

*St Edmund King & Martyr, Dudley  
Church Magazine*



*Church of England Member  
March 2024*

*Price 50p*





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



**Mass Times**

**Wednesday 12.15pm**

**Sundays 11.00am**

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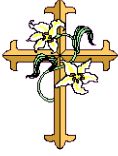
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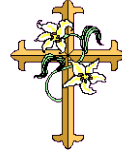
*Janet Lambert, Mary McGraghan,  
Jon Harcourt*

*Please direct all enquiries regarding  
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## IN MEMORIAM MARCH



1st	Benjamin Hickman Dudley	18th	Henrietta Round
5th	Mary Josephine Vizer		Caroline Dolphin Coughtrie
6th	Cissian Tilley	20th	William Millard
	Fanny Salter	21st	Clifford Tromans
7th	Michael Brain (Priest)	23rd	Josephine Trotman
8th	Marjorie Harries	24th	Sabra Read
	Elizabeth Davies		John Henry Walker
9th	Derek Hadlington	25th	George Martin Hall
	Joyce Stephenson		Elsie Trotman
10th	Stephen Guest		Margaret Robinson
11th	Beatrice Una Jones		Bertha Whitehouse
13th	Phoebe Jane Cherrington	26th	Albert Moore
	Julia Betteridge		Florence Bradley
14th	Jessie Sefton		Hilda Lambkin
	Harry Degenhard	28th	John Trotman
16th	William Harris		Martha Walker
	Gladys Griffiths		Joyce Colston
17th	Frank Scholey	30th	Edith Davis

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord, and let light  
perpetual shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace and rise in glory



**C**horal Matins, the sung service of morning prayer, was the main Sunday service in my childhood parish church – the place where I first felt called to the ordained ministry and where my spirituality and faith were shaped and nurtured. Many memories

come back to me when I think of my time in the choir, but as Lent journeys on I particularly remember that one of the canticles sung in the service changed: the Te Deum, the great ancient hymn of praise, was retired for the season in favour of the Benedicite Omnia Opera – a fabulously named canticle for a child to ponder.

It is an exciting musical expression of praise for creation encompassing everything from the ‘sun and moon’, ‘fire and heat’, ‘dews and frosts’, right the way through to the more exotic and bizarre praises for ‘the fowls of the air’ and by far the best for a child to sing, ‘o all ye green things upon the earth, bless ye the Lord’.

During the seasons when the church was stripped of flowers and colour, when we were giving things up, and paring things down, it was a joyful and playful thing to sing these words every Sunday morning in Lent.

Lent is often talked about as if it were a challenge to be beaten, a marathon of demands for us to prove a point. Spiritual disciplines and denials do have their place but not as an end in themselves but as a way of stripping away the distractions that prevent us ordinarily from seeing the glory of God at work around us.

The playful words and images of the Benedicite were all the more wonderful because they were sung in a season otherwise without colour or vibrancy. I pray that these 40 days will surprise us with new and living understandings of the God who calls us, not to dullness, but fullness of life.

Stephen Edwards, Interim Dean of Worcester

## Readers for MARCH

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs J. Alderman-Rowe Mrs J. Lambert
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A. Mullaney M/s M. Gazzard
17 <sup>th</sup>	Mr G. Smith Mrs J. Fraser
24 <sup>th</sup>	Mr M. Simpson Mr F. Sheppard
31 <sup>st</sup>	Mr A. Baillie Mrs M. McGraghan
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J. Lambert Mrs J. Alderman-Rowe

## Intercessors:

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mrs M. McGraghan
10 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J. Lambert
17 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs A. Mullaney
24 <sup>th</sup>	Mr J. Harcourt
31 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs J. Lambert
April 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs M. McGraghan

### Thought for the Month

Lent is not about feeling gloomy for forty days; it's not about making yourself miserable for forty days; it's not even about giving things up for forty days. Lent is springtime.

**It's preparing for that great climax of springtime which is Easter – new life bursting through death.'**

Rowan Williams

The speaker in February was not Mrs Maggie Clift as stated in last month's magazine, but we will have the pleasure of hearing her in March.

In February, Jon Harcourt gave a talk about the Holocaust, which had recently been commemorated nationally. A report of the Dudley Act of Remembrance is reported further on in the magazine.

Jon spoke about the persecution and killing of Jews and other people considered 'undesirable' by the Nazis, such as Romanies, mentally and physically disabled people and homosexuals. This was illustrated by a display board showing pictures from the concentration camps, very distressing to see, but *must* be seen and never forgotten.

