

Advent is not just four weeks in which to prepare for Christmas.

Advent is the church's life.

Advent is Christ's presence and will bring about God's true reign, telling us, humanity, that Isaiah's prophecy is now fulfilled.:

Emmanuel - God with us.

St Oscar Romero

Thank You as always to our wonderful contributors who respond so generously to requests for copy, and the even more wonderful ones who don't wait to be asked. Please keep the copy coming and watch the bulletin for the next copy day.



Frankly I'm worried . . . Three weeks to Christmas and not a sign of an Easter Egg . .

Groan . . Groan . . .

Dad: What did I say I'd do if I caught you stealing mince pies again?
Son: That's funny, I can't remember either.

What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas?
Sandy-claws.

Why does Santa have three gardens?
So he can hoe hoe hoe.



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Plus Other Features

Magazine Team

Margaret Rank

Ann Wiseman

Tim Thorp

Susan van Ling

Michael Townson

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

From Fr Naz's Window

I would like to introduce the people of the parish to a Support Team I have been putting in place since the beginning of this year. I envisage that in the spirit of walking together promoted by the synodal process which is upon us, I, as parish priest, and the people of the parish, need a specific team which can act as a catalyst in taking our parish on a journey to embrace Our Lord's command to 'Go and make disciples of all nations...' (Matthew 28:16-20). This team will provide an opportunity for the parish priest to lead out of a shared responsibility as well as leading the parish in evangelisation. I have drawn the initial team from St Joseph's Malvern and the joint parish of Upton and Blackmore. It comprises Alice Kerby, Andrzej Kostuch, Chris Burger, Christian Dowle, Deacon Sean Duffy, Francesca Townson, Michael Townson, Paul Amphlett, Pauline Kirton, Roberta Hanson and Roger Watson. All but two members of this team have attended a few coaching sessions with Divine Renovation.

On 6th September 2024, this team went out for a day retreat to Prinknash Abbey. The retreat was led by one of the monks, Fr Mark. The whole day was spent reflecting on that event of the disciples travelling on the Road to Emmaus after the Good Friday event (Luke 24:13-35). The retreat came to its climax when at the end the team was split into two groups to map out their dreams and hopes for their parish communities. Below is the summary of the dreams of those two groups.

Group 1

With the Eucharist at the centre, we hope for:

an equipped church community, coming together to encourage one another and reach out to the wider community

Volunteers from all our churches give their time generously to serve coffee, meals or wash up. There is always a welcome and room for more people, male or female to help there. Do consider it, if you have any time to spare. Please give it your support by having refreshment there. It is a great witness, to see Christians working together, and any profit is ploughed into the wonderful professional counselling service that supports local people.

"When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to Myself"

May Your Kingdom come as we work together.

Viv Fox

From Blackmore Park

Parishioners at the Church of Our Lady and St Alphonsus have been particularly aware of their historic lychgate of late. The gate, like many of the church's internal fittings, was designed by A.W.N Pugin in the mid nineteenth century, and like the church is a listed building. This is because of the Pugin link, its 'well-composed and well-executed design' and because of how well it fits into its surroundings. The lychgate had, however, fallen into disrepair.

That is now being remedied and parishioners are following weekly restoration updates in the newsletter. Here's one November entry. "Lychgate IX – Cometh the Spring' – when better drying conditions, it is hoped, will prevail, the main gates and beams – now demurely wearing their undercoat – will be decked out in the same



"Pugin-Red" that the side gate rejoices in today. When all are decked in their splendid array, we'll have a bunfight and a Grand Opening.'

We'll update you when that happens.

to overcome barriers, to show love and friendship, are deeply pleasing to the heart of our God.

In Malvern, the priests, pastors, vicars and leaders of our churches and fellowships meet together once each week, sharing a breakfast, or a lunch, a zoom meeting or a prayer time and find it invaluable in their common ministries, working for the Kingdom. It was very important in Covid lockdown, for them to make contact on Zoom.

Recently, we have had three events open to everyone, enjoyed by all ages. In February we had a pancake gathering, and last month, we met for a treasure hunt around Great Malvern centre followed by soup and hot dogs in the Lyttelton Well cafe. In the summer we were able to enjoy the swimming pool and grounds of Regents College in West Malvern, and picnic on the lawns.

Representatives from each church meet three times a year, and share what is happening in their fellowships, and other organisations bring their news, eg Christian Aid, Malvern Justice and Peace, Community Action, Christians Against Poverty, Food Bank, Malvern Welcomes, Lyttelton Well and others.

