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Tardebigge and Bentley Parish Magazine



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December 2019 & January 2020 - £1



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Church Services

Sunday 1st December (Advent)

11.00am **Traditional Holy Communion Gift Service with Sunday Funday**
donations of new toys gratefully received for distribution by the Salvation Army
6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 8th December (Advent 2)

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am **Café Church** in the *Church Hall*
11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer
6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 15th December (Advent 3)

9.30am **Carol Service at St. Mary's**
11.00am Family Service
6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 22nd December (Advent 4)

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am **Worship For ALL**
6.00pm Carols by Candlelight



Christmas Eve

4.00pm **Family Christingle with Carols**
10.00pm Late Night Communion (1662)



Christmas Day

11.00am Family Communion



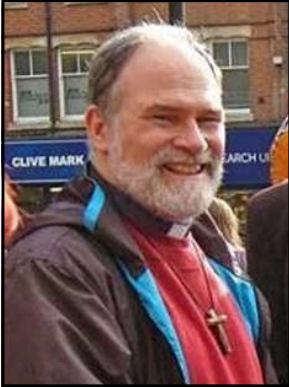
Sunday 29th December (Christmas 1)

11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer

December



From Richard, the Team Rector



Christmastime coincides with the shortest days and is followed by the enthusiastic celebration of the New Year. We used to prepare for Christmas with a devotional time, Advent, and then celebrate Christmas for twelve days from 25th December, leading up to Epiphany on 6th January. Nowadays we've pretty much had enough of Christmas by December 27th, having been to preparations or celebrations of one kind or another since the middle of November. Most of us, however, we still have the energy (and the cash) to let our hair down on December 31st. Many thousands flock to Princes Street in Edinburgh, or the Embankment in London near the Eye, to be ready to rejoice with

hope at the opportunity provided by the next twelve months. We make resolutions about the future, we hug loved ones, we may dance and sing, especially holding hands while giving vent to "Auld Lang Syne". The calendar clicks forward, and we will be in the Twenty Twenties for the first time. Now what?

Some of us will use the New Year to lose weight, to try a new hobby or class, some of us will do nothing new except struggle to make 2019 look like 2020 without ruining the form we wrote it on by mistake!

Some people get depressed around Christmas and New Year and, in the cold, dark days, wonder whether it is all worth it. Is there something left to live for?

In Christianity, life is not so much a right as a gift. We do not deserve life any more than anyone else, especially as many of our ancestors have had, and many people around the world today will have, a short, brutish and painful existence. Most of those who read this article will have been given so much more than that, which is easy to forget when we feel bad about life. God has given life as a gift to us, one to be thankful for every day. But what is it for?



This life on earth was supposed to be the beginning of something greater, not an end in itself. As a society we tend to think of this life as the be-all and end-all, although some people might begin to think about a hereafter as their life draws near its end. God, however, intends this life to be a place of choice and encounter. It is here that we choose whether to follow God, or not; it is here where we choose whether to welcome his son, Jesus. This life is the place where we have the privilege and opportunity to serve the creator of the Universe, the king of kings, and to begin to encounter something of his presence and appreciate him for who he is. It is through surrendering our life to Jesus and choosing to go his way and not our own way that our life is given meaning and purpose, with a depth and quality that can be achieved in no other way. God is love, which means he will not force us; the decision is up to us.

Richard

Verse for the Month

**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,
And he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever;
His kingdom will never end.**

Luke 1: 32 - 33



Wardens' World

December 2019

Another year in Tardebigge parish draws to a close, and once again your churchwardens wonder where the time between Epiphany and Advent disappeared to! As we set up the Advent Wreath once again to welcome in the Christmas season, we look forward to the joy of giving and receiving gifts, to time with family and friends, and to some of the most enjoyable and atmospheric services that St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's can offer! We



hope that this year we may be spared the heavy snow and cold weather we have seen in previous years, and which made keeping the services and performances going such a challenge!

Although a lot of work to set up, the Christmas services are the most rewarding for your wardens, with full churches, great atmosphere and rousing music. They also provide a great opportunity for everyone to try lending a hand and joining in the community spirit, with plenty of jobs where every bit of assistance is invaluable, whether decorating the church with flowers and greenery, welcoming people to the churches and lighting hundreds of candles, or just giving a lift to a friend or neighbour who has difficulty getting to church at this important time. If you can spare any time over the holiday season, and want to know how you can assist, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.



We hope you have already found the parish Christmas Card dropping through your letterbox – if not, here are all the festive services available to you:

Sunday 1st December

11.00am - **Gift Service** – where we donate toys and gifts for distribution by the Salvation Army (a Holy Communion with Sunday Funday for children)

Sunday 15th December

9.30am - **Carol Service** at St. Mary's, Lower Bentley – your favourite carols plus mulled wine!



Sunday 22nd December

6.00 pm - **Carols by Candlelight** at St. Bartholomew's – our stunning candlelit Christmas carol service; come early, as the church is usually full!

Christmas Eve

4.00pm - **Family Christingle** with Carols – another packed service!
10.00pm - Late Night Communion (1662)

Christmas Day

11.00am - **Family Communion**

For Chris, this year has a special importance, as it may be his last at Tardebigge, with an impending move to Herefordshire. With his key roles as Treasurer and Churchwarden now up for grabs, why not make this Christmas the time you find out how the churches run and what their maintenance involves, or make a New Year's resolution to join in and help preserve these beautiful places and over a thousand years of tradition?!

