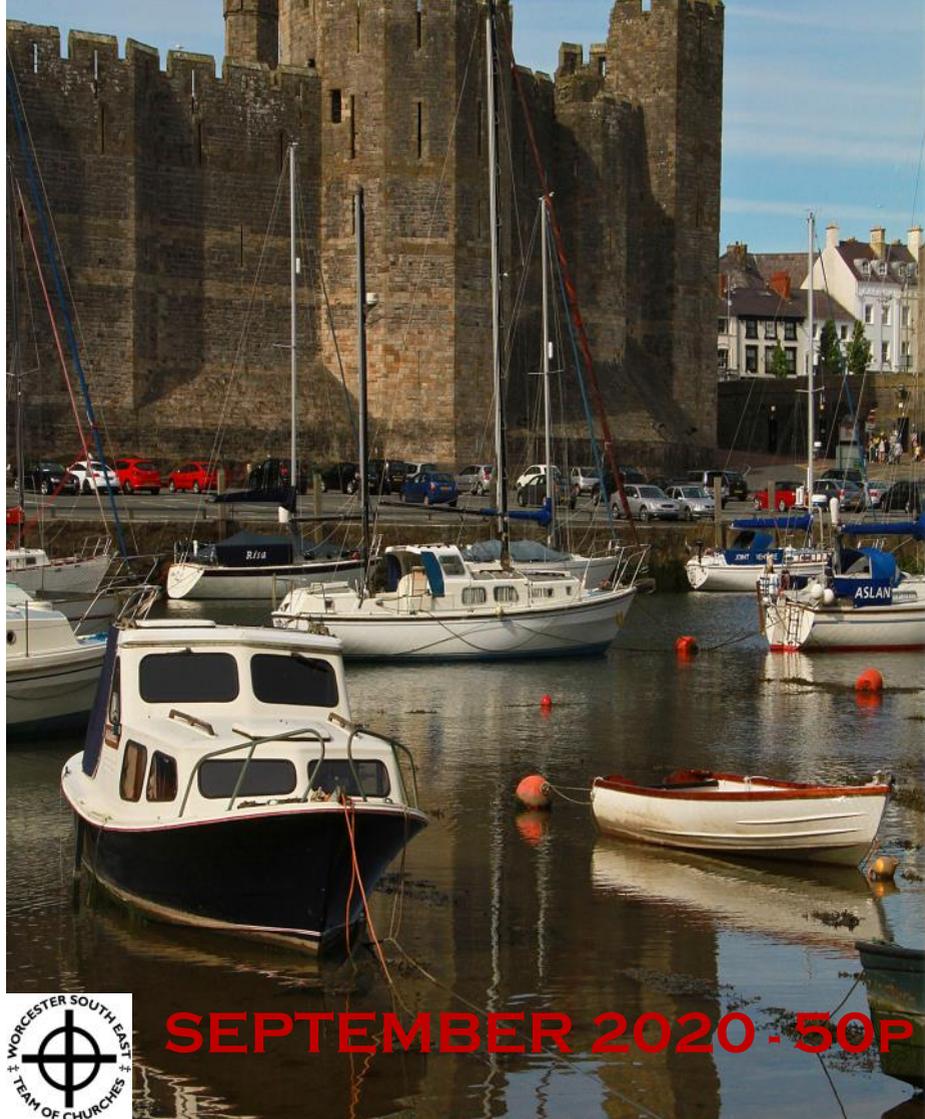


ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH WHITTINGTON PARISH NEWS



SEPTEMBER 2020 - 50P

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St Philip and St James' Parish Church, Whittington

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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

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	Miss Jayne Rayer	01905 351344
Asst. Warden:	Mrs Brenda Giles	01905 25709
Organist:	Mr Richard Goldman	01905 831923
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Holy Trinity & St Matthew Ronkswood

Vicar Rev'd Rob Farmer

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

The Team Office is closed to visitors until further notice.

