

# *The Parish of St Michaels & All Angels*

## *Tenbury Wells*

### LOCAL MINISTRY TEAM

Team Rector	Revd. Claire Lording	The Vicarage, Church Street, Tenbury, WR15 8BP	810811
Team Vicar	Revd Judith Dunkling	The Rectory, Burford, Tenbury Wells	819119
Assoc Minister	Revd. Sue Foster	Little Oaks Cottage, Hope Bagot, SY8 3AE	891092
Team Asst Curates	Revd Chris Moore Revd Hilary Morgan	Deepcroft Cottage, Worcester Rd, WR15 8JA The Steps, Bleathwood, SY8 4LR	819971 819971
	Judith Smout	Hammer Mill, Worcester Road, WR15 8LL	810433
	Beth Knight	41 Upper Galdeford, Ludlow, SY8 1QF	079059 830138
	Jane Britton	Harp Bank, Clee Hill Road, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8HJ	811649
	Kath Bills	31 Ronhill Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8AU	01299 270367
	Gordon Bailey	The Coop, Inkmoor Court, Tedstone Wafre, HR74PP	01885 483130
	Peter Mason	Freemans Place, Berrington, St. Michael's,	811769

**Tenbury Team Ministry Office** open Tues - Thurs 9am - 12noon Tel: 07804 928484  
Tenbury Team Ministry website: [www.tenburyteam.org.uk](http://www.tenburyteam.org.uk)

### THE PARISH

Churchwardens:	Mr.Ray Phillips	811117
	Miss Mary Thorpe	810463
PCC ViceChairman:	Mr.Tony Penn	810328
PCC Secretary/Asst Treasurer:	Miss Mary Thorpe	810463
PCC Treasurer:	Mrs.Jane Jenner	819653
Ass'tant Treasurer:	Mrs.Chris Fisher	810868
Gift Aid Recorder:	Revd Ian Williams	810528
Sec.Visiting Choirs & Musical Events:	Mr.Michael Hart	01568 750544
Organist:	Mr.John Swindells	01905 426998

### THE SWORD

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PARISH WEB SITE  
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Date	Service/Officiant	Readings	Readers	Sidesmen
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 10.00am	Family Service	John 13. 31 – 35 2 Corinthians 13	Mr G Pitt Mrs C Wright	Mr & Mrs G Pitt
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> May 4.00pm	Choral Evensong <i>Revd J Dunkling</i>			
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> May 10.00am <i>6<sup>th</sup> of Easter</i> 3.00pm	Sung Eucharist CW <i>Revd J Dunkling</i>  Choral Evensong <i>Revd T Surtees</i>	Acts 16.9-15 Revelation 21.10, 22 - 22.5 John 14.23-29	Mrs P Winton Mrs A Fox Mr E Hudson	Mr R Phillips Mr J Edwards
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 10.00am <i>Sun After Ascension</i> 3.00pm	Sung Eucharist BCP <i>Revd T Surtees</i>  Choral Evensong <i>Revd C Lording</i>	1 Peter 4. 7 – 11 John 15. 26 – 16. 4a	Nr B Fisher Revd T Surtees	Mr & Mrs B Fisher
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 10.00am <i>Pentecost</i>	Parish Communion CW with Baptism <i>Revd C Lording &amp; Revd H Morgan</i>	Acts 2.1-21 John 14.8-17	tba Mrs J Cable	Mr & Mrs P Mound
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 10.00am	Team Eucharist at Nash <i>for Trinity Sunday</i>			
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 10.00am	Family Service		Mr M Jenner Mrs C Lywood	Mr & Mrs M Jenner

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**Dear Friends,**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> May we will begin the process of nominating and calling out new lay members to join our Local Ministry Team. This is an exciting stage in the life of our Local Ministry Team and we are all invited now to prayerfully join in this process. Throughout the month of May there will be nomination forms available at the back of all of our Team churches that you can use and which can then be posted in a sealed box, also at the back of each of our churches.

