



*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

October 2020

50p



Thou visitest the earth and blessest it.
Thou crownest the year with thy goodness.

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

WEST WORCESTER CLERGY
clergy@wcv.church

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Day off

Friday

Monday

CHURCHWARDENS
stjohns.churchwardens@wcv.church

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

SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

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

OTHER INFORMATION

PASTORAL CARE: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email sylviarender@talktalk.net).

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

PARISH OFFICE

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

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

Tel: (01905) 420490
e-mail: office@wcv.church

ST JOHN'S CHURCH ON THE WEB

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



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

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our October magazine. We're thinking about harvest this month, reminding ourselves of all the good things that the Earth gives us (as a counter to all the negativity of Covid-19).

As a further counter to negativity, we've also included some extra puzzles (see pages 15, 17 and 24/25) and some extra smile items (see pages 26 and 27).

Of course, harvest should remind us of how fortunate we are, and of our duty to 'love our neighbour' by sharing what we have received. The article on page 19 shows an example of this, while the items from Maggs (page 8) and Peru (pages 7 and 20) might give you thoughts for what you could do.

*Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law:
grant that we may love you with our whole heart
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next edition (November): Deadline is Sunday 11th October. Distribution, towards the end of October, dependent on circumstances at the time.

Subscription form: Page 46.

Cover picture: Fruit of the allotment, photographed by Colin Nash (see also page 24).

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those whose photographs are included in this magazine including Wendy Dedicott, Graham Evans, Philip Evans, Penny Marcés, Arthur Miller, Colin Nash and Worcester Cathedral.

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

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August (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 PCC 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

The mercury was nudging 50 degrees centigrade, or would have been had mercury thermometers still been allowed. My sister had refused point blank to leave the air-conditioned car again, having almost melted at the last stop.

I was made of sterner stuff. Well, more stubborn stuff, anyway. We had come to Joshua Tree National Park and I was going to do the mile-long trail even if I died of heat exhaustion and dehydration, which was a serious possibility at my normal pace. Within a few minutes, I was losing approximately a gallon of sweat per minute and realised that I was completely alone in the middle of this desert.

Pausing, I looked around.

This was one of the least hospitable places on earth. Death Valley, the hottest place on the planet, was not far away. Yet as I stopped to survey my surroundings, alone in this place where no sane human being was daring to tread on an August afternoon, I realised how teeming with life even so unwelcoming an environment was. The number of creatures, from snakes to unidentifiable scurrying little things, adapted to exist among the cacti and other tenacious shrubs was truly amazing. By the end of my walk, appreciative as I was of this fact, I was also acutely aware that people were not among those creatures.

There are many places on earth that from the air look desolate, wild, incapable of hosting any living thing. Yet down on the ground, almost everywhere provides the means of survival for something. From the ice of the poles to the sand of the Sahara, even amidst volcanic lava, there is movement and life. It is something which (as far as we know) makes this planet unique, certainly in this solar system. The circumstances which, over millions of years, have brought us to this point are in themselves a marvel.

Too often, though, we are blind to the kaleidoscope of beauty around us. In a world where we want to control everything and often think we can, people do not relate to the environment and its limitations, do not respect its boundaries and variations. We want strawberries all year, so strawberries must be grown in manifestly unsuitable environments to satisfy that desire. Is it any wonder that flooding is becoming worse when we recklessly disregard flood plains in our relentless building mania?



With heating in winter and air conditioning in summer, we can wilfully ignore the seasons themselves. Ironically, life can flourish in the most inhospitable of environments against the most challenging natural conditions, but it is being destroyed by a humanity eager to see the earth as a resource to be plundered for profit rather than a gift to be nurtured.

It is worth us dwelling on that as we contemplate harvest.

If there is one image which is 2020's testament to human selfishness, it is the countless disposable face masks which litter the roads and the countryside. Self-absorbed in mass panic, humanity has cast aside any thought for the planet and its needs.

Yet in the midst of the most miserable year of my lifetime, we have been presented with an opportunity to value what it is we have.

Many of us have seen the world around us teeming with life, as we have been forced to pause and to take note of the wildlife we are often too busy to realise is there. In the supermarket shortages earlier in the year, we confronted the fact that resources are finite.

Perhaps, if anything positive is to emerge from this nightmare year, it is that we will start to appreciate the beauty of the earth and value the bounty it gives us. Christians are called to be wise stewards of creation, something we need both to reflect and to act upon if we are to leave God's gift to future generations.

Phil Bradford

Harvest Collect

Eternal God,
you crown the year with your goodness
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season:
grant that we may use them to your glory,
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,

Collect for the last Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God,
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,
that trusting in your word
and obeying your will
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Memoriam October

John Bertram Smith	1st October 1990
Jack Render MBE	2nd October 1991
June Edith Clayton	6th October 2011
Albert J Cake	8th October 1993
Juliana Maud Godwin	12th October 2010
Neil Kenneth Pritchett	13th October 2003
Marjorie Fisher	29th October 2003
Florence Annie Constance Bosworth	30th October 1999

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, August 2020

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

No baptisms

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

8th August 2020 Andrew Cole and Elena Delapiedra

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 20th July 2020 Muriel Annette Harries

AUGUST SERVICES: Communicants 98. Total attendance all services 222
(including 30 at a wedding).

Sundays and Principal Feasts in October

Sunday 4th October: The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 11th September: The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 18th October: Luke the Evangelist

Wednesday 28th October: Simon and Jude Apostles

Sunday 25th October: The Last Sunday after Trinity

Go to page 33 to see Phil bringing us some wonderful names such as Gregory the Enlightener, Denys, Cynog and Robert Grosseteste in the October liturgical calendar.

Mid-week services

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

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

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

Dates for your diary

4th October: St. Michael's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held after the service.

18th October: St. John's Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held after the service.

Thank you from Peru

Thank you, on behalf of the hundreds who have received material help, to all those who have given towards the food support during the crisis.

We are still supporting the 2 soup kitchens in the area, since the need continues, albeit much reduced.

*God bless
Juan Carlos and Penny Marcés*

You can still make a donation to support the work of Penny and Juan Carlos through St John's church by making a bank transfer to:

Account name St Johns Parish Church;

Account number 64670460;

Sort code 30-99-90; and Reference "PERU"

Worcester Cathedral

Editors' note: As far as we could see, the opening information for the cathedral has not changed since last month.

