

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley
Church Magazine*



Church of England Member

September 2020

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*Welcome to the Church of
St Edmund,
King & Martyr, Dudley*



Mass Times

Wednesday 12.15pm

Sundays 11.00am

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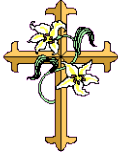
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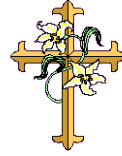
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IN REMEMBRANCE SEPTEMBER



2nd	Albert Dascombe
3rd	Mary Groves Mary Bertha Kate Davies
5th	Charles Brain
6th	Eliza Tromans
8th	Ernest John Howell Frank Richard Williams
10th	John Raymond Harries
11th	Minnie Williams Thomas Bernard Whitehouse
13th	Florence May Cox
14th	John Barker Enoch Archie Cox
15th	William Bradford Edna Gertrude Dentith
17th	Joseph Mills Melanie Ann Hughes Gerald Mullaney
18th	Lilian Jane Miles William Leslie Wood
19th	Harry Cherrington Gwendoline May Marshall
20th	Jacqueline Rollinson Florence Mary Ambrose
21st	Gertrude Ellen Richardson
22nd	Amy Hughes Constance Isolene Hulbert
25th	Lilian Stainton
29th	Dora Beatrice Spearman James Reginald Clews
30th	Ian Philip Stone George Ernest Griffiths

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



At the start of the year we held the first round of our 'Open Conversations'. A fantastic 95% of parishes were represented at them and I'm hugely grateful to all those who took part. We are planning a further set of conversations in September and I hope they will be just as well attended.

Since those first conversations, the pandemic has changed the world in ways that would have been inconceivable six months ago. That makes these new conversations all the more important as we seek together to discern God's will for the future in challenging times.

Conversation is an essential part of the Christian life. It's no accident that the word 'conversion' is related to the word 'conversation'. To converse is to be connected. The conversation continues as we continually turn towards the person with whom we're speaking. The word conversion literally means 'to keep turning' to God in conversation.

God comes to us individually and corporately. As we turn to one another in conversation to share our insights, we turn to God for conversion. Only together can we discern his will for us.

Jesus came to proclaim the Kingdom of God and in this diocese we are clear that we are called to be Kingdom People of love, compassion, justice and freedom. And to grow as Kingdom People, we need to have churches across the Diocese which are healthy and sustainable.

These conversations will enable us to explore what a healthy and sustainable church might look like in our own context – regardless of the size of our congregation or whether our church is urban, rural or something in between. This is a chance to reflect on what our future might hold as we seek to worship God, make new disciples, share hope and transform our communities.

The meetings will be held online using Zoom, but will follow a similar format to the previous open conversations, with opportunities for people to contribute in small groups. There will also be other opportunities to engage for those unable to use Zoom – you can find out more at www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/open-conversations.

Please do take part if you can. May we converse well and, as we do so, be continually converted!

Bishop John

Readers for September:

6 th	Mrs J. Fraser Mr M. Wisbey
13 th	Mr B. Prentice Mrs A. Mullaney
20 th	Mrs M. McGraghan Mr A. Baillie
27 th	Mrs J. Lambert Mr M. Simpson
October 4 th	Mr S. Martin Mr G. Smith

Intercessors:

6 th	Mr J. Harcourt
13 th	Mrs J. Lambert
20 th	Mrs A. Mullaney
27 th	Mr M. Wisbey
October 4 th	Mrs M. McGraghan

Thought for the month

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood....

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.

Martin Luther King

WHAT I DID (OR DIDN'T) DO IN LOCKDOWN



When lockdown began back in March, I saw it as a good opportunity to tackle all the things I always intended to do. You have heard the saying , “the road to hell is paved with good intentions”. Too true!

First of all, housework. Catch up on all those tedious little tasks that get pushed to the background. For example, tidy the garage, the spare bedroom, have a blitz on the contents of the kitchen cupboards. The list could be endless. My intentions were good but it was too tempting to sit on the sofa with a bar of dark chocolate and read novels.

Then there was cooking. Get out the recipe books and create culinary sensations. The reality was rather different - oven chips and whatever else I could find in the freezer.

