

St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine

JUNE 2014

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Children's Church Studying Seeds



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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 July edition is Sunday 15th June (See page 18).

COVER PICTURE

Saturday 17th May 2014:

St John's Children's Church studying seeds with Peter Holzapfel.

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

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER

I must confess to feeling totally overwhelmed by the flood of very kind messages that have poured in following the announcement of my appointment as Bishop of Colchester. My own sense of excitement about the new role is very much tempered at the moment by the sorrow of departure.

This is a diocese in which grace abounds, in which love flourishes and in which the call to be a Kingdom People is lived out in extraordinary ways in every context of our life together. I will miss you all very much. When Jesus prepared to leave his friends, he gave them some advice to equip them for all that lay ahead. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel, he says three things that are worth holding on to now.

The first thing he said was 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God.' Jesus said this to the disciples just before he was arrested, tried and crucified. It must have been hard for his friends to trust God and to not be anxious. We need to learn to trust God and, when it feels that God isn't on top of the situation, we need to remember that he is trustworthy – and he knows what he is about. God is at work even when we do not perceive it. Do not be anxious. But trust in God.

The second thing Jesus said was 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.' He didn't say – 'I'll tell you the way' or 'This is the way.' He said 'I am the way.' Christianity isn't primarily about a set of rules and nor is it primarily about a set of beliefs. It's about a person. It's about a personal relationship with Jesus and the best thing we can do is to stick close to him and he will then lead us in the way we should go.

The third thing Jesus said was 'Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these.' You are heirs to this promise. You are a people who will do great things. Through your ministry in this diocese, others will come to know Jesus for themselves and their lives will be completely transformed.

Thank you for an amazing and inspiring six years in which I feel I have received so much more than I have given. Thank you for your love, grace and partnership in the work of the Kingdom. Don't worry, stick close to Jesus and you will continue to do great things through the power of God that is at work in you. And don't forget to have fun along the way.

Roger Morris

LETTER FROM THE NEW BISHOP OF DUDLEY

I am delighted to be with you and I'm looking forward to getting to know you and the parishes in the Diocese. I have much to learn, but I have already felt hugely supported by Bishop John and everyone whom I have met. In the coming months I'm going to be

visiting each Deanery and I'm looking forward to hearing more stories about how people are living out their lives as Kingdom People.

One of the most moving parts of the ordination service in St Paul's Cathedral, in which I became a bishop, was being given the pastoral staff. This was a gift from the Diocese of Newcastle and is beautifully simple in its design and thoroughly Northumbrian in its creation. In Northumberland a shepherd rarely uses the crook to catch a sheep. Instead they use it to remain absolutely still so that the sheep gather around in trust. It reminds me of the balance between the being and the doing of our lives as we wait patiently on God's loving kindness.

This is a kindness that I look forward to seeing at work in lots of places as our life together is lived out in love and peace, joy and hope.

With my prayers Graham Usher

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our June edition. It's a packed edition – we had a real problem getting it down to 40 pages (which is the limit of our photocopier).

You may remember that last month we took our theme from the naming of the month "May" from the Latin "maiores" for "elders". This month we have the other side of the coin: The month "June" being named from the Latin word iuniores, meaning "younger ones". So we've given coverage of Children's Church activities on the cover and inside the magazine. Don't miss the regular children's page "Our Page" on page 38. Even the grown-ups can try the quiz and cringe at the bad joke! Our historical Christian figure, St Nicholas, was chosen for what he did when he was a young man. See page 19 for more details.

We've included edited highlights of the remainder of the reports from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Rather a lot of text, but an important report on Parish life.

Outside, the sun is shining. We pray that the onset of good weather may make us all feel a bit more like 'juniores'.

Graham and Sue Evans

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.

