

St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine

November 2020

50p





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

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

WEST WORCESTER CLERGY

clergy@wcw.church

Day off

Friday

Saturday

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

CHURCHWARDENS stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church

Gordon Templeton (01905 749025), Joy Job (01905 423051).

SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

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

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).

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

Current office opening hours are: Wednesday and Friday from 9am to 11am. Outside of these hours, please send an email or leave a message on the answerphone and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Postal address: 1a Bromyard Road St John's, WR2 5BS Tel: (01905) 420490

e-mail: office@wcw.church

ST JOHN'S CHURCH ON THE WEB

Parish Website:	www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine
A church near you:	www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/
Group Website:	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 November magazine. Our theme is remembrance – remembering both those away fighting and those on the home front. That's reflected on our cover and, on page 20, we've an article on the bombing on St John's in World War 2.

The key thing about the Home Front was everyone doing their bit, and that still matters today. Will you do your bit by helping Maggs, the Foodbank or the Shoebox Appeal? Details are within these pages!

Several people said how much they enjoyed the puzzles in last month's magazine, so we've included a crossword this time (page 30) as well as the usual Sudoku (page 9).

Of course, the key thing about remembering the pain of war is to remind us how we should seek for peace:

God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition (December): Deadline is Sunday 15th November. Distribution, towards the end of November, dependent on circumstances at the time.

Subscription form: Page 46.

Cover picture: In memoriam. The photo of the St John's war memorial is by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those whose photographs are included in this magazine including Graham Evans, Rev'd Katryn Leclézio, Colin Nash and Worcester Foodbank.

Distribution: This edition is mostly going out in paper form, although a few copies are still being sent by email.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August (exceptionally, in 2020, there was an August edition).

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 always will 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 14.

From Sarah Cottrill

November is a month of remembering: On 1st we commemorate All Saints Day and on the same day the very moving All Souls Services give us an opportunity to remember those we have loved. A few days later children get huge excitement and pleasure from Bonfire Night as we, perhaps a little ghoulishly, remember the fate of Guy Fawkes.



Primarily, though, our November remembrance

focuses on those who died during two world wars and in subsequent conflicts. As we lay our wreathes and read our Rolls of Honour, our thoughts are centred on forces personnel and this is only right. These men – and some women – laid down their lives to protect our way of life; our freedoms and our values, and the very least we can do is honour their memory each year. This year, though, at least in this magazine, I want us to think of those who served at home during the war years and I begin with a story from my own family.

My maternal grandfather served at The Somme during the First World War and was mentioned in dispatches after action at Hellfire Corner. Shortly after the outbreak of World War Two, he was widowed, leaving him with four children aged between thirteen and three. This did not prevent him from serving his country a second time. A Corporal in the Home Guard, he went out on night patrols and was an instructor on the Blacker Bombard Guns.

Proud as I am of my grandfather, he was not an exceptional man. All over the country other men and women were also serving in similar ways; other Home Guards, Air Wardens, fire crews, medical officers and, of course, the Land Girls and those working in ammunition factories. All these, and countless others whose names don't appear on any war memorial or Roll of Honour, played their vital part in the county's war effort. Their service was, in its own way, as crucial as that of the soldiers, sailors and airmen who fought so valiantly. There is another band of people, perhaps primarily, but by no means exclusively, women, who in their own way also served; – those who waved the men off to war not knowing if they'd ever see them again. In his poem "On his blindness" John Milton wrote: They also serve who only stand and wait." As the Mother of a soldier who has seen active service, I can certainly relate to that!

So we can remember, with pride, those who served in battle and those who served on the home front, but there is another group who are perhaps particularly pertinent to us this year; the innocent civilians who, going about their own quiet lives, suddenly and violently had those lives taken from them. Last month we remembered the eightieth anniversary of the bombing of the Meco Factory in which seven people were killed and around sixty others injured. Those numbers would pale into insignificance when put next to those of the blitz and even years after the war ended, previously unexploded bombs continued to claim more innocent lives.

As with so much else this year, our Remembrance Services will be much more subdued than usual. This does not mean that to remember is any less important. We can't be together in such numbers as usual, but we can do our bit. Poppies may be harder to come by but they will be available and we could follow the idea posted recently on social media: colour and display a picture of a poppy in a window in much the same way as we have done with rainbows to support the NHS this year.

Wherever and however we choose to do our remembering, perhaps we can all broaden the scope of our thinking and our gratitude to include those largely unsung heroes who never left home shores but who nonetheless did what they could to serve and to keep up the nation's morale. Above all, we can pray that a time will come when, as Isaiah wrote:

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2:4)

Sarah

Collect for Remembrance Sunday

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

In Memoriam November					
Robert Telfer Dedicott	2 November 1984				
Rowland Taylor	4 November 1996				
Andrew FI Jenkinson	4 November 2007				
Rose Hodgetts	5 November 1985				
Reginald James Rogers	6 November 1995				
Derek James Keating	7 November 1981				
Marion Edna Thomas	7 November 1982				
Margaret Dance	14 November 1996				
Herbert Willian (Bill) Bosley	17 November 1998				
Harold Ricketts	19 November 1996				
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.					

