

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



MAY 22

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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

Churchwardens: Miss Janet Pearson 01905 357485
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
david.battenhall@outlook.com

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 open again on Mon, Tues, Thurs &
Friday, but visits should continue to be by appointment.
Rebecca can always be reached by phone and email.***

In This Issue

Front Cover	1
Team Details	2
Index	3
Letter from the Vicarage for May	4/5
Coronavirus Covid-19 & On-line Video Services	6
What's on at Whittington for May & June	7
Whittington New Building & Plant Sale	8
Christian Aid Week & Parish Register	9
Whittington Parish Council	10
Whittington Community Hall	11
Whittington CE Primary School; Climate Justice	12/13
Adverts	14/23
Worcester Philharmonic Orchestra Summer Concert	24
Miracles of Grace, Archdeacon Of Worcester	25
Worcester Cathedral, caring gently on the earth	26
Take a walk on the wild side	27
The Trussell Trust provides over 2 million parcels	28/29
News & Views from St. Mark's Church	30/31/32
Remember the New Highway Code	33
The Pain of Ukraine	34
Sunday Worship Arrangements, Whittington	35
Back Cover - A Chaffinch singing	36

Not expecting this.....

The young minister took his wife to the Maternity Hospital and was told it would be a long labour. So, he agreed to ring at lunchtime for news. But when he phoned, he dialled the wrong number and got the County Cricket Ground. He said: "I brought my wife to your place early this morning. Is there any news?"

He was surprised to be told: "Yes, there are seven out and the last two were ducks."

Letter from the Vicarage

May 2022



Hi Everyone,

How are you doing? I hope and pray that you have been able to keep fit and well and are enjoying the beauty of the warmer temperatures and longer days, you may even be looking forward to a holiday in the next few months. I wonder, what kind of things do you like to do when you go on holiday? Are you content to lie on a beach somewhere soaking up the sun, or do you need to be a little bit more active than that?

It probably won't surprise you to learn that I like to be a bit more active on holiday, though I can probably cope with an afternoon on a beach somewhere, once in a while.

Thinking back to the days before theological college and meeting Chris and getting married, it wasn't unheard of for me to go on 'adventure' holidays and try new experiences. On one such occasion the highlight of my week was to go paragliding - basically running full tilt off the edge of a cliff, while trying to lift a parachute type canopy above your head, such that you then float gracefully down onto the beach. At least, that's what they taught us beginners to do - the more experienced paragliders will use the thermals etc. to give them lift and can stay airborne for some considerable time.

In practice, of course it is easier said than done, to lift the canopy above your head, and my experience was one of having the canopy try and pull me backwards until such time as I had lifted it high enough (and horizontal enough above my head) for the air to travel through the canopy rather than into it as if it were a sail on a ship. While I was achieving that, I wasn't necessarily in full control of where I was running to and there a certain amount of lateral movement, as well as backwards movement,

continued.....

resulted, endangering other members of the group who may not have been paying close attention while waiting their turn!

Once airborne though the chaos and flurry involved in the take off, was soon forgotten as I executed the left turn that was needed to float down to land on the beach (and not in the sea!). During the flight, I was struck by how quiet everything was, the noises of people on the beach, or the other members of the group on the cliff top sounded really quite distant, and so, for the short duration of the flight, there was a sense of separation from everything going on below me and a peace and quiet that was “beyond understanding” (to quote words from a familiar blessing).

All this has come back to mind as I have been thinking about Ascension Day (this year to be celebrated on the 26th May), and the separation that the Ascension of Jesus back into heaven brought between Him and His disciples.

I wonder how you reflect upon that story and how you picture it in your mind’s eye. Do you consider Jesus to be ‘up there, somewhere’ with a watching brief maybe, yet separated from the goings on, on earth? Or is your own experience of God closer and more personally involved than that?

Sometimes events in the world around us may well cause us to ask “where is God in all that?”, and again that is a question of whether we experience God to be remote and “up there” or closer and more involved in our lives.

I hope and pray that it is the latter.

By the way, please note that this year, we will not be having our usual Ascension Day service at Whittington. Instead we will be joining with people from across the Worcester Deanery at a Deanery Celebration Service at St. Martin’s, London Road, starting at 7 p.m. Everybody is welcome to join that service.

