

*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*



MAY 2013

40p

“May God in his great mercy bless you
and pour on you the understanding of his
wisdom and grace:

May he nourish you with the riches of
the faith and make you to persevere in
all good works:

May he keep your steps from wandering
and show you all the paths of love and
peace.

And the blessing of God almighty, the
father, the son and the holy spirit, be
among you and remain with you always.

Amen.”

Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury
At the conclusion of his inauguration
21st March 2013

WHO'S WHO – CHURCH OFFICERS

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

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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.**

PASTORAL LETTER FOR MAY

from Bishop David

Amidst that splendid service to enthrone Archbishop Justin that I was privileged to attend, there was a completely unscripted moment. It came in the middle of one of the hymns. The printed order of service contained a particular word, but, audibly, the majority of the congregation sang a quite different one. They weren't correcting a misprint in the text. Nor were they misreading what it said. It was a deliberate choice, and one made for theological reasons.

What has fascinated me is not so much the particular hymn, or even the specific word, so much as that a congregation would spontaneously act in this way. It's surprising because I would have expected most people to simply sing what was written on the page without really giving a great deal of thought to it. Admittedly, we were not an ordinary Sunday congregation. It's hard to imagine a larger gathering of people who have studied theology and who think hard about their faith. But it did make me realise how little attention we often pay to the words that we are singing in church.

When I first came to the Diocese of Worcester as a Bishop I found that often in the middle of a service I could be expected to sing a hymn but somehow there wouldn't be a hymnbook to hand. I started trying to sing as many hymns as I possibly could from memory. What I discovered was that it made me concentrate on the words much harder. It's almost impossible to remember the next line if you don't pay attention to the current one. And if it has made me slightly grumpy about modern hymn books that unnecessarily change a word here or there, it has made me much more attentive to the meaning of what I sing.

So let me offer you a challenge for this next month. When you are singing hymns or songs in church, don't just let the words pass from the book to your mouth without visiting your brain. Think about what you are singing, what it means to you, and whether it expresses your faith in Jesus. And if that means occasionally you're singing a different word than the one that appears on the page, so much the better.

+David

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2013

Christian Aid week is 12th-18th May, with the theme "Bite back at hunger". Today, one in eight people are living with the pain of hunger. And yet our planet produces enough food for everyone. It's unfair, it's unjust – and it's totally preventable. Christian Aid is part of a campaign to ask world leaders to take action on global hunger when they meet in June at the G8 summit in Northern Ireland. Read more on posters in church and on the website caweek.org. Don't forget to sign up for the distribution and collection of Christian Aid envelopes and look out for other events locally.

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Our theme this month is picked up from Bishop David's letter and his comments about the words of hymns. Our historical Christian figure is Charles Wesley, who penned the words of twenty three of the hymns in our current hymn book (and one tune). He is commemorated on 24th May in the lectionary. Read our article about him on page 10 to see why it is that particular date.

We've included some reports from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. The rest of the reports will follow in next month's magazine. They give an interesting snapshot of what goes on in our church, and the breadth of what we do. However there is a sobering reminder of what used to go on, in the Archive piece, on page 19, which shows the Parish Organisations from March 1950, 'only' 63 years ago.

One of Charles Wesley's hymns was used at the inauguration of Justin Welby as Archbishop of Canterbury. We've used the words of Archbishop Justin's blessing at the end of that service on our front cover. We also found inspiring the words of the welcome to the Archbishop from that service:

We greet you in the name of Christ. Who are you and why do you request entry?

I am Justin, a servant of Jesus Christ, and I come as one seeking the grace of God, to travel with you in his service together.

Why have you been sent to us?

I am sent as Archbishop to serve you, to proclaim the love of Christ and with you to worship and love him with heart and soul, mind and strength.

How do you come among us and with what confidence?

I come knowing nothing except Jesus Christ and him crucified, and in weakness and fear and in much trembling.

Let us then humble ourselves before God and together seek his mercy and strength.

.Sue and Graham Evans

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The church annual meeting was held on Sunday 21st April after evensong. The results of the elections and appointments are:

- Churchwardens: Margaret Morris and Gordon Templeton.
- Parochial Church Council (PCC), representatives of the laity: Ron Cantrill, Graham Evans, Luise Horrocks, Colin Nash. Co-opted member: John English.
- PCC officers. Lay vice-chair: Sue Bale. Secretary: Graham Evans.
Treasurer: John English.

Some reports from the APCM are included in this issue, and there will be more next time.

Graham Evans

DATES FOR MAY 2013

Sunday 5th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter

See table below for Sunday services on 5th May

Thursday 9th May: Ascension Day

2.00 p.m. Thursday at Two (Blakefield Room).
7.30 p.m. Ascension Day Eucharist at St Philip and St James, Hallow.

Saturday 11th May

9.00 a.m. "Maybe" breakfast at church 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 12th May: 7th Sunday of Easter (Sunday after Ascension Day)

See table below for Sunday services on 12th May

Wednesday 15th May

7.00 p.m. Craft evening with a gardening theme. Booking essential this month – please telephone 424811.

Saturday 18th May

10.00 a.m. Plant sale in church 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday 19th May: Pentecost

See table below for Sunday services on 19th May

Friday 24th May: The spiritual awakening in 1738 of Charles Wesley, evangelist, hymn writer, 1707 -1788.

