



*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

NOVEMBER 2013

40p



'We will remember them'

WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS

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COVER PICTURE

Courtesy of Parish Pump

The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.

PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends

As many of you will know, the last few months have seen some major changes in our parishes. We've been desperately short-staffed, of course, and yet somehow by God's grace we've not only survived, but flourished. Perhaps the most spectacular 'flourish' has been the new service pattern: at St Clement's, the new Worship for Everyone service has doubled Sunday morning attendance, and the congregation there keeps growing. At St John's, the shift to a 10.30am start time went remarkably smoothly, and in fact seems to have helped grow that congregation too.

We've been helped along the way, of course, by a number of clergy, not least Nick Kaleniuk, whose warmth and energy was a real God-send.

And now, of course, we have the Rev'd Phil Bradford joining the team. Nick's work tended to focus on St Clement's and St Michael's, but I envisage Phil spreading his time rather more evenly across all three parishes. In St John's, I'd like him to focus on nurturing our children's work. At St Clement's, I'd like him to focus on nurturing links with the University, as well as Oldbury Park school and the YMCA. But I sense our greatest need at the moment is on Dines Green: with Robin's on-going illness showing no signs of coming to an end, there's a real need for sensitive pastoral care and support for the congregation at St Michael's: the PCC and churchwardens are doing a sterling job, but they do need our love, prayers and active support.

As many of you will know, next year we'll be getting a Curate (or, to use the correct technical term, an 'Assistant Curate.') Some of you may be wondering what an 'Assistant Curate' is! Essentially, it's a training post for new clergy – a kind of apprenticeship. The path to becoming a vicar is a long one: it usually takes at least a year or two to discern whether or not someone is called to the ministry; they then undergo two or three years of very rigorous training before finally being 'ordained' (given a dog collar, if you like!). Once ordained, they spend at least three years as an Assistant Curate, working alongside a vicar to build their experience base and hone their skills.

Our Assistant Curate, Sarah, will be ordained as a 'deacon' in late June, so by the time she comes to us she'll already have completed several years' of training, not to mention all the experience she's gained from her former life and career.

What's a deacon? Well, there are three 'orders' of ministry: deacons, priests and bishops. Deacons have a particular emphasis on living lives of practical service: caring for the community in acts of love and charity (see Acts 6: 1-6). Really, it gets to the heart of much of what a cleric is, and as deacons they therefore assist the priests in their pastoral and administrative duties. They also have formal roles in liturgy, with a particular emphasis on nurturing and building up the congregation's knowledge and

faith, and practically caring for those facing difficult moments in their lives: so they can preach and teach, take funerals, lead Morning and Evening Prayer and baptise new members of the Church.

After a year, the role of priest is added to the role of deacon. Like a deacon, the priest is still there to embody Christ within the community in love, in service and in humble leadership. However, where the emphasis for a deacon is perhaps on practical acts of care and service, the priest has a wider responsibility for spiritual care and nurture: so, for example, a priest can bless people, where a deacon cannot. Likewise, a priest can consecrate the bread and wine at the Eucharist (which, of course, brings spiritual blessings to those who receive them).

All of this is in preparation for the day when Sarah will have a parish of her own. Assistant Curates are linked to a particular vicar (or ‘training incumbent’) rather than a specific parish – in other words, I’ll be her mentor, and will be responsible for nurturing her gifts and enabling her ministry.

Although this is a training post, she’s very gifted and talented and will really complement our existing clergy team. We’re very blessed to have her and I see her arrival as one more sign of all the blessings that we’ve been given in the last twelve months, in spite of the struggles we’ve gone through.

The last few months have been tough, and it’s a rocky road ahead of us too, I guess. But look at what God has done already, and take heart. God is beginning to move in West Worcester.

*In Christ
Christopher*

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our November issue. For our theme this month we’ve selected Remembrance. Our cover picture reflects part of that theme; remembering those who have died in war. But we invite you also to remember those who suffer and die for their Christian faith; not just in the past but now. We’ve included items mentioning some of the persecution and violence towards Christians from the recent news. But remembering sacrifice must not lead to bitterness or anger. Note well the opening words in the archive piece “gratefully yet sorrowfully”. The point of remembering past sacrifice is to give us strength to have a positive effect on the future.

Our historical Christian figure is St Clement, helping us remember the sacrifices of those in the early church - and we now understand our neighbouring parish’s link to the anchor.

We pray that God will strengthen you in whatever sacrifices you are called to make.

Graham and Sue Evans

DATES FOR NOVEMBER 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 2nd November: Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

7.30 p.m. All Souls' Service

Sunday 3rd November: Fourth Sunday before Advent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 9th November: Margery Kempe, mystic, c1440

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

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Sunday 10th November: Third Sunday before Advent: Remembrance Sunday

See below and the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Thursday 14th November: Samuel Seabury, bishop, 1796

2.00 p.m. Thursday at Two (Blakefield Room)

6

Sunday 17th November: Second Sunday before Advent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 20th November: Edmund, king, martyr, 870

7.00 p.m. Craft Evening

10

Saturday 23rd November: Clement, bishop, martyr, c100

11.00 a.m. Grand Christmas Fayre 11.00-3.00

21

Sunday 24th November: Sunday next before Advent: Christ the King

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 30th November: Andrew the Apostle

Cats Protection Fashion Show. See posters for details.

