

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley
Church Magazine*



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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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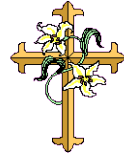
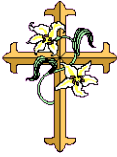
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**IN MEMORIAM
SEPTEMBER**

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



A Pilgrimage of Prayer and Hope

“The font in my church has been dry for over a year.”

One of our faithful parish clergy was sharing on Zoom about how things were during the pandemic. It was such a powerful image of a dry and empty font, no water, no baptisms, no people in Covid affected churches.

As a new bishop in this diocese I had been in lockdown like everyone else. I had really missed the opportunity to visit churches and to celebrate the sacraments, of eucharist, baptism and confirmation. Hoping that visiting will still be possible this Autumn I have set aside 12 days to spend two days in each deanery on a *Pilgrimage of Prayer and Hope*, visiting as many churches and meeting as many people as I can. Area Deans and Lay Chairs are working with me to finalise arrangements.

Most church visits will be very low key, and I will walk or drive between locations depending on distance. There will be at least three fixed points in each day when people are welcome join me for a simple Morning, Midday and Evening prayer. I hope that one evening in each deanery will include a larger gathering, perhaps with a eucharist and renewal of baptism vows, or a shorter service of the word with time for discussion or Q&A together.

I am very much looking forward to being in many of our churches and being with God’s Kingdom People in the urban and rural parts of our diocese. If I get the chance, I will certainly bless each baptismal font that I find. Let the living waters flow!

Bishop Martin

Readers for September

5th Mrs M. McGraghan

Mr M. Simpson

12th Mr F. Sheppard

Mrs J. Fraser

19th Mrs A. Mullaney

Mr A. Baillie

26th Mr S. Martin

Mrs J. Lambert

October 3rd Mr M. Simpson

Mrs M. McGraghan

Intercessors:

5th Mr J. Harcourt

12th Mrs J. Lambert

19th Mrs M. McGraghan

26th Mrs A. Mullaney

October 3rd Mr J. Harcourt

*Thank you to all our readers and intercessors – if you would like to join either of these rotas, please speak with J.H.

Thought for the Month

When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive – to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.

Marcus Aurelius - Roman Emperor 161 - 180AD and Stoic Philosopher

What am I Doing Now?



You may not have seen me at church for a few weeks now. Where am I? What am I doing now? I'm sure that these are some of the questions you are asking yourself. I will start this article with a little background, which will lead on to where and what I am doing now.

It was back in 2004 that my then vicar in Norwich told me that I had a vocation to the priesthood in the Church of England. Rather like Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3) this caught me completely by surprise. Even though I was in Christian leadership at the time, the priesthood seemed something that I was not worthy to even consider. However my journey had begun. After speaking to a vocations adviser I still avoided the calling to the priesthood, and decided instead to test a vocation within a religious community. After just over a year with the community, there was no vocation realised with them, so I left and moved to the West Midlands. I later got married, and settled back down to life in the outside world. However, that calling to the priesthood, as much as I tried to ignore it, was still there, a quiet voice trying to bring me back.

I suppose it was the years of worshipping at St. Edmund's with no parish priest, seeing the elderly retired priests celebrating the Mass, sometimes in poor health, and the knowledge of other churches around us with no parish priest, that was the push I needed to stop ignoring the calling, and to start to discern whether or not I do actually have a vocation to the priesthood. So it was on Trinity Sunday in 2019, whilst Fr Darren Smith was celebrating Mass at St. Edmund's, that I asked the question about the priesthood. Fr Smith then invited me to a meeting at the ACS offices in Birmingham. After this meeting Fr. Smith invited me to a vocations weekend in Oxford. Following the weekend Fr Smith advised that I should start the vocations process off; I went to speak to the Rev Hugh Burton, who referred me to the DDO in the diocese of Worcester, and I am now working with an ADDO in Worcester. Rev Hugh Burton also recommended that I joined one of the Bishop's Certificate Courses in 2019, which I joined and completed.

Once completed, the Lay Reader who ran the course, Kath Davis, recommended me for the Growing Leaders Course run by the diocese, which I have now also completed. Like the prophet Jonah, God always put us back on the path he wants us to walk down.