In discussion following the talk, several MU member described visits to Auschwitz, confirming that it is true that birds do not sing in the area of the camp. Jon told us about Yad Vashem, the holocaust memorial in Jerusalem where there were exhibits of shoes, suitcases and possessions of those who were murdered in the camps, and a lampshade made from human skin.



Next meeting will be on:

Monday 4th March 2pm at St Francis

Speaker: Mrs Maggie Clift

## Archbishop of Canterbury comes to Dudley

On Saturday 3rd February, Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury visited the Worcester Diocese. His first port of call was St Thomas's ( Top church), at 10am.

The church was packed, with Bishops of Worcester and Dudley in attendance. James Treasure, the Rector of Dudley, introduced himself and the Archbishop.

The first part of the event was hymns, bible reading and prayers.

Archdeacon Nicki Groarke then had a question and answer session with the Archbishop who made the following points;

- The most important thing in Christian life is prayer
- Give thanks and praise to the Lord
- Pray for growth in the church
- Pray for reconciliation and the softening of hearts

Bishop Martin led the intercessions, interspersed with Taize chants.

Following this, Archbishop Justin anointed everyone present who wished it (this appeared to be everyone), it took a long time, and last of all a recently confirmed boy was invited to anoint the Archbishop, who knelt down on the floor so that he was at the right height.

Archbishop Justin impressed many people; some had arrived with doubts but were won over. He came across as a down to earth, humble and prayerful man.

April, a member of St Edmund's congregation, being anointed by Archbishop Justin, with Bishop Martin of Dudley looking on.



## Dudley Holocaust Commemoration

It was a privilege again to be present at the Holocaust commemoration on Friday 19th January.

No matter how many times I attend, it never fails to move me hearing the keynote speech from a Holocaust survivor.

This time it was Steven Frank who at the age of eighty-eight spoke for almost an hour on his experiences during the Holocaust.

Steven was born in 1935 into a secular Jewish family in Amsterdam. When war broke out the family bravely decided to stay in Holland as his doctor father was working with the mentally ill. He joined the Dutch Resistance helping many Jews to escape the Nazis but in 1942 he was betrayed, arrested, and sent to Auschwitz where he died in the gas chamber in 1943.

Later, in the same year, Steven's family were sent to various camps where they suffered greatly but SURVIVED!

After being liberated by the Red Army in 1945 they managed to make their way to England where the family slowly began to rebuild their lives.

Steven regularly speaks in schools about the Holocaust and his experiences. I admire him greatly for being able to relive these traumatic years.

Afterwards, the Candle of Remembrance was lit by Steven, the Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor of Dudley and Faith Leaders. (It was disappointing to note, however, that not all faiths were represented).

There followed a minutes' silence and a Prayer of Remembrance by Rabbi Margaret Jacobi.

This annual Holocaust Remembrance is well-worth attending and I would urge anyone to do so in future years.

J.L.



On the Sunday following the Holocaust Day of Commemoration, St Edmund's held a short Act of Remembrance before the 11 o'clock service.

Jon Harcourt introduced the proceedings by talking about the plight of the Jewish people in Europe from the early thirties until 1945.

An extract from the Diary of Anne Frank was read, followed by a reading from Ephesians.

A Candle of Remembrance was lit by Fr John Oakes, Jane Fraser and Philip Griffiths, taking the flame from the candle that burns in St Edmund's for the people and nation of Ukraine. Following this there was a minutes' silence.

Fr John Oakes then read the following prayer, written by the Council of Christians and Jews for Holocaust memorial Day 2024.

**Eternal God, we come before you, conscious of the fragility of freedom, to remember the victims of the Holocaust.**

**We lament the loss of the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, the millions of other victims of Nazi persecution, and victims of all genocides.**

**Remembering the past, help us today to use what freedom we have to stand up for those whose freedom is denied.**

**We pray for a day when all shall be free to live in peace, unity and love.**



## MARCH MAGIC MOMENTS 2024.



There is too much hatred, murder and wars in the world nowadays, so I have called this little walk into a period of literary genius and possibly stupidity March Magic Moments, refraining from the usual rhyming of March Madness.

As you may be aware I am a great fan of ‘Last of the Summer Wine’ (still being repeated on tele) and even after the last episode in 2010 it is still funny, and never any bad language or nastiness, which we can’t say about some current programmes. One of my favourite characters is Nora Batty (actress Cathy Staff), she of the curlers and wrinkled stockings who Compo called ‘my bird’.

But why does Nora occupy the lead and important slot in this spring version of our magazine? Apparently the sales of 300 denier stockings/tights have flown through the roof during our recent period of cold weather – who has been buying them is a mystery. I didn’t buy any, did you?

‘Last of the Summer Wine’ was a favourite for 37 years, the last one made in 2010.

