



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



October 2021

50p



Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY

clergy@wcw.church

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

TEAM OFFICE

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

ON THE WEB

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

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

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

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our October edition. Our theme is 'Harvest' which you probably guessed from the cover! Sarah gives us food for thought in her letter about Harvest and where it should lead us in thought and action. It's quite a busy month in the church calendar (see page 7) and we've also included some Bible Society material for you to think about and pray about around Bible Sunday (page 19).

The other theme this month is the return of future events to these pages (see pages 8, 9, 11, 13, 17 and 21). We hope you will find something here for you. Please do keep an eye on noticeboards etc as there is still the risk that events may have to be changed.

We leave you with these words, which are very familiar but very central in reminding us that the fruits of harvest flow from God's goodness brought to fruition by human endeavour:

*Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set
before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church

Next edition (October): Deadline is Sunday 10th October.
Distribution, towards the end of October.

Subscription form: Page 42.

Cover picture: Colin Nash: Harvest scene on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, near Marsham.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Alice Evans, Graham Evans, Philip Evans, Paul Fulbrook, Arthur Miller and Colin Nash.

The magazine

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

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 42 or by taking a subscription form from the rack (where the magazines are) at the back of the church. Please return the form and your payment to the parish office.

Opinions!

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

To advertise

Please see page 12.

From Sarah Cottrill

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel;¹*



Thus wrote John Keats in his ode to my favourite season. Perhaps it comes with having an October birthday, but I have always loved autumn. The air has a special freshness about it; the leaves take on glorious colours and I even enjoy the fact that darkness falls earlier - I like walking home and seeing the lights coming on in the houses. Somehow it feels friendlier than walking past those same houses at any other time of the year!

In the church calendar, of course, autumn is the season in which we celebrate our harvest festival. We decorate our church buildings, bring produce into church, representative of all that God gives us and we give thanks for all those who work so hard all through the year to produce our food for us. For one week at least, we don't take this for granted but offer the thanks we so often and so easily forget to give.

In modern times, when so much of our food is mass produced or shipped in from abroad, we have a much more varied diet than our ancestors of even only a generation or two past. We have largely lost sight of "seasonal" foods as almost everything can be bought throughout the year. Whilst this has many obvious advantages, perhaps it also makes it easier for us to take things for granted and to grumble if things disappear from our supermarket shelves for whatever reason there may be.

Over the last eighteen months or so, it seems to me that any problem, in any sphere of life, has been put down to "The Pandemic" and the shortage of some foods and other goods that I have noticed recently in the supermarkets has been no exception. The lack of items on the shelves is due to a shortage of lorry drivers and this shortage is due to "The Pandemic" – so many drivers either have Covid or are isolating because of it. Only time will tell if this situation will be reflected in our displays and offerings at our harvest festivals. I would like to think that it will heighten our awareness of the difficulties faced by those who provide our food and increase our gratitude to them and to God.

This year all the churches of the Worcester City West Team will be holding their Harvest Festivals on October 3rd, but how and when did this tradition begin? Here are a few “Harvest Facts” I’ve discovered for you:

Giving thanks for the harvest is a pagan tradition which pre-dates Christianity. The name “Harvest” derives from the old English word Haerfest which means Autumn.

An early Harvest Festival, known as Lammas (Loaf Mass), used to be celebrated at the beginning of the harvest season, on August 1st. Farmers would take loaves of bread, made from the new wheat crop, to be used as the Communion bread at a special service in their local church.

The Harvest celebrations with which we are familiar today began in 1843, when Reverend Robert Stephen Hawker invited the parishioners of Morwenstow, Cornwall, to attend a special service of Harvest thanksgiving in his church.²

In recent years our Harvest Festivals have added another theme: as well as giving thanks for our own plenty, we focus on those who are far less fortunate. In many parts of the world a good harvest is very rare and people go without even the most basic of foods and other goods.

The New Testament is full of stories which encourage generosity; the best known of these is probably Christ’s parable of the Good Samaritan. All people are our neighbours and are deserving of our kindness and generosity. Jesus also taught that any act of kindness we perform, we do for him. (Matthew 25, 31-46). Harvest is a good time to put these teachings into practice as we reach out to those in need and do what we can to help them.

May God grant to us all at this season of harvest, hearts that are full of gratitude for our many blessings; compassion for those who are less fortunate; and the will to do something about it!

Sarah

¹To Autumn – John Keats

²Harvest Festival – Origins, facts and customs. <https://www.lockiechurch.com>



In Memoriam

John Bertram Smith	1 October 1990
Jack Render MBE	2 October 1991
June Edith Clayton	6 October 2011
Albert J Cake	8 October 1993
Juliana Maud Godwin	12 October 2010
Neil Kenneth Pritchett	13 October 2003
Marjorie Fisher	29 October 2003
Florence Annie Constance Bosworth	30 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 2021

St John's

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 28th July 2021 Gervase Muir

d. 3rd August 2021 Amy Jenkins

d. 4th August 2021 Wendy Dayus

SERVICES: Communicants 173. Total attendance at all services 279 including 45 at a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 59. Total attendance at all services 80.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in October

Sunday 3rd: Harvest (The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity)

Sunday 10th: The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 17th: The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Monday 18th Luke the Evangelist

Sunday 24th: Bible Sunday (The last Sunday after Trinity)

Thursday 28th: Simon and Jude, apostles

Sunday 31st: All Saints Sunday (The Fourth Sunday before Advent)

Mid-week services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for October:

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

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

Saturday 23rd October St John's, 10.15am to 12noon, Café Church (Café@10.15).

Collects for October

Harvest Festival

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,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The festival of Luke the Evangelist

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Bible Sunday

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 14th October - Good Old Days Talk (see the poster on page 11): Paul Harding from Discover History will be visiting us every month from now on with some exciting subjects for us. 'Dads Army' for October is a talk he has given us before in the very early days with talks on Guy Fawkes and a Victorian Christmas to follow. As always, the amazing cake bakers will be beavering away creating amazing offerings for you. These talks are free, but as always we ask for a donation if you are able. Please note that there will be a socially distanced area available, but places will be restricted so come early.

Tracey Ward

--- 000 ---

Monday 18th October - Mothers' Union: There will be a Mothers' Union meeting at St Michael's on Monday 18th October at 2.30pm. We are waiting for details of the programme.