However, in order for me to go to BAP (Bishop's Advisory Panel), I will need a priest to write a reference for me. There are also some jobs that I have not done for some time, such as working with children, of which I will need experience if I am going to be recommended for BAP.

Because St. Edmund's is in vacancy, and does not run any youth work projects, I have had to be moved out into the wider benefice in order to gain the extra skills I need, and to demonstrate to Rev Hugh Burton that I am showing a calling and the skills needed in order to be a priest. This will take me away from St. Edmund's for at least three months, or longer if required. So far I have been very impressed with the churches in the wider benefice, with very welcoming and enthusiastic congregations.

Whilst on my vocation journey, I have met a lot of Christians whose journey has come to an end. And the same could happen to me. At any time the DDO, the BAP panel, the Bishop of Dudley, or I myself, may decide that I do not in fact have a vocation to the priesthood, and then my journey will come to an end. I would like to stress that there is nothing shameful in this. The priesthood is a very special calling, and not everyone is called. So if I do return to St. Edmund's following a decision that I do not have a calling to the priesthood, this will be in the best interests of everyone, including myself.

I hope to still keep in touch with everyone, and will try to attend the Wednesday Mass from time to time (work permitting). Please continue to pray for me and my journey, I still have a long way to go.

Mark Wisbey

September Song

“Wake up Maggie” by Rod Stewart was an anthem of my youth, much played in the coffee lounge of the student union, and hearing it always results in a knee-jerk feeling of nostalgia.

The line “It’s late September and I really/ Ought to be back at school” instantly evokes images of autumn leaves, chilly mornings, and the readying of satchel, uniform and school shoes for the start of a new term, or the packing of trunks for a longer stay away from home. Autumn was a time of anticipation - the stunning beauty of trees giving way to the prospect of even colder weather, with fog and snow and the celebration of Christmas.

Autumn is my favourite time of year, and the season has often been an inspiration for poets and songwriters, not to mention painters. Nearly everyone remembers “Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness...” (Keats, of course - challenge – go on and remember the rest!) but another worthy poet of autumn is John Clare (1793 – 1864) – look up his “Pleasant Sounds” for a wonderful word image of the season.



“Les Feuilles Mortes” by Jacques Prevert, with music by Joseph Kosma became a huge hit when it was translated into “Autumn Leaves” and recorded by singers including Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole.

Some of these songs and poems have a melancholy or wistful feel about them, but to me September seems like a new beginning, and a much more likely candidate than January for the start of a new year. For children starting primary school, or young adults going to sixth form college or university, it is a challenging and exciting time, if slightly

daunting to those who haven't had face to face tuition for a long time. Even at my advanced age I still look forward to embarking on something new, because there is always something to learn, and September wouldn't be the same if I were not opening a new notebook and writing the title of a new course.

So let us remember in our prayers those about to start a new term. One of the oldest students I have ever taught was a lady who was 80 years old. She had copper-plate handwriting and was awarded the highest grade for English GCSE. It's never too late for your own September Song.

Jane Fraser



Following the Coffee Morning at Church to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Mary Sumner, Founder of the M.U., we are able to send a donation for the Summer of Hope Appeal.

We are looking forward to joining the St Francis MU for Afternoon Tea at The Vineyard at the beginning of the month.
MM

“Pleasant Sounds” by John Clare, mentioned by Jane in the above article, is printed further on in the magazine.

**FUN ... FUN ... FUN
(or something like that)**

I have never been a star of stage, screen, wireless or reality show, mainly because I have never been asked. Would I have accepted the challenge? I doubt it, because to be on the tele I would need to join the strivers for fame and have Botox (not that I need it).

Whilst the pandemic has been raging (and it still is) very few new shows have been appearing, so what has caught my attention onscreen?

I still like the Owen family and their farm in the Yorkshire Dales. Another one to join this list is TV presenter and all round good guy Matt Baker. If you haven't seen any of it, Matt and his own family have been helping Mom and Dad on their farm in a time of need. Because the Bakers (senior) are struggling with health problems and not able to cope, Matt, his wife Nichola and two children have donned their wellingtons and overalls to do all sorts of things to help out on the farm in the wilds of Durham. By the time our magazine hits the streets, the Baker short series may have finished. To see a TV presenter 'mucking out' is better than seeing a TV presenter 'working' in the sun in Dubai.

