

## St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine

September 2020

50p



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

#### WEST WORCESTER CLERGY

clergy@wcw.church

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)
The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Friday

Monday

## CHURCHWARDENS stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church

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

#### SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

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

#### OTHER INFORMATION

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

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

#### **PARISH OFFICE**

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

Postal address:

Tel: (01905) 420490

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

e-mail: office@wcw.church

#### ST JOHN'S CHURCH ON THE WEB

Parish Website: www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine

A church near you: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/

Group Website: www.westworcesterchurches.org.uk



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

#### A Word from the Editors

Welcome to our September magazine. Our theme this month is "Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist". Sarah highlights the good news that if Matthew can be saved, then so can we. She reminds us that Matthew persevered, putting the call of Christ before and above the difficulties that call presented. Can we do the same?

We hope you will enjoy our varied articles. We can only mention a few here - enjoy the rest too! The 75th Anniversary of VJ day fell in August, and that is featured on our cover and inside (p20). It's September so it must be Ride+Stride. There's a flexible programme on offer this year - see page 10 for details. We've got an interesting item from France (p28) and a sobering one from Peru. Please look prayerfully at the bottom of page 9.

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

Graham and Sue Evans

#### Important information

Email address (NB changed): parishmagazine@wcw.church Next edition (October): Deadline is Sunday 13th September.

Distribution, towards the end of September, dependent on circumstances at the time.

**Subscription form:** Page 46.

Cover picture: VJ Day commemoration, 15th August 2020, photographed by Colin Nash.

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those whose photographs are included in this magazine including Dines Green Community Café, Philip Evans, Luise Horrocks, Penny Marcés, Arthur Miller, Colin Nash, Amy Rees and Worcester Cathedral.

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

#### The magazine

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

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

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

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

#### **Opinions!**

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

#### To advertise

Please see page 12.

#### From Sarah Cottrill

Caravaggio's painting, "The calling of St Matthew" depicts the moment Christ inspired Matthew to follow him. The painting shows a finger pointing and a surprised looking Matthew pointing at himself as if asking "Who – me? "That feeling will be familiar to many of you. It certainly is to me, as I recall the incredulity I felt





when it was first suggested that I might consider ordination! God calls unlikely people. He called me, as he calls each of us in different ways, and he called Matthew to be an unlikely founder member of his Church.

We celebrate St Matthew's day later this month, but what do we know about him? In fact, very little, and what we think we know is challenged in some schools of thought, as

my Post Confirmation Group recently discovered. Meeting via Zoom during lockdown, we have been studying Matthew's Gospel and discovered the following.

Matthew's Feast Day is celebrated on September 21st and his symbol is a man or a human face. After the account of the calling of Matthew, hardly any other mention is made of him in the Gospel accounts and we are unsure where or when he died, although some church traditions believe he was martyred in Ethiopia.

The thing which surprised us most, however, was that it is not universally accepted that the Matthew who was called by Christ is the same Matthew who wrote the Gospel of that name. While J. Stafford Wright claims:

"He was universally accepted as the author of the first Gospel ...." [1] Peter Calvocoressi writes of Matthew:

"One of the twelve apostles, also called Levi son of Alphaeus ... but not the Matthew who wrote the first Gospel .... In early times the authorship of the first Gospel was ascribed to the apostle Matthew but ... this view has been demolished." [2]

Calvocoressi was not strictly correct in claiming that the belief that Matthew the apostle and Matthew the Gospel writer were one and the same has been "demolished!" Some sources still hold this view. They appear, however, to be in the minority.

One thing which is agreed upon, is that Matthew, at the time that Christ called him, was a tax collector, working for the Romans. As such, he would have been

regarded with suspicion and dislike by most Jews – including, presumably, the other disciples. The early days of Matthew's career as a follower of Christ could not have been easy for any of them. Despite this, Matthew persevered and is attributed with a far-flung ministry after the death of Christ and possible martyrdom in Ethiopia.

Little as we know about Matthew, he is nonetheless a worthy example, role model and source of reassurance for us. Working for the hated occupiers and almost certainly taking a "bigger cut" for himself than he should have done, Matthew was an unlikely candidate to be called by Christ. Yet he was called, and he obeyed that calling. God continues to call unlikely people into his service. We don't need to put our lives in order first – God will do that – we just need to be willing, as Matthew was, to accept that we are called, "warts and all" and to follow his example of obedient response to that call whenever it may come.

Matthew persevered, putting the call of Christ before and above the difficulties that call presented. He left his job (and who knows what possible consequences that might have led to at the hands of his Roman employers?) and braved the hostility of the other disciples to follow his Master. We, too, may have to make sacrifices and face difficulties and opposition as we seek to follow and serve Christ. Will have the courage of Matthew to not only make those sacrifices and face those difficulties, but to do so with generosity and joy? Luke's gospel tells us that having responded to Christ's call, Matthew gave a "great banquet for him." This was no half-hearted, reluctant obedience; this was a joyful, generous embracing of the new life to which he was called. Is our own response to God's call on our lives equally unequivocal? The Collect for St Matthew's Day helps us to pray that it may be.

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax-collector to be an apostle and evangelist; give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit; one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Sarah

- [1] J Stafford Wright: Dictionary of Bible People. Scripture Union 1978.
- [2] P. Calvocoressi: Who's who in the Bible. Viking 1987.

