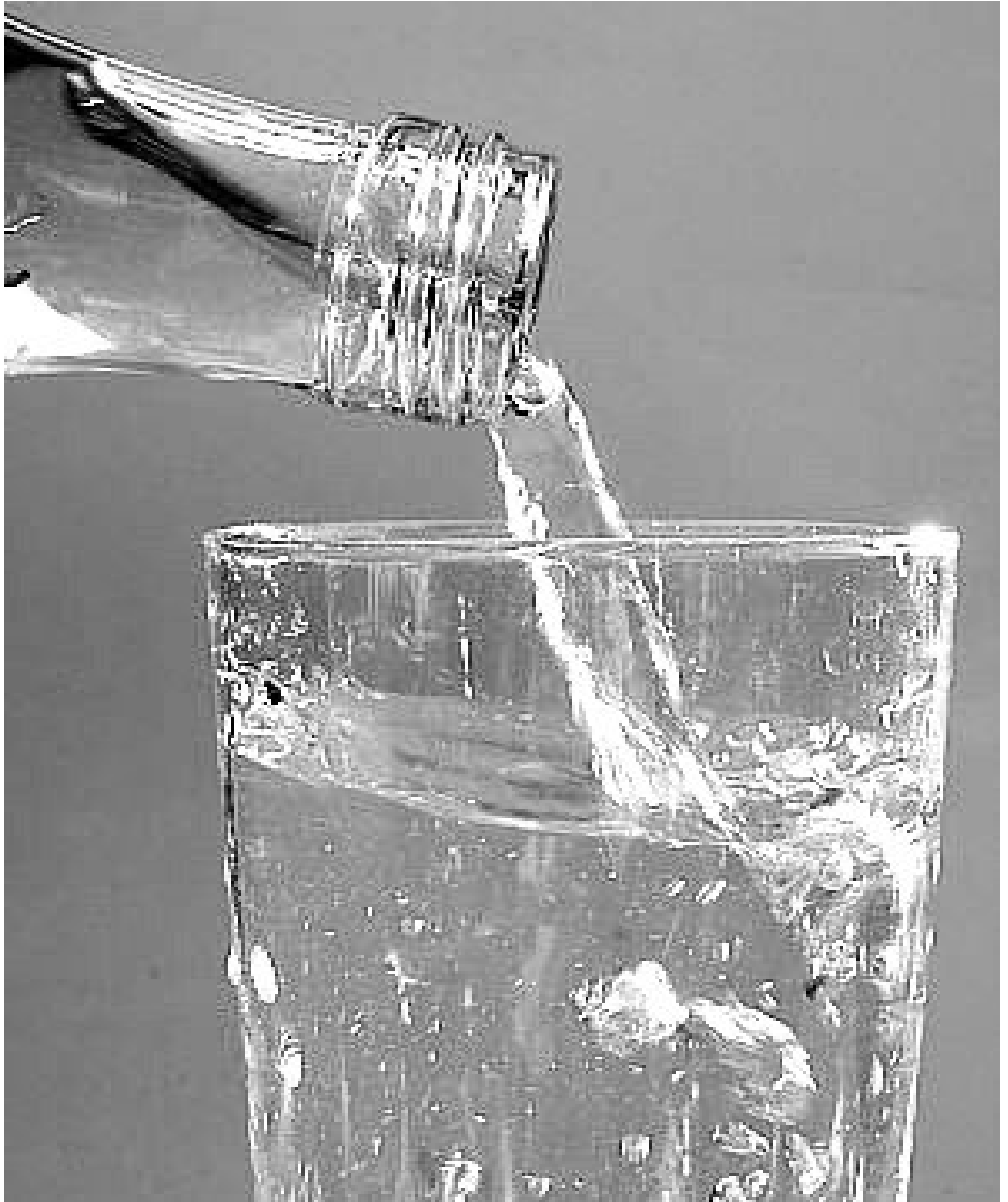




*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

FEBRUARY 2014

40p



WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS

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Unless otherwise directed, please send all written correspondence for the magazine and the church to the Parish Office address on the inside back cover.

The deadline for items for the March edition is Sunday 9th February (See page 17).

COVER PICTURE – PURE WATER

Image: W.J.Pilsak at the German language Wikipedia [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

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

LETTER FROM THE PHIL BRADFORD

In the summer of 2010, I settled down to watch the first episode of a new BBC programme called Sherlock. It was, so the TV guide informed me, a modern reinterpretation of Arthur Conan Doyle's classic character. If I am honest, I was determined to hate the first episode and only watched it so I could tear it apart. There are some things – like whisky, Shakespeare and Christmas carols – which must be enjoyed in their pure form, not polluted or played around with. As a boyhood fan of the stories, in my mind the adventures of Sherlock Holmes were included in this list. Sherlock Holmes belonged in Victorian London, end of debate. It turned out I was wrong. In spite of my intentions, I was captivated by the brilliance of the reinterpretation and became an avid fan. Clearly, I was less of a purist than I had imagined.

What does it mean to be a purist, or to seek purity? When I talk of enjoying pure whisky, it is reasonably clear that I mean unadulterated single malt, and to be a whisky purist is normally fairly harmless. But in more contentious matters, purity is a tricky and deeply political concept. We all know where Nazi notions of racial purity led, alarming echoes of which still remain in certain far-right discourse in this and many countries today. In religion, people often talk of returning to the pure text of the Bible, but what is this mythical pure text of which they speak? Too often, discussions around purity and purification mask intolerance and a desire to see our surroundings cleansed of things we find unpalatable or threatening. It is no surprise that the language of purity is treated cautiously, if not avoided altogether.

