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Plus Other Features

Magazine Team

Margaret Rank

Ann Wiseman

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Michael Townson

Susan van Ling

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

Fr Naz's Annual Report

Since the last AGM in June 2021 up until now, we have transitioned from the very depth of the pandemic to a time when we are able to sit side by side again in church. We look forward in hope as the lost two years will always remain a valuable treasure to build our future on. I cannot be grateful enough for the solidarity that existed in our parish community. The pandemic gave me an opportunity to see the otherwise hidden face of the community of St Joseph. As I continued to interact with many priests and ministers of other churches, I was amazed to keep hearing the same story of how hard it was to find people who could undertake the deep cleaning of pews after each service when I myself was inundated with a group of highly charged and dedicated people who faithfully and generously kept the church spick and span. This spoke a lot about the high sense of ownership of the church and the desire to keep everyone safe. I sincerely thank all those who dedicated themselves to the role of stewards.

When it gradually became possible for the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to take Holy Communion even though under restrictive guidance, some Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist dedicated themselves to resuming the ministry, which was very much appreciated by the housebound who longed to receive Holy Communion. I do understand that not everyone of those who used to take out Holy Communion prior to the pandemic will be in the position to resume this ministry post-pandemic. It is now time to reorganise the recently commissioned ministers to engage with a number of the housebound who are not being visited from the parish on regular basis.

Synodal Pathway

Towards the end of 2021, the Holy Father engaged us all in the Synodal Pathway. I engaged Michael Townson to lead the process and he worked so hard formulating the initial questionnaire, linking us with the cluster parishes of St Wulstan and the Severn Valley parishes of Upton and Blackmore churches. There was great enthusiasm about the synodal process and the participation of the people of the parish was

quite outstanding. The synod is far from over even if documentation of responses has been submitted to the diocese. We now have the challenge to ground the synod in the day-to-day life of our parish and continue to walk together in more concrete ways.

Office Staff

My gratitude goes to the office staff who worked so hard to keep us connected through the distribution of the newsletter online, and Sam worked so hard to deliver the newsletters to a number of those who had no access to electronic services. Many people appreciated this personal service. The majority of parishioners now receive electronic communication. Anne has worked so hard to make this possible through the database.

Donations/Legacy

Through a generous anonymous donation from a parishioner, we have been able to change all the carpets in the church and the adjacent rooms. This has given a new look to the church, sacristy, the dressing room and the Aldwin Room. This generosity is very much appreciated.

Through the legacy from Beryl Gaunt, we have comfortably improved on the streaming originally set up by seminarian Jithin Titto at the first lockdown and we now have a trusted YouTube link to stream Masses and other services in the church. As well as that we have an interactive screen in the McEnnis room which is a valuable asset for catechetical programmes and other online meetings.

Seminarians on Placement

In the last year, we have had three different placements of seminarians studying for the priesthood. The first was Jithin Titto who was in residence in the parish as he pursued online studies at the hardest moment of pandemic restrictions from May 2020 into early 2021. In September last year we had David Bench who is at the VEC in Rome and early this year we were blessed with the services of Deacon Steven Fleming who will be ordained a priest on 23rd July. I would like to thank the people of the parish for the support they gave to the seminarians. It is my wish that chance permitting I shall continue to be offered other

seminarians on placement. I would like to keep the door open for seminarian placements in the future.

Sacramental Programmes

A big thank you to Sue Stubbings and Rebecca Surman for their dedicated service to supporting young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is my wish that we can have confirmation every year rather than every other year so that we do not lose anyone through the net.

Particular thanks to Carol Anne Harnett for devising an outstanding Communion Programme designed to engage parents in catechising their children for First Holy Communion. Carol Anne has engaged Edyta and her family as well as Mary Carol and Susan van Ling. How blessed we are to have the expertise of someone like Carol Anne.

Fr Nazarius Mgungwe June 2022

Fr Naz had hoped to add more to his report after the Annual Parish Meeting but other commitments and his trip back to Malawi intervened. We hope to have his further thoughts at a later date.

Chair's Report

The current PAC was completely replaced which doesn't lend itself to continuity. We have had three meetings so far this year. Despite covid we have carried on and we have organised having a defibrillator for the church, which we are currently processing. Training will be given by Heart Start.

The school has been added to our regular agenda reports, with Chris Park reporting.

Edd Hogan was elected to the PAC to complete the ordinary members.

We aim to get tea and coffee started on a regular basis with volunteers after mass on Sunday as this will enable parishioners to meet others and socialise.

It was decided that we would purchase a new wreath each year for Remembrance Sunday.

Peter Armstrong, Chair

Meet Your PAC

Normally at this time of year we have a ‘meet the new members of the PAC’ feature, and there are usually three of them, but ,because of the pandemic and the difficulty of holding elections and meetings, members stayed on beyond their three year span and there has been little change since last year. However it is three years since we were last able to run this feature and only three of the then PAC are still members now, so we are (re)introducing all the members this time. Probably most of you already know most of them, but I’m sure I’m not the only parishioner who has looked at those photos in the narthex and thought, ‘But who are all these people? I don’t know half of them’. (Not an accurate percentage, admittedly.) So if that has been true of you, too, here’s your chance to get to know them.

Peter Armstrong has been in the parish four and a half years, having previously been for 30 years at another St Joseph’s in Havant, Hants. There he was sacristan, MC and played guitar in the choir. Here he has been a server, reader and eucharistic minister, and a member of the PAC for three years, the last one as chair. He has a Master’s degree in engineering and was a career soldier serving all over the world. Peter has three sons, one a retired Assistant Police Commissioner, one a retired Major General and the third a judge.

