

The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



October 2023

50p

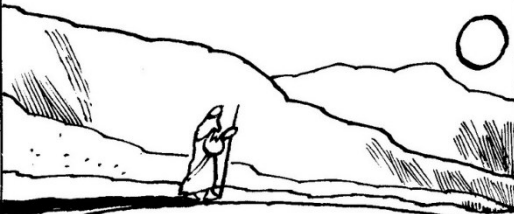
The Good Samaritan

JERICHO

ONCE, A LAWYER TRIED TO TRICK JESUS WITH A CLEVER QUESTION.

...WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

JESUS REPLIED BY TELLING THE LAWYER A STORY.



A MAN WENT FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO. ON THE WAY...

HE WAS ATTACKED BY ROBBERS!!



HELP!

THEY TOOK EVERYTHING HE HAD AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!



LATER A PRIEST PASSED BY, BUT DID NOTHING TO HELP - NOR DID A RELIGIOUS MAN FROM A TEMPLE!

BUT A MAN FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY STOPPED TO HELP THE INJURED MAN. HE DRESSED THE MAN'S WOUNDS AND EVEN PAID FOR HIM TO STAY AT AN INN.



JESUS THEN ASKED "WHO WAS THE NEIGHBOUR?"

- PRIEST
- TEMPLE MAN
- FOREIGN MAN

WHICH DO YOU THINK WAS THE ONE THE LAWYER CHOSE?

Information

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

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

Pastoral Minister: The Reverend STEPHEN BUCKLEY (07746 206905)

TEAM OFFICE

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| You can contact the office by email, post or telephone. | | 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/ |

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 Joint Council Safeguarding Officer, Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy.

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 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 sylviarender@talktalk.net) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email stephenbuckley554@gmail.com). The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583. | |
| Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com /424539), Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com /428948). On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above). | St Michael's |

A word from the editors

Welcome to our October edition! The theme this month is generosity. In his letter, Phil asks us to reflect on how we respond to the generosity of God and what role generosity plays in our own lives.

We've got a report about our first 'Messy Church' (see page 22) and details of many forthcoming events. These events only run because of the organisers and volunteers who are generous with their time to make them happen. Hopefully there will be an event that you would like to attend, or be generous with your time to get involved.

On page 31 you'll find an article about the Isaac family (who appear on monuments in St John's church). One of the Elias's generously left a substantial sum of money to the Society of Worcester Infirmary in his will.

Our generosity should be a thankful response to God's love for us, and therefore we leave you with these words from Psalm 100:

*Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving,
and enter his courts with praise.*

*Give thanks to the Lord
and bless his name.*

*For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever.*

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcv.church

Next (October) edition: Deadline is Sunday 8th October.

Distribution, towards the end of October.

Subscription form: Page 42.

Cover picture: Courtesy of Parish Pump.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine, including Sarah Cottrill, Sue Fairman, Margaret Miller, Colin Nash, Billy Pasco (Unsplash) and Kate Staiger.

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 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 16.

From Phil Bradford

In 1147, a headstrong fourteen-year-old gathered together a group of mercenaries in France and invaded England. The boy would go on to be one of the most successful of English kings after he was crowned Henry II, seven years later, but right now he was hopelessly out of his depth. His plan was to make good the claim of his mother, Matilda, to the throne currently occupied by King Stephen, but few took a boy barely into his teens very seriously. Having made no military progress, he then found himself faced with the awkward fact that he had no money to pay his mercenaries. Like any teenager, he turned to his mother to bail him out, who responded like many parents down the ages by telling her son to earn his own cash. So, he turned to his uncle, Matilda's half-brother Robert, who just as firmly told him to go away and stop treating his family like a bank.



With a cheek that only a teenaged boy would ever attempt, Henry then turned to the king, his mother's enemy and the man whose crown he was attempting to steal, and asked him to pay off the mercenaries hired to displace him.

Astoundingly, Stephen agreed and gave Henry the money, and the impudent boy cheerfully went back to France to await his next opportunity. Contemporaries (and not a few subsequent historians) were totally baffled by this insanity on the part of the king. Yet this mad generosity, in many ways typical of King Stephen and a reflection of the sort of man he was, had a lasting impact. As king himself, Henry would never be accused of meanness. The records are full of stories of his reaching into his pocket to help out; on one occasion most of the ships crossing the Channel with him were shipwrecked, and Henry personally recompensed all of the affected sailors. Although the new king dismantled and obliterated much of Stephen's legacy, something of the older man lived on in the generosity he taught Henry II, and which Henry so clearly remembered.