Jenny Claydon

--- 000 ---

Saturday 30th October - Coach trip to the National Memorial Arboretum (see the poster on page 13): This is a much-requested repeat trip and will be booked up quickly. There are limited places at a price of £15 per seat. Please contact me on 07708 297413 to book.

Catherine Templeton

--- 000 ---

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

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

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

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

Refreshments will be served.

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

Joy Job
joy.job@btinternet.com

Events at St John's



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

*At 10.15am on
Saturday 23rd October
Saturday 27th November*

ALL WELCOME

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and Cakes
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***Wednesday 3pm
20th October, 17th November
and 15th December.***
*All are welcome and this is an
event to invite a friend to.*



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

***Our next meeting is on
Saturday 9th October
8.30am until 10.30am***



ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

**TABLE
TOP SALE**

Saturday 20th November
10am to 12Noon
With Refreshments

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Worcester's Home Guard

St John's Church

1pm Thursday 14th October

Free talk

Refreshments available

Everyone welcome

starring
Paul Harding
from Discover
History.

Would you like to advertise in this magazine?

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

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

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A Return to The National Memorial Arboretum



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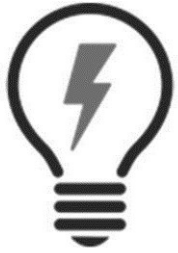


This is a much-requested
repeat trip and will be
booked up quickly.

There are limited places at
a price of £15 per seat

Contact Catherine on
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Coach trip to the
National Memorial
Arboretum on
Saturday
30th October



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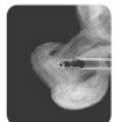
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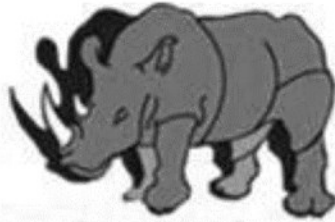
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Pictures from St Michael's



At St Michael's, we are delighted to have our organist, Merren Anthony, back playing with us again, and to have our church again adorned with flowers (arranged on this occasion by Jenny Claydon).





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News from Little Lambs and Children's Worship

Little Lambs: It was so lovely to see everyone back at Little Lambs after the summer break and even better to see smiley faces without masks! We have been able to leave the booking system behind and are back to a walk-in session which is much easier to manage.

On the first session back we have enjoyed painting and play dough as well as lots of catching up with friends. This term we are looking forward to lots of lovely autumn activities as the days get cooler.

If anyone ever wants to help do drop in on a Monday morning!

Children's Worship: It has been a quiet summer in children's worship mainly due to lots of holidays and weekends away but we are excited to get back to our Sunday activities.

The children are looking forward to getting involved in the family services again and we will shortly be starting our harvest topic.

We are hoping to run a light party around Halloween again this year so if anyone would like to help with that do get in touch!

Amy Rees

News from St David's

Grateful thanks to Sarah who has raised the AMAZING total of £1,115 with her "walking month". This will enable us (nearly) to pay our annual insurance premium and our Parish share for the last quarter! Thanks also must go to the many generous sponsors.

We have decided that we will wait until May 2022 to have our annual fundraising which is our usual month to hold it.

We will NOT therefore be having a Fayre on 2nd October this year.

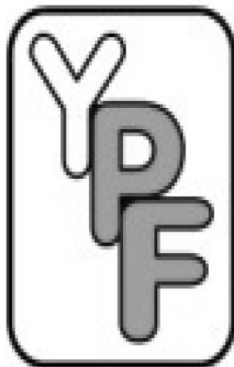
We are very pleased to announce that our monthly coffee mornings will hopefully resume (as long as no further restrictions) on Wednesday 6th October from 10.30am till 12noon. Come along to enjoy a chat, a cuppa and some cake.

We congratulate young organist David Bryson who used to play for us before lockdown last year. David has achieved brilliant A Level results and will be studying Computer Sciences at Bath University. He will also join Bath Abbey as the first recipient of the Dr Martin Clarke Organ Scholarship.

*Maureen Ovington & Ginny Harrison
Deputy Wardens, St David's*

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Bible Sunday - Sunday 24th October



Read ... Think ... Pray

<p>Read: So also will be the word that I speak—it will not fail to do what I plan for it; it will do everything I send it to do. (Isaiah 55.11, GNB)</p> <p>Think: How is Bible reading part of my life each day? Am I listening to what God is saying through his word?</p> <p>Pray: Lord God, the Bible is a gift that brings truth, hope and freedom to our lives. Help me to hunger and thirst for your words.</p>	<p>Read: For it is you who light my lamp; the LORD my God lightens my darkness. (Psalm 18.28, ESV)</p> <p>Think: In what way can you walk more closely with God? Identify a key step you can take.</p> <p>Pray: Thank you that I have been reached by your word. Please inspire mission workers, church leaders and individuals to communicate your promises to others.</p>
<p>Read: Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. (Jeremiah 15.16, ESV)</p> <p>Think: Are you eager to read God's word and allow it to shape your perspective and actions?</p> <p>Pray: Lord God, guide me when I read your word. Speak to me through the Scriptures. Help me to seek you, listen to you and obey you.</p>	<p>Read: My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12.9, ESV)</p> <p>Think: Do you always remember to fall back on God and his grace during difficult times?</p> <p>Pray: Thank you God for giving Bible workers the world over the strength and courage to continue their missions during the pandemic.</p> <p>Please Lord, keep the outposts spreading your word open during this challenging period.</p>

Coffee and Danish anyone?

Café Church at St John's returned on Saturday 28th August. Here are a couple of pictures that I took on that occasion.



Arthur Miller

CWLC Impetus Lectures

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

Wednesday 6th Oct. 3:20pm. Dr Allain Bueno, Senior Lecturer in Human Physiology, University of Worcester. ‘Life Saving ECG & checking artery health by sound waves’.

Wednesday 20th Oct. 3:20pm. Dr Kate Unwin, Principal Lecturer in Forensic and Applied Biology, University of Worcester. ‘Forensic Biology’.

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

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

Sudoku Puzzle

*Copyright 2013
KrazyDad.com*

*The
solution is
on the
inside back
cover.*

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

A Day's Retreat for Ride and Stride 2021

Saturday 11th September saw a group of people join in with various walking and prayer activities through the day as part of the team Day's Retreat for Ride and Stride 2021.

