

ST. PHILIP & ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH WHITTINGTON PARISH NEWS

May 



MAY 2021

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50p

St Philip and St James' Parish Church, Whittington

A Ninth Century Chapel rebuilt in 1844



In the Worcester South East Team

St Philip & St James Whittington and St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

Vicar

The Rev'd Andy Stand 01905 358150

Church Officers for Whittington

Churchwardens:	Miss Janet Pearson	01905 357485
	Miss Jayne Rayer	01905 351344
Asst. Warden:	Mrs Brenda Giles	01905 25709
Organist:	Mr Richard Goldman	01905 831923
Hon Secretary:	Mrs Liz Chestney	01905 359708
Hon Treasurer:	Mrs Brenda Giles	01905 25709
Magazine Editor:	David Chestney	01905 359708
	david.battenhall@waitrose.com	

St. Martin with St. Peter

Team Rector:	Rev'd Peter Hart	01905 355119
Curate	Rev'd Dr Robin Parry	01905 764651

Holy Trinity & St Matthew Ronkswood

Vicar Rev'd Rob Farmer

Readers in the Team:

Mr Mike Bunclark

Team Administrator:

Rebecca Caskie: Team Office, St Martins Church,
London Road, Worcester WR5 2ED
Tel: 01905 358083
email: worcestersoutheastteam@gmail.com

*For enquiries about Baptisms, Thanksgivings, Marriages and Blessings,
please contact the Team Administrator as above.*

The Team Office is closed to visitors until further notice.

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May is the month with both Ascension (page 8) and Pentecost this year. As restrictions ease there is hope of a fuller life in prospect.

Inside you will find a picture of Whittington Church (page 9) painted in 1865 by Leader, which has not been seen before and provides insights into the history of the Church and Churchyard. Also some new initiatives towards ecological development.

Editor

Letter from the Vicarage

February 2021



Hi Everyone,

How are we all doing? Are you managing to stay fit and well? I hope you are all managing to enjoy the spring sunshine that we have been blessed with in recent weeks? That and the wonderful blossom on the trees truly lifts our spirits doesn't it? As I hope will the easing of the lockdown restrictions, heralding possibly the beginning of the end of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It has been truly wonderful that we have reopened the churches for public worship, even if we are still unable to sing hymns as part of that worship, and we still have to follow the social distancing guidelines. It has been really good to see those of you in person who have felt safe enough to come to church. I hope it won't be too much longer before we all feel safe enough to gather for worship in person.

I hope you are all having a Good Easter Season.

Of course, preceding Easter, we were in the Season of Lent and a number of people across the team joined in the various Lent groups that were taking place, on-line, and thinking about *Care for Creation* which was the name of this year's York Course - one of the study courses that was being used.

This is of course a subject that is close to many people's hearts and concerns at the moment. It is of particular interest I know to many of our young people.

Continued.....

We felt it was important that we gave our young people the opportunity to contribute to the thinking and discussions that were happening; and out of their group discussions has come an exciting project relating to recycling of many items that aren't collected by the council and would otherwise be going to landfill. The young people have written their own article for the magazine and I commend it to you all and extend their invitation for us all to get involved.

There are a couple of other things, this month, which I would also like to commend to you and ask you to be involved with please:

This month sees the Annual meetings for both churches - Whittington on 9th and St. Mark's on 23rd. I realise that because of the delays surrounding Covid it is only about 6 months since the last Annual meetings each took place, however I would encourage you to be a part of these meetings and have your say in the way that our church communities function and are governed. As with all of our Annual meetings we will need to elect church wardens and people to serve on the PCCs; this year in particular though we are looking for two new wardens to serve at St. Mark's as Chris Cole indicated to me last year that he didn't want to continue in the role and was only willing to be elected in December because it would be a short term of office this time around. My thanks to Chris and to all the others who serve on both PCCs. If anybody would be interested in helping to fill some of the positions on the PCC and would like more information about what is involved then do please let me know.

And finally, a reminder that 10th -16th May is Christian Aid Week and I would encourage you, if you are able, to support Christian Aid in their work via their website (see page 9).