Each year, on Good Friday, CTM organises a Service of Witness in the town, which takes place in the Priory grounds, next to Church Street, and hot cross buns are handed out to passers by. On 19th January, we will celebrate a worldwide week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Holy Trinity Church, with a service at 4pm, and many denominations will take part. This is an annual event, which takes place in a different church each year.

This year our Chairperson is Geoff Richardson from Elim and our representatives are Fr.Naz, Susan Van Ling and Vivienne Fox. If you wish to join us, please ask!

The Lyttelton Well Cafe and Bookshop, on Church Street, is a wonderful Christian Witness and place of Service to the Community.

a church preaching a Gospel that is relevant and appealing to youth, whilst strongly committed to the truth (this is vital)

we also desire to shift the way the Catholic Church is viewed from the outside by becoming more involved, with a strong future focus, an openness to reform and a discernment of our individual gifts.

Group 2

This group dreams of a church:

where all, even if they are uncomfortable or resisting, feel called to be here by a prompting of the Holy Spirit

where all have a personal journey to God as well as a wider appreciation of our individual involvement in building up the local church communities

where all feel that listening and sharing with one another builds relationships and that this is very important

where our parishes are places for a renewal of personal holiness for all – bringing Jesus to one another and to others outside our church. We sense that ministries in the church are vital to build this path to holiness. We found it difficult to identify (or admit to..) our own particular gifts or charisms that we can offer to build up the church

where integrity, justice and truth become foundation values

and which hears Jesus say, *“I am the way, the life and the truth. No one comes to the Father except through me”*.

Following the Prinknash Abbey retreat the support team has met twice more, sharing their dreams on the way forward in the parish.

A chain of wishes and ideas was contributed from each participant. In the end we singled out three areas of thought that kept surfacing from the dreams and wishes of many in the group. There were distinct areas as follows:

small groups as an important initiative to support existing faith journeys and provide a gentler introduction into the church community for others interested in returning or exploring their faith;

developing a **prayer ministry** to support and discern the ongoing renewal of all the parishes;

identifying ways to **'reach out'** to the non-churchgoers as well as those unable to attend and the young people.

Apart from these three areas the team has organised a specific Advent programme based around the Angelus along the same lines as we did with the 'Our Father evenings', to be hosted at cluster level on each Tuesday of Advent beginning with refreshments at 6.15pm and ending at 7pm as follows:

Tuesday, 3rd December – St Joseph's, Malvern – *The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary and she conceived by the Holy Spirit*

Tuesday 10th December – St Joseph's, Upton – *Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to thy word*

Tuesday 17th December – St Wulstan's, Little Malvern – *The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.*

Please pray that our communities of faith may listen to what God is calling them to.



named doctor. She is telling us that women have a place as teachers of the faith, guiding souls. Something that our church is still finding difficult to accept. She calls the church to a spiritual life that is inspired by vision instead of security and complacency.

Since the 16th century she has taught generation after generation how to pray, how to enter into the presence of God, and she never used prayer as an excuse to run away from life. She wrote: "What is the purpose of prayer, my sisters? The purpose of prayer is always good works, good works, good works." From there sprang her unending attempts to make religion spiritual and the church holy.

Francesca Townson

Churches Together in Malvern



'May they be brought to complete unity, to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me' . . . spoken by Jesus at the Last Supper, the day before He died.

Churches Together in Malvern is a group of 19 churches and denominations who share the belief that Jesus is the Son of God and Our Lord and Saviour. We know that it is His desire we should be one, even as Jesus and the Father are one, so that the world will believe.

It is not just about coming together, singing hymns, celebrating services together, though that is a witness to those who attend, but rather entering into relationships with others, respecting their expression of faith and seeking genuine meeting points and areas where we can grow together. We can be sure that any sincere efforts

Teresa Teaches What Many Have Yet to Learn

On October 15 we celebrated the feast of Saint Teresa of Avila, an amazing, great woman of the Church

It is not easy to be a woman in a male dominated world, where we are more expected to be caretakers than pioneers, never mind strong and idealistic. This has plagued most of the great women in the world and the church. So, strong and idealistic women are not easily accepted.

We have just celebrated the feast of St. Teresa of Avila who was strong and

idealistic. She had different views about the ideals of life, too strong for the institutions she dealt with and too spiritual for the church of her day.

Teresa of Ávila had three problems: she was a strong woman in a male culture; she tried to reform institutions where people did not want questioning; and she was a visionary in a time when people wanted certainties and laws. And so she was ostracised by many.

She lived at a time of great political, economic, and intellectual changes and upheaval. In such times Teresa of Ávila brought to light many of the needs of the soul. She reminded the church that contemplation, mysticism, union with God are things to be looked for in our everyday life. She brought some understanding to piety. For her the spiritual and physical sides of life were totally united in our journey with God. "We aren't angels," she taught, "we've got bodies." She insisted that we know that the spiritual life is in our everyday life and totally normal to each one of us.

