

Tardebigge and Bentley Parish Magazine



February 2018 - £1



Grosvenor House is a detached Victorian property, nestled between the peaceful villages of Alvechurch and Barnt Green, and is home to 25 residents.

Grosvenor House

Spring View Care

A high quality local nursing home

At Grosvenor House, we provide small homely environments where our residents are at the heart of everything we do. It is our aspiration to provide nursing homes where we ourselves would be happy to stay.



Spring View Care is proud to announce that Grosvenor House has been listed as one of the top 20 care homes in the West Midlands in 2015 and 2016



Grosvenor House: Aqueduct Lane, Coopers Hill, Alvechurch B48 7BS **Tel: 0121 447 7878**
 Website: www.springviewcare.co.uk Email: mercy@springviewcare.co.uk



February



From Richard, the Team Rector

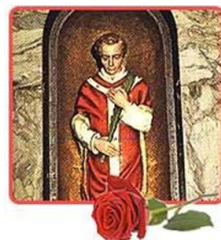


When Sometimes the calendar can create some unhappy coincidences. This year Valentine's Day is the same day as Ash Wednesday!

Valentine's Day is named after St Valentine, who was martyred by the Romans for, among other things, secretly conducting Christian marriages. It's a day to celebrate romance, and especially married relationships.

Ash Wednesday, on the other hand, is a season of sadness as we remember all the sin in the world, and especially in our own hearts and lives, which led to Jesus' death on the cross.

It's also a time of new hopes and dreams; perhaps expressed in the tentative longing of a Valentine's card, but more generally shown to us by the snowdrops and crocus, the green shoots of daffodils and tulips, and the increased amount of daylight. My Auntie Mollie, now 96, can remember her aunt often reminding her that you could "eat your tea by daylight on Valentine's Day".



Christmas reminded us again that we are creatures of light. Light gives us hope, lifts depression, and guides our path. We see light as a positive image, even a refreshing one. Jesus is the light of the world, who brings the light of life. His word lights our path, and is like a hammer that breaks into pieces the rocky transience of human fashions and vain imaginings. Jesus' light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Spring, however, may be on its way but it has not yet arrived. February is usually cold, frosty, and hardly any warmer than January. If you were an alien who arrived in Redditch in December you could be forgiven that we lived in a climate that was always like this, cold, dark, sometimes damp, sometimes frosty, sometimes even some snow. That would not be the whole story, however.

We can miss out on the blessings that God has for us because we have not been prepared to welcome Jesus, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and embrace the whole story of the Bible.

Sadly, many people are still living in a perpetual winter of comparatively little spiritual light or warmth. There is so much available to us, but God cannot bless sitters; He blesses seekers.

Richard

Wardens' World

February 2017



Happy New Year! We hope you had a happy and relaxing festive season, and have started 2018 refreshed after a fairly challenging end of the year for your wardens.

Many thanks to everyone for their patience as first a gas leak cut off our heating, and the church boiler then played up during the coldest week of the year. Thanks too to the plumbers who repeatedly came up to Tardebigge and got the boiler fixed in the nick of time for the school's first Christmas performance. Having dealt with that, we then had the heavy snowfall which resulted in all services being cancelled on December 10th, but did put a rather interesting stripe down just one side of our spire!

One of the services cancelled on December 10th was our Gift Service, where the congregation donate presents for families less fortunate than ourselves. Despite the cancellation, we were amazed that parishioners continued to bring gifts in the following weeks, and we were able to take around 7 big black bags of presents to a very grateful Salvation Army, for them to distribute to the families in time for Christmas.



We were also very happy that so many people could join us for the Christmas services, notably the Carols by Candlelight and the packed house at Christingle! It is heartwarming to see that the Church still has a place at Christmas for most people, especially when you consider that less than a quarter of Chris's Christmas cards had any kind of religious motif on them (and he includes any pictures of villages with a church in them,

and a charming Guide Dogs for the Blind card offering 'gold, frankincense and fur'...!). The other point you may have noticed at St. Bartholomew's is a diminishing number of choir members (compare only 7% of Chris's Christmas cards which had a choir in the picture, but at least they still feature!). Here we must express our gratitude to the four 'extras' from as far away as Clent who robed up and tested their musical skills to help put on a really good carol service for us! Whatever your musical ability, if you enjoy singing at all, St. Bartholomew's choir has a place for you whatever your level. Just contact Chris, Dudley the organist or Rob Barnett, our choirmaster.

But the work never stops at Tardebigge, and we have already planned a number of concerts during the Bromsgrove Festival in June and July, and more festive services for you and your families. Put these dates in your diary now and watch out for further details!