DATES FOR JUNE 2014

Unless otherwise stated, the venue for all the events below is St John's Church, or one of the church rooms.				
	Seventh Sunday of Easter	page		
v	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day			
Tuesday 3 rd June	: Martyrs of Uganda, 1885-7, 1977.			
2.00 p.m.	Tea at Two on Tuesday	6		
Sunday 8th June:	Pentecost			
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day			
3.00 p.m.	Tea and Talk	7,11		
Saturday 14th Jui	ne: Richard Baxter, puritan divine, 1691.			
3.00 p.m.	St John's Children's Church Activities 3.00pm-5.30pm to	5		
	include tea. Preparation for Father's Day.			
7.30 p.m.	Oakville Concert	7,11,21		
Sunday 15 th June	: Trinity Sunday			
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day			
Wednesday 18th J	June: Bernard Mizeke, martyr, 1896.			
7.00 p.m.	Craft Evening	7		
Saturday 21st Jun	ne			
10.00 am	10.00am-4.00pm Craft Fair and St John's Traders' Event	7,11		
Sunday 22 nd June	e: First Sunday after Trinity			
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day			
Saturday 28th Jui	ne: Irenaeus, bishop, teacher of the faith c.200.			
7.00 pm	Pupils' concert at the Elgar School of Music. 50% of			
	proceeds to St John's Church.			
Sunday 29 nd June	e: Second Sunday after Trinity			
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day			



Good Friday was the first of our Saturday sessions, (okay it was on Friday!) The children all enjoyed a quiz, cake making and creating an Easter garden. Lots of fun was had, all helped along by the inspiring Peter Holzapfel and his Easter eggs. May's session is on the cover.

The third session will be on Saturday, 14th June, inspiration and activities will come from the fact it is Father's Day the next day! At the end of the session we share tea together, this is a time for us to chat and reflect on what we have been doing. The sessions are open to children from 3-14 years. We do hope to see you there. If you would like any further details please telephone 424811.

Jane Askew and the Junior Church Team

IN MEMO	ORIAM
Eva Stanton	1 June 1987
Stanley Frederick Smith	2 June 1983
Laura Ellen Mister	3 June 1964
Theresa Dedicott	3 June 2008
Harold James Smith	6 June 1974
Doris Allen	9 June 1995
Andrew David Brunyee	11 June 1995
Thomas Alec Brown	12 June 1981
Kenneth Edward Cole	12 June 1988
Sophie Perry "Auntie"	13 June 1995
Walter Edward Moss	16 June 1968
Joy Doreen Pincott (neé Rastall)	18 June 1968
Pete Gleadall	19 June 1996
Henry Frederick Charles Owen	24 June 1985
Arnold Colley	27 June 1991

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in April 2014.

BAPTISMS: We welcome you into the Lord's family

Bradley Short Lexie Short

Noah Alfie Roger Prosser

Thomas Matthew Ward

FUNERALS: Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord

d. 13th March 2014 Carolyne Feast

d. 26th March 2014 Sylvia Moore

d. 29th March 2014 Evelyn Hughes

d. 30th March 2014 Joyce Bullock

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR APRIL 2014 (4 Sundays):

Communicants 400. Total attendance at all services 895.

TEA AT TWO ON TUESDAY



First Tuesday of every month, from 2pm in the Blakefield Room, St John's Church. The next meeting is Tuesday 3rd June.

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

Sunday	3.00pm 'Tea and Talk'
8 th June	£6.00 to include traditional tea.
Saturday	7.30pm Oakville Concert
14 th June	£7.00 to include refreshments. Under 16's free.
Wednesday	Craft Evening 7.00pm
18 th June	£5.00 to include all materials and refreshments.
Saturday	10.00am - 4.00pm Craft Fair and St John's
21st June	Traders' Event
	FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE
Saturday	Summer Fair to include Children's Art Competition
12 th July	and Dog Show

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

OAKVILLE SINGERS CONCERT

Oakville Singers is a chamber choir whose members come from in and around Worcester. The choir has sung in Cathedrals and performed in concerts in the UK, Germany, France and Belgium. Please come along to hear them at St John's on Saturday 14th June. The concert, in which St Clement's School Choir is also taking part, includes music from the shows, traditional folk music and some sacred music; in short something for everyone. There will also be music provided by HEROS, an adult recorder group.

Catherine Templeton

I think that God's works are so beautiful that I am amazed that people can admire them but deny that they have a Maker.

Catherine Bramwell-Booth

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is held every Sunday during the 10.30 service. One Sunday a month there is a family service and the children are encouraged to be a part of it. They take on various roles from meeting and greeting, giving out the books, reading the scriptures and prayers or helping the clergy get the message of the sermon across. The remaining Sundays, the children gather in the Blakefield Room and carry out a variety of activities that help them understand the bible stories and various aspects of Church life. A drink and biscuit is always welcome! They return to the service for a blessing and may share their learning with the congregation at the end of the service.

