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Plus Other Features

Magazine Team

Margaret Rank Ann Wiseman

Helen O'Connor Tim Thorp

Pamela Taylor Angela Park

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

Welcome, Fr Naz



Fr Naz being welcomed by Anne and Edyta the day he took up his post as our new parish priest. The photo Edyta is holding contains information about the parish with a welcome in English on the front, and Anne's contains information about Malvern with a greeting in Chichewa, one of the languages of Malawi.

Meeting Fr Naz

What do David Livingstone, Celtic football team and Fr Naz have in common? The answer is quite simple. Livingstone, who was the first white person to set foot in Fr Naz's home country of Malawi, brought Christianity with him in 1859. The Scots connection remained long after Livingstone's death and it was through an association with volunteers from Scotland that Fr Naz became a supply priest in Dumfries and Galloway. Hence his affiliation to the Celtic football team!

Fr Naz is one of a family of seven children, the third child, but first son. Being the first son brings with it responsibilities to the family, and his father was reluctant to allow his first born son to become a priest because he would one day have to take his place as head of the family. Fr Naz's younger brother was persuaded by his dada to become a priest instead but this did not work out and he didn't last long in the seminary, he's much happier as a carpenter! Fr Naz plans to talk to us more about his journey to the priesthood at a future date so suffice it to say for now that his father changed his mind and was reconciled to his eldest son's vocation.

Fr Naz trained in Malawi for the priesthood. Three years after his ordination to the priesthood he spent three years studying at UCC in Cork, residing at the then Kiltegan Philosophicum in Douglas. In his early days at the institution he joined a party potato picking on a large farm belonging to the Kiltegan clerical institution. The man in charge, whom Fr Naz describes as a 'proper farm man', spoke in what he thought was Irish but Fr Naz was puzzled as to why the students replied in English. So he asked them why they didn't reply to the farm manager in Irish, only to be told that the man was speaking English. Having been taught to speak English by an English teacher in Malawi, not surprisingly, he had some difficulties with accents! Even more so when he eventually found himself in Dumfries and Galloway.

During his stint as a supply priest Fr Naz pretty much lived out of a suitcase helping out in different parishes. No one will be surprised to learn that he experienced some difficulties with the Glaswegian accent but on a visit to Dumfries he finally met people he could understand speaking English! It was through the priest at Dumfries that Fr Naz ended up in the Archdiocese of Birmingham joining his first parish, St George and St Martin, in Birches Head. Celtic football team was left behind and a new loyalty forged with Stoke City, newly promoted to the Premier League. Seeing the joy that the promotion brought to the people of Stoke, Fr Naz was very happy to give them his support!

In Stoke Fr Naz lived alone for the first time. Being a priest in Malawi is very different to being a priest here. In Malawi he lived in parishes with two or three other priests. His ministry there was

more physically demanding because of the long distances which have to be covered. Priests are not expected to fend for themselves domestically, everything is done for them and provided for them. Cows, goats, chickens and other foodstuff form an essential part of the offertory procession at Sunday mass so that they can eat!

During the time he was at Stoke, Fr Naz' began to think about incardination. This means that a priest can be transferred from the jurisdiction of one bishop to that of another. Both bishops have to agree and the priest has to want it. In due course after consultations between the Bishop of Birmingham and the Bishop of Mzuzu a process of excardination from Mzuzu, to incardination in Birmingham was reached. And finally in 2013 Fr Naz was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

Blackbird Leys, the parish he served in from Stoke, is a multicultural parish serving the needs of people from all over the world. Fr Naz was always keen to reflect this diversity in the liturgy. Although claiming not to be musical himself, he loves music. He told me how he had firstly persuaded a group of parishioners from East Timor to share their music with the parish at mass. This was a great success and soon other groups from the Philippines and Africa Philippines came forward to do the same. In all there are four different choirs in the parish with one Children's choir that sings occasionally. No doubt they will miss him. Sadly their loss is very much our gain, and the welcome arrival of Fr Naz in Malvern marks the beginning of a new chapter in the life of our parish community. If his story of organising the music at Blackbird Leys is anything to go by I have an inkling that his powers of persuasion are considerable!

Angela Park

On the 4th Sunday of Lent, Laetere (joyful) Sunday, when we take a day off from our Lenten fast, we celebrate Mothering Sunday too, its history based in a Catholic tradition. Each year, finding cards which announce Mothering Sunday becomes harder, in favour of those announcing just Mother's Day, as in the USA. If you are looking for a card which says Mothering Sunday and has a Christian message in it too, these can be found at The Lyttelton Well Bookshop and Malvern Priory. (There is a BBC site on the internet which gives the history of Mothering Sunday.)

Pauline Kirton

Parish Advisory Council Update

I was going to start this report by using the words “New Beginnings” but then realised that it would be more appropriate to first assimilate what has led us thus far. So, I will start from the point where I finished in the previous issue, namely the sudden news that a new parish priest had been appointed to serve us in Malvern. Exciting and pleasing, certainly, but it was clear that there would be a further wait which would take us beyond Christmas and into the New Year.

Fr Stephen was generous in his response to our requests for masses over the Christmas and New Year period and willingly continued to serve our needs beyond the expected time scale.

So it was that, at the beginning of January, Fr. Brian McGinley informed us that Fr Nazarius Mgunge was to be our new parish priest.