It might be a slightly extreme example, but this anecdote gets to the heart of what generosity is. It was clearly in Stephen's best interests not to pay, to make his opponent uncomfortable and perhaps even cause him considerable strategic damage, but he responded with this gesture. Tied up in the notion of generosity, there is indeed something mad or reckless, for it defies any cold calculation. To be generous involves forgetting what might be most advantageous to us individually, carefully plotting how an action might benefit us. It is something very different from paying or doing something that you owe or have to do, and yet in the Jewish and Christian tradition, there is a strong link between

generosity and duty. In the Jewish tradition, charity, in the sense of helping out those in need, was an obligation rather than an option. It is an understanding which carried over into Christianity, where there is likewise an obligation to give generously to those in need. Generosity is at the very heart of Jesus' message, with some of his sternest warnings reserved for those who hoard wealth and do not help the suffering; think about the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Remember too the widow who gave everything, even though in absolute terms it was nothing, and is commended so highly.

Yet it is important to remember that generosity is not only about money. The seven acts of mercy, based upon Jesus' parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew 25, are not financial acts, or at least not directly: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the traveller, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, burying the dead. And the highest value was placed on just getting on and doing these in private, not in declaring it to the world. These are acts which demand generosity of the self and of time, having the grace to recognise the humanity and needs of others, and respond accordingly. After all, at the heart of Christian understanding is the generosity of God, the God who gave himself in the person of his Son to redeem the world. One need only look at how humanity has responded to see how reckless an act that is, but generous love is at the heart of the nature of God. Maybe we do not need to be quite as reckless as King Stephen, but from time to time all Christians should reflect on how they respond to the generosity of God and what role generosity plays in our own lives.

Phil Bradford

Sundays and Principal Feasts in October

Sunday 1st October: Harvest (at St John's) / Trinity 17

Sunday 8th October: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

Thursday 14th September: Holy Cross Day

Sunday 15th October: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Wednesday 18th October: Luke the Evangelist

Sunday 22nd October: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

Saturday 28th October: Simon and Jude, Apostles

Sunday 29th October: Last Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)

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)

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 2023

St John's

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

13th August 2023 Bobby Jay Mark Noel Hobbs

27th August 2023 Jacob Thomas Gordon Templeton

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

12th August 2023 (Blessing) Alexander and Heather Hinton-Ball

19th August 2023 Lee Golding and Kelly Wallace

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 18th July 2023 Ann Beresford Skinner

d. 6th August 2023 Yvonne Margaret Sanders

SERVICES:

Communicants 188. Total attendance at all services 495, including 216 at a baptism, a wedding, a marriage blessing and a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES:

Communicants 73. Total attendance at all services 80.

Post Communion Prayer for Trinity 17

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Dates for your diary

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

(J) Mondays in term time, 10am: Little Lambs, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 4th October, 7.30pm: Genesis Course, see page 11. Tea and coffee from 7pm. In October, also on Wednesday 11th and 25th.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 7th October, 4pm: Messy Church, see pages 9 and 22. Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

(J) Thursday 12th October, 1pm: The Good Old Days present Discover History, "Saints and Sinners", see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 14th October, 9am: Women's Breakfast, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 14th October, departing 9am: Coach trip to Bristol, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(M) Monday 16th October, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 18th October, 2.45pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(M) Thursday 19th October, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

(V) Friday 27th October: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 28th October, 10.45am: Café Church@10:45am, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 18th November, 10am: Table Top Sale, see page 9.

--- 000 ---

(J) Saturday 2nd December, from 8.30am: Community Breakfast - see below!

Date for your diary

There will be a Community Breakfast on Saturday 2nd December. We will be open from 8.30am to 11am serving a full English breakfast, plus toast and marmalade, tea and coffee. Free but donations welcome.

Start the day with a hot home-cooked breakfast!

Jenny English

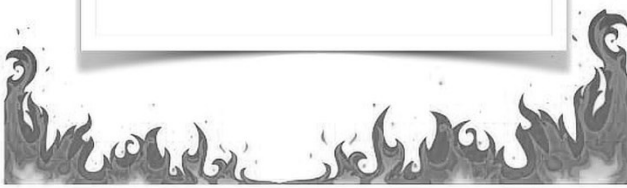
Events at St John's



Saints and Sinners

St Johns Church
The Good Old Days
Present
Discover History

Thursday 12th October
1pm
£4 includes refreshments



Little Lambs



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

FREE!

**Toys and Games, Art & Craft, Messy Play,
Snacks and Stories, Singing**

Birth to 4 years old and carers

For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962

Come and join the fun!

St John in Bedwardine



Join us for Fresh Coffee and Danish

'Friendship and Thoughts'

At 10.45am on

Saturday 28th October

***Thought for the day by
Sue Lillyman***

ALL WELCOME

ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

Open for Tea/Coffee and Cakes

£2.00



**Wednesday 18th October
at 2.45pm in the Church**

ALL WELCOME

Events at St John's



Women's Breakfast Meetings
for Friendship and
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?
Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on

Saturday 14th October
9.00am until 11.00am

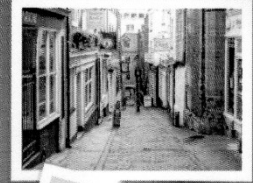
St John-in-Bedwardine
in The Blakefield Room
Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)

This month's speaker will be

Revd Sarah Cottrill



A day in
Bristol



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beautiful
historic docks or
the amazing
works of Banksy
in his
hometown.

