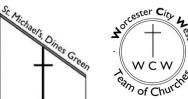
The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine St Michael's

September 2022 50p









Information

WORCESTER CITY WEST TEAM CLERGY

clergy@wcw.church

Day off

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

Saturday

TEAM OFFICE

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

ON THE WEB

St John's	Parish Website:	www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
	A church near you:	www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/	
	Facebook:	www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine	
St	Parish Website and	-www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/	
Michael's	A church near you:	- w w w.achurchinearyou.com/church/19089/	
	Facebook:	www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/	

SERVICES

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

SAFEGUARDING

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

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).

St John's

Pastoral care: The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact

Sylvia Render (telephone 422654/email 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).

St Michael's

Safeguarding Officer: Liz Edwards (stmichaels.safeguarding@wcw.church) On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).

A plea from the editors

Thank you to the many people who have renewed their subscriptions, often with generous donations in addition.

If you have received a subscription renewal reminder with this edition and have not yet got 'a round tuit', please do pay now. That will save us the extra work of generating further follow-ups.

Thank you!

A word from the editors

Welcome to our September edition. Our theme for this month is "Generosity" - not just in the financial sense, but in all types of giving of time and support and in the acceptance of others and their weaknesses/different views. Phil talks about this in his letter - "Generosity towards others is ... a Christian imperative."

The Church and almost everything that it does are sustained by generosity inspired by the goodness of God. That is reflected in many of the pages of this magazine and we will leave you to perceive it rather than pointing to specific examples. You are of course invited to receive as well as to give, so please take note of future events. The Church of England is marking generosity week, starting on 22nd September. You can find out more at

https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/buildinggenerous-church/generosity-week

Graham and Sue Evans

Important information

Email address: parishmagazine@wcw.church Next edition (October): Deadline is Sunday 11th September. Distribution, towards the end of September.

Subscription form: Page 54.

Cover picture: A reminder of our Jubilee celebration event, made possible by the generosity of many. Picture by Colin Nash.

Pictures in this magazine: Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Jenny Claydon, Jenny English, Philip Evans, Liz Forman, Colin Nash, and Sam Setchell.

The magazine

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 54 or by taking a subscription form from the rack (where the magazines are) at the back of the church. Please return the form and your payment to the parish office.

Opinions!

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

To advertise

Please see page 16.

From Phil Bradford

In early August, I attended one of the evening sessions of the Commonwealth Games at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. The stadium was filled to capacity and the atmosphere was electric. Never mind that most people (including me) had no clue where Nieu or the Norfolk Islands were. We were happily cheering Indian long jumpers,



Nigerian discus throwers, sprinters from Turks and Caicos, and Australian decathletes. There was none of the tribalism and cruelty of the football terraces, or drunken inanity of cricket stadia, places I am more familiar with being in the crowd. While the home athletes naturally received the largest cheers, there was a genuine willingness to enjoy the spectacle and see athletes to do well. We stood to hear unfamiliar national anthems and applaud unlikely winners. If this was twenty-first century Birmingham, it was definitely a city of which to be proud as it was showcased before the world.

The problem is that the Commonwealth Games were the exception rather than the rule. You may have noticed news articles lately asking why people are so angry and why there is so much rage about. The kind of generosity shown towards all nations in Birmingham is egregiously absent in a world where nationalism, racism and intolerance are growing even stronger, where these form the basis of political platforms for those seeking power.

And it is, of course, rarely those responsible who bear the brunt of that anger. The check-in staff at airports have no control over bad planning by the airline executives, the railway staff no influence on a disastrous network policy, the call centre worker no say in the outrageous profits of energy companies and chief executives. Yet it is these, the lowest paid, who are the public face of a terrible summer and find themselves abused and attacked repeatedly.

The multi-millionaire executives can sit in the office and never have to face these kinds of consequences for their failings. The venom is turned upon the poor workers, upon refugees and immigrants, on easy targets used to deflect the responsibility of the rich and powerful. Far from showing consideration and generosity of spirit towards people, understanding the constraints they face, too many of us are acting in precisely the opposite way.

So as summer 2022 drifts towards autumn, generosity is an excellent theme for us. Too often, we tend to think in purely financial terms when we use the word 'generosity'. But in the midst of our fractious, uncertain route out of Covid, it is worth us reflecting on how we can be generous towards others in human terms. When we are tempted to lose our temper with an airline official, or a GP's receptionist, or whoever it may be, we should be pausing to ask what we are doing. Are we looking at them as human beings, in their own way victims of a broken system, or are we just lashing out at the first, easy target?

In reading the latest newspaper story about how 'immigrants' or 'foreigners' or 'benefit fraudsters' or whoever are doing this or that to destroy civilisation, are we asking how accurate the story is and whether there are other things we need to know, things which would make us see them and the situation differently?

Generosity towards others is, after all, a Christian imperative. Throughout the Bible, we read stories of those who looked into the faces of strangers, outcasts and sinners, but responded with compassion and a recognition of their humanity. These are stories that remind us that we should be seeking the face of God in others, that God himself once came among us with a human face. It is that which should cause us to respond generously, to have the generosity to look into the face of another and see the goodness of God.

Phil Bradford

Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.

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.

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

From the Registers, June/July 2022 St John's

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

12th June 2022 Freya Mary Saunders Nathanial Ian James Narraway

10th July 2022 Tristan Jordan Dingley

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 23rd April 2022 John Mills

d. 23rd April 2022 Pamela Botsford

d. 26th May 2022 Josephine Taylor

d. 31st May 2022 Dawn Jakeman

d. 9th June 2022 James Hitchman

d. 18th June 2022 Kitty McCormack

d. 22nd June 2022 Kathleen Adams

SERVICES (June): Communicants 177. Total attendance at all services 353, including 147 at a baptism and two funerals.

SERVICES (July): Communicants 174. Total attendance at all services 342, including 94 at a baptism and a funeral.

St Michael's

SERVICES (May): Communicants 64. Total attendance at all services 115, including 32 at a baptism. (Omitted from the previous magazine, sorry!)
SERVICES (June): Communicants 81. Total attendance at all services 81.
SERVICES (July): Communicants 106. Total attendance at all services 119.

Dates for your diary

Location key (J) St John's Church (M) St Michael's Church

(V) The Vicarage, 7 Manor Road

(J) Wednesday 7th September, 7.30pm - 9pm: Revelation course in the Blakefield Room, see page 11. Every Wednesday until 12th October.

--- 000 ----

(J) Thursday 8th September, 1pm: Good Old Days talk, School Days, see page 9.

(M) Thursday 8th September, 2pm - 4pm: West Worcester Friendship Group.

(J) Saturday 10th September, 9am: Women's breakfast, see page 9.

