

# The Parish of St Michaels & All Angels Tenbury Wells

## LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM

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	Mr.Arthur Gough	811957
PCC ViceChairman:	Mr.Tony Penn	810328
PCC Secretary/Asst Treasurer:		
	Miss Mary Thorpe	810463
PCC Treasurer:	Mrs.Jane Jenner	819653
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Gifts Recorder:	Mr & Mrs.J.Rickett	811649
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## PARISH WEB SITE

[www.st-michaels-village.co.uk](http://www.st-michaels-village.co.uk)

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

Date	Service/Officiant	Readings	Readers	Sidesmen
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 10.00am <i>Candlemas</i>	Family Service	Matthew 5.14-16 Luke 2.22-38	Miss M Thorpe Jenner family	Mr & Mrs M Jenner
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 10.00am <i>3<sup>d</sup> before Lent</i>	Parish Communion:BCP Rev'd T Surtees	1 Corinthians 9.24-end Matthew 20.1-16	Mrs S Childs Rev'd T Surtees	Mr & Mrs A Gough
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 10.00am <i>2<sup>nd</sup> before Lent</i>	Parish Communion: CW	Proverbs 8.1,22-31 Colossians 1.15-20 John 1.1-14	Mr E Hudson Mrs H Mound Mr I MacDonald	Mr I MacDonald Mr D Grosvenor
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 10.00am <i>Next before Lent</i>	Parish Communion: CW	2 Kings 2.1-12 2 Corinthians 4.3-6 Mark 9.2-9	Mrs R Pledsted Mrs J Cook Mr P Mason	Mrs R Pledsted Mrs J Cook
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 10.00am <i>1<sup>st</sup> of Lent</i>	Family Service		Mrs L Surtees Carys Williams	Mrs D Williams Carys Williams

**Dear Friends,**

I've noticed over the years that many people don't really like the month of February - it is often seen as the most depressing and dark month of the year, when the weather remains cold and wet and spring still seems a long way off. As I write this letter in mid-January it seems as though the sombre feel has come early, with the economic situation continuing to worsen and the current headlines full of the conflict in Gaza, the continuing crisis in Zimbabwe to name but a few...

In the church calendar Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Lent has been traditionally seen as a sombre period of fasting and reflection, nowadays it's still seen as the time 'when we give something up'. Just the thing to cheer us up at this time!

But Lent doesn't have to be sombre and all about giving things up - but it should be taken seriously. Lent can remind us of the need to listen to God and to each other. By spreading a bit of generosity of spirit, neighbourliness and taking some time to reflect, we can turn Lent into a positive and creative time in the year.

This year within the Tenbury Team we have decided to put this idea into action, and a small group have developed a booklet called 'Love Life, Live Lent'. It is based on an idea launched in Birmingham Diocese a couple of years ago in which instead of giving something up for Lent, people are encouraged to undertake a simple action each day that will have a positive effect on their world. The booklet contains daily actions that both individuals and families can complete during Lent - a version for children and young people will also be available. Each day there is an idea for a small but practical action or a suggested prayer topic, all designed to have a positive impact in our families, homes and communities as well as in the wider world. Each week there will be a friends and family action, a community-focused action, an environment action, a global action and an action to encourage you to take time for prayer and stillness in the week.

The 'Love Life, Live Lent' booklets will be distributed around the churches on 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> February so that hopefully everyone will have received a copy in time for Ash Wednesday. We very much hope that you will take a copy of 'Love Life, Live Lent' and will enjoy and have fun working through the different daily actions - and that it will also be thought-provoking and lead to further action on many of the issues featured.

Wishing you all a positive and creative Lent  
Yours

*Judith*

**Service of Prayer, Praise & Thanksgiving  
for 150th anniversary of Tenbury  
Agricultural Society**

St Mary's Tenbury Wells

Thursday 12th February at 7.30pm

Preacher: Nick Read, *Chaplain for Agriculture & Rural  
Life in Hereford Diocese*

Team Service for  
**ASH**

**WEDNESDAY**

25<sup>th</sup> February

7.30pm

at Nash Church

**ALL WELCOME**

### **Lent Soup Lunches**

The Ecumenical Soup Lunches will once again be on during the weeks of Lent starting on Wednesday 4th March. They are held in the Methodist schoolroom from 12.30 to 2 pm each Wednesday. Proceeds go to Christian Aid.