Children from 2-14 attend and although this is a wide age range we feel that because we are a small group they work well together. New children, whether they live in Worcester or are visiting relatives, are always welcome.

We realise that Sunday sometimes is not always an easy time to come to Church, and with this in mind we are holding our activity sessions once a month, on a Saturday, for children. Topics and activities will cover a range of ideas, some linking in with presentations or involvement in the Family Service. These sessions will end with a shared tea. We do hope to see the children at one of the sessions in the near future. We always welcome new adult helpers, so do get in touch if you feel you would like to be part of the group.

Jane Askew

THANKS RECEIVED



Thank you for your support
with Care' Quench and for
all me cales you provided.
We've reached somany
people mis academic year
and we couldn't have obne
it without you!

Thanks again,

love from the University of Worcester Christian Union

THOUGHTS ON WILLIAM HENRY THOMAS

Let us now praise famous men.....

Like Phil [see last month's pastoral letter, Ed] I must admit to preferring a book to an electronic device, so it was with delight that I came across William Henry Thomas's booklet NOTES RESPECTING BELLRINGING &c, Easter 1898 during the recent work on the tower. When I showed it to my son, Alex, an avid campanologist, he said it was an interesting and important historical document and needed recording. Hence it is now available for all to read on our church website www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Considering my first sentence, it is somewhat ironic that I copied it on to a computer but it meant that I began to feel that I knew this man, who for so many years served as our Parish Clerk. He recorded the often mundane details, with the touching sentimentality and respect of his era, in meticulous copperplate handwriting. His notes were often witty and understated, "Messrs B. S. Hill, W. Page & a few more of the Cathedral Ringers met outside the Tower evidently with the intention of coming up into the Tower to ring (& judging by their appearance) to Boss the Show but they were disappointed as Mr G. Bradburn told them he could not allow them without the Vicar's permission." On rare occasions he enriched them with personal comments, "Xmas Day A.M. At 4.15 the Wife of W. H. Thomas gave birth to a Son. Unto us a Son was given, Unto us a Child was born."

Marion, his daughter, took over his rôle as Parish Clerk and is still remembered by some of our congregation. I wonder if you know where their photographs can be seen in the church?

William Henry Thomas was greatly appreciated and respected (see May's magazine) and along with him it would be good to also remember the thousands of people whose names and good deeds have been lost in time but who for centuries have formed the faithful flock of St John-in-Bedwardine.

Ruth Reeves

THANKS RECEIVED

Dear Chris and Team,

Just a brief note of thanks for providing the Good Friday Meditation and Sunday's Dawn Vigil. A special thanks to those who cooked the delightful breakfast after; most welcome on a rather 'brisk' morning. The Friday service was one of thought and contemplation. Its meaning was enhanced as I stepped from the church porch to hear the muffled bells tolling and advanced into the warmth of the brilliant sunshine outside. True light and warmth and an inspirational moment. An appropriate time to contemplate the Resurrection to come.

Thanks to all, Yours, Bill Amos.

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR



This month the theme of the magazine is youth and this got me thinking about children and young people's perception of singing and how it fits into their lives. There is no doubt that very young children react positively to music of all sorts, moving and 'singing' along from a very early age. With careful guidance and plenty of opportunities to join in, primary age children can sing to a very high standard. This was so apparent in St Clements church just before Easter when I had the privilege of attending a special singing event as children from the school outlined the Passion story in words and music under the guidance of our own Amy Rees. The commitment from each and every one and the obvious enjoyment they all got from their singing was a joy to see. Studies into children singing suggest that many skills are learnt when engaging in choral singing including increased concentration and the building of better social relationships.

How many youngsters then apparently give up when they reach teenage years? Self-consciousness comes into it of course but there are groups all over the country where young people carry on developing their singing. Nor is it just about pop music. Cathedral choirs and the National Youth choirs of the UK encourage singing of the highest standard but local groups such as Boys make Noise and the Wyre Forest Young Voices are also thriving and pushing young people to achieve and grow as singers.

Is any of this important? Of course I believe passionately in singing and its benefits. Beyond this though I come back to the feeling that inside each and every one of us is a voice that should be heard and developed. Singing is a way of raising a voice to God in praise, admiration and love and in a choir the collective energy that is generated can bring each of us, whether young or old or in between closer to the Divine as we sing our faith out loud.