Could this short mention of 300 denier stockings/tights become a regular fashion item in this magazine? Are the editors of ‘Vogue’ worried about competition? Who knows!

Almost at the end of our ‘Fashion Section’, I can’t resist talking about some of the ‘celebrities’ who have appeared recently on the so-called red carpet at various awards ceremonies. As you may have seen many are (almost) wearing dresses that look like the fishing nets our hardworking trawlermen cast over the sides in a hard day’s work.

Recently over a lunch at ‘The Lodge’ the sparkling conversation came on to who accompanied Hylda Baker on a copy-cat version of John Travolta and Oliver Newton John’s version of ‘You’re the

one that I want' from the award winning film of 'Grease'. We couldn't think then, but thanks to the internet we have the answer! It was Arthur Mullard, and their version reached number 22 in the record sales charts.

Have a look on YouTube and see the blonde bombshell (poetic licence) Hylda Baker and character actor Arthur Mullard as they appeared on 'Top of the Pops' in 1978. Dreadful singing and dreadful acting, but it was priceless, and a 'big noise' music publisher called it the worst performance ever on 'T of the P' but he also said it was the funniest. Well done the late Hylda and Arthur.

A friend of mine a few months ago took delivery of his new car, and the thing he spoke about most was that it had a heated steering wheel. Gone are the days when a car heater was an extra costing £5; an uncle always told the story about refusing to pay for something totally unnecessary as that. I have no idea what it was like during those harsh winters of yesteryear.

Very recently I had a lovely coffee morning with some friends of mine (actually said 'forget diet' and had three small biscuits). As I was leaving they took me into their dining room and proudly showed me their latest pleasure – a jigsaw puzzle! 1,000 pieces but nearly two months since that was a Christmas present and still not completed. So even these trendy celebrity (no names) high flyers struggle with the simplest pleasures. *Such fun.*

JH

### **Church Cleaning**

The pre-Easter clean will be on Saturday 23rd March (the day before Palm Sunday), starting at 10am.

Many hands make light work, the more the merrier etc.

Refreshments will be provided.

## *Stabat Mater*

At the cross her station keeping,  
stood the mournful mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus at the last.

Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,  
All his bitter anguish bearing,  
Now at length the sword has passed.

O, how sad and sore distressed  
Was that mother highly blessed,  
Of the sole –begotten one.

Christ above in torment hangs;  
She beneath beholds the pangs  
Of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,  
Whelmed in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain  
From partaking in her pain,  
In that mother's pain untold?

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
She beheld her tender child,  
All with bloody scourges rent.

For the sins of his own nation  
Saw him hang in desolation,  
Till his spirit forth he sent.

O thou mother! Fount of love!  
Touch my spirit from above,  
make my heart with thine accord.

Make me feel as thou has felt;  
Make my soul to glow and melt  
With the love of Christ my Lord.

Holy Mother, pierce me through,  
In my heart each wound renew  
Of my Saviour crucified.

Let me share with thee his pain  
Who for all my sins was slain,  
Who for me in torment died.

Let me mingle tears with thee,  
Mourning him who mourned for me,  
All the days that I may live.

By the cross with thee to stay,  
There with thee to weep and pray,  
This I ask of thee to give.

The Stabat Mata is a 13th century hymn to Mary, that portrays her suffering as a mother during the crucifixion of Jesus. Written in Latin , its name comes from the first three words, *Stabat Mata Dolorosa*, meaning “Stood the mother sorrowing” .

It is considered one of the greatest Latin hymns of all time. It is based on the prophecy of Simeon, when the boy Jesus is presented in the temple, that “a sword shall pierce your own soul too.”

It has been set to music by many composers and is performed by choirs.

## **Good Friday**

Churches together in Dudley are organising the annual Act of Witness, to take place in the market place from 11am to 11.45. If it is wet it will be in Churchill precinct.

## **Collection for Women's Refuge**

During Lent, the M.U. is collecting toiletry and/or baby items to go to the Women's Refuge. Examples of things needed are: shampoo, shower gel, deodorant etc. In fact, anything that is generally needed to live normally. They often arrive at the refuge with only the clothes they stand up in.

There are many demands on our resources at this time: Lent giving, church giving, cost of living etc.

Please find just one or two items that can be sent to ease the plight of others.

## **Lent Offerings**

Our Lent offerings this year will go towards the work of the Children's Society.

We have supported this charity previously with the collection from the Carol Service.

