

*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

JUNE 2013



40p



WHO'S WHO – CHURCH OFFICERS

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

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COVER PICTURE

The cover picture reminds us that, from the beginning of June, our principal service each Sunday morning will be at 10.30 a.m. rather than the previous time of 10 a.m.

Picture by Graham Evans

PASTORAL LETTER FOR JUNE

from the Vicar and PCC

Dear Members of St John's Church family,

During this celebration of Pentecost it is time once again to ask that we review our financial giving to the church. We all put our gifts to God's use in different ways; we regularly need to ask ourselves how we sustain both our beautiful church building and all the great work that goes on within it and in the wider community.

2012 was a year in which we just managed, through your generosity, to meet our commitments in full. Even so, within the year, expenditure significantly exceeded income. It was a year of consolidation and completing many of the projects started over the past two years. Once again we have seen an exciting growth in our congregation in the last twelve months, with a result that - for the first time in some years - the number on our electoral roll has increased. It is important that we don't lose that forward momentum for lack of funds.

The experience of finding the money for emergency repairs, over the last few years, has shown that we need to plan for the future. In addition to meeting unexpected expenses, we need to be able to cover the increased costs of the day to day running of the church.

To this end we need to increase our regular giving by a minimum of £3015 in total for the year. Bearing in mind we are already six months into the year, in real terms this is equivalent to an average increase, by all 134 of us, (on the electoral roll) of £1 a week. If this were gift aided in every case this would further increase our income by 25%.

To further enhance our income the Fund Raising group is hoping to raise a total of £12,500 (an increase of 47.5% on 2012). To achieve this will require the time and commitment of our talents.

Just as we do in our own homes, we are always looking at how we can reduce our running costs and become more financially efficient. To help in this drive for efficiency, we will be asking you to complete response forms and return them by 2nd June to the box at the back of the church.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Yours in Christ

Christopher Stuart, Vicar, and St John in Bedwardine PCC.

DATES FOR JUNE 2013

Unless otherwise stated, the venue for all the events below is St John's Church, or one of the church rooms.		See page
Saturday 1st June: Justin, martyr, c165.		
6.00 p.m. Beetle Drive, £2.50 to include light supper		19
Sunday 2nd June: First Sunday after Trinity		
See table opposite for Sunday services on 2 nd June		5
Tuesday 4th June: 60th anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen		
Saturday 8th June: Thomas Ken, bishop, hymn writer 1711		
10.30 a.m. Bridge day at St John's (play starts at 11 a.m.)		9
7.30 p.m. Julian Singers Concert		21
Sunday 9th June: 2nd Sunday after Trinity		
See table opposite for Sunday services on 9 th June		5
Thursday 13th June		
2.00 p.m. Thursday at Two (Blakefield Room).		6
Sunday 16th June: Third Sunday after Trinity		
See table opposite for Sunday services on 16 th June		5
Wednesday 19th June: Sundar Singh, sadhu (holy man), evangelist, 1929		
7.00 p.m. Craft evening.		10
Saturday 22nd June: St Alban, first martyr of Britain, c250		
12.00 noon Summer Village Fayre (12.00 – 4.00 p.m.)		20
Sunday 23rd June: Fourth Sunday after Trinity		
See table opposite for Sunday services on 23 rd June		5
Saturday 29th June: Peter and Paul, Apostles		
10.00 a.m. Coffee Morning and Jumble Sale		19
7.00 p.m. Quiz		12
Sunday 30th June: Fifth Sunday after Trinity		5
See table opposite for Sunday services on 30 th June		

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.

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

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.**

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

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's
2nd June	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Parish Communion 10.30am Family Service	6.30pm Evensong
9th June	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	9am Parish Communion 10.30am Family Service	11.15am Holy Communion
16th June	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Parish Communion 10.30am Family Service	11.15am Morning Prayer
23rd June	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	9am Parish Communion 10.30am Family Service	6.30pm Holy Communion
30th June	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion 5pm Healing Service (BCP)	9am Parish Communion 10.30am Family Service	Joint at St Clement's at 9am or 10.30am

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.

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Our theme this month is sacrifice. Our historical Christian figure is St Alban, who protected a fleeing Christian priest, which led ultimately to his martyrdom. We are fortunate enough to live in this country now where our faith is unlikely to be tested in that way, but we should be humbled and inspired by the realisation that many people have been and still are. St Alban's feast day is 22nd June: Read our article about him on page 11.

The pastoral letter asks us to consider what we can give financially to support the work of our church and how we can use our talents. To step up to these things may involve the sacrifice of money or time! We publish the remainder of the reports from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in this edition; these may suggest something you would like to get involved in – or perhaps you have some new ideas?