Mothering Sunday	March 11th
Palm Sunday	March 25th
Easter Sunday	April 1st
Rogation	May 13 th
Harvest and Harvest Lunch	October 14 th (services at St. Mary's and St. Bartholomew's)
Remembrance	November 11th
Bentley Carol Service	December 16th
Tardebigge Carol Service	December 23rd

Chris and Dean

Services at Tardebigge and Lower Bentley

Sunday 4th February (2 Before Lent)

9.30am **Café Church** in the *Church Hall* (breakfast from 9.00am)

11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer

6.00pm Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday 11th February (Next Before Lent)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Traditional Holy Communion at *St. Mary's*

11.00am **Family Service**

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 18th February (Lent 1)

11.00am Holy Communion and ***Sunday Funday***

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 25th February (Lent 2)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am **Worship For ALL**

11.00 am Traditional Holy Communion (by extension)

6.00pm Evensong



Bumps, Babes and Toddlers

at St. Philip's Church, Webheath



Thursday mornings 9.30am-11.30am

Suggested donation £2 per family
Includes tea, coffee and biscuits.



St Philips Bumps Babes
and Toddlers



Like Us On
Facebook

St. Philip's, Church Road, Webheath, B97 5PD
www.stphilipswbheath.org.uk
Contact Rev. Richard Clark (07970 823462) email: richredditch@gmail.com

Café Church – 1st Sunday of the month
In the Church Hall



Family Friendly Worship in a Café Style
Breakfast is served from **9am**
Worship from **9.30am**
There is **no charge** for refreshments.

**Magazine subscriptions are now due
from only £10 per year**

**For more details please contact
Dean or Jane Hall
(contact details inside back cover)**

*Thank you for supporting
St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's Churches*

March Magazine

Please send your articles and items to our central email address:
contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk by **MONDAY 19th February**

Thank you.

The Evergreens

The Evergreens - an informal group for people over 50 years of age who meet several times a year for fellowship.

For details please contact Vivien Mackenzie (07727 293664 or 0121 445 1245)

Evergreens Christmas Lunch 2017

Undeterred by snow, ice and freezing temperatures, twenty-eight of us gathered in the Church Hall for the Evergreens' Annual Christmas Lunch held on Saturday 9th December. Sadly, illness prevented a couple of people from attending.

It might have been cold outside, but the hall was warm, cosy and noisy - the latter because of all the talking! The magnificent meal prepared by Angela was enjoyed by everyone. There were also interesting raffle prizes.

Thanks must go to Angela for preparing the delicious food and to all those who helped to set up the hall, serve, wash up and clear away afterwards. Thank you, also, to Chris (Milton) for clearing the snow and ice outside the entrance and spreading copious amounts of salt, ensuring no one slid to the door.

Evergreens will continue to meet in 2018!

Dates for your diary:

Evergreens will meet at 4.00pm in the Church Hall on the following dates in 2018, apart from July and December, when the arrangements will be different: **Monday 12th March** (please note this is the 2nd Monday of the month).

Other meetings will be held on the third Monday, as follows:

Monday 21st May; Monday 16th July, when we hope to have tea at a local garden centre and **Monday 15th October**.

Finally, our Christmas Lunch will be on **Saturday 8th December**.

Please put the dates in your diary, but don't worry, we will remind you nearer the time!

Happy New Year!

