

*Tardebigge and Bentley  
Parish Magazine*

www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk email:contact@tardebiggechurch.org.. Front cover picture: The organ at St Bartholomew's by Revd. Richard Clark



February 2017 - £1





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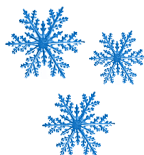
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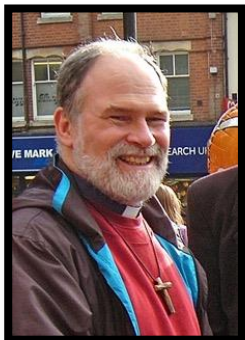
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# February



## From Richard, the Team Rector



I looked forward to bumper church attendances at Christmas; I was not disappointed. The Christingle service on Christmas Eve was full to overflowing; we ran out of service sheets; with more people crammed into church than for some years we were caught by surprise and will be looking to greatly improve our provision for next Christmas. Overall many people came to celebrate the birth of Jesus during what was our best children's attendance at Christmastime for a long time.

January is, sadly, a time when the local clergy expect to be involved in more funerals than usual. It is always a privilege to welcome people into church for funerals; while we live in a secularised age in which people are keen to tell everyone that they are not "religious", in fact many civil, "non-religious" funerals feature Christian material such as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, and hymns such as "Amazing Grace"; that is, they feature Christian material in their service while not being led by a Christian minister. This seems a little mixed-up, to me; it's not as if the Church insists on a rigid structure to a service in which poems and other non-Christian material cannot be included, while Jesus' resurrection alone points us to the truth about life after death. At a funeral more than any other time we need to be thinking about our future after our bodies cease to function.

In the modern age we can do so much to control the way we live our life on earth, and can choose from so many, many ways of enjoying it. We can have our pension plans, our healthcare plans and our retirement in which to find many joys and pleasures. When our bodies die, however, all control of our future is entirely out of our hands.

That is why it is so important that we entrust ourselves to Jesus, because he died and rose again, being seen in a number of different places, by well over 500 witnesses at

one time or another. Jesus came back from the dead so that we would know what life after death was like, and how to get there, so that our future after death can be so much more than the memories of those who knew us, but rather a fresh beginning in a new and immeasurably better form of existence than life here on earth.

What a wonderful hope to warm the heart and brighten lives in the cold, damp dark days of winter.

*Richard*



### **Roy Hims 1931-2016**

Roy was one of fifteen children of Claude and Nora Hims who lived in the last property along Crumpfields Lane, Webheath. He attended Bentley School until it closed, then from the age of eleven, Tardebigge School until he left at the age of thirteen to join his father's garage business. For six years he sang in the choir at Webheath Church.

After a spell in the army serving as sergeant in the Royal Artillery overseas in Korea, he worked in the Austin factory at Longbridge.

Following early retirement at the age of fifty nine he enjoyed twenty six years of life. He was married to Audrey until she died in 2006, then to Doreen until her death in 2010.

Latterly, Roy was a regular attender here at St. Bartholomew's and an active member of the Church Men's Group and the Evergreens. He was always ready to give lifts in his car so people could get to church services and other activities. He was always helpful and cheerful.

**A.W.**

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### **March 2017 Magazine**

Please send your articles and items to our central email address:

**[contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk](mailto:contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk) by **MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> February.****

Thank you.

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# Wardens' World

February 2017

A Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had an enjoyable festive season and wish you all the best for a happy and successful 2017.

It was wonderful to see so many people joining in our Christmas services, not only those valiant souls who turned out for the Midnight and Christmas Day communion services, but also to have a church quite so full for the Christingle and Carols by Candlelight services – the Christingle in particular was packed! Heartfelt thanks go to everyone decorated the churches, to Robert Barnett for organising the music, and to all clergy and lay people who helped manage the services.



The Carol Service at St. Mary's was also a very special event. As well as plenty of Christmas spirit and mulled wine, we were privileged to have Alan White dedicate the beautiful new altar candlesticks, made in oak and pewter by Patrick Eckersley, the funds for which were donated in memory of Joy Harris. The remaining money from that donation is being used to send St. Mary's venerable register of services, now 67 years old, to a bookbinder for some restorative work.



***Pictured: Rev. Alan White & Patrick Eckersley***

But the church's year never ends for your wardens, and we are already working on the activities for 2017. We are pleased to say that the year is already filling up with a lot of entertainment for you in and around St. Bartholomew's, over and above our regular services. We already have a number of dates set - make a note of them in your diary now so you don't miss them!