Sunday 26th May: Trinity Sunday

See table below for Sunday services on 26th May

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

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's
5th May 2013	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9.30am Parish Communion	6.30pm Evensong
12th May 2013	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	9.30am Special Service	11.15am Holy Communion
19th May 2013	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9.30am Parish Communion	11.15am Morning Prayer
26th May 2013	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Parish Communion 5pm Healing Service (BCP)	9.30am Parish Communion	11.15am Holy Communion

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.

IN MEMORIAM

Nicholas James Carter	1 May 1990
Reginald William Finch	6 May 1976
John Bertram Bentley	7 May 1988
Marie Antionette Grosvenor	11 May 2007
Marjorie Mantle	12 May 1988
Norman Jackson	12 May 1996
Christabel Lilly Page	14 May 1983
Lawrence Jack Perkins	14 May 1983
Edgar William Barnard	16 May 1934
Douglas Charles Haines	18 May 1989
Laura May Bircham	20 May 1989
Terry Sherratt	21 May 1992
May Barnes	22 May 1983
Ronald Arthur Barnes	22 May 1983
Herbert Heaven Williams	23 May 1993
Marjorie Victoria Davies	29 May 1995
George Thomas	30 May 1972

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in March.

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

10th March Harry Christopher Denis
Amelia May Denis
Luke John Davies
Millie Hammett
17th March Phoebe Lily Smith

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 1st March Elizabeth Goldsworthy
d. 2nd March Molly Newton
d. 5th March Toby Garfield
d. 16th March Dorothy Hughes

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR MARCH 2013 (5 Sundays):

Communicants 485. Total attendance at all services 1091.

JUNE SERVICES: 10am service moves to 10.30am from 2nd June.

Chris Stuart has written a letter setting out changes to our service pattern which will (subject to ratification by PCCs) come into effect from 2nd June. Copies are available in church. The key change for St John's is that the 10am service moves to 10.30am from Sunday 2nd June 2013. Watch the church newsletter, noticeboards, the website and the magazine for final details.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

“There is nothing in the world so much like prayer as music is.”

Certainly those of us who sing in the choir would agree with William P Merrill. Music does seem to provide a deep connection with the spiritual, transporting us to a different place. Just as we feel closeness to God when we pray, so we can find that closeness through music. With choral music, though, there is the added element of the words. In a choir it is so important to think especially carefully about text. When we rehearse we work very hard to ensure that our singing diction is good. People need to hear the words we sing so we practise shaping vowels properly and producing clear, crisp consonants. Good, strong breath control underpins all of this. It is, of course though, so much more than working on our singing techniques. These techniques are only the means to the end and that end is communication. We want to communicate the meaning of everything we sing, in hymns, settings and anthems and help everyone who listens and joins in to experience a renewal of thought and understanding of the messages of God. The music our choir sings is carefully chosen to reflect the themes of the designated readings of the day and the times and seasons of the Church’s year.

As Bishop David says, it is so important not to bypass the brain and sing on ‘auto pilot’ but to use the music to draw us ever closer to God.

I finish with a final thought, the motto of The Royal School of Church Music:

Psallam spiritu et mente - I will sing with the spirit and the understanding also.

Luise Horrocks

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 Blakefield Room, St John’s Church.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 9th May.

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

Catherine Templeton, Sylvia Render



Free breakfast!

You are invited to join us on

Saturday 11th May

9am – 10.30am

St. John's Church

You're welcome to ask us questions about Christianity and what we believe or just come & enjoy a free breakfast!

There will be a short Christian based "Thought for the Day" from 10.15am

"Maybe"

The Deanery Synod decided some time ago it would like to co-ordinate a mission weekend in the Deanery. At the end of 2012, it decided the weekend following Ascension would be the *Deanery Mission Weekend for the churches of the Deanery of Martley & Worcester West*.

However, this name was felt to be a bit cumbersome! So at a planning meeting with the Archdeacon of Worcester in December 2012, "Maybe" was picked.

The main aim of the "Maybe" events is to give people who are not part of the church or are on the fringes of our communities to be able to find out more about what we believe. They are not supposed to necessarily appeal to existing members as that would end up "preaching to the converted"!

So what are we planning?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Thursday 9 th May | 7.30pm Ascension Eucharist at Hallow Parish Church,
<i>with the Bishop of Worcester</i> |
| Friday 10 th May | 5pm Evening Prayer <i>with particular prayers for our events.</i> |
| Saturday 11 th May | 9am-10.30am Free Breakfast <i>An opportunity for people to ask us questions, ending with a "Thought for the Day"</i>
5pm Evening Prayer <i>with particular prayers for the people that attended all the "Maybe" events.</i> |

How can you help?

We need your support in prayer perhaps by joining us at Evening Prayer on Friday 10th or Saturday 11th May. We also need volunteers. If you'd like to attend the breakfast to represent us & help answer people's question, please let us know so we have an idea of numbers. If you would like to know any more, please speak to me.

Philip Evans

FUN AND FUND RAISING AT ST JOHN'S

Do come along to our Craft Evening. Wednesday 15th May, 7 p.m. in the parish room (off Church car park). This month we have a gardening theme.

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.

This month booking is essential, please telephone 424811.

On Saturday 18th May, we have a plant sale. See the separate full page poster for full details.



