

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



APRIL 2021

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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

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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.

In This Issue

Front Cover	1
Team Details	2
Index	3
Letter from the Vicarage	4/5
Coronavirus Corvid-19 & On-line Video Services	6
A reminder for gardeners and poem for April	7
What's on at Whittington	8
Whittington Electoral Roll and Celebrations in March	9
Whittington World Wide Net	10
Whittington Parish Council & Community Hall	11
Whittington CE Primary School	12
Whittington New Building	13
Adverts	14/24
From the Bishop of Dudley,	25
My Experiences at the Royal during the Pandemic	26/27
Called to Action - Starting the journey towards COP26	28
The Parish Giving Scheme	29
News & Views from St. Mark's Church	30/31
100 years of the PCC	32
One Solitary Life	34
Sunday Worship Arrangements, Whittington	35
Back Cover - Daffodils among trees	36



This edition comes as we approach Easter and look towards our churches reopening. Full details will be found inside along with an article from Dr Tiffany Jones about what it's been like at the Royal over the past year; we are very fortunate to have such an insight into life working in our local hospital. This month also sees the return of paper copies of the magazine, printed on a new copier in the Team Office.

Best wishes for Easter, Ed.

Letter from the Vicarage

February 2021



Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing? Before you answer that, let me share with you something I read, recently, in one of the blogs I follow daily:

Perhaps the most commonly asked question in the world is, “How are you?”. I suspect that it is often not answered with much honesty, nor is it always asked with any expectation or desire that it should be answered truthfully! ...

So - how are you? A truthful answer involves many things, even before sharing some of your current emotions. The truth is that you are utterly loved by God, chosen by him and adopted into his very own family. However, you are also (as this verse from Revelation reminds us [Rev 3.17-18]) completely lost and hopeless without God’s love and self-giving for you. You are a physical dwelling place for his Holy Spirit, and yet at the same time weak enough to forget it frequently!

<https://healingmission.wordpress.com> from 21st March 2021)

He’s right, isn’t he? It probably is the most asked question, but even in the asking, is, probably more often than not, nothing more than a polite greeting, and a truthful response is not necessarily expected, or possibly even wanted.

I wonder though, what for you would be a truthful answer to my question, “How are you doing?”.

Continued.....

We have recently passed the milestone of the anniversary of the first lockdown; we have endured a long and possibly tough winter and you may well be wondering (the Prime Minister's Roadmap, notwithstanding) how much longer we are to live under the restrictions brought in to protect us from the pandemic.

But we are also celebrating Easter; celebrating the working out of being "utterly loved by God, chosen by him and adopted into his very own family", celebrating the extent of that love that brought Jesus to live in a period of history where his movements would not have been as free as he may have liked; a period in history where his family, his disciples, his race, his people, lived under the restrictions imposed by the Roman occupying force. A period in history where finding yourself on the wrong side of the religious authorities, not conforming to their laws and demands, could and did lead to a barbaric death at the hands of the state.

We celebrate too, that with Jesus' death, came Jesus' resurrection from the dead; that with Jesus' death came new life, new freedoms, new relationship with God; a new practice of faith and faithful living; a new King, a new kingdom and a new kingdom people.

Whatever you are feeling at the moment; however you chose to answer that "How are you?" Question, please remember that the Easter story is God's demonstration to you of just how utterly loved and cherished by Him, you are.

Happy Easter everyone.

Every blessing, Andy.



Coronavirus - Covid-19

St Philip and St James Whittington will open for public worship on Sunday 18th April 2021.

Details of arrangements for attending are on page 35

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

Some services are still being conducted on-line by the Team (see below)

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

LIVE ON-LINE VIDEO SERVICES

For all churches in the South East Team

Churches in the Team are progressively opening again 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 will be streamed from St Martin's on Facebook, available through their website, and from Whittington on Zoom.