Everyone is assured of a warm welcome at any of the festival services this year in Tardebigge and Bentley, and we look forward to seeing you there. We wish you, and all your families and friends, a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year 2020!

Chris and Jane

Tuesday 7th January 2020 from 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Future Services: An important meeting in the Church Hall

On most Sundays at Tardebigge there is a wide variety of services; this is becoming difficult to sustain.

ANYONE who attends **any** style of service at Tardebigge or Bentley is invited to join the PCC to discuss the stripping-down of the service list and any other suggestions regarding worship.

Please come along, your opinion is important.

Vivien Mackenzie

PCC Secretary

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sarah Carless (07789 174099)
Email sarah@doff.org.uk

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for those affected by sexual abuse

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- Listen to you sensitively, help you share your experience and take what you say seriously
- Guide you to find further help, for example, if you feel you need professional counselling
- Inform you about how to raise concerns about the abuse, if you choose to do so
- Maintain confidentiality except, of course, where this is restricted by the requirements of the law

I will listen - you will be heard

What is meant by 'confidentiality'?

- Confidentiality and secrecy do not mean the same thing
- Confidentiality is of the highest importance but it cannot be absolute in every circumstance
- Some agreed factual information that the meeting has occurred will be recorded and held securely and confidentially
- Any revelation that raises the concern of the listener, that the person being listened to has abused or is a potential abuser, must be referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser in line with national policy and our legal obligations

Listening Service

For further information on our Listening Service please
contact Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Hilary Higton
T: 07495 060869 E: hhigton@cofe-worcester.org.uk
www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

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THE CHURCH
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Church Services

Sunday 5th January (Epiphany)

11.00am Family Communion

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 12th January (Baptism of Christ)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am **Café Church** in the *Church Hall*

11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 19th January (Epiphany 2)

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

11.00am Family Service

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 26th January (Epiphany 3)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am **Worship For ALL**

11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 2nd February (Presentation of Christ)

11.00am Traditional Holy Communion with Sunday Funday

6.00pm Evensong





Welcome!

TabbyCats Pet Hotel is a licensed family run boarding establishment designed and built around the security, comfort and needs of its feline only guests . . . home from home

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and
4.30pm to 5.30pm

Except
Thursday & Sunday
9.30am to 12 Noon



'Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.' Matthew 13: v 32

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PIPS

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For 3-7 year olds

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3.45pm - 4.40pm

Starting with a drink and a biscuit!



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Contact Rev. Richard Clark (07970 823462) email: trhtredditch@gmail.com



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at St. Philip's Church, Webheath



Thursday mornings 9.30am-11.30am

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

Evensong



From the Book of Common Prayer
On 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sunday at 6pm

St. Bartholomew's Church,
Tardebigge



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There is nothing that settles the spirit
like worship and word in the calm,
traditional setting of a country church

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£10 collected or hand delivered; £16 by post.

Payments can be made pay by cheque (*made payable to Tardebigge PCC*), cash or via BACS (*quoting MAGA & your surname as the reference please*)

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For enquiries contact Jane Hall
(contact details inside back cover)

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

February Magazine

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

contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk by FRIDAY 17th January

Church Legacy

A lasting gift to Tardebigge Parish



'And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.'

1 Corinthians 13: 13



'Where your treasure is, there your heart
will be also. Luke 12: 34

A lasting gift to St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's

Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you have the opportunity to make a lasting gift to God, by leaving a legacy to His church. A gift in your Will to the church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support its mission and ministry in the community.

A gift can be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, and can help keep the parish and transform its future. We would be most grateful to receive:

- Legacies which can be used for the general purposes of Tardebigge Parish.
- Legacies specifically for mission and children's work.

N.B. If legacies are restricted, the money cannot be used for anything other than that specified.



 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

www.churchlegacy.org.uk



If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about setting up a legacy for Tardebigge, please contact one of the Church Wardens.

Alternatively you can contact the National Legacy Officer,
at the Church of England on 08445 870875

News from School

The Autumn term, especially after the October half term, is probably our busiest as we prepare for and rehearse our Christmas plays.

All our plays are held in church. Our Reception children's play is the first of our performances and is on Thursday 5th December, at 9.30am. Key Stage 1's play (Years 1 & 2) is on Tuesday 10th December, at 9.30am, and our evening play performed by our oldest children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) starts at 6.30pm on Thursday 12th December. Thanks go to our staff and pupils who work really hard to make these plays successful.



Friends of Tardebigge School (F.O.T.S.) have also been working hard by preparing for our Christmas Fayre to be held in school on Saturday 7th December 11.00am - 2.00pm. This is a great community event with a variety of stalls for all the family. A visit to Santa's grotto is a must.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

J.E.H

Contact details:

Telephone: 01527 872886

Email: office@tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Website: www.tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Julie Cutler



