



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



# The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



September 2021

50p



## Information

### WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY

**clergy@wcw.church**

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

### TEAM OFFICE

You can contact the office by email, post or telephone.		<b>The office is open, by appointment only, Wednesday and Friday 9am-12noon.</b>
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: <a href="http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk">www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk</a> A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine">www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine</a>
St Michael's	Parish Website and A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/">www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/</a>

### SERVICES

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

### SAFEGUARDING

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

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	<b>St John's</b>
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: Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy.	
The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling (dowlingm28@sky.com/424539), Val Mason (val.mason@yahoo.com/428948).	<b>St Michael's</b>
Safeguarding Officer: Liz Edwards (stmichaels.safeguarding@wcw.church) On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	

## *A Word from the Editors*

Welcome to our September edition.

Our theme is: “Michael and all angels”. Phil looks at this in his letter, Arthur muses about it on page 20, and the archive item is spot on theme. There’s plenty more besides and we hope you will find items which will encourage you to take part, interest you and stimulate your thoughts.

Sarah wrote, a couple of years back “We often describe somebody who has done us a good turn as being an angel...”. With this in mind, to encourage you all to be angels, we share with you the following poem, by Henry Burton, which we came across. The title is “Pass it on” and we do so gladly!

Have you had a kindness shown?

Pass it on.

‘Twas not given for thee alone:

Pass it on.

Let it travel down the years,

Let it wipe another’s tears,

‘Til in Heaven the deed appears.

Pass it on!

*Graham and Sue Evans*

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### *Important information*

**Email address:** parishmagazine@wcw.church

**Next edition (October):** Deadline is Sunday 12th September.  
Distribution, towards the end of September.

**Subscription form:** Page 46.

**Cover picture:** Colin Nash: The image depicts Archangel Michael as the angel of judgement with angels on the right sounding a welcome (Worcester Cathedral).

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Phil Bradford, Philip Evans, Paul Fulbrook, Joy Job, Colin Nash, Wikimedia Commons and Worcester Cathedral.

## **The magazine**

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

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

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

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

## **Opinions!**

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

## **To advertise**

Please see page 12.

## *From Phil Bradford*

Coventry Cathedral is a striking building in many ways, but one of its most memorable features is the large, bronze sculpture of Michael defeating the devil on its east wall. The work of Jacob Epstein in 1958, it is a vivid reminder of the cathedral's dedication to St Michael, but it is a popular theme around the Christian world.



A stone's throw from the Anglican Cathedral in Miraflores, Lima, Michael presides over a roundabout from atop a column.



On tiny Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides, Michael guards the gate into a fascinating little church where the altar surmounts an upturned boat. This is just a trio of examples I have seen; there are thousands of others around the world. While the church ones often represent the dedication, they also form a reminder with the others of Michael's place in Christian thought as a divine protector.

Confusingly, Michael is widely referred to as St Michael (as is the case in our church with that dedication). Quite why this is so is unclear. It may be a desire to show particular honour to him, or it may result from some confusion over the Latin word 'sanctus', which means 'holy'. Whatever the case may be, he is actually an angel, or, if we are being pedantic, an archangel (see Jude 1:9). The complexities of angelic hierarchies needs an advanced degree to understand, but an archangel is a stage up from an angel and Michael is properly Michael the Archangel. That he is seen in a leading role is shown by another common dedication, Michael and All Angels (as at Stourport). Along with Gabriel, Michael is one of the two angels named in the Bible, or three if Raphael in the Apocrypha is included. There are three references in Daniel plus one each in Jude and Revelation. In Daniel, Michael is the protector of the Israelites and Daniel is informed that Michael will appear at the end of times. That is the context in which he appears in Revelation (12:7-9), in the battle at the end of human time:

*'And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon*

*was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.’*



This explains the Coventry statue and why Michael is often portrayed defeating a dragon (which can lead to confusion with St George, the difference that Michael’s angelic status normally sees him portrayed with wings). In Christianity, he soon became seen as the protector of Christians from the devil and it is as protector that he is often placed in statue form above columns and at entranceways, a reminder of God’s protector watching over his people. It is also why Michaelmas, 29th September, is the common alternative to Petertide (29th June) for ordinations.

In more religious times, Michael was seen to have a particular role in watching over and protecting Christians from the devil at the hour of death, responsible for conveying their souls safely into God’s hands. For that reason, the dedication was common for cemetery chapels.

This was the case here in Worcester, where the first St Michael-in-Bedwardine, demolished in 1843, was the cathedral cemetery chapel and parish church for the graveyard, and stood right up against the cathedral. Its replacement was itself demolished in 1965 as part of the criminal vandalism which passed for urban regeneration in 1960s Worcester, and it is possible (although I need to research this further) that the dedication was passed over to the new church in Dines Green as a way of preserving it in Worcester, especially as this parish had been carved out of the other ‘in-Bedwardine’ parish. Often, we don’t think too much about the dedications of our churches, even when we celebrate patronal festivals, but in the case of (St) Michael it is worth dwelling on the intersection of local history and theology as we remember his feast day this year.

*Phil*

## *In Memoriam*

Mrs RI Dobbins	1 September 1996
Bessie Sage	4 September 1995
Alice Beatrice Ingham	5 September 1999
Beatrice Eva Jones	11 September 1987
Martha Ricketts	13 September 1996
Reg Brunyee	16 September 2006
Florence Smith	17 September 1996
Joan Pauline	19 September 1996
Elizabeth Goodsell	21 September 2003
Doreen Hall	24 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.

## *From the Registers, June and July 2021*

### **St John's**

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

d. 22nd May 2021 Douglas Mountjoy

d. 27th May 2021 Graham Banks

**SERVICES:** (June) Communicants 192. Total attendance at all services 242.

(July) Communicants 159. Total attendance at all services 211.

### **St Michael's**

**SERVICES:** (June) Communicants 68. Total attendance at all services 68.

(July) Communicants 77. Total attendance at all services 89.