A Reminder for gardeners - SUMMER BEDDING - *from Brenda*



I cannot promise you the usual coffee morning and plant sale in my garden this coming May, but I can confirm that I am growing bedding plants again and these can be ordered. We will operate the same system as last year; at a pre-arranged and convenient time you can collect your order from my drive and put the money through my letter box - please. I doubt that we will reach our all time record of last year (over £800) as the garden centres have remained open, but as at the moment, it is the only sort of fundraising we can safely run, I would ask you to support us if you can.

The plants I sell are of high quality and at bargain prices. If anyone would like a plant list to pre-order (available now!) please contact me, preferably by email as I can send an attachment, or by phone if this is easier. Let's look forward to the light at the end of the tunnel and getting back to something bordering on normality.

Brenda Giles 01905 25709

brenda.giles@tiscali.co.uk

APRIL

Home-thoughts, from abroad

'Oh, to be in England

Now that April's there,

And whoever wakes in England

Sees' some morning, unaware,

That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf

Round the elm tree bole are in tiny leaf,

While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough

In England – now!

Robert Browning

What's on at Whittington April & May

Friday 2 April Good Friday

2.00pm Service for Good Friday on Zoom

Sunday 4 April Easter Day

11.00am Easter Communion from Church **on Zoom**

2.30-3.30pm **Church open for Private Prayer**

Sunday 11 April Easter 2

10.00am Service at St Martin's (attend or on Facebook)

Sunday 18 April Easter 3

Whittington re-opens for Sunday Services

11.00am Parish Communion (*see page 35 for arrangements*)

Sunday 25th April Easter 4

11.00am Family Communion

Tuesday 27th April

6.30pm PCC Meeting on Zoom

Sunday 2 May Easter 5

11.00am Parish Communion

Sunday 9 May Whittington Sunday – St Philip & St James

11.00am Family Service

12noon **Annual Church Meeting**

Lot's wife

- A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. 'The man
- named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city,
- but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.'
- His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'

Whittington Church Electoral Roll 2021

The Church Electoral Roll will be updated ahead of the Annual Meeting on Sunday 9 May. This means that anyone who wishes may join at this stage. Names already on the list will be included again and you do not need to do anything unless there are any alterations, e.g. you have changed your address in the last year. The current roll is displayed in church. Briefly, you need to be over 16 years of age (or nearly so), baptised, and living in the parish or a regular member of the congregation. Please contact me if you are not already on the Roll but would like to join by Sunday 25 April at the latest.

Janet Pearson
Electoral Roll Officer



Celebrations in March for those reaching the 0's!

David Tibbutt's came early in the month and has joined an ever-growing band of octogenarians. Churchwarden Janet Pearson attained a

somewhat lower one,

equally special, pictured here with the plants she was given, a calla-lily and a dianthus. She asks that her thanks be passed on for the plants and everyone's good wishes on the day, which happened to be a Sunday.



Divine Intervention??

A little boy was playing outside with his mother's broom in the garden. That night his mother realised her broom was still missing and asked her son to go out and bring it in.

When the little boy confessed he was afraid of the dark, his mother tried to comfort him: 'The Lord is out there too, don't be afraid.'

Hesitantly, the little boy opened the back door and peered out. He called softly: 'Lord, since you're out there already, please will you pass me the broom?'

Whittington World Wide Web – Part Two

*The third of four articles by David Hallmark on
“Whittingtons around the world”*

Our own Whittington has been chronicled by three enthusiasts for the history of the village. – Michael Craze in 1977 and Les Wiltshire for 2000 and Janine Wheatley on personalities in the Church. Each of these sources should be required reading for each village enthusiast.



The documented story starts with the HWICCE tribe at the end of the 7th Century when Worcester was their capital. Their Saxon origins gave the name of two halves part “White” and part “Ton” meaning enclosure...as in other local names such as Eckington and Harvington.

A Charter of 980 AD in the British Museum gives the HWITINTON bounds referring to local landmarks such as Crookbarrow Hill and Swines Head Road now Swinesherd Road; some traditional land in Whittington has been absorbed into Worcester by boundary changes.

