



www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk 'Children of key workers painted a rainbow at Tardebigge CE First School, 16th April 2020

Tardebigge and Bentley Parish Magazine



May 2020 - online edition





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Church Services

The online services from Redditch Holy Trinity team ministry (our churches are part of this team) are accessible on the following YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsh_dWJnm8n82G2NwBzrdcw

- **Morning and Evening Prayer** said services Monday to Saturday
- **Sunday Services:**
 - Morning Worship from 10.30am
 - All Age Worship from 4.00pm
- **Tardebigge's Café Church 'Byte Size'** goes live every Sunday at 9.30am via Zoom (an app which can be downloaded for free):
(<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8025844896> - PASSWORD 388617)

A pre-recorded version of Café Church is then uploaded to the the following YouTube channel (or search 'Café Church Tardebigge').

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCepafX9IQwOsG8ZC60NghGA>

(Cafe Church is a 'fresh expression' of church).

Most online services within the Diocese of Worcester can be accessed here:

<https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/2020/03/21/online-church-services-across-diocese/>

Useful Contacts:

Team Rector: Rev. Richard Clark **07970 823462**

Church Wardens: Chris Milton **07825 749767** and
Jane Hall **07980 358252**

St. Mary's: Sarah Carless **07789 174099**

Pastoral Care: Gail Teague **01527 541991**

www.tardebiggechurch.org.uk

May

From Richard, the Team Rector



It is never easy to know how to interpret scientific evidence when we are dealing with a new challenge that is changing the face not only of British society, but of the world at large. As a vicar, I have the challenge of interpreting what is happening spiritually at this extraordinary moment in our history. As evidence is being gathered, it is not clear whether it is good or bad news for the church; perhaps a bit of both. See what you think as you read this article.

The Tearfund survey also indicates that record numbers have begun attending church online since the lockdown began. Generally, we'd expect around 5-7 per cent of the nation to attend a Sunday service at least once a month. But over the past couple of months, this figure has jumped - in fact it has skyrocketed - to 24 per cent of the British population. Almost one in four. And 5 per cent of these people wouldn't normally be at church in, well... a month of Sundays!

This survey also indicates that some three million new people have turned to prayer in the UK since lockdown began, while the online British bookstore Eden reported a 55 per cent increase in sales of Bibles in April. Prayer leader Pete Greig commented: "I would never have believed a few months ago that I'd be seeing a headline in a major British paper saying this: "British public turn to prayer as one in four tune into religious services online". And then the stunning subheading: "Young people lead resurgence in faith". Yep, you read that right: the demographic leading the charge to church is the sophisticated, supposedly post-Christian 18-34 year olds."

In the Holy Trinity team ministry, of which Webheath and Tardebigge are part, has certainly noticed a good number of views for its services and other material posted on Facebook. Online courses are running, with Alpha the next to begin, on June 1st. Alpha has been a very popular course nationwide during the lockdown.

If things are going so well, what is the downside? Firstly, we don't know how much of this seeking God through Jesus will continue after the lockdown is over. Will people revert to their

former indifference? Will people stop praying when the crisis is past? Previous experience suggests that some will. If, however, people have sincerely sought and found Jesus they may not be so inclined to drop him when Covid-19 is no longer a serious threat, so we will have to wait and see.

In the meantime, let us bear in mind this contemporary version of what the Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians: "Don't fret or worry about anything. Instead of worrying, pray about everything. Let requests and praises shape your worries into prayers and thank him for all he has done". It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the centre of your life, for his peace will guard your heart and mind.