Every blessing, Andy.



Coronavirus - Covid-19

**St Philip and St James Whittington
is now open for public worship.**

Details of arrangements for attending are on page 35

The Worcester South East Team of clergy continue to work on ways of serving the needs of all our parishes.

*Some services are still being conducted on-line by the Team
(see below)*

The Team Office at St Martin's is closed to visitors, except by appointment, but can still be reached by phone and email, see inside cover page.

LIVE ON-LINE VIDEO SERVICES

For all churches in the South East Team

Churches in the Team are progressively opening again for public worship but we are continuing to meet for worship during the week using the zoom app downloadable from the zoom.us website. To join one of the services please email the host who will send you a link:

Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday at 8.30 a.m. *hosted by Mike Bunclark (mbunclark@tiscali.co.uk)*

Compline: Monday to Friday at 8.30 p.m. *hosted by Mike Bunclark*

Monday Prayer Meeting: 4.00 p.m. *hosted by Joan Hazzard (joanhazz@gmail.com)*

Virtual 'Yew Brew' Coffee Morning: Saturday at 11.00 a.m. *hosted by Andy Stand*

Prayers for Peace and Justice: Saturday at 12 noon *hosted by Joan Hazzard*

For enquiries about Whittington please email the Vicar
[**andy.stand@sky.com**](mailto:andy.stand@sky.com)

**Sunday Services will be streamed from St Martin's on
Facebook, available through their website, and from
Whittington on Zoom.**

A Reminder for gardeners - SUMMER BEDDING - *from Brenda*



Hi Folks! It is not too late to order bedding plants. I have sold out of several items but do have the following left:

Begonias - trays of 24 mixed

Lobelia - trays of 40 (I'm willing to do 1/2 trays), various colours

Surfinas - single trailing petunias suitable for baskets or tall tubs, various colours

Ivy leaf geraniums - single trailing plants again for baskets or tall tubs, mixed

Violas - trays of 12 tiger eye (black veins over yellow)



If anyone is interested or knows a friend or neighbour who would like some plants, please contact me by phone as, for safety reasons, I will not be holding a coffee morning and plant sale at the end of May. My grateful thanks to those who have already ordered.

Brenda Giles 01905 25709 brenda.giles@tiscali.co.uk

WHITTINGTON NEW BUILDING *The Elizabethan Room*

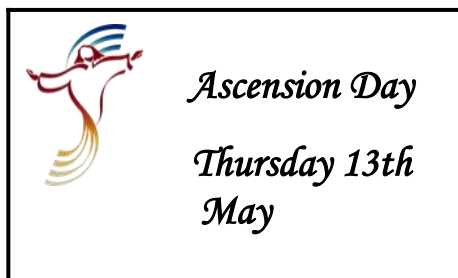


Work continues on applications for grants to fill the shortfall in our funding following very encouraging results so far. Further applications have been made to national charities and the results are awaited. The Appeal originally set up in 2015 continues to build on the support already given.

Further site investigation has been carried out to supplement the ground radar survey to enable the design of the piled foundations. The results are expected shortly.

What's on at Whittington May & June

Sunday 2nd May 11.00am	Easter 5 Parish Communion	CW
Sunday 9th May 11.00am 12.00 noon	Easter 6 Family Service <i>followed by:</i> Annual Church Meeting	
Thursday 13th May 7.30pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion	CW
Sunday 16th May 11.00am	Easter 6 Parish Communion	CW
Sunday 23rd May 11.00am	Easter 7 Family Communion	CW
Sunday 30th May 11.00am	Pentecost Morning Prayer	
Sunday 6th June 11.00am	Trinity Sunday Parish Communion	CW
Sunday 13th June 11.00am	Trinity 1 Family Service	
Tuesday 15th June 6.30pm	PCC	





Whittington Church

I have been sent this picture recently, which is one I'm sure we have not seen before. The picture is believed to be a painting by Benjamin Leader in 1865, showing the North side of the church a mere 21 years after it was built in 1844. The painting seems to be in the style of Leader from what I've seen and several features can be seen today. The ancient 800 year old yew is still there as is the brick vault on its left. The porch is shown where the shed is today though there is some evidence of changes to the stonework in that area, whilst the bell turret is shown at the East end, which has never been the case. The ha-ha is not the one we have today as the churchyard has been extended several times since 1865. *Ed.*