On a much smaller scale of sacrifice than St Alban's; to enable us to co-ordinate our services with the other churches in our group, the time of our main Sunday service moves to 10.30 a.m. from the beginning of June, and our cover picture is a visual aide-memoire.

Graham and Sue Evans

P.S. The tenor part of the editorial partnership would like to emphasise that the joke on page 18 was approved by the alto part of the partnership!

IN MEMORIAM

Eva Stanton	1 June 1987
Stanley Frederick Smith	2 June 1983
Laura Ellen Mister	3 June 1964
Theresa Dedicott	3 June 2008
Harold James Smith	6 June 1974
Doris Allen	9 June 1995
Andrew David Brunyee	11 June 1995
Thomas Alec Brown	12 June 1981
Kenneth Edward Cole	12 June 1988
Sophie Perry "Auntie"	13 June 1995
Walter Edward Moss	16 June 1968
Joy Doreen Pincott (née Rastall)	18 June 1968
Pete Gleadall	19 June 1996
Henry Frederick Charles Owen	24 June 1985
Arnold Colley	27 June 1991

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in April.

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

14th April Robbie Alan Charlie Brixey
Dylan Charlie Mitchell
Ava Rose Winnie Gormley
Hunter George Freddo Gormley

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

6th April Rebecca Howells and Dean Harris

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 30th March Violet Francis Obrey
d. 5th April Joyce Christine Fudger

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

Communicants 408. Total attendance at all services 767.

THURSDAY AT TWO

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 13th June.

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

Catherine Templeton, Sylvia Render

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Looking out of the window as I write makes me realise that after a long and seemingly endless winter there is most definitely a shift in the weather. Spring has been short with daffodils and blossom all taking the



opportunity to come out together in a flurry and summer is trying very hard now to step out of the wings. This means that wedding season is coming upon us for, although for some people, a winter wedding is the right choice, many still prefer a summer celebration.

The choir were delighted to be asked to sing at the highly successful wedding fair held in our church and now are looking forward to singing at some of the weddings happening for real in the church over the next few months. It is a real privilege to share in the joy of a couple's special day, raising our voices in song and giving what we can through our music to help them and their family and friends feel uplifted and special.

Of course the choir can also be there at the end of a journey as well as at the beginning. Funerals and memorial services are equally enhanced with singing and the choir is very aware of the depth that can be added to such occasions with music that reflects both sadness and thanksgiving for a life. Once again it is a privilege to share something of the emotions within the Service in the singing of the music. For singing is both life affirming and life consoling and is a true way of joining with people at the most significant times of their lives.

Luise Horrocks

ST RICHARD'S HOSPICE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

St Richard's Hospice Community Volunteers is a new initiative recognising that alongside clinical care and pastoral support, people (and their families) who are coming to the end of their lives also need help with everyday tasks. This may include (but will be directed by what the families need) dog walking, gardening, shopping, accompanying to appointments or simply providing companionship.

The Hospice understands that people living with dying can become even more distressed by seeing their garden overgrown or their dog not walked, and so our Community Volunteers look to offer practical support in response to that need.

We are looking for people who have a little bit of time on their hands and a desire to offer something to members of their own community. Volunteers will only be asked to offer help to someone in their own community, in effect their neighbours.

If you are interested in being a Community Volunteer please get in touch by calling 01905 763963 x2102 or emailing CommunityVolunteers@strichards.org.uk

Thelma Wingfield, Community Volunteers Co-ordinator

VISITORS FROM MAGDEBURG

Just after Ascension Day, St John's Church hosted an evening for the visitors from Magdeburg and their hosts from St Barnabas. After a short service in English and German with the theme of friendship and pilgrimage John Brierley played a voluntary, for which he received rapturous applause. The North Aisle was carefully and attractively set out and the 'team', which had been masterminded by Eileen Cantrill and Sue Hussell, worked their socks off to prepare and serve the food.



The many compliments included comments on the delicious food, beautiful flowers and altar cloth, the atmosphere our ancient and well maintained church and the useful north aisle. It was a great pleasure to have been able to entertain these warm, friendly people. If you are interested in becoming involved with this exchange then do ask me about it.

Ruth Reeves.

Peter, the Vicar of St Barnabas, presented us with a gift and wrote:

“Just a short word of appreciation and a small token to mark our growing together as part of the Magdeburg partnership over the years.

Thanks to all involved in putting together the special service; preparing and cooking the excellent meal; and putting on the Beetle Drive which was such a success last Friday – together with those who have liaised over the organisation of another memorable trip which all have clearly much enjoyed. May this pilgrimage plaque remind you of the Ascension-tide Gospel that together we are all commissioned to continue Christ's work though his gifts of Faith, Hope and Love – as our generation is called to walk the way of the Cross and to share the Light of Christ and the Gospel.”