This year's Deanery Confirmation Service will be held at St John's at 5pm on Sunday 10th November. Bishop John will officiate. Please note that this is a change of date from the previous provisional date of 17th November.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS – 2nd November

A small band of volunteers met in September for the first "Grounds Maintenance" morning. We trimmed the car-park hedge and cut back the shrubs by the Parish Office.

Our next meeting is on Saturday 2nd November. We will trim the hedges and overhanging branches in the car-park and do some other tidying up to make the grounds look neater in advance of Remembrance Sunday.

We start at 10am, have a break at 11am and finish at noon. If you'd be willing to help either with tidying or making drinks or taking bags to the tip, please let me know

Philip Evans

IN MEMORIAM

This month we have returned to using our magazine 'database' of names. We have included below all the names for November, as well as one name for October which did not appear last month (when we took the names from the Memorial Book which is placed upon the Lady Chapel altar).

June Edith Clayton	6 October 2011
Robert Telfer Dedicott	2 November 1984
Rowland Taylor	4 November 1996
Andrew FI Jenkinson	4 November 2007
Rose Hodgetts	5 November 1985
Reginald James Rogers	6 November 1995
Derek James Keating	7 November 1981
Marion Edna Thomas	7 November 1982
William Henry Thomas	12 November 1953
Margaret Dance	14 November 1996
Herbert William (Bill) Bosley	17 November 1998
Harold Ricketts	19 November 1996

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 every month, from 2pm in the Blakefield Room, St John's Church. Our next meeting is on Thursday 14th November.

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

Catherine Templeton, Sylvia Render

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in September.

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

Harley Jones

Lucy Hannah Piper

Emilia Jane Walley

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 29th August Steve Hartill

d. 3rd September Susan Hopkins

d. 10th September Michael Gough

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER 2013 (4 Sundays):
Communicants 441. Total attendance at all services 830.

JUNIOR CHURCH

Every Sunday during the 10.30 service there is Junior Church. The children learn about bible stories, talk about how they can help others and many other topics. We create pictures and



crafts to support what we learn. Recently we had one of our sessions looking at parts of the church and looked at the outside of the building. The children had a picnic and created their own stained glass windows.

Do come along and join us. If you feel you would like to come as a helper please come along and see what we do.

Jane Askew

ST JOHNS TODDLER GROUP "Little Cherubs"

We meet every Friday in the Blakefield Room at the back of the Church, (Bromyard Road side) from 10am to 12.00 mid-day. Please come along and see us.

Zoe Adams (07921829892)



"The new vicar seems pretty confident in his ability to increase church attendance!"

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Remembrance Sunday is both a poignant and powerful occasion in the church's calendar. It gives us all a chance to pause and to be reminded of the horror of war and the heroism of those who have fought.



Next year will mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and the year after that it will be 70 years since the end of the Second World War. To so many people now these wars seem remote and distant but of course we will not just be remembering the many who laid down their lives so long ago. War and conflict have continued and men and women in the armed forces continue to offer the ultimate sacrifice in serving their country.

The anthem that the choir sings on Remembrance Sunday is John Ireland's setting of Greater Love. The text uses verses from various parts of the bible including Canticles and St John's Gospel and reminds us that: Love is strong as death. Greater love has no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends. The anthem starts relatively quietly before building to a full toned middle section where the choir is almost imitating the sounds of trumpets. Perhaps its most telling moments though are at the close when, having been reminded that Christ made the ultimate sacrifice in laying down his life for the world, we are enjoined to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy acceptable unto God which is (our) reasonable service. Ireland's music for these words is calm, quiet and peaceful after the power that has gone before and perhaps points us to the thought that even as we remember those who have died in the midst of conflict, all of us can do our best to strive for peace.

Luise Horrocks

RIDE AND STRIDE

Thank you to everyone who sponsored the Riders+Striders from St. John's. There were 5 participants and together we raised over £200 in sponsorship. This means that St. John's Church will receive back a donation of over £100 from WDHCT (Worcestershire and Dudley Historic Churches Trust).

Philip Evans

REMEMBER - NIGERIA

October 2012: a suicide bomber crashed a jeep laden with explosives into a packed Catholic church in Kaduna, northern Nigeria, killing at least eight people and injuring more than 100. The tragedy bore the imprint of numerous similar attacks by Boko Haram (which roughly translates as "Western education is sinful"), an exceptionally bloodthirsty militant group.

NEW ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY

Bishop John has announced that the Rev'd Nikki Groarke is to be the next Archdeacon of Dudley. Nikki comes to the Diocese of Worcester from London where she is Vicar of St. Stephen's Church in Canonbury, Islington.

Nikki trained for ministry at Ridley Hall in Cambridge, was ordained in 2000, and served her title post in Balham, South London. For the last five years she has been Vicar of St Stephen's Canonbury, a vibrant inner-city church with two large social action projects supporting marginalised adults and young people. She grew up in Worcestershire, and was a pupil at Flyford Flavell Primary and Pershore High schools. Then, after gaining a degree in modern languages, she worked as a Marketing Manager in the publishing industry in Oxford for ten years, and as the Bereavement Service Co-ordinator for an Oxford hospice. She has been involved in training and development of clergy in various diocesan roles, and with CPAS and New Wine.