Open for worship: The Cathedral's first and foremost purpose, of offering worship day by day, goes on. We are open for public worship at 10.30am on Sundays, 1pm on Wednesdays, and 11.30am on Fridays. The Sunday 10.30am eucharist is live-streamed to the Worcester Cathedral Facebook



page. The 1662 Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship of the Church of England are used daily. Please see www.worcestercathedral.co.uk/worship

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

Support Maggs Activity Centre

Maggs has been helping homeless people since 1985. Every year we help around 600 people, providing food, warm clothing and a range of other support services. Our aim is not to sustain homeless people in their current lifestyle, but to enable them to move off the streets into settled accommodation. The people we help includes those with mental health, drug or alcohol addiction, who may have been living on the streets for years.

During the pandemic many rough sleepers were temporarily housed, as directed by the Government to prevent the spread of the pandemic, but this is only a temporary measure, and, unless we can find homes for these people, they will return back to the streets. This is a great social injustice, just at a time when these people have been housed for a few months, perhaps for the first time in years, and are getting used to the idea of having four walls, a roof, a warm bed and regular healthy meals.

That's why we have started our new housing project to provide homes for these people and ensure that they don't return to the streets.

But this is not easy, especially for long term rough sleepers.

Imagine that you have lived on the streets for years. If someone by some miracle offered you a home, would you be able to cope? Would you know how to pay bills, to look after yourself, to cook, to clean, to do all the little things that you and I take for granted every day?

So, we are providing support workers to help these former rough sleepers to get used to living a settled life. They help them deal with their health issues, to deal with people like the council and the benefits service, and to make the transition back to a more "normal" life.

Part of this approach relies on encouraging our clients to participate in constructive activities. We run an Activity Centre, where we run classes to engage people with learning opportunities.

We teach life skills to encourage re-integration back into mainstream society – things like cookery, art, creative writing, basic skills, literacy and numeracy. We aim to raise self-esteem and confidence so that clients are self motivated to make positive changes. Sessions aim to improve skills, knowledge and most importantly, confidence, to reduce isolation and develop co-operation and communication skills. Engagement in activities enables people to develop the life skills required to maintain a tenancy, increasing the probability of them continuing that journey into integration within the community.

We are being supported by Aviva, the largest insurance company in the UK, to run an online crowdfunder project to raise funds for our Activity Centre. This runs until the 15th October 2020.

Please go online to learn more about the work of Maggs and to see a video all about our Activity Centre - <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/maggs-covid-response>

You can donate online at our website where you can read more about our work - www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk/ or via cheque (Maggs Day Centre) c/o Mel Kirk, Maggs Annexe, 59-60 The Tything, Worcester, WR1 1JT.

We are also looking for donations of household goods to give to people setting up home for the first time:

- Household goods: Kitchen items such as crockery, cutlery, breadboards or other utensils
- Bedding and towels
- Electrical goods such as toasters, kettles, microwaves, vacuum cleaners

We moved to new premises on the corner of The Tything and Castle Street Worcester in November 2017. There is an unloading bay at the back of the project on Britannia Road, opposite the Magistrates Court but there is often short term parking on The Tything itself. Unfortunately we can only accept donations when the clothing project is open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 -12.

Before the pandemic we had around 40 volunteers, but many of them are now shielding and unable to help us. So we are looking for new volunteers. Most of our volunteers help at the centre and the clothing project.

We are looking for people who can do one of these roles -

- Kitchen assistant: People help between the hours of 8 am and 2 pm to assist with the preparation, serving and clearing up of meals.
- Clothing project: People help with sorting and storing donations to our clothing project on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9-12 noon.
- Professional roles: We are looking for professionals who can offer a specific service such as a hairdresser to be available on a regular basis.

If you can spare some time to help please call us on 01905-25027 or email vturner@maggsdaycentre.co.uk

Clive Skidmore
Trustee



*We got
out and about!*

West Worcester Group
of Churches'
'Day Retreat'

Saturday 12th September saw a group of people join in with various walking and prayer activities through the day as part of the West Worcester group's Day's Retreat for Ride and Stride 2020.



The weather was kind with beautiful sunny skies and a pleasant temperature.

Nine people started the day with Morning Prayer outside St John's Church before eight of us headed off walking to Hallow Church.



After about an hour and a half walking along the riverside path and through the woods at Hallow we arrived at Hallow Church where we said Prayer During the Day. Some of us then enjoyed a picnic together in the churchyard whilst others sampled the fare at The Crown Inn.



After a refreshing drink in The Crown we gathered together again and six of us made the walk along the country lanes and paths to Broadheath Church.

Continued on page 13.

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

An advert can be full-page, half-page or quarter-page in size and the booking can be from one month to one year. If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell on 01684 893397 or by email at sue.hussell@talktalk.net

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- Contact John or Joy Errey on johnerrey@hotmail.com for more information.
- Facebook page- Marciac Gites-SouthWest France Holidays

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Continued from page 11.

At Broadheath, we made ourselves comfortable on the grass by the church. We were joined by several people here, so that nine people shared in the quiz and discussions of Café Church led by Sarah Cottrill on the theme of “Harvest”.



[Editor’s confession: Yes, this picture has been edited - to get all the participants into one picture]



After this six of us walked back towards Worcester, and five of us completed the walk back to St Clement’s Church for Evening Prayer, making a brief visit to St David’s Church along the way.

All in all, we visited five churches, walked just over 7.5 miles and had a thoroughly enjoyable day that saw 11 people join in at various points.

Any sponsorship money or donations received will be shared between the Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust and our local West Worcester Group churches. If you would like to make a donation, please contact me.

Philip Evans



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Shoebox Appeal

There are many ways you can help us with this appeal; create a shoe box, provide us with empty shoeboxes, send in items for us to make up shoeboxes or give a donation that we can buy items with. There are 3 age groups, 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 years and you choose boy or girl. Boxes have to be ready for the first week in November. Leaflets will be available shortly with more details.