I hope to see you there. Every blessing, Andy.



May
2022

Coronavirus - Covid-19

St Philip and St James Whittington
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 to visitors, preferably still by appointment, and can be reached by phone and email, see inside cover.

LIVE ON-LINE VIDEO SERVICES

For all churches in the South East Team

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

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

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

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

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

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

For enquiries about Whittington please email the Vicar
andy.stand@sky.com

**Sunday Services will be streamed from
Whittington on Zoom.**

What's on at Whittington May & June

Sunday 1st May 11.00am 1.00pm	St Philip & St James 'Whittington Sunday' Parish Communion CW Baptism
Saturday 7th May 10.00am	Forest Church
Sunday 8th May 11.00am 12md	Easter 4 Family Service Annual Church Meeting
Tuesday 10th May 6.30pm	PCC Meeting
Sunday 15th May 11.00am	Easter 5 Parish Communion CW
Saturday 21st May 2.00pm	Wedding of Charles & Claire
Sunday 22nd May 11.00am	Easter 6 Family Communion CW
Sunday 29th May 11.00am	Easter 7 Morning Prayer CW
Saturday 4th June 10.00am	Forest Church
Sunday 5th June 11.00am	Pentecost Parish Communion CW
Sunday 12th June 11.00am 3.00pm	Trinity Sunday Family Service Opening 'The Elizabethan Room'

WHITTINGTON NEW BUILDING

The Elizabethan Room

Progress on the new Elizabethan Room has gone well in the last month, and the main building is now complete. The inside is also well advanced with both rooms plastered and painted;



the kitchen units have been installed in the meeting room. Attention has now turned to the outside and the surrounds to the building.

Completion is now expected by the middle of this month with opening in mid June. Until then, facilities available to the church are limited, though services continue as usual.

Portable toilets have been provided.

Every effort is being made to minimise the effect of the works on the life of the church and the use of the churchyard.



BRENDA'S PLANT SALE

Hi folks, a reminder that I am growing bedding plants again and if anyone is interested can they please contact me by phone or email to see what I have left.

I can supply a plant list by email if anyone would like to see the full range. I do already have many orders and am running short of some items and I always operate a "first come first served policy". I look forward to hearing from anyone who is interested.

Brenda Giles 01905 25709, brenda.giles@tiscali.co.uk



Christian Aid Week

5th – 21st May 2022

In Zimbabwe, the climate crisis is causing aching hunger for families like Jessica's.

The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict and drought have robbed her of the power to provide for her children. And 7,000 miles away, the war in Ukraine will drive up food prices in Zimbabwe and around the globe. Without the fertiliser and food – like wheat and cooking oil – that Ukraine and Russia produce, vulnerable families will be pushed ever deeper into hunger.

But hope does not disappoint. Hope lives in you.

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help Jessica set up water taps on her farm, learn to grow food and provide seeds that thrive in drought – giving her all she needs to turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

Help turn hunger into hope this Christian Aid Week.

With every gift, every action, every prayer we celebrate and share hope with our sisters and brothers facing crisis around the world, from Ukraine to Zimbabwe.



If you are able to give a donation, no matter how small, please use one of the donation envelopes which will be available in church. Thank you.

From the Parish Register at Whittington

* * * * *

3rd April 2022

Baptism

Isla Elizabeth Minnie Healey

Daughter of Kevin and Victoria Heeley



Whittington Parish Council

The Parish Council met on the 28th of April. County Councillor Linda Robinson spoke of the Here2Help Scheme in respect of Ukrainian refugees now residing in Wychavon. In this respect there is an appeal for Ukrainian and Russian speakers to volunteer their services.

The Chairman welcomed new Parish Councillor, Helena Bennett. Concern was raised regarding the lack of safety barriers between the footpath/cycle route and Crookberrow dual carriage way. This matter is to be raised with Highways Authority.

Smartwater kits have been delivered to parishioners.

The Annual Parish meeting is to be held at 7pm on the 17th May, at the community hall. All parishioners welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be available. Of particular importance is that at this meeting there will be a presentation on the proposals of the South Worcestershire Development Plan. These proposals will have a significant impact on the Parish of Whittington and Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Further detail and information of this meeting and previous meetings can be found on the Council website, whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk.

