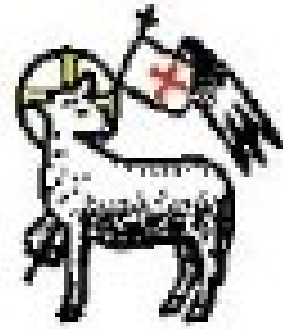
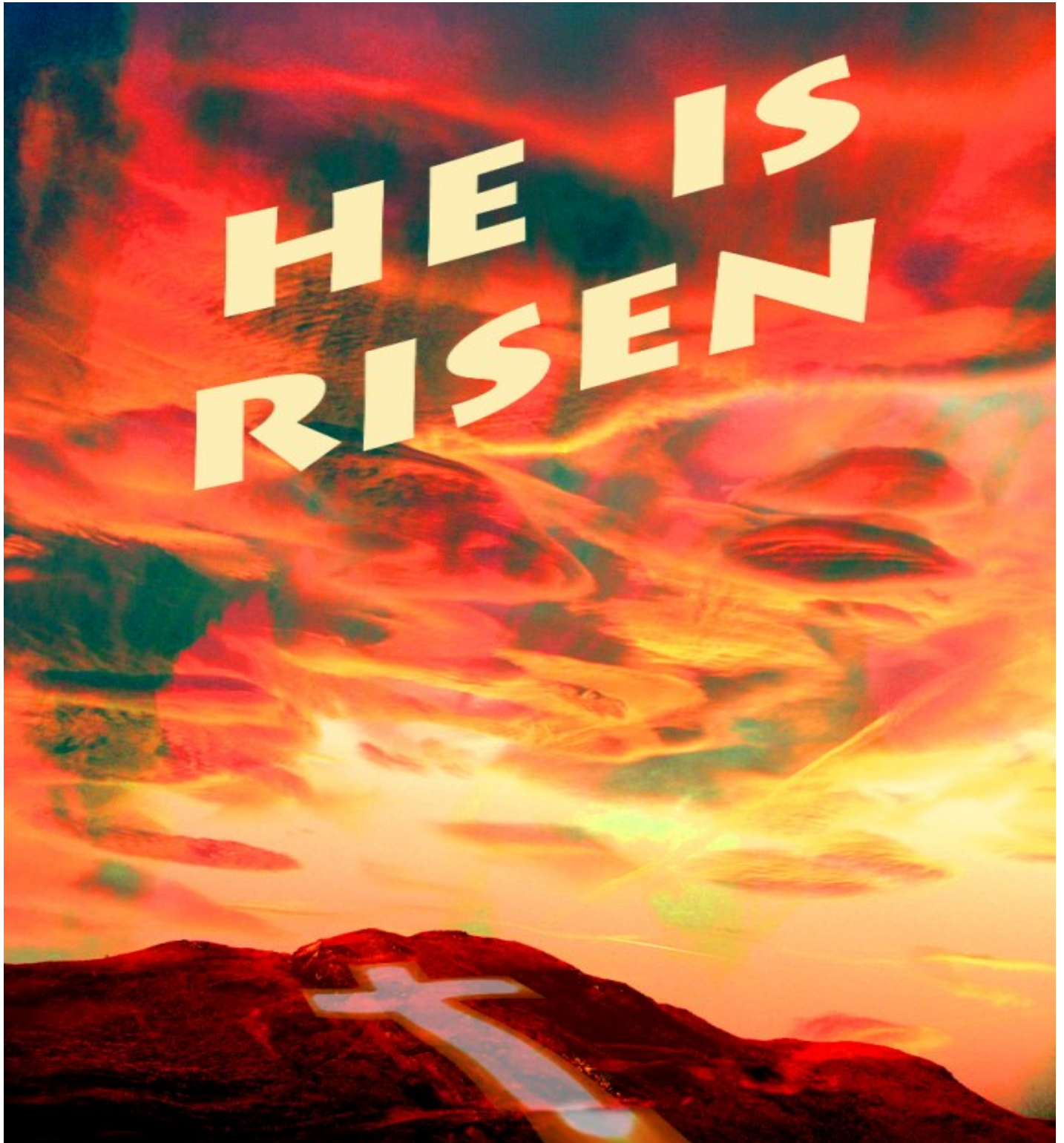


*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

APRIL 2013



40p





St John's Church Wedding Fair 2013

Opposite and on the back cover are a range of pictures taken at the Wedding Fair held in the church on 9th March: Our thanks to photographers Gordon Templeton, Colin Nash, Philip Evans and Graham Evans. Our photographers reported that it was difficult to get a picture of the organisers, Catherine and Sandra, because they didn't keep still for long enough! However, we did manage to catch them briefly at rest in the second (Catherine) and third (Sandra) photos down on the left hand side of the page opposite.

The magazine roving reporters spoke to people at the fair. Valerie from 'Big Hair Day' was pleased to support this fair because she was "Passionate about weddings being in church". Karen from the Diglis Hotel said that it was "lovely to be in church" and they were "glad to be a part of it." Avril from Greenwoods said the "Organisation has been superb". Leslie and Margaret from Angelcakes asked "Let us know when the next one is!"

