

Tardebigge and Bentley Parish Magazine





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

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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.



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Website: www.springviewcare.co.uk Email: mercy@springviewcare.co.uk

Church Services

Sunday 2nd June (Easter 7)

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

Sunday 9th June (Pentecost)

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am Traditional Holy Communion at St. Mary's
11.00am **Family Service** at St. Bartholomew's
6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 16th June (Trinity Sunday)

11.00am Holy Communion with **Sunday Funday**
6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 23rd June (Trinity 1)

8.00am Holy Communion
9.30am **Worship For ALL**
11.00am Traditional Holy Communion
6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 30th June (Trinity 2)

11.00am Family Communion
6.00pm 'Songs of Praise' at St. Mary's

Songs of Praise

Sunday June 29th

6.00pm

St Mary's, Lower Bentley, B60 4JA

To request your favourite hymn, please contact Roger Powell

Phone 07971 888776 rmpowell@btinternet.com

June



From Richard, the Team Rector



June is a very bright time of year, full of flowers, featuring our longest day of the year. We are creatures of light, so it is an especial pleasure to be able to go out and enjoy the sunshine, wake up in daylight and delight in the gradual sunsets and long period of twilight that follows late into the evening.

It is important to remember Jesus at this time of year, not just because Pentecost (Whit) and Trinity fall in June, but because his ministry was all about bringing light into dark places. His father dwells in unapproachable light; but John tells us that people loved the darkness, because their deeds were evil. Through Christ we put our trust in the light of the world so that we might be children of light.

It is tempting, however, to treat God with indifference, especially in the “summertime when the living is easy”, as the librettist DuBose Heyward puts it. Each new day, however, is a gift and not an entitlement, and, in a society which presents us with so many ways to spend our time, it is especially wise to commit each day to the Lord at its very outset so that we maximise its potential in His eyes.

This is not to say that Jesus always wants us to be tiring ourselves out; He wants us to enjoy rest and recreation as well as giving and service. Working people may equally need to be delivered from overwork; as the hymn “God is working His purpose out” puts it, “All we can do is nothing worth unless God blesses the deed”. In addition, the American obsession with being at one’s desk at all hours may actually be counter-productive, especially as almost all of us get our best ideas about work when we are not at work, but at rest.



At the end of the day, human beings were made to follow the Maker’s instructions. Failure to do so leads to shadows in our lives where His light is less able to be experienced. Rebelling against, or trying to rewrite, who God reveals Himself to be and what He wants according to the Bible serves only to give us a sense of separation from him, a gap that no spirituality or religious experience can bridge.

As the old adage puts it: “When God feels far away, guess who moved?”

Richard

Tardebigge Show

Saturday 14th September

Opens 1.30pm

**Fruit, Vegetable
& Flower Show**
Auction of produce

White Elephant,
Plants, Cakes,
Books, Tombola,
Prize Draw
& more...



St. Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge, B60 3AH

www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk

Admission FREE

Wardens' World

June 2019

What a busy and varied month we had in May! It was Tardebigge parish at its best, with glorious weather and views, fund-raising, special services and generous donations to Christian Aid, all on top of the normal activities!

Heartfelt thanks are due to Lucy Parkes and everyone who helped her out with the Plant Sale – we were a little short of volunteer helpers but those who did join in worked extremely hard, and more than made up for the missing workers. All were rewarded for their efforts by an all-time record Plant Sale profit church of just over £1,200! With a very good number of visitors, almost all the plants were sold within an hour and a half, and the tea-and-cake department worked their socks off keeping up with demand, supported throughout by Nicholas Watkins, the king of washing-up! Very many thanks to everyone who came along to help set up and sell – a very good result for a morning's work!



This was followed the very next day by something completely different. We always love going down to Lower Bentley for services, especially at this time of year when all is fresh green and the hedgerows are blooming, and this particular Sunday had an absolutely cloudless sky. May 12th was Rogation Sunday, when we focus on the goodness we have from the land and give thanks for it. The service is very special and

interesting, as we leave the church and walk the lanes to worship outdoors, and this year enjoyed watching shepherdess Sarah Carless feeding the sheep... Phil Harper refused to be put off by the cacophony of bleating from behind the gate, and valiantly declaimed the reading so we could all hear it! It really brings home the importance of agriculture to our lives, and how dependent we are on good weather and harvests.



