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Plus Other Features

Magazine Team

Margaret Rank Ann Wiseman

Helen O'Connor Tim Thorp

whose views are not necessarily the same as those expressed in the magazine.

From Viterbo to Reading

Lent 2018

I have just been to Italy to lead a retreat for third year students from the Pontifical Beda College. They will be ordained deacons in June at the basilica of St Paul-outside-the-walls.

There is no direct flight from Birmingham at the moment and as I needed to be there on Sunday evening, it meant flying from London Heathrow. I decided to leave the car at Fr Patrick Daly's new parish at Caversham. This is just north of the Thames in Reading. There is an express bus from the station to all terminals, which takes only forty minutes. This proved an excellent solution and I arrived in good time.

Next day we went by coach from Rome up the A1 *autostrada* to Bagnoregio. There is a retreat centre there, run by the sisters of Jesus the Redeemer. It is about two hours from Rome and it is a quiet location in large grounds. The nearest cities are Orvieto and Viterbo. These are both ancient Etruscan cities. Their names incidentally come the Latin words for "the old city".

We had a quiet day on the Saturday and I took a bus to Viterbo, the provincial capital. Large parts of the city are medieval and it was a residence for the popes in the troubled middle ages. The tourist literature describes Viterbo as '*the city of the popes*' and several are buried there. The city was badly damaged by allied bombardment in 1944, including the Cathedral of St Laurence. When it was restored they decided to strip away the baroque ornamentation and now we have an austere Romanesque interior as a fine setting for the sacred liturgy.

In the north aisle, there is a portrait of Blessed Dominic Barberi, who was born just outside the city, during the upheaval of the Napoleonic period. He joined the Passionist Fathers and eventually became a lecturer in philosophy. He spoke only Italian, but he had an idea that he would do important work in England. At the age of forty, his superiors asked him to establish a Passionist province in Belgium and England.

John Henry Newman and his friends were exploring the Catholic faith in Oxford University and beginning a shift away from the Protestantism of the Church of England. Dominic Barberi was in correspondence with them. He began preaching missions from his base in Stone in Staffordshire and worked with Nicholas Wiseman, who was at that time Rector of Oscott College. Eventually Dominic Barberi travelled on the outside of a coach from Stafford, through Birmingham, down to Oxford. The journey took twelve hours and it poured with rain the whole day. He arrived at Littlemore and, by a warm fire, John Henry Newman began his confession. He and the community were received into full communion with the Catholic Church. The next day Fr Dominic celebrated mass on a small table in their library and they made their communion. They were later confirmed at Oscott and some of them went to Rome to train for ordination.

Fr Dominic worked for ten years in England. He was always on the go and travelled with a trunk to carry gifts of books, clothes and food. He suffered a heart attack on a Great Western train and was taken off and laid on the platform at Pangbourne. His fellow passengers feared he might be carrying a contagious disease, but a local doctor recognised heart symptoms and he was carried back to Reading where he died in the Station Hotel in 1849.

On my way back to Reading on the coach from Heathrow, I was musing about my comfortable BA flight and the different situation when Fr Dominic came to England in 1840. I was delighted to remember that my travels had brought me to the cities of his birth and his death.

Archbishop Bernard Longley has a dream that Blessed Dominic Barberi and Blessed John Henry Newman might be declared saints at the same time. He has asked us to pray for that intention. These two holy men are so closely bound up with the story of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. We pray that the holy Church, for which they laboured all their lives, will inscribe their names among the saints of God.

Patrick Kilgarriff

PAC Report

There have been on-going items yet to be concluded and others that have been successfully completed. Agenda items have been varied, reflecting the wide life of the parish. All have been met with enthusiasm and commitment.

The Malvern-stone wall above the car park has been very professionally restored by Merrick Homes Property Management. The Advent Carol Service was a lovely occasion with readings, poems and music, all of which was a great preparation for the Christmas season. A huge ‘Thank you’ to all who gave their abilities and time and to the school for the gift of their choir at a very busy time of year. Here would be a good place to highlight the need to recruit more musicians to support our parish services as well as another huge “Thank you” to those who already do.

On-going are investigations into the provision of audio-visual equipment for the McEnnis room and refurbishment of the kitchen.

The First Communion programme started in February under the leadership of Sue Stubbings and Rebecca O’Mahoney. There is a need to enlist more help here.

In respect of Maintenance and Health and Safety, Lindsey has been working hard to make sure that all requirements are in place in accordance with current regulations. All this, of course, will need on-going updates as necessary. Premises and Maintenance issues are ever present, with a need to identify priorities that can be met by funds available. In this respect, electrical work has been carried out to renew the church lighting with some further work elsewhere to follow. Costings are being sought towards provision of audio-visual equipment and improvements to the parish kitchen.