Christian Aid Week 10 - 16 May



The climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means many are struggling to survive without a reliable source of water. **Your gift** could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms. Every envelope, Every gift, can change lives. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Whittington World Wide Web – Part Two

*The fourth of four articles by David Hallmark on
“Whittingtons around the world”*

Whittingtons around the world apparently number more than the 7 in England. Scotland has Whittington Place, Cartgosh, Glasgow. America has 9 and Canada and Australia one each. 19 in total so far.



The American Whittington name seems in Garland County and in Hot Springs County in Arkansas; in Worth County in Georgia; in Franklin County in Illinois; in Bartholomew County in Indiana; in Rapides Parish and in Washington Parish in Louisiana; in Wilkes County in North Carolina; in Franklin County in Ohio. More to be discovered.

Canada across the border with America seems to have just the one of near Toronto Ontario L9W OPI by the Luther Marsh Wildlife Management Centre and their last remaining feature is the former Schoolhouse and a cairn marking where a Church once stood. The Whittington name seems to live on through fine furniture makers called Whittington Co.

Australia has Whittington as a residential suburb of Geelong in Victoria apparently named about 1920 after James Whittington; their church is St. Albans Uniting Church on Wilsons Road Whittington; Queensland and the Grand View Stud has Whittington the stallion who seems to win races and commands A\$5,500 Stud Fee. This seems an investment for our village punters with its historic horse connections not least the Weston family when at Crookbarrow Farm and the Newell family when at Woodhall Farm and the Rayer family still at Rose Villa and the Hartwright family of The Cottage and the Forge at the centre of the village when run by the Johns Family as blacksmiths and stables and riding school.

The WWW now needs some enterprise to establish links together.

Our thanks to David for putting together this interesting series. Ed.

Whittington Parish Council

The Annual Parish meeting was held, by zoom, on Tuesday the 27th April, chaired by the Parish Council Chairman, Steve Burrows.

Annual reports were received from the Parish Council, our County and District Councillor Rob Adams, Whittington Village Hall Management Committee, Whittington Village Charity accounts, Whittington C of E Primary School, St Philip & St James Church, Whittington and the Whittington Brethren Community. All but the last report, can be read in full on Whittington Parish Council website whittingtonparishcouncil.co.uk

The monthly Parish Council meeting was held after the Annual Parish meeting. Matters discussed included an update on progress of the new community hall build, flooding of Church Lane, the inadequate litter and dog fouling bins on Wildmore Estate and the proposed SWDP to develop agriculture land between Whittington and Drakes Broughton. In respect of Wildmore Estate, the Parish Council continues to press the matter with County and District Councils as well as the Developers. Regarding the SWDP it was agreed that Whittington Parish Council suggests to neighbouring Parish Councils that a meeting be arranged to discuss the letter of response from the SWDP Team in answer to concerns previously raised by Parishes.

The next Parish Council meeting is on the 25th May details of venue will be published on the Parish Council website or by contacting the Parish Clerk on whittington@live.co.uk.

Whittington Community Hall *Replacing the old Village Hall*



Progress on the new hall continues well with the main roof now in place. Completion is still expected in July this year.

The 'Whittington Project' is regarded by the senior management team at **Wychavon District Council** as a '**Flagship Project**'



*Whittington Village Hall
Management Committee*
whittingtonvhc@gmail.com

The Committee is responsible for the running, maintenance and improvement of the new Community Hall.



Love, Learn, Achieve

Whittington CE Primary School

From the Head Teacher, Gary Richards

As I write, we have reached the end of the first week back after the Easter holiday. The school is fully in session and all the pupils have returned. The weather has helped too. We are able to spread out onto the school field and the children finally have space and freedom.

