



# St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine

MAY 2014

40p



*William Brown  
Turei*



*Winston  
Halapua*



*Philip  
Richardson*



*Phillip John  
Aspinall*



*Paul Sarker*



*Francisco De  
Assis Da Silva*



*Bernard  
Ntahoturi*



*Frederick J  
Hiltz*



*Albert Chama*



*Armando  
Guerra Soria*



*Henry Kahwa  
Isingoma*



*Justin Welby*



*Paul Kwong*



*Ian Gerald  
James Ernest*



*Richard Lionel  
Clarke*



*Nathaniel Makoto  
Uematsu*



*Mouneer  
Hanna Anis*



*Eliud  
Wabukala*



*Paul Kim*



*David Vunagi*



*Francisco  
Moreno*



*Stephen Than  
Myint Oo*



*Nicholas Okoh*



*Philip  
Marandih*



*Samuel Robert  
Azariah*



*Clyde Igara*



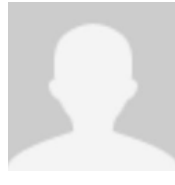
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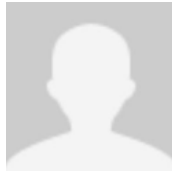
*Onesphore  
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*David  
Chillingworth*



*Bolly Anak  
Lapok*



*Govada  
Dyvasirvadam*



*Thabo  
Makgoba*



*Hector Zavala  
Muñoz*



*Daniel Deng Bul  
Yak*



*Jacob Erasto  
Chimeledya*



*Stanley Ntagali*



*Katharine  
Jefferts Schori*



*Barry Morgan*



*Daniel Sarfo*



*John Holder*

**The primates of  
the provinces of  
the Anglican  
Communion.**

## STOP PRESS

*Easter Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2014:*

It's with immense sadness that I need to report that Denise, Bishop John's wife, died this afternoon after her condition deteriorated rapidly in the night. Bishop John was with Denise as she died, as were their daughters and Denise's mother and sister who had recently flown in from America

Bishop John said: "My most beloved Denise died at 3pm today. The end was mercifully quick: she was up and about laughing and joking, welcoming friends and making bolognaise sauce yesterday.

It's appropriate that the Lord should have taken her to himself on Easter Day, the day of resurrection. She believed in that resurrection fervently – though she did not want to die because she wanted to be here to care for her precious girls. The Dean brought her communion and anointed her this morning – and she was keen for us all to sing hymns of Christ's victory over death. She was full of faith right to the end.

May the risen Lord Jesus, whom she served so faithfully, welcome her into his loving arms and lead her to our gracious God and Father. May she rest in peace and rise in glory."

Please pray for Bishop John, Eleanor and Olivia at this very difficult time. Details of the funeral will be sent out as soon as they're finalised.

Sam.

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Samantha Setchell

Diocesan Communications Officer and Bishop's Press Officer

Diocese of Worcester

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### ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS

The list of church officers has been omitted this month to make room for the above Stop Press item. The list is unchanged from the previous month.

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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 June edition is Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May (See page 19).

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### COVER PICTURE

The primates of the provinces of the Anglican Communion – images via <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/communion/primates/biog/index.cfm>

## LETTER FROM PHIL BRADFORD

Dear Friends,

Travelling on the London Underground to the National Archives last month, I realised the extent to which I am a man out of my time. Condemned to the District Line for over half an hour, I had taken my book out of my bag and begun to read. It was a familiar journey and a familiar routine which I have been doing for more than a decade. As I looked up from the book, into that peculiar silence which pervades the crush of bodies on the Tube and so unnerves those of us who are not Londoners, the sight before me made me realise how much has changed in that decade of travel to Kew Gardens. I noticed that I was almost the only person clutching a book. Nearly everyone else reading was absorbed in a Kindle or e-reader of some form, or playing on a tablet or smartphone. As a staunch defender of the real book, it was a stark reminder that I appear to be something of a dying breed.

Yet even the world of the book, in which I feel so at home, has begun to betray me and emphasise how outdated and old-fashioned I am. Bookshops at train stations and airport departure lounges are full of ‘celebrity’ biographies and autobiographies of people of whom I have never heard, the picture on the cover proving no aid in most cases. Occasionally, just to depress myself, I pick up one of these volumes to find out whether I should know who the person is, only to learn that the subject is inevitably younger than I am, sometimes just a teenager. There are people in their early thirties – my age – who are already onto the third volume of their autobiography. I cannot help wondering how someone can have done enough by their late teens to justify an autobiography, let alone three volumes by thirty-five. It seems remarkably self-indulgent. Mrs Thatcher was the longest-serving prime minister of the twentieth century and the first woman to hold the office, and she managed a mere two volumes of memoirs in her late sixties. Quite how winning a television talent or music show and having a semi-successful pop career is more significant and interesting than this eludes me, but this is presumably why I am out of date.