Richard

Verse for the Month

**Therefore, there is now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus**

Romans 8: 1

**"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow;
It empties today of its strength."**

Corrie ten Boom

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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- Maintain confidentiality except, of course, where this is restricted by the requirements of the law

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- Some agreed factual information that the meeting has occurred will be recorded and held securely and confidentially
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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

Complaints: [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/diocesancompendium/
safeguarding/complaints-whistleblowers/](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/diocesancompendium/safeguarding/complaints-whistleblowers/)

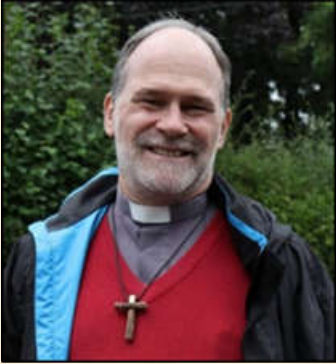


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Richard's Ramble 20th May 2020



The lockdown has been going on for a couple of months now, a radical change to all our lives that was impossible to foresee and remains challenging to handle. There is currently a great deal of divergence of opinion as to how to ease the lockdown, and when. I do not think it is the role of any Christian to take on board media controversies and broadcast speculation and argument from secular sources, especially in a field about which most of us know very little. Instead, we are to look to conduct ourselves in a way that reflects the New Testament. The values of the Kingdom of God are of great worth at any time, and in any crisis.

To this end, we may want to dip into the New Testament with greater frequency, seeking prayerfully to take on board the values and attitudes that are approved and commended to us. Some people who call themselves Christian have gone away from this principle and can easily end up manifesting values in speech and action that contradict the New Testament. This may be because they have uncritically consumed so much non-Christian material from TV, books, newspapers, radio, films, etc. that their minds have become secularised. When such people look upon the New Testament, they sit in judgement over it, and the Bible as a whole, rather than submitting to it, because to sit as a judge over the Word of God in scripture is precisely the opposite of being Christian. These people edit the Bible to suit the promptings of their flesh, often cutting the negative sections, or anything that makes them feel challenged or uncomfortable. In doing so they not only bring discredit on the Church and detract from God's glory, not only do they misrepresent the faith to themselves and to others, but they cut themselves off from the grace of God through Jesus; for the receiving of grace comes through repentance of sins and the heartfelt declaration that Jesus Christ is Lord. If Jesus is truly Lord in our hearts and lives, then we will trust, obey, and worship.

We have so much to thank God for. I often marvel at the lockdown weather; just imagine if we had had the sort of downpours that we had from October to February! Instead, we have had unseasonably warm, dry, sunny weather that has helped us to go for walks, potter about the garden and enjoy the sunshine on the flowers of spring. Those of us who have had to queue outside a supermarket will be grateful that they did not have to do so under an umbrella.

Each day is a gift, not an entitlement. This is easily forgotten when we lose someone we really cared about, especially as we cannot even have a proper funeral for all those who would

want to be there; or perhaps when we feel frustrated at the lack of opportunity to do those things that we so want to do but cannot because of the Covid-19 situation. Sue and I understand this personally, as we have hardly been able to celebrate our 60th birthdays. We also share the sadness of many who cannot have a holiday away from home for the time being. I thank God, however, for all that I have, and, looking up, thank him especially for Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, our rock, our fortress, our ever present help in times of trouble. He is our mighty deliverer, and we have no need to fear.

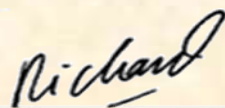
This is not true for everyone, of course. Secularised minds are prey to all sorts of fears and speculations, tossed about as they are by the whims of the media and the fashions and themes of this present age. People are afraid to go out, afraid to teach or to send their children to school, afraid for their families, afraid that this crisis will never end. While some people have been breaking lockdown regulations because they cannot bear it any longer or out of obstinate defiance, others have been far stricter than they need to be. How different it would be if we all had Jesus as our shepherd. In him is significance, security and reassurance that, whatever befalls us, he will never leave us or forsake us.

Society has been brought to an abrupt halt in its march to liberal secularism. More people are praying, some are accessing Christian websites and engaging in online courses such as Alpha that have rarely if ever darkened the doors of a church. God is challenging the nation to look at the basis for its self-assurance.

From 21st May (Ascension) -31st May (Pentecost) we have the Thy Kingdom Come ten days of prayer. Let us all make a point of saying the Lord's Prayer at Noon every day during that period and praying for our nation to turn back to Jesus. We will be running an online Alpha from June 1st, led by Paul Lawlor. Now would be a good time to encourage someone to go on that course, perhaps someone who doesn't usually go to church, or someone who goes only very occasionally.