It quickly became apparent that the PAC meeting scheduled for Monday 4th January would need to be rescheduled. This would give Fr Naz a time to acclimatise and settle in before becoming involved with ongoing parish matters. The meeting would now take place on Monday March 11, th a date which falls after the copy date of this issue of the magazine! Significantly too, Lent will have already begun. Some discussion in preparation for Easter will be needed prior to this meeting. Arrangements have been made accordingly.

As I write this report we have, on the weekend of 3rd February, registered our profound appreciation and thanks to Fr Stephen and to Fr John for serving us so caringly, prayerfully, and generously. Despite frustrations that may have been experienced over the previous six months, we have received so many blessings through the gifts of their respective ministries. Please continue to pray for them. We hope to see them from time to time as needs arise. We have been gifted too by those in the parish who have kept us afloat in so many other ways. It is a reminder, once again, that we are blessed by many who, whether paid or unpaid, have and do put themselves at our service. To these also, a big “Thank You”.

Which leads us, finally, to the “New Beginnings” I made reference to at the top of this report... an opportunity to welcome Fr Naz in the prayerful hope that he will enjoy his time in our parish. As we move into these new beginnings, let us ask that we may all move forward

together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through his guidance spread the message of the Gospel ever more fully to those around us.

At our re-scheduled meeting on March 11th we will spend time reviewing current parish activities, GDPR and security. We will discuss our 'New Beginnings,' arrangements made for Lent and Easter, and preparing for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) on May 19th at 7.30. We are currently considering how best we can collectively help Fr Naz in the absence of a sacristan. In respect of the PAC, please consider whether you might be prepared to give your qualities and gifts to the parish by putting yourself forward for nomination to serve on the council. Further details of how to do this will be published later.

As always, special appreciation to my fellow members on the PAC.

Chris Burger

A Very Big Thank You

On a personal note and I am sure on behalf of the parish, I would like to say an enormous thank you to the guardian angels who have so willingly and ably taken care of our parish through an uncertain and somewhat anxious period. The church has remained warm ... a very big bonus during the cold winter days ... and extremely welcoming. Without those who were prepared to give their precious time and effort, this would not have happened. We all know that nothing happens without hard work and planning behind the scenes.

Therefore, it is to Chris, Sue , Alf, Anne , Edyta and all those who have supported them, that my sincere gratitude goes. Also thanks to Fr John Pritchard and Fr Stephen for their invaluable service to our parish during this time.

Fr Naz , you are so very welcome. We hope that you will be very happy within the St. Joseph's Community, Malvern and that you will come to love us, as you did those parishioners at Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys, Oxford.

Mary Williams

One Church

With Many Different Ways of Operating

Every priest serves in a number of different churches during his ministry. They are all Roman Catholic, all follow the same faith, have the same Mass and the same Canon Law. However no two parishes are the same. For a priest in active retirement, serving many different parishes, the variations are interesting and can pose a challenge. However let it be said from the outset, coming to St Joseph's was always a pleasure.

Here are a few examples: microphones! There are many different models of the type you have attached to your garment and the control in your pocket. Some require the press of a button, others a slide of a switch. Some (as at St Joseph's) have another switch hidden within the casing, a ready trap for the unwary! There is the old story of the priest who is fiddling with his microphone mumbling 'there is something wrong with this mike.' To which the congregation responds: "And also with you!"

Altar servers come in all shapes and sizes, male and female, young and old, some in albs, others in cottas. Some are well trained and organised, others are untidy and clueless. In a church not too far away a server managed to set the Advent Wreath on fire, which caused a few moments of consternation, a dreadful smell, and a celebration the children will remember for a good long time!

The tabernacle housing the Blessed Sacrament has pride of place, usually behind the altar. No two tabernacles are the same, and most are a potential source of embarrassment for the new priest or deacon. The key is often reluctant to turn, the door to open – which one opens first? – which way? One hopes and prays the key will not break off in the lock, the door get jammed. Usually, but not always, a Eucharistic minister will come to the rescue.

Then there is the congregation. Again they vary enormously. Some are warm and friendly, others are very reserved. Some respond enthusiastically, others do little more than mumble. Some laugh at jokes, others remain fixed in stony silence. Fortunately the welcome was warm and the response was always positive at St Joseph's!

Fr Stephen

An Inspiring Workshop

In December Helen Louise and Michael Townson from the One World Group, accompanied by Karen Argent from the Letterpress Project, visited St Joseph's School to hold a workshop on refugees with Year 5 pupils. The pupils were fantastic to work with, showing enthusiasm and empathy with the plight of some of the most vulnerable people in the world. The one-hour session was enlightened by their contributions and ideas about how we can help make the lives of refugees better.

The children talked about some of the reasons refugees leave their homes, such as war, famine or climate change, and thought about the difficulties they might experience during their journey to a new place. They had a lively discussion about what refugees need, what they bring, and how we can help them. Here are some of the ideas they shared:

What Refugees need: food and water; safety; kindness; love and happiness; joy and hope.

What do refugees bring: tent; sleeping bag; clothes; backpack; as much as they can; family members.

How we can help refugees: respect them; help them speak your language; keep them loved; welcome them; give them a smile or a laugh.

The children learnt about some well-known refugees, such as the athlete Mo Farah and the singer Regina Spektor, and discovered that one of the most famous of all was Jesus himself!