Edd Hogan, who has just been elected chair of the PAC for the coming year, grew up in Halifax where he was an altar server for many years, and also served mass while at university and at St Chad’s cathedral when he was living in Birmingham. He joined this parish in 2001 and is involved in altar serving here and ‘generally assisting Fr Naz with our liturgical services’. He is at pains to point out that he is not a deacon, presumably after some misapprehensions. Edd also administers the parish Twitter feed and the easyfundraising account, and is a foundation governor at the school. He is the only new member of the PAC this year, but far from new to the PAC itself as this is his third time on it, the first time having been when David Rank was chair, and the second when he was chair himself.

‘Ella and I received marriage preparation from Chris and Liz Burger some 20 years ago now. Ella and I got married in London (her home parish). Niamh is now 14 and Rebecca is 11. From September they will both be at St Mary’s RC High in Hereford. ‘I work for Marsh – a global insurance broker and risk advisory firm. I manage the insurance arrangements for a portfolio of around 15 predominantly large multinational corporate businesses. I also manage a team of colleagues.

Our parish is active and alive. I’ll do my best to contribute to the life of the parish, helping the parish priest in decision making.’

Virginia (Ginnie) Lee came to the parish from Stourbridge in 2006 and has been part of the Climate Group since 2019 and on the PAC since last year.

‘I am a single parent with four children and three grandchildren. I have worked with NGOs since 2001 on the climate crisis, taking lobbying actions and raising awareness of the issues that global warming will bring. I was a founder member of Transition Malvern Hills (TMH) which was formed in 2008. TMH has created and supported many local low carbon initiatives in and around the Malvern area, such as Repair Café, Car Share Club, up grading the gas lamps and many others. I was also part of the community volunteer action group, Malvern Community Collective, that fought to stop Malvern Youth Centre being demolished and helped create, as well as worked at, the community hub known as Malvern Cube until 2016.’

Susan van Ling moved to Malvern from Hessle in East Yorkshire four years ago. She is involved with the First Holy Communion and Baptism programmes, and is a governor at St Joseph’s school.

Christopher Louise has also been in the parish for four years, having previously been working in West Africa. He is a member of the One World Group. ‘I work as an independent peace and development consultant, advising governments, development agencies (like the UN), and NGOs on peace and development strategies. My wife is Helen and we have three daughters. I am keen on supporting parish council efforts to

involve youth in our church community, and continuing to share information about social justice issues globally.'

Helen Morgans grew up in the parish and returned here in 2008. She plays in the music group, is a eucharistic minister and will become Year 5's teacher at St Joseph's school in September. In the past she led the children's liturgy for a number of years and was a money counter. 'Our family plays an active role in the parish. All three of my children have attended St Joseph's school and have been/are altar servers. My two boys Harry and Oscar (aged 12 and 14) really enjoy attending the parish youth group and my daughter Amelia (10) plays violin in the music group. As a family we feel lucky to be part of such a friendly and happy parish.'

Cathy Showell came to the parish in 1995 from Wembley but moved away for work between 2002 and 2019. 'I am an ex-teacher of teenagers (I taught mostly Physics and Chemistry) and would be interested in being the 'responsible adult' whilst they take on a project to improve the parish environment. This would not be me telling them what to do, but their brainstorming ideas that may help to e.g. reduce our use of petrol, diesel, electricity, plastics. We could visit the recycling site at Hartlebury to see what happens to the recycling waste that gets collected by the dustmen.'

Mary Taylor has been in the parish for 22 years, having grown up in Coventry and lived in various places after university. She is involved with music and liturgy and used to be chair of the pre-school committee. Mary currently has two children at St Joseph's school, and two who were there previously, and has been a maths teacher at The Chase for over 20 years.

Zbigniew Twarowski, originally from Wroclaw in Poland, has been in the parish since 2006 and on the PAC since 2017. Married with two teenage sons, Zbigniew is a civil engineer and puts his experience in 'asset/project management, engineering and building stuff in general' to use on the maintenance committee.

Barbara Wortley came to the parish from Atherstone, Warks, eight years ago. She has an interest in the parish school and has helped out there. In the past she has been involved with the Latin Mass and choir.

A Message from the Editor

It's good to be back. After two years in abeyance, and given the wonderful way the parish office has kept us informed over that period, the parish magazine's future looked uncertain. Was there still a place for it? I wasn't sure, but was persuaded by others that there was, and with a renewed team and enthusiastic encouragement from Fr Naz (who only has himself to blame when he gets all those nagging emails about missing copy), decided to give it a go.

It would seem that those who did the persuading were right, given the willingness with which people have produced copy and the sheer abundance of it. Such an abundance, in fact, that it exceeds the parish stapler's ability to cope. So this magazine is only Summer Part One, and Part Two will follow in September. Apart from where dates are relevant there's no hierarchy involved in which article is going in which edition—it's just a matter of what fits where.

So a huge thank you to all our contributors. Please keep all that wonderful copy coming.

Margaret Rank

A Special Experience

On Good Friday this year I decided to join the Walk of Witness organised by Churches Together from St Joseph's to the Priory. I had planned to take our Bichon Frise, Pepper, but that wasn't possible as she had had a minor operation two days earlier and was limited to 15 minute walks. As I was missing my long walks with her, I thought it would be good for my 'step count'. So to be really honest, I didn't set out with just religious intentions!

The weather was really beautiful; it was one of those all too rare perfect spring days. I joined a small group of around 15 just outside our church at 10:30. Anne said a prayer and we were waved off by Fr Naz who sadly couldn't join us as he had the children's service. Instead of the large wooden cross, one of the group carried our crucifix. Our first stop

was Holy Trinity where we joined another group of around 15 with a wooden cross and a golden retriever belonging to the vicar and her husband. Pepper would have liked him. She always seems to like golden retrievers although they are much bigger than her. After a short prayer we set out again following their wooden cross and our crucifix.