You are invited to suggest the name of a Church member whom you think would be good to serve as a member of the Local Ministry Team. They will probably be someone who lives out the love of God in their lives and in whom you see gifts, both spiritual and practical, which will enhance the mission and ministry of the Church. The process is **confidential** so you should not

- ask them to consent to your nominating them
- tell them you are nominating them
- discuss your nomination with others
- ask if you've been nominated

For membership of the Local Ministry Team we are looking for someone who is:

- excited about Mission and Ministry
- committed to the idea of shared leadership between clergy and laity and throughout the churches of the Team
- able to work harmoniously in close co-operation with others
- a regular worshipping member of one of our congregations
- willing to learn alongside others

The Revd Celia Rees and the Diocesan Local Ministry Office will once again be journeying with us through this process, and they suggest that members of Local Ministry Teams may have some of the following attributes:

- open to sharing responsibility in a non-hierarchical way
- an encourager of others to develop their gifts and faith
- someone who looks for positive outcomes to difficult situations and relationships
- the ability to show sensitivity
- able to listen
- is trustworthy, reliable and accountable
- has special gifts

In early June, after the period of nomination is over, the boxes will be collected and there will be a period of sorting and discernment. Individuals will then be invited to join the Local Ministry Team, and in time we will all be commissioned as a Local Ministry Team and as Local Ministry Parishes by one of our Bishops at a special service.

All of this process must be under-girded with prayer, so as we consider whom we might nominate I hope that we will be able to use this prayer to remind ourselves that we are about God's work for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God in this place.

O God of unending grace and steadfast love, we thank you for the richness of Christian faith in our parishes. We thank you for all those who down the years have borne witness to your presence. We pray that we in our generation may be awake to your calling. Be with us as we seek to discern your gifts of ministry in our midst. So may our future be built upon love and service to Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Claire*

**ASCENSION DAY  
EUCHARIST**

Thursday 13th May at 7.30pm  
St Mary's Church, Tenbury  
*All welcome to this service*

**5th SUNDAY  
TEAM EUCHARIST**

Sunday 30th May at 10.00am  
St John the Baptist Church, Nash  
*Join members of the other Team churches to  
celebrate Eucharist*

No news is good news", or maybe, "Good news is no news".

It can certainly seem like that at times. But why? Perhaps it is in part because good actions are normal, everyday occurrences. We are used to them. They are not, in that sense, "news".

Thankfully, the items which come on our television screens, out of the radio, down our computers and in the newspaper are usually there because they are rare and exceptional; not normal everyday occurrences.

So why do we focus quite so much on what is not normal and everyday?

St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Philippi telling them to think on all those things which are just and true and honourable and good and commendable. Sound advice!

This is not to say that we should ignore the bad or, worse still, pretend it is not there. Far from it. But it is to say that we need more of a focus on "good news stories", normal, everyday stories of good and kind actions.

What you and I focus upon with our thoughts and attention shapes how we develop, just as what we eat affects our physical health and well-being.

So here are some good news items to focus on:

- Recently a further lorry load of medical and other supplies was sent from Hereford to the earthquake victims in Haiti. You probably sent money to them and those in Chile and still pray for them
  - There are a huge number of people who care for ill or disabled family members day after day, pouring out love and kindness
  - There was a night shelter in a church hall in Hereford for homeless people for many of the weeks of this very long, cold winter
  - Food is provided for homeless people by many churches and individuals
  - Just think of all the voluntary work undertaken by you and others whom you know in your congregations and villages
- And what about all the major national Charities like Samaritans, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Help the Aged, Breast Cancer Haven, Hospices...

The list goes on and on and on. And so it should. It is all part of the outpouring of the goodness and love in each of us. We need to celebrate and rejoice in all that is good. It is part of the continuing flow of God's risen love and life in us.

**LIFE & LEARNING @ HEREFORD CATHEDRAL in MAY**

Thursday 20th May - *Making of Martyrs.*

The Annual Ethelbert Lecture in association with the Montgomery Trust

Given by Dr Jolyon Mitchell, Senior Lecturer in Communications, Theology and Ethics, University of Edinburgh.