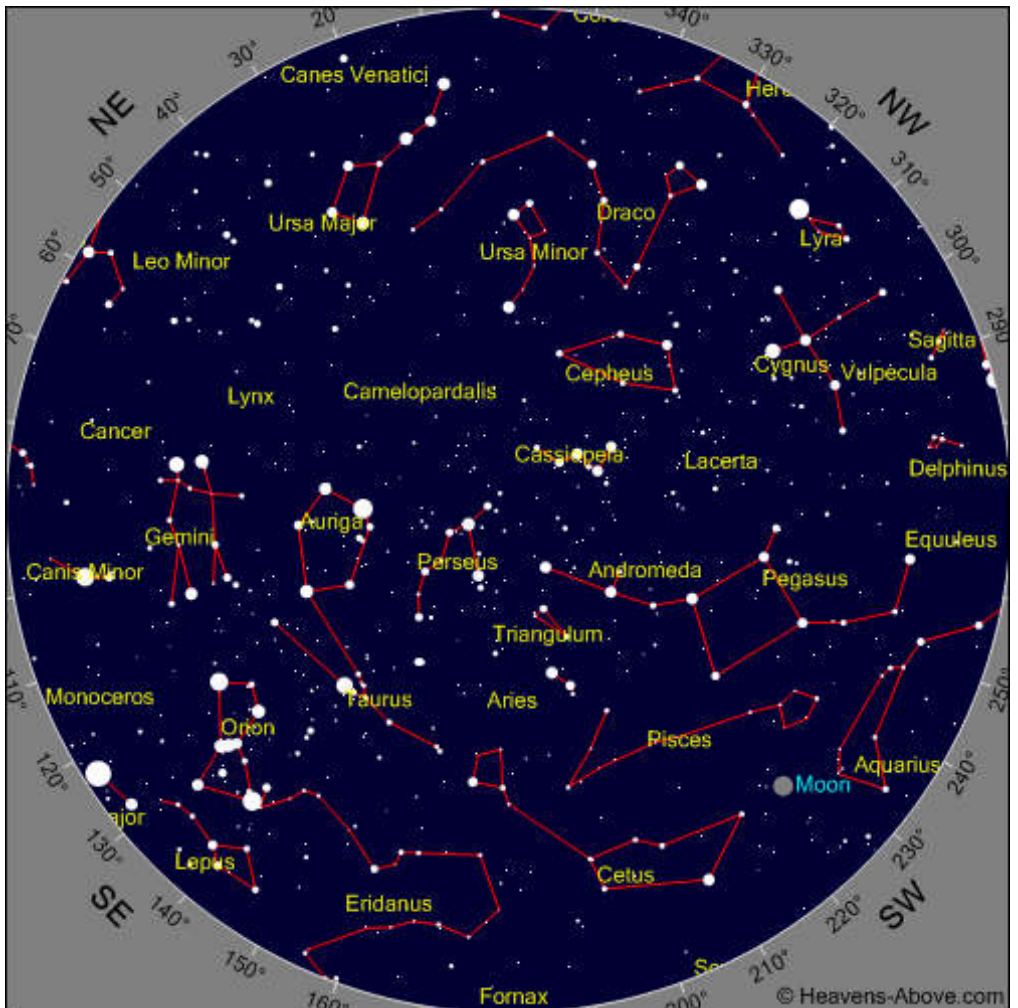
Celestial Corner

Here we are in the middle of winter with its dreary weather and short days, but every cloud has a silver lining, so the sky tries to cheer us up with the bright constellations of Orion and his friends. Unfortunately the three naked eye outer planets, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are all swanning around in mainly summer constellations this year and Venus is low in the southwest, setting at around 6pm and will not be easier to see until end of January/early February as it moves further away from the sun in the sky. But because of the time of year, when the sun is climbing the ecliptic, it will never get very high in the evening sky before it overtakes us and becomes a morning object.

I have given the map for 8pm on Jan 1st as that is midway through the period covered by this magazine so you must remember that the sky will be like the map at 10pm on 1st December and at 6pm at the end of January as the stars rise two hours earlier each month!

Looking south the sky seems fairly bare with few bright stars to help us out. Eridanus (the river) is very hard to pick out from this country, as is Cetus the whale, although here we have a couple of brightish stars to help us, the one between Eridanus and Pisces marking the tail and the other marking the whales' chest. Even so, as with Aquarius and Pisces, Cetus and Eridanus are very ill defined. How ever as we look higher we come to Aries (the ram) and Triangulum, with Andromeda and Pegasus towards the west. Still a good time to look for our sister galaxy M31 (roughly where the "r" of Andromeda is on the map!). High in the south, between Andromeda and Taurus is Perseus, with Algol (the demon star) just below the letter "u". If the sky is clear, look to see if Algol is as bright as the nearest star of Andromeda, if it isn't it is having a "wink", hence it's common name of "the winking demon". Look eastwards and we come to our friend Orion and his companions, the last of which, Canis Major (the large dog) with the bright star Sirius just rising in the south-east. On the map you will see that Orion has three stars close together, just below his name and below them is marked what looks like a bright star. Actually that star is not all that bright and not even a star! Find it in the sky and you will see it seems out of focus, fuzzy. That is because it is M42 and it's small companion, M43. They are nebulae and of the type where new stars are formed. M42 contains four new stars known as the trapezium. It is their radiation of light and heat that makes M42 stand out so. Orion is not the only constellation with a nebula. Monoceros contains the "Rosette" nebula and Taurus has M1, the crab nebula. Both of these are not visible with the unaided eye. M1 is notable for being the remnants of a star that exploded into a Super Nova as it came to the end of it's life and blew off the remains of it's Hydrogen fuel out into space. The event was observed by Chinese astronomers in 1054!