Dates for your diary:

- Saturday 8th June, Bridge Day, 11.00 – 3.00
- Saturday 8th June, Julian Singers Concert, 7.30 p.m.
- Wednesday 19th June, Craft Evening, 7.00 p.m.
- Saturday 22nd June, Grand Summer Fayre
- Saturday 29th June, Jumble Sale
- Saturday 29th June, Quiz Night

Please check the Church noticeboards and the June magazine for more details about the June events.

NEXT CHARITY BRIDGE DAY

Saturday 8th June 2013

The next opportunity to 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.

And Can It Be that I Should Gain

Words: Charles Wesley
Music: Thomas Campbell



CHARLES WESLEY

Charles Wesley was born in Lincolnshire in 1707, the son of an Anglican clergyman. He went to Oxford University and while there he devoted himself to systematic study and to the regular practice of religious duties giving rise to the term “Methodists” and the "Oxford Methodist" group which his elder brother, John joined in 1729 soon becoming its leader and moulding it to his own notions.

After graduating, Charles stayed on at Oxford as a college tutor, but in 1738 he decided to take holy orders so as to go with his brother John on an expedition to the colony of Georgia. His stay in America was short and unhappy. He returned to England in ill health thoroughly dissatisfied with himself and in religious turmoil.

In May 1738 his crisis of faith reached its peak and the text, “The Son of God . . . loved me, and gave Himself for me,” (Galatians 2 v20) led him to a new and personal experience of faith in Christ on Whit-Sunday, 1738. The date of 24 May is known to Methodists as "Aldersgate Day" and commemorates the spiritual awakening of Charles in 1738.

After experiencing this evangelical conversion in May, 1738, Charles began writing hymns and preaching at the great revival meetings led by the two Wesleys and George Whitefield. For 17 years he made continual evangelistic journeys, but after 1756 he worked mainly in Bristol and London.

Wesley's conversion had a clear impact on his doctrine, and is most notable in his hymns written after 1738. He wrote:

*“The Holy Ghost in part we know, For with us He resides,
Our whole of good to Him we owe, Whom by His grace he guides,
He doth our virtuous thoughts inspire, The evil he averts,
And every seed of good desire, He planted in our hearts.”*

Here in this one short verse we have several doctrinal truths taught to us. We have the personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, the depravity of mankind, and our personal accountability to God. This was a vital contribution not only to Methodism, but to modern theology as a whole.

In April 1749, he married the much younger Sarah Gwynne (1726–1822), also known as Sally. They moved into a house in Bristol in September 1749. Sarah accompanied the brothers on their evangelistic journeys throughout Britain, until at

least 1753. After 1756 Charles made no more journeys to distant parts of the country, mainly just moving between Bristol and London.

Only three of the couple's eight children survived infancy: Charles Wesley junior (1757–1834), Sarah Wesley (1759–1828), who like her mother was also known as Sally and Samuel Wesley (1766–1837) Both Samuel and Charles junior were musical child prodigies and, like their father, became organists and composers.

Charles junior spent most of his career as the personal organist of the English Royal family, and Samuel became one of the most accomplished musicians in the world and often called "the English Mozart." Furthermore, Samuel Wesley's son, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, was one of the foremost British composers of the 19th century.

If you are confused by the profusion of Wesleys, so was I! Here is a brief summary: Charles Wesley was:

- The son of Anglican clergyman and poet Samuel Wesley,
- The younger brother of Anglican clergyman John Wesley
- The younger brother of Anglican clergyman Samuel Wesley (the Younger)
- Father of musician Samuel Wesley,
- Grandfather of musician Samuel Sebastian Wesley.

Charles was firmly opposed to all suggestion of separation from the Church of England. Towards the end of his life, he lived and worked in the area around St Marylebone Parish Church and so, just before his death, he sent for its rector John Harley and told him "Sir, whatever the world may say of me, I have lived, and I die, a member of the Church of England. I pray you to bury me in your churchyard." On Charles' death, aged 80, on 29th March 1788; his body was carried to the church by six clergymen of the Church of England, and a memorial stone to him stands in the gardens in Marylebone High Street, close to his burial spot. One of his sons, Samuel, became organist of the church.

In the course of his career, Charles Wesley published the words of over six thousand hymns, many of which are still popular. These include:

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"
"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"
"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"
"Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise"
"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

"Lo! He Comes with Clouds
Descending"
"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
"Rejoice, the Lord is King"
"Soldiers of Christ, Arise"

Graham Evans, based largely upon material from Wikipedia.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Words: Charles Wesley
Music: Joseph Parry



NEW ROLE FOR THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER

Buckingham Palace has announced that Her Majesty the Queen has appointed Bishop John to be the next Lord High Almoner. This office dates from at least the early twelfth century. The Lord High Almoner's chief responsibility is to oversee the liturgical arrangements for the Royal Maundy Service, where The Queen distributes 'Maundy Money', a small number of silver coins symbolically representing alms to the poor. Bishop John said of his appointment: "I am honoured to take on this ancient role which is the Queen's personal appointment. I shall be responsible for the Royal Maundy service which is a wonderful reminder each year that the ideal of Christian service lies at the heart of the monarchy, an ideal which Her Majesty the Queen has embodied so wholeheartedly in her devoted service to her people for over sixty years."

The Royal Maundy service used to take place in London but early in her reign The Queen decided that the service should take place at a different cathedral every year. The Queen has distributed Maundy on all but four occasions since coming to the throne in 1952. Today's recipients of Royal Maundy, as many people as there are years in the sovereign's age, are chosen because of the Christian service they have given to the Church and community. During the Service, the Lord High Almoner wears a linen towel round his waist symbolizing the foundations of the ritual by Jesus who chose to wash the feet of his disciples as an act of humility.