In many ways, I think this is symptomatic of an age which is obsessed with newness and impermanence. Ours is increasingly a culture in which things are deemed to be better simply because they are new. Yet as I was reinstalling the operating system on my computer the other day after its latest temperamental refusal to do anything I wanted, I found myself gazing at the books on my shelves and longing for the days when everything I did involved books, paper and a pen. For millennia these humble tools have served us, yet we are increasingly disdainful of such archaic things. So many people seem to want what is new and fresh only because it is new and fresh, so must have the latest gadget or become part of the latest craze. Look at the number of clergy who tweet or the number of churches with Facebook pages simply because

Twitter and Facebook exist and are somehow perceived to be more relevant to modern life. We seek relevance in the transient illusions of fame and modernity, never stopping to ask the value of wisdom and experience.

This was something T.S. Eliot understood, as you will realise if you read just the first stanza of his Choruses from the Rock. ‘Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?’ he asks, and they are apt questions for an age where technology is the great idol. The theme of our magazine this month is based on Ovid’s definition of May as one which takes its name from the word for ‘elders’. Once, the elders in a civilisation would be greatly respected and honoured for the wisdom they brought and the things they could teach. That is a deeply unfashionable concept these days, but amidst the relentless onslaught of innovation and the thirst for perceived fame, we would do well to ask ourselves what we can learn from those who went before us, not least in the context of our Christian faith. Too often we think of the centuries as a glorious march of progress and enlightenment, a concept of which Eliot was dismissive:

*‘The cycles of Heaven in twenty centuries  
Bring us farther from God and nearer to the dust.’*

Is change always good? Maybe the answer is in one of my outdated books by someone long dead.

*Yours in Christ  
Phil*

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## **A WORD FROM THE EDITORS**

Welcome to our May edition. According to the Roman poet Ovid, the month of May is named for the maiores, Latin for "elders". Taking “elders” to mean “senior leaders” lead us to compile our cover picture showing the leaders of the provinces of the Anglican Communion. See page 19 for a bit more about the Anglican Communion. Closer to home, we had our Annual Church Meetings on 6<sup>th</sup> April, and we report in this edition the results of the elections – the selection of the people who will serve this coming year and seek God’s way as they lead our church. We include some reports from the Annual Meeting, including the Vicar’s review of 2013-14. Our historic Christian figure is Athanasius, one of the ‘elder’ figures who shaped the church as we know it through the creeds that we use today.

To disrupt the tidy theming, we also have pictures from the Palm Sunday procession, to remind us that Jesus was never a senior leader in human hierarchical terms, but one who came to serve by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to be killed.

May the servant lord and risen king bless us all!

*Graham and Sue Evans*

## DATES FOR MAY 2014

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

See  
page

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: Athanasius, bishop, teacher of the faith, 373**

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**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May:**

3.00 p.m. Disabled Christian Fellowship meeting

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May: Third Sunday of Easter**

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

2.00 p.m. Tea at Two on Tuesday

6

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

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

7

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May: Fourth Sunday of Easter**

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Christian Aid Week begins (11-17 May).

5

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Helena, protector of the Holy Places, 330**

10.00 a.m. Plant Sale 10am - noon.

21

3.00 p.m. St John's Children's Church 3.00pm-5.30pm.

17

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May: Fifth Sunday of Easter**

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

7.00 p.m. Craft Evening (booking essential)

7

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May: Sixth Sunday of Easter**

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

6.30 p.m. Friendly skittles evening, The Bedwardine, Bromyard Rd.

7

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May: Ascension Day**

8.00 a.m. Said Eucharist

7.30 p.m. Deanery Eucharist at Martley

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK



For a growing number of people across the world, the horror of war is a part of daily life. Right now, fuelled by the devastating violence in both Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the numbers of people driven from their homes by war

is on the rise. It stands at 42 million people. The good news is that our church can make a real difference. This Christian Aid Week (11–17 May 2014) you can make a difference by being a distributor and collector of Christian Aid envelopes, or simply by making a donation.

**Be an instrument of God's peace: Give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week.**

## IN MEMORIAM

Nicholas James Carter	1 May 1990
Reginald William Finch	6 May 1976
John Bertram Bentley	7 May 1988
Marie Antionette Grosvenor	11 May 2007
Marjorie Mantle	12 May 1988
Norman Jackson	12 May 1996
Christabel Lilly Page	14 May 1983
Lawrence Jack Perkins	14 May 1983
Edgar William Barnard	16 May 1934
Douglas Charles Haines	18 May 1989
Laura May Bircham	20 May 1989
Terry Sherratt	21 May 1992
May Barnes	22 May 1983
Ronald Arthur Barnes	22 May 1983
Herbert Heaven Williams	23 May 1993
Marjorie Victoria Davies	29 May 1995
George Thomas	30 May 1972

## FROM THE REGISTERS

**Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in March 2014.**

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

Alice Watkins

Owen Beard

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

d. 23rd February 2014 Edward Gulliver

d. 23rd February 2014 Norman Whiting

d. 2nd March 2014 Gwendoline Buck

d. 4th March 2014 Derek Joyner

d. 13th March 2014 Kathleen Barnes

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR MARCH 2014 (5 Sundays):

Communicants 409. Total attendance at all services 818.