Teresa was declared the first woman Doctor of the Church - in 1970- over fifty years after John of the Cross, her disciple, was
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PAC Report

Our PAC has continued to meet every two months. Our last meeting was 9th September where we opened with a prayer, as usual. It was a busy week with a Liturgy and Music planning meeting and also a Maintenance Committee meeting. We have planned key services through to January. Christmas services will be published shortly along with details of a Crib Exhibition and Christmas Carol Service.

We spent some time discussing our Sunday Mass times. We will likely move the 11am Sunday Mass time because we have noticed that numbers attending are less than we would like, especially in terms of families. A final decision will be made soon and changes will be announced in good time.

Our parish 150th anniversary is in 2026 and a sub-committee has met to draw up a shortlist of ways in which we can mark this special anniversary year. There will be a number of special events over the course of the year and the details are being worked on now.

The new Lectionary comes into use from 1st December and we have been incredibly humbled to see how quickly donations have come in to pay for the liturgical books used on the sanctuary. New people's books are being ordered too. We have ordered two new feather flags which we will use to draw people into church or at events outside the church where we want to be seen and noticed. The Mass on the Hills spurred us into getting these because walkers and passers-by just didn't know who we were or what we were doing.

There is some progress with practical matters in that new windows have been ordered for the McEnnis Room to replace the metal single-glazed windows. An old and disused doorway will be bricked up too. The refurbishment work has begun in the toilets: please be patient as these

works take place. With all these things we have taken care to properly assess what is needed and budget accordingly. All parishes in the Archdiocese have been asked to complete a thorough report around many aspects of health and safety and we have submitted our report. One of the next projects will see the replacement of emergency lighting in the church and meeting rooms. We will also be undertaking a whole building fire risk assessment.

The PAC does not get involved in the work of the finance committee but we do get a summary update of our financial position. Overall, our income is falling and is lagging behind our expenditure. This is something that should concern all of us. We will reflect on how things look and what the possible solutions are so that we remain solvent.

We are indebted to many in the parish who give their energy and time so freely, and especially those with skills in areas where we need specialist knowledge. These people often work behind the scenes but I wanted to mention here that these contributions are greatly appreciated by Fr Naz and the PAC.

Our next PAC meeting is in early November. If you have a question or subject you would like brought up with the PAC please get in touch.

Edd Hogan PAC Chairman

One World Group

The parish One World Group has been in a dormant state for some two years now, which means that our partners have been deprived of much-needed support and that in the parish we have been allowed to neglect the valuable educational opportunity to deepen our faith by engaging with our obligations towards the whole of creation, including our brothers and sisters in India and South America.

Lastly, I will always thank my lovely mum for arranging the alignment of the stars as when she passed and went to heaven it so happened to be the time Father Naz was looking for a little helper as I call myself, and here I am.

God Bless

Nazzarena – Parish Administrator

Did you know that the patron saint of television is St Clare of Assisi, friend of St Francis and founder of the Poor Clares? She was named as such by Pope Pius XII in 1958 because when she was too ill to attend mass she was reportedly able to see and hear it being celebrated on the wall of her room.

Perhaps this story was known to a certain Mother Bernard when she too was unable to attend mass because of ill health. Mother Bernard was the superior of the little group of Sisters of Mercy who were at the heart of our parish some 120 years ago. Their convent was today's presbytery, the parish priest at the time living with his Benedictine brethren from Douai Abbey at the monastery attached to the parish's other church, St Edmund's on College Road.

Mother Bernard was not sent a miraculous vision of the mass but took a very practical approach to the problem, the relic of which can still be seen in our church today. If you look high up on the wall of the sanctuary above the sanctuary lamp, you can see a small recess, all that remains of the hole she had knocked into the wall so that she could look down from her bed to the altar below.

Margaret Rank

One Year On

How time flies when you are having fun and, in my case, enjoying my role here as Parish Administrator immensely.

I have been working in the church office now for one year, working alongside Father Naz.

I really am enjoying my role here at St Joseph's. You will often hear me say it is not like coming to work as I enjoy it so much. It is a very busy role and a very busy office, which I really love as time goes quickly and I am always sorting out something or other.

What do I really love about it? I ask myself this question a lot. I am sixty now and in my working life I have had many different roles/jobs, in many different fields and in different countries too, having lived in Australia for many years.

I have worked in an array of different offices, on reception, in human resources, in finance. I have a background in optics, and I am qualified as a teaching assistant having worked in many schools, but this job is special. There is just something about it.

