

St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine

SEPTEMBER 2014

40p

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:

A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to breakdown, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to keep and a time to throw away;

A time to tear, and a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time for war, and a time for peace.

WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS

| | | |
|---|---|--------|
| Churchwardens | Gordon Templeton gordtemp@btinternet.com | 749025 |
| | Joy Job joyjob@dsl.pipex.com | 423051 |
| Verger | Catherine Templeton | 749025 |
| PCC Lay vice-chair | Sue Bale | 423257 |
| PCC Secretary | Graham Evans | 428667 |
| Treasurer | John English | 427822 |
| Stewardship envelopes | Irene Allen | 422684 |
| Estates Manager | Brian Askew brian.askew@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk | 424811 |
| Parish Administrator | Liz Edwards liz.edwards@westworcesterchurches.org.uk | 420490 |
| Education & Heritage Officer | Philip Evans edofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk | 428667 |
| Child Protection Officer | Jane Askew | 424811 |
| Pastoral Care Coordinator | Sylvia Render sylviarender@talktalk.net | 422654 |
| Press Officer | Philip Evans pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk | 428667 |
| Organist & Choirmaster | John Brierley | 358474 |
| Music Group | Peter Yates pjyates194@btinternet.com | 422565 |
| Ringing Master | John Sheehan | 422389 |
| Church Flowers | Eileen Cantrill Di White | 422579 |
| Magazine Editors | Sue & Graham Evans magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk | 428667 |
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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 the October edition is Sunday 14th September (See page 36).

COVER

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 – after the introductory verse, there are seven pairs of lines.

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

LETTER FROM PHIL BRADFORD

Learning the meaning of the names of the months at school was a bemusing experience. Why was it that September, October, November and December, the ninth to twelfth months of the year, had names marking them out as the seventh to tenth months? It was, I decided, just another case of adult foolishness, especially when my teacher tried to explain it. There had originally only been ten months in the Roman calendar (fifty-seven days between the end of December and the start of March existing in a vacuum, unassigned to a month, along with a complex system of leap days and months), and July and August were originally Quintilis and Sextilis (fifth and sixth months) before being renamed after Julius Caesar and Augustus. Logically, I reasoned, the year after August should run November, December, Undecember, Duodecember. It is perhaps a good thing that I have nothing to do with calendar reform. Who would want to celebrate Christmas in Duodecember?

That the names of our months are wrong is simply one of those quaint anachronisms which really don't matter. Doubtless efforts to abolish September and October in favour of Undecember and Duodecember would bring people out onto the streets in protest, like those legendary figures who demanded the return of eleven days after the British switch from Julian to Gregorian calendar in 1752 (sadly, such protests probably never happened). There would be absolutely no point in renaming the months, as the French Revolutionaries discovered when they created the metric calendar, one of the most fiendishly unusable dating systems ever devised. Like so many things, our months are an anachronism which does no harm and is ingrained fondly into our existence.

However, not all anachronisms and outdated systems are so harmless. In July, General Synod finally voted to approve women bishops in the Church of England. It happened only after a long, painful journey which made the Church of England appear misogynist and irrelevant. After the rejection of the measure in 2012, I was among those who argued forcefully that this was more than just an appearance, it was reality. This country has spent more than half of the past two centuries under queens regnant, one of the longest-serving and most formidable prime ministers of the twentieth century was a woman, and yet only in 2014 has the established Church brought itself to accept female leadership. I am young enough to have no memory of the Church of England without female clergy and I have always found the arguments against the ordination of women weak and prejudiced. That women could be priests and yet not bishops made a mockery of the theology of priesthood. This was more than some anachronistic relic of the past, it was an active and continuing injustice. The change was long overdue. I thought that I would find it a matter of joy when the legislation was finally passed. Instead, I found myself feeling strangely empty, reflecting on the desperately late act of a Church which has become more concerned with self-preservation and image than it is with justice.

‘If only the church could lead the battle against prejudice for once instead of always struggling along in the rear, and finding moral reasons for doing so. [...] The perception that the Church, for all its claims of love, reveals prejudice against vulnerable groups – women, gays, blacks – in its actions if not its public words, quickly unravels the most elaborate confections of spin.’ The late Monica Furlong wrote those words in 2000, and it is sobering to realise that nothing has changed. The anachronisms of the Church of England – its misogyny, its homophobia, its obsession with rules and status – are not quaint or harmless, but ridiculous and harmful. Rather than a God of love and forgiveness who reaches out to all, it all too often proclaims a very partial God whose primary concern is with appearances rather than justice and human flourishing, making his love conditional. As a Church, we need to reach out to those who are wounded, vulnerable and unloved, and assure them that God loves them and has a place for them, no matter who they are or what may be weighing them down. If we are unable to do that, but persist in upholding the outdated prejudices of bygone eras, then we will fade into the same obsolescence as the Roman calendar, and be as little mourned.

Phil

“I WAS HUNGRY, AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT”

As a result of funding cuts, Maggs Day Centre now has to close on Fridays and Saturdays. To cover the consequent lack of provision to rough sleepers, local churches have been asked to form a rota for providing sandwiches on a Saturday. I am very pleased to say that St Johns have agreed to be part of this rota and have been allocated the fourth Saturday of some months for the remainder of this year and into 2015. It involves making the sandwiches in the church kitchen on the Saturday morning and distributing them at Maggs between 12.30 and 1.00pm.