## Letter from the Bishop of Ludlow

*Carpe diem - Seize the moment - Kairos - a moment of time.*

There are opportunities which may be taken or missed. They usually come quickly and we have the discernment to accept them and act or we miss the time and it is gone.

It was such a Kairos moment when Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus into the temple and Simeon and Anna were there, who greeted them and recognised in that moment the Christ child. It was this occasion which gave us the wonderful words of the Nunc Dimittis, when Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and said "Lord now let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation: which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal you to the nations: and the glory of your people Israel." There was also the prophecy that Jesus would be rejected and that a sword would pierce Mary's soul too. Simeon and Anna recognised Jesus in that moment and seized it. They were able to do so because of a lifetime of worship, prayer and waiting. It was this that gave them the gift of discernment when Mary and Joseph came into the temple with Jesus.

This occasion has become what we know as Candlemas when the celebration of Jesus being born of Mary comes to an end and we begin to look forward to Lent, Holy Week and Easter. This is brought out powerfully for us in the liturgy of the day, when we light candles celebrating Christ's birth as we look back over the last forty days, and then blowing them out, a poignant moment which points us to Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. It is like a hinge moment in the Church's year as we look back and look forward.

Such a time has also come to me personally because I have announced my intention to resign as Bishop and Archdeacon of Ludlow. The 31<sup>st</sup> May will be my last Sunday and I shall not be able to accept any invitations after that date. I am most fortunate in being able to look back over 44 years of life as a Deacon, Priest and Bishop in this Diocese and now look forward to the future. I am most grateful to all the people who have given me so much in this Diocese with whom I have worked over many years. However it is a good moment to leave as I am so involved with you all in the 2015 Consultation which enables us to look forward to a vibrant, thriving church carrying on God's mission in a fast changing world.

Please join with me in Dag Hammarskjöld's prayer, which I have said daily for many years.

*"Father, for all that has been thanks, to all that shall be, yes."*

+ *Michael*

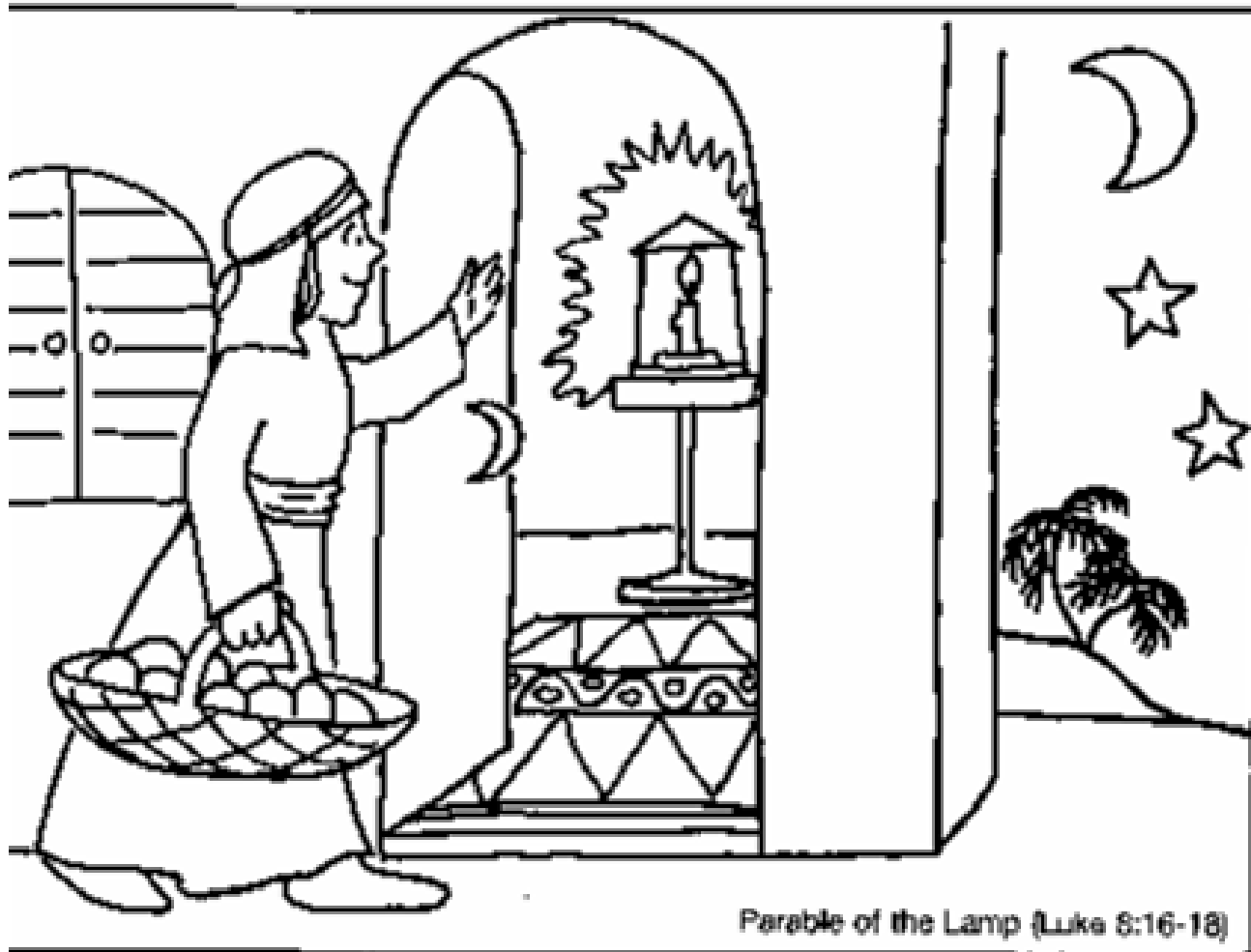
*Diocesan website: [www.hereford.anglican.org](http://www.hereford.anglican.org)*