## TEA AT TWO ON TUESDAY



First Tuesday of every month, from 2pm in the Blakefield Room, St John's Church.

Come along and join us for a cuppa, cake and a chat. Just come along but if you want to speak with someone first then ring Catherine 749025 or Sylvia 422654.

## Fund Raising Events at St John in Bedwardine Church



Do come along  
and join us in  
2014

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Please note there are no more table top sales until the Autumn.

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Saturday  
10<sup>th</sup> May

Bridge Day 10.30am - 2.30pm. Please note the earlier start time. £10.00 to include lunch.  
Telephone 749025 to book.

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Saturday  
17<sup>th</sup> May  
(date change)

Plant Sale 10.00am - 12noon.  
Come along and buy your plants for the garden and home. Refreshments available.

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Wednesday  
21<sup>st</sup> May

Craft Evening 7.00pm  
£5.00 to include all materials and refreshments.  
Booking essential this month; tel 424811 for details.

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Sunday  
25<sup>th</sup> May

Friendly skittles evening, 6.30pm, at The Bedwardine, Bromyard Road. Tickets £5.00 each to include a light supper. Tel 749025 or 424811 to book your place.

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### FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

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Sunday  
8<sup>th</sup> June

Tea and Talk

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Saturday  
14<sup>th</sup> June

Oakville Concert

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Saturday  
21<sup>st</sup> June

Craft Fair and St John's Traders event

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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*

## NOTES FROM THE CHOIR



I have recently been spending a little bit of time singing with the altos so this month I thought I would introduce readers to Marion Platt who has been one of the altos in the choir for about two and a half years. Here is what she had to say:

How did you come to join the choir?

*I really enjoyed singing in the church choir at All Saints where John was the choirmaster for over 20 years. When he moved over to St Johns I came with him to carry on my choir singing. It didn't feel like coming into a new church though as I used to worship at St Johns many years ago. When my husband Pete was in the forces, he used to come home at weekends and we would go to the evening service in St Johns and sit in the gallery at the back. Pete and I were married in St Johns and both our boys were christened here so it really has almost felt like coming home.*

What do you like about singing alto in the choir?

*I really enjoy singing alto as the notes are well within my range! I also really enjoy working with John again. He always makes us work hard but pushes us to achieve the best results whilst keeping rehearsals fun. I have also been made to feel very welcome and supported by the other altos. In fact I have not only settled into enjoying the choir but also into enjoying the wider life of the church, as people are so lovely and friendly. It has not been difficult to integrate at all.*

How does Pete feel about you being in the choir?

*He is very supportive. He used to sing tenor in the choir at St Peters Droitwich many years ago and though he doesn't sing regularly anymore he joins the St Johns choir at Christmas when we go to sing in Lowesmoor House and Lasletts Alms Houses.*

Tell us a little bit more about yourself.

*I love meeting people and socialising and I enjoy gardening and visiting gardens. Pete and I share a love of driving out into the country and exploring especially in Wales and I particularly love going to the seaside in the winter*

My thanks to Marion for taking the time to chat to me. In the coming months the men will get a look in as I share the thoughts from tenors and basses!

*Luise Horrocks*

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## FANCY THAT!

A Cheshire vicar has two cats. Their names are Ancient and Modern – because they are both him.



## PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION



**Our thanks to Colin Nash  
for these pictures.**

They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!', 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!', 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

*Matthew 21.7-9*

## FUND RAISING AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH

April was another busy month and May looks to be the same. We have returns of your old favourites. The Bridge Day is on 10<sup>th</sup> May, but please note the earlier start at 10.30am to accommodate a wedding. The plant sale is on the 17<sup>th</sup> May (change of date). We are hoping for even better plants this year as the weather has been kind to us! If you have any plants you would like to donate to be sold, please telephone 424811, 423257 or 749025. Refreshments will be available.

There are a couple of dates we want to tell you about in June. The Oakville Concert on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June should be a very good evening. The Choir from St Clement's School will also be performing in what looks set to be an enjoyable family evening.

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June we are having our second Craft Fair. If you missed the last one do try and come along. There were certainly lots of talented people showing their products. It was amazing the variety of crafts on show. St John's Traders are also holding their Fun Day on the same day. There will be lots going on around St Johns and in the churchyard. Planning is in motion and further details will be available later, just keep the day free!

