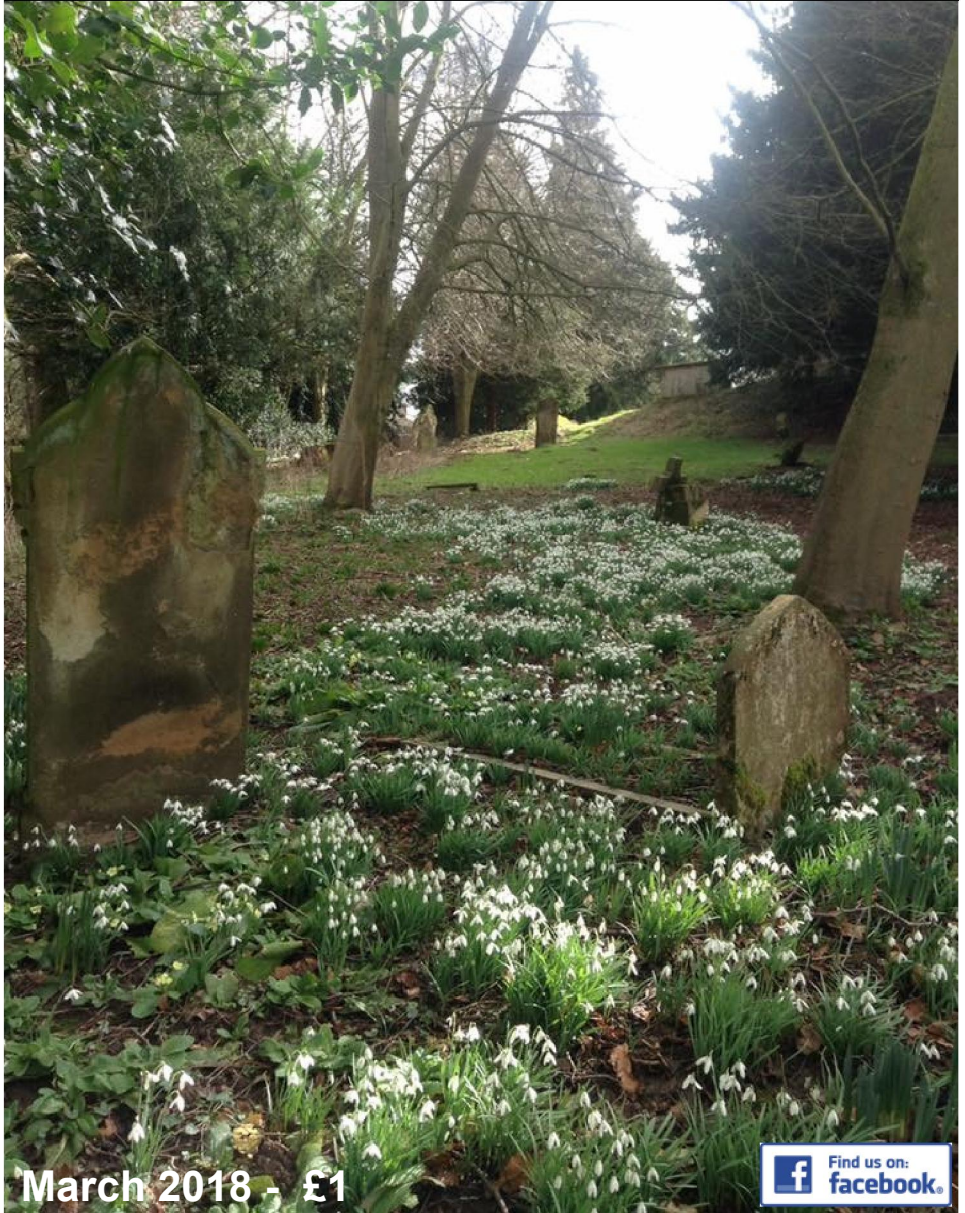


# Tardebigge and Bentley Parish Magazine

[www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk](http://www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk) ✚ Email: [contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk](mailto:contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk) ✚ Picture "Tardebigge Snowdrops" by Jane Hall



March 2018 - £1

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# March



**From Richard, the Team Rector**



By the end of March, the first birds of summer will have returned to Redditch. In fact, our Spring migrants return every year, usually from the Mediterranean or Africa, on very similar dates. They have no calendars; they just know when to travel and when to arrive.

Each of us has standard dates in our year that we remember. Many of them are positive; family birthdays, bank holidays, weeks we usually take on holiday, and so on. Other anniversaries have a different significance, such as when someone close to us died. With each event we may have special memories, some of which are very precious to us. We celebrate them, perhaps just with a loved one or even just with ourselves. As a vicar I have often encountered people taking flowers to a grave for someone's birthday or on the anniversary of a death. Our personal calendar, one way or another, can look very different to the ones that are on sale every Christmas.

The Christian church has its calendar, which used to shape the way everyone's year went. We have retained, at least for now, some of its important features. Some dates are fixed, like Christmas, while others are not. These are usually calculated according to the date of Easter.

