

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



October 2022

50p



Her Majesty The Queen

1926 - 2022

RIP

Photo: Joel Rouse/ Ministry of Defence, OGL 3 <<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3>>, via Wikimedia Commons

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 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/

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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 for this month is St Luke. Sarah tells us about him, and what we can learn from him, in her letter. David Winter also speaks more about Luke on page 38.

Of course, the passing of Her Majesty The Queen is in all our thoughts at the moment. Tributes and reflections abound, and we are happy to bring some to you through our pages. We hope that the memory of her life and example, so strongly rooted in her faith in God, will uplift us all in the difficult times we face ahead and guide our behaviour to one another at every level from individual to national and international.

*Gracious God, we give thanks
for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth,
for her faith and her dedication to duty.
Bless our nation as we mourn her death
and may her example continue to inspire us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

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The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 54 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 10.

From Sarah Cottrill

I am writing this letter on September 9th – the day on which I, like so many others, woke for the first time in my life to an England not ruled over by Queen Elizabeth II. Our late queen gave us all a marvellous example of faithful duty and service. Such was her grace, dedication and charm that even many who have no enthusiasm for the monarchy as an institution, held Elizabeth as a person in



high esteem and respect. Her passing marks the end of an era and many people will find it difficult to instantly and fully grasp the reality that this lady – mother, grandmother to a few, loved and admired by so many, head of state and Church, is no longer at the helm. To slightly misquote the future Queen Mary, speaking of the death of that other great queen, Victoria: “The thought of England without Queen Elizabeth is dreadful even to think of. God help us all!”¹

The first real indication we had that the queen’s life was drawing to its close, was the statement, issued by Buckingham Palace at lunchtime on 8th, that her doctors were concerned for her health. So the warning which prepared us for what was to come, came from doctors, which makes it particularly fitting that the theme for the magazine is St Luke – “The beloved physician.”

As with so many of our saints, much of what is “known” about St Luke comes to us through tradition rather than solid facts. Luke was not one of the original twelve apostles, although he may well have been amongst the seventy disciples sent out by Jesus.² He was almost certainly a Gentile, a Greek, probably born in Antioch; and his Gospel was exceptionally sympathetic towards Gentiles, women and others on the fringes of society. He is first mentioned in the letters of St Paul where he is described as Paul’s co-worker and as the beloved physician. It is generally believed that Luke accompanied Paul on several of his missionary journeys. In his second letter to Timothy, Paul states, rather poignantly that: “Only Luke is with me.”³ From this we may assume that Luke was a man of firm loyalty and steadfastness.

“St Luke the Evangelist” is credited with writing the third of the four gospels which, as already mentioned, is exceptionally sympathetic towards Gentiles, women and others on the fringes of society. It contains some of the New Testament’s best known – and best loved – stories found in none of the other

gospel accounts. The visit of the shepherds to the infant Jesus and the parables of the good Samaritan and the prodigal son are amongst these unique accounts. These give us an impression of a man who was loyal, caring, compassionate and broad-minded. It is generally believed that Luke wrote this gospel in the early 80s or a little later, and that he settled in Greece where he died of old age.

It is also thanks to Luke that we know about the history of the early Christian Church. His second book – The Acts of the Apostles – takes us from the ascension to Pentecost, the growth and persecution of the early church and how, out of this persecution, the church spread to other parts of the world.

The emblem for St Luke is an ox – a universal beast of burden which fits with Luke’s emphasis on the universal inclusivity of Christ’s love and ministry. But the ox was also, in the ancient world, a symbol of strength and power. In an age without machinery, “the ox was the world’s most powerful engine”⁴ and the book of Proverbs acknowledges human dependence on this beast of burden when it states: Where there is no oxen there is no grain; abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.⁵ So Luke’s emblem reminds us of our total dependence on Jesus who came to bear our burdens and without whom our lives are poor indeed.

St Luke is the patron saint of doctors and artists and his feast day is celebrated on October 18th.

The Collect for St Luke prays:

*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 by 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.
Amen.*

Sarah

¹ The British Century Weidenfeld & Nicolson London. 1997

² Britannica.com

³ 2 Timothy 4,11

⁴ Four Gospels, One Jesus. SPCK 1994

⁵ Proverbs 14,4

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.

Inclusion only needs to be requested once; entries are then included until the fortieth anniversary.
An extension may be requested by family or friends of those named.

From the Registers, August 2022

St John's

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

14th August 2022 Thea Valerie Harford

14th August 2022 Penelope Rose Reynolds

14th August 2022 Alexander Gregory Cole

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 26th June 2022 Catherine Irvine

d. 26th July 2022 Robert Gerald Green

SERVICES: Communicants 169. Total attendance at all services 395, including 115 at two baptisms and a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES: Communicants 68. Total attendance at all services 79.

Sundays and Principal Feasts in October

Sunday 2nd: Harvest Festival

Sunday 9th Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 16th: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 18th: Luke the Evangelist

Sunday 23rd: The last Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)

Sunday 30th: All Saints'

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).

Dates for your diary

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

(J) Saturday 1st October, 10am - 12noon: Table top sale, see page 11.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 5th October, 7.30pm - 9pm: Revelation course in the Blakefield Room continues. Every Wednesday until 19th October.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 8th October, 9am: Women's breakfast, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 12th October, 10am-11.30am: Little Blessings.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 13th October, 1pm: Good Old Days talk, Worcester's Haunting History, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 13th October, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 17th October, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union, speaker Phil Bradford. Subject: "Visit to Oberammergau".

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 19th October, 3pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 22nd October, 10.15am: Café at 10:15, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 26th October, 10am-11.30am: Little Blessings

--- 000 ---

(J) Sunday 30th October, 2am: Clocks go back one hour.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 5th November: Community breakfast. Details below.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 26th November, 9am: Coach trip to Gloucester Quays, see page 8.

Community Breakfast

The Community Breakfast is on Saturday 5th November. Breakfast is served from 8.30am until 11am A time for the community to come together and share fellowship and good conversation with others - as well as a "Full English Breakfast" with unlimited supplies of tea, toast, and coffee.

This is a free event and all are welcome.

Jenny English

Gloucester Quays



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Events at St John's

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1pm*

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**Wednesday 19th October
at 3pm in the Church
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St John in Bedwardine



**Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish
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**At 10.15am on
Saturday
22nd October**

***Thought for the day by
Graham Evans***
ALL WELCOME



**Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship**

**Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!
Our next meeting is on
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9.00am until 11.00am**

**St John-in-Bedwardine
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9				3			2	
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The evening will be led by Simon Hill and Emma Pettifer (Youth and Children's Officer) with our 'Calling Young Disciples' team. No need to book a place, but please join us.

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Prayer for Ukraine



Heavenly Father, we pray for the people of Ukraine and those who fight so valiantly for their country's freedom and democracy.

You, Lord, are our hope and salvation

We pray, Lord, that governments around the world will continue to support Ukraine, with practical and financial help. That governments continue to work with Ukraine for peace.

You, Lord, are our hope and salvation

Lord Jesus, we pray for all people of Ukraine, the refugees, the displaced, men, women and children. Those who are sick, those who have been injured and those who despair. Give them spiritual and physical strength as they keep on serving and praying for each other.

You, Lord, are our hope and salvation.

Lord Jesus, we seek your blessing on those who have died and entered into the fullness of your peace.

You, Lord, are our hope and salvation.