# In Memoriam September Mrs RI Dobbins 1st September 1996 Bessie Sage 4th September 1995 Alice Beatrice Ingham 5th September 1999 Beatrice Eva Jones 11th September 1987

Martha Ricketts
Reg Brunyee
16th September 1996
17th September 1996
Joan Pauline
19th September 1996
19th September 1996

Elizabeth Goodsell 21st September 2003 Doreen Hall 24th September 1987

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

In memoriam items are included until the fortieth anniversary. An extension may be requested by family or friends of those named.

The information from the church registers for March to July is on page 33.

#### Sundays and Principal Feasts in September

Sunday 6th September: The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Sunday 13th September: The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Monday 14th September: Holy Cross

Sunday 20th September: The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Monday 21st September: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Sunday 27th September: The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 29th September: Michael and All Angels

Go to page 35 to see Phil doing battle with early medieval Irish names in the September liturgical calendar.

#### Mid-week services

The mid-week services are up and running and will take place each week during September:

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

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

God our creator,

you feed your children with the true manna,

the living bread from heaven:

let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Service pattern

As explained in the April magazine, we had planned to introduce a new service pattern in May, but all the disruption caused by Covid obviously prevented us doing so. Since public worship resumed, we have been operating a temporary pattern, but in September we will begin the new plan for morning services. In essence, the changes are as follows.

- At St John's, there will no longer be an 8am on a Sunday. There are no changes to the 10.30am: it will be a Eucharist on the first, third and fourth Sundays, and All Age Worship on the second Sunday (although in the immediate future, while singing is forbidden, this may be replaced by Morning Worship). For the present, all Sunday evening services remain suspended; we will review this when singing is allowed once more.
- At St Michael's, at 10.30am, the first, second and third Sundays will be a Eucharist, with the fourth Sunday Morning Prayer.
- At St Clement's, at 9.30am, the first and third Sundays will be Morning Prayer, with the second and fourth Sundays being Eucharists.
- At St David's, all services will move to 4pm. There will be Eucharists on the first and third Sundays, with Evening Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays.

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's			
1st Sunday	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Worship * 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist			
2nd Sunday	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist			
3rd Sunday	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Worship * 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist			
4th Sunday	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Worship * 5.30pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer			
5th Sunday	Group service, 10am						

<sup>\*</sup> For the present, all Sunday evening services remain suspended; we will review this when singing is allowed once more.

In addition, there will continue to be a 10am BCP Holy Communion at St John's each Tuesday and a 10.30am Eucharist at St Michael's on a Thursday.

The rationale for this was explained in full in April, but in brief, this new pattern allows us to be 'self-sufficient' with the number of stipendiary clergy and ALMs we have. Hopefully, as we settle into it, we might be able to use it flexibly and develop new ways of outreach and nurture within our worship.

Phil Bradford

#### Latest from locked-down Lima

Why, at 7.30am on 29th July, did the police explosives division inspect the advent wreath ceiling attachment in the Good Shepherd Cathedral Church in Lima?



Because, as part of the Independence Day celebrations here in Peru, this year the Good Shepherd had been chosen to celebrate the non-RC Thanksgiving service on that day, a service to which the President and other dignitaries are invited. On the 28th July there was a Te Deum in the RC Cathedral.

The fact that this year the only people physically present were the participants and the equivalent of the BBC did not affect security measures. President Vizcarra WAS present – virtually – he and his wife, along with LOTS of others, watched it live on TV / YouTube.

As coordinator between the Good Shepherd and the committee organising the service, Juan Carlos was present.

His responsibility also included providing flowers, so afterwards (since they weren't going to be seen again in Church, and after some had been given to participants for themselves or their wives), the flowers that the President's wife DIDN'T get were given, one by one, to women we work with in Jesús el Nazareno in the Church or who cook in the two local soup kitchens.



These soup kitchens reopened at the beginning of July, and since then we have been supporting these rather than helping out individual families, but have now run out of funds, so are praying for more, since the need continues.



During Pastor Miguel's sermon on 29th July, heard by the President (he was filmed listening), he bravely mentioned the phrase "around 40,000 deaths due to the pandemic", citing his source. Literally a few hours later, the Health Minister openly admitted that although the number of deaths registered

was 19,000, the real number (taking into account excess mortality) was around 43,000. Coincidence? At least now the numbers (now even higher) are more in the open; there had been much criticisms about the lack of honesty on numbers.

Sadly, these numbers show that despite our VERY early lockdown (now over 5 months ago), Peru is still suffering terribly. Apart from the sheer numbers of sufferers, lack of beds, oxygen etc. continue to cause huge problems in many areas of the country. Having lifted the prohibition on leaving your home on Sundays, after 6 weeks that ban has been re-imposed. Any hopes of Sunday services in the near future have evaporated, but we continue to use Zoom and WhatsApp, plus visits to people (almost always meeting at the front gate or in the street, not inside a house), and the children's materials continue, now 3 times a week plus Sundays, on "People in Genesis". We give thanks for those continuing to "arrive" at Church through these means, and pray for their growth.

Please continue to pray for us! We value your prayers.

God bless you all too, Juan Carlos and Penny Marcés

#### Please help

Penny asks: "If anyone feels they can help out with the soup kitchens, please let us know. We have been giving the equivalent of £75 a week between them (they feed up to 400 people 5 days a week), but this week will be the last".