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Coronavirus 2020

The September edition of this magazine comes as we see the churches in the Team reopening for public worship but under very carefully controlled conditions. The magazine remains an important means of communication in these challenging times and will continue in its new format. There is no immediate prospect of a return to hard copy in the Autumn to complement this format because of handling difficulties but this will be kept under review. As ever all contributions, particularly of encouraging news or interest, will be gratefully received. Read on! *Editor*

Letter from the Vicarage

September 2020



Hi Everyone,

How are we all? I hope and pray that you are keeping fit and well and staying safe. If you have managed to have a holiday over the Summer I hope you have had a good and relaxing time and weren't too frustrated by lots of places not being open again fully, yet, and hope you weren't caught out by the shifting sands of the ever-changing quarantine rules

As many of you will know we were quite fortunate and were able to go to the Lake District for a few weeks, and the weather was reasonably kind to us - but as I am frequently saying to people, "You don't go to the Lake District for the weather!" We are fortunate in having a bolt hole up there that once restrictions were being eased meant we didn't need to scramble for last minute bookings, but could just up sticks and go - well almost!

We were glad of the time away and thankful to God for the blessings of being able to enjoy the scenery, some good walking (although not too strenuous), some good food and to meet with some family and old friends.

September is upon us, and the "new normal" will begin in earnest as the schools go back. If you should have been taking exams last term, I hope you are happy with the grades you have been awarded and that they were a fair reflection of your hard work, your knowledge and your understanding.

Continued

If you are starting at a new school, or college, or University this September, or even just a new job or project or whatever, I wish you well.

This month sees the much delayed start of Revd. Peter Hart's ministry amongst us as our new Team Rector. Peter will be formally licensed at a service in St. Martin's church, on 1st of the month. Let us welcome Peter and his wife Beverley (and their dog), and uphold them all in our prayers at the start of their ministry with us - not the most ideal of circumstances in which to be beginning a new chapter in life's journey.

In recent months, I have written about psalms in my magazine letter to you all. This month as I have been pondering what to write, the opening lines of psalm 122 have come to mind:

"I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

With all the caveats, that go with a situation where the rules and guidelines are changing frequently, then I am very hopeful that our churches will open again for public worship from 6th September; and I look forward to being able to welcome you to them once again.

Things will of course be different and the services will be conducted differently, in order to continue to safeguard everyone from the risks of the virus; social distancing may limit the numbers of people able to attend the services in person, (particularly at Whittington); guidelines state that we are not able to sing hymns, or share the wine (at Communion), or the Peace during services; and we won't be able to have drinks after the services, but nevertheless may we be glad that we can return to the House of the Lord.

Every blessing, Andy.

Coronavirus - Covid-19

Places of worship have been given permission to re-open for public worship but this is dependent upon the local situation and being able to keep everybody safe while observing social distancing, and that depends on how much the building allows.

St Philip and St James Whittington will reopen for public worship on Sunday 6th September with a service of Holy Communion at 11.00 am.

Please see full guidance on next page

The Worcester South East Team of clergy continue to work on ways of serving the needs of all our parishes.

The Team Office at St Martin's is closed to visitors but can still be reached by phone and email, see inside cover page.

For Pastoral Support please contact Revd Andy Stand on 01905 358150 or andy.stand@sky.com

LIVE ON-LINE VIDEO SERVICES

For all churches in the South East Team

As churches are progressively opening for services on Wednesdays and Sundays 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 contact person who will send you a link:

For Morning Prayer or Stations and Compline:

email mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk

SERVICES DURING THE WEEK

Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday at 8.30am

Compline: Monday to Friday at 8.30pm

Enquiries about Whittington email andy.stand@sky.com

SUNDAYS

The Morning Worship on Sundays at St Martin's at 10am is streamed on Facebook and is available to access from St Martin's Website. It is intended that services from Whittington will also be available on Zoom in due course.



St Philip & St James, Whittington Sunday Worship Arrangements from September 2020

Welcome to our Sunday services, which we are pleased to resume. Please read the following arrangements for your own safety and that of others. Anyone showing symptoms of coronavirus should not attend church, and those who have been shielding or are clinically vulnerable should take particular care to minimise contact with others.