Sylvia and I are covering our August slot so by the time this is read we will be able to report back on how it went. Our next date is November 22nd and we will need at least two people to help on this day. If this is something you feel you would like to be involved with, please speak to me in church or contact me on any of the following:

426257/07854066145/salocot@gmail.com

Thank you, Sarah

THE GIVING KEYS

The Giving Keys is a scheme designed to raise money to support homeless people. Old keys are used to create necklaces, bracelets and key rings which are then sold, the proceeds going to organisations such as MAGGS. I am keen to operate a scheme here in Worcester and would be grateful for any donations of old keys. I would also love to hear from anyone with marketing experience who could give me help with this.

For more information or to become involved in this project, please contact me.

Wendy (07791 917249)

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our September edition. The name of this month is derived from the Latin word for seven (as Phil Bradford explains in his letter on page 3) so seven is our theme for this magazine. In the bible seven implies perfection or completeness and appears in the bible more than any other number. Even when it's not explicit, it can lie beneath the surface, as in the piece from Ecclesiastes on the cover (where, after the introductory verse, there are seven pairs of lines; twenty-eight (a multiple of seven) "times" in all).

We've had so much to pack in this month, that we've had to leave out a few things including the puzzle and the historical Christian figure, but they'll be back next month. We're not complaining; we like to have plenty of input from as many people as possible.

We pray that when you read the words on the cover, you will find in them comfort, inspiration and strength for you in your life.

Graham and Sue Evans

CORRECTION

In the July/August magazine a slip of the finger meant that Ron Cantrill's date of death was given as 15th June rather than 5th June. Our apologies for that mistake.

JOY JOB



Hello everyone. I am writing to introduce myself to you having taken over from Margaret as a very new Churchwarden. I was born and grew up in Lancashire. I moved to Worcester in 1974. I live with my husband Roger of 38 years in Lower Wick along with our year old Golden Retriever. Our son and daughter have long since fled the nest!

I am a retired practice nurse having worked in that role for 22 years. I enjoyed my job enormously, especially as the role developed and there was always something new to learn. I also enjoyed getting to know the different family members of the patients I was involved with. I did my nurse training at Worcester Royal Infirmary and also became a midwife for a short time. My hobbies include gardening, reading and listening to music - classical in particular. Needless to say our dog keeps me busy as he is very playful and enjoys taking me on walks!

We have occasionally attended St Johns over the years but more regularly in the past 3 to 4 years. I have enjoyed stewarding and have been privileged to be a server. I feel very honoured to be elected as Churchwarden and look forward to working with Chris, Phil, Sarah and Gordon and of course all of you!

Joy Job

DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

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

See
page

Tuesday 2nd September:

2.00 p.m. Tea at Two on Tuesday 6

Saturday 6th September:

9.00 a.m. Indoor Table Sale (9am to noon) 8

Sunday 7th September: 12th Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 13th September:

Ride and Stride 13

10.30 a.m. Bridge day (play starts at 11 a.m.) 8

3.00 p.m. Children's Activities 20

Sunday 14th September: 13th Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 17th September

7.00 p.m. Craft Evening 8

Sunday 21st September: 14th Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 27th September

7.00 p.m. Murder Mystery Evening 8,18

Sunday 28th September: 15th Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

TEA AT TWO ON TUESDAY

Are you bereaved or lonely? Come along and join us for a cuppa, cake and a chat.

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month (except August), from 2pm in the Blakefield Room, St John's Church. The next meetings are on Tuesday 2nd September and Tuesday 7th October.

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

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.**

IN MEMORIAM

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Mrs RI Dobbins | 1 September 1996 |
| George Herbert Mayall | 2 September 1970 |
| Charles William Warner | 3 September 1954 |
| Bessie Sage | 4 September 1995 |
| Alice Beatrice Ingham | 5 September 1999 |
| William Henry Lewis | 6 September 1963 |
| Gordon William Taster | 8 September 1963 |
| Beatrice Eva Jones | 11 September 1987 |
| Martha Ricketts | 13 September 1996 |
| Reg Brunyee | 16 September 2006 |
| Florence Smith | 17 September 1996 |
| Joan Pauline | 19 September 1996 |
| Elizabeth Goodsell | 21 September 2003 |
| Charles Trevor Edmunds | 24 September 1975 |
| Doreen Hall | 24 September 1987 |

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in June and July 2014.

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

| | |
|-------|--|
| June: | Ebony Jane Townsend Albert James Schofield Olivia Poppy Bartlett |
| July: | Annabelle Betty Webb Kayla Houghton |

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

| | |
|-------|---|
| June: | Dean Russell and Claire Willis Luke Ingram and Victoria Partridge |
| July: | Simon Whitehead and Victoria Williams Nathan Waller and Shelley Hodges |

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| d. 23 rd May 2014 | Roger Fulcher | d. 19th June 2014 | Mandy Kite |
| d. 5 th June 2014 | Ronald Cantrill | d. 26th June 2014 | Christine Hodges |
| d. 5 th June 2014 | Marjorie Pardoe | d. 2nd July 2014 | Kenneth Whyte |
| d. 9 th June 2014 | Sylvia Dovey | d. 3rd July 2014 | Frances Goodman |
| | | d. 10th July 2014 | Sylvia Oldnall |

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

Communicants 320. Total attendance at all services 1171.

