

# *The Parish Magazine*

*St John-in-Bedwardine*

*St Michael's*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



**May 2023**

**50p**



***St John's word cloud***

## Information

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

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

Pastoral Minister: The Reverend STEPHEN BUCKLEY (07746 206905)

### TEAM OFFICE

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

### ON THE WEB

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

### SERVICES

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

### SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact the Joint Council Safeguarding Officer, Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcv.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	<b>St John's</b>
Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email <a href="mailto:sylviarender@talktalk.net">sylviarender@talktalk.net</a> ) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email <a href="mailto:stephenbuckley554@gmail.com">stephenbuckley554@gmail.com</a> ). The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling ( <a href="mailto:dowlingm28@sky.com">dowlingm28@sky.com</a> /424539), Val Mason ( <a href="mailto:val.mason@yahoo.com">val.mason@yahoo.com</a> /428948).	<b>St Michael's</b>
On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	

## *A word from the editors*

Welcome to our May edition. Our theme is “Pentecost and the Holy Spirit”, and Phil discusses this in his letter; in the context of the Coronation, but also in the context of what it means to us.

In St John’s, part of the work of the Holy Spirit (and our hard-working volunteers) is the very successful Community Breakfasts. There’s a report from the last one on page 24, and news of the next one (a mini version) on page 13.

There is news of many other events in these pages. We hope that you will find some that you would like to attend - or perhaps the Holy Spirit will move you to get involved in something you see in our pages.

We offer you the following hymn words as a prayer, reflecting that we should continually renew our acceptance of the Holy Spirit in our lives:

*Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me,  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me.  
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me.  
Spirit of the Living God,  
Fall afresh on me.*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

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## *Important information*

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

**Next edition:** Deadline is Sunday 14th May.

**Distribution,** towards the end of May.

**Subscription form:** Page 50.

**Cover picture:** Rob Little.

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine, including Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Graham Evans, Joy Job, Ellen Little and 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 can, please use e-mail (address below left). The editors will always acknowledge items sent by email; please try again if you do not receive a response. Please send all written correspondence for the magazine to the Parish Office.

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

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

## **Opinions!**

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

## **To advertise**

Please see page 16.

## *From Phil Bradford*

The coronation of Charles III this month is an almost unique event in the contemporary world. None of the other European constitutional monarchs are crowned, instead simply having a ceremony to swear an oath, and the longevity of Elizabeth II means many only know a crowning as a historic event. While the King became king at the moment of his mother's death, this is still a highly symbolic moment. Seven decades have passed since the last coronation, hence the majority of people alive today will never have seen one. Unlike in 1953, when grainy black and white images flickered out from tiny screens on the enormous TV box, in 2023 we can watch it in full colour HD on flat screens, from a multiplicity of camera angles. While this may be new, and there have been many changes across the years, the core purpose and the main elements of the coronation ceremony have been in place for centuries, which is why there are still medieval relics like the inclusion of golden spurs among the regalia. At the centre of the service for most people will be the moment at which St Edward's Crown (used only for coronations and never worn by the sovereign again) is placed upon the King's head, the actual act of crowning. The coronation is explicitly a religious ceremony which takes place in a church. Since 1066, only one coronation has not been held in Westminster Abbey, the hastily-arranged one of Henry III in 1216 taking place in Gloucester Abbey (now Gloucester Cathedral), and even he was later recrowned at Westminster. To emphasise the Christian significance, medieval coronations were held on Sundays or, in the case of William I (Christmas Day) and John (Ascension Day), on major religious feasts. Although the most visually arresting parts of the service are those where the monarch is invested with the regalia, arguably more important are the oaths and promises they make before that happens. Alongside promises relating to government are several about the Church of England, including the following question: 'Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel?' The monarch is presented with a Bible, 'the most valuable thing that this world affords'.

Immediately prior to the anointing, itself an echo of Old Testament practice, is sung the *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire). And while the order of service has not yet been released for 2023, in 1953 the anointing was preceded by the following words, said by the archbishop:



Bless and sanctify thy chosen servant ELIZABETH,  
who by our office and ministry  
is now to be anointed with this Oil,  
and consecrated Queen:  
Strengthen her, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost the Comforter;  
Confirm and stablish her with thy free and princely Spirit,  
the Spirit of wisdom and government,  
the Spirit of counsel and ghostly strength,  
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness,  
and fill her, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy fear,  
now and for ever; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The invoking of the Holy Spirit is thus a key part of the coronation service. Just like in the ordination of a deacon, priest or bishop, the archbishop prays that the Holy Spirit will guide the sovereign in their role. It is part of the old understanding that a monarch is called by God to their role, that it is a divinely-instituted office. We tend not to think of monarchy as a vocation, but that is at the heart of the coronation and the reason the prayers for the Holy Spirit occupy such a central place.

And in the month we also celebrate Pentecost, that is something upon which we should reflect. Outside of the church, especially beyond ministry, we don't tend to talk in terms of vocation. Yet the Pentecost story is a reminder that God has a role for everyone, no matter how seemingly insignificant or unlikely. When we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit, we can have no way of knowing how he will use us. Our vocations may not be as clear or as elevated as that of a king, but we all have one, and it is for us to accept God's calling and know that he alone knows where he will lead us in his service.

*Phil Bradford*

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### ***Confirm, O Lord, thy servant .....***

November seems a long way off, but, given how quickly time flies by, it will be with us sooner than we think! The diocese of Worcester holds a confirmation service in the Cathedral at the end of November and now is a good time to start asking, if you haven't yet been confirmed, is this something you might like to consider?

I already have one candidate and we will be starting confirmation preparation at the beginning of October. If you would like to join us, or are interested in knowing more about confirmation, please have a word with me or Phil.

*Sarah Cottrill*

## *In Memoriam*

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.

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, March 2022*

### **St John's**

**BAPTISMS:** *We welcome you into the Lord's family*

12<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Eli Ziggy Heath

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

d. 24th February 2023 Edna Jeffs

d. 26th February 2023 Ederline Jones

d. 5th March 2023 Allan Wordsworth

**SERVICES:** Communicants 188. Total attendance at all services 435 including 113 at a funeral and a baptism.

### **St Michael's**

**SERVICES:** Communicants 58. Total attendance at all services 77.

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## *Mid-week services*

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for May:

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

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

Ascension Day will be celebrated at the service at St Michael's on 18th May.

