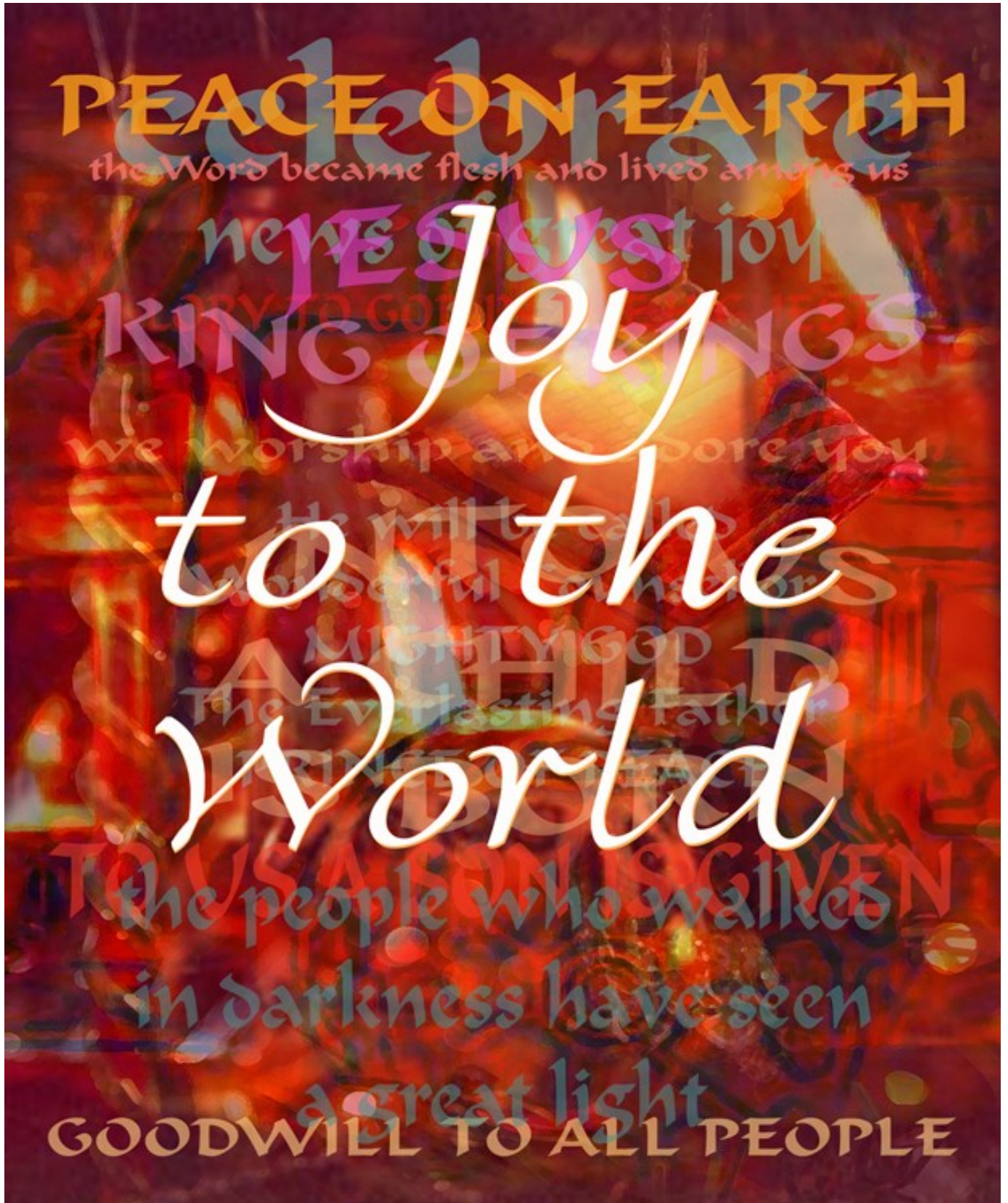




*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

DECEMBER 2013

40p



WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS

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PCC Secretary	Graham Evans	428667
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Unless otherwise directed, please send all correspondence for the magazine and the church to the Parish Office address on the inside back cover.

The deadline for items for the January edition is Sunday 15th December.

COVER PICTURE

Courtesy of Parish Pump

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER

'It's a Christmas Thing'

I keep hearing voices - but they are not human voices. When I telephone a utility company, a voice presents me with a number of options and then interrupts a crackly version of Greensleeves to tell me that my call is important to the company. At the supermarket, a voice reminds me to scan or swipe my loyalty card before warning me that there is an unexpected item in the bagging area. On the train, a voice announces the names of stations and then tells me to mind the gap between the train and the platform edge. There are many voices that one hears each day but they are not the words of a human being. I am also conscious that the way in which we communicate with others has also changed; we 'tweet' and 'poke' and 'friend' and 'like' as we stare at the screen of our phone, tablet or computer. It seems to me that in the 21st-century we are becoming increasingly remote from one another - less human - less connected.