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## *Collect for the feast of Michael and all angels*

Everlasting God,

you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals  
in a wonderful order:

grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,

so, at your command,

they may help and defend us on earth;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

## *Sundays and Principal Feasts in September*

Sunday 5th: The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 12th: The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Tuesday 14th: Holy Cross Day

Sunday 19th: The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 26th: The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

Wednesday 29th: Michael and All Angels

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### *Café Church*

Margaret and I restarted Café Church on 24th July. Rules permitting, it will be on the fourth Saturday of every month, from 10am to 12noon, in the north aisle of St John's Church. The next few dates are:

25th September. Speaker Graham Evans.

23rd October.

27th November.

*Jenny English*

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### *Mid-week services*

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for September:

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

Thursday St Michael's 10.30am. (Common Worship). 30th September will be kept as the Patronal Festival, Michael and All Angels (transferred from the previous day).

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### *Provisional date for your diary*

St David's: Autumn Fayre provisional date 2nd October.

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### *A heart-felt thank you ....*

*.... to all of you from everybody at St David's!*

Thanks to the amazing generosity of people from across our team and beyond, my sponsored walk - covering 165.6 miles (which is the equivalent distance from St David's Church, Comer Gardens to St David's Cathedral in Pembrokeshire) raised a staggering £1,115.12!

I am personally overwhelmed by the generosity that has been shown to St David's Church and I know I speak for everybody there when I say thank you to all those who sponsored me. It is hugely appreciated.

*Sarah Cottrill.*

# *Letter from Phil Bradford*

## *To the St John's congregation*

7th August 2021

Dear All,

Thank you to all those who responded to the questionnaire about how we move forward with the relaxation in Covid restrictions. There were some very thoughtful and helpful points made, and I was grateful to the significant number of people who responded graciously with consideration of others as well as themselves.

One point that did come up in some responses is worth mentioning here.

Naturally and rightly, measures have focussed on extreme caution and protection of the vulnerable. However, the cost to our children and young people has been enormous in all aspects of life as they have been called upon to make huge sacrifices to protect others. That has been as true in the church as elsewhere. If the church is to have a future, it must look seriously at how we now seek to bring back all those who have been marginalised and stayed away not for safety or through health concerns, but because the muted and restrictive nature of worship and a pervasive sense of fear has alienated them from that experience. We must move forward sensibly and with consideration, but we must move forward.

Covid is now endemic and we have to learn to live with it in the long term, not trap ourselves in a permanent state of fear. The measures which follow are therefore not final and will continue to be subject to review and revision as circumstances change, and we will continue to keep people updated at services.

This is, of course, an emotive and complex issue and some strong opinions were expressed. People have different views and different health requirements, which means there is never going to be a solution which satisfies everyone. For some, this process will be too slow, for others too fast. Of necessity, the decisions I have taken with the agreement of the Standing Committee try to strike a balance which reflects the majority feeling as expressed in the survey, while making provision for those whose feelings or circumstances are different. There is never going to be a perfect solution; we must be flexible and generous in how we move forward as a community.

The hand sanitising dispensers will continue to be available for use at the entrances and people are encouraged to continue to follow advice about hygiene and hand washing. There were some opinions expressed about masks and face coverings. Legally, we have no right to enforce their use, as this is now entirely a matter of personal choice. It is up to each individual to decide whether or not they wear a mask. However, please be considerate of and understanding towards those who make a different choice.



There was an overwhelming majority in favour of the immediate reintroduction of congregational singing. For now, the choir have decided that they do not wish to resume singing at services. However, we will be phasing hymns for the congregation back in during August. From September, all being well, we hope to be back to a full set of four hymns, with a review about Eucharist settings to follow that.

Choir participation will resume when choir members feel ready to take that step.

A clear majority was in favour of lifting social distancing requirements, with the caveat that provision continue to be made for those who wish or need to retain distancing. From Monday 9th August, therefore, all chairs will be cleared from the pews and the church divided into two zones.

The Nave and North Aisle will remain entirely clear and people can sit freely in this zone without social distancing. If you would like to share the peace in some way with those around you, please feel free to do so, although be mindful that not everyone will be comfortable with this yet and please do not leave your pew. Communion will continue to be administered as now, standing from the chancel step. However, we would ask that everyone return to their seats via the North Aisle, in order to respect the social distancing provisions in the South Aisle.

The South Aisle will remain a socially distanced zone. Kneelers will be used instead of chairs to mark off closed pews. In this zone, we ask that you sit only in empty pews and we strongly encourage the wearing of face masks. Provision will be made for the administration of communion in the Lady Chapel. The Lady Chapel door will be open for those who wish to leave via this route. Coffee will be offered in the pews to those in the distanced zone who would like to stay. Hopefully the use of the South Aisle like this will allow those who desire or need to continue with measures to continue to worship in a way which makes them feel safe.

A narrow majority of people expressed a desire to receive wine at communion again. To allow for time to work out the practicalities, this will not happen until September. A significant minority were nervous about or opposed to taking the chalice, but it must be stressed that it is entirely optional and it is perfectly acceptable to continue to take only the bread. Some also raised the possibility of individual cups for wine, although that has theological and canon law implications which need to be explored in more depth.

Signage will be changed around the church and we have reintroduced welcomers for the main Sunday service, who can direct people appropriately and help explain the new guidelines. Thank you to all those who have worked so hard to keep things going in these difficult circumstances, and let us pray together for a brighter future.

*Phil*

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## *Worcester City West Team Walking Church*

A group of five gathered on the car park of the Portobello pub, on June 27th, for the inaugural meeting of the Worcester City West Team Walking Church.



Anne Burrows had kindly volunteered to be our walk guide and she led us across the golf course, via various fields, to Old Road, and then back to her garden for tea and cake. The service that morning had celebrated the birth of John the Baptist, and as we walked, we discussed the readings, particularly the passage from Isaiah 40, 1-11. Beginning with the opening words, “Comfort, O comfort my people” we shared how our faith gives us comfort and moved on to a contemplation of the verse “Get you up to a high mountain” as we admired a wonderful view of the Malvern Hills. Two lambs obligingly came to the fence as we read “He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms.”