### **ICONS in TRANSLATION, Hereford Cathedral, 1st February - 2nd April**

The cathedral is hosting the first major exhibition of the work of contemporary Scandinavian artist Ludmilla Pawlowska. Russian born Ludmilla has been deeply influenced by the colour and symbolism of the art of her home country, and to launch her first European tour her most recent paintings, drawings and large sculptural works will be uniquely displayed alongside a collection of historic and recently painted traditional icons. Admission is free. For more information or if bringing a group please call the cathedral office on 01432 374202.

# Competition Page

No takers with the Donkey competition in the December/January edition so no prizes!!  
Let's try again this month with this picture to colour. Please give to Clair Wright, Julie Cook or Gwen Arnold by 24<sup>th</sup> February.



**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following youngster in the parish:**

**Matthew Hamer** who will be 17 years old on 23<sup>rd</sup> February

## **NOW A PUZZLE FOR ALL THE FAMILY**

- test your knowledge of books in the Bible. There are 18 hidden in this passage.

Someone once remarked upon the hidden books of the Bible (merely a fluke). It kept some people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Many were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers, though to others it was still a really hard job and they chose a different strategy. We want it to be a most fascinating moment for you. Yes there will be some difficult ones to spot. Others will require the brains of judges to help identify them. One lady says she brews a cup of tea so that she can concentrate better. We will admit that it usually takes a minister to find the last of them. There will be loud lamentations until it is found. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are 18 books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph. One vicar found seventeen books in twenty minutes - but it took him three weeks to find the eighteenth - in his biblical CD-rom answer-file!

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

## ST MICHAELS CHURCH -

### Help Required

The church is cleaned regularly by a team of helpers, each of whom has their own section to look after. The new meeting day is the first Friday of the month but if you can't make it then you can do your stint whenever possible. At the moment there are some gaps so if you have a spare hour a month would you consider this valuable task. If you feel able to help please contact Janet Penn on 810328.

We can always do with more lesson readers to go on the rota. At the moment it means reading in church approx. every 2 months but the more people we have on the rota the less often everyone is called upon to read. If you can help out here, please contact Julie Cook on 810291.

# Family Service

at 10am

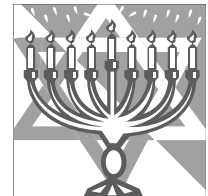
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February

*celebrating Candlemass with lots of light!*

followed by refreshments



## ALL WELCOME



**Next Family Service Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

# *BUBBLY BRUNCH*

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March

at the home of Jenny & Paul Wellings

*Please contact Jenny if you would like to go on 819888*

**\*\*\*\* MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH \*\*\*\***



### Bonus Ball Lottery

Bonus Ball winners from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 24<sup>th</sup> January are John Swindells, Chris Fisher, Janet Penn (twice), Ros Plested, Sue Summers, Jane Yardley, Jonathan Rickett & Jose Jordan.