With Karen's support, the children explored the topic further through two stories which focused on refugees' experiences from a child's perspective. She returned to the class the following week, and used extracts from a few further stories with a refugee related theme to inspire them to write acrostic poems in pairs. Karen suggested the words REFUGEE, FEAR, CHANGE, SHADOW, JOURNEY and ARRIVAL, and then gave a couple of examples that she had composed herself. The pupils were extremely generous in their critical assessment and told Karen that she had selected some appropriate vocabulary as well as using devices like alliteration and assonance to good effect!

While Karen was reading the extracts, the children wrote down lots of words to fill a 'treasure chest' that they could then use, and she was pleased to see that they came up with a wide selection of powerful

words. The illustrated poems which the children wrote are really impressive. Every one of them is special and demonstrates skill and creativity as well as thoughtfulness and compassion.

The workshop equipped the year 5 students to empathise with some of the problems and challenges refugees face. This is particularly relevant as refugee families become part of the local community in Malvern.

Story of a Refugee

Race to an unseen country

Enter a brand new life

Firstly run to a boat

Unending journey

Get away from the wounding war

Entering a new life

Everlasting thoughts from the time before.

Poor Refugees

Freezing, frightened, friendless

Emootional need to escape

Angry because we have to leave our country

Running fast away from war.

The Journey

Joy has left me because of war

Out we go, fleeing out of the door

Unfairness surrounds me, lonely and hopeless

Ready to start a new hopeful life

Never moan anymore; we have a new life, no more strife

Excitement is overflowing me now we are safe

You and I are relaxing, watching the calm sunset

Malvern Welcomes

This year, thanks to our financial and other links with supporters, we are able to welcome two community sponsorship families, and a further two who have come to Malvern under a scheme run by the County Council.

Malvern Welcomes sees its role as welcoming all refugees, and we give voluntary support to other organisations, such as Refugee Action, as a befriender, in order to ensure that refugees are integrated into our community and have the independence they need to make a success of their lives.

The full Community Sponsorship Schemes that we run mean that we have direct responsibility, not just for the supply and furnishing of accommodation, but all measures necessary to ensure good health, educational attainment and employment opportunities. Interpreting costs remain the highest single item in our budget. In every respect we aim to provide a comprehensive and supportive service and we are delighted that since this time last year (when there were no refugees), now we are making real progress.

We have specialist Leads and Coordinators who support health, education, benefits, ESOL (English Language) and community integration, and take great care in selecting and vetting our many volunteers. We work closely with Worcestershire Welcomes, People in Motion and other organisations to ensure an appropriate level of support and all the families we are responsible for have a Lead Volunteer who coordinates our work.

At the end of last year we held a small get-together for all the newcomers, enabling them to meet up and relax with seasonal food and a few crackers!

We are delighted with this year's progress and hope to bring two more families to Malvern in 2019. With your help, we will!

We are so happy to have Raghad, Raed, and their sons Matti and Marvin in our parish. Please pray for them.

Go online and read about Malvern Welcomes, and offer any support you feel able, by becoming a member, giving a donation or offering your skills in administration or becoming a befriender. *Viv Jones*

Parish Finances

The Offertories for the year 2018 were £40,686 as compared to £42,909 for the equivalent period of last year—they were £2,223 lower.

The Charitable collections for the same period totalled £12347 as follows:

One World Group	£3,195
CAFOD	£2,264
Christian Aid	£1,953
Missio Red Boxes	£1,815
Comboni Missionaries	£464
Holy Places	£441
Apostleship of the Sea	£213
Pro Life	£180
Priests Training Fund	£179
Johnson Association	£171
Peter's Pence	£151
Racial Justice	£150
Father Hudson's Society	£130
Catholic Youth Service	£125
PACT	£122
Cathedral Maintenance	£121
Day for Life	£100
Catholic Communications	£93
Bethlehem Figures	£92
Crib 2017 PACT	£91
Catholic Education	£87
Poor Parishes	£82
CASE Home Mission	£65
Crib 2018 St Chads Sanctuary/St Paul Hostel	£63

The Cash position on our General Fund can be summarised as follows:

	December 2018	December 2017
Balance on Genaral Fund	£18,861	£20,479
Less Creditors	-£794	-£3,935
Cash Available	£18,067	£16,544

So the available Cash balance at the end of 2018 was £1,523 higher than in 2017.

In the year 2018 we spent £11,290 on repairs and renovations.

The Maintenance Fund covered £7,047 of this expenditure and the rest has come from the General and Organ Funds. The main items included:-

- Replacing the parish kitchen
- Repairing a leaking flat roof and replastering where necessary
- Replacing lights in the organ loft and Aldwin Room with LED fitments.
- Installing squirrel scarers (on advice given to us by Jean Rogers' son).
- Servicing boilers and fire equipment.

After the expenditure of £7.047,the Maintenance Fund has a balance at the end of the year of £3,500. At present there are 103 subscriptions.

Since the 100+Club started in June 2010, it has raised £28,000 for maintenance, so please consider joining it. Each subscription costs £5 a month, half of this goes out in prize money and the other half goes into the Maintenance Fund. Each month there is a draw for five prizes which currently amount to £250. Application forms for joining together with the rules of the club are in the narthex where the hymn books are kept. Please ask one of the stewards or speak to the parish office. We thank everyone for their support.