## *Dates for your diary*

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

**(J) Wednesday 10th May, 10am-11.30am:** Little Blessings.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Thursday 11th May, 1pm:** Good Old Days talk, 'History of Ice Cream,  
see page 8.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 13th May, 9am:** Women's Breakfast, see page 11.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Monday 15th May, 10am:** Little Lambs, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Monday 15th May, 2.30pm:** Mothers' Union; speaker to be confirmed.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Wednesday 17th May, 2.45pm:** Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Thursday 18th May, 2pm - 4pm:** West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Sunday 21st May, approx. 11.30am** (following the 10.30am service):  
St John's Annual Meeting.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Monday 22nd May, 10am:** Little Lambs, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Wednesday 24th May, 10am-11.30am:** Little Blessings.

--- 000 ---

**(V) Friday 26th May:** Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up  
sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 27th May, 10.15am:** Café@10:15, see page 8.


--- 000 ---

**(M) Sunday 28th May, approx. 11am** (following the 10am service):  
St Michael's Annual Meeting.

--- 000 ---

**Tuesday 25th July:** Coach trip to Weston, see page 43.


## Events at St John's



### History of Ice Cream

St Johns Church  
Presents  
Discover History  
Talk with Refreshments £4

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May  
1pm



### ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

Open for Tea/Coffee  
and Cakes

£2.00



Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May

at 2.45pm in the Church

**ALL WELCOME**

### St John in Bedwardine



Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish

'Friendship and Thoughts'

At 10.15am on

**Saturday**

**27<sup>th</sup> May**

*Thought for the day by*

*Margaret Rutter*

**ALL WELCOME**



**Mondays in Term Time**

**10:00am to 11.30am**

**FREE!**

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

*Birth to 4 years old and carers*

**Come and join the fun!**

NB, in May, Little Lambs will **not** be  
running on the Bank Holidays  
(1st, 8th and 29th).



## *Sundays and Principal Feasts in May*

Monday 1st: Philip and James, Apostles

Sunday 7th: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 14th: Sixth Sunday of Easter

Monday 15th: Matthias the Apostle

Thursday 18th: Ascension Day

Sunday 21st: Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday 28th: Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Wednesday 31st: The visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

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### *Afternoon Tea*



We'd love to welcome you to Afternoon Tea at St David's Church, Comer Gardens.

Please do come and join us on Saturday, 20th May, served between 2pm and 4pm.

Everybody is welcome.

There is no charge but donations for the church will be greatly appreciated.

*Carole Stone*  
*Deputy Warden, St David's Church*

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### *Healing Service*

Once a month there is a healing service in St John's. It lasts for about one hour and is a time for reflection and prayer. The three hymns that are sung are gentle and appropriate for the service. There is a quiet meditative time to pray for people we know and recently prayers have been focused on the war in Ukraine.

It would be lovely to see more people at the service where we can join together in the power of prayer and healing. The service is at 5pm on the fourth Sunday of each month; reminders are on the pew sheets and in the magazine. For more info about the service please contact me.

*Sylvia Render*

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### *Wear red, white and blue at St Clement's*

On Sunday 7th May, there will be a Coronation Service at St Clement's at 10am, followed by a bring and share lunch. You are encouraged to wear something/anything that is red, white and blue.

*Angela Harris*



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## *Volunteers needed*

Volunteers are needed to help open and close St John's Church. Can you take on a day to open at 10am and close at 4pm? Please let Sarah or Phil know if you can help.

Thank you.

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## *Mothers' Union*



In March we enjoyed a visit from Judith Grubb, our Diocesan President. She shared news of projects taking place in the diocese and also plans for future events.

It was good to spend time with her, especially for those who had not met her before.

Sarah took the photo.

Bishop Martin will lead a Mothers' Union Quiet Day on Thursday 27th July at St. Michael's Church, Stourport: 10am for tea and coffee with a 10.30am start for the Quiet Day itself.

*Jenny Claydon*

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## *Women's Breakfast*

Women's Breakfast Meetings  
for Friendship and  
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?  
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine  
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)

*This month's speaker will be*

Sally Mills talking about Christian Aid



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## *The launch of ‘Bell Sunday’ in May*

If you like church bells, you will be pleased to hear that there is now an ‘official’ Bell Sunday – this year to be held on 14th May.

It will be held each year on the Sunday closest to 19th May. That is because 19th May is the feast day of St Dunstan, who way back in the 11th century had fun in experimenting with bell-forging. (Does anyone know if any of his bells have survived?)

The Central Council for Church Bell Ringers (CCCBR) has declared Bell Sunday to encourage churches to celebrate their bells and ringers in Sunday worship.

The CCCBR hopes that many local church towers will join in, and that, where possible, churches will open their towers to the public on the day, so that visitors can watch the bells being run.

The Central Council’s spokeswoman, Vicki Chapman, says: “With co-operation between church and bell-ringers, it may be possible for bell-ringers to be involved in a service on the day. Bell ringers could read lessons, give a talk, and demonstrate the playing of handbells. The church service could include bell-related hymns, bell-related prayers, and even bell-shaped biscuits with the after-service coffee.”

“We hope that Bell Sunday will help raise awareness of the importance of bells in our communities, and also help strengthen relationships between clergy and bellringers.”

*Courtesy of Parish Pump*

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## *“Bacon or sausage butty?”*



Picture credit: Chris Jackson

There will be a mini community breakfast at St John’s Church starting at 8.30am on Monday 8th May.

We won’t be serving full English breakfasts, but come and enjoy a bacon or sausage butty to start off your bank holiday!

*Jenny English*

*Unfortunately the King and Queen are unlikely to drop in on this event, but the editors nonetheless mischievously suggest the headline as a caption for this picture!*

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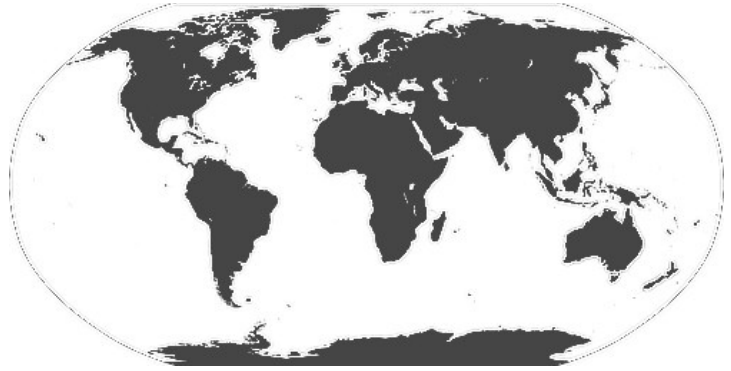


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## Prayers for our world



*Oh Lord, hear our prayers, come and listen.*

As we pray together today, we light our candles and sit quietly remembering the sacrifice Christ has made for our world and for each and every one of us.

