories of the day itself. The first was the street party which took place in our road on a housing estate in North London. With official permission, the road was closed off, tables were set up, food and drink were served. We spent the afternoon in races and competitions. Dads, mums, teenagers and children then sang the wartime songs, and 'Jerusalem' and 'God save the King'.

The other memory is an image of a sailor kissing a young woman - surrounded by happy laughing people. This iconic photograph was in one of the papers the next day, then on camera newsfeeds and is in just about every journalistic library. Somehow it captures the mood of the day - freedom, warmth, the good things of everyday life.

VE Day did indeed mark a turning point, though not everything was going to be easy in the post-war years. But the hideous shadow of war had gone and 75 years later it has yet to return to these shores, thank God.

*David Winter (courtesy of Parish Pump)*

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## *Easter Flowers 2019*



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## ***VE Day – the end of World War II in Europe***

Victory in Europe was celebrated 75 years ago this month, on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945, marking the end of World War II in Europe. It was marked with a public holiday.

The previous day the formal act of military surrender had been signed by Germany, and celebrations broke out when the news was released. Big crowds gathered in London, impromptu parties were held throughout the country, and people danced and sang in the streets. King George VI and his family appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, and Churchill made a speech to huge applause. The two princesses Elizabeth and Margaret mingled with the crowds outside.

Many went into churches to give thanks – and to pray for those still involved in the war in the Far East, because the real end of the war, Victory over Japan, would not happen until 15<sup>th</sup> August. At St Paul's Cathedral there were ten consecutive services giving thanks for peace, each attended by thousands of people.

The celebrations masked the fact that so many had lost family and friends, as well as possessions and homes. But for the moment normal social conventions broke down, strangers embraced, and love was in the air.

*Tim Lenton (courtesy of Parish Pump)*

---

### ***Bromyard Road 2020 (Tuesday 21st April, 9.35am)***



# Marcés Mailing

## March 2020



“Have I not commanded you?  
Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged,  
for the LORD your God will be with you  
wherever you go.”  
(Joshua 1:9)



### Please pray for:

**Juan Carlos & Penny:** leading Jesús el Nazareno

**Juan Carlos:** Responsibilities in J el Nazareno and Diocese

**Penny:** Responsibilities in J el N and Children's Ministry

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

**Jesús El Nazareno:** for a desire to grow in the Lord

**Country of Peru:** economic stability in the current crisis;  
temporary Congress (Mar 2020 – July 2021)

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés Reynaldo Morón 215,

Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 33, PERU

Tel.+51-1- 448 – 8264. Email: psmarcesinlima@gmail.com

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

Dear friends

This verse from Joshua was the theme verse for our **children's Bible Holiday activity** last month, (although the stories were from Daniel); we pray that at this time the children who learnt to sing it so gustily will remember how wonderful it is to know that God does not desert us. Here



in Peru, where **Coronavirus** still has a low incidence, the policy has been to declare a state of emergency and put us all in "obligatory social isolation" which means that apart from buying food or medicines or going to a Bank we are to "stay at home". Police and army are authorised to stop and question anyone, and yesterday (the second day of the 14 day isolation) they arrested several people

not obeying the decree. Today measures have become stricter and there will now be a curfew 8pm to 5am. "Staying at home" means in practice that some of us can tackle sorting out accumulated "stuff", etc, but for those who live on a day-to-day basis it is a real challenge. The government has announced handouts of a small but helpful amount of money to 3 million families identified as the neediest; the government calculates this covers 9 million people,(about 30% of the population); almost all being considered are in urban rather than rural areas. Lists of those to receive the handout will be published in the next 2 days; payments will be made about next Monday. The lists will be online, so it may be a challenge for some people to discover whether or not they are included.

One example of a family greatly affected is that of Jenny, whose house was totally destroyed by fire last year; they have, with a loan, rebuilt (in fact, built a better house than they had - photo) BUT the loan needs to be repaid and S/.380 is designed to cover basic costs not pay off debts....



Returning to the happier moments of the summer holiday club, it was a good time with a significant number of new children. The closing session took the form of **Messy Church**; with over 50 children and over 20 adults the upstairs room where we did the activities and the Church service downstairs afterwards were both full. Favourite activity was painting stones; one mum had no less than 4 stones and when asked "Why?" she explained that she had helped her 2 little boys (fair enough), and done TWO for herself.... She told me a few days later that she loves the stones

– she uses one to grind the garlic for cooking. Maybe I should reinterpret "salt of the world".... (I imagine she uses the side that is NOT painted!).







