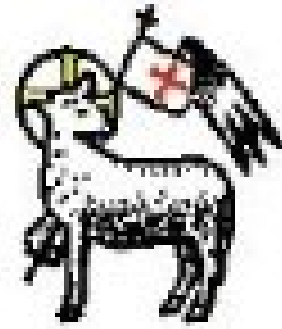


*St John-in-Bedwardine  
Parish Magazine*

FEBRUARY 2013



*40p*



## WHO'S WHO – CHURCH OFFICERS

*e-mail addresses will be given only if requested by the owner*

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<b>Verger</b>	Catherine Templeton	749025
<b>PCC Chairman</b>	Sue Bale	423257
<b>Secretary</b>	Graham Evans	428667
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jane Askew	424811
<b>Stewardship envelopes</b>	Irene Allen	422684
<b>Estates Manager</b>	Brian Askew	424811
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	Di White	
<b>Church Cleaner</b>	Guy Monk	
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*Cover picture*

**St Valentine kneeling in supplication, by David Teniers III (1638–1685)**

*Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

## PASTORAL LETTER FOR FEBRUARY

*from the Vicar*

Dear Friends,

I dread choosing a topic for my magazine letter: I always get a kind of writer's block. It helps to have a theme: at least when I'm preaching, the readings for the day give me something to go on. It's not quite so easy when the theme is 'February'!

But perhaps February is one of the easier ones – after all, February is quite a busy month: there's Lent, of course, and February is also the month when we celebrate our Dedication service. And who could forget Valentine's Day?

I've written about Lent and about our Dedication festival many times before, so perhaps this year it's the turn of Valentine's Day. Now, it's worth remembering that 'love' is a slippery thing to pin down: there are lots of different kinds of love. The ancient world used to recognise four different kinds of love: affection, friendship, romantic/physical love, and unconditional/sacrificial love.

The love we have for those around us is a blend of all four of these, I think – and the precise mix changes over time. After all, falling in love is a process; love ripens and matures with time and age. Why? Well, part of the reason is because it takes time to get to know a person; the longer I do this job, the more I realise just how deeply flawed, and deeply beautiful human beings are. Humans are "Technicolor" beings, and sometimes the words haven't been invented to describe all the colours they contain.

One of the joys of any loving relationship is that there is always something more to learn about the other person; part of the excitement and the risk is trusting that the love we share is strong enough not only to endure that process of learning, but to flourish through it.

Part of what draws me to God is that sense that there is always more to know, more to learn about him too. God is deep, complex, rich and elusive: I still have a long way to 'fall.' Sometimes it can be hard to understand what people mean when they talk about God – in sermons, books and the like. But that's only right, isn't it? If God is so great and so complex – well, we should expect to have to work a bit to understand him, surely?

And part of the joy of being loved is finding someone who sees the beauty in you, knows you, values you, and accepts you. That kind of love seems to make a statement to the whole world, and for all time, that there is something beautiful inside us, something eternal.

God has a kind of gravitational pull, I think. The heart of that gravity is the sense that in him we see the highest form of love: unconditional or sacrificial love. We don't just struggle to understand that love with our minds: we struggle with our hearts too. This is the love that has nothing more to learn about us, that knows us completely. God doesn't ignore our faults, or pretend they don't matter – that's where Good Friday comes in – but he embraces us, draws us to himself unconditionally.

Someone once said: the heart of Christianity is not our faith in God, it's God's faith in us. Even when we begin to understand that with our minds, we struggle to understand it with our hearts – and we particularly struggle to believe in a God who embraces us unconditionally.

And so, year after year, we must 'keep Lent' – not so as to make ourselves feel miserable, but so that, like stones on the seashore smoothed and rounded with the repeated action of the sea, our souls might learn the height, depth and breadth of the love of God for us. And when we struggle our way to understanding that love for us, perhaps then we can begin to understand that love for the rest of the human race too – and learn to call one another brother and sister from the heart, and live as though we mean it.

Pray, fast and keep silence this Lent; dwell on God, as he dwells on you.

*May God Bless You*

*Christopher*

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## **A WORD FROM THE EDITORS**

Another month, another packed edition: We hope you will find it interesting.

We are pleased to publicise the first meeting of 'Thursday at Two'. Christmas, birthdays, Valentine's Day; they can be joyous occasions to share, or hard reminders of the gap left by loneliness or bereavement. If you look forward to any of these occasions with emptiness, then please come along if you can to 'Thursday at Two' as the Church's pastoral team stretches out its hand to you.

There's a lot of Parochial Church Council (PCC) content this month. Please have a read. The PCC is the government of our church and, as it tries to develop the church's ministry, what it does should be relevant to all of us and worthy of attention.

On a lighter note, we have information about lots of forthcoming fun, fundraising events, and also the results of the December caption competition. What did people make of that apple? See page 21!

