

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



November 2023

50p

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.

Know that the Lord is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Information

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

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

Pastoral Minister: The Reverend STEPHEN BUCKLEY (07746 206905)

TEAM OFFICE

You can contact the office by email, post or telephone.		Please visit the office by appointment only.
Postal address: 1a Bromyard Road St John's, WR2 5BS	Tel: (01905) 420490 e-mail: office@wcv.church	

ON THE WEB

St John's	Parish Website: 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, contact the Joint Council Safeguarding Officer, Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: stjohs.churchwardens@wcv.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) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email stephenbuckley554@gmail.com). 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). On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	St Michael's

A word from the editors

Welcome to our November edition! The theme this month is “Join the song.” The theme is reflected on the cover, in Sarah’s letter, and in many items throughout this edition. We hope that you will enjoy finding them all.

In her letter, Sarah explores how we can reflect this theme in the way we live our lives, as well as with our voices.

We’re sad at the leaving of our Parish Administrator for the last ten years, Liz Edwards; but we are delighted to welcome her replacement, Sam Davis (see page 11). We are sure you will be gentle with Sam as she gets up to speed.

In addition to all the regular events, we’ve got a table top sale on Saturday 18th November and a Community Breakfast on Saturday 2nd December. Please, take a good look at our events diary on page 7.

As we have included news of a new carol for Christmas (page 13), we leave you with these words from Psalm 33:

*Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.
Sing to him a new song;
play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

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Subscription form: Page 46.

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The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

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

Opinions!

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

To advertise

Please see page 18.

From Sarah Cottrill

“Join the Song” might sound like an invitation to a karaoke night, but it’s actually the theme for this month’s edition of the magazine and comes from the Church of England Christmas theme (Follow the star. Join the song).

As Christians we have a great deal to sing about and many of the psalms, together with popular hymns, encourage us to do just this. At this time of year, in particular, as we turn our thoughts

increasingly towards Christmas, we will be anticipating carol services in various forms – some overtly Christian, others less so – and most of us, choristers or not, will be looking forward to a good sing along!

It isn’t just Christmas that inspires us to sing though. If that was the total of sum of Christianity, it wouldn’t be much of a faith! My favourite Eucharistic Prayer, (Eucharistic Prayer G) includes the phrase “From the beginning you have created all things, and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.” All creation sings God’s praise and we are invited to join in that song of praise; to thank God not just when everything is going well for us but at all times. If we’re struggling to count our blessings because we’re overwhelmed with problems and difficulties, we might still be able to voice praise for all that God is, rather than what he has done; to praise him for the beauty of his creation, for his power and might. In his book “Draw Near To God” Mark Stibbe suggests simply reciting the different names for God (or Jesus) or listing words that describe his character [1].

So, we join with all creation in singing God’s praise. We sing with particular gusto at key seasons of the year – Harvest, Christmas and Easter are particular examples. We sing at all the major events of our lives – birthdays, weddings and funerals – and at more random times when we want to express ourselves in a particular way. On most of these occasions – even funerals – we expect the music to be in some way beautiful and uplifting. But what happens when this isn’t the case? Sometimes music and song can jar and strike a wrong note.

At Clergy Conference in September, one excellent talk was given by Jeremy Begbie who is an extremely accomplished musician. During his talk Jeremy explained about musical “passing notes” which, according to the rules of music,



don't go with the harmonies at all but, as they are played without emphasis, "passing through" a phrase to reach a note which does harmonise, they don't jar, but are pleasing and ornamental. Jeremy likened these passing notes to the mistakes we all make in our lives and their place in God's plans. We all make mistakes. We all sound notes which jar with the lives of others or in our own ears. But God can take even the worst and most discordant of those mistakes and turn them into his passing notes which lead, seemingly effortlessly, on to something which is both harmonious and beautiful. The trick is not to dwell on those passing notes, giving them undue emphasis; they are touched on lightly, a stepping stone to the perfect harmony. The same applies to our mistakes; we don't dwell on them but, having acknowledged them before God, move on to better things, trusting him to put them to good use for ourselves and for others. God, I believe, never causes something bad to happen so that good will come out of it, but he can and does use bad things, turning them round to bring about good.

At the beginning of this letter I referred to the Church of England Christmas theme 'Follow the star. Join the song.' We are all familiar with the image of the three kings following the star as it led them towards Bethlehem and the infant Jesus. We know, as the magi only suspected, that, bright as that star was, it was taking them to an even brighter and more enduring light; to Jesus, the Light of the world. He came, he said, 'that we might have life, and have it abundantly' [John 10.10b]. So now, as we approach Advent and, with it, all the busyness of preparing for Christmas, let's pause to reflect on the nature of that light; pledge ourselves to follow not just the star but the one to whom it leads, and to lift our voices, not in "the silent music" but in full and joyful song to his praise and glory.

Sarah Cottrill

[1] Draw Near To God Mark Stibbe 2005

Sundays and Principal Feasts in November

Wednesday 1st November: All Saints' Day

Sunday 5th November: Fourth Sunday before Advent

Sunday 12th November: Remembrance Sunday (Third before Advent)

Sunday 19th November: Second Sunday before Advent

Sunday 26th November: Christ the King (Sunday next before Advent)

Thursday 30th November: Andrew the Apostle

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
Margaret Dance	14 November 1996
Herbert Willian (Bill) Bosley	17 November 1998
Harold Ricketts	19 November 1996
Jeremy Edward Glyn Cole	22 November 2020

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

Inclusion only needs to be requested once; entries are then included until the fortieth anniversary.