The Lord bless you and lead you forward in your faith.

Yours in Christ Jesus, Lord and Saviour,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Celestial Corner

May, the first month of celestial, Solar, summer. May 1st - Beltane in the Celtic calendar.

But let us look at the map and we see that at 10pm the Spring Triangle is dominating the Southern sky. The Sun set no more than an hour ago, Venus is low in the West North West and Mercury is just setting (just above Venus on the map). The last star of Orion is just setting in the West as the head of Scorpio is rising in the South East, (remember Orion was killed by the Scorpion and so the pair play a perpetual game of hide and seek!).

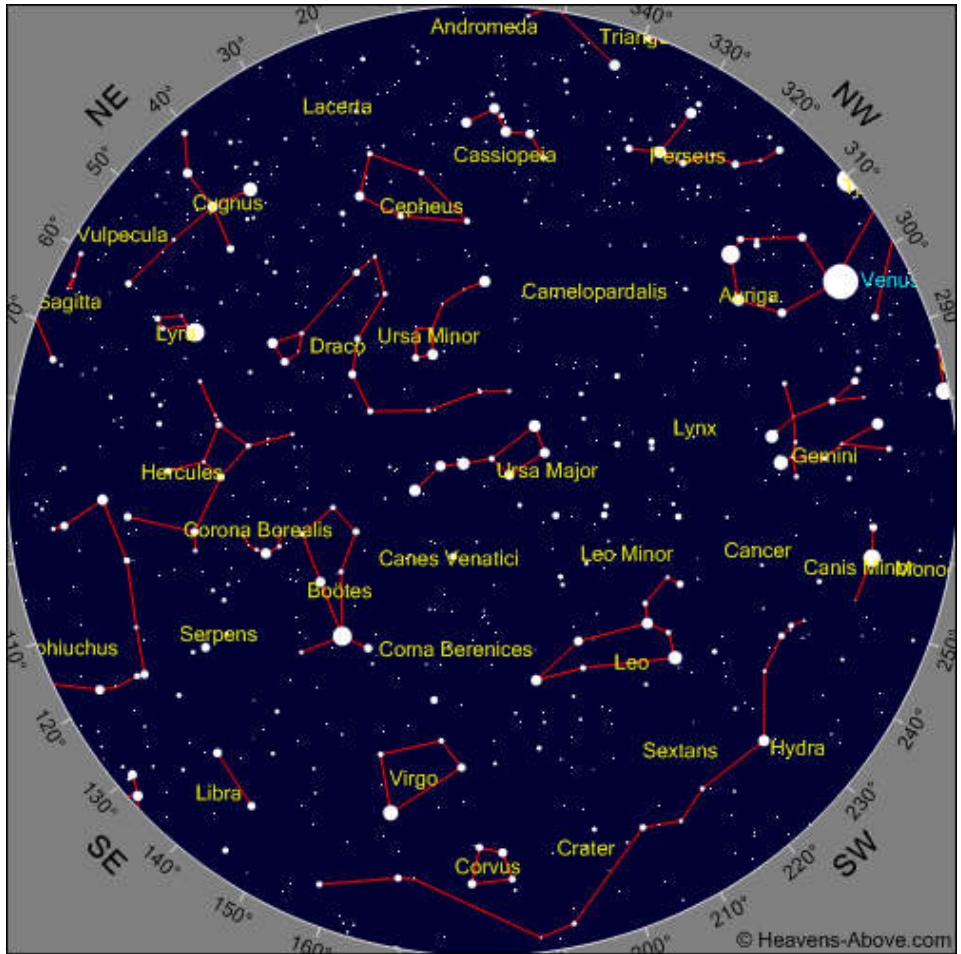
Due south is the nice little constellation of Corvus (the Crow). The top right star marks the crow's tail, the next two mark his wings and the fourth, lower, star his head. You can see from the map how long Hydra (the water snake) is, from it's head lying to the right of Leo down under Corvus to end below Virgo.