Not being able to access the gym, I resolved to keep up the daily recommended exercises. Not always achieved. (The chips and the chocolate helped pile on the pounds.)

Having read instructions for “making your own masks”, I decided to have a go, using an old sock. Before I could put my needlework skills to the test, however, it became increasingly easy to acquire them from various sources. Thank goodness for that! I never had any faith in my sewing.

I did manage to get out of the house to fetch my daily newspaper and, once a week, for a trip to the supermarket. I enjoyed the quieter roads which made driving much less stressful.

As regards television, I always watched the Coronavirus update press briefings from Downing Street each afternoon, noting some facts and figures in my daily journal which I entitled “Journal of a Plague Year”. Not 1665 but 2020. This was sad viewing but somewhat alleviated by watching glorious re-runs of “Downton Abbey” and “Doc Martin”. (Repeats still going strong as I write.)

During lockdown my daily newspaper included extra pages of puzzles (crosswords, sudokus, codewords, etc.) which I felt compelled to complete (or try to) using up an inordinate amount of time when I should have been doing housework, making masks, improving my cooking and sewing skills and so on. At least I gave my brain a good workout.

I thought I would learn a foreign language, or improve my French, but was too easily diverted by the delights of just being lazy. When each day seems very

like the day before, you just get into a sort of idle frame of mind.

Apart from the gym and the public library, what I most missed was St Edmund's Church. The short services on TV on Sunday mornings were a poor substitute. Not being online, I was unable to take advantage of Zoom services and so felt rather cut off. I rejoice that we are now able to resume our worship even if with some small differences.

Shall I ever get round to tidying that garage, inventing that perfect recipe or becoming fluent in French? I don't know, but there is always "Downton Abbey" and "Doc Martin" to look forward to.

JL

Algor-whatsit?

The English language is full of wonderful truisms (not in the Oxford/English dictionary), but sometimes the so called educated classes come out with corkers (?), almost as good as proper English as spoke in the Black Country. This brings to mind how we have all been entranced by the latest pass the parcel of blame statements used by our wonderful government ministers, but I must confess that I had to resort to the Oxford English dictionary to find out what 'algorithm' was. If you are cleverer than me, you will already know that it is a *noun*, "a set of rules used in calculations or other problem-solving operations'. I asked 4 of my friends if they knew what the word was and the meaning. Only 1 yes, 2 possibly and one no idea. If you are a student during the exams fiasco it will be imprinted on your memory for years to come.

Other words appearing during the pandemic are 'ramp up' 'invisible mugger' plus many more, but I am limited on space. If you are a motorist then I challenge you to obey *the Boris* and "squeeze the accelerator". Can you imagine the contortions you would have to go through trying to actually reach the accelerator pedal? And when you crash your car doing it, the insurance company would have a field day with your accident claim.

Most of the warnings have been heeded by the majority, but we have all seen the TV pictures of hundreds of idiots outside pubs breaking the expected sensibility needed to control the spread of Covid-19. "It can't happen to me"; the answer is "Yes it can".

We have had some strange warnings, some to the point and some weak, but if obeyed then they could save lives – perhaps yours or perhaps mine.

JH.

Proposal to reorganise Deaneries in the Worcester Diocese

Last week we launched a consultation on a proposal to reduce the number of deaneries from 13 down to six. All are welcome to contribute to this consultation, which will run until **Friday 4 December**.

Reducing the number of deaneries is an important step towards ensuring our diocese is fit for purpose going forward. Our current deaneries are very small and moving to larger groupings will offer more flexibility when considering where ministers are placed as well as provide a broader canvas for mission planning. It makes sense to carry out significant restructuring in one go rather than make a series of changes over time and also to align our structures more closely to civic ones – at the moment, the Metropolitan borough of Dudley is spread across three deaneries, and the City of Worcester is divided across two.

It is proposed to move to six deaneries, with each having a mix of urban and rural and a town (or towns) working in partnership with their rural outlying areas.