Between 7th and 15th December the Earth passes through a trail of debris from minor planet 3200, Phaerthon, producing the Geminid meteor shower. Geminids are moderately fast and don't leave a train. The maximum activity occurs on 13th December when up to 100 meteors an hour can be seen from a dark place. All Geminids can be traced back to a point in the constellation of Gemini, hence their name. So if you can't trace it's path back to Gemini, the meteor is a "sporadic" and not one of the shower. Unfortunately, this year there is a big bright thing called the moon in Gemini on the 13th so the chances of seeing many are slim to say the least as the moon will be only a day or two past full and so moonlight is going to mess things up rather! Still, cheer up, there will be only eleven days to go and we can all eat and drink too much and loll about in front of the tv in the warm! Merry Christmas!



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 janeehall73@gmail.com



New members always welcome!

Jane Hall

On Thursday 21st November we held our annual Christmas pudding making evening.



Seventeen of us enjoyed the session and special thanks go to Lucy for co-ordinating the evening, which is a huge task with the shopping, weighing and measuring out all the ingredients in advance to ensure the evening runs smoothly.

We all took them home for steaming and we hope they'll taste yummy.

The Collect for Stir Up Sunday

(the Sunday before Advent)

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



The Evergreens

Evergreens is a group that meets in the afternoon several times a year and is open to all people, though it tends to be those who are retired who come along.

If you need further information please ring either
Vivien Mackenzie (0121 445 1245) or Mary Watkins (0121 445 3075).



Come and join the Evergreens for
the 3 Cs -

**Coffee, Cake (homemade) and a
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in the Church Hall on Monday 17th February,
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Coffee and Cake £2

Raffle

ALL are welcome

Need a lift? Please contact Vivien (0121 445 1245)

December 1977

Vicar: Rev. David Copley; **Reader:** Mr Peter Frowley

Church Wardens: Mr J D H Hedley and Mr F H Gateley

PCC Secretary: Mr H G Kidwell **PCC Treasurer:** Mr E V Sadler

* * *

Redditch Industrial Chaplaincy Notes

Thinking about Freedom.....

Our Industrial Mission Team is trying to do some study of the word 'freedom', mainly because you can't seem to get away from it these days. Everyone is talking about it, whether it be in pop music lyrics, or in the continuing debate about the 'closed shop', or in adverts (one sports car dealer's slogan is 'we sell freedom') or in the call for *free* collective bargaining, or in the right of management to be *free* to manage. Whatever it is, we are all after it, or ought to be, so we're told. We now even have a National Association for Freedom!

I heard an Oxford Theologian recently treating it with great care. He said that he thought it had become a very negative idea. It seems always a question of being 'free from' something or other. Now in the Bible it's a fairly positive word: free from one thing for another. The Israelites were freed from Egypt in order to become the Covenant people of God, and the books of the Law, and the constitution of the nation expressed in pretty tough terms what this freedom was all about. In the New Testament Christ's people are 'brought into the glorious liberty of the sons of God', or as another writer expressed it, 'they exchange one form of slavery for another', the latter being different because it is within the framework of love. But it's not just freedom for freedom's sake.

It's salutary to set those kind of thoughts alongside our contemporary situation. We are members one of another, and the sharp end of the economics of every day life underline this: no bread in the shops, rising coffee and tea prices, Japanese goods at prices we often cannot compete with, a world slump in steel demand etc etc. Furthermore, if we believe that the galloping growth of the sixties is not going to return, then we shall see the things we count as past of 'freedom' being eroded still further. We have come to believe that economic growth is a necessary part of freedom, because growth carries with it the room to manoeuvre, to shape our own destiny. But when there is no growth, what then? I'm not sure if I believe in freedom. But I do believe in love.

John Gathercole



December Thoughts

December, month of the dying year

When the countryside, asleep,

Seems to wait in quiet expectancy

A Festival to keep,

In the town is noise and bustle,

Folk rushing to and fro

Whilst only Brer Fox will disturb the quiet fields

As about his haunts he'll go.

Within the farmyard kitchen

Are Yuletide treats galore,

The puddings are made, the cake is iced

And there are mince pies by the score,

The Christmas cards are on display

The Tree is sparkling bright

As the voices of the Christmas bells

Ring out across the night.

The bells proclaim a Baby's birth

To all who care to hear,

The children, like the shepherds, come,

To the manger they draw near,

With an excitement you can almost touch

They glimpse the Christ Child in the hay

And experience the magic

That only comes on Christmas Day.

L M Wadlow

A blog from Martin Gorick, the next Bishop of Dudley



Martin Gorick, currently Archdeacon and Residentiary Canon in the Diocese of Oxford has been announced as the next Bishop of Dudley, returning to the Black Country where he was once Vicar of Smethwick. Here he talks about his hopes and plans for his new role.

“I’m delighted to be coming to this great diocese and to join with God’s people as together we seek to live lives of love, compassion, justice and freedom. We’ve got challenging times ahead, both as a diocese and in our communities, but the Church has a real role to play in bringing people together and I’m looking forward to working with Bishop John and others to understand our priorities going forward and how we can best achieve this.

“As Bishop of Dudley I want to inhabit the diocesan Kingdom People values. I hope to be a leader in mission whilst encouraging every member of our congregations across Worcestershire and Dudley to live out our common faith in Jesus – not just in church, but at home, and work, at school and everywhere in between. I’ve always enjoyed the Church of England’s connections with people and places outside the church, and in Oxford I oversee and supports the work of over 100 chaplains in prisons, schools, colleges, military bases and hospitals.