These maps are not the best as far as marking the constellations is concerned, Virgo being a prime example, but that is probably due to the small scale and for reasons of clarity! For example, if you look on the map at the western end of Hydra, you may see two fainter stars, which form a square with the two last stars in the line. These four stars form Hydra's head. Returning to Virgo, look at the two stars forming the right side of the "square" and add the bright star above the top one. Now add the two stars to the right of the lower one, so forming a dish with all five stars. This is known as the "Bowl of Virgo" and lying mainly within that bowl lies the Virgo cluster of galaxies. Unfortunately most are too faint to be seen with even a small telescope, although Messier did include some in his catalogue, such as M49, 58, 59, 60, 61, 84, 86,89 & 90. Although it is not with the main group, the most famous galaxy in Virgo is a spiral seen edge on, called M104, the Sombrero galaxy, because it looks like a sombrero hat! There are more stars to the left of the bright star, Spica, but it is not easy to explain on this map where they lie! You will notice that two more groups are mentioned, Sextans (the sextant) and Crater (the cup), but are not marked out. This is because they are not easy to pick out and have no bright stars in their makeup!

Between Leo and Bootes is marked Coma Berenices (Berenice's hair), an area which, in VERY dark skies, shows a faint luminosity and this is due to it containing another group of galaxies including Messiers 64, 85, 88, 91, 98, 99 & 100.

You will notice that almost overhead is the Plough and the rest of Ursa Major (the Great Bear), so this is a good time to see if you can see Alcor. Alcor lies very close to Mizar, the middle star of the plough handle and the pair make up a "Line of Sight" double. Which means they are not an actual pair in close proximity, but Alcor lies in the same area of sky as we see it, but is actually further away from us than Mizar is, a lot further and therefore fainter! It is a

a test as to how clear the air is as to whether you can see Alcor. If there is any haze or thin high cloud the chances are you won't be able to pick Alcor out, so there would be no point looking for Messier objects until it has cleared!



R.B.

April Anagrams: Answers - Canals in England

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Shrewsbury | 6. Grand Union | 11. Coventry |
| 2. Bridgewater | 7. Shropshire Union | 12. Stourbridge |
| 3. Trent and Mersey | 8. Droitwich | 13. Kennet and Avon |
| 4. Macclesfield | 9. Stratford Upon Avon | 14. Grand Junction |
| 5. Lancaster | 10. Worcester and Birmingham | |

The Parish of Tardebigge St. Bartholomew with St. Mary is alive and active

Although our church buildings are closed due to the current COVID-19 situation, we are very much open. The Church is here to support you pastorally and spiritually and we hope you are able to access the online services provided by the Redditch Holy Trinity team ministry, which we are part of.

You will appreciate we are unable to take collections at weddings, baptisms and at our regular services in church as these are currently suspended. However, we still have substantial financial commitments in respect of the maintenance of our buildings, as well as general running costs, mission and ministry.

If you don't currently give by standing order, please pray about your giving at this time. If you feel you would like to make a donation by internet banking the details are as follows:

Account no: 70799599 Sort Code 40-38-07

**“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not
reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”**
2 Corinthians 9: 7

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*)

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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*

June Magazine

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

contact@tardebiggechurch.org.uk as soon as possible.

News from School

Ever since the start of the Covid-19 lockdown, our school has remained open to some children of key workers. Following the government's recent announcement that primary schools are to re-open to more pupils from 1st June has meant a lot of preparation including extensive risk assessments to ensure the safety of pupils and staff.



The government announced that primary schools should aim to prepare for the return of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, but as a First School in a three tier system we don't have any Year 6 pupils.

However, we don't have the capacity to accommodate the return of all Early Years pupils due to the size of our building and class rooms with social distancing and health and safety being paramount.

We are still operating a virtual school for pupils at home, and we are in regular contact with these children and their parents/carers.