Some of the new children began to attend Sunday School, but then the health situation intervened and has affected not only Sunday School but also our intention to start the **mums and babies** group. However, we are ready to start whenever we can, with lots of lovely clean toys....

We will register 15 people in advance (otherwise we will be overwhelmed) so please pray that the right people are selected. Two of those who will definitely be invited are Santiago and Emilia (photo), born to Idu (and Santiago) and Diana (and Leo) respectively.



The **Diocesan Children's ministry** has been blessed with a gift to be used specifically for the purchase of Bibles for use with the children in the churches. It will be great to be able to use Bibles with the children rather than simply telling them the stories.



The Diocese of Peru held **training weeks** in Lima and Arequipa a few weeks ago, with the aim of helping in an understanding of what it means to be Anglican, with a definite emphasis on biblical roots. After the week in Arequipa Juan Carlos stayed on in the region in order to

oversee some of the changes taking place there; please pray for people as they adjust. Further discussions may have taken place during the **Synod**, due last weekend – but this has been postponed, probably until September. In Lima we missed the smile of Pastor Luis Villalobos, who died hours before the New Year started, to the sound of fireworks; the Bishop commented that he wanted to make sure his entry to heaven was well celebrated, and his funeral was certainly a testimony to the certainty of his hope in eternal life.



As for the **family**, we were VERY grateful that Jonny's return ticket from Indonesia (where he had been participating in a competition in



International Humanitarian Law; his Uni team got to the semi-final) enabled him to be back 24 hours before flights from Europe to Peru were stopped, and equally grateful that Lizi had moved from Barcelona to Leeds. Unsurprisingly, we are amongst the many now using WhatsApp etc to keep in touch – both with the family and indeed

with the Church although not everyone has a phone let alone WhatsApp.





- children's holiday Bible activity
- Messy Church (both December and Feb)
- safe arrival of babies Santiago & Emilia
- Growing relationships with parents of children in the area

*Please pray.....*



**Weekly activities in  
Jesús el Nazareno**

**Sun:** 4.30pm Sunday School  
6.30 pm service

**Tues:** 7.30pm Bible Study

**Thurs:** 7.30pm prayer meeting

**Specific dates (tbc)**

**10 April:** Messy Church

**April:** second MOCLAM  
course

**General prayer requests**

- Coronavirus emergency: health, and economic stability especially for those who work for daily wages and for those whose income will be reduced because others no longer have the means to buy
- Mums' and tots' group; Penny & Sarah (leaders), Diana (helper)
- Sunday School: Palmira & Penny; for more helpers
- Bible Study: Ephesians
- Plans at some point to start something for women (not necessarily from Church)
- Lunches for Senior Citizens(70+) in El Nazareno
- Changes in the Anglican Church in the south of Peru
- Becky (Leeds), Jonny (Lima), Lizi (Leeds)

Thank you for your fellowship with us; you too are part of what happens in Jesús el Nazareno, in the Anglican Church in Peru, and in Peru. Please keep in contact, by email or WhatsApp at +51-942612987

God bless you, now and always

*Juan Carlos & Penny*

## *Diddy Disciples*



When lockdown began we decided to continue with Diddy Disciples from home and it has been well received by our regular attendees as well as older members of the congregation.

Abigail and Matilda are really enjoying the sessions and love knowing that their friends are joining in at their houses though we are frequently asked when we can go back to church!

The first thing they want to do is get their alleluia banner down that they hid for Lent – I'm sure we'll all be very pleased to see it when the time comes.



*Angel from the empty tomb*



*Easter flowers*



***Freya-Grace and Brinley joining in from home***

There have been some technical issues but Chris is being an excellent camera man and editor! It is exciting that the videos are being viewed all over the country not just by our regular group. We did an extra session on Maundy Thursday and it was watched 51 times!

We plan on continuing to produce Diddy Disciples like this until we are able to meet again in church and hope that you enjoy the videos as much as we are enjoying making them!



*Much love,  
Amy, Chris, Abigail and Matilda Rees*



## *Lent lunches 2020*

Margaret and I had a plan – we would do Lent lunches this year, on a Wednesday. I would organise the first few while Margaret was in Peru, then Margaret would come back and do the later ones. I would make soup, then Margaret would make soup and while she was doing that I would make birthday cake for my 15 year old. We did a shout out for helpers – we got them. It was a good plan. Oh, and the fact that I was getting a new kitchen would not mess up our plan because that would start when Margaret was back and I would just be able to squeeze out a birthday cake before we had to rip the old kitchen out.