--- 000 ----

Saturday 10th September: Ride+Stride. Various times and places to meet and participate, see page 19.

--- 000 ---

(J) Wednesday 14th September, 10am-11.30am: Little Blessings (*NB not on 28th September*).

--- 000 ----

(M) Monday 19th September, 2.30pm: Mothers' Union, speaker Revd. Mike Gardner "My Journey to Worcester".

--- 000 ----

(J) Wednesday 21st September, 3pm: Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 9.

--- 000 ----

(V) Friday 23rd September: Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- *000* ---(J) Saturday 24th September, 10.15am: Café at 10:15, see page 9.

--- 000 ----

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

--- 000 ----

(J) Saturday 5th November: Community breakfast. Details in the October edition.

Mid-week services

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for September:

TuesdaySt John's 10am. (Eucharist - Book of Common Prayer)ThursdaySt Michael's 10.30am. (Eucharist - Common Worship).

Macmillan Coffee Morning

.... at St Clement's Church on Friday 30th September, 10am-12noon. All event information should be regarded as provisional and checked near the time

Looking ahead to 2023

As most of you will know, we will be without Phil for the first three months of next year as he goes on a well-earned Sabbatical. What you may not know is that we have already lost the services of Chris Rees who has stood down from duties as an ALM due to work and family commitments. Philip Evans is also taking some "Paternity Leave" for part of December 2022 and January 2023. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank both Chris and Philip for all that they have given to our churches in the past.

This does, however, mean there will inevitably be some disruption to our service provision during the early part of 2023. I have met with the ALMs and thanks to their generosity, have devised a scheme whereby each church will continue to have a service every week and the service pattern can remain unchanged.

However, to facilitate my attending two Eucharists on most Sundays, there will need to be some adaptations. Chief amongst these is that some Eucharists will be led by an ALM as far as The Peace and there will not necessarily be a sermon or talk at every service. With the extra duties being asked of the ALMs it is unreasonable to expect them to always prepare a talk and if I have to go from one Eucharist to another, the services will need to be slightly shorter, i.e. without a sermon.

I have agreed with the ALMs that from September this year, it is left to their discretion whether or not they deliver a talk at services they take.

I am sure you will all join me in thanking our team of ALMs for all that they do and their willingness to step in while Phil is away.

Sarah Cottrill

Mothers' Union Deanery Festival

This festival will be held at St Martins, London Road on Tuesday September 13th at 2.00pm.

Jenny Claydon

Sundays and Principal Feasts in September

Sunday 4th: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity Sunday 11th: Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Wednesday 14th: Holy Cross Day Sunday 18th: Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Wednesday 21st: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Sunday 25th: Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity Thursday 29th: Michael and All Angels

Events at St John's

Discover History Presents School Days 'The Best Days of Your Life'



Thursday 8th September 1pm A Talk with Refreshments - £4 At St John's Church

St John in Bedwardine



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

At 10.15am on Saturday 24th September

Thought for the day by Jenny English **ALL WELCOME**

ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE

Open for Tea/Coffee and Cakes £2.00





Wednesday 21st September at 3pm in the Church ALL WELCOME



Women's Breakfast Meetings for Friendship and Christian Fellowship

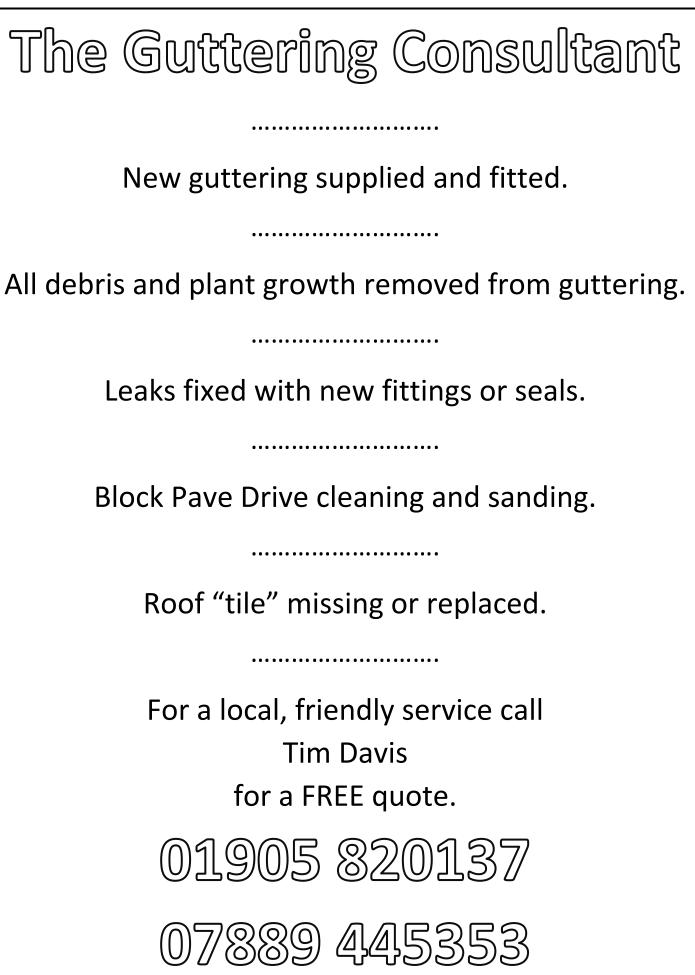
> Why not join us? Everyone is welcome! Our next meeting is on

Saturday 10th September 9.00am until 11.00am

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



Welcome to a new advertiser



Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers



Here be dragons

Revelation is a book which most try to avoid as much as possible. The dragons, lakes of fire and gruesomeness are rather too much. Yet Revelation is also the source of some of our most beloved hymns and funeral liturgy. This autumn, we will be running a six-week course to study it. No special knowledge or skills are required; it is for those who want to know and understand more (or just ask questions) about this problematic book.

The course will run on Wednesdays from 7th September to 12th October, from 7.30pm to 9pm in the Blakefield Room at St John's. It might be helpful to bring a Bible if you have a preferred version, but otherwise all that is needed is interest and a willingness to explore with others!

Phil Bradford

No dragons here!

The Fourth Friday Friends met on the fourth Friday of July when, alongside good food and fun we raised £45 for the Seafarers' Mission.

Due to holiday commitments (which my sister booked to run Friday to Friday – she has been reprimanded!), we were unable to meet in August. However, Mum and I look forward to welcoming regulars and newcomers on September 23rd. Look out for sign-up sheets in our churches or contact me for details.

Sarah Cottrill

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Prayer for Ukraine "Put peace into each other's hands"

Lord Jesus we pray for the people of Ukraine: The threat of nuclear weapons being used against them; the continuous need to fight and defend their nation - that democracy is upheld and those seeking to overcome it are defeated.