Lord Jesus, we pray for those areas of Ukraine that are now being liberated from Russian control. For the men, women and children who have lived under a barrage of hate and violence for many months. We ask, Lord, that as they start to grieve for their losses, your spirit of love will encircle their lives. Give them strength to rebuild their lives and to find peace and hope.

Lord Jesus, help us to pray with them,

You, Lord, are our hope and salvation.

Amen.

Jenny English



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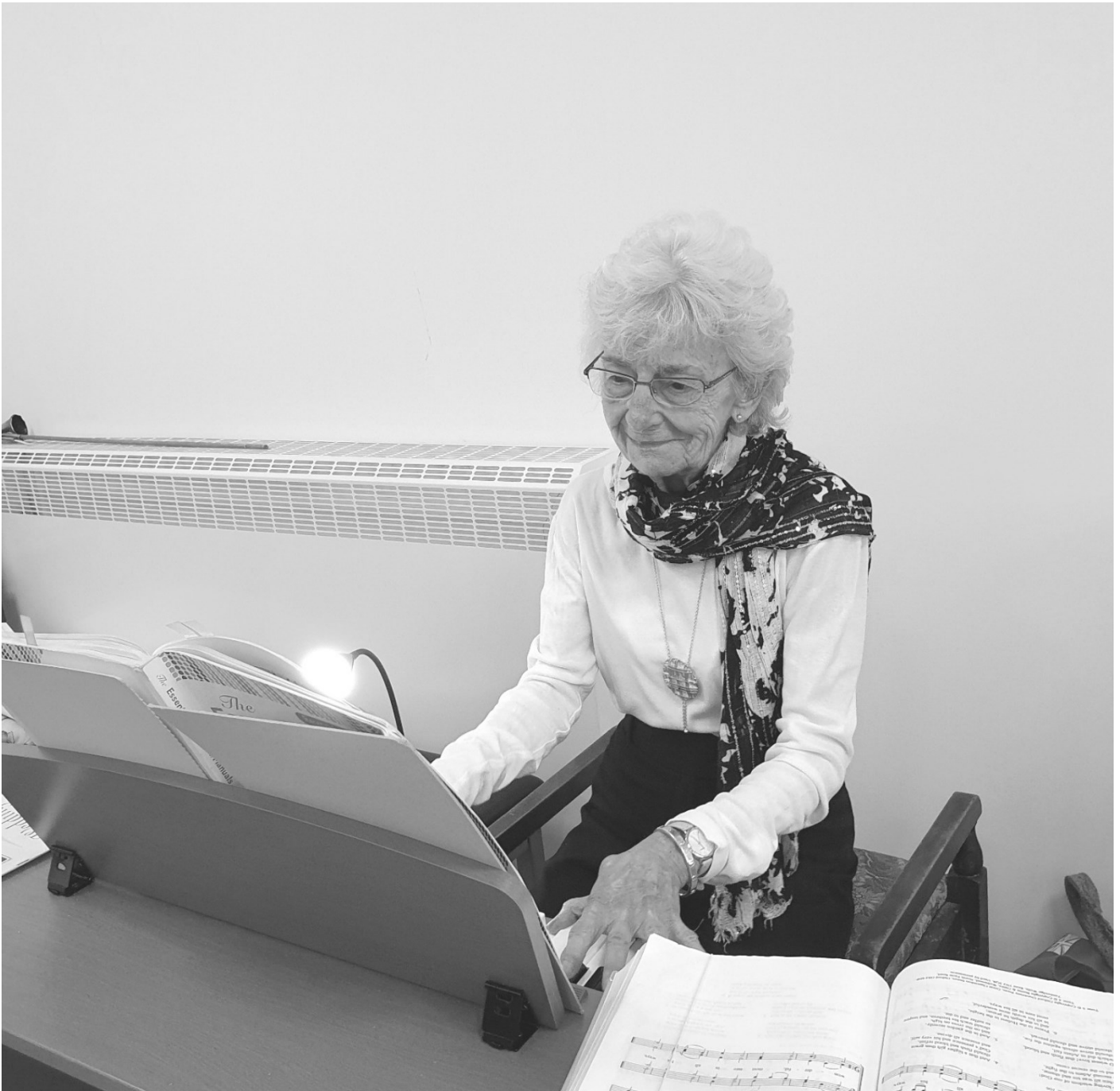
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Merren Anthony, RIP



While the world was reeling from the news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the people of St Michael's were hearing of another death, much closer to home. On Friday, September 9th, our dear friend and loyal organist, Merren Anthony, died suddenly and unexpectedly. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

Merren was, quite simply, a delight! Seldom without a grin that spread across her whole face, she was full of life and humour. That humour would often be at her own expense, sometimes irreverent, never malicious. She had a firm and constant faith but no time for piety and spoil-sport religion. The God she knew and served was a God who gave us life in abundance and Merren lived this life with great gusto. She was generous in her service to His

Continued on page 19



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Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

Continued from page 17

church, never wanting (and frequently refusing) payment in any kind. Yet she was also generous in the thanks she gave to others; never failing to say thank you after a service and regularly leaving gifts on the doorstep of the vicarage – thank you Howard and others for delivering these!

Singing hymns to Merren's accompaniment could be quite challenging. She didn't believe in pauses between verses to catch one's breath! But it was all part of her enthusiasm and we couldn't help but beam along with her as we rattled our way through the hymns.

My memories of Merren will always be of a slightly built, sprightly lady who oozed warmth and humour and I will always be grateful that I knew her and served with her. St Michael's is a sadder place without her and we will all miss her very much.

On the Sunday after Merren's death, Jenny, speaking of her and the queen said that she could imagine the two ladies arriving at Heaven together; Merren telling the Queen a joke and Her Majesty roaring with laughter at it. It is a delightful image and one which certainly sums up Merren.

Thank you, Merren. God bless. Rest in peace.

Sarah Cottrill

West Worcester Friendship Club

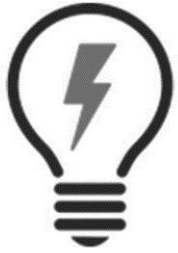
The fourth meeting of this group took place on Thursday, September 8th. Five ladies, one man and a (guide) dog gathered in St Michael's Church to enjoy chat over tea and a delicious cake made for us by Jo Dowling.

On this occasion we were joined by John Pound who gave us a fascinating – and humorous – talk on the Wedgwood family and the saving of the Wedgwood Museum. John included some unexpected snippets of information; for example, do you know the origins of that bane of all motorists' lives – the pothole? If not, ask John!

Our meeting took place before news of the death of Queen Elizabeth but some of us had heard that there was cause for concern about her health, and she and her family were held in prayer.

The group next meets on Thursday October 13th when we will be testing our skills at board games. Anybody who has been bereaved is welcome to join us. Speak to me, Jo Dowling or Val Mason for more information.

Sarah Cottrill



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It's hard to believe

On Wednesday September 14th, St John's Church held a Service of Thanksgiving for the life and service of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Here is Phil's address from that service:

It seems hard to believe that it is just three months since we were watching Queen Elizabeth II taking tea with Paddington, revealing the greatest secret of her reign; what she kept in her handbag. From the joy of those Platinum Jubilee celebrations, it has been but the shortest road to the sombre ceremonials of the last six days.

