

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

October 



OCTOBER 2021

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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

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Miss Jayne Rayer 01905 351344
Asst. Warden: Mrs Brenda Giles 01905 25709
Organist:
Hon Secretary: Mrs Liz Chestney 01905 359708
Hon Treasurer: Mrs Brenda Giles 01905 25709
Magazine Editor: David Chestney 01905 359708
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St. Martin with St. Peter

Team Rector: Rev'd Peter Hart 01905 355119
Curate Rev'd Dr Robin Parry 01905 764651

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 closed to visitors, except by
appointment, but can still be reached by phone and email,***

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Letter from the Vicarage

September 2021



Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing? I hope and pray that you are all managing to keep fit and well.

Many of you will be aware that I haven't managed to do so myself, and that at the time of writing, I am coming to the end of another period of self-isolation following a routine PCR test, that surprised me by giving a positive result, where a couple of Lateral Flow Tests taken in the mean time had both returned negative results.

Literally, in the hours before I was notified of the test result, I had been enjoying a plate of chips, courtesy of *Tunes and Chips* at St. Martin's, a new venture run by John Swindells (and others) for children in years 4 to 6 at school. Tunes had been sung and chips were being consumed, when in conversation the topic moved to Harvest hymns/songs.

Earlier in the week, John had put out an e-mail appealing for further information about a song called (we think) *Cauliflowers Fluffy*. I seem to recall this being a song sung in one of the schools which I ministered in during my curacy in Bromsgrove, and it all led on to reminiscences of other Harvest Songs that we had once sung. In particular, I mentioned that I had heard recently a version of *Autumn Days* played on Radio 2:

Autumn days when the grass is jewelled
And the silk inside a chestnut shell.

Jet planes meeting in the air to be refuelled.
All these thing I love so well

So I mustn't forget, No, I mustn't forget.
To say a great big, Thank You, I mustn't forget

Coronavirus - Covid-19

St Philip and St James Whittington

is open for public worship and normal services continue.

For details see "What's on". 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 and other events are still being conducted on-line by the Team (see below)

The Team Office at St Martin's is open once more to visitors, preferably still by appointment, and can 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.

What's on at Whittington October & November

Saturday 2nd October

10.00am Forest Church - Whittington Churchyard

Sunday 3rd October

11.00am Parish Communion CW

1.00pm Baptism

Sunday 10th October

11.00am Family Service
Harvest Lunch (Bring and share)

Sunday 17th October

11.00am Parish Communion CW

Sunday 24th October

11.00am Family Communion CW

Sunday 31st October

11.00am Morning Prayer CW

Tuesday 2nd November

6.30pm PCC Meeting

Saturday 6th November

10.00am Forest Church - Whittington Churchyard

Sunday 7th November

11.00am Parish Communion CW

1.00pm Baptism

Sunday 14th November

10.55am Remembrance Sunday
Family Service

What you need.....

A Sunday School teacher had just concluded her lesson and wanted to make sure she had made her point. She said, "Can anyone tell me what you must do before you can obtain forgiveness of sin?"

There was a short pause and then, from the back of the room, a small boy spoke up. "Sin?"

WHITTINGTON NEW BUILDING *The Elizabethan Room*



Good progress is being made towards building the Elizabethan Room and the scheme is currently out to tender, with return in mid-October. After that it is hoped it will be possible to move on to agreeing a contract and a start being made on site. Much depends on the effects of the financial and delivery situation in the country during the lead up to Christmas.

Grants have already been received or promised from six charities, including Lasletts, the local charity, the National Lottery “Awards for all” fund, and the Allchurches Trust.

Preparations continue for the next stage of archaeological survey before construction begins when a watching brief over the works will see what is revealed. In the meantime historical data has been assembled and will be reviewed.

