

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



OCTOBER 25

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

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The Rev'd Andy Stand 01905 358150

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St. Martin with St. Peter

Team Rector: Rev'd Peter Hart 01905 355119

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Richard Wood

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Mike Bunclark

Holy Trinity & St Matthew Ronkswood

Curate in Charge: Rev'd Richard Wood

Team Administrator:

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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.***

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The invasion of Ukraine

The eighth instalment of Denys Bielov's account of his escape from Mariupol will be found on pages 14/15, again this month. Denys continues his journey across Europe.

Letter from the Vicarage

October 25

Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing?



*Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread
to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.*

Words from our communion service, which we say at the offertory, when we bring our gifts to God's table - gifts both of money, and of bread and wine, to be shared amongst us all. This is a prayer of both praise: "Blessed are you Lord God ..." and of thanksgiving "... through your goodness we have this bread ...".

This month we celebrate our service of Harvest Praise and Thanksgiving. How thankful are we? Much of what we have and are given, we take for granted.

We moan about our climate and our weather. There is a shop in Keswick, in the Lake District, that proclaims from its windows that "there is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothing." That may be true, when it comes to being outdoors in our work or leisure time, but the right kind of clothing, is not going to afford the farmer the protection they want for their crops. It's not going to help the abundance or otherwise of the harvest.

I have lost track a bit at the moment, as to how good or otherwise our harvest is expected to be this year. I know that it is early because of the hot weather; but at the beginning of the spring, following the rain and the flooding there was probably a degree of concern about whether it was going to be possible to plant the seeds in good time for them to grow and be harvested.

Continued....

Maybe there was a feeling that there was no point in actually sowing the seeds.

Those feelings seem to have been replaced by relief that the warmer weather when it arrived did so for a longer period than we have been used to in recent years, and may therefore result in a better harvest than was at first feared. Or it may be that, that wet and cold start and hot summer has meant a good harvest for certain crops and a poorer harvest for others less suited to those conditions.

Nonetheless, let us thank and praise God for His bountiful goodness. Let us praise and thank God, for the industry of our food producers and suppliers.

But what of our own harvests? The fruit of each of our labours?

I occasionally use a form of prayer, just before lunch, which asks God to “prosper thou, the work of my hands”. With it I can entrust into God’s hands the meetings, the conversations and the ministry that I have sought to give and receive that morning. I will have spoken words, but can never be sure whether they have been heard as I meant them to be. More importantly, I cannot be sure that they have been said and heard in the manner that God meant them to be. All I can do is place them into God’s hands and ask that he “prosper them”. Equally, by that same prayer, I invite God to be part of the ministry that I will seek to give and receive for the rest of that day.

Can I judge the success or failure of that work? Not easily. But I can give thanks to God, for past blessings and in faith trust to Him to prosper the work of my hands.

What will your prayer be this harvest time?

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

**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 October & November 2025

Saturday 4th October

10.30-11.30am

12 noon

Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room

Wedding of Katie and David

Sunday 5th October

11.00am

3.30pm

Trinity 16

Parish Communion

Forest Church



Sunday 12th October

11.00am

12md

Harvest Festival

Family Service

Harvest Picnic Lunch in Churchyard &

Elizabethan Room

Tuesday October 14th

6.30pm

PCC Meeting on Zoom

Saturday 18th October

10.30am

‘The Women of Worcester Cathedral’ Talk by Janet Pearson in Church followed by refreshments in the Elizabethan Room.

Sunday 19th October

11.00am

Trinity 18

Parish Communion

Sunday 26th October

11.00am

Last after Trinity – Bible Sunday

Family Communion

Saturday 1st November

10.30-12noon

Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room

Sunday 2nd November

11.00am

3.30pm

All Saints

Parish Communion

Forest Church

Sunday 9th November

10.55am

Remembrance Sunday

Family Service, 2 minute silence at 11.00am
(Please note the time!)

How we spent our summer holiday *by Chris Stand*

Andy, James and I spent our summer holiday at Kirkby Lonsdale in Cumbria, not far from the Lake District. Kirkby Lonsdale is a wonderful small market town. Our base was our trusty tent pitched at the Rugby Club. One of our excursions was a walk from Kirkby Lonsdale to the village of Whittington, where we visited the Parish Church of St Michael the Archangel. We signed the visitor's book with the following words.



"Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord from the vicar and PCC of St Philip and St James Whittington, Worcester." If you visit a church when you are on holiday – may be you would like to leave a similar message. Chris Stand



A picture of St Michael in the church, in terrazzo with a pebble surround



PRISONS WEEK

A WEEK OF PRAYER

Prisons Week from 12 to 18 October.

“You learn about society by seeing how people are treated in its prisons, and it’s an absolute mess in ours. The prison system is insanely broken – people here are not treated like human beings. The maximum emphasis is on punishment with only superficial mention of rehabilitation. Many resort to smashing the contents of their cells or self-harming as a way to access help. It is absolutely no wonder that re-offending rates are so high when those leaving prison are in a worse way than when they came in. Whatever stability people had in their lives before prison, whether it’s housing or employment, is ripped away when you step inside and there is minimal help to put things back together”.

These are the views of a 24-year-old man in prison for the first time who is serving two years for political activism.

Prisons’ Sunday on 12 October marks the start of the annual week of prayer to raise awareness of issues faced by those affected by the criminal justice system. It will be marked, as usual, in the Cathedral with the diocesan Criminal Justice Affairs Group (CJAG) having an input in this morning’s service.

On Prisons' Sunday and throughout the rest of the week, we pray not only for offenders and victims of crime (recognising that many people in prison are both) - we pray also for families, friends, prison staff, chaplains, police, probation and all who make decisions which impact people’s lives. We are all created in the image of God who came to earth to be with us and to enter into our pain and suffering as well as our joys and delight. We will pause to reflect on Jesus Christ’s encounters with people when he walked on earth, and his compassion, always offering hope and the possibility of transformation even in places of suffering.

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen



From the Parish Register at Whittington

Baptisms

7th September 2025

Noah Philip Page

Son of Scott Page and Laura Webb

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



October
2025

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*

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We meet on the first Sunday of the month at Whittington Churchyard, WR5 2RQ, from 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Contact: revrichwood@gmail.com for more information

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER

This month, Forest Church is apple themed. We will be exploring Harvest by thinking about God's goodness. There'll be apple taste tests, apple art, acorn and conker games and dry apple 'bobbing'!



SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER

As the days grow shorter and the nights draw in, we are thinking this month about light and dark, falling leaves, changes in nature, and celebrating Jesus, the light of the world.



SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER

Come and help construct a Grotto under the Yew Tree, lit by paper lanterns. We'll retell Advent stories (The Angel, Mary and Joseph) and sing some carols by lantern light.



Forest Church is suitable for children and their families. We meet outdoors, worship God, learn from nature and explore creative activities together, followed by refreshments.



Whittington CE Primary School

From the HeadTeacher, Kelly Leeming

Whittington Autumn Newsletter

It has been a great start to the autumn term at Whittington. The PTA have been busy planning the Autumn Starlight Disco.

This term, the children in Key Stage 2 have been enjoying using the new iPads that the PTA purchased, thanks to the generous donations from parents at our summer events.

Children in Years 3 and 4 are learning the ukulele and are already planning a concert for parents soon. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils are being taught the electric keyboard.

Year 2 and Reception have already been out and about exploring the village and looking at key features. Our new Reception children have settled in really well and are loving school life. Year 1 have impressed us with their clay skills.

Year 6 have already been taking on responsibilities and are busy planning the Harvest Games – a fantastic event for the children and a wonderful way to raise money.

I continue to be so proud to be leading such a fantastic school with amazing support from our parents and community. We are always looking for more opportunities for parents and the wider community to get involved with the school. We also have some exciting Christmas events being planned, which we will be sharing with you very soon.



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.



Love, Learn, Achieve

Escape from Mariupol

by Denys Bielov - 8

I had to wait eight hours at the railway station to take the train to the Belarus-Polish border. On 23 January 2023 we passed the Belarusian border. That was a dangerous moment. I was almost deported back to Mariupol and an interrogation centre of the FSB (the KGB in Soviet times). They nitpicked that my passport was damaged. I got it in 2001, and it had lived through a turbulent student life. But mercifully they decided to let me pass. I tried not to show too much joy. Inside, I was jubilant: "It has happened!" I didn't believe that I would be able to escape, because the screening conditions were becoming stricter. I told myself, 'Don't rush to rejoice, you're not even halfway there yet.'