Information regarding the work of the Parish Council, details of the next meeting or minutes of previous meetings, can be found through the following ; Clerk to the Council David Hunter-Miller, 35 Benbow Close, Malvern Wells, WR14 4JJ

Email clerk@whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk Tel 07513 122918 Website whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk [facebook.com/whittingtonpc](https://www.facebook.com/whittingtonpc)

There, but for the grace of God, go I.....

This saying is attributed to John Bradford (1510-1555), who was one of the Protestant Reformers. When he saw criminals on their way to execution, Bradford would utter, "But for the grace of God, there goes John Bradford." It was his way of acknowledging that he depended every day on the mercy of God, despite his sins, which he considered were on a par with those of rogues.

Sadly, Bradford's freedom was to last only a short time, for he was convicted as a heretic, incarcerated, and finally burned at the stake, during the reign of Queen Mary. Renowned for his prayer life and preaching, Bradford had continued to proclaim the Gospel in prison. One of his biographers wrote, "He lived a long life in a short space of time."

Whittington Community Hall

The improvements to the Hall particularly the acoustics, were completed during the Spring as intended, and this has led to greater enjoyment of the Hall and the facilities it has to offer. Blinds were fitted to the windows in the hall and the meeting room.

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

Community Events at the Hall

Note the dates : Saturday 7th May, Quiz Night with Fish and Chip supper. Community Hall.

**Friday 3rd June, Platinum Jubilee. Community Hall.
Watch out for details!**



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

Whittington Community Hall Management Committee
whittingtonvhc@gmail.com



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Climate Justice – Caring for our World

In response to our new school vision, the children at Whittington CE Primary School have been thinking about how we can ‘care for our world and one another today – for a better tomorrow’.

As part of this year’s World Book Day celebration, each child received a copy of a children’s book ‘A Robot called B4’ created by Worcester Bosch to raise awareness of how our actions affect planet earth.

<https://www.worcester-bosch.co.uk/storybook/a-robot-called-b4>

This led to lots of discussions and ideas of how we can take better care for our world.

Here are a few questions and responses from our Year 6 class.



What do YOU think the future will look like?

Plants and trees would decrease rapidly due to too much heat rising and global warming.

The oceans will contain more plastic than fish! All cars will be electric.

We won’t have the beautiful blue waterfalls because they will be full of oil from the factories and our rivers will be full of plastic and rubbish.

If we don’t change what we do the forests will get smaller and factories and industry will expand. A dull, smoky and grey place with no beautiful animals or trees. This will mean less oxygen for clear air.

A big, green, healthy world with no pollution, just lots of flowers, trees and animals. Less plants and trees, less food and arctic animals losing their habitat due to the ice melting.

A better place – if we all save the world as individuals then everyone will need to play their part.

We need to stop the sea levels rising as it will flood and there will be nowhere for us or the animals to live. We may not even have a future because the world will get too warm and not be suitable for humans.

Will we even have a world in 50 years?



If you could say anything to our Government about the environment what would it be?

Ban non electric cars.

Stop selling plastic bags at all. Protect our oceans from plastic.

Stop cutting down trees.

Protect wildlife habitats – stop replacing them with buildings.

We need laws about tree cutting, plastic, how houses are built, disposing of rubbish properly. Need to make these changes faster.

Stop chopping down trees to build things. Have more public events e.g. litter picking days.

Don't wait 8 years for all cars to be electric – do it now.

Use more solar or wind power.

Don't cover up the green areas with houses and buildings.

They aren't doing enough! Stop petrol cars sooner and make deforestation illegal.



Will you do anything differently following this session?

I will sort rubbish better and reduce my computer time.

Switch lights off when leaving the room

Not waste paper, turn off lights and computers when not in use.

Choose items with less packaging, recycling and take my own bags when shopping.

Use both sides of a piece of paper. Use things until they can't be used anymore.

Make homes for animals using recycled materials eg bird houses, feeders, bug hotels

I'm going to plant a vegetable garden in my old sand pit.

I would like to care for hurt animals, eat no meat and not waste food.

Less packaging in my lunch box, recycling properly, walk when possible.