Yet the major festival of this month is rooted in a ritual purification. Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, is also known as the Purification of the Virgin Mary. The focus tends to be on Simeon proclaiming the infant Jesus as the light of the gentiles, and foretelling his momentous future, but the purpose of the visit was for Mary to undertake the ritual purification in the Temple required of all Jewish women after the birth of their first child, according to the Mosaic Law. Childbirth was viewed as making a woman ritually unclean, necessitating the ceremony to restore her. This survived in Christian practice; if you look at the Book of Common Prayer, you will still find the service for the churching of women after childbirth, a Church of England reworking of the medieval Roman Catholic rite. It is only in modern times that the service has fallen into disuse, as we have moved away from a theological understanding which views childbirth – and all natural bodily functions – as essentially unclean.

That does not mean, however, that there is no place for the idea of purification in modern Christian thought. It is, after all, there at the very beginning of our Christian journeys. In the water of baptism, we are ritually washed clean of our sins, purified to start our discipleship. In every Eucharist we celebrate, we seek the symbolic

purification found through confession and absolution of our sins. If we have rightly abandoned the notion that the body is in itself unclean, we must still address the fact that we continue to sin and fall short of God's calling. There remains a critical place for purification rituals, albeit differently expressed, in the modern church. We need to honestly face up to the things which defile us as a church, which prevent us from being the Church of God and working for his kingdom.

Lest this seem a rather outdated view, I do not see purification in terms of a Puritan doctrine of hatred, cleansing the church of all who do not fit a narrow, human definition of who belongs inside. Our ideas about purity have changed immensely – and, to my mind, very much for the better – as we have begun to reinterpret Scripture in recent decades and incorporate those kept out by prejudiced, misguided notions of purity. What we now need is to address, honestly and urgently, the sins we have committed as individual Christians and as a church which have led to the marginalisation of minorities, the oppression of people on the grounds of their gender, sexuality, race, or other immaterial grounds. We are called to purify ourselves to become God's people, and what we must cleanse above all is the pride which causes us to subject the love of God to the strictures of humankind. A purified church is not a closed church of the self-righteous, adhering to an endless list of stifling rules. It is rather a church which has rid itself of the poison of exclusivism, and is willing to accept that the love of God is for all and dare to open itself to the change and uncertainty that truly loving God brings.

Phil Bradford
Associate Vicar

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

The month of February was named after the Latin term februum, which means purification, via the purification ritual Februa held on February 15 (full moon) in the old lunar Roman calendar. We've got a number of items related to the theme of purification, both of people and of that thing most vital to life; water.

Phil Bradford highlights above how a narrow view of purification can do harm, and that is seen too in our historical Christian figure this month, Margaret of Cortona.

We pray that you might find right purification for things that trouble you and thus be opened to the love of God.

Graham and Sue Evans

STOP PRESS

A date for your diary: The next St John's Wedding Fair will be held on Saturday 4th October 2014.

DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2014

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

**See
page**

Saturday 1st February: Brigid, abbess, c.525

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

7,21

Sunday 2nd February: Candlemas

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Sunday 9th February: Fourth Sunday before Lent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Thursday 13th February

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

6

Sunday 16th February: Third Sunday before Lent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 19th February

7.00 p.m. Craft Evening

7

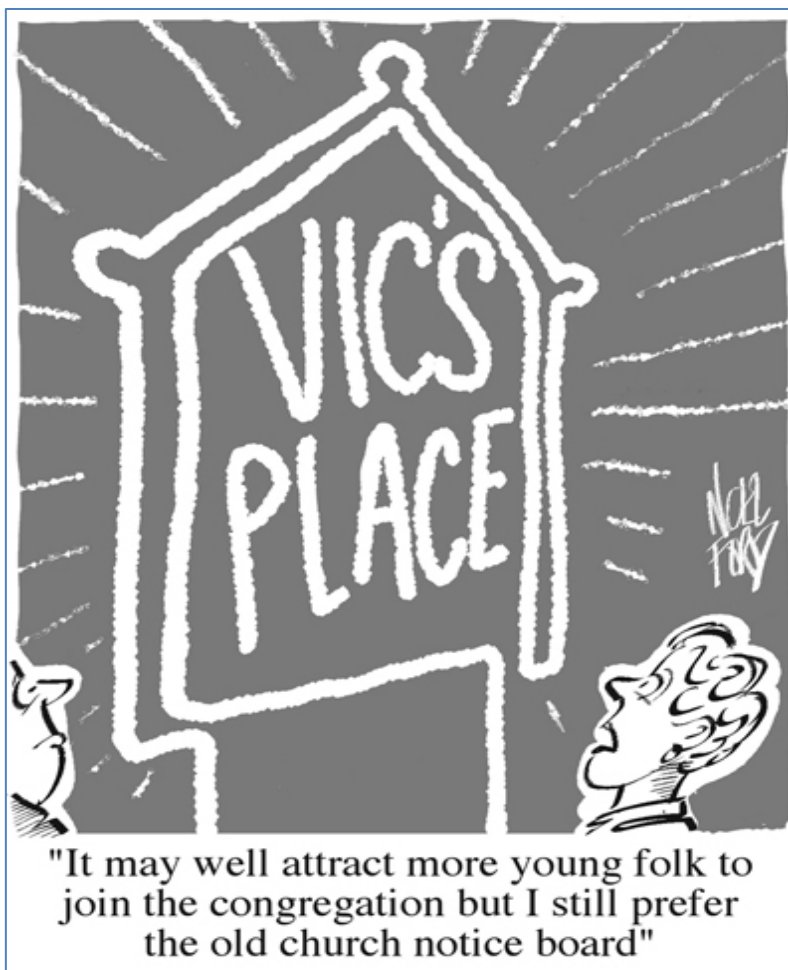
Saturday 22nd February

7.30 p.m. Colla Voce Concert

7,20

Sunday 23rd February: Second Sunday before Lent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day.