Hmmmm.

‘We can fit your new kitchen earlier than we thought’ said the kitchen company. Aargh – so all hands on deck to rip the old one out, quickly make one pan of soup for the first Lent lunch!

Then things went downhill – no kitchen at all, how am I going to get homemade soup, Margaret is in Peru!!! In steps Colin Nash – who can turn his hand to literally anything – with an outstanding pumpkin soup made with pumpkin from his own allotment.



*The pumpkins above were not actually grown by Colin Nash, but they were photographed by him, on a trip to California.*

*The Editors*

And in steps Dorothy, my mother-in-law, purveyor of fine foods since I married into the family, with the best mushroom soup I've ever had. Thank you both. Second Lent lunch done! Both of these were a great success and I need to say a big thank you to everyone who helped setting up and clearing away, it couldn't have been done without you.

Then came Covid-19 and everything ground to a halt. No more Lent lunches, no more homemade soup, no birthday cake for my 15 year old! But we managed to get Margaret back from Peru early before they stopped the flights and we also managed to raise £180 for Worcester Snoezelen in just those 2 weeks. Thank you to all those who made donations, whether they could make it for the lunch or not.

Snoezelen was very grateful. They depend on these sorts of funds to keep the charity going so that they can provide their life enhancing multi-sensory services to people who have disabilities and additional needs.

And a month late, my son is finally getting his birthday cake.....

*Ellen Little*

## ***Thank you***



On behalf of Snoezelen I'd like to say a very big thank you to everyone who helped to raise funds through the Lent Lunches.

The Worcester Snoezelen centre is a multi-sensory leisure facility based in St Johns. Each week 300-350 people who have disabilities and additional needs visit the centre to enjoy hydro therapy, music, arts and sensory therapy. The centre is a vibrant hub of diversity which has been running for 26 years. It offers meaningful activities for people to socialise, gain fulfilment and improve health and wellbeing.

The charity relies heavily on community donations to keep afloat. The fundraising from the Lent Lunches comes at a time when we need these funds more than ever. Thank you to all involved and for anyone who wishes to visit the centre we would gladly welcome an opportunity to show you around.

*Jane Roberts*

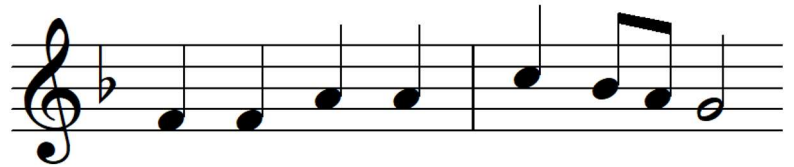
*jane@worcestersnoezelen.org.uk*

*www.worcestersnoezelen.org.uk*

*You can support Snoezelen by going to their website and clicking on 'Support us' or go direct to their JustGiving page //www.justgiving.com/snoezelenproject*

*The Editors*

## *Notes from the choir apart*



Every year we agonise over Jesus' sufferings on Good Friday, rejoice in the glories of his Resurrection on Easter Sunday and then, on the fortieth day of Easter comes Ascension day when Jesus ascends into heaven in triumph having completed his mission on earth. In the strange and uncertain times we have found ourselves this year, the normal pattern of services bringing us together through these observances has disappeared and we have been left wondering and worshipping in isolation. For the choir the joy of serving through coming together to sing has temporarily been taken away and the solace of music has become more something to enjoy through listening than through active participation.

Yet as Jesus disappeared in person from the earth God did not leave us abandoned or alone. Nor did the gates of heaven shut as the angels rejoiced in the Son's return to the Father. The Ascension reminds us that there is, through Jesus, a real link between Heaven and Earth, which is both glorious and triumphant.

So, even though we cannot be together to celebrate in song, the piece of choral music that seems to capture the spirit of Ascension Day to me more perhaps than any other is Finzi's: God is gone up with a triumphant shout. The text is by Edward Taylor (1644 - 1729) and the anthem opens with a series of fanfares on the organ, which immediately portray the sense of joy and praise found in the words. The music builds until the middle section where exultation is replaced by a calmer, more contemplative mood capturing the poet's visionary glimpse of the beauties of Heaven. Finally the music ends with a return to the power and glory of the opening.