The walk, discussion and refreshments took about two hours and we all agreed that we would like to do it again. We felt that every other month would be the right frequency, but missing out August due to holidays. We therefore meet again on September 11th when Walking Church, Café Church and Ride and Stride all combine to make an unmissable day! See you there....

*Sarah Cottrill*

*Would you like to advertise in this magazine?*

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

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

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## *St. Michael's Mothers' Union*

St Michael's MU Branch, along with most groups, has not been able to meet for over a year, but we hope to commence again in September. We normally meet on the third Monday afternoon of the month at 2.30pm. The branch was founded many years ago, soon after the old church opened in the 1960's. More recently, after the closure of St. Clement's branch, several of their members joined with St. Michael's members so effectively this branch covers both churches.

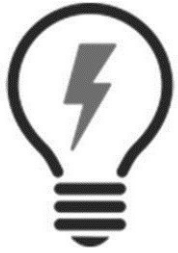


This August marked 100 years since the death of Mary Sumner, the founder of Mothers' Union (1828-1921). Both churches commemorated the occasion with a display and flowers.

The Mothers' Union movement began in 1876. Mary Sumner, the wife of a rector in Hampshire, set up a group to support mothers of all kinds in bringing up their children. Delivering a speech in 1885 to church-going women at the Portsmouth Church Congress, she inspired many of them to go back to their parishes and set up similar groups. She shared her passion for the role of women in bringing about a better society. The Bishop

of Winchester made the Mothers' Union a diocesan organisation. The concept spread through other dioceses so that by 1892 there were 60,000 members in 28 dioceses. By the turn of the century there were 169,000 members. By the time she died in 1921, MU was active in every diocese and in 26 countries. Today the organisation has over 4 million members in 84 countries.

The aim of the Mothers' Union in all parts of the world is to promote and support married life; encourage and support parents; maintain a worldwide fellowship of



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Christians united in prayer, worship and service; and promote conditions in society for stable family life and protection of children. This takes many forms – education, advocacy, training, enabling women to financially support themselves and their family. MU is involved in various campaigns such as against gender based violence in all its forms and other unjust situations and is working with other agencies such as collaborating with the Clewer initiative in its work against modern day slavery.

The Worcester Diocese's own projects include, among others, supporting refuges for women escaping domestic abuse, working with an organisation supporting teenage mums, knitting garments for premature babies in the Neo-natal Unit and knee rugs for the people in the stroke unit at Worcestershire hospital. They also fund holidays for families experiencing difficult times. Some initiatives had to be put on hold such as providing help to run the visitor centres for families visiting relatives in the local prisons.

Prayer is at the heart of MU and mid-day prayers are broadcast everyday from HQ. We also have a prayer diary where each diocese is listed to be remembered in prayer on certain days of the year. Dioceses are grouped with links in other parts of the world and Worcester is linked with some in South Africa, Nigeria, Uganda and The Philippines.

St. Michael's MU branch meetings start with a short service of prayer and then we usually have a speaker, either an official MU speaker or a visitor from the community or a local organisation. We follow this with tea and biscuits.

We pay a subscription which goes to help the work of MU both within the diocese and for funding those in poverty overseas in developing countries. We are not presently directly involved in a project, our support at the moment being through prayer and helping to fund projects.

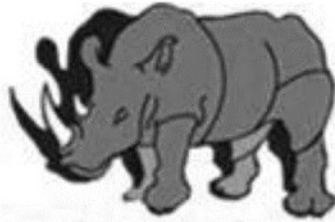
Contrary to our name the Mothers' Union is not just for mothers or even women. Women, men, married, unmarried, parent or not, all can and do join Mothers' Union. All are welcome. If you are interested come and visit us at one of our meetings.

Provisionally our next meeting will be on September 20th at 2.30pm at St. Michael's and will be an informal get-together after such a long closure.

You can find more information at:

*[www.worcestermu.org](http://www.worcestermu.org) or [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)*

*Jenny Claydon*



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## *Why the fourth day of the ninth month?*

Once again, the blood cancer charities want to bring leukaemia to the attention of the public. Leukaemia is a cancer of the white blood cells. The type of leukaemia is named after the type of white blood cell that is affected and whether chronic or acute. Acute comes on suddenly and progresses quickly, needing treatment urgently. The 4 main leukaemia groups are acute lymphoblastic, acute myloid, chronic lymphocytic and chronic myloid. It is more common in older people and more men suffer than women. They occur after changes in certain chromosomes. Myloid leukaemia happens when part of chromosome 4 changes with part of chromosome 9 and hence the 4th of September is the day chosen to highlight this cancer.

Many patients are diagnosed by chance during a routine blood test and is why the charity Leukaemia Care wishes to make people aware of the commonest symptoms; one or many of these symptoms may be an indicator:

Chronic fatigue

Shortness of breath

Easily bruised

Unexplained weight loss

Bleeding

Bone and joint pain

Frequent infections

Night sweats

*Margaret Miller*

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## *Smile lines*

The new Bishop wanted a bird's eye view of her new diocese, so she had an idea. She rang her local airfield to charter a flight, and was told that a twin-engine plane would be waiting for her. Arriving at the airfield, the bishop spotted a plane warming up outside a hangar. She jumped in, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!"

At once the pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and took off. Once in the air, the bishop spent several minutes enjoying the views, and looking for local landmarks. Finally, she instructed the pilot, "Fly down the valley now and make low passes so I can take pictures of some of the best of the old parish churches."

"Why?" asked the pilot.

"Because I'm the new bishop," she replied happily, adjusting her camera, "and I want some good aerial views of my diocese."

The pilot was silent for a moment. Finally she stammered, "So, what you're telling me, is, you're NOT my flight instructor?"

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# Dementia Meeting Centre

The Dementia Meeting Centre is held in the Den at Dines Green every Thursday 10-3pm. Drinks, cakes and biscuits are provided, members attending will need to bring a packed lunch. The cost for the day is £25 for the member, carer goes free and this includes all refreshments and the activities. Platform Housing have offered to assess people for the eligibility for having the fee paid for if they cannot afford to pay. We are just waiting for clarification on what this will involve but I can discuss it with individuals.