IN MEMORIAM

Olive Mary Peggy Outram	2 February 1992
William John Davies	3 February 1999
Frederick Grice	8 February 1983
Doris Winifred Osborne	10 February 1975
Frederick James Cole	10 February 1975
Stanley Edward Price	11 February 1982
John Lunn Newman	14 February 1976
Rosanna Walker	14 February 1990
Stanley Reginald Jones	15 February 1963
Mary Ann Harrison	15 February 1978
Maurice Charles Pearson	24 February 1999
Reginald Edward Osborne	25 February 1984
Emily Jane Haynes	26 February 1976
Florence Harrison	26 February 1977
Reginald Frederick Jones	27 February 1974
May Smith Bloodworth	28 February 1976
William Joseph Probyn	28 February 1987
Doris Betty Dear	28 February 1989
Doreen Iavarone	28 February 1998

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in December.

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

Ethan Scott Bushell

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

Oliver Jones and Natasha Morgan

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 28th November May Isabel Johnson

d. 29th November Eileen Margaret Griffin

d. 1st December Estelle Mary Smith

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2013 (5 Sundays):
Communicants 499. Total attendance at all services 2134.

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 13th February.

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

Catherine Templeton, Sylvia Render

Fund Raising Events at St John in Bedwardine Church

Do come along
and join us in
2014



Saturday 1 st February	Indoor Table Top Sale. 9am to 12 noon (setting up from 7am) Telephone 749025 to book a table (£10).
Wednesday 19 th February	Craft evening 7pm. £5.00 to include all materials and refreshments. For more information telephone 424811.
Saturday 22 nd February	7.30pm 'Colla Voce Concert' Tickets £7.00 to include a glass of wine or soft drink. For further details or book a ticket tel 423257, 749025, 424811.
Saturday 1 st March	Indoor Table Top Sale. 9am to 12 noon (setting up from 7am) Telephone 749025 to book a table (£10).
Saturday 8 th March	Bridge Day 11.00am - 3.00pm £10.00 including lunch. Tel 749025 to book.
Saturday 15 th March	Craft Fair See notice boards for details. Telephone 424811 to book a table.

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.

Jane, Sue and Catherine

WELL DONE!

As part of strengthening our financial position, we set the Fund Raising Committee (FRC) a challenging target for 2013. We are happy to record that the target has been exceeded and fund-raising, fun and fellowship have been successfully combined. We send our thanks to the FRC, to all who ran individual events and to all who took part.

The Vicar and the PCC

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

This month I asked Arthur and Margaret Miller (who live part of the year in St Johns and part in France) to write a few words about the choir's recent celebratory rehearsal!



Epiphany celebrations - à la française! This year Margaret and I, at the invitation of John Brierley, organist and choir master, have been fortunate to be able to sing again with the choir, not only for the Carol Service but at other times too. At a recent rehearsal, we thought it would be good to celebrate our French Epiphany tradition of 'La Galette des Rois'.

Several European countries have a celebration of Epiphany - Germany and Austria make a Dreikonigskuchen, Spain and other Hispanic countries have Los Tres magos/La Rosca de Reyes, in Italy there is La Befana and in Russia it is Babouska where the old witch brings gifts to atone for her past cruelties!



All of these celebrations have traditions which include the giving of gifts, preparation of particular food and drink and an emphasis on sharing together - all based, of course, on the history of the Three Kings, their journey to the manger and the giving of their symbolic gifts.

For our celebration with the choir we brought 'rillettes' spread on home-made bread, some 'galettes' and mulled wine - just as we would have shared with choir members

in France had we been there. The 'rillettes' are a creamed meat paste made from the 'small meats' of the chicken, duck or turkey that would have been eaten at Christmas. The 'galette' is made from puff pastry filled with 'frangipane' which is oven baked and contains a 'fevre' or small favour created in porcelain.

In traditional celebrations a child will be chosen to hide under the table. As each piece of the 'galette' is given out the child names a recipient. The person who is fortunate enough to receive the piece which contains the 'fevre' is declared 'King' for the day and wears a golden crown specially provided for the occasion! The 'King' toasts his 'subjects' in the wine provided and for choristers it's an opportunity to sing - though the French songs may be slightly less ecclesiastic than their habitual offerings!

At St John's our singing was suitably restrained - we set to work on William Byrd's Ave Verum!

Luise Horrocks

DONKEY RECYCLING – WITH A MORAL

One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbours to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbours continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

MORAL :

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a steppingstone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

HOW ABOUT THAT?

Historical names for February include the Old English terms Solmonath (mud month) and Kale-monath (named for cabbage).

MARGARET OF CORTONA

Do you feel that your life has taken too many wrong turnings? If you feel your life has been ‘wrong-footed’ from the start, and that there is no way of ‘putting it right’ now, then Margaret of Cortona is a saint for you.

She was born the daughter of a small farmer in Tuscany way back in 1247. Her mother died in her childhood, and a jealous step-mother moved in, who distanced her from her father’s love. Lonely and vulnerable, Margaret was then seduced by a knight of Montepulcians. He did not offer marriage, and so she lived as his mistress for nine years, hanging on to the only affection she had ever known. She even bore him a son. Then one day her knight was murdered by persons unknown and her life was in crisis.



What happened next seems to indicate that Margaret was desperate to ‘put her life right’, in the only way she knew how. She gave away the riches that the knight had left her, and returned to her father and step-mother, humbly seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. They, who had let her down in the first place, slammed the door in her face. Margaret then sought out the Franciscans, and became a penitent. She was desperate for kindness, forgiveness and peace in her sad life.

What happened next is a tragic example of how the church can let people down. For when Margaret turned to the Franciscans in repentance, they did not tell her the wonderful news: that indeed she could be forgiven, because Jesus had already paid the price to ‘redeem’ her. Instead, they told her a lie: that she would have to ‘earn’ forgiveness by on-going acts of abasement and severe mortifications. She was never told the simple truth: that God loved her, and lavished forgiveness on her.