Of Nikki's appointment, Bishop John said: "I am delighted that Nikki Groarke has accepted my invitation to become the next Archdeacon of Dudley. She is an exceptionally gifted priest with a wealth of experience both within and beyond the church. She has the added advantage of having grown up in this part of the world and this is, in a sense, a homecoming. I greatly look forward to working with her to forward God's loving purposes in this Diocese."

Nikki said: "I am very excited to be coming back to my home county, after ministering in London for the past 13 years. The Stepney area has been a richly diverse and intense place in which to serve and learn, but I am now greatly looking forward to exploring the equally diverse territory of North Worcestershire and Dudley, and joining in with what God is doing here. I am thrilled to be joining Bishop John and his team at a time when the Kingdom People initiative is taking shape, as I am sure it will have a huge impact, encouraging church members to engage in mission and ministry enthusiastically. Getting to know the clergy and people of the archdeaconry as we discover new ways of being church in our changing culture will be a great privilege."

In her spare time, Nikki is a keen runner. She said: I am looking forward to swapping my running route from the urban landscape of Regent's Canal in Islington and Hackney to the somewhat more scenic (but hillier) Tardebigge Steps. It will also be great to have access to some great urban centres and new shopping opportunities! This post seems to combine all the aspects of life and ministry I love most; diversity, mission, a great team and churches populated by motivated and committed people who want to work together to see God's kingdom come.

Nikki will be licensed in Dudley at the beginning of January and will be installed as a Canon of Worcester Cathedral at around the same time.

Samantha Setchell

Fun and Fund Raising at St John's



Saturday 9 th November	Bridge Day 11.00am -3.00pm £10.00 including lunch. Tel 749025 to book.
Wednesday 20 th November	Craft Evening 7.00pm - 9.00pm Make your own Crackers £5.00 including all materials. Telephone 424811 to book.
Saturday 23 rd November	CHRISTMAS FAYRE 11.00am - 3.00pm Stalls available for hire. Come and see Santa.
Saturday 30 th November	Cats Protection Fashion Show See posters for details.
Wednesday 4 th December	Craft Evening 7.00pm - 9.00pm Christmas Countdown £5.00 including all materials. Telephone 424811 to book.
Saturday 7 th December	Indoor Table Top Sale. See item on page 11 for details.
Saturday 29 th December	Christmas Tea and games

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

KINGDOM PEOPLE

The Kingdom must surely be central to any Christian witness and ministry. We pray for its coming every time we pray the Lord's Prayer. Jesus was passionate about the Kingdom and so should we be. As the Church of England, we are called to be an effective sign of God's Kingdom – people who embody Kingdom values of love, compassion, justice and freedom.

I believe that if we are able to embrace the eight characteristics of the Vision and focus on them, we shall become a healthier Church, one that is truly responsive to God's will and able to make a real impact in the lives of our communities – one, in short, that is a powerful instrument of the Kingdom.

Bishop John

2014 PROMISES AUCTION

On the evening of Saturday 17th May 2014, the fund raising team is planning to hold a Promises Auction. This will be an exciting event that can raise a substantial amount of money for the chosen charities, which, on this occasion, will be St Richard's Hospice and St John's Church.

The idea is that individuals, companies and local celebrities promise to do or provide something and that promise is then auctioned to the highest bidder. We hope to be able to offer dozens of promises for auction: for instance, meals out, golf outings, housework, ironing, baby-sitting, private tutoring, music lessons, gardening, chauffeuring for a special event, baking a cake – the possibilities are endless!

For the event to be successful we need YOUR help! Can you promise to do something? Or maybe you know a local celebrity or have a contact at a local business that could offer to do something that can be sold? And of course we will need you to come on the day and bring along as many people as you can, to buy in the promises!

So, please put on your 'thinking caps' and let's see how many different ideas and promises we can come up with.

Please feel free to chat with one of us about your ideas and email or write to me with your promise.

Catherine, Jane and Sue. Contact us on 01905 749025 or at cathtemp@btinternet.com

TABLE TOP SALES

During the winter months, we are going to hold a table top sale in St John's Church on the first Saturday of each month. The first one will be on Saturday 7th December, from 9am to midday. Refreshments will be available.

The cost will be £10 per table - To pre-book a table please ring: 01905 749025.

Catherine Templeton

REMEMBER - INDIA

In vast and diverse India, Christians often live freely. Yet India is one of the countries where life as a Christian is most difficult, largely because of a streak of Hindu nationalism, or Hindutva, that envisions India as a purely Hindu state.

Each month, numerous reports surface of provincial Hindutva militants breaking up prayer meetings, intimidating pastors, assaulting worshippers, and chasing Christian families from their homes and villages. The dates, locations and names change, but many of the elements remain: Christians are accused of forcing Hindus to convert; church buildings are damaged; area church leaders intervene; police often provide little protection.

SHOE BOX APPEAL 2013



Once again we are supporting the 'Shoebox Appeal', collecting suitable gift items to be sent abroad for children who would not normally have anything for Christmas. Last year we managed to make up 31 boxes. If you do not feel you can fill a whole box, but would like to be part of the gesture please pass any items to the Parish Office or telephone Jane on 01905 424811.