The Bible tells us that the word became flesh and dwelt among us. CS Lewis said that the 'central miracle asserted by Christians is the incarnation' and he adds that 'every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this'.

God himself refused to be remote but came to earth; touching the untouchable, embracing the guilty, healing the blind and the lame and blessing the little children. Those feet in ancient times really did walk somewhere on this earth even if it wasn't precisely in England.

How ironic then that we should become less and less physically present to each other - less incarnate. Mark Edmundson, Professor of English at the University of Virginia, describes his students 'chatting on a mobile and skim-reading a book while browsing a website with the TV in the background and instant messaging three friends would make, say, seven 'places' they were... at the same time' and he adds that 'anyone who is in seven places at once is not anywhere in particular - not present, not here now. And yet we are called to love incarnationally and to be with people physically, humanly - to be at their side.

Last Christmas I watched a video on YouTube that featured Kim Wilde (a popular singer from the 1980s and daughter of Marty Wilde). She and Ricky (her brother) had caught the tube train home after last year's MagicFM Christmas Party. Kim may have had a few sherris at the party because all of a sudden she began to sing one of her hit songs 'Kids in America'. The people on the tube looked out of the window and down at their shoes or into their phones and still they refused to acknowledge one another's presence. Then she walked down the carriage singing 'Rocking Around the Christmas Tree' and she said to her fellow passengers, 'look, I know we're on this train together and we're ignoring each other like we normally do - and we're just looking down into

our phones and stuff, but hey - why not join in?' And then she added, 'It's a Christmas thing.'

What Kim Wilde achieved was 'a Christmas thing' for she challenged people to be present to each other, to acknowledge one another and to end their remoteness. This Christmas, despite the disembodied voices and the countless electronic messages on phones and computers, let us celebrate the one who became flesh and who made his home among us. Let us be fully present with each other - acknowledge one another and let us love incarnationally - the way that Jesus did. After all, as Kim Wilde said, 'It's a Christmas thing'.

Roger Morris

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our December edition. This issue is looking forward to Christmas and this is reflected in many of the articles and other items that we've included.

"Christmas begins with Christ" is a campaign to re-plant the knowledge of Christ's nativity into our secular society; which sadly seems to be losing sight of what Christmas really means, especially among the young. If you have the opportunity, perhaps you can explain CHRISTmas to someone this year. We've included words from the Bible (page 12) and a lovely nativity related story from the magazine archive (page 18) in the hope that they may help and inspire you.

We're pleased to include some biographical information about Phil Bradford, our new Associate Vicar, and a letter from our link mission in Peru.

We pray that you will have a Christmas blessed with the true meaning of Christ-mas.

Graham and Sue Evans

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to our Shoe Box Appeal this year. We have certainly exceeded last year's figure but have not got a final amount. Your generosity will make a difference to a child.



Joyce and Jane

DATES FOR DECEMBER 2013

**Unless otherwise stated, the venue for all the events below is
St John's Church, or one of the church rooms.**

**See
page**

Sunday 1st December: First Sunday of Advent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 4th December: John of Damascus, monk, teacher of the faith, c.749

7.00 p.m. Craft Evening "Christmas Countdown" **9**

Saturday 7th December: Ambrose, bishop, teacher of the faith, 397

9.00 a.m. Indoor Table Sale (9am to noon) **10**

Sunday 8th December: Second Sunday of Advent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Thursday 12th December

2.00 p.m. Thursday at Two (Blakefield Room) **14**

Friday 13th December: Lucy, martyr, 304

6.00 p.m. Candlelit Sing-along-a-Santa! (6pm to 8 pm) **10/21**

Sunday 15th December: Third Sunday of Advent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Sunday 22nd December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services – please see below

Saturday 28th December: The Holy Innocents

Christmas Tea and Games. **9**

Sunday 29th December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day.

(NB Services at St Michael's and St David's – no services at St John's)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

Sunday 22nd December

6.00 p.m. Carols by Candlelight, followed by seasonal refreshments

Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

5.00 p.m. Christingle and Crib Service; particularly for children.

11.30 p.m. Candlelit Midnight Eucharist. All welcome to share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Incense will be used.

Wednesday 25th December: CHRISTMAS DAY

9.00 a.m. Christmas Communion. A quiet, reflective said service using modern language.