The Polish border guards were delightful! They scanned our luggage and examined our Ukrainian passports. They let us through without questions. Late in the evening, we were all exhausted, but happy, and went by bus to Warsaw. We stopped at a petrol station and had a bite to eat in a café. Everything felt like freedom. I was surprised that my Ukrainian bank card worked when I paid at the checkout. From then on, the help of my friend Katya, became vital! Everything was expensive in Poland. 'I need to earn money,' flashed through my mind, 'but first I must get to Britain.' At the petrol station, we were able to exchange Belarusian roubles for Polish zlotys. I had already got rid of my Russian roubles in Belarus.

At 11pm, we arrived in Warsaw: four days journey from Mariupol. We were taken to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), a temporary camp opposite the bus station. There were several facilities including toilets and first aid and administration. There were also several large tents where one could make a cup of aromatic coffee and a canteen. Refugees were provided with free assistance: food, hostel accommodation and help with travel documents and registration. The people who worked there were very caring towards the new arrivals.

In my hostel room, there were two guys, Kolya and Zhenya, refugees from south Ukraine who did not hide their gladness about their escape. We quickly became friends. They cheerfully discussed their adventures during the occupation and their journey. Unlike me, they had already had international passports obtained before the war when it was very simple to do.

In any Ukrainian city where there was an Administrative Services Centre (ASC), you could very quickly go through the process and get an international passport within a few weeks. I was really regretting that I didn't do it then. Although my Mum told me about it many times:

“Come on Son, why don't you get yourself an international passport? It only costs a couple thousand hryvnias and takes a few hours, and in a few weeks you'll be able to pick up your documents and travel wherever you want.”

“Well, Mum, I'm not going anywhere right now. I'm happy here, we have everything we could possibly want in Mariupol. I really enjoy spending my holidays here with you in our nice house and go to the sea. If I decide to go abroad, then I'll do it. Otherwise, it'll just lie around unused. Besides, it will expire.”



Before the war I was completely carefree. In 2019, I did seriously think about getting an international passport. I was in a very happy relationship with a charming lady from Dnipro. I really wanted to take her on a trip to France, Italy or Turkey. But our romance ended much faster than I could earn enough money. I even planned to buy wedding rings and make a surprise proposal to her during the trip. But that was not to be. She fell in love with someone else. I let her go without any scenes of jealousy. Although I was very depressed and it seemed this was the greatest tragedy of my life. But compared with the terrible upheavals I would experience three years later, this unhappy time seems only a minor annoyance. I no longer wanted to get an international passport. My stubbornness was fuelled by my friend's words: *‘There is no better sea in the world than ours — the Sea of Azov!’ ‘Why should I travel anywhere else when our sea is the most awesome!’* Later, I will tell you how beautiful Mariupol was.

In 2020, my mother was diagnosed with leukaemia. My sister and I took her to Dnipro, and one of the best oncology centres. She underwent many tests and was prescribed chemotherapy. She felt well and loved to walk around the city, swim in the sea and go to our elegant Drama Theatre. Annually, she had to undergo tests to adjust her treatment. We decided that I would move to Mariupol to live with her. Thoughts of an international passport were forgotten. After all, I understood that my mother could not be left alone even for a week. Life in Mariupol was fulfilling! My Mum died on 8th. October 2022. Now I remember that life as a wonderful dream.





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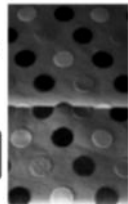
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Community Hall Update

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

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

Contact: director@thestarproject.info

TUESDAY.

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

Contact: jqmb56@gmail.com

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

Contact: lizdance@icloud.com

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

Contact: evenstartbabe@msm.com

(varying monthly dates available)

WEDNESDAY.

4.30pm to 5.30pm Yoga with Natalie Houlding.

Contact: natalie@zafyoga.com

6.30pm to 7.30pm. Pilates with Rebecca Hadlington.