From the Registers, September 2020

BAPTISMS: We welcome you into the Lord's family

No baptisms

WEDDINGS: Those whom God has joined together

19th September 2020 Ben Lewis and Victoria Brookes

FUNERALS: Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

d. 15th August 2020 Edna Marion Hooper SEPTEMBER SERVICES: Communicants 127. Total attendance all services 220 (including 48 total at a wedding and a funeral).

Sundays and Principal Feasts in November

Sunday 1st November: All Saints Sunday 8th November: Remembrance Sunday Sunday 15th November: Second Sunday before Advent Sunday 22nd November: Christ the King Sunday 29th November: First Sunday of Advent Monday 30th November: Andrew the Apostle

There are plenty of facts in Phil's November liturgical calendar, but also "figures steeped more in legend than fact", and a story which "has no provable basis in fact".

Go to page 37 to find out more.

All Souls' services

The St John's All Souls' service is at 7.45pm on Sunday, 1st November.

This has been a very difficult year. Many of us have endured the pain of not being able to attend the funerals of family members and friends, or been at funerals which have been very hard amidst all the restrictions. We have not been able to say goodbye to loved ones as we would have liked to do so. As a result, All Souls' is especially important this year in allowing us to remember them.

Current guidelines and continuing restrictions mean we cannot hold our memorial service in the normal way, but we feel it is essential that we do have a service to remember the loved ones we have lost and hold them before God. This service will be different to normal, as the rules mean we cannot sing hymns nor allow people to light candles individually. However, the service will still include reflective music and prayer, and the clergy will read the names of those to be remembered and light a candle for each of them on behalf of the families. Unfortunately, we will not be permitted to have refreshments afterwards and government regulations apply, most notably the requirement to wear a face covering (unless exempt).

In these uncertain times, some people will want to be present in person, while others may not be comfortable with being in group settings again just yet. The church has a limited capacity due to social distancing regulations, so we would ask all those who would like to attend in person to let us know by Thursday, 29th October, by e-mailing Liz in the parish office (office@wcw.church). In the event that more people wish to attend than we can safely accommodate, we will hold two services.

Whether or not you attend in person, we will read out the names of all those whose funerals we have taken in the last two years, as well as any others people would like remembered. Once again, please let us know in advance by e-mailing Liz.

Although this will be different to normal and none of us will like the restrictions we face, we hope that this provides an opportunity to remember loved ones in these troubled times. If you have any questions or concerns, please do contact one of us.

The St Clement's service is at 6.15pm on Sunday 1st November.

Phil Bradford and Sarah Cottrill

Mid-week services

The mid-week services are scheduled to take place each week during November:

10am Tuesday at St John's, BCP Holy Communion.

10.30am Thursday at St Michael's, Common Worship Eucharist.

Advent Course 2020

Like so many other things this year, Advent will not be quite the same as usual! Nonetheless, Phil and I feel that it is important to offer something in the way of a discipleship course and have come up with an idea which can be adapted to either meeting together or to online delivery.

Running on Wednesdays, (exact time to be confirmed), we will be looking at key figures who feature on the Jesse Tree ("the family tree of Christ"). Alongside our study there will be a very simple craft activity.

If, as seems likely, this has to be delivered via Zoom, Liz Forman has kindly offered to host for us, and I will deliver craft packs.

Anybody interested in participating, please let me know by November 22nd.

Sarah

Worcester Cathedral

Worship: The following services are open to the public inside the Cathedral: Sunday 10.30 am Holy Communion service (also livestreamed)
Sunday 4.00 pm Evensong
Monday 5.30pm Evensong
Wednesday 1 pm Holy Communion service
Thursday 5.30 pm Evensong
Friday 11.30 am Holy Communion service - BCP
Saturday 5.30 pm Evensong

The 8am service (Monday to Saturday) of Holy Communion is NOT open to the public, but is livestreamed each day. This, and the Sunday 10.30am service can be found at https://www.facebook.com/WorcesterCathedral/videos/

Additional November services:

From 6th November Evensong at 5.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays From November at 8am on Sundays, Holy Communion service - BCP On Sunday 8th November at 6.30pm, a requiem eucharist for Remembrance Sunday sung by the Cathedral Choir

Please see www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/worship for the latest information.

Open for visiting: The shop is now open. Worcester Cathedral is open for visiting from 1pm - 3pm on Sundays and from 11am to 3pm Monday to Saturday. There is restricted access to some areas of the Cathedral. The Cloister Cafe and Cathedral shop are also open Monday to Saturday from 11am - 3pm. The tower is closed at this time.

Walking Church

Following the success of the Ride and Stride event this year, I am exploring the possibility of starting a Walking Church group.

Exact details would need to be agreed but the general idea is that a group would meet, possibly once a month on either a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, begin with a prayer and either a Bible reading or a contemporary issue and then discuss that passage or issue whilst enjoying a walk. An alternative format may be that we simply enjoy a walk, with a time of prayer at the beginning and the end.

If this would be of any interest, please contact me (salocot@gmail.com or 426257) and I will arrange a preliminary meeting.

Sarah Cottrill

Changing my day off.

As some of you will have seen on the pew sheets, I have changed my day off and will now be working on Mondays, taking Saturday off instead.

This is not set in stone! I will continue to run Café Church one Saturday each month; take my share of weddings and, when we are allowed to hold social events again, I will support them. However, when none of the above are happening, Saturday will be my day off.

Sarah Cottrill

I UZZIC
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KrazyDad.com
The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.