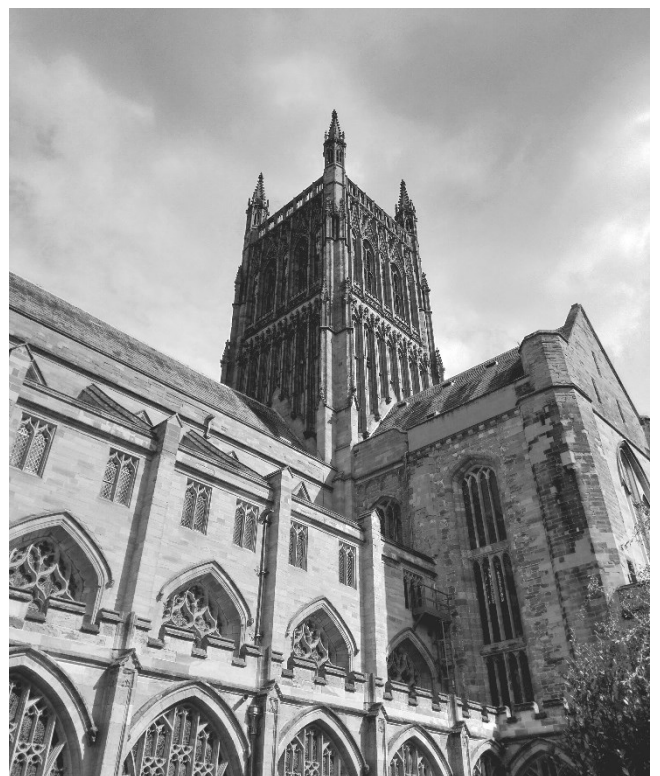
The weather was kind with beautiful sunny skies and a pleasant temperature.



Seven people started the day with Morning Prayer at St Clement's Church before heading off towards Worcester Cathedral. As we walked to the Cathedral, we visited All Saints' Church, St Andrew's Spire, St Alban's (now the Maggs Day Centre), St Helen's and St Andrew's Methodist Church on Pump Street. Unfortunately, all of them were locked or closed to visitors so we were only able to look at the outside of these churches.

Upon arrival at the Cathedral we split up to explore. Several of us made our way to the café!

At 12 noon we gathered together again and were joined by Rev'd Canon Stephen Edwards, one of the Residentiary Canons at Worcester Cathedral, to say Prayer During the Day. Following this, we took advantage of the beautiful weather to have a picnic lunch in the garden at the west end of the Cathedral.



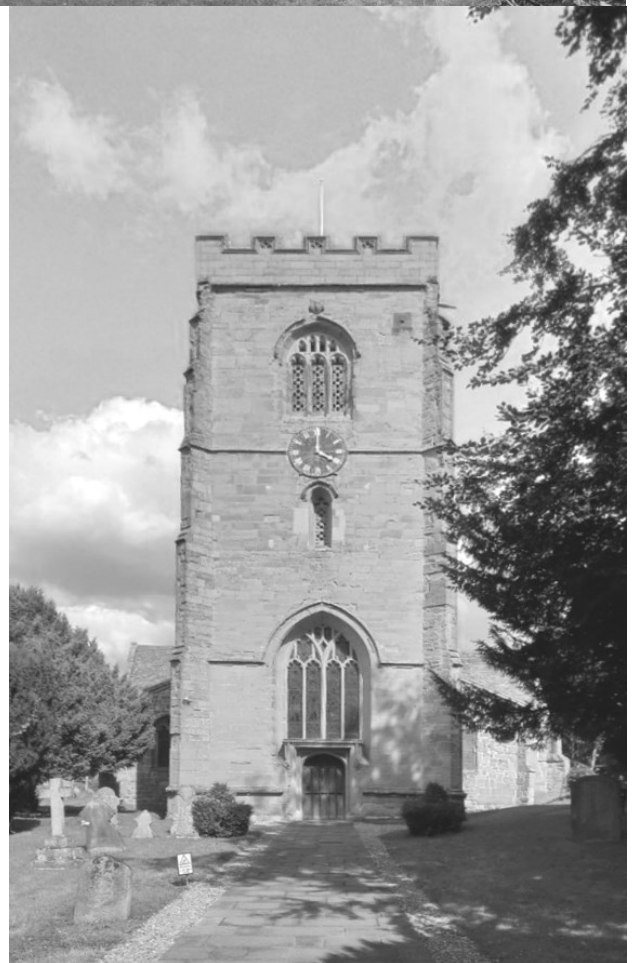


After our lunch, our next prayer activity was the “Walking Church” element of the day. We took the reading we had heard at Prayer During the Day (Matthew 12.1-14) and considered a discussion point which Sarah Cottrill put to us as we walked alongside the river to the footbridge at Diglis. From this point six of us continued along the river along the ‘Monarch’s Way’ through the fields discussing further points about the readings. Once we reached Powick Bridge, we made our way across the new footbridge over the ring road towards Powick Church.



As there was both a wedding and a bell ringing service planned for the day at Powick Church, we made our way to the Red Lion public house next to the church for our next prayer activity, which was ‘Café Church’. Sarah Cottrill had prepared a quiz on the subject of “Education Sunday” and a couple of related discussion points, which were considered over a drink.

After a pleasant hour, we set off back towards Worcester. Once back at Powick Bridge we turned left to walk back through the fields towards Upper Wick and then across the footbridge over the ring road before following the public footpath across the Boughton Park Golf Course.



St Peter's Church, Powick

We arrived at St John's Church in time for eight of us to say Evening Prayer at 5.30pm together.



All in all, we visited nine churches, walked just over 7.6 miles and had a thoroughly enjoyable day that saw 10 people join in at various points.

As the 'Ride+Stride' is a national fundraising campaign of the National Churches Trust to raise money for local Historic Churches Trusts (in our case the Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust (WDHCT)) and local churches, sponsorship forms have been available in our local Worcester City West Team churches over the past couple of weeks.