We look forward to seeing you at one of our future events or if you have any ideas for fund raising please get in touch with us. A big thank you for all your support this year.

*Sue Bale, Catherine Templeton, Jane Askew*

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### WITH ASCENSION DAY IN MIND

Triumphant, Christ ascends on high,  
The glorious work complete;  
Sin, death and hell low vanquished lie  
Beneath his awful feet.

*Anne Steele*

Our Lord is risen from the dead!  
Our Jesus is gone up on high!  
The powers of hell are captive led,  
Dragged to the portals of the sky.

*Charles Wesley*

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### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)

The church annual meeting was held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April after the 10.30am service. The results of the elections and appointments are:

- Churchwardens: Joy Job and Gordon Templeton.
- Parochial Church Council (PCC), representatives of the laity: Sue Bale, Amy Rees, Chris Rees, Sylvia Render.
- Deanery Synod, representatives of the laity: Graham Evans, Edward Reeves, one place not filled.
- PCC officers. Lay vice-chair: Sue Bale. Secretary: Graham Evans.  
Treasurer: John English.

Some reports from the APCM are included in this issue, and there will be more next time.

*Graham Evans, PCC Secretary*

# REPORTS FROM THE 2014 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Vicar's review of the year 2013-14

Dear Friends

Once again we seem to have had a good year at St John's: particular highlights are the continued growth in our congregation, and the improving state of our finances.

## **A Review: Goals for 2013**

We set ourselves four key areas that we wanted to work on in 2013:

1. Worship and mission.
  - The PCC set great store by the quality of our worship. One of the most urgent problems we felt we needed to tackle was the sound-system. There was talk, too, of a new family service once per month (complementing though not replacing our regular service pattern) as part of our outreach/mission.
2. Children/youth.
  - We wanted to strengthen further our links with the schools, and with the university.
3. Working more closely with St Clement's, St David's and St Michael's.
  - We recognised a need to bring our congregations closer together spiritually and practically.
4. Finances.
  - Our finances still remained weak, and we identified a need to increase our income by around £20,000 per year over the course of the next five years.

How did we do?

1. Worship and mission.
  - The new sound system has been installed, and after a number of teething problems now seems to be working well. There have been many favourable comments about its performance.
  - We've begun to introduce new service booklets, which have a more professional look/feel.
  - The choir goes from strength to strength, both in terms of numbers and repertoire. There's a real sense that our music is deepening and enriching our experience in worship.
  - The use of incense at key feast days (Christmas and Easter) has been generally well-received.
  - Our regular congregation continues to grow; we saw a significant increase in attendance at our Christmas services.
  - We held a mission breakfast as part of last year's Deanery mission, and a further mission breakfast is planned for March.
  - Our Fund-Raising Committee have put on a number of events – for example, craft evenings, table top sales – which have brought new people into contact with the church.
  - We have a young, vibrant band of bell ringers who are full of creative ideas for using ringing to advertise and reflect the life and work not only of the church but

also the wider community: for example, ringing for special services/events. They've also recently rung to mark national events, including Holocaust Memorial Day.

- Overall verdict: a good year, though there is still work to be done.

## 2. Children/youth

- We continue to build links with the University, not least by supporting the Christian Union's 'Café Quench' outreach project. Café Quench provides tea and hospitality to students on Fridays in term time, and St John's is one of the local churches providing the cake, and volunteers to help run the café.
- We have helped support the new Taize service at St David's, which is being led by the University chaplain, along with students from the University.
- Children's Church has been active, though numbers remain small. The clergy and PCC have explored ways of building our Children's Work, and we have recently developed an action plan for building our offering. This consists of:
  - Launching a new monthly event on Saturday afternoons, drawing on the widely used 'Messy Church' format, and designed for children and families. Each month there will be a set theme, with a mixture of craft activities, fellowship, food and worship. Phil Bradford will be overseeing this, with the Children's Church team focussing on delivery. We have obtained funding for two years for the Rev'd Peter Holzapfel initially to help lead the worship, and to build up a team of leaders confident and able to run the service when he leaves.
  - Involving children in our Sunday services once each month (second Sunday of the month). We are clear that we don't want to dumb down our Sunday worship – rather, we want to include children more actively in what we do on Sundays. This may mean a slight shortening of the Eucharist on the second Sunday of each month, but it won't mean watering that service down, or simplifying it. This will not be a children's service: many children enjoy the opportunity to share in "grown up" worship, and we hope that the older members of our Children's Church will appreciate being able to be more actively involved in what we already do – for example, leading intercessions, reading, bringing up the elements. Crucial to the success of this service is a commitment to quality, and it is important to stress that the worship will not be simplified or watered down. Phil Bradford will again oversee this.
- Links with schools: we continue to enjoy good links with Perryfields Short Stay School, but our links with Pitmaston and Christopher Whitehead are weak. We have continued to hold our public debates during the last year, and pupils from the school have actively supported these: Phil Bradford will be taking on the role of organising these debates in the future, again in conjunction with Fiona Haworth at the University.
- Overall verdict: this remains a key area of weakness, despite some good progress. Though Junior Church leaders/helpers do a fantastic job, I feel we need to do more to support our children: for example, storage space for Junior Church is cramped; the Blakefield Room isn't ideal for their activities on Sunday mornings, and they're often squeezed by other (no less legitimate) activities.