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

Account name St Johns Parish Church;

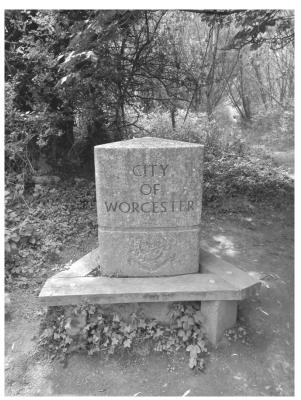
Account number 64670460;

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



West Worcester Group of Churches'
'Day Retreat'

Every year in September the National Churches Trust promotes the Ride+Stride. As reported in the August magazine, this year I am organising a route that will



combine the Ride+Stride with a "Day Retreat". The route includes timetabled stops for Morning Prayer, Prayer During the Day, Café Church and Evening Prayer and will include the quiet, riverside path to Hallow, well away from the roads, to enjoy the sounds and sights of nature. We will pass 5 churches. In total the route will be about 7.5 miles and we will start at 10am at St John's for Morning Prayer and finish at St Clement's at 5pm for Evening Prayer.

#### How you participate is up to you!

The plan is for a group to walk the route with people joining for all or part of the walk and

other people joining in for some or all the prayer activities.

- You could walk the full route with us and join in with all the prayer activities.
- You could drive or cycle between the stopping points and just join in with the prayer activities.
- You could just join in with one prayer activity.
- You could walk with the group and enjoy the countryside but not join in with the prayer activities.
- You could do this as a "sponsored" activity and seek sponsors and fundraise for whichever church you choose, or you could join in and treat it wholly as a Retreat.



Anyone who wishes to join in will need to bring their own food or drink.

#### Plan for the day

10am	Morning Prayer	St John's Church		
10.30am	Walk 1	From St John's Church to Hallow		
12noon	Prayer During the Day	Churchyard of Hallow Church		
12.30pm	Lunch	Picnic lunch in Hallow churchyard or pub		
		lunch at The Crown Inn.		
1.30pm	Walk 2	From Hallow Church		
		to Christ Church, Broadheath		
2.30pm	Café Church	Churchyard of Christ Church, Broadheath		
3.30pm	Walk 3	From Christ Church, Broadheath to St		
		Clement's Church (via St David's		
		Church)		
5pm	Evening Prayer	St Clement's Church		

Ride+Stride is a sponsored bike ride or walk in which people from all over the country walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside. The money they raise helps to preserve some of Britain's 47,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses which are at risk of falling into serious disrepair.



Supported by The National Churches Trust and working in partnership with County Churches Trusts, Ride+Stride crosses 34 counties and opens the doors to some of Britain's most rare and unusual churches, chapels and meeting houses.

The event raises money through events and volunteers getting sponsorship to either cycle or walk from church to church. Their sponsorship money is shared between their local churches trust (in our case the Worcestershire & Dudley Historic Churches Trust) and the church of their choice.

If you would like to find out more or sign up please see the church's Facebook page or speak to me.

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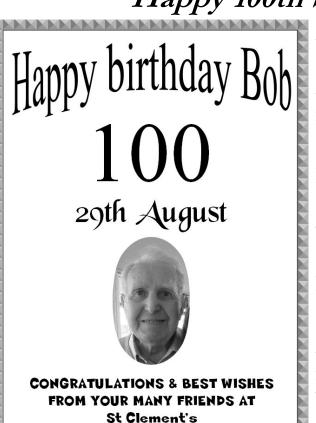
An advert can be full-page, half-page or quarter-page in size and the booking can be from one month to one year. If you are interested to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell on 01684 893397 or by email at sue.hussell@talktalk.net

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- Facebook page- Marciac Gites-SouthWest France Holidays

#### Happy 100th birthday, Bob Bell



St Pavid's

St John's St Michael's As many of you probably know, Bob celebrated his 100th birthday on 29th August. He has been a great influence on many people (including me) in this area and in our church life.

Bob was born in India just after his parents arrived there in 1920 and he lived there until Partition in 1947. The family were given just a few days notice to leave their home and they travelled on a troop ship to Scotland in May 1947.

A year later Bob moved to Worcester and met Angela Summers at St. Clement's badminton club. He soon became involved with church organisations at St Clement's and St David's.

Bob, together with his brothers Hubert and

David formed the St Clement's Scouts. Funds were raised by holding whist drives every Monday night at the home of Mrs Grosvenor (Albert's mum) and they were able to build a scout hut on Hylton road, next to the Crown & Anchor pub.

Bob was appointed by Rev H. Slater in 1949 to help at Sunday school at Comer Mission Church (later to be named St David's) and in April 1953 Angela & Bob were married at St Clement's Church. Bob was appointed church warden in 1955, a position he was to hold for 59 years!

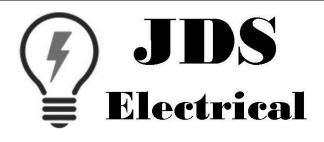
Bob was quite a sportsman in his younger days and one year in the 50's he played hockey for Worcestershire!

Bob's generosity to the church and his friendship and kindness over many years has gained him many friends in this area. He is much loved by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and his caring wife Angela.

Even now with failing health, sight loss and some hearing loss, Bob is still an inspiration to many and still attends services at St David's when he can. He loves to chat and is always interesting to listen to.

Congratulations Bob on your 100th birthday and thank you for all you have done over many years. Love from everyone who knows you!

Maureen Ovington



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New classes starting in St John's

#### Little and Large

St David's fundraising event: On Saturday, September 26th a table sale will be held outside St David's Church from 10.00am until 2.00pm. A selection of books, games, puzzles and cakes will be among the things for sale on a donations-only basis. Alongside this we will be running a "virtual" raffle. Tickets will not be given but for 50p a time you can have your name entered in the draw. With first and



second prizes of £50 and £25 respectively, why not treat yourself to several tries?