Easter this year is on April 1<sup>st</sup>. This is unusually early – it is not as early again until 2024 – and is the same day as April Fool's Day. This reminds us that the Bible states: "the fool says in his heart, 'there is no God'" (Psalm 14:1 & Psalm 53:1). The date of Easter moves according to new moons, on the first Sunday after the first Full Moon after the March equinox; in practice this can be anywhere from March 23<sup>rd</sup>, such as in 2008, to April 25<sup>th</sup>, which is the due date in 2038. The major church denominations have begun to talk about fixing the date of Easter to the second or third Sunday in April.

If God kept a calendar, Easter would be the most important time of year. It is when his son was tortured, killed, but then came back from the dead, completing a victory over sin and death for the sake of all humanity. Easter is a special time for him; you will not find any event in Jesus' life that gets anywhere near as much coverage in the New Testament.

Easter is of utmost importance for us. Without Jesus' death we would have to face God alone on judgement day, with every sin we have ever thought about, said or done revealed to his all-seeing view, sins we can never make up for by the good things we have done. If we are on Jesus' side, then he is on our side, having paid the price for our sins on the cross. All charges against us will be dropped, and we will enjoy eternal life, with Jesus, for ever, not because of

what we have done, but because what he has done for us. Our salvation is the most special outcome of the love, mercy and compassion the Father has shown us by sending his son to earth.

On Easter Sunday all this is revealed to us. Jesus did not just die, he conquered death. His life was not a noble but failed example, it was the prelude to the greatest victory of all time. The desolation of his confused and devastated followers turned from amazement and disbelief to joy and exhilaration after women devoted to Jesus had found the tomb was empty. The next challenge for Jesus' disciples, which is same challenge for us today, was to answer the question, "what does all this mean for me?".

As we begin to grasp the answer to this question, Easter will become the most important time of the year for us; just as it is for God, and his Church.



## **Services at Tardebigge and Lower Bentley**

### **Sunday 4th March (Lent 3)**

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

11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer

6.00pm Holy Communion (BCP)

### **Sunday 11th March (Mothering Sunday)**

8.00am Holy Communion

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

11.00am **Family Service**

6.00pm Evensong

### **Sunday 18th March (Lent 5)**

11.00am Holy Communion and **Sunday Funday**

6.00pm Evensong

### **Sunday 25th March (Palm Sunday)**

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am **Worship For ALL**

11.00 am Traditional Holy Communion

6.00pm Evensong

### **Maundy Thursday**

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

### **Good Friday**

2.00pm—3.15pm 'Before the Cross'

## **2018 Annual Meetings**

### **St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's Churches**

The Annual Meetings for our Churches will take place on  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018, in Tardebigge Church Hall, as follows:

#### **7.15pm: A meeting of the parishioners for the purpose of electing Churchwardens**

This meeting may be attended by:

All persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of the parish and  
All persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local  
government electors by reason of such residence.

#### **7.30pm: The Annual Meeting of the Parochial Church Council**

At this meeting, there will be a review of the year in the parish which will include:

The election of a new Parochial Church Council (PCC), which has 12 elected members.  
All nominees must be at least sixteen years of age; be actual communicants and have  
been on the Electoral Roll of the Parish for at least six months.

(All proposers and seconders must be on the Electoral Roll of this Parish.)

The election of 2 people to serve on the Deanery Synod

All nominees must be at least eighteen years of age; be actual communicants and on  
the Electoral Roll of this Parish.

(All proposers and seconders must be on the Electoral Roll of this Parish.)

Nomination forms for the positions of Churchwarden, Deanery Representative and PCC  
member are available from both churchwardens or can be found at the back of the church.

**Tea, coffee and wine, with nibbles, on arrival**

**Do come along – your parish needs you!**

## Wardens' World

March 2018

The area around St. Bartholomew's has been a hive of activity in recent weeks, despite some very variable weather. The arrival of some hawfinches in the churchyard brought bird-watchers from far and wide to catch a glimpse, and the astonishing display of snowdrops this year in the older parts of the churchyard attracted many photographers and people who just came to look. Add to these our regular complements of walkers, runners and others engaged in more nefarious pursuits, and it is no wonder that the church car park is



almost always well-filled. What a pity therefore that very few of them bothered to step inside the church and take in the wonderful contemplative and calm atmosphere, and admire the simple yet striking architecture. Fewer still probably spared a thought for those who labour to keep the churchyard well-kept, the litter picked, the church heated and who take the services for us.

With the loss of Raymond Hopkins, one of our most staunch defenders of the faith in Tardebigge parish, we have not only lost a man of deep belief, a gifted lay reader, chorister and church leader, but also someone for whom the church building was a vital centre for mission, a focus for community worship and a place to be respected and revered. How good it would be if we could follow in his footsteps, and make it our aim to be in and around the church as much as possible, at services and just helping with the jobs, showing those who visit for more secular reasons the whole purpose and message of the church, the churchyard and its beautiful surroundings.