### 3. Links with St Clement's, St David's and St Michael's

- We've now been joined by the Rev'd Phil Bradford as Associate Vicar on a two year placement. Phil's brief is to work with me in supporting the parishes of west Worcester.
- Building closer links between the parishes has been hamstrung by the on-going lack of clarity over the future of St Michael's Dines Green, caused by the long-term illness of Fr. Robin.
- The switch from 10am to 10.30am for our main Sunday service seems to have gone smoothly, and in fact may be one factor in the growth of our congregation.
- Phil and I regularly take services each month at St Michael's.
- We now have a shared parish office with St Clement's.
- Overall, links between St John's and St Clement's remain weak, and there is only sporadic contact between the congregations.
- There will be a joint PCC away day in May for St Clement's and St John's, part of the brief for which will be exploring ways of bringing the two churches together.
- Overall verdict: some progress, but even allowing for the current sense of 'limbo', there is more that could be done to forge links with St Clement's.

### 4. Finances

- Last year we devised a 'Five Year Plan' to help us get our finances back into the black. The goal was to increase our income by 2017 by an extra £20,000 per year, using 2012 as our base.
- We broke that figure into five manageable chunks, aiming to increase our income by £7,500 in the first year of the plan (2013). I'm pleased to say that we have reached that goal. That success is thanks to the brilliant hard work of our Fund-raising and Standing Committees, and reflects an enormous amount of effort.
- Though we were fortunate enough to balance our books in 2013, we still have some way to go: at present, we are in danger of slipping back into the red in 2014, and our financial position won't be secure until we complete the Five Year Plan.
- Financial uncertainty weakens our ability to 'do' mission.
- Overall verdict: a very successful year, but we can't rest on our laurels yet.

### **Goals for 2014**

The clergy and PCC have set the following goals for 2014:

#### 1. Worship and Mission.

- A continued focus on building quality in our worship.

#### 2. Children/youth.

- Developing our new Saturday activity for families and children.
- Finding ways of drawing children more actively into our worship on the second Sunday, without dumbing down what we do.
- Working closely with Christopher Whitehead and the University to develop our public debate programme.

#### 3. Finances.

- Continue to implement the Five Year Plan, identifying new sources of income that can help us stabilise our finances.

4. Links with St Clement's, St Michael's and St David's.
  - Build closer links between the congregations.

### **The Future**

It's now a year since I took over as vicar of St Clement's with St David's. Both churches have significant problems: a great deal of my time, and Nick Kaleniuk's time when he was with us, has been spent supporting them. Both churches have made great progress in the last year, but there is more work to be done in 'bedding in' that progress. As Phil and I become more active in supporting St Michael's, I anticipate that we will have to shift the focus of our efforts to Dines Green – there is a great deal of work that needs to be done there in supporting and building that congregation.

All of which highlights the danger that St John's might be neglected. Certainly St John's is thriving at the moment, and I think that allows Phil and me the space to focus our efforts first on St Clement's and St David's, and later on St Michael's. But I want to offer a word of reassurance: St John's is not forgotten in all this, and as you'll see from the above there are all kinds of new initiatives in the pipeline which Phil and I are supporting.

### **A Time to Give Thanks**

The Vicar's report is always an important opportunity to say 'thank you' to all those who give to the life of our church. I'm always afraid to 'name names', because someone always inevitably gets left out – though I feel I must say a particular thank you to our churchwardens, and our PCC for all that they have given, not least those members stepping down this year. Chief amongst the latter is Margaret Morris, whose tenure as churchwarden comes to an end. I have greatly appreciated Margaret's pastoral sensitivity in her role, her warmth and her humour. She will be a tough act to follow.

Likewise, a quick word of thanks must also go to our ALMs, who are beginning to spread their wings and contribute new and fresh insights into our worship.

But, as I said last year, what about those who clean the church, who decorate it with flowers, who serve teas and coffees, who welcome people into church, who serve on the Pastoral, Standing, Fabric, Fund-Raising, and Charities Committees? The bell ringers, the organist and choir, the Music Group, the Toddler Group, Bible Study Group, and the Junior Church? The office staff? Those who prepare the Parish Magazine? And this is just a part of it – what about all the other jobs, less formal but by no means less essential, that go on behind the scenes? Whatever your contribution, however small: we couldn't do without you - thank you!