As we arrived in Great Malvern we encountered other groups from different churches also following wooden crosses. One of them was being carried by a child which one of our group found very moving. The service of witness was outside in the Priory grounds and the music group were already playing as we arrived. As we walked in, we were handed song sheets. All the wooden crosses, and our crucifix, were grouped together leaning on one of the large tombs in the graveyard in front of the music group.

It was lovely to see a big group gathered together. Not everyone had walked there but they obviously wanted to be part of the service as some had walking frames. I actually met someone who was in a bible group with me around 40 years ago. I had not seen her in decades. We were all encouraged to move forward to be nearer the music group. Although the service was informal, it was very meaningful. Different parts were led by people from the different churches. It felt quite special to be witnessing to the people of Malvern with Christians from many different churches. I really enjoyed the service and it challenged and helped me to see Good Friday in a different way. One part that really spoke to me was hearing someone tell Barabbas' story. We have all heard of Barabbas in the gospels but not like this. He began with 'I am Barabbas' and spoke powerfully explaining he was a freedom fighter against the Roman occupation. He had been imprisoned and was sentenced to death



until he was brought out by the guards and heard the crowd shouting his name. We all have heard of Barabbas described in the gospels as, 'the brigand' and wondered how the crowd could have chosen him instead of Jesus. Barabbas too couldn't believe his luck that he had been chosen by the crowd and set free and Jesus was going to be crucified and would die on the cross, instead of him.

But really we should all feel what Barabbas felt. That is really the central message of Good Friday. We have all been 'set free' from the consequences of our sins by Jesus dying on the cross so Barabbas stands for all of us. We can all say 'I am Barabbas'. Another part that filled me with awe was when someone stepped in for an absent person and 'off the cuff' said a beautiful and long prayer thanking God the Father for giving the gift of His Son for us all. I don't feel that kind of praying is our forte as Catholics. We are so used to saying and hearing set prayers.

At the end of the service everyone was invited to share hot cross buns provided by the Priory. They were also handed out to people passing by. Our group had already dispersed in the grounds so just three of us walked back to St Joseph's. I joined Anne and another lady from our parish who I had not met before. I carried the crucifix some of the way back as Anne had collected a Polish Easter cake from the bakery. It was a humbling experience and like the service itself made me think more about what I had taken part in and about the day itself. I will certainly join next year's Walk of Witness and think we should take our wooden cross and take turns in carrying it. If you are able to join us, I encourage you to give it a try either walking or just joining the service at the Priory.

Win Crawford

I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much.

Mother Teresa

Raymond Remembered



Harold Raymond Bree, or Raymond as he was known to his friends, was born on 10th April 1930 in Birmingham. He happily lived for a large part of his early life with two spinster aunts. In his youth Raymond attended St Jude's Anglo Catholic Church and I spoke to Jean Davies who knew him from his 20s and went with him on church camps to Anglesey and Whitesands Bay. She described him as a lovely quiet dapper young man. Raymond, as with so many of his friends, kept in touch with her for 70 years.

Raymond worked in the accounts department of Walter Rowley's / Newman Tonks Brass Foundry for over 30 years. He was in charge of the daily cash flow long before computers and was meticulous in his accounting, often being the last to leave at night to ensure everything balanced. He joined the RAF for his two years of National Service. Initially he did not like the drill practices but found a niche in the office and when his two years came to an end, because he was highly regarded, he was offered a chance to stay with the RAF. Raymond decided however to return to his job in Birmingham.

On Mar 1st 1962 Raymond was baptised into the Catholic Church at the Oratory in Birmingham. He was to be involved with the Oratory, which he loved, for the next 28 years. Raymond was coached by one of the nuns to be a reader. He served on the altar, ran the piety stall, helped in the sacristy and visited the housebound.

In 1990 Raymond moved to Malvern, initially travelling back to Birmingham for work. On retirement he worked in the office of Guy's the chemist in Malvern Link. He also became involved with St Edmund's and St Joseph's Church. Raymond again gave generously of his time and was much loved by all the congregation. He served on the altar and kindly directed new servers in the role. His great love was to get the thurible out and to fill the sanctuary with incense and if he had half

a chance the whole church! Raymond helped in the sacristy and used his accounting experience as parish cashier.

He was meticulous in his accounting despite parishioners helping themselves to petty cash without letting him know and parish priests not being good with record keeping! We are still using to this day the sheets he used for the weekly collections.

Raymond was a well known character around Malvern Link and in his later years he would go for a walk, smartly dressed as ever, to the shops, bank and chemists, often stopping off at Colston's bakery for a cup of tea, despite its not being a café.

He lived in Pickersleigh Close for 32 years and was much loved by his neighbours. Pat Deary who sadly passed away in 2020 was a great support to Raymond in his latter years. She would get supplies for him, help him with his washing and intercept his post to reduce the number of gift catalogues that he liked to buy from!

Raymond's home was amazing to visit. It was filled with thousands of knickknacks, books, clothes, silk flowers, pictures, statues etc. There was hardly an inch of space. They gave great comfort to Raymond.

Raymond was also visited in his latter years by Ruth and Des Hopkins who took him communion and kept an eye on him and took him little treats.

Raymond was able to live an independent life up to his 92nd year and his final visit to hospital, where he had a heart attack and passed away peacefully in his sleep, lasted just a couple of weeks.

