



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# The Parish Magazine

St John-in-Bedwardine

St Michael's



May 2021

50p



## Information

### WEST WORCESTER CLERGY

**clergy@wcv.church**

Day off

The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD (01905 423794)

Friday

The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (01905 426257)

Saturday

### TEAM OFFICE

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

Postal address:

Tel: (01905) 420490

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

e-mail: office@wcv.church

### ON THE WEB

St John's	Parish Website: <a href="http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk">www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk</a> A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/18634/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine">www.facebook.com/stjohninbedwardine</a>
St Michael's	Parish Website and A church near you: <a href="http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/">www.achurchnearyou.com/church/19689/</a> Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/">www.facebook.com/stmichaelsdinesgreen/</a>

### SERVICES

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

### SAFEGUARDING

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

#### St John's

CHURCHWARDENS: [stjohns.churchwardens@wcv.church](mailto:stjohns.churchwardens@wcv.church)  
Gordon Templeton (01905 749025), Joy Job (01905 423051).

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](mailto: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.

#### St Michael's

CHURCHWARDENS: Mike Dowling (see below), Val Mason (01905 428948/[val.mason@yahoo.com](mailto:val.mason@yahoo.com)).

SAFEGUARDING: Mike Dowling (01905 424539/[dowlingm28@sky.com](mailto:dowlingm28@sky.com))

## *A Word from the Editors*

Welcome to our May 2021 magazine. Our theme is: “We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” We heard this in the sermon on Easter Sunday and it stuck with us.

This month is full of significant days (Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday) but they are all rooted in Easter: Easter is at the heart of all we are as Christians, and will support and sustain us through good times and bad; joy and sorrow.

Easter is certainly at the heart of our magazine as we celebrated Easter through the displays at St Clement’s and the flowers at St John’s. We hope that you will enjoy the varied content throughout the rest of the magazine.

The imperative of Easter is, of course, not to keep it to ourselves! This is a prayer set for the day of Pentecost; the Holy Spirit comes to give us power to share the Easter message:

*Faithful God,  
who fulfilled the promises of Easter  
by sending us your Holy Spirit  
and opening to every race and nation  
the way of life eternal:  
open our lips by your Spirit,  
that every tongue may tell of your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

### ***Important information***

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

**Next edition (June):** Deadline is Sunday 9th May. Distribution, towards the end of May.

**Subscription form:** Page 42.

**Cover picture:** Easter flowers on the altar at St John’s, photographed by Colin Nash.

**Pictures in this magazine:** Our thanks to those who provided photographs for this magazine including Graham Evans, Joy Job, Colin Nash, and Worcester diocese.

## **The magazine**

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

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

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

You can subscribe by filling in the form on page 42 or by taking a subscription form from the rack (where the magazines are) at the back of the church. Please return the form and your payment to the parish office.

## **Opinions!**

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

## **To advertise**

Please see page 10.

## *From Sarah Cottrill*

What a difference a year makes!

Last year I sat alone in my kitchen early on Easter Day, reading the familiar and much-loved accounts of the first Easter. The experience was both deeply moving and deeply lonely.

This year I celebrated Easter in church, with flowers, lights, music and, most importantly, people!

We were still, of course, not completely back to how we'd like to be. We were still not allowed to sing, faces still had to be covered, there was still no real sharing of the Peace, and we could still receive Communion in one kind only. BUT we were together and could share in the Easter Acclamation: Christ is risen: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The acclamation “We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song”, has been credited to St Augustine of Hippo. Not everybody agrees that he was the origin of the phrase but that is not important. What matters now, is what is meant by the words and how do we live them out?

Easter is arguably the most important and most joyful of all Christian festivals. Without it there would be no Christian faith as we know it. Christmas becomes meaningless and festivals such as Pentecost would lose any significance in a Christian calendar. It is because of Easter that we know death to have been defeated and ourselves reconciled to God. This is the foundation on which is built our joy and hope and this joy and hope is ours always, not simply on Easter Day. Of course there are times when that joy is diminished – overshadowed by the inevitable sorrows and difficulties that are the common lot, but it remains there, a source of comfort and strength, able to sustain and support us come what may. The love that took Christ to Calvary and that empowered Him to finally defeat the power of death is given to us and, as Easter people, we are called to reflect this love to all whom we encounter.

So we are Easter people, believers who, in the words of St Paul, have died with Christ and have risen with Christ to live in and through Christ (Romans 6.5-11). This in itself is cause enough to be joyful and to raise the Alleluia shout of praise.

Whether or not he was the original author of the phrase “We are Easter people and Alleluia is our song”, St Augustine is known to have often preached about Easter and about the Easter Alleluia. He called it the believer’s defining song, the song we’ll sing forever in paradise, which is why we need to train for it now by



singing it a lot on earth. It's a song we don't even have to voice. As long as we live justly, Augustine says, our lives will sing it for us. When we sing "Alleluia" into the world, we invite everyone who hears it into that same hope, that same love, that same new life: We are Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.

But let's be honest. We don't always feel like Easter people. We don't always feel like singing. When a brutal winter leaves us grumpy and exhausted; when an illness knocks the hope out of us; when the human mayhem and natural disaster we read about in the headlines shocks and depresses us, we find ourselves asking, Where's Easter in all this? How can I or anyone else, sing 'Alleluia' in the midst of all the suffering and sorrow that is in the world? <sup>1</sup>

And yet it is precisely in the midst of the sorrow and the pain of the world that God's Easter people can sing their Alleluia song; because we know that however bad things may be, in the end good will overcome evil because God has already done so. Kate Layzer writes:

Easter always comes like this—in the midst of tears. We just might sing our purest Alleluias in the grave, in the ruins, in our pain, from the place of our most honest questions. It's not a matter of more faith or better faith. Please don't wait for perfect faith to sing an Alleluia. Just sing one wherever you are with whatever you've got.

Anybody can sing in the sun. When we sing in the deluge, when we refuse to stop singing no matter how bad it gets, when we choke out the song of life through tears, that's when—that's precisely how—the world knows that Easter is true. <sup>2</sup>

*Sarah*

<sup>1</sup> *Sicut Locutus Est* – accessed online

<sup>2</sup> *Kate Layzer- Easter Sermon 2008. Accessed online.*

---

## *Collect for Ascension Day*

Risen Christ,  
you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
now and for ever.

## *In Memoriam*

Nicholas James Carter	1 May 1990
John Bertram Bentley	7 May 1988
Marie Antionette Grosvenor	11 May 2007
Marjorie Mantle	12 May 1988
Norman Jackson	12 May 1996
Christabel Lilly Page	14 May 1983
Lawrence Jack Perkins	14 May 1983
Colin Russell	15 May 2016
Ron Clayton	16 May 2016
Douglas Charles Haines	18 May 1989
Laura May Bircham	20 May 1989
Terry Sherratt	21 May 1992
May Barnes	22 May 1983
Ronald Arthur Barnes	22 May 1983
Herbert Heaven Williams	23 May 1993
Marjorie Victoria Davies	29 May 1995

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

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

## *From the Registers, March 2021*

### **St John's**

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

d. 7th February 2021 Charles Gordon Burnett

**SERVICES:** Communicants 107. Total attendance in person at all services was 152. In addition, 3 services were streamed.