Put peace into each other's hands:

For the widow and widower,

for the child and the bewildered,

for the sick and traumatised,

for the carer, grant them wisdom and strength supporting those in need.

Put peace into each other's hands:

For those who work to deliver grain around our world, feeding those who are less well fed.

For those in our world who support the Ukrainians for peace and freedom, grant them insight as to how they may continue to help.

Put peace into each other's hands:

As we pray for our broken world:

Places of war and places where there is greed;

all the places where we see the effects of climate change and the damage mankind has done against your creation.

Let us put Christ into each other's hands:

That we are faithful in our prayers.

In the small things we are able to do for each other.

To love and make peace, and give peace a chance, that will allow Christ to bind up and heal our broken world.

Lord Jesus, we pray for peace.

Hear our prayer.

Jenny English



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The Activity Bag Project

During July and August, at St John's we began a project making activity bags for children who come to church services or any other events that are held in church.

The bags are made to be suitable for specific ages (1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10) and contain activities for children to do on their own or with an adult helping.



Each bag contains a story book, colouring pencils, and maybe a quiz for the older child or dot to dot for the younger ones. The bags for the younger children have a soft toy and suitable chubby crayons and paper to draw on. The older children can make things, do some stencil work or sit and read. The books vary and, we hope, cater for all tastes. Some of the activities will follow the church calendar and at other times there will be some Bible stories to follow but that is not the only activities that can be found in the bags.

Continued on page 17.





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

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

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

Continued from page 15.

It has been a fun thing to do and the team of helpers who are part of the project have been delighted to help and so enjoyed selecting the contents of the bags.



If you are coming to church after the beginning of September, all children will be offered an activity bag for them to use during the service.

Jenny English

Alzheimer's Society Trek 26



A big thank you to everyone who sponsored and supported me on my 26 mile hike through the Cotswolds as part of the Alzheimer's Society event on the 16th July. To date, our team – Abbey Medical Rambling for Dementia – has raised £3822, which is a great total. There are still donations trickling in, particularly as one of the members of our team caught covid 10 days before the trek so wasn't able to join us. She's doing the trek on Saturday 27th August (and I may have agreed to keep her company...) so is still fundraising!

Liz Forman



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RIDE+STRIDES for Churches

A day's retreat for Ride+Stride!

Saturday 10th September

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

I am once again organising a route that will combine the Ride+Stride with a "Day Retreat", incorporating the month's activities for 'St David's Café Church' and 'Walking Church'. The route includes timetabled stops (shown in bold below) 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 visit or pass at least 8 churches. In total the route will be about 6.9 miles and we will start at 10am at St John's for Morning Prayer and finish at St Clement's at 5.30pm for Evening Prayer.

Plan for the day

10am	Morning Prayer	St John's Church
10.30am	Walk 1	From St John's Church to St Mark's in the Cherry Orchard via the Diglis footbridge
11.45am	Bible reflection	St Mark's in the Cherry Orchard
12.15pm	Walk 2 – <i>Walking Church</i>	From St Mark's Church to St Philip & St James' Church, Whittington
1pm	Prayer During the Day	St Philip & St James' Church, Whittington
1.15pm	Lunch	Picnic lunch around Whittington Church <i>or</i> lunch in the Swan at Whittington.
2.15pm	Walk 3	From Whittington Church to St Martin's, London Road
3pm	Café Church	St Martin's, London Road
4.15pm	Walk 4	From St Martin's to St Clement's <i>via the</i> <i>Cathedral</i>
5.30pm	Evening Prayer	St Clement's Church

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.

Continued on page 21

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Continued from page 19

How you participate is up to you! You could:

- Walk the full route with us and join in with all the prayer activities.
- Drive or cycle between the stopping points and just join in with the prayer activities.
- Just join in with one prayer activity.
- Walk with the group and enjoy the countryside but not join in with the prayer activities.
- 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.



You will need to bring your own food or drink or buy it en route.

If you would like to sponsor the group rather than a specific individual, any sponsorship money raised will be shared between our local churches and the *Worcestershire & Dudley Historic Churches Trust*, who are organising the Ride+Stride in the Diocese of Worcester. There will be sponsor forms in each of our churches.

If you would like to find out more or sign up, please speak to me or email me at philip.evans@wcw.church.

Philip Evans

Oxford Coach Trip

Our intrepid ladies have started up the coach trips again, slowly but surely, and the latest one was to Oxford on 18th June. This trip had an added bonus as Paul and Helen Harding joined us. They led a quiz about Oxford on the way down as a means of getting people to think about our destination and have a bit of fun on the way.

As so often happens, the closer we got to the day the worse the weather forecast got. So, people turned up to church with an array of clothing to cope with whatever the weather decided to throw at us during the day. In the end we were quite lucky and, despite being grey and overcast for most of the day, we only had one sharp downpour.

On the way down, as mentioned, Paul handed round a set of 20 questions for people to think about and then shortly before arriving, he went through the answers with us, which enabled him to explain some of the history of Oxford in his usual informative but humorous style. It certainly gave some people some ideas of what to go and see while they were in Oxford and made a change as all we could see was the back of his head as he was sat at the front with the coach microphone.

On arrival people disappeared in their small groups to go wherever they had planned.



Sandra and I had arranged to do a walking tour of Oxford University with Catherine and Gordon Templeton. This was a 2 hour walk round the centre of Oxford led by a 2nd year student, who was very good. He was full of stories about the colleges, intercollege rivalries and the buildings around the centre of Oxford, including those that have been used in films and TV, such as the Harry Potter series and Morse. A proper young version of Paul Harding.

After the tour we had lunch and then a walk round the shops and market. Many of the students were leaving Oxford that weekend and many had gathered for their final goodbyes, either for ever or until the next term and lots were walking around pulling suitcases along.

Everyone arrived back on time for the coach's departure, with their stories of museums and other places that they had visited during the day.

It was a great day out and our thanks go to, Catherine, Sandra and Tracey for organising the trip. Watch out for notices about the next ones, Weston in July (*report next time - the editors*) and one in November.

The photographs below, and on the next two pages, show various aspects of our walking tour.



Divinity School



Bridge of Sighs (connecting two parts of Hertford College)



Student bicycles



The Bodleian Library



The Radcliffe Camera

Colin Nash

Mothers' Union News



At our June meeting we enjoyed....



....a Strawberry Tea to celebrate the Queen's (our patron) Platinum Jubilee.