From all at St Barnabas with Christ Church, Worcester

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Each Sunday during the morning service a children's activity is available. We are a small group with a range of ages joining in. Children from 2 to 14 are welcome to come along. The children join in the family services, often having an input into the morning. Throughout the year we have days when we look at the Church and learn more about the building and what happens in services. The next one will be in the summer and we will be looking at the outside of the building and end with a picnic (weather permitting!).

We are always looking for helpers, so if you feel you would like to join our team of friendly volunteers please get in touch, telephone 424811.

Children's Church Team

NEWS FROM NICK

It was only in the April edition that we reported that Nick Kaleniuk had joined the ministry team here in West Worcester on secondment. Now we must report the happy and sad news that Nick has got a new appointment, which will take him away from us all too soon.

His new appointment is Priest-in-Charge of the parishes of St James, Wollaston and St Michael & All Angels, Norton, Stourbridge. He told us “There is no date set for



my licensing and installation. That cannot be finalised until there is a replacement for me here in the West Worcester group of churches! I'm looking forward to my new role as vicar in my new appointment very much but am equally enjoying my role as associate curate here in West Worcester during such an exciting and challenging time for our parishes!”

Graham and Sue Evans

PARISH BREAKFAST

You will be delighted to learn that the breakfast event that was held in our church on Saturday morning, 11th May, as part of the Deanery Mission was a great success.

Our thanks go in particular to Jenny and Philip for organising the event and to the cheerful and hard-working band of volunteers who helped to make the event such a joyful occasion. Being blessed with such a large band of volunteers, made it possible for us all to sit with members and non-members of our church and share in the excellent food and the numerous enjoyable conversations. It was one of those wonderful times when we could genuinely give thanks for the food, friends and fellowship that were on offer.

I am afraid, Jenny and Philip, it was such a rewarding and fun occasion that you now have a job for life and we all look forward to future parish breakfasts being equally successful.

John Prangnell

NEXT CHARITY BRIDGE DAY

The next opportunity to come and play friendly Rubber Bridge at St John-in-Bedwardine Church is Saturday 8th June: 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.

FUN AND FUND RAISING AT ST JOHN'S

Saturday 1 ST June	Beetle Drive 6.00pm £2.50 to include light supper.
Saturday 8 th June	Bridge Day 11.00am-3.00pm £10.00 including coffee and lunch Julian Singers Concert 7.30pm to include a glass of wine
Wednesday 19 th June	Craft Evening 7.00pm
Saturday June 22 nd	Grand Summer Fayre 12.00 - 4.00pm
Saturday June 29 th	Jumble Sale 10.00am Quiz Night 7.00pm

Check the Church noticeboards for more details about our events.
Further details from Worcester 423257, 749025 & 424811

REPORT OF THE MAY 2013 MEETING OF ST. JOHN'S TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD

Our talk was given by Sandy Cale from Worcester Walks. As she was telling us about Georgian Worcester she dressed in appropriate costume.

Sandy began by saying that after the Civil War most of Worcester was devastated, so rebuilding gave Worcester the Georgian style in the 18th and early 19th. Century. In those days the Severn was tidal and many industries were built along the river banks and these began to make an impression on the wealth of the city.

Sandy took us on a journey through the town starting with our wonderful Guildhall and progressing along the High Street etc. and on to the Arboretum. Along the way she mentioned the Crown Hotel in Broad Street and the Star in Foregate Street. These were important coaching inns. If you look up as you walk along the streets she said you can see many examples of the genre still there. In Broad Street is a building on top of which is a dome where people could look out at the views whilst drinking tea which was the new fashionable beverage.

Our next meeting will all about Blackbirds! We do welcome visitors to our Guild and for more information ring Aileen on 01905425986.

Elizabeth Chambers, Press Secretary

ST ALBAN



Alban was the very first Christian martyr in Britain - or at least the first we know of. A 'martyr' is someone who has died for the faith - the word literally means 'witness'. He was probably killed during the persecution under the emperor Diocletian in the early years of the fourth century, in the late stages of the Roman occupation of Britain. His martyrdom took place in the amphitheatre outside the Roman city of Verulamium, which is now St Albans, in Hertfordshire.

The church historian Bede, writing six hundred years after Alban's death, records that Alban was a Roman citizen (possibly a soldier) who gave shelter to a priest who was being hunted by the Romans. During the priest's stay in his home, Alban was converted to the Christian faith. When the soldiers eventually tracked the priest down, they arrived at Alban's house and insisted on searching it. What they found was Alban dressed in the priest's clothes, while their real prey escaped. They arrested Alban and demanded that he make a sacrifice to the Emperor - a common test of loyalty. He refused. He was then condemned to death and taken into the amphitheatre, which still stands in the fields below St Alban's Abbey, to be put to death. One of his executioners was converted, Bede claims, but the other one took a sword and beheaded him.

