

# St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine

**MARCH 2014** 

40p

When there ain't no gal to kiss you, And the postman seems to miss you, And the fags have skipped an issue, Carry on.

When ye've got an empty belly, And the bulley's rotten smelly, And you're shivering like a jelly, Carry on.



When the Boche has done your chum in, And the sergeant's done the rum in, And there ain't no rations comin', Carry on.

When the world is red and reeking, And the shrapnel shells are shrieking, And your blood is slowly leaking, Carry on.

When the broken battered trenches, Are like the bloody butchers' benches, And the air is thick with stenches, Carry on.

Carry on,
Though your pals are pale and wan,
And the hope of life is gone,
Carry on.
For to do more than you can,
Is to be a British man,
Not a rotten 'also ran,'
Carry on..

#### 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 April edition is Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March (See page 18).

#### **COVER PICTURE**

Image: Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy, MC (Woodbine Willy) Words: The Spirit, by Woodbine Willy

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



# LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY

My introduction to the Diocese of Worcester and the Archdeaconry of Dudley has been a very watery one. As I have met with diocesan staff to find out how their roles interact with mine, the views through their windows in the Old Palace offices have been ones of vast expanses of water stretching across to the Malverns. As I have driven from one church to another, detours to avoid roads and bridges closed by floods have featured often. I have learned that life in the country means permanently having a dirty car and that wellies in the boot are a must-have item!

The floods across our area, and in other parts of the country even more so, have been devastating for many, though thankfully held back by new defences along much of the Severn this time. Water in vast quantities in the wrong place can be powerful and destructive, it permeates everything, flows everywhere there is space, gets in through the cracks, over and under many barriers. Yet we know too that water is vital for life. In countries ravaged by drought, the rains are longed for, every drop of clean water is regarded as a precious gift.

It may be hard for us to imagine intense heat and desperate thirst, surrounded as we are by our flooded countryside and with clean water readily on tap, but that is the experience of many, and one with which many can therefore connect when King David draws a spiritual parallel with his need for God in Psalm 63: "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water."

God's presence is as life giving water to the soul, as crucial for our spiritual health as water is for our bodies. The Bible teaches us that through the Holy Spirit we can experience God's refreshing presence in abundance. In John's gospel Jesus talks about the water of life:

"On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive." (John 7:37-39)

As healthy kingdom people who are deeply rooted in prayer and being renewed and transformed by regular worship, we are constantly filled with the Spirit, in order that the Holy Spirit might flow from us into our communities. How wonderful it would be if the life and hope of the gospel, its values of love, compassion, justice and freedom,

flowed from our churches into our communities with the same persistent permeation that flood water exhibits. What an impact for good will be made if God's love seeps through every crevice and crack as his people serve those around them. And what good news stories there will be to share if barriers are consistently broken down by acts of loving kindness in God's name.

I pray that my Worcester experiences will continue to be watery as I explore the diocese, but in the spiritual realms rather than the physical ones, as I see God's lifegiving presence flowing from the people of our churches into our neighbourhoods.

Nikki Groarke Archdeacon of Dudley

#### A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our March edition. We've packed a lot in, so we hope you continue to enjoy reading our magazine. We've got news of forthcoming events reflecting both our mission (Parish Breakfast – page 9) and fun, fellowship and fund-raising.

The month of Mars is named after the Roman God of War, and we've picked Geoffery Studdert Kennedy – Woodbine Willy – as our historical Christian figure. Studdert Kennedy died in March 1929, and was well known for taking comfort, cigarettes and his bible into the horrors of the front line. There is of course also a very strong local connection too, as he was Vicar of St Paul's, from 1914 until 1922 and continued to live in St John's parish, in Bromyard Road, with his wife and three sons until his untimely death in 1929 at the age of only 45. There's more about him on page 10.

Studdert Kennedy's poetry is set in the trenches, but also reflects the British determination and steadfastness which has been seen in so much neighbourliness during the floods.

The question of neighbourliness arises in the article on page 12, reflecting on a passage from Exodus and is implicit in the piece on page 16 about fair trade soap.