1. **GREATER DUDLEY DEANERY** uniting Dudley, Kingswinford & Stourbridge Deaneries. We examined establishing two smaller deaneries – Dudley North and Dudley South, but the natural dividing line ended up with too small a Dudley South.
2. **REDDITCH & BROMSGROVE DEANERY** made up of the current Bromsgrove Deanery plus the Wychebrook benefice and the benefice of Elmley Lovett w Hampton Lovett & Elmbridge w Rushock and Hartlebury and Ombersley w Doverdale currently in Droitwich Deanery.
3. **KIDDERMINSTER & STOURPORT DEANERY** uniting the current Kidderminster and Stourport deaneries.
4. **WORCESTER DEANERY** uniting the Worcester East and Martley & Worcester West Deaneries, plus the Saltway Team Ministry from Droitwich Deanery.
5. **MALVERN & UPTON DEANERY** uniting the Malvern and Upton deaneries.
6. **PERSHORE & EVESHAM DEANERY** uniting the Pershore and Evesham deaneries plus the Bowbrook benefice from Droitwich Deanery.

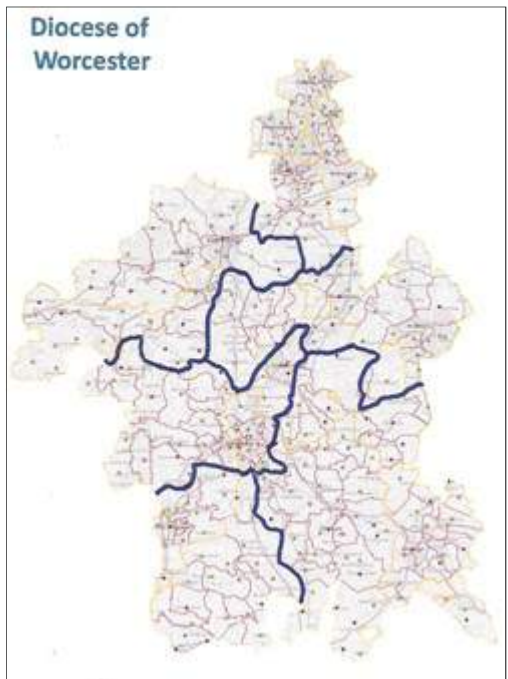
As a result of benefices being in different deaneries, the Bowbrook and Wychebrook group ministry will no longer exist. The Deaneries of Greater Dudley and Redditch & Bromsgrove would form the Archdeaconry of Dudley, the other four will be the Archdeaconry of Worcester.

The Church of England suggests that the size of a deanery synod should be between 50 and 150 members. Currently nine of our deaneries are too small, and the biggest deanery synod only has 59 members when full. By moving to six deaneries, synods would have between 70 and 135 members, helping to make them more effective. However, having larger deaneries doesn't prevent smaller mission areas meeting together, including with ecumenical colleagues. Mission and ministry structures might look different in different deaneries. For the largest deaneries, it might be that clergy preferred to meet in smaller chapters, and that a Sub-Dean could be appointed. Rural Deans will become Area Deans, as some parts of the diocese are not rural. We will also need to consider their workload, and whether some administrative support is needed.

Moving to six deaneries in this way also largely unites existing deaneries to ease the change process, with only the current Droitwich deanery being

pragmatically divided into different new deaneries. Going to a larger or smaller number would lead to more disruptive change. All parishes will continue to have representation on deanery synod and larger deaneries would not be disadvantaged at Diocesan Synod as the number of places available to a deanery is linked to the size of that deanery (number of clergy, total of electoral rolls).

The concept of simplification was raised at the Open Conversations, where it was broadly supported. This proposal has been shaped by discussion with the Rural Deans and Lay Chairs, and with the Diocesan Mission, Pastoral and Resources Committee.



Read the full consultation document on <https://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/content/pages/documents/1595936695.pdf>

To respond to this consultation, please email:

john.preston@cofe-worcester.org.uk.

July 2020

Sad News from Uganda

“I have been sick for a few days and on Thursday tested positive for Covid-19. I am in hospital and am blessed to be here and not need oxygen. There are people in the room with me who have been here for a month or more and have only just started walking. They can't go far without having to return for oxygen. They even struggle to go to the toilet because walking makes them very fatigued.”

