

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



SEPTEMBER 26

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75p

St Philip and St James' Parish Church, Whittington



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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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Miss Jayne Rayer 01905 351344

Asst. Warden: Mrs Brenda Giles 01905 25709

Organist:

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Email: Janetpearson4@hotmail.com

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Magazine Editor: David Chestney 01905 359708

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St. Martin with St. Peter

Team Rector: Rev'd Peter Hart 01905 355119

Associate Priest: Rev'd Richard Wood

Assistant Curate: Rev'd Mike Bunclark

Holy Trinity & St Matthew Ronkswood

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Richard Wood

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.***

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The invasion of Ukraine

The 17th and final instalment of Denys Bielov's account of his escape from Mariupol will be found on pages 13 and 14, again this month. Denys continues to settle in to his new home in Worcester with his host family.

Letter from the Vicarage

September 26



Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing? I trust you have all had (are having) a good Summer, that you have coped with the heat and are now coping with the rain storms!

Some of you will have been waiting upon exam results (whether for yourself or someone you know and love) I hope those have gone well and that the needed grades have been attained and everyone is at least satisfied with the outcomes.

Listeners to Radio 2 in the mornings will be aware that recent *Pause for Thoughts* have been centred on the theme of 'Postcards'. I wonder have you been away at all this year and did you send any postcards?

Many of you will be aware that because of my recent surgery, Chris, James and I haven't ventured too far, but instead did some touristy stuff around places that are local and that we just hadn't really visited before: Tewkesbury and its Abbey; Malvern and its Priory (I was brought up regularly roaming the hills and Chris has led services in various of the Methodist churches in Malvern, but we hadn't ever as a family visited to explore the town!)

I will confess that when we go away, I don't really do postcards whereas Chris will normally send them to members of her family!- I expect that doesn't come as too much of a surprise to those of you who know us well!

I wonder, if you do send postcards, what cards do you choose? Saucy joke ones - not that you'll admit that to the vicar!; particular places and buildings or monuments and statues; or do you go for wider landscapes and scenery? Maybe that is what you enjoy doing on your holidays?

Spending time out of doors (particularly given the weather we have enjoyed) at one with nature, enjoying God's creation.

For the last few years, I have noted that, in the church calendar, September makes up the bulk of 'Creation Season' (which is designated to run from 1st September to the 4th October - St. Francis' Day), a time to think about, reflect upon and give thanks for God's creation and the environment in which we all live and move and have our being.

In line with this, this year, General Synod, has introduced a new Festival for the First Sunday in September. It is to be known as the *Festival of Creation in Christ*, through which we are "invited to join the growing ecumenical movement to celebrate the God who creates, sustains, reconciles and renews all things ... to confess the ways we have claimed God's world as our own, to hear again that all things were created through Christ and for Christ, and to receive the promise that God makes all things new."

I wonder when you think of creation, what do you think of?

Do you think of God maintaining the trajectory of the planets, such that they continue to move in their orbits? Do you think of our planet, Earth, in all its variety and beauty? Do you marvel at memories of eclipses and partial eclipses? Or do you think of your own (or someone else's) God given talents that enable creativity to flourish within you and within our communities?

As the season changes from Summer into Autumn, I encourage you to take note of that change and give thanks to God for the gift of creation (ours included) that surrounds and sustains us.

For all those of you who are beginning a new venture, or new stage of life this September, I wish you all the best.

Every blessing, Andy.



A REMINDER that Easyfundraising is a way of supporting our church if you shop online, whether regularly or only occasionally.



Retailers donate a small fee at no extra cost to you.

The scheme is supported by our Diocese and many other churches use it successfully and safely.

Go to: **www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/st-philip-and-st-james-whittington/** for details.

Special Events during the summer months

Ros Prokopiw celebrates her 70th

Parish picnic Lunch at Church Farm, by kind invitation of David and Philippa Hewitt below.