Of significant concern is the church roofing. Re-felting has been carried out on one area of flat roof but the main roof of the church will need renewing in the not too distant future. This will be very costly. Elsewhere, quotes are being obtained to replace single glazing to the McEnnis Room and presbytery. Consideration is also being given to the church carpeting, which is looking tired after twenty years of continual use. Clearly our finances will need an up-

lift! In relation to the above, there is a need for each of us to consider if it is possible to look at our individual talents, qualities or finances to see if we can use them to serve our parish family. Thank you to the many who already do so.

You will now be aware that there will be a parish retirement event for Fr Pat on Sunday 8th July. This will be an opportunity to give thanks for his priestly ministry over 51 years and especially for his great service to us all at St. Joseph's. Please respond to requests for help on the day if you can do so.

FINALLY, we, as a PAC, would like to thank Lindsey for all that she has given and achieved in her brief time as parish secretary. We wish her every success in her new role as full-time school secretary. We are currently in need of a replacement. Adverts for the post have been circulated and we pray that someone will come forward to fill this vital role.

Chris Burger

Gift Aid

Taken from the presentation given by Anne Garner earlier this year

Most of you will already be familiar with the gift aid concept. However it is a few years since the subject was talked about after mass so the Finance Committee asked me to talk to you very briefly again.

Basically if you are a UK taxpayer you can sign a form requesting that your donations to a charity be gift aided. So if you donate £10 the Charity claims 25% - £2.50 from the Government. There are absolutely no catches - you just have to be a taxpayer and sign a gift aid form.

It is also very important to bear in mind that you are not committing yourself to a fixed amount for ever. You can always vary the amount you pay. So if you choose to pay by standing order you are free to reduce or increase the amount as your circumstances dictate.

You can also choose to pay using the weekly pre-numbered envelopes which are put into collections. If you miss some weeks you just put the desired amount in only one envelope the next time.

Confidentiality is considered to be very important. Gift Aid is seen and processed in this parish only by the parish accountant and gift aid organiser. Fr Pat is not involved with the details, he only signs the form with our annual claim.

If you move from the parish you just set up a new scheme in your new parish.

For the year 2016 the parish has received over £7,000 in tax rebate, this being on the Gift Aided part of the normal weekly collections.

In the year 2016 31% of parish donations were not gift aided. Some of this money was donated by parishioners who are not taxpayers and we are grateful for their contributions. Possibly some donations, however, maybe from taxpayers. If say only one third of all these monies could be gift aided, the parish would receive another £1,100 from the government. These gifts from the government and in essence from yourselves will help considerably with the running costs of the parish.

Unfortunately parish collections have reduced over recent years. This is sadly due to death but also due to families moving out of the parish. We are however very happy indeed to welcome so many newcomers to the parish. Some of you have already signed up to the gift aid scheme and we would be delighted if others would also consider doing so.

Also many of you have been loyally donating for some time and for that we thank you. However, we would be most grateful if you could consider increasing the amount, even if just slightly. A small sum from many people makes all the difference, especially if the Government tops it up by an extra 25%.

This all brings to mind the parable of the talents - we are encouraged to use our gifts, and money, wisely. Signing up for Gift Aid is a wise choice and by doing so you and the taxman will provide essential additional finance for your parish.

Remember a 25% gift is there just for the taking at no cost to you!

Forms and any further information can be obtained from Alf Teuma, the parish accountant, through the parish office.

The Challenges of Peace-Keeping

The One World Group was delighted to welcome to a recent meeting, two new members of the parish, Helen and Chris Louise. Chris came to talk to us about his work with the United Nations in Cyprus, Egypt, and now in Liberia (yes, he commutes to Liberia!).

For him it is essential that his work is 'grounded in a Christian perspective'. He has learnt many things over the years. Being able to put yourself in the other person's shoes is crucial. You can only compromise successfully if you can do that. You must always talk, regardless of the circumstances. How you set up dialogue is vital and who you have around the table in a negotiation is critical to a successful outcome.

A particularly educative time for him was when he was working in Cyprus and took the Turkish Cypriot and Greek-Cypriot negotiators to South Africa on a 'learning' visit. Chris developed the idea for the visit with the former South Africa government negotiator, Roelf Meyer, who was instrumental in finding a negotiated end to apartheid. The trip was intended to show the Cypriot negotiators how to construct paths towards consensus and compromise, and Chris learned the value of political courage in making the big decisions required to break deadlocks in a peace process. It was fortunate for South Africa in the early 1990s that both FW De Klerk and Nelson Mandela possessed these qualities.