Try to be healthier for ourselves and the planet, make compost and plant more flowers.

Eat less meat. Use less technology so that the power can be saved to charge electric cars.

I will compost left over food to help the plants to grow.

I will be more efficient with recycling and put things into the right bin.

Jesus said, 'I chose you and appointed you to bear much fruit, fruit that will last.'



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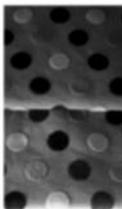
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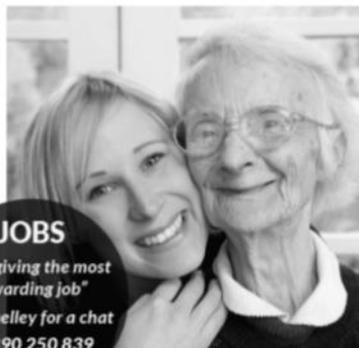
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[Pershore Town Hall](#)

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Time to welcome your slugs and snails??

So says the Royal Horticultural Society, as it recently began a campaign to encourage us to see the gastropods in our gardens in a better light.

The RHS says that the species play a key role in garden ecosystems, and thus are in need of 'positive PR'. It seems that only nine of the 44 known species in the UK are likely to threaten our gardens, and that all of them play a vital role in recycling dead plant material and animal waste, and acting as a food source for hedgehogs, frogs, birds, beetles and flies.

In fact, the RHS's principal entomologist says that we should consider our slugs and snails not as marauding pests bent on eating our flowers and vegetables, but rather as 'garden visitors'. "Our gardens would be duller and messier without them."

Miracles of Grace

from the Archdeacon of Worcester,
Robert Jones.



There's a challenge in writing parish magazine articles which have to be prepared a month in advance! What might be happening then? In these strange days it is even harder to know what to write. I don't think any of us believed we would see warfare in Europe. So much has changed, not least our own sense of security or threat.

So perhaps in such changing and challenging times, it is worthwhile asking the question; what hasn't changed and what remains constant? There's clearly a Christian dimension to this: we believe that God is God, as it says in the Bible 'the same yesterday, today and for ever'. God is constant.

We also believe that Christ entered into the whole human experience, including our suffering, and walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death. Christ is present. To quote a prayer of Pope Francis, using the Jesus

Prayer of the Orthodox Church:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners.

Lord Jesus, born in the shadows of the bombs falling on Kyiv, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus, a twenty-year old sent to the frontlines, have mercy on us.

It's worth remembering that everything Jesus taught, did and lived through was in a country, his own country, which was under foreign military rule. He was no stranger to conflict.

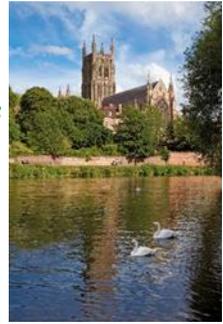
There is a wider human experience too. In tough times there are people who do not give up on living and loving. In tough times there are people who make brave choices to do what is right, good and just. Kindness abounds in the darkest places: people fall in love, children are born, neighbours look out for those around them.

There is an essential human goodness which abides. A commentator once wrote that it wasn't the presence of evil which surprised him. Rather: 'I am surprised by the problem of good. Why is there good in the world? Given where we came from and the world in which we live, why is there love? Why is their self-sacrifice? These are miracles of grace.'

What hasn't changed and what remains constant? It is those miracles of grace: let's look out for them.

Worcester Cathedral - Living Gently on the Earth

Worcester Cathedral is planning a series of workshops and events to help us all 'live gently on the Earth'.



Along with many other Churches, the Worcester Cathedral community has been going through quite an ecological conversion experience over the last couple of years. The Cathedral declared a Climate Emergency on 5 September 2021 and were pleased to be awarded the A Rocha UK Bronze Eco Church Award in March 2022. However, these are the first 'baby steps', and there is much still to do.

We have become deeply aware that the Climate Emergency is an important matter for all Christians, and indeed for all people, lying as it does at the heart of our mission to "love your neighbour" by caring for one another and for the very Creation that sustains us.

Aware of how much we have yet to learn, we applied for and received National Lottery funding to run a series of workshops and events, around learning practical green living.

