

# The Parish Magazine

*St John-in-Bedwardine*

*St Michael's*



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



September 2023

50p



## Information

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

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Day off: Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

Pastoral Minister: The Reverend STEPHEN BUCKLEY (07746 206905)

### TEAM OFFICE

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

### ON THE WEB

St John's	Parish Website: <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 Joint Council Safeguarding Officer, Jane Askew (01905 424811) or any member of the clergy.

Churchwardens: stjohns.churchwardens@wcw.church Gordon Templeton (749025), Joy Job (423051).	<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 <a href="mailto:sylviarender@talktalk.net">sylviarender@talktalk.net</a> ) or Stephen Buckley (tel 07746 206905/email <a href="mailto:stephenbuckley554@gmail.com">stephenbuckley554@gmail.com</a> ). The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.	
Churchwardens: Mike Dowling ( <a href="mailto:dowlingm28@sky.com">dowlingm28@sky.com</a> /424539), Val Mason ( <a href="mailto:val.mason@yahoo.com">val.mason@yahoo.com</a> /428948). On Site Safeguarding Officer: Mike Dowling (details above).	<b>St Michael's</b>

## *A word from the editors*

Welcome to our September edition! Our theme is “Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it”. It’s a phrase which will roll off many tongues, including ours and Sarah’s. Sarah discusses what it means to her in her letter and lessons we could draw from it. She also issues a challenge! See her letter for details.

Events and meetings get going again after the summer break, and this is reflected in our pages. Make sure that you check out the diary pages and associated articles as there have been some changes since before the summer. We hope too that you will enjoy all the other items that our contributors have written for us.

We offer you this prayer (it’s the alternative collect for Trinity 16) and hope that you will find it contributes to your feeling that the earth is visited by God and blessed by him:

*Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives’ end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

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## *Important information*

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

**Next (October) edition:** Deadline is Sunday 10th September. Distribution, towards the end of September.

**Subscription form:** Page 50.

**Cover picture:** Fruits of the allotment by Colin Nash.

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those who provided pictures for this magazine, including Amberleigh Pettifer, Sue Fairman, Liz Forman, Rob Little, NASA, Colin Nash and Worcester Diocese.

## **The magazine**

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 50 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 Sarah Cottrill*

“Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it” – the theme for this month’s magazine - may be quoting from Psalm 65, but for me, the words take me straight back to my childhood and youth in Claines. No harvest festival would have been complete without the choir singing Maurice Greene’s anthem, which, although I didn’t realise it at the time, is based on this psalm.



Beginning at verse 9, the rest of Psalm 65 is a celebration of a successful harvest, one in which the generosity of God’s provision is seen and joyfully proclaimed.

By the time this magazine is published, we will be into September and our harvest festivals will be looming large on the collective horizon. Harvest is traditionally the time when we thank God for the richness of the earth’s resources; for food safely gathered in and survival through the winter months assured. Slightly more modern, is the inclusion in these celebrations of thanks for the “fruits” of other harvests, gathered in more urban, and industrial settings. The products of commerce and industry meet our needs just as much as arable crops and at equal and sometimes self-sacrificing effort on the part of others. Harvest is also the time at which we remember those less fortunate than ourselves, in particular those whose crops have failed or have been destroyed by natural disaster or warfare. Within our own country and communities this year we will also be especially remembering those most badly hit by the cost of living crisis. For such people, to speak or sing of God having visited and blessed the earth, may be an alien concept or a bitter irony.

Yet God does both visit and bless the earth. He created and loves it and through it he provides for all our needs. It is largely through the carelessness, greed and recklessness of the human race that so many people go without the basic necessities of life. It is through our disregard of countless warnings that climate change and global warming are bringing devastation in the form of drought and wildfires to some areas; flooding to others. It is through human arrogance, ambition and intolerance that so many countries are torn apart by war and civil strife. God visits and blesses the earth but so many of us so often abuse it and deny its blessings to others. Perhaps this harvest season can give us the opportunity to pause and reflect on our use of God’s provision and blessing and how we can better play our part in ensuring they are shared fairly amongst all his people.

Harvest, whilst focusing our minds on one aspect of God’s blessings, is not, of course, the only time at which we are – or should be – aware of his blessings.

They are around us every day and most of us will have daily cause to stop and take stock of these blessings. Even when beset with difficulties, we can, if we look, find evidence of God's goodness all around us and sometimes, just calling these consciously to mind, can put problems in perspective.

But there is one other time of year when we are particularly mindful of God visiting and blessing the earth. Dare I, just into September, mention the "C" word?? We will be just three months away from Christmas! Cards and gift wrap already in the shops and – yes, I admit it – I have already bought a few gifts! But before we all get bogged down in the commercial, materialistic side of Christmas, perhaps we can pause now, with the words of Psalm 65 fresh in our minds, and reflect on the fact that this was the ultimate example of God visiting the earth and blessing it; when he literally visited it as he came to it in the person of his Son. Love, forgiveness, grace, blessing; all ours for the asking, wrapped in the person of one small, helpless and homeless baby. One who would grow up to be an itinerant preacher, spreading the best of all possible messages, a gift beyond price and a blessing beyond imagining.

"Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it" – perhaps that can be a challenge to the musically minded amongst you; to create a Christmas carol based on this verse! Because great though our harvest blessings are and good and right though it is that we should acknowledge, appreciate and give thanks for them, this gift of God, sent at Christmas, was – and remains – his most significant visitation and the greatest blessing he can ever give to the earth and all who dwell on it.

*Sarah Cottrill*

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## ***Sundays and Principal Feasts in September***

Sunday 3rd September: Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 10th September: Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Thursday 14th September: Holy Cross Day

Sunday 17th September: Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Thursday 21st September: Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Sunday 24th September: Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Friday 29th September: Michael and all Angels

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## ***Mid-week services***

The following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled for September:

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

Thursday           St Michael's 10.30am. (Eucharist - Common Worship)

## *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 2023*

### **St John's**

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

11th June 2023 Marshall Brian Churchman

11th June 2023 Ava-Mae Jones

9<sup>th</sup> July 2023 Olivia Grace Roberts

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

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 (Renewal of Vows) Glyn and Gail Williams

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

d. 13th May 2023 Graham Skinner

d. 13th June 2023 Reginald Allan Gunter

### **SERVICES:**

(June) Communicants 149. Total attendance at all services 463, including 110 at a baptism.

(July) Communicants 161. Total attendance at all services 284, including 74 at a baptism, a wedding blessing and a renewal of marriage vows.

### **St Michael's**

### **SERVICES:**

(June) Communicants 77. Total attendance at all services 97.

(July) Communicants 90. Total attendance at all services 103.

## *Dates for your diary*

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

**(J) Mondays in term time, 10am:** Little Lambs, see page 8 and 26.

Little Lambs resumes on 11th September.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 2nd September, 4pm:** Messy Church (see page 9). Doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 9th September, 9am:** Women's Breakfast (see page 15).

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 9th September, from 10.30am:** Ride+Stride (see page 13 for the full timetable).

--- 000 ---

**(J) Wednesday 13th September, 7.30pm:** Genesis Course (see page 11). Tea and coffee from 7pm. In September, also on Wednesday 20th.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Thursday 14th September, 1pm:** Discover History event, Good Old Days Annual Walk, 'The Faithful City', see page 8.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Monday 18th September, 2.30pm:** Mothers' Union, speaker Phil Bradford.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Wednesday 20th September, 2.45pm:** Tea/Coffee & Cake, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

**(M) Thursday 21st September, 2pm - 4pm:** West Worcester Friendship Group.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 23rd September, 10.45am:** Café Church@10:45am, see page 8.

--- 000 ---

**(V) Friday 22nd September July:** Fourth Friday Friendship Group. Look out for sign-up sheets in church or contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

--- 000 ---

**(J) Saturday 30th September:** Tidy up morning (see page 15).

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## *Date for your diary*

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

Start the day with a hot home-cooked breakfast!