Working with the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia has taught him a lot about the interplay between development and politics in addressing the root causes of conflict. In Liberia the root causes are discrimination, marginality, inter-ethnic tensions and grinding poverty. It is an intense frustration that, like in many large organisations, the UN has its organisational silos. This means that the development work, which is essential to removing the root causes of conflict, is often disconnected from peace-keeping and peacebuilding efforts that are located in different bureaucratic parts of the UN system.

An interesting experience recently in Liberia was the government's effort to reform the constitution, which included a change that

would have declared Liberia a Christian nation; called Proposition 24. The 20% of the population which are Muslim totally rejected Proposition 24 and threatened to secede if the reform was adopted by the Liberian Parliament. Chris recalls how in 2016 the situation was dynamite and verging on a political crisis, which threatened to become violent. He was asked to do shuttle diplomacy between the leading Christian and Muslim leaders to establish a basis for dialogue at a higher level. This resulted in discussions where the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General helped the country's religious leaders to produce a joint statement rejecting Proposition 24.

We were grateful to Chris for fascinating insights and hope that he can make a presentation to the parish sometime this year.

Rosemary Thorp

Welcome to the following small new Christians and congratulations to their families:

Oliver Wiktor, son of Pawel and Agnieszka

Jacob Jankowiak, son of Thomas and Margaret

Adeline Kilgarriff, daughter of Natalie and Matthew

Lakey Smith, son of Margaret

Isaac Taylor, son of John and Mary

Welcome too to Susan and Pim van Ling, new parishioners

Rest in Peace:

Janine Whybrow

Andrea Percy

Michael Clarke

Neil Wadsworth

Mary Tuck

Maura Smith



Eucharist and the Family

I was privileged to attend the day on "Eucharist and Family" in St George's Worcester on 20 January. The purpose of it was to prepare the Church in the diocese for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August and the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool in September. Archbishop Bernard was present with us for the whole of the day.

In the morning in small groups we were asked to consider questions on the relevance of the Eucharist to our daily lives, the effect of our Christian lives to those around us in the home and at work, the part we play in our own families and in God's family. We were also asked to consider how we can draw people in our churches into the mystery of the Eucharist through Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and how our parishes can best serve families.

In the afternoon we attended workshops on Ministry and the Eucharist led by Sr Gillian Murphy, Adoration and Evangelisation led by Paul Northam, and Family Ministry led by Lianne Pap. The day finished with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

Pope Francis wants the Church to be an outreaching one to all people, especially those who are on the margins of society. This means we have to be proactive in God's mission in seeking out the lost and the unloved, not walking by on the other side thinking I don't want to get involved or it's none of my business. There has to be a change in how we live out those words the priest says to us at the end of Mass, "Go out and live and proclaim the Gospel" or similar words. Hearing God's word and receiving Christ's Body and Blood in the Blessed Sacrament enables us to reach out to those in any kind of need and to share our faith with others.

Four of us from the parish attended that "Eucharist and the Family" day in Worcester in January and it brought home to us how we should be responding to God's call to be involved in his mission where we live. It would be wonderful if we could form a small party from the parish to attend the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool in September. What a joy it would also be to attend the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August when Pope Francis will be there. In both these events we shall hear God calling his Church to go out, proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ. This year is certainly an important one for us Catholics.

Roger Watson

When Two or Three are Gathered Together

Experiences of taking Communion to the Sick Part Two

In the previous magazine we shared with you some inspiring accounts of how people have experienced the privilege of taking communion to the sick and the housebound. For lack of space, we had to hold over to this edition four contributions which set out, delicately and with insight, the way the meetings happen, their variety, the need to listen and respond to where the person is and what they want. It will be clear that there is great flexibility and that this is fine. The experiences are very different and each minister brings their own gifts to the situation. The themes from last time of course recur: our sense of privilege, what we learn, and the way the event can serve to connect the person into the parish.

We start with Jo:

As one of the other contributors has said, I also feel it is a great privilege to be able to take the Blessed Sacrament to people who are no longer able to attend Mass. Currently I visit two people in a local retirement home, where both are confined to their rooms, and to different degrees they both have dementia problems. When I enter the TV is usually on, so after greeting them, as Father Pat says, 'from St. Joseph's', I start off by seeing if we can turn it off. And now there is quiet, with the world held at bay for the time being. Then, on the bedside table, I lay out the pyx containing the Blessed Sacrament on a small cloth, together with a lovely crucifix I was given when I first started to visit people. This crucifix is brass with a lovely inlaid pattern like a blue glass flower top and bottom at the end of either arm, and above the head of Christ. The blue glass catches the light which irradiates the crucifix and invariably they comment "how lovely".

