



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



November 2021

50p



Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY

clergy@wcw.church

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

TEAM OFFICE

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

ON THE WEB

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

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	St John's
Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email sylvia.render@talktalk.net).	
Safeguarding: Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy.	
The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com/424539), Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com/428948).	St Michael's
Safeguarding Officer: Liz Edwards (stmichaels.safeguarding@wcw.church) On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our November edition. Our theme is 'Hope'. We see it as an important message for those struggling with remembrance of lost loved ones (either in war or more recently). Phil in his letter reminds us that remembering involves looking forward and finding hope.

For those not able or not yet comfortable to come to church, hope can be found by calling the Church of England's 'DailyHope' phone line (page 15).

Talking about the future, please read the summary of the joint PCC's meeting about 'Ministry Share' (page 28).

How do we meet the challenge of increasing what we pay to the diocese by nearly 40% or is it inevitable that we will in the years ahead lose one of our stipendiary clergy posts?

We leave you with a prayer by Daphne Kitching which reminds us where to turn when seeking hope:

Father, In these short, dark days of November, with all the uncertainties and complications in our new Covid-19 landscape, help us to feel the reassurance of Your presence in the gift of each new day. Help us to be guided through the darkness by Your light; by Jesus, who will never leave us or forsake us. Amen.

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition (December): Deadline is Sunday 14th November.
Distribution, towards the end of November.

Subscription form: Page 46.

Cover picture: Colin Nash: The window from the Cathedral that represents Hope. In the left-hand side of the image you can just make out the word SPES (meaning Hope). The whole window depicts Faith, Hope and Charity.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Phil Bradford, Sarah Cottrill, Graham Evans, Paul Fulbrook, Joy Job, Colin Nash and Sandra Nash.

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 will always acknowledge items sent by email; please try again if you do not receive a response. Please send all written correspondence for the magazine to the Parish Office.

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

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

Opinions!

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

To advertise

Please see page 12.

From Phil Bradford

November is traditionally a time for remembering: All Saints and All Souls, along with Remembrance Sunday, are key parts of the opening half of the month in the church calendar. The last of these in particular is one which has a resonance for many people who still have memories of the Second World War or more recent conflicts, or who have themselves been in the forces.



We have a permanent reminder of the cost of war and the importance of remembering at churches in our Team, with the war memorials outside and brass plaques to the war dead inside. If our focus is especially on these in November, they serve their purpose of invoking remembrance throughout the year.

Across the world, there are memorials to the dead of human conflict, violence and brutality. Some of these sites of memory are notably poignant or traumatic.

It is hard to stand amidst the Nazi death camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau or Majdanek in Poland without being overwhelmed by the enormity of the horrors which happened in those places. The Killing Fields of Cambodia, with their displays of the human skulls from the victims of the Khmer Rouge tyranny, are difficult places to visit but essential to understanding the depths to which human beings can sink.

There are any number of examples which could be drawn at this point. Sites of memory are complex, emotional places, for they connect us with the victims of humanity at its very worst. They remind us that remembering is a duty, that memory can be painful and shameless.

Yet there is another side to this, for remembrance is not all about despair or looking backwards. The act of remembering is also one of defiance, an assertion that the tyrants of our world and the terrors of war cannot erase the memory, the sacrifice or the courage of its victims. Genocide and slaughter aim to dehumanise these victims and erase their memory from the earth, yet remembering them by name and keeping alive their memory defeats this intended purpose.

Remembering involves looking forwards as well as backwards, for intricately connected with remembrance is hope. As we cast our gaze backwards to recall those who suffered, so too we assert their value and look forwards in hope to a world where this does not have to be so, where the violence of war and

oppression has given way to a world of peace and justice where the rights and dignity of all are respected.

Hope, after all, is at the heart of Christian life, one of the three central tenets alongside faith and love.

Too often, hope is trivialised, turned into blind optimism, vague longing or selfish desire. This is not Christian hope. Christian hope is that which we encounter in the process of remembrance, a hope which looks upon the very worst parts of the human story and recognises that these will one day be transformed, for ultimately God will bring about his kingdom of mercy, peace, justice and love. It is not a hope that things will all be easy in the near (or even more distant future), or some anodyne hope that everything will be OK in the end.

It is rather a hope that trusts in God's ability to redeem all things, in the knowledge that God's ultimate purpose is good and that beyond the transitory agonies of this world lies something eternal and incomprehensible to the corrupt, brutal ways of power. It is a hope that no death, however premature or tragic, is in vain, for ultimately all are offered a share in that future kingdom.

As we remember this November, let us also assert our hope that all those whom we remember are not forgotten in the eyes of God, and our hope that through our memory we may undertake God's work of transforming the world in which they suffered and so many others continue to suffer.

Phil

November Collects

Christ the King

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.

Advent Sunday

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In Memoriam

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 2021

St John's

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

12th September 2021 Nancy Anne Ford

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

24th September 2021 David Whittaker and Francesca Boden

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 15th August 2021 Constantimos Djiallis

d. 28th August 2021 Kathleen Roberts

SERVICES: Communicants 164. Total attendance at all services 440 including 197 at a baptism, a wedding and two funerals.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 70. Total attendance at all services 80.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in November

Monday 1st: All Saints' Day

Sunday 7th: Third Sunday before Advent

Sunday 14th: Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 21st: Christ the King (The Sunday next before Advent)

Sunday 28th: Advent Sunday

“Happy New (Christian) Year”

Tuesday 30th: Andrew the apostle

Mid-week services

The following mid-week services are scheduled for November:

Tuesday	St John's 10am. (Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer)
Thursday	St Michael's 10.30am. (Eucharist - Common Worship).
Saturday 27th Nov.	St John's, 10am to 12 noon, Café Church (Café@10.15).

Walking Church

November 14th will see the third outing for our recently formed "Walking Church." As with the previous sessions, we will discuss the Scriptures used in church that day whilst enjoying a walk, lasting for no more than an hour and, if the weather is bad, considerably less than this! The walk will end with hot drinks and cake at the Vicarage.

At the time of writing, I am hoping that our walk will take us across fields to the riverside and then along the river to the bridge, returning to St Johns and eventually to the Vicarage. Along the way there are plenty of opportunities for short cuts if required! The passage of Scripture to be discussed will be forwarded nearer the time but it will have links to Remembrance Sunday.

Anybody is welcome to join us for this walk which will set out from the top of Old Road at 2.00pm on Sunday 14th. It would be useful to know if you intend to come along, as, in the event of bad weather and flooding, I will need to notify walkers of a change of plan!

Sarah Cottrill

On the Trail of the Kings

Do you remember the "Worcester Stands Tall" giraffe trail of three years ago? Did you follow "The Big Parade" this summer? Well now you can look forward to joining in Worcester City West Team's "Trail of the Kings." From the week before Christmas through until Epiphany, the Mission and Outreach Group will be inviting local schools and businesses to display a "king" in their windows and inviting our young – and not so young – people to see how many they can spot.

The Kings are travelling to Bethlehem (AKA St John-in-Bedwardine Church) where there will be an Epiphany Service with members of Children's Worship and Little Lambs at 3.00pm on Sunday, January 9th 2022.