*Sue and Graham Evans*



# **Thursday at Two**

## **Are you bereaved or lonely?**

Come along and join us for a cuppa, cake and a chat.

Second Thursday of every month.

Starting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

From 2pm in the Burroughs' Room,  
St John's Church.

Just come along; but if you want to speak with someone first then ring Catherine (749025) or Sylvia (422654).

Image: By Nicubunu (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)], via Wikimedia Commons

## DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2013

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February:** Presentation of Christ in the Temple

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> February: The Feast of Candlemas**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion with Children's Church

5.00 p.m. Evensong

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February: Dedication Festival, Sunday next before Lent**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion with Children's Church  
At St John's, joint with St Clement's

5.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February:** Shrove Tuesday

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February:** Ash Wednesday

7.30 p.m. Service at St Clement's

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February:** Valentine, martyr at Rome, c.269.

2.00 p.m. Thursday at Two (Burroughs' Room). See page 5.

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion with Children's Church

5.00 p.m. Evensong

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

7.00 p.m. Craft Club (Blakefield Room). All welcome; see page 10 for details.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 a.m. Joint service (Holy Communion) at St Clement's

10.00 a.m. No service at St John's

5.00 p.m. Healing Service

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February**

7.30 p.m. Debate: "Is religion used as an excuse for immoral acts in society?" at St. John's. All welcome.

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### THE ABOVE IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS....

From the start of February, Chris Stuart will be ministering to the Parish of St Clement's (including St David's church) as well as being our Vicar. There is a plan to appoint a part time associate priest to share the services and pastoral workload, but that person is not yet in place. So, in the meantime, the pattern of services across St John's and St Clement's may be subject to change.

**Please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.**

## IN MEMORIAM

Olive Mary Peggy Outram	2 February 1992
William John Davies	3 February 1999
Frederick Grice	8 February 1983
Doris Winifred Osborne	10 February 1975
Frederick James Cole	10 February 1975
Stanley Edward Price	11 February 1982
John Lunn Newman	14 February 1976
Rosanna Walker	14 February 1990
Stanley Reginald Jones	15 February 1963
Mary Ann Harrison	15 February 1978
Maurice Charles Pearson	24 February 1999
Reginald Edward Osborne	25 February 1984
Emily Jane Haynes	26 February 1976
Florence Harrison	26 February 1977
Reginald Frederick Jones	27 February 1974
May Smith Bloodworth	28 February 1976
William Joseph Probyn	28 February 1987
Doris Betty Dear	28 February 1989
Doreen Iavarone	28 February 1998

## FROM THE REGISTERS

**FUNERALS:** *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

- d. 8<sup>th</sup> December Penelope Gladman
- d. 12<sup>th</sup> December David Jones
- d. 16<sup>th</sup> December Pamela Taylor
- d. 19<sup>th</sup> December Ivy Langford
- d. 20<sup>th</sup> December Caroline Scarrott

**FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2012 (5 Sundays):** Communicants 462. Total attendance at all services 2623.

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## 2013 CALENDARS FOR SALE

There are still available some of the 2013 calendars produced by Colin Nash. These show photos in and around the church. They are now on sale at a price of £4 and are available at church, from the parish office or telephone 424811. Only available while stocks last.

## NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

What do policemen, arm rolls and alleluias have in common? Well if you are around at 7.00 on a Thursday evening you would have some fun with them all as part of the choir's warm up session. John works us hard but we have time for a quick tea break and plenty of laughs!

At Christmas we had an extended choir and fielded 27 singers for the Carol Service. This service was illuminated with beautiful candlelight and we all had a splendid glass candleholder, each of which had been lovingly restored by Lionel. The candles stayed upright courtesy of some complicated DIY involving rolled card and lots of Lionel's patience!

The number in the regular choir is continuing to grow and we are learning new music all the time. It is interesting to see that the choir has so many tenors as it seems to have been a longstanding moan from every choir director that I have known that tenors are in short supply. Clearly not at St Johns! Having said that though if there are any more budding tenors or indeed sopranos, altos or basses out there who would like to come and sing you would be made to feel very welcome. Reading music is not a pre requisite, so do have a word with John.

And for those of you who have not yet made it to Evensong, do give it a try. Not only is there plenty of lovely music but homemade cake is served with tea and social time afterwards.

*Luise Horrocks*

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### QUOTES – WITH THE BEGINNING OF LENT IN MIND

God's love is not drawn out by our lovableness, but wells up, like an artesian spring, from the depths of his nature. *Alexander MacLaren*

It is the love of God that makes him the sworn enemy of sin. *G Campbell Morgan*

All a believer's present happiness, and all his future happiness springs from the eternal purposes of God. *Thomas Brooks*

There is nothing round the corner which is beyond God's view. *J Charles Stern*

We no more earn heaven by good works than babies earn their food and drink by crying and howling. *Martin Luther*

I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be; but I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, 'By the grace of God I am what I am.'

