

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



**DECEMBER AND JANUARY 2023**

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50p

# **St Philip and St James' Parish Church, Whittington**



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**In the Worcester South East Team**

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Email: [lizziemck@rocketmail.com](mailto:lizziemck@rocketmail.com)

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### **St. Martin with St. Peter**

**Team Rector:** Rev'd Peter Hart 01905 355119

**Assistant Curate:** Rev'd Richard Wood

**Assistant Curate:** Rev'd Mike Bunclark

### **Holy Trinity & St Matthew Ronkswood**

**Vicar**

Rev'd Rob Farmer

### **Team Administrator:**

Rebecca Caskie: Team Office, St Martins Church,  
London Road, Worcester WR5 2ED

Tel: 01905 358083

email: [worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com](mailto:worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com)

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

***The Team Office at St Martin's is open on Mon, Tues, Thurs & Friday,  
visits ideally should continue to be by appointment.  
Rebecca can always be reached by phone and email.***

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### Old Age.....

Old age, believe me, is a good and pleasant time. It is true that you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator, and, if you really have played your part, you are more content to sit down and watch. -

*Jane Harrison*



# *Letter from the Vicarage*

*December 23/January 24*



Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing? I hope and pray that you are all keeping well and looking forward to Christmas.

It strikes me that we all need something to look forward to at this time of year, particularly with the long nights and the seasonably cold weather, which seems to have finally arrived.

I wonder which aspects of the Christmas season do you look forward to most? Maybe it's family time, or the gift giving and receiving, Christmas parties, or Christmas dinners.

From a church point of view, maybe you appreciate the slower build up, with the lighting of the Advent Candles (one extra for each Sunday in Advent). Maybe you appreciate the nature of the Advent Season, with its themes of Watching and Waiting, of preparation for the celebration to come; of preparation of mind, body and spirit, to welcome the Christ child once again.

Maybe you enjoy the singing of Carols and/or dressing up for the Blessing of the Crib.

Maybe you find yourself dreading Christmas, this year, or most years even.

Last year I found, personally, the buildup to Christmas was a little challenging and highly poignant. As some of you may remember, my Mum ended up in hospital (again!) on the weekend of the Carol services, and I spent a lot of time at her bedside wondering if she would pull through. It certainly gave added meaning to some of the carols we were singing in church at the time, and I particularly remember struggling a little bit with the line from *Silent Night*: "Sleep in Heavenly Peace."

I wonder which would be your favourite carol? And are there any that you find difficult to sing?

I remember my vicar in one of the churches I grew up in stopped us singing *O Little Town of Bethlehem* because world events meant that Bethlehem was not lying anything like still, but was then, as it pretty much still is (being so close to Jerusalem), a war zone, far from at peace.

I wrote last month in the context of Remembrance Sunday, about the war between Hamas and Israel; and I wonder how that ongoing conflict might intrude upon your Christmas festivities. At the time of writing, I give thanks for the period of ceasefire and the exchange of prisoners and hostages that is taking place; at last there is a glimmer of hope to be found in that situation.

I take comfort too, from the Christmas event: the coming of God to be in our world, to change our world for the better, to change us for the better and am reminded of some of the words that I sometimes use at Carol services:

God reminds us that he has indeed sent us a message.

It is not one that is easy to read. For it is not a text. Nor is it a clear and obvious clarion call, precisely defining the future. It is, rather, the gift of a child ...

Is this a joke, ... that God should come among us ... in a defenceless, vulnerable form? Yet it is precisely in this unexpected incarnation that the wisdom and love of God is truly revealed.

Here we come face to face with all that truly matters ... there are no obvious answers to life's questions at this point. But God does, at least, smile back at us from the cradle.

May God smile upon us all in our celebrations.  
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Every blessing, Andy.



# 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](mailto:andy.stand@sky.com)

**Sunday Services at 11.00 am will be streamed from  
Whittington on Zoom.**



## The Elizabethan Room for Meetings

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

caroline.mayfield40@gmail.com  
or telephone 01905 764822

*Supported by the National Lottery and other Charities*

# What's on at Whittington December, January & February 2024

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

10.30am 'The History of Christmas'

Talk by Philip Bowen

Followed by refreshments in the Elizabethan Room

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December Advent 1**

11.00am Parish Communion

3.30pm Forest Church

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December Advent 2**

11.00am Christingle Family Service

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December

10.30 – 12noon Yew Brew

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3**

11.00am Carol Service

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve**

11.00am Family Communion

5.00pm Crib Service

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day**

**10.00am** Christmas Family Communion

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December Team Service at St Martin's**