While on the subject of beautiful landscapes, please note that we have once again entered Tardebigge in the CPRE 'Best Kept Churchyard' competition. Please can everyone, whether coming to church, at school or just walking through the churchyard help us to keep it looking its best? Picking up litter, looking after graves, or tidying up when you've finished an activity,

all to complement the hard work that Matt our groundsman puts in! We all have a responsibility to look after this beautiful area in which we live.

Finally, following the success of the Plant Sale, let's all rally round to help make the Tardebigge Show on Saturday September 14th just as successful. We will need all the able-bodied help we can get on the evening of Friday 13th to set up tables and so on, and also on September 14th to run stalls, organise attractions, serve food and drink, and sell stuff! We will also be appealing for people to bake cakes, grow plants, donate bottles, and have a go in the Produce Show. It's a vital fund-raiser for the Tardebigge churches, so please contact either of us if you are able to help secure their future!

Chris and Jane

Thank you for supporting the Plant Sale





Life's Journey

Many a tear has to fall
On the road we call Life
Days of sunshine and happiness
May precede times of heartache and strife,
Yet imagine if you can
An English garden in June
With sweet peas and roses
On a glorious afternoon.

If the rains never came
The flowers would soon die
Wilting in the heat
From an eternal blue sky,
Life is like Nature
A mixture of joy, pleasure and pain
Helping us to remember
That the sun will shine once again.

A garden in the Summer
Can teach us so much
With sweet scented blooms,
With berries ripe to the touch
When life becomes hurtful
When the rain starts to fall
Remember the sunshine
That will again shine over all.

L M Wadlow



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.stphilipwebheath.org.uk

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

Evensong



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

St. Bartholomew's Church,
Tardebigge

In a busy world...

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

Soak up the presence of God

Annual Magazine subscriptions

£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*)

(Account no: 70799599 Sort Code 40-38-07)

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

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

July/August Magazine

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

contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk by FRIDAY 21 June

Celestial Corner

June, high summer and light nights. And late nights if you wish to see much, as the sky never gets completely dark. Even at midnight there is still a glow along the Northern horizon! And The map shows the sky at 11 pm on the 14th and shows the spring triangle of Regulus (in Leo), Spica (in Virgo) and Arcturus (in Bootes) beginning to move out of the Southern sky to make way for the Summer triangle of Vega (Lyra), Deneb (Cygnus) and Altair (Aquila) to take it's place. Low in the South South East is Jupiter, just about to pass out of Scorpio for a short while, as it passes through a narrow part of the sky where Ophiucus protrudes. Further East is Saturn, just rising in Saggitarius. As both planets are in the winter part of the zodiac they will not rise very high in the sky this year or next. In fact Jupiter will not begin to get much higher until 2021 when it will be in Capricorn. Saturn will enter Capricorn in 2020 but will be in the lower right quarter until 2021, when it looks like the two planets will be quite close in the sky at some point. Just setting in the Northwest are two more planets, Mars and Mercury.

Last month I talked about double stars and said I would try to explain how a binary system worked. But first I must make a correction here. Last month I said that Algol was a well known example, in fact it is not. It is a double, but not a binary system. What makes Algol "wink" is the fact that the brightest of the pair is a variable star. It's brightness varies due to physical changes within the star, which occur about every 3 days.

There are many variable stars that suffer from the same effect and they are divided up into different types depending on how long the period is between each maximum. Mira, in Cetus, takes almost a year to pass from one Max to another. To return to binary stars, they can also show variations in brightness due to one star eclipsing the other. Usually there is one star brighter than it's "twin", known as star A. The other fainter one is called B. When they are alongside each other we can see the combined brightness of the pair. If star B passes behind star A, some of its brightness is cut off, so the total amount of light drops slightly. When A passes behind B, then the amount of light visible drops significantly. This is called the primary minimum, the other being the secondary minimum. The amount of difference in light is governed by the size of the fainter star B. If it is the same size, or larger and covers the whole of A, the difference between normal brightness and primary minimum is greater than when A passes in front of B. Imagine a light bulb is star A and hold a penny in front of it and then replace the penny with ,say, a tennis ball to obscure the bulb and you will get the idea.



R.B.