Thank you to everyone who has sponsored us. If you would still like to sponsor the group you can do so either:

- by filling in one of the sponsorship forms and paying by cash;
- by making a bank transfer to "PCC of St Michael's Church" (using the reference "RideandStride") from where the money will then be passed on to the WDHCT;

Sort code: 30-90-89

Account number: 39204768

Philip Evans

The History of St John's Parish

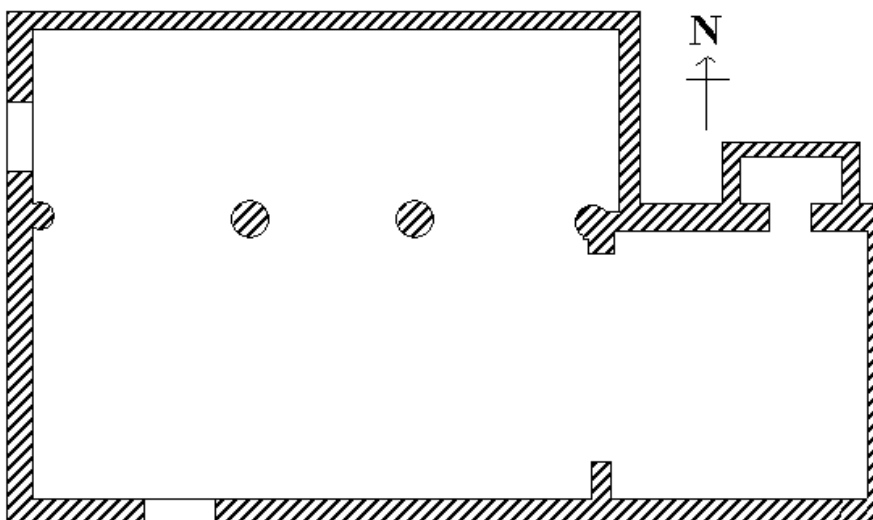
VI: The Late Medieval Parish Church

For centuries after the Reformation, the parish church became the dominant presence in the English ecclesiastical landscape. Even today, when they have been joined by the churches of other Christian denominations and in some places synagogues, mosques and temples, it is the Church of England building which remains ubiquitous. The connection may be increasingly tenuous, the resources ever more stretched, but nominally the parish church is the core pastoral unit for Anglicans.

Prior to the sixteenth century, when these churches would all have been Roman Catholic, this was not the case. Parish churches, while numerous, were only the least prestigious buildings of a crowded ecclesiastical landscape.

Top of the hierarchy were the great monasteries, such as Worcester Cathedral, but there were also convents, collegiate churches, friaries and hospitals. Yet in the last 150 years or so before the Reformation, from about the point where St John's became a parish church, the local churches were expanding and seeking to mimic the great abbeys in their architecture. In some places, the wealth the wool trade brought in allowed for the building of particularly fine 'wool churches' by the parishes, especially in the Cotswolds and East Anglia. After the devastating impact of plague and famine in the fourteenth century, the fifteenth century was a period of expansion and vibrancy in popular religion and parish churches.

In the case of St John's, we know frustratingly little about the late medieval building. There are no surviving written records from this period, while the church interior has been changed so much that all that remains is a partly medieval shell. Without the kind of intrusive archaeological investigation not possible in an active church building, there will be many unanswered questions and much plausible guesswork. That said, even if we lack exact dates and sources, it is clear that after becoming a



parish church in 1371, St John's grew in size and ambition to fulfil its new role.

Until the later fourteenth century, St John's was a small church, consisting of a nave, small chancel and small (north) aisle, the roof considerably lower than today.

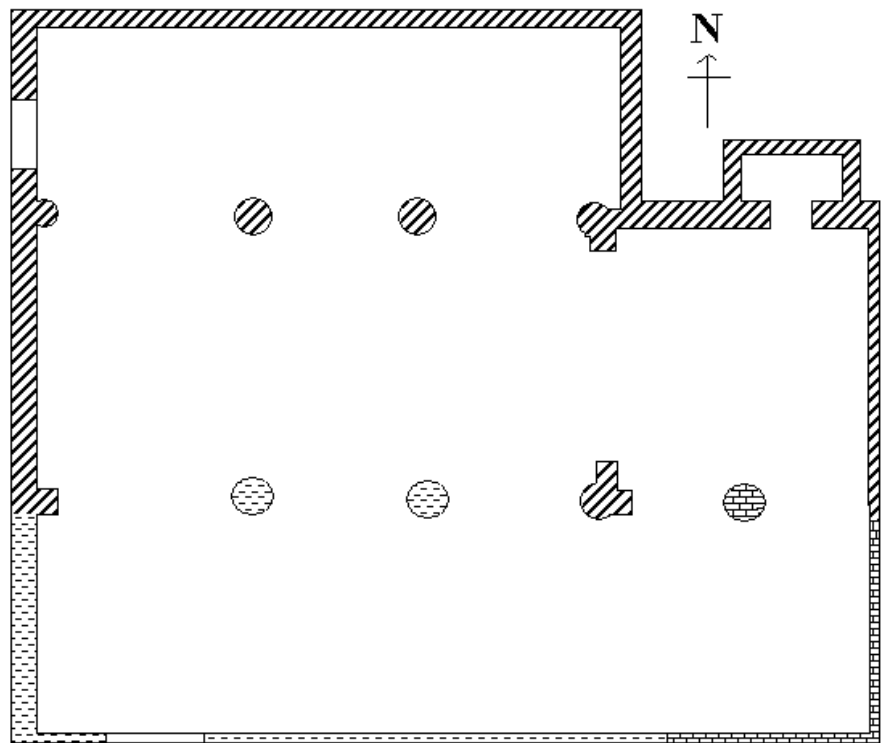
By the Reformation in the sixteenth century, it had been significantly enlarged.

This process likely began around the time the building replaced St Cuthbert's as the parish church, with the construction of the current Lady Chapel in the south-eastern part of the building.

It is entirely possible that this new chapel was dedicated to Cuthbert and held statues or other items brought from

Lower Wick as a reminder of the former parish church.