Last Thursday was the day we all knew would have to come, had feared would come. As the Queen looked ever frailer across the past year, we somehow hoped that day might be postponed into some far distant future. As we acknowledged her mortality, so too many seemed to hold out a dream of her immortality, that somehow she would always be there. After all, for most of us, she has always been there. She reigned longer than most of the country has been alive, and only a few remember (dimly) a time without her. Her image is ubiquitous, from coins, banknotes and stamps to websites and news footage.

After seven decades, Queen Elizabeth II had become a constant in a terrifyingly inconstant world, familiar across the globe, to an extent we only now realise.

I have had messages of condolence from friends in France, Germany, Italy, Peru, the States, and other republics where you would hardly have imagined the Queen would have had such an impact, people somehow grasping what she meant to the people of this country. Last Thursday night, before a football match between Italian side Lazio and Dutch side Feyenoord in Rome, a silence was impeccably observed before kick-off in a contest whose participants came from countries with nothing to do with the Queen. And no tribute was as poignant, as unexpected, as the eloquent and beautiful one paid by French President Emmanuel Macron:

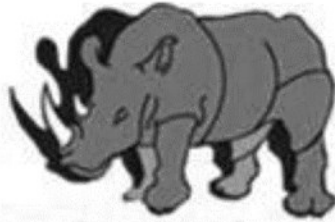
'To you, she was your Queen. To us, she was the Queen. She will be with us forever.'

There is no understating the enormity of this moment, as the world comes to terms with the loss of someone who has been ever-present, through the joys and sorrows of the years, since the age of Churchill and Truman.

Besides the sadness and the mourning, however, this is also a time for thanksgiving. Elizabeth II was, after all, ninety-six, and at the end of a long life and reign one cannot help the feeling that she was ready to die and did so on her terms.

Perhaps her final service to her country was to face death with courage. In an age afraid of death, she prepared for hers calmly and when

Continued on page 23



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Continued from page 21 the time came, accepted it with dignity, yet working to the very end. We might have expected nothing less, for this was the hallmark of her reign. ‘My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service,’ declared Princess Elizabeth on her twenty-first birthday in 1947. It was the same year she married Prince Philip, and seventy-four years later she would still be fulfilling that promise as she sat alone and bereft at her husband’s funeral, fiercely determined to lead by example at a time when so many others were enduring lonely grief.

Across seven decades, she embodied values which are so important but became increasingly unfashionable: duty, service, silence. She was there, almost unflinching, at state openings, state events and so much more, throughout those seven decades, doing her job in person, determined to do her duty. Less than forty-eight hours before she died, she insisted on overseeing one last change of prime minister herself. In an age when people feel the need to let everyone know their thoughts and spill everything, she maintained a dignified and enigmatic silence. Amidst the millions of words that have poured forth in commemoration these past six days, there is surely no greater tribute to Queen Elizabeth II than this, that she kept that vow without fail for three quarters of a century, to the very end. She served her people and she did her duty.

To do her duty, to both her people and to God, was her guiding principle. Beneath it all lay a firm and obvious faith. The Queen became, in effect, the most effective Christian evangelist of them all. Each year, in a message watched around the world, she would talk gently but openly of her faith in her Christmas broadcast. It was a faith which sustained her through a long reign, one which involved its difficulties and its sorrows as well as its joys and celebrations, and she was always clear about how important her faith in God was to her and the way she approached her role.

And she would doubtless have identified with the reading (Revelation 21.1-7), that we have just heard. That vision of the future kingdom in which creation is renewed, and the pain and suffering of this world is transformed.

We must now adapt to a changed and uncertain world without her reassuring presence of so many years, praying for the King and his family as they mourn and especially for him as he takes up so heavy a burden. In doing that, we are also mindful that as her time among us has ended, we join together as a nation to entrust Queen Elizabeth II into the hands of the king of kings whom she served so faithfully, in thanksgiving for her life and everything that she meant to this country and beyond. After so many years of dutiful service, let us pray that she may rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Phil Bradford

RIDE+STRIDES **for Churches**

Ride+Stride

Every year in September the National Churches Trust promotes the Ride+Stride. Ride+Stride is a sponsored cycle ride or walk in which people from all over the country walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside.

Once again, we were indebted to Philip Evans for organising a most enjoyable day for us when, on September 10th a group of us gathered at St John's Church for the annual Ride + Stride Day.



After saying Morning Prayer in the churchyard, we walked through fields and by streams and the river. We crossed the river at Diglis.





Our next stop was the church of St Mark in the Cherry Orchard.

Here we were afforded a warm welcome and given time to admire the church before Philip led us in our Bible reflection on a passage from Acts.



The same passage gave us plenty of scope for discussion as the next stage of our walk, to the church of St Philip and St James, Whittington, incorporated our Walking Church session. Another very warm welcome was received at this church where we were provided with tea and coffee to go with our well-earned lunch!



Setting off again we next walked to St Martin's London Road where coffee/tea making facilities were available and Philip provided cake so that we could have our Café Church part of the day. As the following day was Education Sunday, we took that as the theme for our quiz and discussion. Being on a walk which took many of us into unknown territory, it was very appropriate that the text for Education Sunday was You are not lost!

The final leg of our journey (and some of us felt we were on our last legs!) took us to St Clement's Church where we ended the day with Evening Prayer.

Thanks to Philip for his thorough preparation of the day and to all who joined us for part or all of the day. It is not too late to sponsor us and raise some money for our churches. Just speak to me or Philip and we'll be happy to receive your donations!

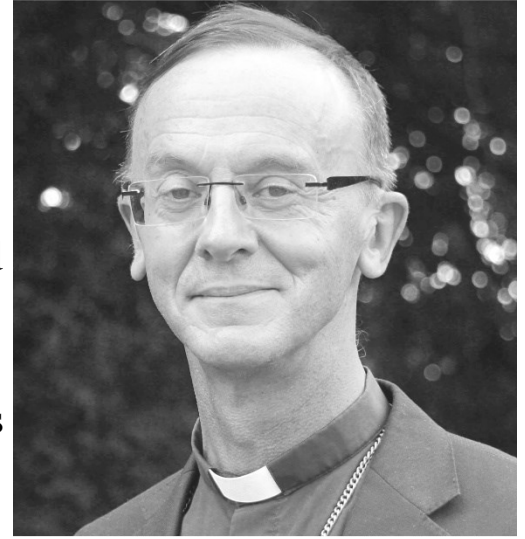
Sarah Cottrill

Her Majesty the Queen

Statements from the Bishops of Worcester and Dudley:

Bishop John said:

“I was immensely sad to learn of the death of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. She has been on the throne since before most of us were born and has been a constant source of strength, stability and inspiration throughout her long reign. She has been the glue which has held this country and the Commonwealth together and I give heartfelt thanks for her life of selfless service. That service was undergirded and enabled by a deep Christian faith and we now commend her to the God in whom she believed, whose love is stronger than death, as we also pray for members of the Royal Family, particularly our new King. May they be given grace and strength. GOD SAVE THE KING!”



Bishop Martin said:

“Like most people in the UK today, Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II has been the only monarch I have ever known, as she came to the throne ten years before I was born.

My parents lived through World War Two and they particularly remembered how the young princess comforted people whose houses had been destroyed in the Blitz. When I was fifteen, she passed our house during her Silver Jubilee procession around the country. There was a carnival atmosphere and the street had been crowded for hours just to see her drive through. Later in life I was privileged to meet HM the Queen in person which was always a delight and privilege. She was a sincere and prayerful Christian lady. Her Christmas broadcasts often went to the heart of her faith in ways that embraced the diversity of the nation and commonwealth. She lived out her calling to lead this country in the ways of righteousness and peace and was more than worthy of the titles she held under God: Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and Defender of the Faith. We mourn her passing. May she rest in peace, and rise in glory.”