- ◆ When entering the church by the main (side) door please sanitise your hands, and again on leaving. The West (back) door is the emergency exit and disabled access.
- ◆ Seating in alternate rows of pews or on chairs will be at a social distance of two metres. Please sit where directed.
- ◆ Children are welcome to attend, supervised by parents or guardians.
- ◆ It is a government requirement to wear a face covering inside the church building unless medically exempt. This may be removed to receive communion.
- ◆ To support the NHS Track and Trace system a record of names and phone numbers of those attending will be collected on entry. This is optional but providing details gives consent to sharing them with NHS Track and Trace if asked. Details will be kept securely for 21 days, after which they will be safely disposed of.
- ◆ The service will include live instrumental or recorded music but no singing by the congregation.
- ◆ Communion in one kind (bread only) will be received standing from a central point. Please come forward in a single line when directed and keep socially distanced. Those receiving a blessing instead should carry something as a sign to the vicar. Please speak to a Warden before the service to request a gluten free wafer or to have communion brought to your seat.
- ◆ At the end of the service please remain in your seat until directed to leave.
- ◆ As you leave the church an offertory plate for cash or planned giving envelopes will be at the back. Please gift aid any donations if possible.
- ◆ Please take any paper orders of service away with you.
- ◆ After the service is the opportunity to greet others in a socially distanced manner outside. It is not possible to serve refreshments at present.
- ◆ The toilet will be open. Please observe careful hand washing after use and dispose of the paper towels in the bin provided.

What's on at Whittington September & October

Sunday 6th September Trinity 13

11.00am Holy Communion CW

Sunday 13th September Trinity 14

11.00am Holy Communion CW

Tuesday 15th September
PCC Meeting

Sunday 20th September Trinity 15

11.00am Holy Communion CW

Sunday 27th September Trinity 16

11.00am Holy Communion CW

Sunday 4th October Trinity 17

11.00am Holy Communion CW

Sunday 11th October Harvest

11.00am Holy Communion

PERENNIAL PLANTS



In the last magazine I said I hoped to have a perennial plant sale in September. I have decided that this will not be very practical in order to follow the government's guidelines re social distancing. However, if anyone is interested in any perennial plants, please contact me and I can arrange individual visits. I will be growing bedding plants again next Spring; let's hope we will be back to a "normal" plant sale and coffee morning by then.

Brenda Giles.

Our new Team Rector, Peter Hart, writes as he moves into St Martin's and prepares for his Institution on 1st September:



I was a little surprised the other day when walking the dog past St Martin's to see my name written up on the board as Rector. Already, before the Institution! They move fast round here, I thought.

We moved during some of the hottest weather of the year, but we are in, still surrounded by boxes, but gradually they are diminishing and, slowly but surely, curtains are going up and rooms are getting sorted. And there have been blessed interruptions – people turning up at the front door with cake and scones, or flowers – it has been wonderful and we are most grateful.

I very much look forward to the Institution on 1st September, and greatly regret that so few people can be there, but I hope to meet you all, as many as we can legitimately and safely squeeze into St Martin's on Sunday 6th September, for a joyous time of worship and introductions.

Peter

N.B. Both services will be streamed on Facebook, available on St Martin's website, for those who would like to watch them. Ed

From the Parish Register

July 17th 2020

Funeral and Burial

Ron Alaric Smith

* * * *

August 10th 2020

Interment of Ashes

Linda Rose Rickett

Whittington Parish Council

Whittington Parish Council has had a busy few weeks. Besides routine matters to be discussed and determined the Parish Council has surveyed Whittington parishioners as to their thoughts on whether or not to apply for a Public Works Loan for the proposed new community hall. The decision to take out this loan is probably the biggest decision the Parish Council has ever made. The Community Hall Management Committee have done well to raise a substantial amount of money for a much needed Community Hall but to meet the costs of a new build (refurbishment of the old was not an option), the Parish Council (and only the Parish Council can do so) would have to obtain a Public Works Loan.

The Parish Council sent out 494 letters and questionnaires to Parishioners explaining the proposals and asking whether or not they are in favour of the community project going ahead and whether or not they agree to an increase in the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayment.

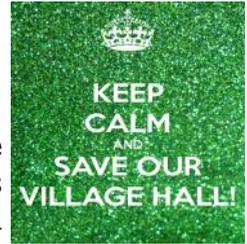
There was a 23.89% response. 76.27% were in favour of the project going ahead. 62.71% supported the increase in the council tax precept. Should you take into consideration that those who did not respond did so because they have no objection, the results would read 94.33% and 91.09% respectfully.

The Parish Council therefore decided to apply for the loan and we look forward to a new and modern Community Hall that will serve the Whittington Parishioners of Wildmore, Whittington Walk, Pershore Road, St Peters and Whittington Village.