10.30 a.m. Christmas Family Service. Celebration for all the family.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Even in early November the shops are full of Christmas items and so many of the adverts on the television are urging us to get ready and buy, buy, buy. With recession still a reality despite some



good economic news it is not surprising that retailers want to make the most of Christmas. To help put us in the festive mood, traditional Christmas carols in every possible musical arrangement are piped through loudspeakers everywhere. It almost seems as if they too have been pressed into the service of getting us to keep shopping and spend more.

It is most likely that carols are used in this way because the tunes are so very familiar to everyone. Even very small children can sing along and for most adults, hearing these tunes immediately translates us back to memories of happy Christmases past. Yet familiarity can sometimes blind us to the message embedded in even the most well known tune. In raising our voices in harmony this Christmas we in the choir hope to give the congregations for every Service in Church over the season a good, strong lead to encourage everyone to sing out. We never forget the texts though and we hope that everyone will find something new and refreshing in the words of even the most well-known carols as we remember and celebrate once again the glorious birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and saviour.

Luise Horrocks

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST CLEMENT'S, ST DAVID'S and ST MICHAEL'S

Thursday 19th December

6.00 p.m. Worship for Everyone Christmas Carol Service (St Clement's)

Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

4.00 p.m. Crib Service (St Clement's)

9.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion (St David's)

11.30 p.m. Midnight Communion (St Clement's)

Wednesday 25th December: CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30 a.m. Christmas Eucharist (St Michael's)

10.45 a.m. Worship for Everyone Christmas Celebration (St Clement's).

Sunday 29th December: 1st Sunday of Christmas

4.00 p.m. Carols round the tree (St David's)

Santa comes but once a year - JESUS is an ever present help.

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Moulder	1 December 2009
Bertie Harvey Bosworth	3 December 1970
Albert Harold Southall	3 December 1984
Amanda Louisa Warner	5 December 1969
Arthur Frederick Ching	6 December 1973
Sarah Rose	8 December 1985
Emily Potter	10 December 1984
Vera May Bullock	10 December 1991
William Bishop	10 December 1996
Hubert Mitford Harvey	12 December 1984
Charles Hubert John Lerigo	13 December 1983
William GS Oldershaw	14 December 1971
Thomas Barlow Langford	14 December 1976
Jack Taylor	16 December 1998
Ivy Muriel Rogers	17 December 2001
Fanny Elizabeth Holloway	19 December 1958
Harry Palmer	19 December 2001
John Goodsell	21 December 2004
George Frederick Harrison	23 December 1982
Ivy Hooper	25 December 1984
Derek A Bowen	28 December 2007
Ann Smith	28 December 2010
Gladys Mitchem	30 December 1995
Henry Nelson Russell	31 December 1972

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in October.

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

Jake Allen Hadden
Daniel Luke Perry
Leo Kaiden Edwards
Zain Jacob Baig

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 25th September Stanley Jew
d. 25th September Ada Greenhow
d. 26th September Alfred Harris
d. 2nd October Sheila Gilbert
d. 25th October Mary Davidson

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2013 (4 Sundays):
Communicants 277. Total attendance at all services 829.



A LITTLE ABOUT PHIL BRADFORD

As Phil settles into his ministry with us in West Worcester, we asked him to tell us a bit about himself. We asked for 400 words and Phil kindly managed 398; written apparently while travelling back from Paris!

The editors

Writing this, I realise just how hard it can be to summarise one's own life in 400 words, but I will do my best! The accent may not betray me, but I am a Scouser, albeit one who left Liverpool at the age of four months. Dad's job was transferred to Birmingham, so we moved to Quinton, then finally to Stourbridge when I was a little over a year old. It is Stourbridge that I consider home: it was there I grew up and went to school, that my brother and sister were born, and where my parents still live.

I went to university in York, first doing a degree in history and then undertaking postgraduate research and doing undergraduate teaching in medieval history. My specialism is the rather esoteric subject of the fourteenth century parliament, which tends to kill most conversations fairly quickly. Towards the end of my time at York, I was accepted to train for priesthood. Not wanting to do another degree immediately, I remained in Yorkshire for another year, working half time as Anglican Chaplaincy Assistant at the University of Sheffield and half time as Student Outreach Worker at Sheffield Cathedral.

My ministerial training was at Westcott House and Emmanuel College, Cambridge, although it would be an understatement to say that I disliked my time there. During my third year, partly to escape Cambridge, I spent four months working in the Anglican Diocese of Peru, principally in Lima, followed by three months on placement in a team of three parishes in Salford. I thoroughly enjoyed both experiences, which transformed me and gave me some very different perspectives on life and ministry, and fostered my abiding interest in liberation theologies.

I was ordained deacon in Worcester Cathedral in July 2010 and priest a year later. My curacy was in the Worcester South East Team, where I was mainly based at St Martin's, London Road and spent a very happy three years. Since summer 2012, building on my work while in training, I have chaired the diocesan Peru Task Group. I am also the 'Young Vocations Champion' for the diocese, which involves encouraging and supporting those under thirty who are exploring a vocation to priesthood.