Coach trip to Weston-Super-Mare

On an overcast morning a group of travellers met at the church to go to the seaside for the day on a charabanc, well we were actually going on a very modern coach to Weston-Super-Mare for the day.



Luckily the weather was kind to us, and it improved while we were in Weston, but it did not get as hot as it had been in recent weeks. We arrived at the promenade in Weston at 11am and everyone left to go where they wanted.



We had the wide expanse of the beach, the pier, a small bay for kid's swimming and the shops and cafes, so plenty to see and do for the 5 hours we had until the coach took us all home again.

Sandra and I headed off for a coffee to start with and then walked along the pier. We took in the penny amusements on the pier (tuppence is the minimum spend these days!) and we soon lost our £1 of two penny coins. Not going to break the bank there are we as high rollers!?! Weston still has the feeling of a seaside town from years ago. As we walked round, we went past closed hotels and restaurants, but we also went past places that were being done up or had been recently.



The council at Weston has created a small bay that is fed and cleaned by the sea every high tide but then remains as a shallow place for children to play in the water in safety. At least one of our families headed there for the day with their young children, who thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



After walking down the pier we walked across the beach. We were there about low tide, so the sand went on for miles, or so it seemed. As we walked down to the wetter areas, we could see that there was a lot of mud and one child was really enjoying himself in the mud, but both we and his parents knew that it could so easily change and he could get stuck in the mud. So he was carefully extracted from the muddy area, much to his annoyance, and brought back on to the sand.



Walking on past the bay we went to the old pier, Birnbeck Pier, which is on the northern edge of Weston. The pier is the only one in the country that links the mainland with an island, Birnbeck Island. It fell into disrepair in about 1979 and is in a very sorry state now, but still has the majesty of what it would have looked like in its heyday, complete with the old lifeboat station.

We turned back for the centre and headed to find a fish and chip restaurant. You can't go to the seaside without having fish and chips! Well, we can't anyway!



Catherine Templeton managed to capture photos of some of our stalwart coach trippers as she walked along the pier and promenade.

(Left) Walter and Janet Hart

(Right) Peter and Marion Platt



After lunch Sandra and I had a quick trip to the shops, a bit disappointing we found them. This was followed by afternoon tea and finally another walk along the promenade.

We wanted to see the new art installation, See Monster, that they are erecting on the beach. It is an old North Sea oil rig that is being built in a dock that they will flood, and it will be covered with trees and greenery. It is due to open later in the year. Could be worth another visit to see that. (*Check seemonster.co.uk - Editors*)



Finally, we went back to the coach pick-up point to check all the group back on board our coach and wind our way back to Worcester. From the talk and chatter, especially from the children, on the way back, it seems that everyone had enjoyed their day out to the seaside.

Colin Nash

Easingwold Churches

Whenever Sandra and I go on holiday we are always on the lookout for something that could be used as a photo at some point in the newsletter, such as another St John's church. Whilst in North Yorkshire on a recent holiday we went to the lovely village of Easingwold and picked up a street map at Tourist Information, always one of our first stops.



On the map we saw that there was a St John's church only a couple of hundred yards away, so we walked round to see it.

As you can see it is a fairly small and relatively plain Catholic church. It did have an interesting set of images of the stations of the cross that may come in useful at a later time.



After walking round the church, we decided to have a walk round the village, and to our surprise on the map there was yet another St John's church further out on the edge of the village, so we had to walk there to see it.

This time it was a slightly larger Anglican church, with a large graveyard that was still in use.



What cannot be seen in the black and white images is the wonderful ceiling above the choir stalls. A previous vicar had decided to paint the rafters in medieval colours of red and green.



The interior of the church was very nice with some lovely stained-glass windows, including one with St John baptising Christ.

On our way out of the village I popped back into the Tourist Information Office to get something and the man in there had been on the PCC of the church, and he told me about the vicar who had been determined to paint the wood in these colours. They certainly livened up the interior of the church.

There was a gallery at the back of the church with a set of stairs up one side and the same vicar had decided that he needed up and down sets of stairs, so he wanted to build another set on the other side. For once it sounds like he was over-ruled by the PCC, who said they did not have the money for something that was not actually needed.



When we walked out into the graveyard, we suddenly realised that something was moving in amongst the old gravestones. It was sheep! The oldest area of the churchyard has been fenced off and a small flock of sheep roam about the gravestones keeping the grass short.

Once again, the man in the Tourist Information Office explained that it had been done for a few years now as a means of keeping the grass short, but well fertilised! When the grass is too short for them, they are moved elsewhere and then brought back once it needs ‘cutting’ again. Wonder if that would go down well in our churchyard! He also said that they had had complaints about the messy area of the graveyard with the sheep in, but not many.



We walked to the edge of the graveyard and there was a lovely view across the Vale of York northwards to the North York Moors, and the White Horse at Kilburn could be seen on the bank going up to the moors.