The full text is printed below and, whilst there may not be the opportunity to hear a 'live' rendition of Finzi's setting this year, we can thank God that we have recorded music and find a version on the Internet. We may be apart, but the power of music can still bring us together.

God is gone up with a triumphant shout:  
The Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies:  
Sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praise, sing praises out,  
Unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!  
Lift up your Heads, ye lasting Door, they sing,  
And let the King of Glory enter in.



Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly,  
In flakes of Glory down him to attend,  
And hear Heart-cramping notes of Melody  
Surround his Chariot as it did ascend:  
Mixing their Music, making ev'ry string  
More to enravish as they this tune sing.

*Luise Horrocks*

---

## *Not 474*

Immortal, invisible, God only knows  
How tenors and basses, sopranos, altos  
At service on Sunday are rarely the same  
As those who on Thursday to choir practice came.

Unready, unable to sight-read the notes,  
Nor counting, nor blending, they tighten their throats.  
The descant, so piercing, is soaring above  
A melody only a mother could love.

They have a director, but no-one knows why,  
No-one in the choir deigns to turn him an eye.  
It's clear he is waving, he wants them to look  
But each of them stands with his nose in the book.

Despite the offences the music rings out.  
The folks in the pews are enraptured no doubt.  
Their faces seem blissful, their thoughts appear deep.  
But it is no wonder – they're all fast asleep.

Our thanks to Liz Forman for sending us the above.

*The Editors*



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## *Phil threatens tests*

May is a busy liturgical month. Since I am unable to share this with you at services or test your knowledge/homework progress, I thought I would write a brief guide to the month (which could be used as the revision sheet for next year!).

We begin on the 1st with a duo of apostles, Philip and James. Philip makes a few important appearances in John's gospel and converts the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts. James has a background role in the Bible and is known as James the Less or James the Younger, to distinguish him from the other disciple James whose feast is celebrated on 25th July.

2nd May brings us Athanasius, teacher of the faith and bishop of Alexandria (d. 373), traditionally (but incorrectly) believed to be the author of the interminable Athanasian Creed. Were it not this year the Fourth Sunday of Easter, the 3rd might see the Welsh among us remembering the seventeenth-century poet Henry Vaughan.

On the 4th, we commemorate the English Saints and Martyrs of the Reformation Era, recalling all who lost their lives in the religious conflicts of those times.

The 5th takes us back over to Wales to remember the obscure Asaph, who lives on in the name of the tiny cathedral city and diocese.

After a couple of days respite, on the 8th we come to Julian of Norwich (d. circa 1417), a woman whose real name has been lost to history. An anchorite in the Norfolk city, she is best known today for her mystical writings, *The Revelations of Divine Love*.

10th May this year is the Fifth Sunday of Easter, displacing the mysterious Comgall (d. 602), founder and first abbot of Bangor Abbey.

By the 14th, we reach the third of the month's apostles, Matthias, who replaces Judas at the start of Acts and promptly vanishes from the story again; the especially dedicated may also like to remember the shadowy Carthagh of Lismore on the same day.

The romantically minded may wish to think of the sixth-century Brendan the Navigator on the 16th, although the nineteenth-century social reformer Caroline Chisholm has a more verifiable biography.

*Continued on page 33*





## Footnotes UK

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North Aisle	Suitable for 120 people seated theatre style or up to 48-64 seated around tables. Tables and chairs are provided in a large open area with plenty of electric sockets. It is used to host exhibitions, meals and conferences.	

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For more information, please email [hiring@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:hiring@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

*Continued from page 31.*

17th May is the Sixth Sunday of Easter, followed on the 19th by Dunstan (d. 988), who between being abbot of Glastonbury and archbishop of Canterbury was bishop here in Worcester, one of only three to achieve sainthood.

The 20th brings us to Alcuin of York (d. 804), a famous scholar at the court of Charlemagne and later abbot of Tours, although someone I first encountered when a student at the University of York, where a college bears his name.

Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine who searched out places associated with Jesus in Jerusalem in the early fourth century, is normally remembered on the 21st, but this year she has to make way for Ascension Day. John and Charles Wesley likewise have to yield to the Seventh Sunday of Easter on 24th May.

The 25th takes us north to the Venerable Bede (d.735), a monk at Jarrow famous for writing *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People* and who is buried in Durham Cathedral.