An extension may be requested by family or friends of those named.

From the Registers, September 2023

St John's

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

- 10th September 2023 Kyle Withers
- 10th September 2023 Ellie-Mae Scarratt
- 10th September 2023 Mia-Raven Scarratt
- 19th September 2023 Lule Lesley Derguti

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

No Weddings

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

- d. 11th August 2023 Elizabeth Ann Wilks
- d. 23rd August 2023 Patricia Dorothy Mary Hough
- d. 30th August 2023 Barrie Charles Ryland

SERVICES:

Communicants 177. Total attendance at all services 359, including 73 at a two baptisms and a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES:

Communicants 65. Total attendance at all services 77.

Mid-week services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for November:

- Tuesday St John's 10am. (Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer)
- Thursday St Michael's 10.30am. (Eucharist - Common Worship)

Dates for your diary

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

- (J) Mondays in term time, 10am:** Little Lambs, see pages 8 and 15.
--- 000 ---
- (J) Wednesday 1st November, 7.30pm:** Genesis Course, final session, 'Reading Genesis in the 21st Century'. Tea and coffee from 7pm.
--- 000 ---
- (J) Saturday 5th November, 4pm:** Messy Church, see pages 9 and 24. Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.
--- 000 ---
- (J) Thursday 9th November, 1pm:** The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Kitchen Clutter", see page 8.
--- 000 ---
- (J) Saturday 11th November, 9am:** Women's Breakfast, see page 9.
--- 000 ---
- (J) Saturday 18th November, 10am:** Table top sale, see page 9.
--- 000 ---
- (M) Monday 20th November, 2.30pm:** Mothers' Union (see also page 31).
--- 000 ---
- (J) Wednesday 15th November, 2.45pm:** Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.
--- 000 ---
- (M) Thursday 16th November, 2pm - 4pm:** West Worcester Friendship Group.
--- 000 ---
- (V) Friday 24th November:** Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.
--- 000 ---
- (J) Saturday 25th November, 10.45am:** Café Church@10:45am, see page 8.
--- 000 ---
- (J) Saturday 2nd December, from 8.30am:** Community Breakfast - see below!

Coming soon!

There will be a Community Breakfast on Saturday 2nd December.

We will be open from 8.30am to 11am serving a full English breakfast, plus toast and marmalade, tea and coffee. Free but donations welcome.

Start the day with a hot home-cooked breakfast!

Jenny English

Events at St John's



Kitchen Clutter

St Johns Church The Good Old Days

Present

Discover History

Thursday 9th November
1pm

£4 including refreshments



Little Lambs



Mondays in Term Time at
St John's Church
10:00am to 11.30am

FREE!

Toys and Games, Art & Craft, Messy Play,
Snacks and Stories, Singing
Birth to 4 years old and carers

For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962

Come and join the fun!

St John in Bedwardine



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

At 10.45am on

Saturday 25th November

*Thought for the day by
Peter Platt*

ALL WELCOME

ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

Open for Tea/Coffee
and Cakes
£2.00



Wednesday 15th November
at 2.45pm in the Church

ALL WELCOME

Events at St John's



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on
Saturday 11th November
9.00am until 11.00am

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

This month's speaker will be

Jenny English



St John in Bedwardine

WE'RE HAVING A

TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER
10AM TO 12NOON

With Refreshments

Book a table for £10. Contact the Parish Office on
01905 420490 or email joy.job@btinternet.com

St John-in-Bedwardine



Our next Messy Church is on Saturday
5th November, 4pm.

Our theme will be 'Jesus the light of
the world.'

Please do come along – you'll be sure
of a warm welcome!

St John-in-Bedwardine



Future dates:

2nd December

6th January

3rd February

Welcome to a new advertiser (see also page 32)

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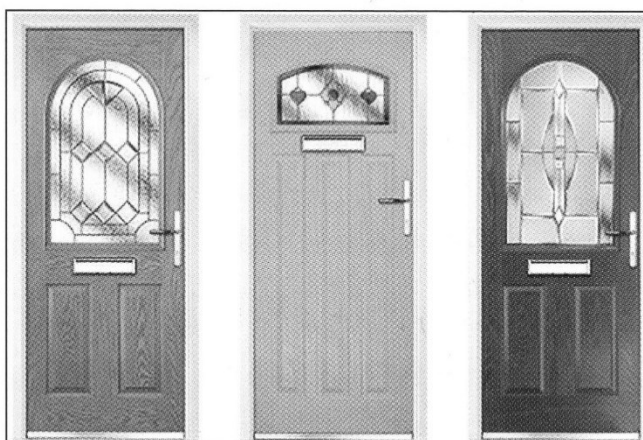
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Confirmation Service

We now have three candidates from St John's church going for Confirmation in November. Tom Fairman, Kern Tibbetts and Jasmine Tibbetts are all attending confirmation classes and are looking forward to being confirmed in the Cathedral at the end of November.

The service takes place at 6.30pm on Sunday, 26th November. Please hold all the candidates – and especially those from our church – in your prayers and support them on the night if you are able to do so.

Sarah Cottrill



Goodbye Liz

I would once again like to express my thanks to Liz for all her hard work over the last decade. She will, of course, be greatly missed here, but we wish her and the family all the very best as they move to Devon.