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

Communicants 352. Total attendance at all services 1180.



Fund Raising Events at St John in Bedwardine Church



| | |
|---|---|
| Saturday 6 th September | 9.00am-noon, Table Sale. Tables £10.00. Tel 749025 to book a table. |
| Saturday 13 th September | Bridge Day 10.30am - 3.00pm. Play starts 11am. £10.00 to include lunch. Tel 749025 to book. Children's Activities 3.00 - 5.30pm. Various activities finishing with light tea. Tel 424811 for details. |
| Wednesday 17 th September | Craft Evening 7.00pm. £5.00 to include all materials and refreshments. Tel 424811 to book. |
| Saturday 27 th September | Murder Mystery Evening 7.00pm. £10.00 to include meal. Bring your own drinks. Telephone to book: 749025, 423257, 424811 or the Parish Office. |

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Wednesday 15 th October | Craft Evening |
| Saturday 1st November | Table Sale |
| Sunday 23 rd November | Tea and Talk |

FORTHCOMING EVENT

We are very lucky to have been able to book Rev'd Andy Kelso with his tribute to Elvis on 1st November. This is always a sell-out event so book early. Tickets are £10.00 to include supper, bring your own drinks. Watch the notice boards for details.

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

STOP PRESS: CANCELLATION OF THE WEDDING FAIR

The organisers have decided to cancel the Wedding Fair, which was scheduled to take place in St John's Church on Saturday 4th October. Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, it had not proved possible to sign-up a sufficient number or variety of stall-holders to make the event viable.

Our thanks and commiserations go to Catherine and Sandra who had worked so hard to try and pull this together.

Graham Evans

RESPONSE TO THE GIVING FOR LIFE APPEAL 2014

Dear Friends,

Our stewardship campaign has been a great success, and I'm deeply conscious of the generosity of all those who have responded. There are several things to give thanks for: Firstly, the fact that people very generously pledged to increase their giving by something like £3,600 per year. That money will be put to good use, enabling us to meet demands on our resources that would otherwise have been beyond us because of the deficit.

Secondly, the degree to which this 'push' has helped focus our minds on the role that giving plays in our own discipleship. Indeed, the emphasis in stewardship is not simply 'raising money for the church', but rather encouraging people to think regularly about how they use their financial gifts for the service of the Church.

Our stewardship campaign brought other benefits too. The responses that we've received have helped us plan a budget for this year. So, even if you didn't at this stage feel able to increase your giving, by replying and telling us that this was the case, you've helped us budget for the coming year. Running an annual stewardship campaign is not just about raising more money for the church – it's about helping us work out how to make the best use of the resources that we have.

The generosity and understanding that people have shown has been wonderful. Nonetheless, it's important both that we annually review (note: not necessarily increase, but simply review) our financial giving, and that we take time to reflect just as regularly on the gifts that we have and the way we use them in the service of God's Kingdom. The last year has seen real growth in our life together, and our generosity has helped fuel that growth.

*Yours in Christ
Christopher*

Likewise, the PCC would like to thank everyone who responded to this year's appeal.

John English (PCC Treasurer)

FORTHCOMING CONCERT AT ST JOHN'S

The Philomusica Chorus & Soloists will be performing at St John's on Saturday 25th October 2014 at 7.30pm.

The concert commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1 with works by Elgar, Dvorak, Ireland, Willcocks and Ivor Gurney. Admission £8, accompanied children under 16 free.

Tickets from tickets@philomusica.org.uk, Lyn Rimell 01905 820140 or on the door.

RON CANTRILL 1936 - 2014



This is the address which Chris gave at Ron's funeral. It is also a fitting obituary to appear in the magazine. The editors.

If I had a penny for every memory I've got of Ron – if I had a penny for every memory I've got of Ron that makes me smile – I'd be a rich man.

Ron, cycling along the Malvern Road, with his cycle helmet on (strap undone); cycling along the Malvern Road, steering the bicycle with one hand, and eating a Cornish pasty with the other.

Ron used to look after our hens when we went away; we had two coops, and some of the hens went in one coop, and some went in the other. The problem was they all looked alike to the untrained eye - but Ron hit on the perfect solution... And so, we arrived home from holiday to discover that all the hens that went in that particular coop had a Tippex stripe down the back of their heads...

Doing Evening Prayer during the week, down here in the Lady Chapel, with a lovely sense of peace, quiet and stillness – and then, bang, thump, scrape, scrape from the gallery at the back there, and Ron, ferreting about, looking for something. And, of course, he was just a little deaf (perhaps selectively deaf) – though he was too stubborn to admit it – so I don't think he realised just how loud he actually was...

And you never did quite know what he was up to, because in truth Ron was quite secretive. And perhaps that was partly nature, and perhaps it was partly nurture. He was born in Loughborough, one of two boys, but the family soon moved to Derby; it was quite a strict upbringing, and Ron used to tell a story about building a model steam train in his bedroom, and whenever he heard his father coming up the stairs – he knew every creak on the treads – he used to hide it, grab a book and pretend to read. Perhaps there's a little hint there of that stubbornness too, that determination.

