

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



**SEPTEMBER 25**

**[WWW.WHITTINGTONCHURCH.CO.UK](http://WWW.WHITTINGTONCHURCH.CO.UK)**

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: Vacancy

Email:

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

Magazine Editor: David Chestney 01905 359708

Email: 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**

**Vacancy**

### **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 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.***

## ***In This Issue***

Front Cover	1
Team Details	2
Index	3
From the Team Vicar, the Revd Andy Stand	4/5
On-line Video Services and the Elizabethan Room	6
What's on at Whittington for Sept & October 25	7
Memories of Audrey Hardiker	8
From the Parish Register at Whittington	9
Ride and Stride and Harvest Thanksgiving	10
The Women of Worcester Cathedral: Talk 18th October	11
Memories of Margaret Taylor	12
Quiet Music for a summer afternoon, Concert 10th August	13
Escape from Mariupol - 7 by Denys Bielov	14/15
Adverts	16/22
Whittington Community Hall - What's on	23
Whittington Parish Council	24/25
Our Wonderful Diocese, Archdeacon of Dudley	26
Whittington CE Primary School	27
Family Barn Dance St Martins, 20 September	28
Story Time in July/August - new activity for children	29
News and Views from St Mark's	30/31/32
Fine Art Workshops at St Mark's Church Hall	33
Celebrating 200 years of Public Railroads	34
Remembering Albert Schweitzer	35
Back Cover - The bridge and chapel at Avignon	36



### **The invasion of Ukraine**

The seventh instalment of Denys Bielov's account of his escape from Mariupol will be found on pages 14/15, again this month. Denys makes his escape from occupied Mariupol and the Russians.

# *Letter from the Vicarage*

*September 25*



Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing?

Can I begin, by wishing any of you who are returning to school, or college, or university after your summer breaks, a Happy New Year. I trust that you have enjoyed your Summer holidays, the wonderful weather we have experienced and that they have been a good time for relaxation and recreation.

For those of you who have been waiting for the schools and colleges to return, before you take your holidays I trust and pray that you will have an equally good and relaxing time, even if as I suspect the weather will be somewhat cooler. Enjoy!

For those of you who would like to have been away, but have found that circumstances have conspired against you, such that you have been unable to go, I am sorry. I trust you have been able to rest with God at home.

For those of you for which this September means a transition to a new place of education or work, I wish you good luck, and God's blessings, and I hope and pray that you are able to settle quickly into your new surroundings, making new friends quickly.

It's not going to happen as early as this September, I don't think, but we have over the summer months received the news of who our next Bishop of Worcester is to be. He is the Rt. Revd Hugh Nelson, currently Bishop of St. Germans and was until recently acting Bishop of Truro. May I encourage you all to pray for Hugh, for his wife Lizzie and their children as they begin to prepare for this new season in their lives and ministries and ours.

The diocese offers us this prayer to use:

*Continued .....*

Gracious and loving God,  
through your Son Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,  
you have called us into the fellowship  
of your universal Church:  
we thank you for calling your servant Hugh  
to be Bishop of Worcester;  
sustain him by your love,  
strengthen him in faith  
encourage him in hope  
and grant him the needful gifts of grace;  
that through his ministry among us  
we may live and grow as Kingdom People  
sharing faith, hope and love in Jesus' name.  
Amen

We have also received notice that our assistant curate, Richard Wood, is to be made also curate-in-charge at St. Nicholas, Warndon, while still remaining assistant curate in our team working alongside the folks from Ronkswood. Congratulations Richard. The diocese though as far as I know have not produced a prayer for Richard; nonetheless I would encourage you to pray for him and his family as well.

This September then is ripe with potential and change for many of us. Maybe it is appropriate, then, that September these days forms the bulk of 'Creation Season' in the church calendar, a time to think about, reflect upon and give thanks for God's creativity, creation and the environment in which we all live.

How, I wonder, might you delight in our Creator God, whether you face change and the potential of something new, or as you rest in the faithfulness of the earth keeping on turning and the seasons coming and going?

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 (andy.stand@sky.com)*

**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 September & October 2025

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

6.30pm PCC meeting in the Elizabethan Room

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September

10.30-12noon Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September Trinity 12**

11.00am Parish Communion

1.00pm Baptism

3.30pm Forest Church

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September Ride & Stride**

10.00am – 1.00pm Church & Elizabethan Room Open  
Refreshments available

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September Trinity 13**

11.00am Family Service

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September

10.30-12noon Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September Trinity 14**

11.00am Parish Communion

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September Trinity 15**

11.00am Family Communion

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October

10.30-12noon Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October Trinity 16**

11.00am Parish Communion

3.30pm Forest Church

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October Harvest Festival**

11.00am Family Service



## **Memories of Audrey Hardiker**

*A quiet and private person, well-known in the local community*

*Here is part of the text of the Vicar's address at the funeral in Fladbury on August 16th:*

At Audrey's husband Harry's funeral in May of 2020, I began my address, asking those that were present, which would have been during the pandemic, to imagine a spider's web on an autumnal morning, I hope the analogy holds true

again today as we think and reflect on Audrey's life. The spider's web has a sense of beauty and richness about it, but its strength and its beauty are quite fleeting. We come then today wishing to honour and celebrate Audrey's life: to give thanks for her 89 years and for the privilege of being part of them. We come too into chapel this morning to give Audrey back into the love and care of almighty God.