**10.00am** Parish Eucharist

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany 1**

11.00am Parish Communion

3.30pm Forest Church

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January Baptism of Christ**

11.00am Family Service

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January Epiphany 3**

11.00am Parish Communion *Continued overleaf*

## What's on at Whittington continued

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January**    **Candlemas**  
11.00am    Family Communion

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January**  
6.30pm    PCC Meeting

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February**    **2 before Lent**  
11.00am    Parish Communion

**NB.** There will be no Saturday morning Yew Brew in January and February.  
Re-opens Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

**A warm invitation to come and celebrate the Festival of  
Christmas at St Philip and St James, Whittington**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am**  
**Christingle Family Service**



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am**  
**Carol Service**

Traditional readings and familiar carols



**Christmas Eve at 5.00pm**  
**Crib Service for all the family**

Blessing the crib, listen and watch as the  
Christmas story unfolds and sing familiar carols

**Christmas Day at 10.00am**  
**Christmas Morning Family Communion**  
**Service with carols**

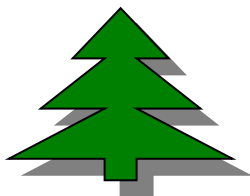


**All are welcome**

For further information please contact the Team Office 01905  
358083 [worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com](mailto:worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com)  
or the Vicar, the Revd Andy Stand Tel 01905 358150  
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*CHURCH OF ST PHILIP & ST JAMES  
WHITTINGTON  
Church Lane, Whittington, Worcester WR5 2RQ*



## ***The History of Christmas***

*An illustrated talk by Philip Bowen*

*Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 10.30 am*

*Followed by Refreshments in the  
Elizabethan Room*



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Mark Badger will be licensed as  
our new Archdeacon of  
Worcester by Bishop John  
during Evensong in Worcester  
Cathedral at 5.30pm on  
Saturday 2 December.



Mark has most recently been the Rector of Kempsey & Severn Stoke w Croome d'Abitot & Norton on the edge of Worcester, as well as Area Dean of Malvern and Upton. He succeeds Robert Jones who retired at the end of November.

As Archdeacon, Mark will have oversight of parishes and clergy in the four deaneries of Worcester, Malvern and Upton, Kidderminster and Stourport, and Pershore and Evesham. He will also have responsibility for our diocesan priority to double the number of children and young people in our churches by 2030 and support parishes in their ministry to new housing developments.

Mark said: "I was humbled and honoured to be asked to become the next Archdeacon of Worcester. I hope that I can continue Archdeacon Robert's work in being a pastor to the people in the Archdeaconry, helping them to feel loved and listened to and enabling them to continue to grow in their relationship with God and each other. I am looking forward to taking on a range of different responsibilities as Archdeacon."

All are welcome to the service in the Cathedral on 2 December.

*Mark will be moving into the Archdeacon's House after Christmas and has been involved already with Whittington School.*

### **Christmas shopping??**

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

## Finding hope this Christmas-time

### Bishop Martin



I don't know about you, but I rather dread turning on the news these days. It seems to have been particularly awful recently. The horrendous attack by Hamas and the taking of hundreds of hostages. The consequent attacks on Hamas in Gaza with such devastating consequences for innocent civilians living in that crowded land and unable to escape. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has not gone away of course, and there have been tragic attacks on Christians in Armenia, Pakistan and India that have gone largely unreported. If we add to these the cost-of-living crisis in this country, and the accelerating climate crisis affecting every country, it is easy to feel deep despair and a sense of hopelessness in the face of it all. As the psalmist said, 'I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where is my help to come?'

Christmas gives a message of hope, but not false hope. It speaks of the Logos or Word, the divine energy at the heart of all things, the dynamic force behind all creation, all that is. The source of inspiration for all human beings. This Logos is forever sustaining the universe and breaking into our consciousness, but in the birth of Jesus that Word was made flesh, once and for all. Jesus was born in Israel/Palestine in another dark time in that region's history. But God is as he is in Jesus, therefore we have hope. As St John says in the first few verses of his amazing gospel: 'In him was life and that life was the light of all people.'

Terrible things do happen in our world. Innocent men, women and children were killed in Jesus' lifetime too and yet he still preached and lived a gospel of peace and hope – right to the end and his death on the cross. But evil and hatred will never have the last word: 'The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'

At Christmas we rejoice in God with us, Emmanuel. We rejoice in a hope for justice in this world, and for hope of a justice beyond this life too, when every wrong is put right and God is all in all. May God be a blessing to you this Christmas time, and may you be filled with hope and love for God's world.