*Jenny English*



*St John's Church presents  
The Good Old Days Annual Walk  
'The Faithful City'  
Thursday 14th September, 1pm, £6.  
Booking required, please contact  
Discover History via email or phone:  
Email: [discoverhistory@aol.com](mailto:discoverhistory@aol.com)  
Phone: 07949 222137*

# Little Lambs

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

**FREE!**

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

**Birth to 4 years old and carers**

*For more details contact Sue Fairman on 07845 942962*

**Come and join the fun!**

## ***Café Church - a new time***

Café Church is starting at a new time from September 23rd.

Some of our customers love coming, but wished to have a bit more time beforehand in the morning.

**The new time - CAFE CHURCH @ 10.45 am.**

**The same day (fourth Saturday of the month)**

**Saturday 23rd September.**

**Thought for the day - Rob Little.**

Danish and coffee or tea is being served as usual. Do come and share a cup of coffee and a Danish pastry with us.

*Jenny English*

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## ***Tea and cake***

This is back in its usual slot (third Wednesday of the month) on Wednesday 20th September at 2.45 pm. All are welcome to come and share with friends and family. Cost £2.00 per person at St. John's Church.

*Jenny English*



We are looking forward to welcoming all comers to our first West Worcester Messy Church sessions!

### **Where?**

St John-in-Bedwardine church.

### **When?**

First Saturday of each month, starting at 4pm (doors open and drinks available from 3:30pm) finishing between 5:30-6pm.

### **What?**

Crafts and activities based on a theme, followed by a short worship session, and ending with a shared meal.

### **The themes for this term are:**

2nd September – Jesus the good shepherd.

7th October – Jesus the true vine.

4th November – Jesus the light of the world.

December (date tbc) – Messy Christmas!

All are welcome, no limits on age! If you have any questions, please get in touch with one of us at [messy.church@wcw.church](mailto:messy.church@wcw.church)

*Liz Forman, Beth Broadway, Phil Bradford*



## *Welcome to a new advertiser*



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## *Let's start at the very beginning!*

This autumn, we will be running a course to study Genesis on Wednesday evenings. It will be in the Blakefield Room at St John's, with tea and coffee from 7pm and the sessions starting at 7.30pm, finishing no later than 9pm. There will be six sessions, split into three blocks of two weeks.

13 September - Introducing Genesis

20 September - Creation to Flood (Genesis 1-11)

5 October - Abraham (Genesis 12-25:18)

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

26 October - Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

1 November - Reading Genesis in the 21st Century

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

*Phil Bradford*

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## *Ploughman's lunch*

There will be a Ploughman's Lunch at St David's church on Saturday 2nd September, 12noon until 2pm, in aid of church funds. Donations of £3 or above welcome.

Tea and coffee will be served but you are welcome to bring your own alcoholic drinks if desired.

*Maureen Ovington*

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## *Fun Quiz*

The Friends of St Clement's church are holding a Fun Quiz with bring & share tea (and raffle). This will be on Saturday 23rd September, 2pm – 4.30pm, in St Clement's church.

Teams: no more than 5 persons.

Tickets: £4.00 per head, available from me.

You can contact me by email ([jh.dowling43@sky.com](mailto:jh.dowling43@sky.com)) or on 01905 424539.

**N.B. Tickets will not be available on the door.**

*Jo Dowling*



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# *A day's retreat for Ride+Stride!*

## *Saturday 9th September*

Every year in September the National Churches Trust promotes the Ride+Stride. As advertised in the previous magazine, I am once again organising a route that will combine the Ride+Stride with a "Day Retreat". The day will include timetabled stops for Morning Prayer, Prayer During the Day, a Bible Reflection and Evening Prayer as well as including the activities for September's "Walking Church".

This year we are repeating the route we previously walked in 2020, but as that was the first year of the pandemic we couldn't enter any of the church buildings we visited. The route will include the quiet, riverside path to Hallow, well away from the roads to enjoy the sounds and sights of nature. We will visit 5 churches. In total the route will be about 7.5 miles. We will start at 10.30am at St John's for Morning Prayer and finish at St Clement's at 4.30pm for Evening Prayer.

### **Plan for the day**

<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>St John's Church</b>
10.45am	Walk 1: <b>Walking Church</b>	From St John's Church to Hallow
<b>12.15pm</b>	<b>Prayer During the Day</b>	<b>Hallow Church</b>
12.30pm	Lunch	Picnic lunch in Hallow churchyard
1.15pm	Walk 2	From Hallow Church to Christ Church, Broadheath
<b>2pm</b>	<b>Bible reflection</b>	<b>Christ Church, Broadheath</b>
2.45pm	Walk 3	From Christ Church, Broadheath to St David's Church
<b>3.45pm</b>	<b>A pause for personal reflection</b>	<b>St David's Church</b>
4pm	Walk 4	From St David's Church to St Clement's Church
<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>	<b>St Clement's Church</b>

Walking Church usually meets every other month on the afternoon of the second Sunday in that month and includes a discussion on a theme linked to the Gospel reading for the day, walking a different route each time. For our "Day Retreat", the first walk of the day will include a discussion on a theme linked to our reading at Morning Prayer.

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

The plan is for a group to walk the route with people joining for all or part of the walk and other people joining in for some or all the prayer activities.

*Continued on page 15.*

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Or email inquiries to [info@footnotesuk.co.uk](mailto:info@footnotesuk.co.uk)

Racheal Sharman and the Footnotes UK Team

HCPC registered

*Continued from page 13.*

- 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 and drink.

Ride+Stride is a sponsored bike ride or walk in which people walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside. The money they raise helps to preserve some of Britain’s 47,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses.

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

If you would like to find out more, please contact me, via the Parish Office on 01905 420490 or email [philip.evans@wcv.church](mailto:philip.evans@wcv.church)

*Philip Evans*

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## *Tidy up morning*

On Saturday 30th September 2023 we are planning to have a Tidy Up Morning in church and we will be very grateful for volunteers to lend a hand. There will be various tasks that need doing such as some polishing and cleaning. If you are able to help then please let me know on 423051.

Thank you.

*Joy Job*



Women's Breakfast Meetings  
for Friendship and  
Christian Fellowship

Why not join us?

Everyone is welcome!

Our next meeting is on

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

9.00am until 11.00am

St John-in-Bedwardine  
in The Blakefield Room

Contact Margaret Rutter (425396)

*This month's speaker will be*

Susan Parkes with a talk based around

St Clare of Assisi





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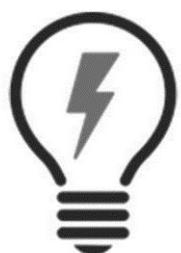
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advertise in this  
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The Parish Magazine is published A5 in size, in black and white.

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

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

The booking can be from one month to one year.

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

## *Mothers' Union news*

On August 9th, Mothers' Union (MU) members from across the Deanery gathered at Claines church for a service of Morning Prayer to celebrate Mary Sumner Day. Mary was the founder of MU.

The Archdeaconry Festival is to be held at St. George's church on Tuesday 17th October, 2pm The speaker will be Julia Jameson and the celebrant will be Revd. Stephen Buckley.

*Jenny Claydon*

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### *Head of the Community of Interest for Faith for Diocese of Worcester Mothers' Union*

Having been a member of the Mothers' Union for over thirty years, I was surprised and delighted to be approached recently, by the President of Worcester Diocese Mothers' Union, to ask if I'd be interested in taking on the role of head of the Community of interest for faith. Further investigation suggests that I can largely make the role what I will, but my main remit is to re-invigorate the faith aspects of our work and I am very excited at the prospect of doing this. I officially take up my new role (with the blessing of Bishop John) on September 1st and am keen to promote the Mothers' Union and its work within my own parish and deanery, before moving further afield.