Learning is going on too. The children are settled and engaging well with the work being set. Teachers can finally plan a term's worth of uninterrupted study which challenges and supports all our children. Swimming lessons have restarted. 'Bikeability', our cycling lessons, is going ahead. Things really feel like they are returning to normal.

We still have a range of safety procedures in place. Classes still can't mix, we have staggered start and end times, staff wear face masks when they are moving about the school. However, things do feel different; hopeful. Businesses are opening up in wider society too and all these separate elements come together to make people feel better. Long may this normality last!



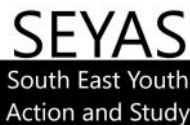
Love, Learn, Achieve

You do the maths.....

A teacher posed the following problem to one of her maths classes: "A wealthy man dies and leaves ten million pounds. One-fifth is to go to his wife, one-fifth is to go to his son, one-sixth to his butler, and the rest to charity. Now, what does each get?"

After a very long silence in the classroom, one little boy raised his hand. With complete sincerity, he ventured, "A solicitor?"

SEYAS *a new group for young people*



Over the past year we have had Sian Morgan as our Mission Enabler, as part of “Calling Young Disciples”.

In our first Hub Meeting we discussed the possibility of starting a group for young people in the team. As with a lot of things the pandemic got in the way and delayed this initiative.

During Lent we started a group, starting the Lent York Course that the rest of the team studied and meeting Sunday afternoons on Zoom.

The group plans to continue to meet fortnightly, initially on Zoom. The group has decided on a name **SEYAS** which stands for South East Youth Action and Study. The first ACTION they are undertaking is described by the young people as follows:

Exciting new “Terracycle” collection points

SEYAS (The Team Youth group) have started a collection point for Terracycle. Terracycle is a project that recycles rubbish that usually wouldn’t get recycled by the council recycling. The project also raises money for charity. There would be collection points at St Mark’s and Whittington Churches.

The rubbish we would be collecting is: biscuit wrappers; cheese wrapping; confectionary wrappers; crisp packets; beauty product packaging; bread bags; food pouches; laundry pods; makeup packaging; toothbrush heads and toothpaste tubes. We are also going to collect pens (recycled by Rymans) and pill packets (recycled by Superdrug). We are doing this to help the environment. In 2016, 24 percent of rubbish was going to landfill. If we don’t improve there will not be an earth for us to live on. The collection point will be open in May 2021.

There is more information about the type of things that we are collecting available in both churches.

SEYAS – Hannah, Hazel and Phoebe with thanks to Hannah for writing this article.



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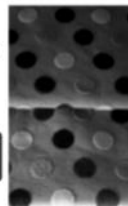
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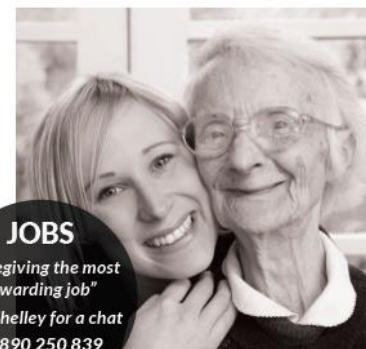
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- Joining fee for life is only £10

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From the Archdeacon of Dudley, Nikki Groarke for May

“For many of us, life without God has turned out to be life without fellowship and shared meaning - and in the midst of the most disorientating, debilitating crisis most of us have ever known, that social tragedy now cries out for action.”



These striking words come at the end of a column in The Guardian by journalist John Harris, triggered by ticking the ‘no religion’ box as he completed his census form. Reflecting on the ravages of the pandemic and lockdown, he observed that in our individualistic secular society most people lack ‘even the flimsiest of narratives to project on what has happened, or any real vocabulary with which to talk about the profundities of life and death’. He comments on the visible comeback of symbols and rituals of religion as churches have been at the heart of community Covid experiences; including increases in google searches for prayer and millions tuning in to online worship. He quotes research showing that church groups offer ‘solace and peace and relaxation and friendship, helping us in our spiritual quest for meaning and wellbeing.’