March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Mothering Sunday – a very special family service
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Plant Sale – your opportunity to pick up bargain plants for the garden
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tardebigge Informal Concert – our annual feast of local talent
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	Choral Evensong with the Clent Consort – another opportunity to hear some very special music from this visiting choir
September 9 <sup>th</sup>	Tardebigge Fair and Show – that well-known highlight of the summer
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch – our traditional celebration and an excellent meal.

And don't forget the Annual Parish Meeting on the evening of April 6<sup>th</sup> – your opportunity to hear all about how the church is run, and elect your new Parochial Church Council and Churchwardens.

All of these events take a lot of organising, so please do think about which ones you could help with, and give us a call at any time!

Meanwhile, the work goes on looking after your church. You may have noticed that the Cooke's memorial in St. Bartholomew's is currently taped off as a precaution while we have experts check its condition, following a small piece of sculpture falling from it just before Christmas: just one example of the challenges of maintaining a building over 240 years old!

In doing all this, we are immensely grateful to those who have come forward through the Friends of Tardebigge and Stewardship campaigns to offer us their help, or extra money to allow us to continue this work, and indeed the work of the churches in Tardebigge parish as a whole!

## Chris and Dean

### **Bible Study Group**

**Usually meets in the Church Hall at 7.45pm on the first Tuesday of the month. ALL WELCOME**

**Light refreshments included. For details please contact Dean Hall**



# The Spring Greens

*The Spring Greens is our ladies' group for women of all ages with a young outlook. We usually meet in the Church Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 7.45pm. To avoid half term week, our next meeting will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> when we will be having a pamper party; Yvette Stone, a representative from Tropic Skincare [tropicskincare.com](http://tropicskincare.com) will be bringing a selection of cosmetics available to order. For more details please contact Jane Hall (07980 358252); or Email [janeehall73@gmail.com](mailto:janeehall73@gmail.com)*



**Jane Hall**

## Tardebigge Church Men's Group

Our Church Men's Group exists for fellowship and service. Besides holding meetings for our members, we also organise several social events each year to which all church members and friends, including the ladies, are invited.

**Alan White, Secretary**

# The Evergreens

The Evergreens are an informal group of people of our church and other friends, all over 50 years of age, who are happy to meet several times a year for fellowship, for afternoon tea some months, for a Christmas lunch, and for a garden visit in the summer....

Our Christmas lunch, held in the Church Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> December was attended by twenty five members and greatly enjoyed. The meal; turkey, ham and vegetables followed by Christmas pudding, trifle, cheese and biscuits and mince pies was excellently provided by Angela Rigby. Members helped to serve the food and much of the washing of the dishes was well done by Christopher Watkins.

Our next meeting for afternoon tea and fellowship is expected to be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

**Alan White (01527 877955)**





Kingdom People

love • compassion • justice • freedom

## Letter from the Bishop of Worcester



Andreas Whittam Smith is best known as the man who started the Independent newspaper. Equally significantly, as First Estates Commissioner, he has effectively 'run' the Church Commissioners for quite a few years – and done so brilliantly. He's stepping down soon and late last year he addressed the House of Bishops. I was struck by what he said – that he feels more hopeful about the Church of England now than he has done for a long time.

That's quite something coming from a seasoned old hack like Andreas and I found it very encouraging. Why did he feel so hopeful? He felt the Church is at long last waking up to the fact that 'business as usual' is no longer an option and, more than that, is taking bold and innovative steps to reform and renew.

The scale of the challenge is enormous: The proportion of people in our country who have much understanding of the Christian faith, let alone practice it, is declining fast. What is needed is nothing less than the re-evangelisation of England. That's not an invitation to despair though, but a challenge to which, in the power of the living God, we can rise.

One exciting development in our diocese is the *Calling Young Disciples* project. Ruth Walker, its director, has already begun her ministry here and three Mission Enablers have already been appointed and will be taking up their posts soon. I hope and pray that their ministry will bear much fruit – not just to reverse the 'institutional decline' of the Church but bring people to a vibrant faith in the living God revealed in Jesus.

The renewal of the Church is not just up to them though; responsibility for it lies with us all. Please pray that we may all, as Kingdom People, fulfil our vocation to witness effectively to God's great love for everyone in Christ. May He make us instruments of his love, his compassion, his justice and His freedom.

**Bishop John**

### News from School

December seems so long ago now but was a very busy time for our school. All the children performed brilliantly in their Christmas plays in church, three very different productions: our Reception class; Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. All performances were well received. We also had a party day which included a visit by Father Christmas.