From the Parish Register at Whittington

* * * *



Weddings

4th September 2021

Andrew Prosser and Connie McKinnon
and

25th September 2021

Daniel Partridge and Rebekka Heinrichs

* * * * *

Funeral and Burial

14th September 2021

Harriet Jones



Forest Church at Whittington
every month on the first Saturday
at 10.00 am.

~~~~~



**Whittington**  
**Harvest Festival**  
**Sunday 10 October**  
**11.00 am**  
**Harvest Thanksgiving**

*Please bring any non-perishable gifts (packets of food, tins etc.) to the service and place them in the containers provided for distribution to Maggs Day Centre. Thank you*

**Followed by Harvest Lunch**  
*In the Churchyard if fine*  
**Please bring your own picnic, drink, cutlery, crockery and seating, & some food to share if possible**

**All welcome**

Plan ahead -- It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. - Anon  
Harvest Supper Friday at 6pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

## **Whittington Parish Council**

At the Whittington Parish Council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, matters relating to the flooding of Church Lane, the traffic island at the entrance to the village and the matter of the allotments on Wildmore Estate were discussed. County and District Councillors Linda Robinson and Rob Adams were both present.

It was agreed and arranged for further examination of the flooding in Church lane be undertaken with Highways and Severn Trent being involved. Concerns relating to the road markings on the Whittington Traffic Island to be taken up with Highways. It was agreed that in view of the few apparent 'abandoned' allotments, interest should be sought from beyond the Parish of Whittington.

The extent and subsequent impact of the proposed South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) continues to cause concern among parishioners, not just the Parish of Whittington but also the neighbouring Parishes of Stoulton, Norton, Drakes Broughton and White Ladies Aston. The SWDP Team have agreed to meet representatives from these Parishes during October to discuss these concerns.

Further information on these matters and other Parish Council matters can be found on the parish website [whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk)

The next Parish Council meeting will be at 7.30pm, Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at the Whittington Community Hall. The Public are welcome to attend.

To contact the Parish Clerk or a Parish Council representative please see the Parish Council web site, [whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk) or Facebook com/whittingtonpc.

### **Who'd be a landlord?**

Excerpts from real life requests sent by tenants:

The toilet is blocked, and we cannot bathe the children until it is cleared.

This is to let you know that there is a smell coming from the man next door.

The toilet seat is cracked: where do I stand?

I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is running away from the wall.

I request your permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.

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The new Hall was opened formally by Councillor Rob Adams on 4th September, with around 60 people present, including Councillors, Parish Council members, the Project Manager, the main Contractor, Interclass plc, the Management Committee and many guests from the Parish and neighbouring Parishes. Refreshments were kindly provided by Nick Hodgetts and Croome Cuisine.

A number of bookings have already taken place and many more are booked. The website [whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk](http://whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk) has full information on the facilities and booking, which can be done online.

The new Hall has been regarded by **Wychavon District Council** as a '**Flagship Project**', and the Council has provided a major grant from Section 106 monies to enable the scheme to go ahead.



**Whittington Community Hall Management Committee**

[whittingtonvhc@gmail.com](mailto:whittingtonvhc@gmail.com)

*Is responsible for managing, maintaining, developing and running the new hall.*



*Love, Learn, Achieve*

## **Whittington CE Primary School**

**From the Head Teacher, Gary Richards**

Schools have reopened from September with a renewed sense of optimism. Whilst we are not completely back to normal, you would have to look quite carefully to see the modifications we have made in order to keep pupils safe.

The children all arrive together, so staggered starts are no longer required. We have collective worship (assemblies) each day which we haven't had for well over a year, and children can once again sing together as a group.