Audrey was found, on the 21st of last month 'asleep in her chair' by Vanessa, the daughter of her cousin Pat, who had gone round to Audrey's house to investigate when people became concerned that they had not been able to raise her on the telephone for a little while. A post-mortem showed that Audrey had died from the combined affects of pneumonia and heart disease, and so had drawn to a close a life that had begun almost 90 years earlier on the 28th July 1935.

Audrey had been born to her parents Arthur & Phyllis Guise, when they were living in Hill End Cottage in Droitwich. We think that her schooling would have started in Droitwich and that Audrey moved from there to the High school in Bromsgrove. We believe she left school at the age of about 14 or 15, as typically people did in those days. The family moved from Hill End to a bungalow on the Droitwich Road. Unfortunately, Audrey's mother, became quite seriously ill needing Audrey to care for her until she eventually died in hospital. In 1957, Audrey was working at the Careers Office, when she met Pam who became a lifelong friend. In preparation for Harry's funeral, Audrey told me how Harry, was a founding member of Worcester Gliding Club, and how it was, that it was there that the two of them first met, in the late 60s. The couple married when Audrey was 36, at St. Augustine's church Dodderhill. I am told that they enjoyed going to the races and had shares in racehorses; and would often lay bets between themselves while watching the racing.



They didn't holiday overseas, particularly often, but Vanessa, tells me that they did on one occasion go Monte Cassino in Italy, to see the war memorial there which lists Audrey's Uncle, George William Harris, who died during that battle in the May of 1944. They used to have 3 retired greyhounds, Duncan, Zach and Sam who provided companionship, and of course necessitated walks down the lane.

Asked to describe Audrey I was told she was an honest and forthright person, a private person who was a wonderful cousin to Pat and an aunty to many. May she rest in peace.



## **From the Parish Register at Whittington**

\*\*\*\*

### **Baptisms**

**16th August 2025**

**Chloe Sophia Maycroft**

**Daughter of Carl and Rebecca Maycroft**

\*\*\*

**17th August 2025**

**Renley Patrick Eguono-Oghene Alec Waite**

**Son of Stuart Waite and Kiera Richards**

~~~~~

### **Renewal of Vows**

**23rd August 2025**

**Sadie and Luke Morris**

~~~~~

**17th August 2025**

**Funeral and Burial**

**Margaret Taylor**

\*\*\*\*

**Interment of Ashes**

**22nd August 2025**

**Leslie John Griffiths**

# RIDE+STRIDES for Churches

**SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER**  
**WHITTINGTON CHURCH**  
**WILL BE OPEN**

**FROM 10.00am – 1.00pm**

*Refreshments available*

*All welcome to drop in*

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

## Harvest Thanksgiving

**11.00 am Sunday 12 October**

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



**Followed by:**

## Harvest Lunch

*Service followed by a picnic lunch in  
the Elizabethan Room, and  
churchyard if fine  
All welcome*



# Church of St Philip & St James, Whittington

Church Lane, Whittington, Worcester WR5 2RQ

## The Women of Worcester Cathedral

*Illustrated talk by Janet Pearson*



**Saturday 18 October**  
**10.30am**

*followed by refreshments  
in the Elizabethan Room*

**FREE ENTRY**  
**with donations**  
**to church funds**

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

*Team Office 01905 358083*

*Worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com*

## **Memories of Margaret Taylor**

*Whose funeral and burial, took place at the church on 17th August.*

*A familiar figure in the Village*

*Here is part of the Vicar's address;*



While we have come today to say our goodbyes, we have come also wishing to honour and celebrate Maggie's life: to give thanks for her 88 years and for the privilege of being part of them; we come too into church this morning to give Maggie back into the love and care of almighty God. Maggie died just three weeks ago, on the 26th June in Worcester Royal Hospital.

I had known Maggie, since we first moved to Worcester 9 years ago. She was one of those omni-present people in the village whenever I was walking my lad to school and Maggie was often taking Muffin for one of his regular walks, so I was very pleased to meet with her nephew Stuart, to learn more of her life.

She was born on 3rd April 1937 to her parents Cecil and Jeanetta Corsier, who lived in Coombs Road Northwick. Stuart tells me that although Maggie's Dad was very strict, Maggie was a proper Daddy's girl, who she could twist around her little finger! Stuart remembers meeting up with her on occasions, after he'd finished his day at school, for tea and cakes.

She met her husband Cliff when he worked for the Co-op. The couple married in 1970 - Stuart remembers being a page boy and having something of a wardrobe malfunction on the day, when he managed to rip the buttons off his shirt! When they were first married the couple rented a room in Old Road, Whittington, before moving to the house in Church Terrace. Although not having any children of their own Maggie made up for it by doting on her nephews, Anthony and Stuart. Anthony, 10 years Stuart's senior, was taught by Maggie how to play the piano. Stuart has very fond memories of being with Maggie, going on holiday with them to Yeovil and elsewhere. Of course for many of us our abiding memories of Maggie would always be her with Muffin. Though Muffin was just the last in a long line of poodles that they owned: Mandy, Honey, Teddy and Tinker being those that Stuart could remember. Maggie and Cliff liked to go out for a drink together and frequently joined the rest of the family after choir practice at the St.

*Continued...*

Stephen's Working Mens Club, and Stuart remembers that Maggie would frequently order a Guinness or a Stout, before taking the froth off the top with her finger and getting whichever dog to lick it off. Cliff was something of a heavy smoker and developed cancer which Maggie nursed him through until he sadly died on Christmas Day in 2009.

Asked to describe the kind of person Maggie was, Stuart told me she was a happy soul, always ready to help others. May, she rest in peace.