Each diocese was asked to send a representative to last year's special ceremony at York Minster to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Roy Peacock, Reader at St. Mary's, Oldswinford was chosen from Worcester Diocese. He said: "I was delighted to be chosen for the work I have done for the diocese - I was a member of Diocesan Synod as far back as 1970 and have served on numerous diocesan and deanery committees. My abiding memory is of how happy the Queen was - at the age of 85 she was beaming the whole time she gave out the coins. It was the best part of the whole thing and much appreciated. We were given 86p - because Queen celebrated her 86th birthday later in the year - the coins were all especially minted for the occasion. It was emphasised that the money was not from the church or the state, but was the Queen's personal gift. I left the Minster with a deep feeling of exhilaration and pride: exhilaration, because I had been present at an uplifting spectacle of pageantry, praise and glory, and pride at the Church's continuing mission to serve the community and the whole of society."

Alongside helping to organising the service on Maundy Thursday, the Royal Almoner also gives the Royal Maundy lecture. The lecture contains a history of the service, explanations of the symbolism and a chance for people to question the Lord High Almoner. Those who will receive the Maundy Gifts from the Queen are especially invited to it - but it is open to all.

TEEN MEETS GOD – LOLA’S STORY

Lola is 19 and lives in Bournemouth. She was not brought up to know Jesus, but gradually, though being with Christians she grew to know and love them, and through them, Christ himself. She told her story to Martin Saunders, a youth worker.

“I came from a family in which no-one knew or wanted to know Jesus. One day my friend invited me to the local youth club at my Salvation Army. I hadn't been involved in a church before so I was a bit cautious. To be honest, at the time I was also a bit of a hand full! But I got to know and love the people there as they shared their lives - and many pizza nights - with me. They impacted me as they seemed quite normal, and yet they were so different.

“Slowly they started to invite me to Christian events and I started one-to-one mentoring, which really helped me at a troubling time in my life. Meeting with a female youth worker for an hour a week to unpack my struggles, learn more about the bible and learning to pray together was amazing. That relationship with my youth workers gave me the confidence to go that summer to the Soul Survivor festival and there I gave my life to Jesus.

“Back at church we got a new youth worker, and we started exploring Jesus in a fresh, different way. I was starting to think about university options, and she introduced me to a load of her friends who were doing creative and quirky things in the name of Jesus in her home town, a town that also had the perfect university course for me! They bake cupcakes for brothels and gay bars; they open the local church on a Saturday night until 4am and fill it with thought provoking art installations. They go clubbing together as a distinct act of worship and lavish love, building relationships with the night-time community.

“Since moving there I have got involved and started taking my faith to a new level, I am hungry for Jesus and want to know more of him. Through my new church and the community I live in, I am sure that I will only continue to learn and love more!”

Lola made a decision to follow Jesus. She prayed, asking God to forgive her for the things she does wrong, and then she promised to live God’s way. To find out more about the Christian faith, visit <http://www.lookingforgod.com>

Courtesy of Parish Pump

ELECTORAL ROLL

A new electoral roll has recently been prepared and is now in effect.

Applications to join the roll can be made at any time, by contacting one of the Electoral Roll Officers.

*Graham Evans, Philip Evans
Electoral Roll Officers*

REPORTS FROM THE 2013 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Vicar's review of the year

Dear Friends

We've had a good year at St John's: our congregation has continued to grow, and our Electoral Roll has increased by over 10%. It's unusual these days for churches to be growing, and we can be very pleased at the progress we've made. But! We could have grown even more than we have: the main 'brake' on our growth – and a very real factor holding us back as a church – is the state of our finances. Our accounts are a lot healthier than they were three or four years ago, but there's still work to do.

A Review: Our Goals for 2012

We set ourselves four key areas that we wanted to work on in 2012:

1. Outreach/communication. How could we strengthen and publicize our welcoming environment?
2. Children/youth. How could we increase the involvement of children and young people in our church life?
3. The Future. How can we improve our financial position so as to make us better able to resource our growth?
4. Deanery Reorganisation. What did we need to do to plan for the reorganisation of clergy in West Worcester?

How did we do?

1. Outreach/communication

- Our congregation has grown.
- Our Pastoral Care team are helping us support and care not only for our 'regulars' but also for those on the fringes of church. A couple of examples:
 - o The team recently introduced a new service at Regent House and this has been well attended.
 - o 'Thursday at Two' – our new bereavement support group – has grown even in the short time that it has been running.
- Brian Askew's work as Estates Manager has enhanced the look and feel of the building, making it more warm and welcoming – for example, redecoration of the porch and the new glass doors.
- There's been a real improvement to the quality of our worship: for example, the choir continues to grow, and move from strength to strength.
- Our ALMs (Authorised Lay Ministers) are beginning to help us develop new forms of worship, reaching out to the local community.
- *Overall verdict:* a good year, and a great opportunity to build on our progress in the coming year.

2. Children/youth.

- We have slowly been building our links with Christopher Whitehead Language College: for example, the school is now actively involved in our '4D' public debates.

