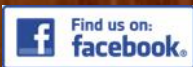


Tardebigge and Bentley Parish Magazine

www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk Email: contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk 'Christmas Tree 2017'



December 2018 & January 2019 - £1



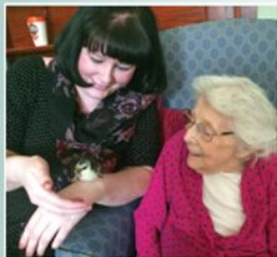
Grosvenor House is a detached Victorian property, nestled between the peaceful villages of Alvechurch and Barnt Green, and is home to 25 residents.

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

Services at Tardebigge and Lower Bentley December

Sunday 2nd December (Advent)

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

11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer

6.00pm Traditional Holy Communion

Sunday 9th December (Advent 2)

8.00am Holy Communion

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

11.00am **Family Gift Service*** at Tardebigge

**(Donations of new toys gratefully received to be donated to
The Salvation Army for distribution)*

6.00pm Evensong



Sunday 16th December (Advent 3)

11.00am Holy Communion with **Sunday Funday**

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 23rd December (Advent 4)

8.00am Holy Communion

(10.15am **Christingle Workshop** in the Church Hall with refreshments)

11.00am Traditional Holy Communion

6.00pm Carols by Candlelight



Christmas Eve

4.00pm **Family Christingle** with carols

10.00pm Late Night Traditional Holy Communion



Christmas Day

11.00am Holy Communion



Sunday 30th December (Christmas 1)

9.30am **Worship For ALL**

11.00am Traditional Holy Communion



December & January



From Richard, the Team Rector



This edition of the magazine covers the two darkest months of the year which we light up annually with Christmas and New Year. As usual at Tardebigge we look to combine traditional services such as the carols and the late service on Christmas Eve, with family friendly gatherings such as the Christingle. But who is Christmas really for?

William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, believed that it was of paramount importance to turn to Jesus; through knowing Jesus, we would have a great love and compassion for humanity, but Jesus came first. At Christmas we see many acts of generosity as people look to care for the homeless, the poor and the vulnerable; every charity is looking to us to donate before the barren month of January when charitable donations are usually very low. Charity is a response to Christmas that will chill the heart of every Scrooge, but it is not what Christmas is about.

Children feature large in many people's thinking. As a dad I once went driving around the toy shops of Nottingham to get the right Thunderbirds toys before they all sold out; I returned home flushed with success at having purchased an elusive Thunderbird Two complete with Thunderbird Four inside! The delight on the faces of children as they unwrap presents is one of the traditional joys of Christmas; giving is so rewarding when we get it right. We can also enjoy a healthy debate about when we stop pretending to believe in Father Christmas; although when my son renounced his faith in Santa I was deprived of refreshments when I returned home from the Midnight Communion!



When we stop to think we know that Jesus is the reason for the season. It is more challenging to acknowledge this adequately when we have firm traditions as to how we do this that can so easily become and end in themselves. While devotion to Jesus has dropped across the nation, Christmas attendance rose again last year. It is so good to see so many people, most notably on Christmas Eve, but of course Jesus is for life and not just for Christmas.

The Christmas Jesus most enjoys will be where we praise him "not only with our lips but in our

lives, by giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days” as the General Thanksgiving in the Book of Common Prayer puts it.

Luke tells us that there was no room for Jesus, and so he was laid in a manger. Let us make sure that we celebrate with him and enjoy his birthday, ensuring that there is room for him in our hearts and lives.



Richard

Services at Tardebigge and Lower Bentley January

Sunday 6th January (Epiphany)

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

11.00am Traditional Morning Prayer

6.00pm 'Songs of Praise' at *St. Philip's, Webheath*

Sunday 13th January (Baptism of Christ)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Family Communion (CW) at *St. Mary's*

11.00am **Family Service** at Tardebigge

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 20th January (Epiphany 3)

11.00am Holy Communion with **Sunday Funday**

6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 27th January (Epiphany 4)

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am **Worship For ALL**

11.00am Traditional Holy Communion

6.00pm Evensong

Wardens' World

December 2018



Merry Christmas from your wardens! If reading this later in the festive season, we also wish you a very Happy New Year for 2019. For over a thousand years now our parish church, St. Bartholomew's, Tardebigge, has stood in the centre of Tutnall and Cobley and, together with its chapel of St. Mary in Lower Bentley, has catered to the spiritual needs of the population of the surrounding area. Although the current building is more 'modern', dating only from

1777, worship took place there in an earlier church dating back to Saxon times, and two of the yew trees in the churchyard, possibly sacred to pagan worshippers, are believed by tree officers to be over 2,000 years old! So for literally millenia, the location of St. Bartholomew's has been a spiritual centre, marking both the passing of the year and important points of people's lives.

Indeed, both churches are much sought after as places to mark key steps in life. The parish of Tardebigge holds more baptism services than the national average for all churches, St. Bartholomew's has sadly had a record number of funerals and burials this year, and both churches make superb locations for weddings!