On the 26th, we venture south-east to celebrate Augustine of Canterbury (d. 604/5) the Roman prior who became first archbishop of Canterbury, not to be confused with the earlier Augustine of Hippo. The more Protestant-minded will find time on the same day to remember John Calvin (d. 1564), whose followers developed a notably severe form of reformed Christianity.

We are back in Canterbury on the 28th, to remember Lanfranc, the first archbishop appointed after the Norman Conquest, having been prior of Bec and abbot of Caen. Apparently Wales also remembers Melangell that day, an abbess whose life sounds distinctly mythical.

30th May offers us a choice between the social reformer Josephine Butler (d. 1906) and Joan of Arc, burned at the stake following condemnation for heresy by a French ecclesiastical court (not, as commonly believed, an English one) in 1431 (*no prizes for guessing which of these two is shown on the right - the editors*).

Normally, we would end the month on the 31st by commemorating the Visit of Mary to Elizabeth recounted by Luke, but instead this year we conclude our liturgical odyssey with Pentecost.

*Phil Bradford*





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# *Making Fish Climb Trees*

## *Adapting to GCSE's and the English school system*

At the age of 14 I immigrated to the UK. The first 14 years of my life were spent living in the outskirts of the Greater Toronto Area in Canada.

Since immigrating my greatest frustration has been adapting to the English school system. To someone having grown up within the system it would not seem anything but 'normal', but my experience as a part of an entirely different system

has given me a perspective from which I have observed and participated in what I think is a convoluted and unnecessarily challenging institution.

In my opinion the least sympathetic aspect of the British education system is the examination process; specifically, GCSEs. Although 'GCSEs' are a household term in this country, they were an entirely foreign concept to me until I was told that at the end of two years I would be sitting at least 24 official exams which would represent the result of my entire high school education.

My prior understanding of exams consisted of an important test at the end of each school term which would account for up to maybe 50% of my overall grade in that subject. The rest of my grade would be made up of smaller tests, assignments, independent projects and homework. For each of the two terms of the year I would study 4 different subjects. This meant that I would have about five months to learn, study for, and take the exam for each of those subjects. Five months of knowledge crammed into an exam accounting for half of my grade seemed daunting then; GCSE's are another beast entirely.

It might be surprising that the term 'revision' meant nothing to me before entering this system. Studying was the word I used for the week or two spent before exams or tests reading over and testing myself on the information I had learned so far in my subjects until I was confident in my knowledge. Now, revision is one of the most stress-inducing words in my vocabulary.

I suppose exam pressure is a necessary evil that will always be a part of the school experience, but having 100% of assessment based on exam performance seems unnecessary. My primary issue with a 100% exam-based system is the lack of incentive for less academically motivated students.

At my last school I felt driven to study for mid-year tests and to complete homework assignments to the best of my ability because they impacted my final grade. For example, a big project might have

*Continued on page 37*





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*Continued from page 35*

been worth 10% of my grade in coursework. Because of this, not only was I motivated by my own desire to learn and prepare myself for the final exam, but I also had to continuously work throughout the year to achieve a good grade.

In the British system, the only repercussions for incomplete or insufficient homework are whatever the teacher deems appropriate, be that a detention or just a telling-off. Students who aren't held accountable for their schoolwork until their final exams have no incentive to put in effort or complete homework unless they are self-encouraged to learn.

This is particularly relevant to GCSE's, as the learning can span up to over two years (I was quite surprised to join the school in year 10 thinking I was just in time to start preparing for GCSE's, to find out I had missed entire units in all three sciences). An immature year 10 student is unlikely to have the foresight to be preparing sufficiently for GCSE's in two years' time.

It's obvious that exams as a format are designed for the more academic students, but all students sit GCSE's, and I would argue that exams can be ineffectual for even the most academic of students.

An undeniable fault of exams is the amount of pressure they put students under. Of course, not everyone performs equally well under this kind of stress, and although I do not think this is enough of a reason to abolish exams entirely, there is something to be said for the incompatibility of fish and trees.

If students were assessed in a variety of formats, they would be more likely to not only express the best of their abilities, but also gain skills by learning how to do more than sit an exam – a skill not particularly useful outside of education.

In my experience, having a mix of exams, tests and assignments contributing to my grade is highly effective for alleviating the pressure of performance. People learn and demonstrate their learning in different ways, and when possible schools should adapt to this, not only for the students' sakes, but for the benefit of their own results.

