St. Philip & St. James Parish Church Whittington Parish News





February 2023

www.whittingtonchurch.co.uk

50p

St Philip and St James' Parish Church, Whittington

A Ninth Century Chapel rebuilt in 1844

In the Worcester South East Team

St Philip & St James Whittington and St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

Vicar The Rev'd Andy Stand 01905 358150

Church Officers for Whittington

Churchwardens: Miss Janet Pearson 01905 357485
Miss Jayne Rayer 01905 351344
Asst. Warden: Mrs Brenda Giles 01905 25709
Organist:
Hon Secretary: Mrs Liz McKinnon 07803 600807
Email: lizziemck@rocketmail.com
Hon Treasurer: Mrs Brenda Giles 01905 25709
Safeguarding Officer: Mr Ian McKinnon 07710 558234
Elizabethan Room bookings coordinator:
Mrs Caroline Mayfield 01905 764822
Email: caroline.mayfield40@gmail.com
Magazine Editor: David Chestney 01905 359708
Email: david.battenhall@outlook.com

St. Martin with St. Peter

Team Rector: Rev'd Peter Hart 01905 355119
Curate

Holy Trinity & St Matthew Ronkswood

Vicar Rev'd Rob Farmer

Readers in the Team:
Mr Mike Bunclark

Team Administrator:
Rebecca Caskie: Team Office, St Martins Church,
London Road, Worcester WR5 2ED
Tel: 01905 358083
email: worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com

For enquiries about Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Marriages and Blessings, please contact the Team Administrator as above.

The Team Office at St Martin's is open on Tues, Thurs & Friday, visits ideally should continue to be by appointment.

In This Issue

Front Cover	1
Team Details	2
Index	3
Letter from the Vicarage for February	4/5
On-line Video Services and the Coronation 2023	6
Another one joins the Octogenarians & Parish Register	7
What's on at Whittington for February and March	8
A life With Africa - Talk by David Tibbutt	9
Whittington Parish Council	10
Whittington Community Hall	11
The Elizabethan Room & Being bored is good for you?	12
Adverts	13/21
Bishop of Dudley's New Year Message	22
Rev Dr Robin Parry's new appointent	23
Whittington Lent Appeal	24
The Season Of Lent - Lent Groups	25
Discovering the double helix of DNA	26
Looking back on the space shuttle Columbia	27
The unlikely patron saint of television	28
Ukraine one year on	29
News & Views from St. Mark's Church	30/31/32/33
The very first Valentine card - a legend	34
Remembering the Munich air disaster	35
Back Cover - Flooded tree at Slimbridge	36

Judgement?

This true story concerns the visit of a visiting preacher to a little village chapel… 'He was a few minutes into his sermon when, without warning, about twenty square feet of thick and decayed Victorian plaster fell from high on one wall and crashed into a group of empty pews below. As the dense fog of dust began to settle, and it became clear no one was injured, the minister prepared to resume his sermon.

Then he paused, and looked heavenward and in a slightly pained voice, asked: "Was it something I said?""

Letter from the Vicarage

February 23



Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing? I trust you are keeping well and recovered from any over indulgence during the Christmas holiday.

In terms of the church's calendar, what I like to call the Greater Christmas season (Advent, Christmas and Epiphany), draws to its close, this month. The celebration of the Feast of Candlemas, (alternatively called the Presentation of Christ at the Temple) takes place on 2nd February and marks the end of the Epiphany season.

Candlemas, is 40 days after Christmas; and we remember, that in accordance with the custom of the day, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, 40 days after his birth, so that Mary could be ritually 'purified' after the bloodshed of having given birth!

It is probably the closest thing in Jesus' life to our services of *Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child*, or infant baptism.

Just beyond the middle of the month, on 22nd February, we begin the season of Lent; the season of forty days of self-denial, self-examination and preparation for Easter. We begin with our services for Ash Wednesday, and we will hear again the words, "Remember, that you are dust, and to dust you shall return; turn away from your sin and remain faithful to Christ."

So, we have an ending, and a beginning, and 19 days in between.

In many ways, life as a whole is like that: we have a beginning: our births; and we will have an ending: our deaths; and life is the adventure of filling the bit in between.

Life is the gift of God, given to us all at our conceptions; death is the gift of God, given to us all as a call to abide in His presence surrounded by His love, for eternity; and the days in between are given to us that we may grow in our relationship with one another, and with God.

On one of the Sundays, in that in between time, we hear the story of Jesus' transfiguration, when with three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, Jesus is led up a mountain and his appearance changes such that his face shines like the sun and his clothes become dazzling white. Moses and Elijah, two of the Old Testament prophets also appear on the mountain top with them and God speaks endorsing Jesus as His beloved son.

At whatever stage of the adventure, you find yourself to be in, at the moment; whatever point in your relationships with others; whatever point in your relationship with God; remember we are all beloved children of God, and should take confidence in that and in Him.

Stay safe everyone.

Every blessing



LIVE ON-LINE VIDEO SERVICES

For all churches in the South East Team

Churches in the Team are open for public worship but we are continuing to meet for worship during the week using the zoom app downloadable from the zoom.us website. To join one of the services please email the host who will send you a link:

Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday at 8.30 a.m. *hosted by Mike Bunclark (mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk)*

Compline: Monday to Friday at 8.30 p.m. *hosted by Mike Bunclark*

Monday Prayer Meeting: 4.00 p.m. *hosted by Joan Hazzard (*joanhazz@gmail.com*)*

Virtual 'Yew Brew' Coffee Morning: Saturday at 11.00 a.m. *hosted by Andy Stand*

Prayers for Peace and Justice: Saturday at 12 noon *hosted by Joan Hazzard*

For enquiries about Whittington please email the Vicar
andy.stand@sky.com
Sunday Services at 11.00 am will be streamed from Whittington on Zoom.