We are very excited about this new venture, but we do need help and are calling on all knitters, crochet experts and other "crafty people" to create kings for us! If you are able to help, please contact any member of the Mission and Outreach Group – their names appear on page 15. Thank you.

Sarah Cottrill

Dates for your diary

Thursday 4th November 1pm - Good Old Days Talk (see the poster on page 11): Paul Harding from Discover History will be visiting St John's church every month from now on with some exciting subjects for us. These fascinating 'Talks with refreshments' cost £4. 'Remember, remember, the fifth of November - gunpowder, treason and plot' is the subject for November and 'A Victorian Christmas' follows on 9th December. As always, the amazing cake bakers will be baking away to create delicious offerings for you. Please note that there will be a socially distanced area available, but places will be restricted so come early.

Tracey Ward

--- 000 ---

Monday 15th November 2.30pm - Mothers' Union: There will be a Mothers' Union meeting at St Michael's on Monday 15th November at 2.30pm. The topic is still to be decided.

Jenny Claydon

--- 000 ---

Saturday 20th November 10am - Table Top Sale (see the poster opposite): We are planning to hold a Table Top Sale at St John's church on Saturday 20th November 2021, from 10am until 12noon.

Tables can be booked for £10. To book a table please contact the Parish Office on (01905) 420490 or email (see below).

The Church will have a table so if you wish to donate any items for sale then please bring them to church beforehand. If these items are not sold, then they will be taken to St Richard's Hospice.

We shall also have a Tombola stall. Donations for this would be most welcome!

Refreshments will be served.

If you would like to help, or for further information, then please contact me by email.

Joy Job

joy.job@btinternet.com

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Saturday 4th December 8.30am - Community Breakfast: This is a free event at St John's church and you will be served a Full English breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, black pudding and baked beans plus an unlimited supply of toast and marmalade, tea and coffee. Everyone is welcome.

Jenny English

Events at St John's



Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish
'Friendship and Thoughts'

*10am - 12noon on
Saturday 27th November
Speaker Phil Bradford
No meeting in December*

ALL WELCOME

**Open for Tea/Coffee
and Cakes
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***Wednesday 3pm
17th November
15th December
All are welcome.
Invite a friend!***



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

***Our next meeting is on
Saturday 13th November
8.30am until 10.30am***



ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

**TABLE
TOP SALE**

Saturday 20th November
10am to 12Noon
With Refreshments

*Book a table for £10. Contact the Parish
Office on 01905420490 or email
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Remember, Remember
the 5th November,
Gunpowder treason and plot

Join us for a talk by Paul Harding from
Discover History on
Thursday 4th November
1pm
Talk including refreshments
£4



A Victorian
Christmas

Join us for a talk by Paul Harding from Discover
History
1pm Thursday 9th December
A talk with refreshments £4

CWLC Impetus Lectures

We have an exciting calendar of Impetus lectures for the new term. The community is once again very welcome to attend these lectures. Anyone wishing to come, please would you email me in advance, so I know to greet and welcome you.

Wednesday 3rd Nov. 3:20pm. Dr Anitha Thillaisundaram, Lecturer in Maths, University of Lincoln. 'Fractals, Hausdorff dimension and the coastline paradox'.

Wednesday 10th Nov. 3:20pm. Dr Phil Sutton, Lecturer in Astrophysics, University of Lincoln. 'Fantastic worlds and where to find them'.

Wednesday 24th Nov. 3:20pm. Dr Kate Ashbrook, Senior Lecturer in Biological Sciences, University of Worcester. 'The Science of Christmas'.

Bethan Morgan (b.morgan@cwlc.email), Assistant Head of Sixth Form

Worcester Festival Choral Society

In our first performance for almost two years, the 150 voices of Worcester Festival Choral Society are delighted to announce a stunning programme of choral and orchestral greats for the opening concert of our 160th season (Saturday 27th November, 7.30pm. Worcester Cathedral). Buy tickets by calling 0333 666 3366.

Mozart - Overture from The Magic Flute; Mozart - Solemn Vespers;
Fauré - Cantique de Jean Racine; Fauré - Requiem.

Ruth Reeves

Would you like to advertise in this magazine?

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

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

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What is Christianity REALLY about??

Does it matter if I don't believe everything some other Christians believe?

What makes Christianity different from any other faith?

What do the various parts of the Eucharist service really mean – what is the significance of words and actions?

If Christianity is one, united faith, why are there so many denominations and why don't we all agree on everything?

Was Jesus an actual, historical figure? Are his teachings really relevant to us today?

If you have ever wondered about these and many other questions around the Christian faith, then come along to a series of evenings in the New Year and explore your faith in a relaxed and informal way amongst friends.

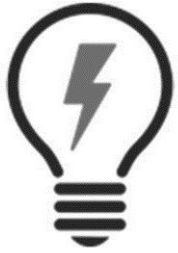
Further details in the coming months Watch this space!

Tea/Coffee and Cake

The new venture, 'Tea/Coffee and Cake' at 3pm on the third Wednesday of each month, is proving a great success. They are getting about 40 people each time so far and they all enjoy the chats. Next one is on 17th November.



Colin Nash



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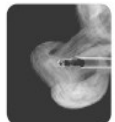
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Introducing the Worcester City West Team Mission and Outreach Group

Earlier this year it was suggested to me that I should read the Archbishop of Canterbury's Book for Lent – Living His Story by Hannah Steele. This I did, following it up with Mission Shaped Parish by Paul Bayes and Tim Sledge.

Together the two books convinced me that mission was something we needed to look at across our new Team and the time seemed ideal as we were just tentatively coming out of lockdown; we can look at introducing new things for a new beginning.

I therefore approached a number of people from the four churches and we held our first meeting in July.

Over the last four months we have looked at how we might improve the welcome we provide at our churches and Philip has been gathering the responses to the "Welcome Review" questionnaires we circulated. Thank you to everybody who completed one.

We have also been compiling new welcome packs which will hopefully appear in all our churches on Advent Sunday. Our next project is an Epiphany Trail – more about that on page 7.

The Mission Group consists of:

Rev. Sarah Cottrill – Team Vicar

Mrs. Jo Dowling – St Clement's

Mrs. Jenny English – St John's

Mrs. Alice Evans – St Michael's

Mr. Philip Evans – St Michael's

Mrs. Val Mason – St Michael's

Mrs. Maureen Ovington – St David's

Mrs. Dilys Round – St Clement's

Mrs. Sue Wright – St Clement's

We are not a "closed group" and would welcome anybody wishing to be involved in this exciting work.

Sarah Cottrill

Daily Hope

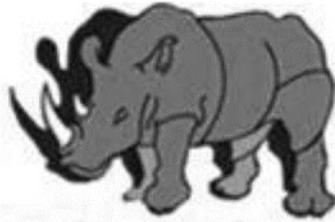


A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

DailyHope is a free national telephone line, which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone.