At some point thereafter, either in the later fourteenth or early fifteenth century, the rest of the South Aisle was built (it is still possible to discern some of the



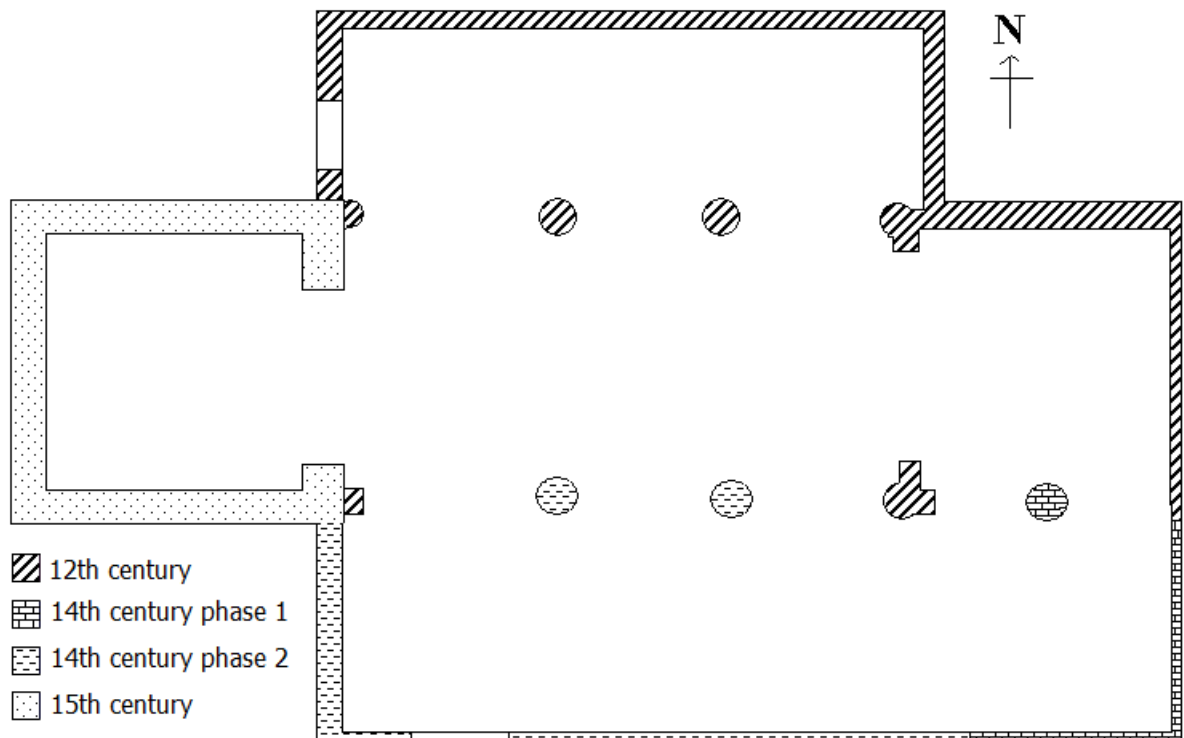
changes required to extend this part of the church). By now, large windows were

in fashion and the new South Aisle would have transformed a rather dark and

gloomy church, flooding it with light as well as increasing its size. That said, there

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By the time the Tudor dynasty came to the throne in 1485, St John's probably had the external appearance it would retain until the significant additions made in the Victorian era, as seen in this drawing from 1790.



This all reflects the commitment and pride of the local parishioners, for although we cannot be certain in the absence of written documents, it is probable that they funded this work.

Into the thirteenth century, it was generally accepted that clergy had the primary responsibility for maintaining church buildings and providing vestments, books and plate. Part of the tithes they received were meant to be devoted to this purpose. However, as many monasteries were awarded rectorships and control of the tithes, this system began to break down. As with Worcester Cathedral and St John's, the monastery frequently had to be admonished by the bishop for failing to apportion a sufficient proportion of the tithes to the vicar. With the vicar's income thus substantially reduced, he did not have the resources to maintain the fabric and fittings of the building.

Over the thirteenth century, a compromise emerged whereby the clergy (strictly, the rector, be that individual or institution) had responsibility for the chancel and the parishioners for the nave. Late medieval rood screens were more than a visual partition between the sacred and popular spaces; they demarcated these areas of different financial responsibility. In a sense, the parishioners were paying twice, for they had to pay tithes which helped maintain the chancel as well as taking on responsibility for the nave. There is nothing new about the Church loading all responsibility onto the laity. Yet in many places, including St John's, the parishioners wanted the best church they could get and funded it accordingly, through bequests, donations and various other means. The medieval expansion of St John's is tribute to the dedication and generosity of the laity, the role of the Cathedral and the diocese being minimal.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the interior, most of what can be said is guesswork, pieced together from fragmentary survivals and what can be seen in other churches.

Within, St John's is a firmly post-Reformation church, with few hints of the medieval layout. The whitewashed walls and bare stone today give little idea of how the medieval church must have appeared. Only traces of colour (red) now remain in certain places, mainly on the north pillar near the nave platform, but in the Middle Ages churches were awash with colour. Very few ordinary people could read, so Bible stories and images of saints would be painted on the walls. Stained glass served a similar purpose, although the only medieval glass in St John's are the two roundels incorporated in the reworked chancel; it is unlikely this kind of church had any large quantity of stained glass. Candle smoke and incense, in addition to creating a rather stuffy atmosphere, would have necessitated regular cleaning if the paintings were not to become blackened by smoke, rather like some Orthodox churches today. It would strike most of us now as distinctly garish, but as fortunate survivals across the country remind us, medieval churches were colourfully painted for both aesthetic and educational reasons, and St John's would have been no different. With colourful vestments and hangings, the liturgy would have been a vivid spectacle.

Colour aside, the biggest difference would have been the way the church was partitioned. The chancel, which was not very big, would have been separated from the nave by a wooden rood screen. No trace of this remains beyond evidence of alterations where the beam to support the rood loft once was. The rood loft sat above the screen and supported the crucifix ('rood' is Old English for 'cross' or 'crucifix'), along with statues and candles. The picture shows that the blocked-up entrance of the stairs which led up to the loft is still visible today. The bottom of the rood screen



would probably have been decorated with images of saints, while the middle portion would have had open windows to allow a clear view of the high altar.

The importance of the visibility of the altar is shown by the squint (hagioscope), the hole carved into the easternmost pillar of the North Aisle, which would have given a view from that aisle to the position of the high altar.