Alf Teuma Parish Accountant

Book Review - Milkman by Anna Burns

Published by Faber and Faber £8.99

If you fancy getting your teeth into a demanding but entertaining read which raises a range of moral and ethical questions, you might enjoy this book. It tells the story of a young girl growing up in Belfast during the troubled times of the seventies. However, the writer carefully avoids saying this overtly and the story is told from the point of view of the teenage protagonist who is never named.

The style is dense and the story unfolds in a pacy stream of consciousness narrative full of hints, innuendo and gossip so that as a reader you find yourself working hard to hold on to the facts, and to sort out what is likely to be true and what is a result of the paranoid nature of that society at that time. Whilst this is not an easy, page-turner of a book, it is very rewarding. As you settle into the style you begin to appreciate both the dark humour of the author and the serious moral intent of the book.

It split the book group to which I belong. Some found it too dense to be able to engage with it. Others loved its acerbic wit and the incredible atmosphere it created. Others thought it was a parable that could be applied to a range of situations and that it raised important questions about the nature of power and control, as well as of kindness and courage. Curiously, it does not address the religious tensions head on but the dangers of making your religious allegiance explicit are cleverly explored.

This novel won the Booker Prize 2018; deservedly so in the opinion of the majority of critics. You might like to decide for yourself whether it was a worthy winner.

Pam Taylor

Coming Events at Belmont Abbey

Finding God in the Unexpected 26-28 April Listening to God in the ordinary things of life

Plainsong and Prayer 10-12 May A chance to learn and sing the ancient melodies of Gregorian chant. No previous knowledge necessary.

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

Tel 01432 374750 or see the booklet in the narthex.



A Baptism at St Joseph's



Olivia Rose and her parents and grandparents

David and I were overjoyed by the arrival of our first grandchild Olivia Rose last July and were very pleased to see her baptised by Father Stephen at St Joseph's on Sunday 30th December.

This was a small family gathering which took place when Olivia's grandparents from Reading and various aunts and uncles from further afield

were visiting during the Christmas and New Year period. We are grateful to Father Stephen for kindly arranging this during such a busy time of year for him.

Olivia's Mum Samantha was a pupil at St Joseph's during the 1990s and she and her husband Nov were married at the church by Father Pat in May 2015, and although they now live in the Cotswolds they were both keen for Olivia to be baptised here where they both have happy and meaningful memories.

Olivia herself seemed completely relaxed during the baptism proceedings and quite enthralled by Father Stephen, staring intently as he spoke, and she may even have smiled at one of his jokes!

We have some lovely photographs of Olivia and family at the font as well as by the stable and the Christmas tree. We will be able to show these to her when she is older and explain that this took place where her Mummy went to school, made her first Holy Communion, was confirmed and later married.

Our family are grateful to Father Stephen and to Chris Burger who assisted him, also to Anne and Edyta for their help with the administrative side of things. We are indeed fortunate to belong to such a caring parish.

Linda Cooke

Annual Mass for Altar Servers

**The Guild of St Stephen – at St Chad’s Cathedral
9th February 2019**

Together with hundreds of servers from around the archdiocese, Anne, Noah and Edd were at St Chad’s for the annual celebration of altar servers. Fr Naz was also able to attend and concelebrate. The cathedral was full, with servers filling the whole of the central nave. Archbishop Bernard spoke of the clergy’s gratitude for the help of altar servers and he explained the important role that they play in the church’s liturgies.

All the servers renewed their promises to serve well, with reverence and regularly. The seminarians and students of Oscott College joined the Mass too and answered questions about the priesthood and vocations both before the Mass in the crypt (where the servers were vesting) and afterwards at the reception in the Grimshaw Room.

St Joseph’s had been asked to lead the offertory this year.



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The end of Mass was marked with Exposition and Benediction, led by Archbishop Bernard. This was a special moment and the traditional Latin hymns of O Salutaris and Tantum Ergo were sung before Archbishop Bernard gave the Benediction.

At the end of the Mass and final procession, the clergy all returned to the nave for a group photo:



The Mass was followed by a reception in the Grimshaw Room where plates full of biscuits vanished in about three seconds. It is hoped that next year we will have more altar servers to take part in this special Mass. There are more pictures online at the diocesan website and on our own parish Twitter feed - @catholicmalvern.

Edd Hogan

(Pictures kindly reprinted, ©Peter Harrington – Archdiocese of Birmingham)

Cakes and Community

The first week of February, St Joseph's Catholic Youth Group organised a very successful bake sale. We had decided that we wanted to develop our team working and problem-solving skills by organising a trip to the Malvern Escape Rooms. Groups of five compete to escape from 'locked' rooms by solving puzzles, riddles and challenges. However, the £17 participation fee was way too expensive for most of us. So, we thought we'd try raising some money by organising a bake sale.

We started advertising early with a notice in the bulletin and posters the week before. At our meeting on Thursday 7th Feb, members rotated between three stations doing different things to prepare for our sale: biscuit decorating, crispy cake making and poster making. On the morning of the bake sale we brought more cakes we'd made at home to the McEnnis Room before mass. We put up posters and left notices in pews. Some very helpful grown-ups brought in more cakes and made signs without us even asking! Another mum offered to serve coffees and teas during the sale which we hadn't even thought of. It really made us feel like our bake sale was a community effort.



After communion, eight of us took up positions behind our stall and waited for customers. We had no idea how many people would come and a little part of me worried that no one would, it would all be a disaster and we'd have to eat all the cake ourselves! But I shouldn't have worried. We were swamped! We didn't put prices on any of the cakes; people could just donate what they liked and take whatever cakes they fancied. The money box was really heavy at the end and when the money was counted up, we had raised £155! That means each of us will only have to pay £5 to go to the Escape Rooms and most of us will be able to pay that out of our pocket money.