These are times of great change for our church - but we are not only 'surviving', we are flourishing. We are all part of something that is growing, and making a real difference in the lives of people. Long may that continue, and long may this be a place where God is worshipped, honoured and served.

Yours in Christ  
Christopher

## **CHURCHWARDEN'S ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT for 2013**

Herewith a report from Brian Askew, our Estates Manager, which provides a comprehensive review of the fabric work that was carried out in our church during 2013. The Churchwardens are happy to advance this verbatim as the substance of their own official report. We would add that:

- There is nothing new to report on church ornaments.
- Early in 2013, the PCC identified the replacement of the church sound system as a priority. A supplier was identified, a faculty was obtained and work was commissioned. Installation began in December 2013 and completed in January 2014. While there were significant teething troubles during the changeover period in the second half of December, the new system is now working satisfactorily. There remains some fine tuning to complete, and a more workable lid for the mixer desk is to be supplied.
- Regarding the 1A Bromyard Road Flat, the tenant is still in situ, though now subject to an expired Section 21 recovery order. Next steps are in hand under guidance from the Diocesan Registrar. In November 2013, the large proportion of substantial rent arrears was found to be attributable to the letting agent rather than the tenant. Recovery is in hand, with c. £3000 of £6000 (including incurred legal fees) repaid at the time of writing.

Once again, we offer our thanks to Brian for his energetic work in ensuring that our buildings are in good order.

Gordon Templeton and Margaret Morris, Churchwardens, March 2014

### **ESTATE MANAGER'S REPORT for 2013**

- Early in February water could be heard running from under the floor in the North Aisle. Investigations revealed that a joint in one of the heating pipes, under the floor near to the Blakefield Room door, had failed and a repair was carried out.
- Early in the year the PCC identified that people working in the Parish Office were poorly protected and vulnerable to attack/abuse from people entering the Office. It was, therefore, decided to install some security equipment. Apart from the normal bolts, chains and spy glass, a CCTV system was installed so that that visitors could be identified whilst they were at the green outside door. A panic alarm was also fitted which could be triggered by fobs on chains which could be worn around the neck and by a panel adjacent to the inside of the green door. The panic alarm system is externally monitored and setting off the alarm will trigger a police response.
- During February a leak in the tower roof became evident by water dripping into the ringing chamber. Investigations were carried out and the joint between the tower roof and the uppermost wooden pinnacle was thought to be at fault. Lead flashing was readjusted and some sealant used to try and cure the problem. This only partially

rectified the problem which was destined to keep recurring during the year. (2014 – a permanent solution is now thought to have been identified and will be put in place)

- We had some vandalism to the car park wall where several coping stones, together with several bricks were torn from the wall. The repair for this work was nearly £1,000 but our insurers picked up most of the bill.
- During June all of our portable electrical equipment was 'PAT' tested as was our fire equipment.
- In June the tower clock mechanism was serviced.
- Also in June all of our gas appliances were safety checked and serviced.
- This was the Year for the Church's Quinquennial Inspection (QI) and several items had to be checked:
  - The lightning conduction was tested in August and found to be OK
  - Between August and September every electrical circuit in the church was inspected and tested. Numerous faults were identified – some of them dangerous. All the dangerous faults were rectified and a report produced outlining the remainder of the work that was needed.
  - Alan Simcox (the Church Architect) pulled together his own fabric report and together with the above two items he issued the QI. The fabric of the church was found to be in a good condition with only some minor work needed and some monitoring of a few cracks. Work was needed on the churchyard boundary walls – but this was the responsibility of the local authority.
- The electrical actuator that turns the bells off at night burnt out in September so had to be replaced. Coinciding with this one of the bell 'pull-off' ropes broke so was repaired at the same time.
- The bells were fully serviced during October and minor repairs carried out.
- The annual clearing out of the rainwater gutters, downpipes and gullies was carried out at the end of October.
- The final event of the year was the Parish Office boiler failing. As many repairs had been carried out on this boiler it was decided that no more money would be spent on it and a replacement would be found. So just before Christmas a new Worcester Bosch boiler was fitted.