My two greatest interests/weaknesses (depending on point of view) – as you will probably come to realise quite quickly – are travelling and books. I'll leave the rest for you to find out.

Phil Bradford

Fund Raising Events at St John in Bedwardine Church

Do come along
and join us



Wednesday
4th December Craft Evening 7.00pm - 9.00pm
Christmas Countdown £5.00 including all materials.
Telephone 424811 to book.

Saturday
7th December Indoor Table Top Sale
See page 10 for details.

Saturday
29th December Christmas Tea and games.
Telephone 423257 or 424811 for more details
and to book a place.

Saturday 4th
January Indoor Table Top Sale.
Telephone 749025 to book a table.

Saturday 11th
January Bridge Day 11.00am - 3.00pm
£10.00 including lunch. Tel 749025 to book.

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

Thank you to all of you who have supported our fund raising events in any way. We do hope you have enjoyed yourselves. If there are any events you would like to see at St John's do get in touch with us.

We hope to see you all in 2014 if not before.

Jane, Sue and Catherine

WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Worcester City Council is revising its Statement of Community Involvement, which sets out how the City Council intends to consult on plan making and planning policy documents, and also on planning applications. This is being done in accordance with national legislation.

The consultation started on 15 November 2013 and runs to 3 January 2014.

For further information and details of how to view the draft document and give your comments on it, please visit www.worcester.gov.uk. To view a printed copy, please visit the Customer Service Centre at The Hive, or your local library in Worcester.

Lindsay Wood, Planning Officer, Regeneration and Business Engagement

INDOOR TABLE SALE SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER
ST JOHN'S CHURCH 9.00AM – 12.00PM



Come along and sell your unwanted items, or if you have nothing to sell come and grab a bargain.

Tables are £10.00. Opening for stall holders to set up from 7.00am. Telephone 01905 749025

Refreshments available.

CANDLELIT SING-ALONG-A-SANTA

Drop-in carols at St John's Church and a visit by Santa Claus

On Friday 13th December 2013 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm the warm Church of St John-in-Bedwardine, West Worcester (WR2 5BS) will be the venue for DIY community carol singing and Christmas music, by candle light. There will be an opportunity for the younger generation of any age to meet Santa Claus in his grotto who will have travelled from his workshop by sleigh.

This is a very informal 'drop in and drop out' occasion and everyone is very welcome to pop in for a long or as short a time as they wish even if it is only to get warm! Light refreshments will be available to help to promote a relaxed atmosphere before getting into the trauma of Christmas shopping. Do come and enjoy the evening, which will be fun with a fully decorated Christmas tree in all its splendour.

To add to the evening we are hoping to have some Christmas lights in the church grounds and that some of the shops in St Johns will be open during the evening. Further details available on 01905 422579.

Ron Cantrill

CHRISTMAS IS COMING....

Christmas is coming the shoeboxes full of plenty,
The children are waiting wide eyed and ready.
Share the love of those that have given to the poor and needy.
Could it be from heaven?

Glenis Cole

SPECTACULAR IMAGES FROM AUSTRIA

Sandra and I went back to Austria for a holiday in September to an area about 90 minutes by car south east of Salzburg. This is a very picturesque area of Austria with lots of forests and the mountains rising above many lakes. We stayed in an apartment on the edge of the beautiful lake, Grundlsee, seen in the following picture, which was the view we had every day, except when it was raining! All that water has to come from somewhere.



The Austrians appear to be quite religious and their churches and graveyards are very well looked after. The



local church had a wooden front to it, matching the local houses, and a very neat and well-tended graveyard. We also found them to be extremely friendly and in the small towns many people would wish us a good day, or Grüß Gott, when they passed us. This literally translates to ‘God Greets (you)’, which seems much nicer than ‘Good morning.’

We decided to visit the Benedictine Monastery at Admont in the Styria area of Austria as the pictures on the web certainly made it look like a beautiful place to visit. We were not disappointed; it was a wonderful place of peace and calm and had a sense of serenity about everything there.



The Benedictine Abbey of Admont is the oldest existing monastery in Styria. It was founded in 1074 by archbishop Gebhard of Salzburg based on an

endorsement by Saint Hemma of Gurk. The first monks came from St. Peter in Salzburg.

The main buildings accessible to the public are the church and museum, which also includes the most stunning library that we have ever seen.

In the museum there is a collection of many old and

precious religious artefacts spanning many years. The Monastery has kept up with modern life and it has a conference facility.

The Abbey Church is a very tall building and the three pictures show the main aisle, the high altar and a side chapel. Unfortunately, being in black and white they do not do the Monastery justice.