On Monday 25th July MU members from across the diocese met at Pershore Abbey to celebrate the Diocesan Festival. Jean Chidlow, Jo Dowling and Jenny Claydon represented St Michael's Branch. At the beginning of the service branch banners were paraded to be presented and Jean carried St Michael's banner.



The service was conducted by Bishop John, assisted by Mother Victoria and Canon Stephen Buckley who are the Chaplains for our MU Diocese.



Bishop Jorge and Sandra Instead of a sermon Bishop John interviewed them. Tumaini was invited to tell us about the work of the Mothers' Union in Morogoro and Bishop Godfrey translated The Bishop welcomed Bishop Jorge and his wife Sandra from our Diocesan link with Peru along with Bishop Godfrey and his wife Tumaini from the link with Morogoro who were vising our diocese before going on to the Lambeth Conference.



Bishop Godfrey and Tumaini

from Swahili. She then sang to us a Gospel Alleluia.

Our President Judith and the Trustees were commissioned and some long-service certificates presented, one to a member who had 65 years of membership.

After the service members and guests were treated to tea and cakes in St Andrew's centre nearby.

The service was enjoyed by members from all across the diocese.

Jenny Claydon

Where is the Villa of the Mysteries?

Just under 50 people joined us for this July's entertaining talk from Paul Harding of Discover History about Pompeii.



This month he was telling us about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 and the effects on the local area including Pompeii. How was he going to get a link to Worcester into this I wondered!

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The archaeologists know a lot about Pompeii and Herculaneum as there were many descriptions of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79, including that from Pliny the Younger, who wrote several letters about his observations on the build up to the eruption, the event, and its aftermath. Current thinking is that his descriptions were fairly accurate based on current known knowledge of volcano theory. This is backed up by the archaeological findings and discovery.

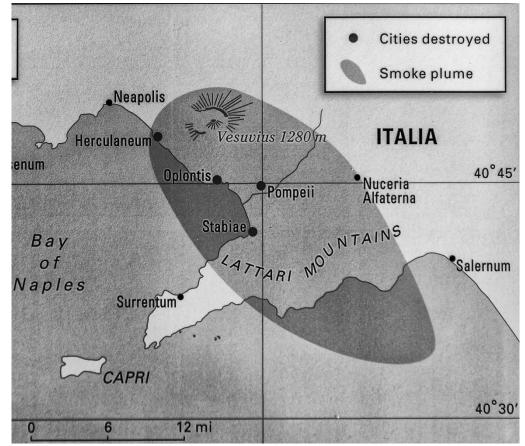
Mount Vesuvius is still an active volcano, and the last eruption was in 1944.

Pliny the Younger was in Misenum and wrote his letters with pen and ink on paper, like image above The ink was made of charcoal and oil and the paper used was the finest papyrus. As it was his letters to people there are no dates and although we know it was in AD 79, we do not know when during the year.

In the weeks before the eruptions strange happenings were taking place, such as the air in the Bay of Naples had a funny sulphurous smell. There were a series of tremors, which the locals were not bothered about as it was the gods letting them know they were around. There were regular earthquakes. It was said that animals started to act oddly, which we now know does happen. The sea was sucked out of the Bay and then came back.

Steam or cloud, the shape of a pine tree came out of the top followed by tremors and ash coming out of the volcano. Pliny's description of the eruption allowed

historians to accurately work out how far it covered as can be seen in this map. The ash was laying on the roads and buildings. The ash was followed by a layer of pumice, ranging from grit sized to large rocks. Some of the poorer homes' roofs could not cope with the weight and collapsed. The people started to move towards the



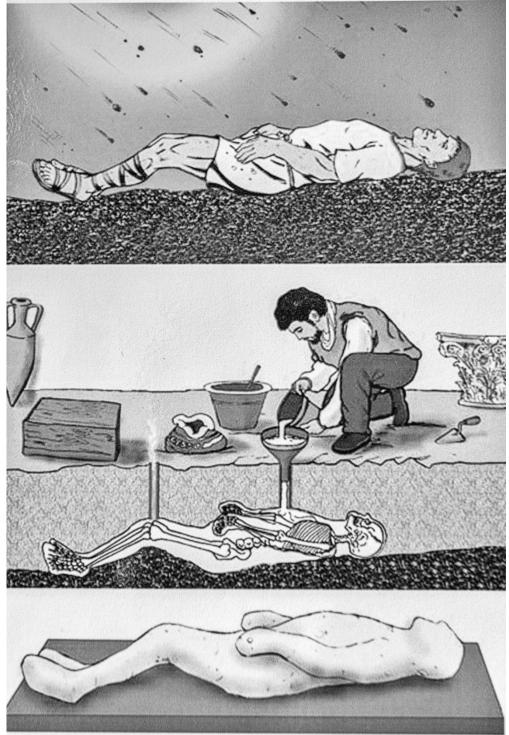
sea, and a vast number of bodies were found at the water side. Pliny could see that people were wearing pillows on their heads to protect themselves from the ash and rocks.

This was followed by the pyroclastic flow, which killed most people in seconds due to the incredible heat. A skull has been found with a carbonised brain inside it where the person was instantly killed by the flow.

About 15,000 to 20,000 people lived and died in Pompeii.

Pompeii was an important port at the time and a Roman fleet was in the Bay. After the eruption the Romans tried to rescue people but found there was 8 to 10 meters of ash and lava covering the town, so they gave up. An engineer in the 16th century was putting in water pipes when he found the homes intact under the lava. By the 18th century people were getting interested in the history and Pompeii was added to the Grand Tour that the rich undertook.

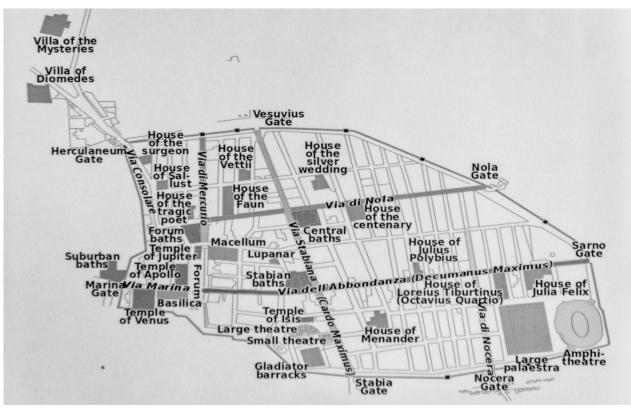
An Italian antiquarian, in the late 19th century, who was developing the science of archaeology, systematically dug down, using 500 people, to look for the signs of the city, which he realised was the city of Pompeii that was destroyed by Mount Vesuvius.



He found voids in the buildings, and he poured plaster in to see what was there and he found the people and animals that had died and decayed over the years leaving a void in the shape of the person or animal.