From September 1st, you can also buy our Treasure Hunt Sheet. With clues around St John's, the city centre and the Comer Gardens area, follow the trail, answer the questions and be in with a chance to win the treasure! Entrance forms can be obtained from me, and all entries must be returned by the end of the sale on September 26th.

#### **Update from Worcester Cathedral:**

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



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

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

Your safety and that of our staff is of paramount importance to us. Social distancing signs and measures are in place to help make the Cathedral COVID secure. There are hand sanitisers available at the entrance, exit and in key locations. A strict cleaning regime happens daily and is ongoing through the day. There are socially distanced seats and standing areas within the Nave.

We strongly advise visitors to wear a face covering inside the Cathedral. The Cathedral has been awarded a Visit England 'We're Good to Go' award.

Taken from the Cathedral website 14th August 2020.



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#### They're multiplyin' (even more)



Not quite as many as Colin's daughter, and no rabbit (see picture in previous issue), but here's the photographic evidence that I've managed to knit 31 hats.

Luise Horrocks

#### Sudoku Puzzle

Copyright 2013 KrazyDad.com

The solution is on the inside back cover.

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

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#### Would you spot it?

World Leukaemia Day on 4th September is a global campaign run in collaboration by patient groups from across the globe.

It's the one day of the year people from all around the world can come together to help raise awareness of Leukaemia. By raising awareness of Leukaemia and educating the world on the signs and symptoms of this condition, we can work together to help Leukaemia patients get diagnosed and provide better outcomes for them.

However, the non-specific signs and symptoms make it difficult to spot. There are over 300,000 deaths caused by Leukaemia worldwide. Our campaign is vital as survival rates for Leukaemia are significantly lower than most common cancers, and these rates are worsened by the high prevalence of emergency diagnosis.

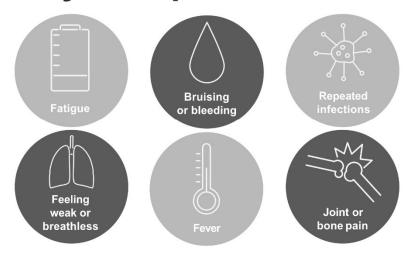
We hope that by making people more aware of the signs and symptoms of Leukaemia, we will encourage them to get seen by a healthcare professional. This will help reduce the numbers of preventable Leukaemia deaths across the world and provide patients with greater outcomes.

This year's World Leukaemia Day focuses on how you can take action and help us raise awareness around the world, so we can help more people survive this cancer and improve the quality of life of patients after diagnosis.

Margaret Miller



#### Can you #SpotLeukaemia?



If you are experiencing more than one of these symptoms, don't delay, visit your GP. Early diagnosis saves lives.

For more information, please see www.leukaemiacare.org.uk or email on support@leukaemiacare.org.uk or call the Freephone helpline: 08088 010 444. Leukaemia care is a national charity, based in Worcester.



#### We will remember them

15th August 2020 was the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day.

A small act of remembrance was held in the grounds of St John-in-Bedwardine Church at the War Memorial.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the local British Legion branch to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day and to remember all those that took part or were unfortunately killed or wounded during the war.



They were called the forgotten Army but we will remember them.

When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your Tomorrow, we gave our Today







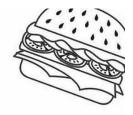


Working together

The Dines Green Summer Community Café has got off to a good start, and things are going well. There will be more information in the next edition of the magazine.









## DINES GREEN COMMUNITY CAFE



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\* BY MESSAGING US ON THE DINES GREEN
COMMUNITY CAFE PAGE

MEALS ARE FREE BUT ARE LIMITED IN NUMBERS PER DAY SO BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

ONCE BOOKED YOU WILL BE GIVEN A ALLOCATED TIME, PLEASE ONLY COME AT THAT TIME SO WE CAN ADHERE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING





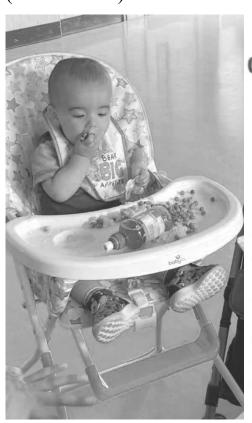








Pictured above in the kitchen are the chef (Andy Wickham) and café assistant (Debra Jones).



## DINES GREEN COMMUNITY CAFE

This Summer Holiday Community Café has been planned and setup by a group of local organisations working together.

- Hope Church Worcester
- St Michael's Church, Dines Green
- Action for Children, Tudor Way Family Hub,
- Age UK Worcester and District
- Worcester Community Trust
- Dines Green Community Academy



#### Diddy Disciples

September always brings changes for the children, but this year with the Covid adjustments in schools it will perhaps be more challenging than usual, so we hold them all in our prayers.

The Explorer group have met a couple of times since we've been back at church and have enjoyed discussing miracles. Hopefully more of our children will begin to return this term and we're looking forward to welcoming them back.





We have been continuing our learning about God's Kingdom in Diddy Disciples and have been busy making medals and planting seeds.

The end of this unit of learning should have been throwing a mini party for the congregation after a service, but don't worry we'll remember that for when things are more normal!



We also designed some bunting which showed all the different things that we've learnt about God's Kingdom. The pictures represent God's Kingdom as the smallest seed growing into the biggest tree; a party to which everyone is invited; a farmer sowing a seed; finding hidden treasure and everyone being given the same. Have a look next time you're in church! We showed it to the rest of the congregation during the service on Sunday 16th August.