*Lucy Yates*

*Sixth Form student*

*Christopher Whitehead Language College and Sixth Form*

---

## ***Baby sitting***

We were sifting applications from students for part-time work.

Under 'Previous employment', one applicant listed "Baby sitting."

And under 'Reason for leaving' she wrote, "They came home."

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## *Extracts from Wendy's 1982 scrapbook*

Cleaning and re-roofing of the North Aisle going on all of May.

May 2nd St John Ambulance service.  
Judith + Bessie were so genuinely sorry about our burglary.

6th May - Few of us at Jim's. Frank came.

### USED STAMPS

Since the collection of stamps for the R.N.L.I. began in September 1980, together with my class at school, we have collected 90,465. The Lifeboat Institute is most grateful. Do please continue to save them and pass them on to me through the Parish Church.

- Wendy Dedicott

Friday 7th Judith brought me thousands of stamps for RNLI. A peaceful, beautiful service.

Sunday 9th May - Lovely weather.  
Wore a summer dress. Peter a failure, we need to fail to see our need for Christ.

Clinic opened 10th May.

Wednesday 12th May - Judith and I talked after Bishop's course. We talked about discipline. Last night Judith brought our Christian aid envelope.

13th May - group at 16 Heron Close. Marney did it.

14th May - a marvellous day. A superb early Communion service. I read the epistle. In the evening went to clean the church. Judith and I worked together a lot. We did the children's corner together. There were 10 of us. The joy of working together for the Lord.

From the May parish magazine  
(clippings included in the scrapbook).

### A BIT MORE THAN EXPECTED

There was always a risk that this would happen, but we hoped that it might be avoided - not only have we to re-roof the North Aisle of the Parish Church, but now we have to provide a new ceiling as well. When the builders came to lift the old tiling they discovered that the battens holding the tiles were fastened to the lathes of the plaster ceiling and so the ceiling started to fall. Work was immediately stopoed, but now we have no choice but to knock in the entire ceiling, and replace it with insulated ceiling board before putting up the new tiling.

There is going to be a fair amount of dust and dirt, despite careful screening and we shall be looking for work parties to ensure the church is clean for use on Sundays and for weddings.

In the meantime we shall have to accept an increase in the cost of the repairs by at least a further £2,000. It would be fair comment that St. John's this year is financially extended just about as far as it could be and perhaps a little bit further. But we are confident that we are doing what has to be done and we are sure that our members and friends will rise to the occassion, both by keeping up to a high standard their regular weekly giving and by putting extra effort into such events as the Fete and the Christmas Fayre.

Direct Gifts to the Fabric Fund of St. John's are also welcome and these can be sent either to the Vicar or the Church Treasurer.

*Continued on page 41*

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*Continued from page 39*

May 16th - Lovely weather. Marney sat by me. Bessie + Arthur there. Frank preached on, Lord teach us to pray. Not change God's mind, but our ideas mature, like parent discussing with child. Our ideas become more like God's + we experience things we never know existed.

19th May - Bishop's course again with Harriet Heatley.

20th May Ascension day. Choral Communion 30 present.

21st May - Judith nearly late for the early service. I read the Micah reading. Owain Bell led. Cleaned church in the evening.

May 22nd - Jim preached on us continuing the Ascension + that next week we await the coming of the power of the Spirit.

May 25th - new greengrocer opened where the Bedding shop was, opposite the Fish and Chip shop, called the Orange Box.

May 26th - Bishop's course super in Cottage. Judas from the south so odd man out.

May 27th - At Parrott's. Speaking in tongues etc.

May 28th - Early service lovely. I read Daniel. Cleaned at night.

May 30th - Frank preached about Babel + do we speak the same language?

#### BISHOP'S CERTIFICATE

A new section on "St. Luke's Gospel" starts on Wednesday 5th May, 7.30p.m. In the Vestry Room.

For this section the talks will be given by Miss Harriet Heatley of the Worcester Girls Grammar School.

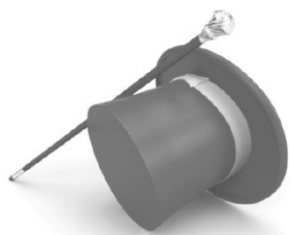
Those who are not undertaking the full course are welcome to come and share in the six evenings devoted to this part of the course.