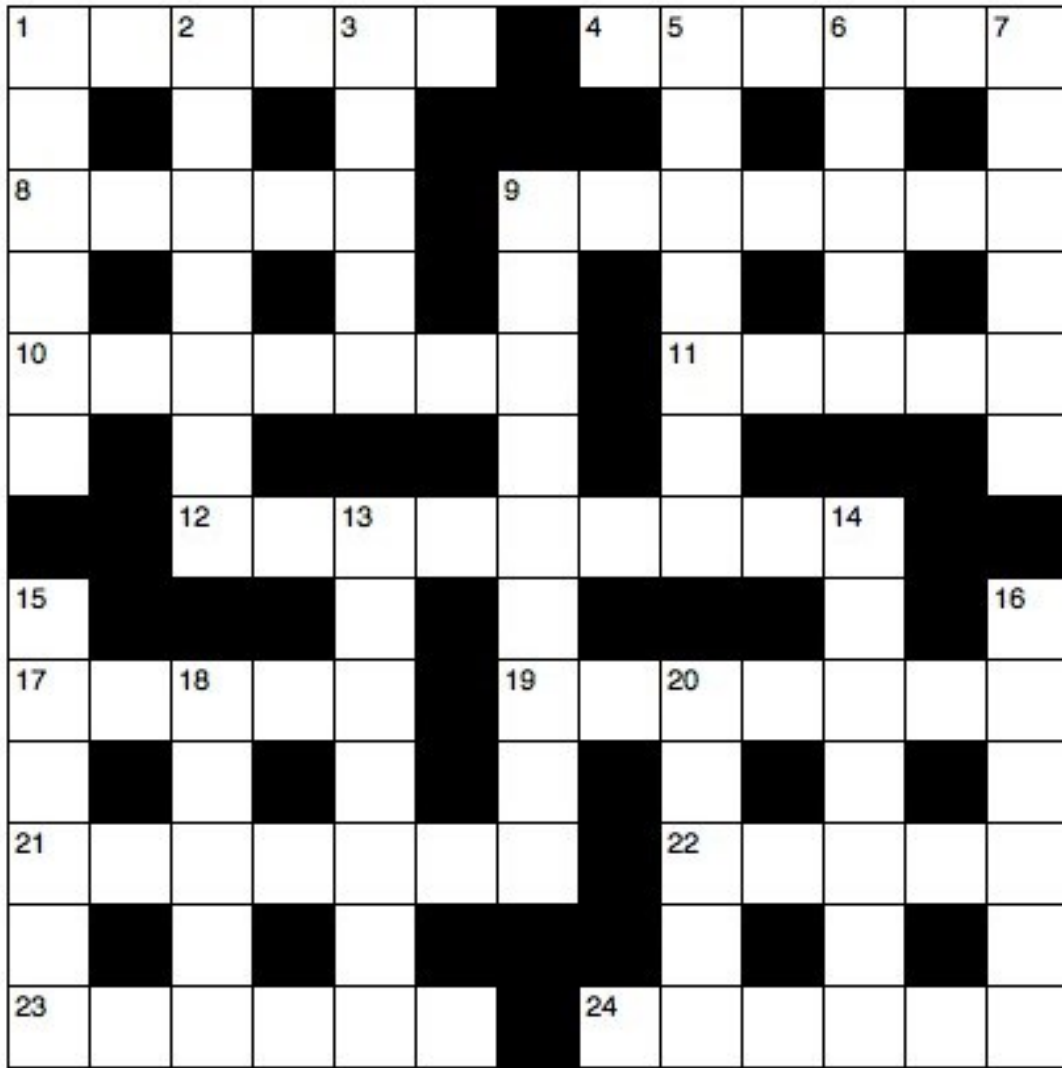


It was a lovely walk round the village and churches, and I hope that you also enjoy our trip through here.

Colin Nash

Crossword puzzle

The solution is on the inside back cover.



Across

- 1 Tertullus, who presented the high priest's case against Paul in his trial before Felix, was one (Acts 24:1) (6)
- 4 As balm (anag.) (6)
- 8 Having explored Canaan, he and Joshua urged the Israelites to take possession of it (Numbers 13:30) (5)
- 9 On becoming king of Judah, he had all six of his brothers killed (2 Chronicles 21:4) (7)
- 10 'Even the — has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself' (Psalm 84:3) (7)
- 11 Banishment (Jeremiah 29:1) (5)
- 12 'And now I will show you the most — way' (1 Corinthians 12:31) (9)

17 'Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not —— the same spirit and follow the same course?' (2 Corinthians 12:18) (3,2)

19 Mice den (anag.) (7)

21 How Egypt is often described in the Old Testament: 'the land of — ' (Exodus 13:3) (7)

22 One of the first Levites to resettle in Jerusalem after the exile in Babylon (1 Chronicles 9:15) (5)

23 'As a sheep before her shearers is —,so he did not open his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7) (6)

24 Paul's birthplace (Acts 22:3) (6)

Down

1 Ravenous insect inflicted on Egypt in vast numbers as the eighth plague (Exodus 10:14) (6)

2 Well-being (Philippians 2:20) (7)

3 Small piece of live coal or wood in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (5)

5 Sportsman or woman (2 Timothy 2:5) (7)

6 The original name of Abraham's wife (Genesis 17:15) (5)

7 'So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each — belongs to all the others' (Romans 12:5) (6)

9 According to Peter, a wife's beauty should not come from wearing this (1 Peter 3:3) (9)

13 'For God did not send his Son into the world to — the world' (John 3:17) (7)

14 'The Lord of heaven and earth...does not live in — built by hands' (Acts 17:24) (7)

15 'If your hand — you to sin, cut it off' (Mark 9:43) (6)

16 Something like these fell from Saul's eyes as soon as Ananias placed his hands on him (Acts 9:18) (6)

18 Track (Job 41:30) (5)

20 Religious doctrine (5)

Thank you, Dr Luke!

'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, bless the bed that I lie on'

My grandma taught me that one. At least it meant I never forgot the names of the writers of the four Gospels. This month Luke, the writer of the third of them, has his feast day – 18th October.

He was, we learn from the letters of St Paul, a 'physician' - an educated man and probably the only one of the writers of the New Testament who was not a Jew. In modern terms, he was Turkish. Paul took him as one of his missionary team on a long journey around the Middle East, and they clearly became close friends. Under house arrest later in his life Paul could write, 'only Luke is with me'.

However, it is his Gospel which has established him as a major figure in the history of the Christian Church. Mark's Gospel may have more drama, Matthew's more prophetic background and John's a more profound sense of the mystery of the divine, but Luke offers us a Jesus who is utterly and believably real. This man turned no one away, reserved his harshest words for hypocrites and religious grandees, cared for the marginalised, the poor, the persecuted, the handicapped and the sinful. His Gospel is full of people we can recognise - indeed, in whom we can often recognise ourselves.

He was also a masterly storyteller. Try, for instance, the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). Read it (this time) not as a sacred text but as a brilliant piece of storytelling: subtle repetitions ('your son, this brother of yours'), believable characters, drama and profound emotion. There is the older brother, so cynical about his sibling's alleged reformation, the 'prodigal' himself, so hesitant about throwing himself on his father's mercy after the folly of his earlier behaviour, and there is the father, of course, abandoning the dignity of his role in the family and actually running to welcome his wretched son's return.

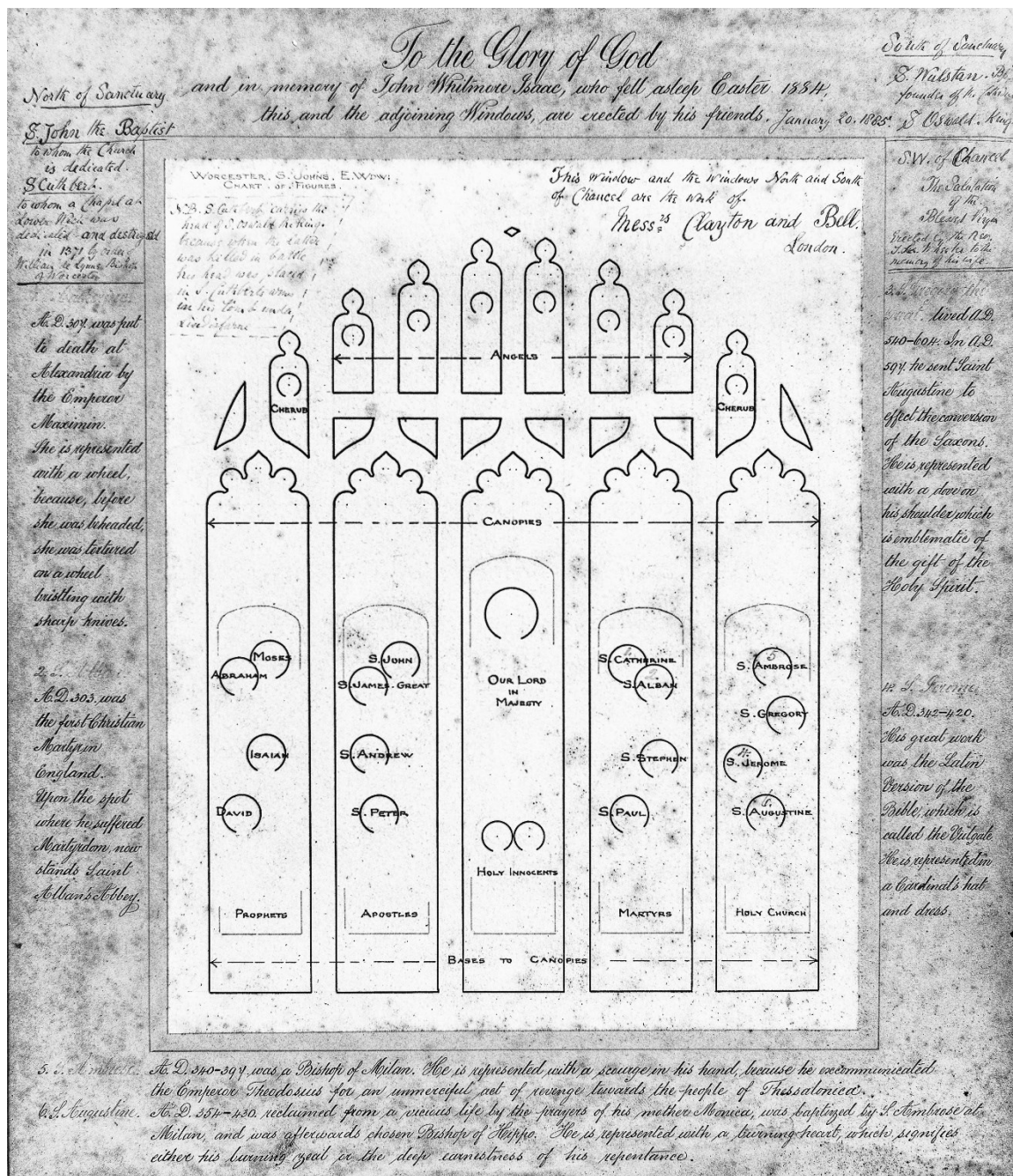
There are more women in Luke's Gospel than in any of the others, but also more poor people, more lepers, more 'sinners' and tax-collectors, more 'outsiders' who are shown to be 'inside' the love of Christ. This, for many of us, is the great Gospel of inclusion and compassion. Here is a Jesus for the whole world and for every one of us.