Items can be for age groups 2-4, 5-11 or 12-14 and for boys or girls. Suitable items are pens pencils notebooks, socks, scarves and hats, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, sponge, hair accessories, cuddly toys and sweets but not chocolate. All items need to be put in a covered shoe box. Boxes need to be returned to church by 12th November. Thank you once again for being part of making a difference to children at Christmas.

Jane Askew

PCC MEETING 8th October 2013

Sue Bale (Lay vice chair) opened with a Gospel reading and a prayer. All 14 members were present.

Under **Matters Arising from the Minutes**, Sue Bale reported that the Churches Together event on August Bank Holiday Monday had been very successful with good fellowship between the people there. West Worcester churches are planning to do something similar again in the future.

Under **Worship, Mission and new services**, the PCC ratified the list of Eucharistic Assistants and the continuation of all current ALM roles.

The Vicar confirmed that we will have an assistant curate, Sarah Cottrill, from July 2014. He highlighted that assistant curates are linked to a trainer rather than a parish. In practice; this means that Sarah will be working under him in St Clement's, St David's and St John's.

The Vicar said one of his priorities for Phil Bradford in St John's is development of the Worship for All service. He will be deployed evenly across the three parishes (including St Michael's) and will share with Chris the committee workload.

The PCC accepted the Charity Committee report, agreeing that our 2013 charitable donations would be to Onside Advocacy, Worcester Wheels and Worcester Snoozlen.

It was agreed to form a small group to co-ordinate with St Clement's Christmas ordering and communications and that, as in 2012, we should be part of the Churches Together Christmas letter. The pattern of services for Christmas Day was agreed.

Under **Children and Schools**, the Vicar said that his second priority for Phil Bradford will be support to Jane Askew with the Children's Church.

Under **West Side collaboration**, there were updates on the Transitional Grant and the implementation of the Team Office.

Under **Finance and Operations**, written reports had been received from a number of PCC committees. Highlights from the written and verbal reports included:

- It was agreed to make a loan from general church funds to the sound system funds to enable the sound system to go ahead as soon as possible, and also to seek a grant from the Feoffees.
- The Treasurer distributed a September financial update and answered questions. His summary of the position was that it continues to look okay as income is down on budget, but costs are down more. He reported that we have been remembered in the will of Miss Cull, and will receive a generous legacy, although the precise amount and timing are not yet known.
- The Fund Raising Committee reported on their on-going and future events and development of the Friends of St John's (now up to 15 members).
- Better heating controls for the Blakefield Room, and redecoration of the Burroughs' Room will go ahead shortly.

The Secretary reported a letter received from the bishop; the status quo (of Chris being technically a 'priest-in-charge' of St Johns) was to be continued for the time being.

Under **Any Other Business** the PCC agreed to continue to have a real Christmas tree in church (rather than an artificial one), and to continue to have mulled wine after the Carol Service and approved the expenditure.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. with all saying 'The Grace'.

Graham Evans, PCC Secretary

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE CHRISTIANS?

Only 0.6% of the world's 2.2 billion Christians now live in the Middle East and North Africa. Thee Christians are only 4% of the population, down from 20% a century ago.

REMEMBER - IRAN

Iran's continued mistreatment of its Christian minority was raised at a recent meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Council. At least 300 Christians have been arrested in the past three years in Iran, with the most common charges being actions against public security and propaganda against the regime. Many of these Christians were arrested while taking part in "house churches", small meetings of Christians who gather to worship and pray together. Many of them are tortured and have their possessions confiscated. Then after they are released, they often lose the right to education or employment.

RECENT EVENTS IN CHURCH

(Right) Philomusica
concert

12th October 2013.

Picture: Arthur Burgess.



(Below) Members of the congregation were treated to a very tasty and beautifully prepared Harvest Supper on 5th October by Jane Askew, Sue Bale and Margaret Morris. As per usual they spent many long hours preparing the food and then clearing up afterwards. It was a wonderful evening and they all rightly received a hearty thanks from the diners. It deserved to be a standing ovation but we were all so full that we could not get up! Thanks to them for a great fund-raising event and a most enjoyable evening.

Colin Nash



TEEN MEETS GOD – KATIE’S STORY

Katie is 19 and lives in Nottingham. She has faced significant challenges in her life, but her relationship with God has brought her through them:

I was born three months premature. I weighed 1lb 6 ounces at birth and was put into intensive care at UCL Hospital for 13 weeks. Doctors, really to this day, are astounded that I’m alive and pretty much healthy. It was because of this whole experience that my parents realised that God was real and had a plan for our lives.

However, it was when I was 11 years old that I decided I wanted to own their faith for myself. This Jesus - who I’d heard about all my life - seemed like a pretty decent guy and I wanted to know him! In our children’s group at church one Sunday we were all given an opportunity to give our lives to Jesus. I remember standing up in front of my church, the following week, and receiving my first Bible.

Then the scary season of life started: Secondary school! We all know that being a teenager isn’t easy, but it certainly helped me knowing for sure that God was always on my side, even when I felt the world was against me. At school I dealt with various medical issues, such as two operations on my spine at age 12, and friendship issues that turned into bullying.