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December FOTS (Friends of Tardebigge School) held a Christmas Fayre which raised an amazing £1260! Special thanks therefore go to Jo Wyatt and her team. The money raised by FOTS always benefits the children and helps to fund activities such as the Christmas party day and the Year 4 leavers' party held in July.

We are now well into the start of the spring term. Recently, a group of pupils accompanied by Mrs Cutler and Miss Hudson visited The Old Palace (the central hub of the diocese office situated by Worcester Cathedral and the bishop's residence). The children shared their Collective Worship assembly on our Christian value 'appreciation' to a number of head teachers, teachers and governors of the diocese. They also led prayers and gave a presentation showing photos of people, places and areas they appreciate.



Our current Christian value for this half term is 'perseverance'. We recently had a former pupil, Richard Waite in school spending time with the children as part of his university course. He gave a talk in one of our assemblies about persevering and that nothing is impossible if we work hard. It was good to welcome him back to school.

#### Contact details:

**Telephone: 01527 872886**

**Email: [office@tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk)**

**Website: [www.tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk)**

**Head Teacher: Julie Cutler**

## Christingle

I would like to thank everyone, adults and children, who helped to make the Christingles and also those who attended the service. The workshop was great fun and we were so practised and efficient this year that we completed the task in a record 40 minutes. This left plenty of time for chat and refreshments.

People were so generous that I am delighted to tell you that we sent £481.37 to the Children's Society for their valuable work and the included gift aid of over £100 will generate an additional sum.

My gratitude goes to all who contributed in so many different ways. Happy New Year.



**The Christingle Workshop**



*Val Richardson*

### Portraits of the Seasons



Portraits of the seasons

The glory of a summer rose

A star-studded winter sky,

The first snowdrops of the cold New Year,

The daffodils of Lent,

Leaves falling in autumnal woods,

All are blessings Heaven sent.



In the depths of cold, dark winter

When spring seems far away,

The pictures come unbidden

Of a sun filled summer day,

We know all things are transient

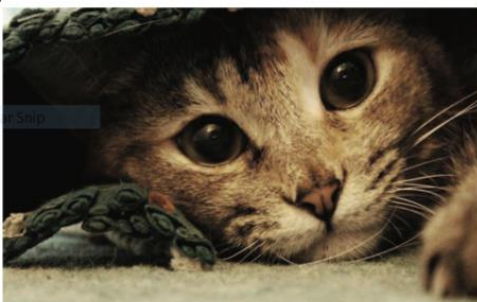
And the winter days will surely bring

Images within the mind

Of the first crocus of the spring.



**L M Wadlow**



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**The Tardbigge Community Tree  
In the Festival at Worcester Cathedral**



**Thank you  
for your support**



**After setting up the tree:** *From left to right:  
Jane Hall, Dean Hall, Gail Teague, Val Richardson,  
Rev. Richard Clark and Julie Cutler*



**Tardebigge Ted from the school came too  
(enjoying a tea break in the Cloister Café)**



The Cherish Fund is run on a purely voluntary basis by a team of seven trustees from Worcestershire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

Pictured with The Cherish Fund's Christmas Tree in the festival at Worcester Cathedral are the three local trustees: *From left to right: Gail Teague, Rev. Richard Clark and Jane Hall*



The Choir Lunch (with friends) at The Bromsgrove Golf Centre Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016



**The Evergreens**

Christmas meal in the Church Hall  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016



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## Bentley Pauncefoot WI

Bentley Pauncefoot WI ended the year in fine style. Members enjoyed a wonderful Christmas party organised by Michelle Stafford and Jean Harper in the Village Hall. After a delicious meal, our ladies were mesmerised by a performance of “Bentley Babes in the Wood”; once seen, never forgotten! In the process the cast invented a new form of drama – theatre of chaos! The high point, or low point, depending on your cultural judgement came with the entry of the brigands charged with murdering the “Babe” (casting difficulties meant that Candy and Floss were played by the same person in the manner of Tommy Cooper). Instead of the expected thespians, Michael Stafford and Phil Harper hijacked the roles to the great delight of the audience and to the complete, jaw dropping surprise of the cast. However, like the troupers they were, the panto romped along hilariously to its boisterous conclusion. Huge laughs all round and congratulations to Messrs Stafford and Harper for being foolhardy enough to be the first males to act in a Bentley Pauncefoot production.

We concluded a most convivial evening with a toast to Janet Williams. She was celebrating a significant birthday in Australia, but had left behind some Prosecco so we could celebrate too. Remembering our talk on modern technology, we were able to email a picture of the toast to Janet across the miles.