Contact: 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

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

Contact: marc@obelison.com

FRIDAY.

9.45am to 10.45am Zumba with Aimee Ford.

Contact: aimeeford@yahoo.co.uk

6.00pm to 7.00pm. Duke Yoga with Fiona

Contact: fib42@hotmail.com



Community Hall Management Committee

Whittington Parish Council

The parish council didn't meet in August, but this doesn't mean nothing has been happening



Did you manage to respond to our consultation? Since 19th

September, we've been busy validating and analysing your responses and we'll publish the results soon. In the meantime, thank you to everyone who took the time to read the consultation and make their views known regarding our proposals.

Focus Groups

We're considering holding some focus groups to explore the results of our recent consultation and to get more detailed views on the future of our changing and growing parish.

Parish Councillor Vacancy Find out more by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit: <https://whittingtonparish.gov.uk/should-i-become-a-parish-councillor/>



Tree Warden Vacancy

We also have a vacancy for a Tree Warden. The role is part of a national scheme started by the Tree Council and managed locally by Worcestershire County Council.

It's a voluntary role to collect information about local trees, get involved in tree-related issues and promote local projects related to trees and woods.

You can find out more about the role by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit: [https://](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/environment/countryside-and-leisure/volunteering-countryside/tree-wardens)

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/environment/countryside-and-leisure/volunteering-countryside/tree-wardens



Wildmore Whittington Allotments

Despite the prolonged hot, dry weather this summer, our plot holders continued to tend their plots and reap their yields of summer fruit and veg. It's a relatively short summer season here in the UK, but isn't it great to enjoy a bowl of juicy strawberries or vibrant raspberries that you've grown yourself? Peas, beans, courgettes, sweetcorn, cabbage, lettuce and, of course, loads of tomatoes have been springing up at our allotments site in Honywood Place. *Continued...*

If you've never grown your own food crops or you just don't have enough space in your own garden, renting an allotment plot is an ideal way of getting the bug (excuse the pun). Our plots are relatively small – just 5m x 7m – so quite manageable.

Moving On

This is my final report as Chairman of the parish council. Over the years I have worked tirelessly for the entire parish, old and new with equal enthusiasm. I pressed the council to conduct a long overdue consultation with our residents at this vitally important crossroads as we face huge changes ahead. Although only in post for a few months I am stepping aside to give a new Chairman the opportunity to lead the council in a different direction as we face the twin challenges of local government reorganisation and SWDP.

I hope you have enjoyed reading my reports. I may write more for our new local newspaper in the months and years ahead, but in a different capacity. I look forward to reading my successor's report next month and in the months ahead.

Get in touch

Have a question or want to get involved? Email us at clerk@whittingtonparish.gov.uk to learn more about:

Becoming a **parish councillor**

Joining a **focus or working group**

Applying to be our **Tree Warden**

Reserving an **allotment plot**

Sharing a **concern or interest**

Next Parish Council meeting: 7.30pm, Tuesday 28th October, Whittington Community Hall. Come along. You'll be very welcome!

Richard Boase

Immediate past Chairman

Whittington Parish Council

Listening?

While visiting a cathedral recently, I couldn't hear the service over the chatter of the two people sitting in front of me. Finally, I tapped one of them on the shoulder. "Excuse me," I said, "I can't hear." The reply was swift and indignant. "I should hope not! This is a private conversation."

Finding Fanny Clifton's grave at Whittington

As new Trustees of the Elizabeth Stephens and Fanny Clifton Charity we have been keen to find the benefactors' graves. We knew from the 'History of Whittington' book Fanny Clifton was buried in Whittington churchyard in 1888 and so Helena Bennett contacted the church to ask about burial records. She was told of the general area of Fanny's grave, which apparently is close to a well-established holly tree, but was a tangle of brambles and thick ivy. Over a period, Helena visited the church yard and gradually made headway putting in hard work and determination cutting away thick undergrowth, but unfortunately only found graves that had such weathered faces their epitaphs are lost. She began to fear that we might never find Fanny's grave.