The library (below) is covered from floor to ceiling with very old books and the whole room is in white and gold. The picture of the library just shows about one third of the overall room, it is really stately home ballroom sized. The ceiling has



incredible murals covering the whole of it, absolutely stunning.

Of course one of the highlights of the trip was that like many religious communities they know how to eat and drink well so there was a very nice restaurant and bar on site that served truly wonderful cakes and other local food and drink.

We can thoroughly recommend a trip to this Monastery if anyone ever finds themselves in this area of Austria.

Colin Nash

CHRISTMAS BEGINS WITH CHRIST

Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS

The following new books have recently been purchased for the library in the north aisle. Up to three books can be borrowed at a time (please enter the details in the register on the table). There's no fixed loan period, but please return books as soon as you've finished reading them.

Chris Stuart

Badham, Paul – Making Sense of Death and Immortality

Paul Badham is a leading authority on death and near death experiences.

Drawing on his extensive research, he explores what near-death experiences might have to tell us about our relationship with God. He then goes on to explore the ideas of heaven and hell, arguing that Christianity only truly 'make sense' if it includes a belief in immortality.

Davison, Andrew – Why Sacraments?

Most Christians believe that there are seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, Marriage, Confession, Extreme Unction (the 'Last Rites') and the Eucharist. But what exactly is a sacrament, and what does it do for us? Davison explains.

Goldingay, John – Psalms for Everyone

The Book of Psalms is one of the most beautiful, powerful and helpful books of the Bible – yet outside Evensong/Evening Prayer, most people rarely come into contact with the psalms. Goldingay is a world expert on the psalms; in this simple, easy to understand book, he takes each of the first seventy-two of the psalms in turn, and offers a brief two page exploration of its origins and themes. You might like to use this book in Advent as part of a daily devotion – perhaps a psalm a day?

Hughes, Trystan – Real God in the Real World

A special book for Advent, exploring in more depth what it is that we celebrate at Christmas: Christ's Incarnation, God's coming amongst us in human form in Jesus. Lively, engaging and fun, there's a short reading and reflection (2-3 pages) for every day in Advent. Try it!

Loftus, John W. and Randal Rauser – God or Godless? One Atheist, One Christian, Twenty Controversial Questions.

An atheist and a Christian debate the big questions about faith. Worth dipping into, if you've ever wondered how to respond to atheist criticisms of Christianity.

McGrath, Alister – The Living God.

A lively, thought-provoking introduction to the Christian faith from one of the country's most respected and well-known theologians. Though designed as an

introduction, it's a worthwhile read for all of us, no matter how long you've been a Christian.

Sentamu, John – John Sentamu's Faith Stories

Twenty inspiring stories of ordinary people's faith journeys.

Ward, Hannah and Jennifer Wild – Rhythms of Remembering

A collection of very simple services for every day of the year, designed to be used at home or at work, alone or with friends, and in a way that might help you structure your daily prayers and worship.

And with Advent coming up, don't forget these books already in the library:

- Bash, Anthony and Melanie Bash – Inside the Christmas Story – Reflections for Advent.
- Lewin, Ann – Come Emmanuel: Approaching Advent, Living with Christmas.
- Rees, Christina – Feast & Fast: Food for Advent and Christmas.
- Brady, Steve – The Incredible Journey: Christmas from Genesis to Jesus.
- O'Mahony, Gerald – Coming and Going: Daily Reflections and Prayers for Advent.
- Grey, Mary – The Advent of Peace.
- Morneau, Robert – Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas

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.**

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 12th December.

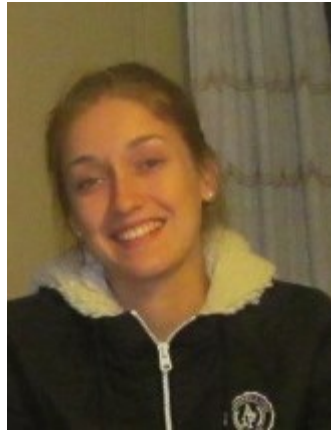
Just come along; but if you want to speak with someone first then ring Catherine (749025) or Sylvia (422654).