What's on at Whittington September & October 2026

Tuesday 1 st September 6.30pm	PCC meeting in Elizabethan Room
Saturday 5 th September 10.30 – 12noon	Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room
Sunday 6th September 11.00am 3.30pm	Trinity 14 Parish Communion Forest Church
Saturday 12 th September 10.30am – 1.00pm	Ride & Stride Church Open
Sunday 13th September 11.00am	Trinity 15 Family Service
Saturday 19 th September 10.30 – 12 noon	Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room
Sunday 20th September 11.00am	Trinity 16 Parish Communion
Sunday 27th September 11.00am	Trinity 17 Family Communion
Saturday 3 rd October 10.30 – 12 noon	Yew Brew in the Elizabethan Room
Sunday 4th October 11.00am 3.30pm	Trinity 18 Parish Communion Forest Church
Sunday 11th October 11.00am	Harvest Festival Family Service



**St Philip and St James,
Whittington**

Harvest Thanksgiving

11.00 am

Sunday 11 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
All welcome***



SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

**WHITTINGTON CHURCH
WILL BE OPEN**

FROM 10.00am – 1.00pm



Refreshments available

All welcome to drop in

www.whittingtonchurch.co.uk

FOREST CHURCH

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

3.30pm - 4.30pm

Whittington Churchyard

At the first Forest Church of the new term we'll explore life-giving water, look for blackberries and get creative with clay. Suitable for families with children. Join us for outdoor worship, activities and refreshments.
Contact: revrichwood@gmail.com