Luise Horrocks

GARDEN PARTY

We will be holding a Garden Party at 115 Laugherne Road, on Saturday June 7th between 2.00 and 4.00. We will have Tea and Cakes, Raffle and Bring & Buy.

All are welcome. Proceeds for St. David's Church.

Raymond and Elizabeth Fowler

INSPIRATIONAL WORDS

Life isn't measured in time, it's measured in achievements.

Stephen Sutton, teenage cancer sufferer, RIP 14/5/14, aged 19.

ENTERTAINMENT AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH

June is set to be a busy month for the fund raising team, but there are many events that we are looking forward to.

Sunday June 8th 3.00pm Tea and Talk, is our Friends of St John's Church event. This is open to everyone to come along. We are excited that we are having a member of the Discover History team join us and talk to us about life in Worcester during World War I. Tickets cost £6.00 and include a traditional tea. Phone 424811, 749025 or 423257 to book your tickets.

Saturday 14th June 7.30pm Oakville Concert This is a concert put on by the popular 'Oakville Singers' joined by the St Clement's School Choir and 'Hero', the heart of England recorder orchestra. Tickets are £7.00 to include refreshments, under 16's are free. This looks to be an entertaining musical evening with a good range of musical talents on display, hope to see you there.

Saturday 21st June 10.00am- 4.00pm Craft Fair & St John's Traders Event: This sees the return and combination of two popular events. Our first craft fair proved very successful, with local crafters showing an amazing array of crafts. There were so many new innovative ideas on display, literally something for everyone. Don't miss this second opportunity to be inspired. Tables are available for hire at £10.00, telephone 424811 to book your place.

Last summer the St John's Traders had an event that covered a large area of St Johns with various activities and displays. This year they plan to do the same. We felt this was an excellent opportunity to merge the two events on the same day, a sort of 'buy one get one free'! Do come along; watch the adverts for more information as final decisions are being made as we go to press!

Sue Bale, Catherine Templeton, Jane Askew

WORCESTER DIOCESE APPROVES PATH TO WOMEN BISHOPS

On Wednesday 30th April, the Worcester Diocesan Synod overwhelmingly supported the proposals from the General Synod of the Church of England to enable women to become bishops.

The proposals need to be approved by the majority of Diocesan Synods (the governing body for each Diocese), before the legislation to allow women to become bishops can be debated finally at the General Synod meeting in July. In Worcester, the proposals were wholeheartedly approved, with just one vote against the motion.

Bishop John said: "Yesterday's vote was wonderful news.". He explained that there would still be provision for those who have conscientious theological objections to the ordained ministry of women.

REPORTS FROM THE 2013 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The above meeting was held in April. Last month we printed: The Vicar's review of the year, the Churchwardens' annual fabric report for 2013 (incorporating the Estates Manager's Report), and the Electoral Roll report. This month we print in full the report on Children's Church from Jane Askew and the Children's Church team, and then edited highlights from the remainder of the reports.

Children's Church was sad to have their leader, Victoria Reynolds, decide to step down. We would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years that she has organised the Pram Service and then taking on the lead role in Children's Church. Her commitment to the children is missed and we do hope that at a later date she will come back. We have also lost, hopefully temporarily, Pippa Davies. Pippa and Jon are expecting their second child in the summer, we wish them the very best. Emma Pound, ALM trained, is extremely busy fitting in this new role with her work and family and is cutting back on the amount of time she can commit to Children's Church. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work with the children and their friendship to the adult helpers.

We have managed to carry on and it has been an up and down year with the number of children who come to the services. As usual we had more children during the run up to Christmas and after having a fantastic friendly Christingle making session, 250 to be precise, the children did a presentation, in Church, about the meaning of the Christingle, which they also performed at the Christingle Service. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the preparation and performance.

We have invested in a new publication to help with planning. 'Roots for Children', is linked to the Lectionary. Regular planning meetings are arranged and the sessions are loosely planned. We have also decided to go back to looking at well-known bible stories and work around these.

We have decided to hold a session once a month on a Saturday. We are fortunate to be having some help from Peter Holzapfel and the sessions will run for about 3 hours with varying activities and ending with tea. We hope this may be a better time for some families. We will keep you posted on how it goes. The first one is on Good Friday, (not a Saturday I know!). Discussions have also taken place to see if we can involve the children in a service once a month, perhaps on the lines of the Family Services held in the past.