Catherine Templeton, Sylvia Render

MARCES MAILING



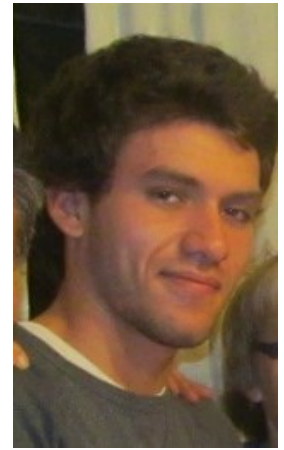
Penny and Juan Carlos



Elizabeth



Rebeca

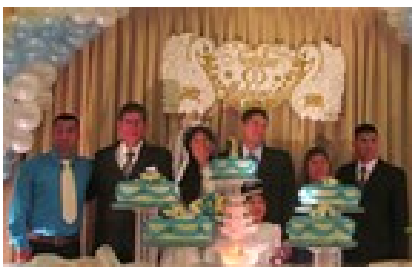
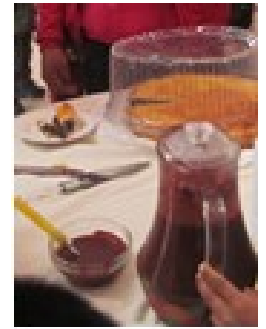


Jonatan

Dear Friends

Life sometimes brings unexpected surprises....

Penny was recently asked to help judge the dessert competition in the recent Diocesan Family Festival (organised by the youth ministry). There were only 2 entries, one a delicious looking pie, and one a (rather liquid) chocolate-looking mix to spread on biscuits. Jasper (the other judge) and Penny had 3 criteria to use – flavour, use of ingredients and presentation. On asking what ingredients had been used, we discovered that both these desserts had the same basic ingredient – blood. The women, from different groups, had both been told in their local health centres to improve their children’s nutrition by giving more iron (anaemia is extremely common here), and had developed these recipes. If, based on Acts 15:20, blood should not be consumed, what do you do? Do you disqualify both? Or do you later talk to the leaders of these churches? (after all, consumption of blood or not is NOT the main point of the Gospel.) For your information: a) whereas Compassion prohibits the use of blood in meals given to the children in their sponsor projects, World Vision encourages the use of this cheap source of iron; and b) a mixture of blood, milk, vanilla essence and sugar DOES taste like chocolate!).



It gave us unexpected – but great!- pleasure to receive an invitation to the wedding of Lucia, one of our bridesmaids in 1990. Penny has known the family since 1985 when they were desperately poor. Most of the family now attend the MMM (Pentecostal) church in Villa el Salvador .The invitation was for 7pm so it was no surprise that something

began around 7.45, but the “something” was their normal Friday service, which by the end had an attendance of around 800. Lucía finally arrived around 9.30pm (the bridegroom had arrived at some point earlier), and the service finished at 10.30, to be

followed (after they went off for an hour for photos) by the reception (for 150, not all 800!).

As part of JC's Diocesan ministry, we are about to begin the Marriage Course in Jesús el Nazareno. We will be giving the talks "live"; please pray for us as we prepare, and for those attending.

Celi, who helps in our house, had some unexpected news a few weeks ago when her 16 year old son told her that his 23-year old girlfriend Stefany (whom Celi knew) was expecting a baby. At the age of 16 his name can be on the birth certificate but he will only be able to sign to register his daughter at the age of 18. At present he states every intention of doing this, but time will tell. Stefany's parents work in Italy (not uncommon; they left Peru several years ago), but Celi was able to speak with her mother on the phone and promise her support.

Meanwhile, more ordinary events continue. We usually worship in the English service in the Cathedral; pray for the Remembrance Day Service when many ambassadors or officials attend Church and for other opportunities to meet people who do not normally attend, such as the Bazaar and Carol Service.



As we have mentioned before, we have both been involved in the Peru Tres Días cursillos several times. Juan Carlos has now been named "rector" of the next men's event, which will be held in March 2014. At present this means forming the team; since the team comprises men from several different churches one of the challenges is having meetings at times when everyone can be there. The actual programme (talks etc) for the weekend is fixed so no decisions need to be taken on subjects to be covered, but this still leaves a lot to organise so please pray for that.

The homegroup continues to be a great encouragement to nearly all those who attend. We are currently studying some of the fruit of the Spirit, but will soon start the "Carpenters' Workshop"; a short workshop to help people feel confident in sharing the Gospel. Juan Carlos has been invited to go to Jauja (Central Andes) to present this course in early Dec, with some of the homegroup to give THEIR testimonies.

JC has also been invited to go to Cuzco to provide the pastoral and evangelistic oversight for a medical campaign to be carried out by the Medical Ministry International group which has frequently worked with the Anglican Church, although this time he will be doing this as a "holiday" and taking advantage to visit some of his father's family in Cuzco.

*Juan Carlos, Penny, Rebeca, Elizabeth and Jonatan
Reynaldo Morón 215, Urb. Vista Alegre, Surco, LIMA 33, PERU
Email marceslima@ amauta.rcp.net.pe*

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?..... Deep pan, crisp and even.

TEEN MEETS GOD – BILLY’S STORY

Billy is 19 and lives in Surrey. He tells how attending a Christian festival for teenagers moved his Christianity from autopilot.