Lord Jesus, we come before you today with our prayers for the battle torn areas of our world. For Ukraine and Russia, for Turkey and Syria in the aftermath of the earthquake. For Sudan and the years of war and famine, people living in refugee camps. For Afghanistan where women and girls are prevented from having a life.

Lord Jesus, we pray for all people who are living with grief, or living with the trauma of war and natural disasters. Take their pain and suffering Lord, and grant them peace and healing in the midst of such desolation. We pray for those who bring comfort and hope - hope for all to hold on to, that there will be an ending to the trauma and hope for a future of peace and reconciliation.

Lord Jesus, we pray for all leaders who believe in superiority over others, destroying lives and livelihoods as a result. We pray for those who are trying to retain democracy; for any nation struggling to protect its citizens and eliminate the aggressor; for women and children hoping to have a place in society and be educated; for refugees without enough food and water; and for the healing of body, mind and spirit following the earthquake disaster in Syria and Turkey.

Lord Jesus for those who have died, hear our prayer.

For those who mourn, send your Holy Spirit, the comforter.

We ask Lord that your Holy Spirit will fill all people with wisdom, hope and love; renewing a right spirit within all our hearts as we work together for peace and healing in our world.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayers today.

Amen 

*Jenny English*



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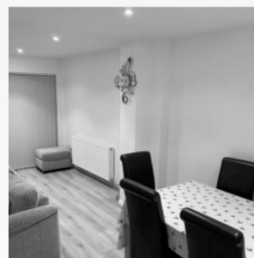
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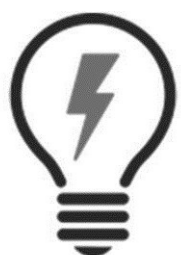
**Contact**

Julian Shuttleworth

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



## *Coach Trip to Tyntesfield*

The latest coach trip organised by our great team was to the National Trust Tyntesfield stately home on 24th March. Once again, we had a nearly full coach and we were keeping our fingers crossed as the weather forecast kept changing but in the end despite some rain we were very lucky.



Tyntesfield is a Gothic Revival property that was originally Georgian but remodelled to the Gothic in 1863. It was bought by William Gibb in 1844 and was paid for by the profits of the trade he did between Spain and South America, mainly in Guano, or bird droppings! This was used widely as a fertiliser

for crops and was a very profitable business.

The Gibbs were devout high church Anglicans and supported the reinstatement of pre-reformation Roman Catholic practices into the Church of England. They were members of the Oxford Movement, whose philosophies were published by prominent 'Tractarians' like John Henry, later Cardinal Newman and John Keble.

Oxford Movement followers advocated the Gothic as the ultimate architectural expression of Christian ideals.

Its major proponent was the architect Augustus Pugin, who greatly influenced Tyntesfield's designer John Norton (1823–1904).



On arrival after refreshments many people went to the main house, which is about a 20 minute walk or a short buggy ride.



Outside the house were several tour guides and many of us went off around the grounds to be told about various aspects of the grounds. At one stage there was a magnificent, and very large, conservatory attached to the house. This fell into disrepair and had to be

pulled down in the 1940s. There are some wonderful formal gardens around the house and various walks with beautiful identical trees either side. There are several champion trees [*Royal Forestry Society: 'individual trees that are important examples of their species because of their enormous size, great age, rarity or historical significance'*] in the grounds that were originally planted in the 1870s. The parkland under the control of the National Trust surrounding the house is now 540 acres but, in its heyday, it was many thousands of acres.

The grounds also include a large productive area with large glasshouses and a wonderful walled garden that is used to grow food for the café and restaurant.

A tour of the house is a must at Tyntesfield as it is laid out in the late 1800s/early 1900s style and houses a collection of 72,000 objects, many of which are on show.

The exit from the house is through the chapel.

Following the completion of the house, in 1873



William commissioned a new chapel by Arthur Blomfield (1829–99), modelled on the flamboyant Gothic architecture of the Sainte Chapelle in Paris. It was nearly complete in 1875 just before William's death.

The chapel was licensed for family services, used daily for prayers, but was never consecrated. One of the main reasons it was not consecrated was that the local

vicar petitioned the Bishop of Wells as he was worried that he would lose members of his congregation to it and therefore money.



The welcome area, near the car park, was the old home farm and houses several different shops etc. including the main restaurant, the obligatory National Trust shop, plant sales and second-hand book shop. Outside in the courtyard are the Somerset Bodgers, where you can either buy the wooden objects that they make or sign up for a course on how to make items in wood.



Sandra and I have been to Tyntesfield several times over the years in the run up to Christmas and it is well worth visiting at that time of year. The whole house is decorated and they bring in an acting group to play the family and servants enjoying a Victorian Christmas with carols round the tree and lots of fun.

*Colin Nash*

# *GODs Talk– Worcester Pubs in Living Memory*



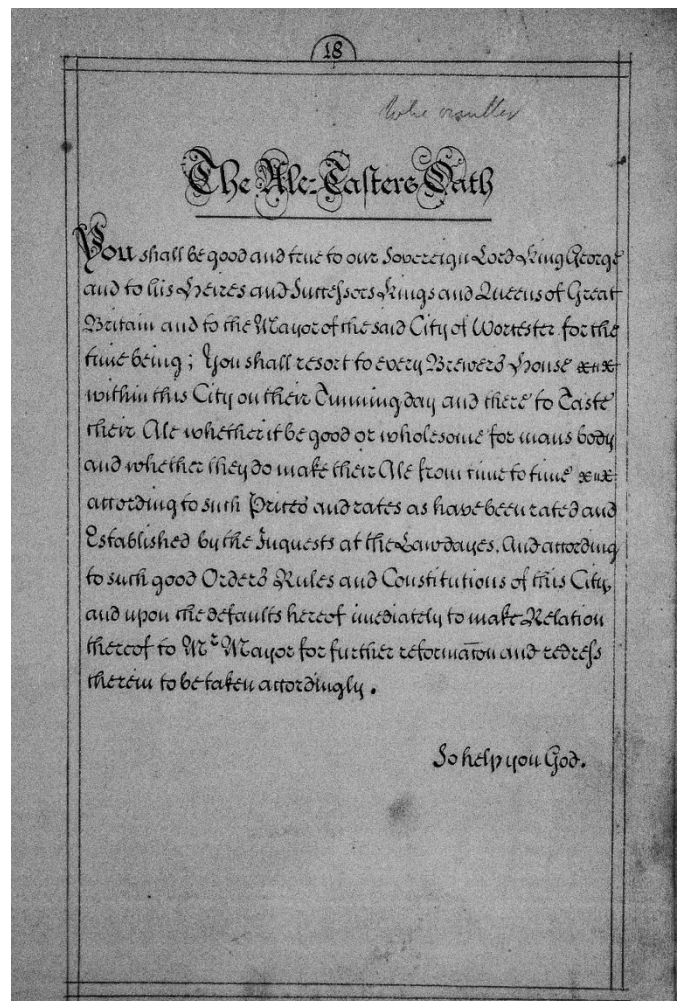
What better to talk about on a cold and wet/snowy spring day than remembering our Worcester pubs and sitting round log fires with a warm beer - well perhaps not the warm beer! Despite the weather over 70 people turned up to hear Paul Harding from Discover History relate stories to us about the recent public houses of Worcester.