Please take a box from the back of church

## **Easter Services**

Palm Sunday 24th - 11am with Fr Michael Bartlett

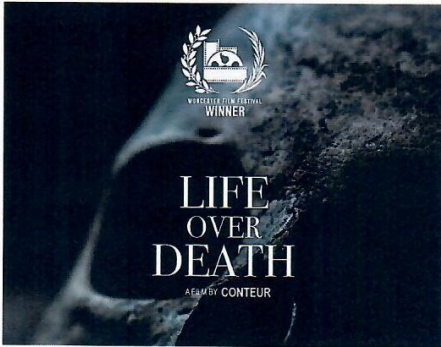
Wednesday 27th - Mass at 12.15pm Fr James Treasure

Good Friday 29th - Stations of the Cross at 10am  
with Jon Harcourt

Easter Day - Mass at 11am with Fr John Oakes



Snow drops in St Edmund's churchyard



**An award-winning film based on a book written by Bishop John's late wife Denise, will get a special screening at Worcester Cathedral to commemorate the 10th anniversary of her death.**

The film is based around Denise Inge's book 'A Tour of Bones' which she wrote after becoming fascinated by the charnel house - a crypt filled with human bones - hidden under a trapdoor in their basement.

The history of the charnel house became much more significant for Denise when she was diagnosed with an inoperable sarcoma - her book covers the themes of mortality, preparing for death and embracing life.

Local video production agency, [Conteur](#), worked in collaboration with the Bishop to create the film, 'Life Over Death', sharing never-before - seen footage of thousands of medieval human bones in the cathedral grounds and bringing to life Denise's words...

The house of bones remains one of Worcester's best-kept secrets, and Bishop John is hoping the screening will share some of the cathedral's lesser-known magic with viewers, while paying tribute to Denise who lost her life to cancer in 2014.

Bishop John Inge said:

*"Over her years living in College Yard Denise developed a fascination with the charnel house and the connection between life and death. To see her words and the strange beauty of the charnel house brought to life in film is a privilege and something so unique to Worcester. I'm hoping the community will get behind this special film, learn something new about our beautiful historic city and in the process reflect on life in the light of death."*

Shot over three days and winning 'best documentary' at Worcester's Film Festival in October last year, members of the public are now being invited to celebrate the film and Denise's life.



Gillian Davies from Conteur directed the film. She said: “It’s been nothing short of a privilege to work on this project alongside Bishop John and the team at the cathedral.

*“The charnel house has long been a legend in Worcestershire so to be able to bring it to life has been fascinating for the whole team. So many of us will have walked over the bones which sit beneath the entrance of the cathedral without ever realising its existence. We’re so looking forward to sharing the film with the community.”*

Tickets to the event, which takes place on Saturday, 9th March at 7.30pm at Worcester Cathedral, have been limited to 300 and cost £16 - all money raised will go to the Cathedral, which has responsibility for looking after the Charnel House.

The event will feature an introduction to the film, a special behind-the-scenes viewing and a Q&A with Bishop John and the film crew. Refreshments will also be available.

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## NOTABLE DAYS IN MARCH

Friday 1st - World Day of Prayer  
Friday 8th - International Women's Day  
Sunday 10th - Mothering Sunday  
Monday 11th - Commonwealth Day  
Wednesday 20th - Vernal Equinox  
Monday 25th - Lunar Eclipse  
Sunday 31st - Summertime begins  
Clocks go Forward

St Piran, a monk of Irish origin, arrived in Cornwall where he revealed to local miners the secret of tin extraction, thus bringing them great wealth.

On Mothering Sunday flowers are given to children to take to their mothers. In past times servant girls were given time off to take Simnel cake to their mothers.

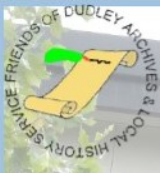
Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox.  
Saints days are not celebrated in Easter week.  
This year the Annunciation (25th March) will be transferred to Monday 8th April.

## SUNDAY SERVICES 11am Mass

3rd	Fr Tony Hutchinson
10th	TBC
17th	Fr Michael Bartlett
24th	Fr Michael Bartlett
31st	Fr John Oakes

## HOLY DAYS IN MARCH

- 1st - St David, Patron Saint of Wales  
5th - St Piran, Patron saint of Cornwall  
*also Non, mother of David of Wales*  
17th - Passion Sunday  
*also St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland*  
19th - St Joseph of Nazareth  
21st - Thomas Cranmer, Hugh Latimer, Nicholas  
Ridley and Robert Ferrar  
Reformation Martyrs  
24th - Palm Sunday  
28th - **Maundy Thursday**  
29th - Good Friday  
30th - Holy Saturday, Easter Eve  
31st - **Easter Day**  
**Alleluia He is Risen!**



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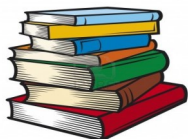
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