Woodbine Willy shows how God's love can and should be taken to the most desperate situations. God does not inflict bad situations upon us, but gives us his love and Holy Spirit so that we can be strengthened and hold to him though those bad situations (think too of the poem 'Footprints'). We pray that all who are in times of trial and suffering, whether though the floods or other adversity, will be able to trust God to carry them through.

Graham and Sue Evans

P.S. Don't forget that the clocks go forward one hour in the early hours of Sunday morning, 30<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **DATES FOR MARCH 2014**

Unless otherwise stated, the venue for all the events below is St John's Church, or one of the church rooms.		
Saturday 1st Mar	ch: David, bishop, patron of Wales, c601	
9.00 a.m.	Indoor Table Sale (9am to noon)	7,9
Sunday 2nd Marc	h: Sunday next before Lent	
•	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> M	Iarch: Ash Wednesday	
7.30 p.m.	Joint service at St Michael's Dines Green	
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>ch:</b> Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, priest, poet, 1929	
10.30 a.m.	Bridge day at St John's (play starts at 11 a.m.)	7
Sunday 9th Marcl	h: First Sunday of Lent	
·	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> M	arch	
2.00 p.m.	Thursday at Two (Blakefield Room)	6
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> Ma		
10.00 a.m.	Craft Fair (10am to 1pm)	7,21
_	ch: Second Sunday of Lent	
·	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Ma		
8.30 a.m.	Parish Breakfast from 8.30a.m. to 10.30a.m.	9
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	<b>ch:</b> Third Sunday of Lent	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> Mar	<b>ch:</b> Fourth Sunday of Lent; Mothering Sunday	
1.00 a.m.	Clocks go forward one hour	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day.	

#### **MOTHERING SUNDAY**

For children of all ages, our 10.30 a.m. service on 30<sup>th</sup> March will be a special service for Mothering Sunday.

#### **LENT LUNCHES**

Come and share a Lent Lunch at Bromyard Road Methodist Church on Tuesdays March 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 12.30pm to 1.30pm.

Everyone welcome.

All proceeds to Home and Overseas Missions.

IN MEMORIAM				
Beatrice Edna Gilbert	1 March 1980			
Joan Kathleen Burgess	1 March 2009			
Archibald [Bob] Sim	2 March 1963			
Ann Brickwell	3 March 1972			
Mickey Brown	4 March 1977			
Robert Leslie Osborne	6 March 1986			
Charles William Hinds	8 March 1959			
Henry Barrow	8 March 1998			
Dennis Ernest Wheeler	9 March 1977			
Ronald Victor Roberts	10 March 1995			
Thomas Teague	11 March 1966			
Jonathan Nicholas Sigley	14 March 1953			
Lily Williams	15 March 1983			
Marjorie Mary Jones	22 March 1984			
Susan Alice Potter	23 March 1990			
Frederick John Halls	24 March 1987			
William Hooper	27 March 1985			
Stanley Norman Frank Parrott	28 March 1987			
Samuel Frank Hodgetts	28 March 2005			
Reginald Joseph Sigley	31 March 1978			

#### FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in January.

**FUNERALS:** Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

d. 22nd December 2013 Joyce Booth

d. 25th December 2013 Robert Finch

d. 14th January 2014 Stanley O'Brien

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2014 (4 Sundays): Communicants 409. Total attendance at all services 727.



# **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 13<sup>th</sup> March. 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	Indoor Table Top Sale.
1st March	9am to 12 noon (setting up from 7am)
	Telephone 749025 to book a table (£10).
Saturday	Bridge Day 11.00am - 3.00pm
8 <sup>th</sup> March	£10.00 including lunch. Tel 749025 to book.
Saturday	Craft Fair 10.00am - 1.00pm.
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Tables for Crafters only £10.00.
	Refreshments Available.
	Telephone 424811 to book a table.
	March Craft Evening - Date to be confirmed.
	Tel 424811.
Saturday	Indoor Table Top Sale.
5 <sup>th</sup> April	9am to 12 noon (setting up from 7am)
·	Telephone 749025 to book a table (£10).

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 soon.

Jane. Sue and Catherine

#### NEXT CHARITY BRIDGE DAY



Join us to play friendly Rubber Bridge at St John's Church on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March: Meet at 10.30am for coffee, with play starting at 11am. Buffet lunch, then more play until approximately 3pm. £10 per person.