\*\*Amy Rees\*\*



#### There are many ways you can help

It has been a strange few months and I do hope you have been able to keep yourselves safe. I cannot believe I am writing this, as it does not seem a year since I last asked for your support for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.

I received a phone call from one of the organisers recently and we both agreed that this year the boxes would be even more important. We already have people knitting hats ready to go in the boxes. This is what one child said when she received her box:

"The special item inside my shoebox was the hat. I really appreciated that someone I'd never met would send me such a lovely gift."

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

I do hope you will feel able to support us again this year. If you need any further information you can give me a ring 0779264207 or check the website samaritanspurse.org.uk. There will be leaflets to tell you details available in church.

Thanking you in advance for your support.

Jane Askew

#### Jesus Calling

I'm currently completing the Bishop's Certificate course, and as part of that we do a project. The brief is very broad and I decided to create an album cover, "Jesus Calling", in the style of an old-fashioned vinyl album. When she saw it, Sarah Cottrill suggested that I should offer it to the parish magazine editors, so here it is!



It is based on the famous cover of "London Calling" by English punk rock band The Clash (1979). This was in turn based on the cover of Elvis Presley's first album in 1956.

Jesus is a cultural and popular figure – the most popular and well-known person in history. He was, and is, a "Superstar". This is a piece of pop art which includes classical and pop images which stand out in the telling of His story.

Just as Elvis and The Clash called out to the masses looking for change – effectively a sort of revolution – Jesus called out to the World with his message of Love and Hope. A revolution that would change the World forever. And He called out to me: Many of these images have occurred to me through the course.

The central feature is the Cross. A bright, shining golden Cross.

We then have:-

The Three visitors – who feasted at Abraham's tent and promised to return next year, and that Sarah would have a son.

The parting of the Red Sea.

The Golden Calf.

David and Bathsheba – you can see David spying on Bathsheba as she bathed, which led to adultery and the shameful death of Uriah. The Prophet Nathan then foretold of how God would visit his disapproval on them both.

The Last Supper – the wonderful Da Vinci painting. At the top of the Cross is a 3D painting from St Luke's Church in Torquay. It shows the moment the shadowy Judas scuttles away to commit the ultimate betrayal.

We have Christ in the Wilderness, having been led by the Devil to the highest place to show him all the kingdoms of the World, only for Jesus to eschew all the Devil's promises of power and riches. From Hamlyn's Children's Bible.

I have chosen a variety of colourful images of Jesus. The one I particularly like is bottom right with the crown of thorns. Do you recognise Christ with Mary Magdalene in Titian's "Noli me Tangere"?

Bottom left is from "Detail of the Last Supper (Christ 112 Times)" by the "Pope of Pop", Andy Warhol. It shows the commerciality of Christ and just how commoditised His image has become in the modern world.

Mark (Hodgson – one of the tutors) told us about the Sacred Heart in Droitwich and I have included a photo of a moving display in the Church. It shows Jesus' robes and bowls used to prepare His body.

Finally, we have Caravaggio's "The Conversion of St Paul" on the way to Damascus, at the foot of the Cross. Saul falls off his horse when he hears Christ saying "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me".

I have interspersed it with references to pop songs by the Beach Boys and Depeche Mode ("Personal Jesus"). Prog Rock fans amongst you will have noticed the flying Lamb (top right) in reference to Pink Floyd's trademark flying pig!!

#### Un soupçon de l'histoire



One of the churches that I'm involved with over here is at Latronquiere. The pews are fixed so social distancing has to be effected by each person according to their own placing in the nave. It gets one Mass each week but no other activity. Up to 2018 there was a small religious "sisterhood" in the now closed presbytery. The church dates from the 1800s with some

minor remodelling after the war, with a handful of locals to look after it.

The "town" was once a garrison town in the time of the occupation by the "English" in the 14th century. It had a fortress and a "commanderie" - all vestiges of which have long disappeared. The area has a very interesting history.

Latronquiere is on an ancient crossroad between the mountain pastures of Auvergne and the lowlands of the old domains of Quercy, an area of scrub oak, agriculture and small animal husbandry. In the Middle Ages, from the 13th century to the start of the Revolution, La Tronquiere was the base for a fortified



commanderie of the Hospitaliers of Saint John of Jerusalem, under the control of the Great Priory of Saint Gilles in Provence.

The earliest mention of its establishment dates from 1255, which is probably some time after its construction but corresponds with the movement to establish religious "retreat centres" in rural/remote locations and the desire to bring rural development into those locations too.

The church was the major player because it had the funds; through pilgrimage, land acquisition from benevolent notables and a tithe collection system. There is evidence that the Baron in the locality of La Tronquiere made such a gift of land, with its associated income from agricultural activity, to the Order of The Hospitaliers at the beginning of the 12th Century. The Baronie held great tracts of land which gave an important revenue to its exchequer, and he held the legal administration of this area as well as many feudal rights over its citizens. In addition, land and consequential rights obtained in parts of Auvergne & Rouergue likewise gave substantial income and power.



The commandery was established in a feudal castle, three towers, strong crenellated walls & fortified entrances (barbicans). Included was a church, a prison, granarie and other buildings to stock the harvests/food.

During the Crusades the castle was a recruitment centre, raising troops to go to the conflict in the Holy Land, similar to other commanderies of the Hospitaliers all over Europe. By the end of the 17th century there was no longer a resident commandant and the Priory sent managers to report on the state of affairs/receipts and its finances. These managers rarely offered any solution to maintenance issues including its deterioration.