Graham and Sue Evans

Saturday 9th March saw the bell ringers in action to chime in an inaugural St John-in-Bedwardine wedding fair. The weather was dull, but thankfully dry. Some thirty, mainly local, traders turned out to exhibit all manner of wedding items and services. Over two hundred visitors were able to meet providers of wedding clothes (both female and male), cakes, flowers, beauty products, and stately cars. We had photographers, an entertainer and even a release of doves. Classic Marquees of Malvern pitched up, kindly providing outdoor space for additional vendors.

Supporting the vendor stands, we staged two fashion shows. The Vicar introduced guest models, who paraded down the nave in bridal and bridesmaid's dresses and in formal menswear including a splendid kilt. Our organist was in full flow and the choir gave two performances of typical wedding hymns and anthems. The catering team as ever kept everyone present well fed and watered.

Throughout the day, the church had a real buzz about it. Beautiful bouquets and posies prepared by the flower team ensured that our building could be seen at its best.

The Fair aimed to showcase the church as an ideal marriage venue. It was also attempting to help to promote a community feel in St Johns. And we are pleased to report that it raised over £1500 for church funds.

The organisers are proud to be part of a congregation from which so many people were prepared to work so hard to make the event a success. Thanks to everyone involved for their support.

Catherine Templeton and Sandra Nash

Cover picture – courtesy of Parish Pump

**PASTORAL
LETTER
FOR APRIL**
from the Vicar



Dear Friends

God save us from extremists, of whatever colour – Christian, Muslim or atheist!
But God save us, too, from the bland, the undemanding and the inoffensive (not least in our worship). For fifty days we celebrate Easter, Christ’s resurrection – right the way through to Pentecost. An awesome event – and yet too often this story can feel bland and uninspiring. We’ve heard it just too many times before, and our hearts grow weary:

“The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity” (W.B. Yeats)

What to do? One fact more than any other determines whether or not you are passionate about Easter, and it boils down to this: do you see your life as a miracle? Do you see the world as a miracle? Do you see creation shot through with power? Isaac Newton once said: ‘In the absence of any other proof the thumb alone will convince me of God’s existence.’ It’s that sensitivity to miracle, and to wonder that opens our hearts to Easter - the greatest miracle of all.

Of course, you don’t need to believe in God to be filled with awe at creation, and there are plenty of people who feel that awe, without seeing the need for God. But that sense of miracle is a bridge – a bridge that leads across a vast, wide river; and there, on the far side of the bridge, almost lost on the horizon, is an ‘undiscovered country’: God.

We stand and contemplate the bridge, perhaps we step out onto it. But then we must choose: we can stop on the bridge, and be in awe of it as a wonder in itself, perhaps even admire the view – or we can stride over into a world that shocks, disturbs and overwhelms us.

Set besides the wonder of creation, the God peddled by the Church too often seems small, foolish and inadequate. But what if God was all that awe and wonder that even the atheists admire, and more than it, not less?

What if God was bigger than you thought? Because that, surely, is the message of Easter. Christ rose from the dead: God is stronger than death, and any evil. The secret of all things is revealed. Love. All that vast starry universe, all that intricate beauty in creation: Christians dare to say that all that is rooted in love. Astonishing!

I'm not a fool: I know that this isn't always a rosy world. Christians have long struggled with the problem of evil – but as a lapsed atheist myself, I have to say that it seems to me that atheism struggles just as much with the flip side: the problem of good. (There's a wealth of thoughtful writing on the problem of evil – if it's something you've always struggled with, give me a call.)

The great turning points in history come when a group of people are made to wonder, and go on wondering, because of some event or experience they can't deny. Easter is one such experience, and one in which we can share; an experience that changes our understanding of what is possible, and reshapes our ideas of the divine. Easter carries us over that bridge into God.

In Lent we give things up. In Easter, let's make a conscious effort to take something on. Let's walk across that bridge. And if I can help you do that, and show you some steps to take, then please ask.

*God Bless
Christopher*

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to a packed Easter issue. As you can see, we've gone for one of our occasional colour covers, and have used it to bring you lots of pictures from the highly successful wedding fair.

We've decided that each month we will include an article about a historical Christian figure. This month we settled on Bede, having come across his recording of how the word "Easter" came about.

We are very happy to have contributions which will make people think and provoke debate. In that vein, we have a piece "Why have clergy?" and we will welcome your responses to this. To avoid being machine-gunned messengers, we would like to emphasise that "Opinions expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of the authors concerned and may not represent the views of the editors, our PCC or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection."

The announcement that Nick Kaleniuk will be joining our group of churches for a three month secondment came just before this issue was assembled, so we are pleased to say "Welcome" to Nick and his family, and include "A bit about Nick".

Sue and Graham Evans

IN MEMORIAM

Eileen Bosworth	2 April 1955
Ethel Mary Teague	4 April 1973
Florence A Lewis	4 April 1994
Phyllis Manton	5 April 1974
Sydney Roberts	5 April 1980
Patricia Rosalie Surman	7 April 1986
Rev'd James William Newton	10 April 1988
Florence Lewis	12 April 1975
William Henry Fox	18 April 1984
Doris Drinkwater	18 April 1989
Alice Tipton	24 April 1972
Amelia Thomas	27 April 1942

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS: *We welcome you into the Lord's family*

10th February: Noah William Coupe

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 5th February Eunice Maud Griffin

d. 14th February Marilyn Barbara Morrish

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2013 (4 Sundays):

Communicants 333. Total attendance at all services 519.