“I have spent over 24 years in parish ministry and treasure the calling of the Church of England to be there for everyone. Parish clergy have the cure of souls for all in their parish – not just those who choose to come to church. I’ve been a vicar of an inner urban parish as well as of churches in market towns and rural villages. I do understand the challenges and the joys of parish ministry and, as a bishop, I hope to be an effective servant of the servants of God in all our parishes.

“Over the last six years I have held strategic responsibility for growing new congregations of all shapes and sizes across the three counties that make up the Diocese of Oxford, overseeing an ambitious £5million SDF bid to enable church revitalisation and planting, fresh expressions of church and pioneering ministry in major new housing areas. I look forward to bringing some of that experience to bear in the Diocese of Worcester too. During my first year, my personal priorities will be to listen, learn, love and when appropriate, to lead. I look forward to visiting every deanery, to listen to churches and communities, to learn how I can best make a difference, to share in the love of God and of neighbour and to discover what kind of leadership you most need from a Bishop of Dudley at this time. I look forward to meeting Rural

Deans and Lay Chairs, clergy and laity and seeing something of the life and witness of the Church in the Diocese.

“In the Borough of Dudley, I’m looking forward to working not only with clergy and people of the churches, but also getting to know the other faith and community leaders to see how we can best work together for the common good. I have had longstanding experience of interfaith work – as a student I formed a study group for Hindu-Christian dialogue and travelled in India. I have studied at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and at a practical level engaged extensively with the Muslim and Sikh communities while I was Vicar of Smethwick and also when serving in Coventry Diocese and currently in Oxford where I am the Diocesan Interfaith Adviser. I was pleased to see the Mayor of the West Midlands recently recognising the value of the faith communities across Birmingham and the Black Country and it will be crucial that we all work together in the years ahead for the good of every citizen.”

Martin will be consecrated as a Bishop on 28 January and will start work in the Diocese at the end of February. He is married to Katharine, who is County Lead for Visual Impairment in Oxfordshire and they have three grown up children. In his spare time Martin enjoys walking, gardening, travelling, birdwatching and wildlife generally – he is also a fan of all sport, especially football and supports Liverpool and Notts County.



Christmas Tree Festival

*St Stephen's Church
Church Green
Redditch*

23 November 2019 ~ 24 December 2019

10:00 am - 4.00 pm Daily

Free Entry

***Raising money for good causes ~
use your donation to vote for your
favourite tree***



The History of Christingle



Last year was a very special one for Christingle as it was 50 years since the first Christingle service for The Children's Society was held in this country, at Lincoln Cathedral on 7th December 1968. Christingles themselves actually go back much further, and began in the Moravian Church in Germany. At a children's service in Marienborn in 1747, Bishop Johannes de Watteville

looked for a simple way to explain the happiness that had come to people through Jesus.

He decided to give the children a symbol to do this. In 1968, John Pensom of The Children's Society adapted Christingle and introduced it to the Church of England. This involved children decorating an orange with a red ribbon, dried fruits, sweets and a candle to create a new visual representation of Christ, the light of the world, celebrated by the lighting of the Christingle candles.

* * * * *

One of the Children's Society's supporters, Joanie Newell shares her recipe for marmalade, which she sells to raise funds for the organisation:

Marmalade Recipe

- 6 oranges (at least 2 Seville oranges)*
- 2 Lemons
- 2 pints of apple juice
- 4 pounds of sugar
- 2 packets of pectin

Cook on the hob for 30-40 minutes, stirring regularly

*Seville oranges give this marmalade a distinctive flavour. Seville oranges are only in the shops for the month of January. Joanie finds the oranges freeze well for six months and are much easier to cut finely when frozen. Just cut the fruit into four and slice all the fruit (not just the rind). When you cannot get Seville oranges, add another two lemons.

The Orange

represents the world.

The red ribbon

indicates God's love wrapped around the world and the blood Christ shed on the cross.

The dried fruit and sweets

are symbols of God's creations. For many people, they also represent the four seasons.

The lit candle

symbolises Jesus, the light of the world, who brings hope to people living in darkness.





Family Christingle with Carols
St. Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge
Christmas Eve at 4pm

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP!**

Christingle Making Workshop

Join us to make the
Christingles for our
Christmas Eve service

Who?

All ages welcome

Where?

Tardebigge Church Hall

When?

Monday 23 December
10 am til 12 pm

Further information

To find out more please contact Helen on 07920 514903
Find us on Instagram: @tardebiggechristingle

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**
Free hot drinks &
mince pies, plus
squash & biscuits for
our younger helpers!