## About dementia meeting centres

Meeting centres are a great low-cost community-based way of supporting people living with dementia, their families & carers. They provide a place where people are supported to understand and adapt to living with dementia.

This is one of our 4 centres across Worcester & Malvern Hills. Each centre is led by trained and experienced staff and volunteers, in an ideal environment.

## Am I eligible to join the group?

Anyone who has a suspected or confirmed diagnosis for dementia.

There is no need for a confirmed diagnosis. Everyone is welcome at our centres.

The meeting centres work best when a family member or a carer comes along, although, you can choose not to stay if you prefer.

## What happens at our meeting centre?



Come along, meet old friends and make new ones!

- Informative discussion groups
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*Dementia Meeting Centre Manager*  
*Age UK Worcester and Malvern Hills*

Telephone:

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or

01684 560666

Email: [info@ageukwmh.org](mailto:info@ageukwmh.org)

## *Michaelmas musings*



Michaelmas is also known as the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, the Feast of the Archangels, or the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels.

This is a Christian festival observed in some Western liturgical calendars on

29th September. In some denominations a reference to a fourth angel, usually Uriel, is also added.

Michaelmas is one of the four quarter days of the financial, judicial, and academic year.

Even flowers (Michaelmas Daisies) are named after the festival because they are plentifully found about that time...

....and key-ring medallions also carry Michael's name.



Here are some of church buildings nearby dedicated to (Saint) Michael.



*Moccas, Herefordshire*

*On the right is  
St Michael and All Angels,  
Broadway...  
...and below is  
St Michael and All Angels,  
Great Witley.*



Below is the lost church of St Michael in Bedwardine which stood cheek by jowl with Worcester Cathedral.

The first remaining record of the church dates from 1268, but it is entirely possible that it could have been established much earlier. Religious tradition at the time dictated that any chapel or church, situated within a



burial ground or cemetery, would have an altar dedicated to St. Michael, for in the early Catholic faith St. Michael (or Michael the Archangel as he was commonly known) was the angel of death, tasked with weighing the souls of the dead in his scales, and carrying those worthy ones to heaven.



*St Michael-in-Bedwardine*

*This image is copyright the Dean and Chapter of Worcester Cathedral and is used with permission.*



Finally, by the entrance to Coventry Cathedral is the great statue of St Michael. The cathedral was consecrated on 25th May 1962, and Benjamin Britten's War Requiem, composed for the occasion, was premiered in the new cathedral on 30th May to mark its consecration.

*Arthur Miller*

# *Saturday 11th September*

## *Get out and about!*

Every year in September the National Churches Trust promotes the Ride+Stride.

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. As reported in the July/August magazine, I am once again organising a route that will combine the Ride+Stride with a “Day Retreat” along with incorporating the month’s activities for ‘St David’s Café Church’ and ‘Walking Church’. The route includes timetabled stops for Morning Prayer, Prayer During the Day, Café Church and Evening Prayer and will



include quiet riverside paths, well away from the roads, to enjoy the sounds and sights of nature. We will pass 9 churches. In total the route will be about seven-and-a-half miles and we will start at 10am at St Clement’s for Morning Prayer and finish at St John’s at 5.30pm for Evening Prayer.

### Plan for the day

<b>10am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>St Clement’s Church</b>
10.30am	Walk 1	From St Clement’s Church to the Cathedral (via several city centre churches)
<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Prayer During the Day</b>	<b>The Cathedral</b>
12noon	Lunch	Picnic lunch around the Cathedral or lunch from the Cathedral Cafe.
12.45pm	Walk 2	From the Cathedral to St Peter’s Church, Powick
<b>2.30pm</b>	<b>Café Church</b>	<b>St Peter’s Church, Powick</b>
3.45pm	Walk 3	From St Peter’s, Powick to St John’s Church
<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>St John’s Church</b>

*Please note:- Final timings and meeting points for prayer activities will be confirmed nearer the time. Please contact Philip Evans to ask for full details.*



## 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.

If you would like to find out more or sign up please speak to me or email [philip.evans@wcw.church](mailto:philip.evans@wcw.church)

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## *650th Anniversary Patronal Service*

The St John's Patronal Festival was celebrated with a Group Service on 27th June 2021. The church was about as full as it could be, with social distancing. Thank you to Colin Nash for these photographs.





## *Lovely flowers*

The flower ladies created some wonderful displays to decorate the church for the celebration of our Patronal Festival.

*The Editors*

The flowers were in memory of Margaret Rowberry who was one of our members. This was an opportunity for us to remember her and pay tribute to her and her amazing talent. Unfortunately, we were not able to attend her funeral due to the pandemic.