Phil Bradford

“Thank you”

Thank you to everyone that signed my leaving card and contributed to my present. You have all been incredibly generous – I am really chuffed, and will thoroughly enjoy finding something to spend it on – clothes or some homeware for my new house. Or a bit of both!



I have really enjoyed working at St John's for the last 10 years and feel quite emotional about leaving you all, but I am also excited about my new adventures ahead down in Devon. Everyone has always been so friendly and helpful, it made the job a pleasure (most of the time!)

No doubt I will be bumping into some of you, either down in Devon, or when I am up visiting family and friends in Worcester.

Take care everyone, and thank you once again.

Liz Edwards



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your way



New carol for Christmas

This Christmas, the Church of England is inviting choirs across churches, schools, and communities to ‘join the song’ alongside one of the country's leading choral composers.

The ‘song’ is a new interpretation of ‘The First Nowell.’ It has been given a brand-new melody by the well-known composer Bob Chilcott and is the centrepiece of this year’s Church of England Christmas focus: Follow The Star: Join The Song.



The C of E theme for 2023 highlights how singing can help draw people closer to God and one another, through the journey from Advent to Epiphany.

Bob Chilcott’s most often performed pieces include ‘Can you hear me?’ ‘A Little Jazz Mass,’ and the St John Passion. His music has been recorded by The King’s Singers, King’s College, Cambridge, The Sixteen, Tenebrae and The BBC Singers, among other choirs and groups.

“It's been an absolute thrill for me to be able to write new music for the well-known carol, ‘The First Nowell,’ and to be a part of the ‘Follow the Star’ campaign at Christmas 2023,” Bob said.

“I have aimed to make this melody easy to pick up and I hope all will enjoy singing it, at a time of year when the joy of singing is so central to worship and to the celebration of Christmas.”

The carol is published by Oxford University Press and features as part of OUP’s new edition of the favourite series, Carols for Choirs 6.

The C of E is offering a wide variety of free resources available for churches, schools, and choirs. Visit:

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/accounts/login/?next=/hub/asset/first-nowell-resources/>

(New users will need to set up a free account, which is a very quick process).

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Little Lambs

At Little Lambs we are having lots of fun and we have been pleased to see new faces this term so welcome and thank you everyone.

This month's magazine theme is "Join the Song" and at Little Lambs we love singing and making music. At the end of each session we join together in the Blakefield room whilst our lovely volunteers tidy the toys away and we make music together.



We have a box of instruments and the children choose what they would like to play. We sing 'Happy birthday' on request and then we sing various children's songs. Our favourites are many and varied including 'Baa, baa, black sheep' for which we change the colours and anything active such as 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow,' 'Wheels on the bus' and 'Jelly on a plate.'

During the last few weeks, at the end of our singing time we have started to include a Christian aspect to our singing time by saying our Little Lambs' prayer and singing "He's got the whole world in his hands." Both of these seem to be welcomed by our group as they all join in.

Continued on page 17

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Racheal Sharman and the Footnotes UK Team

HCPC registered

Continued from page 15

The Little Lambs' prayer goes like this:

*Dear God
We close our eyes and softly say
Thank you for all our friends today
Amen*



Huge thanks to our loyal and willing volunteers who enjoy themselves too.

We would welcome some more people to join our team so please contact me on 07845 942962 for more information if you would like to have fun with us on a Monday morning. Even if you could just come occasionally we would love to see you, please.

Tea, coffee, biscuits, chat and laughter are all provided and welcomed.

Thank you all and blessings,

Sue Fairman



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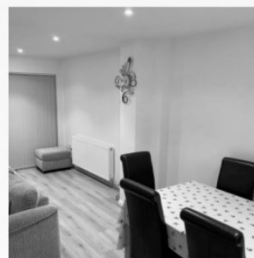
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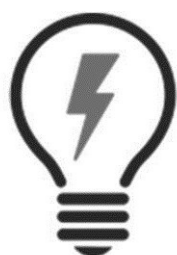
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The Parish Magazine is published A5 in size, in black and white.

There are eleven issues each year, July and August being a combined issue.

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

The booking can be from one month to one year.

If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell by telephone on 01684 893397 or by email at sue.hussell@talktalk.net

Fields and trees and sheep

Well, this is exciting! I am writing this update from my room at Queens. It's Saturday evening and we finished the last lecture a little early, so I am listening to the Rugby (Eng v Sam) before we meet up for chapel. There's so much going on at the moment. Term started a couple of weeks ago and on Wednesday evenings we have our module on Christian History and Doctrine. We've been learning about the major historical events that shaped the church, Emperor Constantine's victory in battle, the rise of cities and the development of the printing press for example and the different schools of thought on the interpretation of the Bible - the Alexandrian and Antiochene. We've been thinking about how the Bible as we have it today developed over time and the processes to decide what books made it into the canon and which did not.

Right - just back from chapel and dinner and I was able to watch the last 5 mins of the match with all the guys here - that's us readers in training, the methodist ministers in training and the Anglican ordinands - so there was much cheering...and relief.

The module we're covering over the three residential weekends is called Mission and Evangelism. I'll confess I was a bit apprehensive as I'd always understood evangelism to be standing on street corners telling people to repent and turn to God or face an eternity of fiery damnation! Well, it turns out that there is rather

more to it than that and we've had the most amazing day learning about Missio Dei (the sending out of God) and the first three marks of mission (the final two are for tomorrow). Our course tutor is so engaging and a bit of a comedian and each session starts with a humorous clip. We've had clips from Gavin and Stacey, Tracey Ullman, Rev, Rowan Atkinson and of course the Life of Brian!