It is a pleasure coming in every Tuesday and Thursday, to see Father Naz's smiling face and to see and meet other parishioners who come into the office. On Tuesdays I work alongside Chris Park who sorts out the parish accounts and he is lovely company.

Father Naz and I still laugh about the fact we have the same name – me with two z's and Father Naz with one. It brings a smile to my face.

As soon as I walk into the front door there is a comfort about the place, a warmth I love, and I look forward to coming into work and to my lovely office.

I feel lucky and privileged to work here. I would like to thank everyone for making me feel welcome and for everyone's kindness. I hope I am doing a good job and that everyone knows I am here in the office if they need anything at all.

This is all the more serious as we have not been following the example of Pope Francis, who has been encouraging us to engage with issues of justice and peace. He has produced a number of significant encyclical and other documents, but I doubt whether the average 'Catholic in the pews' could name even two of them, as they are seldom (if ever) referred to in the weekly homilies.

Service to our brothers and sisters means following Christ's teaching that we serve Him by serving them. When we reach out to those in need, we are remembering the teaching of Teresa of Avila, who reminded us that:

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with
Compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

The measure in which we engage with others is a measure of the extent that we engage with the Christ that is in them.

Please remember this next time the One World Group or CAFOD or Missio or Christian Aid approach you for help.

Michael Townson

Financial Statement

October 2024

The parish's bank balance on 01/01/24 was **£175,842.36**

The parish's bank balance on 28/10/24 was **£156,109.71**

The budget for the calendar year 2024 is for a deficit of **£29,380**

The budget did not include:

Refurbishment of chalices etc. £1,500

Feather flags £386.40

Maintenance Committee Work

Replacement of windows in McEnnis Room £2,589.80

Blocking off the door and plastering £1,300

Electrical lighting £1,469.82

Electrical testing £798

Toilets £14,750

Legionella Risk Assessment £294

Asbestos Management Survey £630

and shed.

Total £23,718.02

Thanks to the Maintenance Committee (Fr Naz, Zbigniew Twarowski, Edd Hogan, Andrzej Kostuch, Michael Kelly and Paul Lewis) for getting to grips with many issues that needed addressing.

her time on tour, playing at theatres and television studios around the country.

All the time Janet was on tour she always went to mass on Sunday, even if she had to get there for 5 o'clock in the morning. The family ended up in Malvern as it was one of their tour destinations, and they settled here. They attended St Joseph's Church and the children went to St Joseph's primary school where Janet described the teachers as firm but fair.

Janet was no less busy whilst her family was growing up. Apart from being a busy mother, she got involved in various school and church activities, taught ballet and dance and for at least 18 years, collected 'The Missions' (the famous little red box of the APF, now known as Missio, a church community collection to sponsor overseas missions). Apart from teaching ballet to hundreds of local children, she worked tirelessly for the British Ballet Organisation offering help, advice, running courses and working as an examiner, not retiring as their Chief Examiner until 2017.

Janet's cousin is a priest, and her son benefitted from attending a series of meetings at St Joseph's that encouraged exploring one's faith. Janet continues to support St Joseph's Church and whatever happens in her life, she prays. Sometimes it's a prayer of thanks, occasionally it's a prayer asking for help. Mostly, she says, God helps her.



Janet in her role as Dance Director, c1959

Cathy Showell

Talking to Janet

Continuing our series of talking to individual parishioners

Janet Ball (later Lupino) was the eldest of four children, having two sisters and one brother, and grew up near Hove in Sussex. Her father worked as a quantity surveyor, but when war broke out in 1939 he was sent away to serve in the forces. During the war he converted to Catholicism and brought up all his children to be active Catholics, which Janet has remained ever since.

The war brought much disruption and horror into people's everyday lives. At the outbreak of war Janet was just four years old. As her mother took on a lot of voluntary work for the war effort, Janet was sent to stay with her Aunt Molly. Aunt Molly was very strict, but was also an excellent dancer and teacher. She ensured that the children in her care went to mass every Sunday and they all attended a convent school where Aunt Molly was a teacher and also taught ballet and dance. Janet says the teachers there were firm but very nice. She also gained an excellent ballet education from Aunt Molly, and when the war finished, it was decided that she should continue to stay with her so that she could focus on her dancing.

Whilst appearing in a BBC show, the producer, Barry Lupino, invited her to go for a walk through Hyde Park during rehearsal time. The Lupino family was a famous family of performers with a long and illustrious theatrical history dating back to the early 17th century, and Janet modestly accepted the praise he gave her. He said that he wanted her in his show and would love to see her in popular television roles. Janet modestly replied that she would "do it if she were free".