### **St Michael's**

**SERVICES:** Communicants 48. Total attendance at all services 54.

---

## *Sundays and Principal Feasts in May*

Sunday 2nd May: The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 9th May: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Thursday 13th May: Ascension Day

Sunday 16th May: The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday 23rd May: Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Sunday 30th May: Trinity Sunday

## *HRH, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh*

Following the very sad news of the death of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, on Friday 9th April, Catherine Templeton, Sandra Nash and Keith Staiger raised the Union Flag to half-mast on the tower and then tolled the sixth bell half-muffled 99 times starting at 2pm after the announcement of his death at noon.

On Saturday 10th April, St John's Church held a Service of Prayers and Music in memory of Prince Philip for the West Worcester Group of churches. This service was open to attend and was also streamed online.

The Church of England hosted an online Book of Condolence, although this has now closed.



---

### *Mid-week services*

Subject always to possible changes, the following mid-week Eucharists are scheduled to take place in May:

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

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

The service at St Michael's on Thursday 13th May will celebrate Ascension Day.

---

### *Pastoral reorganisation*

A notice giving the objects of proposed pastoral reorganisation affecting this parish has been displayed near the main door of each church and on the Church of England website. The notice includes the last date by which representations regarding the proposed reorganisation may be made to the Church Commissioners.

*Phil Bradford*

## *HRH the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh*

The fifth child and only son of Princess Alice of Battenburg and Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark, Prince Philip was born in Mon Repos, on the Greek island of Corfu on June 10th 1921. The family were exiled when Philip was only eighteen months old and Philip was educated in France and Germany before going on to Gordonstoun in Scotland.

Leaving there in 1939 Philip became a Naval Cadet in Dartmouth graduating from there the following year as the best cadet in his course. He served in the British forces throughout the Second World War, being mentioned in dispatches for his service during the Battle of Cape Mattapan. In October 1942, at the age of 21, Philip became one of the youngest First Lieutenants in the Royal Navy.

Before this, however, he had met the thirteen year old Princess Elizabeth when the Royal Family toured the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1939. The two corresponded and in 1946 Philip asked King George VI's permission to marry Elizabeth. Permission was given, but an official engagement was delayed until after Elizabeth's 21st birthday.

The engagement was announced in July 1947 and by the time the couple married in November of that year, Philip had renounced his Danish and Greek royal titles, adopted the surname Mountbatten, become a naturalised British subject and, having been baptized into the Greek Orthodox Church, was accepted into the Church of England by the Archbishop of Canterbury. On the day of the wedding (November 20th), Philip was created Duke of Edinburgh but none of his three surviving sisters, all of whom had married German princes, were allowed to attend the ceremony at Westminster Abbey.





Prince Philip continued his naval career until July 1951 and just seven months later it was he who broke the news to his wife, (famously in a tree house in Kenya), that her father had died and she had become Queen. By this time their first two children – Prince Charles and Princess Anne – had been born. The family was later joined by Prince Andrew and Prince Edward.

Over the next 69 years Prince Philip was constantly at the Queen’s side. At the time of his official retirement, in August 2017, he had performed 22,219 solo engagements. Amongst his many achievements and initiatives, he will probably be best remembered for the instigation of The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which he founded in 1956.

During his long life of service, Prince Philip set many royal records:

1956: First member of the Royal Family to cross the Antarctic Circle.

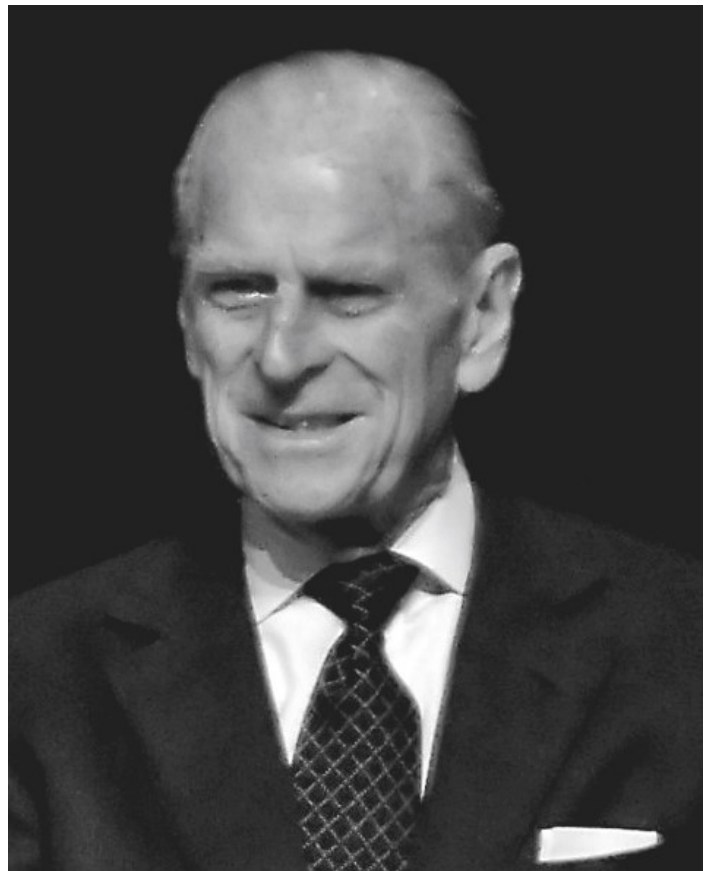
1961: First member of the Royal Family to be interviewed on TV when he appeared on Panorama.

April 2009: Became the longest serving royal consort.

February 2013: Became the oldest ever male British Royal.

The above outlines the long and remarkable life of a “Member of a British Institution” and it is right that we should honour him as such. However, it is important that we remember that he was also a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. The Queen described her husband as being her “constant strength and guide.” Prince Charles paid tribute to his father as somebody who was “greatly loved and appreciated” while Princess Anne has spoken of a father to whom one could always go when in trouble and know they were listened to.

As we remember with gratitude the life and service of our Queen’s Consort, let us also hold in our prayers those who mourn on a far more personal level. May he rest in peace.



*Sarah Cottrill*

# Kingsway House Business Centre

Are you rethinking your office arrangements?  
Are you looking for more flexibility?

MEETING  
ROOMS

SERVICED  
OFFICES

EVENT  
SPACE

COWORKING  
SPACE

Superfast internet, reception service and great  
coffee all included in our prices!