And so the final tragedy of Margaret’s life began: for years and years she practised severe acts of self-abasement: starvation, sleeplessness, the daily torment of hair-shirts. She was never told that all this was pointless, that her sins were gladly forgiven her because Jesus had died for them on the cross.

There is nothing so broken in our lives that almighty God cannot fix it. At whatever point we turn to him, he accepts us just as we are. Forgiveness is just the beginning of the good things that God wants to give us. He wants to begin a life-long work of restoration and healing in our lives. Poor Margaret never found that out in this life. So she must have had the most wonderful, almighty surprise when at 50 she died, and woke up in heaven.

Courtesy of Parish Pump

UPDATE ON DENISE INGE

[The editors: The Bishop's wife, Denise is suffering from a cancer which is inoperable unless it will respond to chemotherapy and shrink dramatically. Here is an update from Bishop John about Denise's treatment.]

Last Friday [3/1/14] we received the results of a scan Denise had just before Christmas and I am delighted to report good news. Praise God, the tumour has continued to shrink since her previous scan in October. We are hugely thankful. It is a real answer to prayer and we are immensely grateful for all the prayer that has been offered.

If you like numbers, the dimensions in August were 14.2cm by 9.4cm by 10cm; [5.6" by 3.7" by 3.9"]; in October they were 11.1cm by 8.5cm by 8.1cm [4.4" by 3.3" by 3.2"] and then in December 10.7cm by 7.5cm by 6.3cm [4.2" by 2.9" by 2.5"]. As you see from these figures, the shrinkage has been considerable but the sarcoma is still large and much prayer is still needed.

The oncologist is not proposing any further chemotherapy at present, about which we are very relieved. He will review the situation with another scan in three months' time and we hope and pray that it will have shrunk very significantly by then.

Thank you so much for all your prayer which has carried us through this last very testing year. It really has had a tangible effect and we would be so grateful if you were able to continue to pray in the months ahead.

May God bless you in 2014.

+John
Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester

FREE AT LAST

Jesus Christ is the key which unlocks the door of the prison cell of our own making and sets us free to live in the wide world of God's love and purpose.

Kenneth Pillar

ST JOHN'S PARISH MAGAZINE

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August. The magazine contains items about Parish news, events and other articles.

The magazine costs 40p to purchase and can be obtained from the back of church. Subscriptions are available at the discounted price of £4 per year. **We encourage you to subscribe as this means that we know more closely in advance how many copies to print and this makes things easier for our printing team.**

TAIZE WORSHIP AT ST DAVID'S

The university and churches in West Worcester are working together to begin a new worship event in West Worcester based on the worship used by the Taizé Community.

The services will take place on the first Sunday of every month in St David's Church in Comer Gardens, Worcester WR2 6JA. People are encouraged to meet at 5.15pm for a 5.30pm start. The service will last about 40 minutes and in the Taizé tradition there will be lemon tea and cake to share afterwards. All are welcome.

The worship of Taizé is extremely popular with young people and every summer tens of thousands of young people from around the world flock to Taizé to spend a week sharing in the life of the community in prayer, Bible study and communal work. Those sharing in the community are encouraged to live with a spirit of kindness, simplicity and reconciliation.

The Taizé Community is an ecumenical Christian community of around 100 brothers committed to working for peace and justice through meditation and prayer. In addition to the main community in France, small groups of brothers live in some of the disadvantaged places in Africa, Asia and Latin America, sharing in the lives of the very poor and suffering.

Prayer and silence are at the heart of the Taizé community. Simple chants, often based on words of scripture are sung in worship, interspersed with Bible reading, prayer and silence. Services are candlelit and much use is made of icons. The chants, often sung in different languages, are repeated several times giving a meditative character to worship. The brothers explain that, "Using just a few words, the chants express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being."

Revd Chris Stuart and Revd Phil Bradford are working with Diocesan Youth Officer Sarah Brush, Revd Fiona Haworth, the University Chaplain, and a group of students from the Worcester Student Christian Movement group to develop this regular Taizé service in St David's Church.

The first service will take place on 2nd February, the Feast of the presentation of Christ in the Temple or Candlemas. All are welcome.

Fiona Howarth

A WATER JOKE

A vicar was stopped by a policeman for speeding: He smelt alcohol on the vicar's breath and saw an empty wine bottle on the floor. The policeman asked, "Sir, have you been drinking?" The vicar said, "Just water."

The policeman said, "Then why do I smell wine?" And the vicar looked down at the bottle and said, "Good Lord, He's done it again!"

RABBI SIDNEY KAY

Some of you will remember the weekend spent here by my daughter-in-law's grandparents, Rabbi Sidney and Lily Kay, when he spoke during the morning service and also explained the precious Jewish artefacts that they had brought with them. Well, Sidney died at the end of November 2013, shortly after his 93rd birthday. He never forgot us and almost his last words to me were, 'I could do with a few prayers from St John's.' Those to his doctor, two days before he died were typical: 'I've had enough. I want to go - and by the way, I've not had my flu jab yet'.

Ecumenical life was very important to him. His best friend was a Roman Catholic Priest, Canon Ruth Wintle went to visit him when she was in Southport and a nun in Somerset told me she had slept on their couch. When his local Baptist Church was closed for



repair Sidney immediately offered them the use of the Synagogue, which they accepted. He was always interested to follow our Sarah's Jewish journey and was delighted when he met her during his visit to the Progressive Synagogue in Birmingham. He always ended a telephone conversation with, 'Love, and God bless you all, and to Sarah.'