From the Parish Register at Whittington

Baptisms

2nd August 2026

Esmerelda Mary Jane Davies

Daughter of Damien Davies & Natalie

Herman

and

23rd August 2026

Maddison Sofia Partridge

Daughter of Daniel & Rebekka Partridge

~~~~~

### Funeral

23rd July 2026

Susan Wonfor





## Whittington Community Hall

Church Lane, Whittington. WR5 2RQ

# A Celebration

of the

5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening  
of the new hall

**Saturday 5th September**

Doors open 7.00pm: event 7.30pm to 10.30pm

with Live band

### 'The Dukes from Birmingham'

*Please support your community hall. This celebration is partly-funded by the hall management committee for the Whittington Community to enjoy.*

**TICKET PRICE:** £10 a head to include a

### Curry Supper

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Worcester

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**ADMISSION:** strictly advance ticket payment only.

*Tickets must be shown on the night.*

**Contact:** Mike Paige    [mike.paige321@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.paige321@btinternet.com)  
Steve Brooker    [slbrooker@icloud.com](mailto:slbrooker@icloud.com)



# **Whittington CE Primary School**

## **Growing Together: Whittington CE Primary School and The Church of St Philip and St James**

We are delighted to celebrate the wonderful relationship between **Whittington CE Primary School and the Church of St Philip and St James**, as we continue to work together towards the **Diocese of Worcester Church School Partnership Award**.



This award recognises the strength of our partnership and the way in which our school and church work collaboratively to make a transformational difference to the lives of children, families and the wider community.

Over the last academic year, we have continued to grow together as a church school community through a rich variety of events, worship, celebrations and services. Our relationship with the church is an important part of school life, providing opportunities for our children and their families to explore faith, ask questions, celebrate together and develop a sense of belonging within the wider church family.

A particularly special feature of our partnership is the way that **every class has opportunities to visit St Philip and St James throughout the year**, exploring different seasons and festivals within the church calendar.

Our Reception children and their families are warmly welcomed into the church family, while Year 1 celebrates Harvest, Year 2 explores Advent and Christmas, Year 3 celebrates Easter, Year 4 discovers Lent, Year 5 celebrates Pentecost and Year 6 learns about the Eucharist. These experiences help our children to understand not only the Christian story, but also the meaning and traditions that shape the life of our church community.

We are hugely grateful to **Reverend Andy and Debra, our Children, Youth and Families Minister**, who lead weekly Collective Worship in school and join us for whole-school services in church each term. Their presence and commitment have helped to create a strong and consistent connection between school and church, enabling children to experience worship as

something that belongs to the whole community.

Each year we join together support the excellent mission of Christian Aid, whilst learning about their work and how we can help our global neighbours. This year we gathered in classrooms to share 'The Big Breakfast' whilst raising vital funds for this amazing cause.

All of these events are a wonderful reminder that being a church school is about so much more than what happens within the school gates. It is about **belonging, serving, worshipping, learning and celebrating together.**

Our strong partnership will continue throughout the new school year, with our established programme of class visits, worship and church services continuing alongside new opportunities to bring our community together.

We are particularly excited to introduce an **iSingPOP Celebration Day**, when our school and church community will come together to learn and celebrate new worship songs. Through music, worship and fellowship, we hope to create another joyful opportunity for children, families, staff and church members to flourish together.

We are incredibly thankful to everyone at St Philip and St James for the warmth, commitment and love they show towards our children and families.

One of the most memorable moments of the year was our Key Stage 2 children's participation in the **'Clypping of the Church'**. The children gathered together to pray for our school and local community before linking hands around the church to give it a very special hug! It was a beautiful expression of the relationship between our children, our church and the community we share.



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*Continued.....*

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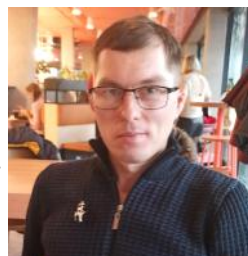