Many thanks and good luck to all players.

## **Tenbury Team News from Claire ....**

### **Ash Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

This year our Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Nash at 7.30pm. This service marks the start of Lent and everyone is invited to come forward and have a cross made out of ash marked on their forehead, as a sign of our penitence and God's forgiveness. The ash comes from the palm crosses that we distributed at Palm Sunday last year. Please leave any palm crosses that we can use for this service with Claire, Judith or with Julie in the Team Office.

### **Lent Course - Pathways to Prayer**

In last month's magazine I wrote about how we were hoping to run five weeks of guided prayer. After some further discussion with Irene Vickers, who is responsible for guided prayer in our diocese, we have decided that it would be beneficial if we ran a course on prayer during Lent, as a preparation for keeping a week of guided prayer later in the year.

The Revd Celia Rees, who works in the Leominster Team Ministry and who is also Local Ministry Development Advisor in the diocese, is going to come along and help lead the course 'Pathways to Prayer'. During the course we will have an opportunity to hear about and experience different ways of praying, including the bible and prayer, Ignatian prayer, poetry and prayer, and contemplative prayer. This is something that we can all engage with, even if we feel a little bit out of our depth. The great spiritual writer Abhishiktananda wrote, "The life of prayer, the life of contemplation, is simply to realize God's presence to us. It is not therefore a special way reserved for those few individuals who are called to get away from the world and to dwell in deserts. Contemplation and prayer ought to be the very breath of every disciple in Christ."

We will start our Lent Course on **Tuesday March 3rd at 7.30pm in the Community Room at Cornwall Gardens, Tenbury** and continue over the next four Tuesdays in Lent. Please do come along and share in this exciting journey that is at the heart of what we are about. If you have any questions about the course please don't hesitate to ask me.

### **Tenbury Team - Maramba Deanery Link**

A huge thank you to everybody who has contributed sewing machines for our Link. We are continuing to collect them and any sewing equipments like threads and scissors as they are much needed by the Mothers' Union and other groups in Maramba Deanery.

We are also starting a new appeal that will hopefully get everybody hunting through their sheds and garages! Maramba has a Vocational Training Centre that is in desperate need of equipment. The VTC gives young AIDS orphans the opportunity to learn skills that can help them with jobs. So if you have any tools for carpentry, electrical work, welding, metal fabrication, brick laying, gardening, tailoring or domestic science that you no longer need we would love to hear from you. They will all be gathered together and go on the next container to Maramba. If you can help please contact Jenny and Peter Metcalfe on 819021. Thank you.

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### **Annual Visit of the Birmingham University Singers**

On 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> December we had another successful weekend of music in church sung by the Birmingham University singers under the direction of Dr John Whenham. However we do have a number of people to thank without whose help this weekend could not take place. First, there are all the host families who kindly provide bed and breakfast and usually more for the students. Then there is Muriel Lanman

with her army of ladies who organize and provide the food for the Saturday buffet lunch and the tea party and "doggy bags" after Sunday Evensong.

This year, as an extra, Muriel and Pru Winton held coffee mornings to raise sufficient funds so we could offer all the singers a roast Sunday lunch in the village hall cooked and served by Phil Gibbs. He served soup, roast beef, turkey, lots of vegetables, Christmas pudding, and apple pie and cream. This was a great success which we are going to repeat next year.

I received a letter from John Whenham thanking everyone in the village for making their weekend so enjoyable. As many in the village have said, Christmas doesn't start until their visit to St Michael's. So a big THANK YOU to you all and the choir has asked to come again next year!

*Michael Hart*

On the Sunday of the choir's visit they had a hot three course Christmas lunch in the village hall cooked by Phil Gibbs of the Clockhouse and paid for out of the money raised at two coffee mornings. It was such a nice thing to have been able to do, and it goes without saying it was much appreciated by the choir, and so from them to you all comes a very big thank you.