Coronation 2023

The church is planning a special service for celebration of the coronation on Sunday 7th May with an exhibition of memorabilia of past coronations in the church.

As a part of this, memories of the last coronation in 1963 are invited and would be welcome, to be included in the exhibition or in a future issue of this magazine.

From the Parish Register at Whittington

* * * *

Funeral & Burial
27th January 2023
William Bruce Hodgkins

Another one joins the Octogenarians!



Brenda Giles celebrated her eightieth birthday before Christmas; she said "It was a truly memorable 80th birthday - a huge thank you to all my friends at Whittington and my family for giving me such a lovely birthday. My flowers were beautiful and I will find the garden voucher very useful, there is always something I want for the garden.

I was so pleased that so many were able to raise a glass with me and sample some cake and nibbles; I kept being congratulated by folks who were unable to attend but had some cake.

A big thank you to Janet for the pictures she took on the day. I have had two of them made into photos and framed them. I feel truly blessed to have such friends and many cards from far and wide. I will remember my 80th for many days and years to come."
Brenda



Take time for yourself……..

All too often modern man becomes the plaything of his circumstances because he no longer has any leisure time; he doesn't know how to provide himself with the leisure he needs to stop and take a good look at himself. - *Michel Quoist*

What's on at Whittington February & March 2023

Sunday 5th February 3 before Lent
11.00.am Parish Communion
3.30pm Forest Church

Sunday 12th February 2 before Lent
11.00am Family Service

Sunday 19th February Next before Lent
11.00am Parish Communion

Sunday 26th February Lent 1
11,00am Family Communion

Saturday 4th March
10.15am Yew Brew re-opens
11.00am 'A Life with Africa' Lecture by Dr David Tibbutt

Sunday 5th March Lent 2
11.00am Parish Communion
3,30pm Forest Church

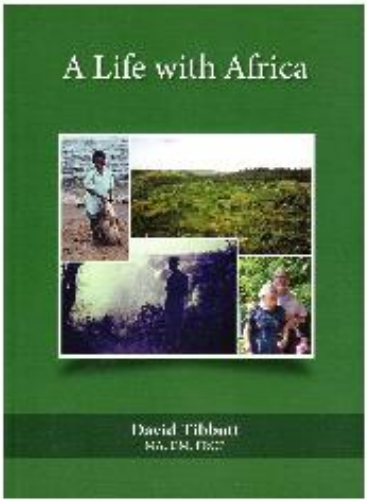
Tuesday 7th March
6.30pm PCC Meeting (Virtual)

Sunday 12th March Lent 3
11.00am Family Service

Sunday 19th March Mothering Sunday
11.00am Family Service

St Philip & St James' Church
Church Lane, Whittington, WR5 2RQ

Saturday 4 March at 11.00am



An illustrated talk by Dr David Tibbutt on his experiences in medicine with Africa, particularly Uganda

Refreshments served from 10.30am
at the Yew Brew coffee morning in the Elizabethan Room

Free entry, donations welcome
www.whittingtonchurch.co.uk

The young person who worked so hard to graduate later wonders what the hurry was.

Whittington Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Tuesday the 24th of January. Including the attendance of our County and District councillors there was a good turnout of parishioners. The Parish Council welcomed new councillor Chris Mayo who lives on Wildmore part of the parish.

A number of planning applications were considered by the council. A number of concerns were raised regarding the road network within the Parish. Our County Councillor, Linda Robinson, hopes to arrange a meeting between the Council and the Highways authorities so concerns, especially those of Road and pedestrian safety, can be discussed.

The Chairman urged parishioners to read the report prepared by the Joint Parishes Committee to the Government Planning Inspector in respect of the South Worcestershire Development Plan, a copy of which can be found on the Whittington Parish Council website.

The next Parish Council meeting is in the community hall at 7.30pm Tuesday 28th February.

Parish Council matters can be found on our website whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk and facebook.com/Whittington.

Information regarding the work of the Parish Council, details of the next meeting or minutes of previous meetings, can be found through the following ; Clerk to the Council David Hunter-Miller, 35 Benbow Close, Malvern Wells, WR14 4JJ,
email clerk@whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk
Tel 07513 122918 Website whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk
facebook.com/whittingtonpc

Yew Brew in the Church Elizabethan Room
Will resume on 4th March 2023

Community Hall Update

Following a very successful "Winter Warmer" community event on 26th November, the next event is a coffee morning on February 11th

Community Coffee Morning

11th February 2023 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
Tea, Coffee and light refreshments

Displays by local Community Groups including the Church, Councillor Rob Adams of Wychavon District Council and representatives of users of the Hall

Come and see the History of Whittington and the Doomsday Book!

The website **whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk** has full information on the facilities and booking, which can be done online.



Whittington Community Hall Management Committee

whittingtonvhc@gmail.com

Responsible for managing, maintaining, developing and running the Community hall.

WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
good services, good value

The Elizabethan Room for Meetings



The Elizabethan Room is now fully operational and is available for meetings of up to 12/15 people. Details and conditions of use are given on the church website, or at the Church, along with an application form. This can be sent to the bookings coordinator, Mrs Caroline Mayfield, email:

caroline.mayfield40@gmail.com or telephone 01905 764822

Being bored is good for you?!

Being bored is a good thing – in fact, it can stimulate you to greater creativity. But keeping boredom at bay with endless scrolling on social media will ensure that your creativity is stifled.

So say researchers at Bath University. They warn that endlessly distracting yourself to avoid "superficial boredom" has the effect of preventing your mind from entering the deeper state of "profound boredom." In this state of malaise, you are in "existential discomfort" which in turn can stimulate you on to develop new passions and skills.

As one researcher explained: "This research has given us a window to understand how the 'always-on', 24/7 culture and devices that promise an abundance of information and entertainment may be fixing our 'superficial boredom,' but are actually preventing us from finding more meaningful things.

"Profound boredom may sound like an overwhelmingly negative concept but, in fact, it can be intensely positive if people are given the chance for undistracted thinking and development."

The new study was published in the journal "Marketing Theory".

Prepared?

I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the ordeal of meeting me is another matter. - *Winston Churchill, on his 75th birthday.*

Welcome to a new year of adverts

Please have a good look through these pages. You may find some of our regular ads have moved or are looking different.

If you contact any of these businesses, please tell them you found their advert in this magazine. Inclusion of any advert cannot be taken as a recommendation, but many readers have been very happy with the services advertised here. Please do pass on any feedback you may have.

arrangeMY

ESCAPE

Award winning independent travel agency



Putting the customer at the heart of everything we do.
We are a family run independent travel agency, we listen, care and find you the perfect holiday. Including our award winning service at no extra cost!

Location
12 Mealcheapen Street,
Worcester,
WR1 2DH

Contact
01905 675015
Worcester@arrangemyescape.com
www.arrangemyescape.com

Follow



WILLIAM JUPE

Photo restoration

"I was completely taken aback by the quality of repair demonstrated on your website. I had no idea such things were possible."

Dr David Cooper

WWW.RESTORINGGLORY.CO.UK | 01905 317713 | HAMILTON RD.

JDS Electrical

For all your electrical needs
Fully qualified and insured

Jon Hall
07528 183057
STROMA CERTIFIED
jds.electrical@outlook.com

JIM'LL FIX IT
Handyman Service

Painting & Decorating, Tiling, Laminate Flooring
Door Hanging, Furniture Assembly, Shed Felting
Gutter Soffits & Fascias - Clean/Replace/Repair
Garden Clearance, Hedge & Tree Cutting, Mowing
Fencing, Fence Painting, Pressure Washing

I promise a fast, friendly, reliable service, 7 days a week
Fully Insured · References available



01905 424945 / 07912 879214

Andy Lee Electrician

Registered NAPIT Part P

Testing
Inspection
Fault Finding

Servicing
Installations
Replacements

Telephone for Quotes:
01905 356945 or 07879 427571

Dynamic Carpet Cleaning
carpet and upholstery specialist



- local business
- competitive prices
- great results

James Pullen
07713 444044
dynamic-cleaning@hotmail.com

LOCKSMITH & DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS

Replacement Glass Units · Hinges · Lock Cylinders
Multi-Point Locks · Handles · Garage Door Repairs

No Call Out Fees · Free Quotes · Over 20 years' experience - no job too big or small

AS Locks & Services.

www.aslocksandservices.co.uk
07956 371673
01905 726671

NNAL National Network of Approved Locksmiths

Are Your Locks Behaving Badly?

Have Your Door & Window Locks Become Hard to Open or Close?
Book a "Check a Lock, Fix a Lock" Service Call

All Locks Opened, Serviced, Supplied & Fitted, Doors Adjusted & Realigned
Double Glazed UPVC Door & Window Multi-Point Lock Repair Specialist
With No Call Out Charge & Free Onsite Estimates - Call Stewart

THE LOCKSMITH

01905 570 999 www.locksmithworcestershire.co.uk 07871 44 20 11
Your Local Reliable Independent Locksmith

GLM Property Maintenance

- Traditional Window Cleaning
- All aspects of Repointing
- Fascias & Gutters (Repairs & Renewal)
- Driveways & Patios (Installation & Cleaning)
- Roof & Solar Panel Cleaning
- Cowl & Pot Fitting and Repointing
- Roofing
- Fencing & Landscape Gardening
- Hedge & Tree Cutting
- House & Garden Clearances
- Rubbish Removals
- Painting & Decorating
- Grave Restorations and Cleaning

Fully insured and licensed waste carrier
No job is too big or too small!
Call for a free quote today!