*Loving God, we thank you for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our distracted world. We pray for peace in our world, peace in our streets, peace in our homes and peace in our hearts, as we celebrate the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



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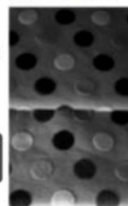
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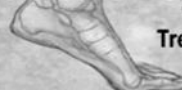
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# Community Hall Update

The "Winter Warmer" on November 25th, was a great success attracting many from the local community. As David Hallmark said: "My thanks to you and your colleagues involved in the happy gathering today....with coffee and cakes and pies and wreaths and plants and books and kids paintings etc...the noise of chattering evidenced the pleasures of the participants...and I hope the echoes acted as applause for the team creating the occasion for villagers...much appreciated...seasons greetings...David and Margret...

Regular Bookings in the hall, are set out below:

*These are all open Classes*

**Monday** 10.30 to 11.30am.

Zumba with Aimee.

**Wednesday** 16.30 to 17.30pm

Yoga with Natalie

**Thursday** 10.00 to 12.00noon.

Zumba and Yoga with Denise

**Thursday** 19.30 to 21.00pm

Tai'Chi with Marc

**Friday** 9.30 to 10.30am

Yoga with Rachel

And 10.45am to 11.45am

Zumba with Aimee

**Friday** 18.00 to 19.00pm

Yoga with Fiona

The website **[whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk](http://whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk)** has full information on the facilities and booking, for the hall, which can be done online.

*Community Hall Management Committee*

**[info@whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk](mailto:info@whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk)**

The aim is to support the Church in reducing carbon emissions from the energy used in churches, schools, cathedrals, houses and other buildings, saving money by improving the energy efficiency of buildings, and switching to cheaper, more reliable, renewable energy sources.

“Climate change is hitting the poorest people of the world hardest. We are already seeing the devastating effects of climate change and we must act now. The Church is called to be a people of hope; to live in harmony with our world; to treasure God's creation and to love our global neighbours.”

Dioceses, and their parishes and schools, can now take advantage of the first round of grants from the Church of England's Net Zero Carbon Programme, made possible by funding from the Church Commissioners for England.

**The Christmas stars**

Any astronomer can predict with absolute accuracy just where every star in the universe will be as the clocks chime midnight on Christmas Eve.

He can make no such prediction about his teenage daughter.



## Church of England still has ‘considerable distance’ to cover on racial justice

The Church of England still has a “considerable distance” to cover before it achieves racial justice, the Archbishop of York recently told a gathering of more than 100 lay ministers and clergy.

Archbishop Stephen said: “We find ourselves on a profound path in our endeavours to build a church that fosters equal participation, and by God’s grace, we are closer to achieving that than ever before. And yet we must acknowledge that there is still a considerable distance to cover.”

The Church of England’s Racial Justice Director, the Rev Guy Hewitt, said: “Our commitment as a church to racial justice isn’t simply because of demographic trends or that it is socially responsible in the pursuit of equality, diversity or inclusion, both of which are commendable goals.

“But rather we choose to stand against the pernicious sin of racism. Our racial justice mandate does not flow from any identity politics, but from our identity in Christ in terms of reflecting the *Imago Dei* and being truly united in him as brothers and sisters in Christ.”



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the vergers nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."

### Christmas in my heart

Christmas is in my heart twelve months a year and, thanks to credit cards, it's also on my Visa card statement twelve months a year.



# **Whittington Parish Council**

The Parish Council met on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. Matters discussed included anti-social behaviour on Wildmore Estate, the management of the allotments on Wildmore Estate, progress in respect of consultations with the SWDP Team and Developers and road safety within the Parish. Council also considered the budget for the year 2024/25. On a majority vote, Councillors agreed not to increase the current precept – the amount parishioners contribute to Parish Council funds.

For a Band D property in the Parish of Whittington, parishioners contribute £62.78 compared to the national average of £74.94p a year. Further information in respect of the meeting can be found on the parish website [whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk) facebook com/whittingtonpc or by emailing the parish clerk, at [clerk@whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk)

Members of the public are welcome to attend council meetings and will be given the opportunity to contribute. The next Parish Council meeting is at 7.30pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2024, in the Community Hall.

From the Chairman and Parish Councillors, Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024.