THURSDAY AT TWO



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

Are you bereaved or lonely? Come along and join us for a cuppa, cake and a chat.

We meet on the second Thursday of every month, from 2pm in the Burroughs' Room, St John's Church.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th April.

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

Catherine Templeton, Sylvia Render

DATES FOR APRIL 2013

Saturday 6th April

6.00 p.m. Beetle drive at St John's

Sunday 7th April: Second Sunday of Easter

See table below for Sunday services on 7th April

Thursday 11th April

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

Saturday 13th April

10.30 a.m. Bridge day at St John's (play starts at 11 a.m.)

Sunday 14th April: Third Sunday of Easter

See table below for Sunday services on 14th April

Wednesday 17th April

7.00 p.m. Craft Club (Blakefield Room).

Sunday 21st April: Fourth Sunday of Easter

See table below for Sunday services on 21st April

6.15 p.m. Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see page 19)

Sunday 28th April: Fifth Sunday of Easter

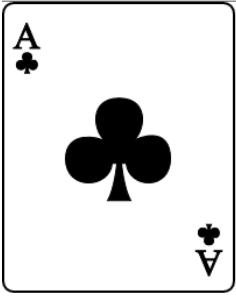
See table below for Sunday services on 28th April

APRIL SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S, ST CLEMENT'S AND ST DAVID'S

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's
7th April 2013	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	Joint service at St. John's	Joint service at St. John's
14th April 2013	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion 5pm Evensong (BCP)*	9.30am Parish Communion	11.15am Holy Communion
21st April 2013	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9.30am Family Service	11.15am Morning Prayer
28th April 2013	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion 5pm Healing Service (BCP)	9.30am Parish Communion	11.15am Holy Communion

*NB 5pm Evensong on 14th April is a change to the ordinary pattern for this month only.

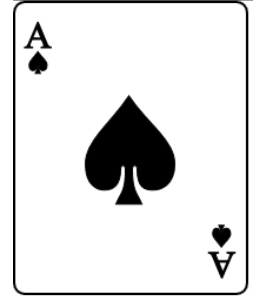
The information above is correct at the time of going to press, but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.



CHARITY BRIDGE DAY

Saturday

13th April 2013

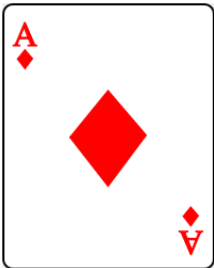


Come and play friendly Rubber Bridge at
St John-in-Bedwardine Church.

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

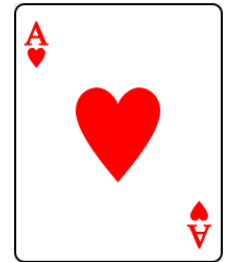
£10 per person.

Please phone Catherine or Gordon on
01905 749025 to book your place, or email
cathtemp@btinternet.com



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

Images by en:User:Cburnett [GFDL (<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html>)
or CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)],
via Wikimedia Commons



CAFÉ QUENCH NEEDS YOU

The Christian Union at Worcester University is launching Café Quench. Our aim is to create a medium through which we as the Church body (Christian Union members and local churches) can serve our fellow students and staff at the University of Worcester and share the love of Christ and the beauty of his gospel. We'd love for you as local church members to join us in helping out, making or serving food and drinks but most importantly we would really appreciate if you could donate a mug so we can give out drinks in a more personal way.

Donate a mug: If you have a mug you'd like to donate simply place it in the area designated by your church leader. Or you can deliver one/or more to the Chaplaincy centre at the university in the Bredon Building.

Thank you so much for your help. If you're interested in helping or volunteering please contact Sarah at sarah.davies2020@gmail.com

ST CLEMENT'S AND ST DAVID'S EVENTS 2013

Monday April 8th 7.30pm	Film Show on 'Old St Johns' by Philip Adams, at St Clement's Church. No charge – a raffle will be held on the night. All welcome
Saturday 13th April: 2pm till 4pm.	Fundraising event to raise funds for a 'well' in Kyelini Village School. In Comer Gardens Community Hall, Comer Gardens.
Friday May 10th: 7.30pm.	'Steel' Band concert in St Clement's Church. All welcome. Tickets £5. Put on by Friends of St Clement's Church.
Friday May 18 th : 10am till 12noon	Coffee Morning in the Guildhall Worcester, to raise funds for the Church.
6th July	Summer Fayre
16th November	Christmas Fayre

Margaret Dixon

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

One of the busiest times of the year for a Church choir is just starting as I write these notes. While Christmas celebrates the happiness of birth, the journey from the horror and pain of Good Friday to the rejoicing of Easter Sunday is one that explores a whole range of drama and emotion. Musicians through the ages and across the world have been inspired by the power of the message of Easter and we in the choir have been challenged and uplifted in preparing our singing for the Easter Services. Of course, as you read this, one of the busiest times of the year for the Church choir will just be finishing and I hope that we have sung the best we can and given the music the attention it deserves, raising our voices in praise of God.