However, on a sunny afternoon in early September, after finishing arranging flowers inside the church I came outside and found Helena on her knees behind the compost heap, carefully tugging away a carpet of ivy and earth from a flat gravestone. She had revealed the top third of the stone and as she rubbed away the mud, she saw the name Captain Fredrick Clifton – and we both started to get excited. Clearing away more years of soil entangled ivy she read out 'John Hill Clifton', who we knew was Fanny's older brother. We were close to finding Fanny's memorial!

Helena pulled and peeled back the final area of what almost looked like an ivy peat entwined blanket and there at the bottom of the flat stone, was Fanny's name! Her final resting place had been found. The words carved looked near perfect compared to others of the same period from around 137 years ago. The peat like cushioned ivy seems to have preserved the stone. Carved at each corner is a cockle shell - the Christian religious sign of pilgrimage.

Helena and I chatted about a plan to lay flowers on the anniversary of Fanny's death, we had just learnt she was 73 and died on 21st January.



Continued....

A robin flew down and hopped about the gravestone eating the bugs that the soil had left. It's plumage looked a bit dishevelled; it may have been young. It was another special moment, poignant, the Clifton grave was helping to feed a small young creature. Later I fetched a bucket of water and cleaned off the remaining mud, and Fanny Clifton's gravestone gleamed like a mirror, beautifully reflecting back the blue sky, clouds and trees.

See more photographs of the reveal, visit the 'Elizabeth Stephens and Fanny Clifton Charity' Facebook page.

Susan MacLeod, Trustee of the Whittington Charity, along with Helena Bennett and Katie Lambeth-Mansell.

Susan is right, very few memorials of that age are legible. This one on a family vault, so called as it accommodates a number of members of the family, fortunately, is the exception. Ed.



"Good news on the lottery-funding for the organ repairs, Vicar – three of our numbers came up for £25!"

Dear Lord,

So far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, or cursed. I have not charged on my credit card or eaten any chocolate. However, I am going to get out of bed in a few minutes, and I will need a lot more help after that! Amen.



Maggs Harvest Appeal 2025

As the seasons turn and we prepare to celebrate Harvest, Maggs Day Centre is asking churches and congregations across Worcestershire to support their Harvest Appeal 2025, helping some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

For 40 years, Maggs has been a lifeline for people experiencing homelessness. From its Day Centres in Worcester and Malvern, Maggs provides hot meals, showers, laundry, clothing, and one-to-one support — a safe and welcoming place for those who may have nowhere else to turn.

Each autumn, churches play a vital role in helping Maggs prepare for the winter months ahead. Stock levels are always at their lowest after summer, and the need for warm clothing, hot food, and essential toiletries only grows as the colder weather approaches.

This year, Maggs is asking for donations of:

- **Clothing:** hats, gloves, joggers, t-shirts, underwear, socks, and boots (size 7+)
- **Toiletries:** soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, shampoo, razors, sanitary products
- **Food:** UHT milk, pasta, rice, tinned goods (ring pull), cakes, cereal bars, tea, coffee, pot noodles

Miscellaneous: sleeping bags, roll mats, rucksacks, washing powder, dog food

Every item makes a difference — from a pair of socks to a tin of soup — providing dignity, comfort and hope for those in need.

How you can help:

- Organise a Harvest collection in your parish.
- Display Maggs' Harvest posters and wish lists.

Invite a speaker from Maggs to share more about their work.

Melissa Blewitt, Fundraising, Communications & Relationships Manager at Maggs, said: *"Harvest is always such a special time for us at Maggs. The generosity of local churches ensures we can continue to provide warmth, dignity, and support throughout the hardest months of the year. Every item donated truly makes a difference to someone's life."*

Donations can be delivered to:

Maggs Clothing Project, 59/60 The Tything, Worcester, WR1 1JT
(Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9am–12pm. *Continued...*

Out-of-hours donations can be left in the bin at the back of the building via Britannia Road.)

For more information or to request posters and talks, please contact: maggsclothingproject@maggsclothingproject.co.uk



Winter Warmer

**Saturday 22nd
November**
10.30am to 3.00pm
at
**Whittington
Community Hall**
Church Lane, Whittington. WR5 2RQ
Admission Free
*Gift Stalls ~ Tombola
Mulled Wine ~ Mince Pies
Refreshments ~ Santa's Sleigh
Children's Activities*
Come and enjoy supporting your community!