Then we start. We each have a copy of the small booklet, and after the sign of the cross, we go through the Rite of the Communion of the Sick. Often, when we get to the Gospel, I hand them the Missal to read it aloud if they wish (having first found the specs!). And then, after the Gospel comes Holy Communion. We sing a hymn, *Soul of my Saviour* being a very great favourite, or *Sweet Sacrament Divine*. These old hymns can connect all the

way back to a Catholic childhood, or to the days of an active participation in the practice of the faith, and they go way back, to the days before dementia! I love so much to join with them in singing the holy songs of love for the Blessed Sacrament, and I carry a couple of hymn books to help with the words.

Then comes a period of quiet. One lady likes to read through the prayers for a while, on her own. And then we are finished, with the final blessing: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

The diversity of the situations is stressed in the next contribution, from Win. She emphasizes the need for empathy and listening, and our freedom to adapt as we see the need. She is also much aware of the importance of treating people as whole beings and considering all their needs.

Some quick thoughts. I think you have to be very empathetic and try to see what the person you are visiting needs. I have taken communion to a number of different people and each one has been very different. Some people like little touches like a candle or a cross but others do not want those touches. I usually talk to them about the Gospel and try to remember the main points of the sermon. I always pray for them after communion and often include prayers for others too.

I think it's also important to try to see their other needs for friendship or a chat or maybe some shopping.

Chris B also stresses people's uniqueness, the importance of empathy, and as we all do, the blessing it is for us to be encouraged into this ministry:

For myself, I have been truly blessed since being among about ten parishioners who were the first to be commissioned as 'Ministers of the Eucharist' at St Joseph's some 35 years ago.

I will not pretend that visits have always been easy, or that I have necessarily felt like making them! What I can say is that, during that time, I have received far more than I have given.

Each person, or in some cases, people, has been unique and special. I have tried to value them for who they are and to minister to them as they would wish. Many have been regular and committed parishioners. Some have given generously of their gifts and talents over many years. Some I have not known before. Whatever the case, I have tried to empathise and appreciate their frustrations, anxieties and needs. I have also been able to appreciate their wisdom, faith, kindness, acceptance, joy and other positive ways of being, in spite of their difficulties. All this has been both humbling and richly rewarding.

The Eucharist brings joy and healing to us all. I will always be grateful for the opportunity that I was given all those years ago.

Finally, of course, we asked Ruth to tell us how she has seen the Eucharistic Minister system happening over her time as pastoral assistant. Here, to round off the collection, is her view:

Our parish has always been well served with diligent and reverent Eucharistic Ministers. In the past we have been fortunate to train some of our young people in the hope that when they leave to work elsewhere or go to university they will use their ministry in the wider world.

Ministry at Mass gives a clear sign to the people of laity involvement and over the years I have always been touched by the humility of parishioners who have been asked to undertake this role.

Taking the Eucharist to the sick and housebound carries the responsibility of helping the parishioner to keep in touch and most importantly feel part of their parish community. Often the people I visited hadn't had contact with many friends or relatives during the week and so my visit would always involve a chat about how they felt physically but most of all how they felt in themselves. This would often bring to the forefront their fears and anxieties. All burdens that can be handed over to God and healed through the action of receiving the Eucharist.

Many of those I visited had been very active members of the parish and so it was important for them to catch up on parish life and also find out who else was sick or housebound, as often it might be someone they were friendly with or had worked with.

I always thought the second most important gift I could give to anyone at home was my time. I still enjoy visiting those who are sick and seeing their countenance change before me as the hour moves on and I have received so much joy and peace in return.

How can you resist, reading that? One underlying message has been throughout, don't be afraid. If you feel drawn to volunteer but hesitant, just talk to Chris Park.

Chris Park and Rosemary Thorp

with help and contributions from Chris Burger, Win Crawford, Ruth Hopkins, Viv Jones, Brenda McLaughlan, Jo Roberts Powell and Francesca Townson

Easyfundraising.org.uk

Did you know that you can help to support the church through our easyfundraising.org.uk link? It's a simple and cost-neutral way of generating a bit of extra income for the church. Since the parish joined the scheme, we've raised £317 from the transactions that shoppers have made with Amazon, M&S, John Lewis and the like by them doing it through the easyfundraising link. Please go online and give it a try next time you're buying something online:

1. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk
2. Search for 'St Joseph's Catholic Church Malvern' and choose to support this cause
3. Register your details
4. Go to the retailer site via easyfundraising and your purchases will automatically register to support the church.