During WW II he served as a surveyor in the army and was amongst the first soldiers to enter Bergen-Belsen after its liberation. The experience traumatised him and although he could hardly mention it when he reached ninety he knew he must speak out. The Holocaust Lecture which he gave in Lincoln was recorded and can be found on You Tube (in two parts) It was his expressed desire for as many people to hear it as possible, so you can be one of those, should you so wish. On the internet, go to www.youtube.com and search for "Rabbi Sidney Kay" or go directly by typing in www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzCXE6tX1zY and www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkIYxKHftIU

Ruth Reeves

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.

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? The idea is that individuals, companies and local celebrities promise to do or provide something and that promise is then

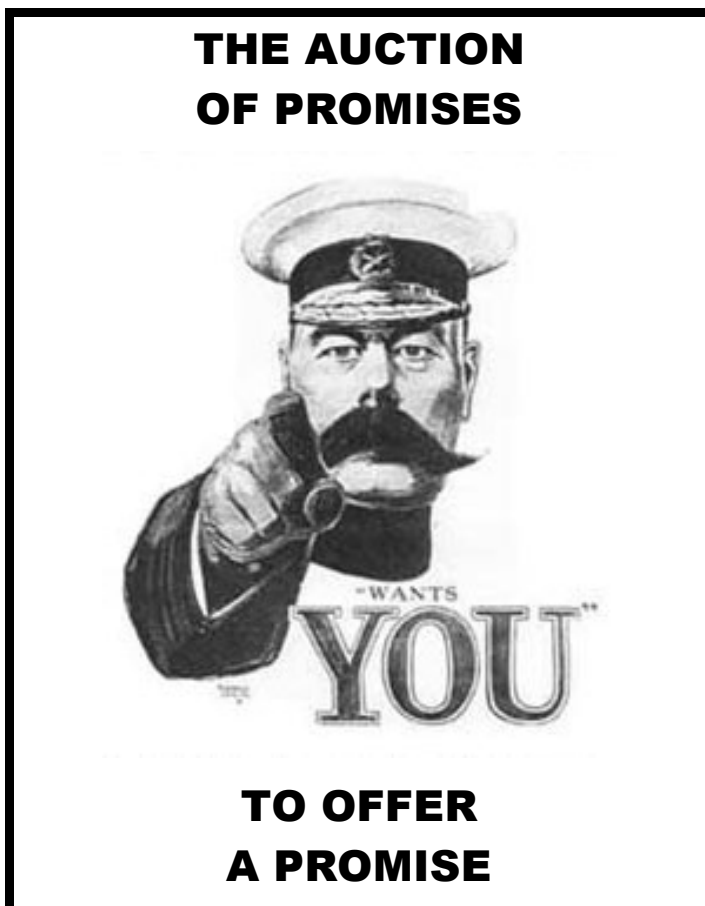
auctioned to the highest bidder. We hope to be able to offer dozens of promises for auction: for instance, meals out, golf outings, housework, ironing, baby-sitting, private tutoring, music lessons, gardening, chauffeuring for a special event, baking a cake – the possibilities are endless!

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



TEXTILE RECYCLING

We have had the Textile Recycling bin for almost a year now and during that time we have raised **£516.50** for Church funds! So a very big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has used the bin and please continue to do so throughout 2014.

Remember you can put in any unwanted clothes, paired shoes, bags, linen, towels but NOT pillows or duvets.

Catherine Templeton

AN INTRODUCTION TO MATTHEW'S GOSPEL

Following on from last month's piece about Mark's Gospel, we decided to have a look at St Matthew's Gospel this month.

The Gospel According to Matthew is the opening book of the New Testament of the Bible. Although first in order in the Bible, it is probably not the earliest Gospel. Besides drawing heavily from Mark's Gospel, Matthew shapes material from other sources around Mark's narrative outline. One such source, commonly called Q (from the German *quelle*, "source"), is thought to have consisted primarily of sayings of Jesus. Material unique to this Gospel relates to the birth of Jesus, the arrangement of the Sermon on the Mount, and Jesus' utterances on the end of the world.

Matthew is generally held to have been written about AD 80, although scholars have argued for dates as early as 65 and as late as 100. Tradition ascribes authorship to the Apostle Matthew, but modern scholars, acknowledging Matthew as a source, contend that a disciple or school of disciples were responsible for its present form.

The roots of the gospel in the Matthew-community of the late 1st century give rise to another important title bestowed on Jesus by Matthew, Emmanuel, "God is With Us". Theologically, Matthew's prime concern was that the Jewish tradition should not be lost in a church increasingly becoming gentile. This concern lies behind the frequent citations of Jewish scripture, the evocation of Jesus as the new Moses along with other events from Jewish history, and the concern to present Jesus as fulfilling, not destroying, the Law.

The gospel has been interpreted as reflecting the struggles and conflicts between the evangelist's community and the other Jews, particularly with its sharp criticism of the scribes and Pharisees.

The Jewish theme in Matthew's Gospel is apparent in other ways as well. First, nearly every important person in the Gospel of Matthew is Jewish. For example, Jesus, the twelve apostles, and the crowds are Jewish. They never deny their Jewish faith in the gospel. Next, Israel is a common theme in the Gospel of Matthew. For instance, after a story of the healings of Jesus, the text says the crowds 'praised the God of Israel'.

The Gospel is full of allusions to those passages of the Old Testament in which Christ is predicted and foreshadowed. The one aim pervading the whole book is to show that Jesus is he "of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write." This Gospel contains no fewer than sixty-five references to the Old Testament, forty-three of these being direct verbal citations, thus greatly outnumbering those found in the other Gospels. The main feature of this Gospel may be expressed in the motto, "I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

Graham Evans

Based upon material from Wikipedia and other internet sources

WITHOUT WATER?

As our theme for this month is purification, we thought we should remind ourselves that millions in the world must live without clean water for drinking, sanitation and hygiene. Below we reproduce some material from the charity WaterAid. The Editors.