After the Christmas break, members attended the January meeting in large numbers. They listened to a most interesting talk by Vince Williams who described a “pilgrimage” he had made to K2 in memory of his nephew who had died on the mountain. Vince started by giving us a picture of his relative and the context of his passing. He then described vividly the arduous and gruelling seventeen day journey to base camp and back. He also showed us some stunning images of the terrain including a terrifying crevasse that he had to jump over. He said it required 100% concentration. Personally if I had had to do it, I would still be on the mountain!

The meeting concluded with an overview of fun to come – a Rag Market, a trip to Denman and possibly a train trip to Ledbury.

**Lynne Reading**

## Celestial Corner

February 1<sup>st</sup>, Imbolc in the Celtic year, the first day of celestial spring.

On this day the sun is roughly half way between the tropic of Capricorn and the equator on its journey north. After this date the day length will begin to increase at a noticeable pace up to the Vernal, or Spring, Equinox in March.

Orion and his companions are still dominating the southern sky during February so there is nothing we need to say about the stars this month.

So, what can we look for this month? By now Venus is getting near to its maximum brightness of -4 magnitude and is now the third brightest object in the sky after the sun and moon. It has been known to cast shadows in favourable conditions! At around 6pm the planet will be roughly in the south-west, so bright you can't miss it.

Not far from Venus is a "star" with an orangey tinge to it; this is Mars. Mars is now fading as it moves closer to the sun in the sky and will soon disappear from the evening sky as we leave it behind on our journey around the sun. After a period of time it will re-appear in the morning sky just before sunrise and will slowly move away from the sun as we begin to catch it up once more.

Another planet in the morning sky at the moment is Jupiter. Slowly getting brighter as we play catch-up it will rise earlier each month until it rises before midnight and becomes an evening object again. At the time of writing this, (2<sup>nd</sup> January) Jupiter is in the south just before sunrise. Just rising in the south-east is Saturn. Obviously we shall see these two in more detail later in the year.



Here is a photo of the crescent Moon, Venus to the right and red Mars (if it shows up here; the arrow shows its location) on the left. It was taken on the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> January around 6.10pm.

R.B

## The Talking Newspaper

I have recently become aware of a group of volunteers who verbally record items of interest from the local press producing a memory stick for anyone unable to read the printed version to listen to at home. Do you know anyone who would be interested and would like a copy?

The memory sticks are posted weekly, free of charge, to anyone with need who wishes to receive one.

Residents from Redditch, Bromsgrove and surrounding areas are all welcome to apply. Since the persons to whom I am addressing this information can probably not read this magazine it is up to the rest of us to bring this opportunity to their attention; please help.

For further details please contact me (Brenda Quinney 01527 459754) or more directly Margaret Mountford (01527 451292).

I look forward to hearing from many in the coming weeks.

Yours very hopefully,

**Brenda Quinney**



## Carols by Candlelight

May I say a big thank you to Dudley and the choir for their support for the Carol Service. Due to hospital treatment, illness and holidays, practice time was short this year for some of us. However, there have been some favourable comments, so we couldn't have been too bad!



It was unfortunate that Sue was unable to join us this year along with the school choir; also that our curate Allison was unable to help us as she developed a dose of 'flu at the last minute, hence we were unable to add any descants due to lack of Sopranos. We did have Joy with us again this year and also Delia joined us in the Alto (contralto) section for the first time. My thanks to them and I hope to have all four join us for this year's service on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

This year seems to be a crunch year for us, considering most of us are 'getting on a bit in age and we are in desperate need of at least two younger men to sing bass, one to sing tenor and a couple of younger ladies to sing soprano. So if you know anyone who might be interested, ask them to come along to the church at 10am on a Saturday and have a chat.

**R.B.**

# Registers

## December 2016 / January 2017



### Baptisms

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan James Stanley Malcolm POPE  
Alice Jessica Yvonne SMITH

### Funerals

9<sup>th</sup> Dec Roy HIMS  
9<sup>th</sup> Jan Marjorie BUTCHER  
16<sup>th</sup> Jan Edna SHANNON



## February Rotas

### Sidesmen

### Flowers

5 <sup>th</sup>	11am	E Price <i>and</i> P Hopkins	Alan White
	6pm	P Hopkins	
12 <sup>th</sup>	8am	D Hall	Jane Oldaker
	11am	G Price <i>and</i> C Lee	
	6pm	M Price	
19 <sup>th</sup>	11am	J Oldaker <i>and</i> P Hopkins	Joanne Stephens
	6pm	P Hopkins	
26 <sup>th</sup>	8am	G R Underhill	Jane Hall
	11am	L Parkes <i>and</i> D Stubbings	
	6pm	T Powell	