The Midland Sinfonia

Saturday 6 July 2019 at 7.30pm

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

Bach to the Future

A selection covering three centuries of music

Bach - Concerto for two violins in D minor; **Handel** - The arrival of the Queen of Sheba;
Elgar - Serenade for strings; **Bach** - Orchestral suite no.1; **Handel** - Concerto grosso op.3 no.2;
Berkeley - Serenade for strings

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

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

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).

Twelve of us gathered for tea and cake in the Church Hall on Monday 13th May. We might have been small in number, but there was plenty of noise, as everyone had lots to talk about!

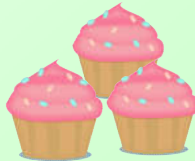
Rev. Allison Davies joined us for her last Evergreens meeting before leaving for her new parish in Eckington. Mary presented her with a gift and a card on behalf of all those present.

Our next meeting will be on **Monday 17th July**, when we will have our annual visit to a garden centre and for afternoon tea. The venue is still being investigated, but, fear not, someone will be in touch with you!

All are invited to join us and if a lift is required, please do not hesitate to get in touch by contacting Vivien (0121 445 1245) or Mary (0121 445 3075).

We look forward to seeing you!

Vivien and Mary



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

Due to how Easter fell this year, we held our April meeting 2nd May. However due to this being the date of the local elections, we were unable to hold the session in the Church Hall as it was being used as a Polling Station; we therefore found another venue and held our meeting in St. Philip's Church, Webheath.

We were pleased to welcome Margaret and Linda, representatives from the organisation 'Bromsgrove & Redditch Welcome Refugees'; a community group of people who support refugees locally. They brought along leaflets and spoke about the work the group does to help these people; one of the most important roles is that of providing friendship.

Margaret and Linda brought along one of the Syrian refugees who came to live in the Bromsgrove and Redditch area under the Government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. He spoke about his experiences and the invaluable work the group does; indeed he considers them as family.



We decided to open this session to all, and it was especially good to welcome those who hadn't attended Spring Greens before, including men!

RefuJuice was available to purchase at the meeting. RefuJuice is apple juice; volunteers from the organisation and the local Syrian community work together to rescue local apples which they turn into apple juice. (This was also on sale at the Plant Sale, and will be available to buy at

Tardebigge Show on Saturday 14th September).

For more information about 'Bromsgrove and Redditch Welcome Refugees' and to sign up to receive newsletters about their forthcoming events, see <https://brwr.uk/>

J.E.H.

June 1989

Acting priest-in-charge: Rev. Alan White **Reader:** Mr John Bonaker

Church Wardens: Mr Fred Shrimpton and Mr Bert Gateley

PCC Secretary: Mrs Barbara Kenchington **PCC Treasurer:** Mr Keith Milligan

* * *

The Plymouth Arms, Tardebigge

Now a Nursing home*, and for many years a residence, Plymouth House across the road from the New Wharf, Tardebigge, was built as an Inn and Public House when the old lane from Bromsgrove to Alcester via Finstall and Webheath was diverted to save building a bridge over the canal a short distance from the south portal of the Tardebigge Tunnel when the tunnel was made in 1809-10. The Sixth Earl of Plymouth, who owned the land thereabouts, had consented to the closing of the old lane across which the canal was cut near where the old stone warehouse on the wharf now stands. The new road was built by the tunnel contractor, Joseph Smith, and the Earl of Plymouth soon decided that an inn should be built to cater for merchants and travellers, as well as local people, canal workers and boatmen. In February 1811 he applied through his steward, Mr Attwood, for 200,000 bricks from the Canal Company, and these were agreed at the price of 30 shillings per thousand bricks; presumably these were for the building of the Public House and the stables. The Inn was evidently completed by 1812, for Lord Plymouth's stables opposite are mentioned in that year.

In 1816 the Innkeeper and his wife were John and Elizabeth Barron; their daughter Ann was baptised that year in Tardebigge Church. In the 1820s the tenancy passed to John Durham who held it for around 30 years, until about 1852 when his son-in-law Samuel Taylor and his wife Eliza took over. In 1853 their son John Durham Taylor was baptised in Tardebigge Church.