Sudoku

Duralo

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

Worcester Foodbank - Current shopping list



Our top priority remains supermarket gift cards. They allow us to buy the items we need, when we need them.

Shopping List

Our top priority is: Supermarket gift cards

Our Storehouse needs:

Gravy Granules Sandwich Paste Squash Sugar Chocolates Children's Sweets Crisps Dry Dog Food

For our cooking packs we need: Cooking Oil

Mixed Herbs Salt Black Pepper

For our comfort packs we need:

Deodorants – Unisex Washing Powder - small Washing up liquid Anti Bac Spray Anti Bac Wipes Kitchen Roll Adult Toothbrushes (single) Disposable Razors Shaving Foam

Maggs has changed

Maggs Day Centre in Worcester is now open Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm. Each day has three different sessions.



Breakfast 9am-10.30am (Rough Sleepers Only)

Come down, get a hot breakfast, drink and warm up. During this time all facilities are available.

Support Slots 10.30am - 1pm

Do you need help with anything? Pop down to the day centre and have a chat about how we can help. Support will be provided 1 to 1 in a managed environment. Drop in or book in advance and we will be happy to help.

Lunch 1.15pm - 1.45pm

Initially, a hot meal will be served outside the day centre to take away between 1.15pm and 1.45pm (£l cost). No access to the centre during this time for any reason.

> In order to operate in a COVID secure way, the door will be managed at all times with numbers being limited. Temperatures will be taken, sanitiser available and masks (unless exempt) will need to be worn at all times unless sat at a table during a meal time.



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- Prices depending on season from £200 per week. Available All Year.
- Contact John or Joy Errey on johnerrey@hotmail.com for more information.
- Facebook page- Marciac Gites-SouthWest France Holidays

Shoebox Appeal



Unfortunately, our churches are also experiencing difficulties and we have not had as much support as in previous years. However, whatever we are able to send will benefit less fortunate children and bring happiness into their lives.

Boxes have to be at the collection point by mid- November, If you would like to support us please leave items in the church, parish office or give me a ring on 07779 264207 and I can collect.

You have been supporting this organisation for over five years and we would like to say a big thank you from myself, our other adult helpers and all the children who have thoughtfully packed the boxes over this time. You have brought joy into the lives of children, a very Christian gesture.

Jane Askew

Smile lines

The fire officer said to the vicar: "It is a Sunday morning and you have a number of people, spread socially distanced, throughout your church building. Suddenly, a big fire breaks out. What are the first steps you would take?"

The vicar thought carefully for a moment: "Really big ones," he said.

---- 0000 -----

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her young daughter to answer it: "Hello Vicar. Mummy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

---- 0000 -----

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look too astonished!



VIKING GARDEN SERVICES

Do you need a hand with the gardening or have a garden which needs a bit of an overhaul? I'm a qualified horticulturalist with over 40 years' experience and would love to come and help you out.

So whether you need a help with mowing, digging, weeding, strimming, pruning, trimming, cutting back or any other garden jobs, then please call me. I offer competitive rates and no job is too big or too small!

Call Kevin on 01905 428526 M: 07741 496210 E: <u>kevin@lingermadsen.co.uk</u> Facebook: Viking Garden Services



Would you like to advertise in this magazine?

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

An advert can be full-page, half-page or quarterpage 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

Find the books of the bible - the answers!

This is A MOSt reMARKable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to HonoluLU, KEeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends...One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his JOHN boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banJO, ELaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend JUDGES the JOB of solving this puzzle so involving, sHE BREWS a cup of tea to help her nervES. THERe will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fACT. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a JAM, ESpecially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. TRUTHfully, fROM ANSwers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar tO SEE some of theM AT THE Worst. Research has shown that something in our GENES IS responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta PHI LEMONade booth set a new record. The local paper, The CHRONICLE, Surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As DANIEL HumaNA HUMbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." THOSE Able to find all of them will hear great LAMENTATIONS from those who have to be shown. One **REVELATION** that may help is that books like TIMOTHY and SAMUEL may occur without their NUMBERS. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are norMAL. A CHIpper attitude will help you comPETE Really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad EXODUS. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurKING Somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Note: Osee appears in the King James Version translation of Romans 9:25 as a variant spelling of Hosea.

Thanks again to Margaret Miller for passing this on to us.

The editors



- FLAT ROOFING REPAIRS
- RE-ROOFS
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70 poppies = 1 metre

During lockdown earlier in the year I, like many others, was wanting things to keep me occupied when we were unable to go out.

I heard about a church that was wanting people to knit poppies for a cascade of poppies to adorn their church tower. The church is St Peter's Cradley and here is their description of the project:

St Peter's Church in Cradley is inviting the community to join in making knitted poppies to create a cascade of poppies from the top of the tower of St Peter's to the front door. We hope that it will be visible to the whole of Cradley and Cradley Heath.

It promises to be a spectacular visual display to commemorate Remembrance 2020.

We have worked out that it takes seventy knitted poppies to create a metre of cascade, so we need a lot more to be knitted between now and November.

I sent them a message asking if crocheted poppies would be accepted as I don't really knit much, but could crochet some for them. They came straight back and said "Yes please". They sent me a photo of what that had at that time.

You will notice that they need 70 poppies per metre. I looked at the photo of the church on their website. The tower looked very tall, so quite a lot will be needed!