There was always a sense of curiosity about Ron. As a boy during the war he went all round Derby, exploring the air raid defences, working out how they all fitted together, how they worked. He was a bright boy. I talked about the Tippex, but he was a very good problem solver – a bit left field, and I know there was perhaps a tendency to over-engineer his solutions – but he was clever, and gifted. Eileen was showing me the photos of when they did their loft conversion about 20 or 30 years ago – and there's Ron, tiles off the roof, hanging out of the gap, with a makeshift crane, hauling the new windows up into place, being watched (as Eileen said) by the cat and the tortoise.

It's no surprise that he went to the Derby Royal Grammar school, and afterwards to Rolls Royce to serve a five year apprenticeship in the gas turbine division in 1952: the perfect job for a man who was so thorough and so precise, with a gift for problem-solving.

At the end of his apprenticeship, he went on to do his National Service, from 1957-1959, seeing the world, before eventually coming back to Rolls Royce as a Development

Engineer, and then later English Electric at Rugby.

But the critical moment came in 1971, when he met Eileen; within a year or so they were married. So came the first house (in Sutton Coldfield) – and with it, the first extension...

The Seventies into the early Eighties weren't easy years for an engineer, and the prospect of redundancy was always in the air. If anybody could survive in those circumstances, it was Ron: he had a knack of making himself indispensable; but there were redundancies – and when he lost his job in 1979, it says a lot about Ron that he made it his full-time job to find a job, going out on his bicycle all over the area looking for work. Eventually, he found work at Heenan and Froude, here in Worcester – more tough times, commuting from Sutton Coldfield to Worcester during the week, and then back home at weekends, at least until they moved to Manor Road in 1983.

I talked about the threat of redundancy, and that brings me to the most famous Ron anecdote of all. Ron and Eileen were showing visitors around Worcester, and they'd reached the Shambles when Ron announced that he had to go. 'Go where?' asks Eileen; to Birmingham; 'Birmingham! What are you going to Birmingham for?' He had to take some people to Birmingham; 'how many?' – fifty-six... Ron had – without telling Eileen (remember, he was secretive) – trained as a coach driver, passed his test, and got a part-time job with Midland Red (and later, with Aston's).

It says a lot about Ron, that story. We laugh, but here is that secretive nature; and here is something deeper: his concern for his family; he wanted another string to his bow, so that if he was made redundant, he'd have a plan B.

And that tells you a lot about how important it was for Ron to be working, and how important it was for Ron to make sure his family were looked after. He was endlessly proud of his children, and of the grandchildren; and the affection shines out of them, even as they talk about those camping holidays where it rained, biblically, from beginning to that bitter end that Ron insisted on seeing out; trying to fry eggs in a hurricane.

And you know, one of the things that makes that story about the coach is Eileen: the way she tells it, yes, but more: you can picture the moment between them. Part of the joy of Ron was Eileen, and part of the joy of Eileen was Ron. In some ways, quite different, and yet perfect.

We smile today, we laugh; but, by God, we loved him; and we'll miss him, and this church will miss him. A kind, kind man, who would do anything for anyone – too much sometimes; all those trips he organised (each with its own file); all that he did for Cripplegate Park, for the Magdeburg link, for the Chernobyl children, for the orphans in Belarus – and for Eileen's parents, and his mother when they were sick, of course. And that's before we talk about all the concerts he organised, the fund-raising he did for St John's, the Drop in Carols – an endless list.

Always something new, another project: he loved a challenge. Finding a donkey to lead the Palm Sunday procession; one of the reasons for his loft conversion only thirty years

ago was so that he had somewhere to study for his degree in mathematics; he was in his late seventies when he became an Authorised Lay Minister, leading services here – so much went into preparing for those services; and people commented on how meaningful it was to receive communion from him. A holy man – and I don't think he even knew it, but then perhaps that's the point.

It is a rare talent to be as maddening as Ron could be sometimes, and yet so loved. There was something innocent, naïve, even child-like about him – charming; you couldn't help but like him. And he never really quite grew up – so it's fortunate that grandchildren came along, and gave him the excuse not to.

At 78, Ron would come ringing with us at St John's, and then come over to the pub afterwards; he'd drink three pints with us in The Bell, until we left around 11.30; then he'd go next door to the Chinese; around midnight, Eileen would wake up to find Ron, sitting up next to her in bed, eating a Chicken Chow Mein, or whatever. And isn't that just brilliant? He lived his life fully, richly, never missing an opportunity.

I don't know what we'll do without him. It's not easy today, is it, and it's hard to see the way ahead sometimes. But let me read you a passage from Ecclesiastes [*as printed on the cover of this magazine – Editors*]:

It's a beautiful reading – I think because it captures the sense that there is a pattern, a rhythm to life: for everything there is a season. And it's a comforting reading amidst the sense of shock that we feel today, because it also carries a sense that there is something behind that pattern, that rhythm – a guiding hand, sustaining all things.

I believe that a human life is one of the most powerful forces in the world – perhaps even the most powerful force. Nothing changes you like a human life, and the love that it shares – nothing. Cast a stone into a pond, and the ripples echo out across the water long after the stone has gone.

And isn't that why we're here? Because Ron still has the power to warm our hearts as we remember him, still has the power to make us smile.