COMMUNS

12-16ams
LOGIS DU
COMMANDEUR

12-16ams
CHAPELLE

12-16ams
BATIMENT
DU
CHAPITRE
PIGEONNIER
COMMUNS

16-16ams
GRANGE
AUX
DIMES

The wars of religion were hotly disputed in this area. The people were largely unorthodox, even protestant, and many were held in the castle and its prison against their wish - particularly when they destroyed the church for which they had antipathy.

The commandery chapel was used as the parish church after the reforms were agreed. At the end of the 17th century the castle had ended its useful life as a fortification and it swiftly fell into disrepair, to be later demolished entirely. The walls, the ditches and other elements were completely removed after the Revolution and now only the flat area, where the parterres once stood, is still visible, A number of buildings and walls of local houses showed how the stone was not wasted!

The town has a post-revolution church now (as shown opposite). Its population is some 360 inhabitants and we had about 35 in church at mass this morning.

Arthur Miller

#### So when does a risk assessment become a risk?

I was so excited! I had received the Central Council of Church Bellringers advice on returning to ringing. I asked Mr Google for the correct web site and as it revealed itself the anticipation began to reach a peak.

#### Well that bubble was well and truly burst! 40 pages of advice!! 40 🗐

As my friends will tell you I don't really do written instructions. Normally I spend ages trying to ignore instructions (as many household appliances would tell you if they could speak). However, I agreed to take on the Tower Captain role so delegation is obviously the key. Those of you who know my patient, loving and loyal husband of 40 years will agree he would be the obvious one to help. After all, we are in the same bubble, so he can read and decode all 40 pages in the long days still ahead.

Well, apparently, even after 40 years your other half can still throw you a curved ball. It wasn't so much the blank stare of disbelief or the small snort, but when he burst out laughing I twigged that I had finally pushed my luck too far. (Note to self: Send back extravagant 40th wedding Anniversary pressie and order socks!)

Not to worry, I have amazing friends. Friends that ring bells with me, so delegation could still be the key.

Unfortunately at the time of printing these friends are uncharacteristically silent. Come on woman, you can do this  $\textcircled{\clubsuit} \, \square \, \square$ 

Large gin poured, large slice of cake on plate for balance, here I go. First section, produce a risk assessment. Well that's easy and things are looking up. I can do that as I've done them before and how difficult can that be.

"Please be aware if you print out your risk assessment it should be considered a risk of transmission. Please ensure this is on your risk assessment"

"What!!"

**Read the instructions woman and focus,** keep going don't give up. Just get a small gin top up and off we go again. A good talking to myself was in order. Break it down into bite sized chunks and work from there. Hmmm! This wasn't going to be an easy job. This was going to take me forever. The rest of the bell-ringing community would be ringing away and I would still be on the first page.

Well that didn't go well. Apparently procrastination is my middle name. It seems that the gin and cake didn't help significantly and I still haven't got further than the first page of advice.

Brainwave, go to the tower and walk it through. I am amazing!

So the next morning I tackled the beast. First hurdle? 44 steps in a spiral. 44! Lockdown has been a bit of a diet holiday with little chance of climbing spiral staircases but, surprised by my own lung capacity, I did it. Metre stick in hand I was relieved to find we can ring most of our bells as the distance between was within the guidelines. We can't ring the last two as they are too heavy and we may breathe out too much, causing droplet spray.

Ok, let's look at the other rules...

*No spitting on your hands....WHO DOES THAT?* Obviously the reason our ringing is a bit ropey. **Note to self....**more spitting required when we get back.

Age restrictions.... that could be an issue but I will say no more on that!

Ringing in masks...in this heat, really!

*No shouting out of musical instruction* ... for those of you who question that we normally do this, the chances are no one outside will notice.

Bands can only ring for 15 mins.... How well the people who wrote this know us. I doubt we will ever be able to ring for much longer in one go anyway. Result! One we can cover easily.

I won't bore you with all 40 pages but I'm sure you get the gist. We won't be ringing in the foreseeable future I'm afraid.

#### All silly rules and lightheartedness apart, we are devastated.

We really miss our friends in the band. We really miss ringing, and we hear the protestations that all of these government rules have been an overreaction, but many bands have lost ringers. In respect to them, and the thousands who have lost loved ones during this pandemic, we will conform to the rules.

The Clangers would like to reach out to the community and pass on our love to everyone who has been affected. As soon as we start back to ringing we will be thinking of you as St John's beautiful bells call out to all across the city that first time. When you hear them be assured we are thinking of you.

Through the centuries these bells have rung out, calling people to prayer, telling of sadness, happiness and remembrance and they will sadly find a new place when we all meet again. Until then, please stay safe and watch this space because we will be back, hopefully not living up to our name.

Tracey Ward, on behalf of The Clangers of St Johns Church.



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#### From the Registers (March to July)

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

8th March 2020 William James Narraway

**WEDDINGS:** Those whom God has joined together

15th July 2020 Joseph King and Eleanor Glover

**FUNERALS:** Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

d. 4th March 2020 Delphine Margaret Rowberry

d. 5th April 2020 Elsie Betty Elizabeth Palmer

d. 8th April 2020 Doreen Hayward

13th April 2020 Jean Shirley Lewis

28th April 2020 Jessica Bird

1st June 2020 Trevor Keith Hudson

23rd June 2020 Peter Michael Terry

10th July 2020 Clive Thomas Griffin

#### FROM THE SERVICE REGISTER (March to July):

**1st - 16th March:** Communicants 131. Total attendance all services 277 (including 42 at a baptism outside the principal service).