Please phone Catherine or Gordon on 01905 749025 to book your place, or email cathtemp@btinternet.com. All proceeds to St John-in-Bedwardine Church.

#### NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

After handing over these notes to our friends Arthur and Margaret Miller last month, I thought that I would continue with introducing



readers to more members of the choir and this month it is the turn of Amy Rees, one of our sopranos. I asked Amy a few questions and this is what she had to say:

What drew you to joining the choir? Being new to the church I wanted to get involved and, after reading the invitation to join in the extended choir for the Christmas Carol Service, I decided to give it a go. Having enjoyed the carol singing I found myself wanting to stay!

What is your favourite part of being in the choir? Everyone in the choir made me feel so welcome and the social aspect is very important. I also really like the variety of music we sing and the variety of cake on offer after sung Evensongs on Sundays!

Tell us a little bit more about yourself. I came to St Johns almost by chance when I was at a low point in my life as my Nan had just died and I was feeling very sad. Everyone was so friendly. I married my husband Chris in St Johns and we have just bought our first house together. I am in my third year of teaching at St Clements and I run the School Choir with 43 children from age 5-11. I play the piano, recorder and clarinet - badly!

How does Chris feel about you being in the choir? He is a huge support to me in everything I do. He is a very keen member of the bell ringing team and so we are both sharing in the musical life of the church.

Anything else you would like to add? Just to tell everyone to come along to St Clements on Wednesday 9th April at 6.00 where I will be conducting my school choir in a Cantata telling the Easter story through song.

My thanks to Amy for sharing her thoughts with me and I look forward to sharing more thoughts from other members of the choir in coming months.

Luise Horrocks

#### **HOW ABOUT THAT?**

Mars, the 'red planet', shines with almost a blood red colour in the night sky and has always been strongly associated with war and bloodshed. The first indication of such a link stretches back as far as 3000 BC with the Sumerian civilisation of the Middle East, and it was only natural that their successors, the Chaldeans, adopted Mars as their god of war, christening it Nergal. This trend was continued by the Greeks who named the planet Ares, and finally by the Romans calling it Mars. Even today, the symbol for the planet remains a shield and spear.

#### PARISH BREAKFAST

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 we are holding a Parish Breakfast from 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. at St John's Church.



This is an opportunity for you to invite neighbours, friends or family to come and share an "English Breakfast". All are welcome. This a free event.

Jenny, John, Yvonne and Tracey

#### INDOOR TABLE TOP SALE

We are running our monthly table top sales on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, at St John's Church from 9a.m. to 12noon. Refreshments available. Come along and sell your unwanted items, or if you have nothing to sell come and grab a bargain.

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

Catherine Templeton

#### I NEVER REALISED...

'Ecclesiastic' is material used to fasten a clergyman's robes.

#### REV GEOFFREY STUDDERT KENNEDY

"WOODBINE WILLY" - bringing love with cigarettes and the Bible



Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the 1st World War - the Rev. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, muchloved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (27 June 1883 – 8 March 1929) was

born in Leeds as the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby. By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in the trenches was a desperate affair, but Studdert Kennedy hit on a way of bringing a few moments of relief to the stressed out soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.

One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up. Had his Bible with him as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, tell her I was still alive and, so far, in one piece; years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent, very nice it was. A lovely letter. My wife kept it until she died."

Kennedy was devoted to his men, so much so that in 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London, and took to writing a number of poems about his war experiences: Rough Rhymes of a Padre (1918) and More Rough Rhymes (1919). He was Vicar of St Paul's, then Worcester's poorest parish, from 1914 until 1922 then went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. He continued to live in Bromyard Road with his wife and three sons. While on a speaking tour he was taken ill, and died in Liverpool in 1929, aged only 45.

His compassion and generosity in the face of the horrors of the Western Front was immortalised in the song 'Absent Friends': "Woodbine Willie couldn't rest until he'd/given every bloke a final smoke/before the killing." He himself had once described his chaplain's ministry as taking "a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart."

Courtesy of Parish Pump

#### **DEANERY SYNOD**

Every three years, the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) elects representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod. St John's is entitled to elect three representatives onto the Martley and Worcester West Deanery Synod. As that occurs this year (our APCM is on 6<sup>th</sup> April after the 10.30am service), we thought it would be useful to remind ourselves what Deanery Synod does. The editors.