Thinking of raising our voices makes me ponder on the lowering of our voices too. As the choir continues to grow we are experiencing something of a strange phenomenon. Most choral directors would say that there is always a shortage of tenors in a choir. We though are blessed with a lengthy line of tenors in the cantoris choir stalls. On the opposite side however we have only two regular basses: Lionel and Bill are wonderful but are increasingly outnumbered. So, if there is anyone out there who sings Bass please come and join us. Please pass the message on too as there may be any number of shy men who would love to be encouraged to come and sing Bass and balance our choir! Just get in touch with John. Of course there is always room for more sopranos, altos and even tenors.....

Luise Horrocks

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL

Thank you to everyone who filled in an application form for the new electoral roll. The closing date for applications has now passed and the new roll has been completed and exhibited in church until the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on 14th April. Until the APCM, any errors or omissions in the roll may be corrected, otherwise no names may be added to the roll until after the APCM. Once the APCM has passed the roll will again be open for new members to join.

Graham Evans, Philip Evans, Electoral Roll Officers

THE ORIGINS OF “EASTER”

Based upon information from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ēostre or Ostara (Northumbrian Old English: *Ēostre*) is a goddess in Germanic paganism who, by way of the Germanic month bearing her name is the namesake of the festival of Easter. In his 8th-century work *De temporum ratione*, Bede describes the indigenous month names of the English people. After describing the worship of the goddess Rheda during the Anglo-Saxon month of Hrethmonath, Bede writes about Eosturmonath, the month of the goddess *Ēostre*. Bede states that during *Ēosturmōnath* (the equivalent to the month of April) feasts were held in Eostre's honour among the pagan Anglo-Saxons, but had died out by the time of his writing, replaced by the Christian "Paschal month" (celebrating the resurrection of Jesus).

Original Latin:	Modern English translation:
Eostur-monath, qui nunc Paschalis mensis interpretatur, quondam a Dea illorum quæ Eostre vocabatur, et cui in illo festa celebrabant nomen habuit: a cujus nomine nunc Paschale tempus cognominant, consueto antiquæ observationis vocabulo gaudia novæ solemnitatis vocantes.	Eosturmonath has a name which is now translated "Paschal month", and which was once called after a goddess of theirs named Eostre, in whose honour feasts were celebrated in that month. Now they designate that Paschal season by her name, calling the joys of the new rite by the time-honoured name of the old observance.

VOLUNTEER VACANCY

Assistant to the Parish Magazine Distributor & Treasurer

With the increasing number of subscribers to the Parish Magazine, an assistant/s is required to help the Distributor & Treasurer. The tasks an assistant may be involved in include keeping delivery lists up to date, sending out reminders when subscriptions are due for renewal and maintaining records. Training will be provided. Date required: As soon as possible. For more information please contact me.

Philip Evans (Parish Magazine Distributor & Treasurer)

FUN AND FUND RAISING AT ST JOHN'S

Do come along to our 4th Craft Evening. Wednesday 17th April 7.00 in the parish room (off Church car park). This month we are going to be making a card which could be used for almost any occasion.

Don't miss the chance to have a chat with a friendly group while learning a new skill. No experience necessary, all materials supplied, light refreshments and all for £5.

Telephone or e-mail for further details and to book your place: 01905 424811 or janeg01uk@yahoo.co.uk

Plant Sale Saturday 18th May

We have decided to resurrect the successful plant sale that we used to have a couple of years ago.

We will have plenty of plants available at reasonable prices so do come and have a look.

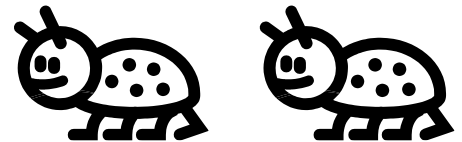
Refreshments will be available.

Can you help us? We also need plants to sell. Are you splitting shrubs? We would be most grateful for donations. We can come and pick them up.

Telephone 423257, 424811, 749025 if you can help.



Beetle Drive



Saturday 6th April 6.00pm at St John's Church. Do come along to this informal family fun evening.

Don't worry if you've not played before - it is very easy to pick up the rules. Cost is £2.50 per person which will include a light supper.

We look forward to seeing you there for an enjoyable evening.

Please telephone or e-mail to book your place

01905 424811, 01905 423257 or janeg01uk@yahoo.co.uk

Proceeds of all the above events to St John in Bedwardine Church.

REPORT ON THE PUBLIC DEBATE

Is religion used as an excuse for immoral acts in society?

Fiona Haworth took the chair for the most recent public debate at the church on Wednesday 27th February 2013. Here is her report:

The theme for the recent public debate, ‘Is religion used as an excuse for immoral acts in society?’ was chosen by members of the debating society at Christopher Whitehead Language College. It was good to see members of the debating society in church for the debate.

In planning the debates Chris and I try to find speakers to represent the different views implied in the title and offer a wider perspective. Our panel was John Hyde, a retired teacher of technology in FE Colleges, a self-professed agnostic; Professor John Newbury, the head of the Institute of Science and the Environment at the University of Worcester, an atheist; and Rev’d Lizzie Shipp, Chaplain to the Bishop of Worcester and the sole representative of religious belief on the panel.

The debate opened with each speaker outlining their approach to the theme and produced a clear consensus; namely that religion can be used as an excuse for immoral acts but that it is also capable of great good. John Hyde began with a historical account of various religious acts that were clearly immoral including the Siege of Beziers, the first massacre of the Albigensian Crusade. The Crusade began to combat the mass religious movement of Catharism. The town of Beziers was attacked and it is said that the Papal Legate, when asked how the crusaders would distinguish Catholics from Cathars when they took the town, replied, ‘Kill them all, God will know his own.’ John then followed this by recounting the examples of Christians who, despite the risk, in plague struck cities stayed to nurse the ill and bury the dead.