- We are one of only two churches currently supporting 'Café Quench' - a new initiative run by the Christian Union at the University, and which acts as a form of outreach amongst students.
- Junior Church has been very active, though numbers remain small.
- We are continuing to explore the possibility of a children's/family worker, though this is making slow progress (in spite of the fact that we have so far achieved about one-third of the funding that we need for the post).
- *Overall verdict:* this remains a key area of weakness, despite some good progress. Though Junior Church leaders/helpers do a fantastic job, I feel we need to do more to support our children: for example, storage space for Junior Church is cramped; the Blakefield Room isn't ideal for their activities on Sunday mornings, and they're often squeezed by other (no less legitimate) activities.

3. The Future

- Our finances have grown a lot stronger, and we had a very successful stewardship campaign last Summer
- We've restructured our very successful Finance & Accommodation Committee (F&AC): day to day accommodation issues are now being dealt with by a small group centred on our Estates Manager, Brian Askew; meanwhile the Standing Committee have taken on strategic responsibility for the 'Finance' bit of the F&AC's remit, and have come up with a Recovery Plan to strengthen our finances in the course of a five year cycle.
- We now have a designated Fund-Raising Committee, working extremely hard to build our financial position.
- *Overall verdict:* very good progress, but our finances are still fragile.

4. Deanery Reorganisation

- In January I took on responsibility for St Clement's with St David's, and this has inevitably led to a number of major changes for our parish
- The Diocese have agreed to fund a two year appointment to support west Worcester parishes, and Nick Kaleniuk joined us on 14th April.
- Even with Nick's support, service patterns will have to change, and the PCCs of all three west Worcester parishes recently met and agreed our priorities for worship in west Worcester. We now have a sustainable pattern of worship that will, I believe, help us not only survive but grow as a church.
- *Overall progress:* early days, but the signs for the future are promising.

Goals for 2013

The PCC met earlier this year to discuss our priorities for 2013, and decided that we should focus on the following key areas, each of which will regularly be monitored in PCC meetings:

1. Worship and mission.

- The PCC set great store by the quality of our worship; already we have tried a number of new ideas, including the use of incense at our Easter morning service.

We have also decided that we must tackle the problem of our sound system – too often the sound-system (or lack of it, or its erratic behaviour!) becomes the focus of our worship. There has been talk of a new family service once per month, as part of our outreach/mission.

2. Children/youth.

- We need to strengthen further our links with the schools, and with the university.

3. Working more closely with St Clement's, St David's and St Michael's

- We need to bring our congregations closer together. Again, we've begun to make progress: for example, we have held a number of joint services, and these have been well attended.

4. Finances

- A strong financial base can help support and build our work in all of the above areas – the Standing Committee and the Fund-raising Committee will continue to address our need.

A Time to Give Thanks

The Vicar's report is always an important opportunity to say 'thank you' to all those who give to the life of our church. I'm always afraid to 'name names', because someone always inevitably gets left out – though I feel I must say a particular thank you to our churchwardens, and our PCC for all that they have given, not least those members stepping down this year. Within that, special thanks must go to our Treasurer, Jane Askew, who is stepping down at this AGM: she's done a fantastic job at a difficult time for us financially. Her warmth, energy and commitment have been second to none; she will be a tough act to follow. Thanks must also go to John Prangnell, who has stepped down as chair of the F&AC and from the PCC.

Likewise, a quick word of thanks must also go to our ALMs, who are really beginning to spread their wings and contribute new and fresh insights into our worship.

But what about those who clean the church, who decorate it with flowers, who serve teas and coffees, who welcome people into church, who serve on the Pastoral, Standing, Communications, Charities, and Accommodation Committees? The bell ringers, the organist and choir, the Music Group, the Toddler Group, Bible Study Group, and the Junior Church? The office staff? Those who prepare the Parish Magazine (and those who recently stepped down as editor!). And this is just a part of it – what about all the other jobs, less formal but by no means less essential, that go on behind the scenes? Whatever your contribution, however small: we couldn't do without you - thank you!

These are times of great change for our church - but we are not only 'surviving', we are flourishing. We are all part of something that is growing, and making a real difference in the lives of people. Long may that continue, and long may this be a place where God is worshipped, honoured and served.

Yours in Christ

Christopher

Churchwardens' annual fabric report for 2012

Herewith follows a report from Brian Askew, our Estates Manager. This provides a comprehensive review of the work that was carried out in our church during 2012. The churchwardens have nothing material to add to Brian's report and as such are happy to advance it verbatim as the substance of their own official report.

We would add that:-

- ❖ There is nothing new to report on goods and ornaments;
- ❖ Security for the church office was upgraded in the early part of 2013;
- ❖ Due at least in part to government imposed benefit changes, fuel and rent payment obligations for the Flat above the Office have not been fully met by the present tenant. As a consequence, and under the umbrella of an extended grace period, the tenant has been served notice to leave with effect from mid May.

Our heartfelt thanks are due to Brian for his energetic work in ensuring that our buildings remain in good order.