Deanery Synods are located between PCCs at parish level and the higher levels of Diocesan and General Synods. The task of the deanery synods, as set out in the Synodical Government Measure 1969 is:

- to consider matters concerning the Church of England and to make provision for such matters in relation to their deanery, and to consider and express their opinion on any other matters of religious or public interest;
- to bring together the views of parishes of the deanery on common problems, to discuss and formulate common policies on those problems, to foster a sense of community and interdependence among those parishes, and generally to promote in the deanery the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical;
- to make known and so far as appropriate put into effect any provision made by the Diocesan Synod;
- to consider the business of the Diocesan Synod, and particularly any matters referred by the General Synod, and to sound parochial opinion whenever they are required or consider it appropriate to do so;
- to raise matters, as the deanery synod consider appropriate, with the Diocesan Synod.

#### PARASHAT MISHPATIM EXODUS 22: 20-30

Recently, I was involved in leading part of the service at the Synagogue, as our rabbi is currently on sabbatical. I read the Torah portion for the day, chanting it from the scroll, and, as is the custom, gave a commentary or 'D'var Torah' exploring the issues raised by it. Chris suggested that this commentary should be published, so what follows is an edited version of it:

---- 00000 -----

The name of today's portion, Mishpatim, is often translated as rules or laws, but actually carries a meaning closer to the word judgements. This is important when it comes to applying the laws to our own lives today.

The most striking aspect of this section for me is the fact that the rules are written in such a conversational manner. The whole of the Torah forms a conversation between God and the Israelites, between God and Moses, Moses and the people, and this is no exception. I would like to look at two of the instructions and in particular at the manner in which they are presented. We are told not to oppress the stranger because we were strangers in Egypt. The commandment is only partially not to oppress; the greater commandment is to remember. If we remember our own experience of slavery, we could not possibly wish to enslave someone else. Similarly, God commands us to return a garment taken in pledge, asking the question 'In what else will he sleep?' God does not simply give an instruction; he involves us in it by asking a rhetorical question. This is the most important element of the entire law, not just the section we read this morning. In the dialogue, we are encouraged to ask questions of ourselves and to have empathy with others as a result. And that is what makes it possible for us to apply it to the modern world.

So, for us today, who is the stranger we might be oppressing? For whom do we need to remember that we were slaves and strangers in Egypt? We are unlikely to be guilty of abusing someone personally, at close quarters, but we can be guilty of oppressing the stranger simply by drinking a cup of tea or coffee that has been unfairly traded. And it is not just those in other countries we might be oppressing. A recent report by the Joseph Rowntree foundation found significant examples of exploitation within the UK food industry. These included: threats and bullying; racist abuse; excessive hours; unfair dismissal, including women being dismissed for being pregnant; deductions from wages, for example as a reward for finding the employee the work, or simply holding on to wages for safekeeping, thereby tying a worker to a firm. All these practices were found in the picking, processing and packaging of food which ends up in our own UK supermarkets.

In our world today it is more and more important to engage in the questioning which accompanies the giving of the Torah. For us, the stranger we oppress may live tens of

thousands of miles away, or alternatively they may live just next door. We no longer live in a society where we know our neighbours well enough to consider our impact on their lives. Indeed, the definition of the stranger is in our hands. By walking past the homeless person or the Big Issue seller we ensure that he or she will remain a stranger. By talking to him and learning his name, it becomes much harder to walk by and oppress him in passing. The Torah gives us a valuable model by giving us judgements rather than laws. By engaging in this dialogue, by asking ourselves the questions, we are able to apply these judgements to our own lives. Recently, Liberal Judaism declared itself to be a living wage employer, calling on every community to consider issues of oppression and inequality.

As Liberal Jews, we do not see the laws of the Torah as frozen in time. Instead, we struggle to make them relevant in an ever changing world. It is more important than ever that we ask ourselves the questions 'Who is the stranger?' and 'In what else will he sleep?'

Sarah Stuart

#### **EXODUS 22: 20-30**

Whoever sacrifices to any god other than the Lord must be destroyed.

Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.

Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry. My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless.