Please make time over the Christmas period to come and see these incomparable places. You and all your families are assured of a warm welcome at the festival services in St. Bartholomew's and at St. Mary's in Lower Bentley. We particularly recommend our personal favourites:

Sunday 2nd December

9.30 am Advent Café Church – with bacon sandwiches!

Sunday 9th December

9.30 am Carol Service at St. Mary's, Lower Bentley – don't miss the mulled wine!

11.00 am Family Gift Service – where we donate toys and gifts for distribution by the Salvation Army

Sunday 23rd 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

4.00 pm Family Christingle with Carols at St. Bartholomew's – the perfect service for children and always packed with young families!

10.00 pm Traditional Late Night Communion at St. Bartholomew's

Christmas Day

11.00 am Holy Communion at St. Bartholomew's

We very much look forward to seeing you at these, and all other service throughout the year. Make it a New Year Resolution to be part of our community often!

Chris and Dean



Remembrance Sunday 2018



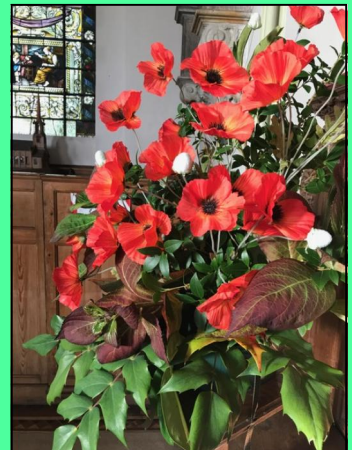
Sunday 11th November 2018 was the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, the end of WW1. Our Remembrance services were well attended, commemorating this significant date.

**St. Mary's,
Lower Bentley**

Pupils at Tardebigge CE First School commemorated the anniversary by taking part in poppy craft and



painting sessions and a special assembly in church.



St. Bartholomew's, Tardebigge

December 1969

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

PCC Secretary: Mr J Roberts

Reader: Mr Peter Frowley

PCC Treasurer: Mr E V Sadler

Church Wardens: Mr F D Goulbourne & Mr W P Beck

Magazine Treasurer: Mrs Pat Hutchings

Organist: Mrs M Goulbourne

* * *

Tardebigge, St. Bartholomew, 3 Bells

1. SAML. HARRIS CHURCH WARDEN 1796 IN^o. RUD-HALL FECT.
2. (Border) GOODWIN NASH IOHN PARKE CHURCH WARDENS HENRY BAGLEY MADE MEE J746. (Border of Arabesques all round below).
3. (Border) Wm. CALLOW SAML. HARRIS CHURCH WARDENS (Border) T (Bell) R 1774

The treble bell was cast in 1796 by John Rudhall of Gloucester. It is a good casting and has cabled cannons. The second bell was cast by Henry Bagley 111 of Chacombe in Northamptonshire. It is a good bell, but typically of the family of founders, it bears a spelling mistake. The tenor is by Thomas Rudhall of Gloucester and it bears his Founders mark, T (Bell) R and an ornamental border.

The frame is of oak and is built so that it fits neatly into the awkward shaped tower. The treble and second bells are in small pits in the East and West louvres respectively. The tenor bell was formerly hung for ringing and thus has room to swing. It hangs across the North South axis of the tower. The frame of the treble and second bells are the same and consist of Cills, main braces, Long frame heads, Head struts, Cill struts, and an end post at the South end. The whole frame probably dates from about 1777 when the tower was built, and was probably constructed from the timbers of an earlier bell frame. It is now somewhat decrepit, though it is safe enough as the bells are only chimed.

The bells' gear consists basically of Oak Headstocks, Stock Hoops, Strap Gudgeons and Plain Brass Bearings. The second has also a Traditional type stay, indicating that the gear dates from before 1777 and probably from 1746. The tenor has the remains of a latched slider and a Trad. Type wheel, indicating that its gear too was re-used. The gear on all the bells is in bad condition. The bells are at present all 'clocked' by means of ropes attached to the clappers. The weights, notes and diameters of the bells are as follows:

Bell	Note	Diameter	Weight
1.	C	32.5 ins	6.50 cwt.
2.	A	34.5 ins	7.25 cwt.
3.	G	39.0 ins	10.75 cwt

All the bells have cannons, those on the treble and tenor being cabled, though none have been quarter turned.

David Copley



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



St. Philip's, Church Road, Webheath, B97 5PD

www.stphilipswebheath.org.uk

Contact Rev. Richard Clark (07970 823462) email: trhredditch@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.