07399 024702
01905 864172

GLMServices18@gmail.com

GLM

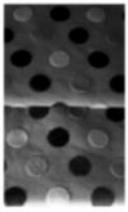
We're on Yell.com

Like us on Facebook!
@GLMServices18

Curtains by Kirsty

Made to measure curtains,
Roman blinds & soft furnishings

- Handmade finish
- Friendly, professional service
- Attention to detail
- No obligation quote



Contact me today
07872 441702
kirsty.kessell@hotmail.co.uk

Find us on: facebook

severnvale

WINDOWS | DOORS | CONSERVATORIES

LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS
with over 25 years experience

- Quality Upvc Windows & Doors
- Bespoke Upvc Conservatories
- Full planning & free CAD design services
- Misted & failed glass units replaced
- Stunning Composite Doors
- Energy A rated Windows

10 year insurance backed guarantee

Firestone RubberCover Roofing Made Easy

FENSA Registered Company

+ Installers of Firestone EPDM Rubber Roofing - join free roofing solution for flat roofs with a 50+ year life expectancy

Contact us for a free no obligation quote

01905 630677
www.severn-vale.co.uk

D·A·R

(MALVERN)

DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS

103 Worcester Road
Link Top, Malvern, Worcs
WR14 1EP

Tel: 01684 572151

We sell and repair all makes of

Washing machines
Dishwashers
Refrigeration
Built in ovens
Cookers
Microwaves
Tumble Dryers

Worcestershire Foot Health Care

Treatment in the comfort of your own home

Professional treatment of
Corns · Callus
Cracked Nails
Ingrowing Toe Nails
Athletes Foot · Verrucas
Diabetic Foot Care
Reflexology

Jayne Auger
Registered Foot Health Practitioner
SAC. Dip. RFHP IHHP

07531 294564
jayneauger66@icloud.com

HELPING YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Your Local Funeral Professionals

- Local experts creating Traditional, Colourful and Natural funerals to meet all personal requirements
- Available 24 hours a day providing the highest levels of service with compassion and respect
- Our caring, respectful and professional services start from just £995



A V BAND
41 St Nicholas Street, Worcester WR1 1UW
Tel: 01905 22892

1 Malvern Road, Worcester WR2 4LE
Tel: 01905 472272

23 St Andrews Street, Droitwich WR9 8DY
Tel: 01905 794675

HOLLANDS
71 Barnards Green Road, Malvern WR14 3LS
Tel: 01684 575343

MALCOLM J PRESLAND
19 High Street, Upton-upon-Severn WR8 0HJ
Tel: 01684 592393

1 High Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5AH
Tel: 01684 297376

For further information please visit:
www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/local

DIGNITY
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Part of Dignity plc
A British company

Dignity®
CARING FUNERAL SERVICES

Bedwardine Funeral Services





A Caring and Sensitive Service • Available 24 Hours a Day
Private Chapel of Rest • Pre-paid Funeral Plans Available

The Coach House, 30 Bromyard Road, St John's, Worcester WR2 5BT

01905 748811

www.bedwardinefuneralservices.co.uk

E. J. GUMERY & SON
Funeral Directors

- Independent, Family Funeral Directors
- Established *1870*
- Private Chapels
- Floral Tributes
- Pre-Payment Plans
- Helpful & Efficient Personal Service

National Association of Funeral Directors Est 1905

Tel: 01905 22094
24 HOURS

68, 70 & 72 Ombersley Road
Worcester WR3 7EU

www.ejgumery.co.uk
Email: info@ejgumery.co.uk

Worcester
Funeral Service
01905 23499

Independent Family Funeral Directors

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



NATIONAL SAIF INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Unit 6, Kilbury Drive
Worcester, WR5 2NE

Golden Charter Funeral Plans

WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk



GoodOaks
Quality Care at Home

COVID SECURE

Good Oaks' award-winning home care enables you to stay safe and independent at home.

From 30-minute visits to 24-hour live-in care our simple, surprisingly affordable prices ensure you only pay for what you need.

Call or email us to find out more

01905 950409

worcester@goodoakshomecare.co.uk

goodoakshomecare.co.uk/worcester

LATIMER COURT

BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE

Care as unique as you are

Latimer Court Care Home provides tailored care in supportive surroundings.

Call **01905 401 841** to find out how we can help.

Darwin Avenue, Worcester, WR5 1SP · Barchester.com/Latimer



Looking for support at home?

With over 30 years' experience in caring for people within their own home, and a commitment to using only directly employed carers, we have the expertise to provide the best care possible from 30 minutes to full-time live-in care.

Looking for care? Call 01905 676981
www.helpinghands.co.uk



HOME CARE SERVICES

HOME CARE CLIENTS

LEARNING DISABILITY UNITS

NURSING AND RESIDENTIAL HOMES

01905 770110 info.central@civicare.co.uk
@civicare @civicaredroitwich

Whiston Court
Worcester



High-quality apartments for older people.

Available to buy or rent.

Join our close-knit and welcoming community to make loneliness a thing of the past.

Our modern and spacious one-and two-bedroom apartment living packages include the reassurance of 24/7 on-site support, a daily cooked meal, weekly domiciliary help and even all of your own personal utilities, all for one affordable monthly fee.

Brought to you by Abbeyfield Worcester and Hereford Ltd, a charity committed to making time for older people.

Call **01905 317850** or visit **abbeyfieldwandh.co.uk** to find out more.

Abbeyfield
Making time for older people

Part of the Abbeyfield family.



GoodOaks
Quality Care at Home

COVID SECURE

Good Oaks' award-winning home care enables you to stay safe and independent at home.

From 30-minute visits to 24-hour live-in care our simple, surprisingly affordable prices ensure you only pay for what you need.

Call or email us to find out more

01905 950409

worcester@goodoakshomecare.co.uk

goodoakshomecare.co.uk/worcester



Your care matters

with Latimer Court Care Home

Our home is a place where people matter, where care is uncompromising, and where every individual is valued as a true one-off.

These are the things that mean the most. And because they matter to you, they matter to us.