If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not treat it like a business deal; charge no interest. If you take your neighbour's cloak as a pledge, return it by sunset, because that cloak is the only covering your neighbour has. What else can they sleep in? When they cry out to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.

Do not blaspheme God or curse the ruler of your people.

Do not hold back offerings from your granaries or your vats.

"You must give me the firstborn of your sons. Do the same with your cattle and your sheep. Let them stay with their mothers for seven days, but give them to me on the eighth day.

#### **2014 PROMISES AUCTION**

We are still looking for people to offer promises for our Promises Auction. If you can help, please contact me on 01905 749025 or email cathtemp@btinternet.com
The auction will be held on the evening of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014, to raise money for the chosen charities, St Richard's Hospice and St John's Church.

Catherine Templeton

#### PCC MEETING 28th January 2014

The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer. 12 members were present.

Matters arising from the minutes: The Vicar reported that the next Parish Breakfast will be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. He invited PCC members to come and to bring a neighbour. This is part of our outreach.

Worship, Mission and New Services: The Vicar said that the focus for this year was on liturgy and the quality of services. He wants to do some work with intercessors and readers. The Vicar said that the proposed retreat will be an away day for the PCCs for St John's and St Clement's, particularly to consider the additional responsibilities which come with a reduction in clergy. There was a report on Christmas services and it was agreed to advertise the Easter Services in the local press.

There was a discussion about congregational candles in services. Some felt that these are dangerous, especially if people were juggling papers or moving around. Some members of the PCC would favour getting rid of congregational candles but others felt that candles added to the atmosphere and worship and we should not lose that. As we have plenty of time until next Christmas, it was agreed to ask the Clergy and Accommodation Committee to look at fire safety and take expert advice to create a fire safety policy.

**Children and Schools:** Phil Bradford is to meet with Jane Askew and Peter Holzapfel to discuss the new children's service.

West Side Collaboration: The Vicar reported that St Clement's are planning to recruit a voluntary Parish Administrator and that St Michael's expect to move into their new premises in September. He and Phil Bradford expect, in the future, to put more time into St Michael's than at present.

Philip Evans said that he will shortly begin a two to three month placement in another parish in this Deanery to develop his ALM ministry – he will need support in this period with some of the things he usually does at St John's.

**Finance and Operations:** The PCC approved Wedding Fees for 2014 and the plan from the Electoral Roll Officers for the annual update of the Electoral Roll, as required by law. The return of Parish Statistics for 2013 was noted and Gordon Templeton was thanked for preparing this.

The report from the Standing Committee (SC) included a Fund Raising update: The PCC passed a vote of thanks to the Fund Raising Committee (FRC) for surpassing its financial target and for organising so many good, varied events. The SC report also included the possibility of new hymn books, finance update and discussion of a leaflet from Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, on credit unions. At present there is no credit union for some miles around; SC agreed that we will hold off looking at this

until there is a local opportunity. It was agreed that the FRC should draw up a policy on outside events in church and a fees table for church lettings.

The report from the Accommodation Committee (AC) included updates on the Sound System, the report from the Quinquennial Inspection, the flat tenancy and other areas of maintenance around the church. The Vicar asked for suggestions on the use of Miss Cull's legacy to be sent to him and Phil Bradford. The Standing Committee will review these and bring a proposal to the PCC in due course.

The Treasurer reported that we had a small surplus in 2013. The cash book accounts have gone off to be converted into the formal accounts. The 2014 budget was approved.

**Review of progress on 2013 priorities:** The PCC then reviewed the 2013 priorities and discussed what the priorities should be for 2014. Some points from the resulting feedback were:

Worship, Mission and New Services:

- Worship has been lifted and quality improved in the past year.
- We are working on how the ALMs are used and mentored. They have benefitted our worship.
- New timings do not seem to have had an adverse impact.
- It's a shame that large numbers at the Christingle service don't seem to feed into other attendance.
- Children's Church is too separated from the main service apart from the token slot at the end.
- Beyond the two letters distributed around the parish (summer re new services and timings; and Christmas), how much have we reached out? We are reasonably good with people who come through the doors.
- No new services yet at St John's; Worship for Everyone at St Clements seems to be getting established.

#### Children and Schools:

- We need to do more to encourage younger people; and children and families. We haven't moved much on Children and Schools.
- The children are not learning what goes on in the main service.