It is reminiscent of a comedy sketch by Rowan Atkinson from the early 80's. The TV programme was "Not the Nine O'clock News" and Rowan was a vicar addressing a full church which was being filmed for "Songs of Praise". The part which tickled us goes like this:

***"You have joined a full congregation of local people who have come to worship tonight. Indeed it makes quite a change to have so many here, because it wasn't quite the same story last week, was it? Last week, the congregation numbered seven, four of whom had turned up a week early by mistake. And the week before that, Harvest Sunday, there were three of us. Myself, the organist Mr Posner, and a tin of spaghetti!"***

One of the keys to growing our church is no different to other community gatherings and that is that we must become more invitational. People rarely fall into something, particularly something that requires regular commitment and are more likely to go because a friend or neighbour told them how much they enjoyed it. So our challenge to you is simple. Whatever type of service you prefer ask yourself which of your friends or neighbours would like the same thing and then why not invite them to come with you? Whether you are a traditional BCP worshipper, prefer something with a more modern liturgy or simply want an informal setting where you are given breakfast and the opportunity to talk openly about where you think you are in your faith journey, we have something for you. We look forward to welcoming you and your friends soon.

Chris and Dean

---

**£5.50**

**ORDER THE 2018 REAL EASTER EGG HERE**

**Contact Jane Hall (07980 358252)**

**£3.99**

**£9.99**

The advertisement features several product images. On the left, a yellow box of 'The Real Easter Egg' is shown with a price tag of £5.50. Next to it is a book titled 'The Story of Easter'. Below this, a dark blue box of 'The Real Easter Egg' is shown with a price tag of £9.99. On the right, a light blue box of 'The Real Easter Egg' is shown with a price tag of £3.99. In front of it is a book titled 'The Story of Easter' and a small box of 'All Cleanly Buttons'. A yellow banner at the top right contains the text 'ORDER THE 2018 REAL EASTER EGG HERE' and 'Contact Jane Hall (07980 358252)'. A small circular logo in the top right corner says 'The Meaningful Chocolate'.



## 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 Philip's Bumps Babes  
and Toddlers



St. Philip's, Church Road, Webheath, B97 5PD  
[www.stphilipswbwebheath.org.uk](http://www.stphilipswbwebheath.org.uk)

Contact Rev. Richard Clark (07970 823462) email: [rhredditch@gmail.com](mailto:rhredditch@gmail.com)

Café Church – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (£16 if posted)**

**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*

### April Magazine

Please send your articles and items to our central email address:  
**[contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk](mailto:contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk)** by **FRIDAY 16th March**

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 First Meeting of 2018 Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00pm in the Church Hall**

A reminder for all Evergreen regulars!

**Do come and join us for afternoon tea and a chat on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March**  
(the SECOND Monday of the month).

If you would like a lift, we would appreciate knowing by the previous  
Friday – 9<sup>th</sup> March - at the latest.

Do you know of anyone who might like to join us?  
If so, please let us know and we will contact them.

Looking forward to seeing you!