Time: 4.00pm, to begin with tea at 3.30pm Venue: Lady Chapel Cost: £5



**Q** is for Quercus (Oak)

Oak trees are well-loved symbols of strength. We have two native species growing in the British Isles – Quercus robur, pedunculate or English Oak and Quercus petraea, Sessile or Durmast Oak, found mostly in the hillier west and north of Britain. The peduncles are the ‘stalks’ which support the acorns and the Sessile Oak acorns have no stalks. A member of the beech family, the oak was venerated by the Druids and its botanical name is believed to derive from the Celtic quer meaning fine and cuez meaning tree. Leintwardine has a Red Oak with mistletoe at the front of the churchyard. It is one of only three instances recorded in Britain – so quite special.

*Caring for God's Acre, the conservation charity for churchyards and burial grounds, 01568 611154, [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk)*

**TENBURY TEAM NEWS -**

**VALLEY WORSHIP**

on Saturday 1st May at 7pm

in Burford Village Hall

*Speaker:* Adrian Hawkes

*Further details:* 01584 819971

*or [www.valleyworship.co.uk](http://www.valleyworship.co.uk)*

**JULIAN MEETINGS**

Julian meetings are held in Tenbury on the 4th Monday of the month, 3.30 - 4.30pm.

Everyone welcome.

If you would like details please contact Toni Downes on 01584 810352.

**TENBURY TEAM / MARAMBA DEANERY LINK**

**Our third AGM** is to be held on Thursday 20th May at 4pm in St Mary's Church, Tenbury. Everyone is welcome to attend and find out what has been happening with our link and what we hope to do in future. Please join us.

Would you like to have **AFTERNOON TEA** in a beautiful secluded garden which you (probably) have never seen and (probably) didn't even know was there on a beautiful sunny (hopefully) Saturday afternoon? Professor and Mrs Hamlin have very kindly offered to be our hosts on **SATURDAY 22ND MAY from 3pm to 6pm** in aid of our Tanzania Link. It's a wonderful woodland setting, a beautiful hidden spot and we invite you to come along, relax and enjoy it.

There will be **FREE PARK AND RIDE** from **NASH VILLAGE HALL** and **TRANSPORT** can be arranged from **TENBURY** - contact committee or Team Office.

See the flyers for more information.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Maramba.com**

Communications with Maramba are improving and recently we were very pleased to receive a very ‘newsy’ email from Revd. William Mbuji covering many aspects of our link with the Maramba Deanery.

He was pleased to report that although it was very hot in Tanzania at present they have at last had a good maize harvest which provides their staple diet. He thanked us very much for the £1000 we recently sent and reported that the money would be spent on purchasing 5320 feet of timber and 338 kgs of nails and bolts for building the roof to St. Aidan's Church. Amazingly precise details but good to receive feedback so that we know our

donations are being spent as requested. The classroom at the Huruma Day Care Centre for very young vulnerable children has reached roof level and more funds are needed for this project.

As food production is so important William is keen to set up an office where farmers can come to seek help and advice from both veterinary surgeons and agricultural advisers. Materials and equipment will be needed and a microscope tops the list. By email we shall ask what other materials he is looking for.

He made special mention of the new tiller which Whitton sent out to the sub parish of Mtapwa where the people are enjoying the first fruits grown with the aid of this machine. Also the Mothers Union are making full use of the sewing machines which many of you so generously donated. The Voluntary Testing and Counselling centre for HIV/Aids victims is still suffering from a lack of medicines and equipment but as our American friends from Massachusetts are concentrating on health matters we shall be asking if they could help with these urgent needs. Finally William sends greetings to the Tenbury Team and in particular to those both he and Edward Haule met during their visit here in 2008.

Our response to his email will be very positive as we can tell him that another consignment of books, tools and sewing machines will be leaving the UK on 17<sup>th</sup> April bound for Maramba. In addition and particularly due to the huge generosity of St. Mary's PCC in donating part of their missionary giving we will be sending another £1500. This will enable the near completion of the rebuilding of St. Aidan's Church and the roof to the children's classroom. Maybe in 2011 we can organise a visit to Maramba and witness all the good work for ourselves.