Alongside the new term starting, I have begun my placement in Teme Valley South. So far I have been to a leadership team meeting and the harvest service at Stanford. On the left is a picture of a lovely window in that church and on the next page are a couple of views from the car park.

Continued on page 21





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Sudoku Puzzle

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*The solution
 is on the
 inside back
 cover.*

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



What I loved was turning around, just before the service began and looking out onto fields and trees and sheep! I'm not there this weekend (as I'm here at Queens), but next weekend I'll be leading the harvest festival service at one of the other churches - Eastham. One of the things that struck me was the very direct connection the church has with the land there - for example, they prayed for specific farms and the crops that they grow on it which I loved. I'm also looking forward to walking church and getting the lowdown on some great walks around that area, though hopefully with no stiles as our darling doggo is a bit of a princess and won't



jump over or crawl underneath. More next month when I will be prepping for the first of this year's assignments and I'll be back to stressing out again 😊.

Rob Little

Green flower ladies!

Our Harvest Festival was celebrated on 1st October. Thank you for all your donations of fresh produce and groceries. The fresh produce was sold off during coffee and raised £55 for Maggs. The tinned and dried products were taken to the Food Bank.



The flower ladies hope that you all liked the harvest flowers and decorations this year.

We are pleased to report that we have now fully transitioned to a more environmentally friendly method of arranging the flowers in which wire and pebbles are used rather than floral foam.



As always, we appreciate your donations towards the cost of the flowers. We do try to use greenery and some flowers from our gardens. In addition we are working with Colin and his gardening team to glean material from the church garden especially in the future once the new plants and shrubs have matured.

Joy Job



Jesus said, "I am the true vine"

When asked what grows on vines, we went through some suggested options and the children got to the right answer – “grapes.” When asked what we could produce from grapes, a few of the adults’ hands went up very quickly with the answer! We had a lovely turn out to October's Messy Church, with friends from both our Sunday congregation and Little Lambs, alongside new faces. Thank you to everybody who came along and a massive thank you to all who volunteered, helping out with preparation, set up, activities and tidy up. A special shout out to our mini helpers Freya-Grace and Brinley!



Decorating the big banner 'Jesus says 'I am the true vine.'

The theme for October was Jesus is the True Vine, based on the Bible passage John:15, 1-11. Following the Messy Church values, our Creativity activities included decorating grape vines onto biscuits with icing and strawberry laces, making bookmarks and creating friendship bracelets. It wouldn't be 'messy' church without some mess, and this month provided the chance to 'tread Grapes' (sponges in a bowl with purple paint), creating the grapes on a vine with our feet!



We also enjoyed apple bobbing and potato printing, reminding us of the English harvest produce that God gives to us. Considering the many end products from these base items (crisps, chips, apple pie, chutney) leads us to consider how we will all grow and be fruitful to God in different ways.



If you are in St John's church over the next month, do pop over to the Children's Corner and have a look at our colourful collage, which everyone contributed to.

Our short worship session, celebrating God, Jesus and this month's message was led by Phil. While considering how God wants us to grow and stay close to Jesus, we offered prayers to those who we thought might need extra help from God at the moment, writing them on leaves and adding them to our feet grape vines. These are currently on one of the pillars in St John's, so do please have a look at them! We concluded with a hymn 'You shall go out with joy' led by Liz.



With Messy Church's value of Hospitality, our shared meal was yummy sausages, mashed potato and beans, followed by cake and custard! Thank you so much to Darren and Sarah for running the kitchen for us.

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 4th November with the theme Jesus, the light of the world, and will then be on the

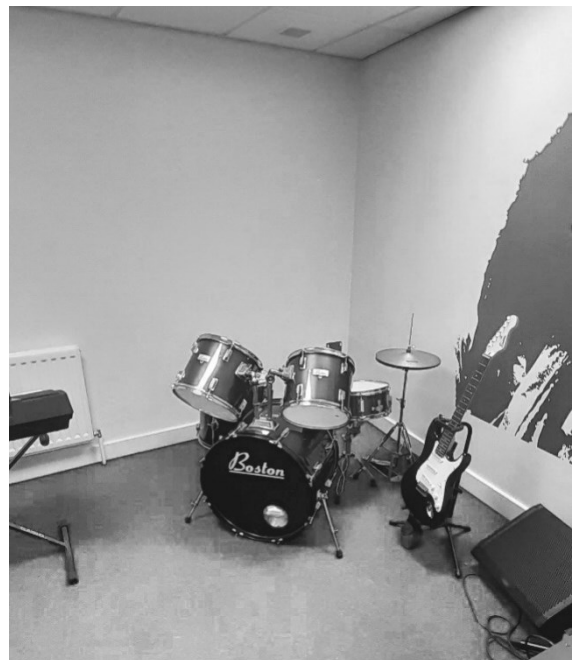
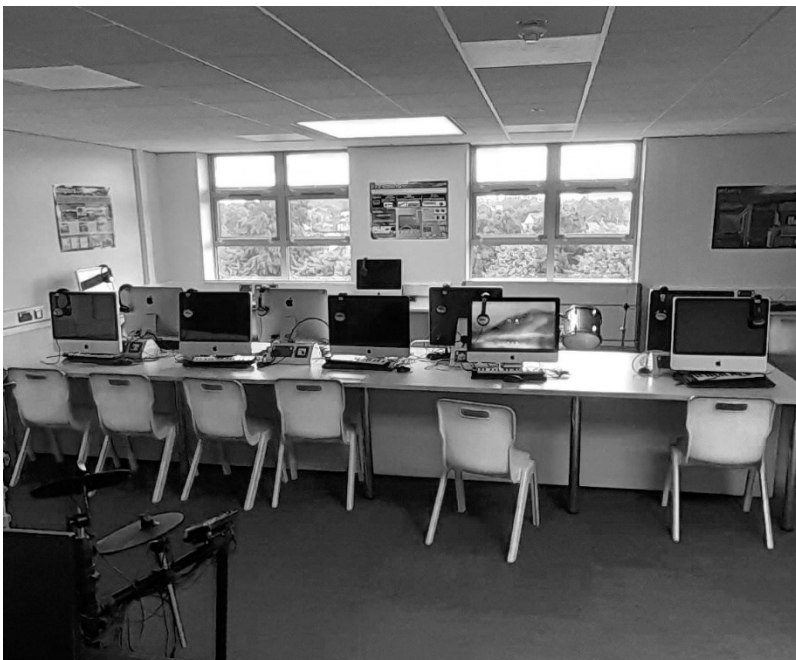
following dates: 2nd December, 6th January and 3rd February. Please do come along – you'll be sure of a warm welcome!