Book a tour today  
**01905 619877**

info@kingsway-house.co.uk  
www.kingsway-house.co.uk

**40 Foregate Street, Worcester**  
100m from Foregate Street station



Swedish massage ~ Deep Tissue Massage

Hotstone Massage ~ Pregnancy Massage

~ Aromatherapy Massage ~

**Book now with Sophie**

**07496300072**

**S.gmassage@outlook.com**

*Gift Certificates available*

Fully Qualified and insured mobile therapist

*Would you like to advertise in this magazine?*

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

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

## *Recognition of service*

Ruth Wintle, well known to many at St John's, has received 'Maundy Money' from HM the Queen in recognition of her exemplary Christian service to church and community.

Owing to the Coronavirus epidemic, there could not be a service in person this year and instead recipients received their money through the post. The money is distributed by HM the Queen every Maundy Thursday and she is normally assisted by Bishop John in his role as Lord High Almoner.

Bishop John said: "We are all very sad that, for the second year, the pandemic prevented HM the Queen giving the Maundy money in person. They have received a personal letter from Her Majesty, together with the money, which is a token of appreciation of their distinguished Christian service.

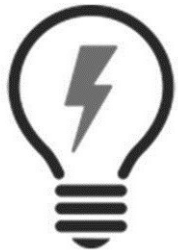


The Revd Canon Ruth Wintle became a Deaconess in 1972 and was one of the first women in the Diocese of Worcester to be ordained, first Deacon in 1987 then Priest in 1994. She has served as a Tutor at St John's College, Durham, as Selection Secretary to what is now the Ministry Division, as Diocesan Director of Ordinands and as the Bishop's Advisor on Women's Ministry, as well as serving in parish ministry. Her gentle, faithful witness has encouraged many women to take on leadership roles and has moved many people who were once opposed to the ordination of women to accept and value it. She is now a member of St Thomas, Crown East and has been much in demand as a retreat leader and spiritual director.

Ruth said: "I was excited and humbled to receive the Maundy Money. I was brought up as a Christian and my faith developed while at Clarendon School in Malvern. I then spent most of my working life in the Church. It was a great joy to receive the letter from Buckingham Palace and although I am disappointed not to be able to collect the money in person, I feel privileged to be honoured in this way."

The word 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word meaning 'Commandment'. It was on the day before he died, that Jesus gave his disciples what he described as a new commandment: 'that you should love one another as I have loved you.'

*Worcester Diocese (adapted)*



# JDS Electrical

**For all your electrical needs  
Fully qualified and insured**

**JON HALL**

**07528 183057**

**[jds.electrical@outlook.com](mailto:jds.electrical@outlook.com)**



## VIKING GARDEN SERVICES

Do you need a hand with the gardening or have a garden which needs a bit of an overhaul? I'm a qualified horticulturalist with over 40 years' experience and would love to come and help you out.

So whether you need a help with mowing, digging, weeding, strimming, pruning, trimming, cutting back or any other garden jobs, then please call me. I offer competitive rates and no job is too big or too small!

Call Kevin on 01905 428526

M: 07741 496210

E: [kevin@lingermadsen.co.uk](mailto:kevin@lingermadsen.co.uk)

Facebook: Viking Garden Services



## Superb Organic Cleaning of Carpets, Curtains, Upholstery & Leather



- Carpet and upholstery organically cleaned
- Oriental rug cleaning
- Curtains & mattresses deep cleaned
- Dust mite control
- Guardsman stain protection plans
- Spot & stain removal
- Anti-bacterial and anti-viral treatments available
- Leather cleaned and conditioned

Remove  
dust mites



Remove  
odour



Remove  
bacteria



For your free non-obligational quote call:

**0808 144 8172**

**[www.safeclean.co.uk](http://www.safeclean.co.uk)**

**Safeclean**<sup>®</sup>  
*The furnishing care specialists from* **GUARDSMAN**

## *Update from Bayleaf*

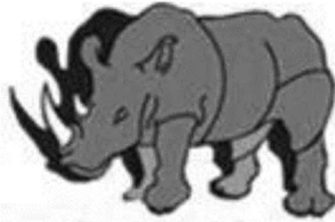
Things are starting to grow well in the churchyard now, so we are playing catch up with the weeds! Why do they always grow faster than the plants that you want to grow! I say “we” are playing catch up because there was a comment on the WR2 residents’ page on Facebook about the mess being left in the church and I responded saying what I was trying to do with the churchyard and the issues about keeping it clean and tidy and 2 ladies came forward to say that they would like to help with the work.

The first week they turned up they cleared out all the area around the entrance to the arcade and then in the subsequent 2 weeks they have worked on the weeds around the gravestones. This has allowed me to prune back the large hydrangea by the Parish Office and concentrate on scarifying the grass where I have sown wildflower seeds along the wall beside the arcade to give the seeds the best chance of growing without the competing grass.



The other thing that has happened is that the Council has agreed to put more time into keeping the churchyard clean and tidy and have assigned it to the West Worcester Parks Team. You may have noticed that they took away the fallen cherry tree and they have also cut back some of the lower branches on the trees in the conservation area. They have lifted the canopy of the

*Continued on page 15*



# RHINO ROOFING LTD

- FLAT ROOFING REPAIRS
- RE-ROOFS
- FLAT ROOFS
- CHIMNEY WORK
- FASCIAS
- SOFFITS
- GUTTERING
- LEADWORK
- RE-POINT RIDGES AND VERGES



## Genuine OAP Discount

If you are looking for trained professionals to fix your roof, look no further. Rhino Roofing Ltd is a very professional and established company. You can put your trust in us to give you the best as we have over 20 years experience and still counting! Contact us for a

**FREE QUOTATION – CALL US ON 01905831364**



<https://www.facebook.com/rhinoroofingltd>



[https://instagram.com/rhino\\_roofing\\_ltd/](https://instagram.com/rhino_roofing_ltd/)



<http://www.rhinoroofing.co.uk/>



[rhinoroofingltd@hotmail.com](mailto:rhinoroofingltd@hotmail.com)



Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

*Continued from page 13* yew tree so that they can drive their mower under it when they come to mow the lawns. They have also pruned back a lot of the boundary bushes and hedges and strimmed the edges of the paths.



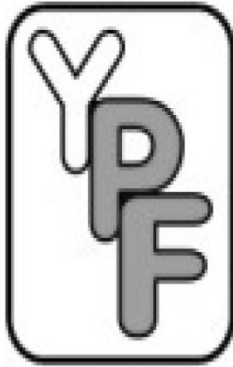
I have also attended an online meeting about improving areas for wildlife and I hope to implement some of the ideas. This leads me on to my final point and that is, with the new gardeners, we are trying to improve the plants around the churchyard and there are some that we would like to buy, for example some wildflower plug plants to add to the wildflower area. This takes money and I wonder if there are any members of the church community who, whilst being unable to actually help with the work, may like to make a small donation towards a plant fund so that we can continue to improve the grounds for both the church and the local community. I never cease to be amazed at the number of people I see, whilst working on the grounds, who either walk through slowly or stop and look round or sit on the one of the benches. If you feel that you would like to help you can see me in church or contact me on my home phone (01905 428962). Thanks in advance for any help.