*Peter and Jenny Metcalfe.*

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 9th - 15th May 2010**

Ever wondered why we do Christian Aid Week? Here are seven good reasons why ...

We are joining with 20,000+ churches in an unparalleled act of Christian witness to our communities - showing them we care about justice and poor people.

CA has a vision - an end to pOVERty. By being part of this week we're not only funding life-changing projects, we're helping tackle the root causes of poverty - helping to change the world for good.

The church has an amazing heritage of working for justice. CA Week has run every year since soon after 2nd World War - showing the church's faithfulness to helping the poor.

In these difficult financial times, the world's poorest people need our time, prayers and financial support more than ever.

Around 300,000 volunteers give their time to deliver envelopes door to door and put on events. We are part of this movement for change.

We get money for nothing! Every taxpayer who signs a Gift Aid declaration on an envelope is giving CA 28% extra - making even more development work possible in the world's poorest countries.

CA has successfully campaigned on 'dropping the debt', carbon-declaration reform and trade justice. CA Week helps world-wide structural change to take place.

Alison Clarke from Worcester travelled to Kenya with a group of other organisers and collectors. She saw the work of Christian Aid partner 'Maji Na Ufanisi' (Water and Development) in Kiambui slum, Nairobi. This is her story...

"It was an unforgettable trip, with five other supporters I was privileged to be part of Christian Aid's film project for Christian Aid Week 2010 visiting some of the poorest settlements in Africa. Our focus was on clean water and sanitation, as you will see in the Christian Aid Week DVD 'Let's End Poverty' (*there is a copy in the Team Office*).

Life there is very hard. There are open drains, and diseases that come with poor sanitation. Homes are tiny dwellings with mud walls and corrugated iron roofs. As we walked, talking to the local people, I felt overwhelmed by the sheer extent of the poverty.

Watching the films and looking back on photos has stirred up a range of emotions about that experience. I feel really sad at the grinding and demeaning poverty we saw, where people just like you and I have nowhere to go to the toilet and no reliably clean water for their children and themselves; where, after heavy rain, people sometimes find themselves knee deep in filthy flood water from the open sewers which run past their doors. But looking back has also renewed in me a sense of hope that I want to pass on to you. We saw how Christian

Aid's work in Kenya is helping to change lives. All of us, through giving, volunteering, action and prayer can truly make a difference to people's lives. Most importantly Christian Aid and its partners are empowering people to change their own lives."

You will receive an envelope with your copy of The Sword. Please support this worthwhile cause by donating, filling in gift aid details if applicable and returning to your magazine distributor, to Julie Cook at Green Farm, Berrington Green or at the Team Ministry Office, or to one of the clergy, preferably by May 15<sup>th</sup> although donations will be accepted after that.

Tenbury Agricultural Society's Horticultural Committee presents ....

## “SOW GROW & SHOW”

... a social evening of presentations on hints and tips for showing.

**Thursday 20th May starting at 7.30pm**  
**St Michaels Village Hall**

There will be two talks/demonstrations by past judges on:  
**VEGETABLES and PLANTS & CUT FLOWERS**

*After refreshments there will be a question and answer session and a raffle*

Tickets £3 inc refreshments from Nick Champion's office (16 Teme St, Tenbury),  
 Carole on 07813 567207, committee members and at the door.