Beth Broadway

‘If music be the food of love, play on’

“If music be the food of love, play on” – so says the opening line of Shakespeare’s ‘Twelfth Night.’ At Christopher Whitehead, at times, only the love and dedication of the music staff has enabled the talented musicians to continue as we limped from one inadequate portacabin to the next. The recent education secretary Gillian Keegan’s view that ‘some children prefer learning in a portacabin to the real classroom’ is not an experience that I would agree to.

Therefore, it was with absolute relief and with much delight that we were able to open our new £3 million performing arts building with dance studio, film rooms and a suite of music rooms and recording studios. The exuberant response from our students shows that music has a valued necessary place in our curriculum and joyful music is played from opening to closing. Currently, we have six professional spaces that can and are being booked by the community (for bookings please contact Di Howland at d.howland@cwlc.email)



We are undertaking rigorous rehearsals for our collaborative Mass in Blue project. Mass in Blue is a breath-taking fusion of classical choral music with the vibrant and electrifying sounds of jazz. Composed by Will Todd, this unique and dynamic piece will sweep you off your feet with its rhythmic energy and expressive vocal arrangements. We as a school will be working with other local secondary schools to develop this project for performance at Worcester Cathedral in April 2024. There are weekly school rehearsals and other joint school rehearsals taking place at the RGS. Students from Y8 upwards can be involved and will have the benefit of taking part in the rehearsal and performance of this great work.



Instrumental lessons at CWLC

We offer the following musical tuition to all year groups:

- Guitar/bass
- Woodwind
- Brass
- Drums
- Singing

The lessons are taught on specific days during school hours.

CWLC Music Clubs

We offer the following music clubs to all year groups at CWLC:

- CWLC Orchestra
- CWLC Choir
- CWLC Guitar Club
- Student Rehearsal time

We are readying ourselves for the annual Community Carol Service in St John in Bedwardine Church. There is always a lovely sense of community and joy with music and enthusiastic carol singers being the binding core. We are now in a place where music is bringing much joy and love and will certainly play on.

*Neil Morris
Headteacher, CWLC*



Prayers For Ukraine

Lord Jesus, we draw together with all people who pray either alone or with others. Lord, we all live under the dome of the sky and on bright clear nights the moon and stars are a light of hope that beams into our homes and the homes in Ukraine. You Lord flung stars into space and set them on their course, to be our night light, to draw us together to worship you; to offer our prayers for each other.

Lord Jesus Christ, be our light as we offer our prayers today.

Lord Jesus, we pray that our prayers will give strength and hope to all who are involved in the struggle for freedom. May your light help them survive the fear, that is ever present. The mental struggle and grief for those fighting. For the loss of life and families broken. For the families separated. For wives and children and refugees, the disabled, the elderly and sick. Lord let your presence be a light into all these dark places giving strength and hope to all.

Lord Jesus Christ be a light for all.

Lord Jesus, we pray for all nations in the Western World to honour their pledges of finance and military support for Ukraine. That all leaders see the need to support their neighbour and help in whatever way is needed. We pray for a spirit of generosity, to share with others who are suffering conflict and hardship as they fight for democracy.

Lord Jesus Christ be a light for all.

Lord Jesus, we hold before you all the fourteen nations that share borders with Russia. Where people are living alongside each other in harmony but where leaders are needing to protect their borders from a possible aggressor. May your light Lord give wisdom and hope to all.

Lord Jesus Christ be a light for all.

As we begin the Kingdom season this November, we remember your life among the people of Judea. Where your ministry was in the midst of hunger and famine and Roman rule. Lord Jesus, we ask today and each day, for you to be in the midst of the people of Ukraine and all those serving each other, trying to bring peace and hope.

Our prayer is for peace in our time for all men, women and children.

Lord Jesus Christ may our prayers be offered as a light into the dark places. As we too look into the night skies, the dome of the sky that covers us all. May we remember in our prayer time, that we all have a part to play in the care and love we show to others and even those we don't yet know.