However, a quick look at the news tells us that Covid19 is still with us, so we have not abandoned all of our safeguards. The children remain in their class groups, with mixing kept to a minimum. Hygiene, particularly hand washing, remains a key defence against the spread of infection. And we remain vigilant of any children with Covid19 symptoms.

Alongside these safeguards, we no longer need to isolate whole classes of children if we get a positive case. This gradual relaxation within the education sector means that we can get back to our core business of educating our pupils in the broadest sense of the word, which for us, includes developing our children as responsible citizens. There has never been a better time.



*Love, Learn, Achieve*



Andy and Mike managed to visit 15 churches during the day, so congratulations to them, and a considerable amount was raised through sponsorship - more next month!

## **The Worcester Philharmonic**

The Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra is very much looking forward to resuming their concert series, and we have some real treats in store.

On Saturday, 13th November at 2.30 in Pershore Abbey, we are joined by George Needham in Beethoven's 4th piano concerto. We are all looking forward to working with this very promising young pianist. The programme also includes Beethoven's 7th Symphony and Elgar's Chanson de Matin and Chanson de Nuit.

For everyone's safety, we have arranged density reduced seating, hand sanitizer at the door and we warmly recommend wearing face masks, especially when moving around.

We hope you will join us!

# **Autumn Concert**

**Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Pershore Abbey**

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm**

**Conductor -Joe Davies**

**Piano – George Needham**

Elgar Chanson de Nuit

Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4

Elgar Chanson de Matin

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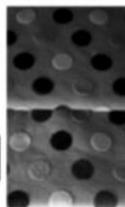
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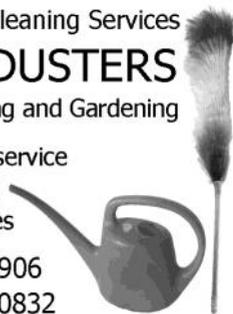
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Bishop Martin is supporting a campaign calling for churches to take a more sustainable approach to flower arranging and whenever possible, stop using floral foam (also known as 'oasis') in their displays.



Bishop Martin said:

“Like many, I love to see flower arrangements in church and always admire the ingenuity and skill of flower arrangers, however I have

recently been made aware of the damaging impact of floral foam. As a diocese, we are committed to playing our part in tackling the climate crisis and stopping using floral foam is one change that we can make in the fight to reduce single use plastics. The Royal Horticultural Society have now banned floral foam in their displays at shows, such as Chelsea and Malvern, and I urge churches to also take a lead in this area to ensure our wonderful floral displays are as sustainable as possible.”

Floral foam is made of plastic which easily crumbles into microscopic fragments, and it is not compostable. The foam is generally used wet and after being soaked, wastewater is typically discarded into the sink or drain, adding to the problem of microplastic contamination in aquatic environments. Many of our churches are already using chicken wire and bamboo as an alternative to foam, which is a much more sustainable solution.

### **Concerned about a relative?**

Do you have a relative about whom you were concerned during Covid restrictions? Would you like peace of mind that your relative is in safe hands 24 hours a day, with a team of friendly and helpful on-site staff available to provide assistance? If so, perhaps you would like to consider an Abbeyfield (not-for-profit) apartment for people aged 55+?

I am selling our mother's lovely 2-bed property at Whiston Court in Barbourne. If this could be for you, please see the advert on page 21 and contact me for more information.

**Sarah Burgess** (member of St Martin's congregation) **01905 360751**

## **Churches with 20 or fewer active members make up 45% of the churches in the Diocese of Worcester.**

Smaller churches are often at the heart of their communities and have the story of that community literally written in their stones. However, they face very specific challenges in order to remain or become healthy and sustainable.

The Revd Alison Maddocks was appointed to the new role of Dean of Smaller Churches to work with these churches, providing practical support and helping them to connect with each other to share wisdom. She said:

“Our 120 smaller churches are 95% rural and the majority are listed buildings, with two-thirds being grade 1 or 2\* listed. Many are struggling with both financial and people resources. One response could just be to close many of these churches, but that is definitely not the strategy. A defining characteristic of the Church of England is ‘a Christian presence in every community’ and our smaller churches can tell a really positive story. They are important to many who visit to find solace or discover their history.”



