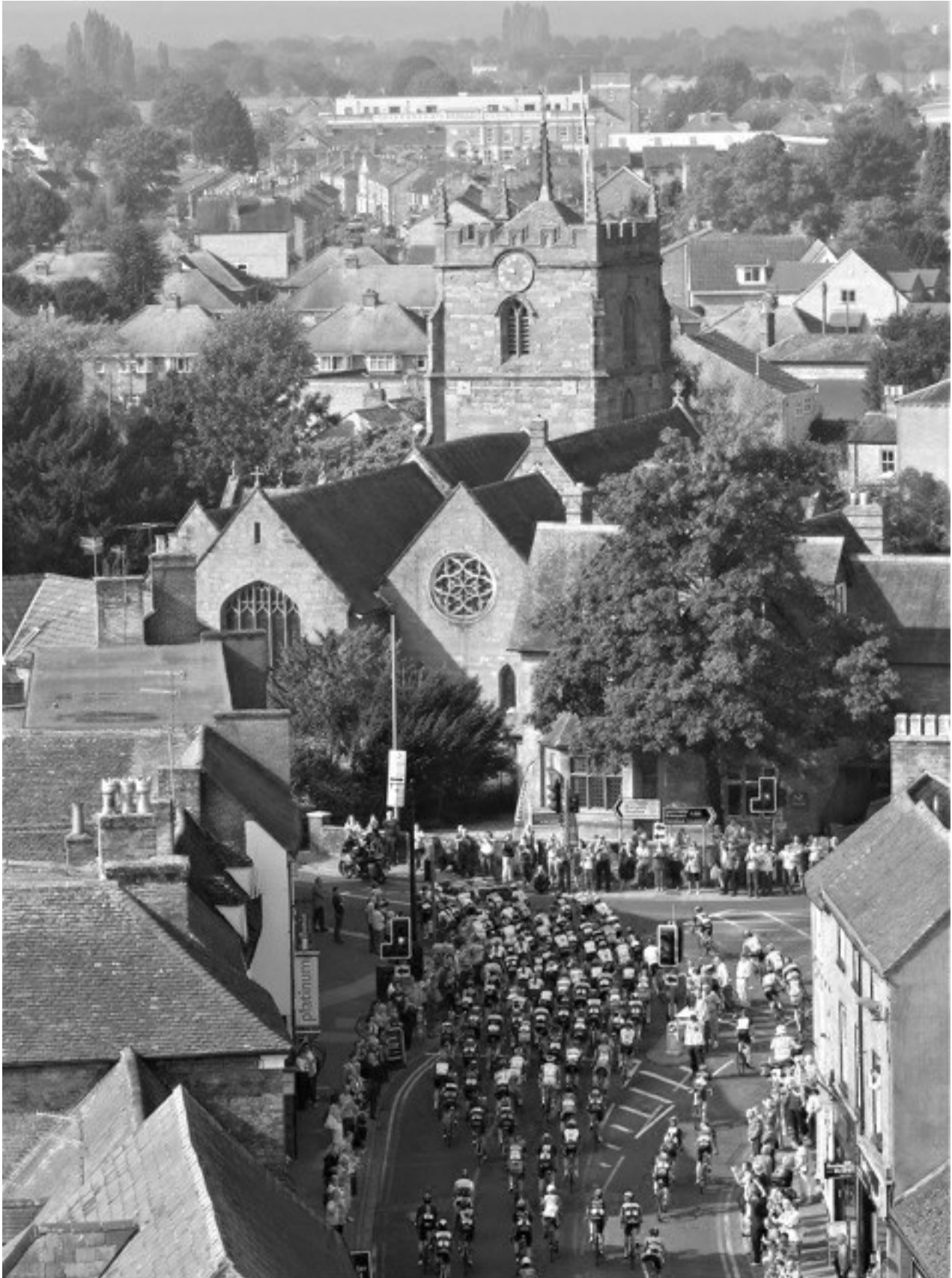




*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

OCTOBER 2014

40p



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
Magazine Distributor & Treasurer	Philip Evans pjevans@physics.org	428667

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 November edition is Sunday 12th October (See page 4).