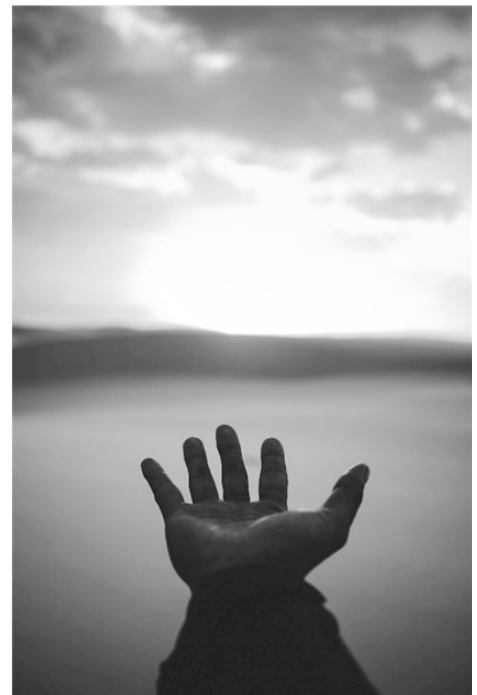
Lord Jesus Christ be a light for all.



Amen

Jenny English

Hand photos by Billy Pasco on Unsplash

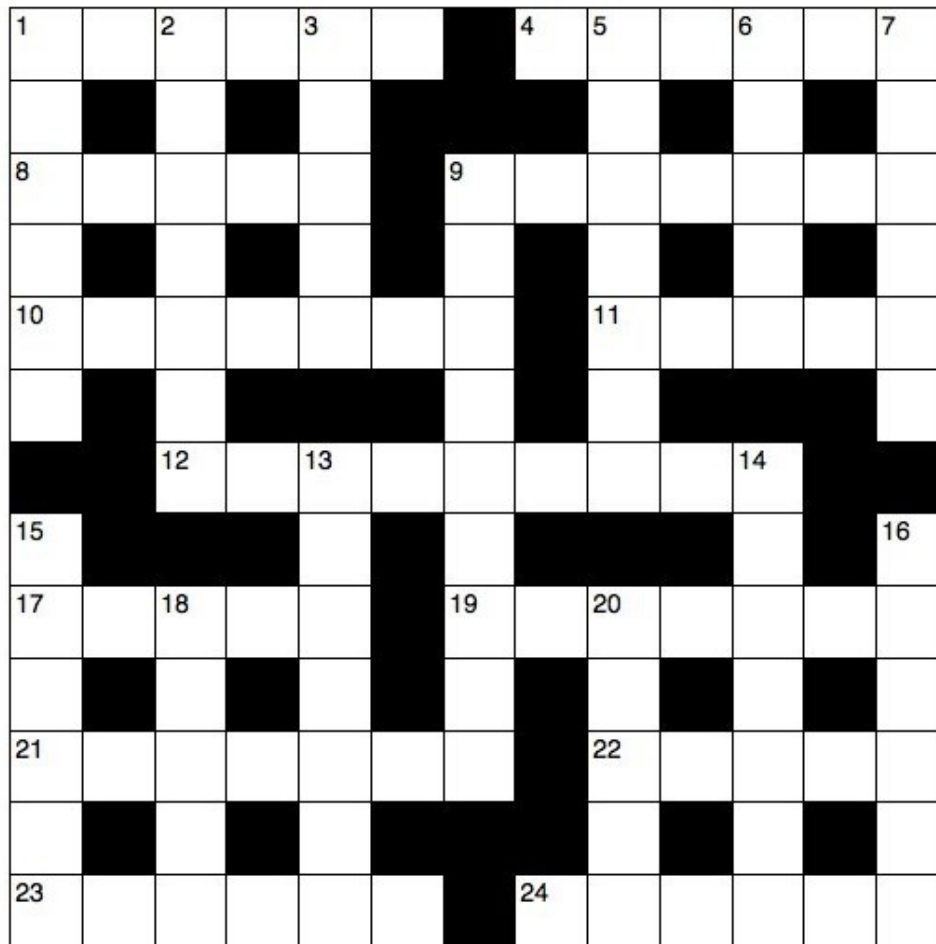


Before you ask!

Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland (both with the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad Oblast), Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, and North Korea are the 14 countries which border Russia.

Crossword

The solution is on the inside back cover.



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 evangelizing 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)
- 24 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 and 16 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)
- 13 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)

Mothers’ Union News.

During this year’s “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence” which is from November 25th until December 10th, MU Worcester Diocese is creating an exhibition in Worcester Cathedral entitled “Souls of our Shoes.” The purpose is to raise awareness of domestic abuse. A variety of worn shoes will be displayed each with comments. The purpose is that they speak on behalf of domestic abuse survivors who have managed to walk away from abuse. It will be very thought provoking.

Some MU branches will be putting on smaller displays in their churches and St. Michael's will be taking part.

Jenny Claydon

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If you go down to the woods today

Well, ok, it was the churchyard, not the woods! Nonetheless, a small group of teddies and their owners enjoyed a pleasant afternoon when they gathered in St Clement's church on September 16th.



All the children present had been baptised at St Clements Church in the last nine years and we had a short service to celebrate this and give parents the chance to renew the promises made at those services. We then took our picnics and our teddies down to the churchyard where we enjoyed our picnics, some games and for some, a water fight!