Although only archaeology would have any chance of proving this, there would have been other altars around the church. Some of these may also have been screened off; it is very likely the current Lady Chapel would have been separated from the South Aisle by a wooden screen. These altars would have been dedicated

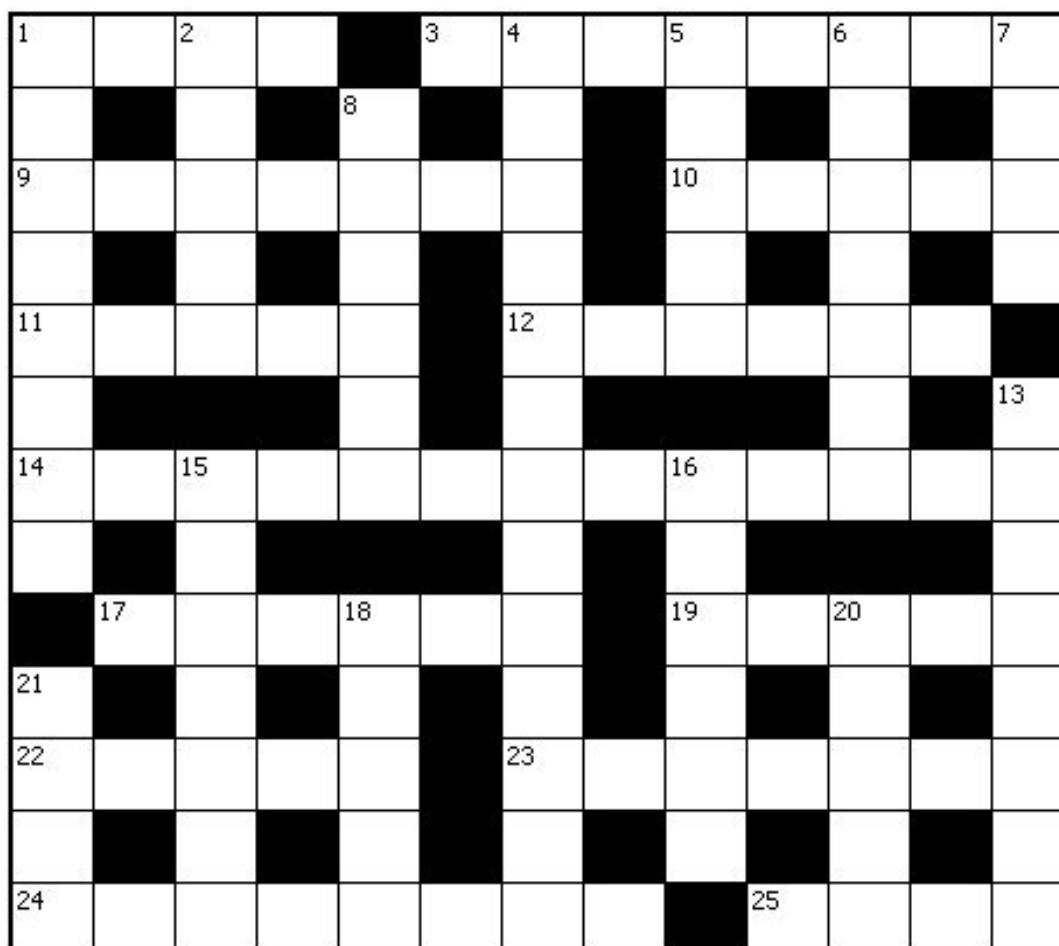
to different saints and located around the building. While there are no full chantry chapels in St John's, some of these altars would have been used as memorial altars, where masses were said for the souls of the dead who had left money for that purpose. Some altars would have been funded by local guilds. Memorial plaques or coats of arms around these altars might have reminded people of this. There is no survey of how many bodies lie beneath the church, but those who could afford it would have been buried inside with slabs or brass plaques to commemorate them. The font would have stood somewhere at the west end of the nave. In the space left among all this, the odd bench might have been provided for the elderly or infirm, but it was generally standing room only.

A lot of this is educated guesswork, but it is important to remember just how different medieval churches were. The very existence of St John's and its current shape owes much to the faith of our medieval ancestors, but they would have found its modern appearance baffling. Next time you are in the church, it is worth looking around for those traces and hints of its vanished medieval splendour.

My thanks to Philip Evans for his floor plans and inputs to the text of this article.

Phil Bradford

Crossword



The solution is on the inside back cover.

Clues Across

- 1 'Those who were standing near Paul said, "You — to insult God's high priest?"' (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 'Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite' (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Clues Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4–5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)