Annual Magazine subscriptions

£10 collected or hand delivered; £16 by post.
Payments can be made pay by cheque, cash or via BACS
(quoting *MAGA & your surname as the reference please*)
(Account no: 70799599 Sort Code 40-38-07)

For enquiries contact Dean or 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 **MONDAY 14th January**

Celestial Corner

December, the month of the Winter Solstice, Christmas and the Geminid meteor shower! I hope you have made a note in your diaries for the 13th of the month, when the shower maximum occurs. The shower begins some days before, but the greatest numbers to be seen occur on the night of the 13th/14th of the month, before falling away again. Another factor that governs how many meteors will be seen is the time of night. After midnight is the best time as we in the British Isles are turning into the shower as the earth rotates. This rule applies, not only to the Geminids, but to every shower. This explains why the Leonids, at a time of a meteor 'storm', may put on a glorios display in one part of the world and disappoint people in another, due to the bands of comet debris being quite narrow and the earth taking only an hour or so to passthrough them. The Geminids are one of only two showers that are known to be the remnants of a minor planet rather than a comet. The minor planet known as Plaethon is responsible for the Geminids. It is probable that it strayed a bit too close to mighty Jupiter and paid the price!

The shower actually begins on 7th December and lasts until 15th December and on the 13th at the peak, meteor numbers are expected to be around 100 per hour. However, not all of them will be bright and the ones heading in the direction of the observer will not seem to move very far, whereas others will travel quite a way across the sky. The faintest will probably only be seen from the few really dark parts of the UK, so around here we could probably only be able to see around 50 per hour.

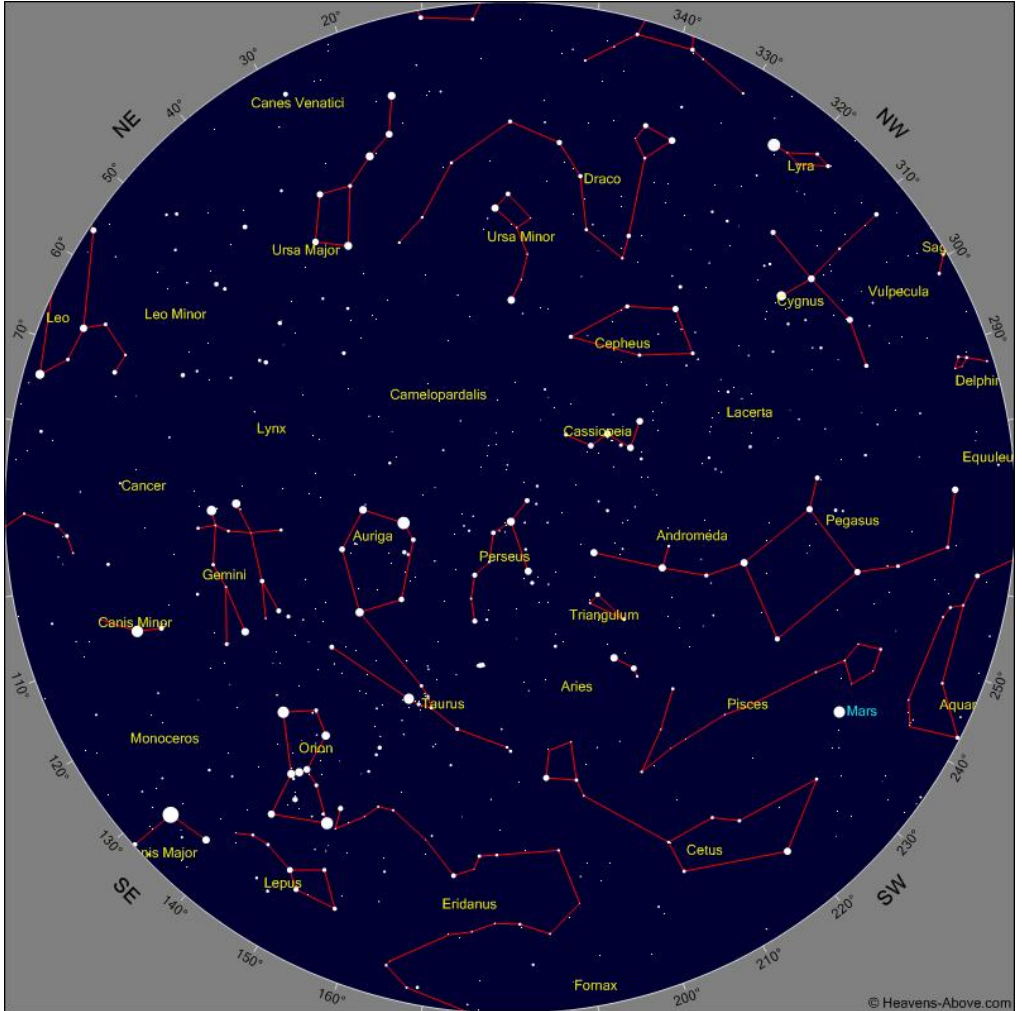
Two other 'showers' occur at this time of year, the Ursids from 17th December to the 25th, a very weak shower that peaks on the 22nd with about 10 per hour, followed by the Quadrantids from 1st January to 6th peaking on 3rd January. This is thought to be the other shower that has a minor planet as its source and again is reckoned to have around 100 per hour at its peak. It is named after the old constellation of Quantrans that no longer is recognised, as it was divided up into smaller constellations.