Pubs really took off in the medieval ages as a place that people could go to meet other people and the pubs would be warm. However, the history of them go back much further to the era of the Romans.

There is a difference between ale and beer and the main difference was that beer had hops and ale did not. The regulation of houses that sold ales and beers was controlled from the Guildhall.

Ordinance No 68 says that no one can sell beers and ales from their premises unless they have a sign above the door stating that they are licenced to do so; something that still must be in place.

Ale tasters were employed by the council to check on the state of the drinks. Many died due to the things that may have been put in the beers and ales and the very unsanitary conditions they were made in. They had to sign an oath, as shown here on the right, stating that they would be good and true to the King and the Mayor of Worcester.

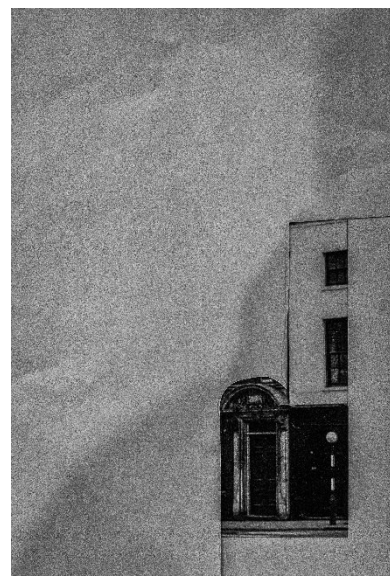
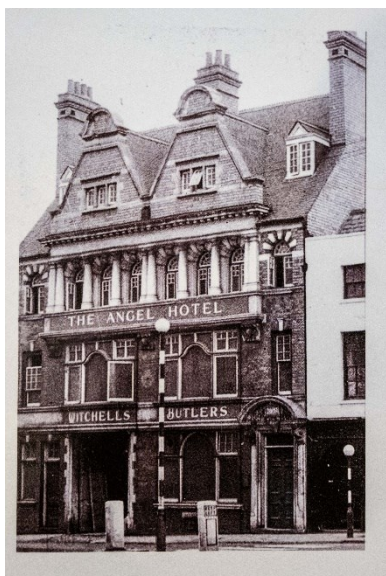


Paul showed us several photos of pubs that still exist as buildings but not as pubs, including The Berkeley Arms and (shown on the next page) the Globe Inn.



Each of the main roads coming into Worcester would have had at least one coaching inn. Coaching inns had to have stabling available for the horses of the coaches, whereas hotels did not have to have stabling. On the East/West route there was the Unicorn, the building currently covered in scaffolding by Angel Place. Other coaching inns were the Crown (now the Weatherspoon's pub) and the Reindeer in Mealcheapen Street.

The Angel Hotel in Sidbury still exists but only just due to the road widening schemes of the 1960s. Its door is now the entrance to Benedicto's. This can be seen in the two images below. The one on the left is the original pub and Paul used some modern green-screen technology (well a piece of cut out green paper!) to show all that was left of the pub - the door to Benedicto's.





One of the oldest pubs in St Johns, The Angel, originates from the 17th century, whereas over in the east of the city there were some from the 13th century. Unfortunately none of these exist now. Another very old pub in St Johns is The Bell which is on the site of an earlier church house.

In WWII The Bell was the headquarters of the Home Guard protecting Worcester from an attack from the west.

The Cardinal's Hat and The Farriers both have some claim to being the oldest pub in Worcester with history of previous buildings there. The Cardinal's Hat is on the site of an earlier brew house associated with the Franciscan priory. People drank beer and ale more in early times as the water was very contaminated, and people died from drinking water, but they did not when drinking beer and ale. Even children drank a low alcohol version of the beers, called a short beer, which was made by adding water to the dregs of the beer and re-boiling it.

The Portabello, originally The Port Bello, was a drover's pub on the route from Herefordshire where the drovers brought their cattle to the market in Worcester.



The King Charles, in New Street, has gone through many changes since it was originally built. The upper bay windows are from the 1950s, which would not be allowed these days! Prince Charles, later King Charles II, used the building during the Civil war when it was just a house. However, it was much bigger in 1651 and went all the way down to the Cornmarket. It did not become a pub until the end of 1700s.

The Golden Lion, now Costa Coffee, opposite the Guildhall, looks like it is from the 18th century but some of the inner timbers and floor date back to a 14th century merchant's house.

Paul showed us a set of drinking vessels including a mazer, beaker, and tankards made of cow horn and leather.



As usual the ladies of the church had prepared a superb spread of cakes for the audience and they soon all disappeared during the interval.



*Colin Nash*

---

### *Added extras*

A litter of Golden Retriever puppies were brought to the veterinary clinic for inoculations and worming. As the look-alike pups tumbled over and under one another in their box, the vet realised it would be difficult for her to tell which had been treated and which hadn't. So, she turned on the tap, wet her fingers and gently moistened each dog's head as she finished with it.

As the vet sprinkled the last pup's head, the owner leaned forward and whispered, "Thank you so much. I hadn't realised you baptised them, too."

*Parish Pump*

## *Recipe for a Community Breakfast: You need.....*



Time seems to have its own rules when it comes to the Community Breakfast - it really doesn't seem that long ago since we served breakfast at St Johns!

But here we were again, on 18th March - and with a few tweaks! Gone was the old cooker with the oven that took forever to heat up. Here was a nice sparkly, new one. The faithful kitchen team were back but with an additional

member in tow, Darren - a willing volunteer after he sampled the wares last time.

And with Jenny having to take a back seat from organising to recover from an op, her invaluable 'blue book' was passed to me - and I was officially 'promoted' from Tea and Coffee!

If you ever want to run a community breakfast you need Jenny's book - it is an amazing thing to behold.

If you ever want to run a community breakfast you also need .....