We have people knitting hats so that a really personal gift will be in the child's box. Other items that can be put in are stationery, soap, sponges, toothbrushes, hair brushes, hair ornaments, games, socks, gloves and cuddly toys. We are not allowed to put in any liquids, sweets, toothpaste, playing cards, reading books or play guns.

At the moment there are some bargains in the shops for pens and pencils which are always a popular item. If you require any further information please call me on 07779264207 or check the website samaritans-purse.org.uk. If you are making up a whole box you can download and print the correct label for your box from the website.

Thanking you in advance for your generosity.

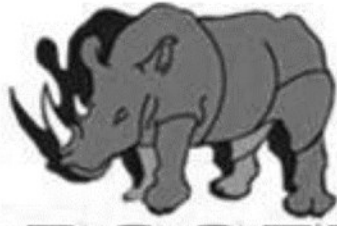
Jane Askew

Sudoku Puzzle

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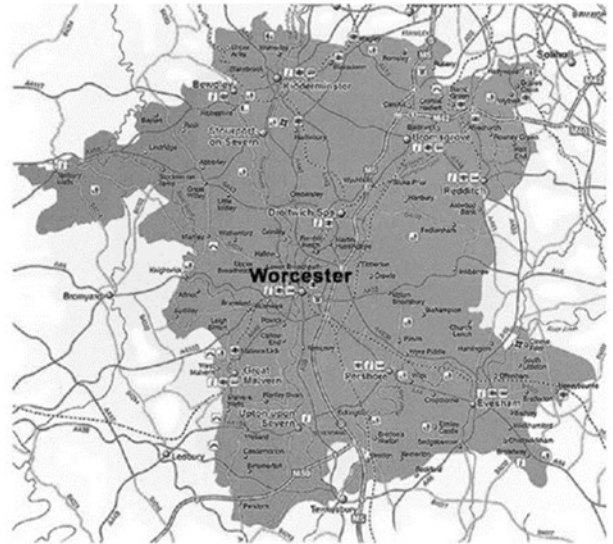
*The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.*

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A little mental exercise?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends...One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo, Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Thanks to Margaret Miller for passing this on to us. Hint - there are two books in the first sentence! We've printed it with extra space for you to mark in your findings. Answer next month!

The editors

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Summer Holiday Community Café

As reported in previous issues of this magazine, over the past year St Michael's has been leading on a project to run a summer holiday community café in Dines Green. St Michael's worked in partnership with other local organisations, including Action for Children, The Green Centre and Hope Church, to plan a Summer Holiday Community Café. The project came about after recognising the significant number of families in Dines Green who are receiving free school meals as well as the number of people who are lonely or suffering social isolation.

I'm now pleased to be able to report that the project ran successfully over the summer holiday, and this is a quick look back at how we made it work, and what we achieved.

The declaration of a global pandemic and the ensuing restrictions in this country impacted significantly on the planning process as the situation changed around us. However, we continued to meet (remotely via Zoom) and after successfully applying for funding from various sources, we engaged a professional chef and two front-of-house staff to run the project.

The impact of coronavirus meant that our costs were higher than originally envisaged from the additional cleaning needed as well as using single-use containers and cutlery for each meal. However, we stuck to our aim of wanting to be an "Ecochurch" by purchasing containers and cutlery that were "eco friendly", by either being recyclable or compostable and being made from renewable or responsible sources.

Initially we had planned a dine-in café in the DG Den café. With coronavirus restrictions we at first changed this to planning a takeaway service and then as restrictions began to be lifted we moved back to a dine-in café, but in The Green Centre where there is more space to spread out.



The project ran throughout August and served a total of 416 meals to over 20 families. The paid staff were supported on occasions by volunteers including Sarah Cottrill and Maureen Ovington from our churches.

We are pleased to hear some initial feedback about the project that it was enjoyed by those who came and that it helped them financially.

Philip Evans

Marcés Mailing

September 2020



Out of Lima for a few days – a real treat!

He who is in you
is greater
than he who is
in the world.
(1 John 4:4)

*The Diocese is
holding studies;
one series was
John's epistles)*

Please pray for:

Juan Carlos: Responsibilities in J el Nazareno, the Cathedral and the Diocese

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

Juan Carlos + Penny: working out priorities and use of time

Bishop Jorge Luis: wisdom in leading the Diocese

Jesús El Nazareno: ability to keep in touch with the Lord and with each other

El Nazareno area: families grieving deaths of members; civic responsibility; economy; schooling

Cathedral: New Spanish speaking congregation, situations which need resolving

Country of Peru: Politics – tensions between Cabinet and Congress; wisdom in facing health, economic and educational situations, and in opening up areas of life (inc. Church!)

Juan Carlos & Penny Marcés Reynaldo Morón 215,
Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 15049, PERU
Tel.+51-1- 448 – 8264. Email: psmarcesinlima@gmail.com
Letter sent by: Mrs Alison Everness (Penny's sister-in-law),
23 Glebe Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3DS (01306-882817)

Dear friends

Out of Lima for 3 days, viewing mountains and river, helped us appreciate God's greatness and helped put things back into perspective, six months after the tsunami of covid hit.

Power of covid: We live in the capital of the country which now "enjoys" no. 1 position on the "deaths per million" table, even considering only official covid deaths, (which account for less than half excess deaths here since April). Why, given that strict lockdown measures began before anyone had even died here, has Peru been so badly affected? Contributory factors include: lack of investment in health services despite the increasing prosperity of Peru over recent years (thus the lack of ICU beds, oxygen and medicines); the fragmentation of health services into different autonomous bodies; and the inability of many to follow the guidelines, partly due to disobedience and partly due to necessity (you HAVE to work to buy food).

The following snapshots illustrate this, bearing in mind that Jesús el Nazareno is in an area where many households have multiple families:

(Background: J is a neighbour, on the fringe of Church who had covid near the beginning)

Penny: "it's good that no one in this street has died from the virus, when so many in the area HAVE died"

J: "Yes. Of course we all had it in the house, but we were asymptomatic"

P: *(openmouthed beneath her face covering as she uses this word, remembering a phone conversation with her when she was sick)* "I seem to remember you weren't at all well."