Sidespersons Rota

1st December

11.00am - P Hopkins and V Richardson

6.00pm - P Hopkins

8th December

8.00am - D Hall

11.00am - D Stubbings and E Price

6.00pm - M Price

15th December

11.00am - L Parkes and J Oldaker

6.00pm - P Hopkins

22nd December

8.00am - G R Underhill

11.00am - V Mackenzie and P Hopkins

6.00pm - T Powell; J Hall; D Hall;

P Hopkins; V Richardson; M Price

Christmas Eve

4.00pm - V Richardson; J Oldaker;
J Hopkins; P Hopkins; J Hall; D Hall

10.00pm - D Stubbings; P Hopkins

Christmas Day

11.00am - P Hopkins; J Hall

29th December

11.00am L Parkes; P Hopkins

Flower Rota



1st December

Advent (no flowers)

8th December

Advent (no flowers)

15th December

Advent (no flowers)

22nd December

Christmas - team

29th December

Lucy Parkes

5th January

Sheelagh Keen

12th January

Doreen Underhill

19th January

Jane Oldaker

26th January

Angela Rigby

Sidespersons Rota

5th January

11.00am - P Hopkins and V Richardson

6.00pm - P Hopkins

12th January

8.00am - D Hall

11.00am - D Stubbings and E Price

6.00pm - M Price

19th January

11.00am - L Parkes and J Oldaker

6.00pm - P Hopkins

26th January

8.00am - G R Underhill

11.00am - V Mackenzie and P Hopkins

6.00pm - T Powell



10th December

Jane Hall

12th December

Guy Milton

13th December

Tim Powell

25th December

Fred Shrimpton

5th January

Joanne Stephens

6th January

Jane Oldaker

13th January

Norita Young

22nd January

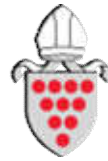
Roger Powell

Anagrams: Popular TV Programmes

(the number of words is in brackets)

1. Dress Teena (1)
2. Fathomed yacht (4)
3. Ante Citroen roost (2)
4. Forgoes anthem (3)
5. Rammed eel (1)
6. Nylons or falsehoods (4)
7. Now nut cod (1)
8. Elephant art (2)
9. Stow warty elf (2)
10. Unity floe (3)
11. Oh bite breakfaster fight (5)
12. Indict Scot clergyman (3)
13. Down squashier oat (2)
14. Mind actor (2)
15. Inflow order (3)





THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

A Letter from the Dean of Worcester

In many churches and cathedrals, people are invited to light candles and to write down their prayers. Often children do this, and often they are thoughtful and thought-provoking. Here is one I read some time ago. It simply said, "Dear God, everyone misses you".

Now I don't know what passed through that child's mind as he or she wrote those words. Were they just the sort of words you write on a holiday postcard to a much-loved grandparent, or on a get-well card to a poorly aunt: an affectionate phrase that seemed the right sort of message to send to God? Or was there more to it than that? Whatever that child had in mind, I think those words bear thinking about. "Dear God, everyone misses you".

The Christmas story is the story of the God who is missed. For centuries, the prophets had foretold the coming of the Saviour, but when he came how few noticed it! How many doors were closed against him? Our failure to recognise the Christ when he comes is a theme that runs through the gospels, in the stories of his infancy, his ministry, his suffering and death, and his resurrection. Everyone, or almost everyone, "misses God".

But the words have another way of being read. "Everyone misses you": that is, everyone would love you to be here, everyone longs for you; there is in every human heart a deep yearning for God, a desire for the meaning and purpose and peace of mind that God alone can give. "Everyone misses you".

And the message of Christmas is that God acted decisively to meet this human need for him. God has drawn near, God has made his home with us: "the Word", says St John, "was made flesh and dwelt among us". The God whom all the ages have longed for has come to us at last. And the message of Christmas, and of Christianity, is not of the rumour of some far distant God, but of God who has made himself one with us: in the person of his blessed Son he has shared our birth, and our life, and our death; and in his resurrection he points us to the life which lies beyond this life and lifts us into the gracious presence of the Father. "Dear God, everyone misses you". "Dear child", says God, "but you have come home to me and I have come home to you".

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee
Born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

The Very Revd Peter Atkinson

Dean of Worcester



The Alpha Course will be running early in 2020.
Look out for further information or ask at church to
find out more!

Coming soon...

www.holytrinityredditch.org.uk

Two adult Alpha Courses will start in January 2020

Wednesdays 10.00am - 12.00noon (starts 15th January)

Canon Newton House (Kingfisher Centre, Redditch)

Thursdays 7.00pm - 9.00pm (starts 16th January)

Willow Trees Community Centre (Church Hill)

**Registers in
November**

Burial of Ashes



7th November
Margaret OSELAND

8th November
Andrew Duncan SOUTHAN

**Baptisms
at St. Mary's**



3rd November
Theo George HARRIS

17th November
Jaxson James Joseph MERCHANT

**Baptism
at St. Bartholomew's**



10th November
Verity Rose BROWNING

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Email: contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk



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Tardebigge Community's Christmas tree will be on display in the cloister

Help the Homeless this Christmas.

Christmas is coming and that is a time of year that most of us look forward to. Its an opportunity to have a few days off from work and to spend time with friends, family and loved ones. And then of course there is the Christmas atmosphere of street markets, mulled wine and perhaps some retail therapy!



But for some in our society, Christmas is just a constant and relentless reminder of what they have not got or did have but have lost in their lives.

Imagine being a homeless person sleeping in a door way in Worcester. The shops are full of Christmas gifts you can't afford, the streets are full of people shopping for things they don't need, but you don't have the money to buy a hot drink. Everyone is looking forward to the big day when they will eat and drink too much in the warmth and comfort of their own home, but you have no home, not enough to eat, and you will be sleeping outdoors in a shop doorway.

Most homeless people are in that position through no fault of their own – money problems, loss of private tenancy, changes in the benefit system, health issues and relationship breakdown can all lead to people living on the streets.