We rely on a very small band of helpers, all of whom feel that Children's Church is an important part of the life of St John's Church. We would love to have some more helpers. Please see one of the team if you are interested in helping in any way.

Finally, thank you to all of you who help in any way with Children's Church. We may be small but the children appreciate all you do.

Graham Evans, the PCC Secretary reviewed the work of the PCC:

The Vicar's review of the year (*printed last month*) covered the four questions around which the PCC focussed its work, the January review of progress, and the new priorities for this year.

The PCC works through a number of sub-committees: The Standing Committee (Finance and Operations), the Pastoral Team and, the Charity, the Accommodation and Fund Raising Committees. Committee Membership (except the Standing Committee) is not restricted to members of the PCC.

John English gave his treasurer's report:

Helped by a small but dedicated group who count, record and bank most of the regular sources of giving, the treasurer oversees the general financial dimension of the work of St John's Church by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and co-ordinating the annual review of Christian Stewardship by planned giving.

Compared with 2012 the income was up and contributed an overall 76% of the income needed to pay our Parish Share in full and meet part of the costs of running the church. In summary, ordinary unrestricted funds met 81% of the cost to provide the Christian ministry of St. John's, but our regular giving falls short of the recurrent costs by some 19%.

In 2014 we are being asked to meet a Parish Share of £53,305, an increase of 4.6%. The 2013 quinquennial inspection report indicates that the work needed on electrical equipment, lighting and buildings could amount to well over £20,000. Once again therefore we are faced with a significant challenge to pay our Parish Share, continue any necessary repair work on our ancient building and maintain support for the growing activities of the church including Mission and our children's groups.

Philip Evans gave a report on behalf of the Deanery Synod representatives:

Each meeting is divided into two sections. The first half is delivered by a visiting speaker on various subjects. For example we have heard from Rev'd Chris Worsley in her role as Kingdom People Development Officer and Rev'd Doug Chaplin in his role as Mission Development Officer.

During the second half of the meeting, the Synod conducts its business, including receiving reports and voting on Diocesan-wide and National matters. That included responding after the General Synod voted down the proposal for Women Bishops. The Deanery Synod voted strongly in favour of a motion: calling on the Diocesan General Synod Representatives to support the process leading to the appointment of Women Bishops.

From Graham Evans' report on the work of the Standing Committee:

(2014) The Standing Committee works to set the PCC agendas, to act for the PCC between PCC meetings, and to hold strategic financial and operational responsibilities. The overall financial strategy is to strengthen our financial position by £20,000 per annum over the five year period from 2012, mainly by seeking to increase our income, although we also keep a keen eye on our spending. Each meeting of the Standing Committee receives financial and fundraising reports, and covers other topics as required at the time

Philip Evans reported on Communications:

Over the past year there have been various opportunities to remind people about the church's presence in the community, through specific short-term projects, many in collaboration between St John's, St. Clement's and St David's. The projects included

- Communicating the new service times that started last June, through a letter-drop to every household in the parishes, press advertising, banners, posters and a leaflet sent out through primary schools.
- Looking through the eyes of a newcomer at what kind of welcome our building communicates to visitors (either during the week or to services) and coming up with specific recommendations.
- Purchasing banners to advertise popular or special services.
- Advertising our Christmas services through a letter-drop to every household in West Worcester (with help from other Westside Churches), press advertising, and posters and banners to ensure that as many people as possible would see the advertising more than once. This resulted in some of the best attended Christmas services for some years.

Our ongoing communications also continue, including the monthly Parish Magazine, weekly newsletter and the website.

Margaret Morris reported on the conclusions of the Charity Committee:

It was agreed that the money available should go to charities where we could make a real difference the following charities were the chosen recipients: Worcester Snoezelen, Worcester Wheels and Onside Advocacy. The remainder of the allotted money is in the 'Vicar's discretionary fund'

Sue Bale, Catherine Templeton, Jane Askew provided a report on the work of the Fund Raising Committee:

The Fund Raising Committee were set a target (as part of the five year plan) and thankfully we were able to raise in excess of the set figure.

We have arranged a variety of events which has provided entertainment and fellowship as well as income from outside the congregation. The textile bin has

produced a monthly income and we encourage everyone to remember this when having a spring clean in their homes.