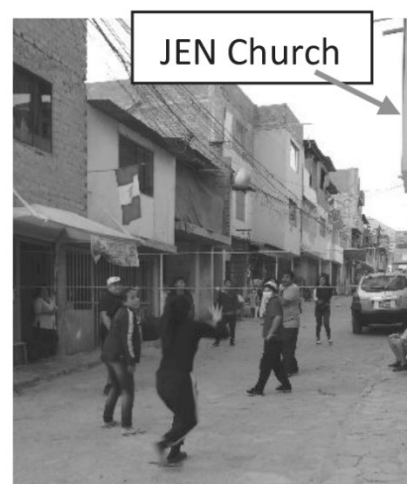
J: "True, sometimes I really had to struggle for breath. But I was asymptomatic." *(sudden realisation: "asymptomatic" = "not on oxygen")*

P: "I told you not to go out, and I sent the voucher for you to pick up food in M's name but then Karla told me you went too"

J: "Well he doesn't know what to buy, and what things cost, so I had to go too, to make sure he did it right." *(Doubtless true, but hardly what was SUPPOSED to happen. How many did she infect??)*

(Background: Current rules: over 65s may only go out for emergency medical treatment; under-14s may go out, accompanied by an adult, for half an hour a day; everyone else – only go out when necessary.)

The street is pretty full, a volley game in progress, half the participants without facemasks. A daily event... (2 days later the police tore down the net, pointing out that this is NOT PERMITTED. Mind you, we'd be going mad too if we were living in the cramped conditions many of them have.)



So, covid may appear to still have the upper hand, but God is greater. How can we see this?

Power of the word of God: We returned to Peru in Aug 2019 with the clear aim of reaching the wider community. We did not imagine that a pandemic would provide ample opportunity to share with so many God's love and presence with us in all situations! Not only have people seen His love in the midst of material needs, but we have built up some lovely relationships. What joy when a mother mentioned last week that she missed praying with Penny; her mobile was stolen (on her way home from the hospital where she had just been told her uncle had died from covid) and only recently has she got a new one. Building on these contacts, Bible month (Sept) has provided a wonderful opportunity to share spiritual food, in the form of prayer and leaflets, as people queue with their containers in the 2 soup kitchens that we have been supporting since they reopened in July.



Flower power! A totally unexpected way of showing that someone's value, when they live in a world which gives them little worth, occurred when the non-RC Thanksgiving Celebration, celebrated every year on 29 July as part of Independence Celebrations, was "held" in the Good Shepherd Cathedral. It was "virtual", with President (and others!) watching on TV, but JC WAS there as logistics coordinator and thus had to provide flowers. Afterwards, roses not given to people present were taken to give to women in Jesús el Nazareno and the cooks in the soup kitchens – the psychological effect of being given a rose which could well have been given to the President's wife (and which she SAW!), but which has been given to you instead, was far greater than we had imagined.



Political power: Covid is not, unfortunately, the only tsunami here right now. Ongoing tensions between Cabinet and Congress have led to a demand for impeachment of the President. Thus adding political instability to the list of woes, which already include the sad health and economic situations.

Power in a Church? Last but certainly not least, the Anglican church here also suffered a slight tsunami when the Dean of the Cathedral resigned unexpectedly at the beginning of August. For various reasons, Juan Carlos was thus installed as new Dean, behind closed doors, in addition to responsibilities in Jesús el Nazareno. Whilst it



is currently possible to go from a service in one to a service in the other in 5 minutes (on Zoom), it remains to be seen how things will be resolved when we can finally meet for services again.... The new congregation IS new – almost all the previous congregation were left very confused and have declined to attend.



- Julio P and Juana growing in the Lord
- relationships with many neighbours
- technology to continue communicating the Gospel
- ability to help with material needs
- children's materials, seen by children and parents; series on Peter and on "People in Genesis" have finished and we are now "Following in Paul's steps"

Please pray.....



Weekly activities

Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun: WhatsApp children's devotional – pray for inspiration

Sun: 9.00 am WhatsApp chat form of service sent (JEN)

10.00 am Zoom service (Jesús el Nazareno)

11.30am Zoom service (Cathedral)

6.00 pm WhatsApp group services (J. el Nazareno)

Wed: 8.00 pm Bible study /prayer meeting (Cathedral)

Thurs: 7.30pm Zoom prayer meeting (Jesús el Nazareno)

8.45pm WhatsApp group prayers (J. el Nazareno)

General prayer requests

- Coronavirus situation: health, economy, civic responsibility; protection in visiting El Nazareno where there is still a high level of contagion
- Peru preparing for general elections next year, and bicentenary of independence
- Becky (Leeds), Lizi (Leeds), Jonny (Lima), Hilda (JC's mum – Lima; in her flat 3 weeks then a week with us each month)

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

May we always know that our God is greater, and may He bless and protect you, now and always

Juan Carlos & Penny

Penny and Juan Carlos have made a ten minute video about themselves and their work. You can see it at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFSJ84PbrWI> (Letter I at the end). Make sure to turn on subtitles.

Spot the vegetables

Colin Nash has kindly put together this competition for us. Can you name the twenty different items that he has harvested from his allotment? Send your answers by email to the magazine email address (see page3).