As Kingdom People, we are called to share hope and play a part in transforming our communities. So how are we to respond to this social tragedy crying out for action? As we limp out of lockdown and dare to look forward, we can make space to regroup, to reflect, to process and to mourn. And we can invite our communities into safe spaces to do this alongside us as people of faith. So many new links have been forged as neighbourliness has grown with church members finding ways to bless and serve those around them who have been isolated and cut off from families and far away friends. Many church members find it easier to serve practically than to broach the topic of someone’s spiritual needs, but we have the language and the wider narrative in which to frame and make some degree of sense of what has happened. We have tasted eternity. We know God’s peace which passes understanding, and we have relationship with a God who heals and provides, who comforts and gives renewed purpose and hope. Gently offering the opportunity to a neighbour to discover this peace, healing and hope is something all of us can dare to do, even if we are shy to talk about our faith. There is a spiritual longing in a lonely and confused generation that has experienced a year like no other.

Continued.....

From the Archdeacon of Dudley continued...

We have a part to play in reaching out to those who yearn for something more, drawing alongside in the gentle sharing of our own experience of the God who loves indiscriminately. Let's ensure that as we give thanks for the chance to gather in worship with our church family once again and as we lament loss with those who understand, that we invite and include those who long for a way to make sense of it all, but who have only just begun to glimpse that church might be the place to find what they seek.

100 years of the British Legion

One hundred years ago, on 15th May 1921, the British Legion was founded in the aftermath of the First World War, to provide support to veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

It was created at a time when two million people were unemployed. More than six million had served in the war: of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability, and half of those were disabled permanently.

Four organisations came together at the instigation of Lancastrian Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, who was angered at the Government's unwillingness to help, and Field Marshal Earl Haig, who had been Commander in Chief of the British Forces. The Legion campaigned for fair treatment of those who had given everything for their country, and it continues this work today.

In 1922, the Legion's poppy factory opened in the Old Kent Road, London, with 40 disabled men manufacturing 1000 poppies a week. The first Poppy Day was held that same year. The Festival of Remembrance began in 1927, and the Legion became 'Royal' in 1971 – 50 years ago – on its golden anniversary.

At first membership of the Legion was confined to ex-Service personnel, but it was expanded to include serving members of the Forces in 1981.

The Archbishops' Anti-Racism Taskforce has published its report 'From Lament to Action' proposing a suite of changes to begin bringing about a change of culture in the life of the Church of England.



It issues a warning to the Archbishops that a failure to act could be a “last straw” for many people of UK Minority Ethnic (UKME) or Global Majority Heritage (GMH) backgrounds with “devastating effects” on the future of the Church.

The report sets out 47 specific actions for different arms of the Church of England to implement across five priority areas: participation, governance, training, education and young people. Without these changes the Church risks denying and disregarding the gifts of a significant part of the nation, the Taskforce makes clear:

“This is the culture change that is required if the Church is to live up to its mandate of being a body where all the gifts of all its people flourish to the full, for the benefit of the church as a whole, the nation of England and the greater glory of God. Decades of inaction carry consequences and this inaction must be owned by the whole Church. A failure to act now will be seen as another indication, potentially a last straw for many, that the Church is not serious about racial sin.”

Bishops John and Martin have welcomed this report saying:

“We welcome this report in helping us recognise that racism still exists in the Church of England and for giving practical ways in which we can make a real change to ensure UKME/GMH Anglicans can flourish in their life and ministry. At a recent Diocesan Synod, we looked at how we could ensure our leadership and governance structures are properly representative of our diocese and pledged to notice racist assumptions and challenge racist behaviour. We’ve still got a long way to go, but it is important that we take proactive steps to ensure racial justice is owned by the whole Church.”