- 768 million people in the world don't have access to safe water. This is roughly one in ten of the world's population.
- 2.5 billion people don't have access to adequate sanitation, one in three of the world's population.
- Around 700,000 children die every year from diarrhoea caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation. That's almost 2,000 children a day.

Without water to drink...

Without access to safe water for drinking, cooking and cleaning, people are more likely to suffer from water-related diseases. These kill around 2,000 children a day.

The time and energy required to fetch water, and the negative health impacts of using dirty water, have a huge impact on people's ability to work or get an education.

In many countries, poor communities often cannot access sufficient quantities of safe water locally, due to poor infrastructure and bad management of services. This can be down to a lack of skills, investment or political will to prioritise the right to water.

Without water for sanitation...

Where there is nowhere safe and clean to go to the toilet, people are exposed to disease, lack of privacy and indignity. When communities defecate in the open, disease spreads fast and water sources are polluted. Women and girls often have to wait until dark to go to the bush or a discreet part of town to defecate, where they are at risk of attack and abuse.

Without water for washing....

Where poor hygiene is practised, water-related diseases spread fast. And no amount of taps or toilets alone can prevent it.

Simply by washing hands with soap and water after going to the toilet and before preparing food or eating, people can avoid life threatening water-related diseases. Hand-washing alone could cut the risk of diarrhoea almost in half, saving hundreds of children's lives every day.

However, improving hygiene behaviour can often be overlooked. This is because tackling the issue is difficult and time consuming. It requires talking to people about potentially sensitive issues and getting them to change long-term, ingrained habits.

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 9th February for the March 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

FROM THE CHURCH ARCHIVE

Below is a short extract from a notebook "NOTES RESPECTING BELLRINGING &c" kept by William Henry Thomas who was Parish Clerk at St John's, from 1908 to 1953. This has been transcribed by Ruth Reeves (thank you!). The title page reads:

W. H. Thomas
S. John's
Worcester
Easter 1898

----- 00000 -----

*Register of attendance of Chimers commencing
Easter Sunday /98 (1898)*

*Members present for ringing at 5 am for one hours ringing Easter
Sunday were*

*G. Bradburn, H. Bradburn, F. Duesbury, E. Watkins, T. Jinks, W. H.
Thomas. (our old members Ernest Bradburn & A Bragg also paid
us a visit & had a pull with us)*

*We did not do much in the way of change ringing, for we were
all too drowsy through having too short a night's sleep. The
striking was anything but passable.*

TEEN MEETS GOD

JACOB'S STORY

Jacob is 17 and lives in the Midlands. He tells how difficult times in his life lead him to find God, and communicate about God, through music.

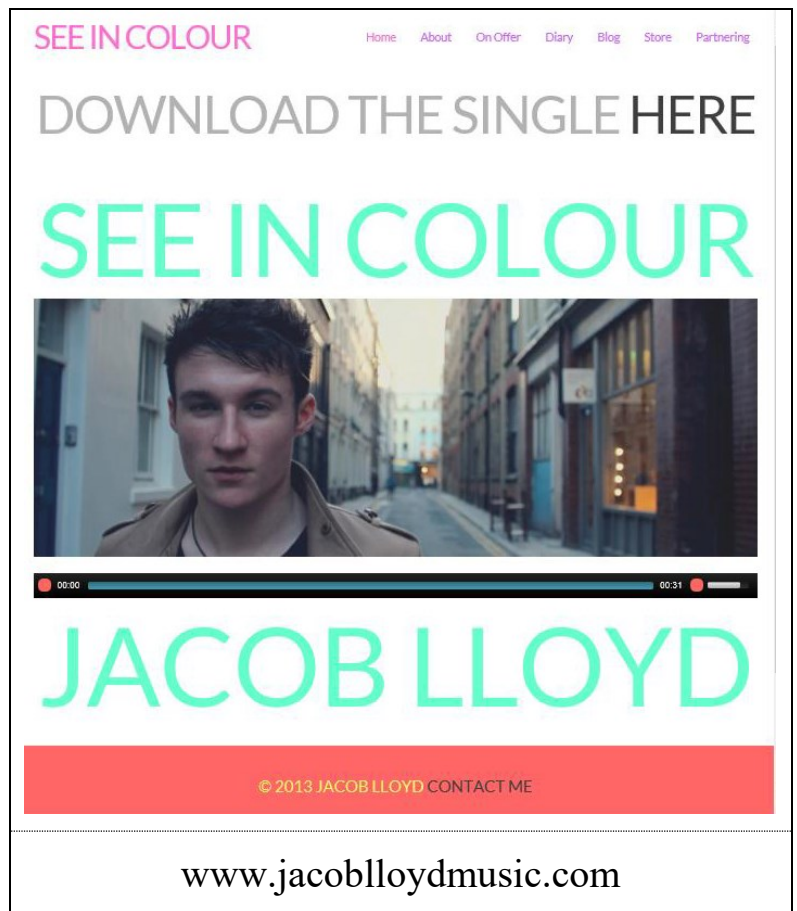
I was bullied in my first year of secondary school. I was one of only a handful of Christians who were open about their faith; my morals and general persona singled me out from the crowd and eventually led to the bullying. It started as daily 'put downs', and then physical violence from a small group, but at its worst progressed to pages on social network

sites aimed at targeting me, which many of my peers joined. Like so many young people, I was experiencing what they call 'cyber-bullying'.

This was an extremely tough time for me, and I began to question whether the faith I was standing up for was worth all of the abuse it was causing. Looking back though, I see just how much God was working in my life. I got the opportunity at that time to learn the guitar, which eventually led to me writing my first song 'I'm Me'. Writing allowed me to express what I was feeling, and helped me to convince myself that God was still there and worth fighting for!