I set to work and really enjoyed making the poppies. As I made them, I thought of the soldiers who had sacrificed their lives in conflicts and wars.

I made 140 poppies, so 2 metres for the display.

I have asked them to send me some photos of the finished display.

Sue Evans



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ALONE

Since Covid 19 arrived the media has reported how many people are alone. Others are now starting to fret about the possibility of not seeing family or grandchildren at Christmas. What many of them forget is that myself and many other elderly people have to cope with being alone throughout the year. They do have relatives which they can contact in many modern ways and they will see their relatives again one day. Those of us who have no relatives have learnt to cope with being alone permanently.

However, being alone is not necessarily being lonely. Since March I have lost all my regular social contacts. My art classes ceased to function, as did my place of worship. But I can cope with being alone as I have many interests; gardening, drawing, painting, writing and knitting.

I do not possess a computer, but on three separate days a different friend phones. An elderly couple whom I met while shopping remarked how lonely they were because, apart from their weekly shop, after breakfast they just sit and look at each other and don't know what to do as they can't visit their relatives. How sad. Being alone can be very productive - time to relax observe and contemplate. Nothing to get done at a set time.

One day sitting in my garden a Peacock butterfly landed in the centre of a polyanthus. Such brightly coloured delicate wings. On the fence a blackbird sang, so tuneful, yet nobody taught him to sing. Soon through a crack in a nearby slab an ant appeared, very intent on where he was going. Soon another appeared. His errand was in another direction. He knew where he was going and why. They were all going about their daily activities as usual. They have no money, they aren't trying to impress anybody. They don't need a phone or IT! Having silently observed them one realises they are self reliant, unlike humans

The natural world has much to teach us. Yet normally we haven't got time to sit and watch and marvel at it all. They don't need us, yet we need them to show us what really matters.

Many others who are alone or have been forced to self isolate will have experienced inner peace, contentment, and wonder as they've observed the natural world. Being alone can be very spiritually awakening and need not be lonely.

Anon (identity known to the editors)

Bombs on a Midland Town

Worcester saw several bombs land within its boundaries during World War 2. These were often jettisoned bombs from aircraft returning from raids on Birmingham and Coventry. However, the only targeted raid on Worcester happened 80 years ago on 3rd October 1940. A lone plane, believed to be a Junkers 88 was spotted approaching from the west, and passing over a couple of Worcester factories. These included the Cinderella Shoe factory and the MECO. Accounts say 'it was little higher than 300 feet.' Children waved at the low flying bomber and it was said the pilot waved back!

The MECO or Mining and Engineering Company originally made mining equipment but had also began some war work by making Barrage Balloon parts.

An account in the Worcester News and Times said 'I heard a tremendous bang, followed by crashing glass. We all made for the air raid shelters.'

The first bomb was dropped at an angle, around 12.15. This meant the bomb bounced through the East wall of the machine shop and exploded. This caused a great deal of damage to the building. 7 men were killed and 60 injured. The canteen took most of the blast, blinding the 'canteen lady', Mrs Tindall.



Doris Tindall is commemorated on the memorial plaque (see the front cover), along with those killed: Louis Clement De Faye, William Hulme, George William Lee, James William Perry, William George Hiles Ricketts, Thomas Charles Santler and Albert Edward Williams. The second bomb missed the building, bounced on the concrete yard outside the Plate Shop and exploded amongst the houses in Happy Land North (the picture below shows the back view of a damaged house, from Lambert Road). The plane then went on to strafe the local streets with machine gun fire!



Mr Beechley who was an ARP rescue party member worked at Frank Bryans next to the MECO. He expressed it was a Junkers 88 and explained the events in the Worcester News in 1989. He explained how he left work and took up his ARP duties immediately. He 'Removed some of the dead and gave First Aid.'

The headline in the Worcester News and Times read - 'Bombs on a Midland Town today' and 'Women and Children machine-gunned.' The report continued with 'One bomb fell on business premises and two in a working class residential area...' It then explained 'a few persons were killed.' In wartime details were kept to a minimum. Mrs Alice Smith was quoted in the paper saying "If Hitler thinks he is going to break our spirit this way, he is very much mistaken."

It appears that the only written defence came from the local Home Guard. Mr Bladen wrote 'men with rifles came out of the windshields factory, which was opposite, firing at the plane as it came over.'

Lord Beaverbrook telegrammed the MECO to say- 'Wire back full particulars, death and injuries, maximum extent of damage and estimated earliest date of continuation and production.' The Factory was up and running shortly after.

Paul Harding via Colin Nash

Church Grounds Update

Things have been moving along slowly in the church grounds over recent months. I have now sown wild flower seeds all the way along the edge of the churchyard by the arcade from the road to the path so hopefully next year we will start to see the additional flowers and following that the insects and birds.

As I expand the areas that I am looking after, I have more things to do and then some things slip. I know it looks OK, but I realise it could look better. The rubbish build-up seems to have decreased slightly from when the children were off school so that is one less major headache. I know that some other people have been picking up litter and I am incredibly grateful to them for their help in this area.

I was wondering whether other people would like to get involved in a small way as well. There are several small flower beds around the churchyard that I have been working on and I wondered if people would like to take on a bed to keep it weed free. I would still do things like the main pruning and adding or moving of plants, but if the weeds were taken care of that would be a great help. It should only take an hour or 2 each month and would greatly improve the look of the churchyard.