**Vivien (0121 445 1245) and Mary (0121 445 3075)**



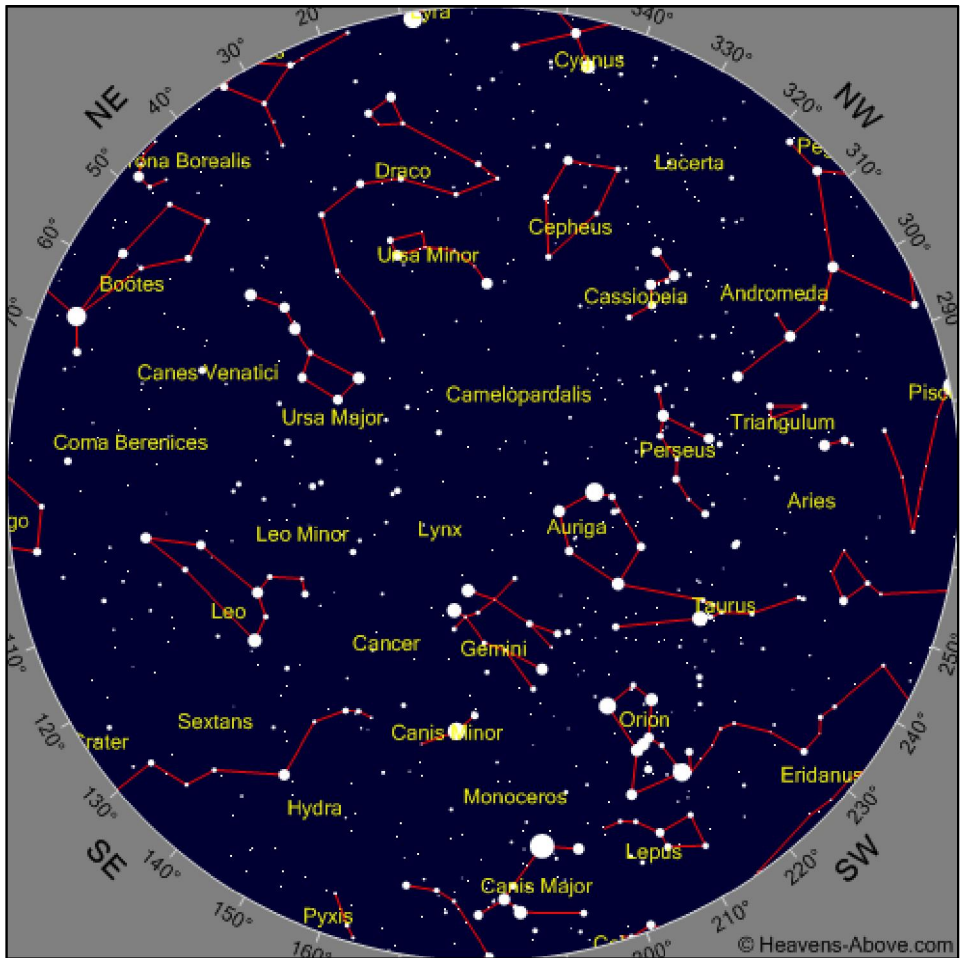
## Celestial Corner

Cheer up, the days are getting longer with the length increasing at its fastest rate as we near the spring equinox. The Sun is on its way back north and the warmer weather should not be far behind!

A celestial map is divided up in the same way as the Earth, on Earth they are lines of latitude and longitude, on the celestial map they are Declination and hour lines, from 0 to 23. Also on a celestial map is the path of the Sun throughout the year, passing through all the signs of the zodiac and known as the Ecliptic. At the point on the map where the ecliptic crosses both the celestial equator (zero latitude) and the 0 hour line is known as the First point of Aries and marks the Spring equinox. However, since the Greek astronomers of old 2,000 years ago determined the first point of Aries, it moved and is now in Pisces! This is due to a thing call Precession. Precession is caused by the gravitational pull of the Sun and Moon on the equatorial bulge of the Earth, with a smaller effect from the planets. This means the stars move westwards by about 1 deg every 71.6 years. A complete cycle takes around 25,800 years and this means that the Earth's axis, tilted at 23.5 degs, traces a circle on the celestial sphere with a radius of 23.5 degs, so Polaris, the "North Star" was not always the closest bright star to the celestial pole and in 8,000 years time the closest star will be Deneb in Cygnus, the swan!

Enough of the deep stuff! This month we look at Taurus, the bull and Gemini, the twins. From Orion's belt, trace a line from the left hand star up through the star of his left shoulder and curve slightly to the right until you come to an orangey coloured star. This is Aldebaran, a red giant star like Orion's Betelgeuse. You will see that it is at one apex of a 'V' of stars, forming the bull's head. In fact Aldebaran is known as 'the eye of the bull'. The star next to Aldebaran is a nice easy double in 10x50 binoculars, in fact 10x 50 bins will show a rich star field with at least one more double. The whole group is known as the Hyades cluster, although they are not a true cluster in the sense of the nearby Pleiades, (M45), it is just a line of sight effect. The horns of the bull are to be found by extending the 'V', the right hand one actually being shared with Auriga, the charioteer!

Gemini, 'the heavenly twins', marked by the stars Castor and Pollux, named after twins in Greek mythology, lies on the other side of Orion. Starting from the star at the other end of his belt follow up through Betelgeuse and you can't miss them. Castor is the right hand one at the top of the line of stars marking his body and Pollux is at the top of the line forming the other twin, both pointing toward Orion. The Greeks had Castor as the brighter of the two, but today the brighter is Pollux, so either the Greeks were mistaken, or Castor has faded slightly! The star cluster M35 lies not far from Castor's left foot, again 10x50s will show it, at about 10'clock from the lower star of the foot, when seen from a place away from street lights. The Milky Way passes between Gemini and both Taurus and Orion. Again this month there are no planets on view in the evening sky, although Jupiter is bright in the SE before dawn. The map is for March 14th at 8pm.



R.B.

### **A verse for March**

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

**Ephesians 5: 1-3**

## 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

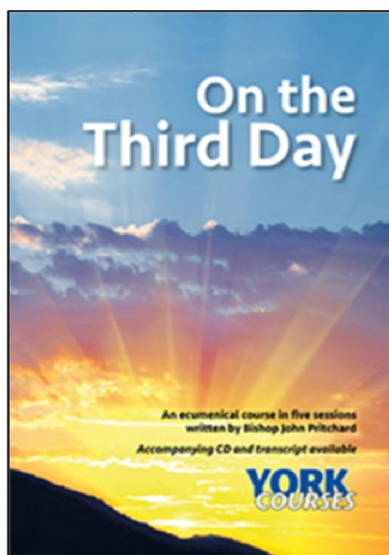
- Week 1: Have I got news for you!  
Week 2: So what? The implications of the Resurrection.  
Week 3: Let Him Easter in us.  
Week 4: Celebrating and Praying Easter.  
Week 5: A Risen Church.