1. S---- C----

2. L---

3. P-----

20. S-----

19. C-----

18. B-----

S-----



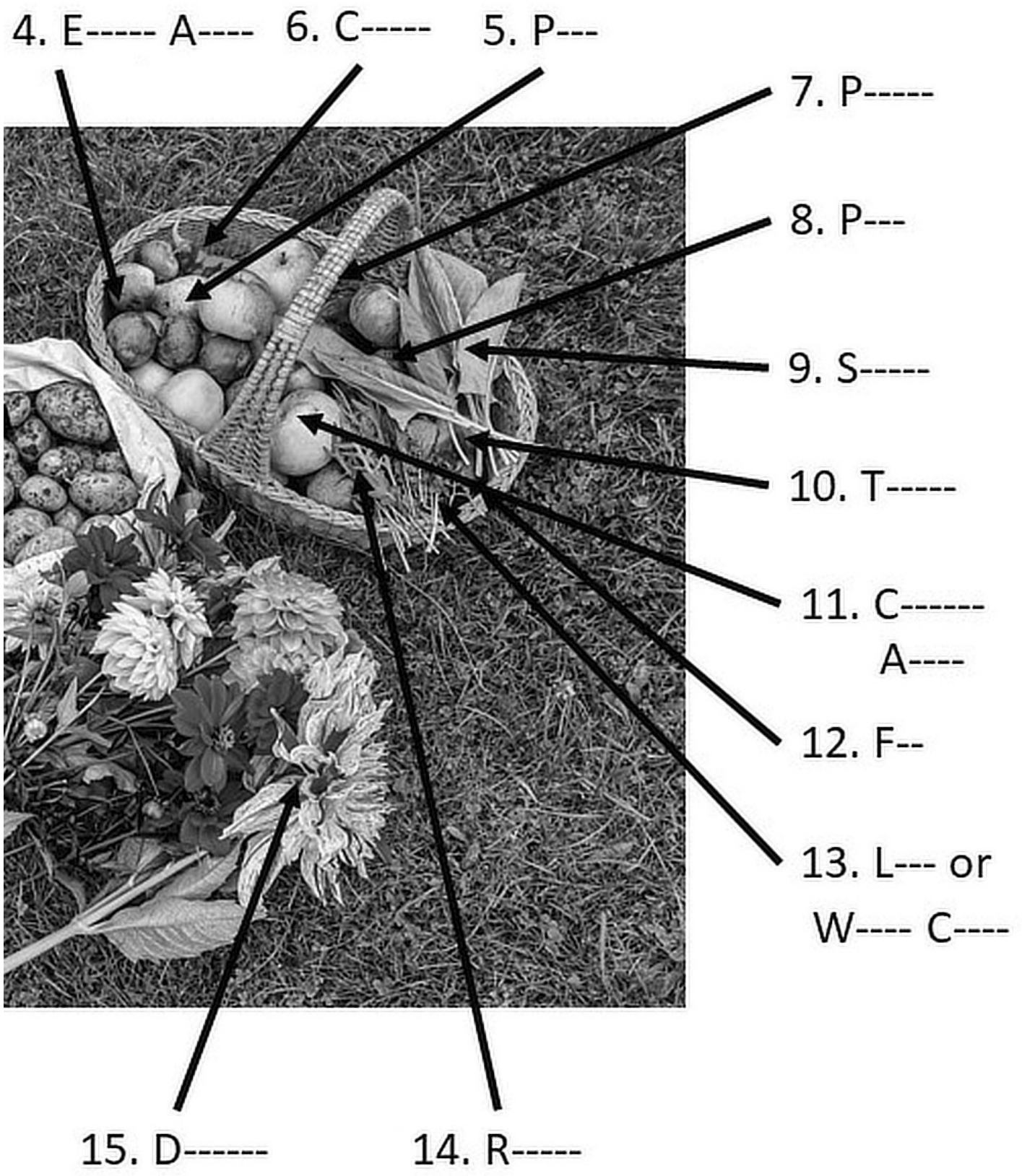
17. R-----

16. F----- B----

Yes, we know it's hard in black and white! Did we say it was meant to be easy? We will give the answers in the next edition.

We guarantee a mention in the magazine for the person with the most correct answers (the editors' opinion is final!) but if we get a reasonable number of entries we'll come up with a prize.

The Editors



Hint - most of the answers are singular, but three of the easier ones are plural.

The modern approach to relationship problems

Dear IT Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slowdown in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewellery applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as: Sport 5.0, Pubs 3.0 and Golf Clubs 4.1. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and House cleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system.

Please note that I have repeatedly tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

*What can I do?
Signed, Desperate*

Dear Desperate,

First keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an entertainment package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system.

Please enter command: I thought you loved me.html and try to download Tears 6.2. Do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewellery 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0, or Beer 6.1. Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Wind Breaking and Snoring Loudly Beta version.

Whatever you do, DO NOT, under any circumstances, install Mother-In-Law 1.0 as it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.

In addition, please do not attempt to re-install the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Cooking 3.0.

*Good Luck!
IT Support*

Smile lines

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year-olds. After explaining the commandment to ‘honour thy father and thy mother’, she said: “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?”

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered: “Thou shalt not kill.”

---- 0000 ----

The Lord’s Prayer: When I was younger, I believed the line was “Lead a snot into temptation.” I thought I was praying for my little sister to get into trouble.

---- 0000 ----

From the glossary of church-going:

HOLY WATER: A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

PEW: A medieval torture device still found in many Anglican and Catholic churches.

---- 0000 ----

A delivery van driver was outside my house and asked me what time it was. I told him it was between 10.41 and 11.41, even though it was actually half-past nine.

---- 0000 ----

The police officer asked me where I had been between 5 and 6. He seemed irritated when I answered “infant school”.

---- 0000 ----

I just saw a local burglar kicking his own front door in. I asked him what he was doing. He replied, “Working from home.”

---- 0000 ----

A pessimist's blood type is always b-negative.

---- 0000 ----

I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.

---- 0000 ----

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

---- 0000 ----

The family that sticks together should bathe more often.

---- 0000 ----

By the time you make ends meet, they move the ends.

Saints' days - a French view - oddities & meanings.

One of the rewards of taking the office of Vespers here in France is that every day is a saint's day, so we learn about the life of some people who made a special contribution to the early church or even to modern life.

You are fortunate to have reminders from Phil (*see page 33*) about significant names that are on the Anglican list each month. France follows the Roman calendar and there are some interesting differences. September was a case in point with Saint Pontien appearing on the 13th. He was condemned to work in the salt mines of Sardinia and was seriously maltreated there when a period of persecution of Christians was initiated by the Emperor Maximin. He was bishop of Rome from AD230 until his death in 235 and thus was considered a "pope" martyr.

Just before, on the 10th September, we remembered the martyrdom of Saint Inès. She was a young Japanese widow (Inès Takeywa) who comforted and helped persecuted Christians in the 7th century and paid with the loss of her life.

On the 26th we celebrate St Côme and St Damien, both surgeons and Christians. They worked in Arabia - a hostile environment - performing healing works. They attracted the wrath of the King Diocletian - hence martyrdom followed!



October begins (1st) with the festival of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus (*pictured left*), often better known as Saint Theresa of Lisieux. She was a French Catholic Discalced ("without shoes") Carmelite nun who is widely venerated in modern times. Her troubled life is well documented and for many is a source of medical interest both physical and psychological. Her sanctuary was that of the life as a Carmelite nun.