*Information and further detail 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](mailto:clerk@whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk) Tel 07513 122918*

## **Progress?**

Unquestionably, there is progress. The average worker now pays out twice as much in taxes as he formerly got in wages.

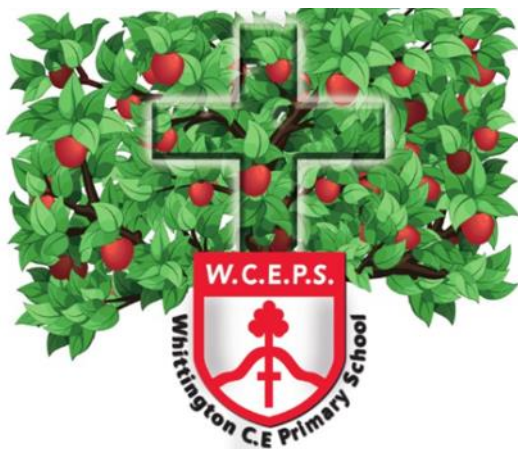
# Whittington CE Primary School

## *From the Head teacher, Gary Richards*

As we approach the end of November, Christmas is beginning to creep into the life of school. Nativity costumes are being taken down and dusted off. Carols are being practiced and Christmas cards brought in for classmates.

At our Church of England Primary School, the Church calendar punctuates the academic year and reminds the children that they are part of a larger tradition. This connection with the past is really important for children growing up in a world where electronic devices compete for their attention. When we gather together in our Collective Worship a really important element is the opportunity to sit together in quiet reflection; a calm moment in a busy day. Our

School Vision reminds all pupils that 'Together, we live and grow well'.



### **School Vision**

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

*John 15:16*

We are inspired by Jesus to learn with joy and flourish in love, faith and wisdom. Together, we live and grow well, valuing and respecting our differences and sharing our God given gifts. We aspire to be courageous and responsible, caring for our world and one another today  
– for a better tomorrow.





## Can you help Maggs Day Centre?

Melissa Blewitt, Marketing and Relations Manager writes: "At Maggs Day Centre, we provide the basics, a lifeline to help people survive the worst of what life throws at them.

We achieve this through our two open-door day centres in Worcester and Malvern alongside our Outreach teams that aim to engage the unengaged with the most complex individuals and offer tailored support. There is also our Accommodation Project, where we own/rent buildings in Worcester to provide rough sleepers with a 'stepping-stone' back into permanent housing.

Alongside this, our Clothing Project offers our service users everything from sleeping bags and bedding to clothing and houseware to those who are now in accommodation. Our Clothing Project is funded solely by donations from the generous public, which is why we're looking for your help!



We're looking for a number of items to help the growing number of rough sleepers, such as rucksacks, small-sized clothing and bedding. Additionally, we're always on the lookout for passionate volunteers who will aid in our day centres with cooking breakfasts or helping our service users and staff in our Clothing Project. Please get in touch at [info@maggsdaycentre.co.uk](mailto:info@maggsdaycentre.co.uk)" [www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk](http://www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk)



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## **Sums up Christmas...**

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: 'Peace on Earth';  
'Goodwill to Men'; and 'Batteries not included'.

## The Twelve Days of Christmas or the Everlasting Turkey



On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me  
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas  
tree.

On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard  
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.

On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,  
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.

On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old  
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.

On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,  
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.

On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.  
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince  
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.

On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,  
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.

On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,  
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.

On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,  
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.

On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,  
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.

On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,  
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND  
CHIPS\*\*.



## St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Diocese of Worcester



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

#### **Beryl Martin Deceased**

Whilst acknowledging that she was a grand age, Beryl's passing in October was a huge loss to her family, friends and St Mark's who had known her for nearly forty years; the following is a précis of the words that were spoken at her funeral. Please forgive any repeats but to me all that was read out was a fascinating insight into her busy life.

#### **Ben opened the proceedings .....**

Two years ago, grandson, Ben, started looking through old photographs with Beryl and told her of his plan to collate 100 photos, one from each year of her life for her 100th birthday party; in response Beryl chucked that she wouldn't make it. Ben countered this by saying that he would therefore use the photos for her funeral so, in the end, they were on show twice, once at her big party in January 2023 and then strung up in the church hall recently for her wake.

Beryl wasn't too keen to have her photo taken but it was not unknown for her to pick up the camera to take snaps of her family with the excuse that it was a shame to waste film. Now they enjoy mental snapshots planted in lovely memories and Ben went on to share many, sometimes, amusing ones with the congregation.