**Jesus said, 'I chose you and appointed you to bear much fruit, fruit that will last' John 15:16**



## **Escape from Mariupol by Denys Bielov - 17 (final)**

### **Settled in!**

One day, I came home finding the house empty. I saw a strange piece of baked dough on a board. I decided it was leftovers and I ate it. That evening Dylan asked me if I'd seen his 'K'-shaped biscuit. I didn't understand. He drew the letter 'K' on a piece of paper, and I realised that it was that lump of dough. I said, "I'm sorry. It's my fault." Dylan laughed loudly and everyone joined in.



Joe told me about the Park Run every Saturday morning. It's a 5-kilometre course around Nunnery Wood. Joe's friend, Stefan, gave me his running trainers which fitted perfectly. I had ruined my trainers in the washing machine back in Poland.

On the first Saturday, I ran with a huge crowd of English people — it was great fun!

*Continued...*

This mini-marathon helped me acclimatise and get a taste of life. I tried not to miss a single one and eagerly checked my results.

In mid-May, I signed up for an English course at the Heart of Worcestershire College. We had lessons three times a week throughout the summer. This gave me the feeling of getting on the 'path to integration'. Each student had to give a presentation, in English, about their home city. Most of us were from Ukraine. I prepared my presentation with enthusiasm. I guessed that Mariupol was known to the world as a place of tragedy, ruins and many lives lost. I wanted to show how beautiful and interesting Mariupol was before the war. I quickly learned how to use PowerPoint. My presentation, 'How beautiful Mariupol was', and received high praise.

Another student gave a presentation about her hometown of Melitopol (160 km west of Mariupol), which is also currently under Russian occupation. She and her children barely managed to escape. She burst into tears, mourning her former happy life. I understood so well... *'We must take back everything that belongs to us. It is our duty'* kept going through my mind.

At the end of May, my host family was going away for a week. I realised I'd be alone. Joe showed me his film collection and library. I was a stranger and someone they barely knew but he wasn't worried about leaving the house while they were absent. I was really touched by his level of trust! Just before they departed, they left me birthday presents: sports shorts, a T-shirt, a thermos flask and a massive 1,000-piece puzzle. I spent the next two days putting that together, hardly leaving the house. On my actual birthday, they sent me a video greeting where Dylan and Nina sang 'Happy Birthday to you, dear Denys'. I was thrilled!

Thank you, Everyone.



## Local Exhibition of Art in the Elizabethan Room of work by Richard Holroyd and Rachel Wickes.



The Elizabethan Room and churchyard proved an ideal venue for the exhibition of paintings by Richard Holroyd and his niece Rachel Wickes during Open Studios in August. Richard, our organist, produces abstract paintings and iconography while Rachel's acrylic landscapes celebrate the therapeutic power of nature. Visitors enjoyed browsing and buying, and sometimes refreshments too, and most also dropped in to see

the church. This was exactly how the Elizabethan Room was envisaged, for community use. The photos show Richard and his sister Janet, Rachel's mother, who frames her daughter's paintings and who also had craft items on display.





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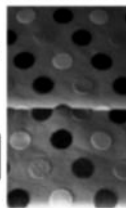
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## Richard Wood to become Priest in Charge in the Team



Bishop Hugh has announced the appointment of the Revd Richard Wood as Priest in Charge of Warndon St Nicholas and Associate Priest in the Worcester South East Team with special responsibility for Ronkswood Holy Trinity & St Matthew.

Bishop Martin will license Richard Wood on Tuesday 10 November at 7pm. The service will take place at Warndon St Nicholas.

Please pray for Richard and Poov as they prepare to move.

# 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.

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.

2.00pm to 3.00pm **Moveitorloseit**. Exercise class for the more mature individual to build strength and balance. \*Note\*: from 02/09/2026

Contact: Liz Hoare: [liz.hoare@moveitorloseit.co.uk](mailto:liz.hoare@moveitorloseit.co.uk).

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: [denisewrafter@outlook.com](mailto:denisewrafter@outlook.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  
[info@whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk](mailto:info@whittingtoncommunityhall.co.uk)

## **Statement from the Bishops of Worcester and Dudley about the wildfires affecting our diocese**

We are shocked and saddened at the devastation caused by the wildfires that broke out in our diocese yesterday, particularly the large incidents in Stourbridge, Pershore and Evesham.

Bishop Martin was among the residents affected in the Stourbridge area. He was evacuated from his home and stayed with nearby friends overnight.

We, and many others, have been praying for everyone directly affected, and for the emergency services responding to these incidents.