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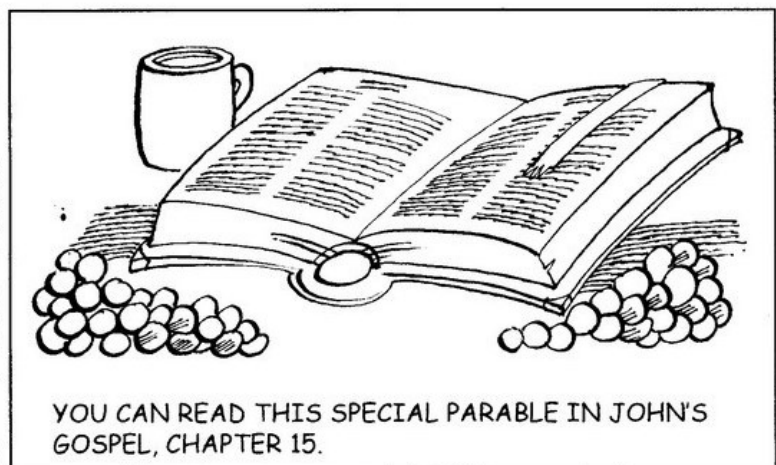
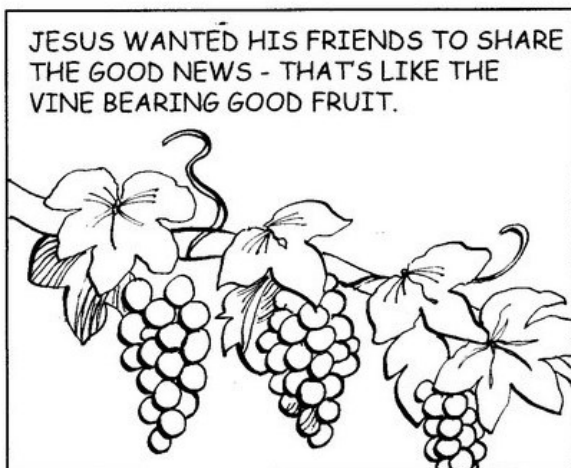
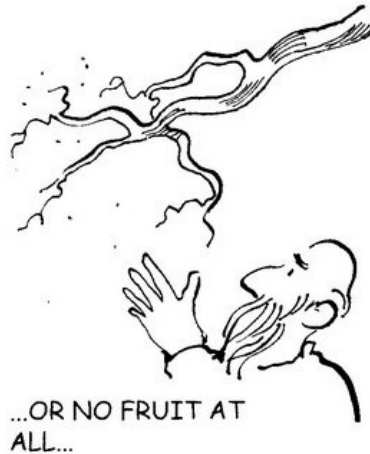
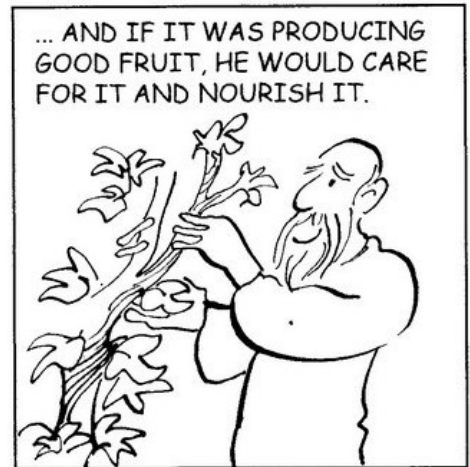
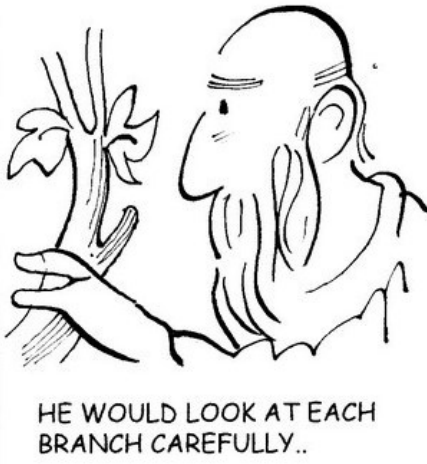
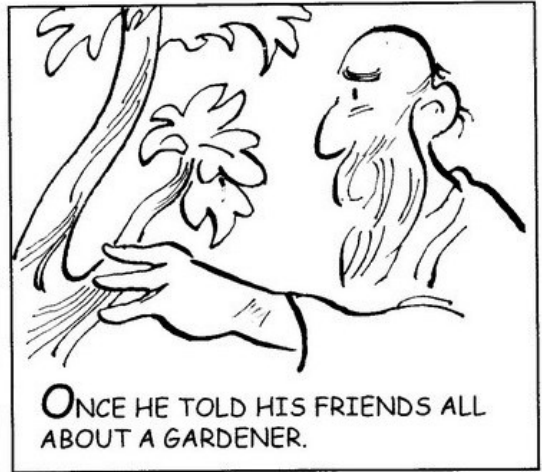
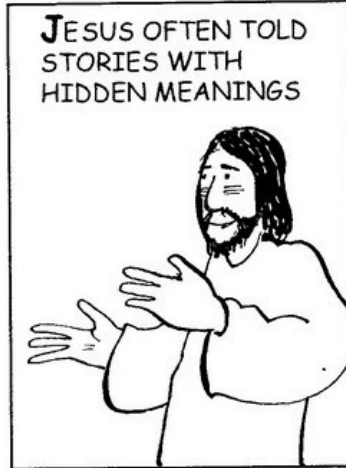
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Churches in our (new) deanery

This month's church is St. Mary Magdalene, Alfrick (& Lulsley). I chose this church next for no other reason than it began with an 'A' but what a little gem it is.



Situated in a quiet rural village about seven miles to the west of Worcester. The church itself, I am told, will seat about 70 people and has a regular worshipping congregation of about 20.

The nave is probably Norman and retains three original windows. The chancel is 13th century together with the south doorway. The chancel east window and the porch together with its adjacent window are probably 14th century.

The interesting conical font (the lid is more modern being carved by a former Vicar's son) was presumed to be 12th century though Pevsner thinks it more likely to be 17th century.

St Giles, Lulsley (now a private home) and Alfrick were originally chapelries in the parish of Suckley until 1912. Some of the effects from Lulsley were brought to St Mary Magdalene and placed in the north transept (now called the Lulsley Chapel) which had either been built or renovated

Continued on page 37





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Continued from page 35

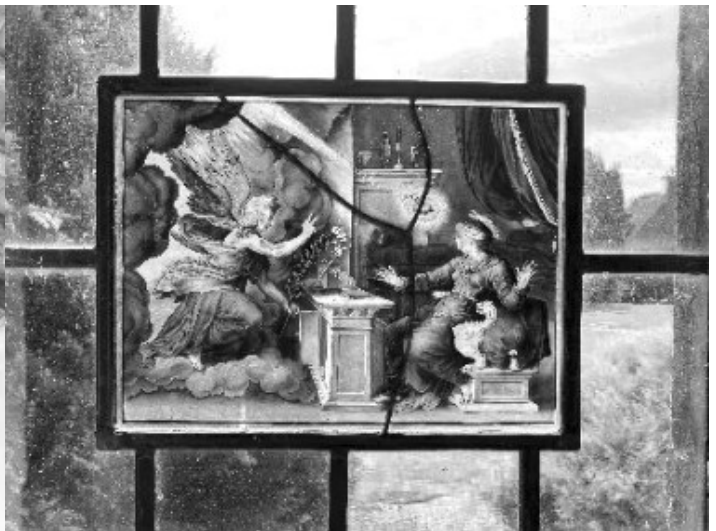
by Sir George Aston Webb in the Perpendicular style like his 'improvements' at Claines. Webb also instituted the pews which I must admit are quite comfortable to sit on.

I had a pleasant hour on my visit reading some of the memorials and was interested to note a topical one of a Pilot Officer killed whilst flying on the Afghan border on Easter Day 1926. (We were there following the Treaty of Rawalpindi at the end of the Third Anglo-Afghan War in 1919 – Khyber Pass fame).

The chimney on the north side of the church is an impressive construction and suggests a certain amount of over-engineering as does the three-phase electricity for a church that does not appear to have much use for large amounts of power.



The chancel has a delightful half barrel roof (wagon type) and some lovely stained glass. Much of the stained glass comprises faded Dutch panels from the 15th to 17th century. They were given from a private collection and the windows reglazed and fitted with them in the 1950's. The one shown below, I assume, is of the Annunciation and is richly coloured.



A 19th century curate at Alfrick was Skeffington Dodgson, the brother of Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll – Alice in Wonderland) who it is said visited many times. God bless those that worship here and, whilst the pub in the village has now been gone awhile, there is another good one a short cycle ride away, further west on your way to find St Giles, Lulsley.