Founded by Mary Sumner in 1876, the Mothers' Union's original and main concern is to promote and support marriage and family life. Now a worldwide organisation, its work includes financing family holidays, running creches in prisons, providing teddies and baby clothes to hospitals, and sending financial aid to areas affected by natural or man-made disasters. Many branches are actively involved with their local churches – giving much appreciated help at church fetes, baptism services and other events. Some have separate evening meetings for younger mums who work during the day and so are unable to attend the more traditional, daytime meetings.

Within the Worcester City West Team, two previous branches – St Michael's and St Clement's – now meet as one branch under St Michael's. Meetings are held in St Michael's church on the third Monday of each month and we enjoy a varied programme of guest speakers and some "home grown" activities. Our meetings always include a short service, tea, biscuits and lots of friendly chat. Despite its name, the society is not exclusively for mums – or even ladies. Anybody, regardless of gender, marital or parental status, is most welcome. Please ask if you'd like to know more.

*Sarah Cottrill*



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## *Little Blessings: The end of an era!*

When my son was a baby, a friend in the same street, also a young mum, found that she and I, along with others, were facing the same problems. Getting to church on a Sunday morning was do-able; being able to concentrate on what was being said, far more challenging, and getting to an evening Bible Study – or, again, being able to concentrate if there – was virtually impossible!

She therefore formed the “Wednesday Group” – a Bible Study group for mums with babies and toddlers. Meeting at each other’s houses, and taking turns to lead, we aimed to do a short Bible study and to pray together, accepting that how much got done was dependent on the level of co-operation given by the babies and toddlers present!

Fast-forward twenty- four years to my arrival in West Worcester as a curate. Mindful of how grateful I’d been to the Wednesday Group, I was keen to offer something similar to any mums or mums-to-be in the parish. Amy Rees and Kate Staiger were the first members of my Bibles, Bumps and Babies which, over the years evolved into Little Blessings and moved from my home into St Johns church. It became more craft based – something which stretched my abilities to the limit. I’ll never forget the lion finger puppet Mum thought was an owl or the look on Amy’s face when asked to create a papier mâché “Something” (what it was, I have forgotten; Amy’s face, never!).

Other members came and went as children grew up and went to school and mums returned to work.

Finally, we’d dwindled to two child minders who between them brought along eight children, and at the end of the summer one of these was going to a school-based job, the other changing her working days. The new days don’t fit in with my availability or that of the church.

So, with some sadness, I say goodbye to Little Blessings. We’ve had many laughs along the way, as well as, I hope, introducing many children to God’s love through our activities, the Bible stories they’ve heard and the books they’ve borrowed to read at home.

I hope and trust that God will continue to bless the children as they go on to the next chapter in their lives.

*Sarah Cottrill*

## *Long hair or short hair?*

Nearly 80 people turned up to hear Paul Harding talk on the Siege of Worcester, even though it was a week later than normal. Paul started by explaining some of the differences and similarities between the 2 sides of the English Civil War. They were known as Royalists and Parliamentarians and the terms Cavaliers and Roundheads that were often used were derogatory terms for them.



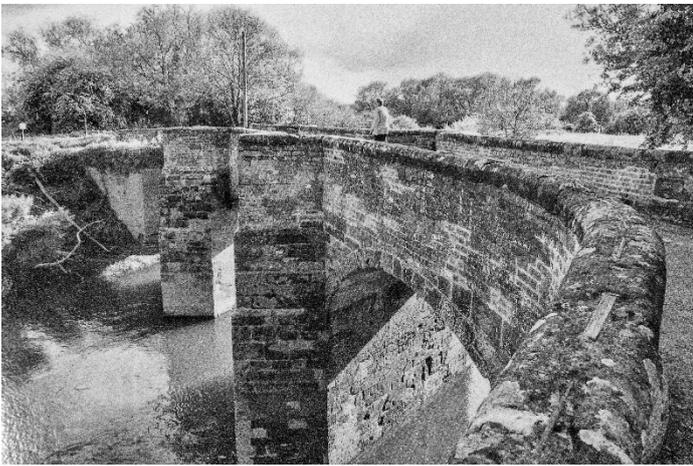
Although the Royalist are often depicted with long hair and the Parliamentarians with short, both sides wore their hair either long or short. Both sides also wore very similar uniforms, the officers were identified by the wearing of sashes, rose pink for the Royalists and orange for the Parliamentarians.

On 22nd August 1642 King Charles raised his Standard in Nottingham and declared war on Parliament. A declaration was sent round to all towns and cities by the King to raise men to fight the war. This was followed very quickly by a similar one from Parliament to raise men as well. There was a lot of debate in Worcester, led by the mayor (Edward Solely), as to which side to join and in true civil war style it pitted family against family. In Worcester the Royalist side was championed by Dud Dudley and the main Parliamentarian was Worcester's MP, John Nash, and these 2 hated each other.



Sir John Byron, Baron Byron, (on the left) sent a baggage train round the country to raise money for the King. The Royalist Prince Rupert of the Rhine (on the right) came towards Worcester to meet the baggage train and crossed the river Teme. The Parliamentarians were also heading to Worcester, led by Nathaniel Fiennes, and on





23rd September 1642 there was a clash on Powick bridge where both sides met. This is said to be the first clash of arms in the Civil War and was cavalry against cavalry, but it was also said to last only 12 minutes!

The Parliamentarians then occupied Worcester and they ransacked various places including the cathedral where

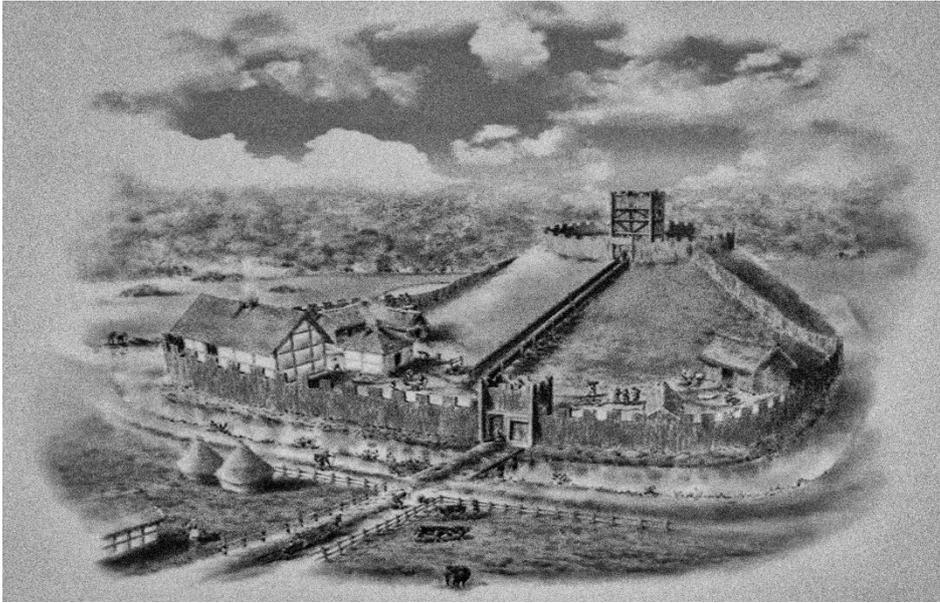
they took lead from the roof and iron bars from the windows to use for making weapons and cannon shot. The Parliamentarians soon decided that Worcester was not defensible and so they left, and the Royalists took over the city, doubling the population, from 7000 to 14000 which put great stress on the city.

One strange point during this phase was that the Parliamentarians arrested the mayor but then let him go and then when the Royalists took over the City, they arrested him because he had been released by the Parliamentarians so thought he was a spy but then they also released him!