Our customers were super generous and we all want to say 'thank you' to everyone who helped us and made our bake sale a success. We will let you know how we get on at The Escape Rooms.

Catherine Craig

Apple Scones for Sunday Tea

225g self raising flour

10g caster sugar

50g margarine

100g grated apple

Half a teaspoon of cinnamon

100ml milk

Rub margarine into flour

Mix the rest of the ingredients into the flour carefully. Add the milk gradually to make a soft dough.

Place dough on a floured surface and pat to 3cm thickness. Cut scones with a 6cm cutter. Bake for 18-20 minutes at 160-170 or gas mark 3. Delicious with apricot jam or apple butter!



Pam Taylor

Being a School Governor

About two and a half years ago I was approached after one Sunday Mass – ‘Edd, would you consider becoming a school governor...’ I was already involved in a lot of groups and wasn’t sure that I could spare the time, let alone be a good governor. After some more thought I eventually said ‘OK, but I have no idea what’s involved and I don’t work in education.’ I was soon welcomed into the fold – first as an associate governor in order to see the work of governing body before committing fully to becoming a governor. This was useful and I got a good insight into what school governors do. It was also eye-opening to see what goes on in another school as my own children don’t attend St Joseph’s.

Having been duly approved by the Diocese (as I’m a Diocesan appointed Foundation Governor technically) I began to contribute to the full governing body meetings as well as one of the sub-committees (Resources). I attended training at Don Bosco House in Coleshill, where the Diocesan Education Service is based. I even began to understand what some of the abbreviations mean – schools use a lot of abbreviations.

I am the lead RE governor and I have visited on several occasions to look at the RE provision and Catholic ethos of the school. I’ve always been impressed by the children, their learning, the staff, and the overall consideration given to making St Joseph’s look, feel and behave with a distinctive Catholic ethos.

During the past two and a half years I’ve seen first-hand the monumental efforts put in by the school’s head and deputy head – Therese and Charlotte respectively. Of course great strides are made by a lot of people but Therese and Charlotte have been the keystones. We’ve seen teachers, support staff and governors come and go. The key role of Chair has changed to become a shared role with Chris Park and Maggie Griffiths taking on this important role from Pam Taylor. The role of vice-chair is also shared with Liz Burger and Theresa Lehane fulfilling the role. It works well. The role of Clerk has also changed and we’ve welcomed Lindsey Latimer to that role, and with her also being the school secretary she has proved to be an incredible asset. Phil Morgans is also a governor and parishioner. Other governors are drawn from staff and parents.

It hasn't been easy at times – balancing the books is like walking a tightrope and the school has had an Ofsted rating of 'Requires Improvement' for some years. The current school leadership has been working very hard to improve things. This has meant additional meetings with LEA Improvement Officers, extra input from HMI and Ofsted, as well as a whole host of new policies and procedures. Ofsted visited shortly after I was appointed and although the green shoots of positive change were there, the evidence at the time meant that the school retained a rating of 'Requires Improvement'. This was frustrating to see but it was accepted. Then, in February 2019 Ofsted visited again – as they said they would. The school had one day's notice of the visit as is the way with Ofsted inspections. Most of the governors were able to attend a meeting with the Inspection team and we provided honest and frank responses to their questions. The Ofsted report has now been published. Here are a few quotes.

'St Joseph's is an inclusive, nurturing school with pupils at the heart of all they do.'

'Everyone in the school community feels supported in their work and the school is on an upward journey.'

'In all year groups pupils are making swift progress.'

'The teaching of reading is a strength of the school.'

'The early years is well planned. As a result each child has a personalised curriculum that values their own uniqueness.'

'The headteacher, Mrs Langford, ably supported by the deputy headteacher, leads the school in a calm, focused, driven manner whilst being kind, challenging and supportive.'

In the coming months there will be some governors retiring and we do need a new cohort of willing and able people – from the parish – to step up and offer to become a governor. If it is something you could consider, please do speak to any of the current governing body, the school office, or Fr Naz.

Edd Hogan

Stop Press The school has just received an Ofsted rating of **Good**. Warmest congratulations to Therese and her staff, to the governors and to all concerned.

Win's Walk for Make a Wish

I have wanted to raise some money for Make a Wish for a long time because in 1992 my daughters were granted a Wish to go to Disney world in Florida. Make a Wish is a charity that makes wishes come true for seriously ill or life limited children. Both of my daughters were Wish Children. Helen, who was 11 when we went to Florida, has a rare metabolic disease (Propionic Acidaemia) and had nearly died at 15 months. She had been left with a number of problems. My younger daughter, who had her 6th birthday out in Florida, was born with serious heart problems and, by the time of the holiday in Florida, had already had two operations, one an eight hour open heart surgery and quite a number of other procedures and would need further open heart surgery. Something else which had a very big impact on their lives and mine was losing their daddy in 1986 when Jenny was just eight months old and Helen was six. Friends had contacted Make a Wish on our behalf feeling that we all needed something good to happen.