I'm sure he is now up in heaven organising their accounts, spreading incense around and catching up with old friends!

Raymond organised all of his funeral service and left instructions and cash for refreshments in the McEnnis Room after his burial in Great Malvern cemetery.

Chris Park

Adapted from the eulogy at Raymond's Requiem Mass

I met Raymond Bree for the first time at St Edmund's Church. He was an altar server there and on one occasion after mass he joined parishioners in the crypt for coffee, and we had a very brief chat. I had noticed how proficient he was serving at mass; he always seemed calm and in control. He told me that he had served for many years at Birmingham Oratory during the time when Fr Gregory Winterton was parish priest there. They were good friends, sharing the common bond of an interest in Newman, and Fr Gregory helped Raymond on his faith journey after he was received into the Catholic Church.

It was in 1995 that Fr Austin, the parish priest, asked Raymond if he would take over the bookkeeping in the parish office at St Joseph's. He accepted and soon made the system his own, very ordered and entirely traceable for those unfamiliar with bookkeeping. The Diocesan Auditor always commended Raymond for his work.

I always made a point of chatting to him whenever he was in the parish office. I found him a very interesting person. We both came from Birmingham and would reminisce about places and events there. He had a great interest in history and art, especially the Age of Enlightenment, and he would come alive when chatting and we would often end on a humorous note.

Raymond was a very private person; I think I would always describe him as self-effacing. Gradually over a period of time I learnt more about his life. He had experienced a very sad early childhood and eventually went to live with his great aunts. They were Victorian and very strict. Life was tough for him and yet he always said they gave him security and love.

Despite the many difficulties he experienced in life, Raymond had the ability to survive and carry on. His faith played a huge part in his life and the faith of his aunts had a great influence on him. When he was in his late 70s I took him to Honeybourne, the village where he had grown up. He looked at the school, the church and the graves of his aunts. A few days later I asked him if he'd enjoyed going back and he said he had

wanted to go there for a long time, but that now he'd been, his mind was at rest, he didn't need to go again.

Over the years he shared many stories of his life, and what struck me was the fact that at certain points in his life, someone was always there for him and these people remained good and faithful friends with him.

Raymond was a true example of a person of faith and I will never forget his thoughtfulness and kindness to me. His wisdom and acute perception came from his own experience of life and it was a life well lived.

Ruth Hopkins

From the Parish Records **for the period since January 2020**

Welcome to the following small new Christians, and congratulations to their parents: Clement Taundry, Gabriella Kurek, Daniel Turcinavicius, Samuel Atherton, Olivia Lewis-Knight and Ophelia Yeomans. Welcome too to Jonathan Powell, to Poppy, Henry and Jack Mason and to Kaitlyn, Carys and Rachel Thompson.

Congratulations to Viv Jones and Allan Fox who were married a year ago.

Welcome to the following who are some of the newcomers to the parish: Tanja and Avabella Perer; Anthony and Tamar Quinn; Sundrella Kirby (who now manages the 100+ Club); Danielle, George and Samuel Atherton; Jiswin Joseph, Bency Mathew, Sholly Bobby and their families; Paul and Luca Callaly; Melissa Moore; Felicity Tutton; Thomas Davies; Jennifer, Tristan and Rory Berry.

Rest in Peace John Joseph O'Shea, Gabrielle Evans, John O'Brien, Barbara Innes, Enos Turnbull, Stan Williams, Willem (Pim) van Ling, Ellen Verdult, Michael Murphy, Patricia Wilks, Vincenzina Cumming, Nigel Banning, Michael Griffin, Anne Elcock, Lesley Rowberry, Frank Partington, Jean Horne, Raymond Bree, Cuthbert Lashley, John Elcock.



On Sunday 12 June, the feast of the Holy Trinity, seventeen young parishioners made their **First Holy Communion**. They were supported by 180 family and friends, and a further 115 joined them online



Felicity and the Ukrainian Appeal

Hello, I'm Felicity. Some of you may recognise my name as being one of the people received and confirmed into the Catholic church this Easter at St Joseph's. My husband, Paul, and I moved to Malvern in June last year. Born in Cornwall, I was raised an Anglican, since when, living in various small villages in Devon, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, I have worshipped in both Methodist and Evangelical communities. You may say I've been somewhat 'free range'! Before Covid hit, we had begun worshipping with our then local Benedictine community of Catholic monks at Prinknash Abbey, near Birdlip, where I also became an Oblate. I also discovered the Brownhill Benedictine Cistercian community of nuns near Stroud, somewhere I like to go to at least annually for retreats and who also have an active Oblate group. I was delighted when Fr Naz arranged for the Easter Saturday Benedictine service of readings. As I get to know people at St Joseph's, I become aware that I am not on my own in appreciating Benedictine community style of worship. If this describes you, and we haven't yet met, please say hello!

And now onto writing about the recent Ukraine appeal, for which I want to say a massive 'thank you' to everyone for your generous and thoughtful donations for this. You gave everything from toiletries, dried foods, baby goods, food and milk, clothes, sleeping bags, rucksacks and blankets. Paul and I were amazed as your offerings speedily arrived following Fr Naz's appeal on the Sunday.

I became aware of this opportunity through one of the Romanian dog rescue charities, www.amiciidogrescue.org.uk/, that we adopted our two dogs through. Ann Pursey and Clive Morris regularly take an empty van over to Romania to bring back dogs who have been offered forever or foster homes. Given the tragedy of the war, they decided not to waste the empty van, but to make an extra journey taking them close to the Romanian/



Ukraine border where they could drop off donations. All the goods donated by people at St Joseph's were packed by them onto this van along with others from other individuals. Plotting their journey across Europe regularly on Facebook, on finally arriving they shared the smiles on the faces of the officials receiving these, along with their massive gratitude. A couple of



weeks into the war, the amount of people in need was increasing, yet the amount of goods arriving was decreasing. Some of these were taken into Ukraine, others left for refugees making their way into Romania.