We have organised several new ventures in this past year. In the next year we will continue to try new ways of raising money (including a concert with Elvis).

We have set up a Friends of St. Johns Scheme, membership of which we hope, will continue to grow as we encourage people to join and so help us maintain/preserve the Church building for generations to come.

We thank everyone who supports us. We welcome ideas for fund raising, or events you would like to see held or if you could offer some help in the future, please let us know.

Sylvia Render reported on the work of the Pastoral Care Team:

The team has continued to offer support to members of the congregation by phone or visits when ill or unable to attend church services. We contact families who have been bereaved offering telephone support and visits if requested. It is heartening that congregation members are now contacting the team when it is noticed people have not attended services for a time. Each month we visit the following care homes in the parish: The Firs, Teme Court and Regent.

Thursday at Two where recently bereaved people have been invited to have a cup of tea and home-made cake has been running for about a year now and numbers have remained quite small. It has been decided to change the date to the first Tuesday of each month and also revamp the poster inviting anyone to come for a cuppa and chat in the hope of getting more people to join.

Healing service continues to be well supported with an average congregation of 15. The service is now held around the font and is slightly less formal, prayers and laying on of hands continues to be offered on a one to one basis and different ways of praying are being experienced by those who attend.

Ann Sherratt reported on baptism follow-up:

I post out 1st Anniversary cards to all people baptised at St John in Bedwardine. Mostly these have been sent to babies and young children. This last year I have posted a total of 38 cards to those baptised in 2012.

From the report by John Sheehan, the Ringing Master:

This year has been an exceptional year for ringing at St. John's. The band continues to grow with people of all ages coming to us. St. John's enjoys a very large and diverse band of around 20 ringers ranging from five under 21's to several over the age of 40

As a band, we have a thriving social events calendar which is important to us. We feel that these socials are an important part of ringing so that ringing isn't just something you turn up to do on a Thursday evening and a Sunday morning.

The band has a really good connection and we all get on very well. We take as many opportunities to ring at different towers as we can to increase our ringers' confidence and make it more interesting.

As to the future, we hope to continue to expand the band even further. We are working actively to try and get more young people into bell ringing. We ensure that the tower is as welcoming and inviting as it can be to make bell ringing at St. John's a fun pastime. We are always encouraging our ringers to try something new and we hope that by continuing this, we can expand our repertoire and increase our ringing capabilities as the year progresses.

From the report by Peter Yates on the Music Group:

The Music Group's prime function has always been to provide a musical ministry of accessible hymnody to expand upon the liturgy for formal and informal occasions within the church and beyond. We continue to do this at the principal Sunday morning service about once a month, and for the refreshed pattern of Wholeness and Healing Services on the last Sunday of the month. Beyond St John's, we now provide music at the "Worship for Everyone" services at St Clements and we continue to play at St Thomas, Crown East once a month: Many months, the Music Group is in action on every Sunday.

The music group has a long tradition of co-operation with other churches on the Westside – notably through our ministry as "Mixed Blessings". We play a number of "Regular" once a year slots and continue to be involved in one off outreach and other occasions.

On the technical side the new sound system will have significant benefits (once all the teething issues have been resolved).

Overall, we continue to be very busy - and would hugely appreciate any new members to share the duties (and privilege, not to mention pleasure) of contributing to worship both in churches and elsewhere on the Westside.

From the report of John Brierley, the Organist & Choirmaster:

As Organist and Choirmaster, my main aim from the outset has been to build up the choir both in numbers and in the amount and range of music that they sing, to provide a growing lead and support to the congregational singing whilst offering more choral music in worship. We now have 18 members. We would like some more basses and altos but all voices are welcome.

The choir sings on most Sundays at the 10.30am Eucharist, twice a month at 5.00pm for Choral Evensong, and at major festivals during the Church's year. The choir is available for Weddings. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm for 90 minutes including a short break. We have a 10am warm-up practice on

Sunday mornings. Morale is high and we enjoy our rehearsals where we work hard but also have fun.

I choose hymns and other choral and organ music for the services. Taking the seasons, themes and readings of services as a starting point, I try to reflect these, where practicable, in the music. We continue to build and I am always delighted to hear from singers interested in joining the choir. I thank Chris Stuart, the choir and the people of St John-in-Bedwardine for their friendship and support.