It was set up as a response to pandemic restrictions, but is now to continue.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/dailyhope-phone-line>



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“Reviewing Welcome”

Thank you to everyone who completed one of the “Reviewing Welcome” packs. The Mission & Outreach Group want to review various aspects to do with “Welcome”, including the welcome we give at services; the welcome we give to our mid-week visitors, the kind of welcoming environment our buildings and facilities create; and the impression people get about the welcome they might expect to receive from what they read or see about us before they visit.

From the responses we have received we hope to learn about where to focus our attention, for example by finding out about the areas that we as a Team need to work on or the particular strengths of each individual church as seen by a broader group of people than just those of us working together as the Mission & Outreach Group.

As many of you will have found, the questions are not all easy. Some of this is because our four churches are not the same and so no one set of questions would be applicable for all churches, but also, as explained in the pack, these questions were not devised by the Mission & Outreach Group but by a group called “Everybody Welcome”. One of the reasons for using questions devised by external people is that it avoided our own bias being introduced into the questioning. The reason why we wanted each church to have the same questions was first a question of logistics and secondly it makes the next stage (the analysis of the responses) simpler.

With the deadline for responses having only been at the end of August, at the time of writing we have only just finished collating all the responses and have yet to undertake any meaningful analysis of them. However, we are pleased to say that:

- Responses were received from people in each of the four churches in the Team
- Across the Team, there were responses received from people in every age group

If you missed the opportunity to complete one of the “Reviewing Welcome” packs and would like to fill one in or if you have had extra ideas since submitting your answers, please speak to or email Philip Evans (philip.evans@wcw.church). He is collating the responses and will be producing the report for the Mission & Outreach Group.

Please note that any comments made will not be attributed to any individual unless specifically requested. Furthermore, when Philip presents the results in the report, he will do so in such a way that avoids individual people being identifiable.

Sarah Cottrill

That would never happen!

If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished. - Anon

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Women's Breakfast

At the October Women's Breakfast we welcomed Rev'd Christine Holzapfel who is the Bishop's advisor for the Ministry of Healing.

She spoke to us about how she had spent some of her sabbatical in healing ministry at Harnhill Centre for Christian Healing near Cirencester Gloucestershire. She really felt that God was calling her to pursue this form of ministry. After spending seven years in the Bromsgrove Team as vicar then Team Rector she returned to Harnhill, where she was part of the residential team offering prayer ministry, hospitality, worship and teaching. She was also involved with teaching and mentoring others. She has recently retired and returned back into the diocese and is helping the Saltway Team in Droitwich as well as continuing to support Harnhill as a volunteer.

She explained how healing ministry enables people to grow in their relationship with God. Healing prayer sometimes involves physical healing, but is also about healing relationships with other people and receiving the resources God has for us to cope with very difficult circumstances.

Christine is very keen to hear from anyone who is interested in this work with a view perhaps to re-establish a Healing Advisory Group in the Diocese. She is very enthusiastic and inspirational. She said that the Covid pandemic had given us a chance to listen to God and to take stock, and to think of the way things could be changed for the better. It was reassuring to know that as we start to get back to normal life the hospitality that we give to people such as Women's Breakfast, Cafe @10.15, Tea and Cake afternoons and Community Breakfasts are all opportunities for healing ministry by really listening to people.

After enjoying a very hearty breakfast - thank you to Margaret, Sally and Ann - Christine led us in prayer. If anyone wishes to know more about Women's Breakfast then please contact Margaret Rutter on 01905 425396.

Joy Job

Smile lines

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. *Mark Twain*

Don't worry about avoiding temptation...as you grow older, it will avoid you.

Winston Churchill

A Sunday School class was studying the Ten Commandments. The teacher asked if anyone could recite one from memory. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off thy neighbour's wife."

Pilgrimage of Prayer and Hope

On 30th September 2021 five members of our congregation welcomed Bishop Martin, Bishop of Dudley, to St John's Church as he was making a two day Pilgrimage to a small selection of churches across the diocese and Worcester Area Deanery.



We gathered at the entrance in the porch so that he could bless the church with holy water.

We then followed him to the choir stalls and he sang the prayer: Spirit of the Living God.

We said Psalm 23.

His reflection on the readings from Ezekiel 47 and John 7 gave us hope and encouragement, to allow God to help us; to allow his spirit to work within us to enable us to help others during this time of great uncertainty, as life begins to get back to some sort of normalcy following the pandemic: "Out of the believers's heart shall flow rivers of living water".

He expressed gratitude for all the help that the church members had given to the community. We prayed for our church community, remembering all the hardships, illness, bereavements that people have endured during the most testing of times. Prayers concluded with the collect Pilgrims' Prayer, and the Lord's Prayer.



We followed Bishop Martin to the Font where we remembered everyone who had been baptised through the ages, including ourselves and he blessed us with the holy water.

We thanked him and wished him well on his continued Pilgrimage and invited him to return!

Joy Job



Bishop Martin told the Parish Magazine:

“I was very glad to spend two days with Worcester Deanery as part of my Pilgrimage of Prayer and Hope around the diocese. I was able to visit and pray with people in seventeen churches during that time, spending time in each benefice, and am most grateful for the welcome I received at St John’s and St Clements. Perhaps next time I will be able to visit other churches too, such as St Michael’s and St David’s, and I shall look forward to that. Meanwhile I value your prayers for me, and will continue to pray for you.”

Bishop Martin on Floral Foam

Like many, I love to see flower arrangements in church and always admire the ingenuity and skill of flower arrangers. However, I have recently been made aware of the damaging impact of floral foam. As a diocese, we are committed to playing our part in tackling the climate crisis and stopping using floral foam is one change that we can make in the fight to reduce single use plastics. The Royal Horticultural Society have now banned floral foam in their displays at shows, such as Chelsea and Malvern, and I urge churches to also take a lead in this area to ensure our wonderful floral displays are as sustainable as possible.

Floral foam is made of plastic which easily crumbles into microscopic fragments, and it is not compostable. The foam is generally used wet and after being soaked, waste water is typically discarded into the sink or drain, adding to the problem of microplastic contamination in aquatic environments. Many of our churches are already using chicken wire and bamboo as an alternative to foam, which is a much more sustainable solution.

+ *Martin*

We're back!

On Wednesday, October 6th St David's Church opened its doors for a welcome return of our monthly coffee mornings.

These had been eagerly awaited but nonetheless we were a little concerned and put careful strategies in place to reduce the risk of infection. Our tables were more widely spaced; cakes were covered and "staff" wore face coverings. There was table service and only one person allowed in the kitchen at any time.



Despite all this, the usual cheerful atmosphere prevailed as about 30 people enjoyed the selection of home-made cakes, a cup of tea or coffee and – best of all – a good catch up with friends not seen for two years!

Provided no further restrictions are enforced, our next coffee morning will be on Wednesday, November 3rd at 10.30am. Hope to see you there!

Sarah Cottrill

Reflection on 'Hope'

In common with many others no doubt our “teenage years” were a period of new and vibrant experiences, even if within the context of serious study, or perhaps on occasion because of it. It is often a time of political awareness too - see now the response of young people to the climate debate.