My part on 17th March was straightforward, namely collecting the goods from church, and sorting those boxes already sealed and labelled with their contents from those needing packing and labelling. Once all were ready, I numbered each of the 36 boxes and added a name of donor label, 'St Joseph's R C Church, Malvern'. The final part was typing up a box-by-box content list, needed to accompany the donations. With the taxi arriving at 2pm, my only moment of panic was would I get this completed in time? Thankfully, Paul was around to help with last minute Pritt sticking and sellotaping, and, on the dot of 2, the last box was on our drive, waiting. My intention had been to take them to Worcester myself, however the quantity meant this was impractical without at least two journeys, so Fr Naz thoughtfully organised the transport. Huge appreciation also goes to the driver, Shony Jose, who I believe is himself a St Joseph's parishioner.

I'm really privileged to have shared in this project with you all, and whilst I pray we have no new emerging wars to respond to, look forward to journeying with you in other projects in the future, be this to support our brothers and sisters locally or globally.

Felicity Tutton

Remembering Pam



I first met Pam Taylor shortly after she moved to Malvern with her husband Richard in 1997. She moved here to take up the post of vice principal at what was then Newman College of Higher Education, in Birmingham. At first I knew her only as a fellow parishioner and a neighbour on the Hereford side of the hills, but gradually also came to know her as a much-valued friend.

Pam had had a distinguished teaching career before coming to this part of the world, in both primary and tertiary education. At what is now the University of Greenwich she lectured in English and Drama and was programme leader for primary teacher training, MA education and management diplomas. She had also had experience working for Ofsted. At Newman, where her leadership style was described as ‘immersive and hands on’ she became principal in 2000, a post she held until her retirement in 2009. By then it had become Newman University College and had grown from 900 students to nearly 2,500, with an enviable 98% of its students finding employment every year. Under her leadership there was a strong emphasis on Catholic social teaching, on inclusivity and tolerance of other faiths, and she was noted for her concern that her students and staff should flourish.

She found time to take on other related roles, such as chair of the Council of Church Universities and Colleges, and chair of GuildHE, an association of principals of newer universities and colleges. There were far more besides these, and I suspect her friends were often unaware of many of them. I remember my own surprise on one occasion when she casually mentioned that she had been in London the previous day. Oh, said I, meeting friends? Theatre? An exhibition? No, she replied, she had been appointing judges.

Of course one of her other roles was here in Malvern, as a governor at St Joseph’s School, initially fairly briefly while she was still at Newman,

and then as chair for four years after her retirement. During that time I was involved with the governors and had the pleasure of working with her and watching her bring her professional skills to bear with grace and good humour and a forensic dissection of whatever problem was at hand. Her commitment to the school and her passion to see it flourish shone through all her interactions with it, and the school's equally warm feelings towards her and her contribution to its success are reflected in the decision to name the school library after her. She wrote in the magazine that 'St Joseph's Primary School is one of the treasures of the parish' and Pam played a very real part in making it so.

Somewhat at the opposite end of the scale from her many illustrious achievements, she was a member of this little magazine team, liaising with the school among other things. Sadly ill health and then Covid meant that she only contributed to a few editions, though she had written the occasional article in the past. Back in 2011, for example, she wrote a piece about papal knights and dames, characteristically neglecting to mention that she had just been appointed one herself. Her final contribution was in the last edition before the pandemic, and described being at the thanksgiving mass for the canonisation of St John Henry Newman in the Birmingham Oratory. It was, she wrote, 'a fitting celebration of the man' and it was equally fitting that she was there to take part in it, not only because of her connection to the university which bears his name, but also because of her own devotion to him. She once told me that reading his *Apologia* led to her becoming a Catholic.

Her faith was deep and active and sustained her through the many months of illness. At a low point she wrote to a friend, 'I will hold on to the fact that Christ has always been through whatever we face.' She was sustained too, she often told the same friend (not a parishioner) by the prayers and support she received at St Joseph's.

To those of us who knew her, Pam was much more than the sum of these many parts. She was a warm, witty and wise friend, whom we greatly miss. She was an entertaining companion, and as a university friend noted, 'she could capture a scene and tell an anecdote with verve

and joy'. She loved to laugh, enjoying puns and bad jokes. The same friend also commented on her delight in the ordinary and that chimes very much with my own memories of her. Little snippets from emails, written as her health deteriorated and during the pandemic, come to mind. 'The sight of fields of buttercups and verges with Queen Anne's lace fill me with joy' and, describing a visit to Hailes Abbey in Gloucestershire with her husband, Richard: 'It was such a still, warm, golden afternoon. Not that many people about and all spaced out (not like that!). We ambled about, sat and enjoyed the ruins, walked the perimeter, had an ice cream.'

Unsurprisingly, Pam was extremely well-read and the best person ever to discuss books with. If she said a book was 'ace' (a favourite term of approbation) then you knew it really was. Her tastes were wide-ranging and included a weakness for detective novels. What better person to name a library after? And what better library than the one in the school she loved and worked so hard for?

Uniting Pam's love of books and her deep commitment to the school by renaming the library after her was an inspired idea on the part of the governors. It is also of course a clever way of getting us to reach into our pockets, because St Joseph's school library is in need of an update and of more books to extend the range on offer for the children to enjoy. Hence the Library Memorial Appeal. You will already have been given information about this, and many parishioners have already contributed generously.