Then, at 15, I went through one of the worst seasons of my life. My best friend had told me he wanted to die. This was a catalyst for what later turned into depression. I had counselling for a year at school, and that woman was, and still is, one of my favourite people. Her sessions didn’t just help me get through this mental health issue, but she kept my eyes utterly focused on Jesus. Despite the constant battleground that was going on in my head, I learned in this time what a relationship with Jesus actually looked like.

So now, four years later, there isn’t even a hint of depression coming back. My relationship with my maker is really strong, because I figured out that He isn’t just interested in you when things are going good; Jesus wants to be in your pain, holding your hand too.

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

Courtesy of Parish Pump

REMEMBER – IRAQ

Rev. Andrew White, the pastor of an Anglican church in Baghdad, speaks of the “terrible suffering” of Iraq’s Christian community. He said that in the last 10 years since Saddam Hussein was toppled, 1026 members of his congregation had been killed – 58 within one day. He said that in the last decade, Iraq’s Christian population had shrunk from 1.5 million to around 200,000.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This is a letter written by Mark Regan, who leads the bell ringers at the cathedral. It's a letter which he sent to the national newspaper of bell-ringers, The Ringing World. Mark has some very critical things to say about the state of bell-ringing associations in this country, not least the local association (WDCRA) that incorporates all the towers in this diocese. Although Mark is talking about bell-ringing, it seems to me that a lot of what he has to say might well apply to the Church of England and some of its institutions, and is relevant and thought-provoking for all and not just bell-ringers.

Chris Stuart

----- 00000 -----

Most of our ringing associations are Victorian in origin and structure. The ringing world's changed quite a bit since Queen Victoria ruled the Empire. And it has changed rapidly over the past 10 years. Some of our ringing institutions haven't woken up. Some have and are now doing great things. They are creating service-based organisations. This means the organisation serves its community. Not the other way round. There is a big difference between an organisation and an institution.

All sorts of institutions don't evolve and some refuse to acknowledge the need. A recent commercial example is Kodak who didn't recognize 'digital'. As the market leader Kodak thought it owned film and photography. It could tell the customer what to do. There was no awareness of service to the customer or recognition of changes in their market. Innovation drives change; for example 20 years' ago cameras in mobile 'phones would have been considered a joke. In the 1990s Marks and Spencer believed it knew what its customers wanted and was quite shaken when it realised that their customers were no longer loyal. They even blamed their customers for their commercial failures. There was no service. No-one was listening. Don't blame people for not attending ringing meetings. Ask them why.

Kodak and many ringing organisations have an 'institutional' culture. This means the customer or bellringer is there to serve the needs of the organisation. The institution knows best and does not see the need to engage in any dialogue with the community upon whom it is dependent for its existence. Some bellringing institutions believe they control ringing, own the bells in their territory, that members must be loyal and that other stakeholders should recognise their authority as a right. An officer of the WDCRA told me that I hadn't asked their permission to build our Teaching Centre in Worcester Cathedral. They were serious. From the perspective of an institutional culture this makes perfect sense. Logically it's bonkers. Every year more and more local towers and ringers regularly use our Teaching Centre.

Most of today's successful ringing communities thrive outside the confines of our institutions. Today's successful ringing communities are informal and transient. Skype and facebook are excellent means of communication and help form and

maintain these groups. Consider the success of the many diverse groups which practise our art: tower grabbers, quarter peal enthusiasts, peal ringers, those who restore unringables and the new Association of Ringing Teachers (which is superb). These groups serve ringing. And they don't fit into to an institutional stereotype.

Looking through some recent WDCRA reports (why do we still publish reports?) reveals some challenging statistics. The WDCRA has about 700 members. As far as I can work out, only 10% to 15% actively support its events. It has over 45 people in official positions, including four secretaries. In a service-based culture this would mean a ratio of one officer to every two and a bit people for the active members. If all its members were active the ratio would be one officer to every 16 members. In a service culture these are great ratios. What do all these people do? They serve the needs of the institution. I'm sure everyone will say they are busy; however, it's easy to confuse activity with productivity. What is the honest answer to this question: Does what I do actively contribute to the future of ringing? The College Youths has one secretary serving a community of 1500 members worldwide. Its London nucleus is active every week and has a monthly business meeting. The small group of officers actively serve their community. The oldest ringing society is modern in outlook.

Over 80% of the WDCRA's membership is passive at best. More likely they can't be bothered. Perhaps this is a similar position nationwide? If 80% of an institution's membership are not actively involved the question is obvious. Failing organisations are inevitably in denial. It's a bitter pill to swallow.

Before you build a service-based culture you have to ask the question: What is the purpose of the organisation? Dean Spritzer, author of Super Motivation, lists eight factors which can be seen as blocks to build organisations (not institutions) which have a purpose. These are: activity, ownership, power, affiliation, competence, achievement, recognition and meaning. If the purpose of an organisation is to serve ringing by teaching and advocating, build in Spritzer's factors and things will quickly happen. Go out and support ringing locally. Meetings are a waste of time.

I believe there is a need for service-based organisations in ringing. I sincerely hope that our institutions will change. 'Top-down' management and institutional ownership doesn't work. The future in ringing is about bottom-up innovation: doing things in local towers. I'm aware of the St Martin's Guild and the Sussex County Association doing great things. I'm sure there are, and will be, many more.