Lastly, it seems that the gardener, me, now has been given a new name by some of the congregation, and so in future I will be signing off as Bayleaf the Gardener.

*Colin Nash (Bayleaf)*

# Your Picture Framer

Call in and see our retail space and studio where we continue to provide our great customer service and fine bespoke framing.



- We can frame almost anything
- No obligation advice
- Home/Office visits available
- Computerised pricing – no guessing
- Out of hours appointments offered
- Latest techniques
- Top quality materials



[www.yourpictureframer.co.uk](http://www.yourpictureframer.co.uk)  
[info@yourpictureframer.co.uk](mailto:info@yourpictureframer.co.uk)

01905 423300 or 07730 539168

2A Great House Road  
Worcester  
WR2 4HS

## Worcester Chiropractic Clinic

102 Bromyard Road, St Johns, WR2 5DJ

Expert treatment for a range of conditions:

- Sciatica
- Headaches
- Sports Injury
- Trapped Nerves
- Back Pain
- Carpal Tunnel
- Tendonitis
- Osteoarthritis
- Neck Pain
- And more...

01905 428 956



## *One hundred and fifty!*

Between Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday I proposed daily readings of psalms in the Lady Chapel, and, so that this would benefit the church, members of the congregation and friends were asked to sponsor a psalm of their choice and donate £1 for each psalm - which was added to the church's coffers!

Through the courtesy of Liz Edwards and Colin Nash the weekly lists of psalm readings were posted on the pew sheets and the church Facebook pages, as well as being listed on the notice board at the back of the church. Some illustrative material to support the readings and some ideas for activities in which anyone could participate at home during Lent were also added to the church noticeboard.

The sequence for the readings largely followed the 2021 Lectionary, but with the addition of some 11 psalms not listed during Lent - so that all 150 could be read. Readings were given during the ordinary opening times of the church (for private prayer) - at 10 o'clock and again at 3pm.

As planned, all 150 psalms were read - with many being read several times as a result of requests. A considerable variety of people (in all 77) came to listen, many on their first visit to St John's church. At least four people who had sponsored psalms were present at the time of reading. The total raised will be at least £150. I express my gratitude to all those who have contributed (in any way). I hope those who came to hear enjoyed the experience as much as did the reader!

*Arthur Miller*

### Sudoku Puzzle

Copyright 2013  
KrazyDad.com

The  
solution is  
on the  
inside back  
cover.

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

## *What is next in the mission to end rough sleeping?*

*Fiona Colley, Director of StreetLink, discusses the picture of rough sleeping in England, the support available to people and what will happen next as StreetLink works alongside other services to help end rough sleeping.*

It's been a year since the Government asked councils to bring the people sleeping rough into emergency accommodation to protect them from Covid-19. The efforts, which saw councils work with homelessness charities and public health agencies, were very successful. Together, we supported 37,000 people - with over 26,000 already moving in to longer-term housing - and saved hundreds of lives.

However, while the annual rough sleeping statistics revealed a fall in the number of people sleeping on the streets in this country last year, the overall figure is still high and is up 52% from that of a decade ago. Despite progress being made through ongoing local investment and the emergency Covid-19 initiatives, economic pressures enhanced by the pandemic have continued to push more people to the brink of losing their homes throughout this public health crisis.

Homelessness charities have adapted and innovated their services during the pandemic, working closely with health and social care teams to provide the support that people experiencing homelessness need. From providing emergency food and hygiene supplies, wellbeing packs, helping people be digitally connected, through to supporting people into longer term accommodation, they continue to look for new ways to collaborate to improve support.

Over the longer term, new government funding to support people to move on from emergency accommodation will provide 6,000 new homes over the next four years, offering quality, longer-term housing and specialist staff who will support people to access the help they need to fulfil their goals.

Also good news is that people experiencing homelessness are now in the priority group to receive the vaccine alongside those with underlying health conditions.

Looking at the bigger picture, homelessness services are calling on the Government for an approach that will tackle homelessness in all its forms and an updated strategy to end rough sleeping for good. This will involve preventing people from losing their homes in the first place by addressing the root causes of homelessness such as poverty, welfare support and housing supply.

Homeless Link - the membership charity for homelessness services, which helps run StreetLink – has just produced a new toolkit with information, tips and resources. Find it at <https://www.homeless.org.uk/help-end-homelessness>

*[www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk)*

## *Experience Easter*

Back in 2019, a group of talented people from St Clement's Church, created and hosted "Experience Christmas" for the children of St Clement's School. The success of this venture led us to want to put on "Experience Easter" in 2020 but, like so many other activities planned for that year, it fell victim to Covid-19 and lockdown.

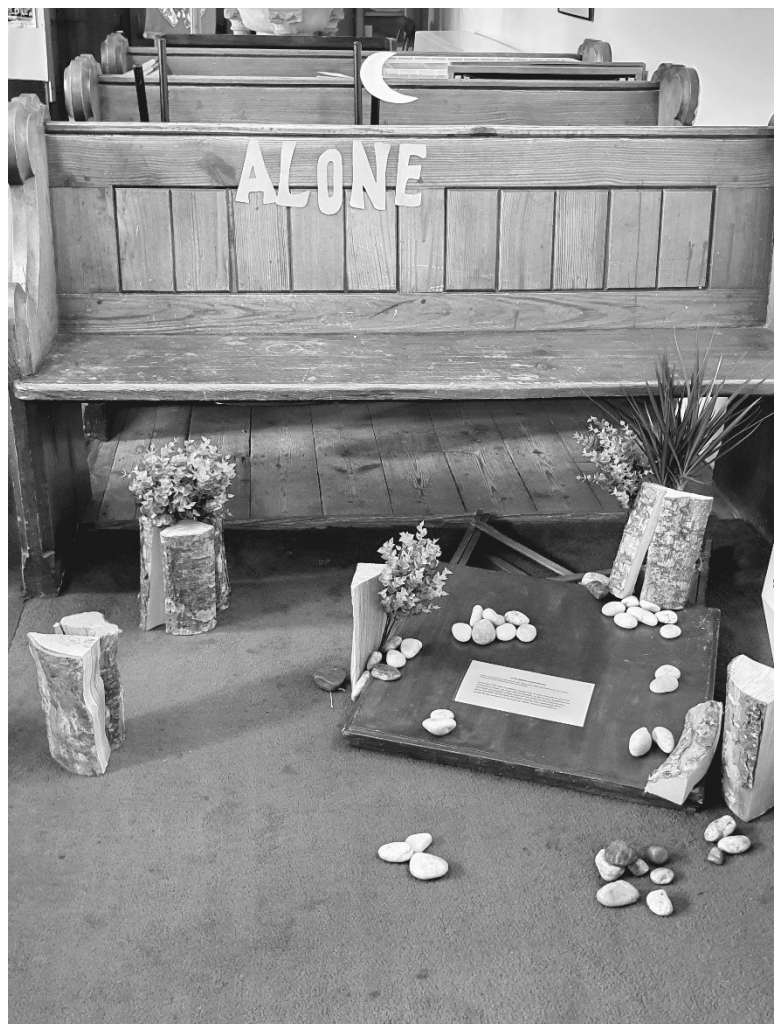


This year we decided that, although we were still unable to invite the school into church, we would like to create the displays and invite members of the public to view them.