On 5th October we have a local Saint Fleur (Flora) to celebrate. Born in 1300 in the village of Issendolous, about 15 miles from here at Sabadel, she was a young virgin who wanted to protect herself from what she saw as the "tragedy" of "marriage" so she joined the hospice of St John of Jerusalem and devoted herself to the support of the ill all her lifetime, dying with her work accomplished in 1347.

The 16th brings the celebration of Saint Edwige of Silesia, daughter of the Duke of Bavaria. She was married (at the age of 12 years) to the Duke of Silesia, head

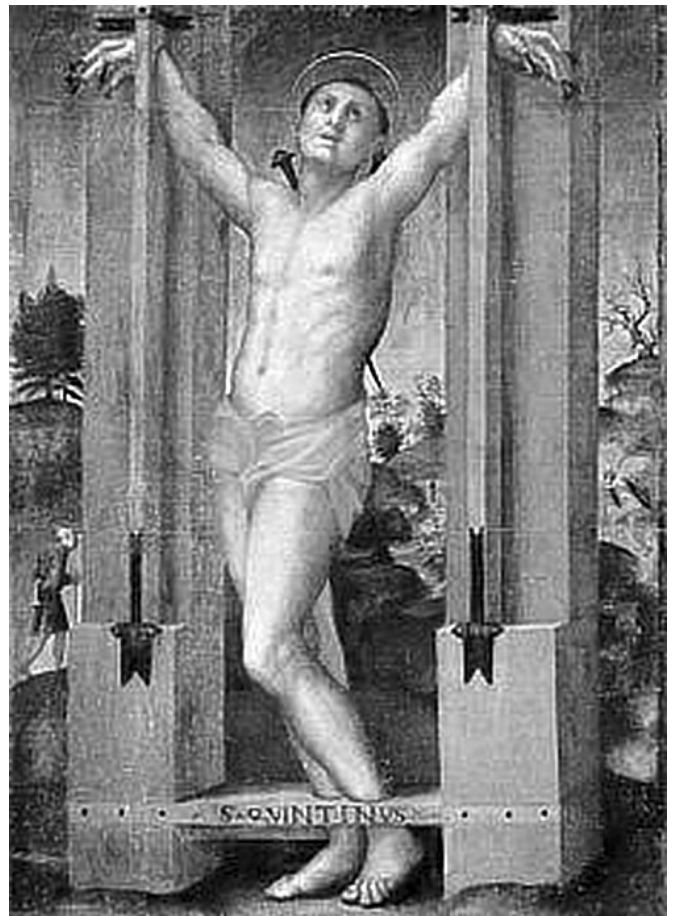
of the Polish royal family, in order to promote the unification of the Polish state. With her husband she promoted the construction and support of monasteries and on the death of her husband retired from public life by joining her daughter, who was Abbess of a Cistercian monastery at Liebnitz, until her death in 1243.

On 29th October we have Saint Narcisse [of Jerusalem] who was an early patriarch of Jerusalem. He is venerated as a saint by both the Western and Eastern Churches. Tradition holds that Narcissus was born in the year 99 and was at least 80 when he was made the 30th bishop of Jerusalem. In the year 195, St Narcissus, together with Theoctistus, bishop of Caesarea in Palestine, presided over a council held by the bishops of Palestine in Caesarea, and it was decreed that Easter was to be always kept on a Sunday, and not with the Jewish Passover.

The 31st sees the remembrance of Saint Quentin (*pictured right*). Most people will know this as a city in France and will not associate it with a real Saint.

The legend of his life has him as a Roman citizen who was martyred in Gaul. The son of a man named Zeno, who had senatorial rank, Quentin travelled to Gaul as a missionary with Saint Lucian, filled with apostolic zeal.

Quentin settled at Amiens and performed many miracles there. Because of his preaching, he was imprisoned manacled and tortured repeatedly, but refused to abjure his faith. He was to be taken to Reims, the capital of Gallia Belgica, to be judged.



On the way, in a town named Augusta Veromanduorum (now Saint-Quentin, Aisne), Quentin miraculously escaped and again started his preaching. He was recaptured, sentenced, tortured again, and then beheaded and thrown secretly into the marshes around the Somme, by Roman soldiers.

The cult of Saint Quentin was important during the Middle Ages, especially in Northern France—as evidenced by the considerable number of place names derived from the saint's name. The tomb was an important place of pilgrimage, highly favoured by Carolingians (the church was one of the richest in Picardy).

Arthur Miller

“What did you do in the lockdown Nanny?”

Date September 2040 - Excerpt from William’s interview with Nanny, recorded in her very comfortable, expensive nursing home paid for by her lovely children and grandchildren.



“What did you do in the lockdown Nanny?”

“Well there’s a story William, sit down nicely. What do you want to know?”

“Nanny, did you meet people in the street and chat loudly across the road for ages?”

“Lots and lots of times. Mainly with Uncle Colin and Aunty Sandra. We put the world to rights I can tell you. They would text and say they were about to walk past and we would pop out into the front garden to shout at them. Happy days!”

“Nanny, did you do anything worthwhile during the pandemic?”

Out of the mouth of babes or those just too smart for their own good

“I did my best, William. Nanny was a Worcester Lion and our motto was ‘We Serve’ but it wasn’t easy. We had a call from the Worcester Street Café. They were feeding the homeless on the streets of Worcester. 90 people needed feeding four nights a week. So we agreed to cook as often as we could manage, but that was sometimes only one night a week.”

“You see, our club only had 4 Lions out and about able to serve. Everyone else was either shielding or over the age allowed to venture out. We had cooked for them before but only 35 to 40, so 90 was a huge leap of faith. Your Aunty Becca kindly lent her kitchen and off we went cooking lasagne. It was everywhere as her kitchen was only tiny and we were running out of space and funds quickly. So those Lions that couldn’t help out on the street applied for a grant from our Lions District fund. That was another £500 into the kitty but things were tight.”

“Where’s my cup of tea?”

“Nanny, concentrate. How many meals did Lions cook altogether?”

“In the end over 2,000. But we had to move kitchens as Aunty Becca understandably got a bit fed up with us turning her house into a soup kitchen, but she was a star and cooked with us right through.”