## ***Quiet Music for a Summer Afternoon***

We were delighted to welcome back Joanne Jefferis and Mike Elden for their 'cello and piano recital on Sunday afternoon 10 August, with Archdeacon Robert Jones expertly turning the pages. The full audience was treated to a dozen varied pieces of light classical music, followed by the opportunity to mingle and catch up over home-made refreshments served in the Elizabethan Room, in perfect weather.

Some pieces were by well-known composers including Elgar, Dvorak, Strauss and Verdi, while others were new in the musicians' repertoire, and Joanne introduced us to each one. She plays a very special English 'cello made in London about 1790 which has a truly mellifluous tone, while Mike's accompanying is most sensitive. A number of Joanne's adult students were present who very much appreciated her superb tuning and technique in some complicated arrangements while Mike accompanied with fiendish skill in the fast sections.

The concert ended with *Summertime* and *Promenade* by Gershwin, and then the enthusiastic applause persuaded Joanne and Mike to add Saint-Saens' serene *The Swan* as an encore. The musicians very generously donated their services in aid of the charity *Mentorlink* and church funds.

*Janet Pearson*



# Escape from Mariupol

## by Denys Bielov - 7

### Stars of bright people



The first thing we did was to write a post on social media to find a visa sponsor in the UK. I added photos before and after the occupation. And soon a Ukrainian, Iryna, in England, called me on WhatsApp. Later she was replaced by her, Olena, from Worcestershire County Council, who helped me a lot. Iryna told me that there was already a family in Worcester that was ready to accept me: Joe and Ella and their children Nina and Dylan. In December 2023 we exchanged our first video messages. I had not seen such warmth and generosity in people's eyes for a long time. Joe even praised my English! Ella made a video tour of their wonderful cosy house and introduced me to the children. They were so hospitable, as if we had known each other for a long time. They were ready to invite a stranger from another part of the planet into their home. – I told myself “For us Slavs, this is probably some kind of simply divine kindness and trust”. I became convinced that the English were angelically kind. I shared my plans with Katya, a friend from Kyiv and also my classmate from the academy. Katya called all her friends to help in any way they could. And from time to time, I started to receive 50, 100, 500 and even 1500 hryvnias on my card (1 hryvnia = £0.02).

I looked for people to help me get out of Mariupol. And here, too, I was fabulously lucky! My friends, who managed to escape to Berlin at the beginning of the invasion, gave me a link to a team called Rubikus, which helped evacuating people from the occupied territories of Ukraine. They were awesome guys! Unfortunately, I cannot publish many details of my preparation and the road through the Russian Federation while the war continues, otherwise I might inadvertently put those who helped me in danger. Tanya, Katya, the Rubikus team, Arseny and his team of students, Joe and Ella and their children, friends in Berlin, Olena and Iryna were like stars gathered together guiding my path.

**My three-steps plan.** - The first was to get to Great Britain to Joe and Ella.

- The second was to integrate and become useful to British society, to find friends and like-minded people, to find paid employment and to use part of my earnings to help our warriors and to spread the truth about what is happening in Ukraine and Mariupol.

*Continued.....*

The third was to return home after the war and help develop relations between Ukraine and Britain and restore my country and city of Mariupol. No one knows when and how this war will end and to what city I can return. Of course, I would like to return to liberated Ukraine and Mariupol. However, now I know exactly what to live for.

### **Let's go!**

Early in the morning of 19 January 2023 I took a bus to Rostov-on-Don. It was hard to say goodbye to my home and the city where I was born, grew up, and where a part of my soul remained. It was especially hard when you know that you may never return. And what if something goes wrong? But I knew exactly where I was going and why. If I got to Britain, I could do a lot more to help Ukraine win than if I stayed. I was also warmed by the thought: "I'll come back again, my dear Mariupol. And I will rebuild you again under the blue-yellow flag of free Ukraine". When we arrived at the Russian border checkpoint, everyone was taken to the waiting room and our passports were taken away for a couple of hours to be checked. Of course, I, like everyone else, gave my Russian passport. I had to take it, because without it the risks of being arrested on the territory of the Russian Federation were great. Fortunately, I was let through without interrogation. And when we finally got on the bus, I felt that the first barrier had been passed. The part about my time spent in Rostov has also been omitted for security reasons.

The people on the train were quite different from those in Rostov, because they were mostly Belarusians who were going to their homes. They are more open and cheerful than the Russians. I tried not to talk to them. Neighbouring passengers more than once offered me a drink of alcohol, but I politely declined, explaining that I was not allowed for religious reasons. The Russian border guards walked around the carriage with service pistols, and the Belarusian ones had automatic rifles and dogs. Everything went smoothly! I had to wait another eight hours at the railway station to take the next train to a small town on the Belarus-Polish border. Waiting there was a group of Ukrainian refugees from the occupied territories. And here at last I could breathe more easily, because I felt that I was among friends and wanted to talk to someone. Mostly there were people from the south of Ukraine and from Crimea. Everyone was going to Poland, and then to wherever they could. One woman became agitated: "What about going back? I have a lot of valuable things left at home, and my home animals!". I was saddened that after what had happened there were still Ukrainians who did not realise what was happening. I also had a lot of valuable things left in Mariupol. But I knew it was time to say goodbye at least until victory.



“Bluebird Care - as near  
to perfect as possible”

### Care in your home, just as you like it.

You may be in a situation where you need an extra pair of hands, or you may have complex needs that require dedicated care.

Our well-trusted care service ranges from a 30-minute daily visit through to full Live-in care.