In the spring of 1643, the Royalists started to look at preparing the city for a siege, which they were sure was coming. A lot of the planning for the siege was done in the Guildhall and the Cardinal's Hat public house. Over time the planning all moved to the Cardinal's Hat! Prince Rupert had fought in Europe, so he was able to tell people how to defend the city. Lots of plans were made but they were not acted upon. Worcester was one of the main garrisons for the Royalists, with other garrisons at Hartlebury, Strensham and Madresfield.



By March 1643 skirmishes were starting to happen around Worcestershire. One was at Ripple, near Upton-upon-Severn, on 13th April on the Gloucestershire border. In the run up to May 1643, there was a lot of movement of troops around Worcestershire. At this time the Worcester City Council was getting at least one letter a week from the King telling them to raise troops to defend Worcester and Worcestershire. However, the men did not want to join the standing field army. At this time people usually only defended their own locality and they did not want to be part of the main army. The King was very disappointed with Worcester.

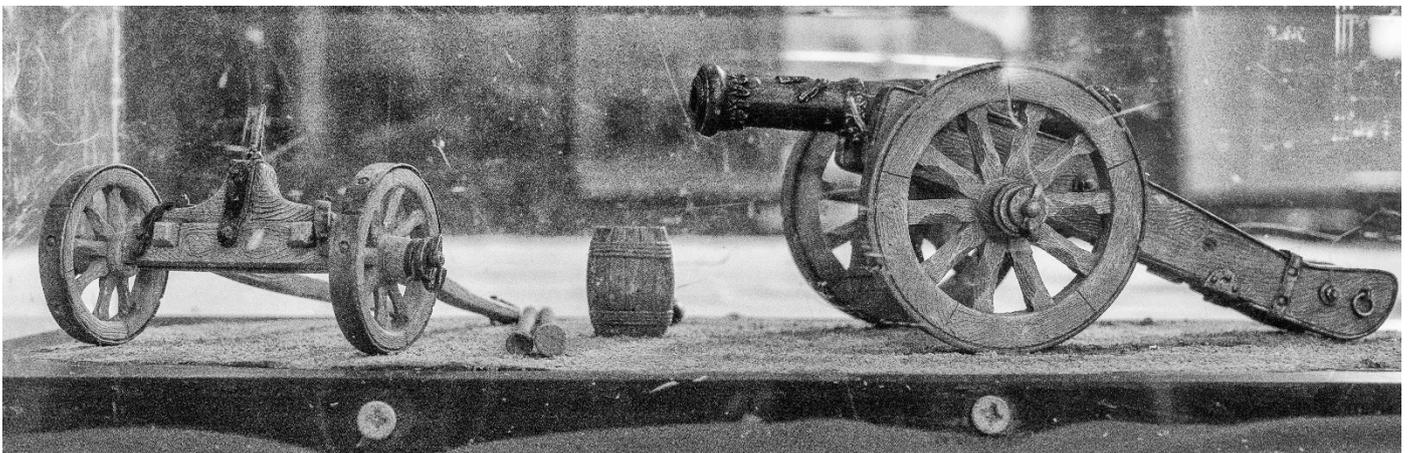


The City defences had still not been started and whilst the gates were closed at night, they were not lockable.

Parliamentarian riders were seen on the hills around Worcester, so people started to get worried, and many fled to Bevere Island.

Leaflets were being left around the city on 28th May saying that a large force of Parliamentarians under General Waller was on the way to Worcester. They arrived on 29th May with a Field Army of around 3000 men, but many of the men had been dragged into the army and had no training or were being trained whilst marching around the country. This army appeared at Ronkswood, which was in cannon firing distance of the city. They started to create siege lines around the eastern side of the city.

They had 8 large field guns, a model of which can be seen below, and mortars,



which had to be placed closer to the city to be effective. The bombardment started on 29th May and on the 30th they aimed all their guns at St Martin's gate as it was thought to be the weakest point in the defences. Worcester had a small number of field guns, so they were able to fire back at the Parliamentarians. The Royalists put some guns on the castle mound so they could fire to the east, but this was seen by the Parliamentarians and they changed to attacking the mound. This probably meant there was some damage to the cathedral as it was so close to the castle mound.

On the 31st May some Parliamentarians crept down to Frog Meadow, near the current Porcelain works, and started to chip away at the city walls. However, General Waller then received a letter to say that a large Royalist force was coming to relieve the city and so he immediately fled south to Gloucestershire and the first siege of the City of Worcester was over. And so was our talk!

*Colin Nash*

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### *Third Annual Charabanc Trip to Weston-Super-Mare*

On Tuesday 25th July a full coach load of people left St John's heading for the highlights of Weston-Super-Mare. Despite the title we had a luxury coach to take us there and back and it was very comfortable.

On arrival on the promenade everyone left and went to do their own thing for the day.

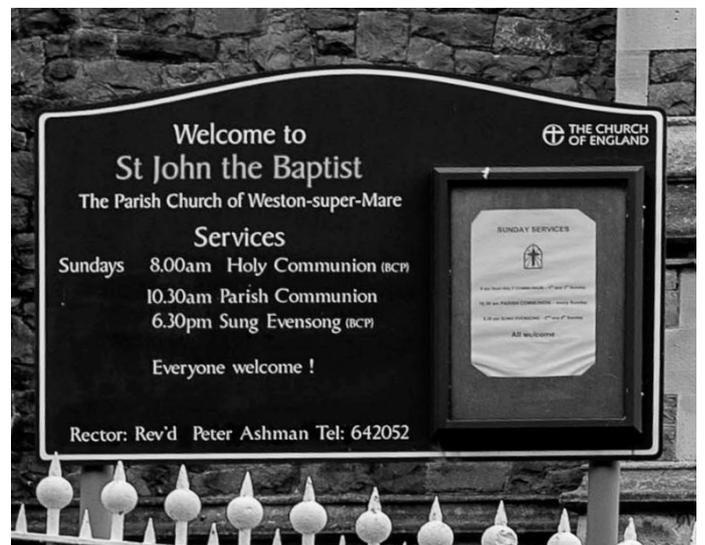
The pier was a key place for people to walk and take in the fresh air. Whilst it was a bit windy at times, when the sun came out it was very warm.



Many found somewhere for a morning coffee before walking around the town or along the front. Some headed to the beach with their young children. It was surprising how quiet the seafront was as these photos show.



Some walked along to the derelict pier towards the northern end of the town or walked into the shops. Sandra and I saw that there were 2 St John's churches in the town, so we went for a walk to see them. We found 3 churches, including one of the St John's, below, but they were all closed!



For many lunch was fish and chips as there are many takeaways and restaurants serving this classic dish. However, as Jenny English found if you eat on the sea front then you are going to get additional diners joining you! We saw a similar event unfold when a young girl offered a chip to a gull, the next minute she was inundated with loads of gulls.



Walking round the seafront we found a few examples of street art like these below. One looks like they are happy to be at Weston-Super-Mare, but I am not so sure about the bird, he definitely looks unhappy about his lot!



We were definitely not unhappy with our lot and had a thoroughly good day out.

*Colin Nash*

## *Little Lambs*

Hello all.

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to Little Lambs. We restart on Monday 11th September. Please let your friends know about us to help spread the word. We will have some spaces as some of our older children have gone to school, so we wish them well.





The photos show our children enjoying different activities and we are planning more.

During the summer our lovely volunteers have been busy doing a clean and makeover of our toys and equipment to make sure that we are ready for you.

See you soon!

*Sue Fairman*



## *Prayers for Ukraine and Yemen*



Lord Jesus, we come before you with thankful hearts, for all that you give us. For abundant rain, for harvests, for holidays, for summer sun and warmth. We are thankful that we have freedom to worship together and share with our friends, families and the stranger we meet.

Lord Jesus there are so many people in our world who are living in war torn countries and we think particularly of Ukraine and Yemen.