Outside, in the churchyard, are the daffodils that Ron planted. In a small way, they are a metaphor for a human life: they will continue to warm the hearts of those who see them, year after year, long after Ron has gone. A gift, from Ron, for all to share.

You could be forgiven for thinking, in the midst of winter, that spring will never come. But life always wins. There is always hope – that's the message of the resurrection, the hope that we share. Though those daffodils have gone over now, they'll break through the wintry death once again, next year.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God

in Christ Jesus our Lord. In the cross we see how much God loves Ron; and in the resurrection we see hope – that God is stronger than death. Christianity is grounded in the belief that death does not have the last word. We believe that Ron has gone to glory. That is our faith as Christians.

But even if you don't share that faith, there is still a sense in which, for all of us, death is not going to have the last word today. We're here to give thanks for Ron; but we're also here to do something else: we're here to make sure that those ripples drifting out across the water of our own lives do not die; we are here to remember that good we saw in Ron, and to share that goodness with others.

I have an image of the Almighty returning home this evening, and as he arrives back he notices that one of the Pearly gates has been taken off its hinges; and standing there, spanner in hand, is Ron – Ron, full of plans for his project to redevelop the Pearly Gates. And the Almighty looks back at Ron, and he smiles; he smiles, and he says, 'welcome home Ron; welcome home.'

Chris Stuart

RIDE & STRIDE: SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

Ride & Stride is a sponsored walk or cycle ride between churches. You can visit as many and whichever churches you like. All monies are split between the Worcestershire & Dudley Historic Churches Trust (who gave £10,000 to the Tower Appeal) and the church of your choice.

We need volunteers to take part in the sponsored walk or cycle ride. I'd like to organise a group/s to go around together. If you might be interested, please speak to me for more information.

Philip Evans

NEW ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER ANNOUNCED

Just a few days after the former Archdeacon of Worcester became Bishop of Colchester at St. Paul's Cathedral, Bishop John announced that our new Archdeacon will be Robert Jones. Robert has been a priest in the Diocese of Worcester since he was ordained in 1980 and is currently Director of Development. Robert will be installed as the next Archdeacon of Worcester during Evensong at the Cathedral on Sunday 16th November at 4pm. [Editors: more about Robert in the next edition].

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Please look on the church website at www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk/publicityofficer to see the Publicity Officer job description. Even (perhaps especially) if you have not taken a formal role in the life of the church before, **please think if this might be you**. It can mostly be done by email and phone without being tied to a time or place. To discuss, please speak to me or email me at pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Philip Evans

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR



So September is upon us again and a new academic year begins. When the editors suggested that the theme for this month's magazine was the number 7, I did a bit of research and discovered that, for some people, the number 7 indicates a sense of change and positive renewal after an accomplished cycle. Very fitting for students returning to school ready for another year. The choir is getting ready too for another cycle of the Church's year with Harvest, Remembrance and then, dare I mention it, Christmas all on the horizon.

However, September is a quiet month in some ways and, taking the number 7 as a theme, set me to reflecting on the Virgin Mary. Why the Virgin Mary? Well it is believed that she was born in September and the number 7 is closely associated with her. We sing of her "joys seven" in the lovely Christmas anthem arranged by Stephen Cleobury and she has 7 sorrows to endure as well. For Catholics there are the 7 feasts of Mary and she is often represented in art by a coronet of 7 roses.

In honour of Mary the choir is singing a setting of the Ave Maria by Arcadelt on Sunday 21st. Arcadelt, an Italian composer, was born around 1507 and is primarily known for writing secular madrigals. He was a singer as well as a composer and this anthem is rich in closely moving harmony with lovely long melodic lines. The very first two phrases which are sung through and which set the words Ave Maria, Gratia Plena have 7 strong beats in total – surely a reference to the significance of the number 7 for the Virgin Mary.

Luise Horrocks

SARAH'S FURNITURE UPDATE

Many of you have taken a keen interest in the "Furniture Saga" – better than any soap! – and I am pleased to report that there may be an end in sight. Mum and I went shopping again and have been assured that the furniture we have now ordered WILL go up the stairs – the manager guarantees! We are hoping he is right and that by the end of October any gathering at 4 Willis Place will not be a bring your own (very small) chair affair. I have even located a bed which I think will go up the stairs so things are definitely improving. I will keep you updated as things progress, but in the meantime, thank you for your support and encouragement.

*Best wishes
Sarah*

NUMBER SEVEN JOKE

Why does Snow White always treat each of the Seven Dwarfs equally?
Because she's the fairest of them all.

PCC MEETING 23rd JULY 2014

The Vicar opened the meeting with a prayer. 15 members were present.

Elections: Sadly, there was a vacancy following the death of Ron Cantrill. The only nomination was Catherine Templeton so she was duly elected to the PCC. The Vicar proposed the addition of Sarah Cottrill to the Standing Committee. This was agreed.

Worship, Mission and new services: The Vicar thanked Philip Evans for his report on his research into attendance at Easter services. This was very useful, and clearly suggested that we should have a 'Songs of Praise' on the evening of Easter Day.