For my generation it was the work of Amnesty International, Medecins Sans Frontières, and Action against Apartheid that sparked our reaction to events - I still have the T-shirts as proof of the commitment to “the cause”; the Amnesty one carries the message Hoy Siempre Esperanza - yes, there is always hope of release, hope of a resolution to the problem, hope of resources to complete the task, even hope for enough voices to be raised against the injustice!

Later in life the objects of protest may change but the hope of peaceful resolution remains - the problems of dealing with nuclear waste, the loss of green space, the building of new dwellings in proximity to hazardous chemical sites, the loss of community services - bank, post office, doctors surgery.

The arrival of Covid-19 really has changed the “political” agenda and has brought into sharper focus the essential human needs - something with which Christians have always been concerned. How interesting that in needing to stay apart [2 metres] we have been brought closer together! Community has never been more important.

Those with great need for the essentials in life have been more likely to have them met - not by government but by members of the community acting together, whether from a religious motive or not. And, as we move towards Advent, we must hope that the spirit of that season does bring nearer the realisation of Christ’s message to truly love our neighbour - offering them salvation; which is a hope for us all.

Arthur Miller

Street Café



As we head into winter, I’m hoping that readers of this magazine will support Street Café by donating items.

Always useful are crisps and choc bars (Penguins, Kit Kats, that sort of thing) for the sandwich bags we make up. Also Pot Noodles (especially beef) - they are always helpful for

latecomers if we have run out of meals as we can just add some water and they at least have something warm to go away with. Also cans of pop or individual cartons of juice/squash. Thanks very much.

Rob Little

Harvest at our parish churches



St John's

The Flower Ladies enjoyed a morning preparing for Harvest Festival. They were able to choose flowers, some of which were home grown, and greenery from an abundant supply and created some very pleasing arrangements. The church certainly did look wonderfully colourful especially with backdrop of the Millennium Altar Frontal.

The Harvest Festival service was led by Rev'd Sarah. It was wonderful to have the choir singing again and also to be able to sing the Gloria again for the first time in many months.



The sale of the gifts of fresh produce took place during coffee and raised a sum of £70 for Maggs. All the tins and packets of food were taken to the Food Bank and were gratefully received.

Thank you to everyone for your donations!

Joy Job

St Michael's



St Clement's



Summary of St. John's PCC meeting (15th September)

The meeting was held in the Blakefield Room with 15 members present, and Chris Boden, the Diocesan Stewardship Officer. Phil opened the meeting with a prayer.

Matters Arising: Renovation work has started on the flat; The Worcester City West Team is now in place; The car park lock has been replaced; The PCC endorsed the Standing Committee's decision to ban dogs from church (excepting assistance dogs).

Finance: Chris Rees gave a general overview of the current financial situation. The estimate for the year end is between £0 and £6-7k in deficit.

Ministry Share: The new parish share scheme comes into effect in 2022, called 'Ministry Share'. It is based around the cost of ministry in a benefice. This is likely to be an increase of 30%. A joint meeting of the PCC's has been arranged with John Preston, the Diocesan Secretary.

Stewardship: Chris Boden gave some advice about running a Stewardship Campaign, starting by using the acronym MINT:

Mechanisms – make sure the right things are in place for giving.

Impact – What does your church do?

Need – How much does the church need?

Trust – Saying 'thank you' regularly. Let people know where the money has gone, what it is paying for.

Chris suggested running a campaign over two Sundays:

First Sunday: Ask people what they would like from the church – what is God calling us to do? Let them know what we currently do.

Second Sunday: Tell them that if they want this to happen, this is what we need to do/how we are going to do it.

The PCC agreed to run a Stewardship campaign over two of the first three Sundays of Advent. Each PCC member will approach 5/10 people to ask, 'how they would like church to be'. The core common ground will be focussed on.

Magazine: The magazine subscription numbers have fallen from 190 in 2012 to 130 in 2021. The magazine makes a positive financial contribution to the church and needs to grow again for outreach and as an income generator. A notice to be put in the pew sheet asking for someone to help to promote its distribution.

Digitising of Parish Records: Worcestershire County Council have asked for the PCC's agreement to digitising parish registers for use by Ancestry and Family Search. The PCC delegated Phil Bradford to make a decision on this.

Storage: The cupboards in the Blakefield Room are extremely damp, resulting in mouldy choir robes and children's equipment. The cupboard doors will be left open when the room is not in use. Phil will resurrect the storage review.

Marriage Measure: It was agreed to ask for an order to allow banns to be called in any church in the team, regardless of where the marriage is to take place.

Team PCC: The PCC agreed to consider a joint PCC to delegate certain items and avoid duplication of roles, working with one or both of the other parishes.

Phil to organise something to celebrate becoming a team – to be advertised and put on the website/Facebook.

The meeting finished with all saying The Grace.

*PCC minutes by Liz Edwards (PCC Secretary)
Summarised by Graham Evans (PCC Member)*

Summary of St. Michael's PCC meeting (29th September)

The meeting was held in the church with 9 members present. Apologies were received from 2 members. The meeting was opened with prayer.

The PCC secretary reported to the meeting, for the record, the matters that had been dealt with by correspondence since the last face-to-face meeting.

Finance: The Treasurer had forwarded to members prior to the meeting a summary of the church's income and outgoings over the first 6 months of 2021. Spending was roughly equal to the budgeted amount.

Ministry Share: Parish Share is changing for 2022. The new Ministry Share is based on the cost of the full-time stipendiary priests in the benefice and the amount is requested from the benefice as a whole rather than individual churches, who must decide how to divide the amount requested. There is a considerable increase (about 38%) in the amount requested. Members were very concerned over the sum which would leave little or nothing for our own church expenses. A Joint PCC's meeting has been arranged with the diocesan secretary. Questions to be forwarded to the lay chair before the meeting.

Marriage Measure: The PCC agreed to ask for an order to allow banns to be called in any church in the team, regardless of where the marriage is to take place.

Team Council/ Joint PCC: Options are available for a joint PCC or for retaining individual PCCs but with some issues being passed to a team council. There are advantages of some aspects of church work being dealt with jointly to save repetition and time. It needed to be looked into.

Hire Agreement: A new agreement needed to be drawn up for hires of the hall but first, whether we can legally hire out the building needs to be investigated.

Deanery Synod: A digital meeting had taken place of the new larger deanery. Bishop Martin would be undertaking a pilgrimage around the diocese.

Optional Fees: These are to be maintained at the current level.

Harvest Festival: The goods will be donated to the food bank.

Garden: This needs some work and shrubs pruned and will be done in the spring.

Parish Magazine: This is now a joint magazine for St. John's and St. Michael's. A volunteer is needed to take over sub-editor from Phil.

Mission and Outreach Group: The survey has been collated. There are plans for an Epiphany Trail and Epiphany Service. A welcome pack will be compiled to be used in all the team.

Servers: An enquiry was made as to when those who serve at the Eucharist would be resuming their role. This is under review.

Dates: Dates were set for the special services for the next 3 months.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

Jenny Claydon, PCC Secretary

Summary of Worcester City West Team joint PCCs meeting held on 5th October 2021

The meeting had 24 representatives of the four churches and John Preston (JP), the diocesan secretary, to discuss the concerns about the new Ministry Share.