We'd like to commend the strength, hospitality and generosity shown by our local churches in these communities, in offering shelter, food and pastoral care to those affected, and we know that will continue for as long as it is needed.

### **Bishop Martin added:**

"I'd like to thank everyone for their very kind wishes and prayers which have been much appreciated. Please continue to pray for those in our community who have lost their homes overnight."



"I'd like to pay tribute to the fire, police, ambulance and other emergency crews who worked tirelessly last night in very difficult circumstances. I'd also like to thank the farmers who did their bit by ploughing fire breaks in the fields, even as the flames were spreading across them."

"I'm also very grateful to Stourbridge and other local clergy and church staff who helped out at Stourbridge Town Hall overnight supporting the 150 people who were sheltering there."

"Finally, I'd like to implore everyone to be really careful in these tinder-dry conditions. Please follow all directions from the emergency service crews. I understand how caring our communities are and how much everyone will want to help, but please look out for local church appeals and other ways to do this online, rather than visiting the area."

## Breadth and variety in our churches

from Archdeacon Nikki:



One of the many things I love about serving in the Diocese of Worcester is the huge variety of churches we have – large buildings, tiny ones, churches in the middle of fields, churches in the middle of road junctions in market towns, modern buildings on estates, historic listed buildings in villages, our splendid cathedral ..... That's before we even begin to think about the people meeting in them and their church tradition and worship style! We have evangelical churches, Anglo-Catholic churches, new worshipping communities, churches offering worship to God in so many wonderfully different ways.

Bishop Hugh and I reflected on this one Sunday in late July, when after a lunchtime gathering, the two of us, and Bishop Martin, were heading off to three significant gatherings all within a couple of miles of each other in urban Dudley.

Bishop Martin was at a deanery confirmation service in Christ Church, Quarry Bank, a gently growing church in the central tradition where five people from across a few deanery churches who had found faith were marking that step. Bishop Hugh was at Top Church, one of our renewal churches. He was also confirming some new Christians, baptising others, and formally welcoming people from different denominations into the Church of England, in an intergeneration service with a contemporary worship band. Just up the road from there in St Mary's Church, Kingswinford, one of our more Anglo-Catholic parishes, I was licensing the current Priest-in-Charge to his new role as Rector. Father Adam had taken the opportunity to showcase the parish choral tradition in this service, and he and his worship director had gathered a scratch choir of nearly fifty singers from across seven churches to joyfully sing evensong – it was glorious!

Each of these three services enabled people to connect with the God who loves them, to celebrate new life and a journey of discipleship, and to build community with fellow followers of Jesus. Throughout that day, this had also happened in other sacred spaces across the diocese. Within this breadth and variety we hope there is somewhere for everyone to find and grow in faith, somewhere they will fit in and feel at home. No one tradition or way of being church is better than the other, all are different expressions of the body of Christ, and I delight in what each has to offer.



St Martin's Church, London Road



# FAMILY BARN DANCE

SATURDAY

26

SEPTEMBER

5PM - 8PM

with The Orchard Band

£12 Adult | £5 Child

£25 Family

Tickets must be booked in advance - from the Church Office or Eventbrite, or using QR Code (small booking fee applies).

Ploughman's meal included  
Licensed Bar & Raffle



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



# Teddy Bears Praise Party

Saturday 2 October  
11:00-12:00

Bring your Teddies to dance and sing  
and have fun!

A **free Teddy Bear,**  
**to take home**

Whittington  
Church

WR5 2RQ



## Hornby trains and Dinky toys

It was also 90 years ago, on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1936, that Frank Hornby, the British inventor, died. He is remembered for the immensely popular Meccano, Hornby Model Railways and Dinky Toys.

Hornby was born into a Liverpool working-class family and was said to have been inspired by the industry in the city. He was brought up as a Methodist and was interested in music, having a strong tenor voice. He met his future wife, Clara, when they were members of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society choir: they married in 1887 and had three children.

To amuse his two sons he constructed a model crane using perforated strips of metal held together with nuts and bolts. It could be dismantled and the parts used to build other things: this formed the basis of Meccano, which when refined proved hugely popular.