Alison’s post is funded by the Church Commissioners. She can help churches to work together effectively and find ways to creatively be church in their communities. Her support falls into four main areas – buildings, governance, ministry and mission and administration. All work is done in conjunction with the local clergy and Area Deans.

Alison continues: “Wherever possible, I try to work with a group of churches and help each church identify their reason for being. Perhaps they are the church that is warm in winter, or a tourist church, or a church that works brilliantly with schools. We need to move beyond parish churches trying to do everything themselves and understand what each church can do best. We can then work together to deliver that. That doesn’t necessarily mean having different services at different churches each week, but rather thinking about what we can do better together.”

“The challenges faced by smaller churches won’t be fixed overnight - it’s a long, slow process and we’ll need to ask for help from the wider community. However, it’s great that the churches I’m talking to are open to new ideas – there is a real sense of hope and a definite feeling that God is part of the process.”

*Whittington is not one of those churches, but the danger remains very real!*

## Rural homelessness on the rise: Maggs Day Centre



What would you say if someone told you that there were more homeless people in Worcester than in London? Would you believe them? Would you be surprised?

Well, shockingly, if you make the calculation according to the proportion of the populations of the two cities, there is a higher proportion of rough sleepers in Worcester than there are in London. Every year the Government carries out a rough sleeper count in the cities across the UK. The figures in 2019 were – London – population – 8.9 million; - 1,136 rough sleepers; Equals one person in 7,800 are rough sleeping in London.– Worcester – population – 100,000; rough sleepers – 29; Equals one person in 3,500 are rough sleeping in Worcester.

Rural homelessness has risen by 65% over the last ten years – people living in tents and makeshift shelters rather than sleeping in shop doorways. The reasons for homelessness in rural areas are the same as in cities – the rising cost of housing, poor health (25% of rough sleepers have become homeless due to mental health issues), discharge from the armed forces (25% of ex services personnel experience homelessness), relationship breakdown and the high cost of housing.

In London, homelessness has been an issue for many years, so there are lots of agencies and voluntary groups who help rough sleepers. In Worcester, there are less agencies, as the high increase in homelessness has happened over the last 10 years. Rural homelessness is in many ways harder to tackle than city homeless, as it's hard to track down people who are living under hedgerows or in derelict agricultural buildings.

Fortunately there is one charity which does just this – goes out onto the streets and fields of the county to reach out to rough sleepers. Maggs Day Centre offers a range of services to rough sleepers both in Worcester and Malvern and across the county. Maggs has an outreach team which goes out to engage with rough sleepers and tries to deal with the issues that have led to their homelessness and which keep them in that situation. Maggs has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and makes use of 40 volunteers to deliver its various services to some of the most disadvantaged people in our society.

You can find out more about the work that Maggs does, volunteer to help us, or donate online at our website - [www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk/](http://www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk/) or via cheque (payable to Maggs Day Centre) C/o Mel Kirk, Maggs Annexe, 59-60 The Tything, Worcester, WR1 1JT. Thank you for your support.

# Deanery Church of the Month: October 2021, St Nicholas and All Saints W15-P139

Benefice Name: Worcester, St Nicholas and  
All Saints with St Helen



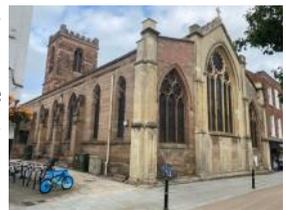
“All Saints is an Anglican church in the centre of Worcester. We believe God is actively at work, redeeming, healing and renewing all things and we are committed to partnering with God in this. We seek to be a creative reflection of the love of God which is transforming our lives and our city.”



I would really need several pages to do justice to this Worcester Benefice. There is a lot of interesting information snippets and whilst my two pages will only deal with the practical, the very modern ‘Mission Statement’ from their YouTube page sums up the reason for continued existence.