Further information and detail can be found on the Parish website and Facebook. Website www.whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk
Facebook com/whittingtonpc

Whittington Community Hall

Replacing the old Village Hall



We are moving steadily towards finalising the contract with our chosen contractor, Interclass plc. The Parish Council has agreed to seek a Public Works Loan to secure the balance of the funds required for this project and it is expected that the Contract will be let and work started during September.



Whilst the impact of the Coronavirus on all our lives has slowed the process down, work has continued and the end is now in sight!

The 'Whittington Project' is regarded by the senior management team at **Wychavon District Council** as a 'Flagship Project'.



When the sun goes edgewise.... and daytime equals night

23rd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere). The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

Whittington CE Primary School



And now full opening!

With thanks to Gary Richards, Headteacher

After a much needed holiday - the first since February half-term - the school will reopen to all pupils on September 3rd. The arrangements will be similar to those adopted and which worked successfully for the second part of the summer term when Reception, Years 1 and 6, and children of essential workers were accommodated.

The biggest change we had to make previously, before we admitted more pupils, was to the fabric of the building. We have 7 classrooms and each of these had to become self contained. Routes around the school were marked out; specific entrances were allotted for each group; and staggered start and end times organized, so that parents and pupils did not need to congregate. Alongside these measures, we obtained personal protective equipment for all the staff; arranged Covid 19 training and met staff virtually to discuss how the new measures would work in practice.

Each class will form a “pod” in their classroom with their own teachers and staff and will have no contact with any other class. Each class will have access to the outside where breaks will normally take place in a designated area. A marquee in the grounds will be used for activities like PE when the weather does not allow this outside. Lunch will be taken in the classroom and all activities programmed to avoid any conflict in corridors.

Parents are used to social distancing and the queues outside the school were orderly in the summer and we expect that to be the case with the whole school even though there are greater numbers. Likewise the children appeared un-phased at returning to school after an absence of nearly three months; the longer period of absence may involve more adjustment and this will be accommodated as the new year settles down. We very much hope all goes well!



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 Mike Phillips and Andy Stand are cycling and
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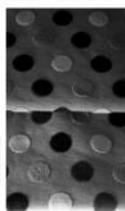
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Actual complaints received by a resort chain (before lockdown!)

On my holiday to India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food.

We booked an excursion to a water park, but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price.

The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.

No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared.

It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair.

We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning.

I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes.

FUN QUIZ - How's your memory?

With thanks to Nick Harrison of St Martin's

We like to think we are not easily influenced by TV advertising, but some adverts stick in our brains for years, whether we like it or not! You will probably be surprised by the number of products you came name, based on the clues below. Answers next month.

1. Tasty, tasty, very, very tasty!
2. If you like a lot of chocolate on you biscuit..
3. As good today as it's always been.
4. Refreshes the parts other beers cannot reach.
5. You'll never put a better bit of butter on your knife.
6. Made to make your mouth water.
7. For you, your children, and your children's children.
8. I liked it so much I bought the company.
9. The best a man can get.
10. The appliance of science.
11. Loves the jobs you hate.
12. It's a bit of an animal.
13. It's frothy, man!
14. Don't leave home without it.
15. It's got our name on it.
16. Reassuringly expensive.
17. What's the worst that can happen?
18. Nowt taken out.
19. The world's local bank.
20. It does exactly what it says on the tin.

Decide....?

Politician to aide: "About their charge that I'm indecisive – do you think I should answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or what?"

Remembering the “Unheroes” From the Dean of Worcester, Peter Atkinson



We've clapped the healthworkers and the carers. We've applauded Captain Tom. Medals are being struck and honours will be awarded for those who have given exceptional service to the community during the pandemic. Absolutely right. There are many heroes to be honoured.

But I want to spare a clap for the unheroes too. The unheroes are those of us who haven't managed to do anything exceptional during the pandemic. We haven't risen to the occasion, or given conspicuous service to the community. Frankly we hated the lockdown. Perhaps we were ill, or shielding, or furloughed from work, or working from home, and we found it depressing. We were confused by the disruption of our ordinary routines. We grumbled a lot. We never quite discovered an answer to that terrifying future question, 'And what did you do during the pandemic, grandad?' We didn't even tidy the attic.