A study last year estimated that 6,000 ex forces veterans were among those living on the streets, men and women who have served their country but been unable to adapt back to mainstream society. About 25% of ex-service people end up on the street

Christmas is a time to be generous, not just to our friends and family, but also to those who are less well off than ourselves. This is a key part of many teachings, to love others as we love ourselves.

What can we do? How can we help?

It's actually very easy to help the homeless this Christmas and there are a number of ways that you can do it. Maggs Day Centre is a charity based in Worcester which tries to help the most marginalised people in our society. There are a number of ways in which you can help Maggs to help the homeless.

Donate money – Maggs is mostly funded from donations from members of the public and uses these donations to provide services to rough sleepers and those in need;

Donate clothes – Maggs runs a clothing store for rough sleepers and is always in need of donations – clothes, shoes and sleeping bags in good condition;

Donate your time - The Day Centre is largely run by volunteers, and Maggs currently has around 40 volunteers and is always looking for more. Just a few hours of your time every week could make all the difference to homeless people in Worcestershire.

What does Maggs do?

The main focus of Maggs' work is the Day Centre, based in a former 14th century chapel in the heart of Worcester, which provides food for street sleepers 5 days a week. The Day Centre also provides showers for rough sleepers to use and there is a clothing store where donated clothing is available free of charge to our service users.

The main objective of Maggs is not to simply provide support, but also to get people off the streets and into permanent homes. So Maggs workers help homeless people to access organisations like the local Council and the NHS to help find help that they need. Maggs Outreach workers go out onto the streets across the county to help homeless people.

Every day around 40 vulnerable people come to Maggs Day Centre for food, to use the showers or just to have a safe place to go. Maggs provides free activities, to encourage development and progression to by teaching life skills and building confidence. The sessions include art, cookery, creative writing, quiz, poetry and sewing.

Maggs is the **only** organisation in Worcestershire which provides these services to this client group.

The Next Step

Maggs needs your help to continue its good work. You can donate on line at our website where you can read more about our work - www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk/ or you can donate via cheque (Maggs Day Centre) and send to:
C/o Mel Kirk, Maggs Annexe, 59-60 The Tything, Worcester, WR1 1JT

We are always looking for volunteers to help out – to help in the kitchen at the Day Centre, or at the Clothing Store or if you have any other skill that may be of assistance to us. We are also looking for mentors and befrienders and we offer student placements. In the past we have taken students of criminology, mental health and occupational therapy.

If you would like to volunteer, have a look at the page on our website, www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk/volunteering

Or contact volunteer co-ordinator Val Turner by email - vturner@maggsdaycentre.co.uk
Or phone us on 01905 25027.



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Bentley Pauncefoot WI

Our November Meeting was a “game of two halves” to use a football expression. First, members were able to look at, and admire, the entries for Bentley Pauncefoot’s legendary Produce Show. Unfortunately, many Institutes are finding it difficult to stage such events, but Bentley’s, on the evidence of the 2019 Show, is flourishing. Part of this was due to the interesting and thought- provoking schedule produced by Lucy Potter. For example, as part of the Craft Section, members were challenged to produce a photograph in shades of one colour. There were many varied entries ranging from household, utensils, to plants and vegetables to seascapes and to landscapes. As the judge commented, there is a great deal of photography talent in the village. Another very worthwhile craft class was the creation of a twiddlemuff. These have proved to be soothing for dementia sufferers - restless hands can twiddle with the loops, buttons and varied attachments. The judge thought them spectacular and commented on the comfort they would give when donated. Lucy Potter triumphed in the Craft Section.



The five cookery classes were well supported with a coffee cake achieving a magnificent 20 out of 20 marks. Catherine Maund was the star baker and she



won the Baking Section. As far as Bentley is concerned jam and indeed chutney is still important! Lynne Reading was the overall winner of the Preserves Section. As for the overall winner of the Show VAR was unable to separate the contenders. Catherine Maund, Lucy Potter and Lynne Reading all shared the honour.

The second part of the evening consisted of the AGM. It is always good to take stock of the past year especially when it has been successful and fun. We enjoyed many interesting excursions, not to mention afternoon teas. The May Lunch was a happy convivial occasion. On a more serious note, we were pleased that we raised £150 for the Air Ambulance and £557 for The Basement Project. We have been fortunate to be led for the last few years by such an effective and practical President, Christine Badger. We were saddened that she has decided to retire as President; she will be hard act to follow. However, the future is secure. Monica Carden has stepped up to the plate and we know that she will be a safe pair of hands.

Lynne Reading
(01527 559 207).

Webheath Digital Photography Club

The evening of 14 October was an Assignment night with “Portraits or Brown” being the themes, portraits being allowed in the widest sense. Paul Widdowson showed “Julie” early in the evening – a nicely lit study. Alan Hitchcock thought that the ordinary brown of a chocolate bar could be livened up with a couple of chillies and called it “Hot Chocolate”.



A knock-out competition was the following week's subject. As usual the whittling down of the sixty four images by members' votes to the final two was an increasingly brutal affair! After a tied result the Chairman used his casting vote and selected Keith Waldron's high-key study "Chrysanthemum" as the worthy winner.

Once a year we have an evening when colleagues' images are subjected to critiques by a Club officer. This year "Monochrome or Leading Lines" was the Assignment for 28 October and the Treasurer's Challenge.