Now some of the buildings have been uncovered and they are being destroyed at a rapid rate by people taking pieces, weathering, and graffiti. In the future they may find better ways of preserving the archaeological remains.

When the people fled, they took with them their money and jewellery but in archaeological terms the greater interest is what was left in the houses as this gives the historian a fantastic glimpse into everyday Roman life.



On this map of the discovered areas of Pompeii there are several properties that are named after what was found in the house, such as the House of the Surgeon, where they discovered lots of surgical tools.

So how did Paul make a link to Worcester? Willis Bund was a long-term member of the Worcester Archaeological Society, and he went to Pompeii and brought back a few items, which are in the City Museum. So, there is a tenuous link to Worcester to end on.

Colin Nash

A Compline treat

On Monday, August 8th, we were treated to a service of Compline at St Clement's, sung by the choir of Queens' College, Cambridge. It really was an amazing experience – on both a musical and spiritual level. Almost as important as this was the fellowship enjoyed after the service. At the choir's request, the service was followed by refreshments and choir and congregation enjoyed meeting and chatting to each other. The choir members were very grateful for the welcome and hospitality provided and we all enjoyed meeting these extremely talented, friendly and charming young people.

There is a possibility of a future organ recital – watch this space!

Sarah Cottrill

Much generosity in our Guiding

It's the time of year when I look back on what we've done at Guides over the last year, and make plans for the next year. We've had a busy time since I last wrote anything, and thankfully – apart from one meeting that we had to have on Zoom again as I'd caught Covid – we've been back to pretty normal Guide meetings.

In the spring term we worked towards the WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) World Thinking Day badge, this year with the theme of the environment and gender equality. The girls found out about female

environmental 'changemakers' and activists from all over the world, from well- known names like Greta Thunberg to less wellknown figures like Isatou Ceesay who set up a recycling project within her local community and has now trained over 11,000 people (predominantly women) in upcycling throughout Ghana. We played games which showed us the importance of working together, one based on foiling poachers and reducing the illegal trade in wildlife, and we learnt more about climate change. We also looked at creativity and the arts as a means of getting your voice heard, and the girls came up with poems, plays and sketches about the effects of poor environmental stewardship and



the difficulties faced by women and girls in particular.



(F) we discover, we grow Girlguiding

> To balance the more serious stuff with lighter activities we had a go at various art activities, the girls tried their hand at interpreting Burns' poems for Burns' night, we had a relaxing evening doing yoga, and had great fun at The Buzz – a huge inflatables room. We also helped out at the Community Breakfast in March which all the girls enjoyed once they got over their initial nerves! Finally, we finished the term

off by making Easter Eggs – our thanks to Margaret Miller who lent us her moulds.

Having had requests for 'fire', 'food', 'cooking on fire', 'cooking in an interesting way on fire' and 'individual fires' when I asked the girls what they wanted to do during the summer term, we turned our attention to the Backwoods Cooking Interest badge. This involves cooking something on a stick over the fire, something in a tin over/in the fire, and something in the embers of a fire.



For the first requirement we made dampers – dough wrapped around a stick and baked over the fire, then eaten with jam/chocolate spread/honey – with variable success! More successful was the stew in a tin we made, with the girls lighting fires in two and threes. We did this down at Blackmore, Girlguiding Worcestershire's County Campsite rather than damaging the church gardens too much!



We were planning on finishing the term by making chocolate cake in oranges, but our last meeting of term coincided with the first heatwave, so we abandoned this in favour of cool activities inside the church followed by a water fight in the gardens! The girls will get a chance to finish off their badge at the beginning of the autumn term however, and with that I'll be able to award several of the

girls their Have Adventures Theme Award, which will be a first for this Theme awarded to current girls in the Unit since the change in the programme a few years ago. We have awarded two Theme Awards to girls in the past, but both of these were to girls who were leaving so it's nice to be able to give them to girls who are still current and can therefore use them towards their Bronze/Silver/Gold Awards.





In between all the fire lighting we've been working on our Make Change Skills Builder (Levels 4 and 5), looking at how we can influence people and make a difference. As part of this the girls have produced mini-manifestos, magazines or leaflets on topics that are important to them, and protest/campaign banners and chants. As part of this, at the suggestion of a couple of the girls, we made goody bags for the Street Café which were then delivered to the Street Café the following day ready to be given out in the evening.

We enjoyed planting trees in the garden under the expert guidance of Colin Nash, although there was quite a lot of squealing about worms!! Now the girls go and check on 'their' trees every time we go outside!

The theme of the magazine this month is generosity, and I've been reflecting on the many forms in which this comes. There's been the obvious things like the girls and their parents providing ample supplies to fill the goody bags for the Street Café (and indeed suggesting it in the first place). There's been people like Colin and Margaret giving us their time or lending



us things. Then we go through to the girls being generous with their time when helping with the Community Breakfast, and the generosity involved in the girls being keen to increase their awareness and knowledge about things like climate change and gender equality. One of the central tenets of the Guide Promise is to help other people, and I think the girls are pretty good at building that into their day to day lives. I also have to mention the generosity of Sarah and Summer who give their time to help me run Guides, I couldn't do it without them!

Our numbers are set to increase in September, with somewhere between five and seven new girls joining us, and another five lined up to start in January. It'll be lovely to be a full-sized Unit again! As ever however, new enquiries are always welcome – if our Unit fills up then I can always point people in the direction of other Units, and I have contacts for Rainbows and Brownies for younger girls and Rangers for older ones. I can also find places for any adults who want to help out too, just get in touch!

"Generosity"

Since I am in France at the moment it seems appropriate to give a local slant to considering "generosity".

Firstly, I will mention Saint Vincent de Paul, an exceptional example of "generosity" and special to us who live in this Occitanie Region whose centre is Toulouse. He was born to a poor peasant family in the French village of Pouy in 1581. His first formal education was provided by the Franciscans. He did so well, he was hired to tutor the children of a nearby wealthy family. He used the monies he earned from teaching to study theology at the University of Toulouse. He was ordained in 1600 and remained in Toulouse for a time. In 1605, while traveling by ship from Marseilles to Narbone, he was captured, and sold in Tunis as a slave. Two years later he and his master managed to escape, and both returned to France.

From that point forward he spent his life preaching to and providing relief for the poor. He established hospitals for them. This work became his passion. He later extended his concern and ministry to convicts. The need to evangelise and assist these souls was so great and the demands beyond his own ability to meet that he founded the Ladies of Charity, a lay institute of woman, to help, as well as a religious institute of priests - the Congregation of Priests of the Mission, the Vincenists.

Secondly, consider the notion of what is generous in a devotional sense of the word.