#### West Side Collaboration:

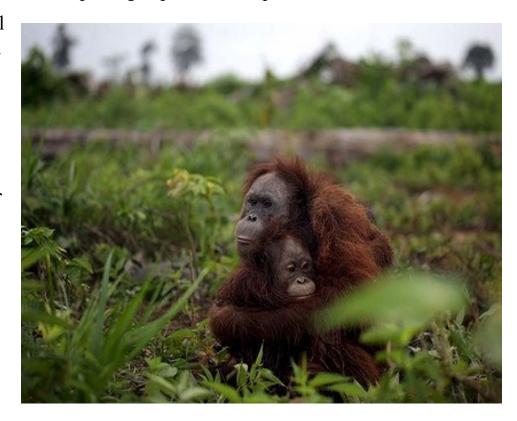
• Closeness has improved. The Team Office is a success and has helped coordinate the administration with St Clement's. The retreat will further develop our closeness.

Continued on page 22

#### HOW CLEAN IS YOUR SOAP?

One of the most versatile and controversial commodities in the world is palm oil. We use it when we wash our hands, clean our teeth, eat biscuits, or even in painting. It is contained in more than half of the packaged products we purchase.

Yet much of the palm oil we consume is produced in an unsustainable way. Huge plantations continue to have a devastating effect on the environment, causing deforestation and loss of habitat for many species such as the Orang-utan. During the past decade Orang-utan population has reduced by 50% in the wild and 80% of the Orang-utan habitat has been altered or lost.



Many argue that palm oil production is a valuable source of income for those who live in the rainforest areas of Indonesia, and this is indeed a controversial issue. Plantations do provide employment, but the pay is extremely low and conditions are dangerous. The destruction of the rainforest has a severe impact on the long term livelihood and culture of indigenous people, tying them to plantation work. In addition, palm oil is a short term commodity. Most plantations will last only between 20-50 years before the soil is exhausted.

Are there alternatives? We can look for palm oil free products, although labelling makes it very difficult to tell what exactly is in the products we buy. Palm oil is often hidden under the label 'vegetable oil'. Alternatives include sunflower oil, cotton seed oil or coconut oil, but none is as cheap as palm oil.

Traidcraft's new range of cleaning products features sustainable palm oil from Ghana. Here, in the traditional home of the palm, the crop is grown and harvested by smallholders. Many of the beneficiaries are women. With the extra income generated from the organic palm oil and the Fairtrade premium, the community has built a midwifery clinic. The clinic also provides medical care for the palm processing plant, running special hand care clinics for those who work stripping the fruit from the spiny palm bundles. Because of labelling laws, it is not possible to certify the palm oil with

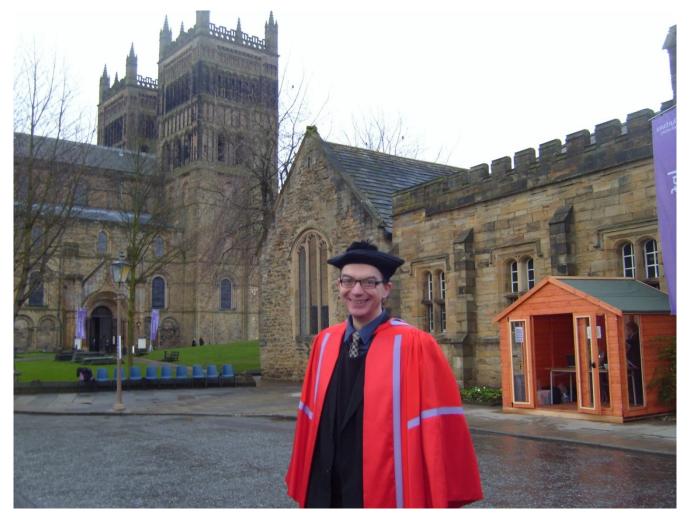
the Fairtrade mark just yet, but the oil is fairly traded and the products also contain Fairtrade coconut oil.

The cleaning range includes handwash, washing up liquid, laundry liquid and multi surface cleaner. It is available to order from Traidcraft now. Speak to Sarah Stuart for details.