The beds I am thinking about are shown below and on the next page.



Rose bed, by the old gravestones, where I am trying to build a small corner of roses and other shrubs.



The border running down to the Parish Office.



The border at the base of the Tower



The border around the War Memorial



Above: The border behind the High Altar.

Below: The border behind the organ.



If you would like to help then please see me in church or phone me on 428962.

Harvest Time

Late summer and early autumn are the main harvest times for farmers and gardeners alike, but, running two allotments, Sandra and I try to spread our harvesting so that we can pick fresh vegetables and/or fruit most weeks of the year. Sowing starts in early February and goes through until about August. After that the soil starts to get too cold for things to start growing. The early sowings are made in our greenhouse at home and for those things with a long growing time.

As the season progresses more seeds are sown both in plugs to start in the greenhouse or cold-frame and then later as the ground warms up direct into the soil. This year we experimented with our polytunnel on the allotment and sowed some crops like dwarf beans, turnips, radishes, lettuces and spring onions earlier than we could outside so that we extended our cropping season for these varieties.



Late summer and early autumn are when the gluts start to come in and it is a rush to pick them and get them frozen before they grow too big. Courgettes are terrible for this. If you miss one, within a couple of days you can soon have a marrow instead of a tender small courgette. This year I grew some round courgettes and when they got too big, they were lovely cut in half and roasted with rice or couscous and vegetables topped with cheese and breadcrumbs, well worth doing.

When Graham mentioned the theme of Harvest for last month's magazine, I took some photos in early September as I was harvesting some of the crops. I managed to pick 24 different types. Twenty of these were visible in the picture which featured as a Harvest Quiz last month and the answers are given opposite.

We hope that you enjoyed this little glimpse into our attempt at self-sufficiency.

Harvest quiz - the answers



15. D-----

14. R-----

Signposts!

I'm now back in the UK, and will (hopefully) have finished my self-isolation and be back out and about by the time you read this.

As I drove back, I saw many read-signs and signposts, which set me thinking...

Earlier this year in our commune of Sabadel-Latronquière several of the signposts were renewed. Some had not been changed for many years and hence had become discoloured or just rusty - serious enough to be unable to read the sign from a distance when driving by.

Those of you who have travelled in France will know the signposts: They are the black and white names of little hamlets which have an arrow, or are pointed with





an arrowhead, to show the way to go to arrive in the centre of the hamlet. What is not realised by many visitors is that the face of the sign always faces towards the Mairie of the Commune.

Travelling around we note that many signs are iconic - so no text attached but which however convey the essential meaning required. Each has a format and a protocol that is agreed (internationally) and understood. (see our "shared spaces" signage!)

Interesting to see that our religious activity reflects this part of our secular life too.

Signposts: Penitence (confession), Praise (and thanksgiving), Study (hearing or reading God's word), Prayer (reflecting on material/spiritual blessings).

The matters of our direction of travel, speed and destination are part of our life's work and our response to those who lead us in life both spiritual and secular.

Our church services have followed these "signposts" for generations since the early development of the Christian church, and despite the changes brought about by the Reformation they continue today in both the Anglican, Roman and the Orthodox churches. In France, for the evening service of Vêpres [Vespers] we use the following format:

Introductory chant:

Dieu, viens à mon aide [O God be my help] Seigneur, à notre secours [O Lord come to my help] Gloire au Père, et au Fils et au Saint-Esprit [Glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit] Au Dieu qui est, qui était et qui vient, [To God who is, was, & will come (again)] Pour les siècles des siècles. [For ever and ever.] Amen Alléluia

Psalms

Prayer [Cantique] [sung/chanted] [Like our Collect for the day]

Reading (Péricope) [for the evening] [Plus Oraison with Intercessions]

Magnificat [Cantique de Marie] [said in French, or chanted in Latin]

Intercessions [set for the evening] plus local needs prayers

Nunc Dimittis [Cantique de Syméon] [said in French or chanted in Latin]

The Lord's Prayer [Notre Père]

Benediction:

Que le Seigneur nous bénisse et nous garde, [That Our Lord bless you & keep you]

le Père, le Fils et le Saint-Esprit. [Father, Son & Holy Spirit]

Valediction [Envoi]:

Allez dans la paix du Christ [Go (forth) in the peace of Christ] Nous rendons grâce à Dieu! [We give thanks to God]

As the month of October comes to an end you will find families preparing themselves for the annual visit to the family tomb(s), accompanied by cleaning materials (to clean the tombs - often marble ones), new containers for flowers (imitation or real) and then the flowers themselves, which will be in place for All Souls Day. Attendance at Mass on All Saints Day is an obligation, with almost all the family attending - though I can see there will be some reductions because of Covid-19 this year.

Our churches will remember these days equally - on both sides of the Channel. Suffice it to say that I shall be with you at St John's this year.

With best wishes, and stay safe.

Reports to the Annual Parocial Church Meeting (APCM)

In normal times, the APCM is held in April and it receives reports on the past year - i.e. roughly April to March for activities; and the prior calendar year for finances. This year, everything was prepared as usual for the APCM, but then came lockdown and everything went on hold. The APCM was postponed from April, and was finally held in October. So, we can now publish a summary of the reports, but please bear in mind the timeframe actually being described.