“Did you have other people help you?”

“Well we couldn’t have done it without them. You see we got very tired shopping at lots of different shops because there were such strict limits on the amount you were allowed to buy and without those we called ‘Friends of Lions’ we would never have managed to keep going. Some people hardly missed a kitchen day and other friends were press ganged into action.”

“So where did you do all of this cooking then Nanny?”

“Strangely William, the Salvation Army. During the whole pandemic they opened their doors to every organisation that helped with feeding the homeless and vulnerable. Here’s a key they said; let yourselves in and out and help yourself to provisions from the stores provided by the council. No closed doors here, it was a hub of activity and production. They were already turning out 140 meals a day without our tiny contribution for the elderly and homeless. Their door was always open to all of us trying to make that small difference.”

“What food did the council send?”

“Huge catering tins and tins of tomatoes, beans and so many boxes of jacket potatoes they stood like the walls of a citadel daring us to confront their solidarity. Frozen chicken, sausages, cheese and blocks of mince that took your poor Grandad ages to get to hack into usable sections. Mountains of pasta and sacks of rice that beckoned us to challenge their certain stickiness when boiled to a pulp.”

“So what did you cook Nanny?”

“I’m not sure we cooked my sweet. I think we produced meals on an industrial scale. Each one portioned up with lids to keep them safely within the guidelines.”

“How did you keep safe?”

“True friendship William. Trust in our fellow man that if they had any signs of infection or had had contact they would be honest and stay away. It was a time when my faith in mindfulness kept me going. Today all is well because yesterday is the past, tomorrow is the future and today is the present, a gift.”

“Were you scared Nanny?”

“Sometimes Sweetheart, we all were, and yes at the worst times I was very scared. The rate of infection was increasing by a word I hadn’t heard before ... “exponentially”. As I sat each night watching the briefings and saw the graphs rising sharply, yes, I felt scared knowing we would be out that night, but it didn’t last long. You see we had a family, those whom we loved and would always be there for us. Those we had left behind had no one. They would go back to their shop doorways until whoever was covering the following day would cook, bake and collect from supermarkets so they could eat.”

“I’m tired now William. I don’t want to remember any more. Give me a big hug and then go, leave me with my memories. Mostly they make me happy, sometimes sad that I wished I had done things differently. Never forget, I love you exponentially my dearest boy. And tell that woman on the way out you pay good money to keep me here and I still haven’t had that cup of tea.”

Tracey Ward



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Beware the period of commemorative emptiness

October gets off to a rather slow start in England, with an optional commemoration of Remigius, fifth-century bishop of Reims, and apostle to the Franks, on the 1st.

The Scots remember the wonderfully-named Gregory the Enlightener, apostle of Armenia (*recalled on the right in a mosaic at Pammakaristos Church, Istanbul*).

There is then a gap until the 4th and Francis of Assisi, founder of the Friars Minor (also known as the Franciscans or Grey Friars), who this year is displaced by the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity.



On the 6th is the commemoration of William Tyndale, translator of the Bible into English who was burned at the stake in Brussels in 1536 on the orders of the Holy Roman Emperor (although Henry VIII was far from disapproving).

Denys is on the 9th. He was a third-century bishop of Paris beheaded by the Romans. According to legend, he picked up his head and walked to the site where the abbey of Saint-Denis, later mausoleum of French kings, was founded.

The Welsh remember Cynog on the same day, a legendary figure with a story full of names I have no hope of spelling correctly. Less colourfully, it is also the commemoration of Robert Grosseteste, thirteenth-century scholar-bishop of Lincoln.

We stay with native bishops on the 10th, remembering Paulinus, first Saxon bishop of York in the seventh century, although those of a more literary persuasion may also like to remember the seventeenth-century poet Thomas Traherne.

The 11th is the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity which would otherwise mark Æthelburga, seventh-century abbess of Barking, while the 12th brings Wilfrid of Ripon, the bad-tempered abbot and bishop who fell out with almost everyone in the same century. That day can also be used to recall Elizabeth Fry (Georgian and Victorian prison reformer, once featured on the £5 note) or Edith Cavell [*see page 37*], a nurse executed in 1915 by the Germans for her humanitarian work in occupied Belgium

Continued on page 35

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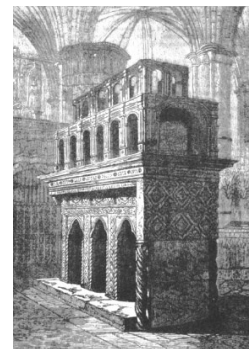
EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

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Continued from page 33

On the 13th, we remember Edward the Confessor, penultimate Anglo-Saxon king of England, around whose shrine later medieval kings remodelled Westminster Abbey and created a coronation church and royal mausoleum.



Teresa of Ávila, sixteenth-century Carmelite spiritual writer from the eponymous Spanish city, is on the 15th.



On the 16th, we remember two bishops burnt at the stake under Mary I in 1555: Nicholas Ridley (London) and Hugh Latimer (Worcester - *pictured on the left*).

The first-century bishop of Antioch and martyr, Ignatius, is celebrated on the 17th.

The month's first major festival, that of Luke, evangelist and author of the third Gospel and Acts (whether or not he was actually called Luke) is on the 18th.

Henry Martyn is on the 19th, an early nineteenth-century missionary and translator of the scriptures in India and Persia.

A period of commemorative emptiness ensues before the 25th, which is the Last Sunday after Trinity but usually brings Crispin and Crispinian, traditionally remembered as third-century shoemakers martyred in Rome but more famous from the speech Shakespeare puts into the mouth of Henry V at the Battle of Agincourt (fought on 25th October 1415).

We are back to royalty on the 26th to remember Alfred the Great, king of Wessex, vanquisher of the Vikings and a scholar who translated religious works and Biblical texts into English. The same day also marks Cedd, founding abbot of Lastingham in Yorkshire.

On the 28th comes the feast of October's only apostles, Simon and Jude. The month ends with Martin Luther, famous (or notorious) German monk turned reformer, on the 31st.

Phil Bradford



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Edith Cavell

Edith Cavell is a good saint for NHS workers this year: she cared for the sick despite the danger to her own safety. Edith was a vicar's daughter from Swardeston in Norfolk, where she was born in 1865. She became a governess, but her heart was for nursing, so she went on to train at the London Hospital, before nursing in various hospitals such as St Pancras and Manchester.