John Newbury followed this by discussing examples from science, drawing parallels with the behaviour of our near relatives, chimpanzees and the impact of Jane Goodall’s research, which she later came to regret, of offering large amounts of food to the chimpanzees she worked with in order to gain their trust. The impact of this was to produce a troop of unusually violent and competitive chimpanzees. He also argued that humans will use different excuses for immoral behaviour of which religion is only one.

Lizzie began by answering the question posed in the debate with the answer, yes religion is used as an excuse for immoral acts in society, and no religion is a source of much good in society. Drawing on a range of examples she spoke of the way in which religion is sometimes caricatured by campaigning atheists like Richard Dawkins and Polly Toynbee. This was later picked up by John Newbury who felt that to equate all atheists with Richard Dawkins and Polly Toynbee was unfair.

This opening consensus set the tone for a very reasonable and thoughtful discussion with no real dissent. There were some probing questions about the use of religion in modern day conflicts, specifically Israel and Palestine, but it seems fair to say that those present who spoke and listened attentively were in agreement with all three panellists in asserting that religion can be used both as an excuse for immoral acts, but is also a source of much good.

Fiona Haworth

REPORT OF THE FEBRUARY 2012 MEETING OF ST. JOHN'S TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

At this month's meeting, Mrs. Day, our secretary, informed us that TGs from all over the UK had raised over £32,000 for the Princess Royal Trust for Carers. We were then entertained by Mr. Tony Breedon who took us on a journey through the Golden Age of Musicals. Mr Breedon said this was the 40s, 50's & 60s

He played us tunes from Oklahoma, My Fair Lady and Oliver. After giving us song sheets he invited us to join by singing and in-between regaled us with information about the people concerned in these musicals.

We welcome visitors to our Guild; for information ring Aileen on 01905425986.

Elizabeth Chambers, Press Secretary

THE VENERABLE BEDE

Based upon information from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Bede (672/673 – 26 May 735), also referred to as Saint Bede or the Venerable Bede, was an English monk at the Northumbrian monasteries of Saint Peter at Monkwearmouth and Saint Paul's, in modern Jarrow. Here Bede had access to a superb library. His name probably derives from the Old English *bēd*, or prayer.

Bede wrote scientific, historical and theological works, a wide range of writings from music and metrics to exegetical Scripture commentaries. His most famous work, *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* (The Ecclesiastical History of the English People) gained him the title "The Father of English History". Bede was moreover a skilled linguist and translator, and his work with the Latin and Greek writings of the early Church contributed significantly to English Christianity, making the writings much more accessible to his fellow Anglo-Saxons.

Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester was a particular devotee of Bede's, dedicating a church to him in 1062, his first undertaking after his consecration as bishop.

Bede pioneered the use of *anno domini* for dating. Although he did not invent this method, his adoption of it, and the promulgation of it in his work, is the main reason why it is now so widely used.

A BIT ABOUT NICK



Nick's Priesting at Worcester Cathedral, July 2010

The opportunity of joining the Ministry Team at St. Clement's, St. David's, St. John's and St. Michael's churches on secondment is very exciting and promises to be a wonderful blessing not only for me in my ministry but also for my family who have been made to feel so welcome by the warmth and friendliness of this lovely city and area of Worcestershire.

Before being ordained at Worcester Cathedral and beginning to train and work as a curate at Claines Church, North Worcester in July 2009 I worked with my wife, Alex, as a lawyer in our own law firm based in London. We lived with our two children, Nicholas (now aged 7) and Elizabeth (aged 4) in Gloucestershire. Moving to Claines meant not only moving house for the whole family but starting a new way of life for all of us. For Alex and I it meant changes in our working life as I became a full time minister in the Church of England and Alex a full time mum and home maker. For Nicholas it meant starting a new school, and for Elizabeth it just meant accepting the adoration of strangers usually bestowed on a very cute and adorable baby!

I am so thankful for all the joys and challenges that these last few years as curate at Claines have brought and for the expert guidance and support I've received along the way. I am very much looking forward to the coming months and to all the wide and varied work and duties of an associate priest and to getting to know more of the lovely people and parishes of West Worcester.

Nick Kaleniuk

TEEN MEETS GOD – LAURA’S STORY

Laura is 18 and lives in Bradford. She is one of the contributors to a new book of stories, ‘Jesus is Changing my Life’, published by LIFE Church UK. Here is her story

I was baptised as a baby, and as I grew up, I went to church with my dad. I went to Sunday school, and I would say and do the right thing. It didn’t mean anything though, because I didn’t have that intimate relationship with God that other people seemed to have.

In my early teens, I was dragged along to a Christian event. It was a whole week long and I knew it was going to be such a bore. But I wanted my dad and church friends to be happy with me, so I said yes.

I stood at the back in the first meeting, feeling incredibly uncomfortable and out of place. The music started, and everyone started raising their hands in worship. I’d seen this before, but this time was different. I looked around at the faces of all these incredible young people passionate about Jesus, and I realised that I’d been living a religion instead of a relationship. A leader stopped the band mid-song and began to speak – saying that someone needed to know that God loved them so much, and wanted to come into a relationship with them tonight. I knew that was me!