The Vicar's annual report is given in full, but other reports have been shortened or summarised as we do not have the space to carry them all in full.

The Editors

Vicar's Annual Report

Had I written this report before I went to Peru in March, it would have been very different. With all that has happened since then, and the current situation in which we find ourselves, it is rather hard to compose something meaningful about 2019 which is not inevitably coloured by hindsight. At the end of last year, however, I felt that we were generally in a positive place. Although the Team was still not (and is still not) in place, St John's was working more closely with St Michael's and the two parishes were generally actively seeking co-operation. We had agreed a new service pattern which balanced some of the competing tensions while largely retaining St John's tradition, supplemented by the likes of Café Church and parish breakfasts. With a large weekly attendance at Little Lambs and the introduction of Diddy Disciples, we were making positive moves in our work with children and families. The New Testament course run during Lent suggested people had an interest in studying something about their faith. The consultation process about reordering was progressing steadily and we had reached a point where we were considering more formal plans in order to equip our church for its mission in a changed context. The picture was not all cheerful. Finances were less healthy than hoped and we had intended to run a stewardship campaign this summer. We were (and still are) facing some costly work arising from the Quinquennial, not least on the tower stonework. For the most part, however, I was pleased with the direction in which we were moving and grateful for the commitment and dedication of a large number of volunteers in sustaining our worshipping and wider life.

It is not the place of this report to comment on 2020, although it should be acknowledged that everything that has happened since March will inevitably change things and set back many of those positive developments. I would like to recognise with gratitude the work of Sarah, the wardens, the ALMs and a team of volunteers during lockdown and beyond, for it is only thanks to their willingness to do so much that we have managed to keep going in the ways that we have. The next few months will be extremely challenging, not just for us as a church, but for all those individuals isolated and lonely at home and many more besides. Difficult times and hard questions lie ahead. Please continue to pray for God's strength and guidance as we face whatever may be on the path in front of us.

Revd Phil Bradford

Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2019-20

The PCC met 7 times during the year (April 2019 to March 2020), a short meeting to appoint officers following the APCM in April and 6 ordinary meetings in May, July, September, November, January and March. Each meeting opened with a prayer and closed with all saying 'The Grace'. A summary of the minutes of each PCC meeting is placed upon the main church notice board.

In May 2019 the PCC considered the draft proposals and returned their comments for the new Worcester City West Team. No objections were raised from other PCC's within the Deanery. This is now with the Church Commissioners.

The majority of responses to the briefing paper on the proposed re-ordering were in favour of partial or complete removal of pews. The DAC carried out a site visit in September 2019 in line with the statement of significance. The next step is a community consultation and feasibility study. The PCC adopted the Parish Vision Statement: "We envisage St John's church as a vibrant hub for the worshipping and wider community." and the Re-ordering Project Mission Statement: "To provide a welcoming and flexible space for present and future use by the church and the community. We want our building to be a meeting place for the St John's community, a place for learning and listening and a place where creativity can thrive as well as a home for worship that can be both passionate and reflective." The next stage will be a Buildings Audit.

After April 2020 the PCC have agreed to cease the regular Sunday 8am service and move the 5pm evening services to 5.30pm.

The website is running well and is continually updated. Safeguarding information is clearly visible on the front page of the website. Facebook is a lively site with regular posts.

On-going car park issues have mainly been resolved with the purchase of a new lock and re-issuing of keys.

A child's Processional Cross has been purchased with the Arthur Burgess legacy.

Continued on page 33

Crossword

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Across

- 1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when He had given , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)
- 4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and His over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)
- 8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)
- 9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)
- 10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)
- 11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)

- 12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)
- 17 'They make many promises, take false and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)
- 19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelising it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)
- 21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)
- 22 'And feeble as —, in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)
- 23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep to his voice' (John10:3) (6)
- Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

- 1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)
- 2 'I am not of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)
- 3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)
- 5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)
- 6 & 16 Down

Horses: Their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)

- 7 A three (anag.)(6)
- 9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)
- 1 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)
- 14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)
- 15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)
- 16 See 6 Down (6)
- 18 Paste (anag.) (5)
- 20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

The solution is on page 47.

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Continued from page 29

The new Parish Giving Scheme will form part of the next stewardship campaign. Planned Giving cards were re-introduced for use on the plate for those giving by standing order. Contactless payments are now also being taken.

During 2019 there were 4 weddings and 21 baptisms. There were 10 funerals held in church (2 sadly of babies) and 4 funerals were held at Worcester Crematorium for St John's Parish.

Liz Edwards - PCC Secretary

Treasurer's Report (Financial review of 2019)

Key numbers from the financial report:

- Total funds: £582k (Up from £573k last year)
- Income £120k (Down from £122k last year)
- Expenditure £127k (Same as last year)

Not including the Henry Smith Fund, which varies year on year and isn't part of our general fund, we are down by £4k, but there was also a generous legacy that we can't ignore here. This means that the real deficit for 2019 is more like £18k. Although our investments have performed well, we can't really access this at all.

Our general fund has been hit this year mostly by falling in giving. We must continue to monitor the general fund carefully, as this could greatly restrict the activities that we can pursue as a church.

We would be able to do a lot more if our costs were matched in addition to any further activity, and we would be in a better position to be confident should the need for major building repairs or maintenance arise, as they have and will.