Eileen Cantrill reported on the work of the Flower Arrangers:

Last year was difficult as flowers and all accessories were more expensive. However despite the cold weather we met each week and as the daffodils were coming through we took part in the first Wedding Fair at St. John's, which was most enjoyable and successful. We celebrated the Queen's official birthday in June with a special arrangement of roses. The Easter Garden and the Christmas Nativity Scene both look good in the North Aisle with room to 'tell' the story and make it beautiful with plants and flowers.

The Flower team meet every Friday, except during Advent and Lent, at about 9.30a.m. and are in church until about mid-day. We have the added pleasure of meeting the toddlers and their mums and many visitors; some strangers, and many old friends. All are invited to coffee and biscuits late morning. If you are interested in coming along to help you will be most welcome. We are most blessed to be able to decorate such a beautiful church to the Glory of God each week. We thank you all for your support and encouragement.

FROM THE MAGAZINE ARCHIVE (June 1949)

ST JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL FLOWER SERVICE

One of the most beautiful services at St. John's Church for many years has been the one dedicated to the children of our Sunday Schools. It has always been known as the "Children's Flower Service", and held each year on the last Sunday afternoon in June. To see the throng of happy little faces quietly walking up the aisle to the altar steps, each proudly carrying their own particular gift to God of flowers, fruit or jam, presented to Him through the hand of the Vicar is a joy remembered and treasured by many. How lovely then it will be to see once again at 3 p.m. on the afternoon of June 26th our new Vicar receiving and blessing the children's gifts.

People are saying St. John's Church is always full now-

People are saying St. John's Church is always full nowa-days! Do come along and join with the children and teachers in praise and thanksgiving to God for all His goodness to us. If you have a little boy or girl who would also like to bring their own little gift to God they are most welcome.

HEDLEY T. COOMBS.

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THE MAGAZINE

Articles on all aspects of Christian and parish life, letters, jokes, cartoons, puzzles and anecdotes from anyone are welcome for inclusion in the Magazine. Do contribute if you can. If you have a story to tell, please make contact; the more we learn about one another the better our understanding will be. What you think is important, but please add your name as anonymous contributions will not be considered.

Opinions expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of the authors concerned and may not represent the views of the editors, our PCC or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

Copy should reach us by Sunday 15th June for the July/August 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

The solution is on page 36.

	JUNE SUDOKU PUZZLE							
			7	8	6	3		
3	4				9			8
			2				7	1
	7				3	1		
9	5	2	4		8	6	3	7
		6	9				4	
4	6				1			
2			8				1	3
		3	5	4	2			

ST NICHOLAS

One person you might not expect to run into in a June parish magazine is Father Christmas. He's got another six months to recover from last Christmas and get ready for the next one. But St Nicholas, the man behind Santa Claus, is the patron saint of children, so he's here in this issue highlighting the 'younger ones'.

Nicholas dedicated his whole life to God's service, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. He was born in the third century on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering and dedicated himself to serving Christ.



As bishop, Saint Nicholas remembered his own past as an orphan and held a special place in his heart for orphans (and all young children). The best known story tells that there was a poor family with three daughters. They needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls



culture – I've always worn a hoody."

from a life of misery. The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings — in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas. When the father of the girls confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

Graham Evans (based upon various sources including Parish Pump)

ST MICHAEL'S LENT LUNCHES

Thank you to all who supported us this year. We raised £475 which will be given to Samaritans Purse International Relief for 'raising families out of poverty'.

Thanks to Margaret, Alison, Jenny and Val.

DISABLED CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S



On May 3rd St Johns hosted a service for The Disabled Christian Fellowship. Tables had been set up in the North aisle for afternoon tea, and looked so welcoming ready for our visitors.

Margaret our church warden welcomed the group, John Bevins chaired the service. June and Amy sang the hymn 'From Sinking Sands' inviting all to join in the chorus, Stewart Jelfs played the piano.

Martin Rutter from Woodgreen Evangelical church gave a thought provoking address and remarked on our Easter garden encouraging the group to take a closer look. Many remarked on the church building and were very interested in its history

Vera Denning was very excited at being in St Johns as she was baptised here in 1922.

Following the service tea, which had been lovingly prepared by the Pastoral Care group, was served to our visitors who remarked on how beautiful it all was.

Disabled Christian Fellowship organiser Pam Jelfs commented on how special the service had been particularly due to the support of the Pastoral Care team.