When Edith was 42, she decided to go abroad, and was appointed matron of a large training centre for nurses in Brussels. She was still there seven years later, when the First World War broke out and German troops invaded Belgium on their way to Paris and the Channel Ports. Edith's nursing school became a Red Cross hospital, and she turned down the opportunity to return to the safety of England. Instead, her nurses tended wounded soldiers from both German and Allied armies.



Cavell (seated centre) with a group of multinational student nurses whom she trained in Brussels.

In 1915, when the Germans began their occupation of Brussels, they took a dim view of Edith's work. But they would have been even more unhappy had they known she was helping to smuggle 200 British soldiers across the border into the Netherlands! Finally, the Germans arrested Edith in August 1915, and put her into solitary confinement. They tricked her into confessing to a charge which carried the death penalty. But Edith refused to show either regret at what she had done, or any fear or bitterness towards her captors.

On 11th October 1915, the night before her execution, Edith was visited by the Anglican chaplain to Brussels, the Revd Stirling Gahan. Together they said the words of Abide with Me, and Edith received her last Holy Communion.

She told Gahan: "I am thankful to have had these ten weeks of quiet to get ready. Now I have had them and have been kindly treated here. I expected my sentence and I believe it was just. Standing, as I do, in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness to anyone."

Edith was shot by a firing squad next day, on 12th October 1915.

After the war her body was exhumed and buried in Norwich Cathedral. Her memorial service in Westminster Abbey attracted thousands. A commemorative statue of her stands near Trafalgar Square.

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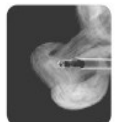
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Extracts from Wendy's 1982 scrapbook

Friday 1st October . Excellent Communion service. Really filled with meaning. I read for Jim. Judith had a cough.

Sunday 3rd - Harvest. Lovely sermon by the precentor - Rev James Butterworth. Signs - tower points up to God, sides stretch outwards. Bedwardine - bread. We ought to be a feeding church. We ought to feed those around us with the bread of life, so that they want more and more.

Thursday 7th October - group at Parrotts. Good. Stand and witness.

Friday 8th - Really marvellous Communion service. I read for Frank on missions. So filled with real joy and meaning.

Sunday 10th - Frank really marvellous. Jacob's dream. God was there and they didn't realise it. God is not locked in St Johns, he's everywhere.

During the week ending 8th - Witts re-opened as Nationwide Building Society and an estate agent.

10th -Bishop's Certificate at the cottage.

Thursday 14th - at McIntyre Road. Good. Angela Popplewell came.

15th - knelt next to Frank.

16th - Frank away at Martley. Jim solo. Preached about commitment.

*Monday 18th
October:*

A clipping from the Evening News reports a fire at Tanya's night club in St Johns 'last night'. This picture in the scrapbook is labelled "After Tanya's fire".



Continued on page 41

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Continued from page 39

20th - Bishop's certificate at the cottage with Owain Bell.

21st - 2nd anniversary birthday party at 16 Heron Close.



*Back: Arthur, Jim Leverton, Tony and Maureen, John
Front: Bessie, Judith, Marney, Nancy, Joyce*

Lovely to see Patrick and Penny again. Patrick talked about the early church in Acts and I talked about the ministry in the 20th century as I see it. Patrick and Penny and Peggy said it was good. I felt elated as I did it. Jim said it was delivered in my usual direct forthright manner. Lovely refreshments followed.

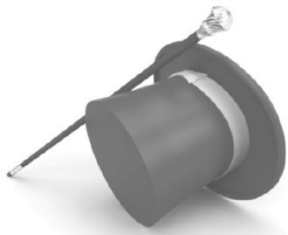
Sunday 24th October - Vicar said he was sorry he'd been away Thursday, he'd been at Portsmouth. He preached about healing the whole person.

Friday 23rd - I read for Jim. Owain was there. I knelt by Judith. We talked about lay readers on Thursday.

Sunday 24th - Frank good. About being healed.

Friday 29th - Did not go to service - half term.

Sunday 31st October - Jim preached about saints.



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- Friday: 10.00am - 5.00pm
- Saturday: 10.00am - 4.00pm

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- return books
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- printer/scanning and photocopier facilities
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For further details please go to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries

Social distancing and hygiene measures are in place. Computers and desks are cleaned thoroughly after each use.

Please note, it is mandatory to wear a face covering when visiting a library.

Address: Glebe Close, St John's, Worcester WR2 5AX

Tel. no. 01905 822722

Email Address: StJohnsLib@worcestershire.gov.uk

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From the magazine archive (October 1951)

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Mr. Maurice Armson

I SHOULD like on my own behalf, and on behalf of all, to thank our Reader, Mr. Maurice Armson, for all the extra duties he undertook while we had no Vicar. He very generously changed the date of his holiday; he took a great deal of trouble preparing services; and his thoughtful sermons have been an inspiration to many. We warmly thank him for all that he has done. C.F.P.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Miss Jean Cooper

JEAN'S constant cheerfulness, efficiency, and her tremendous loyalty as Secretary of the Youth Club have been a constant inspiration to us all. I think we can say with all due modesty that our Youth Club is enjoying success; this is largely thanks to people like Jean. We grudge her to Leicester University, but wish her all the very best of luck in her academic career, and look forward to seeing her again in the vacations.

FLOWERS FOR HIGH ALTAR

- Oct. 5.—Harvest Festival. Hon. Sec.
„ 12.—Mrs. Bund, 109 Malvern Road.
„ 19.—Mrs. Norman, 15 Worboys Road.
„ 26.—Mrs. J. Cole, Bransford Road.

MARGARET E. LANCEY, *Hon. Sec.*

The item last month about the St John's Boys' School farewell service was incorrectly shown as being from August 1949. It was actually from September 1951.

Puzzle solution

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

And finally....



...I've moved with the times - I've now got a solar-powered radio microphone...



Sunday services in the West Worcester Group, October 2020

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
4th October	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
11th October	10.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
18th October	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
25th October	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
1st November	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 please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.

The clocks go back an hour at 2am on Sunday 25th October.