I didn’t have any idea what to expect when I went to Soul Survivor, a Christian festival for teenagers, for the first time. I’d been to Christian events before, but that didn’t do much to prepare me. I’d never seen so many enthusiastic, God-loving teenagers in one field, especially not in such a chilly damp field.

On the first night we all went to the ‘Big Top’, where everyone met twice a day for a service which involved singing, a sermon and prayer. I sat with an open mouth the entire evening. You could have spent the service filling my mouth with odds and ends you’d found from around the tent and I wouldn’t have noticed. Nor would I have cared. I was completely blown away.

I’d been to church my entire life, and I had quietly accepted it all. I’d been to services once a week on Sunday, and murmured those songs from the 1980s like everyone else. I nodded at what seemed like appropriate times during the sermon, and even pretended to take down notes.

But I’d never hung off every word like I did at Soul Survivor. Throughout the week, my friends and I attended seminars on every subject under the sun. I didn’t need to pretend to take notes; I was actually writing them down. We went to the services and the worship band played songs; I didn’t half-heartedly murmur the words, I shouted and danced and waved my arms in the air like the people who used to wind me up so much by being too enthusiastic in worship! Because, for the first time, I got it.

I understood what I’d been doing for 15 years on autopilot. It wasn’t about having to make sure you went to church once a week. It wasn’t about having to say your prayers twice a day. It wasn’t about just repeating the lyrics to the worship songs. Christianity is about celebrating what Jesus had done for us. It isn’t a list of dos and don’ts; being a Christian is about living your life as a massive ‘thank you’ to God.

Billy 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

CHRISTMAS SMILES

- You know you are getting old when Father Christmas starts looking younger.
- Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth; Goodwill to Men; and Batteries not included.
- What do you call Santa’s helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.

FROM THE MAGAZINE ARCHIVE, DECEMBER 1950

CHILDREN'S CORNER

THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

It was the night on which the Blessed Lord was born. The angels had brought their message of peace and goodwill to the shepherds who now sat, filled with wonder and joy, thinking about it. Then they began to speak to one another—there was one thing they must do—they must set out to seek the new-born King.

(To enable us to fit in the whole story, we have re-typed the rest of the story rather than use the scanned image from the 1950 magazine – the editors).

The shepherds at once began their preparations. They piled the fire high with dry branches that the blaze might keep away all wild beasts from the sheep. Next they began to gather up presents to offer to the Baby King. One lifted a lamb in his arms, another took a home-made cheese and another a loaf of bread.

So intent were the shepherds that they had quite forgotten the little girl who had been helping her father tend the sheep all day and now lay in the warm shelter of a rock close by the fire. The little girl had seen the heavens open and heard the angel's message. She didn't understand all they said but she knew that a little Baby had been born close by and that He was the King of Heaven and had brought God's love and forgiveness to all the poor people upon earth.

As the child watched, the shepherds set off down the hill-side. In an instant she had left her warm corner and was following them. She crept along afraid that the shepherds might see her and send her back but they were too full of the wonderful news to think of the child.

It was a bitterly cold night. The moon shone down on fields white with frost. Not a sound was heard or a light seen for everyone was fast asleep. But overhead there shone a wonderful star which seemed to move before them. The child kept bravely on although the ground hurt her bare feet and it was difficult to keep up with the men.

At last they entered the village of Bethlehem and the shepherds stopped before a little shed over which the star was shining. As the little girl watched she saw them take the cheese, the loaf and the lamb from under their cloaks and realised these were presents they had brought for the Baby King. "They are indeed simple gifts," said one shepherd, "but He will understand that it is our best we offer."

"Yes, surely," said another shepherd, better than nothing. It would be a sin to come empty handed to greet our King this night."

As the child listened all hope and joy died out of her heart. She had no gift to offer.

She began to sob. She longed so much to see the Baby King but it was no use, if she had no gift, she could not go in.

The shepherds knocked and a sweet voice bade them enter. The child tried to see in but all she saw was the young mother's head bent low and behind her an ox and an ass feeding from a manger. Then the door closed and she was left outside.

She threw herself down on the hard ground and sobbed. Presently the shepherds came out but they did not see the child who let them pass by on their homeward way without attempting to follow them. As she lay there still crying she suddenly looked down and stared closely at the ground. Green shoots were appearing, now they were growing into glossy leaves. The leaves opened: showing pure white blossoms tipped with pink. A glad thought came to the child, why here was a gift to take to the Baby King.

Eagerly she gathered the blossoms. Then she went to the door and knocked, but as no one answered she pushed it open and went in. Mary was sitting there bending over the Baby Jesus singing a lullaby. She turned her head - a little child stood there holding out a bunch of snowy blossoms. Mary understood at once what the child wanted. Very gently she drew her to the manger bed and bade her lay the flowers there. The child knelt and gazed at the sleeping Baby. She forgot her disappointment; her heart was now filled with a great happiness.