The PCC discussed a proposal to change our hymn books to Common Praise (a successor to A&M New Standard). Input had been received from the organist and the music group, who asked to keep a sufficient supply of the current books available for use as the occasion demands and will continue to supply hymn sheets as appropriate. Some members were concerned about the cost. We would take it from the Miss Cull legacy as something concrete from the legacy. The replacement was agreed in principle, with a final decision at the next PCC meeting, subject to inspection of the proposed replacement in the meantime.

The Pastoral Care Team reported that they have a good team who are working well.

The charity committee pointed out that they are making rolling donations, not all at the beginning of the year.

A Job Description for a Publicity Officer was noted. This is a volunteer (unpaid) post, mostly do-able by email and phone without being tied to a time or place. The aim is to attract someone new and take some load off the person who is currently doing much of this. We would like to find someone with real marketing experience. [See page 13]

Children and Schools: Jane Askew described the plans for children's involvement in worship for September and onwards. The Saturday Activities will resume in September. There will be a barbeque on 24th August (open to all). Sarah Cottrill is linking with the Friday Toddler Group.

West Side collaboration: The Vicar reported that he had been advised by the Diocesan Secretary that setting up a formal Group Council would be a prolonged process, as so many parties would have to agree it. He therefore proposed that we should go forward by forming a 'Group Council' sub-committee from each PCC.

Minutes were received from the last Deanery Synod (DS) meeting and a report from the DS budget meeting. It is not a good financial picture. It was agreed to place the DS minutes on our noticeboard.

Finance and Operations: The report from the Accommodation Committee (AC) was noted. The Asset Management Plan (AMP) shows an average annual expenditure of

£16,000 on the church building and our other properties. It was agreed that we should be putting aside this amount each year (less amounts actually spent) for the AMP.

The report from the Standing Committee (SC) included updates on the flat, 2014 finances, guidance from the SC on the proposal to repay Parish Share debt and fundraising. Joy Job agreed to follow up on an idea to raise money by collecting old mobile phones and other items of value.

The PCC approved a proposal to upgrade coffee making facilities for Church and Church Groups at modest cost. Most people involved in Tea and Coffee making have been asked and are content with this. It was asked what could be done for tea drinkers.

Sue Bale reported on the Summer Fair: The outturn (£1,000) was disappointing. They needed more people to help; she thought that those who were there enjoyed the event. The coffee morning and jumble/book sale the following week raised £60. The Vicar expressed thanks to all involved and noted the point about the shortage of volunteers.

The PCC discussed a proposal that high profile and significant fundraising events (specifically the church fairs) be run by an event-specific team. This would help address the shortage of volunteers, as people could sign up for one event and free up the Fund Raising Committee (FRC) to be creative and try new things. It was said that people could already sign up to help at just one event, but it was pointed out that some people would like to help other than on the day of the event. It was agreed to trial this proposal for the 2014 Drop-in Carol Service and the Summer Fair 2015.

The Treasurer, John English, presented a financial update on 2014 so far. We are still, overall, close to our budget.

The PCC had a lively debate on a proposal that repayments should be made towards the Parish Share that we have not paid in previous years (our Parish Share Debt), using 50% of our surplus at the end of each year. The Standing Committee had discussed this and given cautious support for the principle of making repayments. Those in favour of the proposal felt that we had not made our payments when we had difficulties in the past and now we were able, we should start to repay the debt. Those against said that we have been badly served by the Diocese over the whole state of West Worcester; that we have not mentioned this debt repayment in our stewardship campaigns; and that the Diocese has raised Parish Share above the cost of living – what are they doing to make savings and balance their books? Several agreed with the principle but not the timing. The proposal was amended to cover simply the principle that the debt should be repaid at some point in the future (and this not meaning “forever in the future”), but that we should first ask our clergy to write to the Diocese and ask what are they doing to make savings and balance their books. The proposal was agreed (For: 11, Against: 4, Abstained: 1).

The Vicar reported that St Clements had proposed a joint harvest supper. The PCC were supportive but it would mean that the format intended for the St Johns harvest supper would no longer be practicable. Sue Bale will liaise with St Clements.

The Vicar read a letter from the Maggs Day Centre about the provision of sandwiches for rough sleepers on Saturdays when Maggs was closed (due to lack of funding). Churches were doing this on a rota (it would fall to us about once every three months). It was felt that we should take part. Sarah Cottrill agreed to own this.

Strategy item: Having worked through the first part of the agenda on a hot evening, the PCC took a brief break before moving onto the Strategy part of the PCC meeting; to take stock of our present position and think about how we should be moving forward.

The Vicar feels that maybe we have lost our momentum. Attendance figures have declined a little. How can we recover our momentum, in practical terms, move forward? He presented some key points from a Church of England report “From Anecdote to Evidence” [www.churchgrowthresearch.org.uk - look for The Summary Report].

The following are common factors (not necessarily causes) found in declining churches:

- *Most significant:* Lack of effective leadership; Few or no children/young people; Amalgamation
- *Significant but less so:* Burdensome buildings; Resistance to change
- *Not significant:* Churchmanship; Gender/Sexual orientation/family (or not) of minister.

The Vicar quoted a list of items from the report which could support growth. He said that he feels worship is very important. There should be passion and we should love what we do. He was seeking to buff up our worship with changes such as printing the introduction to the readings in the pew sheet, and removing the announcement of hymns. Members were very positive on the inclusion of the introduction to the readings in the pew sheet.