Vivien and Mary





Evergreens' Christmas Lunch





**Fellowship at its
best....
9th December 2017**



Celestial Corner

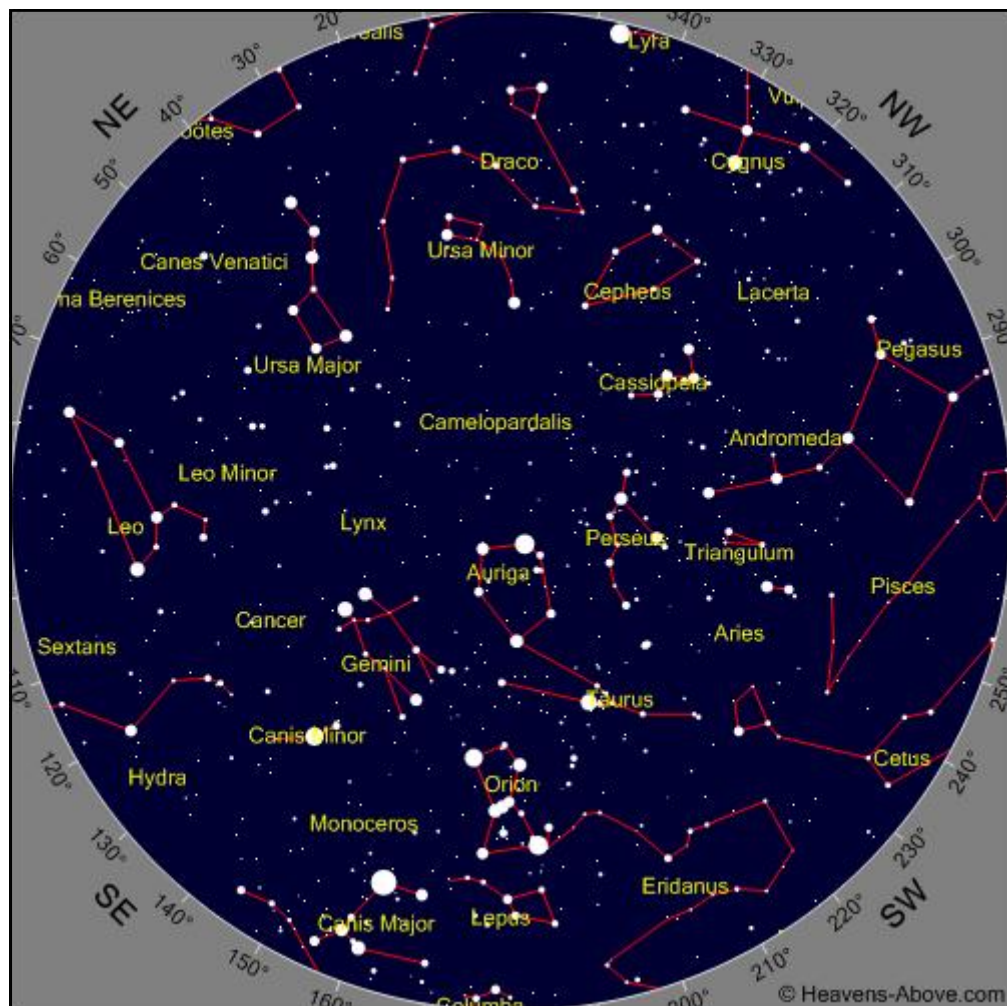
First of all, although it is a bit late, may I wish all you readers a happy and, more importantly, a healthy 2018.

February and looking South, the sky is the best it will be for the whole year, with Orion and his bright companions dominating the scene! There is only one planet visible at the moment, but you will have to look out before around seven in the morning to see it. Jupiter is a morning object and rises before the sun. Jupiter takes twelve years to go around the sun, spending a year in each of the Zodiac signs. Last year Jupiter was in the constellation of Virgo. This year, due to its journey around the sun, it is in the next sign, Libra. If you remember, the constellations rise two hours earlier each month, so they seem to travel from East to West through the year, so if something rises at 2am this month, it will do so at midnight next month and 10 pm in April and will then be an “evening” object. Jupiter will rise at 8pm at roughly the end of April!

Orion, with two first magnitude stars, is one of the ‘sign posts’ of the sky, so called because it is useful as a pointer to other constellations. He is a hunter in Greek mythology. Imagine him facing you with his right leg straight and his left bent at the knee, as if his left foot is on a stool. His right shoulder is marked by 1st mag star Betelgeuse which has a slight orangey/red colour. It is a red giant and so large that if put in place of our sun it would swallow up all planets up to, and including, Mars! Orion’s left ankle is marked by the other first mag star, the bluey/white Rigel; a younger and hotter star than Betelgeuse.

When the Greeks named the stars they classified Betelgeuse as Alpha, the brighter of the two, and Rigel as Beta. Either their eyes deceived them or Betelgeuse has faded slightly, which is the likely reason for Rigel today being the brighter of the two. Between the two lie the three stars that form Orion’s belt and hanging beneath it are two fairly bright stars between which is a fuzzy patch. This patch is a stellar birthplace, where new stars are forming from the gas that makes up the parent nebula, M42. M43 is close by and considered to be an offshoot of M42, but you need a telescope to split the two! The other lesser stars mark Orion’s right knee and left shoulder, with a triangle of faint stars marking his head and a line of faint stars forming his shield on his left arm.

We looked at Sirius in the last magazine. Its astronomical name is alpha Canis Majoris, the chief star of Canis Major, the big dog. One of two hunting dogs of Orion, it lies below and to the right of the star marking his right knee. The only other interesting object here is M41, an open cluster, (as opposed to a globular where the stars are packed close into a ball shape). It is classified as naked eye, but you would need to be well away from artificial lights to pick it out. A pair of 10x50 binoculars makes the job easier! Centre on Sirius then move slowly down until Sirius disappears, M41 should be just in the field of view at the bottom.



R.B.

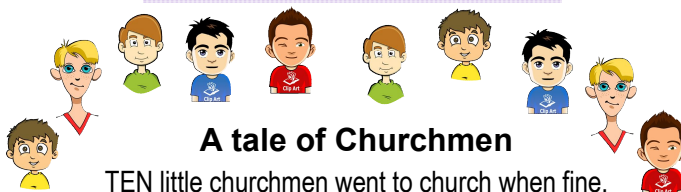
A verse for February

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
Who walk in obedience to him.

Psalm 128: 1

From Tardebigge Parish Magazine

February 1989



A tale of Churchmen

TEN little churchmen went to church when fine,
But it started raining and then there were nine.