Thank you, Dr Luke!

David Winter via Parish Pump

Main Altar Window

I am helping Phil Bradford to sort through some of the items that have built up over the years. We are looking to see if we can archive some of them to the Hive, or, with permission from the Diocese, dispose of some that have no real historical connection to the church. During this process we came across this picture of the main stained-glass window in the chancel.



The window, along with the two either side of it in the chancel are the work of Messrs Clayton and Bell from London.

I am sure that like me many of you have sat during a service looking at the window and wondered who the characters are meant to represent. So, I have typed up for you all the writing from the above picture which tells us about the window.

The dedication above the picture says: “To the Glory of God and in memory of John Whitmore Isaac, who fell asleep Easter 1884, this and the adjoining Windows, are erected by his friends. January 20, 1885”.

(John Whitmore Isaac was the son of Elias Isaac and a partner in the Worcester ‘Old Bank’. He lived at Boughton Park, a fashionable suburb of Worcester, and they were an influential local family).

The picture then describes the various elements of the window. The 6 windows at the very top are listed as angels with a cherub in the 2 smaller outside windows. Below these we have the 5 main panels, and these represent, from the left, the Prophets, the Apostles, Our Lord, the Martyrs and finally the Holy Church. The individuals within the windows are named and these are:

- Left window from the top: Moses, Abraham, Isaiah and David.
- Next window from the top: St John, St James the Great, St Andrew and St Peter.
- The middle window shows Our Lord in Majesty with the Holy Innocents below him.
- Next window from the top: St Catherine, St Alban, St Stephen and St Paul.
- Right window from the top: St Ambrose, St Gregory, St Jerome and St Augustine.

Around the 2 sides and the bottom of the picture there is some text about the 8 characters in the right hand 2 windows, the Martyrs and the Holy Church. This tells us a bit about why they are included in these 2 windows:

1. St Catherine. AD 304 was put to death at Alexandria by the Emperor Maximin. She is represented with a wheel, because, before she was beheaded, she was tortured on a wheel bristling with sharp knives.
2. St Alban. AD303 was the first Christian Martyr in England. Upon the spot where he suffered Martyrdom, now stands Saint Alban’s Abbey.
3. St Gregory the Great lived AD 540 – 604. In AD 597 he sent Saint Augustine to effect the conversion of the Saxons. He is represented with a Dove on his shoulder which is emblematic of the gift of the Holy Spirit.
4. St Jerome. AD 342 – 420. His great work was the Latin Version of the Bible, which is called Vulgate. He is represented in a Cardinal’s hat and dress.
5. St Ambrose. AD 340-397 was a Bishop of Milan. He is represented with a scourge in his hand because he excommunicated the Emperor Theodosius for an unmerciful act of revenge towards the people of Thessalonica.

6. St Augustine. AD 354 – 430 reclaimed from a vicious life by the prayers of his mother Monica, was baptised by St Ambrose at Milan and was afterwards chosen Bishop of Hippo. He is represented with a burning heart, which signifies either his burning zeal or the deep earnestness of his repentance.



Colin Nash

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Our World in Data

I recently came across a very interesting website called Our World in Data <https://ourworldindata.org> It does what it says on the tin and features worldwide data on many topics captured over time, so that it is possible to see how things are and how they have changed. I encourage you to go and look for yourself!

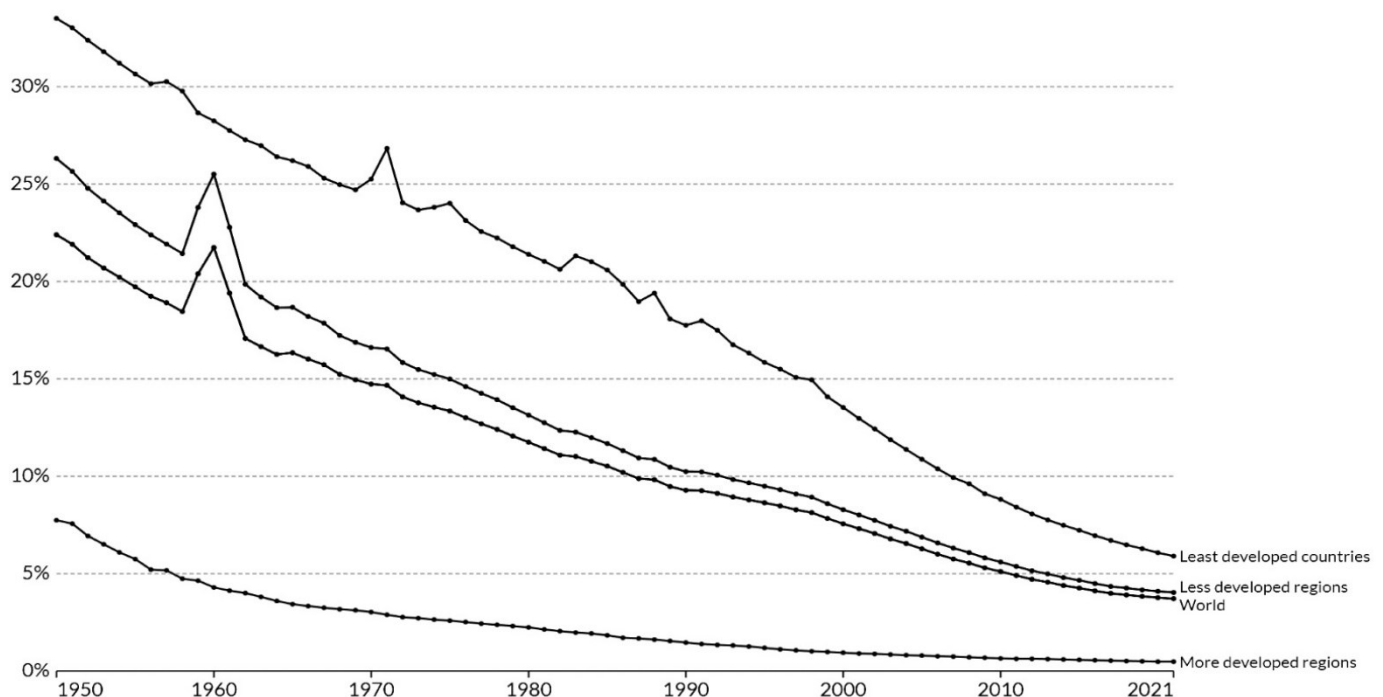
What came as a pleasant surprise to me was to see the improvement in some of the statistics over recent decades. Here is an example:

Child mortality (share of children under five, born alive, dying before they are five years old) in the least developed countries is now lower than it was 70 years ago in the more developed regions:

Child mortality

Share of children, born alive, dying before they are five years old.