#### CHURCH HEATING SYSTEM

We had all been aware of noises on the system since mid-winter, our hope was that all would keep going until the end of the heating period when it would be convenient to empty the system and do repairs. But it was not to be so - at early service on Easter Day there was a final howl and the breakdown came. At least it had waited for a warm spell.

The trouble was the large water pump. Church Warden Arthur Lee, with the help of the Curate, Jim Leverton, dismantled the offending part, and Arthur completely repaired and overhauled it before they replaced it in time for the following Sunday. The use of their time and talents doubtless saved the church a bill of almost £200.

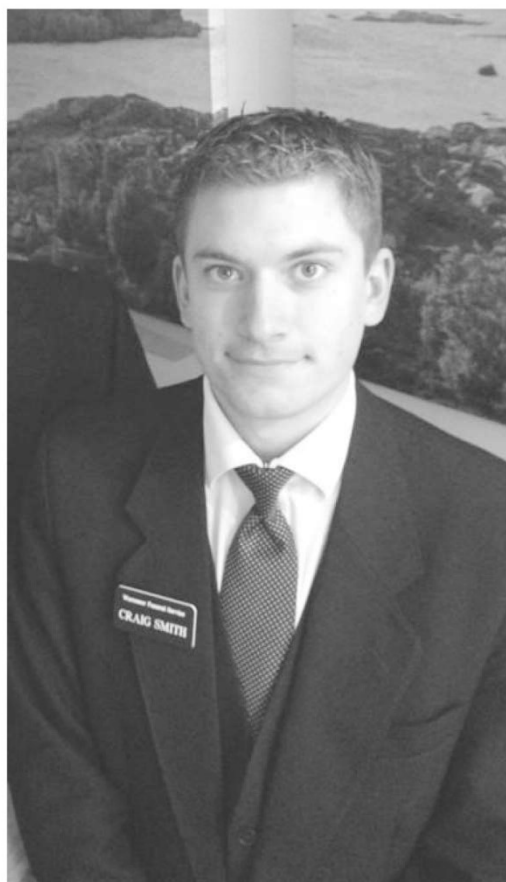
The repair took a great deal of time and effort, with minimum inconvenience to the congregation. We record our thanks Arthur and Jim for a super piece of work.



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# Worcestershire Libraries and Learning Service



## Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for our library users

To support social distancing and prevent the spread of infection from Coronavirus (COVID-19), all Worcestershire Libraries (including the mobile library service) will remain closed until further notice.

We have extended the return date for all library loans until further notice. Unfortunately, we will not be able to meet any outstanding reservations or accept new reservations.

## The new Digital Library Hub is now available.

Access new digital services and make the most of your library membership whilst you stay safe at home. Visit the 'Digital Library Hub' to discover more at <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/DigitalLibraryHub>



### Digital Library

Download free e-Books, e-Audiobooks and e-Magazines and access e-resources available from home to support research and study.



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### Digital Events

Enjoy our online library events and activities and stay connected while you remain safe at home.

## Digital Events:

Visit our Facebook page to see events as they happen or subscribe to our YouTube Channel to access events on demand.

*Events include:* Storytime at Home, Rhyme Time online, Author-led Storytime, Poetry in Motion, Wacky Wednesday, Library Lego Club online, Minecraft Challenge, Digital Readers Group for Adults, Join the Digital Readers group for Adults, Digital Readers Group for Young Adults.



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*From the magazine archive (May 1953)*

### MISS STOCKHALL.

AFTER many years of untiring work with the accounts of our Church Miss Stockhall finds that her health does not permit her to continue this work in future. We are truly very grateful for her splendid services, and the fine tribute paid to her by so many in the parish is a testimony of the esteem in which she is held as a faithful servant of her church.

### MR. O. H. LAFLIN

VERY many people in the parish are grateful and highly appreciative of work done over a long period of years by Mr. Laffin. As Headmaster he has rendered diligent service in his teaching and care of boys: as a faithful servant of the Church of St. John's he has not spared himself in taking an interest and active part in the life and work of his church. He has always been ready to be of assistance to anyone who has asked his help, and there must be few among us who have such a wide knowledge of the history of St. John's Church and who can impart it in such an interesting way. We all most sincerely hope that Mr. Laffin will be restored to good health in the near future.