**Yemen** A war, forgotten by the rest of the world, where children are maimed, families with no shelter, little food, and a health system that struggles to care.

Lord Jesus, we hold before you the children and families who live amidst the destruction that takes place on a daily basis and are trapped. We ask that your love and compassion is present through the kindness of the stranger. We pray that there will be a breakthrough in the political stalemate, to bring peace and a willingness for the violence to cease.

*In a time of silence and reflection:*

Hold the child who is learning to walk with one leg using crutches. The mother who is cradling her sick child. The hospital having to turn folk away as there is no medicine or bed. The father scavenging food for his family.

Let your prayer be to Lord Jesus who is in the midst of all this suffering.



## *Prayers for Ukraine and Yemen*



Lord Jesus, we continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. For the souls of those who have died in this conflict, we ask they may rejoice in your Kingdom.

We pray for those who are maimed in the fighting, that they may have strength, mentally and physically to recover from their wounds and to be helped into a new way of living.

We pray today for all women and children, who grieve the loss of family and friends, of lives cut short through the brutality of war. May they find peace and wholeness in your loving presence.

Lord Jesus, for all soldiers fighting on the front lines, we pray there may be a breakthrough to bring about peace and democracy for Ukraine. Grant all those who fight, courage and an inner strength to keep seeking freedom for Ukraine. May your compassion be with them as they face each day.

*In a time of silence and reflection:*

Remember the young soldier who has just lost a limb.

A woman being told of the death of her son, daughter, husband.

The child bewildered and frightened by all the destruction and noise of war.

Give them all, Lord, a sense of your presence as they face each day.



Merciful Father;  
hear our prayers for the people of Yemen;  
hear our prayers for the people of Ukraine.  
Amen



*Jenny English*

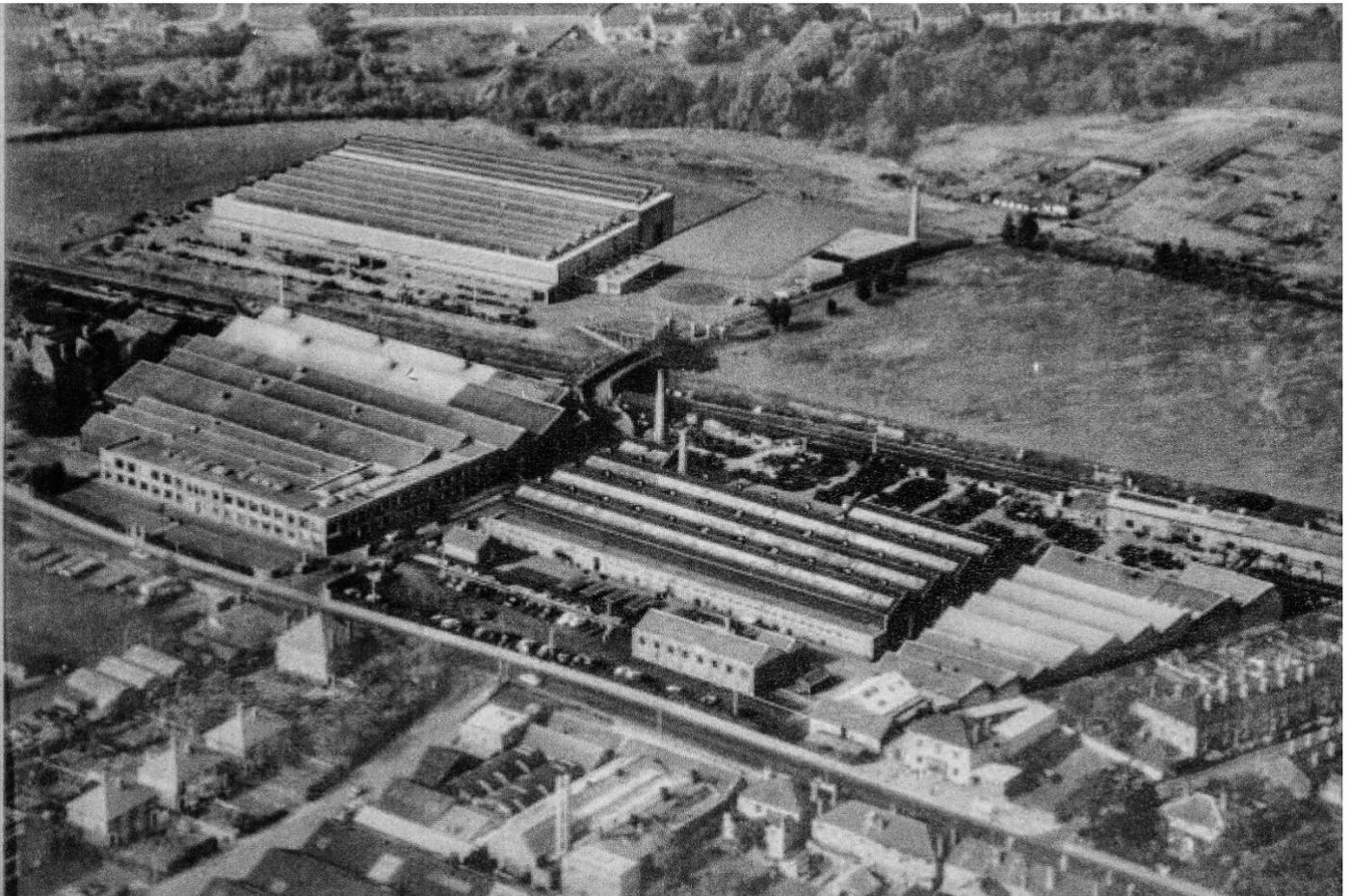
## *More on the Meco bombing*

Following the article in July's magazine about the History Talk on Worcester in the War and the Meco bombing I was contacted by Lionel Buswell as he was a 9-year-old boy at the time living in St John's and remembered the fateful day. The following is Lionel's story in his own words that he wrote down a few years ago. You will see why he calls it Fate after the main story.

*Colin Nash*

### *Fate*

On the day the MECO was bombed my father and I could so easily have been killed.



### *Meco factory, Worcester*

On the day in question, Thursday October 3rd, 1940, my mother was in the Worcester Royal Infirmary (reason unknown) and I was being looked after by one of Mother's sisters, Aunty Lizzie. At a pre-arranged time, my Aunty took me to the Worcester Royal Infirmary main entrance in Infirmary Walk and, standing near the steps leading into the Infirmary, I could see my mother standing by a window on, I think the first floor and we were able to wave to each other. Presumably children of my age (nine) were not allowed to visit. I can remember this happening and the rest of my story as if it was yesterday.

When my Aunty and I arrived home at 138 Bransford Road she left me playing in the garden, which is where I used to spend most of my spare time. Suddenly a very, very low flying aircraft flew over in the direction of Bromyard Road. I think most lads during the war would not only, as I did, know that this was a German plane but that it was a “Junkers Bomber”. I ran into the house to tell my Aunty that a German bomber had just flown over the house, but she would have nothing of it and sent me packing for telling stories.

I wanted to tell someone about the plane and walked up Bransford Road looking for someone to talk to. Opposite the Portobello Public House was a gas worker standing by his blue truck, I told him what I had seen, and he crossed the road with me to try and see the plane, which we could hear but not see. As we stood on the Portobello steps, we saw the plane travelling from right to left and suddenly saw the bombs dropping followed by the explosion.

I ran straight home only to find my Aunty under the kitchen table.

So where does Fate come in?

Fate 1

My father at that time was working in the time office at the Meco. On this particular day my father was ready to return the clocking in / clocking out cards to their respective slots prior to the lunch break, when a colleague said you're up to your neck in work Len (Leonard) I'll return the cards for you. This person was killed in the explosion.