These events are open to all people, of all faiths and none, and will mostly take place at the Cathedral. This is what we have planned so far:

7th May, 10am-1pm: How does a faith in God affect care for the planet?
9 June, 2.30pm: Cooking delicious vegetarian food - demo and teach-in
7 July, 7pm: Greening your finances: put your money where your heart is
25 September, 12:30pm: From garden to dish - organic food (visit)
29 September, 2:30pm: Conscientious consumerism - how to buy ethically
22 October, 10am: Eco Family Fair

The events are free, and you can find more details and book a place to attend at: worcestercathedral.co.uk/eco. We are working on further events, including: knowing your carbon footprint; reducing personal energy use and costs; green transportation; waste, re-use and recycling; ecology and family events. These will be announced in due course.



Take a walk on the wild side!

How neat do we like our gardens to be? Full of manicured lawns, with immaculate flower beds?

Well, yes and no. A recent survey by BBC's Gardener's World magazine has found that more than half (54 per cent) of gardeners now include 'uncultivated areas' in their garden. And some 44 per cent of gardeners have also set up a wildflower area.



Certainly, Nature could use a helping hand just now. In 2019, 32 per cent of us saw a butterfly in our garden. By 2020 that was down to 21 per cent. By 2021, that was down again, to just 16 per cent.

Simple tips to rewild your garden:

Avoid chemical pesticides and herbicides, which also kill 'good bugs', butterflies and bees.

Tolerate as much mess as you can. Leave wood and leaf piles for hedgehogs and invertebrates.

Set aside some room where grass can grow longer, and wildflowers can bloom.

Don't pull up all your weeds – they can be a critical source of pollen for bees.



"It comes to something when the state of the pound is such that we *hope* to find lots of foreign coins!"

Parking space?

Angus was driving down the street worried because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. So, looking up toward heaven, he said "Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to church every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up whisky."

A moment later, miraculously, a parking place appeared. Angus looked up again and said, "Never mind. I found one."

The Trussell Trust provides over 2 million parcels in the past year

In latest figures released by the Trussell Trust, food banks in its network provided more than 2.1 million food parcels to people in the past year across UK, alarmingly, more than 800,000 of these were for children. In the West Midlands, over 200,000 parcels were provided.

The Bishop of Durham, the Rt Revd Paul Butler, has called on the government to take urgent action to prevent hundreds of thousands of people from being pushed through the doors of food banks as families across the country face the biggest income squeeze in a generation.

Food banks in the Trussell Trust's network provided more than 2.1 million parcels to people facing financial hardship across the UK, from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. This represents a 14% increase compared to the same period in 2019/20 – before the pandemic – as more and more people are unable to afford the absolute essentials that we all need to eat, stay warm, dry and clean. This is the first time food banks in the Trussell Trust's network have provided more than 2 million parcels, outside of 2020, at the height of the pandemic.

Rt Revd Paul Butler said:

“I’m deeply concerned by the latest figures from the Trussell Trust which paint a bleak picture of acute need across the country. The plight of families will only get worse as we see inflation at its highest level in a generation and soaring energy bills. Too many families are being pushed deeper into poverty and being left with no option but to use a food bank. This simply isn’t right and we all deserve the dignity of being able to put food on the table to feed our families. But there is still time for the government to take action and put more money into the pockets of people at the sharpest end of this crisis. That’s why I’m calling on them to show some compassion and give people the dignity of being able to put food on the table.”

The Trussell Trust says food banks in its network experienced their busiest winter outside of 2020 at the height of the pandemic, providing 1.2 million parcels in the second half of the year alone (from October to the end of March). That is more parcels than were provided for the whole year of 2016/17, just five years ago.

As inflation continues to soar and rising bills are putting pressure on families across the country, the Trussell Trust says its network expects need for emergency food to rise further still, over the coming months and beyond. One food bank manager said: “The people who come in are telling me they’re scared. People are beside themselves about what the next six months will bring.”

With the energy price cap rise just starting to bite the charity says for most people at risk from financial hardship – who cannot work or work longer hours due to disability, caring responsibilities or mental health issues – there is very little protection ahead. Food bank staff and volunteers will always do all they can to help people in their communities, they do this every day - but they cannot and should not be picking up the pieces of government inaction, particularly with a crisis of this scale.