JP thanked the churches for inviting him, and for their ministry, recognising this was a difficult time for churches with concerns around both share and the pandemic.

Editors: What follows is a very brief précis, produced from Phil Bradford's notes by the editors, as the full version would run to seven pages!

The increase of share requested from this benefice is 38%. This is one of the higher increase figures but not the highest.

The amount of parish share coming in was 76% in 2018, leading to a £1 million annual deficit. Diocesan reserves could not continue to sustain that level of deficit each year. The new share is designed to connect the cost of ministry and the ministry provided. This scheme was overwhelmingly supported by diocesan synod.

Questions were asked about affordability of such an increase at a time of falling parish incomes. JP did not expect that the 38% increase would be achieved next

year and that we would be requesting transitional funding. Support to lower income communities (e.g. Dines Green) and transitional support is available, but in decreasing amounts. It was pointed out that the new request was greater than the C of E's recommended 5% tithe for all active members, leaving nothing for paying for the churches. JP said it shows that, in the longer term, this may necessitate local conversations about sustainability of the current ministry model.

Various questions were asked about the make-up of the costs, clergy stipends and housing costs and diocesan expenditure. There has been a reduction of £500k in annual expenditure at the diocesan office, along with the removal of 15 clergy posts, to reduce overall costs. Many of the clergy-related costs are determined nationally. The diocese is reviewing its property portfolio.

It was asked how one clergy person could run all four churches, given that sustaining two clergy may well be unaffordable for the team. It was noted that the diocesan request came across as a threat that if the parishes couldn't pay, they would lose clergy. JP said that ultimately, if ministry could not be paid for, then this might indeed be the case, but it will take some years to work through the transitions needed across the diocese. JP said there were parts of Dudley (for example) where the ratio was far worse than here.

The diocese is not seeking and is not able to impose redundancies on stipendiary clergy, but when a vacancy naturally arises there would be a conversation about how the ministry provided might be made sustainable through reorganisation or other changes. There are models other than stipendiary clergy, including non-stipendiary, house for duty and part time. That is not to say that when a vacancy arises, this will automatically result in a loss of a stipendiary clergy person, but it will trigger a local conversation which may have that result.

In response to a question, JP said that any decision to close a church had to be a local one under church rules, but he personally did not feel that 269 churches could be sustained in the diocese with our current demographics and finances.

JP was asked to take back to the diocese that we are all trying to do mission and outreach in a community where there are real needs, and that the financial demands of the diocese are making us feel undervalued and demoralised.

JP again expressed gratitude for all that is being done locally, and said that he would indeed take back that message. He pointed out that 'the diocese' is all of us seeking to do what we can to grow as Kingdom People in our different situations.

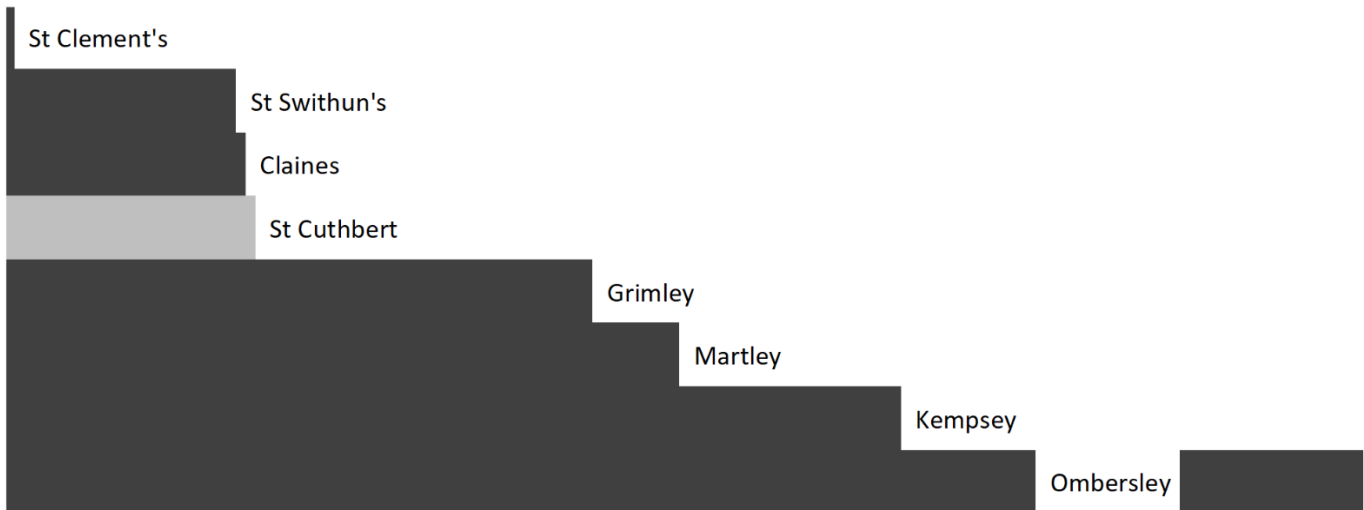
Sarah Cottrill thanked JP for coming and reminded everyone that there were difficult conversations ahead, but that the diocesan officers also needed our prayers. The meeting closed with The Grace.

The History of St John's Parish

VII: The Pre-Reformation Parish

Last month, we traced the growth of St John's from the point where it became a parish church to the eve of the Reformation. However, while the church building was at the centre of parish life, it served a local area and community. Before we deal with the turbulence of the sixteenth century, it is worth looking at what we know about the parish and its life before Henry VIII so dramatically changed things.

Wick Episcopi/St John-in-Bedwardine was never an especially wealthy parish. We can determine this from various taxation returns. In 1291, on the orders of Pope Nicholas IV, an assessment was undertaken of the revenues of all the English clergy. In that assessment, the annual taxable value of the parish of St Cuthbert, Wick Episcopi with its dependent chapel of St John's was deemed to be £8 13s 4d. This was identical to the value of St Helen's and similar to other local parishes such as Wichford (£8 10s 0d), Claines (£8 6s 8d) and St Swithun's (£8 1s 8d), and notably more than St Clement's, which at £0 6s 8d was the poorest parish in Worcester city and the second poorest in Worcester Deanery. However, Wick was not in the same league as the deanery's wealthiest parishes: Ombersley (£47 6s 8d), Kempsey (£31), Martley (£23 6s 8d) and Grimley (£20 6s 8d).



This tax assessment was accepted by the king as the basis for all royal taxation of the clergy until the reign of Henry VIII. For the rest of the Middle Ages, when the clergy were taxed a tenth of their revenues, this meant a tenth of this 1291 figure. By the end of the fifteenth century, if not much earlier, these values were obviously woefully out of date and did not reflect reality. It is thus impossible to know how much the situation changed between the reign of Edward I and the Reformation, but Wick/St John's was certainly not a desirable appointment for a vicar. Tellingly, in 1291 the vicarage of Wick Episcopi (the office rather than the house) was deemed to have a value below the taxable threshold.