*John Newton, former slave trader*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

December 2012

To: The Rev'd Chris Stuart and Saint John's Church members

Midland Centre for Liberal Judaism  
Birmingham progressive synagogue

On behalf of the Council, Executive and Members, I would like to thank all those who contributed to Mitzvah Day by knitting squares and making blankets as part of this year's Inter-Faith Week.

All faith communities share an imperative to do good deed and to strive to make our world a better place. We can do this together thereby achieving more. The bonus is getting to know each other better in the process. We hope that the links made will continue to flourish.

With best wishes

Yvonne.

*Yvonne Stallard, Hon. Secretary*

----- 00000 -----

8<sup>th</sup> January 2013

Bill and I would like to say how much we enjoyed Evensong on Sunday 6th January. The choir were amazing, and so professional. The Magnificat was magnificent - we hadn't heard that arrangement of it before, and John Brierley is to be congratulated on his work.

It was a pity that so few people were there to hear it, and we would encourage everyone to attend as it was just brilliant. We will definitely go whenever we are in Worcester.

Best wishes to all.

Rose

*Rose Ashton*

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### QUOTES – MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS ON LIFE

Born free. Taxed to death.

By the time you make ends meet, they move the ends.

Common sense isn't.

Blessed are the peacemakers; they will never be unemployed.

## FUN AND FUND RAISING AT ST JOHN'S

### Craft Club

We have started a craft group on the third Wednesday of each month. The second one will be on Wednesday 20th February at 7.00pm in the Blakefield Room. The cost will be £5.00 to include materials and refreshments.

We hope to offer a variety of crafts including flower arranging. We will be keeping it at a fairly basic level so that everyone, at the end of the evening, goes home with something they have made. We want it to be a relaxing, friendly time and everyone is welcome. We would love to see you there.

If you have a skill that you would like to pass on to others or there is something you would like to have a go at please give one of us, (numbers at the bottom of the page), a ring.

### Other ventures

Another new venture we are starting is a Bridge day. These will be held on a Saturday to include lots of bridge and a lunch. More details later, but keep the date of the first one in your diaries, Saturday 13th April.

We also have a fun evening for all the family planned on Saturday 6th April, a Beetle Drive. We are finalising details and will have all the information in next month's magazine.

Fund raising has a purpose but also should be fun. If you have any ideas for events please get in touch with one of us. We look forward to seeing you in the future.

*Sue (423257), Catherine (749025) and Jane (424811)*

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### QUOTES – WITH VALENTINE'S DAY AND LOVE IN MIND

Here's to love - the only fire for which there is no insurance.

Life's greatest happiness is to be convinced we are loved.

*Victor Hugo*

His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork.

*Mae West*

"Love is when mummy gives daddy the best piece of chicken."

*Elaine - age 5*

"Love is when mummy sees daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Brad Pitt."

*Chris - age 7*

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day"

*Mary Ann - age 4*

So far no one has invented an intelligence test to equal matrimony.

# Charity Bridge Day

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

Come and play friendly Rubber Bridge at  
St John-in-Bedwardine Church.

Meet at 10.30am for coffee, with play  
starting at 11am. Buffet lunch, then more  
play until approximately 3pm.

£10 per person.

Please phone Catherine or Gordon on  
01905 749025 to book you place, or email  
[cathtemp@btinternet.com](mailto:cathtemp@btinternet.com)

(All proceeds to St John-in-Bedwardine Church)

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## THE REAL EASTER EGG

For the last two years Traidcraft has stocked the Real Easter Egg- the only  
chocolate Easter Egg to include references to the Easter story.

The Egg is made from Fairtrade chocolate and includes the Easter story, an activity  
set, stickers and a poster.

Eggs cost £3.99 each. As sales of the meaningful Christmas decorations were slow  
this year, I would like to take orders for the eggs, rather than order too many in  
advance. If you would like to order one, please sign the list at the back of church.

Thank You

*Sarah Stuart*

## ANTICLERICALISM - PAST AND PRESENT

Wendy Dedicott suggests that times have changed (Parish Magazine January 2013), contrasting the fears of Reformation clergy with the readiness of modern clergy to allow 'the laity to do their work'.

In fact, her comments serve to prove that anticlericalism is as alive today as it was during the reformation and that in many ways, very little has changed.

Pre-reformation laity may well have had a greater excuse for their objections. Clergy were often poorly educated, semi-literate and frequently absent from the parishes they were meant to serve. However, by the fifteenth century the situation was improving, with the secular clergy leading the way in terms of preaching and teaching. Indeed, much of the crisis in the Church was focussed on conflicts between secular clergy and the friars, who dominated university education.

No doubt the clergy did fear a loss of prestige and authority when the invention of the printing press gave the laity access to the scriptures in the vernacular. However, this concern reflected a much wider upheaval, as the printing press completely changed the nature of knowledge. Up until then, knowledge and learning meant predominately copying. Scribes were prized for their ability to copy the scriptures, or the works of greats such as Galen or Hippocrates. With the advent of the printing press and the decline of the manuscript culture it became less imperative to protect knowledge lest it be lost or destroyed. The essentially private act of reading also led to a more internalised piety, especially as lay people encountered the works of the mystics.