Our World
in Data



Source: United Nations - Population Division (2022)

OurWorldInData.org/child-mortality/ • CC BY

On poverty, here are some data to reflect on. How should we respond?

- The number of people in extreme poverty has fallen from nearly 1.9 billion in 1990 to about 650 million in 2018. Good news that 1.25 billion people have been taken out of extreme poverty - bad news that 650 million people remain in it.
- According to World Bank forecasts, 87% of the world's poorest are expected to live in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2030 if economic growth follows the trajectory over the recent past. That's 420 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa and about 60 million in the whole of the rest of the world.

Graham Evans



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Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in John chapter 2 verses 1 to 10

Jesus, his mother, and his disciples were guests at a family wedding in Cana. The bridegroom was responsible for the food and drink.

The wedding feasts went on for days

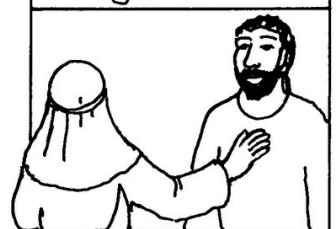


Then the wine ran out...



What a disaster! The bridegroom and his family would be shamed for life, and perhaps even sued!

Mary noticed...



Jesus, they've run out of wine!

So why are you telling me?



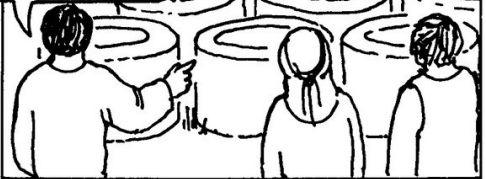
But Mary wasn't put off.

She told the servants



Do whatever he tells you.

Fill those six jars to the top with water



The water was for the special washing of hands before meals

and each jar held about 100 litres



Now take some out and serve it to the toast-master



He tried it. ...



...then he called to the bridegroom..



Most people serve the best wine first, then the rest later, but...

...this is the best wine I've ever tasted!



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Men's Shed at St Clement's Church, Worcester

We found this article on the Worcester Diocese website. The Editors.

It is hoped that the crypt at St Clement's Church in Worcester will become the venue for a new 'Men's Shed', enabling local men to come together, learn new skills and chat over a cup of coffee.

St Clement is on the West side of Worcester and was consecrated in 1823. It has a



large crypt under the church which had been mainly used for storage. When a local group were looking for somewhere to set up a Men's Shed, it seemed like the ideal use for the space and the church are now trying to fundraise to convert the area.

St Clement's Churchwarden, Philip Prince, said: "This is a major project for the church. We're built on a hill, so the floor needs to be levelled as well as electricity and toilet facilities installed. We've also been working to identify any living relatives of the graves under the floor. We're hoping to get National Lottery Community funding, but really need to get the group up and running first. A grant from the Bernard Sunley Foundation has enabled us to decorate and kit out the more modern entrance area of the crypt, which the group can use while we continue fundraising."

Men's Shed is an initiative from Australia, which aims to provide a support group for older men, giving them a safe space to talk about any issues and help combat loneliness. David Clark is setting up the Worcester group. He said:

"Evidence suggests that men are more likely to talk to each other if they're standing shoulder to shoulder rather than sitting face to face. In a Men's Shed there will be workbenches and tools for men to continue their hobby alongside others or learn a skill while making new friends. We'll be taking on community projects as well as giving the opportunity to make individual items. There are now over 600 Men's Sheds in the UK, and they are open to men of any age, but it tends to be those who have retired who come along. Age UK have been supporting us with this project, providing some funding and help with publicity."

David is hoping to get the first part of the crypt kitted out

Continued on page 49



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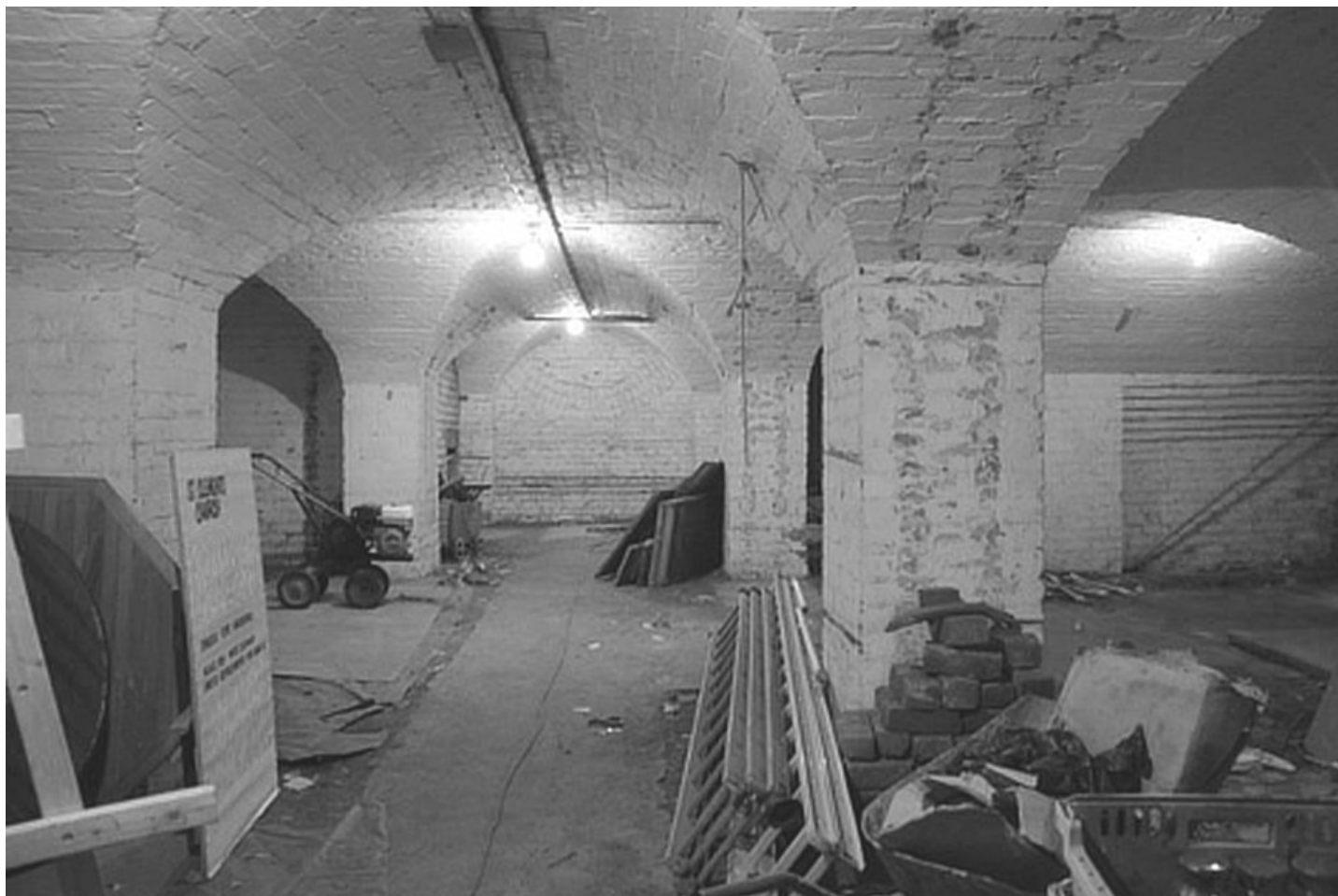
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Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