Another digging out from yesteryear and being rehashed is 'Changing Rooms' sponsored by Dulux.

The name to shudder at as lead designer is the wonderfully flamboyant Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen.

The first program was in the city of Swansea, and two daring neighbours offered their homes for the make-over. Home A, a bedroom change. Home B, a through sitting room make-over. Both very ordinary, and both owners thought it was time for a change. What had they let themselves in for? Thankfully the lady owners were lovely, giggly people. Award winning designers

Jordan and Russell were responsible for the bedroom, and LL-B for the change from bland beige sitting room to whatever nightmare plans he had. The results are now in: bedroom (Russell & Jordan wearing what look like pyjamas) in violent pink, navy blue wall resembling an up and over garage door, and a piece of 'art' made from blond hair pieces!

Sitting room (our friend Laurence); owner doesn't like pink, but she got flamingo pink and blues with a vengeance! With such a riot of colour you couldn't fail to miss the peacock blue swing chair in the middle of the room. Or the door with an artistic photo of LL-B on the inside. Owner's verdict: "I love it".

At one point the presenter had a phone call (emergency) from Laurence, and when she dashed over the road it was to move Laurence's hair from over his eyes.

The whole evening was a riot of bad taste; great fun; it really was quite dreadful, and I look forward to the next one! Such a welcome change from some of the pretentious rubbish we are offered.

I did have a food blunder whilst the show was on – the milk chocolate digestive biscuits were all broken and crumbly when I opened the packet. O woe is me. But the good news is that Dulux are still doing magnolia emulsion for the faint hearted. We desperately need some cosmetic work doing in church, but hopefully the Changing Room teams will be busy for the next 50 years.
JH.

Diocesan Prayer Diaries for September
to November are now available at the
back of church.

Folklore and tradition associated with Michaelmas



Michaelmas, or the Feast of Michael and All Angels, is celebrated on the 29th September every year. As it falls near the equinox, the day is associated with the beginning of autumn and the shortening of days; in England, it is one of the “quarter days”.

St Michael is one of the principal angelic warriors, protector against the dark of the night and the Archangel who fought against Satan and his evil angels. As Michaelmas is the time that the darker nights and colder days begin – the edge into winter – the celebration of Michaelmas is associated with encouraging protection during these dark months. It was believed that negative forces were stronger in darkness and so families would require stronger defences during the later months of the year.

In British folklore, Old Michaelmas Day, 10th October, is the last day that blackberries should be picked. It is said that on this day, when Lucifer was expelled from Heaven, he fell from the skies, straight onto a blackberry bush. He then cursed the fruit, scorched them with his fiery breath, spat and stamped on them and made them unfit for consumption! And so the Irish proverb goes:

“On Michaelmas Day the devil puts his foot on blackberries”.

The Michaelmas Daisy, which flowers late in the growing season between late August and early October, provides colour and warmth to gardens at a time when the majority of flowers are coming to an end. As suggested by the saying below, the daisy is probably associated with this celebration because, as mentioned previously, St Michael is celebrated as a protector from darkness and evil, just as the daisy fights against the advancing gloom of Autumn and Winter.

“The Michaelmas Daisies, among dede weeds,
Bloom for St Michael’s valorous deeds.
And seems the last of flowers that stood,
Till the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude.”



Church News

We now have a Sung Mass on Sundays and followed by refreshments afterwards.

Whilst masks and social distancing are no longer an obligation, we have to use common sense as to how we conduct ourselves. The Virus is still around, so be safe and thoughtful.

We are lucky to be able to offer two services a week, Wednesday at 12.15pm and Sunday at 11am, and are grateful to the priests who help us, and we are sure that they like to be welcomed with full pews, as well as “Good morning Father”.

Sometimes we may not be able to have a Priest, but thankfully this should not affect our attendance as believers and followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Every year we have to submit finance and attendance to the Diocese of Worcester, and if our Sunday average goes down just think “use your church or lose it”.

Thursday opening from 10.30 to 12 noon will start on the 2nd September, and we will be serving refreshments during , tea/coffee/biscuits – look forward to you popping in. Thought: would you like to volunteer to take a turn as catering manager/manageress on a Thursday morning? You supply your time/milk and sometimes biscuits or cakes!