When Leslie and Beryl came to live with Ruth and Edward in the 1980s, they came with a minimum ten-year sentence of living with grandsons Ben and Alex, who in Ben's words, were two smelly teenage boys. Ben imagined that it is for that reason that many of the mental photographs from that time were captured around the sweeter-scented washing-up bowl where Beryl would spend more time than necessary. Once, whilst watching her washing-up, avoiding the soap, he bluntly asked her about death and how long she wanted to live. She replied that she just hoped to live long enough to see a great-grandchild; she accomplished that.

Again, genuinely whilst washing-up, she told Ben that, before washing-up liquid existed, she used powdered soap. For some reason that flummoxed Ben, and made him appreciate that despite her youthful visage, she came from a different time. She was very much the classic 20th century

woman, born in the time of King George V and Lenin, a dedicated daughter, a dutiful wartime servicewoman, a supportive wife and a devoted mother who became empowered and chose not to be just a housewife but decided to train and work as a teacher. Then, in so-called retirement, did no such thing and worked even harder than before, volunteering, becoming a central member of church life at St Mark's, and an asset in every group she was part of.

Mike Bunclark then continued by giving details of Beryl's wonderful life and began by sharing that those who knew Beryl wouldn't be surprised to learn that the order of service was designed by Beryl herself, the music, hymns and readings were all her choice and that he believed that she had chosen carefully, all put together to reflect her life and her faith.

Mike had only known Beryl for a couple of years, meeting her when he and Anne started to attend St Mark's Wednesday morning service. When she could no longer be there, especially in her final weeks, Mike took communion to her in her home. He added that he wished that he had known her longer not least because, at the age of 100, she was still able to complete the codeword in T2 of The Times each day, to alter her clothes, keep a diary and be writing a history of her parents' lives, just some of the things that she managed to pack into 100 years. I think the last time that she was seen in church by lots of people was when I baked and iced a celebration cake and arranged for as many of the community as I could muster to join us in St Mark's to surprise her; when she turned around and saw us all, she asked Ruth who they were in church for, the response was, 'You, Mum!'

Born of the Isle of Sheppey, on the Thames estuary, in 1923 she was part of a family of doers, achievers and servers. Her grandfather was an oyster man, a freeman of Whitstable whose responsibility it was to open the oysters for the Archbishop of Canterbury. Her father was a resourceful and inventive man, a self taught cobbler who would repair shoes free of charge for ex-servicemen. Beryl was an avid reader and her favourite hiding place as a youngster was in the bathroom with a book and her cat; one of her frustrations was that she couldn't reach the encyclopedias because they were on a shelf that was out of reach.

She was an accomplished musician, playing piano, violin and accordion and a sportswoman playing hockey, tennis, shinty and table tennis; she was always on the go.

In 1943 she joined the WRNS as a signaller, specialising in semaphore and morse, was posted to Harwich and it was there that she met Leslie, her husband to be. *Continued.....*



The story goes that Leslie, like Beryl, played the accordion and that there was an accordion tune at that time called Beryl and Leslie got Beryl's attention by whistling the tune to her. Apparently one of her duties was degaussing ships, something to do with decreasing or eliminating magnetic fields around mines, an important job but, as she put it, if she got it wrong, she could have blown up a ship.

After the war, she and Leslie moved to his hometown, Macclesfield, and Ruth and Jane were born. Over the years, she became very involved with Hurdsfield Church, the Mothers' Union, played piano, taught in the Sunday School, ran the youth fellowship, was a member of church choir, Guide Captain and later became District Commissioner (she didn't do things by half). Besides the church, she became one of the first School Patrol Officers (lollipop ladies) in Cheshire, looking extremely smart and was mentioned in the local papers. Beryl then became a mature student, attended a teacher training college, having first got the five O levels that she needed within 9 months.

In 1984, when Leslie had to take early retirement, she and Leslie moved to Worcester to live with Ruth and Edward but they didn't exactly slow down. They volunteered with SSAFA, played badminton and got very involved with St Mark's, (we are so glad that they did), Leslie became church warden and Beryl joined several of the church groups and started the Trefoil Guild that sadly folded several years' ago owing to lack of numbers; they never really stopped doing or giving.