### On the Third Day

A brand new 5 session ecumenical course for discussion groups

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

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



## News from School

In the February edition of the magazine we mentioned that we were aiming to raise funds for an organisation called 'Sports for Champions' and that we were looking forward to welcoming Eden Francis, a GB discus/shot put champion who would be supporting our pupils with a variety of sporting challenges. The children really enjoyed her visit and having the chance to talk to her about her life as an athlete. She brought the gold medal she gained from the European games and she shared her dream of getting to the Olympics. She gave us a quote to dwell upon: 'team work makes dreams work'. Apparently discus and shot putters get better with age! Parents and families were very generous with their sponsorship money, raising nearly £1600 for the cause.

World Book Day is on March 1st and we've asked the children to come to school dressed as a character from a book which they must bring into school on the day. We therefore look forward to a variety of books and characters in school; a lot of imagination usually goes into the outfits which the children will wear.

Mothering Sunday is on Sunday 11th March and we will be marking Mother's Day on Friday 9th March with a special afternoon in school which will end with a Mother's Day concert in the church. We are very much looking forward to this.

*Jane Hall*

### 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



## The Pages of Memory



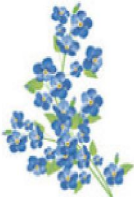
Memory turns the pages  
Of the Book of Life each day,  
The places and the people  
Encountered on the way,  
Happiness and sorrow,  
The good times and the bad,  
Balancing each other out,  
The exciting and the sad.



The memories of childhood  
When once those days are done  
Return to me in later life,  
The laughter and the fun,  
The lessons learned in schooldays  
The classroom friends I made  
Seem forever young in my mind's eye,  
Their faces never fade.



Memory turns the pages  
Yet the Book, unfinished still,  
Constantly brings the unexpected,  
As I guess it always will,  
Old age with acquired wisdom  
The final chapter writes  
Of a life filled with joy and laughter,  
With both heartache and delights.



L M Wadlow



## March 1973

**Vicar:** Rev. D J Copley, M.A.

**PCC Secretary:** Mr H G Kidwell

**Reader:** Mr Peter Frowley

**PCC Treasurer:** Mr E V Sadler

**Vicar's Warden:** Mr W P Beck

**Magazine Treasurer:** Mrs J R Hutchings

**People's Warden:** Mr F H Gateley

**Organist:** Mrs M Goulbourne

### **A Letter from Margaretha Copley**

By the time this little note appears in print I hope to be home again, though perhaps not as agile as I would wish, for a little while at least.

I have been quite overwhelmed with all the good wishes, letters and flowers I have received while I was in hospital. Thank you all very much indeed. I am looking forward to thanking you all personally but it may take a little time.

St. Luke's Nursing Home for the Clergy, their wives, widows and children is a wonderful place. I don't think I have ever met a more devoted and kind nursing staff anywhere.

The doctors and surgeons give their services entirely free of charge and the Home is financed by donations, legacies and investments and does not get any financial assistance from the State.

To be suddenly transported from peaceful and rural Tardebigge to the Metropolis is quite an experience.

Fitzroy Square is under the shadow of the Post Office Tower, which is rather a blot on the landscape by day, but looks quite attractive at night when all the lights are on.

Being a country-bumpkin I spent a certain amount of time watching London's traffic from my 4th floor observation post. I don't know how anyone ever finds a vacant parking meter, it reminded me of the game of 'musical chairs'!

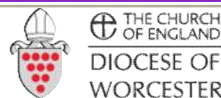
The gentleman in a beautiful Rolls Royce went round and round the Square at least 25 times before finally giving up in disgust.

How beneficial a stay in hospital can be and I don't only mean for one's physical well-being! To have time to 'stand and stare' or should I say lie and meditate gives one just a little more understanding of the things in life that really matter.

Thank you all once again for all your kindness, I feel very unworthy of it.

**Margaretha.**

## Bishop John's Lent Message 2018



This year's Lent Message was filmed at a place that, I dare say, will be familiar to many of you: the Worcester Royal Hospital.

Our National Health Service been on my mind recently having badly broken my wrist ice-skating with my 13 year-old on New Year's Day – yes, I know, I should know better! I ended up spending five hours in A&E at the Worcester Royal before being admitted to have a plate fitted under general anaesthetic. It's on the mend though I still bear the marks.

It wasn't the best preparation for my wedding but I came away with a deep sense of gratitude for the NHS. We hear lots about the strain it is under but we don't often stop to remember how fortunate we are to be able to benefit from it – more so than all our forebears and the vast majority of people in the world today. Having broken my wrist on a Bank Holiday I was treated and fixed within 24 hours by wonderful people whose skill and cheerful dedication to the welfare of their patients was inspiring.

Though it's not much recognised as such nowadays, the NHS is a profoundly Christian institution. It was intended by its founders, who included the then Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, to be a sort of institutional answer to the question 'Who is my neighbour?' The answer is, of course, that everyone is my neighbour. When you hear an ambulance siren, it's a sign of paramedics going to help someone in need on behalf of us all.