Willing volunteers set to and created some stunning displays depicting various parts of Christ's Passion while others formed a rota to sit in church and welcome visitors.

Although on the first day, the number of visitors was low, it picked up over the week and by the end of Holy Week we had been visited by a good number of people, both from the churches within our group and members of the public.



I was particularly pleased to welcome a number of children and their mothers who called in on the way home from school.



Thank you to everybody who supported us in this venture and to the members of St Clement's who made it possible. For those of you who weren't able to visit the event, Graham Evans took some pictures for you to see what you missed!

*Sarah Cottrill*

## *Easter Flowers - creation*



Six members of the flower ladies' team came together - socially distanced - on the morning of Easter Eve to decorate the church. It was marvellous to be able to arrange the flowers once again and also to catch up with each other. We sadly missed Margaret Rowberry being with us as she died last year. We remembered her with great affection for her amazing talent and her friendship.



We hope that everyone enjoyed the flowers as much as we did in preparing them and we look forward to church life slowly returning to normal.

*Joy Job*



## *Easter Flowers - appreciation*

It was lovely to walk into the church on Easter Sunday to find that the flower ladies had waved their magic fingers and created some wonderful arrangements to decorate the church at the important Easter time.





I really love the predominately white arrangements of Easter. The simplicity of colours is offset by the intricate details of each arrangement. Hopefully converting the images to black and white will not detract from the beauty of the flower ladies' work.





Sandra and I certainly look forward to the time when the flowers become a regular feature in the church again, along with the choir and singing.

*Colin Nash*

## *Stimulating the little grey cells*

I was able to remotely ‘attend’ two more very interesting Impetus lectures courtesy of Christopher Whitehead Language College and Sixth Form.

The first was “Territory, Borders and Sovereignty” given by Dr David Story, Principal Lecturer in Geography at the University of Worcester.

We are very familiar with the global, political map displaying a world of neatly divided, discrete territorial blocks. However, these blocks or countries, are not natural, they are human creations. Throughout history, countries have emerged, expanded, contracted, disappeared and re-emerged. The global political map is dynamic, not fixed, and this talk explored aspects of disputes over territory, boundaries and sovereignty. These disputes can have serious implications for people in places and for migrants trying to cross borders.

The second lecture was on bioinformatics, illustrating how modern DNA sequencing can give us an insight into how evolution has progressed, given by Dr Mike Wheeler, Head of Biological Sciences and the Environment at Worcester University.

Bioinformatics is the collection, classification, storage and analysis of biochemical and biological information using computers especially as applied to molecular genetics and genomics. It has become an important part of many areas of biology; in genetics it aids in sequencing and annotating genomes and their observed mutations.

With the data collected, molecular evolution can be observed. Mutations occur at around a standard rate so the closer the sequences are to each other the closer the time that has elapsed between the changes. From comparisons of ribosomal RNA genes (using bioinformatics) it can be seen, for example, that fungi are closer related to animals than they are to plants.

This same technique has been used with SARS covid virus, identifying variants where a subtle difference in an amino acid on the spike protein can change the contagion. With this new technology it means scientists are able to respond quickly to the changing virus and develop booster vaccines.

*Margaret Miller*

The Impetus lectures are part of the overall support offered to sixth formers at CWLC to develop their skills, knowledge, enthusiasm and confidence. Members of the St John’s community are welcome to attend (remotely at present) - please contact Mrs Beth Morgan (b.morgan@cwlc.email), mentioning this magazine, if you would like to be told about forthcoming lectures.

*Graham Evans*

# *The Way of Saint Benedict*

I've been reading Dr Rowan Williams' book "The Way of St Benedict".

For 1500 years the Rule of St Benedict has been one of the most influential texts in the culture of Western Europe. Benedict describes the monastic community as a "workshop" in which we use specific "tools" lent to us for the duration of our life by Christ - where we will learn control of the tongue, the habit of not passing on blame or gossiping, and making the best use of time - developing a holiness that is an extension of our body and a benefit for our interaction with all those other people with whom we are surrounded and with whom we work or study.

The workshop is manifestly a collaborative venture with the aim of "mending vices and preserving love". The Rule envisages holiness as a set of habits..... to live without deceit, develop an inner peace by addressing the roots of conflict within oneself, and take the advice of skilled "superiors" to ensure the safety, development and security within the group of "brother/sisters".

Benedict regards monastic life as a discipline for being where you are, rather than taking refuge in the smallness of our own fantasies.

The book has 7 chapters:

1. "Shaping Holy lives"
2. The staying power of Benedict
3. Monks & Mission - a perspective from England
4. From Solitude to Communion - monastic virtues and ecumenical hopes
5. Benedict and the future of Europe
6. Reforming monasticism - an early medieval debate
7. A Benedictine on "Mysticism" - Abbot Cuthbert Butler

*Arthur Miller*

*Prayer of Saint Benedict:*

Gracious and holy Father,	
please give me:	a tongue to proclaim you;
intellect to understand you;	a way of life pleasing to you;
reason to discern you;	patience to wait for you;
diligence to seek you;	and perseverance to look for you.
wisdom to find you;	Grant me:
a spirit to know you;	a perfect end,
a heart to meditate upon you;	your holy presence,
ears to hear you;	a blessed resurrection,
eyes to see you;	and life everlasting.

# *The History of St John's Parish*

## *III: The First Church*

At some point in the reign of Richard I, the following deed was drawn up and entered into a register at Worcester Cathedral Priory.

Master Godfrey of Lindridge to all those whom the present deed reaches, greetings. Be it known to you all that with the consent of my heirs I have given in perpetual alms for the soul of my uncle Ralph, prior of Worcester, and for my soul and those of my ancestors, to Prior S[enatus] and the convent of Worcester one virgate of land beyond the Severn near the church of St John's so that the said prior will do honour on the anniversary each year on the morrow of St Mary Magdalene [23rd July]. The prior of Worcester will give each year from the said land 12d. for lights on the altar of the Blessed Mary in the vestry. By these witnesses: Master Roger, [rural] dean of Worcester; Adam of St Clement's; Ernardus of St John's; Roger of St Marina's; William of All Saints; William of Cherington, constable of Worcester; Peter son of Ewinus; Amis; Marcarius; William Rupe; Richard the prior's chamberlain and Adam his brother; Mark the younger; Richard Prichs.

This document from the final decade of the twelfth century is the first appearance of St John's in the written record. The church itself is incidental to the main purpose, which is a grant of land to Worcester Cathedral in return for intercession for the soul of the grantee's uncle. Nevertheless, here we have crucial evidence that the completed church was in existence by this point and sufficient to serve as a local landmark.



