

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



**MAY 2024**

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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 McKinnon 07803 600807

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

Hon Treasurer: Mrs Brenda Giles 01905 25709

Safeguarding Officer: David Chestney 01905 359708

Elizabethan Room bookings coordinator:

Mrs Caroline Mayfield 01905 764822

Email: [caroline.mayfield40@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.mayfield40@gmail.com)

Magazine Editor: David Chestney 01905 359708

Email: [david.battenhall@outlook.com](mailto:david.battenhall@outlook.com)

### **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,  
10am - 1 pm, visits ideally should continue to be by appointment.***

***Rebecca can always be reached by phone and email.***

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### ***With the coming General Election in mind...***

There are two sorts of problems in my life. The political ones are insoluble, and the economic ones are incomprehensible. - *Sir Alec Douglas-Home, former Prime Minister.*

As I interpret the President, we're now at the end of the beginning of the upturn of the downturn. - *John F Kennedy when Senator*

Politicians are not people who seek power in order to implement policies they think necessary. They are people who seek policies in order to attain power. - *Evelyn Waugh*

I claim not to have controlled events but confess plainly that events have controlled me. - *Abraham Lincoln*

# *Letter from the Vicarage*

*May 24*

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!**

Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing? I hope and pray that you are all keeping well and still enjoying the Easter season. Yes, we are still in the Easter season and will be until the feast of Pentecost, that marks the 50th day after Easter, and that we will celebrate in our services on the 19th May.

Before then we will celebrate the feast of the Ascension, 40 days after Easter, on Thursday May 9th with a service at Whittington in the morning (10.00 a.m.) and a deanery service at Claines in the evening (7.00 p.m.). Of course, all are welcome to attend any or all of these services.

The Easter season of course is all about new life, renewed life, resurrected life, and for much of this Easter season I have been thinking about the wings that bring me life.

I have had a number of conversations with different conversation partners over recent months thinking about the things that bring me life and energy; things that lift the spirits; maybe things that I am particularly good at, or from which I derive a certain amount of pleasure in being able to do them well; maybe things that I have a particular talent for or are one of the gifts and skills that I possess. Maybe they are things that bring me into contact with other people, and through those relationships, and doing things together, I can find support and encouragement.

I wonder, what are the things you can think of for yourself that would likewise lift your spirits and energise your whole being? What are the talents and skills that you possess that enable you to work well with others?

*Continued.....*



St. Paul in various of his letters to the young churches he founded, talked to them about using their various gifts to build up the churches, or as he phrased it, 'the body of Christ'. In one fairly well known passage from his first letter to the church in Corinth, St. Paul uses the analogy of organs in the human body coming together in their various purposes to contribute to the life of the body they are part of. Is a hand more important than a foot? Or an eye more important than an ear? Each has their role to play, each has their gifts and talents and each should be cherished for them.

I wonder what might your gifts be? What talents do you have? Have you any that lie dormant for want of an avenue in which to express them, in which to use them?

This time, last year, with the extra bank holiday for the King's Coronation weekend, we were encouraged to be part of the 'Big Help Out', and I gather from a news item I heard earlier this week that, that event is to be repeated again this year - watch this space.

Those of us that volunteer for various roles will know what sense of reward can come from performing those roles. I acknowledge that almost all of the roles in our churches, with the exception of mine, are voluntary ones, and I thank all those of you that fulfil them.

Later this month our churches will have their Annual Meetings (St. Mark's - 12th May; Whittington - 19th). All are welcome to attend those meetings (though you do need to be on the church's electoral roll to vote) and we are always looking for volunteers to join the church council (PCC) and/or take on other jobs that will assist the smooth running of services and make a contribution to our service to the wider parish and community.

Might you be able to offer some time or energy, to helping out? If you think you could, please do get in touch with me.

Every blessing, Andy.