After the first world war he turned his attention to the construction of toy trains, powered by clockwork. At first these were made from kits, but it was not long before they were sold as ready-made train sets – a perfect children’s toy. Dinky toys started as an accessory but soon developed into big-sellers in their own right.

Later Hornby, who was described as polite and a “keen observer of morality”, became a Conservative MP for Everton. In his youth he joined the anti-alcohol Band of Hope and set up a number of groups and clubs dedicated to the improvement of society. He was a great believer in determination and the ability to overcome setbacks.

This enabled him to become not only a visionary but a practical creator in toy development and production. His persistence in adapting his original ideas and making them workable brought him deserved success in producing three of the most popular lines of toys in the 20th century.



## John Wisden and his famous 'Cricketers' Almanack'

Two hundred years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1826, British cricketer John Wisden was born. He was the founder of *Wisden's Cricketers' Almanack*. Launched with 112 pages in 1864, it now runs to 1500 pages and is the bible of cricket.

Wisden was a builder's son, born in Brighton. He moved to London after his father died, and lived with the outstanding Sussex wicketkeeper, Tom Box. Wisden was only 5ft 4in and weighed seven stone when he made his first-class debut for Sussex against MCC in 1845, taking nine wickets. He became known as Little Wonder.

He averaged 225 wickets a season for twelve years, took 455 wickets in 1851, and clean bowled all ten wickets in the second innings for North v South in 1850. He bowled fast, round-arm (before overarm was permitted) and was said to have had an extraordinary off-break. He was also a strong batsman.

Away from the game, Wisden began a cricket equipment business in Leamington Spa in 1850, and five years later opened a "cricket and cigar" shop in central London, initially in partnership with fellow cricketer Fred Lillywhite. Wisden was also cricket coach at Harrow School and in 1867 bought The Cricketers, a public house at Duncton in Sussex.

In 1859 Wisden – by now bowling slow – was involved in the first tour by an English team to Canada and the United States, where he achieved a double hat-trick, taking six wickets in six balls.

Because of rheumatism, Wisden retired from cricket in 1863 at the early age of 37 and started publishing his annual Cricketers' Almanack the following year. Described now as the most famous sports book in the world, the iconic yellow-bound volume contains comprehensive match records, chapter and verse, prophecy, history and the occasional sermon. It is known simply as Wisden.



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

In the last edition of Orchard Leaves, you may recall seeing a sculpture of a man seemingly squatting on the roof of a car, one of many photos that I took whilst walking along the very long promenade in Reggio Calabria, part of our visit to the 'toe' of Italy. This is the narrow point where one can board a ferry as a foot passenger to travel over to Sicily, or as Stanley Tucci did recently, ride from Italy over to Sicily without getting off the train, something that Stanley marvelled at during a recent episode of 'Searching for Italy'; the views over the Strait were stunning and we could clearly see Mount Etna smoking in the distance.



Another place of note was up in the mountains and the cool of the forest where, after enjoying a packed lunch and sharing with others a very presentable litre bottle of red wine costing just 5 Euro, we visited the Carthusian Charter House of Padula, where we were taken on a very interesting tour of the monastery. It was a lovely area to be driven through where villages appeared to almost be stuck on the side of mountains; we all admired the skill of the coach driver because it was a very twisty road and narrow at times.

The final day was spent in Pizzo where we sat in Bar Dante and sampled the delicious Tartufo di Pizzo, a unique chocolate and hazelnut ice cream that was created by the establishment in the 1950s. This was the only ice cream that I enjoyed during the holiday although I did end up eating three of them because several of the group didn't want theirs!! The rest of the day was free to wander and we visited the Castello Murat, perched on a cliff overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea, a neat little 15th century castle named after Joachim Murat, brother in law of Napoleon and, briefly, King of Naples. His troubles began when he landed near Pizzo to try and reclaim the throne, he was captured and, after a swift military trial that he refused to attend, executed by firing squad.

We then joined three others in the group for a super lunch, sitting in a cool sea breeze outside the 'Moby Dick'.

A strange name for a truly Italian restaurant. It overlooked the marina, and we spent a couple of hours watching the world go by, eating delicious fresh fish washed down by a very good white wine.