He was buried nearby, on a site where a shrine was later erected. In the early fifth century two Continental bishops, came to Britain and record that they visited the shrine of Alban at Verulamium. The date of their visit was given as 429.

The martyrdom of Alban is a reminder that Christianity was planted first in these islands during the Roman occupation, though it was all but extinguished in England in the dark centuries that followed, until people like David, Cuthbert and the other Celtic missionaries restored the faith in many parts of the land - especially in the north. The fact that his shrine existed and was venerated right through to the time of Bede shows that the faith did not die out completely, even in the south of England.

Little is known about Alban apart from the story of his martyrdom, but what we do know is probably enough to give him a substantial claim to be the patron saint of England ahead of the foreigner George. The magnificent abbey dedicated to him in St Albans is a permanent reminder of his place in the nation's story.

Canon David Winter, courtesy of Parish Pump

PLANT SALE THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the plant sale a success. Considering the very poor weather we have had, we had a wonderful display with a variety of plants. We had many more donations than expected, so thank you.

Sue, Catherine & Jane

TEEN MEETS GOD – CHRIS’S STORY

Chris is 18 and lives in Bath. In his upbringing he had not had anything to do with church, but getting involved with youth club took him on the path to God.

As a 16-year-old I enjoyed going to youth club with my mates and hanging out with my youth leaders, and the one I got on best with was Steve. I had nothing to do with church but the youth club was a great place to hang out and there was always something exciting happening there. One day Steve asked me to help out at the younger-aged youth club, and I agreed. I enjoyed being able to help out and be useful, and learned a lot about leadership during this time.

A few months down the line there was an opportunity for me to go away for a week to Hillhouse. Hillhouse is a Christian camp where you worship God, pray and do loads of activities. I wasn't a Christian at this point though, so I had to think about it. I thought I'd go for a laugh, and I was joined by a few mates who were all in similar situations. We had never been to church but Steve had told us the week would be one we wouldn't forget - so we took a risk on it!

Once we were there, the first few days were fun until the service - which seemed to drag on forever! Then, one night in worship the five of us felt God's presence around us... and we all broke down in tears. Now as big boys, to cry means a lot, so it was the real deal. For the rest of the week from there it seemed like a massive door had opened, and from that day I declared myself a Christian.

Now since then I have been far from perfect, my family weren't too interested in the big decision I had made and mates were even less so. However I still meet with Steve regularly to talk about the stuff I'm going through in life at the moment and we pray together. With God's help I'll continue onwards and upwards... but I know it won't be easy!

Chris made a decision to follow Jesus. He prayed, asking God to forgive him for the things he does wrong, and then he promised to live God's way. To find out more about the Christian faith, visit <http://www.lookingforgod.com>

Courtesy of Parish Pump

QUIZ

There will be a Quiz Night in church on Saturday 29th June at 7 p.m. Free drink and nibbles, modest prizes. This “inexpensive evening with inexpensive prizes” has always been greatly enjoyed by those who have attended it in previous years, so please come along. No individual questions! Tickets are £3.50 on the door or in advance from the Evans family. All proceeds to church funds.

The Evans Family

REPORTS FROM THE 2013 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The above meeting was held in April. Last month we printed: The Vicar's review of the year, the Churchwardens' annual fabric report for 2012 (incorporating the Estates Manager's Report), and the Deanery Synod representatives' report. This month we include edited highlights from the remainder of the reports.

Graham Evans, the PCC Secretary reviewed the work of the PCC:

The PCC met nine times during the year: A short meeting straight after the last AGM to appoint officers, six ordinary meetings, one additional meeting to discuss a specific topic and another additional meeting (in April) for approval of the 2012 accounts and the churchwardens' annual fabric report. We had 17 members (no vacancies) and usual attendance at the meetings was 12 to 14. The Vicar's review of the year (*printed last month*) covered the four questions around which the PCC focussed its work, the January review of progress, and the new priorities for this year.

The PCC carries out its work through a number of sub-committees. Until January 2013 there was a Finance and Accommodation Committee: This was then divided into two separate committees to cover finance (as part of the Standing Committee remit) and Accommodation.

John Prangnell reported on work of the Finance and Accommodation Committee (F&AC): up to its division in January 2013:

The past year has seen a period of consolidation and further development of the activity of the F&AC. Yet again note must be made of the very significant contribution made by our two part time post holders of estates manager and parish administrator. Both have really helped us as a church to work in a more systematic manner in matters of buildings and administration, relieving the Vicar of some of the problems that arise in these areas and making his vastly increased role more manageable. Through our estates manager, we have progressed aspects of work on our church as set out in our asset management plan (AMP). The AMP has brought into sharp focus the major issue of the continuing shortfall in our income each year as compared with our outgoings. In the past we tended to deal with accommodation problems on an ad hoc basis as they arose; now, with the AMP, we are required to think ahead and find the funding to resolve problems in a managed, coherent way. The major task now for the Standing Committee is to find ways of ensuring that 'the living church meets the cost of the living ministry' that is, we need to make sure that our collections, planned giving, donations and fund raising events meet the cost of the day-to-day running of the church and any priorities for development while also putting aside sufficient funds to pay for our repairs and maintenance.