Call to find out how we can help:

01905 401 841

LATIMER COURT
BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE

barchester.com

Darwin Avenue, Worcester, WR5 1SP



- Specialising in airport transfers and long distance journeys
- Full day hire, sporting events
- 1-8 seater vehicles available
- All our vehicles have free wifi and complimentary bottled water on all long distance trips

Telephone 01905 672078
Mobile 07582 120016
www.executivetravelworcestershire.co.uk
email: landmexecutivetravel@gmail.com

TOLLADINE
Service Station

Quality car servicing and repair at competitive prices

- Family run business
- Established over 40 years
- Qualified and experienced team
- Professional and personal service
- Friendly, fast and efficient
- Competitive on price
- Collect and deliver service (within the area)

Tolladine Road, Worcester WR4 9AZ
01905 24213
tolladiness@btconnect.com
www.tolladine-servicestation.co.uk

Airora Tansells

- MOT
- REPAIRS
- SERVICING
- BREAKDOWNS
- TYRES
- EXHAUSTS
- BODYSHOP
- VALETING

24 HOURS 7 DAYS

Tel: 01905 353666 Fax: 01905 356518
email: sales@airora-tansells.co.uk • web: www.airora-tansells.co.uk

TRY A LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS FOR ALL YOUR SERVICING, REPAIRS & MOTS

SPECIAL OFFER WITH THIS ADVERT

MOT **£35**

SERVICE AND MOT SPECIAL
£120 inc VAT

- **FREE** TYRE CHECKS
- **FREE** BATTERY CHECKS
- **FREE** BODYWORK ESTIMATES

FREE DIAGNOSTIC CHECK WITH **EVERY** FULL SERVICE!!

ALBION GARAGES, 8 DIGLIS ROAD, WORCESTER, WR5 3BP
Just 3 minutes from Town Centre

A BLACKCIRCLES PREMIER GARAGE
BLACKCIRCLES.COM Tyres locally for less

FREE COURTESY CAR - **FREE** QUOTATION - **FREE** PARKING
24HR-TYRELINE 07713 631193

The Bishop of Dudley's New Year (and very topical) message



Happy New Year! Amidst all the challenges this New Year brings, I pray that you may know the amazing love in which you are held by God. New Year's Day 2023 marks the 250th anniversary of the famous hymn, Amazing Grace.

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found.
Was blind but now I see.

Written by The Revd John Newton, it seems unremarkable until you discover that before he was ordained John Newton had been a sea captain. Not only that but he had been a part of the infamous slave trade. He took goods from England to West Africa to trade for African men, women and children, who were then shipped in barbaric conditions to the West Indies, where those who had survived the Atlantic crossing were sold to plantation owners.

Newton would have cleaned up his ship after its human cargo and filled the hold with sugar and rum to bring back to England. It was such an accepted trade at the time that even after becoming a Christian Newton could see no way out of it at first. But God's call was strong, and eventually he became a Vicar, firstly in Olney where he wrote his famous hymn, and then in the City of London. Filled with disgust for his former life as a slave trader, Newton went on to become a leading Abolitionist, giving first hand evidence of the evil of that trade and helping to get it outlawed.

The hymn is perfect for New Year, as it looks back to the past and forward to the future. Always trusting in God's loving kindness, that reaches out to each one of us in love. The Amazing Grace, lived out in Jesus, that still has power to save, even 'a wretch' as John Newton called himself.

May that amazing love, the loving kindness of God be with you and surround your steps as you journey on, this new year, and always.

Bishop Martin



The Revd Dr Robin Parry is to be licensed to Worcester Cathedral as an Associate Priest.

He will have a remit for eco-spirituality, working to promote the Cathedral's ecological mission, with a special view to exploring the intersection of spirituality, worship, and ecology.

Since 2018 Robin has worked as a self-supporting assistant curate in the Worcester South East Team, ministering across four parishes in the city. We have seen Robin at Whittington a number of times and particularly in his role of leading Forest Church in the churchyard with his wife Carol.



Robin grew up in Merseyside and North Wales before studying for a BA hons in theology (Westminster College in Oxford) and an MA and PhD in Old Testament (University of Gloucestershire). He taught religious studies and philosophy at Worcester Sixth Form College (1991–2001) before moving on to work in publishing, first to run Paternoster Press (2001–2010) in Carlisle and then to be an editor for Wipf and Stock Publishers in the USA (2010–present). Publishing remains his full-time job. For a hobby he writes books and aspires to be a Doctor Who nerd.

Robin is married to Carol, a forest school teacher, and they have two daughters, Hannah and Jessica, plus a three-legged cat.

Whittington Lent Appeal 2023



The Lent Appeal this year will raise money for our partner Diocese in Peru. Please support the Appeal by collecting 'Jars of Change' through Lent and returning them after Easter. Bishop John visited the country at the end of 2022, and writes:

'Peru is a country of huge contrasts. A magnificent Pacific coastline is bordered by the driest desert in the world. That gives way to snow peaked Andes mountains and from there it is not far to the Amazon basin and the rain forests. We visited churches in Lima, which is on the coast, and then travelled high up into the mountains of Juliaca, which is just under 15,000 feet above sea level. The air is very thin there.

There are also stark contrasts among the people of Peru. There is wealth in Lima but the majority of the several million inhabitants live in shanty towns. Elsewhere the people are predominantly very poor. It is among them that the Anglican church predominantly ministers.