The Church at Whittington has origins dated AD 816. Thomas Habington forced to stay in the County by Royal Command for his proximity to the Gunpowder Plotters 1605 wrote a 1630s history of the County and noted at Whittington “a chappell”.

In the 1840s the Church of England rebuilt some 7000 Churches and Whittington Chapel was rebuilt as Whittington Church designed by architect Abraham Edward Perkins and was consecrated on 19 March 1844 by Dr Pepys the Bishop of Worcester.

Inside the Church are the memorials to villagers killed in War and author Mrs Henry Wood and Admiral Powell whilst the Churchyard pays tribute to villagers who have been buried over the centuries.

The links with the Church of England School of 1859 testify to the long history between these hallowed village institutions and which one must hope will continue with support from all villagers.

Final article next month.

Whittington Parish Council

The Parish Council met by zoom on the 23rd of March. The Parish Council and a number of neighbouring Parish Councils have sent a joint letter to South Worcestershire Development Planning Team expressing concerns regarding development proposals across the Parishes. A copy of the joint letter is to be published on the Parish website.

Arrangements are being made for CCTV survey of the drains in the area of flooding in Church Lane in an effort to identify and solve the problem.

Complaints are being received regarding dog fouling bags being abandoned around Whittington Walk and the 'yellow brick road'. The matter of additional bins is to be investigated on completion of the housing development.

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 27th April. Members of the public are welcome to attend by joining the zoom meeting. Joining instructions can be found on the agenda which is published prior to the meeting on the Parish Council website whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk

Whittington Community Hall ***Replacing the old Village Hall***



Progress on the new hall continues with the walls up to level for the flat roofs. Completion is expected in July this year.

The 'Whittington Project' is regarded by the senior management team at **Wychavon District Council** as a '**Flagship Project**'
And it is now coming to fruition!



Whittington Village Hall
Management Committee
whittingtonvhc@gmail.com

The Committee is responsible for the running, maintenance and improvement of the new Community Hall.

Cautionary... If you think nobody cares whether you're alive or dead, try missing a couple of mortgage payments!



Whittington CE Primary School

From the Head Teacher, Gary Richards

Since this half term began on 22nd February, a lot has happened. For much of the country the pace of change has been gradual. Society is emerging from the lockdown, with the latest news being that we can now meet five other people in our gardens. In schools the change was much more obvious, since January we had welcomed no more than 50 pupils, with the majority of learning happening at home. Then on Monday 8th March all the children returned.

The most obvious observation is that schools function when they are full of children. The difference in the atmosphere was stark. On the previous Friday the building may well have been empty, the pupils who did attend were so spread out that, quite often, the school was silent. The school sprang back into life when it filled up with pupils on that first Monday.

The children have been very resilient throughout these months of disruption. However, the latest lockdown has been tough and we are viewing these few weeks before Easter as an opportunity to re-acclimatise all of the pupils back into the more formal structures of the school day. This is progressing well and the children are responding brilliantly. Covid19 is still a concern and our safety procedures continue to be very rigorous. All of these factors have become the reality of schools across the nation, but with summer just around the corner there is reason for optimism as the days lengthen and get warmer.