"On Tuesday 17 March 2020, the archbishops of Canterbury and York advised the suspension of public worship due to Coronavirus. The church remained open during the day for private prayer, but the following services were conducted by clergy alone."

**17th - 24th March:** Communicants 3. Total attendance all services 55 (including 41 at a funeral).

"On Monday 23 March 2020, the Prime Minister announced a national lockdown and closed all places of worship, apart from for funerals and private prayer by clergy. The archbishops went further and closed all churches completely."

25th March - 9th May: "NO SERVICES COVID-19 LOCKDOWN"

"Following a House of Bishops' meeting on Tuesday 5 May 2020, the bishop of Worcester authorised private prayer by clergy and authorised lay ministers in church, accompanied only by members of that household. There were thus no services in St John's from 23 March to 10 May."

10th May - 3rd July: Communicants 4. Total attendance all services 23.

From 5th July, public worship was again permitted.

**5th July to the end of July:** Communicants 154. Total attendance all services 211 (including 7 at a wedding).

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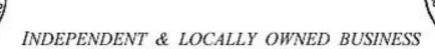
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#### Pedantic modern Gaelic scholars, look away now!

September is another quieter month in the liturgical calendar.

It opens with Giles, a seventh/eighth-century hermit who founded a monastery in Provence and was renowned for his care of the wounded and those crippled by disease, especially leprosy sufferers, hence the dedication of many churches for those afflicted by leprosy to Giles.

On the 2nd we commemorate the Martyrs of Papua New Guinea from two separate incidents: the London Missionary Society group in 1901 and those killed during the Japanese occupation in World War II.

Gregory the Great (Gregory I) is on the 3rd, a man famous for his administrative zeal while occupying the papal throne and the pope who sent Augustine's mission to England. The 4th sees us remember Birinus, bishop of Dorchester and the apostle of Wessex, or (for those willing to do battle with early medieval Irish names) Oengus Mac Nisse of Dalriada, bishop of Connor.

Given our Peruvian links, we should commemorate Allen Gardiner, founder of the South American Missionary Society (SAMS), on the 6th, although he is displaced by the Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity.



St Giles, painting by Hans Memling

The 8th is the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who hopefully needs no introduction.

It is back over the Irish Sea on the 9th for the sixth-century Ciaran of Clonmacnoise, and we can stay in the Emerald Isle until the 10th to allow us to remember Ciaran's contemporary, Finnian of Movilla in the Ards. Alternatively, you may prefer to cross back to Wales and recall William Salesbury and William Morgan, sixteenth-century translators of the scriptures into Welsh, then remain in Wales for Deiniol on the 11th.

On the 12th, it scarcely seems worth hopping back to Ireland for Ailbhe, a figure so legendary even the saints book can find nothing to say about him. Instead we can wait for John Chrysostom, a late fourth/early-fifth century patriarch of Constantinople renowned for his preaching ('Chrysostom' means 'golden-mouthed').

The 13th is the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity, followed on the 14th by Holy Cross Day, a festival commemorating the cross which tends to risk shading into idolatry. Cyprian of Carthage, a bishop known for 

Continued on page 37



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Continued from page 35 his compassion to apostates who had renounced the faith under Roman persecution in the mid-third century and martyred during one of those periods of persecution, is on the 15th.

The 16th marks Ninian (or Uinniau to pedantic modern Gaelic scholars), known somewhat questionably as a fourth and fifth century bishop of Galloway and apostle of the Picts. On the 17th we recall Hildegard, a twelfth-century abbess of Bingen and visionary. Theodore of Tarsus, a seventh-century Archbishop of Canterbury, is on the 19th, while somewhat strangely on the 20th the Welsh commemorate the Saints, Martyrs and Missionaries of Australasia and the Pacific as the English and Scots recall John Coleridge Patteson, first bishop of Melanesia, or would do were it not the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity.

The only apostle of the month falls on the 21st as we celebrate Matthew, who is traditionally held to have been both tax-collector turned disciple and author of the eponymous gospel (in reality, they were different people).

The 23rd takes us to Iona and the late seventh-century abbot there, Adomnan, perhaps best known for the life he wrote of his predecessor and the monastery's founder, Columba. The 25th is the day of Lancelot Andrewes, bishop of Chichester,



ADVANCE WARNING

Phil's test for 28th
September: "How many
angels can dance on the
head of a pin and still
observe social
distancing?"

Ely and Winchester who was a major contributor to the King James Bible in 1611 (alternatively, a trio of obscure others – Fin Barre of Cork, Finnbar of Caithness and Sergei of Radonezh – occupy the same date).

Wilson Carlile, founder of the Church Army, is on the 26th, while Vincent de Paul, founder of the Lazarists, would be on the 27th were it not the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity.

On the 28th we have the third of our Group Patronal Festivals, with the Feast of Michael and All Angels (traditionally known as Michaelmas and the main alternative to Petertide for ordinations).

Finally, the month ends on the 30th with Jerome, best known for translating the Bible into Latin, the result of which was the Vulgate text which was the version used throughout the Middle Ages.

Phil Bradford

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### Extracts from Wendy's 1982 scrapbook

Sept 5th - The Vicar preached a good sermon.

Sept 9th - Vicar from Lewes preached about St Pancras and Marylebone. Peggy sat by me. Judith was with John.

Friday Sept 10th - House service at Jim's.

Sunday Sept 12th - Jim preached about those in authority.