COVER

The Tour of Britain cycle race passes through St Johns, 10th September 2014.
Picture, Gordon Templeton.

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

**LETTER FROM THE
(soon to be)
ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER**



Nearly venerable?

There are many, shall we say, eccentricities about the Church of England, and not a few surprises, not least that archdeacons are known in their title as Venerable. Why venerability is seen to apply to archdeacons alone, I do not know. As my dad said when I told him this about my new appointment, ‘I don’t think I can take that seriously.’ And I agree with him; ‘hardly venerable’ seems nearer the truth. But maybe that’s a good thing: taking ourselves too seriously is always dangerous!

It has been a humorous conversation point, along with the comments about drains and gutters. Archdeacons are closely involved in the care of church buildings, which might seem tedious to some. Certainly it involves business and planning meetings. But it is a practical care, alongside the pastoral care of clergy and lay people in the parishes. I take it to mean that I will be more intimately involved in encouraging local Christian presence, in both people and buildings, and I’m looking forward to that.

This new ministry begins for me on Sunday 16th November with a service in the cathedral at 4pm. Please pray for me, and come if you can! I have been overwhelmed by messages of support and good wishes since the announcement. Hearing from people in parishes where I’ve worked, I have realised something else: When you move on from one post to another in the Church you think that you leave much behind, but in fact you take much with you. In these past few weeks I have had a sense of gathering up so many experiences and relationships, of belonging to the extended family of the diocese.

There’s been much made of the ‘Ice Bucket’ challenge in the media recently. I’m thinking my ice bucket challenge begins on 17th November. But there’s also a ‘thankfulness’ challenge doing the rounds of Facebook, where you have to list three things you’re thankful for each day. So I thank God for

- the community of the Church in this diocese, expressed in all your kind greetings;
- the committed presence and engagement of Christians locally in the parishes;
- and the gift of humour, taking God seriously enough, but not ourselves!

Robert Jones

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our October edition. The name of this month is derived from the Latin word for eight and eight is considered an auspicious number in Chinese and other Asian cultures. That seems an appropriate thing to reflect on in this month when we celebrate harvest, but also consider the suffering places in the world where we can only wish and pray for their future prosperity. You will see there are plenty of events this month, including some related to harvest – and there's information about how we can respond to our relative good fortune by giving to others or reflecting and praying about some of the suffering places in our world.

Following the eight theme, we thought of "Eight maids a milking" which suggested our historic Christian figure, St Brigid of Kildare, the patron saint of milk-maids

There's also a bit of a cycling theme in the magazine. The front cover shows the Tour of Britain cycle race as it passed through St Johns. We've got a report from last month's ride and stride event. And the PCC invites members of the St John's congregation to get on their bikes (or into their cars) to... - look at page 21 to see why!

Of course, harvest teaches us that to reap we have to invest some effort too. On pages 11 and 14 are descriptions of roles where St John's needs people who can help spread the word about two aspects of what we do. Is this how you can get involved?

We pray that you will find "shuāng xǐ" (see page 10) in this harvest season and know God's goodness.

Graham and Sue Evans

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 12th October for the November 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

DATES FOR OCTOBER 2014

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

See
page

Saturday 4th October: St Francis of Assisi, deacon, 1226

Wedding Fair - cancelled

Sunday 5th October: 12th Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day.

Saturday 11th October: Ethelburga, abbess, 675

10.00 a.m. Children's Activities

7,10

7.00 p.m. Harvest Meal

7

Sunday 12th October: 13th Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 15th October

7.00 p.m. Craft Evening

7

Saturday 18th October: Luke the evangelist

8.30 a.m. Mission Breakfast

8

Sunday 19th October: 14th Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 25th October

7.30 p.m. Philomusica Concert

7,19

Sunday 26th October: 15th Sunday after Trinity

2.00 a.m. Clocks go back one hour

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 1st November:

9.00 a.m. Table Sale

7

Concert: tribute to Elvis

7,16

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The St John's Summer event will be on Saturday 11th July 2015. Please keep the date!

TEA AT TWO ON TUESDAY

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 7th October and Tuesday 4th November.