Now I began to worship. I can’t describe what I felt in that moment, but I was in the presence of God. I got down on my knees – I must have been there for about half an hour. With my face bowed to the floor, I began to pour out my heart to God. I asked him to forgive my sins and said I wanted to enter into a real relationship with him. As I left that meeting, I knew that Jesus had changed everything. I knew there was a God who loved me who I could pray to; that I could be honest with. From that moment onwards, I can honestly say I have never been the same. Just one touch of God’s presence changed my life.

To find out more about the Christian faith, visit <http://www.lookingforgod.com>

Courtesy of Parish Pump

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

I am delighted that I shall be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in early 2014 (29 January – 5 February), and I warmly invite all within our Diocesan family to join us.

To go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land is an unforgettable experience. To walk in the places that Our Lord walked, from the place of his birth to the place of his death and resurrection is tremendously evocative. This is a great opportunity to explore our faith, enlarge our hope, and deepen our love for the Lord.

(continued overleaf)

An invaluable part of our pilgrimage programme will be the opportunity to visit our brother and sister Christians who live and work in the Holy Land, often under great hardship, and offer them our support, which is hugely appreciated by them.

Please pray for our pilgrimage and for the Holy Land and for the Church there.

With my very good wishes,

Dr John Inge

READER MINISTRY ROADSHOWS

These roadshows are opportunities for people to find out more about Reader ministry (Licensed Lay Ministry). They are for people at any stage of their exploration, however tentative their interest in this ministry and, in particular, I encourage anyone who may already be thinking in this direction to attend. Friends and supporters are very welcome too.

Tuesday 23rd April, 7.30pm, St Peter's church, Powick WR2 4QT.

Saturday 8th June, 10am, St Michael's church, Church Drive, Stourport DY13 9DT.

These events offer a practical, informal, 'no-strings attached' opportunity to meet Readers, gather more information and identify some next steps for each enquirer. They will look at how Licensed Lay Ministry relates to Authorised Lay Ministry, at ways of discerning vocation and at resources for helping people grow in faith.

Please book with Sue Gromski: 01905 732812 or training@cofe-worcester.org.uk

Anyone who would like a general conversation about the possibility of Reader ministry or who already knows they would like to explore this vocation further should contact me direct. I shall be delighted to help.

*The Rev'd Canon Sheila Banyard, Warden of Readers
01905 773134 sk.banyard@virgin.net*

TEXTILE RECYCLING BIN

We now have a textile recycling bin outside the Blakefield room. This will raise money for our church so please use this for any unwanted textiles you may have.

We collect all types of unwanted textiles including adults and children's clothes, paired shoes (tied together with laces or elastic bands), hats, bags, belts, curtains, towels and bed linen. (Not pillows or duvets please)

Textiles are sorted, then graded according to quality, for reuse or recycling. Good quality textiles are exported to Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe, providing affordable second hand clothing. Poor quality textiles are cut up into industrial wiping cloths. Bags are available at the back of church, or just use a carrier bag.

Thank you for your support.

Catherine Templeton

WHY HAVE CLERGY?

As I wrote the title I could hear gasps from some people. Seriously though, as Sarah stated, very few laity would wish to return to the days when the clergy did everything. Even in my teenage years, all the services were conducted by the vicar. Nowadays lay people can be licensed to conduct services. At the moment, a limited amount, where a vicar is not available. However I can see a time say 50 years hence that licensed lay people will conduct all services if required, as there are fewer clergy than in the past. Today many churches train pastoral and bereavement teams to visit people. This is not necessary, and is just to make it public that the church is doing something. But wait, before you disagree with my statement. We have all received a letter/phone call or met someone we know while out, and been told of someone's illness, bereavement, problem, and we have contacted the person and given them what comfort or help we could spontaneously. I've done it, and most people reading this will have done so too. It has always been much appreciated, yet we probably haven't been trained. People who have never had contact with a worshipping congregation must have had a "field day" in recent years. "The Church" spent years on and off discussing having women priests- now it's quite common. We all know how many hours were spent by clergy and synod laity discussing women bishops (to be continued). This has now quickly been replaced by "should same sex couples be married in church?" and what will follow? Hours are spent discussing issues which usually aren't resolved. Meanwhile the thousands of Christians who do not attend any form of denominational worship are busy doing much needed voluntary work and visiting people. We heard recently that since the last census the number of Christians in this country has dropped. Are you surprised? In my young days clergy, teachers and police were all respected but now, because a few people in all these professions have been highlighted by the media for the variety of shameful things they have done, these professions have largely lost their respect.

Sarah stated it's hard to wear a dog collar, but this is not necessary. Paintings done many years ago of Jesus and his disciples by well-known artists portray them in Eastern clothing identical to the population, not with a dog collar.

To conclude I can see a time in the distant future when there will be no clergy, and people will spread the gospel by deeds. Wearing a cross or a dog collar is not necessary. Did Jesus himself not say "by their works ye shall know them" ?

Wendy Dedicott

***Please let us know your opinions on the above ideas. You can email us at
magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk***

The editors

PCC MEETING 26th February 2013

Sue Bale (Lay Vice Chair) opened the meeting with a prayer. 13 members were present.