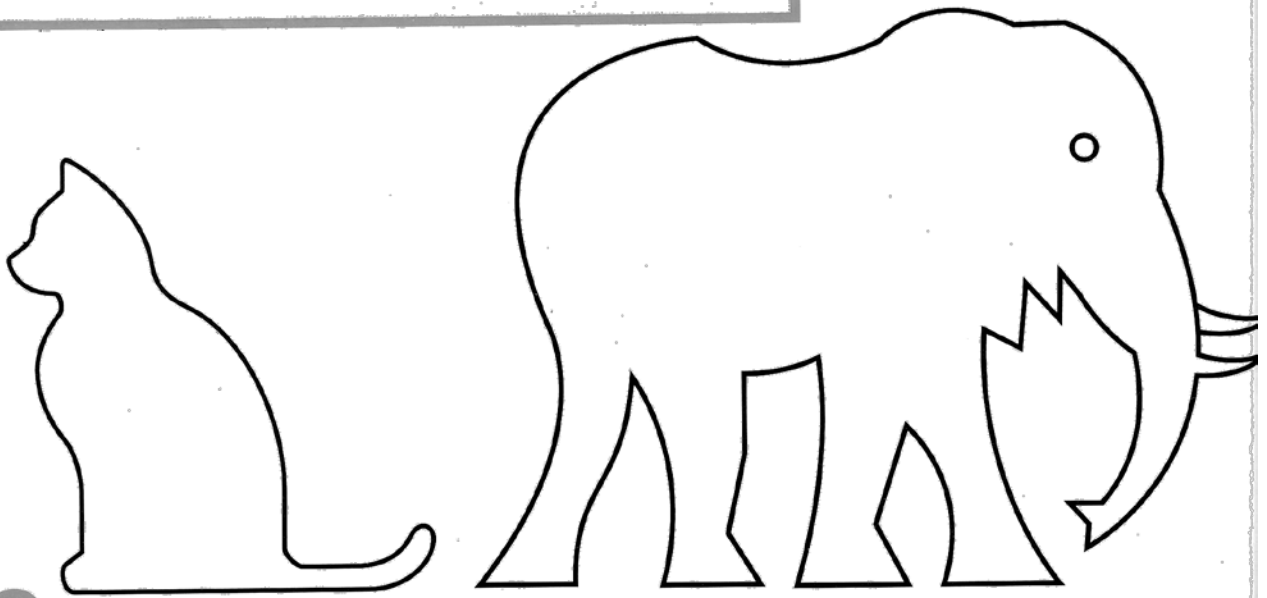
### **YOUNGSTERS CORNER**

for any age of youngsters from 1 to 101!!

### **WORDSEARCH**

Animals to find

Bat, bear, bee, butterfly,  
 camel, cat, cockerel, dove,  
 elephant, giraffe, gorilla,  
 hedgehog, hen,  
 hippopotamus, hyrax,  
 kangaroo, lion, monkey,  
 pelican, penguin, rabbit,  
 raven, rhinoceros, sheep,  
 snail, snake, turtle, zebra.



When all the animals are found there will be some unused letters. Copy then down from left to right, top to bottom. These should spell the names of four other creatures that are mentioned in the Bible.

**A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY to these youngsters in the parish ....**

**Isobel Newton** who will be 9 years old on 3<sup>rd</sup> May;  
**Louise Preston** who will be 6 years old on 5<sup>th</sup> May;  
**Zoe Jordan** who will be 11 years old on 5<sup>th</sup> May  
**Lucy Pitt** who will be 9 years old on 31<sup>st</sup> May

*If there are any youngsters in the parish whose birthday details we don't have could you please pass on the name and date of birth including year to either of the editors - contact details on inside front cover.*

*If there is a special birthday coming up of someone not so young please also send in details.*

**ST MICHAELS CHURCH –**

**FAMILY SERVICE**

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 10 am

*Speaker: Mrs Sue Summers*

ALL WELCOME

Refreshments after the service

**From the Parish Registers:**

**Funeral**

19<sup>th</sup> April Donald Young. We send our sincere condolences to Ann, Fraser, Alistair and to their family.

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**Music @ St Michaels in May**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm – Organ Recital by Dr Francis Jackson CBE, formerly organist of York Minster. Tickets £6 on the door.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> at 4pm – Choral Evensong with The Birmingham University Singers, director Dr Paul Rodmell.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am & 3pm – Sung Eucharist & Choral Evensong with Emmanuel Church Choir, Sutton Coldfield: director Richard Mason, organist John Pryer.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am & 3pm – Sung Eucharist & Choral Evensong with The Fountain Singers, director Duncan Courts

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm – Organ Recital by Robert Green, formerly assistant organist at Hereford Cathedral. Tickets £6 on the door. The proceeds of this recital, which is sponsored by the Elgar in Hereford Group, will go towards the restoration of George Sinclair's grave in Hereford. He was a former chorister at St Michael's College, intimate friend of Elgar and organist of Hereford Cathedral 1889-1917.