It was moving to visit and be offered hospitality in the poorest areas of Arequipa, at a food kitchen which we support financially. Money goes a long way there and donations from the churches in our diocese during Lent 2020 enabled it to continue during the pandemic. It is one of quite a few projects among the poor that the Diocese of Peru organises.

I am full of gratitude for all that I and the others in the group received whilst there and for all the good things we enjoy here. I am acutely aware of our cost-of-living crisis, but the poverty there is of a different order of magnitude: no running water or electricity, no work, no social security, no health care; enough food barely to survive. It's very humbling, and the need is enormous.'

The Season of Lent

in Worcester South East Team

"Prayer is the Christian's Vital Breath"

Stations of the Cross

Mondays *from* 27 February, 7.30pm
St Martin's Church

Prayer Workshops

exploring five different types of prayer as practised across the Church over the centuries, discovering the rich possibilities of silence, imagery, movement, music and Bible study

Tuesdays *from* 28 February, 2.00pm
Elizabethan Room, Whittington

Wednesdays *from* 1 March, 11.00am
St Martin's Lower Vestry (Undercroft)

Pilgrim Course – The Lord's Prayer

Part 2 of the study course that was followed in Lent 2022

Wednesdays *from* 1 March, 2.00 pm
Lincoln Green Community Room, Ronkswood

Everyone is welcome to join any of these groups. For further details, contact the Team Office: WorcesterSouthEastTeam@gmail.com or 01905 358083

Discovering the double-helix of DNA

Seventy years ago, on 28th February 1953, British scientist Francis Crick and American James D Watson announced that they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.

Crick described this as finding the secret of life, but his wife did not believe him, because he was "always saying things like that". Nevertheless the discovery was revolutionary, leading to huge advances in biology and genetics.

The breakthrough came from a mixture, it was said, of "intuition, persistence and luck": it was based on wide knowledge of different fields of science rather than their own experiments. Crick had a background in physics and x-ray crystallography, while Watson's speciality was viral and bacterial genetics.

They owed a great deal to the pioneering high resolution x-ray imagery of Rosalind Franklin who, being a woman, did not receive enough credit initially and who died in 1958 of cancer, before she could receive the Nobel Prize awarded to Crick, Watson and her colleague, Maurice Wilkins.

Watson and Crick's findings appeared in a one-page item, with the understated title *A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid*, in the British scientific weekly *Nature*. The impact of it was not felt immediately: it was not widely talked about until near the end of the 1950s.

Neither man was spiritually inclined. Crick, a humanist, was taken to church as a child by his parents, but by the age of 12 decided not to go any more as he preferred a scientific search for answers. Watson described himself as "an escapee from the Catholic religion".

I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be; but I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, 'By the grace of God I am what I am.' -
John Newton, former slave trader, *see page 22*

Looking back on the space shuttle Columbia

Twenty years ago, on 1st February 2003, the US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry, killing all seven astronauts.

It was the second space shuttle disaster after Challenger, which saw a catastrophic failure during launch in 1986. In both cases the "organisational culture" at NASA was blamed, because engineers' advice was ignored.

This second disaster led to the suspension of the space shuttle programme. Instead, US astronauts fly to the International Space Station on Russian Soyuz rockets or aboard commercial spacecraft.

The Columbia disaster was caused by a large piece of foam falling from an external tank and making a hole in the aircraft's wing during launch. This allowed gases to get into the shuttle during re-entry, causing its disintegration and the death of the astronauts, who almost certainly lost consciousness before the shuttle broke up.

It would have been possible to examine pictures of the breached wing and look at possible remedies before re-entry, but NASA officials declined the opportunity. The search for debris over 2,000 square miles took weeks. Some 84,000 pieces were eventually recovered – nearly 40 per cent of Columbia by weight. Enough human remains were found to identify all crew members by DNA.

Seven asteroids discovered in July 2001 were named after the astronauts. The landing site of the Mars rover Spirit was named Columbia Memorial Station, and it included a plaque to the Columbia crew. Many other memorials are in place elsewhere.

Love may be a fool's paradise, but it is the only paradise we know on this troubled planet. - *Robert Blatchford.*

The unlikely patron saint of television

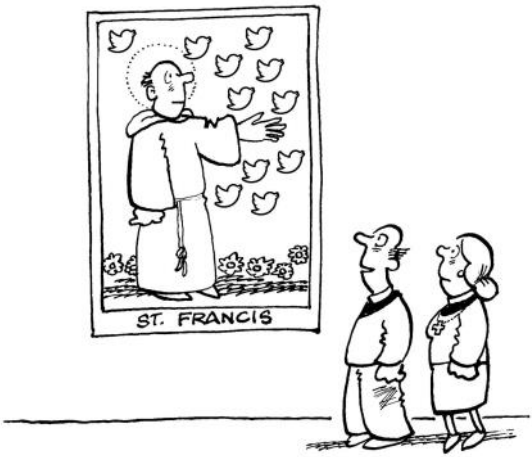
It was 65 years ago, on 17th February 1958, that St Clare of Assisi (1194-1253) was declared the patron saint of television by Pope Pius XII – on the basis that she had been too ill to attend Mass, but had still been able to see and hear it miraculously on the wall of her room.

St Clare was born Chiara Offreduccio in Assisi and was one of the first followers of St Francis of Assisi. Both her parents were from wealthy families, and her mother Ortolana was both generous and devout, eventually joining her daughter's monastery – as did two of Clare's sisters: one of them, Catarina, eventually became St Agnes of Assisi.