May  
2024

# 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

*Sponsored by the National Lottery Community Fund*

**There is a defibrillator on the wall of the Elizabethan Room (shown above) and another on the front face of the Community Hall, by the main door**

## What's on at Whittington May & June 2024

Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30-12 noon	Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b> 11.00am 1.00pm 3.30pm	<b>Easter 6</b> Parish Communion Baptism Forest Church
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>10.00am</b>	<b>Ascension Day</b> Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b> 11.00am	<b>Easter 7</b> Family Service
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30-12 noon	Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b> 11.00am 12.15pm	<b>Pentecost</b> Parish Communion Annual Parish Church Meeting
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b> 11.00am	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> Family Communion
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June</b> 10.30 -12 noon	<b>Brenda's Plant Sale &amp; Coffee Morning at Church</b>
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b> 11.00am 3.30pm	<b>Trinity 1</b> Parish Communion Forest Church
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b> 11.00am	<b>Trinity 2</b> Family Service



**Church of St Philip & St James,  
Whittington**

**Church Lane, Whittington WR5 2RQ**

## **Coffee Morning and Summer Bedding Plant Sale**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 10.30am -12noon  
at the Church and Elizabethan Room**

This is a reminder folks to those of you who have not yet decided what they want to plant in their gardens for this summer (I'm sure it will come eventually!). There will be a variety of bedding plants, some containers already planted and a selection of perennials; refreshments will be in the Elizabethan Room. Please do join us for a coffee and a chat even if you don't need plants.

**Brenda Giles 01905 25709 [brenda.giles@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:brenda.giles@tiscali.co.uk)**

**If interested but unable come, please contact  
Brenda  
for a list of available plants**



**[www.whittingtonchurch.co.uk](http://www.whittingtonchurch.co.uk)**

'Whittington Wit and Wisdom' on Saturday 2nd March, raised £188 at an enjoyable morning on the reopening of the Yew Brew, with thanks to David Tibbutt who organised it all and the refreshments team.- *Ed.*





*St Philip & St James, Whittington*  
*Service for*  
*Ascension Day*



*Thursday 9th May*  
*10.00am*



From the Parish Register at  
Whittington

\*\*\*\*

23rd April 2024  
Memorial Service following Committal  
at the Vale Crematorium  
Michael William James Tanner  
'Mick'

## Christian Aid Week 2024

Every Christian Aid Week, people across Britain and Ireland raise funds, act and pray for their global neighbours in a celebration of hope for a fairer world.



This year's appeal runs from May 12–18 and is focussing on the organisation's work in Burundi, one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in Africa. Heavily reliant on agriculture, it's also one of the least prepared to combat the effects of climate change, including droughts, floods and landslides. The global cost of living crisis has intensified the challenges: more than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty and more than half of children are chronically malnourished.

Christian Aid has been working in Burundi since 1995 when it first offered humanitarian assistance to people surviving the civil conflict. Now, alongside local partners, the organisation helps establish Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). These community-led groups mean people can save and borrow money, making small businesses possible, offering reliable and diverse incomes so families can eat regularly, get medicine when they need it, and build safer homes.



Thirty-five-year-old Aline Nibogora is the chairperson of a VSLA which supports some 25 families in a remote village, in Makamba Province. Aline escaped an abusive marriage only to find herself on the streets begging for a place to stay.

Her life changed when she went to a three-day, Christian Aid-funded community workshop. With a small start-up loan, Aline began trading avocados and peanuts locally.

She's now a grocery wholesaler and living on her own plot of land where she's building a home for her family. In the next five years she hopes to expand, so one day she can buy a mill. This will provide a source of income without the need to transport heavy goods over long distances.

"I don't want my children to have a painful life like mine, remembering it makes me weep. I could never have dreamed I would one day have a brick house and be a successful businesswoman, able to feed and clothe us.



This is a plan and I will do it; I am a woman who is an achiever.”

This Christian Aid Week – from May 12-18 – supporters are once more stepping up, knowing that every prayer, every gift, every action helps transform lives.

There are seven days and so many ways to make a difference – whether that’s church services, special collections, Christian Aid Big Brekkies, or even a Bible readathon. For those who like a physical challenge there’s a new option for 2024 with the chance to take part in 70k in May. You can cover the distance in any way you like, take part by yourself or with a group, and share your progress on a dedicated Facebook page. Find out all the ways you can support Christian Aid Week by visiting the Christian Aid [website](#).