This links well with the architectural evidence of the surviving building. The pillars or columns of the north arcade (the arches separating the nave from the north aisle) in St John's are unmistakably Norman, although the arches which stand on them were rebuilt in the nineteenth century. The stone is different to the rest of the church and it is evident that parts of the Norman exterior south wall, constructed of the same stone, were recycled for the pillars of the south arcade when the church was extended later in the Middle Ages. Solid, circular columns like those in the north arcade are a defining feature of Norman (or English Romanesque) architecture, particularly evident in

cathedrals like Durham or Southwell. By the time Godfrey made his bequest, this style was well on the way to obsolescence, with the Gothic style now in fashion. Written record and architecture together mean that we can be certain a finished church building stood on the current site by c.1190. What they cannot tell us is how long it had been there. All we can infer, based on these slender architectural details, is that it could have been constructed any time in the previous century.

The very fact that a north arcade was constructed is itself telling. As it stood in Godfrey's day, the church would have been tiny by our standards with a much lower roof, just the nave and a much smaller chancel and north aisle (having only one aisle at this stage was nothing unusual). However, this was not too small by the standards of rural twelfth-century parish churches, there being an aisle suggesting that the church needed to accommodate a growing population. It was rare, if not unknown, for the church to be built initially with an aisle at this stage (think about St Alban's, now Magg's, in the city as a comparison), so it is likely the north aisle was an addition. If this hypothesis has any merit, we have to allow time for an original building and an extension, which would suggest earlier rather than later in the twelfth century for the initial stone church. As Richard I gallivanted around the Holy Land, neglecting his kingdom, the St Johns area was served by a church which hints at a growing agricultural population.

Of course, the only secure fact we have is that a stone church was standing in its current location from the reign of Henry II at the latest. When it was first built, why it was built, or for what reason it was built in that place are matters for speculation.

One significant barrier to our knowledge is that the church has been in constant use since the twelfth century, which means it has never been archaeologically studied and we have no idea what archaeological remains lie beneath; I suspect that most reading this would prefer we continued using it for services rather than excavating it in search of potential 900-year-old remains. However, this does mean that we have no knowledge of whether or not the stone church had an earlier, wooden predecessor (and even if it did, evidence from elsewhere shows that it would not necessarily have stood on exactly the same site).

As noted last month, the fact there is no mention of a church in Domesday Book is far from conclusive proof. The site near the junction of main routes, with a good plot of land to serve as a graveyard, makes an ideal location for one of the estate churches commonly founded in late Saxon and early Norman England and it is more than possible that the bishop, as lord of Wick Episcopi, chose to thus provide for his tenants in the area. It was

*Continued on page 31*



# La Fleur Florist

Weddings    Funeral Tributes    Everyday Flowers  
Corporate Flowers    Special Occasions  
Garden Plants

Victoria Phelps  
36 Woodstock Road  
Worcester, WR2 5NE  
Tel: 01905 421820 or 07842258936  
lafleur@hotmail.co.uk  
www.lafleurflorist.co.uk




## Mike Bentley Gardening

Garden Design & Maintenance

*Regular gardening work undertaken  
Pruning, mowing and hedge cutting  
Overgrown gardens cleared*

Tel. 01905 422401  
Mobile 0779 205 1775  
Email MBGardening@outlook.com



RHS Diploma in Horticulture  
Fully insured  
mikebentleygardens.com

*Continued from page 29*                      technically a chapel rather than a church, although it is doubtful the congregation would have known the difference, and at this stage was probably served from a priest acting out of the cathedral, St Helen's or one of the other city churches rather than having its own resident priest.

Yet, even if it did not yet have a parish or a vicar, it is from this stage onwards that the church enters verifiable history and a new chapter in the story begins.

*Phil Bradford*

### ***Note on Terminology***

Translating the term 'virgate' into modern measurements is tricky. Technically, a virgate was a quarter of a hide, a hide nominally being the amount of land required to support a household. In the Danelaw, a virgate was equivalent to two oxgangs, that is the amount of land one ox could till in one ploughing season. Very roughly, a virgate would thus be around 30 acres. Godfrey's gift was therefore not insubstantial. Worcester was one of the nine medieval cathedrals which was a cathedral priory, a peculiarly English institution where the cathedral was monastic and the bishop served technically in place of the abbot, so the prior was effectively the head (the alternative was a secular cathedral, headed by a dean with a chapter of canons).

### ***Note on Dates***

This document is undated, but can be confidently assigned to the period 1189-96 on internal evidence. Ralph of Bedford, Godfrey's uncle, was prior of Worcester from 1146 to 1189. His successor, Senatus, had a much shorter term of office, from 1189 to 1196. This document must date from his years as prior, which puts it in that narrow timeframe at the end of the twelfth century.

### ***Note on the Text***

The original document is contained in a priory register in Worcester Cathedral Library and is transcribed in *The Cartulary of Worcester Cathedral Priory (Register I)*, ed. R.R. Darlington, Pipe Roll Society, New Series Vol. 38 (1968), p. 181. This is my own English translation of the Latin text found in the printed version, with the emphasis on sense rather than literal accuracy. Items in square brackets are my own interpolations, with the exception of the name of Prior Senatus, which is supplied in square brackets in Darlington's edition (it was common medieval practice to refer to office holders by an initial alone). As Worcester was a monastic cathedral rather than a secular one, so had a prior and not a dean, I have assumed that the first witness must have been the rural dean.

# **BEDWARDINE FUNERAL SERVICES**

**A COMPLETE & COURTEOUS 24 hr SERVICE**

PERSONAL ATTENTION

HOME ARRANGEMENTS

PRIVATE CHAPEL of REST

DAIMLER FLEET

MONUMENTAL MASONS

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

GOLDEN CHARTER PRE PAYMENT PLAN

**01905 748811**



*INDEPENDENT & LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS  
OFFERING*

*EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD*

*TO THIS COMMUNITY and SURROUNDING AREAS*

The Coach House, 30 Bromyard Road, Worcester. WR2 5BT.



## *Summary of the PCC meeting held on 24th March*

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

**Accounts:** The PCC approved the 2020 Accounts as submitted. They will be finally approved and adopted by the PCC by correspondence (subject to being audited by Grahame Lucas). Chris Rees was thanked for the huge amount of work involved in putting the accounts together.

**Churchwardens' Annual Fabric Report:** The PCC approved this. Gordon Templeton will speak to the Ringing Master about getting the bells checked before they are rung again.

**Safeguarding:** The PCC were updated about the safeguarding training which PCC members (C0), children's leaders (C1), churchwardens (C1 and C2) and ALMS (C2) must undertake. An updated Safeguarding Policy was approved. A Safeguarding Action Plan must be compiled, kept up-to-date and implemented. Some Little Lambs helpers may need a DBS check. Amy Rees is hoping to restart Little Lambs after Easter. The Covid and normal risk assessments need to be up to date for this activity.