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

IN MEMORIAM

John Bertram Smith	1 October 1990
Jack Render MBE	2 October 1991
Percival Charles Pearson	6 October 1970
June Edith Clayton	6 October 2011
Albert J Cake	8 October 1993
Juliana Maud Godwin	12 October 2010
Neil Kenneth Pritchett	13 October 2003
George Edward Griffiths	28 October 1976
Marjorie Fisher	29 October 2003
Florence Annie Constance Bosworth	30 October 1999

FROM THE REGISTERS

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

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

Erin-Grace Russell
Lawson Aulton King-Smith
Finlee John James Gorman
Rylee Wallis Marshall Gorman
Romee Ida-Rose Gorman

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

Adam Pincher and Eleanor Woodward
Lee Sheridan and Francesca Grimmett

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 25th July 2014 Mary Weaver
d. 27th July 2014 Mary Gordon
d. 12th August 2014 Dennis Hewitt

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR AUGUST 2014 (5 Sundays):
Communicants 386. Total attendance at all services 998.

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.**



Fellowship and Fund Raising Events
at St John in Bedwardine Church



Saturday
11th October Children's Activities 10.00am -12.30pm
Various activities finishing with light refreshments.
Tel 424811 for details.

Saturday
11th October Harvest Meal 7.00pm
Tel 424811 & 423257 for more details.

Wednesday
15th October Craft Evening 7.00pm. £5.00 to include all materials
and refreshments. Tel 424811 to book.

Saturday
18th October 8.30am - 10.30am Parish Breakfast

Saturday
25th October 7.30pm Philomusica Concert

Saturday
1st November 9.00am-noon, Table Sale.
Tables £10.00. Tel 749025 to book a table.

Saturday
1st November 7.00pm Rev'd Andy Kelso's tribute to Elvis.
Tickets £10.00 to include supper. Booking essential
as a sell out event. Tel 749025 to book.

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday 8th November Bridge Day

Saturday 15th November Craft Fair

Sunday 23rd November Tea and Talk

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

WOODBINE WILLY – POET AND PADRE

On Saturday 25th October, 7.30pm, at St Paul's Church, St Paul's Street, Worcester WR1 2BH, the Spotlight Theatre Company presents "Woodbine Willy – Poet & Padre". Tickets are £10 (under 18's £5). For further details and tickets, call 22022 or email info@stpaulschurch.co.uk.

This is a brand new play about Studdert-Kennedy, featuring poetry and music. It had its premiere at this year's Edinburgh Festival and now begins its national tour at Studdert-Kennedy's own church.

MISSION BREAKFAST

On Saturday 18th October 2014 we are holding a Parish Breakfast from 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. at St John's Church.



This is a free event for everyone to come and bring their friends or to make new ones as we share a meal together.

Jenny English

HARVEST THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFTS GOD GIVES US

Whether we live in a rural parish, with the harvest being gathered in all around us, or in the city or suburbs, for all of us it can be a time to reflect on the food we receive as gifts of God. This year, Church Urban Fund is reflecting on the biblical command to share the gleanings of the harvest with the poor.

Church Urban Fund helps support some of the poorest people in our country who feel isolated and excluded from society. To help reflect on how all of us can share with those in need, please visit <http://www.cuf.org.uk/harvest>.

“EIGHT” QUOTATION

For disappearing acts, it's hard to beat what happens to the eight hours supposedly left after eight of sleep and eight of work.

Doug Lawson

2014 SHOEBOX APPEAL



Since 1990, Operation Christmas Child – an initiative of the Christian relief and development agency Samaritan’s Purse – has been blessing underprivileged children around the world with gift-filled shoeboxes wrapped and packed by children and adults in the UK. It’s a campaign that thousands of schools, churches and other organisations from

across the UK get involved with between September and November each year. In fact, it is now the UK’s largest children’s Christmas appeal.

The idea is simple. Children and adults wrap and pack shoeboxes with a range of gifts and take them to a convenient ‘drop-off point’. We collect these gift-filled shoeboxes and, after processing for export purposes, we send them overseas where local churches distribute them to children, on the basis of need alone. Each shoebox is an unconditional gift, given to a child with nothing asked for, or expected in return; no pledges, no obligation to go to church or attend classes; ‘no strings attached’.