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**Cake & Produce Stall**

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May, from 9.30am, there will be a cake and produce stall on Regal steps in Tenbury to raise funds for St Michaels Church. Offers of cakes and produce will be greatly welcomed either on the day or beforehand – offerings to Jane Yardley please. People to come and buy cakes will also be very welcome!

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## Social Coffee Evening to raise funds for the Birmingham University Choir visit at Christmas



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 5.30-7.30pm  
at Edwards House, St Michaels

Raffle and Bring and Buy  
details: Muriel 810921 or Prue 810372

### Bonus Ball Lottery

Bonus Ball winners from 6<sup>th</sup> March to 17<sup>th</sup> April are Mary Thorpe, Stephen Gough, Jackie Cable, Vernon Hamer, Jane Newton (twice) and Anne Dicken.

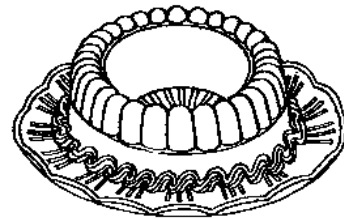
Many thanks to those who play. If anyone is interested in joining the Bonus Ball Lottery we now have a couple of spare balls so please contact Julie on 810291. It costs £48 a year or £4 a month standing order - each week someone wins £20.

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### ST MICHAELS VILLAGE HALL -

#### May Family Night

FRIDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY  
7.30pm  
in the village hall  
**PUDDING NIGHT**  
Bring & share a pudding  
Entry £1 on the door. Bar open.



# The Floor

FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY  
8pm  
St Michaels Village Hall



**FEATURING:**  
**Dan Cassidy with James Hickman**  
*top fiddle player with flat picking guitarist from The Badgers*

Supported by Arthur Hyde and Floored

Entry £5 on the door.

Ria's Bar open.

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



**Mugs needed for the Village Hall!**

We are running short of mugs for use at events and meetings held in the Hall. If you have any to spare, please drop them in to Jill Hudson at Morningwood (810137) or give them to any other member of the Committee or bring them with you when you're in the Hall. Many thanks!

**ST MICHAELS  
PARENT & TODDLER GROUP**

Every Thursday  
9.30am - 11.30am  
at

**St Michaels Village Hall**

Birth to Pre School  
£1.50

inc snacks & activity

*A different craft activity each week, outdoor play, day trips, singing, puzzles, books and much, much more!*

For more details ring Tina on 01584 819797



**Yoga Class**

**Wednesdays 6.00pm – 7.00pm**

**St Michael's Village Hall**

*Please contact*

**Maria Baxter on 01584 811648**

**for details and joining instructions.**

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**ST MICHAEL'S WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS -**

Anne Dicken welcomed members to the 1<sup>st</sup> April meeting, held at the village hall.

We welcomed new members Sue Corfield, Sue Bennett, Heather Muncaster and Theresa Mitchell. Janet Edwards, our treasurer, has advised that this year we have thirty three members.

The Resolution to be voted on for 2010 will be “The Mandatory Clear Labelling of Food with true Country of Origin”. This was discussed and we voted in favour of the resolution.

Our speaker was Andy Wadsley, with his “Walk at the Roof of the World” in Nepal. After a visit to the library and in his words approaching the “male menopause” he decided that this was the right time in his life to trek around the Annapurna mountain range in the Himalayas. A walk that is regarded as one of the top ten walks in the world. With the help of slides he shared with us the country of Nepal. From Kathmandu Andy hired a porter and his eighteen day walk covering 180 miles began. He trail ascended with prayer flags, monasteries; the reminder of the thriving Buddhist culture and with dramatic views of Annapurna. Gill Portsmouth gave the vote of thanks, thanking him for the unique insight into the physical and cultural diversity of Nepal.