Janet started appearing in Saturday Night Spectaculars on the BBC and seeing Barry regularly. One evening, when her father was in London and they all dined together, Barry asked Janet's father for her hand in marriage. They were to be married for a number of decades, have nine children, and both have very successful careers in television and theatre. Janet later moved into a career of acting and dancing, spending most of

September Collections

Gift Aided Standing Orders £2399

Non-Gift Aided Collections £870.94

We have just received a tax refund of £7887.89 from Gift Aided Standing Orders this financial year.

Thanks go to Tina Slevin, our Gift Aid Coordinator, for all the hard work she puts in to reclaim this money.

If you want to make a Gift Aided Standing Order or increase your contribution please contact the parish office or Tina Slevin.

Chris Park

150th Anniversary Celebrations

2026 is the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the parish of St Joseph's, and members of the PAC have been busy planning some events to mark this anniversary.

The first event will be in February 2026, looking at our past, and in keeping with the historical link with the Benedictines we will invite members of their community to join us. This will include a display/exhibition of photos, recollections and pictures related to the last 150 years of Catholicism in Malvern. We are hoping that the children from St Joseph's school will be able to interview members of the parish about their memories of the church, so if you are willing to be involved please let me know. We want the thoughts of everyone in the parish, young and old. All that knowledge and information will be collated in an updated version of the history of the parish that was produced in 2001 by

Margaret Rank, Margaret Allen and Penny Carson. The two Margarets are happy to produce the update and would warmly welcome relevant information and anecdotes from individual parishioners and from parish groups.

The second event will take place in July and will aim to celebrate where we are now. This will include a shared international lunch to reflect the many cultures represented in our parish. We hope this will be an opportunity for people who have moved away from Malvern to revisit us and have a tour of the church and school grounds.

The culmination of our celebrations will take place around the 150th anniversary of the date of the opening of St Joseph's church - 26th October. At this Mass we hope to unveil a new stained glass window and intend to invite the Bishop to bless it. We would love for parishioners to be involved with the design of this window - more details on this soon.

Another opportunity to be artistic will be in the creation of a new altar cloth combined of fabric panels painted, embroidered and decorated by members of the parish.

Along the way we also hope to hold other events to celebrate our time here but also to reach out to others in Malvern, including inviting a historian to speak about the history of Catholicism in the area, and taking part in a procession to the Priory. If you have any suggestions for events we could run, please speak to any member of the PAC or email me on 50stjosephs@gmail.com

Mary Taylor

Synodality is a path of spiritual renewal and structural reform that enables the Church to be more participatory and missionary, so that it can walk with every man and woman, radiating the light of Christ.

From the Final Document of the recently concluded Synod.

God our Lord". We are called to adore and serve God so that we may open ourselves to the gifts he has given us. As God's co-creators we are called to make use of these gifts in line with God's purposes. What stops us growing in faith is when we make these gifts rather than the giver the centre of our lives.

As a parish community we face a number of communication challenges both internal and external.

Internally we need to develop ways of holding our community together in solidarity by keeping each other informed about what is going on and encouraging each other in the practice of our faith.

Externally we are faced with the tasks of keeping our wider communities informed about what we are up to and, if appropriate, invite them. Part of this is bearing witness to what we believe and why we believe it and how this affects our everyday lives.

Internally, we rely on three media - the weekly bulletin, the thrice yearly magazine and the parish website, which may or may not be available to external readerships. With changes in parish organisation and closer co-operation with our sister parishes we perhaps need to think of more systematic ways of communicating with each other, and at the same time, as part of Malvern Churches Together, we could explore ways of strengthening our links with other members of our Malvern Christian family, particularly with our neighbouring churches in Link Top, Newtown Road and Somers Park Avenue.

Externally, we do little if anything at all, so we might like to think of ways of publicising activities which might be of interest to the wider community and reaching out to our neighbours in Newtown Road. Perhaps these are activities which our Parish Council could take on.

Michael Townson



Communication

Although we see ourselves as individuals, we are in fact enmeshed in a network of relationships or communities. For example, we are members of a family, maybe of a work or school community; we live in a country, a town, a neighbourhood, we might belong to a club or association, and if you are reading this, you probably see yourself as a member of a church or religious community, in which case you see yourself as having a special relationship with God.

Each of these communities has its own set of beliefs and values and its own communication systems, which are concerned with holding the community together and with transmitting its beliefs and values to others.

Very often, these sets of beliefs and values are in conflict with each other. For Christians, the major contradiction is between the values of our faith and the values of the world, and we are constantly caught in a conflict between the two.