NINE little churchmen stayed up very late.

One overslept himself and then there were eight.

EIGHT little churchmen were on the road to Heaven.

One joined a Rambling Club and then there were seven.

SEVEN little churchmen heard of Sunday "Flicks".

One thought he'd like to go and then there were six.

SIX little churchmen kept the place alive.

One bought a T.V. and then there were five.

FIVE little churchmen seemed loyal to the core.

The Vicar upset one of them and then there were four.

FOUR little churchmen argued heatedly

Over ceremonial and then there were three.

THREE little churchmen sang the service through,

Got a hymn they didn't like and then there were two.

TWO little churchmen disputed who would run

The next Parish concert and then there was one.

ONE faithful churchman, knowing what to do,

Got a friend to come to church and then there were two.

TWO sincere churchmen each brought in one more,

So their numbers doubled and then there were four.

FOUR sturdy churchmen simply could not wait

Till they found four others and then there were eight.

EIGHT eager churchmen searched around for souls,

Praying, working, witnessing, drew others in by shoals.

SHOALS AND SHOALS at every service cramming every pew,

Oh, God, supply this grace and zeal in this, Our Parish, too.

Christingle 2017

On Friday 22nd December we met in the Church Hall to make Christingles ready for the service on Christmas Eve. Many thanks go to Val Richardson for organising the workshop; a great time was had by all!



The
Children's
Society

No child
should feel
alone

Over £400 was collected for
The Children's Society

Thank you!

www.childrenssociety.org.uk



'God our Father, may these Christingles help us to know your love. By Your Spirit lead us to love and comfort others so that they may know the light of Your love as well. Where there are situations in this area which are sad and dark we speak the Lordship of our loving Saviour Jesus to touch, change and transform, for He is the light that the darkness cannot overcome. Amen.



News from School

After a busy December, disrupted by snow and ice, we returned to school in January ready to face new challenges.

This term we are launching a 'Times Tables' challenge for our pupils; the children have been told we are keen for them to learn them. We will test them regularly and they'll be rewarded with a badge if they can recite them and recall some facts; these badges will be exchanged for subsequent ones as they progress with their learning.

We are currently aiming to raise funds for an organisation called 'Sports for Champions' on 12th February. We look forward to welcoming Eden Francis, a GB discus/shot put champion who will be supporting the children with a variety of sporting challenges. Ahead of this event, our pupils are busy obtaining sponsors for the event and will come to school already dressed in sporting gear, so will be fully prepared for a busy and enjoyable day.

A visiting theatre company had been due to come to school on Monday 11th December to perform a pantomime. You may remember the heavy snowfall which caused the cancellation of all church services 10th December and school to close the following day. We were therefore pleased that we were able to re-arrange the pantomime, and we are looking forward to the performance 1st February.

Jane Hall

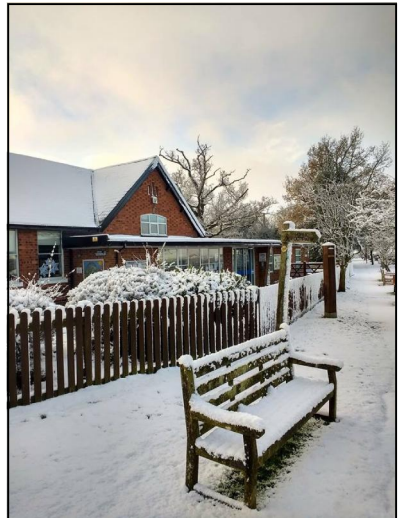
Contact details:

Telephone: 01527 872886

Email: office@tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Website: www.tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Julie Cutler



Lent Course 2018

Sessions will be held weekly, helping us to prepare for Easter



Sessions are being held:

Tuesdays:	7.30pm	St. Stephen's, Redditch
Wednesdays:	10.00am	St. Philip's, Webheath &
	7.30pm	4 Wordsley Close, Redditch
Fridays:	10.00am	St. Leonard's, Beoley

Week 1: Have I got news for you!

Week 2: So what? The implications of the Resurrection.

Week 3: Let Him Easter in us.

Week 4: Celebrating and Praying Easter.

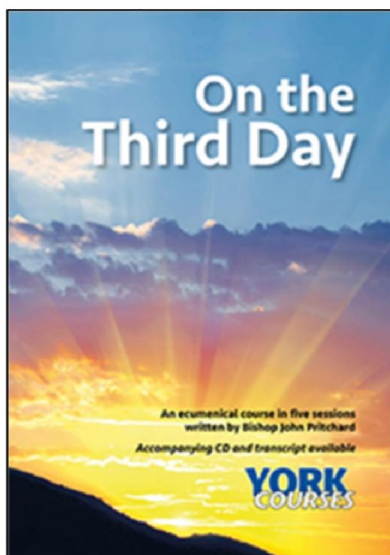
Week 5: A Risen Church.