*Joy Job*



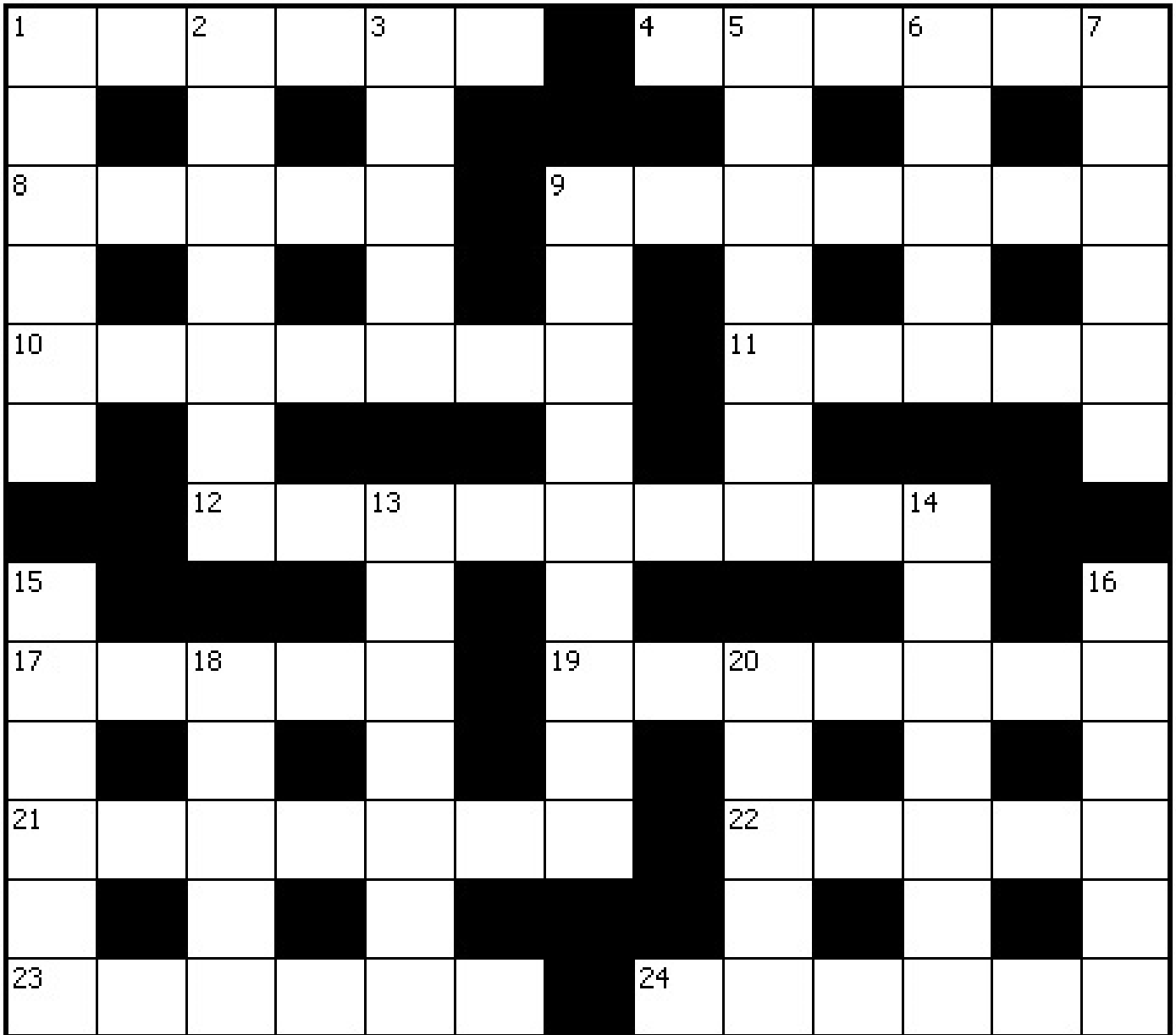








## *Crossword*



### **Clues Across**

- 1 'Through [Christ] we have gained .... by faith into this grace' (Romans 5:2) (6)
- 4 Deprives of sight (Deuteronomy 16:19) (6)
- 8 The words of a hymn do this (mostly) (5)
- 9 Faithful allegiance (1 Chronicles 12:33) (7)
- 10 Belgium's chief port (7)
- 11 Where John was baptizing 'because there was plenty of water' (John 3:23) (5)
- 12 Imposing height (Psalm 48:2) (9)
- 17 Jesus' tempter in the wilderness (Mark 1:13) (5)
- 19 Comes between Amos and Jonah (7)

21 'Your will be done' ... as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,5)

22 Gale (Matthew 8:24) (5)

23 Axle, eh? (anag.) (6)

24 'Out of the... I cry to you, O Lord' (Psalm 130:1) (6)

### **Clues Down**

1 Popular Christian author and humourist, ... Plass (6)

2 Transparent ice-like mineral (Revelation 4:6) (7)

3 Method of compelling surrender by surrounding target of attack (2 Chronicles 32:1) (5)

5 Expose (Isaiah 52:10) (3,4)

6 Lonny (anag.) (5)

7 Utterance (1 Timothy 1:15) (6)

9 Husband of Deborah, the prophetess (Judges 4:4) (9)

13 Burial service (Jeremiah 34:5) (7)

14 What Christ threatened to do to the lukewarm church in Laodicea (Revelation 3:16) (4,3)

15 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net (John 21:11) (6)

16 His response to Jesus' decision to return to Judea was 'Let us also go, that we may die with him' (John 11:16) (6)

18 There will be weeping and gnashing of ... (Matthew 8:12) (5)

20 Walkway between rows of pews in a church (5)

*The solution is on the inside back cover.*

---

### ***Smile lines***

A little girl had been to Sunday School for the first time and was asked by her mother how it compared with her new primary school. "Oh, I like it much better," she said. "There are no exams there, you go only once a week for an hour, and at the end you go to heaven instead of high school."

--- 000 ---

My small child was saying his nightly prayers in a very low voice. "I can't hear you," I whispered.

He replied firmly, "I wasn't talking to you."

## *Don't be afraid to fail*

In my local church, we use a parish prayer which includes the line: 'Help us to be brave enough to fail - but try again.'

Encouraging words indeed, and if we look back throughout the centuries, many men and women who have made the world a better place have taken those words to heart.

For example, where would we be today without electricity? Yet at school, Thomas Edison was told he was "too stupid to learn anything." He was sacked from his first two jobs; and made 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb. But in the end, he succeeded, and changed the course of world history.

Car manufacturer Henry Ford revolutionised transport in the USA, but he had five businesses fail before he founded the successful Ford Motor Company.

Winston Churchill was a Nobel Prize-winning, twice-elected Prime Minister, but he struggled at school, was defeated in early elections for public office, and did not become Prime Minister until he was 62.

As the late Nelson Mandela wisely observed: "Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

So, let us commit ourselves to loving God with all our hearts, to putting our abilities at His disposal, and to never giving up.

*Colin Hammacott (via Parish Pump)*

---

## *Success or Failure?*

I found some words of wisdom in a newspaper recently, taken from an interview with Marcelo Bielsa, the Leeds United manager.

"The moments in my life when I have improved are closely related to failure. The moments in my life when I have regressed are closely related to success. Being successful deforms us as human beings. It relaxes us. It plays tricks on us. It makes us worse individuals. It feeds our egos. Failure forms us, makes us more solid, brings us closer to our convictions. It makes us more coherent."