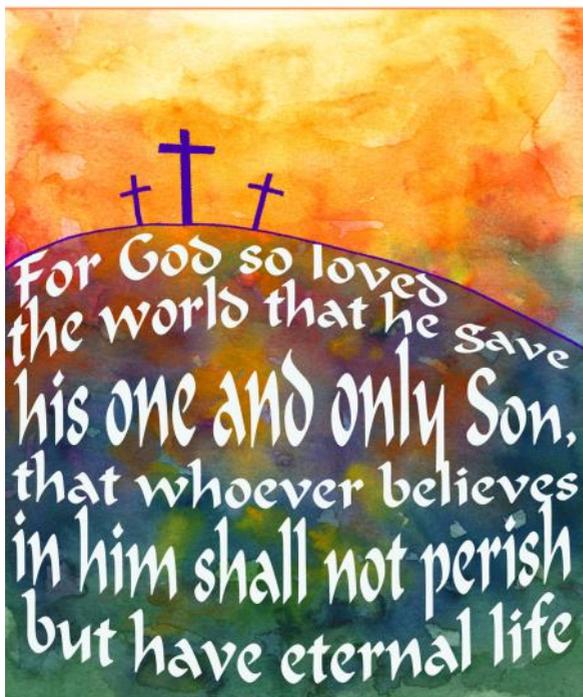
WHITTINGTON NEW BUILDING

The Elizabethan Room

Work continues on applications for grants to fill the shortfall in our funding following very encouraging results so far with grants from the Worcester charity, Lasletts and the National Lottery "Awards for All" fund. Further applications have been made to national charities and the results are awaited. The Appeal originally set up in 2015 has been relaunched and has already produced a good response.



The archaeological investigation has been carried out and the results received giving much valuable information from a ground radar survey covering a wide area to the West of the church - the oldest part of the churchyard. Further investigation will be required when construction starts. Investigation continues into the foundation and piling requirements.



Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime. -
Martin Luther



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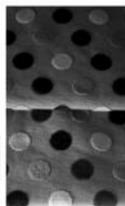
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From the Bishop of Dudley

I don't know about you but for me, Lockdown Three has been particularly hard. The days have been short, the weather cold and the news very depressing as the virus spread so rapidly once again. Passing that awful milestone of 100,000 Covid deaths was a sobering moment and the pressure on health and care staff, on clergy and families has been immense. As a country we have endured more deaths per head of population than any other nation so far.



Every community in the Diocese has been affected, with the loss from Covid particularly acute in some communities, notably where poverty and overcrowding is worse. As we look to build back better over the coming twelve months, as a nation we must address issues of inequality and injustice that have been highlighted so starkly during this time. Two of our diocesan priorities as Kingdom People are to transform communities and to share hope - we will all need to play our part in building a fairer and better world.

There is some hopeful news. The vaccine roll out is wonderful, and every day I hear from people delighted to have had 'the jab'. Days are lengthening, the sun is growing stronger and there are the first glimmers of hope that the cycle of crushing lockdowns will come to an end.

I'm reminded of verses from the well-known Psalm 121.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not suffer your foot to stumble;
he who watches over you will not sleep.

Many people have found solace and comfort in the natural world. 'Lifting up eyes to the hills' perhaps, but perhaps just treasuring a tree outside a window, or the changing sky from day to day. My daughter has been locked down in central London. She has discovered a love of birds, putting out crumbs each day outside her London basement flat and watching blue tits and robins come to pick them up. Nature reminds us that whatever our current problems, we are part of something bigger. Part of God's world, God's creation. Ultimately our help and our hope come from the Lord, 'the maker of heaven and earth.' And 'he who watches over you will not sleep.' May that same Lord of heaven and earth hold you and keep you this day and always. Amen. *Bishop Martin*

My Experiences at the Royal during the Pandemic

by Dr Tiffany Jones whom we know well at Whittington and to whom we are indebted for these first hand experiences.



I have seen many different sides within the NHS over the past year. I don't think I will ever experience a year like this again in my career. When COVID hit I had just started in A&E, there was a mix of heightened anxiety with pride that we were part of the 'army' fighting covid. My partner James was working in ITU in Hereford as an anaesthetics trainee and so we were both on the front line, not really knowing what was going to happen, when we would see each other in amongst the shifts that we were doing or if we would get the virus as we knew the risk was high. Our new dog Rigsby became our best friend throughout the year and boosted our morale.

Initially A&E was quiet – everyone was staying away- even those that desperately should have come in! It felt like we were waiting for a Tsunami to arrive with no idea what we were really facing. The COVID patients started to come and it was scary being 'zipped' into a make shift room with you, your PPE (hoping it was protecting you) and the patient. The patients were scared and the staff were also scared. We had several staff catching COVID within the department and this heightened the anxiety. Sadly we had doctors, nurses and health care assistants die within the trust and we knew of other colleagues/friends in other hospitals being very unwell. This really hit home the danger that we were facing but we had to carry on.