Mamble-cum-Bayton WI was the host of the Spring Teme and Tenbury Group Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March. The speaker was Ellie Target. Her father was a Norwegian Professor of Marine Biology. She told us of his life and escape from German custody during the second world war, after his arrest for spying. He walked 200 miles across the mountains pursued by German soldiers to reach Sweden and freedom. Sixty years later Ellie, her son Ollie and her sister retraced his journey and met some of the people who helped him. An enjoyable night, everyone was spellbound with Ellie's father's story. The competition of war time memorabilia was won by Bockleton WI, the quiz by Tenbury WI and the evening finished with lovely refreshments. Menith Wood WI will host the Autumn Group Meeting and the theme is Tudor Ladies.

Five members attended the Annual Council Meeting incorporating Creative Activities Competition “All Things Bright and Beautiful” at the Malvern Showground. After the business, reports and announcements from the sub-committees, the first speaker was Samantha Gibson from Taylor's Tea, with an update on the twenty year partnership with the WI. Second speaker was Karen Tomalin supporting the Worcester Breast Unit Appeal. Karen runs a family business 2<sup>nd</sup> Skin Lingerie and has links with our local breast care unit offering a selection of post surgery lingerie. £2.5 million is needed for the new unit. The aim is to provide a single site at Newtown Road, Worcester, dedicated completely to people with breast problems, providing efficient assessment, dedicated staff and welcoming, relaxing surroundings. 2<sup>nd</sup> Skin Lingerie started “Recycle a Bra” campaign. Karen said no bra would be wasted, whatever its condition, it can be recycled. Before they are recycled (35,000 already collected) they are attempting to break The Guinness Book of Records record for a bra-chain, explaining why we were asked to bring a bra. Every one of us had to wave a bra and photographs were taken. The afternoon speaker was Bob Flowerdew of Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time with a humorous talk on gardening.

For the rally “All Things Bright and Beautiful”, Anne Dicken entered the individual recycled item class and was placed third with a felted wool girl's jacket. An old knitted jumper felted and the lining of the jacket from an old curtain. Congratulations Anne.

Our next meeting will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Methodist Hall, Tenbury, the village hall being used for voting; 7.30pm start.

*Jill Burton*

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Mr & Mrs W. Summers of  
Prides Close, St Michaels  
have kindly agreed to open their garden on  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May**  
for Tenbury Community Hospital League of Friends.  
*Please come along and enjoy the garden and a delicious tea.*  
**2.30 – 5.00 pm**  
Admission £2.50  
*The money raised will be put towards the New Development at the Hospital*

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## **TRADING CORNER -**

Anyone interested in trading goods, services, etc for other items, for cash, free of charge or a donation to a nominated charity?? Please let the editors know by the press date each month if you would like to make an entry under "Trading Corner".

If anyone would like to advertise casual work around the parish, again please contact the editors with details of what you do and contact details.

### **Tenbury Amateur Boxing Club**

I was recently invited to attend a Dinner and Boxing Show by our Mayor, Richard Jones. He has been a keen supporter of the Tenbury Amateur Boxing Club started up by Paddy Brennan 7 months ago and which has turned out to be quite a success story.

The event, at Tenbury High School, was attended by a 350 strong capacity crowd which included champion fighters. There were twelve 3 round bouts and competitors from clubs in Bristol, Keighley, Droitwich, Oldbury, Warwick and even Scotland were involved.

Not everyone shares such enthusiasm for the sport but I was very impressed with the whole evening, the professional way it was organised and the support it was given. The reason for bringing this to your attention was the article of the back of the programme contributed by Paddy Brennan the Club's Head Coach and Manager which is printed below. It may well change the way some people view the sport and is well worth reading.