Under matters arising from the minutes Catherine Templeton reported that she has got approval from our insurers and ordered a textile recycling bin.

Once again this year, the PCC is grouping its work to reflect the chosen strategic priorities for the year. The areas are “Worship, Mission and new services”, “Children and Schools”, “West Side collaboration” and “Finance and operations”.

The first area on the agenda was **Worship, Mission and new services**.

The Pastoral Committee reported on a good start for “Thursday at Two”; the PCC expressed appreciation for this and the growth of home communions.

The Charity Committee proposed that the church’s 2013 giving should be £1,000 to Maggs Day Centre and £500 to WRVS. The proposal was agreed.

In response to a request from our Deanery Synod, the PCC held a discussion about how it saw the function and purpose of Deanery Synod.

Under **Children and Schools**, the Vicar reported that he was continuing to meet with others and to work towards having a Children and Family worker.

The Vicar asked for suggestions on how to take forward our work with schools. It was suggested that “Open the Book” could be used at the St Johns PRU (Perryfields Short Stay School) and also with our Children’s Church.

Under **West Side collaboration**, the Vicar said that he has been told by the diocese to expect news soon on filling the new post for a part time member of the clergy. Fiona Haworth will cover one Sunday per month.

Under **Finance and Operations**, written reports had been received from a number of PCC committees and the Secretary thanked all who had submitted reports in advance of the meeting. Highlights from the written and verbal reports included:

- There will be an annual stewardship campaign around the time Pentecost.
- The Treasurer, Jane Askew, distributed sheets showing the February financial update and answered questions. As Jane is standing down as Treasurer in April, a vote of thanks was passed to express appreciation to Jane for all her work in this post.
- The 2012 Accounts will be presented for approval at a short PCC meeting in March when the third parties involved have completed their work.
- Jane Askew answered questions about the proposed 2013 budget and this was then approved.

- The Fund Raising Committee reported on their on-going and future events. They are always happy to receive new ideas for raising funds.
- The report from the Accommodation Committee (AC) noted that the water ingress into the tower has now been resolved, and included three items which required PCC decision:
 - Sound system: The PCC decided to proceed with a system based on a fixed rather than a mobile mixing desk as this would be more robust and receive less wear and tear. The cost will be in the region of £10,000. Application will be made for a faculty and fund-raising will continue.
 - Quinquennial Inspection: The PCC accepted a recommendation from the committee to appoint the church architect to carry this out.
 - The Tower Project will now be closed as a standalone project and the remaining works and the finances were delegated to the Accommodation Committee and PCC Treasurer.
- It was agreed that we should maintain our registration as an Environmental Body, to maintain access to certain grant funding. Thanks were expressed to Philip Evans for his work which had yielded many thousands of pounds worth of grants.
- Progress on the new electoral roll was going according to plan.

Under any other business, Arthur Burgess asked about the state of play on a garden of remembrance. The Vicar said that Brian Askew is in discussions with the Diocesan Office.

The PCC expressed its support for a possible visit to St John's in May by visitors from Magdeburg.

There was a discussion about what events we might run which could form part of the Deanery Mission.

The PCC passed a vote of thanks to members retiring at the Annual Meeting in April: John Prangnell, Hilary Clifton, Nigel Davies, Tim Cox.

The meeting closed with all saying 'The Grace'.

Graham Evans

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Church Meeting will be held in church on Sunday 21st April, at 6.15p.m. (i.e. after evensong) to receive reports about the work of the church over the past year, and to elect churchwardens and members of the PCC. And to share refreshments! Please do come along to learn what is going on, and support the choosing of the church officers. This is a change of date from 14th April.

Graham Evans

YOUR PCC NEEDS YOU

Several members of the PCC are standing down this month and therefore we are looking for new blood to join us. The work of the PCC is an important underpinning to all the work and mission of our church, and we hope you will consider becoming a part of it. The duties and functions of the PCC are:

- Consultation with the minister on matters of general concern and importance to the parish and co-operation with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- The care, maintenance, preservation and insurance of the fabric of the church and the goods and ornaments thereof and the care and maintenance of the churchyard;
- Overseeing the financial affairs of the church;
 - Collection and administration of all moneys received;
 - To frame an annual budget of moneys required for the work of the Church in the parish and otherwise and to take such steps as they think necessary for the raising, collecting and allocating of such moneys;
 - Power jointly with the minister to determine the objects to which all moneys to be given or collected in church shall be allocated.

OPEN THE BOOK

Open The Book is a national initiative to take Bible stories to children.

A group of ladies from St. Clements Church have been going into St. Clements School each Monday morning for the past three years helping the children enact a bible story from the designated book. Sometimes the children are dressed in something to help the assembled children understand what is going on. The actors have worn paper animal masks, worn tea-towels, crown and cloak, carried a lantern or a staff and on one occasion we converted a cardboard box into a boat!!

We ask for a certain number of children to act as performers for the particular assembly and we have a few minutes to go over the story with them. They then mime what we read to the rest of the school assembled in the main hall. When "a Crowd" is required, we use the whole school so that as many children as possible participate. We use any opportunity to encourage the whole school to join in.

The assembly starts with a very basic explanation of the story to set the scene; after the dramatisation we finish with a little prayer and a hymn. The whole assembly takes about 20 minutes, so it is quite a short enactment.