This Lent, I'd like to encourage you to count your blessings – especially ones like the NHS that you might generally take for granted. More than that, as you contemplate prayer, fasting and almsgiving I'd like to encourage you to pray for and maybe help financially those who are not able to count on such blessings.

March 1<sup>st</sup> marks the tenth anniversary of my enthronement as Bishop of Worcester. I have much to give thanks for over that time – particularly the support of people throughout the Diocese in good times and in bad. As a mark of my own thanksgiving I'm setting up a Tenth Anniversary Lent Appeal for Berega Hospital in Morogoro where they are struggling terribly. I was shocked to receive a report from the Director Isaac Mgego recently which informed me that the Tanzanian Government has reneged on its responsibility to pay the wages of nurses and doctors.

If you feel able, I invite you to contribute toward that appeal, in thanksgiving, as part of your almsgiving, and to give thanks for the very many blessings that God showers upon you.

God bless you this Lent.

**Donations by cheque made payable to 'Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd' and clearly marked 'Bishop's Lent Appeal' should be sent to:  
Doug Chaplin, Mission Development Officer, The Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester WR1 2JE**



# 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](mailto:janehall73@gmail.com)*



Our session 18th January was spent at the cinema; we watched the film 'The Greatest Showman' based on Barnum. In February, we went out for a Chinese buffet meal at 'The Real China' in the Kingfisher Centre, Redditch.

Our meeting 15th March will be held at the Church Hall when we will be having a pamper evening. We are looking forward to welcoming Hannah, who will be demonstrating products by Tropic Skincare (cruelty free and vegan) [www.tropicskincare.com](http://www.tropicskincare.com); there will also be an opportunity to place an order. Even if you haven't attended Spring Greens before, you are very welcome to come along! (£3 subscription each meeting which includes light refreshments).



Enjoying a meal out in February



## **The Midland Sinfonia**

**11th Young Musicians' Showcase**

**Sunday 25 March 3.00pm, St Laurence Church, Alvechurch**

An annual invitation to all young musicians, up to 18 years old.  
to perform before an appreciative audience.

This showcase promotes a 'concert' environment to assist the performer to grow in confidence.

**Do join us for a pleasant afternoon of music**

Tickets: no charge ~ donations appreciated

For further details: [midlandsinfonia@gmail.com](mailto:midlandsinfonia@gmail.com) or 0121 447 7040

## Raymond Reginald Hopkins 1943 - 2018



Raymond was born in Horsham, East Sussex on the 27th September 1943. He was born to an English mother and a Canadian father before he was put up for adoption in the National Children's Home and later adopted by Winnie and Reginald Hopkins in Redditch in 1945.

During his childhood they enjoyed many activities including yearly holidays to the seaside town of Blackpool. These holidays had an added bonus for Raymond; the trams. From a young age he had a passion for steam trains which led him to a new hobby of modelling his own railway. Throughout his life the model railway took on many forms until he finally created a layout which went the whole way around the spare room. He also achieved another dream later in life when he visited the Severn Valley Railway and rode on the foot plate of a steam train. Thank you very much to Robert for arranging this for him.

Raymond attended St. Luke's First School and later attended the County High School. During his time there Raymond became a prefect, a member of the brass band playing the French horn and singing in St. Stephen's Choir on a Sunday.

After leaving the County High he attended Exeter University studying to fulfil his ambition of becoming a teacher. During this time he joined the choir at Exeter Cathedral, and after the service on a Sunday he thoroughly enjoyed his Sunday lunch at The Royal Clarence Hotel. In 1964 unfortunately due to the sad news of his father's passing, he had to leave Exeter and return to Redditch to support his mother.

While settling back into a life in Redditch he filled his time by joining various brass bands and playing with different operatic societies. Another passion of Raymond's was reading, with every spare space in the house filled with books. He was never without a book in his hands, even until his final moments.

In 1971 Pat and Raymond got married in Handsworth Wood, and having their first child Kevin in 1972 followed by James in 1974. Moving into their first home together in Handsworth Wood, and yes you guessed it, it was full of books and a model railway going round the rooms.

Later leaving Handsworth Wood, they moved back to Redditch, settling on Winyates. With more space now at this house, Raymond took the opportunity to expand his model railway layout through various rooms in the house. It made it awkward getting around due to having to crawl under the railway baseboards, and yes of course the books came too!

But there was one last move on the cards to Church Hill, where they have lived happily ever since. Raymond used to say that the best things came in small packages; this came true in 1995, when to make the family complete, their granddaughter Zoe came to live with them along with her vast array of animals throughout the years.

Raymond had many careers over his professional life, even selling Liquorice Allsorts on behalf of Bertie Bassett. However, his most memorable employment was becoming a company director at Electrue Sales Ltd. After a long service at Electrue he took early retirement.

Following his retirement he was later offered a manager's role at Myton Hospice Shop in Alcester where he had over five happy years. He then finally retired and while being a full time taxi to his granddaughter and son, he made time to pursue his passion in the construction of his meccano models.