The map is for 29th December at 9pm. This is roughly halfway between 14th December and 14th January because there is no issue of the magazine for January alone.

You will see that Mars is in the SW in the constellation of Pisces, the fishes. Since September it has travelled from Sagittarius through Capricorn and Aquarius, not surprising seeing that planet means drifter or wanderer! Saturn is getting near the sun now in the evening sky as we leave the planet behind on our journey around our orbit. It will soon disappear behind the sun until it reappears as a morning object later in 2019. However, to make up for a lack of planets

we have Orion and his bright companions to keep us company through to the spring. All we need are some clear skies, especially on 13th December!

Have a Merry Christmas and keep clear of cols and flu, and remember what a poet wrote: "If winter comes can spring be far behind".



R. B.

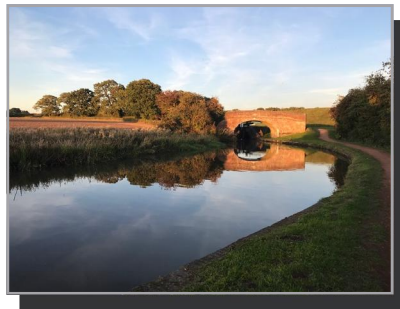
Country walks

If we come into the countryside
From the cities and the towns,
If we walk the fields and meadows
The riversides, the downs,
It in then we feel the presence
Of Nature's offerings,
Of all the refreshing benedictions
That rural England brings.

A walk at each and every season
Brings blessings that come unexpectedly
The first undiscovered violets,
That prove Nature's immortality,
The first buds that come before the Winter
Has reached its cold and frosty end,
The unfurling leaves of primroses
With the Spring promise that they send.

When suddenly we can walk no more
Along the country ways,
When old age brings its infirmity
The memory still stays
Of all the blessings of the rural walks
That away from towns and city fumes
Can still bring Nature's Springtime promise,
Into urban streets and living rooms.

L M Wadlow



News from School

This half term we are focussing on the Christian value of 'Generosity'. Recently, a couple of representatives from 'Operation Christmas Child' came to speak to the children and gave a presentation about the work of the charity (part of Samaritan's Purse International Relief UK). As we are encouraging children to be global neighbours as well as local neighbours, we invited pupils and parents to bring in an item or items to put in a shoebox, if they wished to; the aim was to fill one shoebox per class. As the charity receives fewer shoeboxes for boys, we decided to support boys in the age group 5-9 years. The support was overwhelming and we were able to produce at least ten boxes, with many extra items which would help to fill or supplement other shoeboxes. Thanks to all for their generosity! The boxes should now be at the depot where the boxes are checked and sorted for transportation.

At the time of writing, rehearsals are in full flow ready for our Christmas plays in December. Our Reception class' Christmas play is 6th December; Years 1 and 2's performance is 13th December; and Years 3 and 4's play is an evening performance 18th December at 6.30pm in Church. We are very much looking forward to them all.

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

Jane Hall



Contact details:

Telephone: 01527 872886

Email: office@tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Website: www.tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Julie Cutler

Sidesmen Rota

2nd December

11.00am - E Price and P Hopkins
6.00pm - P Hopkins

9th December

8.00am - D Hall
11.00am - J Oldaker and L Parkes
6.00pm - M Price

16th December

11.00am - G Price and V Mackenzie
6.00pm - P Hopkins

23rd December

8.00am - G R Underhill
11.00am - D Stubbings and P Hopkins
6.00pm - T Powell

Christmas Eve

4.00pm - J Hall, D Hall, L Parkes and P Hopkins
10.00pm - D Stubbings and P Hopkins

Christmas Day

11.00am - L Parkes and P Hopkins

30th December

11.00am - V Richardson and P Hopkins

Flower Rota



No flowers during Lent

23rd December
(Team)

30th December
Lucy Parkes

6th January
Lucy Parkes

13th January
Norita Young

20th January
Sheelagh Keen

27th January
Jane Hall

Parish Registers ~ November 2018

Baptisms



Sunday 25th November
Nancy Susan DAVIS

Weddings



Friday 16th November
Joseph Robert UNDERHILL &
Sarah Jane HADLEY

Funerals



Friday 2nd November
Anthony John George LOUCH

Wednesday 14th November
Kathleen LATHAM



- 4 December - Kay Middleton
- 10 December - Jane Hall
- 12 December - Guy Milton
- 13 December - Tim Powell
- 25 December - Fred Shrimpton
- 5 January - Joanne Stephens
- 6 January - Jane Oldaker
- 13 January - Norita Young
- 22 January - Roger Powell



Sidesmen Rota

6th January

- 11.00am - E Price and P Hopkins
- 6.00pm - P Hopkins

13th January

- 8.00am - D Hall
- 11.00am - J Oldaker and L Parkes
- 6.00pm - M Price

20th January

- 11.00am - G Price and V Mackenzie
- 6.00pm - P Hopkins

27th January

- 8.00am - G R Underhill
- 11.00am - D Stubbings and P Hopkins
- 6.00pm - T Powell

Rotas

If you are unable to fulfil your duties, please arrange a swap

Thank you

Songs of Praise

**Sunday 6th January at 6.00pm
St. Philip's Church, Webheath**

Hymns requested in advance by members of the congregation

Please contact Roger Powell and let him know your choice of hymn

It promises to be an enjoyable service and we look forward to welcoming you

Roger Powell, 24 Wheelers Lane, Brockhill, Redditch, B97 6GT
Phone 07971 888776 or Email mpowell@btinternet.com

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).