Paul Fulbrook

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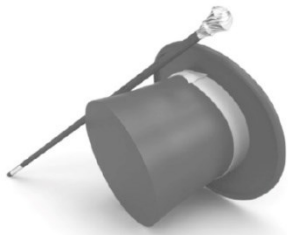
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From the magazine archive (October 1952)

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

THE meetings are once again in full swing—the programmes for the next month or two are varied and interesting. A tour of the hop fields was planned for September and very much enjoyed. This month we shall have a talk on Old Worcester to be given by Mr. Minchin.

Then the first Tuesday in November we shall be having another Cooking Demonstration, this time to be given by the Gas Company. I shall be glad if any of you can give a little time to help at the Sale of Work for the C.M.S.; St. John's are in charge of the Coffee during the morning of this sale. If any of you can spare one hour to give a hand I should be most grateful.

The next Corporate Communion will be on Thursday, October 2nd, at 10.30 a.m. E.A.C.

MOTHERS' UNION

PLEASE note, the meeting will be held on *Monday, October 13th*, for this month only. The Banner Fund is growing little by little, and small gifts are coming in for this, for which the Committee are most grateful. We extend a welcome to our Vicar, and trust he and Mrs. Richards will join us at the meeting on the 13th for a cup of tea. E.A.C.

AUTUMN FAYRE

Window Spotting Competition

WE are running this competition on the same lines as last year from October 25th to November 8th. The shops which are taking part will display a distinctive window-card, and somewhere in their window will be an article not usually sold in that shop. When you have spotted these, obtain an entry form, price 6d., either from any of the shops, or from Mr. Laffin or Mr. Langley at St. John's School.

Prizes of £3, £2, £1 will be awarded. Write your name and address plainly on the entry form and return it to Smith & Son, St. John's.

ST. LUKE'S DAY MEDICAL SERVICE

Sunday, October 19th, at 6.30 p.m.

A SPECIAL service has again been arranged for Doctors, Nurses, Medical Auxiliaries and their wives.

The only slight change in the splendid tradition of this service held in St. John's is that it will be held this year on Sunday, and not on Saturday (St. Luke's Day).

The address will be given by Dr. H. J. Orr-Ewing, M.D., F.R.C.P., lecturer in Clinical Medicine to Bristol University, who will take as his subject: "The Christian approach to medical problems".

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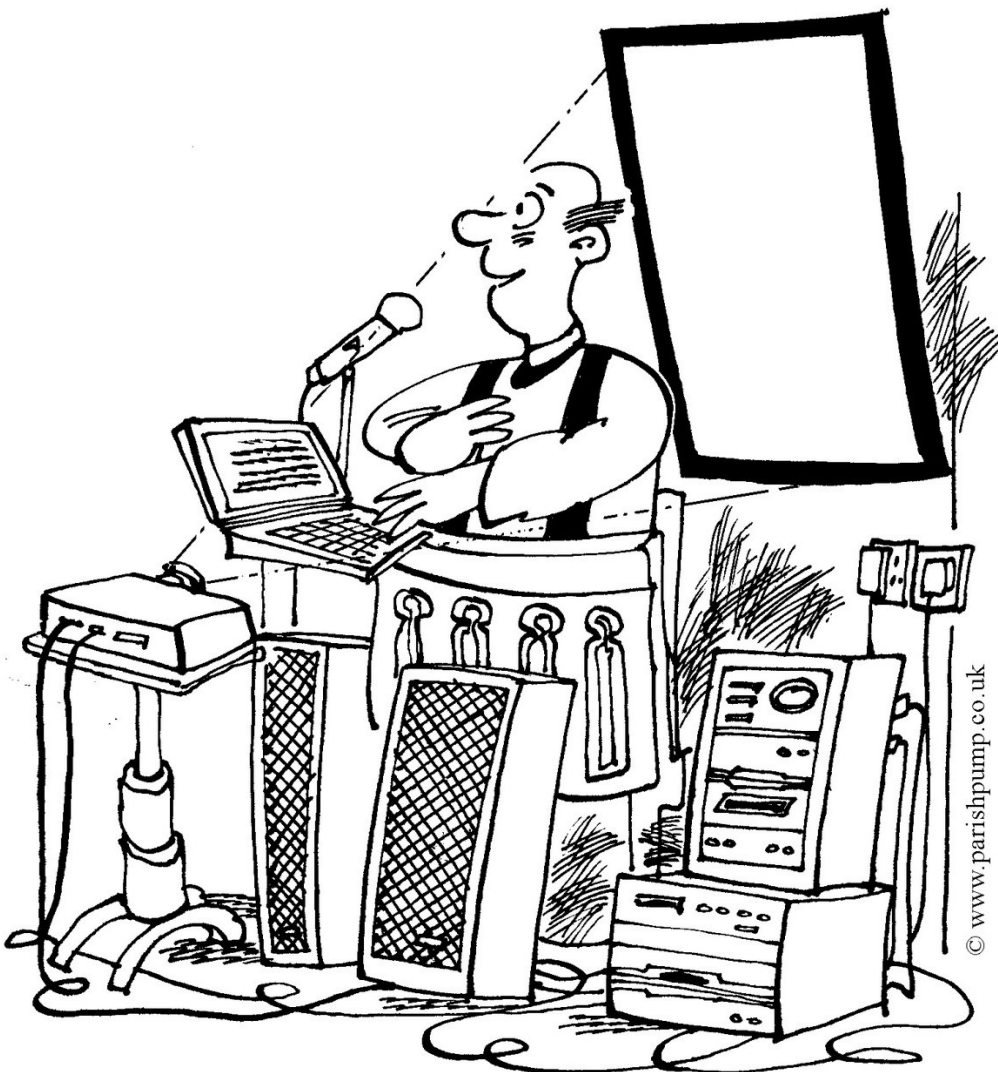


Puzzle solutions

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6	2	1	8	5	7	3	9	4
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8	4	6	5	7	1	9	3	2
5	3	2	9	8	4	1	6	7
9	1	5	3	6	2	7	4	8
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*... and the
theme of this
morning's
service is
'Preaching a
Gospel of
simplicity'*



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team - October 2021

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
3rd October	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
10th October	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
17th October	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
24th October	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
31st October	10am Team Eucharist (location to be confirmed nearer the time)			
31st October	7.30pm All Souls' service ***	6pm All Souls' service		
7th November	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

*** The All Souls' service at 7.30pm on 31st October at St John's will be in-person and streamed. Please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for more details.

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