If you haven't contributed yet, then it's not too late. You can either make a BACs payment to St Joseph's Catholic Church, Malvern. Sort Code 53-81-33 Account number 89263561. You can also donate by cheque payable to St Joseph's Catholic Church Malvern, or simply by taking a cash donation into the parish office.

At the time of going to press the total stands at £705. Let's try to make it even more, in Pam's memory and to benefit the children of our parish school.

Margaret Rank

News from the Seminarians

From Jithin Titto, who was with us for several months in 2020, and played a large part in setting up the streaming of the parish masses.

Dear friends in Malvern,

Hope you're all doing well. Thank you for all your prayers for all of us here at St Mary's. I just cannot believe that it has been two years since I stayed in Malvern! I guess the studies and other formation has been quite intense and time just flies past. Although it is intense I have really enjoyed much of the study, namely Patristics and Synoptic Gospels and also the courses about Liturgy, and Old Testament this year. It has been very special for me to learn more about the Lord and understand His mysteries a little deeper. Being part of the College's choir (*schola cantorum*) is one of my favourite things in the seminary. We learn a lot of beautiful pieces of music of the western culture, that have been sung in the Church for many years whether it be in Latin or English.

With our college's timetable and additional commitments outside of seminary my days are quite packed. I suppose as long as I can remember, I have always been quite eager to plan my days out and have things on, so I didn't feel like I was missing out on anything! Playing badminton for the university and football in the college with the seminarians are some things I enjoy sports-wise. We have somewhat of a football team in the college and have played matches against other teams such as the Allen Hall seminary. The match was a draw!

Also, every Sunday I gather in prayer with friends to encourage one another in our relationship with God. These take place over Zoom with many attending, and I often lead different parts of the prayer such as the rosary or giving a talk etc. Through this 'giving and receiving' I find that I am able to observe the Lord's Day in prayer and thus help others as well as myself to grow in virtue. It has also been a blessing for me to do some charitable works in Kerala, India, with these friends. Praying with these friends and doing some works of charity together has been a

good source of encouragement for me in my vocation. It has been very reassuring to see many young families who are keen about both prayer and works of mercy.

Throughout the term we have days for more prayer and silence too and these are an integral part of the life of a seminarian and a priest. Something noteworthy is perhaps some of the insights I received during our recent silent retreat at St. Bueno's. It has felt more important to me during those days of silence and prayer to slow down a little and each day embrace the *EXAMEN* (a good prayerful reflection of your day to notice and discern the presence of God). Often, I think we can all get in to the habit of getting things done and maybe even expand our to-do list and get more things 'done'. Through the spiritual director I had, I had an increasing awareness that perhaps more than getting things done for God, He wants us to recognise Him in our interactions of each moment. And also, the importance of having "speak Lord, your servant is listening" before "Here am I, Lord, I come to do your will".

I hope to be able to be back in Malvern sometime in the near future and greet everyone in person! Once again thank you for all that you do for us seminarians.

God bless,
Jithin.

From Dave Bench, who was with us in August and September 2021

When you begin formation for priesthood it feels as though you are in for the long haul and you can't get to the finish-line quick enough. Suddenly, I find myself at the end of fourth year and receiving candidacy - the Church's formal recognition of a clerical vocation - and so the countdown to ordination next year (first as deacon) has begun!

Bishop Paul Mason, bishop to the military, presided over the mass and preached on how God intends us to soar like eagles, but with the Holy Spirit in our wings. I must say, I was quite on air myself. From this point onwards, I may dress in clerics (priestly garb) so as to witness to

my intention to complete my formation. The rite involved us being asked if we were “morally certain” of a call from the Lord, and if we are “resolved” to carry on with a view to ordination? I can say that I do now feel interiorly free and happy enough to say yes to Christ and His Church. I was very conscious of the number of you who continue to pray for me. No man makes it through without such support. Thank-you.

It seems, however, that I might be part of the old guard who receive candidacy at the end of year 4 of seminary. The Bishops of England and Wales are currently deciding on how to readjust the “ministries” conferred on a discernor so as to bring formation in line with the wishes of Pope Francis. Since he created the lay ministry of *catechist* it has become more theologically acute that the ministries of *reader* and *acolyte* are primarily baptismal ministries that are open to all the faithful and not just those of us progressing towards ordination.

As a result, candidacy may be moved earlier on in the process or left up to the seminarian to express when he feels ready to take this step. For the moment, however, no-one knows just how everything will develop. As for me, although aware of my many faults, I praise God for calling me to minister soon enough in our Archdiocese and express here, once again, how lucky I feel to have shared the journey thus far with so many wonderful priests and parishioners along the way.



From Steve Fleming, with us in the early part of this year

I'm writing this is my final couple of weeks at Oscott college and as a seminarian.

I just finished my final exams and am preparing to go on my priestly retreat to Ars in France, which is where John Vianney, the patron saint of priests, ministered.

The prayerful excitement of ordination approaching is a blessed time, with its many blessings as a deacon but also with its looking forward to the blessing of saying mass for the first time.

I've just finished my placement in Kings Heath which has been a real blessing and which I've learned a lot from.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the time I spent with you in Malvern and for your kind gift which has gone towards my chasuble for my first mass. So a big thank you.

I would like to extend an invitation to the parish to attend my first Mass on 24th July 2022 at 3pm at Our Lady of Assumption, at Old Oscott Hill, Birmingham. It would be wonderful if you could attend my first mass and celebrate this special day with me.

Please pray for me in these final weeks of preparation as I will pray for you all.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Steve



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Through Covid and Beyond

Report from the One World Group

As this is the first magazine since before the Covid pandemic, the group was unable to provide the parish with an Annual Report for 2021, so this is by way of being both the Annual Report, an account of activities so far in 2022 and a preview of future plans.