This year has been challenging for St John's with the parish share continuing to rise and showing no abatement. Funeral and wedding fees have dropped, no doubt in part due to the changes in rules about when and where they may be conducted, allowing for more consumer choice.

We received grants from the Feoffees towards maintenance and the estate manager's salary, which has been most helpful in balancing the budget.

An incredibly generous legacy arrived this year, and this is very gratefully received. Legacies are incidentally free from inheritance tax and provide great support to the church in realising projects and ideas.

Continued on page 35

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Continued from page 33

The PCC continues to face financial challenges:

- To increase our income to match the longer-term ambitions of St Johns.
- Regular maintenance costs of our historic church building, and costs arising out of the need for our rental property to remain marketable.
- Anticipating the costs of reordering and redecoration of the church to improve our church buildings.
- Funding of new projects coming out of our plans for the future.
- Raising the contributions towards our asset management plan.

There are dedicated volunteers who perform many functions of the treasurer job; processing and tracking magazine income, payroll, service collections, as well as long term rental income and gift aid management which provide the bulk of our income. This is greatly appreciated as it makes the task manageable.

Chris Rees, PCC Treasurer

Safeguarding Report

The Church of England has had to look very closely at how they operate their Safeguarding. Because of this there have been a tightening of some of the measures undertaken.

DBS checks now can be started with a computer application with the actual checks on the applicant's information checked manually. The process is much quicker and results are turned around in a matter of weeks not months. The renewal continues to be as full as the first application and it is hoped that this may speed up in the future.

As always, at St Johns we take safeguarding seriously and rely on the congregation continuing to be vigilant and report anything they are concerned about regarding the safety of vulnerable children and adults. Safeguarding concerns everyone. Thank you for your support.

Jane Askew, PCC Safeguarding Representative

Electoral Roll Report – April 2020

The church Electoral Roll stood at 125 after the 2019 APCM.

3 people has been added since the 2019 APCM and 6 have been removed. The new roll is 122 (a decrease of 3).

Graham Evans, Electoral Roll Officer



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Some of this has no provable basis in fact!

After the relative calm of October, November is a busy liturgical month. It opens on the 1st with the feast of All Saints, when we remember the myriad saints (many unknown by name to history) on whose life and witness the church has been built across the centuries.

The 2nd is then known rather cumbersomely in the Church of England as the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, but is more traditionally and better known as All Souls' Day, which in Roman Catholic countries especially sees people visit relatives' graves and remember their loved ones.



When it comes to the 3rd, we are spoilt for choice: Martin de Porres, a Peruvian friar renowned for his work with the poor and needy in seventeenth-century Lima, particularly with African slaves; Richard Hooker, an Elizabethan writer about Anglicanism whose works are often-cited but rarely readable; or a duet of Celtic options in Malachi (Irish bishop) or Winifred (Welsh abbess).

In England, we can then pause for breath, although the Welsh charge on with Saints and Martyrs of the Anglican Communion on the 4th, then Cybi on the 5th and Iltud on the 6th, both sixth-century abbots associated in vague ways with David. In England, the 6th is Leonard, apparently a sixth-century French

hermit about whom we know almost nothing but who for some reason proved remarkably popular (almost 200 English churches were dedicated to him), or else William Temple, archbishop of Canterbury during World War II and one of the few senior clerics to speak publicly in favour of action against Jewish persecution.

The 7th is Willibrord of York, an eighth-century Northumbrian bishop now known as the Apostle of Frisia. The Saints and Martyrs of England is normally on the 8th, although this year it is Remembrance Sunday, followed by the fifteenthcentury mystic Margery Kempe on the 9th.

Leo the Great, a fifth-century pope, occupies the 10th, with Martin of Tours, the fourth-century bishop of that city who was previously a Roman officer, on the 11th. The 12th is Abbot Tysilio in Wales or Bishop Machar in Scotland, both figures steeped more in legend than fact. Samuel Seabury, the first Anglican

Continued on page 39

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Continued from page 37 bishop in North America, is commemorated on the 14th, with Ireland recalling the twelfth-century archbishop of Dublin, Laurence O'Toole.

The 15th is the Second Sunday before Advent. On the 16th, all the British churches remember Margaret of Scotland, English wife of Malcolm III and church reformer, with the Church of England also commemorating Edmund Rich of Abingdon, twelfth-century archbishop of Canterbury who gave his name to St Edmund Hall in Oxford.

Bishop Hugh of Lincoln is on the 17th, while the 18th sees Elizabeth of Hungary. The 19th is set aside for Hilda, founder of monasteries at Hartlepool and (more famously) Whitby, where, as abbess, she hosted the crucial synod of 664. We join our partners in Magdeburg on the 19th to recall Mechtild, a thirteenth-century mystic. On the 20th we have Edmund, the king of the East Angles killed by the Vikings in 870 and buried in a shrine in the Suffolk town which later took his name as Bury St Edmunds and become a major medieval pilgrimage centre.

Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians, is on the 22nd, although little is known of her second- and third-century life and this year she is displaced by the twentiethcentury invention of Christ the King. The last of our Group patronals falls on the 23rd: Clement was a late first-century bishop of Rome (the term 'pope' is anachronistic this early), but the story of his martyrdom with an anchor comes



from at least three centuries later and has no provable basis in fact.