So why do we, the unheroes, deserve a small round of applause? Because we stuck it out. We hated every minute of it, but we kept to the rules, we stayed at home, and we didn't put other people's lives at risk. We were part of an enormous global effort to contain the spread of coronavirus and prevent it from killing yet more people. To that extent, we did our bit. We too saved lives. That's what we did during the pandemic.

Peter Atkinson

What it means to be in the front line.....

When you wear a tight mask around your face, a hat, a face shield, a gown, two pairs of gloves, and something to protect your shoes, it is a totally different (nursing) thing; and, as nurses, you have to stay in that side room or unit for 12-and-a-half hours. It is really draining physically. You...can't even go to the loo because your patients are terribly sick. They are on maximum (life support), so you can't take your eyes off that monitor. – *ITU nurse on the reality of nursing in PPE*

One of the effects of Corvid-19

ROBERT SMALLMAN; HOME AT LAST!!

Many of you will have seen the wonderful pictures of Robert Smallman's reunion with Gay, his wife, on the local BBC news bulletins last month. Here he gives his account of his return home to Worcester after six months in lockdown in New Zealand. Robert goes to St Martin's.

Home again Giger Gig.

Here in New Zealand, by the middle of May, things started to return to normal, but the plastic screens around shop tills remained, perhaps for ever.

The Government was only allowing in Kiwi, putting them in lockdown in a hotel for two weeks, at the Government's expense. One of the problems is that tourism accounts for more than a third of their income, so what were they to do. One way was to get everyone to holiday in their own country. The British Council were very good indeed in trying to return Brits who wanted to return and laying on about twelve planes after every other company had stopped.

Home is Home, however kind and loving the family were to me, and Singapore Airlines started back in July, two flights a week, instead of three a day. I got two week's notice, and the goodbye parties started. I could not believe how the Kiwis were to me. The little great-grandson who could not sit up when I arrived was running about when I left, and we became great friends, when we saw each other.

The day arrived and the Auckland Airport was a shadow of what I remember, one tiny coffee shop where I sat with two daughters for a last few minutes. Tears, yes, but all trying to be brave. Will we ever see each other again?

But the joy of the extended holiday to cherish for ever. The flight home was okay, but we had to wear masks all the time and at Singapore we were herded like cattle from one place to another, all the shops and cafes closed of course, and very few people around. The same at Heathrow. Where you gather to get your passport checked there was just one person on duty. And there was son William, waiting to take me home.

Well, here I am, home nearly six months later! The neighbours had put flags up on the house, and I got my one minute of fame when the BBC filmed me going to see Gaynor in Fernhill House. My first wife's sister, who is a nun in Glasgow, even saw it on the news. What a wonderful advert for the Home!



St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Diocese of Worcester



News from St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

Like all churches and businesses, St Marks took a big hit when the UK came to a standstill in March. Income dried up completely from the church hall and some groups still do not know when they will return. There was little funding coming in but payments continued to leave the bank account which has meant that church reserves have fallen dramatically. The biggest outgoing was, and continues to be, to the Diocese for the parish share which this year is £16,800, a huge amount for a small church like St Marks to find under normal circumstances never mind the current one. However, the PCC is very much aware that it is luckier than most to have any reserves at all.

The church and hall may have had to stay closed and empty but it gave the ideal opportunity to do some redecoration whilst practicing self-isolation. I spent six weeks by myself (yes, I had my mobile and folk knew where I was) scraping, damp sealing, painting and re-painting walls, woodwork and the old radiators and pipes in the hall before moving on to the kitchen where I added some more tiles, re-sealed around the sinks and work surfaces and re-grouted the old white tiles; gone are the cracked tiles and blistered walls. I intended to make the whole place brighter, cleaner, healthier and thus more attractive to all hirers and hope that I succeeded. Thankfully all the work cost very little because the majority of materials was either donated or I had secured items, especially the tiles, from **'Worcester Freecycle'** or **'Trash Nothing'**, both great free sites that you can join so that you can gift unwanted items or request things; much better than chucking good stuff in a skip. Look them up on the internet – I am currently appealing for paint for doors and woodwork because the colour is no longer available to buy and I really don't want to change it.

Whilst damp sealing the hall cupboard walls, the floorboards were found to be very damp, even wet in places, and Dampcure was called in to investigate the reason. Not surprisingly, the report has identified the cause as penetrating dampness through lateral movement of the back wall that is completely below ground level and the only remedy is to 'tank' the whole west wall at a cost of £4260.