This is a message from a young man, 20 years of age. He is one of the lucky ones as he is in hospital. I have been in hospital many times in Uganda; my stays were in private ones which were basic. In one my bed was between the men's and lady's toilets with horrific smells and sound effects, but these hospitals were superior to the Government ones where up to 100 beds were placed so close together that to speak to the patient necessitated standing at the foot of the bed, not at the side as we are used to. The patients have to provide their own mattress and many could not and so were lying on beds with just a blanket. The family have to provide food and cook it on charcoal stoves at the windows or even in the ward.

Doctors come once, write a prescription, if you can afford it, then you are left.

One of my lads had a serious operation for burst ulcers and was horrified when another patient took him to the next room for his operation. He has a scar right down his middle. But thank God he survived and I was able to pay for him to be taken to a private ward, although my other lads had to carry him there, the equivalent of from St Edmund's to Top Church.

It did not need Covid-19 to highlight the sufferings of the poor people in Africa. Last time I was there we took food to an elderly lady who couldn't walk as she could not pay for medication for her legs and was looking after seven grandchildren. Another with a foot with just three toes - we got her treatment, but what about the hundreds now who can't afford access to medical facilities?

At the moment street vendors - where folks get cheap food - are closed.

I heard of a family, mother, father and two children, who could not afford food from the bigger supermarkets and were starving. They shut themselves into their house and set fire to it. They preferred to die this way instead of starving to death.

Government aid, rice and maize, are not getting through and people are starving. They need our prayers.

I recently received this text from a 16 year old girl:

“ All I can say is thank you Lord for what I am now. Let my tomorrow be greater than today. Bless all those who have been dear to me, supported and loved me.”

David Russon

Update on Refresh foodbank

The Foodbank has opened a bank account as it has received several donations during lockdown.

If you wish to donate here are the details-

Cheques made payable to :

Refresh Foodbank

Lloyd's bank

Sort code

30 99 06

Account No.

64791160

Debbie wishes to take this opportunity to thank all the churches for their continuous generosity in keeping us in prayer, donating food and money during these uncertain times.

Watching churches and people pulling together for the good of others has been a blessing.

ASSUMPTION 2020 PLUS



With the deadly pandemic sweeping through the world, lockdown took many forms. Church services banned. Easter banned. No Thursday morning tea and chats. And so on. We had different and often conflicting directions of what to do and what not to do.

But eventually we were able to open our church for private prayer on Mondays and Thursdays and then in July for Mass following very closely the guidelines of the authorities re cleansing and social distancing.

The first major festival should have been the Assumption of Our Lady on the 16th of August.

But singing hymns and processions like ‘what we had’ banned, so we moved the statue of Our Lady to the Chancel step almost immediately to the right of our Celebrant that day, Fr Alan Howes.

Walsingham was present during the prayers and the sermon. The pilgrimage planned as usual by Janet Lambert had been cancelled.

I have lots of books about the Walsingham Shrine, and in one of them I found a newspaper cutting which I had forgotten about. It was a slightly faded picture dating from 1938 of Queen Mary making a private visit to the Shrine on the Feast of the Assumption whilst staying at Sandringham.

According to the reporter, Her Majesty entered the ruins with ‘her entourage’ whilst other pilgrims were told ‘sorry, closed today.’

The report goes on to say that Queen Mary was the first crowned head to visit since the Reformation.

Now come with me to the National Pilgrimage in the year 1980. Mr Cracknell had organised a coach for the day and lots of excited pilgrims from St Edmunds and other friends happily filled the coach, because it was to be an extra special event with the Preacher no less than Archbishop Runcie.

I was a steward for the day, so was able to move freely with my sash and shrine badge as a ‘go anywhere’ door opener.

A ripple of applause swept through the gathered thousands as who should be escorted in by the Administrator before the procession but the very recognisable figure of HRH the Duchess of Kent, making an unannounced visit. She sat with the Guardians on what looked like very ordinary and uncomfortable chairs. Elegant, unassuming, always smiling. Apparently at the time she was living close by and allegedly visited privately to pray.

She joined one of the various lines of pilgrims to receive Communion, and guess what? She actually spoke to me when going back to her seat! I would like to say that Katherine and I were firm friends, but all I did was to hold up the crowd rope for her to return. What did she say? “You’re so kind.”