The rain kept off for us until the very end when we all had to dash to our cars! Everybody agreed it had been a lovely afternoon and plans are afoot to repeat it next year.

Sarah Cottrill

Not at St Clement's!

A priest encounters two hungry bears in the woods and runs for his life. He trips over and the bears close in for their lunch. The priest prays "O God, please make these bears into good Christians!" His prayer is answered!

One bear puts its paws together and says "For what we are about to receive..."

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More about the Isaac family

Last month my article on the Isaac family recounted the decease of Elias in 1841, with his son John Whitmore Isaac following on as banker and owner of Boughton House. John W had married Charlotte Holland in 1833 (related to the Wedgewood family). This family was covered earlier in the year. John W died in 1884 and his eldest son John Swinton Isaac carried on the Boughton story.

John Whitmore Isaac = Charlotte Holland

|
John Swinton Isaac = [1] Elizabeth Ann
2 Daughters

= [2] Amelia Alice Ann Crofton
6 children including
Arthur Whitmore
John Edmund Valentine
Herbert
Amy Violet

John S married Elizabeth Ann Isaac in 1866 at Croome D'Abitot and had 2 daughters before Elizabeth died in 1870, age 24, at Torquay. The family had been living at Court House, Powick but after Elizabeth died the family moved in with John's parents at Boughton. In 1872 John married Amelia Alice Ann Crofton who came from a military family. There are records of the Crofton family and there exists a letter from Amelia to her aunt Posy. John and Amelia moved back to Powick where they had their 6 children.



John Swinton Isaac

John S died in 1888 and was buried in St John's churchyard. On the 1891 census his widow, Amelia, is at Boughton House with the family which notes son Arthur (student at Harrow), son Herbert (student at Oriel College, Oxford).

The dedication in the stained glass window in the Lady Chapel at St John's reads:

To the glory of God & in loving memory of John Swinton Isaac
This window is erected by his widow and children 1888.

Continued on page 37

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Continued from page 35

Herbert (son of John S and Amelia) died in 1896, age 21, in the Red Sea on board S.S. Sumatra sailing from Colombo on his way home as the medical board in Colombo had granted him 1 year leave. He died of T.B. He had been made 2nd Lt in 1893 with the West Yorkshire Regiment and stationed in Gibraltar in 1895. His mother's letter to aunt Posy mentioned that she had heard from Herbert in Gibraltar.



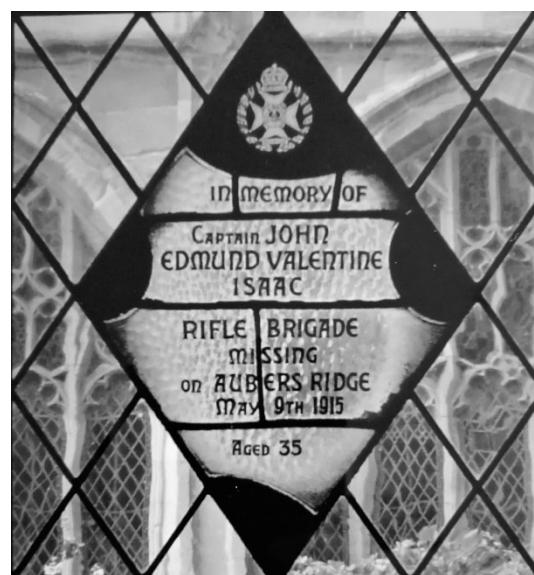
***John Edmund
Valentine Isaac***

John Valentine Isaac (the third son of John S and Amelia) was educated at Harrow. In 1907 and 1908 he made 5 appearances for Worcestershire County Cricket Club and also played for the South African Army team.

He began his military service in the Boer War where he was severely wounded. He was gazetted into the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers on 9th May 1900 and joined the Regiment in South Africa in July 1900. He was wounded at Nooitgedacht and was given 2 years sick leave. He was made Captain 1st April 1905 and gazetted to the Rifle Brigade in 1908 and served in Malta and Egypt. In the autumn of 1911, he sent in his papers and went to Vancouver, British Columbia. With rumours of war, he returned to England and

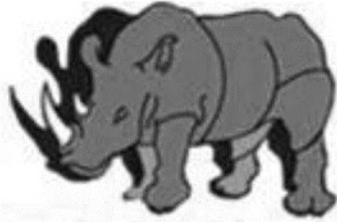
joined the reserved officers. He was sent to Flanders in October 1914. In the first battle of Ypres, he badly wounded his left arm and was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the D.S.O.

He returned to the front after 6 weeks despite his arm being useless and was killed on 5th May 1915 at Fromelles during the northern attack of the Battle of Auber's Ridge. He was initially posted as missing and his body was recovered in April 1921 and identified by his medals. He was reburied at New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ypres, West Belgium. The report of his "missing presumed dead" in the Athletic News states he was a member of the well-known Worcester cricketing family.



***In Worcester Cathedral
cloisters***

Continued on page 39



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Continued from page 37

Amy Violet Isaac, daughter of John S and Amelia, married Ernest Charles Forbes Wodehouse on 18th April 1906 at St John's church. He came from a military family and was with the 1st Battalion Worcester Regiment. On the 1911 census he was with the 2nd Battalion Worcester Regiment in Jhansi, India. In 1913 he sailed with 1st Battalion to Egypt as 2nd in command.