The nine-strong task force was set up in autumn 2020 with a double remit: To review previous reports relating to racial justice over 36 years and whether their recommendations have been implemented and to prepare the ground for the establishment of a longer-term Commission on Racial Justice, suggest terms of reference and remit for its work.

~~~~~



# FOREST CHURCH

An outdoor service for children  
(aged 0 -11) and their families

When?

The first Saturday of each month at 10.00am for 45 minutes

Where?

Whittington Churchyard (Whittington Church, Church Lane,  
Whittington, Worcester, WR5 2RQ)

Please wear warm, waterproof clothes and wellies!

Interested?

Please register and book a place (numbers are restricted)

by emailing the team office:

WorcesterSouthEastTeam@gmail.com



.....

## Finding.....

■ The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in the dark. ■

.....



May is a time of sowing and growing.

Rogation is when we ask for God's blessing on our fields planted with crops. Rogation services are particularly moving when held on farms or outside.

Why not let some grassed areas at home or in the church yard grow out in May and see what appears?

Changing your mowing routine, allowing plants to flower in your lawn can create enough nectar for ten times more bees and other pollinators, and encourage insects and invertebrates.

## No Mow May & Rogation



- \* Find a Rogation service taking place near you or follow the Diocesan service provided by CARL (Chaplaincy for Agricultural & Rural Life) \*
- \* Walk the bounds of your parish noting the wilded habitats, and cultivated land.
- \* Participate in **No Mow May** \* and count the species of flowers which emerge.
- \* Plan an area in churchyard or garden where you will let the grass grow longer .

**TAKING ACTION** on 'No Mow May' and joining in Rogationtide could support:

- \* **Eco Church** (for churches <https://ecochurch.anglican.org.uk/>):  
Worship and Teaching: 1,2,3 Land: 6 and 7 Community and Global: 14
- \* **Creation Care** (for households <https://creationcare.org.uk/>):  
Worship and Prayer: 1,3 Garden: 3,12, 3,13

### REFERENCES:

- \* C.A.R.L. <https://www.ruralworcs.org.uk>
- \* **Rogation Sunday 2021** - The Arthur Rank Centre
- \* **No Mow May** <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/>



Significant parts of the Whittington Churchyard are left uncut until July/ August to allow growth of wild flowers, of which there have been many this year. Ed.



## St Mark in the Cherry Orchard Diocese of Worcester



### News & Views from St Mark in the Cherry Orchard

#### **Leprosy – St Marks Helps to Build a Hub of Hope**

Most people may associate the word **leprosy** with the bible and could wrongly assume that it is not a modern day disease; they would be very wrong.

Every two minutes someone is diagnosed with leprosy; that is more than 2000,000 new cases a year. Although it is curable, millions of people worldwide are living with the effects of the disease, effects that can be physical disabilities, mental health problems and discrimination.

The Wednesday congregation have long supported two charities, the **Leprosy Mission** and work in **Peru** which is supported by the Worcester Diocese. Under normal circumstances, after the morning service each week they enjoy a cuppa and chat and the payments that they make for the refreshments are donated to be shared between Leprosy and Peru.

**The Leprosy Mission** is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy that was founded by Irishman Wellesley Bailey in 1874 after witnessing the severe consequences of the disease in previous years. The focus of the charity is to achieve zero leprosy transmission, disability and discrimination. It engages with governments to fund and cure leprosy as part of the state healthcare provision and works with local partners such as churches and community leaders. It supports healthcare professionals to train and obtain experience in treating and curing the disease, to help them to recognise symptoms, clawed hands, dropped feet and damaged eyelids, and address complications with surgery. The organisation helps hospital staff to reach out into areas where people have less access to medical care and may therefore miss the chance to be diagnosed and treated.

*Continued.....*



Working with healthcare professionals increases the chances of early diagnosis so that those affected get help before becoming permanently disabled.

The foregoing is a very small synopsis of the huge amount of information that is available on the mission's web site [www.leprosymission.org.uk](http://www.leprosymission.org.uk)

With no refreshments being served during the few Wednesday church services held throughout the pandemic, there was very little in the restricted account to be divided between **Leprosy** and **Peru** until a generous donation was received with a reminder that if a cheque was in the hands of **The Leprosy Mission** by 24 April, the government would double the amount sent. It was a close call because the information wasn't received until 18 April and the cheque book was with the accountant. However, since he lives within cycling distance, a cheque was collected, made out in the sum of £320.05, signed and sent first class on 20 April. The donation has since been acknowledged as safely received and, with the government support, the Leprosy Mission will therefore benefit by £640.10; the poster of thanks will be displayed on the notice board in church.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **2021 Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