Girl Guides! As a congregation we are not as young as we used to be, so their energy and speed were greatly appreciated.

This time we served 141 breakfasts - a record so far, and we even had to run to Narraways twice for more bacon and eggs!

A big thank you once more for all the helpers and watch this space for the next one in Autumn!

*Ellen Little*





# *Palm Sunday*



*Above: Liturgy of the Palms at St John's*

*Below: Procession to St Clement's*



## *Easter Flowers*

The Flower Ladies met together again on Holy Saturday to decorate the church for Easter Sunday.

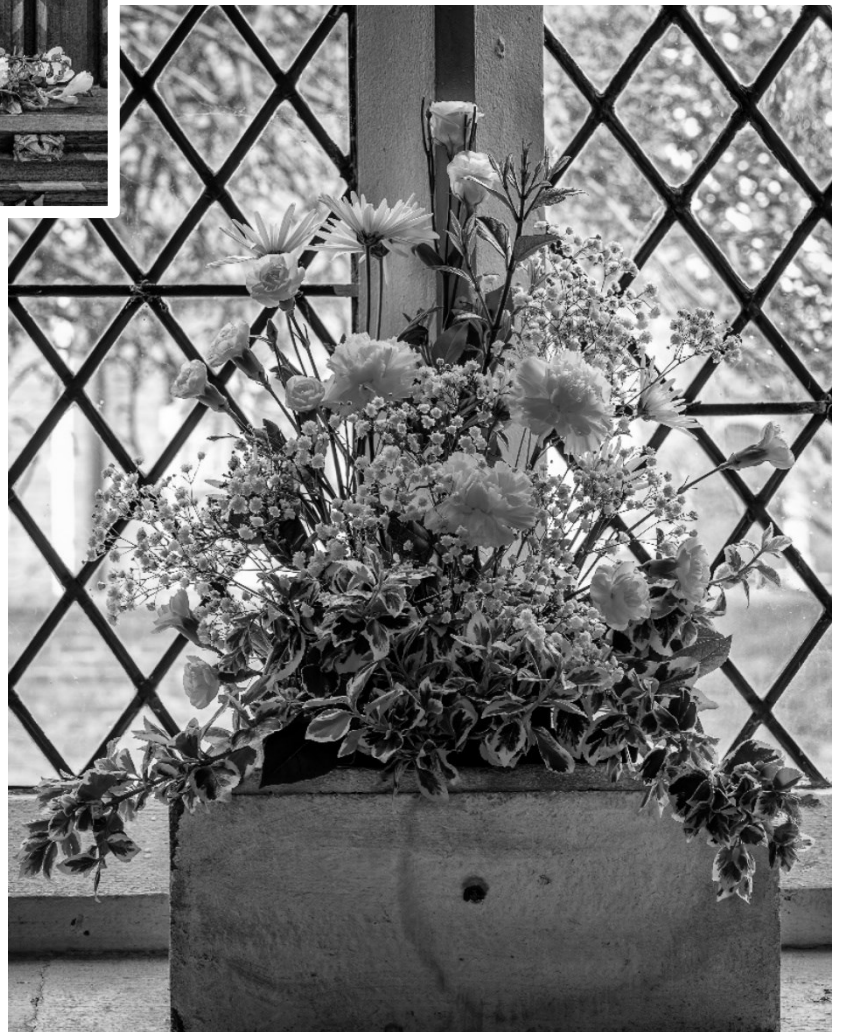


We were very grateful to our friends Joyce, Sally, Sue, Margaret and Poppy who joined us. We were able to enjoy a short break for refreshments.



It was a very busy morning for everyone and we enjoyed working with the beautiful flowers.





Thank you to everyone who generously donated for the flowers in memory of their loved ones. We hope that these flowers gave you all much joy after the flowerless season of Lent.

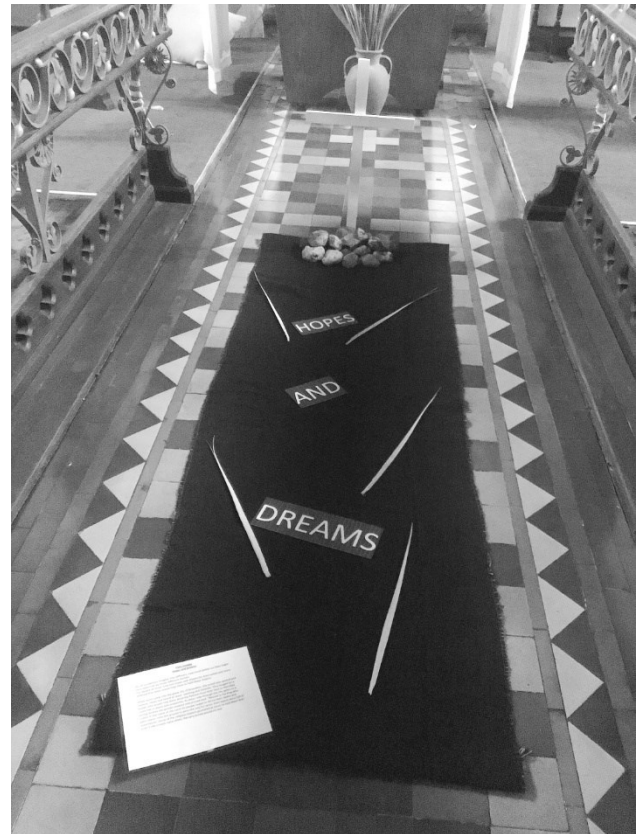
*Joy Job & Sue Hussell*

## *Experience Easter*

Members of St Clement's Church once again created some stunning displays for our "Experience Easter" initiative.

Working in a similar way to "Stations of the Cross" these displays depict the events of Holy Week, in a way which is both visual and thought provoking and equally appropriate to group or individual contemplation.

### *Hopes and Dreams*



### *Servant King*

*Remember Me*



*Alone*

*The Cross*



*Resurrection*

My thanks to everybody who created these displays.