**APCM:** This will be held on Sunday 23rd May at 11.30am (following the 10.30am service). All APCMs must be complete before the end of May. Phil is awaiting guidance on how this can take place online and in person. There are 5 vacancies on the PCC (2021-2024) and 1 vacancy as Deanery Synod Representative (2021-2023). The plan for the revision of the Electoral Roll was approved.

**The Flat** is empty following the sad death of the tenant. The agent will do an assessment of what is needed to re-let the flat. The PCC were in favour of going ahead with what they recommend.

**Future Online Provision:** With the current Roadmap it is hoped that church services will continue to open up and online provision will be scaled back, with services being entirely in person by June. A thank you to be sent to Philip Evans for all his hard work in facilitating the online services. The need for continuing some online service provision will be investigated as well as the cost of equipment to do so without relying solely on one person.

**Team:** Details regarding the proposed pastoral reorganisations were previously circulated. Any objections need to be lodged by midnight on 4th May. It is hoped that the new Pastoral Scheme will be approved by the Church Commissioners by the end of 2021.

*Continued on page 35*



**HOME. There's no place like it.**

**Being able to live at home can be one of the most important comforts in an older person's life and because family and friends can't always be there, Home Instead Senior Care are here to help in your area.**

Our Award winning Services Include:

- Companionship
- Light housekeeping
- Local transportations and errands
- Meal preparation
- Convalescence support
- Shopping
- Personal care
- Specialist dementia and Alzheimer's care *and much more...*

For us nothing is more important than providing a convenient and reliable care solution that works for everyone, from an hour to full time cover.

**For an informal, no obligation chat to discuss your needs, OR if you feel you have the right qualities to become one of our CAREGivers please call: *Samantha Smith on 01905 420404.***



Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

*Continued from page 33.*

**Deanery:** The new larger deaneries came into effect from 1st February. St Johns is now part of Worcester Deanery. There are concerns amongst Chapter about whether individual voices will be heard in a deanery that is so large.

**Diocesan communications:** An email was received from the diocese thanking us for paying parish share of £45k last year. This is not 100% as we did not make the final deadline for 2020 Parish Share payments, but the arrears have now been cleared in full. An email came from Jonathan Kimber about Living in Love and Faith (LLF) and will be circulated to PCC members.

**Churchyard:** Through a Facebook post, two people have come forward to help Colin Nash in maintaining the church grounds. They have already spent 2/3 hours working with him in the garden and they have a friend who is a garden designer who is also planning to help. Worcester City Council have assigned the churchyard to the West Worcester Parks Scheme. Thank you to Colin for all his hard work in keeping the church grounds looking so good.

**Charitable Pots:** The small Charitable Pots totalling £7k have finally been extracted from the diocese. Chris Rees asked for suggestions of where this money could be spent. Suggestions were a monthly donation to the Foodbank and asking Christopher Whitehead School to help us reach people who could benefit from some help.

The meeting finished at approximately 7.30pm with everyone saying The Grace.

*PCC minutes by Liz Edwards (PCC Secretary)*

*Summarised by Graham Evans (PCC Member)*

---

## *Food for thought*

Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is a gift – is that why we call it the present?

Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.

The person who gives an impression of knowing everything has an awful lot to learn.

A patient had his second dose of vaccine at the GP surgery. Shortly afterwards he began to have blurred vision and struggled to get home.

He rang the surgery and asked if he should go straight to the hospital for help. He was told NOT to go to the hospital, but instead to return at once....

....to pick up his glasses.

# Jobs Done

**Interior Exterior Property Maintenance  
Painting - Decorating - Tiling - Brickwork  
Fencing - Pruning - Paving - Decking**

*No Job Too Small*

**Colin Davis**

**Tel: 07767 025 574**

**Office: 01905 452 950**



## **Footnotes UK**

**Racheal Sharman BSc (Hons) MChs,  
Podiatrist/Chiropodist HCPC reg. CH14966**

**174A London Road**

**WORCESTER**

**WR5 2EJ**

### **How we can help**

- **General foot care**
- **Diabetic assessments**
- **Heel/foot and leg pain**
- **Orthotics/biomechanical assessments**
- **Acupuncture / strapping/ therapeutic ultrasound for pain**

**Telephone for appointments      01905 360079 / Mob: 07974 650 775**

**Email: [info@footnotesuk.co.uk](mailto:info@footnotesuk.co.uk)**

**Book online by visiting [www.footnotesuk.co.uk](http://www.footnotesuk.co.uk)**

## *Churches in our (new) deanery*

As you know, our Deanery has recently merged with Worcester East and a Droitwich benefice to create the Worcester Deanery. To help people get to know the other churches in the new deanery, a member of the Deanery Synod, Paul Fulbrook, has begun to write a series saying a little about each church in the deanery, and has kindly agreed that we may use them in this magazine.

*The editors*

St John Baptist, Claines, commonly referred to as “Claines”. It was originally a chapelry annexed to St Helen’s in Worcester.

Claines is not in the Domesday Book but the first Bishop of Worcester passed through the parish in 680 and it is said that a ‘close connection’ between Claines and the bishopric began then. Claines was a large parish area to the north of Worcester and has since been divided up many times. Perhaps its greatest attraction for the visitor is the 600-year-old Mug House ‘public house’ within the churchyard grounds and apparently this is only one of two such occurrences in England.

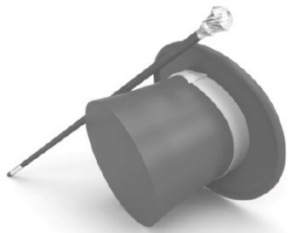
Bishop Wulstan was the builder of the first church (originally called the church at Northwick) probably between 1075 and 1095. The River Salwarpe (from Droitwich) passes through the parish as does one of the ‘Salt Roads’.

Parish Share (or Tithes) was clearly a contentious matter all that time ago and Bishop William de Blois apparently was quite cantankerous about it, dividing up the dues owed to the mother church of St Helen’s between himself and the Prior at the Cathedral. A chaplain was employed from about 1274 whereas before that date priests were sent out from Worcester.

One of the ways of making money for the church was brewing a ‘wake ale’, sold on a Festival Sunday. Apparently from Saxon times Claines was a good place for a party!

The church? Almost nothing of the original Wulstan Church remains. An old coffin slab being used to pave the floor is probably pre 13th C. The re-building of the Norman Church was probably 15th C though there are some strange ‘squints’ that may be older. Standing on the top of the tower shows the hodgepodge of rooves making up former chantries. I will be careful what I say about Aston Webb who ‘improved’ the building in Victorian times... Of particular note if you ever come to visit, have a look at the rather splendid Jesse Tree mosaic floor in the Chancel. As with most elderly church buildings there is always more to find.

*Paul Fulbrook*



# Worcester Funeral Service

## 01905 23499

Independent Family Funeral Directors



Craig is available 24 hours a day.  
Please call for any assistance.