We had a wonderful holiday and were treated like VIPs the whole time, from the chauffeur driven car down to Gatwick, staying in the posh hotel there, being invited to visit the captain twice in the cockpit on the flight out. 'Those were the days'. It was the first flight for all three of us. Fortunately I had a wonderful helper in Rosemary Thorp who came with us and was a very experienced flier. In Florida we had a hire car and stayed at the village 'Give Kids the World'. The girls had badges to wear which meant that they went to the front of all the queues and we had passes to VIP lounges etc. Each day we got back to our villa, there were more gifts waiting for the girls. It was truly magical for them.

In 2014 I wrote in my challenges for the year that I wanted to raise £1000 for Make a Wish, to give something back to the charity that helped us all those years ago, but it still hadn't happened. This year I was determined it was going to happen. My plan was to walk the Malvern Hills - every hill. I started 'training' early in the year and in February did a 13 mile walk with Pepper, our dog. Then disaster struck as I began to have problems with my left foot and it was very painful doing any walking. It went on for months and I was limping quite badly. However it finally settled down after a physiotherapist gave me some exer-

cises and I had been pain free for some weeks. As the time for the clocks to go back approached I panicked, thinking I wasn't going to be able to complete my challenge again this year. Then I made a snap decision based on the weather forecast and decided to 'go for it' on Wednesday October 24th. It was a beautiful day and the hills were beautiful.

I set off mid morning, later than I intended, from North Hill car park and walked the rest of the day with Pepper, our dog, as my trusty companion, with only brief stops. I made brilliant progress but got rather lost around Gullet Quarry and looking for Ragged Stone Hill and walked a lot of extra miles. There were frantic phone calls to my daughter as I struggled to find my way at the far end of the hills. My daughter works at the Malvern Tourist Office and pointed out that their advice to visitors is to walk the other way but I had been hoping to get to the end and turn round and walk part of the way back. Had I turned round at Gullet Quarry I would definitely have got back to British Camp or even the Wyche cutting but I wanted to do all the hills. I did finally manage to find Ragged Stone Hill and the view was spectacular but was unable to find Chase End Hill. I had to call it a day as the light was fading and Jenny picked me up at 6:15 as the sun was beautifully setting, and took photos of me at Chase End Street, which I had just walked past.

My step count said 33,325, which if accurate, is around 16+ miles. I was rather achy for a few days afterwards but very pleased to have done it. Pepper did not seem to suffer any ill effects at all but she didn't budge off her bed that evening! But I was a little disappointed not to have turned round and walked part of the way back.

If you missed my collecting tin and sponsor forms and would like to donate, contact the parish office who will put you in touch with me.

Win Crawford

This article was inadvertently omitted from the last mag (*mea culpa – Ed*) but putting it in at this late stage does at least mean we can update you with the final amount. Win raised an amazing £1,339, comfortably exceeding her target.



One World Group: Income and Expenses	
1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018	
Income Categories	
Christmas Thanksgiving	1,978.49
Mid-year Giving	1,186.00
Other Income	31.00
Gift Aid Refund 2016/17	708.29
Total Income Categories	3,903.78
Expense Categories	
Octagon Youth Club	500.00
Jesuit Missions	500.00
Sister Sylvia	500.00
Arusha Project	500.00
RTU/Bro James	500.00
Other	32.44
Total Expense Categories	2,532.44
Movement in 2017	1,371.34
Balance at 1st January 2018	1,091.40
<i>Balance at 31st December 2018</i>	2,462.74

NOTES

RTU: Reaching the Unreached

Parish Magazine No 83—Lent 2019

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'.

A Powerful Novena to St Joseph

Feast Day 19 March

Everyday for nine days, turn to St Joseph in spirit four times (called a "Visit") during the day and honour him in the following four ways:

Visit 1: Consider St Joseph's **fidelity to grace**. Think, thank God, and ask.

Visit 2: Later in the day, consider his **fidelity to the interior life and his spirit of recollection**. Think, thank God, and ask.

Visit 3: Later still, consider **St Joseph's love for Our Lady**. Think, thank God, and ask.

Visit 4: Lastly, reflect upon **St Joseph's love for the divine child**. Think, thank God, and ask.

At the conclusion of this brief meditation, ***reflect upon the action of the Holy Spirit in the soul of St Joseph***, thank God for so honouring him and ask, through his intercession, for a similar grace.

A prayer for the conclusion of the "Visits" each day:

O my God, I thank and bless you for St Joseph's great faithfulness to grace. Grant that, through his loving intercession, (name your request) and the power of his example, I too may be faithful to the interior life.

(This novena came from the Poor Clares of Hawarden. After 90 years there, their community of thirteen have to move to live with the Poor Clares in Bulwell, Nottingham. Contributed by Pauline Kirton)

The OWG had at 31 December 2018 £2,462.74 available to allocate to the parish's causes. This will be distributed in 2019.

Tim Thorp

Children's Liturgy of the Word at St Joseph's

Going to Mass is one of the most important things we do as Catholic Christians as it's where we meet with God. Including children in this is just as important as they are our next generation of Catholic Christians but while we might listen with rapt attention to the readings and homily and draw closer to Christ as the priest explains it in the context of our lives, this may not be as relevant to young people.