Brian Askew, Estates Manager, March 2014

### **Electoral Roll Report – April 2014**

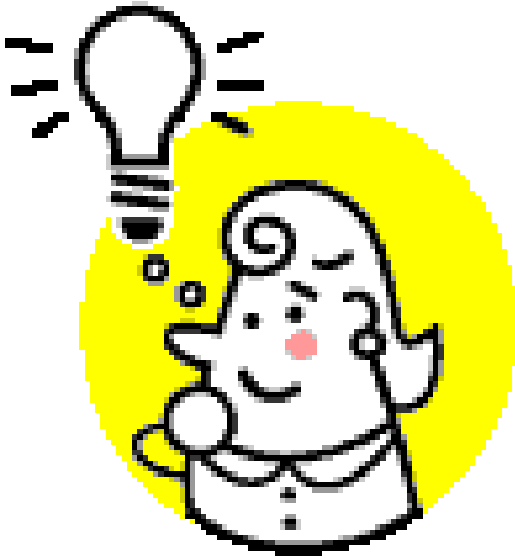
The church Electoral Roll stood at 134 after the 2013 Annual Meeting. 7 people were added during 2013 and 5 people were added in the 2014 revision. No-one has been removed from the roll since April 2013. The new roll is 146 (an increase of 9%).

Graham Evans, Philip Evans, Electoral Roll Officers

*There will be more Annual Meeting reports in next month's magazine.*



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH



St John's Children's Church is starting a new idea. One Saturday each month we are having a children's session. We will usually start at 3.00pm and finish after a light tea, at approx. 5.30. A variety of activities are planned and Peter Holzapfel will be coming along sometimes to help us with this new venture.

It is open to children from 4-14 years of age. The first Saturday session is on 17<sup>th</sup> May at 3.00pm, so do come along and join the fun. If you would like any further details please telephone 424811. We look forward to seeing you.

*Jane Askew and the Junior Church Team*

### MAY SUDOKU PUZZLE

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4					8	5	3	

## FROM THE MAGAZINE ARCHIVE

In our previous two editions we have quoted from the “NOTES RESPECTING BELLRINGING &c” kept by William Henry Thomas, starting Easter 1898.

Below is an item from the May 1952 magazine about the same man. He certainly served our church over a very long period! The reference to 1908 is the date when he became Parish Clerk.

### THE PARISH CLERK

AT Evensong on Easter Sunday I presented, on behalf of the congregation, a prayer desk and a beautifully-bound Prayer Book to Mr. William H. Thomas, Parish Clerk. Mr. Thomas is always at my side—helping me in so many ways and reminding me of dates and appointments which I might so easily forget. The young people who come to make their wedding arrangements love him—as we all do. At funerals he always will go to extreme limits to help and comfort people. His hand-writing is masterly and in the good old English style. His character is without blemish. His Christian spirit and love profound. The Church Wardens, the Secretary of the Church Council and myself as Vicar signed the inside cover of the Prayer Book, and we wrote: “This book is presented to Mr. William H. Thomas, Parish Clerk, May 4th, 1908, as a mark of esteem and affection.” . . . I pray that Mr. Thomas will have health and strength for many years to come and will continue to enjoy the duties of his high and important office.

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### 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.**

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### FOR THE RECORD

The plans for the use of incense at Easter services were changed after the April magazine went to print – incense was used at St John's on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday (10.30am) and not on Good Friday.

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> May for the June 2014 edition. If you can, please use e-mail: [magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto: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

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## THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

If you want to know more about the family, our family, of Anglicans around the globe, do have a look at the Anglican Communion website, [www.anglicancommunion.org](http://www.anglicancommunion.org). Some of it is a bit dry and bureaucratic, but other parts are rich in news about what Anglican Christians are doing around the world; try the “News” and “Resources” tabs on the home page. You can find the Athanasian and Nicene creeds under “Resources”. And, just what is the Anglican Communion? It is explained by the Anglican Communion Information Service (ACIS):

*The Anglican Communion comprises 38 self-governing Member Churches or Provinces that share several things in common including doctrine, ways of worshipping, mission, and a focus of unity in the Archbishop of Canterbury.*

*Most Communion life is found in the relationships between Anglicans at all levels of church life and work around the globe; dioceses linked with dioceses, parishes with parishes, people with people, all working to further God’s mission. There are around 85 million people on six continents who call themselves Anglican (or Episcopalian), in more than 165 countries. These Christian brothers and sisters share prayer, resources, support and knowledge across geographical and cultural boundaries. As with any family, the Anglican Communion’s members have a range of differing opinions. This means that the Anglican Christian tradition has always valued its diversity.*

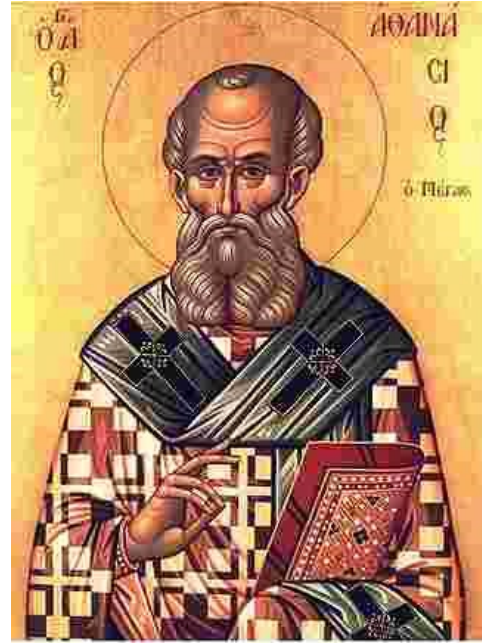
Graham Evans

## ATHANASIUS (296-373)

### THE THEOLOGIAN WHO GAVE US THE NICENE CREED

This is the name behind the Athanasian Creed.