Gordon Templeton and Margaret Morris
Churchwardens
April 2013

ESTATES MANAGER'S REPORT for 2012

There was a vast amount of work done in the church during 2012 to both maintain our lovely church and enhance some of its facilities. Some of the major items were:-

- ❖ After many months of waiting the damp patch finally dried out on the south side of the choir stalls so were able to repaint most of the south wall;
- ❖ As the tower project came to a close we were able to repaint the ringing chamber;
- ❖ The old sound system finally gave up so we had to replace the amplifier, hearing loop amplifier and the two radio microphones with their receivers;
- ❖ Our rented property in Heron Close had to have a major overhaul as the property had been neglected for many years;
- ❖ To keep the church watertight all the roofs were checked over, numerous tiles replaced and all the valleys, gutters and downpipes were cleaned;
- ❖ When the roof was checked over it was noticed that the rainwater downpipe on the south side of the Chancel was cracked – so this was replaced;
- ❖ Following almost twelve months of building work it was decided to give the church a good clean. A cleaning company came in for about a week and cleaned the church from top to bottom. Some of the higher rafters had nearly three inches of dust on them;
- ❖ During a routine examination of the boiler in the Blakefield Room complex it was found to be beyond redemption – so a new one was fitted;
- ❖ We had our normal round of fire equipment checks and portable appliance testing;
- ❖ The Parish Office complex was looking shabby so we decorated the Parish Office, kitchen area and Priest's room;
- ❖ Finally, the porch project came to a conclusion. The porch doors were modified with the glass panels and the porch itself was redecorated – although much plaster fell off and had to be replaced;
- ❖ Those of you who have been up on the tower roof will know that the battlements are very low and it wouldn't take much effort to fall off the roof. So, to make the roof safer, a stainless steel safety wire has been fitted around the inside of the battlements. If you look very carefully you can just see this from the ground;
- ❖ After what took nearly a year, we finally got permission to upgrade our signage at the back of the church;

- ❖ One of the major successes of 2012 was getting Worcester City Council to accept that they were responsible, in its entirety, for the old closed Churchyard - to the south side of the church. This was not an easy process and eventually resulted in us getting the Diocesan Registrar to send the Council a 'solicitor's letter' detailing their legal responsibility. Over the coming years this will save the church £000's as the Council are responsible for the grounds, trees, footpaths, fences and boundary walls. We have yet to see any real action on this but the Council have commissioned a surveyor to report on what needs doing so we need to keep the pressure on.

So, as with all old buildings, there is always something that needs doing. Our current focus is on replacing the sound system for one that can be controlled within the church. 2013 is the year when our next Quinquennial Inspection is due so we will wait with bated breath to see what that throws up. You can rest assured that there will always be something for us to spend our money on.

Brian Askew
Estates Manager
April 2013

Deanery Synod representatives' report

St. John's representatives at the Deanery Synod: Ron Cantrill, Graham Evans and Philip Evans.

2012/13

The Deanery Synod has met three times since the last APCM. Each meeting consists of a presentation by a visiting speaker followed by updates and discussions about various topics.

We have had presentations from the Diocesan Board of Education; Rev'd Dr. Fiona Haworth about her work as University Chaplain and Rev'd Canon Sheila Banyard about "The Deanery" and what it's for. We have also received a brief presentation from our General Synod representative.

Regular updates are received about: Parish Share and other Diocesan finances; the work of the Diocesan Synod; the work of the Diocesan Mission, Pastoral & Resources Committee; the work of the Diocesan Parsonages Committee and the work of the Diocesan Board of Education.

The Deanery Synod have also discussed the new national fee structure for weddings and funerals held in church and agreed that the issue of Vergers being optional needed to be clarified and requested it be raised at Diocesan Synod. We have also discussed the proposal (from St. John's) for a Children's worker, which received unanimous support.

Remember: We are YOUR representatives. If you agree or disagree with any diocesan or national Church of England policy (or secular policy), please let us know. We can raise it at Deanery Synod and through the Deanery Synod get the issue raised at Diocesan Synod and ultimately at the General Synod.

Philip Evans

There will be more reports in next month's magazine.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—10 a.m., in the Parish Room; 3 p.m., in the Church (Children over 8); 3 p.m., in the Schools (Kindergarten). Superintendents, Sister Caunt and Miss Coombs. 3 p.m., in the Schools, Young Church-people's Guild and Discussion Group conducted by the Rev. C. H. Carver.

MOTHERS' UNION.—1st Monday in each month at 3 p.m. in the Parish Room Corporate Communion, Second Sunday in each month. Enrolling Member, Sister Caunt. Secretary,

WOMEN'S FELOWSHIP.—3 p.m., each Tuesday in the Parish Room. Secretary, Mrs. Norman, 15 Worboys Road.

CHORAL SOCIETY.—8 p.m., each Friday in the Schools. Music Director, Mr. Llechid Williams. Secretary, Miss E. W. Bonnett, 69 Henwick Road. Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, Mr. Fred Davis.

DRAMATIC SOCIETY.—7.30 p.m., each Tuesday in the Schools. Producers: Section A, Mr. F. N. Platts; Section B, Miss M. Davies. Secretary, Miss E. W. Bonnett, 69 Henwick Road.

YOUTH GROUP.—Age, 15 and upwards. 7 p.m., each Thursday in the Parish Room. Leader, Miss Stella Jones, Bransford Road. Secretary, Miss Margery Haines, The Avenue, Bromwich Road. Sporting activities take place according to arrangement. These include Hockey, Football, Table Tennis, etc. Girls over 13 meet each Friday in the Parish Room at 7 p.m., under Sister Caunt.

SCOUTS.—6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m., each Wednesday in the Scout Hut. Scoutmaster, Mr. Rowe, 60 Foley Road.

CUBS.—6.30 p.m. to 7.45 p.m., each Tuesday in the Scout Hut. Cubmistress, Mrs. Rowe, 60 Foley Road.