There are some particular devotional days in the September calendar for the French. They are also in our Anglican calendar, but not necessarily marked with the same sense of intensity.

On Thursday 8th September, we shall have a High Mass for the Birth of the Virgin Mary. The Marian tradition is so much stronger/more observed in the Roman church. Members of the congregation are sent out to take the blest hosts to all those people who cannot get to Mass either because of illness, or infirmity, or other confinement. The choir will certainly sing one of the versions of Ave Maria!

On the 21st we shall celebrate St Matthew's Day with a focus on his role as an Evangelist. It is a special opportunity for members of our churches to carry the good news to people around us who have "not" responded to the call of our local church. They get information about what we do and a personal invitation to the next service. We offer little bookmarks with a religious theme or illustration, plus a prayer card (again personalised). The idea is to offer warmth, support and help to those we would not normally see at church.

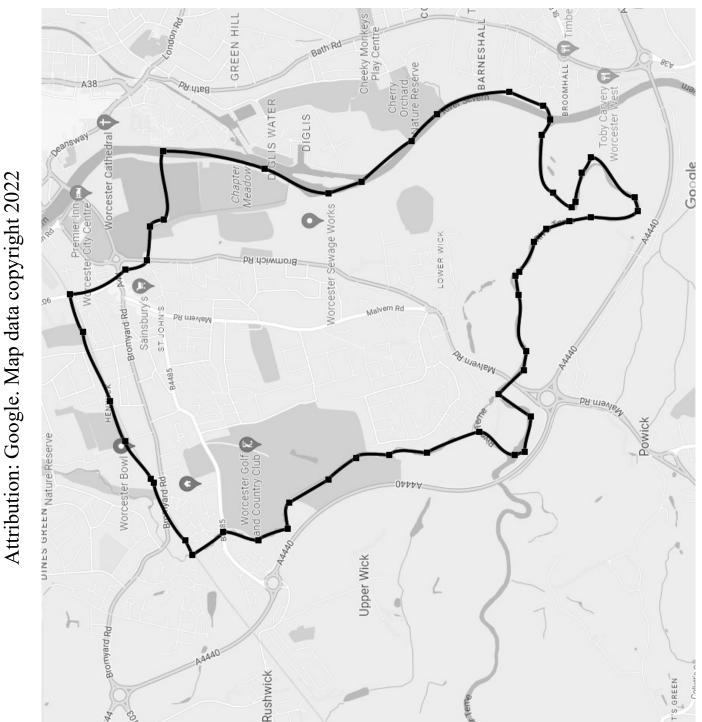
May all your efforts to help those around you be successful!

Arthur Miller

From the Parish Archive

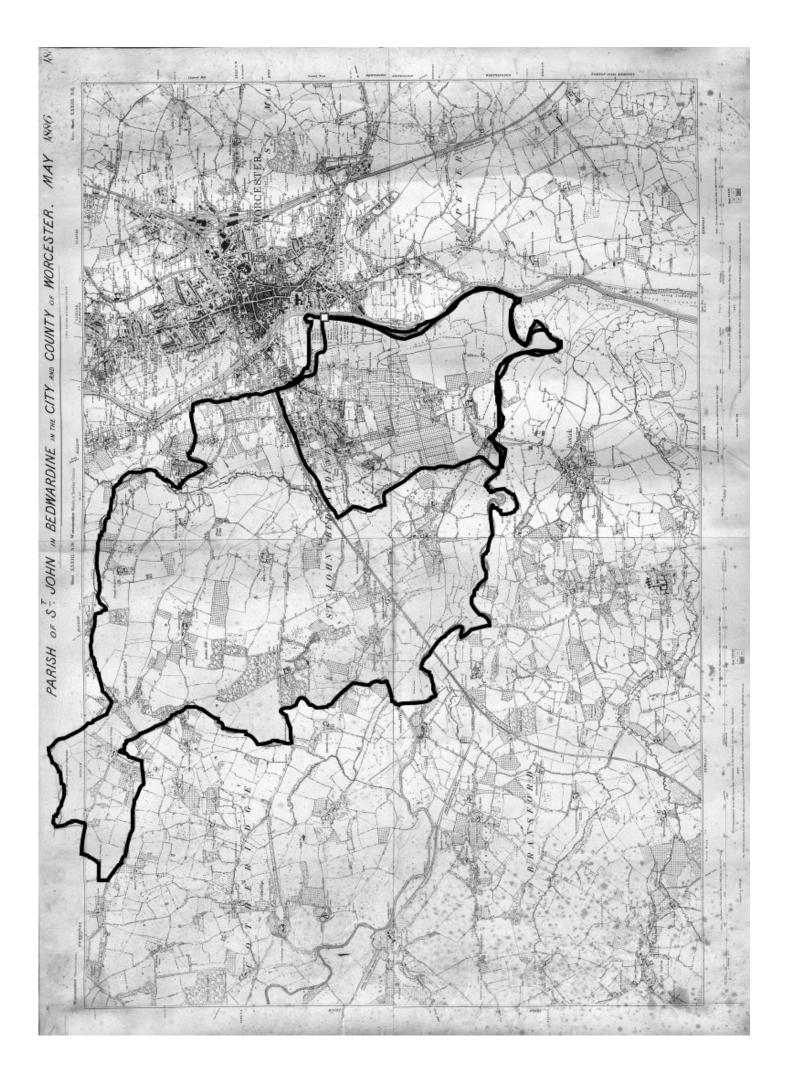
Among the items in our Parish Archive, is an 1886 map showing the parish boundary. I thought readers would find it interesting to see that St John's Parish was a bit larger in those days, so I have enhanced the 1886 boundary line on the map (the bigger area) and I've also added in the present-day boundary line (the smaller areas). The result is printed opposite.

So that you can see more clearly where the present-day boundary runs, below is a map showing just that.



(We've printed this map in the same orientation as the one opposite to make it easier to compare the two - the editors)

Colin Nash



Puzzles

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Across

1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)

4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)

7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)

8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)

9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)

13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)

16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)

17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)

19 Mock (Luke 14:29) (8)

- 24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
- 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4) (4)
- 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome (6)
- 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

Down

1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)

2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)

3 O raid (anag.) (5)

4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)

5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)

6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)

10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)

11 Do ten (anag.) (5)

12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)

13 Capable of being used (1 Kings 7:36) (9)

14 'Each one should — his own actions' (Galatians 6:4) (4)

15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)

18 'But I am afraid that just —— was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your

minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)

20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)

- 21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis 46:17) (5)
- 22 Be distressed (Proverbs 24:19) (4)

23 Father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

Sudoku		3				2			6
Puzzle	7	9			8		2		
Copyright 2008 KrazyDad.com	8								
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Christian Aid

My connection with Christian Aid goes back 30 years. After seeing notices for the need of a new Christian Aid rep for several weeks in 1992 at my last parish, St Nicolas Kings Norton, Birmingham, I decided I really had no excuse for not giving it a go. It was around the time of the "Drop the Debt" campaign which enthused me, and I have memories of a wonderful day in St Pauls Square in the jewellery quarter.