The Children's Liturgy of the Word at St Joseph's is an opportunity for our children to listen to the Gospel and reflect at their own level on the saving message of Jesus Christ. At St Joseph's, we have two groups: 'Swallows' for the younger children and 'Disciples' for the older children (for those in Year 2 or who have made their First Holy Communion). In both groups, the emphasis is on understanding the Gospel more clearly. The younger children in Swallows listen to the Gospel reading from a Children's Bible and then usually do a craft activity to help them remember the message, while in Disciples the children stand for the Gospel as it's being read out and they are encouraged to follow it in the Mass books like adults. Afterwards, through the use of questions and answers they reflect on the Gospel message of the day, and some very interesting discussions often ensue. The children love asking all sorts of thoughtful questions. If there is time, Disciples finish by praying the Apostles Creed to help them to learn it by heart while the younger group clasp their hands together for a simple prayer. This prepares them for returning to the church, ready for the second half of the Mass, the liturgy of the Eucharist, where they will be better prepared to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion.

Currently the children's liturgy of the word is led by a small number of volunteers. Each group has a leader and in Disciples it's important to have a second adult on the rota to sit in with them and help if neces-

sary. Enough parents accompany their children to the Swallows group to cover this need.

We really need more people to offer to help with both groups: training and resources will be given, and no one is left in charge until they feel comfortable. We also need people to help with 'sitting in' with the Disciples group and, finally, in order to make sure that the two groups come into church on time, it would be helpful if we could add a 'runner' to the rota. The role of the runner would be to warn each group when the congregation begins the Creed to give the leaders time to wind up the session and be ready to progress back into the church.

If you feel that you would like to know more and that you could help with any of these roles, please contact me on the address below. At the moment we don't have any men in the team and it would be great if some Dads, Grandads or Uncles... or anyone else... would like to join us.

Carol Ann Harnett carolann2711@gmail.com.

In 1993 an average house in the West Midlands cost £52,000, a loaf of bread cost 75p, a litre of fuel cost 54p, and our newly re-launched parish magazine cost 30p. At the end of last year only the price of the magazine remained the same. I'm afraid that's finally about to change and we're going to be asking you for a whopping 50p in future. Percentage-wise that's quite an increase but it still won't dent your finances too much, and think how much easier it will be now for you to locate the right money.

If indeed you do. The financing of the magazine has always been a bit of a mystery. Right back at the beginning it was decided by the then parish priest and the magazine committee that the important thing was that people should take the magazine, and we hoped read it, and we wouldn't worry too much about the odd 30p. This relaxed attitude still holds and the cover only asks for a 'Suggested Contribution'. People taking the magazine fall into different groups: the worthy and meticulous counters-out of the exact amount; the generous souls who put in a larger amount and refuse change; and those who, like the queen, apparently travel light and never have any money at all. Members of this last group are given a copy and always promise to pay at a later date, and probably do if they remember. There are also visitors who are given copies regardless,

though obviously if they offer to pay we don't refuse. The hope is that the over-payers compensate for the under-payers and we cover the cost of our paper and ink – our only production costs.

Increasing the price should help to ensure that this is indeed the case. We hope you'll agree 50p is nothing weighed against the cornucopia of goodies within our covers.

Margaret Rank

How Bach Lifted My Spirits

I was at a funeral the other day at which the music was so inspiring that I struggled to feel sad. That's fair enough, you may think — but the person in the coffin was my own mother.

This is a difficult point to explain in cold print, but there are reasons why I wasn't grief-stricken at the death of the person who meant most to me in the world.

My mother Pamela loved my sister and me with a passion; she radiated holiness, but in an unobtrusively English way.

She was also a very private person, sometimes driven to distraction by her attention-seeking son. She never sought — and never received — any official recognition of her decades of service to the Catholic Church. Well into her eighties, she spent day after day taking the Blessed Sacrament (and her joyful smile) to Catholics lying seriously ill in hospital. Later, one of those patients was able to perform the same service for her.

Alas, in her last years my mother suffered enormously. I won't go into detail, but the nature of her illness meant that I did most of my grieving while she was still alive. Therefore planning the music for her funeral wasn't as upsetting as it might have been.

But it was an honour as well as a duty and I had to get it right. Catholic music is often excruciating — I call it 'Joan Baez meets Hildegard of Bingen in a 1970s cocktail lounge'. At funerals this is toned down a bit, but if there's one thing worse than cod-folk 'worship songs' it's a traditional hymn with an organist who vamps his way through the accompaniment. If that had happened, I'd have lost all my self-control and probably flung myself on the coffin like a Sicilian widow.

Fortunately, my mother's parish church in Caversham, Reading, got

its act together musically back in the 1980s. A lady called Patty Naxton recruited a proper choir from the ranks of parishioners. At Midnight Mass they would sing a four-part Bach chorale; the first time I heard them I nearly fell out of my pew in surprise.

The organists were good, too, but the piece I wanted ('It's all about you,' I can hear my mother sighing) is a challenge even for a professional: Bach's 'St Anne' Prelude and Fugue, so called because the fugue subject is coincidentally the same as the first line of 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past', the tune known as 'St Anne'. And my mother's parish is Our Lady and St Anne's. We could have the Prelude at the beginning of the service and the Fugue at the end; it's actually what Bach intended.

However, you can't import organists without asking the parish priest, and I'd never met Mgr Patrick Daly, who arrived at St Anne's after my mother left for her nursing home three years ago. 'No problem,' he said. 'Feel free to bring Simon Preston, or Ton Koopman.' His own preferred Bach organist, he added, was the late Marie-Madeleine Duruflé, widow of the composer. (Catch her on YouTube and you'll hear why Fr Patrick rates her so highly.)