The same day also sees the commemoration of Columbanus, an important figure in early Irish monasticism, while Ireland is also the setting for the rather more dubious Colman of Cloyne on the 24th. There is a choice on the 25th between Catherine of Alexandria (according to tradition martyred on a wheel) and Isaac Watts, hymn writer responsible for 'When I survey the wondrous cross', among others.

There is then a lull before the First Sunday of Advent on the 29th. November closes on the 30th with the month's only feast of an apostle, Andrew.

Phil Bradford





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Extracts from Wendy's 1982 scrapbook

Monday 1st November. Gave Peggy a lift and we had a good church discussion.

Wednesday. I saw Frank in the churchyard.

Thursday. At Parrott's, Joyce led and we had a good discussion.

Friday concluded a happy, God-filled, week. I read at the morning service.

Sunday 7th - Frank preached about Abraham and God calling us to do things. We have our plans. Are they God's? Excellent.

Thursday 11th - Thursday group was at Nancy's.

Friday. Lovely service. Knelt next to Owen and Judith.

Sunday 14th - Frank preached. Good.

Thursday 18th - Group was at Eileen's house.

Friday 19th - good service.

Sunday 21st - Frank again, people each being different.

Thursday 25th - Group at Lee's. Very cold.

Friday 26th. Did not go to service (on holiday).

Sunday 28th. Jim solo. Very cold.

What else happened in November 1982?

1st November: The Welsh language television station, S4C, launches in Wales.

2nd November: The fourth terrestrial television channel, Channel 4, begins broadcasting. The first programme broadcast is the game show Countdown, hosted by Richard Whiteley. Another flagship programme is the Liverpool-based soap opera Brookside.

7th November: The Thames Barrier is first publicly demonstrated.

11th November: The fifth space shuttle mission: Columbia makes the first officially "operational" shuttle mission.

15th November: UK Unemployment remains in excess of 3 million (13.8% of the workforce.

30th November: Michael Jackson releases his sixth studio album, Thriller, in the United States, which will go on to be the greatest selling album of all time at 110 million units sold worldwide.

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SOME IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

- 1 All Saints' Day.
 - Holy Communion at 7.30 and 10.30 a.m.
 - 7.30 p.m., Dramatic Society at Boys' School,
- 3 Choral and Orchestral Concert at Christopher Whitehead School, 7.30 p.m.
- 4 24th Sunday after Trinity.
 6.30 p.m., ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AND FESTAL EVEN-SONG Preacher: The Very Reverend Dr. Arthur Davies, lately Dean of Worcester.
- 6 & 7 Youth and Girls' Club Drama Sections, Boys' School, 7.30 p.m.
- 8 Grand Whist Drive at Boys' School, 7.30 p.m.
- 10 Children's Fancy Dress Parade at Christopher Whitehead School, 3 p.m.
 - 7.30 p.m., Old Tyme Festival Ball.
- Remembrance Sunday.
 6.30 p.m., British Legion Service. Preacher: The Reverend B. J. Isaac, M.B.E., T.D., M.A.
- 15 Whist Drive at Boys' School, 7.30 p.m., in aid of St. John Ambulance.
- 16 Choral Society Annual Meeting, 7.30 p.m.
- 18 Twenty-sixth Sunday after Trinity.
- 22 Whist Drive at Boys' School, 7.30 p.m., in aid of Children's Society.
- 25 Twenty-seventh Sunday after Trinity. DAY SCHOOL'S FESTIVAL.
 - 11 a.m., A. G. K. Brown, Esq., Head Master, Worcester Royal Grammar School.
 - 6.30 p.m., H. C. A. Gaunt, Esq., Head Master Malvern College.
- 30 S. Andrew's Day. Holy Communion at 7.30 and 10.30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

ALL applications should be received at the Vestry between 2.30 p.m. and 3 o'clock on Monday, November 26th. I am sure you will appreciate that gifts can be given only to those *in need of help*. I regret to say that in the past there have been a few cases where applications have been granted and we have discovered later that there was plenty of money being paid into the house. As a result sincere and and needful folk were deprived, for there is a limit to these resources of charity. The trustees have warned me that there will be a strict investigation of every applicant this year, and it does not follow that every applicant will be granted assistance. We bear a sacred trust to see that these gifts are passed to those who need and deserve them. Hence my remarks!

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Please make your money worth 25% more!

Please tick:

□ I want St. John-in-Bedwardine Parish Church to treat the enclosed donation as shown in the Grand Total box above, as a Gift Aid donation.

You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

Signed:

Date:....../..../20......

NOTES

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

Puzzle solutions



And finally....



"I'm sorry to tell you, but the Archbishop has decided to update the guidance."

Image: Parish Pump. Caption: Graham Evans



Sunday services in the West Worcester Group, November 2020

Status and the status of the s	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
1st November	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
	7.45pm All Souls' Service	6.15pm All Souls' Service	4pm Eucharist	
8th November	10.00am Remembrance Service 11.00am Act of Commemoration	9.30am Remembrance Service	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Remembrance Service
15th November	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Eucharist	
22nd November	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Morning Prayer
			4pm Evening Prayer	
29th November	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Eucharist	
6th December	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Eucharist	
The information	above is correct at the time of going to p	ress, but please watch the weekly	church newsletters and websi	te for the latest information.