Samuel Taylor was a colourful and enterprising character. Besides running 'The Plymouth Arms and Commercial Inn,' as it was then described, and farming the surrounding land, he rented the fishing rights on Tardebigge Reservoir from the Canal Company. In May 1861 a news item in the Bromsgrove Messenger announced "On Saturday last, Mr S Taylor, the energetic Landlord of the Plymouth Arms Hotel, invited a party of friends to inaugurate the launch of a new paddle boat, named the 'Nancy Dawson,' which he has built expressly for fishing purposes. She can, however, be used as a pleasure boat..... She is beautifully painted and lettered in vermilion, the national colours, red, white and blue, encircling her in broad bands". The paddle boat was 15 feet long, 9 feet wide across the paddle boxes, with 3.5 feet clear width across the boat, and took 12 persons, two abreast. There was also a rowing boat. In the summers of 1861 and 1862 Samuel Taylor was advertising excellent fishing and pleasure boats on the 50 acre reservoir, including "boats upon the most improved principle for the use of anglers and pleasure parties".

At that time the Plymouth Arms was well known locally for its social events, which included an Annual Ball held early in January. For the 1862 Ball, “an efficient Quadrille Band” was engaged, and tickets cost 6 shillings for gentlemen and 5 shillings for ladies. The Bromsgrove Messenger reported “PLYMOUTH ARMS BALL - This gay affair was a decided success. The friends and patrons of Mr Taylor the worthy host, assembled in full force, and, having footed it right merrily all night, sat down, thanks to Mrs Taylor, to a sumptuous breakfast in the morning”.

In January 1861, when the canal was frozen over for several weeks, the Revd. C A Dickens, Vicar of Tardebigge, organised soup and bread for the destitute boatmen at the Wharf, and “Mr Taylor of the Plymouth Arms also most kindly supplied the pressing wants of the boatmen”.

Sadly in 1864 Samuel Taylor’s wife Eliza died. He stayed on as landlord until 1869. The last publican was Ambrose Moythan from 1869 to 1878/9, when the Inn closed. Its closure is believed to have been hastened by the drownings of drunken leggers in the tunnel. But the leggers had been replaced by tugs in 1876.

In 1878 the young Lord Robert Windsor-Clive came of age and took up residence at Hewell. He was a promotor of ‘The True Temperance Society’ and was concerned about the dangers of alcohol. The Plymouth Arms was one of a number of Public Houses on his estates which were closed down and put to other uses.

In the 1880s Plymouth House, as it came to be called, was occupied by John Cund and his wife Charlotte, and he farmed the 20 acres of land around. In the early 1890s Albert Whitmore, farmer and Sanitary Inspector to the Bromsgrove Rural District Council, became the tenant, and he remained there until the 1920s. He had 4 sons, Frank, Mark, Oscar and Alfred, and 3 daughters, Kathleen (Myatt), Nellie (Wilson) and Evelyn (Shelley). Frank Whitmore farmed the land and ran a funeral and furniture removing business, using the stable-block (known as Plymouth Mews) as stables, cowshed, carpenters shop and to horse-drawn vehicles. In the 1930s and 1940s Mrs E Palmer ran Plymouth House as a Guest House, having bought it from the Plymouth Estates. More recently it was let out by other owners in rooms and flats, then finally turned into a Nursing Home by Mr and Mrs Ursell.

Today the three storey building is little changed externally. The cellars with brick-arched ceilings remain intact. The one-storey brick lean-to extension to the left of the building from the road was added at an early stage to provide a special bar for the use of boatmen and laboureres, segregated from the more respectable guests and customers. The stables too, across the road and above the wharf, still stand, providing the residential accommodation now called Plymcoat.

A White

**Plymouth House Nursing Home closed in 2018*



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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I will listen - you will be heard

What is meant by 'confidentiality'?

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Listening Service

For further information on our Listening Service please contact Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Hilary Higton
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www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

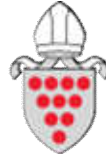
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3rd May 2019

Bishop Graham to become Bishop of Norwich



10 Downing Street has today announced that the Bishop of Dudley, Graham Usher is to become the next Bishop of Norwich. Bishop Graham was ordained as the fifth Bishop of Dudley in March 2014 and has served as the Suffragan Bishop across the whole of the Diocese of Worcester. He will leave our diocese at the end of July and will be formally enthroned as the Bishop of Norwich in Norwich Cathedral in the late Autumn.