We have had lots of positive feedback from both staff and children and feel it is a very worthwhile exercise.

Marguerite Stevens

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

FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE ARCHIVES 1953

EASTER DAY is behind us now but it is not forgotten. For many people it brought joy and gladness. All the services were well attended and our Communicants for the day numbered 520. This is a definite increase over the previous year, but of course we have to remember always that the number of communicants on Easter Day is not representative of our work, since many friends are away and many strangers are with us. Nevertheless it is good to mark this increase.

The Church was made beautiful as we are accustomed to see it on the great Festivals. I would assure the helpers who provided flowers and gave of their time to decorating that their work is very highly appreciated and valued. How important it is to have our Church always looking its best.

The Choir Master, Choristers and Organist receive our sincere thanks for the work they put in chorally during Holy Week, Easter Day and at other times. They have maintained a high standard and it is well recognised.

I would like to record here also the long hours given by many ladies in the spring-clean of the church. It was a great effort which has not gone unnoticed.

We now look forward to the great Festival of Whitsun, the Coronation and our own Patronal Festival on June 28th, the octave of St. John Baptist. The arrangement of services will be given in next month's Magazine.

APRIL PUZZLE (solution on page 34)

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ROOM HIRING AT THE CHURCH

The church has two meeting rooms and a large space in the church available for hire. All rooms have access to the church car park.

Blakefield Room	Suitable for up to 30 people: Fully fitted kitchen, including dishwasher; toilets, including one disabled toilet and a baby-changing facility; Tables and/or chairs.
Burroughs' Room	Suitable for up to 12 people. Drink making facilities and toilet. Television with VCR provided.
The North Aisle	Suitable for 120 people seated theatre style or up to 48-64 seated around tables. Tables and/or chairs are provided. It is a large open area with plenty of electric sockets. It has been used to host exhibitions, meals and conferences.

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

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.

Opinions expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of the authors concerned and may not represent the views of the editors, our PCC or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

Copy should reach us by Monday, 15th April for the May edition. If you can, please use e-mail: 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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- We help you remain independent for as long as possible.

❖ Social clubs & luncheon clubs

❖ Telephone Befriending



- A weekly telephone call to lonely and isolated older people.
- If you or someone you know would benefit from this, please let us know.

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SIGN OF THE FISH

In the early days of Christianity it could be very dangerous to admit that you were one of Jesus' followers. You could be arrested, imprisoned and killed, simply for your beliefs. Christians had to meet in secret - but how could you tell if a stranger was a Christian or not? Who could you trust? Christians used secret signs to recognise one another. And one of these was the sign of the fish which could easily be scratched on a wall or drawn in the dust of the road. If the other person wasn't a Christian they'd just think you were doodling.

The fish was used as sign because, in Greek, the first letters of the words 'Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour' spell 'ichthus', the Greek word for fish.



How can you show other people today that you are a Christian? If you have the joy of knowing Jesus in your heart then it should show on your face!

SECRET WRITING

The fish was a secret sign. If you would like to send someone a secret message, you can do it with 'invisible ink'.

You need a lemon or an onion. Squeeze the juice of either into a small bowl. Using the juice as ink, with a clean nib in a proper pen, write your message on a piece of paper. Leave it to dry and as it dries the message will disappear.

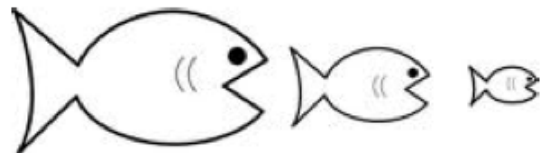


To make it reappear, hold the paper over a lamp or radiator. This is a very easy way of sending secret messages ... but you have to be sure that the person you are writing to knows the secret of how to make the message reappear!



Where does seaweed look for a job?

In the 'Kelp-wanted' ads!



What game do fish like playing the most?

Name that tuna.



WHO'S WHO – CHURCH OFFICERS

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

Churchwardens	Margaret Morris	426153
	Gordon Templeton	749025
	gordtemp@btinternet.com	
Verger	Catherine Templeton	749025
PCC Chairman	Sue Bale	423257
Secretary	Graham Evans	428667
Treasurer	Jane Askew	424811
Stewardship envelopes	Irene Allen	422684
Estates Manager	Brian Askew	424811
	brian.askew@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Parish Administrator	Judy Prangnell	424090
	judy.prangnell@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
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	edofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
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Pastoral Care Coordinator	Sylvia Render	422654
	sylviarender@talktalk.net	
Press Officer	Philip Evans	
	pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Organist & Choirmaster	John Brierley	358474
Music Group	Peter Yates	422565
	pjyates194@btinternet.com	
Ringing Master	Nicki Sysum	
Church Flowers	Eileen Cantrill	422579
	Di White	
Church Cleaner	Guy Monk	
Magazine Editors	Sue & Graham Evans	428667
	magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Magazine Distributor & Treasurer	Philip Evans	428667
	pjevans@physics.org	

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.rob@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
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Open specifically for baptism and wedding bookings Saturday
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Parish Website: www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Caption Competition



This picture was taken outside the Blakefield Room, just after a choir practice.

Your challenge is to come up with an amusing, printable caption for this picture. Please submit your entry by email to magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk no later than 30th April 2013. The entry selected by the editors (whose decision is final!) will receive the kudos of being declared the winner.