The management of the patients changed as more information came through from different countries and hospitals within the UK and we just adapted as it happened. I unfortunately had lots of discussions with family members over the telephone to explain that their loved ones were very unwell and may not survive but that they were unable to come in to be with them. This was extremely hard and goes against everything that we believed as medical professionals.

Continued.....

With the next wave I was in a GP Practice and was able to see the primary care side to COVID care.

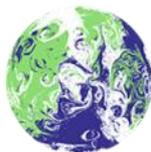
This, as I'm sure most experienced who have tried to contact their GPs, was being done over the telephone initially and if the doctor felt that they needed to see you they would bring you in. As my first placement as a GP trainee this was alien to me and took me a while to get used to. If I'm honest I didn't enjoy it as I felt more like I was in a call centre than being a doctor. The usual pattern for delays in treatment/appointments or not seeing patients was 'because of COVID' and the doctors and patients were frustrated. There was a lot of excitement with the vaccine roll out which I got to witness, this certainly lifted morale within the primary care setting and is certainly giving us the glimmer of hope to get out of this!

I have now started Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Very Very Different!) back at Worcester, which I am really enjoying. In amongst our O&G rota we also have helped as additional support on the COVID wards and with the medical team who have had to create emergency rotas to cope with the amount of patients being admitted in January and therefore have had to recruit other specialities to help. This has given me an insight into the care of the COVID patients on the wards - some who have been admitted for other reasons but subsequently have a positive COVID test. Juggling their care can be quite difficult, as they need to be on a COVID ward but need the on-going investigations and management for their illnesses.

Many junior doctors in training have had their training opportunities affected, there has been a massive reduction in the day to day service of the NHS and therefore the learning opportunities have been reduced to accommodate the service provision that has been required. As a GP trainee not seeing patients face to face or being able to attend clinics has been difficult and has meant we have had to adapt to this in our learning.

The hospital now has started to feel a bit more back to normal, although the masks remain and so does our social distancing (as much as we can), the numbers of patients continues to go down, but this means we will start the catch up on the waiting lists of patients who have had their care delayed because of COVID.

The latest Called to Action focusses on the start of the journey towards COP26 in November.



UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

The world will be watching as this conference comes to Glasgow and Christians will be standing together with the global community to ensure the UK Government responds urgently to the global climate emergency.

Journey with us to COP26

The journey from now to the COP26 conference is an unmissable opportunity for sharing ideas, reflections, challenges and commitments. Join us so we can encourage and support each other through:

- sharing worship and reflections,
- taking action to cut carbon,
- encouraging others to engage with nature,
- examples of improving biodiversity,
- opportunities for national campaigning,
- news of local events,



sharing concerns and hopes

Share your story and link with others through the [Journey with us Facebook page](#) and commit to walking the number of miles from your home to Glasgow before November.

Setting off

- Set your own target - walk or cycle in your locality, the equivalent number of miles (about 310) or maybe ask church members to take on a leg of the journey.
- Take a photo each week, pick up litter, and pray for the places you pass.
- Share your story with your friends, your church or in the 'Journey with us: Worcester to COP26' Facebook group.
- Learn about environmental steps to take in your life, your community, and your church.

Take part in a [national art competition for children](#).



Joining the journey to COP26 could support:

Eco Church (for churches <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>): Worship and Teaching 1 and 9, Community and Global Engagement 14.

Creation Care (for households <https://creationcare.org.uk/>): Worship and Teaching 1.1, 1.2,

The Parish Giving Scheme

One of the really important ways that each of us lives our faith and participates in the mission of the Church, is through the act of giving.

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), which allows donors to set up a regular Direct Debit to their church or parish, is an easy and secure way of donating to your church, and they have now made it even easier. Once the church is registered, donors can set up their donations via the [PGS website](#), as well as via the telephone line (0333 002 1271, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) and the paper forms, which are available from your PGS parish rep.



PGS also creates a dedicated page on their website for each registered parish, drawn from A Church Near You, and gives you a dedicated web address and QR code, which the parish can use on its own website, posters and newsletters to help make regular giving even easier.