It was good to count sixteen of us at our gathering in the Church Hall on Monday 29th October. The conversation flowed and everyone enjoyed tea and cake.

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH TARDEBIGGE

The Evergreens' Christmas Lunch

Saturday 8th December 2018

12.30pm for 1.00pm in the Church Hall



Ticket: £10

(This year we are not having a raffle)

We hope you are able to join us for this traditional, enjoyable event!

Further information and tickets from Vivien (0121 445 1245)
or Mary Watkins (0121 445 3075). Please let us know if you would like a lift.

Another date for your diary!

There will be an Evergreens Coffee morning on Monday 18th February, in the Church Hall - further details in February's magazine.

Please put the date in your diary.

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



New members always welcome!



At our meeting 15th November, Lucy kindly co-ordinated our annual 'Stir-up Thursday' evening, when we were busy making Christmas puddings to take home for steaming. We also enjoyed Lucy's home-made seasonal refreshments, which were yummy (as always).



Our next meeting is being held on **6th December** when we will be having a crafts evening making Christmas cards, which we are very much looking forward to.



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

(The Collect for the Sunday before Advent)

Jane Hall

There was a Confirmation service held at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 25 November when Bishop John confirmed candidates from across the Diocese.

There were three candidates from St. Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge.



Pictured with Bishop John, Bishop of Worcester are our three candidates; *above* - Stacey and Simon Roe; *left* - Mike Timmins



#FollowTheStar

#FollowTheStar is the Church of England's 2018 Christmas campaign
To find out more and to sign up for daily reflections, visit
www.churchofengland.org/christmas

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND





Christingle is a special, memorable celebration that takes place in thousands of churches and schools across the country each year.


This year The Children's Society want to help even more of the country's most vulnerable children.


Your Christingle donation can make a real difference for a young person who has never experienced the joy of Christmas.



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.

Christingle Workshop

This year The Children's Society are celebrating fifty years of Christingle and we are continuing our tradition of making them together in readiness for the Service on Christmas Eve at 4.00pm. It is always a warm and friendly occasion full of fun.

Do come if you can. Accompanied children welcome.

We are meeting in the Church Hall at 10.15am on Sunday 23rd December

Seasonal refreshments will be provided.

Further details contact Val Richardson 01527 272685

My involvement with The Children's Society

**(formerly 'Church of England Children's Society'
and before that 'Waifs and Strays Society' founded on 1881)**

At 14 years of age I went to a church in whose parish there was a C of E Children's Home where I began a lifelong admiration and involvement for the Society and their work, seeing them break new ground and make avant garde steps forward right up to the modern day. The home was run by an amazing couple called Mum and Pop, universal parents to any child in their care. By their understanding, dedication and respect for each child as a person they inspired me and led me to every good practice I have ever used in my career and association with children.

Even now I remember the shock I felt on my first day to find that my presumption that they were all orphans was wrong. Coming from a loving, stable background, unsatisfactory or ailing parents were unknown to me.

Two instances stand out:

- A little girl who every Saturday walked down to sit on the kerb of the busy, dangerous London Road to wait for her mother and only prepared to return at tea time. In the year I was part of the team staying with her to keep her safe; her mum only came once.
- A boy of eleven who won a place at the local grammar school. Much opposition was put forward to stop him going but NO, we arranged the dormitory to put him in a corner where we built him a desk and his own private space to do his homework. My family who valued education provided him with books and I often helped with his studies.

At college I helped at a weekly youth club run by the Society on a local housing estate. When I came to Bromsgrove first, I helped and fund raised at the Clent home but the Society, always a fore runner, were already seeing the wisdom of closing institutionalised homes and putting their skills and trained staff into investing in child care in families facing difficulties.

For the next 29 years I was a member of the Bromsgrove fundraising committee. Over the years we raised thousands of pounds. It was a team; many of you will know Jean Harper, Michelle Stafford, Marion Wormington and Brenda Bywater who were part of it.

Amongst our activities we produced two cookery books, still being used by local cooks, and helped make Christingles in the very early years for an Advent Service at St. John's. A non-political group, but never afraid to do what they felt was right. I remember much criticism of them when they provided shoes and food for the children of striking miners.