As for today's Church, doubtless very few laity would wish to return to some mythical, pre-reformation age in which the parish priest did absolutely everything. That lay people today have the right to be involved in their own religion, to participate, question and, for that matter, to criticise, is in no small part thanks to those, many of them clergy, who lost their lives during the religious conflicts of the Early Modern period.

The job description of a parish priest has always been ill-defined and infinitely flexible. Reading lessons and taking services are often the most straightforward tasks a priest has to do. Wendy Dedicott states that clergy are 'only too pleased' to hand work over to the laity. This is hardly the case, given that the laity are usually volunteers, and the management of volunteers is notoriously difficult. In many cases it would be quicker for the clergy to do things themselves but the modern church is committed to empowering the laity. The increased deployment of laypeople also reflects a basic lack of human and financial resources at all levels of

the church. At St John's we are only too aware of this, as we prepare for the Deanery reorganisation and Chris inherits another 7000 souls to look after.

Anticlericalism is still alive and well, now more than ever. As the wider church makes mistakes, so the clergy on the ground bear the brunt of the criticism. Chris not only encounters regular anti-religious sentiment, but has also been jeered at and abused in the streets of St John's, on one occasion being called a paedophile. Those who think today's clergy have it easy might like to try wearing a dog collar for the day. The job of a parish priest cannot be reduced to a list of tasks to be shared out amongst the laity. The priest is called to be, not simply to do, and it is never possible to stop being. If you are still in doubt about this, just watch the 'Rev.' Christmas special- it's uncannily accurate.

*Sarah Stuart*

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## **NEW ELECTORAL ROLL**

By law new Electoral Rolls have to be prepared in 2013. This is a requirement of the Church Representation Rules which also regulate how the new roll shall be prepared and maintained. In particular no names are carried forward from the current roll and everyone must apply afresh to go on the new electoral roll for 2013.

*Robert Higham*  
*Diocesan Secretary*

We will begin the process of compiling our new roll on 1<sup>st</sup> February. The formation of the new roll will be announced at every service in St John's on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February. At those services we will hope to see as many people as possible to get their applications for the new Electoral Roll.

We have to take reasonable steps to inform all those on the existing roll that the new roll is being prepared and that if they wish to be entered on it they must apply for enrolment. We will catch as many people as we can at church, then deliver notifications to remaining people by hand if possible, using postage as a last resort.

The closing date for applications to the new roll will be Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March. The new roll will be completed and exhibited from 24<sup>th</sup> March until the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April; during this period any errors or omissions in the roll may be corrected, but subject to that no names may be added to the roll until the end of the annual meeting. As soon as the new roll is exhibited, the previous roll ceases to have effect.

*Graham Evans*  
*Philip Evans*  
*Electoral Roll Officers*

## **PCC MEETING 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012**

This was an additional meeting called principally to discuss the organisation of services between St John's and St Clement's from February (i.e. once Chris is Curate-in-charge of St Clements).

The Vicar acted as chair for this meeting and opened the meeting with a prayer. There were 11 members present.

The meeting reviewed and discussed a draft service rota which the Vicar had prepared and circulated before this meeting. The key concerns were that we should not damage what we had at present (given that our rising congregations showed that we must be doing something right); that the Vicar's workload should be sustainable; and that ALMs should be properly supported.

The PCC mandated the Vicar and Churchwardens to discuss and decide the final service pattern and timings in the light of others' experiences and opinions and with appropriate support to ALMs who will be called upon to lead services.

Two other matters were discussed briefly.

The Vicar said he understood that Jane Askew would continue as treasurer until the annual meeting.

Philip Evans informed the PCC that there was water ingress through the tower roof. It was agreed that the Buildings Manager should work with the Tower Contractors and Architects to ensure a full resolution.

The meeting closed with all saying 'The Grace'.

*Graham Evans*

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## **PCC MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

Sue Bale (Chairman) opened the meeting with a prayer. 13 members were present.

Under matters arising from the minutes, Alan Simcox gave an update on the recent water ingress into the tower. It is believed to be wind-blown rain. Alan reported that the tower contractors (Crofts) have said that they will do whatever is needed. Alan hopes to have the contractors on site next week (subject to the weather) to replace the relevant flashing and resolve the problem.

The Vicar gave a report about his position at St Clements. He will be licensed as curate-in-charge on 30th January. Following discussions with the Archdeacon he gave an update on how services at St John's, St Clement's and St David's will be covered. Fiona Howarth will cover one church for one Sunday per month. Jan Fox is available to support St David's. The diocese will fund an associate priest to work part time (2/3 days per week). The work of this person will include pastoral ministry, not just service cover. There are moves afoot to identify and appoint

someone, but there will be a delay (perhaps to May) before they arrive. In the meantime, service arrangements will have to be flexible.