## **Roger Bannister and the Four Minute Mile**

It was 70 years ago, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1954, that Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in under four minutes (3 minutes, 59.4 seconds), in Oxford. Just 23 days later, on 29<sup>th</sup> May, Diane Leather became the first woman to run a mile in under five minutes (4 minutes, 59.6 seconds), in Birmingham. These were both momentous achievements, though Diane Leather, born in Staffordshire, received far less recognition than Oxford-born Bannister. At the time women did not compete in major events over more than 200 metres; so she was not allowed to compete at the Olympics or internationally over her best distance.

Women’s athletics was not widely covered in the media at the time, or someone might have pointed out that on the same day that Leather beat five minutes for the mile, she had already broken an 800 metres record. The following year she ran 4:50.8 for the mile and then 4:45.0, which remained a world record until 1962. Leather – who became Diane Charles on marriage – had also set an 800m world record of 2:09 in 1954. She retired at the age of 27.

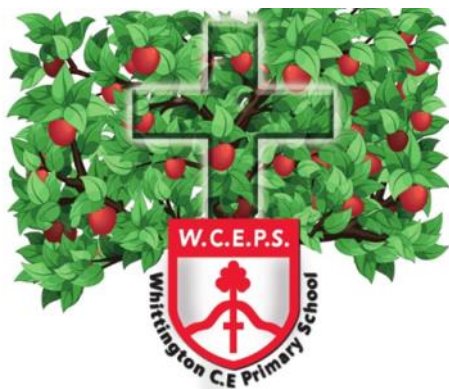
Bannister’s world record is one of the most widely known in athletics, and he continued to produce top performances, beating his Australian rival John Landy in Vancouver and taking the European title before retiring to concentrate on medical research. A lifelong Christian, he died in 2018, as did Diane Leather – coincidentally the daughter of a surgeon.

# Whittington CE Primary School

## From the Head Teacher, Gary Richards

The increasingly optimistically named 'summer term' is now well underway. As I write the sun is shining, but this sunny weather is far from typical at the moment. I remember when I was interviewed for the position of head teacher at Whittington. Part of the process involved being interviewed by a panel of pupils. A question that sticks in my memory from that time was posed by this group. They asked whether I would let children go out to play even if it was raining. I explained that I was from West Cumbria, and if we didn't go out in the rain – we didn't go out. They looked very impressed and hopefully recommended me as the strongest candidate.

I have been as good as my word and children have happily played out in all but the worst weathers. Despite this stoic approach to the outdoors, I do hope for a bit of dryer weather this term. The joy expressed by the children, when they first get to use the field, is palpable. Also, they are much more relaxed when they can spread out during play times. Add to this the list of outdoor events we have planned, from sports days to bell boating to residential trips. We will, of course, fully participate even if the weather is inclement, but the summer is much more pleasurable if it is...summery.



### 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.

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

John 15:16

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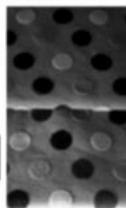
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# Community Hall Update

## Forthcoming Community Events

**Summer Quiz Night - Saturday 11th May**  
**Film Night - Saturday 25th May 5.30 pm, Wonka**  
**Summer Event (Fayre) 11am-5pm**  
**Saturday 13th July at Pond Farm.**

A poster for a Quiz Night event. The title 'QUIZ NIGHT' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a blue outline, set against a blue, jagged, starburst background. Below the title, the date 'Saturday 11th May' is printed in bold black text. The event details include 'Doors open 7pm - quiz begins 7.30pm at Whittington Community Hall Church Lane, Whittington. WR5 2RQ'. A note in orange text says 'including Fish and Chip Supper' with a smaller note below it 'Bring your own drinks and nibbles'. Ticket information states 'Tickets: £10 per head -advance bookings only.' and provides contact details for Mike Paige (mike.paige321@btinternet.com) and Steve Brooker (silbrooker@icloud.com). A note at the bottom says '(Ideally teams of 6 people - teams can be made on the night)'.