Phil has it pencilled in his diary to cook them another lunch this year and the village hall is booked but for the village to fund it means that money once again will have to be raised, and just how we shall do this hasn't as yet been decided but we have a few ideas so it's a case of 'watch this space'.

Many thanks once again for your support,

*Ray & Prue Winton, Cecil & Muriel Lanman*

Many thanks once again to everyone who provided goodies for The Birmingham University Singers lunch. They are a treat to feed as they really tuck into the lunch, which with your help is provided for them when they arrive at the village hall on the Saturday lunchtime for the start of their annual visit to us and they can't say thank you enough.

Afternoon tea on Sunday after Evensong is a lovely occasion as anyone who attends the Church service is invited to stay and have a chat and a cup of tea and a little something to eat with the choir who usually, as they did this last time sing some carols round the piano before departing with 'goodie bags' consisting of any remaining cakes, etc - nothing that has been provided gets wasted, not even the crumbs as I guess the church mice devour those before the ladies get busy with their brushed and brooms.

Many thanks again and a Happy New Year to everyone

*from Anne & Marion, Roz, Jenny, Mary & Muriel*

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**Teme Valley Music Production**  
**Jesus Christ Superstar**

**7:30pm 26/27 March @ St Laurence's Ludlow**

*Tickets available from St Laurence's Church*

**7:00pm 29 March @ St Mary's Tenbury Wells**

*Tickets available from 07794 647466 or 819971*

*and from Tenbury Tourist Information Centre*

## ST MICHAEL'S VILLAGE HALL -

### **Art of the Matter**

Wow! What a success. All that hard work and hard graft has paid off. If you didn't see it ..... what can I say! Look out for the review next month. Now several well earned thank yous are in order.

Firstly, to Andy who wrote, directed and acted, for all the years, yes years, that it took to get 'Art of the Matter' off the ground.

Secondly, to the cast who threw themselves into the production both learning their lines and doing production things - Mike, Mary & Charlie Jordan, Mike Jenner, Godfrey, Karen, Charlotte & Tom Pitt, Peter Crownshaw, Andy & Julie Cook.

Thirdly, to the set designer, Peter Crownshaw, and his team of set builders including Tony Whitney, Guy Williams, Sam Williams & Katie Powis.

Fourthly, to the stage manager, Matt Smout, prompt Jane Yardley, lighting boys Tony Whitney & Richard Jordan, sound Harry Jordan, makeup Pam Owens & Issy Cook, on the door Brigit & Louisa Eakin and Ria & Phil on the bar.

The following is taken from a letter written by Ken Crowther after the Friday performance.

"Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can. *Danny Kaye.*

Five years in the making - I'm not surprised: it would have taken me  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years to come up with Tracey Eminem. I was staggered at the sheer scale of the project.

What did I like in particular? So many things - the set must be very close to the top. I remember going "home" to Liverpool one Friday night at the end of November 1982 to see "Blood Brothers" at the *Liverpool Empire* at the very start of its provincial run and being blown away by the effectiveness, yet the simplicity, of the set. That set must have cost thousands of times what yours cost; but yours worked just as well, my compliments to Mr Crownshaw and his team.

The professionalism of the cast. I was aware of only three prompts - what a compliment to the writer/director that the cast should have applied themselves so diligently.

The puns, where do you get them from? At one stage they seemed to be coming so thick and fast that I must have missed a couple, and I'm sure the audience restricted itself to polite giggles instead of belly laughs in case they drowned out the next one.

I could go on-and-on.

We have lived in Worcestershire for over 21 years now. There has never been a year in those during which we haven't attended at least one "village hall performance"; and very often we would have been to four or five. So, I would say that this show was, at least, the fortieth of its type that we've been to. It wasn't just the best; it was the best by a mile."

### **ST MICHAEL'S VILLAGE HALL ENTERTAINMENTS**

**Pancake night Friday 20th February 7.30pm.** Bar. A family night with added calories!!! Entry £2. PLEASE NOTE, THE DATE as the Dec/Jan Sword was incorrect

**Black Country Night with Tommy Munden Saturday 28th February 2009 at 7.30pm**  
Faggots and Peas supper by Phil Gibbs. Bar. Tickets £10. obtainable from Ria and Anne Great value. Great night !