After a very long and happy marriage, Leslie sadly passes away on Christmas Eve in 2011 but Beryl carried on doing and serving, worshipping God and serving His people and His church, her lifelong mission. She fulfilled that mission faithfully, knowing that the Lord is her Shepherd and that He walked alongside her throughout her life's entire journey. Her chosen readings show she was firm in the belief that now her earthly life had come to an end, she was indeed going home to dwell in the house of the Lord forever more and she was ready to make that journey, as she said to Ruth shortly before she died, 'I didn't know it would take so long.'

I too have lovely memories of shared lunches and cuppas down in 'Little Hill', looking through photos and St Mark's memorabilia that is now safely stowed away; I believe that the last time I was down there, I departed with, 'Don't you throw anything away,' ringing in my ears!!

I am sure that she would have been thrilled with the send off that we gave her at her wake in the church hall. Lovely cakes baked by Ruth, yummy truffles made by Ben and lots of tea and chatter using the best china that generally only comes out for the parish parties. Bless you, Beryl, RIP



## Church Hall News

Firstly, the new gas cooker has arrived in the church hall, that's the good news, but we now have to find a qualified gas person to install it, that is, unhook the old one that will go on the Freecycle site, and hook up the new one. Does anyone know anybody who would do the job for a reasonable price please? We have had one quote for £100 which seems a lot for a few minutes on site.

Once again, we had a fantastic Quiz Night in mid November when £105 was raised for church funds. Alan Matthews was our wonderful quizmaster and provided lots of interesting questions for each round and the trivia quiz that runs throughout the evening. I was delighted to be a member of the winning team, led by Mike Bunclark. Not only did we win the main quiz (only just!) but we also won the trivia quiz. Since teams have to choose one or the other to take a prize away, we decided on the former. Thanks are extended to all who supported the evening and we look forward to seeing them and others at the next quiz that will be in March or April 2024.

Over the past few months, three groups have ceased to use the church hall, some because of the parking situation; that hit the church income considerably but we now have two new ones. I am delighted to impart that the Mini Monkey Gym will begin on Monday mornings from 8 January, please look up the site on the internet and if you would like more information regarding the times, please get in touch with Lucy, who is running the group, [worcester@minimonkeygym.co.uk](mailto:worcester@minimonkeygym.co.uk).

Secondly, the Worcester Chat & Craft Club will begin monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning on 3 January; please see the poster in this magazine for further information.

For a full list of hall hirers, please see the back page of this magazine.

St Marks will be delighted to welcome everyone to one or more of the attached services.

*Continued.....*



I especially enjoy the Christingle Service in January when the children create their own orange 'world'. It will give you the chance to see this year's Christmas decorations that we hope to put up before the end of this month.

**Chat & Cuppa Club**, will be in the hall on Tues, 5 December, 2 January 2024 and 6 February from 2 – 3.30pm (we meet 1<sup>st</sup> Tues of **every** month and it is **FREE!**). The December meeting will be party time!! Bingo and cakes – go on, join us and have some fun.

**It's Panto Time Again** and this year the **The Swan Theatre Rep** presents **'Jack & the Beanstalk'**. The run begins on Monday, 4 December and the production ends on Sunday, 7 January 2024. Once again from personal experience, and because my children couldn't make their minds up which performance they wanted to see, I am aware that some performances have already very nearly sold out. Pay a visit to and support your local theatre where the ticket price will be less than some other major theatres, you will save petrol on the travelling and I can promise you a wonderful night out of fun and laughter.

If you would prefer a smaller production to the panto and, possibly less noisy there is a production of **'Little Red Riding Hood'** in The Studio from Saturday, 16 December until Sunday, 24 December. This is an intimate introduction to theatre for little ones aged 3 – 6 years and tickets are just £5 each or £15 for a family ticket (two adults and two children). For more details, pop into the Crowngate Box Office and ask for times and availability. You could also pick up the new brochure which is now available for the period January – April 2024.

**On behalf of St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Congregation, may I wish you an enjoyable and peaceful festive season and a pleasant New Year.**

Jan 01905 351392 / janvale810@gmail.com



**St Mark in the Cherry Orchard**  
**Bath Rd, Worcester(Opp Co-op)**

**Christmas Services**

**Sunday, 17 December**  
**4pm**

**ALL AGE NINE LESSONS**  
**& CAROLS SERVICE**

**With Refreshments**



**Christmas Eve 4pm**  
**All Age Family**  
**Crib Service**

**Children are invited to dress**  
**up & help create the Nativity**



Christingle Service in Candlelight

4pm Sunday, 21 January 2024

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# **Whittington Parish Magazine**

## **December/January 23/24 Edition**