As in so many other parts of our life, Covid reduced our level of external activity in 2021, and we are only now resuming face-to face meetings and making fresh plans.

At the end of April, we organised an event for young people of the parish on “Peace, War and Pizza”; a separate report on this is published elsewhere in the parish magazine

- We have continued to be in touch with the projects the parish is supporting: Sister Sylvia in Bolivia, working with prayer and joy and constant practical help to care for her community in her remote parish in the highlands of Bolivia.
- Reaching the Unreached in Tamil Nadu, Southern India, helping Father Antony and his team maintain the small villages they have created to look after children whose family cannot provide the care they need.
- Tanzania is the other country where we have provided support: in 2021 we planned a new programme working with our primary school in the partnership they have for an exchange of teachers and visits with a school there. But Covid has put it on hold.

From Bolivia, Sister Sylvia was her usual brilliantly communicating self even through this difficult time, and we have taken up in prayer the various people she has brought to us. We also made sure that the bulletin reported her news, as the poor quality of health resources in the highlands where she lives and works has inevitably meant much suffering from Covid, and our moral, financial and prayer support means much.

In regard to Southern India, we continued to receive news about RTU's work in creating and fostering small villages (extended families really) for children whose families for various reasons can't provide the support needed. We would be happy to send on to any of your emails the evocative reporting we get every two or three months via their intermediary in the UK, Mo Houlden.

During 2021 and Covid, the group responded to the difficulty of working through parish gatherings by continuing to meet on Zoom as a prayer hub, meeting every Saturday at 12 noon to pray the Angelus together, to reflect on Scripture and aspects of our faith, to share any concerns we have, and pray for people dear to us who are sick. The prayer is centred on the particular concerns around the One World Group projects, but has naturally come to encompass other concerns with new members joining. It is hoped that this prayer initiative will continue

The Group has also been involved in the Soup Lunches on Mondays during Lent; the donations for this funded the Youth Event in April.

The next event planned is for a review of 'Covid and its Aftermath', looking at the local, regional and global effects of the pandemic.

In general the OWG sees its function as raising awareness in the parish of issues in global development, in continuing to support our projects at home and abroad, and in supporting the parish in pursuing a social justice agenda.

As always, the OWG welcomes any and all parishioners to its meetings and to play an active role in its activities. Contact can be made by email: m.townson1@btinternet.com.

Financial Report of the One World Group

Through the One World Group, the parish supports three projects working with people in need: Jesuit Missions in Guyana; Reaching the Unreached in India; Sr Sylvia in Bolivia. There is an information sheet on the projects at the back of the church.

We give you our Annual Report accounting for your generous donations:

Income and Expenses	
1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021	
Income Categories	
Christmas Thanksgiving	925.08
Sr Sylvia (Restricted)	3,580.00
Other	2,188.27
Total Income Categories	6,693.35
Expense Categories	
Sister Sylvia	5,758.27
Total Expense Categories	5,758.27
Movement in 2020	935.08
Balance at 1 January 2021	12,447.70
Balance at 31 December 2021	13,382.78

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. The Diocesan Financial Year 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’.

Income from the Christmas Thanksgiving appeal of 2020 enters partly in the 2020 accounts and partly in the 2021 accounts. There were no Christmas Appeals at mid-year 2021 or Christmas 2021. However, many in the parish still contributed to the group and this income is entered as 'Other'. There were two appeals for Sr Sylvia, the first for her work in Bolivia, the second to cover costs when she got trapped in the UK because of Covid travel restrictions.

The OWG had at 31 December 2021 £13,382.78 available to allocate to the parish's causes; £10,000.00 of this is in the Meg Robinson Fund. Plans for disbursing some of this fund continue to be postponed because of the Covid situation.

In 2022 we have, however, continued to support projects at home and overseas; for example, apart from continuing support for Sister Sylvia and RTU a donation of £1000.00 has been made to two local schools to help offset the social depredations caused by Covid.

There is an urgent need to replenish our funds, and we shall be turning to the parish in an appeal in July.

Peace, War and Pizza

An evening of discussion with our young people

At the end of April the One World Group invited the young people of the parish to share their thoughts on modern conflict. The evening of discussion was fortified by pizza!

The group of teenagers and young adults had the opportunity to watch videos showing the impact of wars in Yemen and Lebanon. Everyone was moved by Ahmed, a 9-year old Yemeni boy who teaches classes in his bombed-out school when the normal teacher doesn't come. Amid the rubble of his school Ahmed tells the BBC reporter that every time he hears the background noise of gunfire he thinks he is going to die. A small girl describes how the children "arrive in danger and leave in danger" but they come to learn and see their friends. She wants to become a doctor.

Our young people asked questions about why no one is helping the children in war-torn parts of the world. It reminded everyone that Ukraine is not the only place being devastated by armed violence. In Yemen the United Nations estimates that over 377,000 people have died since 2014, 60% due to indirect causes such as lack of food, water and healthcare.

During the group work (after we all ate pizza!) people were asked to imagine they were fleeing a conflict and had to quickly decide the most important things they would pack in a small bag. Unsurprisingly the most important item was their mobile phone. A second group discussed if it was right that people in Malvern and in the UK should care more about the Ukraine conflict than other wars around the world.

The event ended with participants writing their own personal calls to action and attaching them to a “Peace Tree”. Commitments included: “sharing with my family and friends what I have learned today”; “sell some of my artwork and donate the proceeds to CAFOD”; “volunteer at a local charity which helps refugees”; “be kind and friendly to refugees who come to Malvern”; “pray for people affected by war”.