The values drummed into us by society from an early age are those of self-sufficiency, acquisition and individual achievement. We are thought of as self-determining beings with rights rather than obligations and aims who must work out for ourselves what we want and seek. However, these values are illusory. We never obtain the autonomy to determine our own ends, and few of us are even in a position to attempt the task. We focus on immediate goals and needs and all too easily end up serving and praising gods not our own, so we end up pursuing ends and interests defined by corporations and power brokers who do not know us and care nothing for us. We are enmeshed in a confusion of pressures and desires and feel powerless, so we end up living through an epidemic of anxiety and anguish.

The values of our faith are diametrically opposed to these. In the words of St Ignatius, 'man is created to praise, reverence and serve

Indulging an Addiction

I went to church twice last weekend – as I usually do – and what is more to two different parishes, one Catholic the other C of E. In doing this I feel I belong to two different parishes, though the nature of the belongings are different. This is not as uncommon as you might think. There are a fair number of Catholics whose partners belong to another religion or denomination and who attend each other's place of worship as well as their own. For a few of us though it is to indulge in the addiction of bellringing. In my case I go to mass on Saturday evening at St Joseph's followed by ringing in Mathon and/or Cradley on Sunday morning before their service starts. In addition we turn out for weddings and funeral services.

Unfortunately only 38 Catholic churches in GB have a ring of bells; however, many of these are in such a state of repair as to be unringable. The nearest good ring to us is in St Chad's.

So why this addiction to bells? I think it has three dominant features. First the activity is physically tricky to perfect and needs continuous practice. Secondly ringing is mentally difficult yet stimulating, requiring considerable concentration. One gets the pleasure of trying to master an activity – always failing to some extent, yet with the possibility of improving but never mastering it. Finally one is part of a community, centred first on one's home tower. When actually ringing you are one of a band of 6, 8 or 10, each member being wholly dependent on the others. This community relies on the experienced ringers imparting their knowledge during hours and hours of practice time. And when not ringing one is part of a small, friendly, slightly 'nerdish' community.

This activity is called 'change ringing'. In this, each bell rings in a position which varies during the event. For example with 6 bells, the bells start to ring in order 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 with 1 (the treble) the lightest and 6 (the tenor) the heaviest. Then, for example, bell 4

might ring a bit more rapidly and move to place 3 while bell 3 would then ring a little more slowly and move to place 4.

Many outside the community think that in change-ringing each ringer remembers who to ring after – in fact mostly that does not happen. Instead each ringer remembers and follows the rules of a method. Methods generally say each bell ‘plain hunts’ (that is, it moves up and down by one position continuously) until, for a simple method, it reaches one of four ‘situations’ where it has to do something different – for example, plain hunt until you have reached position 3 going down, but instead of going down to position 2 move back up to position 4 before resuming the plain hunt downwards. Then ‘all’ one has to do is to learn how to recognize the four or more types of ‘situations’ and what one has to ‘do’ for each. Then from knowing where you are in a method, you will know for that stroke if you are ringing at standard speed or a bit faster or slower; you then have to look out for which bell magically appears in your peripheral vision for you to follow. All of this takes a lot of practice.

Tim Thorp

Cursillo Encounter . . . Whatever Does That Mean?

I cannot be the only parishioner of St Joseph’s who was totally flummoxed by the invitation to sign up for Cursillo Encounter, a Saturday morning event in the McEnnis Room where mid-morning refreshments were mentioned *and* a curry lunch! Yes, the food was an attraction, but I still had no idea what Cursillo meant, and being somewhat wary of any sub-groups within organisations, had not added my name to the list. Only two people had, so far, taken the risk.

label Truda’s Toffee, later selling out to one of the well-known brands. Quite the astute business woman, she asked me, when well into her 90s, “How’s your business going? I do hope you’re putting the right markup on . . . because, if not, you’ll resent it”.

Cousin Gertrude never married. We suppose that she and her sisters lost many friends in the war - perhaps their fiancés, we can’t remember. But we do know that she much enjoyed the autumn of her life, being remarkably active, including as a regular at St Jo’s and Malvern Theatre. Widely loved and hugely respected, with an indomitable spirit, ‘Miss Turner’ was a legend, reaching the ripe old age of 104. And she certainly kept her marbles!

Charlotte Carver

Charlotte is a parishioner at St Wulstan’s and produces their beautiful Christmas cards which are again for sale at St Joseph’s

*Two designs are available - Partridge in a Peartree Fantasy
and*

Snowfall and Sunset at St Wulstan’s

£6 for a pack of 10 cards

Supporting the restoration fund at St Wulstan’s



Miss Gertrude Turner



Gertrude Mary Turner was my first cousin twice removed, my grandfather's cousin.