The Vicar asked the meeting to form into small groups and discuss their response to what he had presented, and any thoughts on things such as the area inside the main door, the use of the North Aisle and how we might use the legacy from Miss Cull.

Some points from the feedback from the groups:

- The gallery needs to be sorted out as it looks messy when seen from the church and when used as seating at large services.
- The Blakefield Room is unwelcoming and using the North Aisle for tea after services is much better. It's much easier to mingle.
- If we get more numbers it must be because people stay, not churn. We don't know why people leave or stay.
- Welcome is very important. We should offer people mentors and be proactive to help people and get them to join groups (but not too quickly!).

- We must help newcomers to Christianity. The invitation to bring a book if you want a blessing at the communion rail should be resumed. Should we steward the communion to help people who are new?
- Remove pews inside the main door to open up this area and make it more welcoming.
- The children's area makes a poor impression if it is not respected. We should invest in proper storage.
- Schools need to be more involved in the life and worship of the church.
- We must not do too much – what we do we must do well.
- There was concern about loss of identity in merging. Churches can work together but we should still have our individual identities as churches.

The Vicar summarised. He would like to form a Mission Committee to take some of these ideas forward: He asked members to let him know if they would like to join this.

The meeting closed with all saying 'The Grace'.

Graham Evans, PCC Secretary

THANK YOU

I would like to convey my thanks to all for the 'Best Wishes' and 'Get Well' messages I have received. I am progressing with the chemotherapy treatment with hardly any side-effects; I look forward to resuming to normal living!

Kind regards, Arthur Burgess

FUND RAISING ENTERTAINMENT AT ST JOHN'S

After a quiet couple of months, the next 3 months see some exciting events happening. September starts with one of our popular Table Sales. Now is the time to sell all your unwanted items, so why not book a table for only £10.00. If you have nothing to sell come along and grab your own bargains.

Saturday 27th September 7.00pm and there is murder in the air. Set around the World War II period why not join us for a Murder Mystery Evening? Tickets cost £10.00 and include a meal. Bring your own drinks. You will need to book your places: Phone 749025, 423257, 424811 or the Parish Office.

Saturday 1st November 7.00pm brings Elvis into St John's. Rev. Andy Kelso is booked to bring his tribute to Elvis Presley. These shows are always a fantastic evening and very popular, so make sure you book your place early. Tickets are £10.00 and include supper. We will also be holding our Grand Charity Draw, with some special prizes and in aid of St Richard's Hospice and St John's Church. To book phone the numbers above.

Well, these are two evenings not to be missed. Lots of other events are arranged, so keep your eyes on the noticeboards.

Fund Raising Team

MAGGS DAY CENTRE HARVEST APPEAL 2014

Maggs Day Centre is an open access day centre in Worcester which provides practical and emotional support services to anyone who is homeless, vulnerable or socially isolated. We help up to 100 service users each week by providing food, washing facilities, advice and support services. Our service users often experience difficulties around accommodation, relationship breakdown, health, benefits and addiction.

We have no income of our own and are wholly dependent on charitable funding, together with gifts from the public. The centre is currently open 5 days per week due to funding difficulties and we are eager to re-open 6 days as soon as it is financially viable to do so.

If you are able to assist with donations on our shopping list, shown below, we will be able to continue to offer free hot breakfasts to the city's rough sleepers and an affordable lunch to all our service users. Harvest donations from Church and School groups enable us to continue to operate a food budget of just £100 a week. If you can help then please get in touch with staff at the centre to organise taking delivery of the donated food.

*Many thanks
Maggs Day Centre*



Tinned meats, baked beans, tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, rice pudding, basic toiletries, flour, rice, pasta sauces, curry sauces, tea bags, coffee, sugar, custard powder, angel delight, biscuits.

For more information please visit www.maggsdaycentre.co.uk or call 01905 25027

NEW FUNDRAISING PROJECT FOR ST JOHNS CHURCH

Do you have any old gadgets such as cameras, mobile phones, laptops, or games consoles lurking in your cupboards? Also have you any of the following items: unwanted or damaged items of jewellery or any old UK or foreign currency. If so then please bring them to church and put them in the special collection box provided.

This will then be sent off and turned into cash for our church. All items will be recycled and put to good use and this will help protect the environment. Please be reassured that all data will be wiped from all portable devices in line with data protection.

Please ask all your family friends and colleagues to participate in this recycling collection. If you have any questions then please speak to me at church or telephone W.423051. Thank you!

Joy Job

ANOTHER NUMBER SEVEN JOKE

Why does Nine worry when you count up to six?
Because after six, what follows is seven ate nine.



ST JOHN'S CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During the 10.30am Sunday church service, there is a children's group that gather to learn about Christianity in a fun, relaxed environment. We re-join the congregation for communion and blessing. At the end of the service the children are delighted to show and tell the congregation what they have learnt. The second Sunday each month, or a different date if there is a special event, there will be a Family Service where the children take an active part in the proceedings, giving them a greater knowledge and understanding.

As well as the Sunday services we have a Saturday session once a month. This starts at 3.00pm until 5.30pm. Various ideas will be discussed and we will finish with a light tea. The next three dates are Saturday 13th September 3.00-5.30pm; 11th October changes to the morning 10.00am-12.30pm, with a Harvest Theme; and Saturday 8th November is back to the afternoon.