Continued

This is a further drain on funds but a necessary expense or the boards will rot; there are already signs of this. The job will be scheduled for October half term with the hope that grant funding might be obtained towards the cost.

New Seating for the Church Hall. I never did get round to re-varnishing the hall floor because the thought of the current chair legs damaging it again was too much. However, I did surf the web for new chairs and a representative is leaving samples with us to try out and a dolly, of which we will need two, to safely store them on. The current estimate is £3500 including the dreaded VAT, and I have already secured £1250 towards the cost so that leaves just £2250 to go!! Again this is a necessity and not a whim because the plastic chairs are considered unsafe and it would be dreadful if another one were to collapse.

Why on earth do they do it??? I am speaking of vandalism to the church hall entrance roof and guttering. I was alerted to the damage by a sharp eyed member of the community (thank you, Cherry) and it was discovered that some idiot had climbed onto the wall that runs parallel to the car park, dislodged a piece of slab and, just for a laugh no doubt, thrown it onto the roof causing nearly £400 of damage, most of which had to be paid by St Marks because of insurance excess, money that really can't be spared. For roof problems, we are fortunate to be able to turn to Wes of **W.S.S Roofing & Building Solutions** based in Colwall, **01684 541366**, who did an excellent job and also sorted out some leaking gutters; the recent heavy rain would have been an ideal time to inspect it all but I was not going to be blown down the road to check it out!

So as you, dear reader, can see from the above, the church accounts continue to haemorrhage money whilst little is coming in but we remain cheerful and positive. It is hoped to re-open St Marks Church on Sunday, 6 September, for the 9.30am service and details of the resumption of all services will be added to the web site in due course www.stmarksworcester.wordpress.com

Our cleaner, Jackie, has been wonderful in helping to try to tame the front garden borders. Weather permitting, she spends time, when she can, trying to keep the bindweed at bay and cut back the spent flowers and shrubs as they go over.

Continued

It was quite still when I met with the roofer recently, so I did manage to spray the weeds around the property. Over the past months, it seemed like that advert when you kill one weed and another one springs up nearby to replace it. Unfortunately with no-one going in each day and the dry weather, the weeds grew fast and self set regularly. The area all round church was inundated with the pesky things and those in the car park were particularly bad because they were very thick. Thank goodness I sprayed all before the wind and rain arrived. All I have to do now is wait to see which ones I unknowingly missed!!

Cherry Orchard Ladies Club The committee recently met to discuss returning to the hall. The unanimous decision was that since the Covid situation remains very uncertain, the club would not return to the church hall until **Wednesday, 7 October**, at 7.30pm. The meeting will be a **free social evening to which everyone, not just members, is invited**. Social distancing will be observed and attendees are requested to bring their own cups/mugs and the club will provide hot drinks and wrapped biscuits. If you have never been to the club over the past umpteen years that it has been in existence, now is your chance to pop in and find out what it is all about; we are a friendly bunch!!

Worcester Live Charitable Trust T/A The Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall

As you may have heard, the government has finally given the go ahead for venues to reopen but at what cost? Productions cost a huge amount of money to put on and a reduction in audiences renders them unviable. What is also unknown is how many people will feel comfortable returning to the auditoriums and what restraints might have to be put in place. Like so many other CEOs, Sarah-Jane Morgan works incredibly hard as she continues to re-schedule re-scheduled shows and artists for the WL venues. It is hoped that those who have bought tickets in the past, will return to support WL in the future.

Perhaps when I next write, we might all feel a little more comfortable about going out and about; I do hope so.

Jan

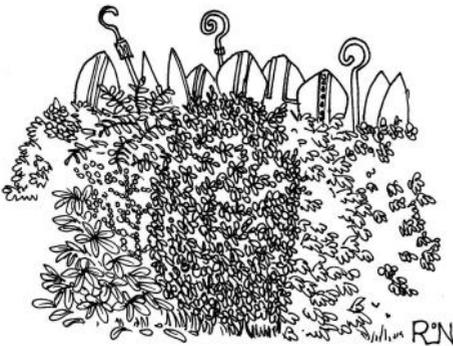
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29th Sept Angels Unawares

by Canon David Winter

One of those surveys which some newspapers love to publish claimed recently that a large number of British people believe in angels – almost as many, in fact, as claimed to believe in God. They didn't tell us what people meant by 'angels'. I suspect quite a few were thinking of young children who die, who are often now said to be 'angels' 'up there'. They're not, of course. They are transformed human beings. Be that as it may, when Christians celebrate the feast of St Michael and All Angels later this month, there will be many of us, inside and outside churches, who will wonder exactly what or who we are celebrating.