The PCC then reviewed in depth the progress which had been made on the four priorities for 2012 – the results of this have been drawn out into a separate article in this magazine – and discussed what the priorities should be for 2013. The Vicar emphasised that these did not have to be different from 2012, as long as this was a conscious decision. The main points from the resulting discussion were as follows:

- The key priorities should be mission and worship as they are at the core of what we do as a church. Other priorities such as funding and structures are then in support of mission and worship.
- We must maintain the quality of worship and mission. We need to replace the sound system.
- Outreach must continue to develop. We need to let people know what is available and also find out what people want. The website will grow in importance.
- Children and Youth should remain a priority. We need to continue to build the children's church and increase our work with schools. We should improve our facilities for Children's church (e.g. storage) and make the children's corner more attractive.
- Finance is still a priority. Fund-raising needs to attract outside money. The need for a new sound system could give a focal point.
- Deanery re-organisation - We need to move on from preparation for this to building our collaboration with churches around us (St Clement's, St Michael's, St David's; others in the deanery via Deanery Synod; and Churches Together)

The Vicar summarised that he saw four priorities, similar to those in 2012, and broadly as follows:

- Worship and Mission – to cover outreach, the replacement sound system, the development of existing and new ALMs, the developments of quality materials for non-eucharistic services.
- Children and Schools
- West Side collaboration
- Finance

The meeting then moved on to the finance related items. The Vicar reported that we have a potential candidate for Treasurer, in John English, who is currently assisting Jane Askew, the present treasurer.

Catherine Templeton presented a proposal that we have a textile recycling bin at church. This was agreed, subject to a check by Catherine on the church insurance.

The Treasurer distributed sheets showing the update on the 2012 financial position and the draft 2013 budget. The PCC agreed to make a final payment to the Diocese which would mean that we had fully paid the 2012 Parish Share.

Committee reports came next.

The PCC agreed to some new/revised Terms of Reference for PCC committees: the Standing Committee, taking responsibility for finance, the Accommodation Committee, evolving out of the Finance and Accommodation Committee, and the new Fund Raising Committee. Among its work, the Fund Raising Committee will take forward the formation of a “Friends of St John’s”. It was agreed that in future committee reports should be written rather than verbal to enable the PCC to be more strategic and efficient.

On the subject of which charity or charities should receive our charitable giving for 2013, it was agreed that the Charity Committee should do its research and then make a recommendation to the PCC.

The Pastoral Committee reported that it was looking at some new developments.

A proposal for enhanced security for people working in the Parish Office was brought to the PCC and approved in principle.

Under Any Other Business, the electoral roll officers reminded the PCC that in 2013 we have to draw up a new electoral roll from scratch. The notice will be displayed from the end of January and the process must be announced at every service on 3rd and 10th February. The plan is to have tables and helpers after services so that as many people as possible can be done on the spot. The process will finish the week before Easter. The new electoral roll will then be displayed (as required by law) until the Annual meeting (on 14th April).

The meeting closed with all saying ‘The Grace’.

*Graham Evans*

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## **YES, YES, LET’S TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER**

Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot, we’ll weather the weather, whatever the weather, whether we like it - or not!

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

*Jane Austen*

The first fall of snow is not only an event, it is a magical event. You go to bed in one kind of world and wake up in another quite different, and if this is not enchantment then where is it to be found?

*J.B. Priestley*



## **PCC REVIEW OF PROGRESS AGAINST THE 2012 PRIORITIES**

Our numbers are still increasing – we must be doing something right! Not only Sunday by Sunday, but over Christmas we had over 400 at the Carol Service, 380 to our Christingle service and 120 at Midnight Mass. We need to maintain the standards of our welcoming and our worship (quality of orders of service and music were specifically mentioned).

### ***Children/youth: How can we increase the involvement of children and young people in our church life?***

- Children's church has progressed. Being able to get them to work for a specific event (the nativity play had given a good focus to their work and attendance).
- We need more children!
- The possibility of having a Family Worker is edging forward, and it was good that links had been made with Dines Green.
- There was increased engagement with the Schools.

### ***Outreach/communication: How can we strengthen and publicise our welcoming environment?***

- The welcome pack is working. It needs to be maintained.
- The pastoral care team are doing a tremendous job.
- The Christmas letter was good outreach to both the local population and other churches.
- The church building is more welcoming now.
- The deteriorating sound system is now a real issue.
- The website has been improved

### ***The future: how can we improve our financial position so that we are better able to resource our growth?***

- There is more clarity, thanks to Jane's work, but the shortfall must be tackled.
- More structure is being put in place (Standing Committee etc.).
- There could be a problem with fund-raising fatigue after the success of the Tower Appeal.
- Our Christian Giving campaign (using in-house material) worked well.