On the Third Day

**A brand new 5 session
ecumenical course for
discussion groups**

www.yorkcourses.co.uk

**For more information and to book your place
please contact Rev. Paul Irving
(01527 435683)**



Bentley Pauncefoot WI

In many ways our members celebrated Christmas in a jolly and convivial manner. All who attended the Christmas party at the Potting Shed had a splendid, memorable evening in good company. An excellent meal was followed by silly fun as we tried to outdo each other in telling awful cracker jokes..... we knew a really impressive number of cracker jokes! A large party went to the Artrix in January to see the Oddsocks Theatre Company's rendering of "the Wizard of Oz". It was the Wizard of Oz as you've never seen him before – eat your heart out Donald Trump! The performance was creative, clever, anarchic and above all very, very funny. Just the tonic we needed for a cold winter's night.

However, we did not lose sight of the fact that not everyone was having such a carefree Christmas. Some Bentley members decided to do a "reverse Advent Calendar", On each day of Advent, each person put one item of food or a basic toiletry in a box to be collected at the January meeting. Robin Baker, Minister at the Oasis Christian Centre, collected the boxes. He started Acts of Kindness, which as part of its work, runs a Food Bank in Redditch. He went on to tell us what would happen to our donations and the way in which food and other basic necessities are distributed. He explained why there is such need and pointed out that you can't just walk in and pick up food. People are referred to the Food Bank by a variety of agencies and for many it is a difficult experience. Volunteers at the centre try to put them at their ease by talking to them and giving them a cup of tea. Practical advice is given as well as food for 3 days. Sometimes advice can be given regarding gas, electricity and benefits entitlement. Teaching people how to cook is another aspect of the help given. Robin's talk gave us much to think about. It is disturbing that so many people in Bromsgrove and Redditch are going hungry.

Looking to the future, we are having some interesting talks in the first half of the year. Peter Riley will be doing a presentation on "The National Trust – Housekeeping and Conservation" on February 13th, whilst John Butterworth will be telling us about "A Hotel with a famous Guest List" on March 13th. More talks follow on June 12th (Alan Thornton – "The Cadbury Story" and July 20th Adrian Jones – "Bodenham Arboretum") If anyone would like to join us at Bentley Village Hall, meetings start at 7.30 pm.

Lynne Reading



Bentley Pouncefoot WI invite you to a



COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Burnaid, a local charity that supports West Midlands burn survivors and their families

On: Thursday 1st March 2018

From: 10.00am - 12.30pm

At: Hollow Tree House
Hollow Tree Lane
Tardebigge
Bromsgrove
B60 1PR

Coffee or tea and home-made cake £5
Raffle and, in true WI tradition, a Bring and Buy stall
selling cakes and preserves

Forget winter, look forward to spring and meet up with friends, whilst raising money for a very worthy charity



Gardening Plans



A garden with a greenhouse
or a little wooden shed
When plans are laid, where dreams are dreamed
Of sunny days that lie ahead.



With each potato laid out in a tray,
Each dahlia in a pot,
The gardener envisages summertime
When the days are long and hot.



The gardening year begins with catalogues
Where, within their pages,
Comes promise of a fruitful harvest
Of strawberries, marrows and sweet greengages.

Gardening dreams start with a single seed
Of nasturtiums, iris, phlox
And, if there is no garden for the planting,
Hope grows in a window box.

L M Wadlow



MARTIN

Tardebigge Plant Sale – Saturday 12th May, 11 am

Please put this date in your diary now! We are deliberately avoiding the Bank Holiday weekends (and the Royal Wedding weekend!) in the hope that both helpers and customers will be more numerous!

For those of you unfamiliar with this event, the Plant Sale transforms Church Lawn outside the Church Hall into a bustling market for plants grown by parishioners, friends and our local walled garden at HMP Hewell. Tea and cake are served in the Church Hall, and there are tables for garden sundries and a raffle.

Obviously this hive of activity demands some input from our congregation, so as you start getting back into your garden this spring, do bear the Plant Sale in mind – we would be delighted to take any well-established plant, whether from a cutting, from a divided perennial or from freshly-sown seed, as well as any garden sundries you find when clearing out the shed or greenhouse!

Even if you can't grow us anything, you can still be a great help by manning a stall on the day, baking us a cake for refreshments or helping set up and price the evening before, so do get involved – it's always a lovely friendly event and raises a good sum for our churches of St Mary's and St Bartholomew's.

I would be really grateful if those of you who generally help would contact me as soon as possible to let me know whether or not you will be available this year and if so, what you would like to do!

I will start phoning round in mid-April, but it would help very much if you beat me to it!