### Call our friendly team today.

Bluebird Care Worcester & Wychavon

**01386 764830**

worcesterandwychavon@bluebirdcare.co.uk  
bluebirdcare.co.uk/worcester-wychavon

Home  
is where the heart is  
*Let's keep it there™*





# WILLIAM JUPE Photo restoration

“ I was completely taken aback by the quality of repair demonstrated on your website. I had no idea such things were possible. ”

*Dr David Cooper*

WWW.RESTORINGGLORY.CO.UK | 01905 317713 | HAMILTON RD.



 JONES &  
ASSOCIATES  
BESPOKE ESTATE AGENCY

Jones & Associates is a locally based, professionally qualified Estate Agency whom specialise in personalising an estate agency service around your needs. With traditional values and wide marketing coverage including, Rightmove, Zoopla, OnTheMarket, our local website, and Social Media. Contact me now to see how we can help.

Lee Kloos MNAEA | [lee.kloos@jjaa.co.uk](mailto:lee.kloos@jjaa.co.uk) | 07496 625205



**COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

**WorcesterWHEELS 01905 450654**

Worcester Wheels is a registered charity providing a selection of services for people living in the city and surrounding villages. **We aim to provide a friendly, affordable, door to door service** to customer who may find it difficult to access other forms of transport. Our vehicles are fitted with tail lifts and are fully accessible to walking and wheelchair passengers.

We are here to help individuals to get to their hospital, GP, Day Services, lunch clubs, shopping trips and much more. We operate our transport services Monday to Saturday.

We offer a Friendship Hub for adults who are lonely, isolated or have a disability to come together to meet new friends, engage in activities and enjoy a hot two course meal. It is open Monday to Friday 10 am until 2 pm. All our staff and volunteers are DBS checked, fully trained and keen to make a difference.

Visit our website [www.worcesterwheels.org.uk](http://www.worcesterwheels.org.uk) or find us on Facebook.  
If you would like to volunteer contact us on 01905 450 654

# severn vale

WINDOWS | DOORS | CONSERVATORIES

## LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS with over 30 years experience

- Quality Energy A rated Upvc Windows and Doors
- Stunning Composite Doors
- Bi Fold doors
- Patio doors
- Bespoke Upvc Conservatories
- Solid Warm Conservatory roofs
- Misted and failed glass units replaced
- Installers of Firestone Flat Rubber Roofing



Contact us for a free no obligation quote

**01905 630677**  
**www.severn-vale.co.uk**

**CIVICare**  
a helping hand



## HOME CARE SERVICES

HOME CARE CLIENTS | LEARNING DISABILITY UNITS



P: 01905 770110 | E: INFO.CENTRAL@CIVICARE.CO.UK  
FB: CIVICARE | IG: CIVICARE.CENTRAL

## Computer Problems?

### We FIX computers!

Sales | Service | Support

Worcesters best loved, family run IT company...



Custom build PC's

Gaming PC's

Repairs

Upgrades

Networking

Anti Virus & Security

Home User Support

Business IT & Support



worcester-computers.com  
01905 759111



worcester  
computers

visit us in-store | 140 Ombersley Road | Worcester | WR3 7HA

## GLM Property Maintenance

- Traditional Window Cleaning
- All aspects of Repointing
- Fascias & Gutters (Repairs & Renewal)
- Driveways & Patios (Installation & Cleaning)
- Roof & Solar Panel Cleaning
- Cowl & Pot Fitting and Repointing
- Roofing
- Fencing & Landscape Gardening
- Hedge & Tree Cutting
- House & Garden Clearances
- Rubbish Removals
- Painting & Decorating
- Grave Restorations and Cleaning

Fully insured and licensed waste carrier

No job is too big or too small!

Call for a free quote today!

**07399 024702**

**01905 864172**

GLMServices18@gmail.com



We're on Yell.com



Like us on Facebook!  
@GLMServices18

## *Are Your Locks Behaving Badly ?*

**All Types of Door & Window Locks Opened • Serviced • Repaired**

**UPVC Door & Window Multi-Point Lock Repair Specialist**

**Door Adjustment & Realignment Service**

**Family Business For 30 Years With Traditional Skills & Workmanship**

**No Call-Out Charge • Free Onsite Estimates • No VAT On Labour**

## **...THE LOCKSMITH...**

**01905 570 999**

[www.locksmithworcestershire.co.uk](http://www.locksmithworcestershire.co.uk)

**07871 44 20 11**

**Call Stewart Your Local Reliable Independent Locksmith Service**

## **Andy Lee Electrician**

**Registered**

**NAPIT  
Part  
P**

**Testing  
Inspection  
Fault Finding**

**Servicing  
Installations  
Replacements**

**Telephone for Quotes:**

**01905 356945 or 07879 427571**

## **Curtains by Kirsty**

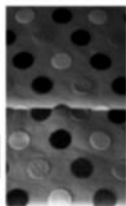
Made to measure curtains,  
Roman blinds & soft furnishings

- Handmade finish
- Friendly, professional service
- Attention to detail
- No obligation quote

*Contact me today*

**07872 441702**

[kirsty.kessell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kirsty.kessell@hotmail.co.uk)



## **D • A • R**

**(MALVERN)**

**DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS**

**103 Worcester Road  
Link Top, Malvern, Worcs  
WR14 1EP**

**Tel: 01684 572151**

*We sell and repair  
all makes of*

**Washing machines**

**Dishwashers**

**Refrigeration**

**Built in ovens**

**Cookers**

**Microwaves**

**Tumble Dryers**



- Specialising in airport transfers and long distance journeys
- Full day hire, sporting events
- 1-8 seater vehicles available
- All our vehicles have free wifi and complimentary bottled water on all long distance trips

**Telephone 01905 672078**

**Mobile 07582 120016**

[www.executivetravelworcestershire.co.uk](http://www.executivetravelworcestershire.co.uk)

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

# LOCKSMITH & DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS

🔑 Replacement Glass Units   🔑 Hinges   🔑 Lock Cylinders

🔑 Multi-Point Locks   🔑 Handles   🔑 Garage Door Repairs

No Call Out Fees   Free Quotes   Over 20 years' experience - no job too big or small



AS Locks & Services.