The meal ended with complimentary strawberries and cream plus a glass of Sambuca, a fantastic way to end the holiday.

If you are interested in history, it may be worthwhile looking up the various places I have spoken of to learn more about them. By the way, I am not in the employ of a travel organisation, I just love history, having had an excellent teacher at Christopher Whitehead Secondary School for Girls a very, very long time ago!!

It is a very small world because in our group, we met a couple who live off Wylds Lane and a lady who lives in Staffs but works in units next to The Bank House!!

## **News from St Mark in the Cherry Orchard**

### **COME AND SING!**

#### **THE CHERRY ORCHARD COMMUNITY CHOIR RETURNS ON 5 SEPT**

The Cherry Orchard Community Choir meets twice a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 1.30-3.30pm in **St Mark's Church** off Bath Road. Worcester WR5 3DW.

The doors are always open to singers and people who 'just enjoy singing'. You do not have to be able to read music, but just to enjoy it. They sing songs from the shows and lots of popular music. There is a small charge of £5 per session to cover expenses, including music and refreshments; there is no need to book, just turn up! The next sing together is on Saturday, 5 September, from 1.30 until 3.30pm. Join them for a good sing song as well as having fun and enjoy some social time making new friends; they look forward to meeting you.

**Future 2026 dates:** 5 & 19 Sept, 3 & 17 Oct, 7 & 21 Nov and 5 & 19 Dec

**Contact Details:** Jan Venables 07928316080

**Chat & Cuppa Club** is still being held in the church, the next one is on Tues, 1 Sept from 2 – 3.30pm (we meet 1<sup>st</sup> Tues of **every** month and it is **FREE!**). The club is still likely to be in the church on 6 Oct.

**On 3 November and in conjunction with Cuppa Club**, a community craft afternoon is planned in the church, making rag wreaths. This will be a **free event** from 2 – 5.30pm BUT donations to church will be much appreciated.

*Continued..*

If you have oddments of material, ribbon, etc. or have any batting (padding) that you no longer want, please contact me, all gratefully received. Finally, I am 'winging' this event and it is likely that someone out there with some knowledge could be willing to help and/or give advice.

Numbers will be limited so you must book by contacting Jan 07565585726 / [janvale810@gmail.com](mailto:janvale810@gmail.com)

## Church Hall News

**The next Quiz Night will be in St Mark's church hall on Saturday, 14 November 7 for 7.30 start.** As ever, please save the date and spread the word because more quizzers means lots of fun with banter between the teams. I don't think that I have ever known a quiz night without someone raising a point but, as always, the question master's decision is final; U16s free, £3 pp donations are appreciated, please, plus BYO drink and nibbles, raffle prizes gratefully accepted.

If you look at the list of hall hirers on the back page of this magazine and see a group that you might like to attend, **please contact the organiser** for further details.

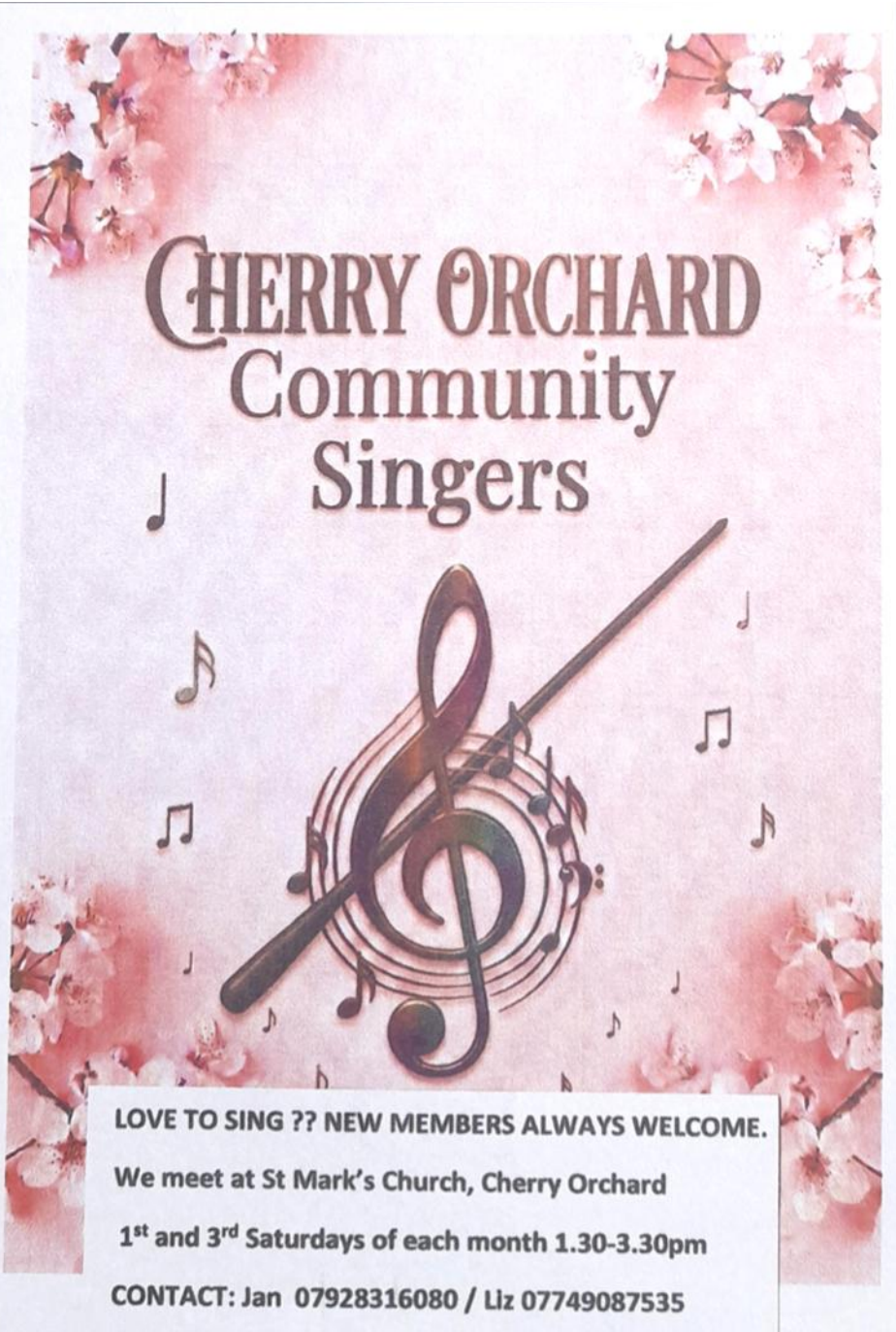
The extreme hot weather has played havoc with everyone's gardens and, in addition, the church garden is in danger of being overrun by bindweed. If you know of anyone who could offer an hour or so a month to pull it off the plants, cut shrubs, etc. down and back off the path throughout the garden, please let me know. No need to bag it up because church has a brown bin so, please, please ask around. No need to tell anyone when the work can be done, just turn up, yank it out and if there is no-one on the premises, leave the weed in a pile on the garden side of the Bath Road wall adjacent to the bus stop and it will be dealt with.

I should add that one should never give up on shrubs that seem to have had it. I cut back a favourite clematis to around 12 inches, thinking there was no hope for it but, surprisingly, it is already covered with new leaves and a few flowers.

Thanks and PS, I saw this on a birthday card: **How to Enjoy Wine** – 1. Open the bottle to let it breathe. 2. If it's not breathing, give it mouth to mouth!

**Jan**

[janvale810@gmail.com](mailto:janvale810@gmail.com) or 07565585726. For more information, I try to keep our web site up to date [www.stmarksworcester.wordpress.com](http://www.stmarksworcester.wordpress.com)

The poster features a light pink background with a subtle floral pattern. At the top and bottom, there are decorative borders of cherry blossoms. In the center, a large, stylized treble clef is the focal point, with several musical notes floating around it. A long, thin, dark object, possibly a pen or a stylus, is positioned diagonally across the treble clef.

# CHERRY ORCHARD Community Singers

**LOVE TO SING ?? NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME.**

**We meet at St Mark's Church, Cherry Orchard**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month 1.30-3.30pm**

**CONTACT: Jan 07928316080 / Liz 07749087535**

# Helping the people of Ukraine on the front line



UKRAINE APPEAL