Lucy Parkes

01527 871132 / ljparkes@btinternet.com



The Midland Sinfonia

**Friday 2 March 7.30pm, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch
Tedesca Plus**

Haydn – String Quartet in D Op.64 No.5 'Lark'; Mozart – Clarinet Quintet
Schubert – String Quartet in D Minor 'Death and the Maiden'

The Midland Sinfonia's resident quartet will be joined by Tom Caldecote, clarinet.

Tickets: on the door £14.50, in advance £13 from 'Gin & Pickles', The Square, Alvechurch or online at www.midlandsinfonia.co.uk

FT students and schoolchildren accompanying an adult free.

For more information: midlandsinfonia@gmail.com or 0121 447 7040

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. For more details please contact Jane Hall (07980 358252); or Email janehall73@gmail.com



At our meeting 16th November we made Christmas puddings. A big thank you to Lucy Parkes who kindly organised the ingredients, even though she was unable to attend the event.

We enjoyed an evening of Christmas crafts at our meeting on 7th December. Our two invited guests led a session of Christmas card making.



Harriet's pudding pictured on Christmas Day



An evening of Christmas crafts



Hero of the Parish award for December 2017 goes to Malcolm Norris, who walked up to Tardebigge from Webheath just in case there was an 11.00am service, complete with gifts for the Salvation Army!

Other than him, there was nobody else around, so either reason prevailed or we had informed everyone!

Chris Milton

*(All our services were cancelled
10th December due to snow).*

**Malcolm is pictured
with Lucy Parkes**



Open the Book

'Open the Book' is a rolling programme of major bible stories presented to primary school children. (See biblesociety.org.uk)



Pictured is the team which regularly presents 'Open the Book' assemblies in church to the pupils of Tardebigge First School. About to enjoy a Christmas Afternoon Tea 18th December at Hagley Hall are Jane Hall; Val Richardson; Janet Winslow and Gail Teague

Registers

Baptisms

January 14 Harry Benjamin DOLLING (*at St. Mary's*)
 January 21 Emilia Alexandra BOTT



Funerals

December 6 Audrey WOODWARD
 January 15 Patricia Ann BRIGHTON (*Memorial Service*)
 January 22 Brenda Marjorie QUINNEY



Sidesmens' Rota

February 4	11.00am	E Price and P Hopkins
	6.00pm	P Hopkins
February 11	8.00am	D Hall
	11.00am	G Price and L Parkes
	6.00pm	M Price
February 18	11.00am	J Oldaker and P Hopkins
	6.00pm	P Hopkins
February 25	8.00am	G R Underhill
	11.00am	D Stubbings and P Hopkins
	6.00pm	T Powell

Flowers

Rosalind Chambers

Jane Oldaker



Lent (no flowers)

Lent (no flowers)



February 3 Joe Hall
 February 15 Karen Barnett
 February 21 Andrew Mason



February 14 Michael and
 Elizabeth Price

**Thank you for supporting Tardebigge Community's tree
in the Festival of Christmas Trees at Worcester Cathedral**



Pictured are the helpers who decorated
our tree in the cathedral



Tardebigge Community's tree
pictured next to the one from
The Cherish Fund (a charity
supporting some of the poorest
children in the world)



Our 'Choral Music' themed tree

Webheath Digital Photography Club

After the winter break it's a game of catch-up with the news. On 13 November Bob Brind-Surch paid us a welcome return visit to show there is life beyond "Auto" on our cameras. As ever he was entertaining as well as instructive, showing us how to be creative by paying attention to depth of field, exposure, ISO and other functions beyond "the green switch".

The next meeting was an excuse for a near end-of-year quiz set by John Cartmell. One of the teams won, apparently, but the point of the evening, as ever, was the fun. Thanks again to John who does these things so well.



Our "Image of the Year" competition on 4 December was this time judged by Ian Thompson. His comments, sometimes thought to be a bit severe, were as ever helpful and appreciated. In a generally high-scoring evening he awarded two of our images twenty points. These were "Isolation" by Graeme Tozer in black and white and "Lillies, drops and dots" by Graham Bastock.

He chose "Lillies, drops and dots" as the outright winner for the Club's Image of the Year, so well done Graham for using the drops as lenses to get those multiple images of his lilly. While the drops were nicely under control Graham admitted that the ladybird was difficult to train!



The penultimate meeting of 2017 in the Village Hall had to be cancelled because of the heavy snowfall. We are assured that the images which would have been shown are safely in the bank. We will see "My Year in Six Images" at a later date. These images usually show what pleased us over the year as well as our approaches to photography without the pressure of competition.

Our last meeting of the year was at a local hostelry for our social evening which was enjoyed by all.

In June-July 2017 we had a highly successful competition and gallery in St Stephens, which transferred to a location in the Kingfisher Shopping Centre. Now there is a gallery of our prints very well presented on the wall just beyond Wilko's in the centre. Why not take time to have a look at our Members' work? The prints will be changed sometime soon for fresh ones.