At the stage when Mike and I became "the worst parents in Bromsgrove" and our teenagers were threatening to run away, I used to pray that they would run into the arms of a Children's Society worker. For many years they have had teams in most big cities meeting trains and available all night for youngsters in trouble. My eyes were opened by spending a couple of nights in Birmingham observing their work.

Later in my career I became a designate teacher for child protection and it was no surprise to me that once again the Children's Society triumphed. They were the first child care organisation to set up liaison between counties who were then only working in their own confined areas. Once again I had the privilege of working closely with their first rate team.

About The Children's Society: *"The Children's Society works with children in this country who feel scared, unloved and unable to cope. We run over 100 services across the country that tackle the serious issues affecting children today. Through our services and campaigning, we listen, support and act to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children".*

It is no surprise to see that I am one of their major fans and value their integrity and Christian values. Please be proud of The Children's Society run by the Church we belong to. Help when you can and be aware of this this year's fiftieth Christingle celebrations.

Val Richardson

(N.B. Val has been involved with Christingle celebrations since they began in 1968)



Verse for the Month

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins

Matthew 1: 21



Listening Service

for those affected by sexual abuse

You can expect a Listener to:

- 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 Highton
T: 07495 060869 E: highton@cofe-worcester.org.uk
www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

Complaints: www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/diocesancompendium/safeguarding/complaints-whistleblowers/



The Midland Sinfonia

Saturday 16 February 2019 at 7.30pm

St. Laurence Church and The Ark, Alvechurch, B48 7SB

My Funny Valentine

Fret & Fiddle Jazz Quintet

A selection of jazz standards with a Valentine's theme including; 'My Funny Valentine'; 'Embraceable You'; 'Dream a Little Dream of Me'; 'I'm in the Mood for Love'; 'Fly me to the Moon'

Tickets in advance (£11 or £14) from Gin & Pickles, The Square, Alvechurch

Tickets on the door £12 or £15 (Students FREE)



Congratulations and Best Wishes
to Joe and Sarah on their wedding
day, 16th November 2018.



*Joe's Grandfather, Rev. Reginald Underhill was vicar
of Tardebigge from 1950 until his death in 1966.*



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER

Letter from the Bishop of Worcester By Bishop John

The Christian faith is essentially about love – because God is love.

At Christmas we celebrate God's love for us in coming to share our human life in the person of Jesus. At Easter we celebrate the depths of that love in dying for us, and its triumph over death itself in the resurrection. At Pentecost we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, 'power from on high', to enable us to love as God has loved us.

It's as simple as that, really. The problem – in case you hadn't noticed – is that we don't manage to love as God loves us. As we celebrate the Advent of the Prince of Peace this Christmas, the world is filled with conflict. One hundred years after the ending what was referred to at the time as 'the war to end all wars' there is still so much violence, bloodshed and oppression in the world.

Why is that? I suggest that the main reason we do not love as we ought is that we cannot, deep down, believe that we are loved or even loveable. Most of our 'sinfulness' – in Christian terminology – derives from an insecurity, a deep dis-ease within.

Ever since I became a Christian I have believed that I am unconditionally loved – in my head. The trouble is I couldn't quite believe in my heart that anyone, let alone I, could be unconditionally loved. Until I became a parent, that is. I then felt an extraordinarily powerful and quite unconditional love for my children, and still do. I spoke to my daughter about this the other day and she feels the same about her two year-old-daughter.

Now I can believe that God loves me unconditionally – with my heart as well as my head. I have a long way to go but it has made me more loving.

My prayer this Christmas is that, whether or not we are parents, we shall be given grace to believe with all our heart that God loves us more than we can possibly imagine with a love that is stronger than death and which will stretch into all eternity. Then we might be able better to love as God loves us.

+John



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Bentley Pauncefoot WI

The November meeting combined our Annual General Meeting and Produce Show. The AGM enabled us to take stock of the past year. We were thrilled to have raised £690 for our 2018 charity, Burnaid, by means of a raffle and a coffee morning. Members also rallied round to provide support to other causes in our community such as a local Women's Refuge and the Salvation Army toy collection for children in Redditch and Bromsgrove. On the fun side, we remembered fascinating visits to Trentham Gardens, the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Denman College and the Old Grammar School, Kings Norton, not to mention many gatherings for afternoon tea. The AGM is also a time of looking forward to the next year as officers are elected. Fortunately, Bentley will be in safe hands as Chris Badger agreed to serve as President for another year, although she insists it is her final term. If so, Bentley Pauncefoot WI may possibly be faced with the issue, common to many organisations, of finding someone with enough time and commitment to lead them.



The Produce Show was a celebration of creativity and skill. Tables in Bentley Village Hall were laden with cakes and biscuits, preserves and cordials, hand crafted Christmas cards and photographs of Autumn to name but a few of classes. Gill Allardice came first in the Baking section, Rosamund Brookes won the Preserves classes whilst the victor in Craft was Michelle Stafford. Overall winner was Chris Badger. It was heartening to see so much interest in the show as it has always been an important part of our tradition. A good schedule generated a very healthy number of entries. This bodes well for the future, especially as our recent Rag Market generated enough funds to finance creative workshops in 2019 and nurture one aspect of our ethos.