I remember how I, along with willing church members and friends, distributed and collected envelopes from local roads for over 10 years. Like everyone else I learned the hard way that enthusiasm to deliver did not necessarily mean enthusiasm to collect. But we recruited an excellent team and having reliable friends who were happy to count and bank all those pennies was a great help. I didn't realise how difficult it was to get it a completely accurate total for the money, and indeed to carry it, until I had to do my own counting and carrying in Worcester.

Coming to Worcester in 2002 I was soon recruited to help collect. One of the first people I met was, coincidentally, the local organiser of the Worcester group. She persuaded me to take on the vacant post of St John's rep where I found amazing collectors including Ruth and Edward Reeves, Arthur and Bessie Lee, the Evans family and many more who had been supporting Christian Aid far longer than me.

I have now been rep for our local church for more than 15 years and for 10 years I have ordered and distributed resources to over 20 churches through being on the Worcester Committee. Distribution was not really an arduous task as it was a chance to catch up, exchange ideas and an excuse to have a lovely drive into remote and beautiful parts of Worcestershire. Christian Aid highlights have been amazing events at St John's including a Teddy Bear drop and events arranged by others: Folk Concerts and Quizzes, Sing for Change outside supermarkets at Christmas supported well by church members and our own music group - different church groups taking an hour each. At a London rally I heard Jesse Jackson at The Methodist Hall and went to the Houses of Parliament to lobby our MP. Beer and hymns organised in a country pub by the Rural Dean was a very special highlight!

This year Alison Clarke and her husband Paul from the Worcester Committee were to do the sponsored steps challenge but sadly COVID intervened. It struck me that I could do a challenge. As a family we go to Birmingham University's outdoor pursuit centre on Lake Coniston every year and have use of the University equipment. It all seemed like a good idea (at the time!). The Triple Challenge I decided upon was to paddle board standing up across Lake Coniston, to kayak the length of Lake Coniston (9 km), and to walk over The Old Man of Coniston from the centre by the lake. NOT all on the same day, but during the week before Whit Sunday.

My family were all for it - "we'll support you" and they did. One son and my two daughters as well as grandchildren and other relatives were there to cheer me on, and I certainly was never on my own while undertaking the challenges.

The second day in the Lakes was calm so I decided to paddle board, using the base of a windsurfer. Maybe just a practice? I had forgotten how hard it is to get to standing and I must admit my son held the board while I got up very shakily. Once up and going, and after going round a couple of times, I decided this was the moment to go for it and cross the lake.



As required, I was wearing both life jacket and wetsuit. The lake is about 1 km or just over half a mile wide and once I got to the halfway buoy I wondered how easy it would be to do the rest. Then I saw the one thing that I try to avoid - the Steamboat Gondola in the distance heading in my direction. I did the second half in half the time! I was accompanied by a kayaker and a proficient paddle boarder. The centre's rescue boat gave me an easy ride back across. *Continued on page 43*



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Continued from page 41 I walked from the centre by the lake over The Old Man of Coniston on Thursday with my daughter Natalie and nimble friend Chris, an old friend of probably 40 years.



Continued on page 45

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Continued from page 43 Being a bank holiday it seemed most of the population of the North West and all the dogs had decided to do the same! It was very crowded and passing and scrambling (sitting down quite often in my case) took time. Luckily it was dry because it is very rocky. Apart from being stiff and taking five hours to complete there were no ill effects. Shamingly my son and granddaughter ran up and down in under two hours that same day! My son even repeated the performance to escort us down!

Kayaking was going to be the easy one - I've been doing it in a leisurely way since I was a teenager and I was paddling a boat that goes in a straight line (some don't). My daughter Rachel and I used Strava to check our distance as we needed to complete 9 km - the length of the lake. A pleasant trip just beyond Peel (or Wildcat in Swallows and Amazons) Island and back. But the wind came up and the centre (ever watchful and so supportive) rescue boat came out to see if we could cope with the wind and white horses. We did and with a bit of a diversion to complete the 9 km we arrived back to cheers and bubbly on the beach. The last km was K for killer but surprisingly I wasn't stiff after that one - perhaps it was the bubbly. Or knowing there were no more challenges!

Heartfelt thanks go to all who supported me and helped me raise £1151 with the Lake District Challenge plus over £200 in gift aid for this year's appeal for projects in drought affected Zimbabwe.

If you are interested, please go to the Christian Aid website to see all the ways in which the very poor are supported by being given viable ways to help themselves. It is so good to see that lives with such dire problems can be improved. It also puts some of our own difficulties, bad as they certainly are for many, into perspective.

Thanks also go to those who have given in church and those who have collected over the years. I have not collected door-to-door for several years and did not feel I could continue to ask others to do so. At St John's, although I am happy to support Christian Aid, at 80 I feel it is time to stand down as rep. I do hope there



is someone who is enthusiastic about the charity who will consider taking this on. At present it is just a case of getting envelopes for church collections, but I know that, should anyone wish to organise an event as well, church members



will step up with all the cakes, plants or whatever you could ask for.

Again many, many thanks.

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Summary of St Johns's PCC meeting

20th June 2022

There were 9 members present. Apologies were received from 5 members. The meeting opened with a prayer.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations tea party: Despite the weather, this was a great success. Phil thanked everyone for the work they had put in to making it happen.

Covid Restrictions have now all been removed.

Joint Council between St John's and St Michael's was approved at the respective APCMs and paperwork has now gone to the diocese**, to come into effect on 1st January 2023. A meeting to be arranged with St Michael's PCC later in the summer. The St John's Standing Committee will bring all employee contracts up to date and carry out the TUPE process to move employment contracts over to the Joint Council (as it is a new legal body). All three employees have been informed.

Archive Items: The PCC approved proposals relating to the removal of items from the church archive.

Children and Youth Work: A strategy is needed! Phil will arrange a special half-day meeting for some strategic thinking. Simon Hill (Diocesan Youth Officer), Rachel Cramp (Reader from Claines) and Vicky Whitehouse (from Powick Church) to be asked for some input. In the first instance it was agreed that children's activity bags would be put together to give out to children when they come to church. Jenny English offered to arrange this with the help of Margaret Miller, with the aim of having them ready for September. It was suggested that the Feoffees be asked for a grant towards the costs.