To unpack the Benefice name, St Nicholas was a splendid building standing at ‘The Cross’ in the heart of Worcester and the Georgian elegance of tower and building are definitely worth the visit even if only to wander inside to the ‘Slug & Lettuce’ restaurant/public house that it now is. The first reference (according to ‘Churches of Worcestershire’, Tim Bridges) was in 1256 when an anchoress, Juliana, had a cell attached to the church and was given permission to extend her courtyard over the street. I do remember visiting the church before it was closed in 1992 and the wealth of the Worcester citizens who built it was quite in evidence. Much has changed since then but of note is the interesting fact that the first Sunday School in Worcester was opened at St. Nicholas’ in 1785.

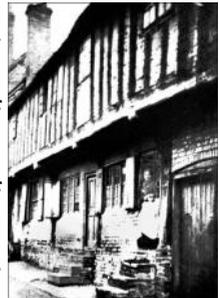
There is a plethora of redundant churches in the centre of Worcester and of course several that are now long gone. One such building that has been recently brought back into use is St Helen’s in Fish Street. Probably the oldest remaining church in Worcester, its position within the Roman defensive wall and its dedication to Helen, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, places its founding at about the 4th or 5th century. The earliest documentary evidence comes from a Synod held in 1092 to decide a dispute with the nearby St Alban (probably positioned under the chapel that has now become the Maggs Day Centre).



*Continued.....*

Established as the County and Diocesan record store in 1957, with most of its accoutrements ripped out, St Helen's now stands in use as a drop-in centre and alternative venue for the congregation at All Saints. Its nearby Church House built in 1890 on the site of the Rectory being used as an administrative centre. Of note is the fact that historically, St Helen's parish included: Knightwick; Doddenham; Martley; Little Witley; Holt; Wichford and Kenswick to the west of the river and: Claines; Warndon; Hindlip; Oddingley; Huddington; Whittington; Churchill; and White Ladies Aston to the east, plus: St John and St Peter the Great to the south. The peal of bells was sold in 1951 for scrap and the small churchyard is now a car park. Adjoining the Church House is the warehouse property of Malpas Stallard (Wines and Spirits) and probably the last of the warehouses still in use from the days of the river trade. The earliest record of the Stallard family's wine-trade connection in Worcester is of a Thomas Stallard supplying sacramental wine to the Cathedral in the reign of Henry VII.

So, the remaining church of the Benefice and the one that we all associate with this parish is the one in the photo at the head of this article. I was able to gain entry and was warmly greeted by Mark the buildings manager who discussed the changes made to the inside of this Georgian rebuild of a medieval church. The medieval church was badly damaged during the civil war and so was rebuilt. The external building damage that can be seen now is wear and tear and not the result of war. It was possibly not the very first church building as you crossed the river because there would likely have been a gate chapel on the wooden bridge. The church though was built in an imposing position on the rising ground and now is placed on the very modern Deansway and the 18th Century, Broad Street. Prior to that the church would have abutted black and white Tudor style buildings and a veritable rabbit warren of slums, fisherman huts and wharves. This photo from 1884 is of a home in Grope Lane. I will leave you to look up what that means! They were all swept away by the cement boxes that were the Technical College. This was then, very much so, the Red Light district of Worcester.



The interior of this church also enjoyed the attentions of Sir George Aston Webb in 1888. There is an unusual 17th century chained bible, an 18th century sword rest which would once have been attached to the mayor's pew, and the east window glass (1891) shows the Last Judgement. A tablet over the south doorway erected between 1758 & 1974 to record the grant of money from Queen Anne's bounty, established to aid poorly endowed churches is particularly apt as this church is now one of our resourcing churches in the Diocese. Paul Fulbrook, Deanery Secretary.