### ***What do we need to do to plan for the re-organisation of clergy in West Worcester?***

- It's here!
- We have several ALMs in place, more in training, and people in St Clements are now starting to come forward.
- The joint PCC social event was very successful.

*Graham Evans*

## FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

### Children's Corner, February 1950

FEBRUARY—this is the month when the earliest flowers of the year appear. Those that come first are the Snowdrops or February Fairmaids as they are sometimes called. These little flowers will even push their way through the snow.

This story tells you how the first Snowdrops came to earth.

One morning Eve was walking through the bare fields of the Earth. She and Adam had left the Garden of Eden where it had been so pleasant. There the birds had sung so sweetly and the garden had been full of flowers of every colour. Here it was cold and the ground was bare. If they wanted a garden they would have to make one.

Besides, it was so cold all the time, the winds blew chill, how could anything grow? It began to snow; soon the bare ground was white. How Eve longed for the sunshine, the flowers and the birds of the Garden of Eden!

She began to cry she felt so miserable. Then she heard her name called softly, "Eve, dry your tears and listen." Eve looked up, there before her stood a beautiful angel. At once Eve felt happier for she had often seen angels when she lived in the Garden and the sight of this one brought back to her all that she had lost. Once again she seemed to be back in that beautiful garden with the flowers all around her.

Then the wind blew coldly and Eve remembered where she was. But the angel looked kindly at her and smiled. He spoke to her. "I have come from Heaven to bring a gift to you," he said. As he spoke he caught a flake of snow. Then he breathed upon it. To Eve's wonder and joy she saw the snow-flake change into a delicate flower of pure white and green; it was the first snowdrop. This tiny flower gave Eve more joy than all the bright flowers in the Garden for it was the first flower she had seen on Earth.

Then the angel spoke again. "In Heaven", he said, "we have seen how sad you are so this little snowdrop is sent as a messenger to tell you that Summer days are coming when all the flowers that grew in the Garden will grow here to bring you happiness again."

With a rustle of wings the angel flew away and where he had stood Eve saw a cluster of snowdrops growing in the snow.

# Time to be a little less frenetic!

Let's try being a little bit less frenetic as we come into Lent. Martha was one of those people who welcomed Jesus into her house and her life but got so caught up with restless busyness that she couldn't hear what he was trying to say to her. Her sister Mary was different. She stopped. She sat at Jesus' feet. She listened and took in what he was saying. So despite all those things that need doing, let's make time to welcome Jesus into every area of our lives and go his way.

**Read more in Luke 10:38-42**





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## RESULT OF THE CAPTION COMPETITION

In the December magazine, we challenged you to come up with an amusing, printable caption for this picture:



The winning caption is:

**The Vicar had reached the 4th word of his charade for “Only Fools and Horses”**

This entry was submitted by Philip Evans.

Philip receives the kudos of being declared the winner!

We enjoyed reading all your entries. Honourable mentions go to:

**The organist makes it clear that he does not want the Vicar to join the choir (“Anonymous of the Isle of Wight” otherwise known as Rose Ashton)**

*Why Apple II is the world's best-selling personal computer (Ron Cantrill)*

**An apple a day keeps the vicar at bay (Arthur Burgess)**

*Silence is golden delicious (Ann Ricketts)*

**I don't Adam and Eve it (Tony Evans)**

And this one which we like, but then we might be biased: The Vicar regretted saying that he would field at silly mid-off for the church indoor cricket competition (Graham Evans).

## FEBRUARY PUZZLES

The words in this wordsearch all relate to significant anniversaries that occur this February.

150 years ago this month the explorer Speke discovered that Lake Victoria is the source of the River Nile. 100 years ago this month Grand Central Terminal opened in New York City. 60 years ago this month British scientists Francis Crick and James D Watson announced that they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA. 25 years ago this month Comic Relief held its first Red Nose Day in the UK. Only 15 years ago this month Osama bin Laden issued a fatwa against all Jews and Crusaders. And finally, 10 years ago this month, London's Congestion Charge began.