The bishop had already intervened in 1287 to address the meanness of the cathedral in paying the vicar and it appears they grew no more generous in the following century. The bishops' records show that the high turnover of clergy in the period 1349-70 was caused not by mortality, but by vicars finding better livings. In 1357, for example, Thomas de la Feld managed to secure the position of rector of St Martin's, Worcester. This had lower taxable revenues than Wick Episcopi on 1291 figures (£6 13s 4d), but as rector he would have received far more there than whatever miserly sum the cathedral had allocated him as vicar of St Cuthbert's.

The greater degree of stability after the parish church moved to St John's in 1371, with vicars having longer tenures thereafter, may show that the cathedral had decided (or been compelled) to be more generous with the vicar's stipend. Perhaps it also shows a greater degree of wealth among the parishioners, reflected in the considerable expansion of the church building in this period.

However, Wick/St John's was essentially an agricultural parish and seems to have had few wealthy landowners or gentry in the later medieval period, beyond the bishop and the cathedral. Most residents in this area would have been their tenants and labourers, dispersed around the parish, although there was a small settlement around St John's church. We get only occasional glimpses into their lives through the records of the local manor courts, so usually when there had been wrongdoing, or through tax returns.

In 1327, parliament granted the new king, Edward III, a tax called a twentieth. This meant that all those owning moveable property worth more than a certain threshold had to pay a twentieth of the value of their goods. In Bedwardine, there were only nine taxpayers from whom was demanded a total of 15s 3d. Four owed 12d, one 15d and two 18d, with Geoffrey Fabro (4s) and Richard de Wendesford (3s) easily the wealthiest locals according to these figures. A glance at neighbouring parishes shows the relative poverty of Bedwardine, with Powick (28 taxpayers owing 54s 8d), Hallow (33, 59s 4d), Grimley (37, 70s) and Martley (62, 73s 6d) all apparently much more populous and prosperous.

In 1332, when the tax was a ninth of the value of land plus a fourteenth of the value of moveable goods, the return for Wick Episcopi is damaged, but the community was assessed as owing £6 3s [the pence column is lost]. It is hard to know how the Bedwardine of 1327 differed from the Wick Episcopi of 1332, although it was clearly a much broader area. In 1340, the area was explicitly 'Wick Episcopi with its chapel of St John', and it was deemed to owe £4 10s 0d (compared to £8 6s 8d for Grimley, £8 for Martley and £6 10s 0d for Powick). This was not an impoverished community. But nor was it an especially well-off one.

This had an impact on clergy levels; the idea that parishes only get the staffing they can pay for is not a new innovation from the diocese.

We do not know what staff served the parish beyond the vicar, although it is likely that the vicar also served the dependent chapels in the parish as he could not have afforded to pay a chaplain to do so and the cathedral were probably too parsimonious.

The vicar had to be a priest, although in the Middle Ages there were three major 'orders' of clergy: priest, deacon and subdeacon. Only the first could celebrate mass and bless the people, but the other two also had to be (officially) celibate and counted as clergy. Larger, wealthier churches had deacons and subdeacons who had specific liturgical roles, and there is occasional evidence for their existence at St John's.

In April 1337, John 'son of Adam the smith of St John in Bedwardine' was ordained subdeacon in the cathedral; he seems to have been specifically attached to St John's rather than the parish church at Wick. It is also likely that there were acolytes, men in minor orders who were ordained to this position but could be married, as well as a parish clerk who acted as the vicar's assistant and often had responsibility for security.

Churchwardens came into existence during the thirteenth century, although none of their accounts or records survive for St John's. Rather than being elected, the most prominent members of a community were expected to take turns in undertaking this office, which meant it was the one parochial role which women could fill, albeit rarely and usually as landed widows.

The church would have been a major presence in people's lives, not an occasional, optional extra. The building would have been in daily use by the clergy for their obligatory services, although most people worked during the week and only attended the Sunday mass. This was celebrated according to the Sarum Use, that is the liturgy devised for Salisbury Cathedral and used in parishes throughout the province of Canterbury (except in Hereford diocese, which had its own).

As a service book devised for a cathedral, it obviously had to be adapted for a parish, and there is evidence that most vicars did the announcements, the bidding prayers and the sermon (when there was one, which was certainly not weekly in all places) in English. Otherwise, everything was in Latin and it was a performance with much chanting in plainsong and few words for the congregation; the modern idea of participation (let alone 'accessibility' to children) was entirely alien. Typically, lay people took communion only once a year, on Easter Day, after the vicar had spent the whole of Lent listening to people's confessions in the church (these were affairs of half an hour or more, no simple words of vague remorse). Liturgical life involved a lot more colour and

processions, both within the church and around the parish. By the fifteenth century, a number of churches had organs and choirs leading polyphonic singing, but it seems unlikely that a church the size of St John's would have had these extras.

It can be easy to idealise the past, but medieval church services were certainly not a blissful idyll of sacred calm. Today, when congregations are there out of choice, things are far more sedate than would have been the case in medieval St John's. The authorities demanded attendance, with increasingly severe penalties for persistent absentees which could ultimately be enforced by secular royal justices. Hence many people were present reluctantly when they would rather have been in bed (with or without a lover), drinking, gambling, or selling goods, the most common complaints against absentees in the records. The reluctant (and even the willing) could be a disruptive presence at services, wandering around and talking. Action was often taken against those who used services as a sales opportunity to hawk their wares. As today, there were complaints about noisy or wild children. Once seating began to appear towards the end of the Middle Ages, there were arguments and even fights over seats and people feeling that 'their' seat had been taken. It was a more violent age and the frequent prohibitions of the practice show that men wandered into church armed, not reassuring in an argument over seats. There was plenty of grumbling about the 'offerings' required on set days throughout the year, including one for the papacy and one for the cathedral; disquiet over episcopal and diocesan financial demands is certainly not new.

The church was essential at all major points of life. Baptism usually took place in church on the day of birth, without the mother who was left at home in bed. The purification or churching ceremony for women after childbirth was very common. Technically a marriage could be contracted without any involvement by the Church, but marriages were controlled by the church courts and the Church tried to ensure all were married in churches. The ceremony took place in the church porch, the party only entering after the wedding itself for the nuptial mass. The priest would anoint the sick and dying, who would then have a requiem mass in church followed by burial with tomb or slab inside (for the wealthy) or unmarked outside (for everyone else). We do not have records for any of these events at St John's, but the church was ubiquitous in people's lives and these things would have happened as at thousands of other parish churches in the country.

Change, however, was coming. In 1509, King Henry VIII married his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon. The people of St John's cannot have known it, but that ceremony far away in Greenwich was to have a momentous impact on their church, their faith and their lives.

Phil Bradford

Puzzles

Sudoku Puzzle

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*The
solution is
on the
inside back
cover.*

				1				2
8		1	5					
	3			8			6	
			2			1		6
	6						7	
5		4			1			
	9			7			2	
					6	7		4
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	1	2		3		4		5		6		
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				25		26		27				
28						29						
	30											

The solution is on the inside back cover.