By the end of the evening everyone had learned something new and left pondering some uncomfortable truths about our modern world. Today there are over 82 million refugees who have fled war and violence in their home countries; four out of five refugees go to neighbouring countries which are usually poor, while the richest countries in the world host only 14% of the world’s refugee population; the richest countries’ total annual expenditure on development aid is 9% as a proportion of global military spending; the UK government spent £45 billion on defence in 2021 (£660 per person), while £14.4 billion was spent on development aid.

Unfortunately, the business of war continues to dwarf the business of peace.

Christopher Louise, on behalf of the One World Group

Global military spending now exceeds \$US 2 trillion, while official development aid stands at US\$ 179 billion.

Unmasking the Masked:

Looking back over the past two years

How our lives have changed over these past two years because of the Covid pandemic! Whether we have fallen ill, lost loved ones, lost our work or livelihoods or indeed felt lonely and isolated – our lives have been much affected. The Covid 19 pandemic has had a major effect on all of us and severely impacted on the liturgical celebrations of the Catholic Church, including the suspension of attending mass. When the restrictions were eased, attendance at mass was allowed but those attending had to fulfil certain obligations. To oversee these, St Joseph's called for volunteers and organized a Stewards' Rota. The duties involved: welcoming everyone as they arrived in church, ensuring that hands were sanitised and that face coverings were worn, checking that the church was ventilated, taking contact details, handing out missalettes – and later hymn and mass books - checking that the numbers attending did not exceed agreed limits and escorting parishioners to their seats. After mass, chairs, benches, door handles and toilets were cleaned and disinfected and there was a general tidy up.

The cleaning was the easy part, handing out books and missalettes and welcoming parishioners a pleasure, but recognising and remembering faces behind the masks was so much more challenging. We tried name tags (a partial success). Facemasks were the most constraining; not only did they muffle the sound of the voice and make understanding more difficult, but they also covered the smile, the acknowledgement. Indeed, it was sometimes difficult to recognize each other without the masks.

Many of you may not know us but we were part of the 'Stewards Team', along with Margaret Allen and Carol Ann, who welcomed you to the 10.00 Mass on a Sunday morning during the Covid pandemic. We are Madeleine and Liam Close and we live in Bransford and have become parishioners of St Joseph's, having moved here some three years ago from Wokingham in Berkshire .

Madeleine is from Switzerland, I was born in the North of Ireland, and we met in the late 60s in Cambridge where she was working in Addenbrookes Hospital and I was studying for a PhD in animal physiology at the Babraham Institute, affiliated to the University. Many of you may recall that we celebrated our golden wedding anniversary last September with a wonderful mass celebrated by Fr Naz and our Anglican friend, Fr. Graham. We lived in Cambridge until 1983 when we moved to Wokingham in Berkshire. In 1991 we started our own consultancy business specialising in animal nutrition. In 2019, having retired, we moved to Bransford to be near our daughter, Roisin, who has an equine breeding stud farm there. We have a son, Dominic, who lives in Wokingham with his wife Georgina and daughter Evelyn.

We found the stewarding at church to be a worthwhile and rewarding experience. As a result, we got to know many interesting parishioners, some of whom have become friends. However, stewarding is not just about 'meeting and greeting' parishioners or ensuring that safeguarding procedures are maintained, but in our experience identifying and looking after the needs of others. Examples include, completing contact forms for those who are partially sighted, escorting physically handicapped parishioners to their allotted seats, comforting those who have informed you that a loved one has died, helping with general queries and much more.

We enjoy being part of the Stewarding Team and hope that it has been helpful in ensuring that church celebrations could continue both during and after the pandemic. Let's hope for better times ahead.

Madeleine and Liam Close

Bert and Alf were at the funeral of an old friend.
They stood in deep thought by the open grave.
'How old were he then?' asked Bert.
'I reckon he were 89', says Alf. 'How old be you then, Bert?'
'I be 88', came the reply. 'Ow about you then?'
'Me? Reckon I be 87 next month.'
There was a thoughtful pause, before they spoke as one:
'Hardly worth going home, I reckon.'



My Pride and Joy

This story starts with me becoming friendly with a group of Philippino musicians on a world cruise.

Sadly for them the cruise ended on 15/4/20 due to the pandemic. I was disturbed to learn that the lead singers made redundant without pay were responsible for the upkeep of five children and I promised to help see them through the pandemic. Little did I know it would be the rest of the year.

I felt the long term answer would be to make them self sufficient. They have now set up Japanese food (meals). I am hoping that when the crisis is over the mother and two daughters will come to visit us in Malvern. They all three are professional singers with experience on cruise ships and years working in Japan. Perhaps they will do a concert for us at St Joseph's.

This family are devout Catholics, pray the rosary daily and follow mass regularly on the telly.

I am proud to call them my friends and pleased to have had the opportunity to see them through the worst pandemic for 300 years.

Gerry Dargle

Sharp-eyed readers will note the absence of children's pages. That's because we no longer have Helen O'Connor to produce them (Southport's gain is our loss) and also because the online family activity sheets fill the gap admirably. But we couldn't resist finishing with our customary *Groan . . . Groan . . .* After all it's apparently some readers' favourite bit and we wouldn't want to disappoint.

How do you get two whales in a car?

Down the M5 and over the Severn Bridge.

I couldn't understand why my dog was motionless.

Then I realised he was on paws.

I only know 25 letters of the alphabet. I don't know y.

A happy summer to all our readers. And if your spirits are depressed by the thought of the nights drawing in, you can revive them by looking out for part two of the magazine in September.