On his appointment, Bishop Graham said: "It is a delight, but also somewhat daunting, to have been nominated to be the next Bishop of Norwich and I'm looking forward to the adventure with God in Jesus that lies ahead. What I'm truly grateful for is how the people of the Diocese of Worcester have shaped me as a bishop. You have taught me much, as has Bishop John and other colleagues; thank you with all my heart. Having lived in Dudley for the last five years, I will miss the warmth of those who begin almost every conversation with the word 'awlroight'. The people of Dudley's care and encouragement, together with those in the rest of the diocese, have meant much to Rachel and me. I look forward to hearing about how the diocese flourishes in the years ahead and you will remain much in my prayers."

Bishop John said: "I shall miss Bishop Graham greatly, as will many others. He has been a wonderful gift to the Diocese of Worcester and has given an enormous amount to individuals, churches and wider society. The leadership role he has played in the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley has been invaluable there. I am personally very grateful to him for his friendship and support and am sad that we are losing him. It was only a matter of time, I suppose, and the people of the Diocese of Norwich are very fortunate to be receiving him. He and Rachel and the family go with our heartfelt gratitude, our love and our prayers."

News from School



Mr Dunn, one of our lunchtime supervisors, has been spending a lot of time and effort working on our garden and we'd like to thank him for all his hard work. Thanks also go to HMP Hewell for providing bird boxes and insect houses for the school grounds.

Mr Dunn has recently started running an after school gardening club and the children have enjoyed planting in their teapots; a good alternative to a traditional plant pot.

BBC's Gardeners' World Live in Birmingham hold an annual School Wheelbarrow competition and schools across the Midlands are encouraged to enter. Tardebigge School's gardening club is hoping to enter a wheelbarrow based on a Japanese theme. We look forward to sharing more information regarding this soon.



At the beginning of May, our Year 4 children enjoyed a residential trip to Conover Hall, near Shrewsbury. Conover Hall is a prestigious Elizabethan activity centre with onsite accommodation; it is owned and operated by JCA Adventure, operating in line with the vision of 'Learning Outside the Classroom'. This is the venue for our annual residential trip for our pupils in Year 4, and they always seem to have a fabulous time.

J.E.H

Contact details:

Telephone: 01527 872886

Email: office@tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Website: www.tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Julie Cutler



Events at St. Bartholomew's and St. Mary's



'Songs of Praise'

St. Mary's Church, Lower Bentley, B60 4JA

Sunday 30th June at 6.00pm



A community 'Songs of Praise' held in this beautiful small country church in the heart of rural Worcestershire. Come and join in the singing of favourite hymns and songs of worship, requested in advance by members of the congregation.

To request your favourite hymn, please contact Roger Powell (07971 888776) or email mpowell@btinternet.com

Although this is a free event, a collection will be taken.

* * * * *

Organ Recital with Hannah Gibson

St. Bartholomew's, Tardebigge, B60 3AH

Sunday 7th July at 4.30pm

Organ recital by accomplished young organist Hannah Gibson, with music ranging from Richard Wagner to John Ireland. Hannah studied at Dundee Cathedral, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and in Vienna, and is currently a freelance musician based in Worcestershire. The audience is welcome to stay for the evensong service starting at 6.00pm.



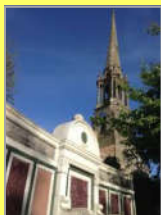
Tickets £5.00 Available on the door or from Chris Milton (07825 749767)

* * * * *

Afternoon Baroque

St. Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge, B60 3AH

Sunday 14th July at 4.00pm



Songs and instrumental numbers by Vivaldi, Handel, Purcell and other Baroque and Renaissance composers performed by The Arden Consort - Mike Ashley (lute & theorbo), Heather Holt (flute, recorder, viol), Jonathan Spencer (voice & viol) & David Yates (recorders). The audience is welcome to stay for Evensong starting at 6.00pm.

Tickets £4.00 Available on the door or from Chris Milton (07825 749767)

* * * * *

Choral Evensong with the Clent Consort

St. Bartholomew's Church, Tardebigge, B60 3AH

Sunday 21st July at 6.00pm

A unique range of music as the Clent Consort sings Choral Evensong in this beautiful parish church. The Consort is a choir from the Bromsgrove area, which since its formation 17 years ago has sung services in cathedrals and great churches from Chichester to Beverley, and from St. David's to Southwark.



FREE Event



Welcome!

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9.30am to 12 Noon
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

Pips

at St. Philip's Church, Webheath

Stories, Songs and Games
For 3-7 year olds

Every 2nd Thursday of the month
3.45pm - 4.40pm

Starting with a drink and a biscuit!