There are many other reasons that PGS can be helpful for your parish securing your finances, and being a free service is even better.

NB

Whittington is already moving towards adopting this scheme and has already begun the process of registering..

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A few quick and easy steps to set up regular giving on our website.
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3 GIVE BY A GIFT FORM
You can pick up a gift form from your PGS parish representative. Simply fill in the details and we'll do the rest.

Website: www.parishgiving.org.uk
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Brush with the law?

A woman was found guilty in traffic court and when asked for her occupation she said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. 'Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.' He then smiled with delight. 'Now sit down at that table and write "I will not run a red light" one hundred times.'



"It's not quite as bad as it looks – they're only withholding payment until we publish our expenses."



St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Diocese of Worcester



News & Views from St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

Happy Easter – here's to slowly being able to get back to normal albeit different times.

'Spring has sprung, the grass has riz, I wonders where the birdies is!!'

Welcome to more daylight hours which will hopefully boost people's morale and kick the lockdown blues into touch. I don't think that we need heat, just a little gentle warmth to awaken the plants (and weeds, no doubt), lovely days to walk and enjoy the rebirth of nature around us and to listen to bird song as they begin nest building. It is a joy to watch the birds in my garden busying themselves collecting nest building material and I have provided a bunch of coir that they can tug at; I normally use it to line my hanging baskets. The PCC is very grateful to Jackie Thompson who has spent time during the better weather weeding and cutting back in the church garden. The bulbs and other spring plants are beginning to add their colour and the pink blossom of the weeping flowering cherry is ready to burst out. The PCC is also grateful to those on the lawn mowing rota, organised by Roger Rackham, for keeping the grass looking so smart; I am not so sure that the grass ever stopped growing.

I always find that a bit of warmth on my back when I am out in garden or in the greenhouse makes the work so much more enjoyable. I have sown extra flower seeds and, if they germinate, I will grow them on to produce reasonable sized plants to add more summer colour to the church garden. I was astounded to see how much frog spawn appeared, virtually overnight, in both of my small wildlife ponds. It is a great time waster to sit quietly and watch as numerous frogs bob up and down, however, make the slightest movement and they all quickly disappear under the water again! I do wonder where they have been hiding over the winter months because I rarely come across them in the undergrowth when I am gardening.

The repair of the church organ is back on track. The organ builder had to self isolate during the lockdowns but is ready to make a start to hopefully create a more tuneful sound after many years' of dud notes.

I am indebted to the kind gentleman who has offered to install the cycle stand outside the church as soon as we can finally meet up to discuss the logistics of doing so.

Church Hall News

Unfortunately the heating system problems continue to plague St Mark's. Since the removal of one of the old radiators, there seems to be constant air locks that leave the toilet and entrance hall radiators cold. The answer may lie in the addition of more accessible, automatic 'bleeding' valves and the work is scheduled for the summer holidays when there will be more time to fit and test the system. The pipes that carry the hot water round the buildings are not the size of a normal domestic system so it took a long time to drain and many hours to refill. Personally, anything that negates the necessity to climb up into and around the entrance hall loft space, where two of the valves are currently located, will be a bonus.

Hirers

PADS If you have a dog who needs behaviour lessons, the dog training group is returning to their weekly sessions, beginning on Friday, 16 April, from 7pm – 8pm and Saturday, 17 April, from 10.30am – 12.30pm. However, you will find them outside in the church garden area to begin with so, if the weather is balmy, you could enjoy watching from the footpath as Annette directs owners and pooches in the open air.

Just Dance returns on 17 April but for private one to one tuition only until everything is fully open then things will change.

It would be great if the people who expressed interest in regular hiring before the pandemic ensued, are still keen to start new groups; fingers crossed!!

I will endeavour to make a note of all changes as they happen on the church website www.stmarksworcester.wordpress.com

Ladies Club To date, speakers have been booked from the **Severn Valley Railway, St Paul's Hostel** and David Withey will share 'the lighter side of local government'. The charity bring and buy meeting in April 2022 will be in support of the **Animal Rescue Centre** located between Powick and Malvern.