## St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Diocese of Worcester



### News & Views from St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

It may be October but the weather says that it is still summer, glorious but we do need rain. We have already squirreled away blackberries in the freezer and I am making good use of the great harvest of cooking apples that we have been blessed with to make Apple & Rosemary Jelly, a wonderful condiment for all occasions. It is also the time to think about Christmas cakes, yes I know, it is weeks' away but I am going to soak the fruit for our cakes in sherry to produce a rich moist offering that never gets iced and is very much a cut and come again cake. The recipe as follows, is one that I have used for well over 40 years and which I last printed quite a long time ago; give it a go, you won't regret it.

#### **Christmas Cake Recipe (but it can be used for a lovely fruit cake any time of the year)**

Firstly, mix together the following quantities of dried fruit - 6oz (175gms) each of Sultanas and Raisins plus 4oz (100gms) each of Currants, Mixed Peel and Glace Cherries plus ½ tspn of Mixed Spice.

Cover the fruit with medium dry sherry (the cheapest is fine), seal container and shake every few days so that all the fruit absorbs the liquid; leave soaking for two weeks.

Set oven at 170 degrees C / 325 degrees F / Gas Mark 3. Grease and line a deep cake tin size 7 – 8" (18cm – 20cm).

Cream together **6 oz (175g) butter** with **6 oz (175g) soft brown sugar**. Beat in **4 eggs** one at time. Fold in **4 oz (100g) plain** and **4 oz (100g) SR flour** and **a generous ½ tspn of mixed spice** together with **1 oz (25g) ground almonds**.

Drain off any liquid remaining in the fruit (keep liquid for later) and fold the assorted fruit into the cake mix until well blended. Put in prepared tin and bake just below middle of oven for one hour. Cover with foil, reduce temperature to 150 C / 300 F / Gas Mark 2 and bake for a further 1½ hours until the cake is firm to touch and a testing skewer comes out clean.

Leave to cool in tin until nearly cold, prick all over top and pour any of the remaining sherry liquid over the cake. Wrap in greaseproof and put in a tin or wrap in foil to mature until needed.

Do you have a favourite recipe that you could share with other readers? If so, please send or give it to me and I will be pleased to include it in editions of future magazines.

The Monday pilates group is growing and if you are interested in the exercise but can't make Mondays, there is another group but it is not currently running because low numbers meant it was not viable. If you are interested, **Pilates Movement** is on a Thursday from 5.30 - 6.30pm but please get in touch with Rosemary in the first instance 01905 350642

September was friendship month for the Oddfellows Fellowship when they greeted new friends and welcomed back old ones. With this in mind, on the 13 September over forty people were joined by The Worcester Ukulele Band in the Church Hall, who entertained them with a rousing chorus of popular songs followed by afternoon tea with a variety of sandwiches and cakes provided by some very hard working volunteers. I was a little late in joining the party and it was lovely to hear people chatting away as I entered the hall.

The foregoing was the inaugural meeting and the group looks forward to welcoming members, old and new, to future meetings on the second Monday of most months; the Christmas party and New Year Lunch will be the next big events for members and guests. For further information about Oddfellows membership and their future programme, please contact John Bradley 07816205837 or e-mail [jb@johnbradley33.plus.com](mailto:jb@johnbradley33.plus.com)

**Cherry Orchard Ladies Club** Considering that we hadn't met since March 2020, it was encouraging to welcome eleven members back to the first meeting on 1 September. It was a social evening when there was loads to catch up on over a cuppa. As many will know, we meet in the church hall at 7.30pm on first Wednesday of each month and we continue the fun element on 6 October when John Bradley, yes the same busy person as above, hosts **Play Your Cards Right**.

**Advanced Notice: 3 November** Director of the St Paul's Shelter, Jonathan Sutton, will explain how the Tallow Hill facility operates and dispel any misconceptions of the residents.

Membership: £9 Annually plus £1.50 Per Meeting / Visitors £3.00 Per Meeting, **Gentlemen Welcome.** Further Information from: (Secretary) Jan Vale 01905 351392 / [janvale810@gmail.com](mailto:janvale810@gmail.com)