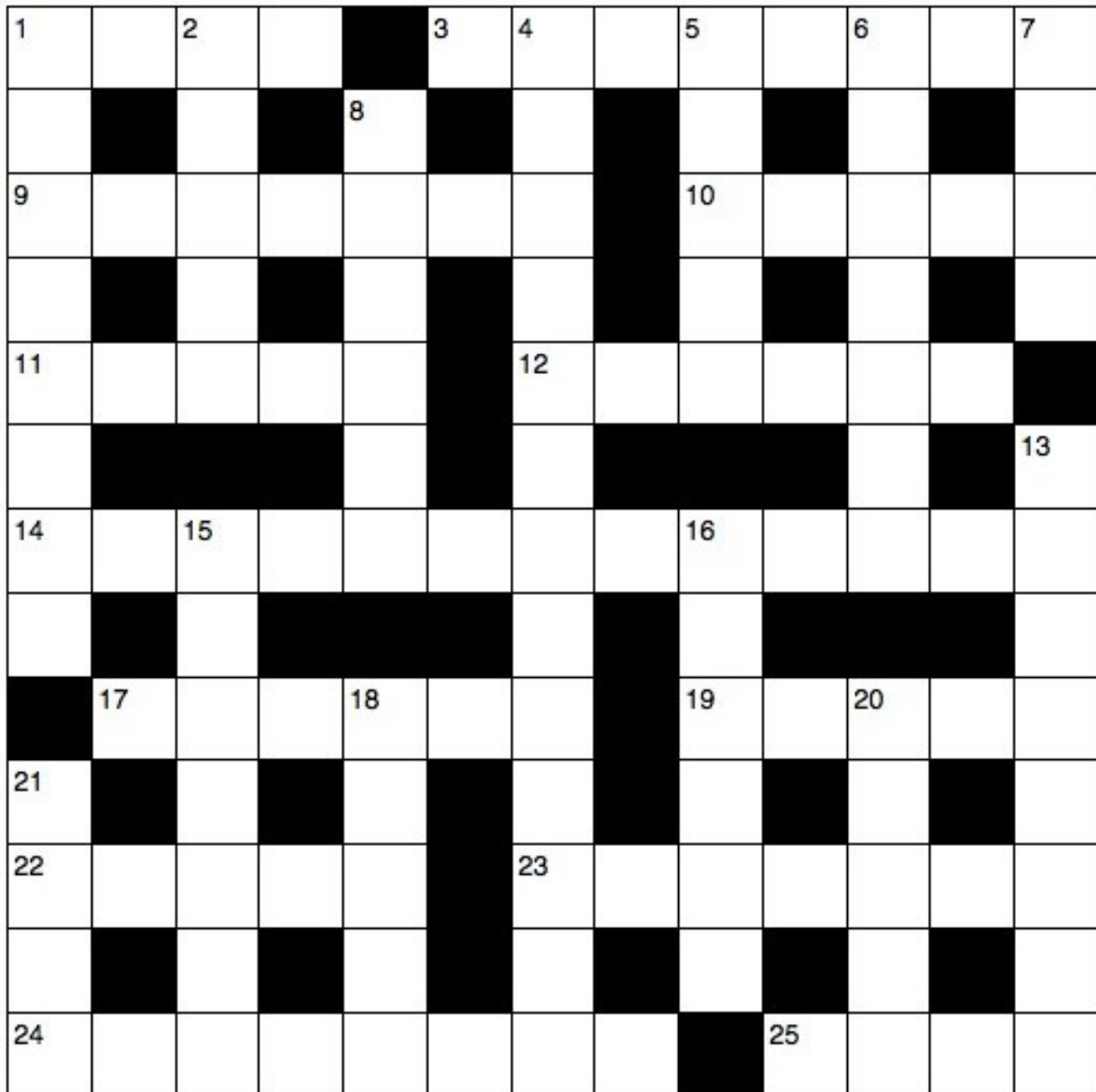
*Sarah Cottrill*

*The empty tomb at St John's*



## *Crossword puzzle*

*The solution is on the inside back cover.*



### **Across**

- 1 'Therefore let us — passing judgment on one another' (Romans 14:13) (4)
- 3 'I — — these persons here present' (Marriage service) (4,4)
- 9 According to a prearranged timetable (Numbers 28:3) (7)
- 10 Group of eight (5)
- 11 The cell into which the Philippian jailer put Paul and Silas (Acts 16:24) (5)
- 12 — Taylor, pioneer missionary to China (6)
- 14 Otherwise known as the Eucharist, Breaking of Bread, the Lord's Table (4,9)
- 17 'So that after I have preached to others, I — will not be disqualified for the prize' (1 Corinthians 9:27) (6)



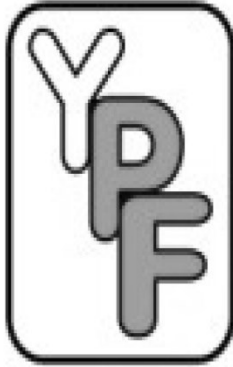
- 19 Attend to (3,2)
- 22 Approximately (Acts 4:4) (5)
- 23 Tea rite (anag.) (7)
- 24 Rule of sovereign (8)
- 25 Test (anag.) (4)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

### Down

- 1 The name of the street where Judas lived in Damascus and where Saul of Tarsus stayed (Acts 9:11) (8)
- 2 'The playing of the merry — , sweet singing in the choir' (5)
- 4 'We have been saying that — — was credited to him as righteous' (Romans 4:9) (8,5)
- 5 Dr Martyn — Jones, famous for his ministry at Westminster Chapel (5)
- 6 Port at which Paul landed on his way to Rome (Acts 28:13) (7)
- 7 Observe (Ruth 3:4) (4)
- 8 Minister of religion (6)
- 13 'I am — of this man's blood. It is your responsibility' (Matthew 27:24) (8)
- 15 'Greater love has no one than this, that he — — his life for his friends' (John 15:13) (3,4)
- 16 Archbishop who calculated that the world began in 4004BC (6)
- 18 'No one can — the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit' (John 3:5) (5)
- 20 Establish by law (5)
- 21 Product of Gilead noted for its healing properties (Jeremiah 46:11) (4)

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## *Table outlasts buildings!*

Normally, the altar at St Michael's is covered by a frontal. However, the stripping of the altars on Maundy Thursday reveals a plaque on the table beneath.



This shows that St Michael's altar table has an interesting history within the Team. Although the original Watermans' Church was a barge specially fitted out by the rector of St Clement's in the

1840s, by the later nineteenth century it was a proper building. After this was demolished in the twentieth century, the table was probably surplus to requirements in the parish church and in 1955 was offered to the new mission church on Dines Green. It has therefore outlasted two St Michael's buildings!