From Graham Evans' report on the work of the Standing Committee:

The PCC has always had a Standing Committee, to set the PCC agendas and with the power to act for the PCC between PCC meetings. In response to the financial challenges set out in the F&AC report, the strategic financial responsibilities have also been placed onto the Standing Committee. The overall financial strategy is to strengthen our financial position by £20,000 per annum over the next five years. This will be done mainly by seeking to increase our income, although we will also keep a keen eye on our spending. The work so far has highlighted a number of strong fund raising possibilities. To take these forward, a fund-raising committee (as a formal PCC sub-committee) has been formed. The Committee is also developing other fund-raising/finance initiatives (not covered by the Fund Raising Committee). The Standing Committee and the PCC reviewed the process for budgeting and the actual budget figures for 2013.

Gordon Templeton reported on the work of the Accommodation and Communications Committees:

This report should be read in conjunction with the F&AC report and the Churchwardens' Annual Fabric Report (*published in the May magazine*), which describes buildings works carried out during 2012 and the early part of 2013 under the supervision of our Estates Manager. As can be seen, there has been an extensive programme of maintenance and improvement. The February 2013 PCC meeting agreed that the installation of a new sound system was the highest facilities improvement priority for 2013. Accordingly a target replacement sound system has been selected and a faculty application submitted. That PCC meeting also agreed to the appointment of Architects for the Quinquennial Inspection, which is due to be undertaken later in 2013. The Tower Project is now deemed to be complete, with control over outstanding works and funds to be returned to the PCC.

The Communications Committee has been pretty quiet during 2012! The main specific communications achievement has been the revamp of the church website. Thanks are due to Philip Evans for his sterling work on this. We again ran a Christmas Services door-to-door letter drop across the whole parish in December. This time we involved other West Worcester churches to produce an ecumenical letter. While take-up from other churches was limited, the reach of the letter was nevertheless extended from the 3900 houses in our own parish to a total of about 6500 houses including much of Dines Green and some of St Clement's parish.

Looking forward, the Communications Committee in its present form will be disbanded. Individual roles effectively deliver communications across a

variety of channels – the weekly newsletter, the Parish Magazine, the website and links to the local press when required. The intention is that future new communications activities will be project driven – a group of people will be constituted to initiate any new activity until its successful launch or execution.

Sue Bale, Catherine Templeton, Jane Askew provided a report on the work of the Fund Raising Committee:

This year has seen the formation of this committee, the PCC having identified that funds need to be raised for the church and that all functions and events need to be co-ordinated.

We have a full programme of events for 2013 planned including concerts, bridal fair, beetle drive, bridge days, craft evenings and the old faithful Summer and Christmas fairs. Those held so far have proved to be successful, with the bridal fair already planned for 2014. However, we are keen to have ideas from the entire congregation to be able to offer a wide range of events that will appeal to everyone.

We have felt that money could be raised from outside sources along with encouraging the congregation to meet for fellowship and friendship.

For some time discussions have been made about forming a Friends of St John in Bedwardine group. We are in the process of finalising the details and we should have this up and running within the next six months.

We thank everyone who has supported us so far. If you have any fund raising ideas, or events you would like to see held please come and see one of us as we need to be looking into planning for 2014.

Sylvia Render and Catherine Templeton reported on the work of the Pastoral Care Group:

Over the past year the pastoral care team has continued to offer support to members of the congregation and visit if they are unable to attend church services. We visit care homes and sheltered housing in the parish, offering communion and companionship and we contact families who have been bereaved offering telephone support and visits if requested.

Our latest venture is “Thursday at Two” where recently bereaved people are invited to have a cup of tea and home-made cake. This has been running for two months and the numbers are growing. We have a wonderful group of volunteers who are willing to help with washing up and baking cakes.

The Healing service continues to be well supported and on average has a congregation of 15. The pastoral care team serve tea and cakes which are offered after the service

From the report on the work of the Children's Church:

Over the past twelve months Children's Church has continued to struggle with low numbers. However, those who do attend have continued to show us that this part of Church life is very important. We do not have enough children to be able to split into 2 groups of different age ranges but the older children within the group prove to be very willing helpers with the younger ones. When the children are asked what they would like to do they are keen to develop a 'messy church' approach and we are investigating this. During 2012 the children have been involved in family services, Mothering Sunday and Father's Day were two that they took an active part in. A very successful Christingle making session was arranged and the children made the Christingles for the service. The day ended with a popular Macdonald's lunch. During the Advent period we saw a rise in our numbers and the children performed for the congregation a Christmas story, from a cat's perspective. They had the chance to show their talents again by performing at the ever popular Christingle Service. The Christingle service is always well attended and perhaps is a time we need to promote our Children's group. Philip Evans kindly showed the children around different aspects of the church to enable them to learn more about our own church. We have taken an active part in the Church's summer and Christmas fairs. We need to try and build our numbers but also to appreciate the important role the children who attend have on our Christian life. We thank all those who help and support our group. We always welcome new helpers or anyone who would like to take a leading role in this group.