UKRAINE APPEAL

UKRAINE FREEDOM COMPANY (WEST MIDLANDS)

[Ukrainefreedomcompany.org](http://Ukrainefreedomcompany.org)

Patron: Maj Gen Arthur Denaro CBE, DL

## COMFORT BOXES

Contributions are required to provide individual 'comfort' boxes for the men and women fighting at the front. These may contain some or all of the following items:

First Aid kit items; Bandages; Antiseptic cream; Lip sol; Wet wipes; Soap; Tissues

Female sanitary products; Toilet rolls; Toothpaste/brush; Small towels

Candles (including tea lights)

Sewing kits

Tea; Coffee; Sweets/chocolate

Thermal underwear; socks;

Tinned food (ideally with ring-pull top) - e.g. sardines; baked beans; soups; fruit;

or packets of dried foods – e.g. pasta; noodles; soups; 'instant' oats

Cooking utensils - army mess tins; enamel plates/mugs; cutlery; small pots/pans;

DO NOT INCLUDE ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR CIGARETTES AS THESE ARE LIKELY TO BE CONFISCATED BY CUSTOMS.

## MEDICAL SUPPLIES

\*\*\*\*\* There is a desperate ongoing need for medical supplies and first aid kits – priority items required being tourniquets, wound dressings, bandages of all types, etc.

While many medical items in the UK are required to have a 'use-by' date, and often consequently get destroyed, UFC can often divert these for use in the Ukraine – please consider approaching contacts at local hospitals, nursing homes, pharmacies, doctors' surgeries, paramedics, etc. requesting that they give consideration to donating such supplies. In addition, there are many mobility aids retained by ex-patients who find it difficult to return them - we are happy to accept such items including wheelchairs, walking frames, crutches, walking sticks, limb splints etc.

\*\*\*\*\*We are now able to accept financial donations via our dedicated bank account – please consider a 'one off' donation, or a monthly standing order, details as follows:

Metro Bank Account: Ukraine Freedom Co (West Midlands)

Account No: 56781099 – Sort Code: 23 - 05 - 80

If able to assist, please contact your local UFC representative, who can also arrange collection throughout the area: Brian Watkins email: [lovelacewatkins@uwclub.net](mailto:lovelacewatkins@uwclub.net) mobile: 07771694000

## **Duke of Edinburgh's Award celebrates 70 years:**

It was back in February of 1956 that Buckingham Palace released a press announcement outlining plans for a trial period of 'The Duke of Edinburgh's Award'. It was the post-war era, and His Royal Highness wanted to help boys bridge the gap between leaving formal education at 15 and starting National Service at 18. He also wanted them to build self-confidence and a sense of purpose to support them into their future. A youth programme, he believed, would improve their skills and equip them to make valuable contributions to their communities and society.

In 1956, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award pilot was launched to national voluntary youth organisations. It soon expanded to include Local Education Authorities, the Armed Forces and some schools across the UK. After the first year, 7,000 boys had started a programme and 1,000 Awards had been achieved. Girls were allowed to join the programme in 1958. Since that first year, millions have joined the DofE Award programme.

The DofE continued to evolve, and programmes took on their current format of Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition, and Residential at Gold level in 1980. In 2020, DofE participants stepped up in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The volunteering efforts of 330,000 young people equated to an investment of almost £8.5 million in a time of need.

The DofE says: "It hasn't been the easiest few years for young people. From the ongoing aftermath of the pandemic to the anxieties of the cost-of-living crisis, the future doesn't always feel certain. "But, in seven decades of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), we've learnt one thing: never doubt what young people can do. Time and time again, we've seen that when young people are given the chance to prove to themselves what they're capable of, there's no limit to what they can achieve.

"We're here to celebrate and champion every young person. To provide a safe environment of support and challenge that grows as they do. "Whatever their ability, interest or background, DofE offers young people the chance to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles, and set their minds to a personal challenge. Because when you prove to yourself that you're ready for anything, nothing can hold you back. Our Founder HRH Prince Philip once said: 'There is more in you than you might think.' And, here at the DofE, we help you realise that."

Prince Philip passed away in April 2021, but his legacy thrives thanks to the tireless support of the new Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward. More info at: [35  
https://www.dofe.org](https://www.dofe.org)

# **Whittington Parish Magazine**

## **September 26 Edition**