*Phil Bradford*

### *Sudoku Puzzle*

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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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## *Prawn or Plaice or Biscuits?*

*Rob continues to report his journey to becoming a Licensed Lay Minister (Reader).*

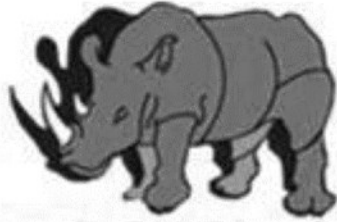
Whew! I submitted my latest assignment this morning with 53 minutes to go and goodness me it's a weight off my mind. This was quite different to the previous two which had been very academic. This was more practical - I'll tell you about it but confidentiality rules mean I can't share it with you I'm afraid. The task was to create a resource that people who were new to the church could use to learn about us. I chose to create a leaflet that could be posted through the letterboxes on the new estates, but I had to ensure that what went into it was true and genuinely reflected us as a congregation. I have many of you to thank for your input. One thing I can share is the Word Cloud that you helped to make and which the editors have put in pride of place on the front page! I had loads of words that you shared and I organised them and kept every word that appeared at least twice. I knew you wouldn't let me down and the top words were Welcoming, Peace, Friendly and Community. I also like that biscuits sneaked in. I had to write 1,500 words about what I had created and I couldn't imagine where I'd find that much to say, but then next thing I knew I was on track for about 3,000! If finding something to say is hard, deleting something you have written that you think is quite clever, in order to hit the word count, is even worse! I ended up at 1,650 which was bang on the 10% leeway we are given.

So that's term two done. When we go back after Easter we'll continue with the new module which is about Ministry. The first two seminars were "What is Worship?" and "What is Preaching?". If you recall, I mentioned Prawn or Plaice churches in my last magazine piece. Apparently this phrase is a way to tell if someone went to Queens and perhaps other theological colleges have their equivalents, but it describes if your services have a clear pattern and structure visible for all to see (like a prawn's shell), or if they appear to be more free flowing, albeit following a structure that may not be immediately visible (like a plaice's skeleton). I see that the next seminar is "Preaching the Word" so I suspect I will be asking for more help in the form of sermon feedback forms in the weeks and months to come. For the first time I feel slightly ahead of the game because the recommended reading for that part of the course is a book my good wife bought me a couple of Christmases ago called "A Preaching Workbook". It's very funny with sound advice and some examples from very generous preachers of their own experiences of where things may have gone a little wrong!

So that's two terms down, four to go and plenty more articles for the magazine!

God Bless!

*Rob Little*



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## *Entering into the feelings of St Joseph*

GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) is a group of people from St Johns Church who have all been confirmed in the last eight years. Following their confirmation, they have continued to meet every six weeks or so, for bible study and fellowship.

Our last meeting, on March 16th came shortly before the Feast Day of St Joseph and this often over-looked saint was the focus of our attention. As part of our evening, we engaged in an exercise in Midrash – a Jewish form of Theological Reflection, in which participants try to “get behind the text” and really empathise with the central figures. What follows is the combined efforts of the group to describe how Joseph may have felt on learning that Mary was with child.



*“Dream of Joseph”  
a tenth century  
mural from Ateni,  
Georgia.*

My name is Joseph. I’m a proud carpenter and a good Jew. I live in Nazareth.

I’m engaged to a beautiful girl named Mary. I have been absolutely heart-broken to discover that she’s pregnant – and it isn’t mine!

What am I going to do? What will people think? I’m confused. I care for Mary, but do I proceed with this situation? I’m angry but don’t want her to face the consequences of her actions.

I went to bed early last night and I had the most amazing dream. Amazingly, I was visited by the angel of the Lord who delivered the most amazing news. I was told that the baby Mary’s expecting is the Son of God and I am to marry Mary and call the baby Jesus. I feel both relieved and confused.

The thoughts I’ve had since discovering Mary was with child have not been positive and now I’m ashamed of how I handled myself since finding out. Although I’m glad to know that Mary has been faithful, I’m still very worried about having to look after a child of God. As Mary is clearly showing signs that she is with child, I will marry her without delay but will not consummate the marriage until after Jesus arrives.

The group thoroughly enjoyed this exercise and hope to repeat it in the future – look out for our next effort later in the year!

*Members of GIFT:  
Melanie Jarrett, Thomas Pound, Neil Price,  
Nigel Scott, Rachael Shearer, Kate Staiger*



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## *Bedwardine Court*

Hello, my name is Charlotte and I'm a team leader at a supported living facility in Comer Road, St Johns, Worcester. Here at Bedwardine Court we rely on the donations and support of the local community. Many of our residents don't have family so we try our best to make the place homely for them. With next to no funds this is very difficult. We have also noticed arts and crafts, games and time together improve their mental health massively.

I was wondering if you'd be able to donate anything to us, there is a wide range of things that would be useful to us such as:

- Indoor furniture
- Outdoor furniture
- Rugs, cushions, throws
- Paint
- Arts and craft supplies
- Outdoor games
- Sensory toys
- Indoor games
- Vouchers/cash/giftcards

Thank you for your time and I hope to hear from you soon. If you would be able to help us in any way, please feel free to contact me on 07377656626 or by email to [Charlotte.Harper@lifeways.co.uk](mailto:Charlotte.Harper@lifeways.co.uk)

*Charlotte Harper*

---

## *May prayers*

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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

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## *Behind the Smile*

Behind The Smile is a charity who aim to support those who are experiencing mental ill health. It was formed in 2019 by a parent who had sadly lost her 29 year old child to suicide the year before. See our website: <https://behindthesmile.care/>



**NEW SUPPORT GROUP**

**Last Friday of the Month  
6pm - 8pm**

**St John's Youth Centre  
Swanpoole Walk, Worcester  
WR2 4EL**

Behind The Smile is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
with Registered Charity No 1184343  
and Company No CE018156g

If you are experiencing anxiety, stress or low mood, family or relationship issues, feeling alone or in need, we offer mental health support. The group at St Johns is held at St Johns Youth Centre, from 6pm until 8pm every last Friday of each month.

If you have an interest in attending the peer support group please feel free to turn up on the night to introduce yourself or use the email below. Equally if you think you could become a volunteer please email us at: [info@behindthesmile.care](mailto:info@behindthesmile.care)

*Dawn Lewis on behalf of Gaynor Pritchard (founder)*

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## ST JOHN'S LIBRARY

### Normal opening times:

- Monday: 9am - 5pm
- Tuesday: 9am - 6pm
- Wednesday: 9am - 5pm
- Thursday: 9am - 5pm
- Friday: 9am - 5pm
- Saturday: 9am - 4pm

### *New Groups at St John's Library*

- Photography Group.
- Crime Readers Group.

For more details, speak to a member of staff, or telephone (01905) 822722, or e-mail [StJohnsLib@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:StJohnsLib@worcestershire.gov.uk) or use Facebook Messenger.

### *'Friends of St John's Library'*

'Friends of St John's Library' is the newly renamed local community group, which was previously called 'St John's Library Coffee Pot Club.'