From the report by Nicki Sysum, the Ringing Mistress:

The Bedwardine Guild of Change Ringers, a.k.a. "St John's Clangers", has had a fantastic year in 2012. Our band has grown, and our ringers are getting better by the day! Notable events included:

- We rang for the Olympic torch on Thursday 24th May.
- Monday 4th June. Ringing of Rounds and Call Changes to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
- 24th of July, St Johns Clangers joined the rest of Worcester in sounding out the bells to mark the start of the Olympic Games.

2012 also saw St Johns Clangers coming into the 21st Century and joining the social media site Facebook. The plan for this Facebook group is to widen the doors of the tower and give everyone further insight into what goes on and invite anyone who wants to give bell ringing a go. We hope to develop the Facebook group ([facebook.com/groups/sjclangers/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/sjclangers/)) further and promote it as much as possible to assist our current ringers, and bring in more.

Our band has grown in 2012 by visits from Brownies, Scouts, and opening our doors and having special practice nights for beginners. This has been a fantastic step forward for us, and we have a lot of young ringers. In 2013, I would like to reach out even further to the younger generation. School trips, open ringing, group outings etc.

We all know that bell ringing can be seen as something of an octogenarian occupation. We are bucking the trend in our tower, having a range of ages from 5 to 75. With an enthusiastic social secretary we are going back to the roots of bell ringing as a truly sociable pastime by ensuring the eating and drinking establishments of St John's are regularly frequented. There have been ringing outings and trips, well attended and enjoyed by all. We have had a wonderfully successful 2012 with lots of opportunities for special events, and look forward to a promising and well anticipated 2013.

From the report by Peter Yates on the Music Group:

The Music Group has continued its ministry of supporting worship through the year both within the standard pattern of Sunday worship in church and outside with such outdoor events as the Good Friday Procession of Witness. Co-operation with the choir has continued on a number of the "Major Feasts" of the church year, re-introducing some old material and providing the occasional new item - notably in the form of responsorial psalms. The monthly Healing Service is now part of the regular pattern of services. Continuing co-operation with the "other half" of Mixed Blessings has also been a feature of the year. Christmas is an especially busy time in that regard including making our annual contribution to carol singing in the City Centre and putting together various carol based events beyond the church itself. The parish of St Thomas at Crown East keep inviting us back once a month to assist at their family service - so we must be getting something right there! Outside the confines of worship various music group members have contributed to such events as providing music at the Parish Summer Fare and Christmas Fair, and even contributing to similar events in other City Parishes. We have been very pleased to welcome to our number a bass player this year, and there is always scope for other members of the congregation to join in with our less formal style and fellowship based approach to music-in-worship.

From the report of John Brierley, the Organist & Choirmaster:

I began as Organist and Choirmaster in October 2011 when I inherited a small but dedicated choir of five voices. My main aim from the outset has been to build up the choir both in numbers and in the amount and range of music that they sing. In this way they provide a growing lead and support to the congregational singing whilst offering more choral music in worship. The

choir is growing steadily and we now have a membership of around 17 adult voices. We need some more basses.

We meet on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm for 90 minutes including a short break. We have a 9.30am warm-up practice on Sunday mornings. Morale is high and we enjoy our rehearsals where we work hard but also have fun.

The choir sings on most Sundays at the principal morning service, twice a month at choral evensong and at major festivals during the Church's year. The choir is available for weddings. We took part in the Wedding Fair in March. I choose hymns and other choral and organ music for the services. Taking the seasons, themes and readings of services as a starting point, I try to reflect these, where practicable, in the music.

We continue to build and I am always delighted to hear from singers interested in joining the choir. I thank Chris Stuart, the choir and the people of St John-in-Bedwardine for their friendship and support.

From Hilary Clifton's report about the Friendship Group:

We have had a very mixed year, and unfortunately, it may prove to be our last as I no longer feel that I can cope with the responsibility of running it.

We did have some very enjoyable evenings. Our speakers included Betty Hayler telling us about her Life as an Army Wife, followed the next month by her husband Bill putting his side of the story, telling us what Army Life was like for him. Arthur Burgess amused us with 'A funny thing happened to me on the way to.....', Jill Bowen gave us an interesting talk on Guiding, and Peter Holzapfel entertained us royally, as usual.