Churches play an important role in supporting people who are reaching crisis point – by housing food banks in their buildings, volunteering, praying and of course donating supplies. As the cost of living crisis carries on, the Trussell Trust ask that you continue to do this, alongside adding your voice to call upon the government to bring benefits in line with the true cost of living as a bare minimum, and strengthen our social security system so no one struggles to stay fed, warm and dry.



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St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Diocese of Worcester



News & Views from St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

Cherry Orchard Ladies Club

The April meeting was the annual Charity Bring 'n' Buy and this year it was in aid of The Worcestershire Animal Rescue Shelter. We were delighted to welcome Chris Hermiston, acting shelter manager and Alison, a trustee of the charity, and they brought with them Pearl, a beautiful greyhound with a jet black shiny coat and eyes. However, and disappointingly, there were only nine members in attendance to listen to what they had to say and to ask questions.

Chris began by sharing that he was a little rusty because our meeting was the first fundraising event that they had attended for over two years. He formally introduced Pearl, an ex-racing dog who is 3½ years old and explained that she was muzzled for safety reasons. She had arrived at the shelter during the lockdown, having raced forty-six times in her short life. Each time a greyhound races, it puts incredible strain on the dog's wrists – 32kg multiplied by four as they take the track bends. Some trainers care about their dogs but others can cause permanent damage by



the amount of racing they put the dogs through hence many greyhounds end up in shelters in need of good homes. Pearl arrived with seasonal alopecia caused by poor diet but is well on the way to full health and Chris said that since speed is in her blood, he is careful when letting her off the lead because she loves to chase, and is known to catch, squirrels, rabbits and even chinchilla dogs but the muzzle stops her injuring them.

The Worcester Animal Rescue Shelter (WARS) acquired their 6 acre premises in Hawthorn Lane, Newlands, off the main road between Powick and Malvern, 21 years' ago but the charity was actually formed in 1983. Their mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home abandoned, unwanted and mistreated animals including dogs, cats and even ex-battery hens from the British Hen Welfare Trust that are past egg laying days; Chris added that it is incredible to see the hens' reaction to being able to run round on grass instead of being cooped up 24/7.

The shelter has cared for many thousands of animals over the years and much more information can be found on their website www.wars.org.uk where you will see a lovely photograph of Pearl as well as other animals that need re-homing.

As you can imagine, forms are completed to ascertain the history of animals before they are taken in and the new residents are given the once over by a local vet who visits the site every Wednesday. The charity sometimes uses foster care and always welcomes volunteers for dog walking and cat socialising. Sometimes things don't work out but the return rate is only around 4% which confirms how careful they are when matching a new owner with a pet and the shelter gives physical and mental stimulation, sensibly working within its means. Like a considerable number of businesses and charities, **WARS** suffered during Covid but something good did come out of the crisis. The restrictions meant that no personal visits were allowed and it was noticed that the animals became more relaxed as time went on. **WARS** is now a non-viewing shelter and others have followed their lead; even the Battersea Dogs Home is considering this less stressful approach. I believe that matching is now done using photographs and the only time that people meet their prospective new pets is the lead up to final selection. One of the questions that arose was why Pearl wore a harness instead of a lead. Chris explained and showed all that undue pressure from collars can result in thyroid cancer and the type of muzzle that she wears is kinder and allows her to drink more comfortably.

WARS holds fundraising open days twice a year in June and September and the next one is on **Sunday, 12 June**, details on their website. Lastly, the charity is always in need of blankets and towels that can be dropped off at the shelter when it is open, again details are on the website. After a very interesting and enlightening talk, Ladies Club was delighted to be able to donate £100 to their cause.

The next Ladies Club speaker at **7.30pm on 3rd May** will be **David Withey** talking about **The Lighter Side of Local Government**.

Chat & Cuppa Club some of you may already be aware that this community event was started in September 2019 and the average number attending on the first Tuesday of every month has been around 4 – 6 people which, whilst encouraging, was lower than I had hoped but I never entertained the notion to give up.