Entries for the Christmas table decoration class at Bentley's Produce Show

. Lynne Reading



Bumper December Quiz: Christmas and New Year



1. In which Gospel is "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"?
2. Who wished it could be Christmas every day in a seventies hit single?
3. Which of the following are in the Bible's Christmas story: ox, ass, sheep, birds, donkey?
4. In which children's Christmas film does Santa's son spend most of the film trying to deliver a bike to a little girl in Cornwall?
5. Santa Claus is based on St Nicholas. In which country would did St Nicholas live if he was alive today?
6. "Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen..." When is the feast of Stephen?
7. Who was crowned king on Christmas Day 1066?
8. Where does New Year happen first, New Zealand, Japan, Hawaii or Western Samoa?
9. "Walking in the Air", the song from Channel 4's animated film The Snowman, based on the book by Raymond Briggs, was performed in the 1982 film by Peter Auty, a St. Paul's Cathedral choirboy. Which well-known media personality recorded a cover version that reached No. 5 in the UK charts in 1985?
10. According to the 1946 Christmas film "It's a Wonderful Life" starring James Stewart, what happens when a bell rings?
11. If you decked the Halls, Dean & Jane Hall (our magazine editor) would be quite upset! What are we supposed to deck the halls with, according to the song?
12. On what date is the Epiphany, the traditional date for the arrival of the Magi?
13. In Medieval tradition, why were there supposed to be three wise men?
14. Which London landmark is usually featured in the New Year's midnight firework display?
15. Which street in Edinburgh is famous for its New Year's party?
16. Morecambe & Wise attracted massive viewing figures, but a comic impressionist tops the list for the largest seasonal audience share ever for his Christmas Show which aired on Christmas Day in 1977. What was his name?
17. Which famous literary character was visited at Christmas by three ghosts?
18. Where do the royal family usually spend Christmas?



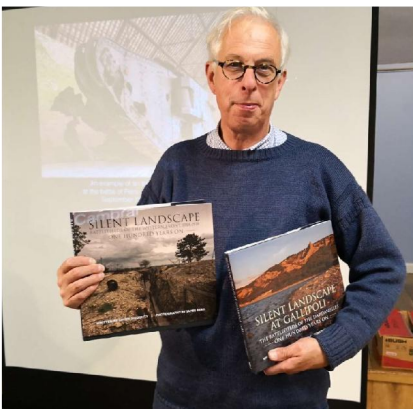
Webheath Digital Photography Club

Midway through October Warren Alani was the first of our autumn speakers. He gave us an animated and humorous account of what he has seen “Through my Viewfinder,” illustrated with a wide selection of his prints from all around the world on a variety of subjects from street photography to portraiture to sport, enriched with anecdotes. He was at pains to point out that photography was about pleasing yourself and not the Judge. An interesting point was his preference to wait for a figure to appear at the right place in his image rather than to create the image by importing one using an editing program. A photographer with patience.

In another joint effort with Redditch U3A DPG some members entered thirty four of their prints on October 13 in the Wootton Wawen WI Photo Competition in their village hall. As at Brailes last month we had some success with two first places, three seconds and a third from over 500 entries.



On October 22 we had a quiz night with Question Masters Graeme and Graham. We divided into three teams to face seven rounds of topics ranging from which club members took the images to identify the celebrity in the high contrast photo. At half time team PR Squared were well in the lead in front of Redditch Rovers and The F-Stops. The gap closed for the final result of PR Squared 80, Redditch Rovers 70 and The F-Stops 65. It was agreed that it had been a good night.



October closed on the 29th with a talk by James Kerr on “Battlefield Photography” – not quite what one might imagine. Photo by Ellie Kerans. Perhaps better known for his garden and house photography he described his technique for recording the battlefields of the Western Front in France, particularly pertinent with the approach of Armistic Day. His results validated his reliance on using a tripod, apertures of f/11 or f/16 and standard landscape photographic approaches at “the golden hour” round dawn and sunset. His talk was punctuated with poems and quotations to illustrate his style. In particular he was eager to note the changing attitude to the execution of the Great

war and the history of its written history. All in all an interesting evening.

Bonfire night was devoted to various technical matters. Long exposures of sparklers gave interesting light trails in the car park, and similar effects came with a swinging suspended laser in the darkness of the store room. Lenses were also calibrated and a demonstration of how to construct an Audio-visual presentation was a popular corner.

December's programme is shorter than usual, with only two meetings in the Village Hall. The first on December 3 is the competition to select the Club's "Image of the Year" with an outside judge. The next week members will show their own eight "Images of the Year" – the images that they found most satisfying or did well in competitions maybe, an opportunity either to be serious or to let one's hair down – just a bit. The month closes with the Christmas Social for members, their partners and friends to be held at a local inn. January 7 is the start of our New Year with the AGM and awarding of prizes to members for their efforts in 2018.