Owing to Covid restrictions, it seems like only 'five' minutes since St Marks held the 2020 APCM last October. This year's meeting will be held at 10.30am after the morning service on Sunday, 23 May; only those whose name appears on St Mark's electoral roll may attend.

It has been a very hard period since last March for everyone in the Wednesday and Sunday congregations. We all miss the community spirit that endures after the services as we catch up on family and friends over a cuppa. It is so sad to hear that many have been affected mentally because they have lacked the personal contact and long for things to change and we are all able to enjoy a proper service again.

\*\*\*\*\* *Continued.....*

**Church Hall News** – we are very pleased that a new group will be meeting on Sundays from 10am – 12.30pm starting on 6 June. More details of who they are will follow in the June edition of the magazine. Other long term hirers are beginning to return and if you are interested in any of the groups shown in this magazine, please make contact with them direct to ascertain the date that they will be returning.

Finally, I have small lupin and larkspur plants that I have grown from seed and are surplus to requirements. All are free but if you do have some small pots, I would be very grateful if I could have them; I have given away far too many on Freecycle and now don't have enough to grow my tomatoes seedlings in. Contact me via email or by telephone to arrange collection.

The next time I write, I hope that it is to impart happier news of our being able to rejoin the road to a more relaxing time not just in church but also out and about with friends and family that we all sorely miss; I just want to hug and be hugged!!

**Jan** [janvale810@gmail.com](mailto:janvale810@gmail.com) 01905 351392

**Canon Isaac Mgego, Director of Berega Hospital in the Diocese of Morogoro, writes about how Covid-19 has impacted life in Tanzania.**

Morogoro Diocese is within the Morogoro region of Tanzania. The first Covid-19 case was reported in March 2020 in Arusha, a tourist/hub city in the Northern Zone. Since then the Covid-19 infections have moved from imported cases to community transmission as far as to Morogoro region. The number of cases has been increasing. In early July 2020, slightly more than 500 infections were reported, and the death toll was only 21.



This resulted in the need for more public awareness and measures including the wearing of facemasks, social distancing, sanitising together with washing hands regularly. These regulations worked well during 2020 but have been reluctantly followed during 2021. Tanzania is still witnessing the impact of Covid-19 in many ways. However, there are no official and publicly available records for recent deaths in Tanzania. *Continued.....*



The government reiterated that neither borders to Tanzania's neighbours will be closed nor lockdown imposed on any cities, as the maintenance of social economic prosperity overrides the risks of the Covid-19! On the contrary, the vast majority of countries have shut their borders and as a result formal and informal cross-border traders (majority farmers) from Tanzania have seen their incomes drop dramatically simply because they could not freely supply their agricultural products from rural areas to urban wholesale markets to be exported to those countries and beyond. It is said that many trips of lorries to cross borders have been cancelled and this has disrupted the economy of many people in rural areas, including Morogoro.

The tourism and hospitality industry is one of the major sources of employment, tax revenue, and foreign exchange earnings in Tanzania. The Anglican diocese of Morogoro has received friends from abroad who visited the Mikumi national park found in the Morogoro region. It is now almost two years since the diocese has received any visitors. In this regard, the onset of Covid-19 has substantially derailed the growth and development of a key contributor to the national economy.



Many people's livelihoods have been badly affected by the pandemic in Tanzania. For instance in 2020 when the government ordered the closure of schools, teachers at public schools were assured of their monthly salaries. However, for those at private schools it was a different story. As parents became unable to pay tuition, the schools became unable to pay salaries. This affected our Bishop Chitemo primary school and the Berega Institute of Health Sciences (BIHeS). The schools have had to request assistance from abroad including from our friends in the Diocese of Worcester and BREAD, (Berega Relief And Development Trust -UK) and Mission Morogoro.