**Quiz and Ploughman's** Family night 6th March Adults £3 (without supper £1) Child under 12yrs £1.

# The Floor

St Michaels Village Hall

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February

8 pm

Featuring: Queensberry Rules from Stoke

A very popular request at The Floor

Entry: £5 on the door (£1 child)

*Excellent bar & The Floor Broad thrown in.*

[www.thefloor.org.uk](http://www.thefloor.org.uk)



St Michael's Village Hall  
Presents

**A Black Country Comedy Night  
with**

Tommy Munden

**“Faggits un Pays” Supper**

**Saturday 28 February  
7.30pm**

**Bar Available**

**Tickets £10, available from Anne  
Fox (819845) or Ria Baxter  
(811648)**



## **St Michaels Village Hall AGM, 24 November 2008**

Sadly, the St Michaels Village Hall AGM in November was once again very poorly attended, and I would strongly urge all residents of St Michaels to take a more active interest in the AGM. Both the management and the entertainment committees work very hard throughout the year to ensure that the village hall remains socially active and a great venue. Particularly disappointing is the fact that none of the regular hirers of the hall, such as members of the Playgroup, St Michael's Singers, WI, Floral Art Group, St Michael's Church or the Floor attended the meeting. Without continued support, the venue would not be available for hirers. The committee are presently contemplating ways of increasing attendance later this year, and other than food and wine (which just about sums us up!), we're at a loss to decide what to do! If anyone can suggest a way of increasing attendance, then we're all ears!

In the meantime, here's my report from the AGM:

I am very pleased to report that this has been a very active year for village events, with the introduction of a separate entertainment committee which has worked hard to ensure a range of successful social events. I feel particular thanks are due to Anne Fox for her work on the entertainment committee and also the Shindig events, which have been very popular and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The increase in social events is reflected in the bar profits this year, which have increased considerably compared to the previous year. Personally, I was particularly grateful that money was invested in the bar fixtures and fittings, which have helped to make the service and stocking of the bar much more streamlined.

Once again, the midsummer ball and the fete were the biggest summer events of the year, with the torrential rain on both occasions hardly denting the enjoyment of all who attended (although it was a very close call with the fete!).

We have recently started a weekly ladies yoga class at the village hall which is very popular and producing good rental income for the hall, projected to be in the region of £1000 per year.

We look forward to the long awaited return of a production by Andy Cook in late January. The farce, entitled 'The Art of the Matter', will undoubtedly be a huge success and I encourage everyone to get their tickets as soon as possible.

Turning my attention to the finances of the village hall, I feel that opening two CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) interest paying current bank accounts and investing £27,000 in six and twelve month deposit accounts earlier in the year was a very positive move. We will see an increase in interest income despite the downturn of interest rates. Online banking has also put us in easier and faster control of the village hall finances.

One area that continues to cause concern is the shortfall between income from the electricity meters and the cost of electricity bills. As everyone knows from personal experience, there have been massive rises in the cost of utilities, but this has not been the sole cause of the increases. Various investigations were carried out over the last six months to identify possible reasons, and as a result we have managed to negotiate and reduce our rate with British Gas as well as reduce the number of units supplied for each £1 put into the meters. The hot water geysers in the toilets had also been identified as a possible drain on resources, and this matter has now been addressed. We are continuing to monitor the situation, but will have to seriously consider increasing some of the rental charges for the village hall if the shortfall continues.

Earlier in the year I reported in the Sword that the village hall committee were looking into the options of either extending the village hall or identifying a site that could accommodate a brand new village hall. A subcommittee, consisting of Tony Penn, Rod Owens and Phil Baxter, have been appointed and they recently had an informal exploratory meeting with St Michaels College to discuss the possibility of building a new village hall on the land to the left of the turning circle at the college. Talks are in the very early stages, and I would strongly emphasise that at this stage they are only exploratory discussions to identify what options are available to the village hall, and in no way do they presume that the committee favours either option more than the other. Once we have identified the

options, we will then start a full consultative process that will be well advertised within the village and everyone will have the opportunity to state their case well before any further decisions are made. In the meantime, any thoughts, comments or offers of assistance on the matter of extending the village hall or resiting it would be greatly appreciated.

Finally, I would like to close my report by offering my sincere thanks to the members of both the management committee and the entertainment committee for their support, both to me as Chairman, and to the interests of St Michaels residents.

Thank you.