BROWNIES.—6 p.m. to 7 p.m., each Tuesday in the Parish Room. Acting Brown Owl, Miss Mary Richards, 97 Bransford Road.

GUIDES.—7 p.m. to 9 p.m., in the Parish Room. Captain, Mrs. Annis, Oaklands, Bransford Road.

Parish Organisations from March 1950.

FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

SPORTS CLUB.—7 p.m., each Monday and Saturday in the Parish Room for Badminton. Hockey, Tennis and Cricket sections function according to the Season's arrangements. Secretary, Miss M. Parker, 44 Happy Land West.

CRICKET CLUB.—Secretary, Mr. G. Edwards, 20 Great House Road.

CHOIRBOYS' SPORTS SECTION.—Cricket and Football according to arrangement. Organiser, Mr. Styles, Comer Road.

PARISH MAGAZINE COMMITTEE.—Secretary, Mr. O. H. Laffin, 8 Homefield Road.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE.—Meetings, Second Wednesday in each month. Secretary, Mr. O. H. Laffin, 8 Homefield Road.

FREE-WILL OFFERING FUND.—Secretary, Mrs. Laffin, 8 Homefield Road.

CENTRAL FUND.—Secretary, Mr. F. N. Platts, 64 Bromwich Road.

BIG 3D. BIT SCHEME.—Secretaries, Mr. O. H. Laffin and Miss E. W. Bonnett, 69 Henwick Road.

SCHOOLS.—Boys' School: Headmaster, Mr. F. N. Platts. Girls' School: Headmistress: Miss Minett. Infants' School: Headmistress, Miss Jones.

ST. JOHN'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION.—Meetings each month on Wednesdays, by arrangement in St. John's School. Chairman, Mr. F. N. Platts.

BELLRINGERS.—Master Ringer, Mr. W. H. Lewis, 81 Oldbury Road.

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION.—Under the direction of Miss Helen Davies, 5B St. John's.

SERVERS' GUILD.—Sacristan, Mr. Barnett.

KING'S MESSENGERS.—Each Monday at 5 p.m., in the Parish Room. Miss Gwynn, 73 Winchester Avenue.

We 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

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PESACH 5773



Many thanks to all those who came to my celebration of Passover on 25th March. This was the first night of Passover, the night traditionally spent with one's family, so it was lovely to be able to welcome members of the church family to share it. We completed the seder in full, followed by a delicious shared supper. Everyone had been issued with dietary instructions and proved to be astonishingly creative in devising Passover friendly recipes. At one point in the evening it did seem as though Eileen and Luise were going head to head in giant pavlova competition. Amazingly, it all went, due in no small part to the sterling efforts of Lawton!

It is an immense privilege to be part of a community where everyone is accepted, and where each member takes an active interest in the other. I am sure that there are few church communities which would embrace the practices and celebrations of another religion in such an open and interested way, whilst not in any way compromising their own beliefs.

Sarah Stuart

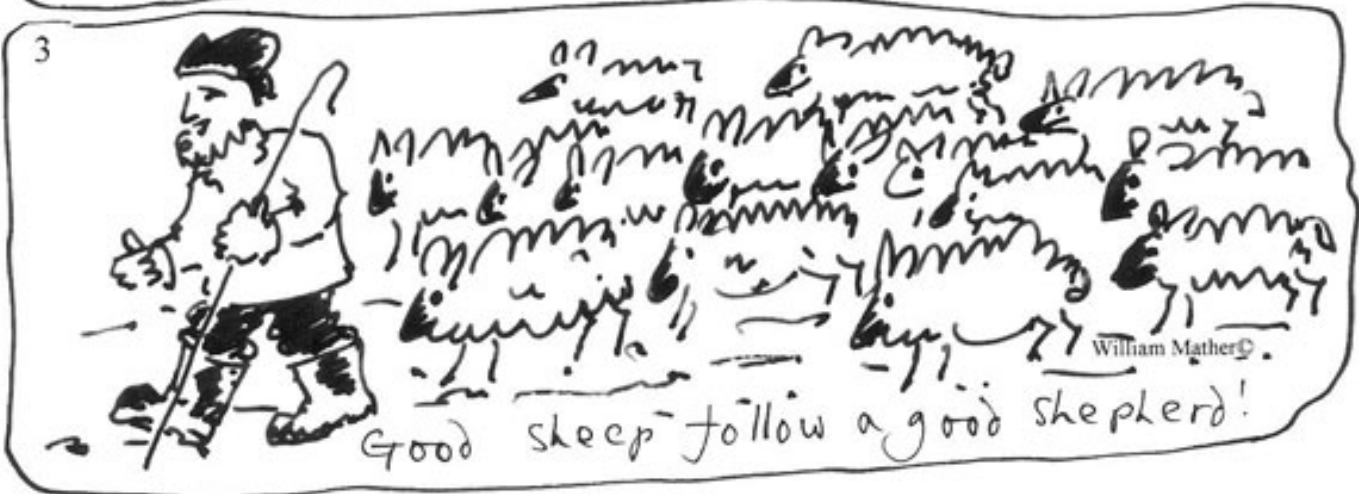
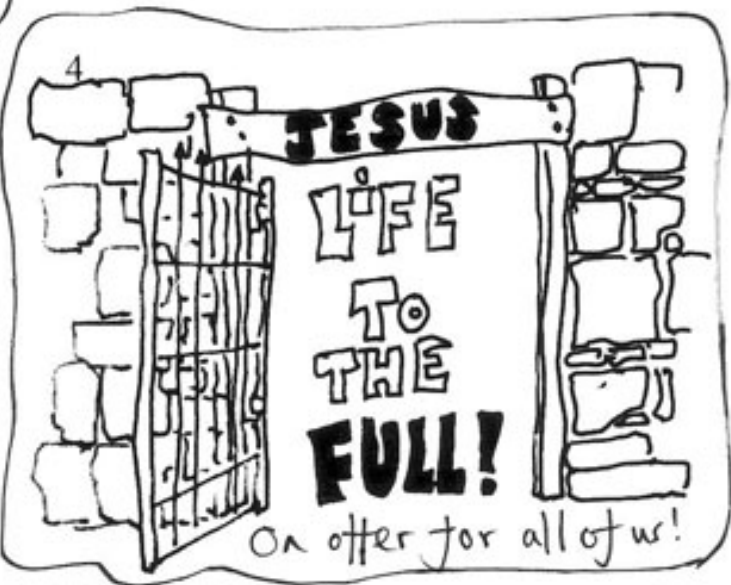
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Read more in John 10: 1-10.