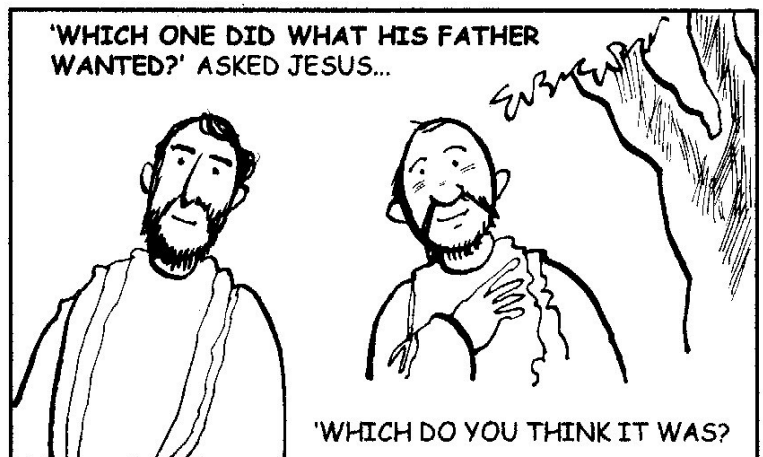
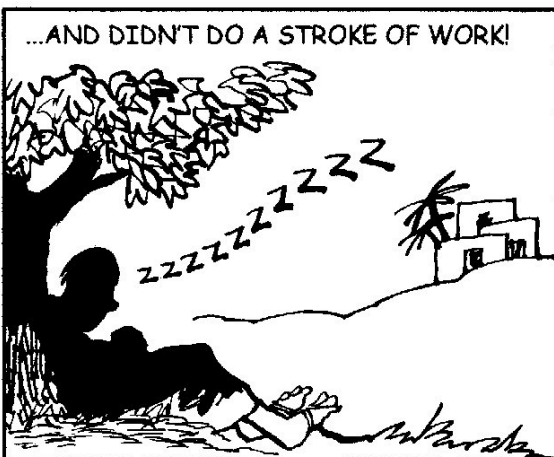
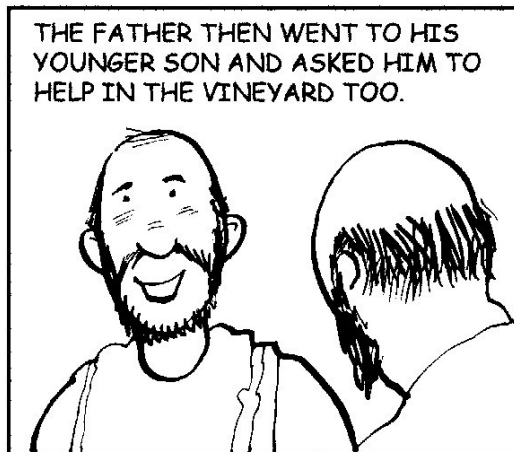
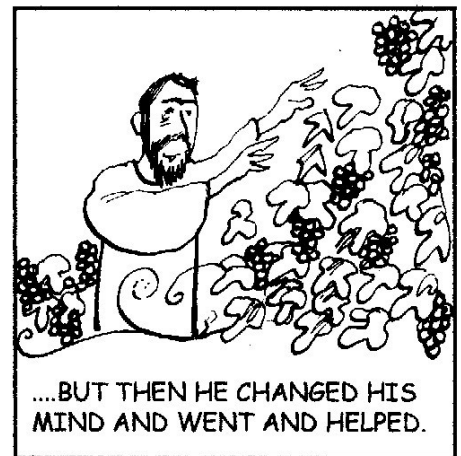
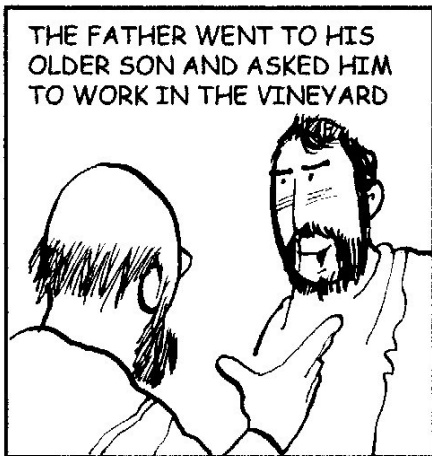
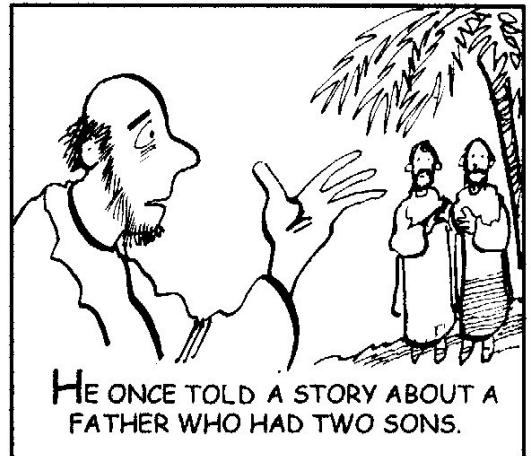
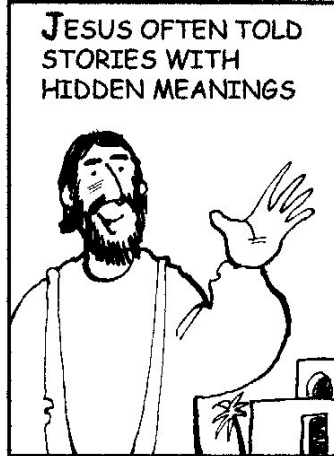
Of course, no one wants to fail all the time, but this reminds us that we can learn from our failures and must not be carried away by success. That seems like a good Christian principle.

*Tony Horsfall of Charis Training (via Parish Pump)*  
*www.charistraining.co.uk.*



# Picture parable

## The tale of the Two Sons



## *Summary of the PCC meeting held on 21st June*

The meeting was held online by Teams with 12 members present. Phil opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Finance:** The full figures were not available. We are no longer receiving income from the flat. It may not be possible to pay the full Parish Share this year.