And now when Winter time comes and the days are dark and snow covers up all the sleeping flowers the white blossoms of the child's flowers appear over the cold dark earth. We call them the Christmas roses.

DECORATIONS AT ST JOHN'S FOR CHRISTMASTIDE 2013

We will be decorating the Church this year on FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER, and anyone who would like to help will be most welcome. On Saturday 21st, there is a wedding at midday, so the church needs to be ready earlier than usual.

All offerings of holly and variegated greenery will be most welcome. Please leave at the back of the North Aisle if you are unable to come in on Friday.

If you wish to donate money for Church Flowers in memory of loved ones or special friends, please place donations in an envelope with the name(s) of those to be remembered clearly written on the outside and hand the envelope to the Church Wardens, Clergy or members of the Flower Team. The names will be displayed on the Memorial List which we place on the table at the back of the Church.

The Flower Team wish you a very blessed and joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year, and thank you for your support and encouragement throughout 2013.

With thanks in anticipation, Di White, Jeanette Davies, Margaret Rowberry, Ann Sherratt, Pat Lavendar, Carol Morris and Eileen Cantrill

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(PS If you've tried it before in other browsers, it now works in Chrome, Firefox as well as Internet Explorer).

If you get stuck...just drop me an email (pjevans@physics.org).

Philip Evans.

St John-in-Bedwardine Church

St Johns, Worcester WR2 5BS

Friday December 13th 2013

6.00pm to 8.00pm

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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 15th December for the January 2014 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

DECEMBER PUZZLE

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The solution is on page 36

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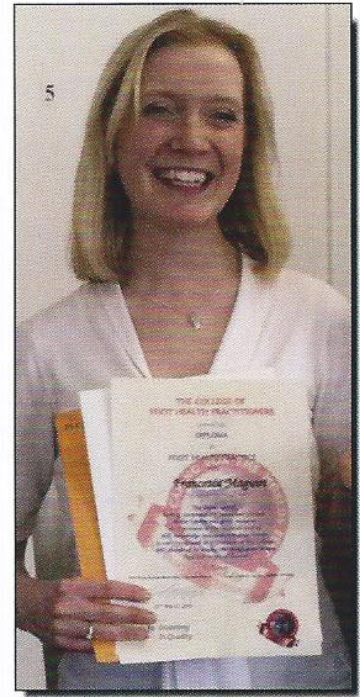
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St NICHOLAS

Feast Day 6 December

St Nicholas was the bishop of Myra, in Asia Minor, in the fourth century. Lots of stories are told of his kindness and generosity. He is the patron saint of Russia, children, scholars, merchants and sailors.

One legend tells of his secret gifts to three daughters from a poor family. It is said that he threw 3 purses of gold down the chimney where they landed in the girls' stockings which they had hung up to dry in front of the fire. This is supposed to be the origin of hanging up Christmas stockings.



Over time the name of St Nicholas changed to Sinterklass and thus to Santa Claus in the Christmas celebrations.

STOCKING DECORATIONS

You will need some Christmas-coloured felt, a needle and thread, fabric glue, ribbon and sequins or buttons for decoration.

Fold the felt in half and cut out two simple stocking shapes. Sew these together with a simple running stitch, leaving the top edge open. Sew a loop of ribbon to the top of the stocking.

Now you can decorate the stocking with scraps of felt, lace, buttons or sequins. Glue them on carefully and leave to dry. You could even try writing a name in glue and sprinkling on glitter to cover it.

This would be nice to give as a present with a little present or sweet inside or to hang on the Christmas tree as a



decoration. You can make them any size you like.



How many presents can Santa fit into an empty stocking?

Only one, after that it is not empty any more.

Why is a foot a good Christmas present?

Because it's a stocking filler.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY

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Crown East & Rushwick e-mail: fr.robins@talktalk.net

SUNDAY SERVICES

This is the usual pattern. Please see the back cover for the actual services this month.

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, December 2013.

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
1st December	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion with Children's Church 5pm Advent Carol Service	9am Parish Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	 4pm Evensong (BCP)	10.30am Parish Communion
8th December	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion with Children's Church 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	9am Parish Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Parish Communion
15th December	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
22nd December	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Communion with Children's Church 6pm Candlelit Carol Service	9am Parish Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	 4pm Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30am Carol Service
29th December	No services at St John's today – Joint Communion Service at St Michael's.	No services at St Clement's today – Joint Communion Service at St Michael's.	 4pm Carols round the tree	10am West Worcester Joint Communion Service
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.				