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

www.stphilipswebheath.org.uk

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



St Mary's Church

St Mary's is a countryside Church located in Lower Bentley.

St Mary's is licensed to Publish Banns and for the

Solemnization of Marriage.

St Mary's is ideal for small, intimate weddings, being able to accommodate up to fifty guests.

For further information contact

Jane Hall, Parish Clerk
on 07980 358252 or email:
contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk

Flypast

Sunday 9th June

2.10pm

St. Philip's Church,
Webheath



Battle of Britain Memorial Flypast

75th anniversary of the D-Day landings

(Weather permitting)

(No parking in car park please)

ALL WELCOME

There will also be a D-Day Landings exhibition in Church

Saturday 8th June – Tuesday 11th June

10.30am – 5.00pm (12.30pm – 6.00pm on Sunday 9th June)

ADMISSION £3.00 (Children £1.00)

www.stphilipswebheath.org.uk



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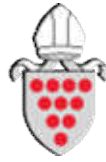
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WORCESTER

A Letter from the Archdeacon of Dudley

It is a steadily growing, worldwide organisation enabling people to gather weekly, drawn by a sense of community and the promise of well-being. It is facilitated primarily by enthusiastic volunteers who work for more than a million hours each year. It is open to everyone, inclusive and involves all ages. Most people who join in find themselves encouraging their friends and families to come along too, as they love it so much - they quickly become 'evangelists' for this remarkable movement.

Sounds familiar? Is it church I am describing? I wish it were so, especially the last sentence! In fact the phenomenon in question has been described as "the new church", and in a recent newspaper article a volunteer was quoted saying, "The idea of the community has broken down. People don't go to church any more. But here, you come together with a load of people – and you feel embedded in the local area."

The obvious ingredient missing in this description is faith. This volunteer-led new community of which I and millions of others are a part on a Saturday morning is Parkrun, a timed, 5k run taking place in parks all over the world. It's great for building a sense of belonging in a healthy way, but of course it isn't church. Yet perhaps we as church, have things to learn from how it's growing. Especially about the affirmation of volunteers. The first thing that happens in every pre-run briefing is a big shout-out and cheer for that week's volunteers. As we run the course, most runners, (if they are not too breathless!), call out "thank you marshal!" to each and every one, and they always get listed and thanked in the Facebook run report.

On one Saturday in May members of Top Church in Dudley took on all the volunteer roles at the Dudley Parkrun to serve and become more embedded in their local community and demonstrate that many people do still go to church, (and some run too!).

Much ministry in our churches is undertaken by committed volunteers, faithful lay people similarly putting in millions of hours week by week. Sadly, many of you do this unnoticed, and all too often, unthanked. God, of course, sees what it is done and why, but fostering a culture of gratitude whereby we take a moment to thank anyone who we know has served the church can strengthen relationships and encourage fellow church members no end. Why not make the month of June a '**volunteer thank-you month**', where we all try to consciously show our appreciation to those we see carrying out tasks to enable our churches to function? It would

certainly boost morale!

I made a point of thanking our church wardens during the May visitations – they put in huge amounts of work. But can I take this opportunity to thank anyone reading this who volunteers in church or community in any way – you are appreciated very much.

Nikki Groarke

Sidespersons Rota

2nd June

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

9th June

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

16th June

11.00am - D Stubbings and V Mackenzie
6.00pm - P Hopkins

23rd June

8.00am - G R Underhill
11.00am - V Richardson and P Hopkins
6.00pm - T Powell

30th June

11.00am - P Hopkins
6.00pm - 'Songs of Praise' at St. Mary's



9th June

Chris & Mary Watkins

Flower Rota



2nd June

Jane Hall

9th June

Lucy Parkes

16th June

Rosemary Troth

23rd June

Jane Oldaker

30th June

Angela Rigby

7th July

Vivien Mackenzie

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY

27th June

Adrian Quinney

29th June

Thomas Alan Peers Butler

Verse for the Month

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Matthew 28: 19

Registers in May

Baptisms



5th May - Rosalie Florence GANNON

12th May - Charlotte PENZER (Mrs)