Born at Handsworth on 28 January 1893, she died in Malvern on 4 February 1997 and her requiem was held at St Joseph's in Malvern Link.

Afterwards, Bill and I drove the then PP Fr Raphael Appleby over to Stratford on Avon to lay her to rest with her two sisters, Bonnie and Margaret, in the family grave.

For 30 years, we loved to visit Gertrude at Davenham and bring her to stay at our family home at Arrow, near Alcester. Before Malvern, she and her sisters lived in Loxley Road in Stratford, following many years in Barnes in south west London. I have just asked my brother to confirm that Gertrude volunteered in the Box Office at Stratford Theatre. He writes, *"Yes, she did, and was very useful in getting tickets! But I can't give you the years I'm afraid"*.

My children were just as fond of her as we were. I can see her now, playing swing ball with them on the terrace at Arrow (in her late 80s) and enjoying their company in her cosy room overlooking the gardens at Davenham, with a few favourite pieces of her own furniture, her dainty rosebud tea service and fairy cakes.

"Aunt Gertrude, you are VERY old" pronounced my daughter (about 9, now 50). "Yes, darling, I am, and soon I will go to heaven. But God hasn't finished painting my balcony yet."

There were no flies on Gertrude who was bright as a button into old age. We all loved her delicious toffee and fudge, which she made under her own



On the Sunday before the event was to take place Fr Naz was checking the list (after almost all the parishioners had left after Mass) and was clearly sad to see the participants were still very few. He was disappointed that the list had not substantially grown, and embarrassed as he knew that the visiting team (who were coming from a distance to talk to us) would be more numerous than the number of parishioners taking part. So . . . as I was free that following Saturday morning, I signed up, still knowing nothing about what was to come.

I looked up the word "cursillo" to find it was Spanish for a short course. Not much wiser really! I was about to encounter a short course . . . in what?

On Saturday 5 October I arrived still a little on the defensive and prepared for what I thought would be a bit of a struggle. Within five minutes I knew I was surrounded by like-minded people who were able to share their faith with confidence and ease, and where I felt safe. There was no pressure, just calm support. We sat in small groups. We listened to short, clear addresses, we were encouraged to talk and discuss faith topics. We had very open-ended ideas thrown at us (such as "Who am I?"), and were then given a few minutes to think, to search our hearts and then to discuss our ideas. Everything was accepted uncritically and with understanding. I felt the McEnnis room was full of love.

At the end of the morning, I was full to overflowing with new experiences (*and* excellent food). I was also exhausted. (Fortunately, I had a quiet afternoon ahead of me.) By halfway through the week, I was downloading the forms to apply for a space on a Cursillo weekend in Staffordshire. Perhaps there will be another article to come in the next magazine. That one may be titled "Cursillo Experience", and, hopefully, I will by then understand, and be able to tell you, a little more about what Cursillo is.

Margaret Allen

School News

It has been a busy start to the school year. After the last very successful OFSTED inspection in April, this year the school is focused on further developing the outdoor provision for the children to support an outstanding judgement for the personal development of the children. The school council has been active in sharing its ideas and companies are being contacted for quotes. Of course this is going to come at a cost and so all the fundraising activities taking place this year will be going towards this target as the cost will run into around the sum of £5000. Again, the children have been given the responsibility in deciding how we can fundraise this money.

In the meantime the children continue to enjoy the forest area of the school which is stunning. Mr Williamson, the school Forest Leader, this year is looking to build an outdoor shelter, so that in all weathers the children can continue to enjoy the forest activities. In September, members of the parish joined the staff to "claim back" more of the meadow. The working party cleared back brambles and helped open up the forest canopy. It was wonderful to have the parish and school working together.



Claiming back the meadow

liturgy then, there are interlinear translations of the Latin text in contemporary (Old) English supplied by Aldred. We know this as an introduction to the Gospels has been inserted in Old English (probably by Aldred) in the middle of the 10th century, setting out its history.

Suze explained how the Gospels were made from calf-skin and showed slides of the illustrations, copied from traditional "portraits" of the evangelists. Each Gospel begins with an image of the relevant evangelist. Seen below is St. Luke. The whole process of making the Gospels would have been very costly.

Now in the British library, the Gospels accompanied the monks as they fled the invading Danes in 875 with St. Cuthbert's body. They ended up at Durham until the Reformation, when they went into private ownership, before finally becoming a part of the British Museum's collection in the 18th century, and thence to the British Library.

This remarkable piece of English history is there for visitors to see at the British Museum (booking is advisable) or a facsimile, complete with the monks' grubby finger marks, at Lindisfarne. Both are well worth a visit.