Saturday 14th
October
Leaving Church at
9am returning
approx 6pm
Cost for coach £16

To book, call 07708 297413

St John in Bedwardine

WE'RE HAVING A

TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER
10AM TO 12NOON

With Refreshments

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

St John-in-Bedwardine



Our next Messy Church is on Saturday
7th October, 4pm.

Our theme will be Jesus the True Vine.
Please do come along – you'll be sure
of a warm welcome!



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your life
your home
your care
your way



Let's start at the very beginning!

The course to study Genesis continues on Wednesday evenings in October. It is held in the Blakefield Room at St John's, with tea and coffee from 7pm and the sessions starting at 7.30pm, finishing no later than 9pm. These are the final four sessions (out of six):

4th October - Abraham (Genesis 12-25:18)

11th October - Isaac and Jacob (Genesis 25:19-36)

25th October - Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

1st November - Reading Genesis in the 21st Century

Everyone is very welcome, and there is no obligation to attend every session. It would be helpful to bring a Bible (unless you have it memorised...), but there are no other requirements!

Phil Bradford

Table Top sale

We are planning to hold a Table Top Sale on Saturday 18th November 2023 from 10am until 12 noon.

Tables can be booked for £10.

To book a table please contact the Parish Office on W 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. 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@btinternet.com

Joy Job

Mothers' Union News

In September one of our Diocesan Trustees, Rachel Cramp, was licensed for Lay Ministry to become a Reader. Rachel did a placement with our Team as part of her training. Two other Mothers' Union members from the diocese were licensed as ALMs.

On Tuesday October 17th, we have the Worcester Archdeaconry Festival, 2pm at St George's, Barbourne. Stephen Buckley (our chaplain) will be leading the celebration. We will be welcoming Julia Jamieson, one of our Worldwide Trustees, as our speaker.

Jenny Claydon



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Little Lambs

Welcome back everyone 😊. I am actually writing this before we start but you know we are looking forward to seeing everyone again.

We hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. The weather is so lovely now!

Benjamin and I have had lots of fun.

One of his favourite places is the Stourport playground and the fair area called Playland.



Continued on page 15

Jobs Done

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Fencing - Pruning - Paving - Decking**

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Or email inquiries to info@footnotesuk.co.uk

Racheal Sharman and the Footnotes UK Team

HCPC registered

Continued from page 13

Another favourite place is in our garden.



Please let us know your favourite places and memories.

We have been busy getting everything ready. The toys are clean and tidy, the craft supplies have had a makeover and we have found items that we didn't know we had so watch out as new (well, to me anyway) equipment appears as well as our usual favourites. Photos will appear for the next magazine.

Thank you so much to our amazing volunteers who have donated their time and energy so cheerfully.

Keep smiling everyone ready for fun.

Sue Fairman



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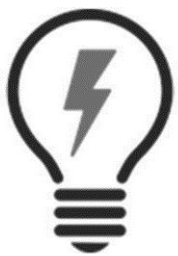
Contact

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

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

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

The booking can be from one month to one year.

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

Exciting news 😊

I am delighted to announce that from next summer, we will have a new curate in the Team, Gilly Maxim. Gilly currently lives in Malvern with her husband Piers and their four children, and works for the Diocesan Board of Education as well as doing her training for ministry at Queen's in Birmingham. She will be joining us as a full-time, stipendiary curate, with me as her training incumbent, and all being well she will be ordained in Worcester Cathedral on 30th June 2024. More details will follow closer to the time, but please do keep Gilly and her family in your prayers as she completes her training.

Phil Bradford

Exiting news 😞

Sadly, I must report that our excellent Parish Administrator, Liz Edwards, has submitted her resignation, and will leave us in mid-October.

This is obviously a huge blow to us, although very exciting for Liz, who is moving with her family to Devon, a place she loves.

A job description for the (paid) Parish Administrator role will be advertised in due course, but the key attributes are excellent admin skills and self-organisation, reliability, an eye for detail and good with people. If you know anyone who fits the bill and might be interested, please speak to me or one of the churchwardens.

Phil Bradford

Sudoku Puzzle

© 2013
KrazyDad.com

*The solution
is on the
inside back
cover.*

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



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Report from Rob

Here's the latest update on my reader training as I enter my second year.