School News

With our Spring topic 'Flow', Year 3 had the opportunity to visit Stourport Basins through the Canal and River Trust to learn more about the formation and usage of canals and rivers. On the visit, we took a tour round the basin, exploring the different aspects of health and safety on the waterside. We were then able to board 'Bramble', the working narrowboat, and understand how people lived on the boats and how the boats were used to transport goods. After lunch in the old ticket office with the log burner keeping our toes warm, we learnt about James Brindley, the man who structured Britain's canals, and carried out a science experiment finding the PH level of both canal and fresh water. We had such an interesting day!

Pupils enjoyed a brilliant morning's visit by Shannen from the Bradford Peace Museum who talked to us about Caring For Our World. We explored some of the 7,000 objects that the Bradford Peace Museum has, as well as identifying four main problems that are present in the world: Endangered Animals, Littering, Climate Change and Habitat Loss. We made a campaign in groups on how we would tackle the problem and what we could do personally to help care for our world a little better. We also made personal badges to advocate this, so we could take them home and help spread the news to our family and friends.

In January 25 children from our school, performed at the Genting arena in Birmingham at a huge concert called 'Young Voices. They performed a large variety of songs, alongside over 6,000 other school children for an audience of 7,000 people. Songs included 80s pop, African chants, songs based on classical music, TV cartoon tunes and a pop medley. The choir was accompanied by a professional band, backing singers and street dancers and were even recorded singing with Jazz singer, Natalie Williams for her new album!

The whole day and particularly performing in the concert, was an experience that will stay with the children for ever. "It was amazing. The lights and music made me feel like I was singing in a real pop concert. I loved it!"

With luck, even more children will attend Young Voices next year.

See photos on the following three pages

Making Beautiful Music Together

Who knew there are so many people with musical talent in Saint Joseph's Youth Group?

On Thursday, 1st February, ten Youth Group members gathered in the McEnnis Room to do some musical damage with musician, singer and teacher Ray Mytton. Many brought their own instruments. Marco, Alex, Chris and Cerys brought their guitars, Dylan brought his saxophone and Nicky brought his trombone! Workshop Leader, Ray, admitted at the end of the evening that he had been frightened by the presence of the trombone, but Nicky did a great job muting his musical beast in order to blend with less audible instruments.

The group jammed Blues and Reggae tunes producing never-to-be-heard-again performances. During a squash and biscuit break, Marco tried to persuade the rhythm section (Poppy, Alice, Chantelle and Cerys) to sing backing vocals on the next piece, but they stuck with their drums. What was really special was that, no matter what a person's musical background, everyone contributed to the performances. Everyone who wanted to even got a chance to play a solo!

Catherine M.M. Craig

See photos on opposite page

Thank You

as always to all our contributors. Your generous willingness to write for us, with or without arm-twisting, is very much appreciated. Please keep the copy—and the photos—coming.

Watch the bulletin for the date of the next copy day.



One World Group: Income and Expenses: 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017	
Income Categories	
Christmas Thanksgiving	2,940.00
Mid-year Giving	2,795.85
RTU/Bro James (Restricted)	189.00
Other Income	910.00
Gift Aid Refund 2016/17	957.74
Total Income Categories	7,792.59
Expense Categories	
Mencap	300.00
Malvern Welcomes	500.00
ACAT	50.00
Jesuit Missions	2,000.00
Sister Sylvia	2,000.00
Arusha Project	2,000.00
RTU/Bro James	2189.00
Total Expense Categories	9,039.00
Movement in 2017	-1,246.41
Balance at 1st January 2017	2,337.81
Balance at 31st December 2017	1,091.40

NOTES

RTU: Reaching the Unreached

ACAT: Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture

Mencap: Malvern branch of the charity supporting learning disability

‘Other Income’: Donations given other than those at Christmas and Midyear.

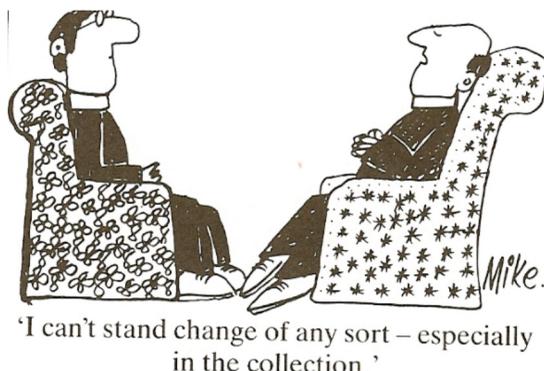
The OWG account is a virtual account within the parish accounting system. It is maintained by the OWG Treasurer and audited by the Parish Accountant.

Income from the Christmas Thanksgiving appeal enters into the accounts of the next Diocesan Financial Year which starts on 1 January.