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 24<sup>th</sup> February- 9<sup>th</sup> March. Look out for promotions in your local supermarket and if they are not pushing Fairtrade products, ask them why.

Sarah Stuart

#### THE REVEREND DOCTOR CHRISTOPHER STUART



Thanks to Sarah for this picture of Chris at his recent graduation. The editors.

#### 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.

#### 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 16<sup>th</sup> March for the April 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 further extract from a notebook "NOTES RESPECTING BELLRINGING &c" kept by William Henry Thomas, starting Easter 1898.

---- 00000 -----

Fríday July 22/1898 (8.15-9 pm)

We rang a few Six-Scores with the bells half muffled as a token of respect to the late Mrs Buck, wife of our Vicar's Churchwarden & Mayor. She had been unwell for some time but was taken seriously ill in the early part of July while staying with one of her married daughters at Harrow, near London. Her remains were interred in Crown-East Churchyard on the Friday afternoon same date as our muffled ringing.

It was the wish of our esteemed Mayor & Churchwarden & his family that the funeral arrangements should be as plain and quiet as possible but we (the band of ringers & Vicar too) could not restrain ourselves from the usual way (as ringers) of expressing our deep sympathy at the loss of one of a family who had all done so much real good for our fellow parishioners & citizens in such a quiet, kind-hearted, unassuming manner, especially in times of distress.

#### TEEN MEETS GOD - CAITLIN'S STORY

Caitlin is 17 and lives in Bedfordshire. She tells how she found faith in God.

Growing up, I wasn't raised as a Christian, if anyone asked I would tell them that I didn't believe in God - in fact the first thing I wrote at the start of my Religious Studies GCSE was that I was 'a strong atheist.'

However this began to change shortly before my 15th birthday when I was referred to a local charity: Luton Churches Education Trust (LCET). With them I took part in various support/therapeutic groups and slowly began to make new friends, some of whom were Christian, and who got me thinking more than I ever had about the idea of God. It was an idea I liked, that felt comforting to me, and I wanted to know more.

Through them, I was introduced to the story of Jesus and my opinion began to shift; maybe there was something more to life after all? Eventually, one of the friends I had made in the group invited me to come to her church for the Christmas service and I haven't really looked back since. I loved the atmosphere, the people, the music and most importantly, I came to love Jesus.

Six months after that, the church youth group attended the Big Church Day Out event and over that weekend I gave my life to Jesus and became a Christian. It just seemed to make sense and I knew in my heart it was the right thing to do; as I sang out in worship, or reached out in prayer, things fell into place.

Through my friends, church, and the continued support of people at LCET, I began to walk through life as a Christian, and took comfort in the words of the Bible during my times of struggle. I found strength and healing in the love of God, and used this to work through past and present difficulties and open up to others. My faith has definitely brought a new side to my life and offers a great hope that I never imagined I would find.

Courtesy of Parish Pump

#### WAR

There's a soul in the Eternal,
Standing stiff before the King.
There's a little English maiden
Sorrowing.
There's a proud and tearless woman,
Seeing pictures in the fire.
There's a broken battered body
On the wire.

Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy – "Woodbine Willy"



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For more information please ring Anna Ruth or Jo in the Live at Home Scheme office **01905 420805** 



We will be holding our first Craft Fair. If you have a craft that you would like to promote, why not book a table and demonstrate your skills.

Not got a craft, then come along to find something for your enjoyment. Refreshments available Telephone 424811 to book a table. Only £10.00

#### PCC MEETING 28th January 2014 (continued)

#### **Continued from page 15**

#### Finances:

- The Fund Raising Committee had a successful year.
- We have balanced the books in 2013 and have a plan for the future, so we can feel that we achieved our objective in 2013.

#### **2014 Priorities:**

It was agreed that we should have the same priorities (with refinements) in 2014:

- Worship and Mission.
- Children and Schools (develop the monthly Saturday afternoon and links to Sunday morning).
- West Side Collaboration (refine our collaboration at the PCC away-day).
- Finance (apply and develop the five year plan).

The meeting closed with all saying 'The Grace'.

Graham Evans

#### MARCH SUDOKU PUZZLE

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The solution is on page 36.

#### Get more out of life with Oddfellows

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#### Independent Financial Advice

- FREE 30 minute appointment with independent financial advisors.
- o Appointments available to book every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month.