Golden Charter   
Funeral Plans



Kilbury Drive, Worcester, WR5 2NE

[WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk](http://WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk)

# MARVELLOUS MAY AT ST JOHN'S LIBRARY



## Opening Times:

- Monday: 9am - 5.00pm
- Tuesday: 9am - 5.00pm
- Wednesday: 9am - 5.00pm
- Thursday: 9am - 5.00pm
- Friday: 9am - 5.00pm
- Saturday: 9am - 4.00pm

## WHAT YOUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY HAS TO OFFER!

- **browse shelves** and borrow books using self-service kiosks
- return books
- pre-book public computers
- printer/scanning and photocopier facilities
- pre-book a desk in the beautiful gallery for study and/or wi-fi access
- place reservations (80p charge applies per book).
- Reserve children's book bundles free of charge.
- New Stock Alert!
- Jigsaw Swap! Lots of choice on offer!
- Home Delivery Service!

Worcestershire Libraries are the home of Business and IP Centre (BIPC) Worcestershire, providing free and accessible business advice, support, information and resources you can trust to help you on your business journey.

Whether you're just starting out, need advice on protecting your assets, or are ready to take the next step in your business journey, Business and IP Centre Worcestershire can help. For further information please go to <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/BIPC>

For further details and the latest updates please go to [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries)

Track and Trace is in place as you enter the library along with social distancing and hygiene measures..

**Please note, it is mandatory to wear a face covering when visiting a library.**

Address: Glebe Close, St John's, Worcester WR2 5AX

Tel. no. 01905 822722 for enquiries.

Email Address: [StJohnsLib@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:StJohnsLib@worcestershire.gov.uk)





**GRAB YOUR FREE  
CONSULTATION TODAY**

No Obligation

**30  
MINUTES**

**Whatever your  
denture needs or your  
budget, we can help!**

**Do your dentures**

- need attention because they have become loose?
- the teeth or base has become discoloured?
- the teeth surfaces are flat?
- cause you to develop deep lines around your mouth?
- cause your chin to stick out and the corners of your mouth are wet and sore?

**We are proud to offer the  
following services at  
affordable prices:**

- Complete full upper and lower dentures
- Chrome cobalt dentures
- Partial dentures
- Relines
- Addition of missing teeth

**>> Express denture repairs in 90 minutes <<**

**Clinical expertise** - Bob Binnersley (B.D.S) GDC No: 41274 is the qualified dental surgeon working with award winning dental technicians at Ceroplast Digital Laboratory. Our practice ensures the very best craftsmanship, leaving you with a renewed self confidence and naturally winning smile.



Disabled Friendly  
with Parking

[www.designer-smiles.com](http://www.designer-smiles.com)

**Ceroplast Dental Laboratory**  
**01905 741814 or 425151**



11 Bromyard Terrace, St Johns, Worcester WR2 5BW

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers



*From the magazine archive (May 1952)*

### **EASTER DECORATIONS**

PARISHIONERS tell me that the Church has never looked more beautiful than at Easter 1952. I agree with this, and it is a big statement, for the standard of decoration is higher than I have ever seen at any church. Possibly we have a great advantage in so far as our congregation is so large and gifts were showered upon us. The newly-erected floral containers on the window ledges in the south aisle were a great improvement—a tremendously good effect was made there this year. Thank you all so much for your gifts of lovely flowers, and thank you, Mrs. Lancey (Hon. Secretary) and your helpers of men and women, who spent the greater part of Saturday in the process of decoration. Here was yet another example of Christian love and devotion. I wish I could mention you all by name, but you know that your kindness was appreciated by the congregation, and I am sure “God loved your gifts”.

#### *The Vicar looks back at Easter:*

I am told by a large number of persons that the Three Hours' Service of Devotion on Good Friday was a real help. We thank the Vicar of Malvern for those helpful addresses. On the evening of Good Friday we all joined in the singing of Passion Music which was interspersed with readings on the Passion—members of the congregation read the appropriate passages. Sidney Fudger (senior choir boy), Mr. Llechid Williams and Mr. John Rayment gave solos. We can never forget the inspiring moment as the choir moved up the nave and the two leading choir boys opened up the first verse of “When I survey the wondrous cross”. I actually received seventeen letters of appreciation with regard to this service, besides many vocal expressions of the beauty of the service which had been arranged by Mr. Williams and Mr. Protheroe.

Then we moved on to Easter Day. There were five hundred and fifty-one communicants. It was a great joy to see line after line of communicants—coming to receive the Blessed Sacrament in humility and perfect faith. Dr. Shepherd came over from the Cathedral to help me—and what a help! It reminded us both of our happy days at Dudley when we worked together for nearly five years. On Easter Day, as ever, the Message of “Faith Triumphant” came right home to us. Let us go forward with that message always in our mind and heart—determined “to live our lives day by day as those who believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting”. J.M.

## SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

<i>Pick up at St John's</i>
-------------------------------------

<i>Pick up at St Michael's</i>
--

**(£5) I will pick up my magazine from the church whose box I have ticked**  
 (subscribers' magazines are put out at the back of church,  
 usually from the 4th Sunday of the preceding month).

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

**(£16.75) I live outside St John's and need my magazine to be posted.**  
 Postage and Packing costs £11.75 (based on Large Letter, 2nd class postage)

**Your details:**

Title:

.....

Forename:

.....

Surname:

.....

Email

address:

.....

Address (including post code):

		Total
Magazine subscription (as above)	£5 / £16.75	
Additional Donation (if applicable)		
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		

**Send your payment** in an envelope, or as a cheque made payable to St. Johns Parish Church, with this completed form to The Parish Office, 1A Bromyard Road, Worcester WR2 5BS. **Or, to pay by bank transfer**, please email [parishmagazine@wcv.church](mailto:parishmagazine@wcv.church) to give your name and address details, and you will be given a reference number. Then make a bank transfer to the following account:

Account number: 64670460

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.



*Please make your money worth 25% more!*

*Please tick:*

I want St. John-in-Bedwardine Parish Church to treat the enclosed donation as shown in the Grand Total box above, as a Gift Aid donation.

**You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).**

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



## *Puzzle solutions*

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

*And finally....*



*“...I wonder if I could have a quick word with the flower arrangers at the end of this service...?”*

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



## Sunday Services in the West Worcester Group - May 2021

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
<b>2nd May</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5pm See below **	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>9th May</b>	10.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Eucharist
<b>16th May</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5pm See below **	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist
<b>23rd May</b>	10.30am Eucharist	9.30am Eucharist	4pm Evening Prayer	10.30am Morning Prayer
<b>30th May</b>	<b>10am Group service at St John's</b>			
<b>6th June</b>	10.30am Eucharist 5pm See below **	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Eucharist	10.30am Eucharist

**\*\* Streamed services.** Please contact the clergy for them to email you a 'link' to attend via the internet.

At 5pm on the dates shown there will be a streamed service (no congregation) of Evening Prayer with hymns.