News & Views from St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

Penny Brick Way

Firstly, I would like to thank Louis Stephen and his wonderful helpers who gave me an amazing surprise when I recently turned off the main road footpath to walk up the cycle path into church. After a very long time when hierarchy continued to argue whose responsibility it was to cut back the undergrowth that had narrowed the public footpath, Louis' volunteers had done it all. As can be seen from the photographs, it has made a huge difference



because people can now safely walk, cycle or jog either side of the bollard and the Penny Brick Way sign is visible for the first time in many, many months; note the dry tarmac in the 'after' photo which shows how thick and overgrown the shrubs had become.



It never ceases to amaze me that, despite notices on the entrance metal fencing, local people continue to make use of the church car park but, in return, never think of volunteer their services now and again to help with weed killing, pruning and cutting back shrubs, etc. I reiterate that the long term groups that hire the church hall are the primary source of income for St Marks and those who attend classes, a number of whom drive some distance and/or have mobility problems, expect, not unreasonably, to be able to park their cars when they arrive.

National Churches Trust Ride & Stride 2025

This year's ride out was a little different because, after many years, and owing to a health problem, Michael Phillips was unable to accompany Revd Andy Stand so he cycled on his own around the county. *Continued...*

His first port of call was St Philip & St James in Whittington, arriving at 10.40am and his last stop was St Marys in Kempsey at 3.35pm and, according to Andy's list, he visited a total of 14 churches and his journey took him around 5 hours. St Marks and the Worcester & Dudley Historic Churches Trust are very grateful to the sponsors who generously donated a total of £135 to support Andy on his travels, 50% of which is for St Mark's funds. Andy is a keen cyclist and we all congratulate him on his magnificent achievement.

Maggs 2025 Harvest Appeal for clothing until end of October. This is an appeal for gents clothing including thick socks, hats, gloves, underwear, joggers and Tshirts plus boots and trainers (see page 28). If you are able to help, please donate bags to the Maggs Clothing Project, 59/60 The Tything WR1 1JT (round the corner from the top of Castle Street), open Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings from 9am until 12 noon. If you do have something but can't get there, please get in touch with me because I am sure that we can help (details at the end of this article) Thank you in anticipation.

Harvest Festival Sunday, 12 October, Family Service 9.30am

St Marks would like to support local sheltered accommodation so if you have a surplus of garden produce, gifts of vegetable and fruit would be very welcome, please. In addition, donations of non perishable food will also be gratefully received. It would be lovely to see more families in St Marks for this service and for Remembrance Day on 9 November. You will receive a very warm welcome and refreshments will be available afterwards. If you are unable to attend, donations can be dropped into the church or I can arrange to collect them.

Church Hall News

Jonathan Taylor returns with his **Art Class on Thursday, 2 October from 10am – 12 noon**; it is a six week course. Looking at his wonderful art work, I wish I had a modicum of artistic ability because I would love to design my own cards; he certainly has talent and I have heard that he is a great teacher. For further details and/or to book your place, please contact Jonathan 07788534973 or taylornoise62@gmail.com.

Quiz Night on Saturday, 22 November, 7pm for 7.30pm start (See poster) Please join us in the church hall for a fun filled evening of arguments!! **Free event but donations of £3 per person would be much appreciated; under 16s free; a raffle with great prizes that might be useful for Christmas.**

BYO drink and nibbles. All the money raised will be to top up the defibrillator fund so that there are reserves for any new, and very expensive, batteries, etc. Having had further discussion about the location of the apparatus, it is now likely to be go outside the hall or church and it will be protected from vandalism by CCTV.

Advanced Dates for your Diary:

Chat & Cuppa Club, in the hall Tues, 7 October from 2 – 3.30pm (we meet 1st Tues of **every** month and it is **FREE!**). Thereafter, dates are 4 November, 2 December 2025 and 6 January 2026.

Opera Worcester's Community Choir is giving a **Christmas Concert on Saturday, 13 December in St Marks Church**. This is essentially a free event but donations for St Marks would be greatly appreciated for entry and the refreshments that will include cakes and mince pies. Please spread the word to everyone that you know to join us in St Marks to enjoy the choir accompanied by the mellow sound of the grand piano; it always looks amazing when the pews are filled.