19th May - Lillian Rosemary GOULBOURNE

Funerals



8th May - Kenneth James CLARKE

15th May - Peter John Thomas BURMAN



Tardebigge Community Hall

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Bentley Pauncefoot WI

It really felt like Summer on Tuesday May 21st when we held our annual May lunch in Bentley Village Hall. The sun was shining and there were wonderful views of the Worcestershire landscape to be admired through the windows of the Hall. After a glass of Pimms from our in - house mixologist, Vivien Mackenzie, members, with guests from Cookhill and Kington with Dormston WIs and our area adviser, Margaret Bazeley, sat down to a delicious



Summery berry puddings

Summery lunch provided by the Committee. Poached salmon, ham, Coronation chicken, quiche and a special Irish potato dish were among the many delicious choices on offer. Roulades and an assortment of berry and cream confections made by the members completed the seasonal theme. As one of our guests remarked, visiting Bentley was fun because of the happy atmosphere.

The ladies were particularly happy on Tuesday because we were able to present a cheque for £557, proceeds of our recent coffee morning to Kelly from the Basement Project. Kelly then explained how the money would be used to help young people in Bromsgrove. As an illustration she described how on her first day with the project, she was faced with a young woman and her two little girls who had absolutely nowhere to go. After much ringing around, she was able to find them overnight hotel accommodation whilst a longer term solution was found. Sometimes money is needed for emergency food, clothes and fares for interviews etc; truly vital work.



Pictured: Michelle receiving a cheque from Kelly (right) from The Basement Project



To round off events, our President, Christine Badger, planted a "centenary" tree in the grounds of Bentley Village Hall. It is an acer, I am reliably informed, and it looked stunning. It was Bentley WI's way of commemorating a hundred years of the Worcestershire Federation and in itself symbolized Summer.

Pictured: Christine planting the "centenary" tree

Lynne Reading

Summer Fete

Sunday 7th July

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Webheath Digital Photography Club

John Haines made a return visit on Monday 15 April to give a full house his talk on his approach to photography. He emphasised the benefits of taking “grab shots” and multiple exposures to capture hopefully that one instant which makes the image. Not all shots should be taken anticipating their use in competition – photography should also include whatever



takes your fancy. He then moved on to the editing of images in the computer. He showed the results of trying different effects on what might even be thought of as otherwise dull pictures, “making more out of just something. Wacky ideas are OK!” A most entertaining and instructive evening.

Easter Bank Holiday Monday was a day off for the Club but members were back in force the following week for an Assignment Night. This time the themes were “Transport, circles or green”. Over eighty images were reviewed, some strictly to a single theme, some including two or all of the ideas on offer. Members even saw more in some images than had been seen by the authors. Graeme Tozer saw “Stealth” in the shadow of his flight coming in to land at Bristol; so many of us have tried to capture that fleeting moment. Dave Rodgers found what he saw as a “School Bus” in Cambodia, full of colour and atmosphere.



The following Monday was yet another Bank Holiday with no meeting but the Thursday of that week saw the OVO Cycle Tour Series return to Redditch. Despite the cold, showers and poor lighting it gave Members the opportunity to practise “panning” shots, trying to get some motion blur in the focused image or conversely trying to freeze the action with short exposures. No doubt we will see some results later in the year. Talking to the TV cameraman, although he was used to all

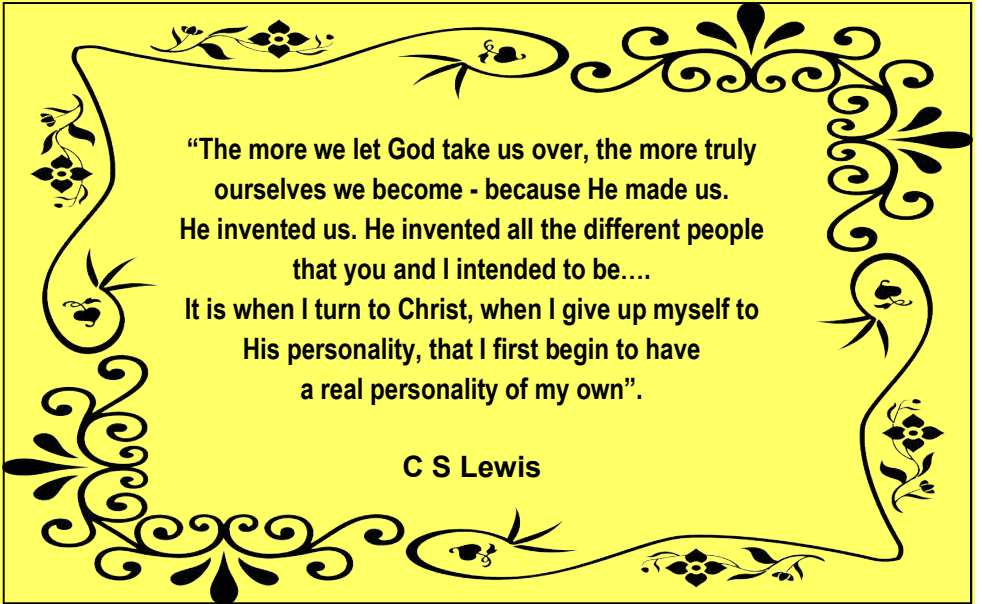
sorts of weather, he was still looking forward to some dry clothes and a long drive back to home in Kent!