Clues Across

- 1 In David's battle with the Arameans, 700 of these were killed (2 Samuel 10:18) (11)
 9 'No — , impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of God' (Ephesians 5:5) (7)

- 10 City on the banks of the River Nile (5)
 11 Stamped addressed envelope (1,1,1)
 13 Taverns (4)
 16 'Be on your guard; stand — in the faith' (1 Corinthians 16:13) (4)
 17 'He will not always — , nor will he harbour his anger for ever' (Psalm 103:9) (6)
 18 and 27 Down Where the magi came from and what guided them (Matthew 2:1–2) (4,4)
 20 Ancient Celtic alphabet of 20 characters (4)
 21 he married Esau when he was 40 years old (Genesis 26:34) (6)
 22 A great-grandson of Noah (Genesis 10:7) (4)
 23 Title accorded to certain Roman Catholic clerics (abbrev.) (4)
 25 'My house will be a house of prayer; but you have made it a — of robbers' (Luke 19:46) (3)
 28 Annie (anag.) (5)
 29 Plead with (Zechariah 7:2) (7)
 30 Tenth foundation of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20) (11)

Clues Down

- 2 'We have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by — hands' (2 Corinthians 5:1) (5)
 3 Uncommon excellence (Proverbs 20:15) (4)
 4 'You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; fine — have been poured upon me' (Psalm 92:10) (4)
 5 — Homo ('Behold the Man') (4)
 6 'He has given proof of this to all men by — him from the dead' (Acts 17:31) (7)
 7 'Our — is in heaven' (Philippians 3:20) (11)
 8 'This is a day you are to — ' (Exodus 12:14) (11)
 12 Assault (Psalm 17:9) (6)
 14 'Jesus found a young donkey and — upon it' (John 12:14) (3)
 15 Liverpool dialect (6)
 19 'Remember the — day by keeping it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)
 20 Nineteenth-century German physicist after whom the unit of electrical resistance is named (3)
 24 Nazirites were not allowed to eat this part of a grape (Numbers 6:4) (5)
 25 'If anyone would come after me, he must — himself and take up his cross and follow me' (Mark 8:34) (4)
 26 Evil Roman emperor from AD54 to 68, responsible for condemning hundreds of Christians to cruel deaths (4)
 27 See 18 Across



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Picture parable

The tale of
the
Tower
Builder



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

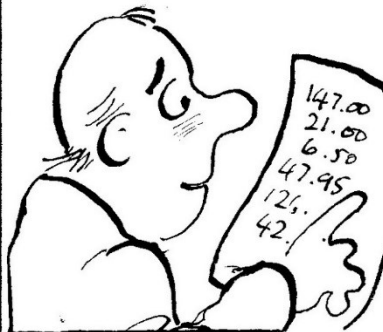


ON ONE OCCASION JESUS EXPLAINED HOW IT WOULDN'T ALWAYS BE EASY TO FOLLOW HIM.



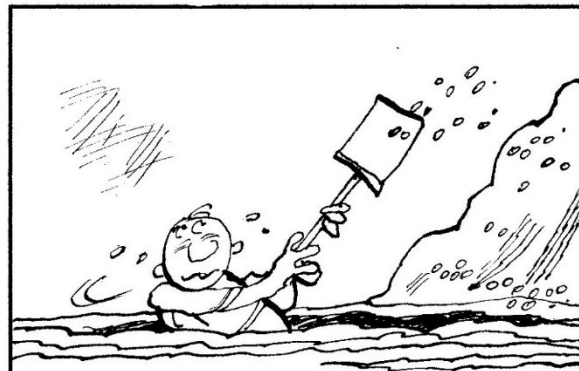
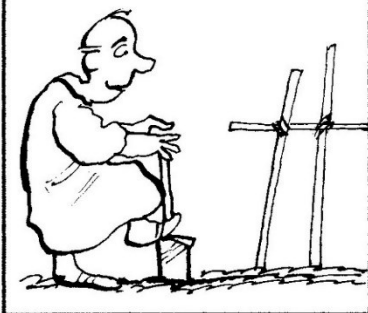
JESUS BEGAN, 'IF ONE OF YOU PLANS TO BUILD A TOWER....

...YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO WORK HOW MUCH IT WILL COST.



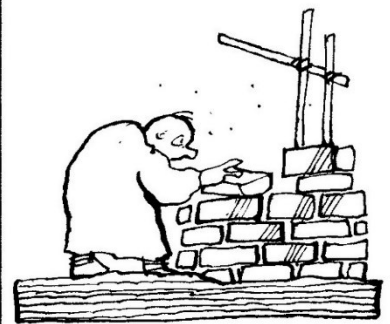
IF YOU DON'T DO THE SUMS....

...YOU MIGHT MAKE A START,

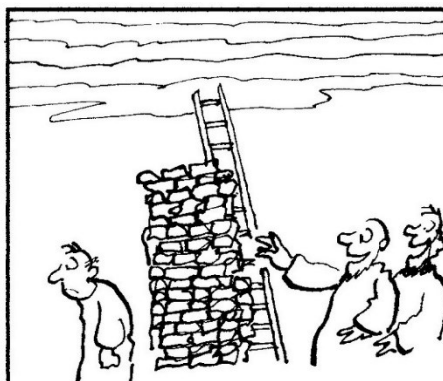
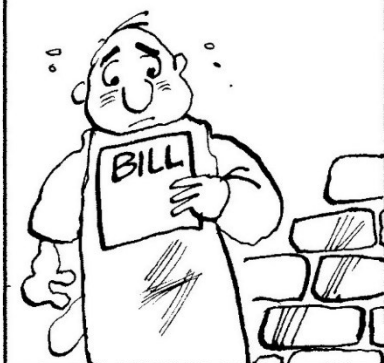


...WORK VERY HARD ON THE FOUNDATIONS.

...THEN START TO LAY THE BRICKS, ...



...BUT SUDDENLY RUN OUT OF MONEY!!



THEN PEOPLE WILL LAUGH AT YOU!

TOWER TO BE CANCELLED BUILT HERE

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Churches in our (new) deanery

This month's church is All Saint's in the City of Worcester - the benefice of Worcester, St Nicholas and All Saints with St Helen.



To unpack the Benefice name, St Nicholas was a splendid building standing at 'The Cross' in the heart of Worcester and the Georgian elegance of tower and building are definitely worth the visit even if only to wander inside to the 'Slug & Lettuce' restaurant/public house that it now is. The first reference (according to



'Churches of Worcestershire' Tim Bridges) was in 1256 when an anchoress, Juliana, had a cell attached to the church and was given permission to extend her courtyard over the street. I do remember visiting the church before it was closed in 1992 and the wealth of the Worcester citizens who built it was quite in evidence. Much has changed since then but of note is the interesting fact that the first Sunday School in Worcester was opened at St. Nicholas' in 1785.

There are a plethora of redundant churches in the centre of Worcester and of course several that are now long gone.

Continued on page 41



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Continued from page 39

One such building that has been recently brought back into use is St Helen's in Fish Street.

Probably the oldest remaining church in Worcester, its position within the Roman defensive wall and its dedication to Helen, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, places its founding at about the 4th or 5th century.