<i>Victoria</i> <i>years</i> <i>comic</i> <i>relief</i> <i>Speke</i> <i>Nile</i> <i>river</i> <i>central</i> <i>terminal</i> <i>new</i> <i>York</i> <i>British</i> <i>scientists</i> <i>double</i> <i>helix</i> <i>structure</i> <i>red</i> <i>nose</i> <i>fatwa</i> <i>London</i> <i>congestion</i> <i>explorer</i> <i>charge</i>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-family: monospace; font-size: 1.2em;"> <tr><td>E</td><td>H</td><td>E</td><td>L</td><td>I</td><td>X</td><td>D</td><td>I</td><td>S</td><td>N</td><td>C</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>K</td><td>L</td><td>A</td><td>N</td><td>I</td><td>M</td><td>R</td><td>E</td><td>T</td><td>O</td><td>H</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>H</td><td>C</td><td>V</td><td>I</td><td>C</td><td>T</td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td>I</td><td>A</td><td>V</td></tr> <tr><td>P</td><td>E</td><td>S</td><td>D</td><td>V</td><td>L</td><td>C</td><td>U</td><td>U</td><td>T</td><td>R</td><td>L</td></tr> <tr><td>S</td><td>T</td><td>S</td><td>I</td><td>T</td><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>I</td><td>C</td><td>S</td><td>G</td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td>I</td><td>V</td><td>H</td><td>O</td><td>T</td><td>I</td><td>N</td><td>R</td><td>T</td><td>E</td><td>E</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>R</td><td>Y</td><td>M</td><td>I</td><td>N</td><td>I</td><td>T</td><td>N</td><td>U</td><td>G</td><td>N</td><td>M</td></tr> <tr><td>N</td><td>E</td><td>X</td><td>P</td><td>L</td><td>O</td><td>R</td><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>N</td><td>O</td><td>O</td></tr> <tr><td>K</td><td>A</td><td>L</td><td>T</td><td>T</td><td>I</td><td>A</td><td>B</td><td>E</td><td>O</td><td>D</td><td>C</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>R</td><td>R</td><td>I</td><td>V</td><td>U</td><td>L</td><td>W</td><td>K</td><td>C</td><td>N</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>U</td><td>S</td><td>O</td><td>E</td><td>E</td><td>L</td><td>B</td><td>U</td><td>O</td><td>D</td><td>O</td><td>R</td></tr> <tr><td>R</td><td>B</td><td>R</td><td>Y</td><td>L</td><td>F</td><td>A</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>A</td><td>L</td><td>E</td></tr> </table>	E	H	E	L	I	X	D	I	S	N	C	L	K	L	A	N	I	M	R	E	T	O	H	I	E	H	C	V	I	C	T	O	R	I	A	V	P	E	S	D	V	L	C	U	U	T	R	L	S	T	S	I	T	N	E	I	C	S	G	C	I	V	H	O	T	I	N	R	T	E	E	I	R	Y	M	I	N	I	T	N	U	G	N	M	N	E	X	P	L	O	R	E	R	N	O	O	K	A	L	T	T	I	A	B	E	O	D	C	E	R	R	I	V	U	L	W	K	C	N	S	U	S	O	E	E	L	B	U	O	D	O	R	R	B	R	Y	L	F	A	T	W	A	L	E
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**The solutions to the February puzzles are on page 36.**

### ST VALENTINE

Based upon information from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia Saint Valentine (in Latin, Valentinus) is a widely recognized third century Roman saint commemorated on February 14 and associated since the High Middle Ages with a tradition of courtly love. Nothing is known reliably of St. Valentine except his name and the fact that he died on the Via Flaminia north of Rome on February 14. It is even uncertain whether St. Valentine is to be identified with only one saint or two saints of the same name.

The “Golden Legend”, compiled about 1260 and one of the most-read books of the High Middle Ages, gives brief details of St Valentine. It has him refusing to deny Christ before the "Emperor Claudius" in the year 280. Before his head was cut off, this Valentine restored sight and hearing to the daughter of his jailer.

## ST JOHN'S PARISH MAGAZINE

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August. The magazine contains items about Parish news, events and other articles.

The magazine costs 40p to purchase and can be obtained from the back of church. Subscriptions are available at the discounted price of £4 per year. **We encourage you to subscribe as this means that we know more closely in advance how many copies to print and makes things easier for our printing team.**

We also have an extensive archive of our historical Parish Magazines stretching back to the 1870s. If you'd like to obtain a particular copy or view a copy from the archive please email [edofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:edofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

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The Church is fully equipped with a 'loop' sound system to enable those with a hearing aid to hear everything picked up by the microphones. All access to the church is level and therefore suitable for wheelchairs. A toilet for the disabled is available.

For more information, please email [hirings@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:hirings@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

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## SMILE LINE

Young Jimmy was in the infants' class. There was another little boy in the class who wasn't listening to the teacher. In exasperation, the teacher said to the restless boy: "Since you don't want to listen, you sit at that table by yourself."

After a few minutes, Jimmy raised his hand and said, "I don't want to listen either. Can I sit with him?"



## THE MAGAZINE

Articles on all aspects of Christian and parish life, letters, jokes, cartoons, puzzles and anecdotes from anyone are welcome for inclusion in the Magazine. Do contribute if you can. If you have a story to tell, please make contact; the more we learn about one another the better our understanding will be. What you think is important, but please add your name as anonymous contributions will not be considered.

Copy should reach us by Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> February for the March edition. If you can, please use e-mail: [magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

Additions to In Memoriam are not automatic following a funeral but must be specifically requested via the clergy.

If you would wish to advertise in the Magazine please contact Sue Hussell on 01684 893397 in the first instance.