No More Climbing Ladders!! I am sorry to mention **Christmas** again but the PCC would welcome ideas (and help) regarding the festive decoration(s) that you might like to see in the church. The volunteers who for years have been decorating the church are each of an age that they no longer feel able to teeter on ladders attaching baubles, etc. at a great height.

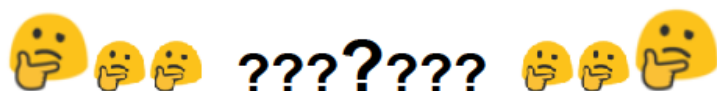
For more information, I endeavour to keep our web site up to date but the provider seems to have changed several things and I cannot update certain parts of it anymore www.stmarksworcester.wordpress.com I have been able to update the main pages of the site but I cannot change the side panel 'Latest News' and it is very frustrating. If there is an intelligent person who can help me to get at the 'customised widget', please, please contact me because I am the first person to complain when inaccurate information, i.e. dates, etc. remains on web sites. Alternatively and when I have more time to investigate, it might be better to perhaps find someone who is capable of building a new website.

I have no idea how Facebook works but it would be really appreciated if you could advertise the events that take place in the church or hall on social media. Please get in touch with me if you are able to display event posters.

Jan

ianvale810@gmail.com or 01905 351392

ST MARK'S CHURCH QUIZ NIGHT



IN AID OF DEFIBRILLATER FUND

SAT 22 November 2025

7.00 FOR 7.30 START

IN THE CHURCH HALL

**Donations of £3.00pp
appreciated**

**COME AS A TEAM OR
JOIN ONE OF OURS**

BYO NIBBLES & DRINKS

(ACCOMPANIED U16s FREE)

**CAR PARK ENTRANCE VIA ORCHARD ST
WR5 3DW (Turn off Bath Rd opp Co-op)**



From Bishop Martin..



This has been a tough year for many of our farmers, with many affected not just by uncertainties over taxation and subsidies, but by the hot and dry spring and summer. I saw cattle standing in parched fields with winter hay and silage being fed to them in August. There has been a mixed harvest for arable crops I gather, while many of our fruit farmers have done well, which is good news for them at least, an important part of the rural economy across Worcestershire. Jesus was very familiar with rural life, and spoke memorably of the harvest, *“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9.36-38*

Have you considered whether God is calling you to be a labourer in his Church? There are lots of opportunities to get involved - why not have a look at this page on our website: [Your Christian Calling - Diocese of Worcester](#)

I've been Bishop of Dudley for almost six years now, and Acting Bishop of Worcester too since September 2024. It has been a busy and demanding year for me as you can imagine, but I've very much enjoyed the opportunity to serve the whole diocese in this way. I couldn't have done it without my excellent colleagues in the Bishops' Office, the parish support hub in Worcester, and all of you across the Diocese. I am always so grateful for your regular prayers and messages of support. Thank you!

Bishop Hugh Nelson will join us early in 2026. He is already a good friend and colleague from the House of Bishops, and I am very much looking forward to working alongside him here. Bishop Hugh brings a deep sense of calling to this role and that shone through all his visits and encounters with people when we introduced him to the Diocese in July. I know he is very much looking forward to joining us in the new year. Please keep Hugh and his family in your prayers as they prepare to move

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

Worcester
Philharmonic
ORCHESTRA

Soloist **Shulah Oliver-Smith**

Conductor **Dan Watson**
Leader **Graham Longfils**

NORTHERN LIGHTS CONCERT



Saturday
8th November
2.30pm
Pershore Abbey
WR10 1BL

*Celebrating the
160th Anniversary
of Sibelius' birth*

Finlandia
Violin Concerto
Symphony No 2

Tickets: £15 (under 16's FREE but ticket required)

Tourist Offices: Worcester/Pershore*/Malvern (*cash only)

Ticket Enquiries: 07805 077279

Online www.ticketsource.co.uk (booking fees apply)

Registered Charity Number 512073



Flying I love flying. I've been to almost as many places as my luggage.

Whittington Parish Magazine

October 25 Edition