After hearing St Francis preach, Clare became devoted to poverty, humility and love, and founded the Order of Poor Ladies, which eventually became known as the Poor Clares. She became quite ill towards the end of her life and was unable to attend church, but apparently the images and sounds of the Mass appeared in full on the wall of her room. She is also the patron saint of computer screens, sore eyes and embroidery.

Clare wrote the first monastic Rule of Life known to have been written by a woman and in 1216 became abbess of San Damiano. The life of the sisters there consisted of manual labour and prayer. Reportedly they "went barefoot, slept on the ground, ate no meat and observed almost complete silence".

Many places have been named after St Clare: Mission Santa Clara, founded in 1777 in northern California, gave its name to the valley where it is situated – now better known as Silicon Valley, home of computer technology.



He's been updated. He's now the patron saint of tweeting!



Ukraine – one year on

On 24th February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine without warning. Ukraine had been part of the Soviet Union 1922-1991 and even before that had been overshadowed and often overpowered by its larger neighbour. In 1932 millions of Ukrainians were deliberately starved to death in a famine, contrived by Joseph Stalin. This genocide, or Holodomor, is commemorated every year on the fourth Saturday in November.

The area had been overrun for centuries by successive external forces, until absorbed by Russia. In 1991, when the USSR was dissolved, Ukraine voted for independence, by a huge majority. There are still pro-Russian minorities in the East of the country, as there were in Crimea before 2014, when it was annexed by Russia.

In the last 12 months, one-quarter of the civilian population of Ukraine has been displaced, with 5+ million refugees escaping for temporary sanctuary in other countries. 95% of them are women and children. They have had to learn new languages (and a new script), find jobs and schools, and become accustomed to foreign cultures. When it seems safe, they want to return home and some have already done so.

The UK government, in partnership with County and District Councils, launched the Homes for Ukraine scheme last year. Would-be homes were inspected, and prospective hosts checked out for suitability and safety. A young Ukrainian woman lived in my home for six months before returning to Kyiv. In that time my pantry and fridge made room for bulgar wheat, lots of mushrooms and Salo, which is the name for slabs of cold cured pork fat, and much tastier than it sounds!

Most Ukrainians count themselves as Christian, including a number of Greek -Catholics, but the majority belong to what was the Russian Orthodox Church, and is now the independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The two churches separated after the Moscow patriarchate backed President Putin.

The Archbishop of Canterbury visited Kyiv in December and had to take cover in a bomb shelter when air raid warnings were sounded. He said the people of the West needed to realise the costs of this war were not short term, adding "there must be no way in which we force peace on Ukraine … Peace is always better than war. But there are times when justice demands the defeat of an evil invasion."

One year on there is still an urgent need for British people to open their homes to Ukrainian refugees.

News & Views from St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

Christmas 2022 has come and gone; what was yours like? I do hope that you avoided the many illnesses that seemed to affect people. Personally, ours was quite different because we went away for three days and enjoyed the experience of walking to Salisbury Cathedral for Midnight Mass then strolling back through the deserted streets of the city. I am not much of a Christmas person possibly because I remember family and friends who are no longer with us and I grew up in a time when if you couldn't afford it, you didn't have it; no credit cards then. Actually at Cuppa Club, we spoke of the contents of the simple stockings that were hung up on Christmas Eve and one was grateful to find an orange, a few nuts, perhaps a sugar mouse and some chocolate coins inside together with ONE very much wanted gift when we got up on Christmas Day. One gift that sticks in my mind was a bedside lamp, not so glamorous but practical and well received because I read in bed and it was better than using a torch! It seems that the meaning of Christmas escapes some people and, despite people saying that these are hard times, it didn't seem to stop some spending obscene amounts on gifts and food, pushing the knowledge to the back of their minds that, sooner or later, the cost would have to be met.



The one part I did enjoy was putting up decorations in church. You may remember that I had a vision of seeing lots of stars hanging down above the pews and asked everyone to make them for us and. It was tiring and back breaking work and took four of us four hours to attach the stars to the black garden netting that we managed to secure to the roof cross braces above us. We didn't count, and perhaps we should have, the various stars that people including several children had made but it was evident that they had put a lot of thought, time and love into decorating them. The children added their own touching messages on the reverse, namely '**HOPE'** in glitter, '**be happy'** with a Christmas tree and heart, **If you have had a bad day, just smile, smile and talk'** on a star with lots of stickers, '**Keep Smiling'** with a heart and smiley emoji, **'Never**



Stop Smiling', 'Always have a great big smile on your face', 'Stay Strong' with a heart and smile emoji, **'You shine as bright as a star'** with a star sticker instead of the word. As I hooked each to the net, I read the words and smiled at the huge amount of thought that had been put into the creations; a smile costs nothing and can mean so much. I apologise if your message is missing but rest assured that all the stars are now in a box ready to shine again next Christmas. I am so grateful to Chris & Sharon Cole and Lynda Bennett who assisted me to make a vision come true and who commented that it had turned out better than was expected. I returned the next day to string 600 LED lights around and from the choir screen, which was decorated with more stars, and over to the cross brace where a beautiful 3D star was attached very near to the crib scene; when the front main lights were switched off, the whole looked beautiful. We already have ideas for what could be added to the stars next Christmas and will be appealing for help again so that everyone can be a part of it if they would like to.

During December, there were the usual Christmas services and Tesco kindly supplied the refreshments for them including lots of mince pies.