The Webheath Village Hall, on Mondays at 7:30, is our venue unless we are away on an evening photoshoot in the summer. Anyone with an interest in digital photography, whether the owner of a compact camera or the latest DSLR, is very welcome to come along to our regular meetings. Our range of external speakers is chosen to reflect both the technical and artistic aspects of photography. We encourage Members to try their skills and maybe improve them, or pass on their knowledge, in a friendly and sociable atmosphere. Our Club website is webheathdpc.com where you can find details, such as how to contact us, and more. We also show a selection of images by our Members in the Gallery. You can also find us on Facebook. The first major event is our annual competition at home on 5 February with Kempsey Camera Club.

P. Dewell February 2018

The Midland Sinfonia

Friday 9 February doors open 6.45pm for a prompt 7.30pm start

The Ark, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch

General Knowledge Quiz & Supper Evening

Our annual fundraiser – an entertaining general knowledge quiz.

Teams of up to six with singles accommodated.

£8.50 pp to include fish and chip supper.

Usual bar available or corkage payable.

Booking essential: midlandsinfonia@gmail.com or Marian 0121 447 7040



Hedgelaying, anyone?

Some of you may remember the Community Hall's *Tree O'Clock* project back in December 2009, when in collaboration with the Breathing Places team from the BBC and other partners including the Woodland Trust, we helped the UK set a new Guinness World Record for the most trees planted in one hour in multiple locations!

The benefit for Tardebigge Community Hall was a beautiful mixed hedge of traditional English plants including field maple, beech, hawthorn, dogwood and blackthorn along the length of its car park. You may have seen that in the intervening years, the hedge has thrived and is now well over 10 feet tall. The hall committee looked at it in Spring 2016 when a working party was held and also enlisted the opinion of our local Tree Officer, Andy Bucklitch. He suggested that we leave it another couple of years and then lay it.

This sounded wonderful, but we were not sure how easy or economical it would be ... enter Wade Muggleton, Countryside Officer at Worcestershire County Council! He will be teaching between 10 and 12 volunteers to lay a hedge on **Saturday 3rd March 2018** and we will be practising on "our hedge" at the Community Hall, so if this is something you have always wanted to learn, this is your big opportunity!

We have several volunteers already, so if you are interested in being involved, please contact Lucy Parkes as soon as possible – you will be made most welcome. We suggest standard gardening clothes including sturdy gloves and footwear, plus something sharp for cutting – ideally a billhook, but axes, loppers, bow saws, pruning saws and secateurs will all work too.

Look forward to hearing from you!

Lucy Parkes

07817 067730 / 01527 871132

ljparkes@btinternet.com

St Leonard's Church, Beoley

SNOWDROP WEEKEND



Saturday 10th February 10.00am – 4.00pm

Sunday 11th February 1.00pm – 4.00pm

ENTRY FREE

(Donations welcome)

Adult's & Children's Poetry Competitions

History & Craft Displays

Plant Sales ❖ Children's Activities

Lunches (Saturday) ❖ Teas ❖ Tea & Coffee

And, of course, thousands of Snowdrops!

www.StLeonardsBeoley.org.uk ☎ 01527 62148 Sat Nav: B98 8AR

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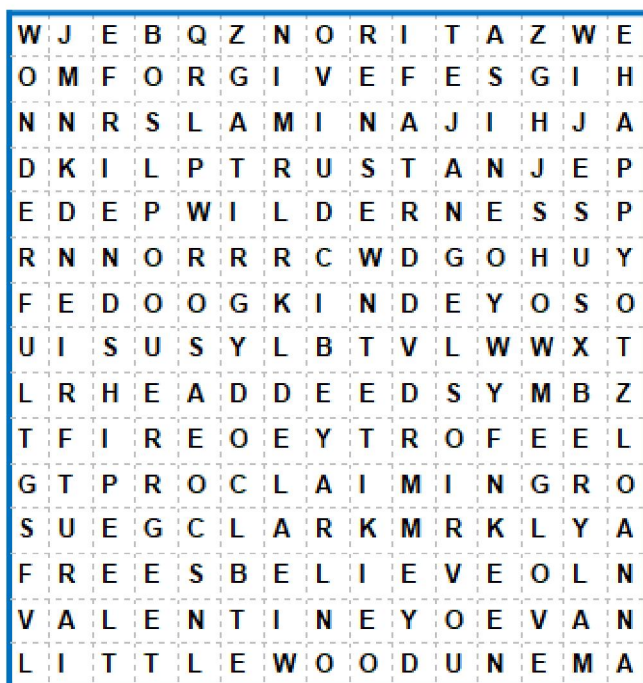
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For further information contact

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Word Search

'At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come" he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" ' **Mark 1: 12-15**



SPIRIT

WILDERNESS

FORTY

ANIMALS

ANGELS

PROCLAIMING

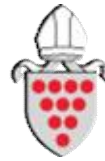
GOOD

JESUS

BELIEVE

Words to be found may be forward, backward, vertical or diagonal within the puzzle

J.E.H.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

**Letter from the
Archdeacon of Dudley
The Venerable Nikki Groarke**

Do you, like me, love to see people of all ages growing in faith and enjoying the love of God?