Mark Regan, Worcester Cathedral

We have lightly edited the original letter to fit the context of the magazine. We welcome the thoughts of our readers on the general point of self-centred institutions versus service-based organisations. WDCRA specific letters will not be considered.

The Editors (magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk).

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 this makes things easier for our printing team.**

FROM THE PARISH MAGAZINE ARCHIVE

The following is an extract from the Vicar's letter in the October 1915 magazine.

Gratefully, yet sorrowfully, we record the death of another of our promising young men, William George Hubert Howse, whose parents live in McIntyre Road, and who was killed a few weeks ago in Gallipoli by a stray bullet. His father is well-known to us of S. John's as one of our Tram Inspectors, and he and his wife have had comforting and appreciative letters from their dear son's Commanding Officer and his comrades. These letters, though they cannot remove the bitter sense of loss, yet do help to soften it.

REMEMBER - PAKISTAN

All Saint's Church, Peshawar, Pakistan. 22nd September 2013: At least 120 people lost their lives in a double suicide bombing at All Saints Church in Peshawar. The attackers struck outside the church at the end of the service as around 600 worshippers were greeting each other, leaving a scene of carnage, devastation and heartbreak. Around 170 people were wounded, some of them critically. Many of those killed and injured were children.



The Pakistani Taliban has claimed responsibility for the attack: “[The Christians] are the enemies of Islam, therefore we target them. We will continue our attacks on non-Muslims on Pakistani land.”

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the country's Ulema Council, an association of leading Muslim scholars, condemned the bombing, saying that it violated the tenets of Islam.

All Saints was built in 1883 and is one of the oldest churches in Pakistan.

ST CLEMENT

Pope Clement I, also known as Saint Clement of Rome, is listed as Bishop of Rome from an early date, holding office from 92 A.D. to his death in 99 A.D. He is considered the first Apostolic Father of the Church.

Few details are known about Clement's life. According to Tertullian, Clement was consecrated by Saint Peter, and he is known to have been a leading member of the church in Rome in the late 1st century.

Clement's only genuine extant writing is his letter to the church at Corinth (1 Clement) in response to a dispute in which certain presbyters of the Corinthian church had been deposed. He asserted the authority of the presbyters as rulers of the church on the ground that the Apostles had appointed such. It was read in church, along with other epistles, some of which later became Christian canon; and is one of the oldest extant Christian documents outside the New Testament. This important work was the first to affirm the apostolic authority of the clergy.

A second epistle, 2 Clement, was attributed to Clement although recent scholarship suggests it to be a homily by another author.

According to a later tradition (not earlier than the 4th century), Clement was imprisoned under the Emperor Trajan but nonetheless led a ministry among fellow prisoners. He was then executed by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea.

Graham Evans, based upon material from Wikipedia

ROOM HIRING AT THE CHURCH

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

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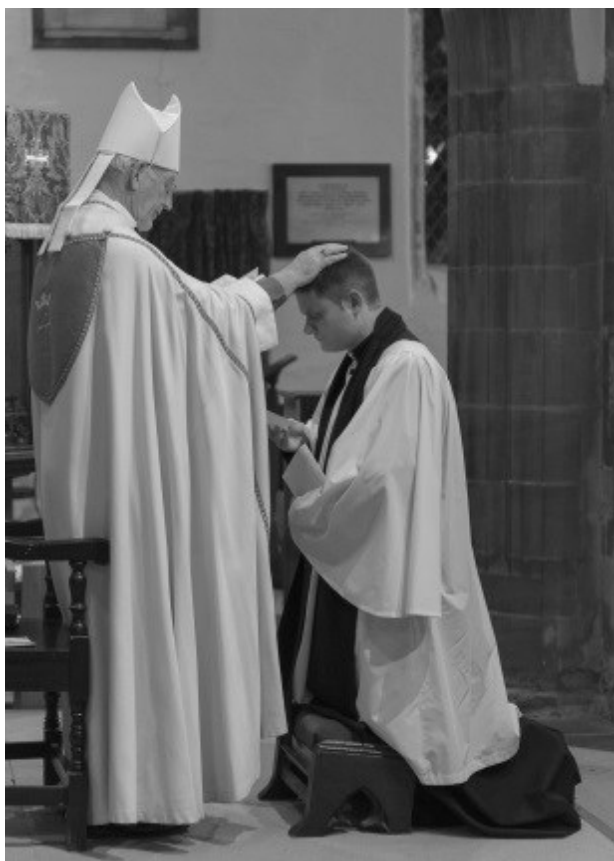
Burroughs' Room	Suitable for up to 12 people. Drink making facilities and toilet.
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The North Aisle	Suitable for 120 people seated theatre style or up to 48-64 seated around tables. Tables and/or chairs are provided. It is a large open area with plenty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

LICENSING – 16th October 2013



Rev'd Dr Phillip Bradford was licensed as Associate Vicar for the West Worcester Group of Parishes at St John's Church on Wednesday 16th October 2013. The service was led by Bishop Christopher Mayhew.



Above: Phil signs his licence watched by the Bishop and Archdeacon Roger Morris.
Left: Phil is blessed by the Bishop.

Pictures courtesy of Colin Nash.