Although the new term hasn't started yet (I think it will have by the time you read this), I do have a little bit to share with you. I have now had my final two assessments marked and I'm pleased to say that I passed year one (woot woot). The last two pieces were an assessed sermon and an analysis of the history and significance of the sacraments.

I was really pleased with how the sermon delivery went; I got some constructive feedback from the assessor and colleagues and then wrote my reflection on it and that just flowed easily...and I got my worst mark of the entire year!

The sacrament one was much harder...all the books I had found seemed to be saying much the same thing, I couldn't find competing views to analyse, and I felt I was just regurgitating what others had written without adding anything new; and I got my best mark of the year!

I just don't get it, but on the whole I was pretty pleased. The feedback on the assessed sermon was that the content was good (which was a relief as I'd always had this nagging doubt that they'd see what I'd been preaching and call the heresy police). I was marked down because they said that my reflection didn't make sufficient reference to the literature about different models of preaching practice (between you and me I can live with that).

So now onto my second year. Like the first year we have seminars that run on a Wednesday evening and three weekend residential. The first module to run over Wednesdays is "History and Doctrine" and I am really looking forward to that one. Then over the three residential it's "Mission and Evangelism" then for the second half of the year the Wednesdays will cover "Using the Bible Today." I'm already a bit nervous about that one because I think one of the assessments is an assessed conversation where we have to study a Bible passage and then be able to talk about it and answer questions on it for 25 mins! Right now that seems utterly impossible, but of course I'm here to learn and while it may be impossible now, in seven or eight months time I'm sure I will be better prepared.

As I've mentioned before I won't see too much of people in the parishes during October and November as I'll be on my placement in Teme Valley South - they seem a little more formal in their attire so I am currently looking at Clerical Wear websites and having my mind blown at the variety of kit on offer...maybe I can persuade them that jeans and an "I love Jesus" T-shirt is the way forward.

Rob Little

Friendship, Fun and Food!

The end of August was dominated for me by food, fun and friendship – what a way to end a month!

On 23rd, folks from St Clement's Church had a very enjoyable afternoon bowling, followed by tea and cake. I don't think any of us will be appearing at any international championships, but we all enjoyed our time in the sunshine and gave each other plenty to laugh at!

The following day saw the members of The West Worcester Friendship Club going out on a trip to Worcester Garden Centre where again chat and laughter were enjoyed over tea and cake. We all enjoyed the change of venue but unanimously agreed that the cakes were not as good as Jo's!



Friday of that week saw me again enjoying food with a group of friends as Fourth Friday Friendship Group met at the vicarage. Despite many months of trying to improve, our skills in the game Articulate still leave a lot to be desired – but we enjoy our meal together and the laughter shared as we struggle to describe clues on the cards – and as for remembering to turn the sand-timer, or even recognise the right colours on the cards – perhaps the less said the better!

Marian and Mary have promised to try to learn their colours soon! Each month we give money to a nominated charity and in August I was able to send forty-two pounds to Water Aid.



Finally, on Saturday 26th, St Clement's Church saw the welcome return of their pastoral teas where Sue Wright led us in some community singing and another delicious tea was enjoyed by us all.



My thanks to everybody who organised these events and to those who came along and supported them.

Sarah Cottrill



West Worcester Messy Church has officially begun!

We're delighted to have run our first Messy Church session and report that it was a great success. We had a lovely turn out and received really positive feedback from the congregation. Thank you to everybody who came along and a massive thank you to all who volunteered, helping out with set up, activities and tidy up!



The theme for September was Jesus The Good Shepherd, giving the crafts a very sheep themed focus! Messy Church values creativity, using hands-on activities to reflect on the creativity of God. This month's activities included making a sheep badge, matchbox scenes and cardboard tube sheep.

The cardboard tube sheep even made a follow up appearance on Sunday in the pulpit!

Some people added sheep to our collage that can be seen in Children's Corner.



We also enjoyed rolling paint-dipped marbles - representing how we all wander, but God and Jesus will guide us.

All of the activities were available for people to go between, choosing whichever they fancied – sometimes returning to one again and again.



Our short worship session, celebrating God and Jesus (another of Messy Church's values!) was led by Phil. Phil taught us the role of a shepherd, and using the parable of the lost sheep, explained how we are all different, but God loves us all and will guide us home. We concluded with a hymn 'The Lord is my Shepherd' led by Liz.



An important part of Messy Church is the shared meal. It reflects Messy Church's value of hospitality, welcoming everybody to church and enjoying the unconditional love of God. We are all guests in God's church and the meal symbolises the hospitality Jesus and his followers received from others. It is also a great chance for our community to come together and get to know one another. Thank you so much to Catherine for providing us with a delicious meal (jacket potatoes with an array of topping options) and rhubarb crumble dessert!



Our next Messy Church is on Saturday 7th October, 4pm. Our theme will be Jesus the True Vine. Please do come along – you'll be sure of a warm welcome!