It is unanimous that we repeat this special service next year.

Sylvia Render



CONCERT



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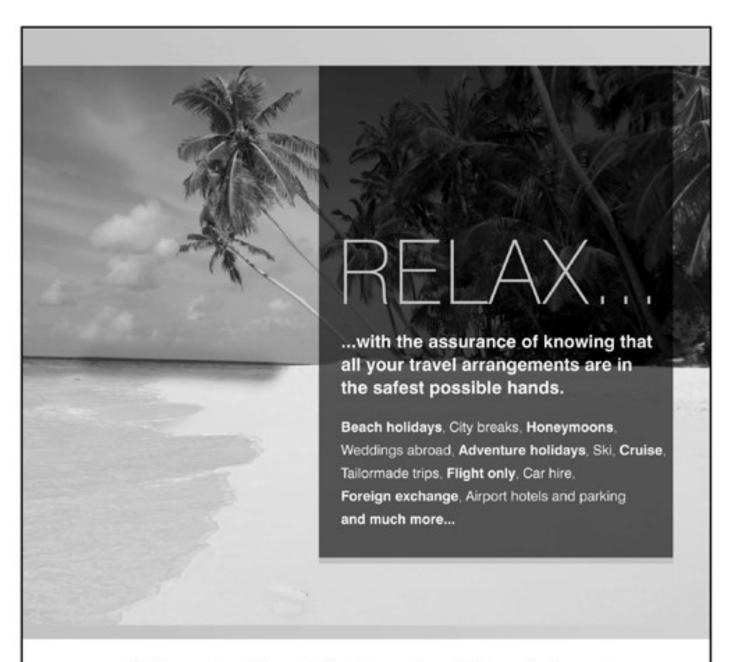
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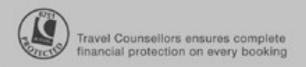


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6	8	9	2	3	4	5	7	1
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2	9	5	8	6	7	4	1	3
7	1	3	5	4	2	9	8	6

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St ALBAN

St Alban, whose special day is 22nd June, was the first English martyr, the first English person to be killed for the Christian faith.

He lived in Verulanium which was an important Roman settlement in Hertfordshire. At the time the Romans were persecuting followers of Jesus and Alban was brave enough to shelter a travelling Christian priest. Exchanging clothes with the priest so that he could escape, Alban was arrested.

When asked to prove his loyalty to Rome and the Emperor by making offerings to the Roman gods, Alban



declared his faith in 'the true and living God who created all things'. He was condemned to death and had his head cut off.

All this happened a long time ago but St Alban is remembered today in the name of the place where he lived and died: Verulanium was renamed the city of St Albans.

THE FIRST

All the answers to this Bible quiz are the first: either the first thing in a list or the first person to do or be something.

- The first man (Genesis, chapter 2).
- The city where Jesus' followers were first called Christians (Acts, chapter 11).
- The first bird Noah sent out of the ark (Genesis, chapter 8).
- The first woman (Genesis, chapter 3).
- The first person to see Jesus on the first Easter Sunday (John, chapter 20).
- What happened on the first day of creation (Genesis, chapter 1)
- Israel's first king (I Samuel, chapter 10)
- The first of the four Gospels (New Testament)

What is a forum? Two-um plus two-um!



Why didn't the two 4s feel like dinner?

Because they already 8.

Answers: 1.Adam 2..Corinth 3.Raven 4.Eve 5.Mary Magdalene 6.God made light and dark 7.Saul 8.Matthew

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

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OTHER WEST WORCESTER GROUP CLERGY

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

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SUNDAY SERVICES

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

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.



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, June 2014.

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's	
	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion			
1 st June	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone	5.15pm Taizé Worship	10.30am Holy Communion	
	5pm Evensong (BCP)	-	6.30pm Songs of Praise		
	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion			
8 th June	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	
	5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)				
15 th	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion			
June	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion	
	5pm Evensong (BCP)				
	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion			
22 nd June	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship	6.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion	
	5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)				
	9am Holy Communion (said)	9am Holy Communion (said)	Joint service 9am at St Clement's	10.30am Holy Communion	
29 th	10.30am: Ordination of our new Assistant Curate, Sarah Cottrill, at the Cathedral. All invited to attend.				
June 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing					

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.