The Village Hall, Webheath, is our usual venue on Monday evenings at 7:30, except Bank Holidays and through Christmas and the New Year. During the summer the members may be away from the hall for an organised evening photoshoot at some local location. 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 where you can find details, such as how to contact us, our programme and more. You can also find us on Facebook as Webheath Digital Photography Club and also on Instagram at www.instagram.com/WebheathDPC. And don't forget our gallery of prints on the wall by Wilko's in the shopping centre.

P. Dewell December 2018

* * * * *



**Once in our world, a stable had something
in it that was bigger than our whole world.**

C S Lewis

Sudoku

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

Solution next month

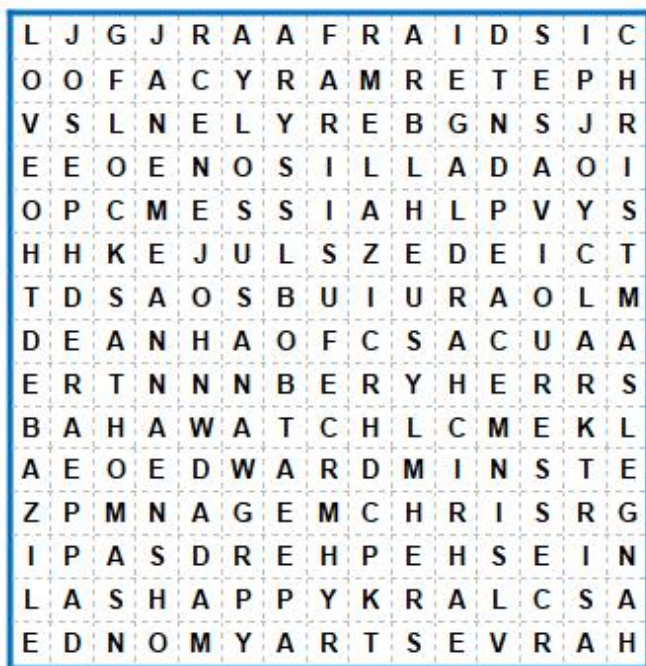
3	5	8	9	1	6	2	4	7
4	6	2	7	5	3	1	9	8
1	9	7	4	8	2	5	3	6
8	4	9	1	6	7	3	5	2
7	1	5	2	3	4	8	6	9
2	3	6	8	9	5	4	7	1
9	2	3	5	7	1	6	8	4
5	8	1	6	4	9	7	2	3
6	7	4	3	2	8	9	1	5

Last month's solution

Word Search

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger".

Luke 2: 8-12



FIELDS

FLOCKS

AFRAID

WATCH

ANGEL

SAVIOUR

SHEPHERDS

APPEARED

MESSIAH

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



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Looking back over the past year we have witnessed some turbulent and troublesome times. It's heartening to know a small Worcestershire charity is working internationally to create lasting friendships across the world.

Based in Malvern, EIL UK was founded in 1936. EIL stands for 'Experiment in International Living' and is the UK member of a global network of EIL offices around the world that was awarded Peace Messenger status by the United Nations.



Experiment in
International
Living UK

What do we do?

EIL UK welcomes hundreds of international visitors to the UK every year and provides them with homestay accommodation. Our volunteer host families provide a home away from home for visitors to learn about new cultures and to share their own, with the support of a host family behind them. Our programmes teach people that 'by living together, we learn to live together' to create a more peaceful, tolerant and understanding world.



What do we offer our visitors?

EIL UK offers a variety of experiences for international visitors. Day visits for international students studying at the University of Worcester or weekend visits to a family from other universities around the UK. High school students come to the UK and stay from 1-3 terms, living with a family whilst attending their local high school or college. Cultural programs are custom made to provide visiting groups with a theme, from media studies to drama and international relations.

How could you help?

If your family is warm and welcoming and interested in other countries and cultures, are willing to share your home and take pride in your local area, you might enjoy being a volunteer host family for EIL UK. We are looking for more families in Worcestershire as this beautiful county is popular with participants. EIL offers volunteer host families a contribution towards accommodation and food. Get in touch with Mary by phone or email at host@eiluk.org Alternatively, if you prefer not to host, contact us if you would like information about EIL and our work or if you would like to get involved. Visit our website at www.eiluk.org

As an individual it can be hard to know how to make a difference when faced with the myriad problems of the modern world. You can be a part of what EIL is achieving by bringing the world to your home through hosting. A student describing the impact that their time in the UK had on them said, "I learned to appreciate everything that I have and learn about the kind of person that I want to be in the future". To focus on young people seems a good place to start when thinking about the kind of peaceful and positive future we all want for our world.

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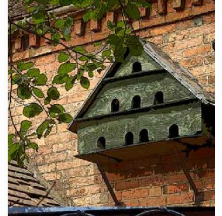
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