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**Saturday 11th May**  
Doors open 7pm - quiz begins 7.30pm  
at **Whittington Community Hall**  
Church Lane, Whittington. WR5 2RQ  
*including Fish and Chip Supper*  
*Bring your own drinks and nibbles*

**Tickets: £10 per head**  
-advance bookings only.  
Contact:  
Mike Paige [mike.paige321@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.paige321@btinternet.com)  
Steve Brooker [silbrooker@icloud.com](mailto:silbrooker@icloud.com)  
(Ideally teams of 6 people - teams can be made on the night)

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)  
*Responsible for managing, maintaining, developing  
and running the Community hall.*



# **Whittington Parish Council**

The annual Parish meeting was held at the community hall on the evening of Tuesday the 23rd of April. Besides the Parish, District councillors and our County Councillor, 17 members of the public were present. Reports were received from organisations, agencies and establishments within the Parish. A copy of all these reports, which hopefully you will find informative and interesting, can be found within the minutes of the meeting on the Parish Council website, [whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk). The next Parish Council meeting is the annual Parish Council meeting and will be held on Tuesday the 28th of May at 7.30pm. Parishioners are encouraged to attend. This is your Parish!

For further information of this meeting and all Parish meetings can be found on our website [whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk) facebook [com/whittingtonpc](https://www.facebook.com/whittingtonpc) or by contacting the parish clerk at [clerk@whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk)

Please note this petition about the provision of full infrastructure and healthcare facilities on new developments at Worcestershire Parkway:  
<https://www.change.org/p/healthcare-and-infrastructure-before-housebuilding>

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

Website: [whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk)  
and [facebook.com/whittingtonpc](https://www.facebook.com/whittingtonpc)



**D•DAY80**

## D Day Anniversary 2024

This year (2024) is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day and the beginning of the liberation of Western Europe by allied forces.

As part of the commemoration of this historic event, a planning committee of Whittington residents will organise events and displays centred around the Community (Village) Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June.

If you had/have a relative or friend who took part in D Day and/or its aftermath OR a relative or friend who perhaps told you of their experiences during the Second World War whether in the military or otherwise, we would love to hear their story. All we want is a brief written account on A4 sized paper, perhaps with a copy of a photograph, if possible, which will be displayed for everyone to read in the village hall. You can personalise this or not it's entirely up to you.



It's proposed to involve quite a few children from the Village Primary School, so they can get some idea of the experiences of friends and families of their neighbours, during the World War.

Please pop your copies into the Whittington School reception, the Elizabethan Room letter box at the Church by the 1<sup>st</sup> June or via email to: [sbrooker@talktalk.net](mailto:sbrooker@talktalk.net)

**Last but not least, please come along on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June and join in the commemorations at the Hall – more details to follow.**

### Board meeting

"There will be a meeting of the Board immediately after the service," announced the minister. And so, after the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the church for the meeting. But there was a stranger in their midst - a visitor who had never attended their church before. "My friend," said the minister gently, "Didn't you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?"

"Yes," said the visitor, "and after today's sermon, I suppose I'm just about as bored as anyone else who came to this meeting."

# New Conductor for the Worcestershire Philharmonic Orchestra

The WPO are delighted to announce they have been able to engage the services of **Dan Watson** as their Principal Conductor and Musical Director. In the final round of the selection process, three finalists were invited to rehearse the orchestra, and every member present was given a vote. Dan was the clear winner, and we are very much looking forward to working with him.

**Dan's debut with the WPO will be on  
Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30 in Pershore Abbey.  
Further details next month and at [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)**

Dan completed a Masters in orchestral conducting at Birmingham Conservatoire, where he was awarded the Conducting Prize. He also won an Emerging Excellence Award from the Musicians Benevolent Fund. Currently, Dan holds principal and guest conductorships with a number of orchestras in the Midlands, and has also worked with youth orchestras, aiming to enthuse young musicians to pursue a lifelong passion in creating and performing. As principal conductor of The People's Orchestra, he featured in the BBC series *All Together Now: The Great Orchestra Challenge*. The program was designed to inspire and promote amateur music making, reflecting many of Dan's continuing aims as a conductor; to bring together professionals and community musicians alike, culminating in high standard performances and rewarding life experiences. Dan has a particular interest in contemporary music. He was Conductor and Artistic Director of Thumb Contemporary Music Ensemble and has directed numerous premières of new works.