Carol Ann Harnett



St Cuthbert and the Lindisfarne Gospels



We are familiar with this image of St. Cuthbert on the reredos of the sanctuary in our church and so it was very appropriate for us to hear about him and the Lindisfarne Gospels in a talk from Anglo-Saxon Historian Suze Mathews in October.

Suze began by summing up St Cuthbert's life. He was a shepherd who, after a vision when he was out in the fields, became a monk at Melrose Abbey in Scotland. St. Bede wrote of him, "he taught the ordinary folk far and near to exchange their foolish customs for the love of heavenly joys". Eventually ending up at Lindisfarne, Cuthbert was made prior, but his real desire was to be alone with God. So, he left the abbey to live alone on the Island of Inner Farne for a while. However, talented men are needed to serve the church and so he was called back to be bishop of Lindisfarne. When he was old and near death, he was allowed to go back to Inner Farne to live out his last few days in solitude, dying on 20th March 687. At first, he was buried in the abbey at Lindisfarne but when the Danes began to plunder the East Coast of Britain, his body was moved to the mainland for safety. Eventually, after a few hundred years, it was placed in a magnificent shrine in the then brand new (Norman) Durham Cathedral for safety.

Going back a step, after Cuthbert's death in 687 the monks of Lindisfarne, (probably funded by their patron, the king of Northumbria), were delighted to find that after 20 years his body was intact (he was incorrupt) and so began the cult of St. Cuthbert. To honour him, at the beginning of the 8th century AD, the monk Eadfrith wrote and illustrated these amazing copies of the Gospels which were used in the liturgy in the Priory at Lindisfarne. Originally written in Latin of course, which was the language of the



Mid-November Update—the completed outdoor classroom



School calendars now on sale!

Some of the children's art work that was displayed outside Waitrose over the summer has been made into a school calendar and can be purchased from the office for £15.00.

Please ask at the office if you would like to see them or place an order.

Dear Pope Francis

When you were a child, did you like dancing?

Prajla aged 6, Albania

Very much, Dear Prajla!

Really a lot! I enjoyed being with other children, playing Ring around the Roses, but also dancing our traditional dances from Argentina. Then, as a young man, I liked to dance the tango. I really like the tango. You know, dancing expresses joy and happiness. When you are sad, you can't dance. Usually young people have one great resource: being happy. And for this reason, when you are young, you dance and express the joy in your heart.

Even the great King David danced . . . Dance now children, so you won't be too serious when you grow up!

Franciscus

From Dear Pope Francis published by Darton, Longman and Todd.

See page 24 for more on the joy of dancing.

Congratulations and Celebrations

Baptisms

There have been six baptisms at St Joseph's since the last magazine came out. In the past we would have welcomed each baby by name and congratulated their parents. Data protection means that's no longer straightforward as we have to get everyone's permission, so we're delighted to be able to welcome one of them by name. Layla, Sundrella and Matthew Kirby's baby daughter, was baptised on 6th October at a particularly joyful 11am mass.



Layla with her parents, Sundrella and Matthew, and her godmother, Edyta Mills, not forgetting her parish priest.

The church was packed, not only for the baptism and by parishioners, but also by a large party of Catenians visiting from Norfolk. Fortunately the Catenians, who thought we were a very friendly parish, had been told in advance about the baptism and brought Layla a gift, and the parish had been told in advance about the Catenians and the refreshments in a very crowded McEnnis Room were adjusted accordingly.

The room was filled with warmth and laughter, with everyone chatting happily together. There was plenty of tea, cake and biscuits for all, and even more delicious food for the baptism guests.

Wedding Bells

There has also been a wedding recently at St Joseph's, described here by Nazzarena Wood.



It was a great pleasure and delight to have a wedding in the church. This was the marriage of Sue and Mark Stubbings's son Bryn to Joanna on the 7th September. I was so pleased to be able to attend the service, to sit at the back of the church and to see all the wonderful guests arrive all smart and happy. Weddings are such joyous occasions and in particular this one as it was our lovely Sue Stubbings' son Bryn getting married. I

watched as Sue and Mark and Bryn greeted their guests and gathered the wonderful atmosphere into my heart. Bryn told me later how happy he was to see parishioners there.

Why do we cry when the bride arrives and walks down the aisle? I used to watch my lovely mum cry at weddings of relatives we went to as a child and sat and wondered why. Now I know because I do it myself. It is simply because it is such a moment of joy. It is the commitment of the couple to each other and how wonderful this is. I felt this as Jo walked down the aisle looking beautiful. Father Naz as always made everyone feel relaxed and he delivered the most wonderful wedding ceremony. May we wish Bryn and Jo good health and happiness in their future together.