Beth Broadway

Sheep on Sunday

As mentioned in the previous article, the cardboard tube sheep from Messy Church made a follow-up appearance the next day in the pulpit.



Kate Staiger



Prayers For Ukraine

Lord Jesus as we begin our prayers for Ukraine and other parts of our world besieged by drought, famine and war, we light our candle and sit quietly offering you our prayers and reflections, praying that your presence will be in the midst of the pain and suffering.

(I would like you to lay your hands open on your knees with your palms facing up. Our fingers and thumbs now represent our prayer).

Lord as we look at our thumbs and move our hands about we see that the thumb is closest to our hearts.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, their friends, families, their neighbours, those who they love and are so traumatised by this continual conflict. Lord Jesus we ask you to treasure and heal the pain and distress your people feel. Grant them wisdom and strength to continue caring for their loved ones.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Look at your index finger: Lord Jesus, we ask that you will show your people how they may care for each other in being alongside each other and give a sense that you are in the midst of all that happens.

In the centre of pain and upheaval may they give to each other a loving hug, hold a hand, share a meal or drink together as they support each other and know that your presence surrounds all.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Now look at your middle finger: Lord Jesus hear our prayer as we pray for the leaders of all nations, those who influence society and others' lives in responding to war or famine or drought. We pray that all leaders will serve with integrity and goodness, leading with compassion and love for the people they serve. Grant to all leaders the courage to create change.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The ring finger is for people who are sick and weak, the vulnerable and elderly.

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer as we pray for those who are injured or maimed. We pray for the vulnerable and elderly traumatised by the violence, drone attacks and continual shelling. The destruction of their homes and desecration of their lands. The loss of family and friends.

We pray too for the misery that is associated with famine and drought, for people who cannot escape from the situation they find themselves living in.

Lord Jesus wrap them all in your loving arms. Hold them and fill them with your Spirit that it will give them strength and courage to endure.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The smallest finger: Lord Jesus we pray for ourselves today, as we make our prayer for Ukraine, its people and its leaders. We hold before you in the palm of our hands our prayers, our reflections for those in our world suffering through war, famine and drought.

Let us put Christ into each other's hands. He is love's deepest measure.

In love Lord, make peace, give peace a chance, as we offer our prayers to you.

In His name we pray.

Amen

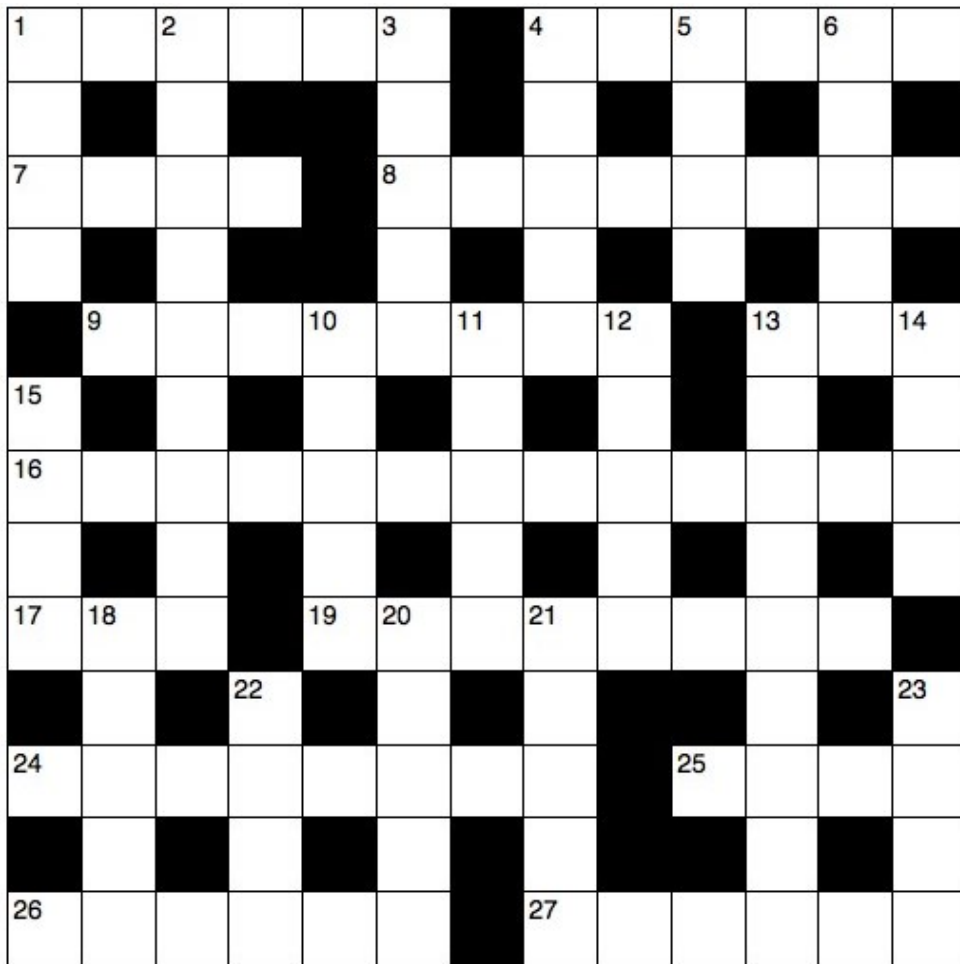
Jenny English

Hand photos by Billy Pasco on Unsplash



Crossword

The solution is on the inside back cover.