Fate 2

It was quite often my custom to meet my father from the Meco at the 12.30pm lunch break and walk home with him. My father by the way lost a leg in WW1 and walked with the aid of crutches.

On this particular day, because of unforeseen circumstances (the sighting of the bomber) I did not go. If I had gone, I would have been standing just inside the side gates only yards from where father's colleague was killed.

Not only could my father and I have been killed but we would have been only a few yards apart.

*Lionel Buswell*

# *The Christopher Whitehead's Battlefields Trip*



## **First and foremost...**

My name is Amberleigh, and I was lucky enough to be one of the students who went on the Battlefields trip this year with the Christopher Whitehead's history department. It was a truly amazing, once in a lifetime trip that was both educational and humbling. We did so much and saw so much about World War 1 and 2 that I wouldn't have enough space on here to talk about everything, but here are a few things that we did during our three days in the town of Ypres in France.

## **Day One...**

Before even getting to the hostel, we got to our first stop. We went to German trenches that were facilitated during the War. We



were able to walk through the trenches and learn about what each dugout was used for. It made the layout of the trenches a slightly more comprehensible area.

### **Day Two...**

On the morning of the second day, we went to an African Heritage Museum. We were lucky enough to learn about things that you don't learn in lessons. We learned about the soldiers from other races in the war and we heard about their stories and saw their art which showed you how horrifically they were treated. It was inspirational to see a museum that showed such an underrepresented part of our country's history, a big part and a part that helped us win the wars.

### **The Last Post ceremony...**

The Last Post ceremony is a ceremony that has happened every night at 7 in Menin Gate. You stand in silence while listening to people play the bagpipes then you hear a poem. After that, you watch as people lay the wreaths. It is a mark of respect for those who passed through the gate before dying at war. The gate has thousands of soldiers' names on it, including ones from the Worcestershire Regiment. Some people were lucky enough to find the names of family members engraved on those walls.



### **The Final Day...**

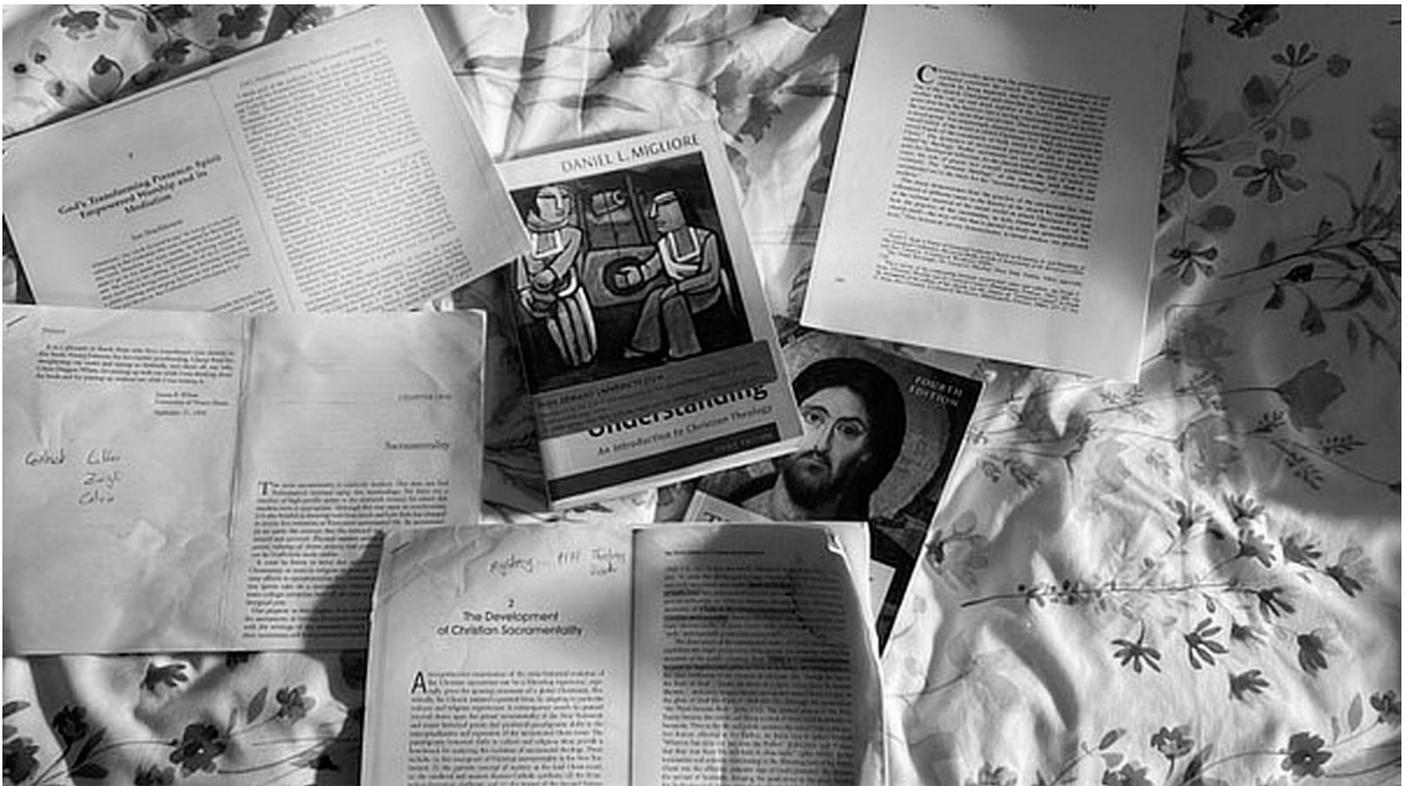
On the last day, we looked around a large memorial ground. This is known as a commonwealth memorial site. You see one every few minutes whilst driving around France and Belgium, so we were able to visit quite a few. Every grave had the man's age, battalion, rank or part in the army and religious symbol. We were able to find one man who was a Jewish paramedic. We then also looked at a mass graveyard for German soldiers, because due to religious and moral reasons they weren't buried with men of the Allied Forces.

*Amberleigh Pettifer*

## *Enjoying the feeling*

After a couple of frantically written articles, this one is being written from the comfort of a lovely cottage in Bridgnorth where the only distractions are the tense situation in the cricket and some nettle stings on my legs. By the time you come to read it I may have started my second year of reader training, but right now I am still enjoying the feeling of having no reading to catch up on or looming deadline.

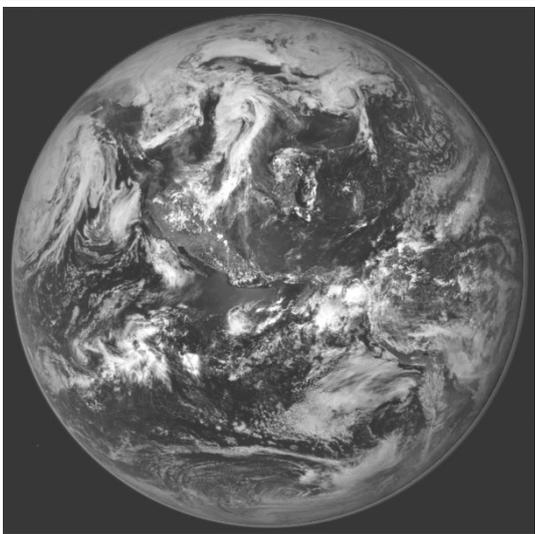
When I last wrote I had got a deadline wrong and was writing an essay on the train. Well, I got my best mark so far on it! At least I would have done had it not been capped at 40% for being late, but I'll take it as a moral victory. Since then I've done the last two essays, one of which was a reflection on an assessed sermon and the other an analysis of the sacraments. I haven't had either mark yet, but the reflection on the assessed sermon was a heck of a lot easier to write! For the one on the sacraments I think I did too much reading (not a phrase I thought I would ever use). I even took my reading with me to a festival I went to and made my fellow Queens students laugh with this picture:



The new term starts in September, with a module on “History and Doctrine”. The residentials will look at “Mission and Evangelism” and the second half of the year looks at “Using the Bible Today”. As much as I'm enjoying my down time, I know how busy things will get again so I sort of wish I knew the reading list to try and get ahead of the game...but maybe that's why they don't tell us, so we are forced to relax.