FRIENDS OF ST JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE CHURCH

We all talk about the Village in the City and the Church is at the heart of this village. St. John's Church is a Grade 2* listed Norman building. This means that there is always something that needs to be done to keep the building in good condition. We have learnt from experience that we need to constantly spend money on the building to avoid enormous repair bills.



We have formed a 'Friends of St John in Bedwardine Church' group, whose sole purpose is to help fund the upkeep of the building. If you are interested in joining us please telephone the Parish Office (01905 420490).

In return for becoming a Friend of St John in Bedwardine you will be invited to a function that will be free for a Friend and sent a yearly update.

REMEMBER - EGYPT

Egypt: 600,000 Copts have emigrated since the 1980s in the face of harassment or outright oppression.

St John's Church

Grand Christmas Fayre

Saturday 23rd November

11.00 – 3.00

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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.

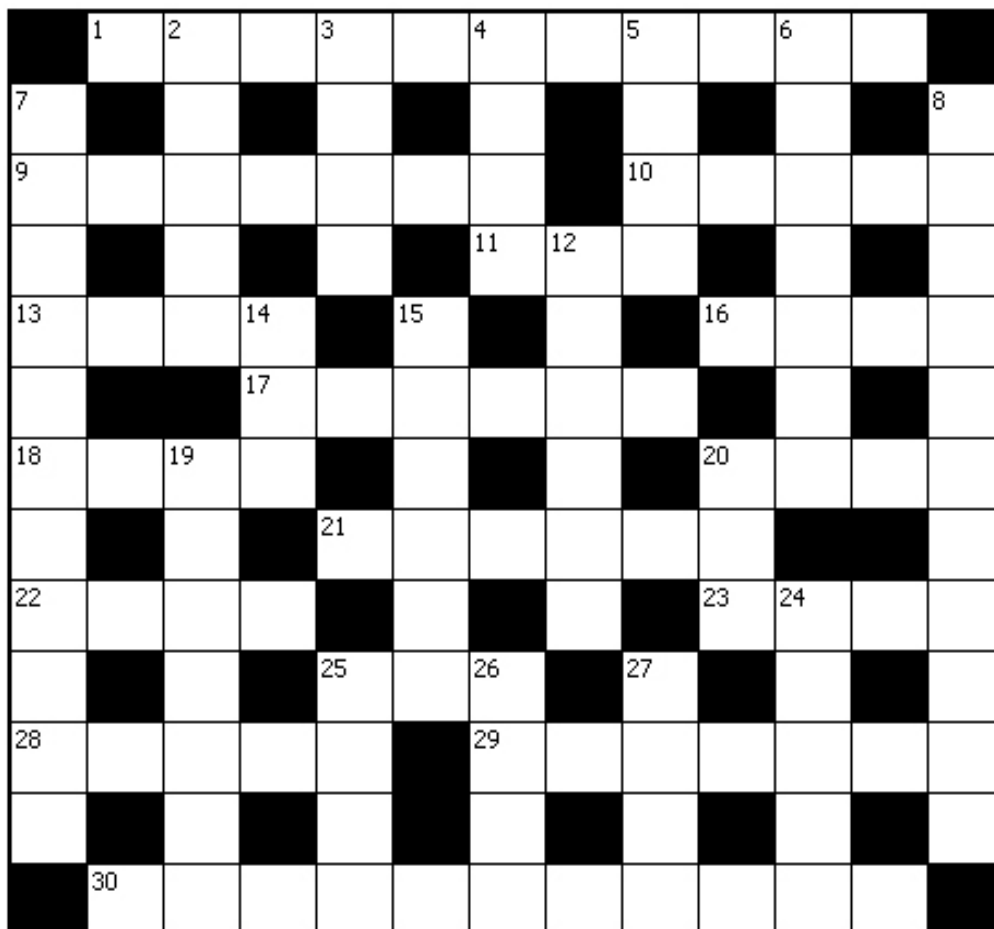
Copy should reach us by Sunday 10th November for the December edition. If you can, please use e-mail: magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

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

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

Sue & Graham Evans, Joint Editors

NOVEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE



The solution is on page 36

CROSSWORD CLUES

Across

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all — , Lord of all — , whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy' (11,3)
- 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you — your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline — (2,3)
- 11 'At even — the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay' (3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but — for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must — God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, — Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat — — ' (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 'No fear of me should — you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5)
- 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem... how — I have longed to gather your children together' (Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3 Way out (4)
- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14 Frozen (3)
- 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
- 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
- 20 See 1 Across
- 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25 Time (anag.) (4)
- 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the — of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)

Amazing change!

Saul was one of the biggest persecutors of Christian faith but he became a Christian! He persecuted the church, throwing people into prison and even approved the murder of Stephen . But he had an amazing change on the road to Damascus.

He saw a bright light, was blinded and fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying: "I am Jesus, whom you persecute go into the city." There God called a man named Ananias to pray for Saul, so he might see again.

Amazingly he did! He was baptised a Christian, became known as Paul and went everywhere telling people about Jesus!

Your experience of Jesus may not be as dramatic as this, but it can still be just as real!