One of our four priorities within the Kingdom People vision is to increase our engagement with children, young people and their families across the diocese. Our newly formed team of Calling Young Disciples Mission Enablers are already having an impact in their host parishes and further afield. We now have six, working under the leadership of Project Director Ruth Walker, the final two having started in January.

I have been greatly encouraged to hear stories emerging as this creative team build relationships with congregations and both equip them, and help them to think differently!

Adam, for example, tells of how Messy Church is developing parish-wide as resources and talents are pooled and how it's being increasingly seen as an additional congregation rather than something to feed into the 9.30 am service.

Anne, Helen and Amy have enthused about the willingness to try something new from people who haven't been on the radar of clergy, people who have had a 'holy unrest'. The introduction of a Mission Enabler to poke and shake things up has helped to revive the fire in people. They have had 'God moments', when children, young people and adults have spoken about God and faith, and there has been a strong sense of God preparing the way in the places where they're allocated. They have seen evidence of where people have been working beneath the surface to progress the Kingdom People ethos and are now ready and willing to move with the tide.

Alongside the work of this team, as well as that of our Youth Officer, Simon and Children's Officer, Emma, we also had the privilege of a day's training from Lucy Moore on how to keep the discipleship focus of Messy Church in November. Nearly a hundred people were inspired and enthused to take their Messy Churches to the next level, and from some of the tweets I saw leading up to Christmas, this had excellent results.

I long to see churches across the diocese truly engaging with all ages effectively – our churches need to be multi-generational if they are to reflect the welcome of God's kingdom. I am looking forward to many more encouraging stories as we intentionally focus on this, and hope that all those families who packed out our special Christmas services will be invited back for other events soon. Please join me in praying for the work of the Calling Young Disciples Team, and our Diocesan Youth and Children's Officers, giving thanks for seeds sown, green shoots appearing, and the promise of more to come. I am sure we have an exciting year ahead!

Nikki

Altar flowers rota 2018

Thanks so much to all of you who put flowers on the altar in 2017, and to those who have volunteered for 2018. The 2018 rota is now complete and will be put up in church at the end of January. Jane Hall also has a copy, so the slots will appear in the Parish Magazine as a backup. Please check the list when it appears, and make sure your dates are in your diary!

If you meant to get a slot and didn't, or if you would like to be included in the rota, please just call me, there are several people willing to give up a slot if someone else would like it.

When doing flowers, please clear away the previous ones (so go equipped with a rubbish bag!) unless they are still in really good shape, in which case please place them at the bottom of the chancel steps, on the memorial altar or on the font. In that case, please take away any flowers and oasis which are even older, no matter what state they are in. Containers which do not belong in church can be left on the shelf at the back of church for their owner to collect – please return church containers to the churchwardens' chest.

Please don't feel you have to buy flowers - garden flowers are perfectly acceptable. If you use a container of your own, please label it so that it can be returned!

Many thanks,

Lucy Parkes 01527 871132





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6		2				8	4	
				1	3		2	
		7		4				
3	2	4					6	
	7		5		2		9	
	1					3	7	2
				9		4		
	4		8	6				
	5	3				7		6

Solution next month

7	3	2	5	6	1	8	4	9
8	1	5	4	2	9	3	7	6
6	9	4	7	8	3	5	2	1
1	8	3	6	5	2	7	9	4
4	2	9	8	1	7	6	3	5
5	7	6	9	3	4	2	1	8
9	4	8	3	7	5	1	6	2
3	6	1	2	9	8	4	5	7
2	5	7	1	4	6	9	8	3

Last month's solution



Registered charity no. 1012868

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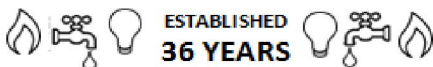
The Cherish Fund is a UK based charity which has the provision of education for African children and young people as its primary objective.

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PCC Secretary	Vivien Mackenzie	07727 293664
Parish Clerk & Electoral Roll Officer	Jane Hall janehall73@gmail.com	07980 358252
Choir Master	Robert Barnett	01527 542491
Organist	Dudley Fowkes	
Safeguarding Officer & Sunday Funday	Kay Middleton kmi@northbromsgrove.worcs.sch.uk	07867 492938
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Clergy Team

Incumbent/Team Rector: Rev. Richard Clark
The Vicarage, Webheath, Redditch B97 5PD
(01527 543967 & 07970 8234620 trhtredditch@gmail.com)

Rev. Allison Davies (Assistant Curate) (01527 60892)

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