Across

- 1 He must be ‘the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well’ (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 ‘For we must all — before the judgement seat of Christ’ (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 ‘They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their — end’ (Ps 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 ‘He has sent me to bind up the — ’ (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ‘ — a great company of the — host appeared with the angel’ (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)

26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)

27 ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a — !’
(John 2:16) (6)

Down

1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)

2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an
angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)

3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to
Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)

4 ‘No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born — ’(John 3:3) (5)

5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)

6 ‘He encouraged them — — remain true to the Lord’ (Acts 11:23) (3,2)

10 Ruses (anag.) (5)

11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)

12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)

13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul ‘a great deal of harm’ (2
Timothy 4:14) (9)

14 ‘This is my — , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me’ (1
Corinthians 11:24) (4)

15 One of Noah’s great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)

18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)

20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)

21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing
from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)

22 Bats (anag.) (4)

23 ‘You strain out a — but swallow a camel’ (Matthew 23:24) (4)

Food for thought

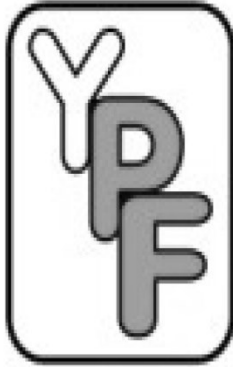
The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have begun asking humans to
prove they aren't a robot.

--- 000 ---

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They're all called Elias!

Several issues ago I wrote about the Isaac family of Boughton House, St John's after the discovery of a document relating to this family and the east window in church. 2 windows in the south aisle are also dedicated to members of this family along with wall plaques. The earliest plaque is to Elias who died in 1841 (see the final Elias in this article). The 1841 census shows that Elias and his wife were not born in Worcestershire so how did this family arrive in Worcester?

Elias Isaac (died 1793), cathedral organist

Information held by Worcester Cathedral shows that the first member of the Isaac family in Worcester was Elias, organist at the cathedral 1743 to 1793. He was born 1725 in Gloucestershire and his father was Edward who died when he was 4. Elias conducted the 3 choirs festival, first asked in 1761 and then frequently involved. Handel's music was very popular at this time and was often performed at the festivals. In 1788 he conducted when King George III and Queen Charlotte attended. He owned a house in Diglis in 1790 and moved to 6 Edgar St. in 1792. He married and had one daughter, Ann, who married Horatio Kimo (possibly Kime), a schoolmaster. Elias died in 1793 and is buried in the cathedral. The cathedral information states that Elias was linked to the important banking family of Isaacs in the city, including his nephew, Elias.

Elias Isaac (died 1803), banker, nephew of Elias the organist

Elias Isaac, banker of Worcester, was a partner in Berwick, Lechmere and Co., Worcester Old Bank. This was established in 1765 by Joseph Berwick, his son-in-law Anthony Lechmere joined the company in 1787. Joseph built a new manor house, Hallow Park, in the 1790s.

Elias died 1803, and his will gave more insight into this family. Another document associated with this Elias is a marriage licence allegation held by Gloucester archives for Elias Isaac of City of Worcester, banker, and Mary Shapland of Marshfield, Gloucestershire, 5th Dec 1775. There is a burial record for Elias at Marshfield in 1803 and Mary in 1823. The will for Elias was made in 1799 and appoints William Wall of Worcester, banker, and his nephew Elias Isaac, gentleman, of London as executors. Elias asks for his body to be buried at Marshfield, Glos. which ties in with previous information. He leaves £1000 at 4% per annum as annuity for his dear wife along with household effects except for the painting of his Uncle Elias Isaac, organist of Worcester Cathedral. He leaves his wearing apparel to his nephew Elias. He also mentions his friend Anthony Lechmere of Rydd, banker. Elias leaves

Continued on page 33

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Continued from page 31 50 guineas to the Society of Worcester Infirmary “towards carrying out the charitable designs of the society”. He holds other properties in Worcester and from the profit of these he asks his executors to pay £30 per annum to his cousin Ann, wife of Horatio Kimo/e, daughter of Uncle Elias, organist. After her death he asks that this money goes to the children of his 3 brothers William, Edward and Nicholas. The rest goes to nephew Elias.