J.E.H



Contact details:

Telephone: 01527 872886

Email:

office@tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Website:

www.tardebigge.worcs.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Julie Cutler



Sunrise

A lone bird started to sing
To proclaim a new day had begun,
I rolled over in bed and through the window I glimpsed
The glorious appearance of sun.

It made me realise that nothing, no virus, no disease,
Could halt Nature's most glorious gift
Of a morning so beautiful no heart could not help,
But experience a sudden uplift.

We must appreciate each flower, even a weed
That comes with a new Season's arrival
For nature's blessings won't stop and will surely give hope
That will ensure every human soul of survival.

L M Wadlow

We now accept online donations

Give to Tardebigge Church

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<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/5fb26729-c91f-477a-90af-526c43bd0343>

Thank you for your support

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.



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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

Fred Shrimpton - A Tribute



The whole Tardebigge community was very much touched by the passing of Fred Shrimpton on 2nd April at the age of 98. He had been a popular and leading figure, who had given so much of his time, thought and personality to the parish for so many years, and it was particularly poignant that as a result of Covid-19 restrictions, his burial had to be such a small affair, attended only by his closest family. As soon as gatherings are permitted again, rest assured that a suitable memorial service will be organised to commemorate his life in a manner more fitting to one who gave us so much.

Frederick Noel Shrimpton was born in Headless Cross on 25th December 1921, into the Shrimpton family of builders. His Christmas birthday became something of an institution at St. Bartholomew's, when for many years each Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve would end with a chorus of Happy Birthday, and Rosalind Chambers fondly remembers returning to the vestry to toast his health in sherry – a very happy start to Christmas!

His early life was spent in Headless Cross where he was a member of the Fellowship of Youth group run by St Luke's church and where he also captained the school football team. Between 1936 and 1938 he worked for Timothy White and Taylor, the chemist, in Redditch but when the training to become a dispenser got in the way of his football each Saturday afternoon, he changed career and became a bricklayer! This was interrupted in March 1942 when he was called up for service in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. He eventually found himself part of "shield force" which was en route to Okinawa in Japan (with airfield construction as its primary objective in support of the planned American invasion) when the Japanese surrender was announced in August 1945. He was re-directed to Hong Kong to assist with the Japanese surrender there, eventually returning to the UK in May 1946.

During the war, in 1943, he married Beryl Penrice during a short period of leave. Beryl was the youngest daughter of Mr & Mrs Penrice of Brickyard Cottage which was situated across the meadows from Tardebigge Church and the wedding took place at St Bartholomew's. In 1950 Fred and Beryl's son Donald was born, and in 1951 the family moved to a farmhouse which was part of Foxlydiat Farm, on Birchfield Road adjacent to the Foxlydiat pub, which was later much used for church and PCC meetings! His uncle, Aner Shrimpton, had bought the farm when the Bentley estate was sold in 1947, and Aner continued to run the farming business as a dairy farm while Fred and Beryl rented the farmhouse. Fred had continued with his bricklaying career after the war working for the family firm until 1950 and from 1951 to 1957 with his brother Ken, building houses in Vicarage Crescent, Redditch. In 1957 Fred lost his

father and his brother Ken within a week of each other. Following Ken's death, Fred set up his own building and contracting business and in the same year, he and Beryl took on the tenancy of the farm buildings and land in addition to the farmhouse. In place of dairy farming, they started rearing young cattle for beef production in addition to setting up Fred's building and contracting business.

In the mid 1950's Fred joined Tardebigge church choir together with his son Donald. The family rapidly became part of the Tardebigge community. Fred was one of the original members of the parish drama group, the Mount Players, which performed amateur dramatics around the area for many years. He is also remembered by many for being light-footed, an exceptionally good dancer, and the life and soul of any meal or party held for the benefit of the parish. He was a chalice assistant at communion and served as a tenor chorister in St. Bartholomew's Choir throughout his life, giving up only when he could no longer manage the chancel steps, after more than 50 years as a chorister. His enthusiastic participation, although usually pianissimo, was a bedrock for the choir for many years. The wider public will also remember his dogged persistence as auctioneer at the Fair and Show, squeezing his audience for every last penny!