The Parish Share formula is changing in 2022. The total share amount will be given to each benefice to divide up between their parishes themselves. The Group Treasurers will meet to discuss this.

**The Flat:** Brian has received two quotes for the work to bring the flat up to standard to rent it out again. Both are very similar but not comparable in their detail at the moment. The overall cost (including new boiler and secondary glazing) is circa £20k. It is hoped that Feoffees will grant up to £16k. The Friends may be asked to help with the remaining 20%.

**Car Park:** The lock to the barrier is broken yet again. Brian is investigating the costs for removable bollards to protect the four named spaces by the Blakefield Room entrance and to re-line the parking bays.

**The Worcester City West Team** will come into place on 1st July. Further details are awaited from the diocese.

**Future Online Provision:** Philip Evans and Rob Little are investigating prices for more permanent equipment. They hope to start a monthly online evening service.

**Sound System:** The problems with the sound system were discussed.

**Fellowship Group:** Jenny English would like to set up a Fellowship Group at St Johns to share work more equably. A universal group would encompass everyone working together. Jenny will put her proposal in writing to Phil.

**650th Anniversary:** As we are still under Covid restrictions Phil is planning a bigger celebration of the anniversary in the autumn, with a small celebration taking place on Sunday 27th June 2021.

**Churchyard:** Good comments were received about the wildflowers that were allowed to flourish when the grounds were not mowed. Two ladies are helping Colin each week. Colin is planning to put a topiary on the fallen tree by the entrance to the post office to tidy up the area. Areas around the churchyard have now been named. The 'Memorial Garden' will have plants with red flowers or leaves. Two red roses have been donated for behind the memorial bench. Following Colin's article in the parish magazine asking for donations for plants he

has received £300 from the congregation. Foliage will be pruned back at the side of the Burroughs Room to allow more light into the offices. Colin will email photos of noticeboards in a churchyard showing the history of the church (something for the PCC to consider doing here at St Johns).

The meeting finished at approximately 8.15pm.

*PCC minutes by Liz Edwards (PCC Secretary)*

*Summarised by Graham Evans (PCC Member)*

## ***Sudoku Puzzle***

*Copyright 2013  
KrazyDad.com*

*The  
solution is  
on the  
inside back  
cover.*

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

## ***Smile lines***

A woman went into the kitchen to find her husband swatting flies. "I killed three female and two male ones," he said triumphantly.

She asked him how on earth he knew that.

"Easy. Two were on my beer can, and three were on the phone."

--- 000 ---

Bread is a lot like the sun. It rises in the yeast and sets in the waist.



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## *Churches in our (new) deanery (1)*

This month we have two churches, as Paul produced an article while this magazine took its month off. The two churches are St Martin in the Cornmarket (Old St Martin's), and St Andrews, Droitwich.

*The Editors*



Saint Martin-of-Tours is the patron saint of beggars and infantrymen, noted for dividing his riding cape whilst a young man outside the gates of Amiens giving half to a deserving beggar. The cloak being restored the next morning after a night-time vision of our Lord wearing the donated half.

Why was a saint born in Hungary, the patron saint of France, chosen to be honoured at this church? Perhaps to do with being near one of the principal gates of the original city wall and a place where beggars were given alms?

Tradition has it that there has been a church here since before Norman times.

This is the third church on this site that is known of, and dates from 1768. A Georgian building was constructed following a decision in 1727 not to spend any more money on the previous dilapidated building. The church tower though was not completed until after 1780. Whilst the outside of the church could politely be described as austere, the inside is tastefully decorated with beautiful plasterwork.



Amongst the several lovely stained-glass windows are 'The Resurrection' by Hardman and 'The Transfiguration' by Preedy. Pervading all, the scent of incense lends a grandeur to the simplicity of the large open space. *Continued on page 39*

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*Continued from page 37*

In 1902, a Father Monahan was appointed Rector and it appears that he was very instrumental in assuring the richness of the worship in this church which then became very 'Anglo-Catholic' and this continues in a modified form today. The tower has fixed bells, which are rung as part of the clock system and an electronic carillon is attached, and 10 modern bells in the tower which are used for training.

In 2014 plans were prepared for a reorganisation of the churchyard space to make an area for quiet contemplation in the busy city centre. This work is ongoing, and I was shown where it is intended to have trees and a formal garden.



As with a lot of churches it is difficult to pick out what to emphasise and I would need more than a few lines to describe all the crucifixes, candlesticks, and statues. The 'lady chapel' does however have a very nice Walsingham 'type' statue of Mary and a further, more contemporary Mary, holding Jesus with his arms outstretched is now by the original south door entrance.

The confessional box at the rear of the church was taken away in the 1980's and in its place are some nice contemporary oak-styled units, one for storage etc., and another cunningly concealing an

excellent kitchen area. Most of the other fixings expected in an Anglo Catholic church were present and there is a particularly fine collection of Stations of the Cross though two were moved higher to accommodate these cabinets.

Suffice it to say, I very much enjoyed my short visit to this lovely church. The services are very much in the mode of traditional church music and liturgy and whilst they might not be to the taste of some Christians this is a form of service that goes back centuries and may be a refreshing change.

I've attended a service here in the past and perhaps it is time that I tried one again. Please consider a visit yourselves next time you have some time in Worcester.

*Paul Fulbrook*





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## *Churches in our (new) deanery (2)*



Back into Droitwich for this 5th visit to a church in our Worcester Deanery, St Andrews, Droitwich.

If you have the time a personal visit is recommended, but a virtual tour is available at <https://www.droitwichparish.org.uk/standrewschurchbuilding.htm> especially if, like me, you find the church 'Covid-tight' - locked against visitors.

The St Andrews church building had a large tower which we are told dominated the Droitwich skyline but was removed in 1926/7, (possibly not 1911 as stated in Churches of Worcestershire), which was when the north aisle was rebuilt because of unstable ground caused by brine extraction. The rest of the church retains many of the 14th Century to 19th Century characteristics.

Much of the church was destroyed by a major fire that swept through the town in 1293. Certainly, the foundations are 13th Century. To the east of the base of the tower is a 'Perpendicular style' north chapel. This was a chantry chapel dedicated in 1491 to St Richard de Wych (also known as St Richard of Chichester).