Unfortunately both outings had to be cancelled, the April one because of flooding, and the June one as we could not get enough people to cover the cost of the coach. The party had to be cancelled because of snow.

I do hope that someone will volunteer to take over from me. I joined when we were called the Young Wives Group, which became the Wives Group (when we were no longer young!) and then the Friendship Group when we were joined by an unmarried lady (Eileen Dowling for those who remember her!). There are now several men who join us, which is brilliant.

We have met on Wednesday evenings, (the last in the month) at 7:30 in the Blakefield Room. Our business finishes by about 8:45 when we stop for coffee and biscuits.

I do hope someone will volunteer.

HOW MANY?

How many altos does it take to change a light bulb?

None – they can't get up that high!

Beetle Drive



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RESULT OF THE CAPTION COMPETITION



In the April edition of the magazine, we printed this picture (taken outside the Blakefield Room, just after a choir practice) and asked you to come up with an amusing, printable caption for this picture.

The reach of our magazine is shown by this incredible entry from Mrs Trellis of North Wales:

“I think I’ll have to buy a trumpet”

Kudos goes to the winning entries selected by the editors (whose decision is final!).

Winner: Maybe the Estate Manager should have had the underground silo dug deeper for the St John’s ‘mission outreach’ Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (Ron Cantrill).

Runner up: The Vicar throws out his party hat (Rose Ashton).

Summer Village Fayre

St. John's Church

Saturday 22nd June

12.00 – 4.00 pm



LOTS OF STALLS

Games

Refreshments

Children's Art Competition 12.00

3.00pm Novelty dog show



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Proceeds to St. John's Church



FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

**A letter from Bishop
John Mort printed in
the June 1953
magazine.**

**John Mort was Vicar
of St John's 1948-
1952, and then
bishop of Nigeria.**

*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*

"Mr. Dobson, a native of Herefordshire and for the time being resident in Nigeria, has told me that he is willing to visit Worcester and give you this short message. This is really good of him and I am glad to feel that one who has become a true friend to me here will be coming to see you. I almost feel that I am coming back to see you myself! Though it is still a long way off—leave will come some day.

"It is rather difficult to keep up with correspondence as I am moving about a great deal but I am very thankful for the good wishes and greetings which I have received from time to time. I have often thought of the happy days which I spent at St. John's. Sometimes I burst out enthusiastically and tell friends like Mr. Dobson about you. I know you have been thinking of me, for some of that spirit of friendship and goodwill which we enjoyed so much in the Parish is beginning to be apparent here. In the symbol of the magnificent Crozier—already greatly admired by all who have seen it—lies the assurance of your kindness and interest which I shall always remember and appreciate.

"The Church, as you can well imagine, is faced with a hard struggle here. The work is as yet so new to me that I do not think it would be correct for me to formulate conclusions at this stage. There are difficulties and troubles but there is much to lead me forward in high hopes. I look forward to giving you all news of the place, if I may, when eventually my leave comes around. You would be highly amused if you saw the "Bishop's Palace" as my friends term it. After the comfort of St. John's Vicarage, it must surely be good for me to live in such a place. But here again there is very encouraging news. A nucleus of European and African friends are meeting at Kaduna, the Northern capital, in an endeavour to find some way of establishing a fitting episcopal headquarters. This gesture, even in the attempt itself, symbolises support, friendship and encouragement to me personally.

"With regard to information about the country, Mr. Dobson will, I am sure, be pleased to answer any questions. I know you will have an interesting meeting. There is an old saying—"The world is a small place." One of the first things which Mr. Dobson said to me was—"You came from Worcester? Did you know Dr. Bunting?" The name of the revered Doctor immediately established a link between us. I am sure you will be glad to know that I am very happy and confident in the realisation that I may be allowed to do a little good here.

"This comes to you with my very kindest greetings and good wishes. I shall rejoice to learn on my return that St. John's is more flourishing than ever.

God bless everyone,

JOHN MORT, *Bishop.*"



We have this amazing crowd of people who have gone before us in Christian faith...

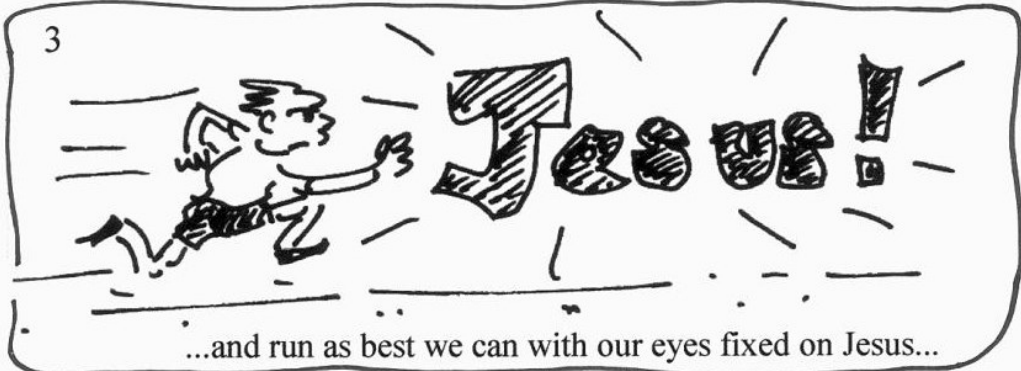
Just get rid of
all that
SIN!