His building skills became invaluable in maintaining the churches and their buildings, and the 1961 minute book of the Tardebigge Church of England Men's Society (the precursor to the later Men's Group) records how the members voted to take him a basket of fruit in hospital, after he fractured his skull when a ladder fell from under him while he was working on the



apse. In 1988 he became churchwarden of St. Bartholomew's, and served for five years, only to return for a second stint of four years in 1997. As Sexton, another of his many roles, he took a keen interest in the churchyard, ensuring it was well-kept and trying to trace families whose graves needed attention. Vivien Mackenzie remembers him taking her right round the churchyard so that she could list all the necessary graves and write letters for him!

His leadership, knowledge and understanding of business and construction remained invaluable throughout the decades, so much so that even after he retired, the PCC asked him to stay on as Member Emeritus until his death. His counsel was invariably wise, delivered in a slow and thoughtful manner and in his wonderful accent, with the result that all present would simply be quiet and listen! He would attend meetings whenever he could right up until 2018, and when this was no longer possible, would diligently read all the papers sent to him in advance, and telephone a churchwarden with comments or points he wanted made on his

behalf.



One achievement at the church was the part Fred played, with the late Bert Gateley, in seizing the opportunity to purchase additional land for which Fred later obtained planning permission and consecration for use as an extended churchyard and burial area. But his most treasured memory was from the nineties, when Fred was a prime mover and shaker in getting the Tardebigge Community Hall built, doggedly pursuing funding and advising on its construction through to completion, and remaining a holding trustee until the Official Custodian took over responsibilities in 2019. His singular contribution is commemorated in the naming of the committee room in the Hall after him; the Fred Shrimpton Room.

In 1982 Fred very sadly lost his wife and dancing partner Beryl who was only 61. After a gap of five years he took up dancing again with various partners until, in 1995, he met Sylvia who became his regular partner and a true friend in later years. He carried on the building and farming businesses until 1987 when he retired aged 66 and moved to a bungalow in Belmont Close, where Jean Honeybourne, his fellow churchwarden, remembers spending many an hour in well-prepared meetings with him. He became involved in many organisations which included Redditch Probus club, The League of Friends, Senior Citizens and for 20 years he undertook voluntary work for W.R.V.S. as part of their meals on wheels service. Continuing his love of football, he was a lifelong supporter of Birmingham City football club. He became a regular season ticket holder on his retirement in 1987 and continued to attend games for another 20 or so years.

In 2007, he moved to Plymouth Court, Headless Cross, the area in which he was born in 1921. Typical of the man, he remained independent for as long as possible, surrounded by mementoes of a life lived to the full. In pride of place in his living room hung a large painting of St. Bartholomew's which he had commissioned. When he moved into the Brambles nursing home for his final few months, he gave the painting to the church, and it is now displayed in the Community Hall room which bears his name, where it can be admired and will remain as a fitting memorial to all Fred's work.

Fred loved his family and he leaves one son, Donald, two grandchildren Paul and Jenny and the two newest additions to the family, his grandchildren Zak and Indie.





This photo of the choir from Joanne Stephens, circa 1964, shows Fred Shrimpton (standing sixth from right) and his son Donald (first on left in the middle row). The eagle-eyed will also spot our current choirmaster Rob Barnett, and Joanne herself!

Chris Milton and Don Shrimpton

Monday 20th April 2020



Just to let you know I officiated as sexton at the burial this afternoon. The sun was bright the birds were singing and Richard did a delightful short service.

Fred's son Donald and his wife and one grandson were able to be there. It is a lovely spot where Fred is now buried.

Donald said he hoped there would be a memorial service sometime in the future when normality's restored.

Michael



The UK Blessing

At this unique time in the UK over 65 churches have come together online to sing a blessing over our land. Standing together as one, our desire is that this song will fill you with hope and encourage you.