This I wasn't expecting. Few parish priests outside London are music anoraks — but then not many were interpreters for the European Union, as Fr Patrick was before his ordination, and later general secretary of the European bishops' conference. We didn't mention Brexit, sticking to the safer topic of his great passion, the piano music of Johann Nepomuk Hummel.

That left me free to hire Edward Tambling, whose magnificent 'St Anne' I'd heard at the wedding of my friend Will Heaven.

And everything fell into place. The music director Clare Gough led the choir in the *Missa pro Defunctis* — hauntingly spare, unlike the only plainchant most Catholics ever hear, the schmaltz-encrusted *Missa de Angelis*. Patty Naxton was the soloist in the Psalm. 'I wanted to sing for Pamela one last time,' she said afterwards.

She did so beautifully — but I have a bee in my bonnet about the Gelineau psalm settings used by St Anne's and countless Catholic parishes, which employ a fake-medieval 'mode' surrounded by horrid sentimental chord clusters.

This is where there's no substitute for an organist trained in the ancient art of thinking in harmonies and instantly expressing those thoughts with his fingers and feet. Edward replaced Gelineau's gloop with the sonorities of Elgar, played *nobilmente*. Likewise, when we reached the last verse of 'O God, Our Help in Ages Past', an obvious choice for the Communion hymn, he reharmonised the splendid but penny-plain tune with modulations worthy of Bruckner.

This wasn't one of those occasions when the music overwhelms the liturgy. Nothing distracted from the sacrifice of the Mass, celebrated by Fr Patrick with transcendent reverence.

Even so, I have the irascible Lutheran Cantor of St Thomas's, Leipzig, to thank for transforming the uniquely poignant moment when the priest, my sister and I met the coffin at the door of the church.

Bach's E flat Prelude is conceived on an epic scale; the dotted grandeur of its overture gives way to a sort of contrapuntal ecstasy. All three of us were visibly affected by the music, as well we might be. In the final section Bach employs all his skill to sweep the listener up to heaven — where, I trust, my mother relished his genius as much as we did.

Damian Thompson, submitted by Pauline Kirton

Damian Thompson is an associate editor of The Spectator, whose permission to reprint this article Pauline obtained, and Editor-in-Chief of The Catholic Herald. Pauline was at school with Patty Naxton. Fr Patrick Daly needs no introduction.

Anyone care to write in defence of 'cod-folk worship songs' or 'Gelineau gloop'?

The Young Magazine

To welcome our new parish priest, Fr Naz, we thought you might like to learn a little about his home country;

1. Malawi is a land-locked country in south-east Africa, bordered by Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique; the Great Rift Valley runs through it from north to south.
2. Migrating *Bantu* groups settled in Malawi around the tenth century and the British established a colony there in 1891.
3. Malawi was known as *Nyasaland* from 1907 until 1964 (when it gained independence from Britain).
4. *Lilongwe* is the largest city in Malawi, and has been the capital since 1975. The second city of Malawi is *Blantyre*, which was founded by Scottish settlers in 1876 (the town of Blantyre in Scotland is the birthplace of the missionary and explorer Dr Livingstone, who reached Lake Malawi in 1859).
5. The population is an estimated 18 million, mostly Christian but with a significant Muslim minority.
6. Malawi 's nickname is "The Warm Heart of Africa," because of the kind and loving nature of its friendly people. It has been a haven for refugees from other African countries, including Rwanda, since 1985.
7. The official languages spoken in Malawi are *Chichewa* and English.
8. The national anthem is *Mulungu dalitsani Malawi* (O God, Bless Our Land of Malawi).
9. The national flag is made up of three horizontal stripes; *black* for the African people, *red* for the blood of those who died fighting for freedom and *green* for the countryside of Malawi. The rising sun on the black stripe symbolises the dawn of freedom and hope for Africa.
10. The currency of Malawi is the *Kwacha*.
11. The economy is heavily based on agriculture, with 85% of the population living in rural areas and mostly engaged in subsistence farming. The main agricultural products are tobacco, sugarcane, cotton, tea, corn, potatoes and sorghum.
12. The main industries are tobacco, tea and sugar processing, sawmill products and cement.
13. One-fifth of the country is water. Lake Malawi is the third



largest lake in Africa and home to many species of fish, including *chambo*, *usipa* and *mpasa*: it is sometimes called Calendar Lake because it is 365 miles long and 52 miles wide.



14. Malawi is home to mammals such as elephants, hippos, big cats, monkeys and bats, and a great variety of birds including falcons, parrots, owls, songbirds and waterfowl. There are five national parks.

15. The national bird is the bar-tailed trogon.

16. The national flower is the lotus.

17. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in Africa. There is both low life expectancy and a high infant mortality rate. There is also a high rate of HIV/AIDS, with 70% of hospital beds occupied by HIV patients and more than one million children orphaned by the disease.

18. Dr. Hastings Banda became the country's first Prime Minister in 1963, and then President until 1994. His government faced the challenges of expanding the economy, achieving progress in agricultural and industrial development, and improving health-care and education.

19. *Nsima* is a food staple made from ground corn, typically served with side dishes of meat and vegetables.

20. Football is the most common sport; basketball is also popular.

Groan... groan...

Knock, knock?

Who's there?

Candice

Welcome to Cristina Alcantara, a new parishioner, and to the three babies baptised at St Joseph's since the last edition of the magazine.

Rest in Peace Beryl Elsa Gaunt

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.