### Birthdays

**February**

3<sup>rd</sup> Joe Hall

15<sup>th</sup> Karen Barnett

21<sup>st</sup> Andrew Mason



### Wedding Anniversaries

**February**

14<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth *and* Michael Price

***From the archives.....***

**From Tardebigge & Bentley Parish Magazine – February 1989**

**Welcome to Tardebigge**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Rev. Alan White as the Acting Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Tardebigge.

He is no stranger to Tardebigge. During his 11 year Chaplaincy at Bromsgrove School, and particularly since his retirement 5 years ago, he has spent some time studying the history of the Birmingham to Worcester Canal. This has brought him in contact with a number of our parishioners.

In view of Alan's retired status, and a number of established commitments, his appointment is on a part-time basis. He will share Sunday services with John and we will develop the two roles, and those of the laity, in order to best utilise the skills of all parties in serving the needs of the Parish.

The appointment is for a period of two years and so Alan will remain in his present home in Bromsgrove.

We look forward to this joint ministry and to the leadership which Alan can provide as the Parish of Tardebigge enters a new phase in its life of service to Our Lord and his people.

**The Churchwardens**

**'Threads through Revelation' exhibition at Worcester Cathedral**

There is currently a glorious display of fourteen panels in the cathedral by textile artist Jacqui Parkinson. The huge panels took Jacqui three years to complete and includes more than twelve million stitches.

The exhibition, currently touring cathedrals nationwide is a dramatic interpretation of the book of Revelations; the last book of the bible. It is on display at Worcester Cathedral until 27<sup>th</sup> February.



## Services at Tardebigge & Lower Bentley

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,  
Not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,  
But encouraging one another” Hebrews 10:24-25a

### February

(Family friendly services in bold type)

#### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am **Café Church** in the *Church Hall* (**Café opens at 9am**)

11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer

6.00pm Holy Communion (BCP)

#### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

9.30am **Family Service at St. Mary's**

10.45am **Family Service with School Choir**

6.00pm Evensong

#### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February

11.00am Holy Communion (BCP) with **Sunday Funday**

6.00pm Evensong

#### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February

8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

9.30am **Worship for ALL**

11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer

6.00pm Evensong



### **A verse for February**

**'Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.  
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.'**  
**Psalm 127 verse 1**

Redditch, Holy Trinity Team

## **Lent Course 2017**

Sessions will be running every week through Lent at different times, helping us to prepare for Easter.

If you would like to be part of a group, please contact a member of the clergy team.



## **Confirmation 2017**



**If you are interested in exploring the  
Christian faith  
with a view to becoming confirmed,  
please contact Rev. Richard Clark  
or any member of the clergy team**



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

**Bible Word Search:**  
**PAUL & SILAS IN PRISON**  
(Acts 16:16-34)

R B T P D C G T E W P E C A P  
T V A I K N H M N L L A S V W  
F U Q V I Y I A X V T R Z O T  
L M M Y L D F A I H V T W Q W  
B K A S N A T M K N M H G M A  
F R Q I J A I L E R S Q Y C E  
P P G L R P D C Z A E U L Y C  
H H Y L I P B D I N Y A C Z I  
T H S T L S F S E H W K T M O  
O D G N I G N I S V X E D K J  
I M J E X F W L N P E I I H E  
H K U Y G Z U A Y O E I C R R  
V M G F D Y D S X E P T L P Y  
C F O D O H N F R T U U H E J  
W T T Y I G D O N M A I F Z B

BELIEVE

CHAINS

EARTHQUAKE

JAILER

MIDNIGHT

PAUL

PRAYING

REJOICE

SILAS

SINGING

**Instructions:**

Find and circle the words from the list. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.

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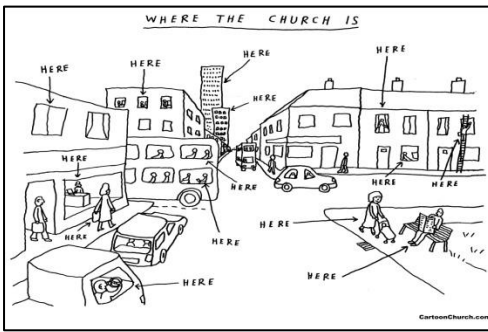
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