We do hope we see you at one of these group meetings. Contact one of the children's church helpers for more details.

Jane Askew and the Junior Church Team



WANTED

We are looking for someone to be the Christian Aid contact for St John's church. This will free up our existing contact, Sally Mills, to give more time to Christian Aid work across the whole of the Westside. We need someone who can get St John's church involved: Keep us up to date with Christian Aid news and events and help co-ordinate Christian Aid Week May 2015 together with others from Westside



churches. In Christian Aid Week this year members of St John's church, gave, collected door-to-door and outside Sainsbury's, made cakes and even took part in a video designed to inspire young people.

If you want to find out more visit the website www.christianaid.org.uk,



contact Sally on sally.mills@talktalk.net or come to the Charities Working Together presentation evening 7 pm Tuesday 9th September at St Mary's Church, Kempsey.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES



June 29th 2014 is, I am sure, a date that will remain in my memory as the happiest and most significant day of my life! It was, of course, the day on which I was ordained and so the day that really did change my life.

The Ordination Service itself was amazing and the fact that, as I've discovered since, so many of you were there to support me, even though we didn't then know each other, means a great deal to me. Having got to know the people of St Johns and St Clements in the months since then, it does not surprise me. You have all been fantastic in the warmth of your welcome and the generosity of your support and help as I've tried to learn names and get used to the differences between your ways of doing things and the ways with which I've grown up.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. As a result, I already feel very much at home here and "the other side of the river" seems to belong to a completely different life.

*Best wishes
Sarah*

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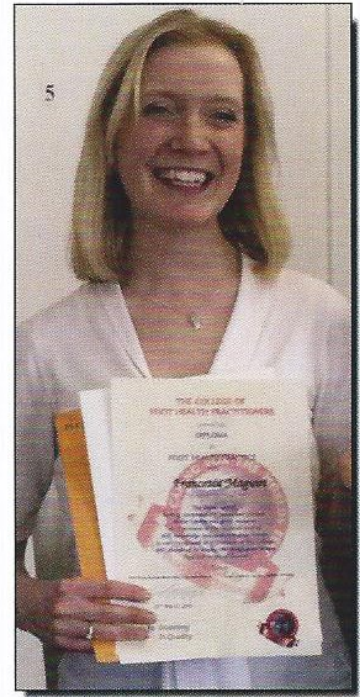
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THE MAGAZINE

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 14th September for the October 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

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HILDEGARD of BINGEN

Hildegard was born in Germany in 1098 and at a very early age she dedicated her life to God by becoming a nun. She lived to be 80, a great age for that time and is best known today for her songs and poems. It seems quite amazing that an elderly nun who lived nearly a thousand years ago could write words that are on a CD that you can buy today – not quite Top of the Pops but in all the bigger record shops!



Hildegard wrote that she wanted to be 'a feather on the breath of God', to move as He wanted rather than as she wanted. When we say the Lord's Prayer we say 'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done' we follow Hildegard in asking to be shown what to do, which way to go. Not like a feather blown about by the wind, but one blown on the breath of God.

BIRD WORDS

Can you find all these words about birds and feathers? The words go up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally and some letters are used more than once.

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- * blackbird * canary * cockatoo *
- * dove * feather * heron * jay *
- * owl * parrot * peacock * plume
- ** quill * raven * robin * skylark *
- * tern * wren *



My cat took first prize in the local bird show.

How could your cat get a prize in a bird show?

He ate the prize canary.



What bird is always out of breath?

A puffin.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--|
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| Associate Vicar | Rev'd Dr Phillip Bradford | 01905 423794 e-mail: phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk |
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| Rural Dean | Rev'd David Sherwin | 01886 888664 e-mail: Davidwin56@aol.com |
| Ministers, St Clement's with St David's | As St. John's (above) | |
| Vicar of St Michael, Dines Green with Crown East & Rushwick | Rev'd Robin Charles | 01905 749995 e-mail: fr.robin@talktalk.net |

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------|---|
| 8.00 a.m. | Every week | Holy Communion (BCP) |
| 10.30 a.m. | Every week | Parish Eucharist with Children's Church |
| 5.00 p.m. | 1st & 3rd Sundays in Month | Evensong (BCP) |
| | Last Sunday in Month | Service of Wholeness and Healing |
| | 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
St John's, WR2 5BS
Tel: (01905) 420490

From the church car park, walk up the Bromyard Road side of the church to the green door.
Answerphone outside office hours.

e-mail: office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

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

Monday: 10.30am to noon. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am to noon.

For booking baptisms and weddings: Please visit or telephone the office during the normal opening hours on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Also open specifically for these bookings on the first Thursday of each month from 6.30pm 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, September 2014

| | St. John's | St. Clement's | St. David's | St Michael's |
|---|---|---|------------------------|--|
| 7th September | 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP) | 9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone | 6.30pm Evensong | 10.30am Holy Communion |
| 14th September | 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's participation 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP) | 9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone | 11.15am Holy Communion | 10.30am Holy Communion |
| 21st September | 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 |
| 28th September | 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 | Licensing service for new church (by invitation only as space is very limited) |
| 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. | | | | |