Thursday Sept 16th - at Parrots'/ Frank came, good group.

Friday17th - Lovely, just me Frank and Jim.

Sunday 19th - I read for Sir Conan. The rest went to the Deanery service at Broadwas.

Thursday 23rd - at Nancy's. Jim away, he'd fallen off his motorbike.

Friday 24th - Lovely service.

Sunday 26th - Excellent sermon by Frank.

The is the Parish Magazine Vicar's letter from a clipping which is included in Wendy's scrapbook. This has been included by Optical Character Recognition rather than as a direct image for reasons of legibility.

SEPTEMBER 1982

### THE VICAR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

September — the start of a new school year, and a crucial one for the schools in West Worcester. This month the County Education Committee are likely to make their final recommendations regarding the future of the schools and almost certainly they will seek the closure of some, possibly including St. John's. The Diocesan Education Committee have already given support to the idea of an enlarged Church Primary School on the site of the present St. Clement's School, a merger onto the one site of the present St. John's and St. Clement's School. There is a good argument in favour of this, for large schools have certain opportunities which cannot be found in small schools. But I believe most people send their children to the school \*\*Continued on page 41\*\*

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Continued from page 39 which is most convenient to their home. Because of the situation of St. Clement's it is unlikely to draw anything other than a minority of the children living in this parish. So, sadly, in the name of 'finance' a link between the church and the children of St. John's, which has lasted for generations, is in danger.

The part played by St. John's in the development of education in the parish has been enormous. The great pioneer for the education of the 'poor' of the area was Canon John Wood. When he became incumbent of St. John's in 1840 there was just one small school for 40 children, standing in the churchyard. Within two years he had a new boys school opened just off the Bransford Road, three years later a girls school a-joining the church, then in 1869 an infant school, on the same site. As the present infant school. Nor did he neglect the 'County' part of the parish, for he was responsible for the school at Crown East, opened in 1876. In the forty years he was Vicar here the number of pupils increased from 40 to over 800.

This close involvement with the school has been developed by each incumbent since Canon Wood's time. All the clergy have been familiar figures in the school, leading worship, assisting with religious education and serving on the Governing Body. I believe the link between church and school has been of great benefit to all, and it will be very sad if our generation is responsible for the ending of this partnership.

We shall listen with great interest to this stage of our local education debate and hope that the true interests of the children will be placed above every other consideration.

Yours sincerely,

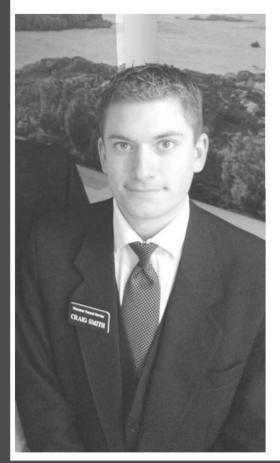
FRANK BENTLEY - Vicar.



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### From the magazine archive (August 1949)

ST. JOHN'S BOYS' SCHOOL

THE end of the School Year means the passing of some forty boys from the School. For teachers this separation is not easy and many boys too, accept the inevitable with mixed feelings.

To mark the occasion a Farewell Service was arranged and the Revd. C. H. G. Carver very kindly officiated in the absence of the Vicar, who was taking his holiday.

Before the Service the Head Master presented his report on the years' work and activities and used the opportunity to thank Miss Treasure, Mr. Langley, Mr. Clifton and Mr. Ricketts for their loyal support and cheerful co-operation.

Mr. Robert Smith representing the Managers, congratulated the School on the Report which had just been read. The Managers and the L.E.A. were very pleased with the many improvements which had been observed in the past year.

Awards for diligence, conduct and sport were then presented by the Chairman. After congratulating the winners Mr. Smith had a few words for the rest of the School. He was pleased to see that diligence and conduct were the basis of the awards and not academic ability only. From his own observation he had noted that many boys who had no great ability had often won the race of life by their diligence and conduct.

For the Service of Farewell, lessons and hymns and prayers were carefully selected and under Mr. Carver's direction the Service was conducetd in an atmosphere of reverent attention. In his address Mr. Carver informed the School of the Vicar's wish to present a Silver Cup for House Competitions. Mr. Carver thanked the boys for inviting him to share their activities in School and the Outing to Royal Windsor would be ever a pleasant memory.

To the boys who were leaving, he asked that they would always cherish the traditions of St. John's Boys' School. It was a Church School where the ideal of "God First" was implicit in worship, work and play. The Service closed with the Benediction and the Choir singing "God be in my head."

Parents were invited to see the School Plays in the evening. Standard IV, with Mr. Langley as a very convincing South Carolina cotton-planter, produced a very happy Minstrel Troupe. Mr. Clifton accompanied with his usual skill.

In the "Railton Ruby"—a detective play, the boys presented a good thriller. Standard III made a fine job of "The Beggar" and "The Tired King". Speech and action were well combined in good characterisation. "Fruit Salad" was very happily presented with good speaking and acting.

Parents enjoyed every moment, and their observations show an appreciation of what is attempted in these little plays. A very happy evening closed by request with the singing of "Crimond".

O. H. LAFLIN, Headmaster.

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### Puzzle solution

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

### And finally....



The wild garden in the churchyard was coming on nicely.



### Sunday services in the West Worcester Group, September 2020

anibrewbaring of the state of t	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
6th September	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Eucharist	
13th September	10.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Evening Prayer	
20th September	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Eucharist	
27th September	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Morning Prayer
			4pm Evening Prayer	

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.