St Marks sent congratulations to **Beryl Martin who was 100 years' young** on 15 January! She and her late husband, Les, were very active and did a huge amount for St Marks when my family took up residence in Bath Road 40 years' ago. Beryl joins Dilys Rees who was 101 earlier in the month and several other members of the congregation who are in their 90s and who attend the Wednesday 10am service. To celebrate the occasion, I brought together as many people as possible who I thought would remember Beryl and we surprised her with cake and a cuppa after the service on 18 January; her face was a picture when she saw us standing at the back of church. It was lovely to see her chatting to people that she probably



hadn't seen for a very long time and she was particularly proud to show them her special birthday card from King Charles and the Queen Consort as shown in the photograph.



CHRISTINGLE This annual service is in aid of the Children's Society. St Marks is indebted to Joan & Roger Rackham who kindly provided the sweets that the children pressed onto cocktail sticks that they pushed into their oranges. I was also grateful to have the assistance of Brown Owl, Lesley Hartley, and her helpers who kept the excited children in check as they made their Christingle 'worlds'. Eventually there were twenty-one adults and fourteen children standing against the sides of the church holding their oranges and waiting to light their candles which is always a magical sight.

Church Hall News I finally got round to replacing the faded curtains on the north side of the hall with lined check ones in various colours. I am still on the lookout for three more pairs, not necessarily to match the check ones but, more importantly, to keep the cold out and the warmth in the hall.

Chat & Cuppa Club The December meeting was wonderful, and that's not just me saying that. We played bingo and I had rooted around and found several items that could be used as prizes and am grateful to those who kindly bought goodies with them, either something that could be used as a prize or cake to go with our cuppas. The prizes were laid out on a table and winners of lines or full houses could choose from what was on offer. I was delighted to see new faces and when I noted who was missing, I calculate that had everyone turned up, there could have been as many as thirty in the hall which is very heartening.

I really didn't expect many to brave the cold weather on 3 January but eighteen made it and shared their Christmas experiences.

I believe that the best part of the afternoon is just how friendly everyone is. If you have thought about popping along but have yet to take the plunge,

please consider adding this **FREE** event to your calendar – first Tuesday of EVERY month from 2 – 3pmish – you will receive a warm welcome and we rarely leave before 3.30pm! Please telephone me if you don't have transport because I can probably pick you up; on 7 February, I will be collecting a friend who lives in Norton.

The **Community Choir that meets in St Marks Church** has secured the assistance of a new musical director and changed meeting hours to **1.30pm – 3.30pm** on the **1st & 3rd** Saturday of each month. This group is intended for people who want to sing and enjoy it but are not necessarily part of a professional group. Just turn up (Enquiries: Caroline 01905 455191). The Christmas concert that they held in church raised a very welcome £131 in donations for St Marks.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday, 21 May after the morning service (approximately 10.45am) in St Mark's Church.
Please let me know if you would like anything added to one of these monthly magazines. In fact, if you would like to make a contribution by taking over from me and writing a monthly article now and again, I would definitely like to hear from you.
Jan



"He moved here after the PCC voted to lower the church heating bill. He says it is warmer out here."

Giving up for Lent

At the end of the pre-Lent sermon, the vicar suggested, as an example to the rest of the community, that the congregation should worship in an unheated church for the whole of Lent.
As they made their way into the chill Sunday air the vicar addressed one member of the congregation, asking what she had decided to give up for Lent. "Church," she replied firmly.

The very first Valentine card, a legend

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home with their wives, instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but who couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison awaiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14th February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So, the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

The first recorded association of Valentine Day with romantic love (1382) is from Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote, 'For this was Saint Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.' This poem was in honour of the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia. Valentine Day is referred to by Ophelia in Hamlet (1600-1601).

To-morrow is St Valentine's day
All in the morning betime
And I a maid at your window
To be your Valentine.

The modern mention of Valentine's Day can be found in a collection of English nursery rhymes (1784):

The rose is red, the violet's blue
The honey's sweet, and so are you.
Thou are my love and I am thine
I drew thee to my Valentine.

Remembering the Munich Air Disaster

The Munich air disaster took place 65 years ago, on 6th February 1958, when a plane carrying the Manchester United football team (known as the Busby Babes), plus support staff and journalists, crashed while attempting to take off from a slush-affected runway at Munich-Riem Airport. Altogether, 23 people were killed, including eight players.

The Elizabethan-class Airspeed Ambassador, British European Airways Flight 609, crashed on its third attempt to take off. It had landed at Munich on its way from Belgrade to Manchester because a non-stop flight was beyond the range of the aircraft. The Babes had just beaten Red Star Belgrade in a European Cup match.

Engine problems had caused the first two take-off attempts to be aborted, but the pilots decided to try again because of scheduling issues. This time the plane was slowed by slush and failed to take off, smashing off the runway and into a house. A parked fuel truck was hit and exploded: only 21 of the 44 on board the plane survived

The pilot began evacuating passengers, and star goalkeeper Harry Gregg helped pull survivors – including a baby, its pregnant mother and two of his teammates – from the wreckage. A devout Christian at the time – he was said to have lost his faith when his wife and daughter later died of cancer – he became known as the hero of Munich.

His courage has been hailed by many, particularly in Serbia – home to the rescued Lukic family – but also back at Old Trafford, and at his own home in Ulster. He died in 2020.



Whittington Parish Magazine
February 23 Edition