At the start of the Great War he returned to England and joined the 1st Battalion along with 24th Brigade and sailed for France. He became temporary commander in Dec. 1914 as Lt Col and was killed 12th March 1915 at Neuve Chappelle.

He led the advance, storming buildings in the front line and attempted to hold the line. No support came, the Germans were on 3 sides and the British were also shelling the buildings so he withdrew the troops and was killed. He was awarded the D.S.O.



In Worcester Cathedral cloisters



On the 1921 census his wife Amy was in Kensington, London, with her brother Francis who was an insurance underwriter at Lloyds (they had taken over Worcester Old Bank).

On the 1939 register Amy was aged 77 and at Chalfont St Giles, Amersham in a lunatic asylum and died in 1943.

Plaques in the south aisle of St John's church commemorate Amelia (1849-1925), husband John S, daughter-in-law Lucy (1868-1954), sons 2nd Lt Arthur W, Cpt John Valentine, 2nd Lt Herbert Crompton and son-in-law Lt Coln. Ernest Charles Forbes Wodehouse; these last four died whilst in military service.

Continued on page 41

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Arthur Whitmore Isaac = Lucy Vernon
|
John William Vernon

Although Arthur Whitmore was the eldest son of John S and Amelia, I have left him to last as he does take us one generation further (via another John). He was educated at Oriel college, Oxford. He became a partner in the Berwick, Lechmere bank in 1889. He was the last member of the lineage to take over Boughton. He married Lucy Vernon on 15th Feb. 1899 at St Mary's, Shrawley and Rev. E. W. Isaac (uncle of John S Isaac) officiated.



A W Isaac

The 1901 census shows Boughton with widow Amelia, son Arthur (banker), daughter Amy, son Francis S (Oxford undergraduate), Amelia's mother Francis M Crofton and grandson Herbert W (age 1, born Hallow).

In the 1911 census Arthur and Lucy are the owners of Boughton. Arthur is recorded as banker for Capitol and Worcester bank (amalgamated 1906) and they have a son John William Vernon Isaac age 8 months (he died 1956 Worcester). We know from this magazine archive of 1915 reproduced in last month's issue that Lucy was secretary to the Needlework Guild.

Needlework Guild. Secretary, Mrs. Arthur Isaac, Upper Wick.

Arthur W was Captain of St John's Cricket Club for many years, sidesman at St John's church and took great interest in the affairs of the church. He wrote a history of Worcester Old Bank. He died in action at Contalmaison July 7th 1916 age 42.

The Isaac family played an important role in the life of St John's, Worcester and beyond for over a hundred years. Their roles in city banking, city mayors and high sheriffs, treasurers to Guardians of the Hop Market were part of this. They produced several vicars, teachers and military men. By the time of the 1939 register the only member of the family I found in Worcester was Edith M, age 87, on College St. As for most families in Britain the Great War was a watershed moment which was then amplified by the 2nd World War. We shall remember them.

Margaret Miller



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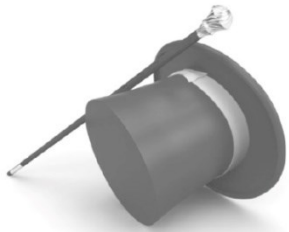
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Congregational Singing Practices.

(1) I have recently published a Congregational Communion Service of a simple kind. It will be sung for the first time in our Church at 11 a.m. on Sunday morning, November 16th, and will be used at the morning service each third Sunday of the month till we are well acquainted with it. I hope you will all like it. Our choir has taken very kindly to it. But I do want members of the congregation to join in as well as they are able. In order to help you to do so, I invite you to come to the Boys' School at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, November 4th, and again at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11th, when you and I together can try to learn to sing it. Please turn up in large numbers.

(2) In view of the special hymns to be sung at our Day School Festival, I propose to have short congregational singing practices after Evensong on Sundays, November 9th and 16th.

Day School Festival.

Our sixth annual festival takes place on Sunday, November 23rd (the fourth Sunday in November). The arrangements will follow the usual course, but our musical efforts will be of a rather more ambitious character than last year. In the morning the younger girls will sing "God make my life a little light," and the elder girls will sing Kingsley's "A Farewell (Be good, sweet maid)." In the evening the elder boys and girls will combine in rendering the two-part anthem, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace," specially composed for school and college festivals. The subject of the morning sermon is "Sister Dora of Walsall," and of the evening sermon "Faint, yet pursuing."

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3. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity.
4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.



Puzzle solutions

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

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L	I	S	T	E	N			H	Y	S	S	O	P

And finally....

How many basses does it take to change a light bulb up in the church roof?
None, because they can never get that high.

--- 000 ---

How many choir masters does it take to change a light bulb?
No one knows. No one ever watches the choir master.

--- 000 ---

A pony goes into a bar, and the bar tender asks him "why the long face?"
"I didn't make it into the choir."
"Well, you are a little horse."

--- 000 ---

What kind of music does your knee sing?
A-patella.

--- 000 ---

Why are soprano jokes all one liners?
So the tenors can understand them.



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – November 2023

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
5th November	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm All Souls' service	9.30am Morning Prayer 7.30pm All Souls' service	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
12th November	9.55am Remembrance Service	9.30am Remembrance Service	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Remembrance Sunday Eucharist
19th November	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
26th November	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
3rd December	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Advent Carols	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
The information above is correct at the time of going to press but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.				