### CORONATION SUNDAY, MAY 31ST

ON this Sunday of course our services will take the special character of Preparation for Coronation Day. The two big services will be at the usual times and we shall follow the Order of Service as laid down by authority. Copies of these leaflets will be found in the pews. All other particulars will be announced in due course.

We are hoping to have special music and a church really full once again of people thinking of the Coronation in the right spirit of prayer and personal dedication.

## *Please subscribe to the magazine*

### Why subscribe to the Parish Magazine?

- You'll only need to pay once a year.
- You'll only pay £5 per year (rather than £5.50).
- You'll have a guaranteed copy.
- It helps us know how many to print, reducing wastage.
- If you can Gift Aid, the church will receive an extra £1.25 without it costing you a

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penny more (HMRC rules allow this for charity magazines).

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

☐ (£5) I will pick up my magazine from the church (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 and need my magazine to be delivered.

☐ (£14.50) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted.  
Postage and Packing costs £9.50 (based on Large Letter, 2nd class postage which costs 83p from March 2019).

*giftaid it*

☐ I want St. John-in-Bedwardine Parish Church, charity number 1152583, to treat the enclosed donation as a Gift Aid donation.

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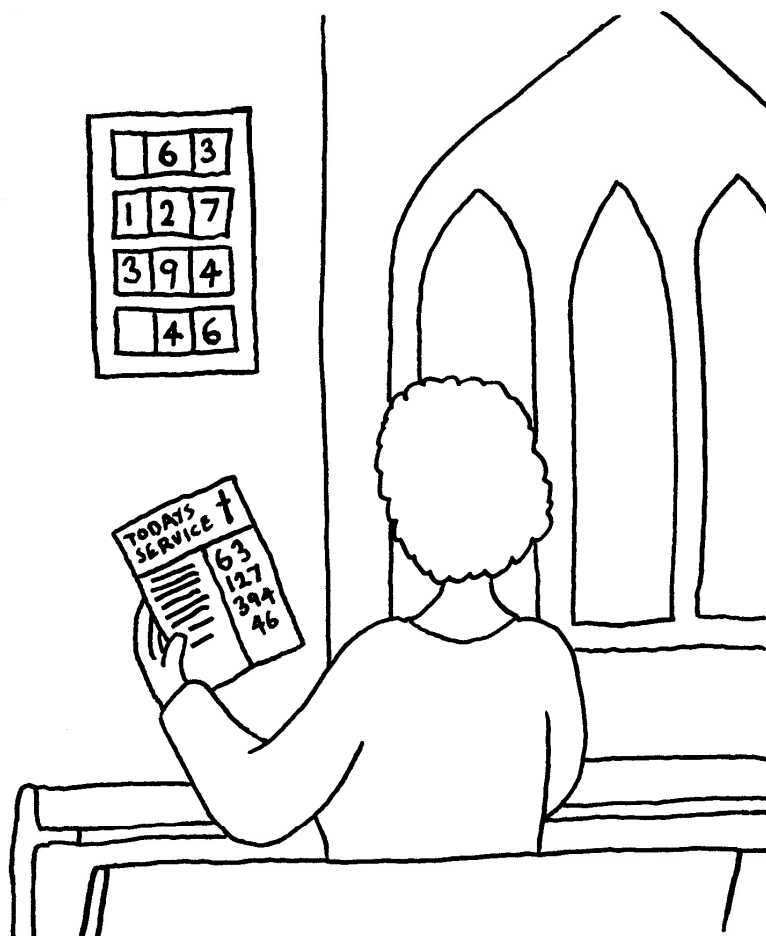


## *Puzzle solution*

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

*And finally....*

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SHE COULD HARDLY BELIEVE SHE HAD  
WON ON HER FIRST VISIT TO CHURCH

**27 April 2020**

**On the orders of the government, as of 23 March all places of worship are closed until further notice and no general worship, baptisms or weddings can take place in church. The archbishops of Canterbury and York have further prohibited the use of Church of England buildings for funerals, broadcasting/streaming and private services of prayer by clergy, which would otherwise be permitted under the law. Funerals may only take place at the crematorium or the graveside.**

**There will be no services in any of the Group churches until the restrictions are lifted. Various services are being streamed online, including by the Church of England and Worcester Cathedral. During the period of closure, the clergy of the West Worcester Group are producing a weekly sheet with readings, prayers, reflections and key information which is available (in electronic or printed form) to anyone on request.**

**Phil Bradford and Sarah Cottrill**