Funerals



20th April

Frederick Noel SHRIMPTON

Birthdays in May



Malcolm Norris

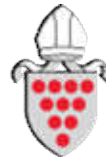
**St. Mary's Church,
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St. Mary's is a countryside church surrounded by open fields. It is ideal for small intimate baptisms and weddings, accommodating up to fifty guests.

**For enquiries please contact
Jane Hall (07980 358252)**

Email: contact@tardebigechurch.org.uk



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Cultivating thankfulness From the Archdeacon of Dudley

As I write this piece for you, at the very end of May, life is still full of uncertainty, and I have no idea what the situation in our country, or in our churches, will be like by the time you read my words. The year to date has been one of unprecedented change – much that we now regard as ‘normal’ would have been unimaginable this time last year. We have adapted our life styles, followed the guidelines, practised social distancing, closed our church buildings and endeavoured to stay alert to slow the spread of a global pandemic and save lives.

I wonder what you have most missed during these months of lockdown. And I wonder how long we will consciously treasure those things when we eventually have them back in our lives. Because we take so much for granted, until it’s suddenly not there, or not allowed. For me, it’s been all about people – my family and friends. Throughout April and May, there were many things we could only do with ‘members of our own household’. I, along with over eight million other people in the UK, live alone, so until late May I couldn’t do anything with anyone! Apart from my virtual encounters (which fill most days – the wonders of technology have enabled meetings to go on, so the world hasn’t ground to a complete halt). How I have missed being with my Mum and Dad, my wider family, sharing a meal and a hug. How I have craved a face-to-face chat with a friend. How I have longed to mingle with others over a coffee at the end of a church service, after having sung our hearts out in praise and shared communion and a sign of peace together.

Some of those joys are gradually being restored now. I can see my mum in the garden, but not hug her. I can run with a friend and chat to my heart’s content, but running a marathon with thousands of others is off limits. Church buildings are likely to be closed for gathered worship for some time yet. My spirits have been lifted wonderfully by these new freedoms, and I want to keep that sense of thankfulness and joy, never again taking such things for granted.

In his letter to a small church in Colosse, Saint Paul urges his readers to ‘be thankful’, to ‘sing with gratitude’. It’s easy to forget thankfulness when we take things for granted, the freedoms

most of us have as able bodied people in a relatively affluent part of the world. When the freedom to leave our homes, walk the hills, get a haircut, worship together, hug our family gets wrenched from us, we are perhaps prompted to realise how little we appreciated all that was good. I hope to have an attitude of gratitude long after this crisis is over. I want to be thankful for all the things I have missed, not just for the first few weeks I have them back, but forever.

As we venture into whatever the new normal looks like, let's cultivate thankfulness and grateful hearts, and never take our blessings for granted.

Nikki Groarke



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CONNECTIONS

Bentley Pauncefoot WI

These are a few images to illustrate how some of our members have been occupying their time during self-isolation.



Anne Scrimshaw who is Manager of the Fab Lab at Sandwell College answered the call to print hundreds of face shields for NHS workers on the front line. She retrieved the three 3D printers, materials and a laser cutter from the lab and set up a print room in her house. She started off printing around 6 visors a day, but has considerably upped her productivity. In fact, a batch of 60 was recently sent to a hospital in Herefordshire. The 3D printers create the headband part of the face shield, bag up the parts and send them to the nearest hub. A clear

plastic film is placed on the front and elastic placed on the back to hold it in place.

Elsewhere members were busy making laundry bags for staff in local hospitals. 117 were made by Val Richardson, Yvonne Jovanovic, Janet Williams, Trish, Jean Harper and Chris Badger. Michelle Stafford also contributed by cutting out material for making scrubs. Knitters responded to an appeal from the Warm Baby Project at Birmingham Children's Hospital by knitting hats for premature



babies and incubator

blankets. Lynne Reading knitted the blanket seen in the picture whilst Doreen Baylis knitted a magnificent 100 hats!

Bentley members have also been nurturing and developing their artistic and creative talents.