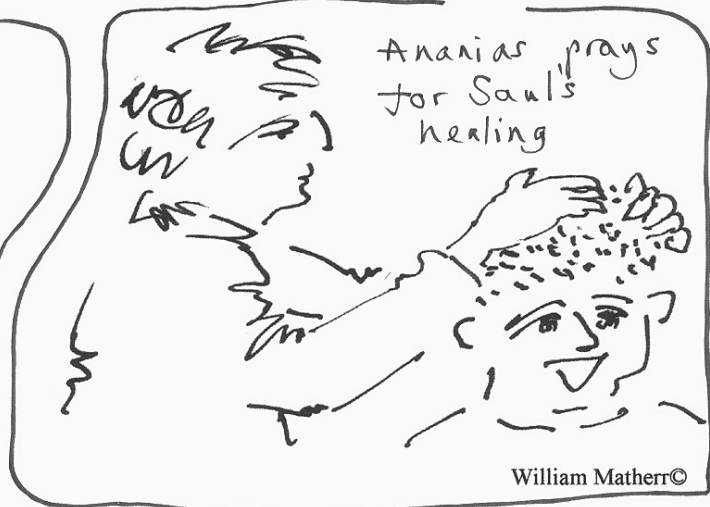
Read more in Acts 9: 1-19.



Stephen is stoned to death (above) while Saul watches. Saul throws Christians in prison (left) and mothers clutching their children - and the Scriptures - run for their lives (below)



Saul meets Jesus on the Damascus Road



Ananias prays for Saul's healing

William Matherr©

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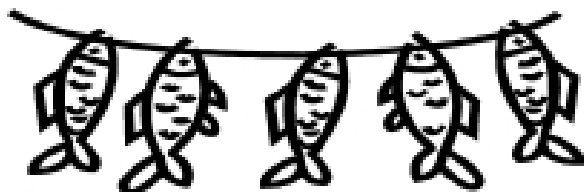
1, St John's, Worcester WR2 5AE



St ANDREW

feast day November 30th

The Bible tells us that Andrew and his brother Simon Peter were the very first disciples to follow Jesus. They were fishermen working at their nets when Jesus called them. It was a hard thing to do, to leave everything for an uncertain way of life but Andrew knew that Jesus so special that he had to share this wonderful knowledge with others.



Andrew followed Jesus for the rest of his life. After Jesus' death he travelled widely spreading the message and building the early church. He was arrested for being a follower of Christ and condemned to death on the cross. Legend says that he was crucified on a diagonal cross.

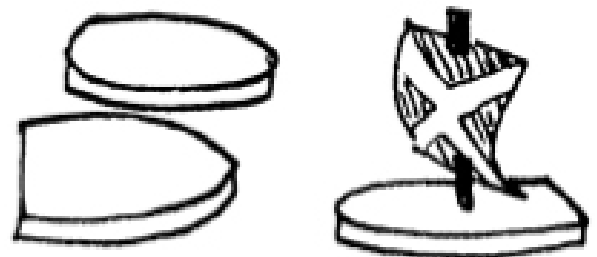
St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and his cross is on the Scottish flag which is a white cross on a blue background – the blue is for the sea which seems right for a fisherman.

SAIL AWAY

Andrew and Simon fished with nets from the shore or from small boats. You could make a fishing fleet of small boats and decorate their sails with St Andrew's cross.

You will need a polystyrene box or tray like the ones you see at the fruit shop or supermarket.

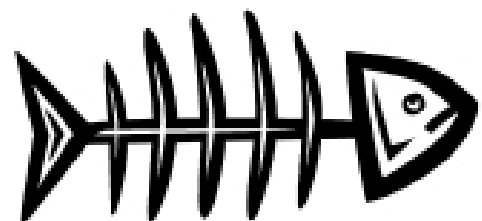
Using a bread knife, carefully cut out several different shapes and sizes.



Find a thin stick for the masts (you could use a pencil) and cut out a sail in paper. Thread or stick the sail onto the mast.



How do fish go into business?
They start on a small scale.



What day of the week do fish hate?
Frydays.

Why are gold fish orange?
The water makes them rusty.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY

Vicar Rev'd Dr Christopher Stuart 01905 429773
e-mail: chris.stuart@orangehome.co.uk
Associate Vicar Rev'd Dr Phillip Bradford

OTHER WEST WORCESTER GROUP CLERGY

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Vicar of St Michael, Dines Green with Rev'd Robin Charles 01905 749995
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SUNDAY SERVICES

This is the usual pattern. Please see the back cover for the actual services in November.

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

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

PARISH OFFICE

1a Bromyard Road
St John's, WR2 5BS
Tel: (01905) 420490

From the church car park, walk up the Bromyard
Road side of the church to the green door.
Answerphone outside office hours

e-mail: office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Normally open for general enquiries and messages (please ring to check)

Monday: 10.30am to noon.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am to noon.

Open specifically for booking baptisms and weddings

Thursday: 6.45pm until 7.30pm.



Parish Website: www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk
The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered
charity, number 1152583.



Sunday services at St. John's, St. Clement's, St. David's and St Michael's, November 2013.

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
3rd November	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Parish Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	 6.30pm Evensong (BCP)	10.30am Parish Communion
10th November	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.00am Remembrance Service (NB not 10.30) 10.50am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial 5pm Deanery Confirmation	9am Parish Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	 11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Parish Communion
17th November	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Parish Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Parish Communion
24th November	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion with Children's Church 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9am Parish Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	 6.30pm Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30am Parish 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.