Ellie Kerans took up the challenge and reviewed our efforts. She finally selected as her strongest image David Woodhead's complex monochrome study of "Vertigo", taken in Montreal. Being a judge is itself something of a challenge.

The month ended at Stourbridge PS with a three-way "Match the Image" competition against them and Hagley, with judge Peter Gennard. This time WDPC won with fifteen points against fourteen each for Hagley and Stourbridge.



November began with an external speaker, Tony Beel, with some of his very fine large prints under the title “Me and my eye”. He favours high contrast in black and white, without losing detail in the shadows. Here he discusses the problems, and solutions, of lighting and colour when photographing in Iceland.

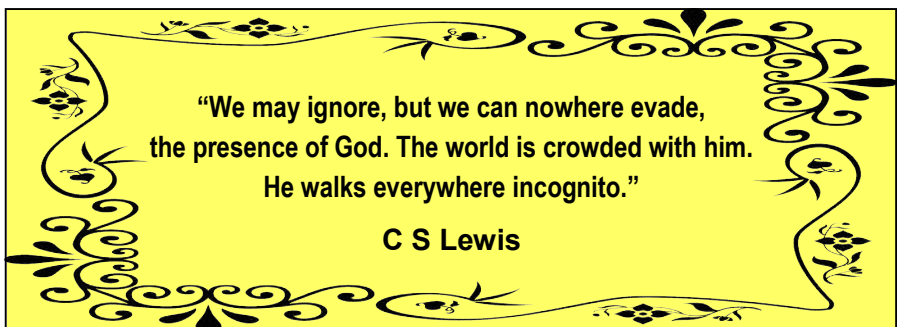
December meetings start on Monday 2nd with the annual competition to find the “Image of the Year”. Members submit their best work and the judge selects which he considers is the members’ finest image of the evening – and the year. The following week members will be showing which images have given them most pleasure or satisfaction over the year. This often throws up some surprise images not seen before so we’ll look out for “My Year in Six Images”. We then have a long Christmas break until the start of the New Year on 6 January when we have our AGM and after that a full programme for 2020.



The Village Hall, Webheath, is our usual venue on Monday evenings at 7:30, except Bank Holidays and through Christmas and the New Year. Anyone with an interest in digital photography is very welcome to come along to our regular meetings. The Club’s website is webheathdpc.com where you can find details, such as our programme and how to contact us. You can also find us on Facebook as Webheath Digital Photography Club and at www.instagram.com/WebheathDPC .

P. Dewell December 2019

* * * * *



Christmas Quiz

1. Which animals are named as having been at Jesus birth?
2. How many of the Four Gospels tell part of the story of Jesus birth?
3. According to Luke's Gospel, does everybody get peace on earth?
4. If Santa Claus is based on St Nicholas, what nationality is he?
5. Roy Wood sang "I wish it could be Christmas every day" If it was, how many hours of daylight would we get: a) twelve b) ten c) eight d) six?
6. Who produced an album in November entitled Jesus is King?
7. There were Magi who visited Jesus, who in Medieval tradition were called the Three Kings. What do the three kings represent?
8. Which Christmas animation features attempts to get a Christmas present to a girl in a Cornish village?
9. What is the link between the 1973 hit "Merry Xmas Everybody" and Ronnie Barker's character Fletcher in Porridge?
10. What is the link between Redditch, the surname Fletcher, and the planting of Yew trees in churchyards and elsewhere in the Middle Ages?
11. What name links the Christmas film "it's a Wonderful Life" with "Star Trek: The Next Generation"?
12. What happened to Alfie Moon, portrayed by Shane Ritchie, in Eastenders on Christmas Day 2018?
13. In which Christmas film, starring Michael Caine, does Gonzo play the part of a Victorian author?
14. Known as Christ's Thorn, which evergreen is also a popular girl's name, especially at Christmas?



15. Which saint and martyr is celebrated on the day after Christmas?
16. What is the top race held annually at Kempton Park on Boxing Day?
17. Where do the Royal Family usually spend Christmas and New Year?
18. Turkeys originally came from the USA; which monarch who had frequent relationship issues is thought to be the first to have sampled it at Christmas?
19. What is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with the celebration of the New Year in the Scottish manner?
20. Chilly Disney film sequel out now: Elsa, her sister and friends, seek the source of her power.



November Anagrams: Answers - Worcestershire Settlements

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Bromsgrove | 6. Feckenham | 11. Pershore |
| 2. Kidderminster | 7. Stourbridge | 12. Bewdley |
| 3. Evesham | 8. Tenbury Wells | 13. Worcester |
| 4. Broadway | 9. Malvern | 14. Tardebigge |
| 5. Stourport | 10. Droitwich | |

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Phone 0121 447 7040 or 07889 147861

Sudoku

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

Solution next month

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

Last month's solution

Word Search

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9: 6



WONDERFUL GIVEN SHOULDERS

CALLED COUNSELLOR MIGHTY

PEACE GOVERNMENT EVERLASTING

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

J.E.H.

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Church Hall Bookings	Angela Rigby	01527 872174
Community Hall	Lynn Denyer	07763 446902
Bentley Village Hall	June Brazier	01527 403950

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Incumbent/Team Rector: Rev. Richard Clark

The Vicarage, Webheath, Redditch B97 5PD

(01527 543967 & 07970 8234620 trhtredditch@gmail.com)

Rev. Paul Irving (Team Vicar, St. Leonard's, Beoley & Education) (01527 435683)

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