All meetings with speakers are open to the general public and attendance is £3 per person for non-members.

I am happy to provide information regarding joining the club or send the completed programme to interested persons.

As some readers may be aware, I am connected to Worcester Live and to the **Swan Theatre** in particular where I have been beavering away as a volunteer painter and decorator. The difference that has been made is phenomenal, the buildings have been modernised and are now so much lighter and brighter. The main entrance doors that greet you on arrival are no longer dark, varnished wood and there are now dedicated box office and shop/ice cream facilities. To ease the pressure during interval breaks, a new bar facility has been created in the comfortable upstairs area. Plans are afoot to finally reopen in May so please visit the Worcester Live web site to see what is planned. Come and take a look for yourself because I know that all staff and volunteers are keen to welcome everyone back to the venues and to hear the sound of chatter and laughter again after an extraordinarily long time.

The bi-annual funding raising show produced by **The Friends of the Swan Theatre Worcester** (FOST for short) has been put back again to **next year**, and will now take place in **October 2022** on Saturday, 29th (7.30pm) and Sunday, 30th (2.30pm & 7.30pm). Tickets are already on sale so if you have a favourite seat, book it now to avoid disappointment; all tickets are £12 with a discount for groups. Please help FOST to support your local theatre.

Jan janvale810@gmail.com 01905 351392

Over the weekend of 14 & 15 March, pots of Mother's Day gifts of bulbs were safely delivered to thirty four homes of congregation members in the area. Occasionally, a short socially distanced doorstep conversation was enjoyed.

And now for something completely different!
100 years of the PCC

It's a hundred years since parish churches gained the power to run their own affairs, separately from what we now regard as local government.

The religious affairs of a parish, as well as its secular business had been controlled by a single committee, which met in the church and was known as the 'Vestry'. Then, in 1894, Parish Councils were formed to deal with secular matters; the Vestry continued to oversee church affairs until 1921, when Parochial Church Councils (PCC) were established. People still get confused by the two.

Continued.....

Churchwardens have been around since the 13th Century and legally 'own' the movable contents of the church. They are meant to maintain order in the church and churchyard, with the assistance of their staves, if necessary. In the event of serious disorder today, a mobile phone might be a safer instrument, with staves reserved for ceremonial occasions! Churchwardens are now chosen by parishioners, though the Incumbent (ie Vicar or Rector) has a limited right of veto.

Today, anyone on the Electoral Roll of the church (sorry, this is another confusion, for the secular Electoral Roll is entirely separate) can attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which elects the PCC. The Incumbent is an *ex officio* member, as are other licensed clergy and Churchwardens, members of the Deanery Synod, plus any member of the Diocesan Synod and General Synod who lives in the parish or is on the Roll. The Incumbent chairs the PCC, which elects a Vice-Chair and appoints a Standing Committee to transact business between meetings.

The purpose of a PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, is to consult together with the Incumbent "on matters of general concern and importance to the parish", and that includes the "whole mission of the Church". Did you know that changes to the forms of service, or the vesture or the minister, can only happen after consultation?

Inevitably, money and building maintenance take up a lot of room on the Agenda, though we all know they are less important than mission. It's a real challenge for every PCC member to pray for non-churchgoing parishioners and to find imaginative ways of introducing them to Christ and His Church.

If you've got this far and are a member of your PCC - congratulations - you are a hundred years old this year!

Notices found in church newsletters - that didn't quite come out right!

- * Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.
- * Bring & share church supper: Prayer and medication will follow.
- * Don't let worry kill you. Let the Church help!
- * The organist invites anyone who enjoys sinning to volunteer for the choir.
- * At the church meeting last week the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.
- * Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.
- * Smile at someone who you find hard to love. Say 'hell' to someone who doesn't much care about you.



St Philip & St James, Whittington Sunday Worship Arrangements

Welcome to our Sunday services, returning on 18th May 2021. Please note 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, if asked.
- 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.

Whittington Parish Magazine

April 21 Edition