After the service the Administrator and invited guests met in his private garden for drinkies. I wasn’t actually invited, but with my badge and a smile to the steward on the door, Fr Brain and I mingled with the great and the good. Doesn’t the time fly? 40 years have passed – but she hasn’t contacted me once since that wonderful day. Never mind.

I can honestly say that I wasn’t there to meet Queen Mary, but how can I forget those three words addressed to me in 1980 by the Duchess of Kent “You’re so kind.”

JH.

Season of Creation

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October dedicated to God as Creator and sustainer of all life.

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, calls for prayer for the environment during Creationtide.

“The care of creation is a top priority for every Christian disciple in our day. It’s clear in Scripture that God wants us to steward this beautiful Earth we’ve been given. We need to take care of it at a time when global warming and climate change are creating enormous pressures.”

Heavenly Father,
You have taught us, through your servant St Francis,
That all creation is your handiwork.
Grant us your grace that we may
Exercise wise stewardship of this Earth;
Tread lightly upon it;
And cherish its resources;
That our children may enjoy its riches, throughout all generations,
And your name be glorified through all that you have made.
Amen.

Rt. Rev. David Walker Bishop of Manchester

Answers to last month's quiz

Johnny's mother had three children. The first was named April, the second child was named May. What was the third child's name?

Johnny

There is an assistant at the butcher shop who is five feet ten inches tall and wears size 13 shoes. What does he weigh?

Meat

Before Mt Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?

Everest

How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?

None

What word in the English language is always spelled incorrectly?

Incorrectly

Billy was born on December 28th, yet his birthday is always in summer. How is this possible?

He lives in the southern hemisphere

What was the President of the USA's name in 1975?

Donald Trump

If you were running a race, and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?

2nd

Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg are white" or "The yolk of the egg is white"?

Neither -- the yolk of the egg is yellow

If a farmer has 5 haystacks on one field and 4 haystacks in the other field, how many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in a third field?

One

Heritage Open Days

This is England's annual celebration of local history, architecture and culture.

Co-ordinated nationally but run with the help of thousands of volunteers, the September event is an opportunity for private owners to allow free access to properties and events which cast a light on what makes neighbourhoods and communities special.

Heritage assets of every age, style and function open their doors, ranging from castles to factories, town halls to tithe barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples.

It's a once-a-year chance to uncover and discover hidden treasures and rarely told stories.

This year things will be different due to the virus, social distancing etc.

St Edmund's will be open Saturday 19th September from 11am - 2pm

This will be for people to walk round. There will be no tours or refreshments.

A virtual tour filmed by Dudley Council will be available at some stage, on our own web site and the councils'.

The RC church of Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury will also be on the council website.

The film was made for the council with a 360 degree camera by Paul Grove, son of our own Sarah Grove. As a boy, Paul was a server at St Edmund's.

The link to the website is:

<https://www.dudleyheritageopendays.org.uk>

There is nothing on it at present, but look at it nearer to the Heritage Open Day.

Holy Days in SEPTEMBER

- 1st St Giles of Provence
Patron Saint of the Disabled**
- 3rd St Gregory the Great**
- 4th St Cuthbert**
- 5th St Teresa of Calcutta**
- 14th Holy Cross Day**
- 21st St Matthew the Apostle**
- 24th Our Lady of Walsingham**
- 29th St Michael & All Angels**

Notable Dates in September

- Tuesday 3rd Merchant Navy Day**
- Sunday 13th Education Sunday**
- Tuesday 15th Battle of Britain Day**
- Sunday 20th Battle of Britain Sunday**
- Monday 21st International Day of Prayer for
Peace**
- Sunday 27th Back to Church Sunday**

Our Advertisers

This magazine still displays the adverts from those people who have paid in advance for twelve months publicity.

Clearly, some of them will not be operational at the moment. Please remember them when, we hope, they are up and running again

The Lodge Wellington Road

**The Lodge will be re-opening on
Tuesday 1st September**

For business as usual - but with social distancing.

**The Lodge will be opening every Sunday
from 13th September for lunches
until Christmas.**





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Wednesday Closed

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