So, the remaining church of the Benefice and the one that we all associate with this parish is the one in the photo at the head of this article. I was able to gain entry and was warmly greeted by Mark the buildings manager who discussed the changes made to the inside of this Georgian rebuild of a medieval church. The medieval church was badly damaged during the civil war and so was rebuilt.

The church though was built in an imposing position on the rising ground and now is placed on the very modern Deansway and the 18th Century, Broad Street. Prior to that the church would have abutted black and white Tudor style buildings and a veritable rabbit warren of slums, fisherman huts and wharves.

The interior of this church also enjoyed the attentions of Sir George Aston Webb in 1888. There is an unusual 17th century chained bible, an 18th century sword rest which would once have been attached to the mayor's pew, and the east window glass (1891) shows the Last Judgement. The end aisle windows have collected fragments of 15th century glass.



The pews have gone with over 300 chairs available. A tablet over the south doorway erected between 1758 & 1794 to record the grant of money from Queen Anne's bounty, established to aid poorly endowed churches is particularly apt as this church is now one of our 'resourcing churches' in the Diocese.

Paul Fulbrook

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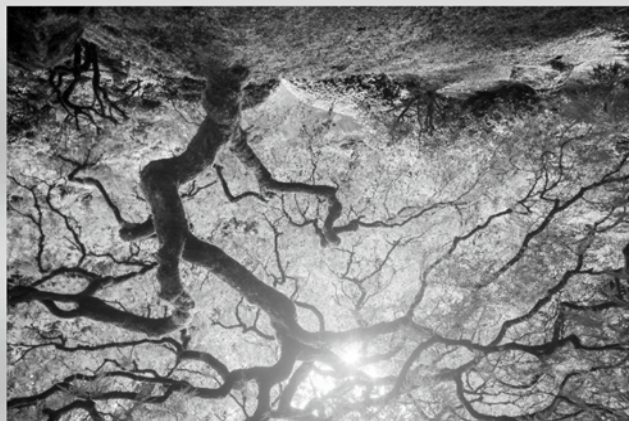
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- Saturday: 9am - 4.00pm

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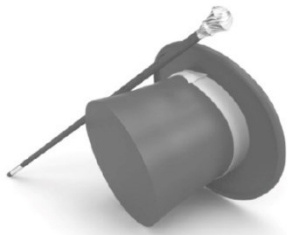
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From the magazine archive (November 1949)

BLACKPOOL EXCURSION "BIRD" COMPETITION

THE prize for this competition was won by Mr. H. G. Edwards, 24 Great House Road, who sent in 26 correct answers. Congratulations, Mr. Edwards!

I wish to pay a very special tribute to Mr. Archie Smith who undertook entire responsibility for the competition.

On the outward journey to Blackpool, Mr. Smith and the Stewards, under his direction, sold 288 entry forms! How very hard they must have worked, selling forms, giving change (including jokes) and no doubt obliging with pencils too. The work did not end there, for on the return journey the same band of willing—and by now very tired—Stewards collected forms from the competitors.

For all this kindly help I wish to express my very sincere thanks to Mr. A. Smith, Mrs. V. Smith, Mr. P. Owen, Mrs. Owen, Mr. Wells, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Birbeck, Mrs. Daniels, Mrs. Stockley, Mrs. Jackson, Sister Caunt, Mr. Gammon. Also to the 288 contributors.

Mr. Smith—who was in the Church Choir as usual at 11 a.m. on Sunday morning—was able at 2.30 p.m. to return to me the completed entry forms, the unsold forms and the proceeds of the sale, all balanced up in correct order.

Good work, Mr. Smith! Well done!

This enabled me to arrange for the judging to take place on the following Monday evening by Sister Caunt, Mr. Jeffreys and Mr. Neal.

To everyone my grateful thanks, not forgetting Mr. and Mrs. Laffin, who again very kindly typed the entry forms.

The good work put in by Mr. A. Smith and the above mentioned, and Sister Caunt who suggested the competition, resulted in a contribution to the Choir Vestment Fund of £5 13s.

S. COLEY.

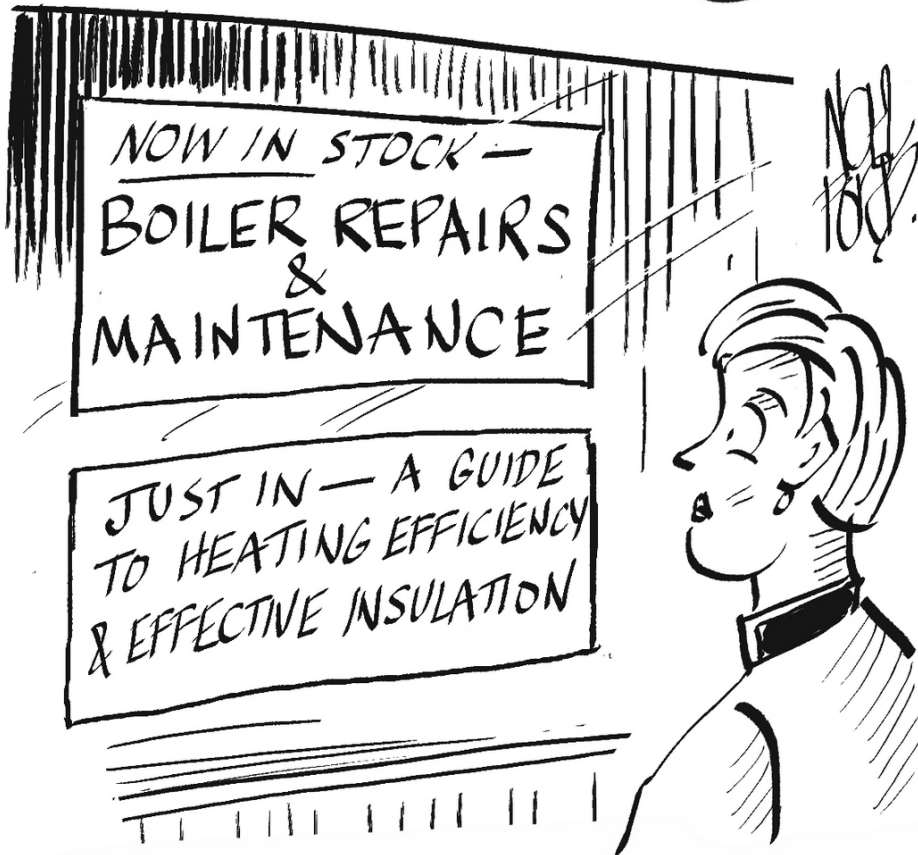
Puzzle solutions

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

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

And finally....

Bookstore



With the advent of winter, the Vicar's thoughts turned to the urgent study of arcane and esoteric texts.



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team - November 2021

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
7th November	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
14th November	9.55am Remembrance Service	10.30am Remembrance Service	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
21st November	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
28th November	10.30am Eucharist 5pm Advent Carol Service	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
5th December	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

The information above is correct at the time of going to press but may have to be altered in accordance with lockdown regulations and Government and Church of England guidance. Please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.