Most simply, the word in the New Testament means 'messenger. An 'angel' is a being who brings to us God's message or his help. In the Bible angels are variously described. The familiar notion of wings and flight comes from a vision given to Isaiah in the Temple when he was being called as a prophet. The angel Gabriel, who told Mary that she was chosen to be the mother of the Messiah, is not described at all, but his words are recorded in detail. Angels speak to people in dreams (Joseph, the husband of Mary, for instance) and Jesus spoke of 'angels' who particularly care for children ('guardian angels').



*The bishops had formed a
'support bubble' all on their own.*

Most people, even very devout ones, have never knowingly encountered an angel, I guess. However, the New Testament tells us that in 'showing hospitality to strangers' some of us have 'entertained angels without knowing it'. Clearly wings and eyes of flame are not obligatory. Just human care. 'Oh, go on, be an angel and make me a cup of tea!'

Answers to the Bird Quiz for you

This one by description without the help of photographs!

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Look out, get out of the way | Duck |
| 2. They are always out of breath | Puffin |
| 3. Moan, Moan, Moan | Grouse |
| 4. Musician on the beach | Sandpiper |
| 5. Alarm call for pussy cat | Kittiwake |
| 6. Cowardly carpenters tool | Yellow Hamer |
| 7. High Flyer | Kite |
| 8. Sad and small | Blue Tit. |
| 9. American and hairless | Bald Eagle |
| 10. Thievin' | Magpie. |
| 11. First sign of spring | Cuckoo |
| 12. Fashionable collar in the past | Ruff |
| 13. Putting the flags up | Bunting |
| 14. Rhymes with a spring month | Jay |
| 15. Talk with a pebble | Stonechat |
| 16. Done when eating | Swallow |
| 17. This one is very fast | Swift |
| 18. Tied up | Knot |
| 19. Throw over a bed | Eider |
| 20. Crimson Beginning | Redstart |



Are politicians the oldest profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos in the first place!"

A Poem for SEPTEMBER

Return of the Native by Thomas Hardy

'The great inviolate place had an ancient permanence which
the sea cannot claim.

Who can say of a particular sea that it is old? Distilled by
the sun, kneaded by the moon,

It is renewed in a year, in a day or in an hour.

The sea changed, the fields changed, the rivers, the villages,
and the people changed,

Yet Egdon remained.

St Matthew's Balloon Race launches from Red Square!

Holy Trinity & St Matthew's Church has signed up for an online balloon race to raise funds for the new church building. The 'Schools Back' race, organised by Ecoracing.co, is 100% eco-friendly. It's a seven-day computer simulation race 'launching' on 14th September from Red Square, Moscow, where everything is real except the balloon. The software uses live weather data to determine the progress of each balloon and each entry can be tracked on Google Maps and Satellites. A great way to introduce children to world geography, weather patterns and science!

Supporters can buy a virtual balloon for just £3 and give it a name, colour and pattern. In addition, different features can be selected, such as weight and shape, which will determine its flight performance and maybe enhance its chances of winning. Great fun for adults and children alike to follow the progress of the balloons and compete amongst family and friends over the 7 days as they fly from Moscow with the wind – how far and in which direction will they fly?

First prize is £500 cash, second prize is an Apple iPad and there will also be 10 lucky winners of £10 book tokens. In addition, for balloons sold by St Matthew's, there is a £50 cash first prize plus many additional prizes, including vouchers from Tesco, West Midlands Safari Park, The Entertainer and Waylands Yard.

Please support us and buy your balloons online at ecoracing.co/user/page/551 (or click on <https://tinyurl.com/y2lk3kkq>). For more details and offline sales (for those not on the internet) please contact Penny Welford on 01905 351468.

It would be wonderful if you would share with friends and family and on social media!

Penny Welford

More on next page

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Raising funds for a new Church building

Shakespeare

Student essay: Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, but he mostly lived at Windsor with his merry wives. This is quite usual with actors.

JESUS *The Gate of the sheep*



Whittington Parish Magazine
September Edition