Throughout his career, Dan has enjoyed working with soloists in the early stages of their careers. Dan is proud to have a close association with the celebrated Kanneh-Mason family and recently worked with Mariatu in her debut concerto appearance, performing the Saint-Saëns' Cello Concerto No.1.

Dan lives in Leicestershire with wife Sally, cat Morris, a small flock of chickens, two pigs, and Bethan, his six-year-old daughter.

Maggs Day Centre is hosting an Open Day in Worcester on 18 May. All are welcome to go along.



Maggs Day Centre provides the basics, a lifeline to help people survive the worst of what life throws at them.

Since 1985, Maggs has operated through two open-door day centres in Worcester and Malvern alongside an outreach team that aims to 'engage the unengaged'. Working with the most complex individuals who might not be aware of, or confident enough to access our services. There is also our Accommodation Project and Clothing Project, both of which are an integral stepping stones in the journey of those who are sleeping rough or are building confidence to re-enter society.

We're extremely lucky to have fantastic support from the community, including our volunteers, businesses, organisations, schools and the general public to maintain our core services but also expand to help strengthen our service



To celebrate those who have supported us, we're hosting an Open Day at our Worcester Day Centre on Saturday 18 May, 10am – 2pm and we would love to invite you to chat to our staff and trustees, view our facilities and hear what we have planned for the future.

We also have Brookes Catering kindly providing delicious food on the day.

If you would like to come along, please email:

[marketing@maggsdaycentre.co.uk](mailto:marketing@maggsdaycentre.co.uk) or [book your tickets via Eventbrite](#)

## Lots of seats

*Seen in a church magazine:*

The church hall is available for hire for groups and parties. There is a well-equipped kitchen and disabled toilet facilities, with the capacity to seat up to 80 people.

## Growing churches through our renewal programme

**Bishop Martin explains** The Church of England has a vision of a church that is Christ centred and Jesus shaped. A church that is simpler, humbler and bolder.



We share that vision and want to see every parish, every benefice, every chaplaincy, every church school flourishing. Every church, every congregation is precious however small.

But within a healthy and sustainable ecology of churches we do need some that are larger. Some that can have thriving provision for youth and children; that can have excellent Sunday worship, and develop one or more new worshipping communities. We need some churches to be generating the leaders of the future and helping to train the leaders of today. Not every church will be able to do all that, but within each significant area of population we want to ensure that there is somewhere which can.

So one strand of our diocesan vision and strategy is to focus renewal funding in certain areas, to enable at least one church to grow to at least 150 people average weekly attendance across different services on Sunday and weekdays. We currently have very few churches that come near that number, particularly in the north of the diocese. Only Top Church approaches that in the Dudley Archdeaconry, which has grown as a result of significant investment as well as inspirational leadership at local level.

We now hope to replicate that growth in seven other centres of population and have obtained a significant grant from the national church to help us do that. This first phase of our renewal programme focusses initially on Kingswinford, Sedgley, Old Hill and Netherton, Pensnet/Brierley Hill, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Redditch town centre. As these churches start to grow, we will also apply for funding to do the same in Bromsgrove and Kidderminster as phase 2 of the programme. Please pray for all those involved as we seek to grow healthy, happy, diverse churches that can flourish and thrive as centres of Christian love and faith for decades to come.

Remember we want to see every parish, every benefice, every chaplaincy, every church school flourishing and every church, every congregation is precious however small. If you want to know more about how a Mission Accompanier, or the Healthier Churches Fund might help your church to grow, contact me or Archdeacon Nikki today!



## St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Diocese of Worcester



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

To those of you who are planning a holiday, I thought that I would start with a prayer.

Heavenly Father, look down on us, your humble and obedient servants, who are doomed to travel this earth taking photographs, buying souvenirs and walking in drip-dry underwear. We beseech you, O' Lord, to see that our plane is not high-jacked, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed. Protect us against unscrupulous taxi drivers and unlicensed English speaking guides.

Give us this day, divine guidance in the selection of our hotel that we may find our reservations honoured and our beds made up. We pray that the telephones work and that the operators speak our language. Lead us, Oh Lord, to the good inexpensive restaurants where the food is superb, the waiters are friendly and the wine is included in the price of the meal.