‘Money .. Money .. money makes the world go round; the world go round’ is part of a song from ye ancient film ‘Cabaret’. So please read on:

Many of us use the envelope scheme to give our regular offerings to the church and I have used the phrase before “God loves a cheerful giver” and so does a church treasurer. The new season envelopes are in church now, but in a delightful shade of pale blue. Collect yours a.s.a.p. If you would like to change from envelopes to paying by bank transfer, please speak to me for details.

Finally – just think when did you last increase your offerings? Perhaps now is the time to do so.

I find it embarrassed to ask for money, and never ask directly of anyone, but whether the church is open or closed it still costs us over £200 per week.

JH.

Let The Grass Grow



Mowing the grass around cathedrals and churches is a relatively modern practice. Before the invention of the lawn mower in 1830, and its adoption by Victorian gardeners, the ground would have been covered with diverse plants, managed by passing feet, cart tracks, cutting with a scythe and grazed by wild or domestic animals.

But now there is a move away from uniformly flat, green amenity spaces around iconic buildings and churches, and a growing trend for letting the grass grow. Wildflower seeds are often added as appropriate and the area becomes an attraction in its own right.

During the pandemic a 'large swathe of Cambridge's most iconic lawn was transformed into an ecosystem rich in biodiversity' providing a beautiful, tranquil environment, for the King's College community.' King's College not only demonstrated their care of God's creation and their students, but have inspired others to do likewise by example and by selling wildflower seed packs.

This year, Bristol Cathedral has let its grass grow in a joint project with community organisations. The mown paths invite visitors to wander around the wildflower areas

A 'letting the grass grow' project would promote biodiversity, help reconnect people with nature, provide a focus for worship, education and campaigning, and act as a witness to the care Christians have for all of God's creation. These purposes can all be found in the Eco Church online survey.

Pleasant Sounds

The rustling of leaves under the feet in woods and under hedges;
The crumpling of cat-ice and snow down wood-rides, narrow lanes,
and every street causeway;
Rustling through a wood or rather rushing, while the wind halloos in
the oak-toop like thunder;
The rustle of birds' wings startled from their nests or flying unseen
into the bushes;
The whizzing of larger birds overhead in a wood, such as crows,
puddocks, buzzards;
The trample of robins and woodlarks on the brown leaves, and the
patter of squirrels on the green moss;
The fall of an acorn on the ground, the pattering of nuts on the hazel
branches as they fall from ripeness;
The flirt of the groundlark's wing from the stubbles- how sweet such
pictures on dewy mornings, when the dew flashes from its brown
feathers.

John Clare

John Clare 1793 - 1864

Self taught son of a farm labourer, born near Peterborough, brought up in poverty, was only able to attend school occasionally as his father could not meet the modest fees.

He suffered from mental health problems and spent some time in Northampton General Lunatic Asylum.

He was not wholly appreciated in his life time, but is now recognised as a major 19th century poet, who cared deeply for the countryside and wild life.

In 1989 he was honoured with a plaque in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey.

NOTABLE DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 1st	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
Friday 3rd	Merchant Navy Day
Saturday 11th	Ride + Stride - Annual fundraising event for Historic Churches Trusts
Sunday 12th	Education Sunday
Wednesday 15th	Battle of Britain Day
Sunday 19th	Battle of Britain Sunday
Tuesday 21st	International Day of Prayer for Peace
Wednesday 22nd	Autumnal Equinox
Sunday 26th	Back to Church Sunday

In Iconography, St Matthew is often depicted as an evangelist writing his gospel, or as an apostle with the emblem of his martyrdom, a spear, or as a tax collector with a money box.

SUNDAY SERVICES 11am Mass

5th	Fr John Oakes
12th	Fr Michael Bartlett
19th	Venerable Robert Jones
26th	Fr John Oakes

*Thank you to all the clergy who support us on Sundays and not forgetting those who Celebrate on Wednesday as well.

HOLY DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

3rd	St Gregory the Great
4th	St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne
21st	St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
27th	St Vincent de Paul
29th	SS Michael and all Angels
30th	St Jerome, Translator of the Scriptures



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