Elias Isaac (died 1841), another banker, nephew of Elias the banker

After the death of Elias Isaac in 1803, his nephew was taken into partnership with Worcester Old Bank.



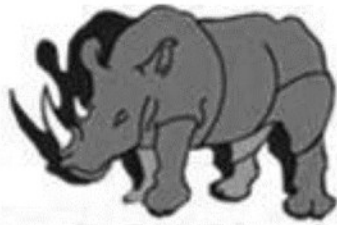
In 1814 he bought all the land and house of Boughton in St John's having bought part previously. In 1819 he was mayor of Worcester , Alderman 1821-1835 and High Sherrif in 1821. He had married Harriet Whitmore in 1806. They had 5 sons and 2 daughters. Elias died in November 1841. His will was quite short as he states most of his family had already been provided for. In his will he states he has 7 children by his dear wife Harriet, “and no more”. By articles between him and his

banking partners of Old Bank, Worcester, all shares, interest, gains and profits go to his oldest son John Whitmore Isaac. All real estate also to son John. A witness was Edmund H Lechmere, son of Sir Anthony Lechmere.

Eventually Boughton House and lands were bought by Worcester City Golf Club of Tolladine and the house became the clubhouse. Apparently, the pictures of Elias and Harriet are on the walls. The deed of sale was signed in 1927 by Lucy Isaac, widow, and a friend of the family, Stanley Baldwin.

Next month I will look at the later members of the family, particularly those that gave their lives in the Great War.

Margaret Miller



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Summary of Joint Council meeting

The St John-in-Bedwardine and St Michael's Joint Council (JC) met on 16th August. 13 members were present.

Robyn Rooney Diocesan Stewardship Officer attended the meeting to talk about the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). St Johns and St Michaels are both currently using the PGS and it will reduce our administrative workload if more people sign up. An invitation is to be sent to those who currently give by standing order to ask if they would like to try the PGS. Guinea pigs will be requested to try the scheme and provide feedback on the instructions provided.

It was noted that our card machine for contactless giving is not used as much as it could be. It was agreed to move the machine nearer the main door and secure it in a position where it can always be available.

The Council agreed to liquidate 3 small CCLA share accounts held through the diocese and have the funds passed to the Joint Council.

Standing Committee reported that they have allocated a budget for routine maintenance issues of £2k per annum. Gordon Templeton will follow up the possibility of a grant for the tower repairs.

Messy Church is starting on Saturday 2nd September. Messy Church has received a grant from the Feoffees.

A report was given about the most recent meeting of the Deanery Synod. Attendees were asked to share the challenges and joys faced in their churches. The Kingdom Project is offering grants of £1k to kick start new projects. It was noted by Council that Messy Church may be eligible to apply.

Finance report: Reports were circulated before the meeting. All reports are currently being manually generated. Once the St John's 2022 accounts are completed, it will be possible to improve the reporting capability. It was agreed to open a 'Business Instant Access Account' at Lloyds which will earn some interest. St Michael's has set up a standing order to pay its Ministry Share and will pay in full by the end of the year. It was agreed that St John's should pay monthly until the end of the year to reach its full amount.

The St John's 2022 Draft Accounts were approved and will now go to the independent examiner. It was proposed that the APCM resumes after the service on Sunday 24th September. Completed accounts must go to the Charity Commission by the end of October.

Continued on page 37

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Continued from page 35

The Joint Council approved adding Gordon Templeton as a signatory to various accounts.

The finance sub-committee reported their activity on various items (17 were reported in all!). Phil thanked Philip Evans and the Finance Sub-Committee for all their hard work.

A Safeguarding report was circulated before the meeting. Role descriptions are a work-in-progress. Draft JC safeguarding policies to be sent round for approval by correspondence. ALMs are all up to date with safeguarding.

A Health and Safety report was circulated before the meeting.

St Michael's Lease: The diocese leases St Michael's Church from the housing company and then sub-leases it to St Michael's. The diocese would like St Michael's to sign the sub-lease and appoint a solicitor to complete all the paperwork. The diocese has offered to pay for this. The JC agreed that the diocese should be informed of the appointment of a solicitor and that the solicitor should be informed not to spend above the funding that the diocese will provide.

Phil will update the prayer diary.

The Joint Council approved a proposal to create a storage room at St John's, in the current 'Pastoral Room.'

The Joint Council agreed to having an Accommodation Committee for St John's as a sub-committee. Gordon will take the chair and approach people (JC members or not) to be involved. Gordon will also set out some terms of reference for approval.

It was reported that there have been two additions to the St Michael's electoral roll – taking the total number to 28. Three members from the St John's electoral roll have been lost through death.

The meeting closed with all saying The Grace.