Athanasius was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was twenty-nine years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325. Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council's debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, three hundred bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is he the Son of God? Is he God or man or both together? Did he exist before he was born? If we worship him does that mean we are worshipping two Gods?



Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a 'Saviour' created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding. His uncompromising stand for Nicene theology gave rise to the saying, Athanasius contra mundum, 'Athanasius against the world.'

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism. Of his many writings the most significant was his great study on the person and work of Christ; 'On the Incarnation of the Word of God', written before he was thirty years old. The Church of Christ is always in need of bishops, leaders and theologians in the mould of Athanasius.

Athanasius is venerated as a saint; his feast day is 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the day of his death.

*Graham Evans, based upon material from Parish Pump*

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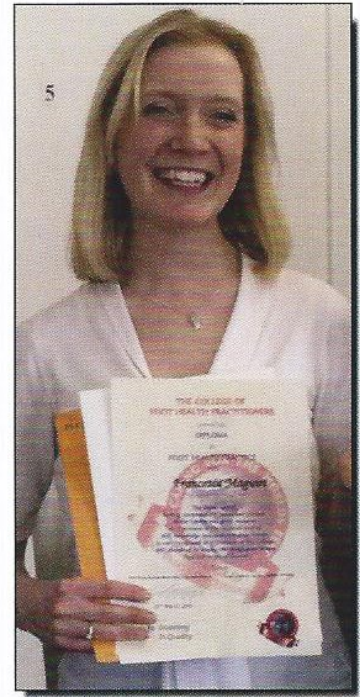
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8	1	9	2	6	5	3	4	7
6	4	7	8	1	3	2	5	9
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3	9	8	6	5	2	1	7	4
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## JULIAN of NORWICH

Julian was a woman who lived in Norwich, and in 1373, on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, she had a series of visions of Jesus that were so important to her that she spent the next 20 years learning to read and write so that she could share these visions with others. Imagine the hard work and trouble that must have caused because it was very rare for any woman to read and write at that time, let alone an unimportant countrywoman. Julian lived most of her life in a small room that joined onto one wall of St Julian's Church in Norwich. And you can actually visit the room (it was bombed during the Second World War but rebuilt).

Dame Julian wrote about the love of God and you can still read her book 'The Revelations of Divine Love' today. The book ends with the words "before God made us, he loved us". Before we were born, God chose us for the work we are to do. And as we know, God doesn't make mistakes. He chose you and me, and he loves us. What a wonderful promise!

## NOR - PUZZLE

All the answers start with the letters NOR. Answers at the bottom of the page.

What NOR is....

1. The language of the Vikings.
2. A compass point.
3. Three English counties.
4. A country.
5. A man's name and a style of church building.
6. The town where Julian lived.
7. It's not unusual.

What do you get if you cross a Viking and a detective?

Inspector Norse.



What do Eric the Red and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

They have the same middle name.

**Answers:** 1. Norse 2. North 3. Northumberland, Norfolk and Northamptonshire 4. Norway 5. Norman 6. Norwich 7. normal

## ST JOHN'S CLERGY

Vicar	Rev'd Dr Christopher Stuart	01905 429773 e-mail: <a href="mailto:chris.stuart@orangehome.co.uk">chris.stuart@orangehome.co.uk</a>
Associate Vicar	Rev'd Dr Phillip Bradford	01905 423794 e-mail: <a href="mailto:phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk">phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk</a>

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Vicar of St Michael, Dines Green with Crown East & Rushwick	Rev'd Robin Charles	01905 749995 e-mail: <a href="mailto:fr.rob@talktalk.net">fr.rob@talktalk.net</a>

## 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.

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e-mail: [office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

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

Monday: 10.30am to noon.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am to noon.

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**For booking baptisms and weddings:** Please visit or telephone the office during the normal opening hours, as above. Also open specifically for booking baptisms and weddings on the first Thursday of each month from 6.45pm until 7.30pm.

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Parish Website: [www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](http://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, May 2014.

	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Clement's</b>	<b>St. David's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	5.15pm Taizé Worship 6.30pm Evensong	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	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
<b>18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	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
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	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	6.30pm Holy Communion	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.**