*Maria Baxter*  
*Chairman*

## **Review of The Floor in December**

The proceedings started with 'Floored' - Andy and Jim giving it all they'd got on a couple of songs and with the glass falling to minus 2 outside 'All the bad times are far behind' seemed almost a poignant prayer. In this oasis of warmth the times were good however. Ted Taylor ventured on with a variety act which included audience participation. 'Daisy, Daisy give me your answer do' cut the mustard and had everyone singing.

The large ensemble which is 'Vital Spark' then took over the stage. Viola, concertina and bass clarinet provided a framework for a dozen choral voices. Their music has a hymnal yet English folk feel to it, which imbued the hall with a polyphonic carnival atmosphere. Some of the material was 18<sup>th</sup> century Americana. Henry Longfellow's 'Psalm of life' (*footprints in the sands of time*) showed too how the 19<sup>th</sup> century could swing.

Terry Tandler from Shropshire did a solo spot with a bit of song and dance. Graphic references to ale-drinking had everyone getting thirsty and seemed to provoke a longer queue to the bar than normal after his set.

Phil Bates opened with 'They call me the breeze' by JJ Cale, laying down a choppy rhythm track in a loop so that he could play lead on top. Tossing up throwaway vocal lines (*got me a green light baby*) he ended with an unexpected but awesome chord.

John Martyn's 'May you never' was next. (*get hit in a bar room fight...lose your woman overnight were a couple of the pleas*). Then Robert Johnson's Kind-hearted woman (*those evil-hearted womens, they will not let me be*). He followed it with an ELO song from way back: 'I can't get it out of my head', admitting beforehand that he hadn't got use of the 100-piece orchestra that had graced the original recording, but managing to fill up the crevices where they would have been with a nonetheless powerful version.

Mose Allison's 'Your mind is on vacation, but your mouth is working overtime', showed some inventive octave work in the middle-eight. As an artist, he seems to be sensitive to the comings and goings of stray audience members, wishing to acknowledge them and this made his performance more crucial - he's matey, in brief, but it's not merely the mateyness of an entertainer. He wants to embrace his audience through his art.

Bloody succeeds too - 'Motherless child, 'It's all over now' were the next couple of tunes. On the latter he used slide, stripping the Bobby Womack/ Rolling Stones versions to bare-boned Delta, conveying an atmosphere of buzzing flies and fetid mangrove swamps.

'At the end of my rope' came on its heels, then an instrumental 'Broken fingers'. Somewhere along the line it dawns on you that he has considerable stature as a vocalist. He's not just a run-of-the-mill singer. *The sun is out and I'm driving slow*. From an intro like that you wouldn't think it was going to be anything, but when he gets going it kicks into another level, harmonies glance off voice and guitar, the bridge unexpectedly soars. Stylish.

He finished with the medium-tempo rocker - 'Lay down Sally', but was brought back to encore on 'I feel like goin' home', a slow-burning soul scorcher which skinned our hearts as much as it must have done his larynx.

"Uplifting" understates it.

*Destouches*

## ST MICHAELS SINGERS -

### Old Tyme Music Hall

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen the St Michaels Singers under the quite brilliant directorship of maestro Bryan Fisher brought two nights of reminiscent pleasure directly from London's timeless Music Hall, turning St Michaels village hall into a time warp of gaiety and ageless songs accompanied by the professional fingers of Kath Ainsworth gliding across her keyboard in accompaniment to the singers, who enacted their renditions with pace and style, skilfully taking their props from left of stage. The evening commenced with the entire choir singing "Road to Mandalay" this was soon followed by Lawrence Talbot's excellent interpretation of "It's a Great Big Shame". Margaret Morrell's classic "O Mr Porter what shall I do" soon had the audience joining in. Chris Fisher and Mike Evans provided an inimitable rendition of titillating comedy, which as usual brought the house down. Two nice ladies, Iris Cooper and Jean Lloyd really looked the part as a "Couple of Swells". Maestro Bryan Fisher interjected with witty banter and words longer than most Thesauruses could provide. Community singing followed with "Down at the old Bull and Bush", "Daisy", "Sweet little dicky bird", led by a trio of talent, David Powell, Lawrence Talbot and Kath Ainsworth. The choir then treated the audience to "The Goslings" and "Sweet Genevieve". Then Janet and her husband Tony Penn provided an excellent enactment of "Have some Madeira my dear". By now the entire hall was buzzing. The pace of the evening continued with Graham Plender singing the heart warming "When I leave the world behind". Jenny's "Daddy never bought her a bow wow". The feeling Jackie Bunn put into her "The Sunshine of your Smile", filled the hall with hearty clapping until the choir sang "Twilight" to end a memorable first half. The busy bar then provided 'drinks for all'.