The World Health Organisation is deeply concerned about the situation, and has urged Tanzania to start reporting Coronavirus cases and share its data. The new President, Mama Samia Suluhu Hasan, said she has formed a committee of experts to evaluate the nation's Covid-19 response. She added that: "We cannot isolate our self as an island," and also the country "cannot accept everything from abroad, but we also cannot reject everything." It is our desire to think globally but act locally. We hope the new regime will uphold the WHO standards in compacting the pandemic. Furthermore, we hope it will increase funding to church health facilities which at the moment are struggling in running the institutions together with public/private facilities and local community health centres in order to be able to implement mass testing and increase the capacity to track and trace Coronavirus cases.

# The hymns of the Wesleys'

by Canon David Winter

Later this month the Church calendar celebrates the lives of John and Charles Wesley. John's great gift to the Christian cause was the little matter of founding the world-wide movement known as Methodism. His brother Charles had an equally profound impact through his hymns. He actually wrote over 6,000, most of which aren't sung nowadays, but among the ones we do still sing are all-time favourites – 'Love divine, all loves excelling', 'O for a thousand tongues to sing'. 'Jesu lover of my soul', 'Hark the herald angels sing' – and scores more.

40 years ago almost everybody knew quite a lot of hymns, but sadly that's no longer true. Traditional hymns aren't usually sung at school assemblies, not even in church schools, and while the audience for 'Songs of Praise' on BBC TV is substantial, most of those watching are over 50.

With only about ten per cent of the population even irregular church-goers there is inevitably a lack of familiarity with hymns of any kind. Christmas carols are an exception, as is 'Jerusalem' and 'Amazing Grace', because they are frequently heard outside church.

Singing hymns is a wonderful experience at its best – just ask a Welsh rugby crowd singing 'Bread of heaven'! It seems a pity to lose it.

It's not a bad idea to take ten minutes and think about what is your favourite hymn, and why – ancient or modern doesn't matter. Then try singing it in the bath or under the shower – a very purifying experience!

## Well known hymns – with a twist of honesty?

*The way we might sing some well-known hymns if we were being honest:*

1. There Shall Be Sprinkles of Blessings
2. Fill My Spoon, Lord
3. Oh, How I Like Jesus
4. I Love to Talk about Telling the Story
5. Take My Life and Let Me Be
6. It is My Secret What God Can Do
7. There is Scattered Cloudiness in My Soul Today
8. Where He Leads Me, I Will Consider Following
9. Just As I Pretend to Be



## St Philip & St James, Whittington

### Sunday Worship Arrangements

Welcome to our Sunday services, after 18th May 2021. Please note the following arrangements for your own safety and that of others. Anyone showing symptoms of coronavirus should not attend church, and those who have been shielding or are clinically vulnerable should take particular care to minimise contact with others.

- ☐ When entering the church by the main (side) door please sanitise your hands, and again on leaving. The West (back) door is the emergency exit and disabled access.
- ☐ Seating in alternate rows of pews or on chairs will be at a social distance of two metres. Please sit where directed.
- ☐ Children are welcome to attend, supervised by parents or guardians.
- ☐ It is a government requirement to wear a face covering inside the church building unless medically exempt. This may be removed to receive communion.
- ☐ To support the NHS Track and Trace system a record of names and phone numbers of those attending will be collected on entry. This is optional but providing details gives consent to sharing them with NHS Track and Trace if asked. Details will be kept securely for 21 days, after which they will be safely disposed of.
- ☐ The service will include live instrumental or recorded music but no singing by the congregation.
- ☐ Communion in one kind (bread only) will be received standing from a central point. Please come forward in a single line when directed and keep socially distanced. Those receiving a blessing instead should carry something as a sign to the vicar. Please speak to a Warden before the service to request a gluten free wafer or to have communion brought to your seat.
- ☐ At the end of the service please remain in your seat until directed to leave.
- ☐ As you leave the church an offertory plate for cash or planned giving envelopes will be at the back. Please gift aid any donations if possible.
- ☐ Please take any paper orders of service away with you, if asked.
- ☐ After the service is the opportunity to greet others in a socially distanced manner outside. It is not possible to serve refreshments at present.
- ☐ The toilet will be open. Please observe careful hand washing after use and dispose of the paper towels in the bin provided.

# **Whittington Parish Magazine**

## **May 21 Edition**