Sue & Graham Evans, Joint Editors


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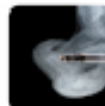
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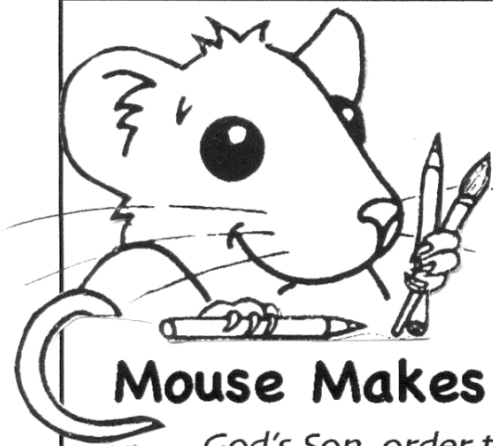
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## Mouse Makes

God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, **"Human beings cannot live on bread alone."**

Then the Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this power and all this wealth, it has been handed over to me and I can give it to anyone I choose. All this then will be yours if you worship me." Jesus answered,

*'The scripture says, **"Worship the Lord your God and serve only him."***

Then the Devil took Jesus to the Temple and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, 'They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'"

But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, **"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."**

READ  
Luke 4: 1-13

## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After he was baptised Jesus returned full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are

THE DEVIL SAID:  
*"If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread."*

JESUS REPLIED:  
**"Human beings cannot live on bread alone."**

read Deuteronomy 8:3



WE LEARN:  
**Read the Bible  
Learn God's word.**

THE DEVIL SAID:  
*"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me"*

JESUS REPLIED:  
**"Worship the Lord your God and serve only him"**

read Deuteronomy 6:13

**1**

WE LEARN:  
**Put God first  
Worship only Him**

THE DEVIL SAID:  
*"If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take good care of you"*

JESUS REPLIED:  
**"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."**

read Deuteronomy 6:16



WE LEARN:  
**God cares, trust Him  
do not test Him.**



Cut out the three cards  
and during Lent learn  
the bible verses



## ASH WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> February

The date of Ash Wednesday changes each year according to the date of Easter. The earliest possible date for Ash Wednesday is 4 February and the latest possible date is 10 March. So this year it is quite early.

It is called Ash Wednesday because of the church service where palm crosses kept from last year are burnt and their ashes mixed with water to make a paste. This paste is used to make the sign of the cross on peoples' foreheads.



For Christians these ashes are a symbol of being sorry for things that they have done which make God sad. It is also a reminder that we are all mortal.

The mark of the ashes on the forehead shows as a sign of our commitment to Jesus Christ and God. And it reminds us that we are saved through Christ's death and resurrection.

## FIRE & ASHES



All of these Bible questions have answers to do with fire or ashes... answers at the bottom of the page

1. Who saw a burning bush in the desert? (Exodus, chapter 3)
2. According to Isaiah chapter 58, what should you wear with ashes when you fast?
3. In the second letter of Peter, what cities does he say were turned to ashes?
4. How did an angel cook a cake for Elijah? (I Kings, chapter 19)
5. In what year did the seraph touch Isaiah on the mouth with a live coal? (Isaiah, chapter 6)
6. Where was Peter when he heard the cock crow? (Luke, chapter 22)



**Which English King invented the fireplace?**  
Alfred the Grate.



1. Moses
2. sackcloth
3. Sodom and Gomorrah
4. he baked it on hot stones
5. in the year that King Uzziah died
6. While sitting by a fire in the courtyard of the house of the High Priest.

## ST JOHN'S CLERGY

Vicar                                      Rev'd Christopher Stuart                                      01905 429773  
143 Malvern Road, WR2 4LN  
e-mail: vicar@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

### OTHER WEST WORCESTER GROUP CLERGY

Rural Dean                                      Rev'd David Sherwin                                      01886 888664  
e-mail: Davidwin56@aol.com

Minister, St Clement's with St David's                                      Rev'd Christopher Stuart

Minister, Christ Church, Lower  
Broadheath                                      Rev'd Robert Latham

Vicar of St Michael, Dines Green with  
Crown East & Rushwick                                      Rev'd Robin Charles                                      01905 749995  
e-mail: fr.robin@talktalk.net

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Every week	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00 a.m.	Parish Communion (including Children's Church during the school term)
1st & 3rd Sundays in Month	5.00 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)
Last Sunday in Month	5.00 p.m.	Healing Service
Other Sundays	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer (said)

### WEEKDAY SERVICES

Usually each day except Monday	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Thursday (at St Clement's)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

### PARISH OFFICE

Found where the Old Vicarage joins onto the church building.      1a Bromyard Road  
St John's, WR2 5BS

Answerphone outside office hours      01905 420490

e-mail: office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Open for general enquiries and messages      Wednesday to Friday  
10.00 a.m. until 11.30 a.m.

Open specifically for baptism and wedding      Saturday  
bookings      5.45 p.m. until 6.45 p.m.

Parish Website: [www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)