Finance: The diocese has approved an income support grant for St Michael's. It should now be possible to pay the whole Ministry Share between the Team. It was noted that 75% of the Parish Share has been paid over the last 2 years but this has not been a conscious decision by the PCC. For the future more conscious decisions need to be made by the PCC about finance.

John Pound has investigated a way for people to give in church via a QR code and will work with the Treasurer to get one set up.

The Asset Management Plan (AMP) is being updated and will be circulated to be discussed at the next PCC meeting. The Feoffees pay an amount towards the AMP each year and the AMP needs to be kept up to date, or it will be queried.

** Breaking news - this has been approved by the Diocese. Continued on page 49



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Continued from page 47

Building and Churchyard: The 2018 quinquennial recommended that the tower needed repointing and some stonework needed attention. This is a major refurbishment project that could cost in excess of £100k. Gordon Templeton and Brian Askew have met with Mark Carter (Diocesan Church Buildings Officer). He suggested using a local company called Heritage Stone Access (used by the cathedral) who tackle tower work by rope access from the roof for inspection and periodic maintenance. It was agreed that a spend of up to £5k be delegated to the Standing Committee for a first such inspection together with any requisite emergency repairs.

As part of the Queen's Canopy, Colin Nash has purchased four trees (using £150 from the Kingdom Mission Fund and £100 donation) which are being planted by the Guides.

The remit of the cleaning company is being reviewed to ensure that it is covering the right things.

As removal of all the pews is financially out of the question, it was suggested that the PCC consider ways to make the entrance area in church a better welcome area, better for displaying material, and reducing the bottle neck, including the removal of some pews. Based on a rough estimate of $\pounds 3-4k$ by the church architect in 2015, the current cost might be $\pounds 5-10k$.

Kitchen: We have received an estimate of £8k for new kitchen equipment (commercial dishwasher, range (gas top, electric oven), and extraction canopy). Phil would like a quote for an upgrade to the whole kitchen at the same time. Questions were asked about what standard the kitchen needs to meet. Gordon will check the report from the environmental health officer from a few years ago, and/or to ask Brian for the relevant contacts at the council for advice.

Lay ministry: The PCC supported the application of Sylvia Render to continue as an ALM in this parish.

Rob Little has been approved by a discernment panel to become a Licensed Lay Minister. Phil Bradford has also approved him. The PCC were all in favour.

Sabbatical: Phil will be on sabbatical from 1st January to 31st March 2023.

The meeting closed with The Grace.

PCC minutes by Liz Edwards (PCC Secretary) Summarised by Graham Evans (PCC member)





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- Tuesday: 09:00am 6:00pm
- Wednesday: 09:00am 5:00pm
- Thursday: 09:00am 5:00pm
- Friday: 09:00am 5:00pm
- Saturday: 09:00am 4:00pm

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West Mercia Police - Safer Neighbourhoods Team (all 10.30-11.45am)

- Tuesday, 13th September2022
- Tuesday 4th October 2022
- Tuesday 1st November 2022
- Monday 5th December 2022

St. John's Councillors Surgery (all 5.00-6.00pm)

- Tuesday, 6th September 2022
- Tuesday, 4th October 2022
- Tuesday 1st November 2022
- Tuesday 6th December 2022

Adult Activities

Scrabble Club. Meets every Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm

Chess Group. Meets every Tuesday 2.00 - 4.00pm

Poetry Group. Meets alternate months, first Saturday in the month 12.45 - 3.45pm

Children's Activities

Storytime for under 5's. Meets every Friday at 11.00-11.20am

Bounce and Rhyme. Meets every Tuesday at 11.00am

Please telephone or 'drop ín' for the latest dates and events or fínd us on Facebook at

https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslibraryworcester/



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A LETTER FROM THE VICAR DESIGNATE

My Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to say how very pleased I am to be coming to St. John's. I do not think I come entirely as a stranger as I have already had enjoyable visits to the Church at the kind invitations of Bishop Mort.

I am fully conscious how difficult it will be to succeed Bishop Mort. His tremendous zeal and success needs no emphasis; for under his leadership and by your co-operation St. John's has become one of the outstanding parishes of the diocese.

I can but hope that I shall be able to use the opportunities so provided to consolidate what has been so well done. I shall certainly try to do this and, above all, to maintain the goodwill and fellowship which has inspired so much in the life of the parish.

It is good to have a loyal Staff, Churchwardens, and other officers who can be of great value and help to a new Vicar in the administration of parochial affairs which will have some complexities for him at the beginning of his ministry. My wife and I look forward to meeting you all and to settling in our new home in the early days of September. I would ask for your prayers. I promise you mine.

Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM H. RICHARDS.

SERVICE OF INDUCTION AND INSTITUTION

OF THE REV. T. M. H. RICHARDS

THE Service of Induction and Institution of the Rev. T. M. H. Richards will be held in St. John's Church on Thursday, 18th September, at 7.30 p.m. We trust that all parishioners and friends of St. John's will by their presence give him a warm welcome.

On behalf of the parish we desire Mr. and Mrs. Richards to know that we are looking forward to their residence amongst us, and we offer to them our friendship and loyal co-operation.

> R. H. SMITH A. P. HIGGINS Churchwardens. O. H. LAFLIN, Hon. Sec. P.C.C.

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(£17.75) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted.

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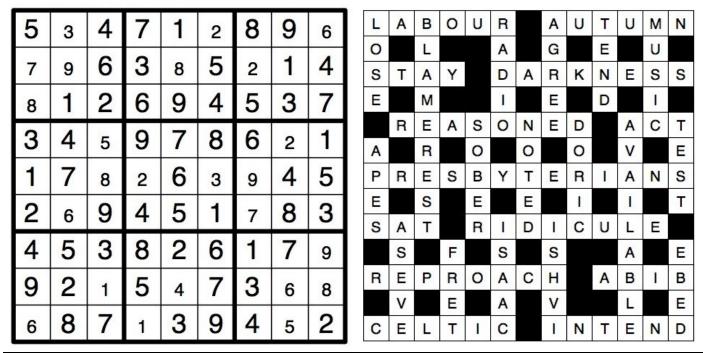
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3. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity.

4. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.

Puzzle solutions



And finally....

We get our cartoons from Parish Pump. Over the summer, they have had a 'lost property' theme.



Weeks after the Pet's Service, nobody had claimed the monkey



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."



Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – September 2022

WCW Sam of Churches	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
4th September	5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	
11th September	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Evening Prayer	
18th September	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
			4pm Eucharist	
25th Contombor	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Morning Prayer
25th September	5pm Healing Service		4pm Evening Prayer	
Ored October	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Eucharist
2nd October	5.30pm Evensong		4pm Eucharist	