[www.aslocksandservices.co.uk](http://www.aslocksandservices.co.uk)

**07956 371673**

**01905 726671**



**Quality car servicing and repair  
at competitive prices**

- Family run business
- Established over 40 years
- Qualified and experienced team
- Professional and personal service
- Friendly, fast and efficient
- Competitive on price
- Collect and deliver service (within the area)

**Tolladine Road, Worcester WR4 9AZ**  
**01905 24213**

[tolladiness@btconnect.com](mailto:tolladiness@btconnect.com)  
[www.tolladine-servicestation.co.uk](http://www.tolladine-servicestation.co.uk)

## **Worcester Four Seasons Apartments**

Battenhall Avenue, Worcester,  
WR5 2HW

- Stylish, spacious & comfortable holiday accommodation
- Peaceful, south facing location
- Underfloor heating

Find us on **Airbnb** or book directly.

**Contact us today:**

Email: [haywardpowis2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:haywardpowis2@hotmail.co.uk)

Mobile: **07843 944567**

[www.powishayward.co.uk](http://www.powishayward.co.uk)

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE**

For full details, please contact the Advertising Manager  
on [adale.stmartins@gmail.com](mailto:adale.stmartins@gmail.com)

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



## JDS Electrical

For all your electrical needs  
Fully qualified and insured

**JON HALL**

**07528 183057**

**jds.electrical@outlook.com**



## JIM'LL FIX IT

### Handyman Service

Painting & Decorating, Tiling, Laminate Flooring  
Door Hanging, Furniture Assembly, Shed Felling  
Gutter Soffits & Fascias - Clean/Replace/Repair  
Garden Clearance, Hedge & Tree Cutting, Mowing  
Fencing, Fence Painting, Pressure Washing

*I promise a fast, friendly,  
reliable service, 7 days a week  
Fully Insured - References available*

**01905 424945 / 07912 879214**



# Shelton & Lines

ESTATE AGENTS

37 DROITWICH ROAD  
WORCESTER  
WR3 7LG

"We're a family run estate agency focused on serving our  
local community and are proud to be a part of yours!"



Offering FREE! no obligation property valuations

Please call or  
book online

**01905 616 330**

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



LATIMER COURT

BARCHESTER HEALTHCARE

## Care as unique as you are



Providing bespoke residential, nursing, dementia  
and respite care in Worcester.

**Call: 01905 402 832**

Latimer Court Care Home

Darwin Avenue, Worcester, WR5 1SP • [barchester.com](http://barchester.com)

# Bedwardine Funeral Services



A Caring and Sensitive Service • Available 24 Hours a Day  
Private Chapel of Rest • Pre-paid Funeral Plans Available

The Coach House, 30 Bromyard Road, St John's, Worcester WR2 5BT

**01905 748811**

[www.bedwardinefuneralservices.co.uk](http://www.bedwardinefuneralservices.co.uk)

## E. J. GUMERY & SON Funeral Directors

- ◆ Independent, Family Funeral Directors
- ◆ Established **1870**
- ◆ Private Chapels
- ◆ Floral Tributes
- ◆ Pre-Payment Plans
- ◆ Helpful & Efficient Personal Service



**Tel: 01905 22094**  
**24 HOURS**

68, 70 & 72 Ombersley Road  
Worcester WR3 7EU

[www.ejgumery.co.uk](http://www.ejgumery.co.uk)  
Email: [info@ejgumery.co.uk](mailto:info@ejgumery.co.uk)

## **Worcester Funeral Service** **01905 23499**

Independent Family Funeral Directors

Craig is available 24 hours a day  
Please call for any assistance



**Unit 6, Kilbury Drive  
Worcester, WR5 2NE**

**Golden Charter**  
Funeral Plans 

**[WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk](http://WorcesterFuneralService.co.uk)**

# Community Hall Update

## WHAT'S ON - REGULAR CLASSES YOU CAN JOIN

Please contact the class organiser for more information, costs and to pre-book

### MONDAY.

10.30am - 11.30am. Zumba with Aimee Ford.

Contact: [aimeeford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aimeeford@yahoo.co.uk)

5.30pm. The Star Project Children's Theatre (Term time only)  
with Jo Payne.

Contact: [director@thestarproject.info](mailto:director@thestarproject.info)

### TUESDAY.

2.30pm to 3.30pm. Yoga Group with Jacqueline Bailey *from 16.09.25*

Contact: [jqmb56@gmail.com](mailto:jqmb56@gmail.com)

4.00pm to 6.30pm. Dance (for 3 year olds and above) with Elizabeth Gibbs

Contact: [lizdance@icloud.com](mailto:lizdance@icloud.com)

6.30pm - 9.30pm Gong Bath + Sound Meditation with Angela Latham.