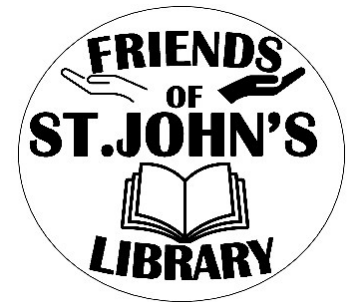
Our focus is on St John's Library and what the library can do and offer for St John's and the local community.

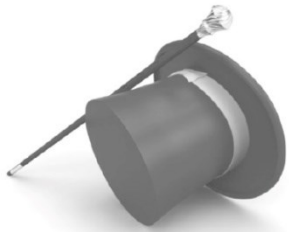
We have re-opened the café on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, between 10:00am – 12:30pm and offer beverages and biscuits at very reasonable prices.

We are always looking at ideas and possibilities of what we can do to encourage people to use the library. Our first goal is to try and open our café five days a week, so we are looking for more volunteers to help during the week.

St John's Library is an excellent community resource which offers so much to the area and our group is happy to support and promote its aims.

If you are able to support us by volunteering, or if you just want some more information about the group, please contact us by e-mail at [friendsofstjohnslibrary@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofstjohnslibrary@outlook.com) or leave your details at St John's Library.





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*From the magazine archive, May 1950*

## CHURCH FINANCES

ON behalf of the Parishioners, I should like to express our appreciation to our Book-keeper, Miss Stockall, for the excellent way in which the books are kept, and the same remarks also apply to those kind persons who keep the subsidiary accounts. We were able to place before the Church Council at their last meeting, and also the Annual Church Meeting in Easter Week, a detailed summary of the Accounts, and trust that same gave entire satisfaction. Typed copies of these accounts were made by Sister Caunt, to whom our best thanks are due, as this certainly saved us quite a large printing bill.

I am pleased to say that our finances now have a rather more healthy look about them, and it is up to us as individuals to see that they continue to flourish, and thereby not hinder God's work in our Parish.

A. W. J. BAKER, *Auditor.*

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SPORTS CLUB: TENNIS

THIS season's tennis will be commencing during the first week in May on the Cinderella Works ground, and the subscription for the 1950 season will be 15/- per person.

Times of play are as follow: Monday to Friday, 6 p.m. onwards; Saturday, 2 p.m. onwards. No Sunday play.

Anyone wishing to join this section should get in touch with the Secretary as soon as possible, as membership will be limited.

M. E. PARKER, *Hon. Secretary.*

## YOUTH CLUB

THE Youth Club continues to make progress under Mr. Grenville Stezaker and the new committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Brickwell have paid several visits to the Parish Room on Thursdays in order to teach Old Time Dancing. These visits have been greatly appreciated, and most of the members have taken full advantage of the opportunity of learning these old but matchless dances.

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Additional Donation (if applicable)		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		

**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](mailto: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.

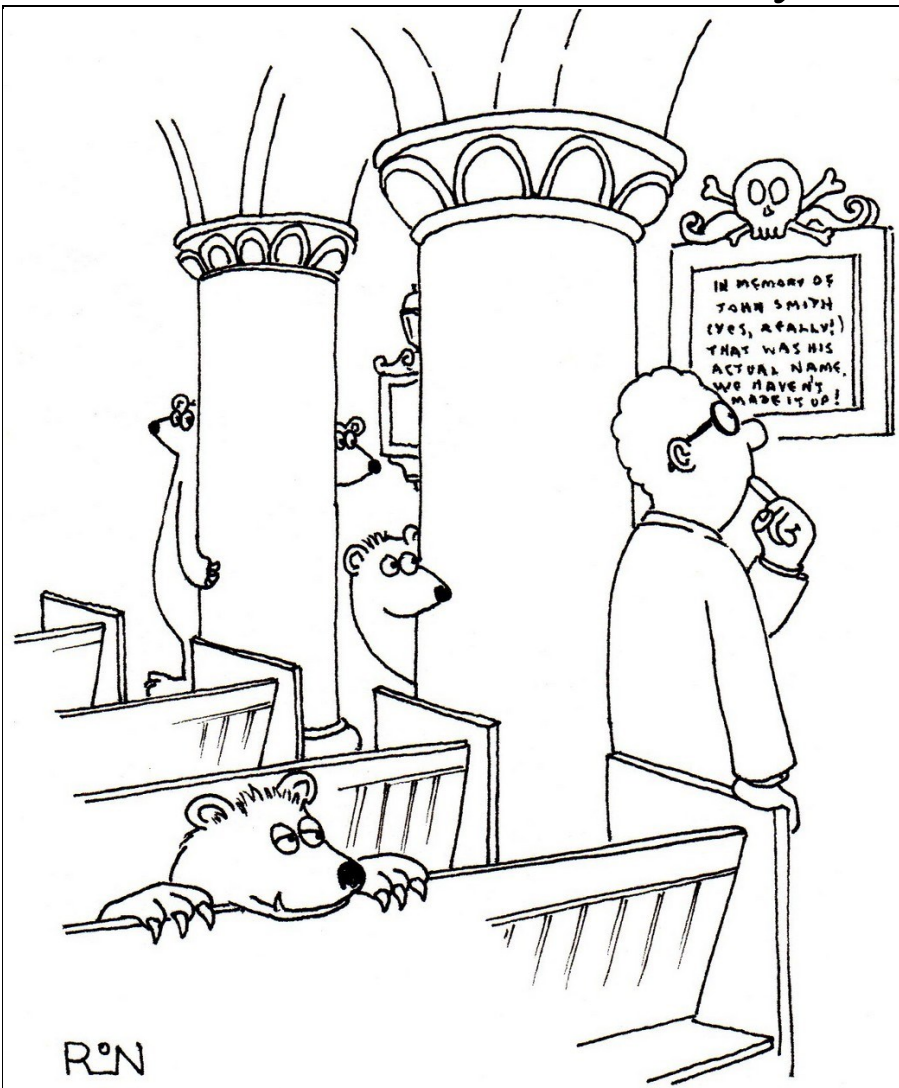


## Puzzle solutions

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

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

## And finally....



*Dennis spent  
a lot of time in church  
looking for his forbears.*



## Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – May 2023

	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Clement's</b>	<b>St. David's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>
<b>7th May</b>	10.30am Eucharist	10am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
<b>14th May</b>	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
<b>21st May</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>28th May</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5pm Healing Service	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10am Morning Prayer
<b>4th June</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

The information above is correct at the time of going to press but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.