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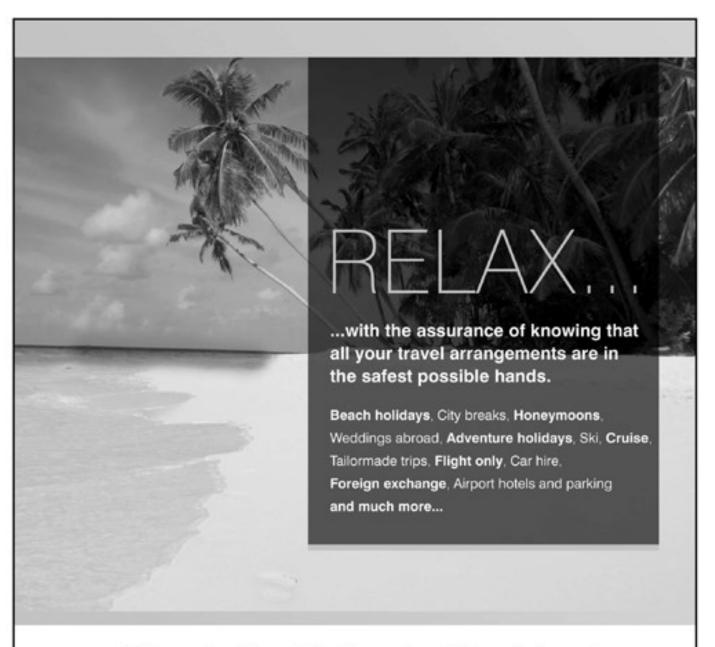
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4	6	8	1	7	9	5	2	3
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#### LENT

Lent, before Easter, is like Advent before Christmas, a time of preparation. Lent is when we remember that Jesus prepared himself for starting his ministry by going away by himself for 40 days of fasting and prayer. You can read about it in your Bible: Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1-11; Mark, chapter 1, verses 12-13 and Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

Jesus went into the wilderness – a quiet lonely place away from people – where he could think things out. He knew that his work would be hard, that many people would not listen to him, or if they listened, they would not believe him. During these 40 days Jesus made his choice: to work in God's way however hard that might

This year Lent starts on 5th March and

be.

goes through half of April - have you thought about how YOU are going to prepare yourself to follow Jesus this Lent?

#### SPRING COLOURS

There are colours which are mentioned with these things in the Bible. Answers at the bottom of the page.

- Pastures, herbs and olives are all?
- 2. A sea, tents and wine are?
- 3. Hangings in the Temple, pomegranates and doors of tents were all?
- 4. A horse, robes and teeth were all?
- 5. Kings' raiment (clothing), Jesus' robe and the dye that Lydia sold were all?
- 6. One of the gifts to the baby Jesus, candlesticks and spoons were?
- 7. A raven, clouds and chariot horses were?
- 8. Lips, a thread tied to a window and robes are?

#### 

#### What's blue, Vshaped and flies?

The Red Arrows in disguise.



## What do you do with a green monster?

Wait till he's ripe.

#### 

Answers: 1.green 2.red 3.blue 4.white 5.purple 6.gold 7.black 8.scarlet

#### 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.robin@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
10.30 a.III.	Every week	Children's Church
5.00 p.m.	1st & 3rd Sundays in Month	Evensong (BCP)
	Last Sunday in Month	Healing Service
	Other Sundays	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 From the church car park, walk up the Bromyard St John's, WR2 5BS Road side of the church to the green door.

Tel: (01905) 420490 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, March 2014.

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion		
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone	5.15pm Taizé Worship 6.30pm St David's Day	10.30am Holy Communion
	5pm Evensong (BCP)		Songs of Praise	
	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion		
9 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Holy Communion (BCP)	10.30am Holy Communion
	5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)		, ,	
	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion		
16 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer (CW)	10.30am Holy Communion
	5pm Evensong (BCP)		(0.1.)	
	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion		
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone		10.30am Holy Communion
	5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)		6.30pm Holy Communion (CW)	
	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion		
30 <sup>th</sup> March	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone		10.30am Holy Communion
	5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing		6.30pm Mothering Sunday Service	