**The New Monthly Community Choir** Unfortunately, I couldn't get to the first meeting but understand that a magnificent 48 people attended. Don't forget that you don't need to be able to read music or sing but if you enjoy music, Opera Worcester will welcome you with open arms and find a niche for you in their operations. The next meeting will be in **St Marks Church** on Saturday, 2 October, from 12.30 until approximately 2pm so feel free to drop in and meet them all. Thereafter they will be there on 6 November.

## **Forthcoming Events**

**Remembrance Service – Family Service 14 November 9.30am** St Marks welcomes all ages to remember those who have fallen in all the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. We would especially like to greet the youngsters who attend Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in the church hall plus pupils from Cherry Orchard Primary School. After the disruption that Covid caused over the past 18 months or so, it would be great to see a healthy congregation returning to worship in St Marks which, despite its austere exterior, has a lovely and warm interior.

**Hooray, quiz nights are back!!** It is nearly two years since the quizzers last got together and, having received enquiries as to when the next one would be, I am delighted to announce that Alan Matthews will once more be the master of ceremonies in the church hall on Saturday, 27 November, 7 for 7.30pm start. If you have never attended one of St Mark's quiz nights, you are missing a treat. They are never intended to be serious events but evenings of fun, corny jokes and jolly banter. Tickets are £3.50 each (U16s free) BYO liquid refreshment and nibbles (there are lots of glasses in the hall kitchen). Come as a team or join one when you arrive.

I will report on the 2021 Ride & Stride in the November edition. Finally, if you are ever considering hiring the church hall for a private event, please book early to avoid disappointment.

Please visit St Marks website [stmarksworcester.wordpress.com](http://stmarksworcester.wordpress.com) or get in touch with Jan Vale [janvale810@gmail.com](mailto:janvale810@gmail.com) telephone 01905 351392 if you would like a full list of hall hirers.

**Jan [janvale810@gmail.com](mailto:janvale810@gmail.com) 01905 351392**

## All Hallows Eve – or Holy Evening

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged. When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1<sup>st</sup> November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.



RcN  
*After his induction, Harry met the  
leaders of the other denominations*

For many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of

nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

# Zebra crossings – saving lives for 70 years

Seventy years ago, on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1951, zebra crossings were introduced officially in the UK. The first one was in Slough, Berkshire.

The crossings had been trialled over two years at 1000 experimental sites, but in 1951 the black and white striped pedestrian crossings were approved, with their flashing Belisha beacons, and all drivers were required by law to stop as soon as a pedestrian set foot on them.

The crossings were the brainchild of Yorkshireman and traffic engineer George 'Dr Zebra' Charlesworth, a physicist who had worked on the Barnes Wallis-designed bouncing bomb during the war. His zebra crossings were certainly responsible for saving many lives.

The Belisha beacons, an integral part of the crossing but used since 1934, were introduced by Leslie Hore-Belisha, who served as Minister of Transport at the time.

Zebra crossings were adopted throughout the world, from continental Europe to North America, Singapore and Australia. They have now been superseded to some extent in the UK by pelican crossings, which are controlled by lights. These were introduced in 1969. While zebras were named because of their appearance, a pelican crossing (originally pelicon) is so named as a contraction of the phrase 'pedestrian light controlled'.

## Harvest time for YOU

Sometimes a law of nature is very similar to a law of the spirit. Take the whole business of harvest, or 'sowing and reaping'. The Bible tells us: "A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much." (2 Cor 9:6)

The most sensitive nerve on our body is the one that runs to our cheque book! Money represents our time, our security, and our hard work. It gives us independence and power. So, when God begins to talk to us about giving more of our money to Him – sowing it in His service – we can feel very alarmed.

The seed a farmer sows in a field may sometimes be lost, but not the seed that we give to God. What we sow with regards to our time, gifts and money in service to others God will make sure we one day reap – in a harvest of spiritual riches that we can never lose.

# St Philip & St James, Whittington

## Sunday Worship Arrangements



Welcome to our Sunday services. 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 requested that the congregation continue 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.
- Communion will be received standing from a central point, with bread and wine by intinction. 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 put orders of service in the containers provided as you leave
- 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

## October 21 Edition