Give us the wisdom to tip correctly in currency that we do not understand. Forgive us for under tipping out of ignorance and over tipping out of fear. Make the natives love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their worldly wealth. Grant us the strength to visit the museums, cathedrals, palaces and castles listed as a 'must' in the guide books. If we skip an historic monument to take a nap after lunch, please forgive us as our flesh is weak.

Speaking of holidays, we have recently returned from a break with friends on the Suffolk/Norfolk, staying in a thatched cottage in the Weybread area (no, this is not a spelling mistake). On one of the better days, or so we thought, we took a bus ride to Norwich, planning to visit the Cathedral but by the time we had covered the 17 miles, the weather had taken a turn for the worse, a bitterly cold wind with intermittent ice cold showers. Not deterred, we set off to locate the Cathedral that, unlike ours, is not easily visible because it seemed to be situated in a dip near to the river and by the time we reached the building, we were extremely grateful to take refuge in it.

*Continued....*

For those of you who may be familiar with the Worcester Diocese, you may recall the lovely Graham Usher who was Bishop of Dudley and who left the area in 2019 when he was appointed Bishop of Norwich. As he arrived, the Cathedral attracted worldwide headlines because a helter-skelter was installed in the nave as part of their 'Seeing it Differently' project. There were mixed views but it certainly attracted an increase in footfall to the building and no doubt added to a much appreciated increased in funds. We were fortunate to join a tour with a very knowledgeable guide who added flesh to the bones, so to speak, pointing out so much around us that we might have walked past including some areas of the thousands of graffiti scratchings that seemed invisible until highlighted by torch light e.g. tall mast ships, names, dates and daisy wheels so accurately drawn. We all agreed that the Cathedral and city would make a lovely place to return to with so much to see but it certainly needs much better weather.

When we are away, we often make a point of visiting local churches and thus we located St Andrew's in Walberswick, a lovely coastal area near to Southwold, on a much, much warmer day so ideal to wander along the beach. The church was interesting because not only is it very old but it is attached to ruins of Blythburgh Priory that was destroyed during the dissolution of monastic buildings in the reign of Henry VIII. One can appreciate the vastness, history and craftsmanship of what was once a magnificent flint walled structure. There were wonderful walks and other churches around the area that we stayed in and, once again, it is somewhere that needs more exploration.

Since we haven't been at home, there has been little progress regarding the fitting of a defibrillator but I have received several kind donations to add to the fund; I will hopefully have more to report in June. However, it was great to welcome new faces who joined regular quizzers for the **quiz night** held in the church hall on 20 April; thirty people attended, making up six teams. Alan Matthews was the quiz master, a good time was had by all and the evening **raised £149** towards the **Defibrillator Fund**. The next one will be in Oct or Nov and if you have anything that can be used as a raffle prize, please get in touch with me because we are running rather low.

It is that time of the year again when the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** featuring reports from 2023 will be held in St Marks Church after the Sunday service on **12 May**; refreshments will be available.

*Continued...*

Lastly, and once again, it would be great and be much appreciated if you or anyone you know can spare just an odd hour now and again to help tidy the garden; unfortunately, I cannot spare the time to get on top of it. The tools needed are in the boiler room and there are adequate bags and the brown bin on the north side for weeds, etc. that can be left for me to deal with. I have spoken to Highways about the state of Penny Brick Way and, I understand, at some point it will be dealt with.

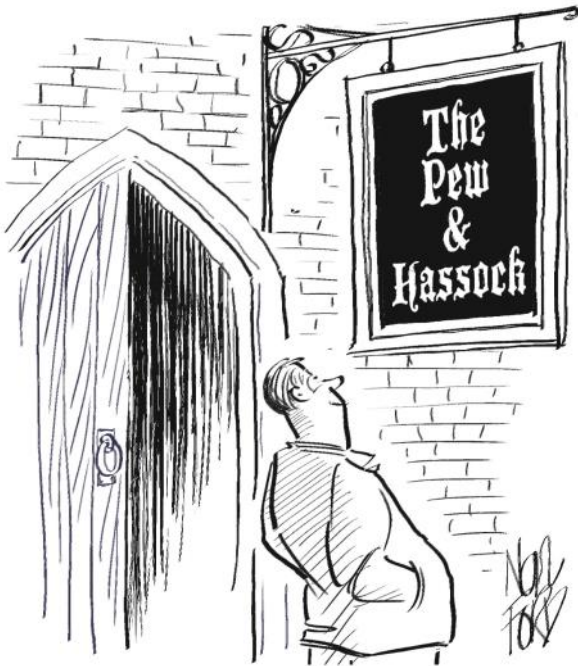
I hope that you are able to enjoy the better weather