Reflect on generosity

Words from the Book of Proverbs (11.24-25):

One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.



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- Wednesday: 9am - 5pm
- Thursday: 9am - 5pm
- Friday: 9am - 5pm
- Saturday: 9am - 4pm

Groups at St John's Library

- Bounce and Rhyme - Weekly every Tuesday, 11:00am to 11:30am
- Scrabble Club - Weekly every Tuesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- Chess Club - Weekly every Tuesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- Crochet and Chat - Weekly every Wednesday, 10:00am to 12:00pm
- Storytime and Song - Weekly every Friday, 11:00am to 11:30am
- LEGO Club - Weekly every Saturday, 2:00pm to 3:00pm
- Photography Group - Monthly every last Thursday (26th October), 11:00am to 12:00pm

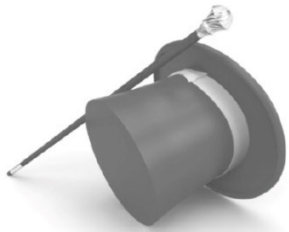
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From the magazine archive, October 1915

Hours of Divine Service.

St. John's Church.

- Daily.* Matins—10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
8 a.m. on Tuesdays Thursdays and Saturdays.
Evensong 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion every Wednesday at 7 a.m.
- Saints' Days.* Holy Communion—8 a.m. and after Matins.
Matins—10.30 a.m. Evensong—7.30 p.m.
- Sundays.* Holy Communion—8 a.m. every Sunday; also 7 a.m. last Sunday of the month; Choral after Matins 1st Sunday in month; Choral every Sunday at 10 a.m. (except on 1st Sunday in month); Plain Celebration after Matins on 3rd Sunday.
Matins, Litany, and Sermon—11 a.m.
Children's Service—3 p.m.
Evensong and Sermon—6.30 p.m.

At Crown East Chapel.

- Sundays.* Holy Communion—After Matins 2nd and 4th Sundays.
Matins and Sermon—11 a.m.; Litany—1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays.
Evensong—6.30 p.m.

At the Parish Room.

Mission Service when possible, and as announced.

At the Parish Room, Broadbeath.

Evensong and Address on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. (from October to end of March).

At the Jubilee Room. Meeting for Men, on Sundays, at 3 p.m. (during the Winter).

Holy Baptism. During or after any week-day Service (except Wednesday Evenings) also after the Children's Service on Sundays.

(Forms should previously be obtained from the Sexton.)

Churchings. At any week-day service.

Sunday Schools,

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Boys—In Jubilee Room. | Superintendent: Mr. Arthur Clifford. |
| Girls—In Girls' Schoolroom. | Miss James, |
| Infants—In Jubilee Room. | Miss Hall. |
| | Miss Frost. |

Sunday School Teachers. Preparation Meeting. In the Vestry, Wednesdays after Evensong.

**Girls' Club* (in connection with G.F.S.) Tuesdays, Parish Room, 8 to 10 p.m.

**Young Men's Guild* (with Bible Class). Fridays, Parish Room, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.

**Boys' Guild.* Mondays, 7 to 9 p.m.

**Mothers' Meeting.* Conducted by Mrs. Waugh, assisted by Mrs. Lewis. Mondays, Parish Room, 2.30 p.m.

St. John's Gymnasium. Secretary, Mr. R. H. Willitts, 29, Happy Land West.

(*Infant Schoolroom.*) Juniors—Tuesday Evening, 7 to 9 p.m.

Seniors—Monday and Friday Evenings 7.45 to 10 p.m.

Ladies' Class—Wednesdays, 8 to 10 p.m.

**King's Messengers* (Girls). Parish Room, Mondays, 5.30 p.m.

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

* During the Winter Months.

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(£18.75) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted.

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Account name: St Johns Parish Church

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2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
3. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity.



Puzzle solutions

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
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| 5 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
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| E | N | A | B | L | E | | | M | A | R | K | E | T |

And finally....



*“Wait a moment, dear,
this isn’t a tourist
ratings guide - it’s a
Health and Safety
warning!”*



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – October 2023

| | St. John's | St. Clement's | St. David's | St Michael's |
|---|--|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1st October | 10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 4pm Eucharist | 10.30am Eucharist |
| 8th October | 10.30am Morning Worship | 9.30am Eucharist | 4pm Evening Prayer | 10.30am Eucharist |
| 15th October | 10.30am Eucharist | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 4pm Eucharist | 10.30am Eucharist |
| 22nd October | 10.30am Eucharist | 9.30am Eucharist | 4pm Evening Prayer | 10.30am Eucharist |
| 29th October | 10am Team Eucharist (St Clement's) | | | |
| 5th November | 10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm All Souls' service | 9.30am Morning Prayer 7.30pm All Souls' service | 4pm Eucharist | 10.30am Eucharist |
| 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. | | | | |