Continued from page 47

so the group can open from September – initially on a Tuesday and Thursday. There will be a machinery room, a couple of work benches and a seating area where it will be possible to get tea and coffee.



“At the moment we’re working through all the paperwork and legal requirements. We’ve had lots of donations of equipment, which has been great. Once we’re fully set up, we also hope to open on other days as a community shed and perhaps hold crafting workshops, but it will just be good to get going to start with. We’re grateful to the church for working with us on the project and they’re charging us a peppercorn rent for the first year to see how things go. We hope that it will be a valuable space for local men – particularly those feeling lonely and isolated.”

Worcester Diocesan website

Pointers from the Diocese

Disciplekit (www.disciplekit.org) is a resource launched by CPAS which they try to keep as up-to-date as possible with a range of resources and courses for individuals and churches.

Home Groups (homegroups.org.uk), developed by SPCK, is in its own words “a site with all the resources and advice you need to run a church home group online or in person” and links to a range of material gathered from SPCK, IVP and others.

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Space Day Saturday 8th October, 10.30am-4pm The Hive, Worcester

Join us for Space Day at The Hive with free talks, storytelling, activities and displays for anyone interested in space. The event does include a planetarium experience but unfortunately this is sold out.

Organised by the British Interplanetary Society, this drop in event will include experts and authors who will be sharing their stories and knowledge on the sun, stars, our solar system and how astronauts live in space. Suitable for both adults and children, there will be an opportunity to try out super powerful telescopes, listen to talks, take part in children's activities in the library and visit more than thirty displays!

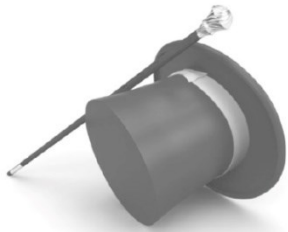
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From the magazine archive, March 1952

THE KING

THE sudden death of His late Majesty King George VI came as a great shock to us all. Our prayers and sympathy have been given to our young Queen, the Queen Mother, and all members of the Royal Family. We thank God for the late King's Christian example and his love of the people. The memory of this loveable character will live on and will shine as a beacon to future generations. We in our time must strive to emulate and foster the truly Christian virtues which the King demonstrated in every department of his life. On the evening of Sunday, February 17th, a Memorial Service was held at St. John's. This service was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Admiral Sir William Tennant, K.C.B., C.B.E., M.V.O., Aldermen and Councillors of St. John's, preceded by His Worship the Mayor of Worcester—Alderman W. H. Norton, J.P., as well as by hundreds of worshippers. Admiral Tennant read a lesson and the address was given by Archdeacon Shepherd. I have received a large number of requests for this sermon to be printed in this News Letter and Dr. Shepherd has kindly agreed.

We don't have space for the whole of Dr Shepherd's sermon, but here is a short extract. The Editors.

Of all the many examples which our King has set us, perhaps the most striking and the most valuable for us—if we will follow it—is *the example of perfect faith*. One of the sayings that will longest be associated with King George VI is the quotation which he commended to us in his famous Christmas broadcast of 1939, which ended with the words—"Put your hand into the hand of God. That will be better to you than a light and safer than a known way." He spoke those words to us in the first months of the war—a moment dark with anxiety for his people and himself. But he spoke them as one who had already proved them.

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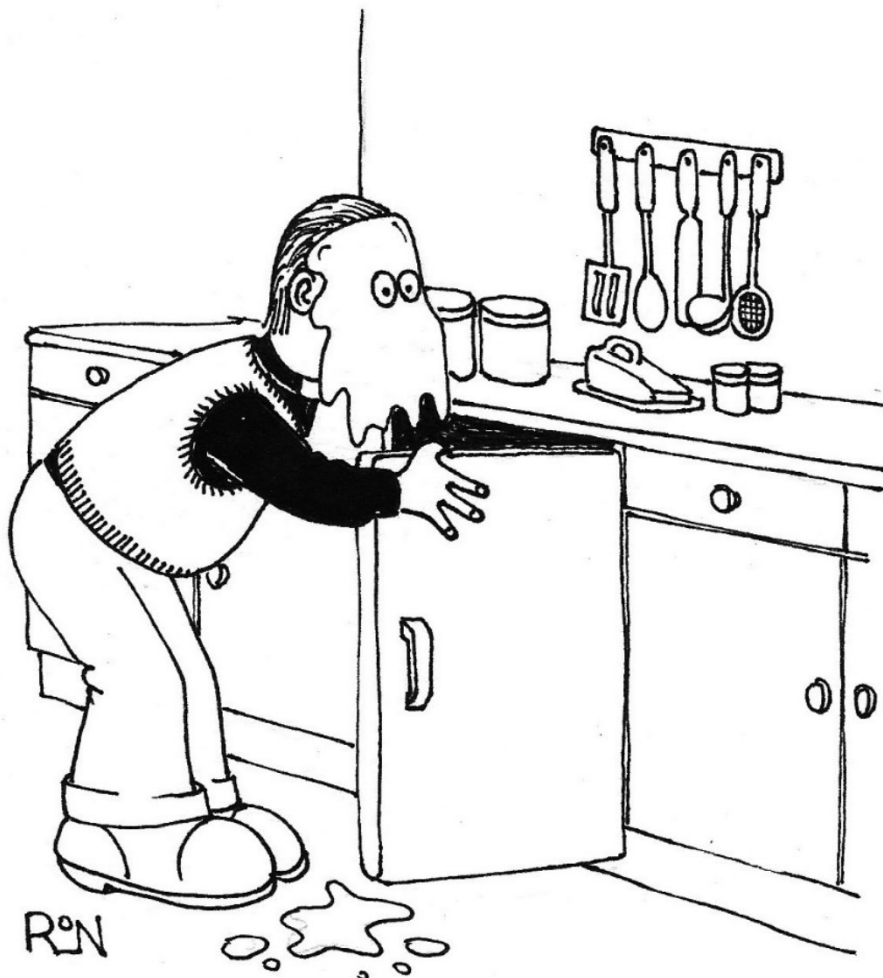


Puzzle solutions

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

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And finally....



*Dark forces
were at work
in the
church fridge!*



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – October 2022

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
2nd October	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
9th October	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
16th October	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
23rd October	10.30am Eucharist 5pm Healing Service	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
30th October	10am Team Eucharist (St Clement's)			
6th November	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm All Souls' Service	9.30am Morning Prayer 7.15pm All Souls' Service	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.				