I quickly began to realise that the easiest way to write songs was to use my own experiences. I had gone through some tough times; I began to reflect on how my Dad had left when I was seven and wrote several songs on how it felt, and how God helped me and my family pull through and turn over to a much happier chapter in our lives! This theme of personal experience can be seen throughout my writing and as I grow in my relationship with Jesus I believe the understanding and depth is reflected in my songs.


I'm now working on a second album of songs. Up until this point I've always wanted to become a doctor, but recently I've really felt called to continue with my music and combine it with a greater emphasis on evangelism. I guess I've always had a passion to save lives in one way or another, but I think that God is directing my path in a very clear way. You can visit Jacob's website at www.jacoblloydmusic.com



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JACOB LLOYD

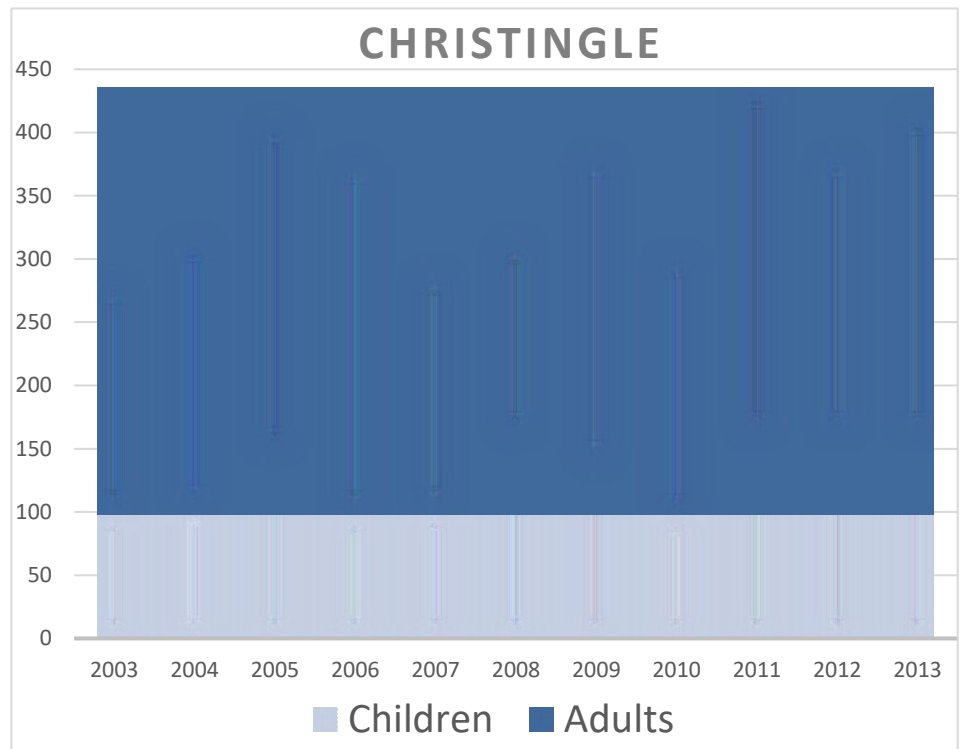
© 2013 JACOB LLOYD CONTACT ME

www.jacoblloydmusic.com

Courtesy of Parish Pump

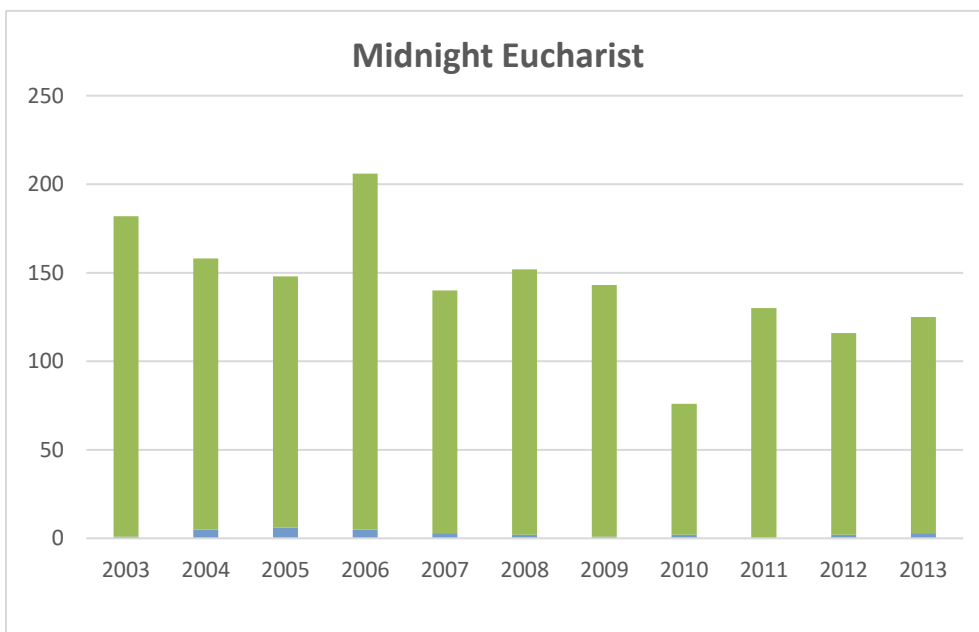
CHRISTMAS TRENDS AND STATISTICS

Each month the magazine publishes the number of communicants at services in the previous month and also the total attendance at all services. However, with so many different services over the Advent and Christmas seasons, those figures on their own make it hard “to see the wood for the trees”. Therefore, I went through the service registers back to 2003 and picked out the figures for our special services over this period.