Michelle Stafford has been painting

**Val Richardson
has been quilting**



**After a course at Denham College,
Liz Every has been willow weaving**

**Lynne Reading
(01527 559 207).**

May Anagrams: Men in the New Testament



- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Wander | 6. Ham lice | 11. Pit hat then jobs (3 words) |
| 2. Lures icon | 7. A rich haze | 12. Is nuptial poet (2 words) |
| 3. Wealth broom | 8. Dust ahead | 13. Monies |
| 4. Monster pie (2 words) | 9. Acid sari joust (2 words) | 14. Dean relax |
| 5. Hen watt | 10. A gerbil | |



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'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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Newsletter



Soroptimists International Bromsgrove and Redditch decided to Twin our Tap with another Tap in the World through Toilet Twinning. £60.00 would provide hygiene promotion and training in vulnerable communities across more than 45 countries. This is to help people understand how to protect themselves from Covid-19 through hand washing and good hygiene. Our tap is twinned with a Tippy Tap in Guatamala. The Tippy Tap consists of an old

plastic container with a hollow handle, three sticks and some string. A hole is made in the handle so that when the bottle is tipped the water trickles out. A piece of soap is threaded onto a piece of string and then tied to the same stick as the bottle so that the soap is just in the right place for hand washing.

We all need to work together to reduce and remove the spread of Covid-19.

Several of our Members have been making NHS Laundry Bags and headbands which go to Hospitals, Care Homes, GPs and anywhere else they are needed. The laundry Bags are used to put the Care Workers Uniform into when they leave their work. They can safely take them home and put the whole bag into the washing machine, minimising the spread of germs, virus and disease. The headbands are used to hold the face masks in place as with their constant use they were causing sore areas behind the ears. The masks can now loop onto the buttons placed on the head band. To date, two members have made a total of 64 Laundry Bags and 100 Headbands. Well done to them!





Bromsgrove and Redditch Soroptimists have made or collected up "Thank You Cards" for the Charity Hope at Home. The Charity supports survivors of Slavery and Trafficking by Housing them in private homes until they are confident, settled and able to find accommodation of their own. Hope at Home were one of the speakers at Bromsgrove and Redditch Soroptimists Slavery and Trafficking

Awareness Day held last October in Bromsgrove. Over sixty Cards were handed over to the Charity to help them in their work. Hope at Home's Helen Hodgson thanked the Soroptimists very much for their support.

Justice and Care are asking for support to Lobby the Government. They say that when we start to experience our own freedom again. Slavery Victims across the UK will remain locked away. Justice and Care will send a clear message, with our help, to the UK Government that the lives of those in Slavery matter and that we remember them. We will be supporting them my sending a montage of pictures of members holding a poster saying "#UNLOCKTHEDOORS" standing in front of their doors.



Liz Every

Webheath Digital Photography Club

The Club was playing away to Solihull PS for the annual competition on 10 March with judge John Haines. Sadly Solihull reversed our home victory of last year, but only by three points even though the two top scoring images were both from WDPC which was some consolation.



The following week we had our Spring prints competition with probably our best turn out. Bob Moore was the judge for the night. He seemed to be harsh but fair, judging perhaps to "Exhibition" rather than "Club" standards. This, of course, made no difference to the relative marking. He made some interesting comments on inappropriate or weak titling and said he was looking for "atmosphere". Nevertheless his comments were delivered with an entertaining humour as he whittled the seventy two prints down to a final seven finalists. Eventually he settled on three to which he awarded 20 points, but there had to be a winner and first place went to Keith Waldron's "Out of the Blue", certainly atmospheric in its tones and reflections. He also took second place with Graham Bastock in third.

We hope to return to the Village Hall, Webheath, before too long. This is our usual venue where we will meet on Monday evenings at 7:30, except Bank Holidays and through Christmas and the New Year. Anyone with an interest in digital photography will be very welcome to come along to our regular meetings once they restart. In the summer months we are often missing from the Village Hall on our evening photoshoots. You can find us at www.instagram.com/WebheathDPC and on Facebook as Webheath Digital Photography Club.

P. Dewell May 2020

* * * * *

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