Contact: [evenstartbabe@msm.com](mailto:evenstartbabe@msm.com)

(varying monthly dates available)

### WEDNESDAY.


4.30pm to 5.30pm Yoga with Natalie Houlding.

Contact: [natalie@zafyoga.com](mailto:natalie@zafyoga.com)

6.30pm to 7.30pm. Pilates with Rebecca Hadlington.

Contact: [fitness-worcester.com](http://fitness-worcester.com)

### THURSDAY.

 10.00am (for 10.15am start) to 11.00am

Zumba with Denise Wrafter

11.00am to 12.00noon Yoga with Denise Wrafter.

Contact: [sdwrafter@btinternet.com](mailto:sdwrafter@btinternet.com)

7.15pm - 9.15pm T'ai Chi with Dr Marc.

Contact: [marc@obelison.com](mailto:marc@obelison.com)

### FRIDAY.

9.45am to 10.45am Zumba with Aimee Ford.

Contact: [aimeeford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aimeeford@yahoo.co.uk)

6.00pm to 7.00pm. Duke Yoga with Fiona

Contact: [fib42@hotmail.com](mailto:fib42@hotmail.com)



*Community Hall Management Committee*

# Whittington Parish Council

Our meeting at the end of July was our last before the end of September.



It's been a while since we've asked you, our residents, to give your opinion on life in our parish, so it's time to rectify that as we approach a period of continuing change, growth and new responsibilities.

**Change** – Our parish is three times the size it was in 2014. More change is on the way.

**Growth** - Part of the new Wychavon Garden Community Settlement of 5000 new homes, under the **South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP)**, will be built within our parish, on the Pershore side of the M5.

**Wychavon Garden Community Project Board** – if you have any thoughts, issues or concerns about the new development, the project board would welcome your input. Please email:

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

**New Responsibilities** – the local government reorganisation ordered by Westminster will bring about the biggest shake-up of local government since 1974. Many valuable local services, including maintenance of play areas and parks, grass cutting, tree planting and public litter bin emptying will be managed differently when Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire County Council are replaced with a new 'Unitary Authority' from April 2028.

**Your Views Matter!** We want to hear your views on the importance and priority of a range of services and facilities covering:

Community and Recreation

Safety and Infrastructure

Environment and Green Spaces.

**Consultation** – By the time you read this, the consultation will have been posted through your letterbox. If you've already completed and returned it, thank you!

*Continued...*





If you haven't, please could you spare a moment to share your thoughts with us? It'll only take a few minutes. If you've mislaid the paper copy, don't worry, just scan this QR code with your mobile device or visit:

<https://www.whittingtonparish.gov.uk/yourview>

to complete it online.

**In Brief** - (1) We know that many of you continue to be frustrated by the minority of dog owners who don't 'pick up' after their pet. In the coming months, you'll see some new signs springing up around the parish reminding dog owners of their responsibilities.

(2) Our County Councillor, Linda Robinson has approved investigations into a lower speed limit for Whittington Road and Swinesherd Way.

### **Focus Groups**

If the thought of being a councillor feels a little bit too much of a commitment, might you have some time to join one of our working groups or take part in a focus group looking at the opportunities and challenges facing our parish? If you do, we'd love to hear from you, so you can play your part in looking after and developing the parish.

Please contact the Clerk to the Council at: [clerk@whittingtonparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whittingtonparish.gov.uk) for more information.

**Next Parish Council meeting:** 7.30pm, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Whittington Community Hall. Come along. You'll be very welcome!

Richard Boase

Chairman

Whittington Parish Council



## Our wonderful Diocese *from* The Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke,



Back in June I had the immense privilege of being part of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) responsible for discerning who our next Bishop of Worcester should be. I am delighted by the outcome, and am looking forward immensely to serving alongside Bishop Hugh when he comes to join us in the new year.

A question posed during that process caused me to reflect on what I have learned about the Diocese of Worcester during the episcopal vacancy. Let me share a few of my observations.

In the Statement of Needs, describing the diocese for potential future bishops, we named our key characteristic as being **relational**. Relating well to one another across different traditions and contexts is part of Bishop John's legacy. What has really encouraged me, is that a year on, it is still a core part of who we are. Even during this season of change, with the natural uncertainty that comes during a vacancy, we have continued to relate well, bound together by our common commitment to be kingdom people.

Our **transformation journey** is exciting, and is bearing fruit as churches become healthier and more sustainable, we see more children and young people being reached, and new disciples formed and nurtured. Each of the candidates we interviewed was inspired by our vision and impressed by progress so far, and I don't think that's just because they were hoping to make a good impression! The clarity of our long-term plan, our clear priorities and the way we were able to engage people across the diocese in conversation have been praised by the national Vision and Strategy Team who often point others to us for advice on how to do it well. It was clearly a key factor in drawing potential candidates to explore whether they might be called to serve here.

We **navigate difference** well. The CNC process has been complex and divisive in some dioceses, and in a couple of cases members were unable to coalesce around a nomination. We worked really hard with the wider Vacancy in See Committee, and then as a group of six reps together with the national CNC members, to build consensus by committing to open and transparent dialogue, careful listening to build shared understanding, and prayerful discernment.

*Continued....*

We related carefully across our differences because we each trusted in a shared goal of finding the absolute best person under God to be our next bishop. I felt proud of how we had conducted ourselves, and came away with renewed hope for the future .... and an even stronger conviction that Worcester is the best diocese in the world to be part of!

I hope you will join me in your parish in praying for Bishop Hugh over the coming months as he prepares to come and join us on our transformation journey, and begins to build relationship with the varied and wonderful people across this fabulous diocese.