Bible Sketchbook

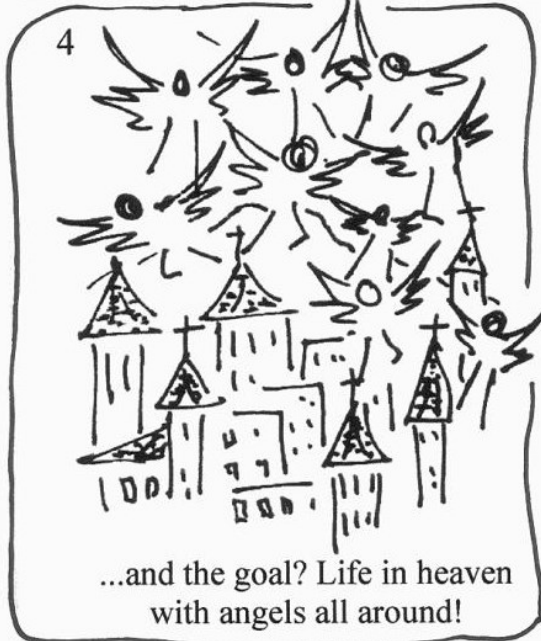
Can I do this all by myself? Of course not! But Jesus can! So give it all to him and he will take it away! Then run with him!



...so we need to get rid of all our sin!



...and run as best we can with our eyes fixed on Jesus...



...and the goal? Life in heaven with angels all around!

Be encouraged by all that Jesus did and the millions who have followed him since.

He didn't flinch from going the tough way - even death on the cross.

He has opened up the way for you and me to experience new life now and eternal life with all the angels in heaven!

Just trust in him, give all your rubbish to him and keep running with him. Do it today—you'll never regret it!

Read more in Hebrews 12

William Mather©

JUNE PUZZLE

The solution to this puzzle is on page 37.

		6	9					7
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		5		9		6		
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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, 17th June for the July/August 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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JUSTICE

Every time there is a story about the law and justice in the newspapers or on television they always use the same symbol to show justice – a woman wearing a blindfold over her eyes, holding a set of scales in one hand and a sword in the other.



The blindfold is there to show that nothing affects the decision except the scales. The scales show that justice is only

right when both sides weigh the same and that all are equal before the law. The sword is there to show that the good are protected and the wicked punished.

All through Jesus' teaching is the idea of judgement – that we all shall stand before the throne of God and answer for what we have done. And when we do, the judge will be Jesus because he lived on earth as we do. St Matthew's Gospel, chapter 25, verses 31 to 46 tells us about this judgment.

Will you be a sheep or a goat?

SHEEP & GOATS

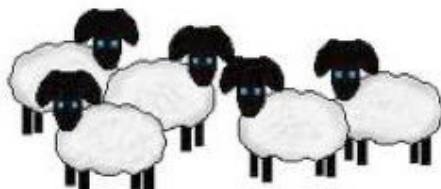
The answers to these are all animals in the Bible. Answers below.

1. 400 young men escaped on these (1 Samuel 30:17).
2. They eat under the table (Mark 7:28).
3. They live in the high mountains (Psalm 104:18).
4. One was lost and 99 were safe (Luke 15:6).
5. Benaiah killed this animal in a pit on a snowy day (1 Chronicles 11:22).
6. There were 4 of them, coloured white, red, black and pale green (Revelation 6:1-8).
7. Jesus rode this into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:21).
8. Their dung is used to bake bread (Ezekiel 4:15).



What did the cloned sheep say to the other sheep?

I am ewe.



What do you call a sheep with no head or legs?

A cloud.



Answers: 1.camels 2.dogs 3.goats
4.sheep 5.lion 6.horses 7.donkey 8.cow

ST JOHN'S CLERGY

Vicar	Rev'd Christopher Stuart	01905 429773 e-mail: chris.stuart@orangehome.co.uk
Associate Priest	Rev'd Nick Kaleniuk	07904 125068 e-mail: nicholas.kaleniuk@btinternet.com

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	
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)
	10.30 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	4.30 p.m.	Evening Prayer
Thursday (at St Clement's)	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion

PARISH OFFICE

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