The interior of the church is light and airy and there is an excellent parish room attached to the right, that I have had the privilege of lecturing in. There is a rather splendid 'Jacobean' font shaped like a goblet with geometric designs on a square plinth. Down the north side there are bells from the old tower and this area leads very nicely into the chantry chapel area which is nicely appointed with carpet and comfortable chairs.

*Paul Fulbrook*

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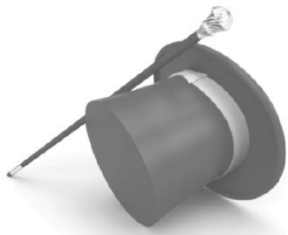
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# *From the magazine archive (September 1949)*

*(With apologies that the text is a bit small)*

*The Vicarage.*

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Michaelmas Day falls on September 29th. It is marked in our Church Calendar as the Festival of Saint Michael and All Angels. This day is very different from most of our Saints' Days. Some of them recall men of historic influence and inspiring example like St. Francis of Assisi, others suggest the value of obscure lives spent in the faithful service of God. All the people whom we commemorate on Saints' Days—whatever their rank—were human beings, men and women of flesh and blood like ourselves, and it is this fact which gives the remembrance of their achievements its precious value.

But at Michaelmas we are invited to think of mysterious beings who belong wholly to the realm of the Spirit—beings of whose nature we are ignorant and of whose very existence we have no substantial proof. And we live in a so-called scientific age, when we find it difficult to believe in anything which cannot be handled or fed with petrol or reduced to a mathematical formula. I often think the world of sense is too much with us. We should withdraw at times from the rushing, pushing, hurrying, scurrying world outside and think of the *other life*. We need to be taken out of ourselves, away from the sights and scenes of everyday existence and to be carried beyond that which is material and visible to that which is unseen and eternal.

And so the Festival of Saint Michael and All Angels comes as a message from God to kindle our imagination and to lift our hearts and minds above the things of earth. We are bidden to remove our thoughts for a time from the littleness of man's little world to the greatness of God's great universe. The Festival comes when the summer days are well-nigh over, when the falling leaves and autumn storms speak of the winter days to come, and remind us of change and decay. We are carried away from these things to God's eternal kingdom where there is no death and no corruption, and to that innumerable company of angels who stand ever before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His Holy Temple.

It is not easy to elaborate the substance of this Festival. The writer of the Book of the Revelation speaks of a ladder set up from earth to heaven and of *angels* ascending and descending upon the Sorrow of Man. We cannot see the angels any more than we can see the myriads of living creatures which fill the air around us, but we know they are there. We cannot see the wind, but we hear the rustling of the trees and feel its breath. We cannot see the force which carries a message from continent to continent, but we acknowledge its power. And so with those spiritual beings whom we call "Angels"—Messengers of God. We cannot see them with our eyes of flesh, but we know that they exist. We know the guardian hosts of God encamp around us by day and by night—that they have a charge concerning us, and in their strong hands bear us up lest we dash our feet against a stone. We believe that if we are doing our best to stand up in the evil day against the forces of wickedness—the angels are on our side, and we can say with Elisha, "They that be with us are more than they that be with them." We believe that in the long dark hours of temptation, when we have to fight that battle which every true

man and woman has to fight—the Angels of God are with us. God sends us help from His Holy Place.

There are some who think themselves to be too well-educated to believe in a Ministry of Angels. They can no more conceive of the unseen world than the dull, matter-of-fact man can enter into the realm of the poet's fancy. But, ask those who have, by faith, touched the hem of Christ's garment, who have been taught of God and have become as little children, and they will tell you of the comfort and strength of an unseen presence, the touch of a ministering hand and the shadow of an angel's wing. There may be some who have changed, but God never changes. There may be a few who are too blind to see the angel's hand and too deaf to hear the angel's song, but the song still rings out its message and the angelic ministry is still performed. For us to-day, as for Jacob of old, the armies of God's angels are fighting on our side. For us too, as for him, there is to-day *Bethel—the House of God*. Within the sacred confines of our old Church, *if nowhere else*, we ought to remind ourselves of Saint Michael and the Angels, for they are closely connected with all our worship. They hovered over the font when we were christened, and our guardian angels do even now behold the face of our Father in heaven. They witnessed the Laying on of Hands in Confirmation, when God's Apostle sealed us with the Holy Ghost. And we believe they are specially near whenever the Holy Communion is celebrated, when "*with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify God's Holy Name, evermore praising Him, and saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.*"

Let this thought of the Ministry of Angels be our strength and comfort. We need never be alone in the daily battle with temptation, never alone in the moment of sudden danger, never alone in the hour of deepest sorrow and our most bitter agony, never alone in the hour of death. And let this be our prayer, that as God's Holy Angels always do Him service in heaven, so they may succour and defend us on earth.

*Yours sincerely,  
John Hunt.*

## ALTAR FLOWERS

THE following ladies have kindly consented to provide flowers for the month of September.

- Sept. 4.—Mrs. J. Roberts.
- .. 11.—Mrs. Pearce.
- .. 18.—Dr. M. Norton.
- .. 25.—

MARGARET E. LANCEY, *Hon. Sec.*,  
103 Bransford Road.

# SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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Account name: St Johns Parish Church

Please put in the reference number you have been given, as the reference for the recipient.

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1. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income or capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
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.
4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.



## *Puzzle solutions*

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

A	C	C	E	S	S		B	L	I	N	D	S		
D		R		I			A		Y			A		
R	H	Y	M	E			L	O	Y	A	L	T	Y	
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E	X	H	A	L	E				D	E	P	T	H	S

*And finally....*



*“Fred composes  
all his sermons on  
his iPhone - he  
uses something  
called predictable  
text”*



## Sunday Services in the West Worcester Team - September 2021

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
<b>5th September</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>12th September</b>	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
<b>19th September</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>26th September</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
<b>3rd October</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

**Sunday afternoon provision at St John's is still to be decided.** Please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.

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