After the intermission the audience were bowled over by a repertoire of tongue twisters from maestro Fisher. The second half was initially in the capable hands of David, Lawrence and Kath singing: "if you were the only girl", "Honeysuckle", "Lady Love", and "Nellie Dean". The choir then sang "Tom Bowling", Pam Owens delighted us with "My sweet little Alice Blue Gown". Peter Crownshaw really did harmoniously "Get out and get under". Mike Evans was in great character bringing us "Pretty Polly Perkins of Paddington Green". The masculine side of the audience soon began to swoon when Pat Mutton enacted "How'd you like to spoon with me!" Then followed an excellent example of how a lady can look great in 'white tie and tails' with Anne Fox's "Burlington Bertie from Bow".

Breaking typical Music Hall joviality for Christmas carols the choir and the entire audience then sang "Silent Night", "Jingle Bells", "We three Kings" & "Once in Royal David's City". Two wonderful evenings were each brought to a close with the choir singing "Merry Christmas". Maestro Fisher advised that a proportion of the proceeds were to go to St Michaels Hospice who so caringly looked after Jean Brigden the sadly missed founder member of the St Michaels choir, in whose honour this memorable concert had appropriately been staged.

*Ken Bourne-Turner*

As Musical Director of the St Michaels Singers, I wish to thank all involved in making our Old Tyme Music Hall Concert staged on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December such a success. As always it was a great team effort; special thanks to Muriel for running our raffle which raised a splendid £225 over the two nights, to our front of house ladies Caroline and Roz, as always to Ria and Phil who run the bar so efficiently, and finally to Tonie Downes who was our choreographer and who valiantly spent much time putting the individual artists through their paces, and somehow managing to stay sane (I think). There are not many villages who can boast a choir which can turn its hand from "The Armed Man", "Carmina Burana", Vivaldi's "Gloria", Faure's "Requiem" to Old Tyme Music Hall and then back to "Cantique de Jean Racine" (in French!) which we shall be performing along with other lovely music in July. I am personally very proud of all we have achieved over the last ten years. The St Michaels Singers have become an integrall part of our village life, and as a consequence many lasting friendships have been formed. So on their behalf, I wish to thank everyone for the support and encouragement you give us. We have just begun rehearsals for our concert in July, so anyone who loves singing and would like to join us please contact any choir member or myself.

Jean Brigden was very much in our thoughts during the performances and we shall be forwarding a donation of £500 to St Michaels Hospice, Hereford, who cared for Jean in the final days of her illness.

*Bryan Fisher*

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### Salvation Army Toy Collection

As the thank you letter from the Salvation Army shows they were very grateful for the toys donated by St Michaels. Dan and Trish were able to tell me that the day before they took the toys, which amounted to a trailer load and the car as full as it could be, the Salvation Army staff at Worcester thought they would have to go and buy toys as they hadn't enough for the number of parcels needed, so they were more than grateful for the Rochford and St Michaels donation.

Mrs Joyce Pitt also donated one of her delicious Dundee cakes, I sent a few mincepies and biscuits and Trish also took some food items. These too they were more than grateful for as children's Christmas parties are organised by them and food parcels are sent to very needy families. So this year, along with the toys, we could perhaps collect some suitable food items that could go in their Christmas parcels.

How lucky we are to be the ones that give.

Many thanks again on their behalf.

*Muriel*

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## WHAT'S ON IN ST MICHAELS

### FEBRUARY

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10am	Family Service
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10a.m	Parish Communion
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	TAS Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	The Floor
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Parish Communion
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Pancake Night at the hall
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Team Service at Nash
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Black Country Evening with Tommy Mundon

### MARCH

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	10am	Family Service
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Quiz and Ploughmans in the village hall
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Parish Communion
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8pm	The Floor
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Parish Communion
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10am	Parish Communion
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Family Service

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