As a family they enjoyed many happy holidays together with favourite destinations being America, Canada, Malta and Devon. Malta was one of Raymond's favourite destinations. On one occasion in Malta, unfortunately Raymond, being Raymond, lost the holiday camera but they had fond memories of the places they visited.

Raymond and his family have been members of this parish since the 1980's; first as members of the congregation, then Raymond joined the choir and later became choir master. Raymond also helped out at Tardebigge First School where he was a governor for many years along with reading to the children and helping out with R.E. lessons.

During his time at the church, Raymond was secretary to the Church of England Children's Society. But his proudest moment was when he became a reader for Tardebigge and conducted services in the local area.

This eulogy has been short and sweet, however I am sure after all of the happy years Raymond has been part of this church, we all have fond memories of him that can fill the gaps. Memories we will always cherish and will last for a lifetime.

**As Raymond used to say, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." XXX**

**The Family**

## **Bentley Pauncefoot WI**

### **.....Signs of Spring?**

Recently I visited Dunham Massey which belongs to the National Trust. As I wandered round the gardens admiring the snowdrops, I felt that Spring was on the way. For many Spring is regarded as a time for renewal and Spring cleaning. Personally, I am a little ambivalent about cleaning and housework. My natural sympathies tend towards Emma Bombeck's stance: "My theory on housework is, if the item doesn't multiply, smell, catch fire or block the refrigerator door, let it be. No one else cares. Why should you?". Phyllis Diller's sentiments that housework can't kill you, but why take a chance, also strike a chord. However, I don't think I would go as far as Quentin Crisp who maintained there is no need to do any housework at all because after the first four years the dirt doesn't get any worse.

Therefore, it was with interest that I attended Bentley's February meeting at which Peter Riley did a presentation on "The National Trust – Housekeeping and Conservation". He began by outlining the problems and causes of damage in National trust properties before describing the preventative measures employed by the Trust. He showed some fascinating images by way of illustration. He demonstrated how light had faded fabrics, wallpaper, woodwork and pictures and how damp walls had led to mould on maps and pictures and cracked lacquer on priceless cabinets. Peter also explained that visitors to the properties often contributed to the problem because of wear and tear. Carpets and floors get damaged by footfall. Damage is created by fingers; for example a curtain at Shugborough was shredded because so many people had touched it. A chair edge suffered just because so many people's coats brushed against it in passing. Harmful pests also create a lot of problems.

The last cause of damage, however, almost vindicated the opinions articulated earlier in this piece. Apparently too much dusting and inappropriate cleaning cause harm. Who knew? Peter then gave us some insight into the Trust's housekeeping and conservation practices, some of which could be used in a domestic setting.

At the end of the meeting, Peter judged the competition which was the best housekeeping tip. The final irony was that I won (rub a stained chopping board with half a lemon to clean it) and the prize was a pack of dusters!!

**Lynne Reading**

# Registers

## Baptisms

February 4 Charlotte Dorothy Rae SOUTHAM



## Funerals

February 8 Raymond Reginald HOPKINS

February 19 Thomas William STOKES

February 20 Yvonne Marie WREST



### Sidesmens' Rota

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

### Flowers

Lent (no flowers)

Lent (no flowers)

Lent (no flowers)

Lent (no flowers)

★ HAPPY ★  
BIRTHDAY!

March 22	Elizabeth Price
March 23	Dudley Fowkes
March 24	Pat Hopkins
March 29	Jemma West



March 11 Maureen and  
David Stubbings



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## Webheath Digital Photography Club

Our year started with our AGM, the election of Officers and Committee members. This was followed by a very fine buffet provided by Mrs and Mr Tattersall.

On 15 January we had a Technical Night in which Members tried their hand at various ways of working with lighting and apertures. Some strange bokeh effects were obtained. In another area the effects of polarising and neutral density filters was explored with reflections and light meters.

The next week we had a return visit by the local representative of Longridge who showed us some more advanced uses of their mounting cutting equipment. We must try the Club's equipment out and not just admire it before our prints competition in April!

The meeting on the last Monday of the month was our first Assignment of the year with "Large/small or Red" being the themes. Steve Crockett thought an Airbus 380 taking off at Birmingham was quite big enough while for "Small" Ellie Kerans saw the point of some coloured pencils.



Our annual contest with Kempsey Camera Club was on 5 February. This was a good night with many Kempsey supporters. Many images gained high marks, a reflection of the quality, but sadly, despite our best efforts, judge Alan Lawrence felt that Kempsey had the edge by 407 points to 399.



Graham Bastock was our top scorer with 20 points for his atmospheric and finely focused night shot of “Big Ben”.



Our first speaker of the year Roger Parry, helped by his wife Judith, expanded on their topic “Using the Light”. They took us through using light in landscapes, either in the foreground or the background, to give depth, their secrets of studio lighting to achieve delicate shading in studio work and making windows part of the image in location photography. An excellent evening.