In general all income from appeals and other sources is for any or all of our causes. However, in some cases a donation is to be used for only one of the projects or income is derived from a special event for a specific purpose; these are marked ‘Restricted’.

The OWG had at 31 December 2017 £1,091.40 available to allocate to the parish’s causes. This will be distributed in 2018.

Tim Thorp



Hidden in Plain Sight

There are 30 Books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? The first two have been found for you.

This is a most remarkable puzzle. (*This is (a mos)t re(mark)able puzzle.*) It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Smith, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Thanks to Angela Park for torturing us with this one. Answers on page 27.

Twenty Years Ago

Continuing our occasional dip into the archives

A year ago when we looked back into the parish's comparatively recent history we featured a meeting, reported in the Lent 1997 edition, where parishioners had a chance to quiz the architect and the parish priest about the proposed plans for the re-development of the church buildings. By the time the Lent 1998 magazine came out those plans were already being put into practice. The outside of the church was shrouded in blue plastic, underneath which the knocking-down side of things had been completed and the building-up side was well under way. Masses meanwhile had to be held elsewhere. Sunday morning mass was said in the school hall, but access to this was considered a bit challenging on dark winter evenings for elderly parishioners and so the Saturday vigil mass took place down the road in the church of the Ascension, thanks to the kindness and hospitality of its vicar and congregation. Christ Church on Avenue Road also provided much appreciated hospitality at Easter and for a memorable Christmas Eve mass, memorable for being very crowded with an estimated 500 plus worshippers and also, at least for those who noticed, for a minor liturgical innovation. No bell had been brought from St Joseph's and none was to hand at Christ Church. A hapless steward had been given the task of finding a substitute for a bell and after an increasingly desperate search came up with a biscuit tin lid, which an equally hapless altar server then had to strike with a stick while attempting to stifle her giggles.

It was perhaps not surprising that no bell was available. Having Mass every week away from our own church in two different venues, three including Christ Church, meant extra foreword planning for Ruth, our pastoral assistant, and Helen Mooney, our then sacristan, as they ensured that everything was taken to the right place at the right time. They soon established a regular routine but Christmas and Easter brought extra challenges. During the week they and Fr Raphael, the parish priest, struggled to maintain a semblance of normal parish life in the middle of building chaos.

The school meanwhile had been having its own building works which included moving the office to the front of the building. It was still tiny

after the move compared to its present size. The head, Carole Gregory, had been injured in a car accident and was away for the first half of term, and the school secretary had just retired. The school was able to report excellent SATs results and was 'looking forward to meeting the challenge . . . of a compulsory literacy hour and numeracy hour'.

Looking forward was the keynote of the time. The re-opening of the church and new parish rooms was only four months away. More of that anon.

Margaret Rank

Fast forward 20 years and the present school secretary, Delyth Coles, is also about to retire. Parishioners who have had dealings with the school will miss her friendly face and efficient help, and join the school in wishing her a very happy retirement. We will of course still have the friendliness and efficiency when Lindsey Latimer takes her place.



Community Action Malvern and District

The new service that we were planning this time last year is now up and running and doing very well for itself. Helping Hands helps older people who may need a bit of extra help sometimes. When we started we thought it would be things like housework, shopping and gardening but in reality it has turned into a much more bespoke service. It does indeed help people with some light housework and a bit of gardening but we have also taken a lady to choose and buy a new car, we have helped with paperwork and lots of other little things that make life so much easier for people to stay independent for longer. Sometimes it's something very easy like changing a light bulb; but that is essential for someone who may not be able to reach it so please spread the word to anyone you may know who would benefit from our service. We have now got gift vouchers and we have already been told that they make great presents.

As always we are extremely grateful to many of the churches in Churches Together. Thanks to you we have been able to bring joy on Sunday afternoons to our loneliest and most vulnerable clients. We have been steadfast in our mission to reduce social isolation for as many people as possible and we are very pleased to have you by our side. The Sunday Tea Club is cherished by the people who attend it. They absolutely love to meet up with friends old and new and catch up with the gossip and reminisce about times gone by. This is only possible because of your generosity and warm hearts; you make them feel so welcomed, so a huge thank you from them as well as from us!

Demand for our Car Service and Shoparound projects are on the rise again. Once people have used our service, they feel the benefit of our wonderful volunteers and the unique service that they provide and they want to use us again and again. This is absolutely fine with us, what else are we here for if not to provide that feeling of support and safety to our clients? Obviously this does mean that the demand for volunteers never ceases but we are lucky that the ones we have always go that extra mile (sometimes literally!) to make sure everyone is happy.