## **Whittington CE Primary School**

### **From the Head Teacher, Kelly Leeming**

The school gates swung open this September to the happy sounds of children returning after their summer break. Sun hats have been traded for school shoes, and the classrooms are buzzing once again with excitement for a brand-new year at Whittington.

Over the summer holidays, the school had a bit of a makeover. The boys' and girls' toilets have been completely refurbished, and the fences and gates have been given a fresh coat of paint - small changes that make a big difference to the feel of the school.

This term brings with it new faces and fresh beginnings. We are especially delighted to welcome our new Reception children and their families into the Whittington community. Watching them take their very first steps into school life is always a special moment.

Looking ahead, we have plenty of plans to build on the wonderful things we started last year. Strengthening our links with the parish and finding more ways to work alongside our families and neighbours will be at the heart of everything we do. With such a supportive community around us, we're excited to see what this year will bring!



#### **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.*



St Martin's Church, London Road



# FAMILY BARN DANCE



SATURDAY

20

SEPTEMBER

5PM - 8PM

with The Orchard Band

£10 Adult | £5 Child  
£25 Family

Tickets include a  
**Ploughman's meal**, and  
must be booked in  
advance from the  
church office or via  
[stm-fbd25.eventbrite.co.uk](http://stm-fbd25.eventbrite.co.uk)  
(small booking fee applies).



[www.stmartinsworcester.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsworcester.org.uk)

## Story Time at Whittington In the summer holidays



Children's Young People and Families Minister Debra Hill and her group of volunteers have been serving families with pre-school children very well in the school summer holidays. Every Thursday morning she has been running a "Story Time with the classics" session at Whittington Church at 10am.

Especially in the school summer holidays when other groups stop, families really appreciate groups that continue to run and offer safe spaces for their little ones. Debra has seen a lot of engagement with this Story Time group; some of the families attending are new families who have not come to anything at the church before and we hope it will develop further in future.

Debra says:

*"The church members have been very supportive and with the help of some of them, we have been able to host this group on Thursday mornings."*

*"The stories we have done are 'The Tiger who came to tea', 'Elmer', 'The Gruffalo' and this week we will have 'Guess how much I love you'."*



*We follow a simple format. I read the story, and then do a brief 'God slot', talking about how the story relates to God and key Christian messages. This is then followed by a craft related to the story. Afterwards we have refreshments."*



*"We have met some new families from the village and the new estate through this group. We had a lovely moment, when two children who didn't know each other, met there for the first time and discovered they will be starting at the same school in September - so it's wonderful that we were able to play a part in them striking up a friendship here. They'll both now have someone they know to play with on their first day of school!"*

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

Firstly, I would like to share that last March, a lovely black lady walked into St Marks and for the next few months she attended both Sunday and Wednesday services when she could. Sadly, and having written a beautiful and thoughtful letter to the congregation, Evelyn returned to her native Nigeria on 11 August with the promise that she hoped to pay another visit in the not too distant future; she was a popular and engaging person and will be sorely missed by everyone.

**Harvington Hall** We had two of our teenage grandchildren to entertain during the school holidays and took them for an outing. After getting snarled up in the awful Bromsgrove road works, we arrived at this wonderful, Grade Two listed historical house that has the most priest holes in the country and by pure luck, it was their annual history event when all were dressed for the parts that the dedicated volunteers were re-enacting. Several years' ago, the house manager, Phil Downing, attended an event in St James Church, Norton, organised by the diocese and, dressed in authentic Elizabethan costume, he entertained all with flair and enthusiasm; this wasn't the first time that I had visited the fascinating hall because Cherry Orchard Ladies Club went there many years' before. As with many youngsters, they weren't exactly interested until they found the room where two ladies were playing authentic games and they were hooked!! Quick to pick up the rules, they played lots of different ones including Nine Men's Morris and **'The Newe and Most Pleasant Game of the Goose'** see photo attached. The version that she had was on cloth



counters were not secure as they move around. Please get in touch with me if you know someone who 'draws' with a pyrographic tool similar to a soldering iron. The rules are interesting and I can send them to anyone who might like to read about it. *Continued...*



They might not have been bothered with the history that surrounded them (James did like looking in the priest holes) but, since their family is very competitive, we had to eventually prise them away because it was closing time!! We will be having a return, relaxing visit, without young people so that we aren't wondering what they are getting up to when we can't see them. All of the volunteers are very knowledgeable and I can highly recommend a visit to the hall and adjoining church; please visit [www.harvingtonhall.co.uk](http://www.harvingtonhall.co.uk) where you will find lots of information.

**Chat & Cuppa Club** continues on the first Tuesday of every month and the next meetings to add to your calendar are 2 September, 7 October, 4 November and 2 December always **from 2pm - 3.30pm** and everyone is encouraged to drop in for a free cuppa, yes, everyone, ladies, gents, carers, teenagers, mums and dads before the school pick-up.

## **Church Hall Information**

The **hall hire hourly rate has now risen by £1** therefore events are **£14 per hour**; the rise has been necessary because of the huge hike in utility costs and it is all going up again.