March’s programme starts on the 5th with a Club Knockout Competition. This is a bit of fun, despite the progressive difficulty in each round of deciding which image must be eliminated. A week later we have another Technical Night and on Tuesday 13th we have another inter-club contest – this time away against Solihull Photographic Society. Last year we won and hope to repeat this but this time away from home. On March 19 Darren Leeson will be our speaker. His topic is “Street Photography”, the subject of our June Assignment. March’s Assignment on 26th is “Light or Shadows”.

The Webheath Village Hall, on Mondays at 7:30, is our usual venue. 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. Our Club website is [webheathdpc.com](http://webheathdpc.com) where you can find details, such as how to contact us, our 2018 programme and more. We also show a selection of images by our Members in the Gallery. You can also find us on Facebook.

P. Dewell March 2018



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**Letter from the  
Bishop of Dudley  
The Rt. Revd Graham Usher**

**God's work**

Have you noticed that when you turn the pages of scripture people are often described by the job they do? Abraham was a herdsman, Noah was a farmer, David was a shepherd, the first disciples of Jesus were commercial fishermen, Matthew was a tax collector and Lydia was a merchant. Amongst other occupations, we meet doctors, tent-makers, perfumers, cooks, domestic servants, millers, sailors, prostitutes, shop keepers and builders. Jesus, who grew up in and around the family carpentry business, kept speaking of the world of work in his parables - farmers sowing seeds, women making bread or cleaning the house, and labourers in the vineyard. Work is all around.

In January I attended an event celebrating the 350th anniversary of Old Swinford Hospital School in Stourbridge. The guest speaker was the Bank of England's Chief Economist, Andrew Haldane, and he explored the rise of the robots and what this would mean for the future of work. Apparently further advances in computers may well mean that we don't need 95% of today's accountants, but teachers are harder to replace; we'll perhaps only lose 1% of them! I failed to ask for his prediction about clergy!

Andrew Haldane was clear that we can trace major changes and trends in the job market back to the industrial revolution. Innovation and ideas have kept changing the need for different jobs and this will continue. He suggested that our challenge for the future of work is to be one step ahead of the machines by preparing people to work in areas that machines will find it hard to replicate. This means that creativity and the ability to think outside the box, as well as emotional intelligence and social skills, will all have a key place in the world of work.

It strikes me that the journey of Christian discipleship equips people very well in many of these future areas. In following God we are drawn into being co-workers for his Kingdom. God is always opening us up to the possibility of seeing things in his way, not following the crowd, but being open to new ideas and seeking to mend the world. Prayer draws us into the slip-stream of God's wonder and transformation, seeing the needs of our neighbours and those the world wishes to leave behind. And our churches are social places where generations mix and learn together.

Jesus compared the work of building his Kingdom to the manual labour of those working in the fields, to the fishermen out all night and to the ownership of a vineyard. The workers bring in their offering of grain and fish and grapes to create a feast. As we prepare for Holy Communion we offer the work of human hands, taking kneaded and baked bread, and squeezed and fermented grape juice, together with our whole selves, our work, our joys, our sadness and struggles. We offer back to God in thanksgiving for what we receive. This is what St Benedict called opus Dei, the work of God, to which we are all called to contribute.

**Bishop Graham**

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

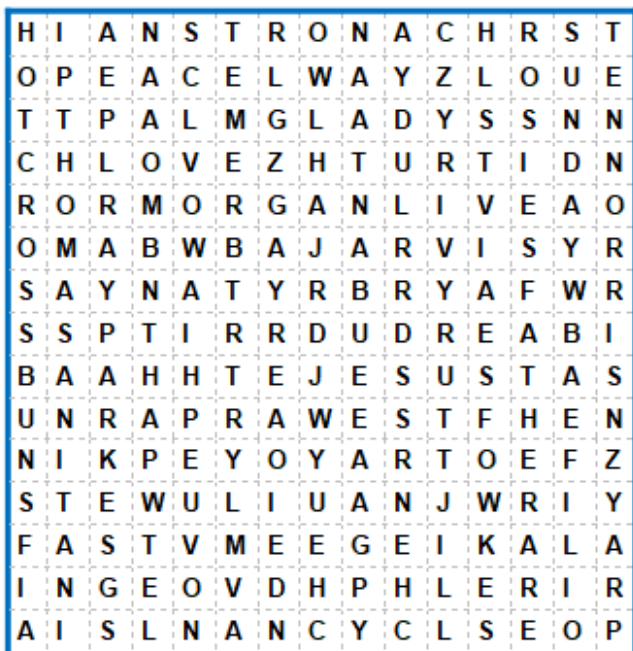
Solution next month

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

Last month's solution

# Word Search

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You Know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, " Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me' **John 14: 1-6**



**TRUST            JESUS            THOMAS**  
**WAY             TRUTH            LIFE**  
**ANSWERED    THROUGH        FATHER**

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

J.E.H.



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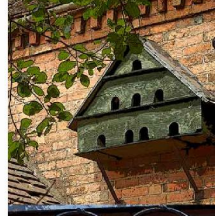
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