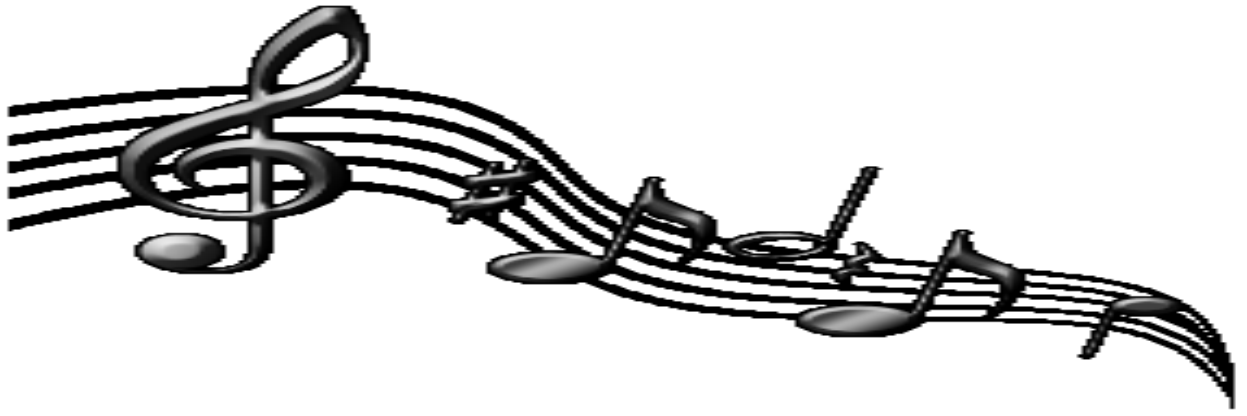


This investigation of the figures shows that this time the best attended service was the Christmas Carol service with 420 people. This was very closely followed by the Christingle service which saw 414 people (163 of whom were children).

Although the raw figures are interesting, the ten-year trends are arguably more useful. What the figures seem to suggest is that there is a move away from attendance at Communion services towards non-Eucharistic services. Of course, what the figures don't tell us is the reason behind the trends!



Philip Evans



Colla Voce Concert

Saturday 22nd February

7.30pm

An evening with Colla Voce, a vocal group specialising in songs from stage and screen.

Tickets £7.00 to include a glass of wine or a soft drink.

Telephone 749025, 423257, 424811 or Parish Office 420490 to book tickets or pay on the door.

INDOOR TABLE SALE SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY
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 to book a stall.

Refreshments available.

(ALSO SATURDAY 1ST MARCH)



Craft Fair Saturday 15th March



We will be holding our first Craft Fair. If you have a craft that you would like to promote, why not book a table. We would like to have as many crafters as possible demonstrating their skills.

Not got a craft, then come along to find something for your enjoyment.

Telephone 424811 for further details.

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2		4	3	8			1	
	3		5				6	
		6			9			
5		3	2		4	6		1
			6			5		
	4				8		3	
	2			6	3	8		9
3	8	9			5		4	

The solution is on page 36.

Please mention the magazine when responding to advertisers

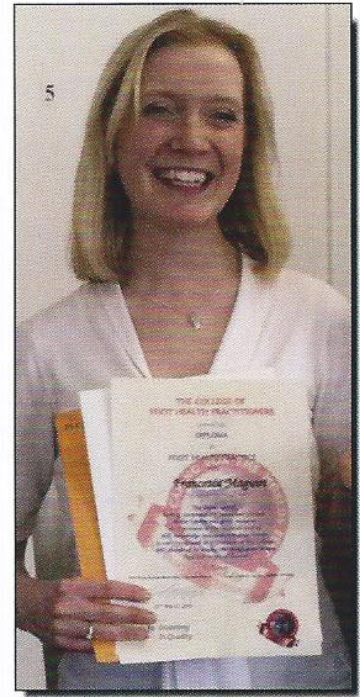
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❖ Wellcheck

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❖ Social clubs & luncheon clubs

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7	2	1	4	6	3	8	5	9
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Our Page

St BERNADETTE

In February 1858 Bernadette was 14 years old and lived with her family in the little town of Lourdes in the Pyrenees in France. While she was out collecting wood to keep the family warm Bernadette had a vision of St Mary, the Mother of Christ. The lady in blue and white appeared 18 times in all and asked Bernadette to tell the priests to make a procession to the grotto where she appeared and to build a chapel there. At first the priests didn't believe Bernadette's story because she was only a poor, uneducated girl.

People who were ill came to bathe in the spring of water that appeared at the Grotto and in time a large church was built. And still today pilgrims from all over the world visit the shrine.

What happened to Bernadette? She became a nun. When they asked her if she was sad that the visions had ended she answered: 'I was like a broom. When the sweeping is finished you put it behind the door and forget about it.'

WATER WORDS

All the answers to this Bible Quiz are to do with water. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Where the disciples fished (Mark 1).
2. It parted to allow Moses and the Israelites through (Exodus 14).
3. Jacob met his future wife here (Genesis 29).
4. Paul was on his way to Rome when this happened (Acts 27).
5. How Jonah travelled when the sailors threw him overboard (Jonah 1).
6. The river in which Jesus was baptised (Matthew 3).



Why was Moses hidden quickly?
It was a rush job.

What do you call small rivers that flow into the Nile?
Juveniles.



1. Sea of Galilee
2. The Red Sea
3. at a well
4. he was shipwrecked
5. in a large fish or whale
6. River Jordan

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 01905 423794
e-mail: phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk

OTHER WEST WORCESTER GROUP CLERGY

Rural Dean Rev'd David Sherwin 01886 888664
e-mail: Davidwin56@aol.com
Ministers, St Clement's with St David's As St. John's (above)
Vicar of St Michael, Dines Green with Rev'd Robin Charles 01905 749995
Crown East & Rushwick e-mail: fr.rob@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 Eucharist 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, February 2014.

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
2nd February	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	4pm Evensong (BCP) 5.15pm Taizé Worship	10.30am Holy Communion
9th February	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
16th February	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
22th February	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	4pm Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30am Holy Communion

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