**Games Cafe** During the school holidays, Debra Hill, the South East Team Children's & Family Worker, ran a free Games Cafe in the church hall where parents/carers could bring youngsters to choose from a large assortment of games and play



something that was familiar to them or try something new. I was fascinated to watch the children choose a game and times have definitely moved on since my childhood and even that of my children, they chose and played games that I have never heard of, Rummikub, based on the card game, and a Harry Potter game that reminded me a little of Battleships. I am not sure that the B&W photos do it justice but they enjoyed themselves. If you have a game that you could donate to St Marks, please drop it off on a Sunday after the service or I can pick it/them up because this could be a regular event to

keep children entertained during the school holidays. *Continued...*

**Cygnets Children's Art Group** there is a new art group starting on Saturday, 13 September and running through to 13 December on Saturdays and Wednesdays except half-term; please see the attached poster for further information and contact details.

**Flooding Incident** On Friday, 13 June, the main entrance to the church hall was flooded. It is understood to have been caused by torrential rain the previous evening and by contractors who had blocked off pipes leading to the main sewer in Orchard Street. The situation is currently in the hands of the church insurers and more about what has taken place and the outcome will be reported in the October edition. Suffice to say that the water destroyed the flooring that is currently piled up outside the hall and no definitive date has been suggested for remedial work to be completed including the redecoration of the entrance hall.

**Jan**

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



## No men

An elderly woman died last month. Having never married, she requested no male pallbearers. In her handwritten instructions for her memorial service, she wrote,

*"They wouldn't take me out while I was alive, so I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead."*

"Delivery for whoever ordered the trendy alternative to a basket of groceries..."

# *fine art* FOR YOUR KIDS

## Term Time Classes & Holiday Workshops

At Cygnets our focus is on traditional drawing, painting, and sculpture, combined with unique projects, all taught by experienced teachers using professional quality materials.

St Mark's Church Hall  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025

(Excluding w/c 27 October for Half-Term)

AGES 5-12 | (ALL ABILITIES)

Wednesdays 4.30 - 5.30pm

Saturdays 10 - 11am

£180/ Term (10 Classes)

St Mark's Church Hall  
Orchard Street Worcester WR5 3DW

✉ [worcester@cygnetsartschool.com](mailto:worcester@cygnetsartschool.com)

🌐 [cygnetsartschool.com/worcester](https://cygnetsartschool.com/worcester)



@CYGNETSARTSCHOOL



*Book Now!*



## Celebrating 200 years of the public railroads

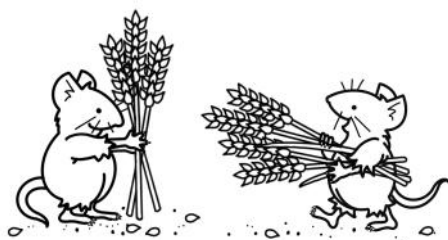
Two hundred years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1825, the world's first public railway opened. It was the Stockton and Darlington Railway in north-east England. Inspired and supported by a prominent Quaker, Edward Pease, and backed financially by many Quakers nationally, it has been described as “the great theatre of railway operations”, sparking the explosion of railways across the world and boosting the industrial revolution. About 20 miles of the original 25 mile stretch still exist, now as part of the Northern Rail line.

The technical expertise behind it all came from George Stephenson, an extraordinary self-taught engineer whose expertise, which originated in the mines, stretched beyond railways. His *Locomotion No 1*, built for the Stockton and Darlington line, was the first steam locomotive to carry passengers on a public rail line. He worked with his 18-year-old son Robert, who is known for creating the more famous *Rocket* four years later.

The first Stockton and Darlington train – which in fact ran from Old Etherley Colliery, some distance north of Darlington – was led by a man on horseback with a flag. The motto of the organising committee was “At private risk for public service”. With brakemen stationed between the wagons, the train reached 12 to 15mph and was greeted by an estimated 10,000 people at the Darlington junction, where some passengers left and more boarded. The average speed was calculated at about 8mph. Six wagons of coal were given to the poor by way of celebration.

A nine-month festival in County Durham and the Tees Valley – with artwork, spectacles and community events – is marking the bicentenary of the opening of the railway. As a tribute to his life and achievements, a bronze statue of George Stephenson was unveiled at Chesterfield railway station in 2005. An earlier statue stands in Neville Street, Newcastle.

More info at: <https://railway200.co.uk>, <https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk>



## Remembering Albert Schweitzer

Sixty years ago, on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1965, Albert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. He was winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize. Schweitzer was a devout Christian with a passionate allegiance to Jesus. His key philosophy was “reverence for life”: no-one, he felt, should harm or destroy life unless it was absolutely necessary. It was this philosophy that gained him the Nobel Peace Prize, and led him in later life to campaign against nuclear weapons.

He was born in 1875 in Alsace, where his father was a Lutheran-Evangelical pastor, and he made an impression first in the world of music, becoming a musical scholar and organist, as well as dedicating himself to the restoration and study of historic pipe organs. In 1903 he became Principal of the Theological College of Saint Thomas, from which he had graduated. In 1906 he published his key work, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, which was published in English in 1910.

Schweitzer made a proposal in 1912 to work at his own expense as a physician in the Paris Missionary Society's mission at Lambaréné on the Ogooué river, in what is now Gabon, in Africa, then a French colony. He would not go before a committee to have his doctrine examined, but met committee members individually and was eventually accepted, raising his own funding partly through concerts. His wife, Helene, served as an anaesthetist for surgical operations.

There was some criticism much later of the informal, spartan arrangements (patients living on the hospital grounds during treatment, for instance), but his biographer – also a volunteer surgeon – pointed out that surgical survival rates were as high as in many fully equipped western hospitals. Schweitzer died at Lambaréné, his grave marked by a cross he made himself.



### Hymns for people over 50

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah:  
I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car

# Whittington Parish Magazine

## September 25 Edition