The month of June is thankfully not plagued by Bank Holidays and we have the welcome return of Carl Wright on the 3rd to talk about "Portraits". This is intended to be a practical night allowing Members to try their skills. A photoshoot is scheduled for the next week, returning to Tardebigge which is a favourite location with the church, its yew trees and canal. Views over Bromsgrove and beyond can be interesting if the evening sunlight is kind. The following Monday we are back in the Village Hall for a technical evening. The month closes with a talk by Claire Carter who will be looking at "Landscapes".

The Village Hall, Webheath, is our usual venue on Monday evenings at 7:30, except Bank Holidays and through Christmas and the New Year. Our range of external speakers is chosen to reflect both the technical and artistic aspects of photography. Anyone with an interest in digital photography, whether the owner of a point-and-shoot camera or the latest DSLR, is very welcome to come along to our regular meetings. During the summer the members may be away from the hall on location for our organised evening photoshoots. The Club's website is webheathdpc.com where you can find details, such as how to contact us, our programme for 2019 and more. You can also find us on Facebook as Webheath Digital Photography Club and www.instagram.com/WebheathDPC will also find us. Don't forget our gallery of prints on the wall by Wilko's in the shopping centre.

P. Dewell June 2019

* * * * *



"The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become - because He made us. He invented us. He invented all the different people that you and I intended to be.... It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own".

C S Lewis

Sudoku

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

Solution next month

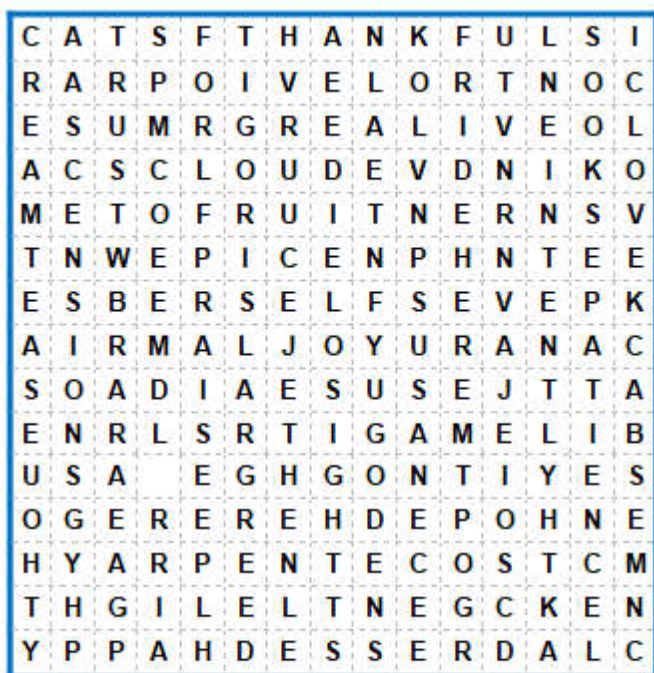
5	4	3	9	1	7	2	6	8
9	8	6	5	3	2	1	7	4
7	1	2	8	6	4	9	5	3
3	2	5	6	4	1	7	8	9
1	6	8	7	5	9	3	4	2
4	9	7	2	8	3	6	1	5
2	7	4	1	9	5	8	3	6
6	3	9	4	7	8	5	2	1
8	5	1	3	2	6	4	9	7

Last month's solution

Word Search

He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee" they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven".

Acts 1: 9b-11



BEFORE CLOUD SIGHT
INTENTLY DRESSED GALILEE
JESUS HEAVEN BACK

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

J.E.H.

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