I'm sure you will have seen our minibuses around town. Did you know that you can hire them for your group? We can provide a driver or if you want to use our bus regularly then we can train one of your members to drive it. We also have two wheelchair adapted cars which are available should you know anyone that is stuck in their home not able to go out because of the lack of suitable transport.

None of what we do would happen at all without our volunteers. Although each project has its own 'group' of volunteers, quite often one of our volunteer receptionists, for example, will also become a car driver as well and also maybe an escort on the minibus! We like to think we offer a wide and varied choice of options; not just the traditional 'car driver'. Whether you are making cakes, driving a minibus, fundraising, cutting grass or answering the phone you are worth your weight in gold to us. So if you think you may like to join us then please get in touch, the kettle is always on and we would be pleased to talk to you about what you would like to do with us.

Jacci Phillips, CEO of Community Action
Tel 01684 892381 Email info@communityaction.org.uk

The Recipe Pages

Simnel Muffins

easy for baking with children

250g mixed dried fruit

Grated zest and juice of 1 orange (keep a bit back for the icing)

175g butter

175g golden caster sugar

3 eggs

300g self-raising flour

1 tsp mixed spice

½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg

5 tbsp milk

175g marzipan

200g icing sugar

2 tbsp orange juice for icing

Mini eggs



Tip the fruit into a bowl, add the zest and juice and microwave for a minute or two – you can soak it for 1 hour instead if you have the time! Put 12 paper muffin cases in a deep muffin tin.

Preheat the oven to 180C/gas 4. Beat together the softened butter, sugar, eggs, flour, spices and milk until light and fluffy with a hand held mixer. Stir the fruit in.

Half fill the muffin cases with the mixture. Divide the marzipan into 12 equal pieces, roll into balls, then flatten with your thumb to the size of the muffin cases. Put one into each muffin case and spoon the rest of the mixture over it. Bake for 25-30 minutes, until risen and firm. Leave to cool.

Beat together the icing sugar and orange juice to make icing with a pourable consistency. Drizzle over the muffins and top with mini eggs.

Lindsey Latimer

Spinach and Cheese Pie

1 bunch spring onions, chopped
170g/6oz butter
2 eggs
1kg/2lb spinach, washed and drained
225g/8oz feta cheese, crumbled
225g/8oz ready-made filo pastry
225g/8oz cottage cheese
2 tbsp cornflour
2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
2 tbsp chopped fresh dill
Salt and pepper to taste



Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas Mark 5.

Gently cook the onions in a third of the butter until soft.

Chop the spinach and cook in a large covered pan with a little water until wilted. Drain, pressing out as much moisture as possible.

Mix together onions, eggs, feta, cottage cheese, cornflour, herbs and spinach. Season lightly.

Butter a rectangular dish approximately 30x23cm (12x9in).

Place filo pastry under a clean damp cloth. Remove one sheet, brush with melted butter and line the dish. Repeat this with 5 sheets, brushing each one with melted butter.

Spread the spinach and cheese filling over the pastry.

Cover with the remaining sheets of pastry, brushing with melted butter as before.

Reduce oven heat to 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4. Bake for 50 minutes until golden brown and puffed up.

Allow to stand for 5-15 minutes before serving.

Helen O'Connor

We hope to include a recipe or two on a regular basis. Do please send us one of yours to share.

Malvern Welcomes

Malvern Welcomes was formed in 2014 to support the resettlement of refugees in the Malvern Hills area, and to provide practical assistance and advice. It aims to nurture a culture of welcome in which people fleeing violence and the horrors of war can live happy and fulfilled lives as part of the community, free from poverty, discrimination and harassment.

We are currently working with the Home Office to resettle a family in Malvern under the UK Government Sponsorship scheme.

We have identified a house and have been fundraising towards the cost of settling a family, which ranges from picking up a family from the airport, the costs of furnishing a house, food, toiletries, cleaning materials, initial rent and beyond. The Unity Week of Prayer service at St Joseph's retiring collection raised £3,480, and £5,000 has been collected from previous events and giving. We will continue to fundraise.

The Worcestershire County Council is bringing 50 more Syrian Refugees to Worcestershire by March 2019, and we hope that we will be able to offer a welcome and support to some of them.

We have all seen TV images, and read of the tragedy of refugees in Syria and surrounding countries. We will have prayed as individuals and in our churches, pleading with the Lord to have mercy.

Pope Francis says God has caressed us with his mercy, and we must bring it to others.

God brought us into the Kingdom to make a difference. He has given us our resources for a reason.

When our first family arrives, I pray that we will welcome and respect the stranger in our midst, since it may be the Christ unannounced.