MAY PUZZLE

The solution to this puzzle is on page 36.

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				1				

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All access to the church is level and therefore suitable for wheelchairs. A toilet for the disabled is available.

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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, 13th May for the June 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.

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MAY PUZZLE SOLUTION

1	6	3	5	8	9	4	7	2
9	8	4	2	3	7	6	5	1
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4	5	7	8	6	3	2	1	9
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The result of the caption competition in the April magazine will be given in next month's edition.

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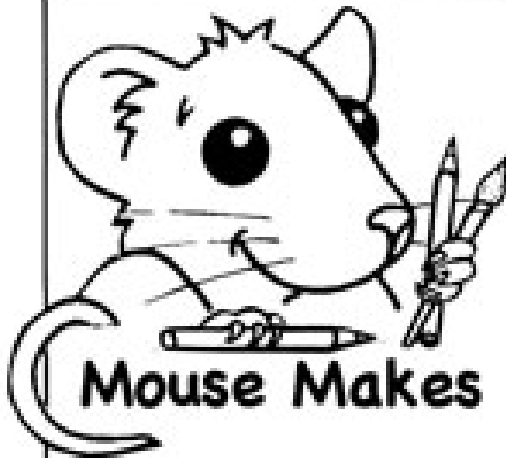
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It was the festival of PENTECOST and the Apostles and other believers were all together when they heard a sound like a strong wind and saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched every person. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. A crowd had gathered outside and each of them heard the believers speaking in their own language about the great things God had done.


Read Acts 2:1-11
 Which countries had the crowd come from?

The Holy Spirit


Teaches
 John 14:26


Reveals
 John 16
 14-15


GUIDES
 John 16:7-11


Helps
 Romans 8:26


Comforts
 John 14:16-17


Transforms
 2 Corinthians 3:18


The work of God's Holy Spirit in us brings:

LOVE
 JOY
 PEACE
 PATIENCE
 KINDNESS
 GOODNESS
 FAITHFULNESS
 HUMILITY
 SELF CONTROL

Galatians 5:22-23

○

○

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 Carefully cut around the outside, fold in half along the dotted line and glue together. Add a tassel to the bottom with a length of wool or ribbon. You can make it stronger by gluing onto card before folding.





St BONA of PISA

May 29th

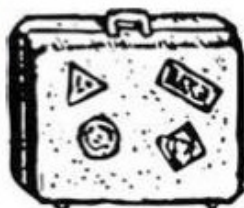


Bona was born in Pisa, Italy in 1156. When she was 14 she made her first journey, going to see her father who was fighting in the

crusades near Jerusalem. On the way back she was captured by pirates in the Mediterranean. Rescued, she set out again, this time taking with her a large number of pilgrims to make the 1,000 mile journey to the shrine of St James at Compostella in Spain.

Bona became an official guide on this famous pilgrimage route and made the journey 9 times, "full of energy, helpful, and unselfish, ready to reassure with her smile those who were sick."

In recent times St Bona has come to be associated as the patron saint of travellers along with St Christopher; and in particular of couriers, guides and air-hostesses.



TRAVELLING ON...

There are lots of journeys recorded in the Bible. Can you find the answers to these travel questions? Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Where Paul was shipwrecked on his journey to Rome (Acts, chapt. 27)?
2. Where was there no room for Mary and Joseph when they journeyed from Nazareth?
3. Which country did Joseph's brothers travel to find food? (Genesis, chapt.42)
4. Why does the Bible always say that people were 'going up' to Jerusalem?
5. When Moses led the people out of Egypt, what did he take with him? (Exodus, chapt.13)
6. Which of the 4 horsemen of the Apocalypse rides a red horse? (Revelation)

What do you say to a hitch-hiking frog?

Hop in!

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert?

Lost.

Answers: 1.Malta 2.in the inns of Bethlehem 3.Egypt 4.because Jerusalem is built on a hill, so whatever direction you come from, you will always be going up to it. 5.Joseph's bones 6. War.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY

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143 Malvern Road, WR2 4LN
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Associate Priest Rev'd Nick Kaleniuk 07904 125068
e-mail: nicholas.kaleniuk@btinternet.com

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e-mail: Davidwin56@aol.com

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

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
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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