*Tony Penn*

There's not much shouting in a Boxing Gym. A Coach may have a whole group of Boxers do callisthenics together but the actual teaching is done one-to-one like the fighting. The Coach talks only to the particular kid he's working with for that 10 minutes of half hour stretch. Each lesson is tailored and personal. Then the Coach sets the kid to practice what he's learned and moves on to the next boxer. The Coach will drift by and comment or make corrections during the course of the workout. At any time a gym may have a dozen or more people of all ages, sizes, races or genders – a nine year old boy preparing for his first sparring match working next to a seasoned amateur or pro focusing on his 50<sup>th</sup> fight. Each is absorbed into his own process. They stake out a working area to pound combinations into a bag or shadow box or skip rope, careful not to slop over into someone else's space. The work sessions last 3 minutes, like the rounds of a fight. The Gym bell ends the rounds and they have one minutes rest, stretch, drink water, swap polite nods or banter with the guy at the next punching bag. The bell rings again and work resumes. No two are doing the exact same thing at any time. Each is focussed on his or her private mediation on adversity. In a world of absent fathers, boys and increasingly girls – find reliable authority in the boxing Coach. In gang turf, the gym is staunchly neutral ground. If home and streets are fraught with chaos, order still prevails in the gym. The violence is ritualized and contained in the ring where there are rules and bells, protective head gear and a Coach in the corner, watching carefully. Outside the ring nobody is hard on you. You have to be hard on yourself. It is a discreet subculture with its own language and aesthetics. A crisp nose flattening jab is a thing of exquisite beauty. There is a clear etiquette. Violations of courtesy are dealt with briskly. Respect is earned and accorded. But a Boxing Gym isn't always a peaceful kingdom. Even in the best Gyms there are occasional rivalries, injured feelings and divided loyalties. But in all the years I have been training in dozens of gyms around the country, I've only seen violence erupt once outside the ring. That was when a drunken father slapped the face of his teenage boxer son. Every fighter and coach in the room descended on the pathetic sot. Nobody hit him, which was a tribute to the discipline of the sport. They escorted him from the premises in a storm of scathing commentary that continued long after he was gone. Mention his name in that gym to this day and you'll trigger dark looks and ominous muttering. In fact, it dawned on me over the years that there is less macho posturing in boxing gyms than in the average corporate boardroom. A greenhorn may come in with an attitude, hostile and defensive. Usually he'll relax after a few weeks. Gym mates develop an easy comradeship of shared experience. Every boxer steps into the ring alone and succeeds or fails in his own right. It is not a team sport. But gym mates cheer and advise each other, comfort each other in defeat. Your sparring partners may never know your whole name, but they come to know your deepest identity as you learn theirs. And you learn about yourself. The deliberate, artificial crisis of the ring reveals your spinal identity – who you are in the fire, in the pain, in fear of defeat and more dangerously, in triumph. When you've seen into yourself that far and still come to the gym the next day, there's not much more to prove. And those you respect know it. Boxing is so hard that anybody who ventures into it has demonstrated

toughness. By walking through the gym door, you earn the right to be kind. In many cases, the local Boxing Club is the safest place in the neighbourhood. It's refuge where kids and young adults – many of them drawn to Boxing by violence in their own lives – learn to channel aggressive impulses in an environment that stresses discipline, hard work, respect and authority. In communities too often divided by race and ethnicity, they are remarkably democratic places, where colour, nationality and even a gender are over-shadowed by a boxer's skill, and the ineffable quality that fight people call "heart".

## **WHAT'S ON AROUND ST MICHAELS**

### **MAY**

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Organ Recital
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	Family Service
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	W. I. at Methodist Hall
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Choral Evensong
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
“ “	3.00pm	Choral Evensong
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Ascension Day Service at Tenbury
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	The Floor
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Cakes and Produce at the Regal
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
“ “	2.30-5.00pm	Open Gardens for Tenbury Hospital League of Friends
“ “	3.00pm	Choral Evensong
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	“Sow Grow Show” in village hall
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Pudding Night at the Village Hall
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion and Baptism
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Organ Recital
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Team Eucharist at Nash

### **JUNE**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30pm	W. I.
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Family Service
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	The Floor
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Family Night – Rounders
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup>	evening	Summer Ball
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	5.30pm	Social Coffee Evening at the Wintons
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Parish Communion

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Although efforts are made to verify information given, the editors cannot accept responsibility for details or views expressed in any of the articles contributed to the magazine.