I will be getting to do something this year that my Lichfield colleagues won't do and that's go on a placement. I'll be at Teme Valley South during October, just up the road, spending time gaining an appreciation of being part of a rural parish. There are seven churches and from the initial conversations I've had, there is a real focus on worship outside the church buildings. I'm already looking forward to a Llamas Cafe Church that will be in a meadow on 13th August and a Harvest Festival on a farm on 1st October...possibly followed by cooked breakfast complete with sausages made from their own pigs. I am sure that experience will provide plenty of grist for the magazine article mill. But for now, the covers are coming off and England need just seven more wickets so time for a quick prayer for the weather to stay dry and for all the catches to stick and I shall settle in for a tense finish.

*Rob Little*



*Thou visitest the earth  
and blessest it!*

Recently we have had the opportunity to visit a number of gardens and to look at the careful management the staff have given to the spaces in their care. Nothing would be or would have been achieved without the original acts of creation in the beginning, ordained by God.

Although there are those people who are anti-creationists, even they have to wonder at the infinite variety of species of plants, of creatures on both land and sea, and indeed of human beings too.

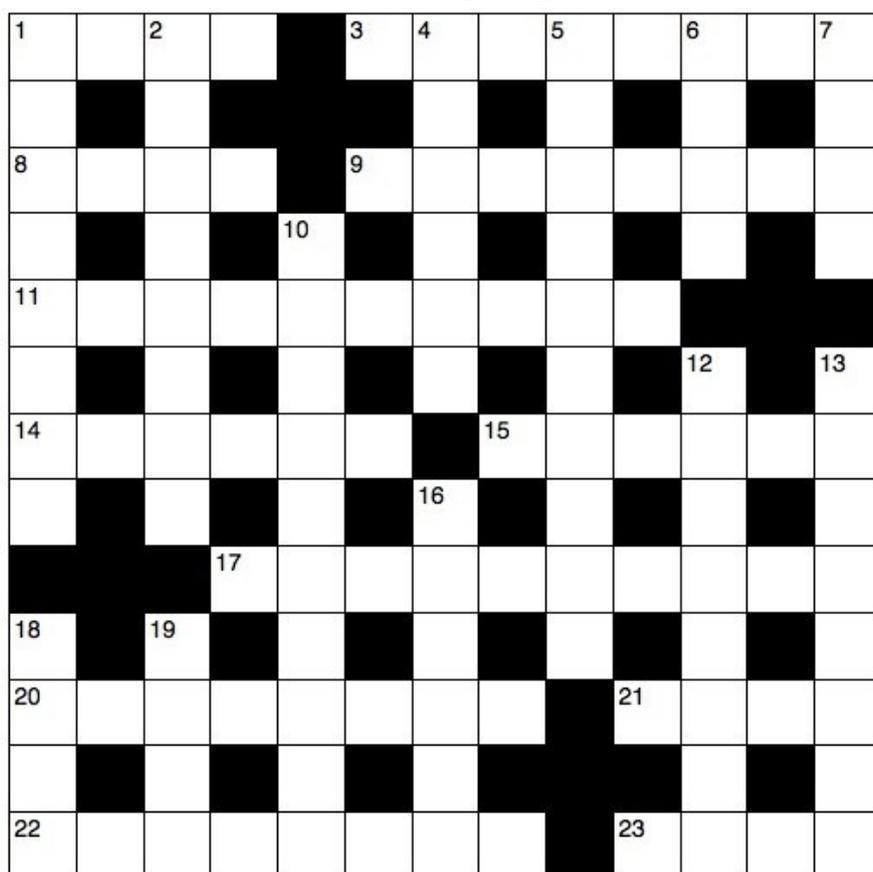
What is equally wonderful is that we have been given the abilities to examine each of the plants in their infinite detail in order that the marvels of their creation can be revealed to everyone - thus the wonder of God's creation is brought alive for all.

An important reflection for all of us as we undertake our activity in our own gardens. Regard God's blessings before your eyes! And thank Him for them too!

*Arthur Miller*

## *Puzzle pages*

*The solution is on the inside back cover.*



### **Across**

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
- 8 ‘Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith’ (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
- 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
- 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
- 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
- 15 In *The Pilgrim’s Progress*, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
- 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
- 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
- 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
- 22 ‘The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly’ (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
- 23 Adam and Eve’s third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

**Down**

- 1 David’s great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
- 2 ‘The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom’ (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
- 4 ‘I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips’ (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
- 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
- 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
- 7 ‘For Christ died for — once for all’ (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
- 10 ‘Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ’ (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
- 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this ‘because of the kingdom of heaven’ (Matthew 19:12) (8)
- 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar’s golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
- 16 ‘You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry’ (Luke 12:19) (6)
- 18 ‘There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — — , and he was given a crown’ (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
- 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

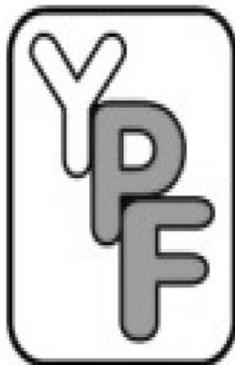
***Sudoku  
Puzzle***

***The solution  
is on the  
inside back  
cover.***

<b>7</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>
		<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>				
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## *Be aware!*

The month of September arrives and once again it's Leukaemia awareness month. International leukaemia day is the 4th of September, chosen because the 4th day of the 9th month represents chronic myeloid leukaemia as it is caused when part of chromosome 4 exchanges with part of chromosome 9.

There are 27 new blood cancer patients a day diagnosed, 10,000 a year. Pre covid there were 4,800 leukaemia deaths a year, 13 a day. Over 250,000 patients are currently living with a blood cancer.

Symptoms are often vague and frequently misdiagnosed. For acute leukaemia patients this can lead to being treated as an emergency. Patients with chronic leukaemia can often look and feel well but this is a hidden disease.

Leukaemia starts in blood forming tissue, usually the bone marrow. Blood forming stem cells may become myloid or lymphoid stem cells. Myloid cells become red blood cells or platelets or granulocytes, whereas the lymphoid cells become white blood cells that fight infection and attack cancer cells and viruses.

Leukaemia can be acute or chronic; acute cases need immediate treatment whereas chronic develops slowly.

I have chronic lymphocytic leukaemia. I am not on treatment and may never need treatment. There are around 13,300 patients like me. Most CLL patients die of pneumonia as we can't fight infections and we respond poorly to vaccines.

Symptoms to watch out for include repeated infections, bruising/bleeding, fatigue, fever/night sweats, shortness of breath, bone/joint pain.

If you are concerned about any of these symptoms please request a blood test. The majority of leukaemia patients are diagnosed during a routine blood test.

*Margaret Miller*

---

## *New Archdeacon of Worcester*



Bishop John has announced that the Revd Canon Mark Badger is to be the next Archdeacon of Worcester. Mark is currently rector of Kempsey & Severn Stoke w Croome d'Abitot & Norton as well as Area Dean of Malvern and Upton.

Mark will succeed Archdeacon Robert Jones, appointed nine years ago, who is retiring at the end of November.

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# Concluding: St John's and St Michael's Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM)

St John's APCM was held on Sunday 21st May with St Michael's on 28th May. The St John's APCM was adjourned as the finance report and accounts had not, at that time, been finalised and independently examined.

We started presenting the reports in the magazine in June, spreading them out over multiple editions to avoid swamping any one edition! Most reports have been trimmed or summarised by the editors.

This month we have the financial report from St Michael's.