Jan

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

Jan

[janvale810@gmail.com](mailto:janvale810@gmail.com)



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

### Taking Jesus

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took the boy Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied: ***"They couldn't get a babysitter."***



# The man who created Father Brown

The British writer G K Chesterton was born 150 years ago, on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1874, in Kensington, West London. A novelist, short story writer, philosopher and critic, he was best known for his Father Brown stories, popular now through their adaptation for television. He thought of himself as a journalist with good reason, composing 30 years of weekly columns for the *Illustrated London News* and more elsewhere, but he was a prolific writer in many areas, writing 100 books and contributing to 200 others, as well as composing short stories, essays and poems and creating Father Brown.

He was a tall man who weighed in at over 20 stone, and he was notoriously absent-minded – once contacting his wife, Frances, to say: “Am at Market Harborough. Where ought I to be?” Unsurprisingly, he did a great deal of writing while waiting at stations. He was a deep thinker, usually getting the better of the many prominent men he argued against, but almost invariably retaining their goodwill, since he was a genial and witty opponent.

An “orthodox Christian” who espoused Roman Catholicism (moving from High Anglicanism) because he felt it was the best resistance to fads of the age, he was against both socialism and capitalism, materialism, determinism and “spineless agnosticism”. He fought for freedom and justice. Chesterton never went to college but did attend art school. Extremely quotable and read now by too few people, he composed some near-perfect lines, concluding for example that “the Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried”.



## Lone working ‘is making millions of people ill’

The rise in lone working and the insecurity of increasing numbers of jobs are “making millions of us poorer and ill,” says a new report from Christian based think tank, Theos. In *‘The Ties That Bind’* Theos looks at how better work can be created “by paying attention to the social dynamics – the love, even – in our workplaces.”

The report, written by ethical entrepreneur Tim Thorlby, looks at evidence around the social and health impacts of the rise in lone working and the growth of insecure work. It argues that a loss of ‘mutuality’ between the employed and their employers is making millions of people poorer and ill. Theos estimate that before the pandemic, 27 per cent of workers worked alone for a substantial proportion of the time. Now, 59 per cent of the workforce works alone for at least some of the week. While admitting that “lone working can provide real benefits to workers who enjoy a flexibility premium,” the Theos report points out that it carries risks. “These risks are highest where little attention is paid to the quality and dignity of working relationships, and where employees are treated as ‘out of sight, out of mind’.” The report calls for action to prevent the loss of connection between workers and protect the health of those working in these environments.

The UK has one of the most flexible labour markets in the developed world, explains the report, and this can deliver benefits, both to individual workers and to the wider economy. But there are downsides. In the UK today, the Living Wage Foundation estimate that nearly one in five workers – 6.1 million people (19 per cent of all workers) – are in insecure work. Within this, they calculate that more than half (3.4 million, 11 per cent of all workers) are in work that is both insecure and low paid.

Theos calls for fair hourly pay at or above a real living wage; predictable hours and income which are changed only with fair notice; connection for workers, who should be well managed and supported and feel ‘part of the team’; and healthy work, where working supports good physical and mental health.



# WHAT'S GOING ON IN WHITTINGTON?

**There are lots of great events  
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[www.whittington-events.com/whatson](http://www.whittington-events.com/whatson)



Your email address will be used by Whittington Community Hall Management Committee, Whittington Community Events Group and Whittington Parish Council to communicate with you about upcoming events. Your email address will not be shared with any third parties. You can unsubscribe at any time.

# Whittington Parish Magazine

## May 2024 Edition