I believe the saying is 'from little acorns, mighty oaks grow' so you may be able to imagine my surprise when fifteen smiling faces walked into the church hall on 5 April to enjoy a free cuppa and piece of cake. It was wonderful, very uplifting and I really hope that the higher numbers continue because the buzz of people chatting away was rewarding and meant, for once, that we didn't need the radio in the background. Everyone is really friendly so please consider adding this FREE event to your calendar – first Tuesday of EVERY month from 2 – 3pmish – you will receive a warm welcome and we rarely leave before 3.30pm!

Church Hall News

The huge increase in utility charges has necessitated a rise of £1 per hour for hall hire. Gas and electricity invoices are now over three times higher than pre-covid and the average gas bill is £100 per week in the winter; goodness knows how much more it will cost when the price cap increases. Having said that, the cost of hiring the hall still represents very good value for the facilities that are on offer.

Sadly, we said goodbye to PADS, the dog training group at the end of April. The group had supported St Marks for over 10 years and used the hall on Friday evenings and Saturday morning. The reasons for closure have nothing to do with the increase in the cost of hall hire but are for personal reasons; we have already received an enquiry to use the hall on a Friday evening.

Mermaid Yoga on Wednesday and Thursday evenings continues to build numbers.

The **Community Choir in St Marks Church** has changed meeting hours to **12noon – 2pm** and now takes place on the **1st & 3rd** Saturday of each month. Just turn up (Enquiries: Caroline 01905 455191)

The List of Dates for your Diary:

3 May, 2 – 3.30ish, in the Church Hall Join us for the **Chat & Cuppa Club** (or knit & natter, it is what you make it), refreshments are free

Saturday, 7 May - Children's Theatre in the Swan Theatre 10.30 or 11.45am; this is the last date of the season. **NB** these are no longer necessarily on the first Saturday of the month.

Details of all events, including several specifically for children, are on the web site www.worcestertheatres.co.uk or pick up a brochure for period to end of July from the Box Office.

Sunday, 17 July, 3pm Friends of the Swan Theatre Fundraising 'Afternoon Tea' accompanied by music £12 per ticket

And in the Church

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday, 22 May after the morning service (approximately 10.45am) in St Mark's Church.

Please let me know if you would like anything added to one of these monthly magazines. In fact, if you would like to make a contribution by taking over from me and writing a monthly article now and again, I would definitely like to hear from you.

Jan

Out and about on the roads? Remember the NEW Highway Code

When did you last read the Highway Code? Various 'fundamental' changes were recently made which will surely affect you.

For example, there is a new hierarchy of road users, where drivers now have new responsibilities to watch out for people who are walking, cycling, or riding a horse.

Another example is that cyclists are now advised to cycle in the *centre* of lanes in slower-moving traffic.

Finally, do you even know how best to open your car door? According to the Highway Code, you should use your hand on the opposite side to the door you are opening; for example, use your left hand to open a door on your right-hand side. This will make you turn your head to look over your shoulder. You are then more likely to avoid causing injury to cyclists or motorcyclists passing you on the road, or to people on the pavement.

Read all about the new rules at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code>

The Pain of Ukraine

By William Mather

Ideas for paintings come in all sorts of ways. The awfulness of the Soviet Aggression in Ukraine has been in all our thoughts and prayers. For me, it was that early image of the block of flats hit by a missile causing death, destruction and a gaping hole. With it came a reminder of Jesus on the cross and a gaping hole in His side from the soldier's spear. The two came together in my mind and so a painting idea was born. With it came thoughts of the great Spanish artist Goya and his powerful etchings 'The Disasters of War' in protest over the French invasion and occupation 1810-1820.



The Christian teaching is that Jesus died on the cross for our sin. None of us is blameless, not least the soldier with the spear or the Russians with the missile.

But the poignant promise through the pain - even the pain of Ukraine – is that the message of the cross is more powerful than

any tyrant. Through it comes peace in the heart that lasts for ever.



*Easter eggs and chicks on
Easter morning*



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. The West (back) door is the emergency exit and disabled access.

Seating in alternate rows of pews or on chairs is at a social distance. 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.

Communion (an intincted wafer) will be received standing from a central point. Please come forward in a single line 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 after the organ voluntary.

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, and return hymn books to the adjacent pile.

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. At present it is a portaloos during our building work.

Whittington Parish Magazine

May 22 Edition