The St John's 2022 finance report and accounts have now been completed and, at the time of writing, are with the independent examiner. Once the examination has been completed, it is planned to resume the St John's APCM on Sunday 24th September at 11.30am (i.e. after the 10.30am service) to receive the annual report and accounts.

*The Editors*

## ***St Michael's APCM Financial Review of 2022***

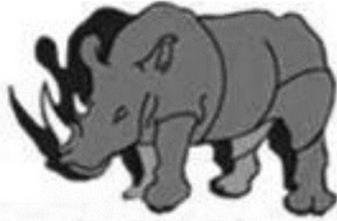
In some respects, 2022 was a "steady as she goes year" whilst preparations were made for a Joint Council with St John's. As in the previous few years, there has been a small surplus (made a profit) of a few hundred pounds. As I have said before, this is mostly down to people's generosity: Without people giving either their time and talents or their money, we would not have the resources to do God's work.

### **The detail**

Focussing on the actual figures, comparing 2022 with the previous year, we can see that our overall income increased from £9,016 in 2021 to £9,274 in 2022. Whilst this might seem good, we need to be aware that planned giving went down and this was only made up by some Gift Aid reclaims that had been submitted in 2021 not being paid until 2022. If we had not had these Gift Aid amounts carried over, our income would have decreased when compared with 2021.

Likewise, we can see that our costs increased from £8,750 in 2022 to £9,016 in 2022. There are no particular costs I want to highlight here other than to say our gas and electricity bills have gone up like everyone else's.

*Continued on page 43.*



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*Continued from page 41.*

## **A concern?**

Last year I raised the concern that we had made a surplus in 2021 but seen a reduction in our spending on Mission & Ministry compared with 2020. I explained that, whilst I was in no way advocating reckless spending (!), I think that we as a church need to ensure that we actively look for ways to show God's love in our community and ensure that we use the resources God has given us to achieve this, whether that be by giving our time and talents, spending money or by using our position as a charity to apply for funding to support this work. I cited the example from 2020 where we showed that with the Summer Holiday Community Café we can do this!

I highlight that in 2022 the PCC spent nothing on Mission and Evangelism.

## **Summary**

As I've said before, we have the money to keep the ship afloat. We've shown that we can do so much more too. Jesus called his disciples to be fishers of men. Let's use our resources to cast those nets!

*Philip Evans, St Michael's PCC Treasurer*

---

## ***The Apocrypha***

I told my doctor's receptionist I need an appointment. "How about 10 tomorrow?" she asked.

"I'm not that sick. One will be enough!" I replied.

--- 000 ---

Our organist and his wife have their towels marked Hymns and Hers.

--- 000 ---

"How is it that you are late again?" the choir master demanded of the little boy.

"I overslept."

"What? Do you sleep at home as well?"

--- 000 ---

On a tour of London, a family visited Westminster Abbey, and were awed by the soaring beauty of the place.

The children were especially curious about the votive candles. Their mother told them that people generally say a prayer when they light a candle, usually a prayer of petition or thanks. She asked if they'd each like to light one - which they did.

As they left, the five-year-old said: "If there's a pony outside, it's mine."

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## *ST JOHN'S LIBRARY*

### **Normal opening times:**

- Monday: 9am - 5pm
- Tuesday: 9am - 6pm
- Wednesday: 9am - 5pm
- Thursday: 9am - 5pm
- Friday: 9am - 5pm
- Saturday: 9am - 4pm

### *Groups at St John's Library*

- Bounce and Rhyme - Weekly every Tuesday, 11:00am to 11:30am
- Scrabble Club - Weekly every Tuesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- Chess Club - Weekly every Tuesday, 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- Crochet and Chat - Weekly every Wednesday, 10:00am to 12:00pm
- Storytime and Song - Weekly every Friday, 11:00am to 11:30am
- LEGO Club - Weekly every Saturday, 2:00pm to 3:00pm
- Photography Group - Monthly every last Thursday (28th September), 11:00am to 12:00pm

For more details, speak to a member of staff, or telephone (01905) 822722, or e-mail [StJohnsLib@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:StJohnsLib@worcestershire.gov.uk) or use Facebook Messenger.

### *'Friends of St John's Library'*

We have re-opened the café on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings, between 10:00am – 12:30pm and offer beverages and biscuits at very reasonable prices.

If you are able to support us by volunteering, or if you just want some more information about the group, please contact us by e-mail at [friendsofstjohnslibrary@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofstjohnslibrary@outlook.com) or leave your details at St John's Library.





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# *From the magazine archive, September 1951*

## THE PARISH NEWS LETTER IMPORTANT NOTICE

MEMBERS of the Church Council are aware that for the past two years this magazine has been issued at a serious financial loss. Last year we lost well over one hundred pounds.

This deficit is due to two causes:

1. The greatly increased cost of printing.
2. The considerable increase in the volume of Parish news.

Some months ago, when the monthly financial losses became evident, a group of keen and willing helpers agreed to form the News Letter Committee. The purpose of this Committee was defined as a body to advise the Editor on matters of cost and publication. Meetings have been held and I am grateful to this Committee for their help. The opinion of the Committee is:—1. That the contents of the News Letter might be modified but by no means drastically cut.

2. That the cost, i.e., threepence per issue, should remain the same.

With regard to the former considerations, I am sure you will appreciate how splendidly the Magazine has grown. As the life and activity of the Parish has expanded so the reports have grown more numerous and of greater length. It would seem, therefore, a shame to curtail the enthusiastic secretaries of Committees who take justifiable pride in the display of their wares to a larger public and to full advantage.

Now, in reference to the latter point, whilst I have the greatest regard for the Committee, I am not entirely convinced that “consumers” would be unwilling to accept a small increased charge—to **fourpence per issue, maybe!**

I feel sure that the News Letter Committee would be very thankful for the guidance and reaction of those who read this paper. You alone can decide our future policy. If the Magazine is to be maintained at the present standard, something must be done to reduce the deficit. I say this in view of the other increased charges on Parochial finance. The Magazine is only one item in our budget.

I know there are a great number of readers who value this issue so much. Will you please make any suggestions which will help us to overcome our present difficulties? If you have read this column will you please drop me a line or mention any suggestions personally? All suggestions will be submitted to the News Letter Committee, to whom I am greatly indebted for their interest and advice.

J.M.

Inflation: Threepence = 36p; Fourpence = 48p; One hundred pounds = £2900.

# The Parish Magazine - SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Please tick one of the boxes below and fill in your details:

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*Pick up  
at  
St Michael's*

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usually from the 4th Sunday of the preceding month).

**(£5) I live in St John's but need my magazine to be delivered.**

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

Postage and Packing costs £13.75 (Large Letter, 2nd class postage, £1.15 from April 2023)

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Sort code: 30-99-90

Account name: St Johns Parish Church

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

*giftaid it*

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Signed: ..... Date: ...../...../20.....

## NOTES

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.



## *Puzzle solutions*

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

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				S	T	A	L	I	N	G	R	A	D
A		E		A		E		G		I			R
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O		H		L		T				G			C
W	H	O	S	E	E	Y	E			S	E	T	H

### *And finally....*

Mother to young daughter after first day at school: “Well, dear, what did they teach you today?”

Daughter: “Not much. I’ve got to go back again tomorrow.”

--- 000 ---

Attorney: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

Witness: No, this is how I always dress when I go to work.

--- 000 ---



*The bishop happily  
combined the modern  
and the traditional.*

Image: Parish Pump  
Caption: Graham Evans



## Sunday Services in the Worcester City West Team – September 2023

	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Clement's</b>	<b>St. David's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>
<b>3rd September</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>10th September</b>	10.30am All Age Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
<b>17th September</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>24th September</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
<b>1st October</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5.30pm Evensong	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
The information above is correct at the time of going to press but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.				