For further information, visit the website of Malvern Welcomes at :- info@malvernwelcomes.org

Our next event is 'Springboard to Action', on Saturday 14th April at Lansdowne Methodist Church, a training day to prepare volunteers and members of our community to be able to welcome refugees to

Malvern, and be aware of the challenges such families face, and enable us to be generous in our response.

Viv Jones

Refugees

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way

(now read from bottom to top)

Brian Bilston



*Brian Bilston is a poet who publishes his work on the internet.
This one was contributed by Mary Rose Hughes and reproduced
with the author's permission.*

The Young Magazine

Test your knowledge of maths and RE at the same time; it's your Sunday brain workout! Answers on the next page.

Questions

1. (The number of days Jesus spent in the wilderness) *divided by* (the number of Gospels)
2. (The number of faithful Apostles) *plus* (the number of times St Peter disowned Jesus)
3. (The traditional number of Stations of the Cross) *minus* (the number of men clothed in white at the tomb on the first Easter Sunday)
4. (The number of Commandments) *multiplied by* (the number of days in the Triduum)
5. (How many silver pieces Judas Iscariot was paid for betraying Jesus) *divided by* (the number of thieves crucified with Jesus)
6. (The number of Beatitudes) *plus* (the number of huge Paschal candles lit in church during the Easter Vigil)
7. (How old Jesus was when He died) *minus* (the number of weeks in the Easter season)
8. (The number of women who went to the tomb on the first Easter Sunday) *multiplied by* (the number of sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary)
9. (The number of people who have their feet washed by the priest during Mass on Maundy Thursday) *divided by* (Mothering Sunday; the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th or 6th Sunday in Lent?)
10. (Pontius Pilate; 4th, 5th, 6th or 7th Roman governor of Judea?) *plus* (how often the Passion Play at Oberammergau is held; every 5, 10, 15 or 20 years?)
11. (The number for St Patrick's feast day in March) *minus* (the number for St David's Day, also in March)
12. (The number of men who walked with Jesus to Emmaus) *multiplied by* (how old Jesus was when He started His ministry)

Groan... groan...

Patient: Doctor, Doctor, I have a ringing noise in my ears.

Doctor: That's all right, it means you're as sound as a bell.

Teacher: Who can tell me what "cubic" means?

Pupil: Er, is it the language they speak in Cuba?

Sam: My dad's in hospital.

Chloe: Oh dear, what happened?

Sam: He climbed the tree to pick some apples for Mum to make a pie for tonight's dinner, and then he fell out of it and broke his leg.

Chloe: What did your mum do?

Sam: Opened a tin of peaches.

What does an angel say when it answers the phone? Halo.

What has twenty legs but cannot walk? Ten pairs of trousers.

10	(40 divided by 4)	1.
14	(11 plus 3)	2.
12	(14 minus 2)	3.
30	(10 multiplied by 3)	4.
15	(30 divided by 2)	5.
9	(8 plus 1)	6.
27	(33 minus 6)	7.
15	(3 multiplied by 5)	8.
3	(12 divided by 4)	9.
15	(5 plus 10)	10.
16	(17 minus 1)	11.
60	(2 multiplied by 30)	12.

Answers to the quiz on page 18, in the order in which they appear

Amos, Mark, Luke, John, Joel, Judges, Job, Hebrews, Esther, Acts, James, Ruth, Romans, Titus, Matthew, Genesis, Philemon, Chronicles, Daniel, Nahum, Hosea, Lamentations, Revelation, Timothy, Samuel, Numbers, Malachi, Peter, Exodus, Kings.

Coming Events at Belmont Abbey

Belmont Easter Retreat March 29- 2 April

Celebrate the Triduum at Belmont with talks to enter more deeply into its meaning.

The Spiritual Meaning of the Liturgy 13–15 April

‘To help us pray the Eucharist well, for the liturgy to be the wellspring of our spiritual lives.’

What does the Spirit say to the Church?

Saturday 28 April Exploring the Book of Revelation.

Plainsong and Prayer 4-6 May Learning and singing Gregorian chant. No previous knowledge or experience needed.

Beauty the Language of God 11-13 May ‘How can we be touched by “God’s better beauty”?’

May Procession 9pm 16 May

Lift up Your Hearts 2 June Day of Recollection for Ministers of the Eucharist

Come Walk with Me 15–17 June Human and spiritual growth in the light of the scriptures

In the Footsteps of St Paul 30 June What was it like for St Paul on his great journeys?

Daughters of Eve 20–22 July The women of the Old Testament

And looking ahead—**Pilgrimage to the Mystical Heart of Spain**
12–21 October

All details on the abbey website or contact retreats@belmontabbey.org.uk

Tel 01432 374750

*The longer retreats can be non-residential, with meals bought separately.
Quite manageable from Malvern!*