These shoebox gifts are an expression of God’s love to us, and the gift of His Son Jesus at Christmas. They give local churches the opportunity to show God’s love to children in a tangible way and, during the distribution event, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, perhaps through age-appropriate music, dance and puppet shows, or through a little book of Bible stories *The Greatest Gift*, distributed with the shoebox, not inside it.

This year we will be again supporting this very worthwhile cause. The idea is that you fill a shoebox with items suitable for a boy or girl age 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. There are items that should not be included, to check look on the website www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk , pick up a leaflet from church or phone 424811 for more details. Each box requires a donation of £3 to help with transport costs.

If you feel unable to fill a box but would like to help, Children’s Church will be packing boxes so you can send in any suitable items. Boxes need to be sent into church before the 10th November, if you need them collecting phone 424811.

Thank you, on behalf of all of the children you make a difference to.

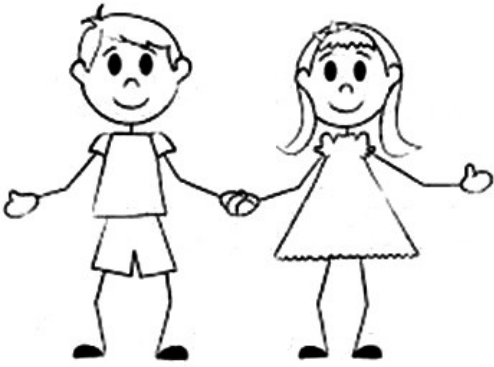
Jane Askew

“EIGHT” QUOTATION

Perseverance: Fall seven times and stand up eight.

Japanese Proverb

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS



Saturday 13th September's activity session had 25 children arrive along with their parents. It was a very busy but enjoyable afternoon.

Our next session will be **Saturday 11th October** but a change of time to the morning, **10am-12.30pm**. The theme will be Harvest as the Family Service on the 12th will be the

Harvest Festival. Do come along, the sessions are open to all children age 3-14years.

Children's Church takes place every Sunday during the 10.30 service. Do come and join us. If you feel you would like to help us, we would welcome adult helpers. Telephone 424811 for more details.

Children's Church

LUCKY 8

In Chinese, the word for "eight" sounds similar to the word which means "prosper" or "wealth" In regional dialects the words for "eight" and "fortune" are also similar.

There is also a visual resemblance between two digits, "88", and 囍, the "shuāng xǐ" ("double joy"), a popular decorative design composed of two stylized characters 喜 ("xǐ" meaning "joy" or "happiness").

The number 8 is viewed as such an auspicious number that even being assigned a number with several eights is considered very lucky.

In 2003, A telephone number with all digits being eights was sold for CNY¥2.33 million (approximately £230,000) to Sichuan Airlines in Chengdu, China.

The opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics in Beijing began on 8/8/08 at 8 seconds and 8 minutes past 8 pm local time.

Graham Evans, based upon material from Wikipedia

PUBLICITY OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTION

We are still looking for someone to get involved in the work of the church by becoming our Publicity Officer. This was mentioned in last month's magazine, but there was insufficient space to print the whole Job Description.

The Publicity Officer will have responsibility for creating publicity stories as well as dealing with queries that relate to publicity or the public perception of the church.

The Publicity Officer does not have to do everything themselves. A key part of the role is to liaise with and co-ordinate others who may be helping with parts of the role. The Publicity Officer will need to liaise closely with the Fund Raising Committee.

Type of post: VOLUNTEER. **Time requirements:** Flexible – the job can mostly be done by email or telephone without being tied to a time or place.

Responsibilities:

- Press Releases
- External advertising of events (e.g. posters, banners & leaflets)
- Electronic communications
 - Keeping the Events pages of the website up-to-date
 - Maintaining the church's "A Church Near You" pages (including the calendar)
 - Advertising for seasonal and other special services (Newspaper adverts & Parish letters)
- Noticeboards: External and Internal (including the Blakefield Room and Cottage)
- Ensure communications use the church's brand identity

Resources:

Budget: Up to £500 p.a.

Expenses: All significant expenses to be agreed with the Treasurer beforehand.

Stationery: Paper and stationery can be ordered via the Parish Administrator.

The post holder will be provided with an official email address.

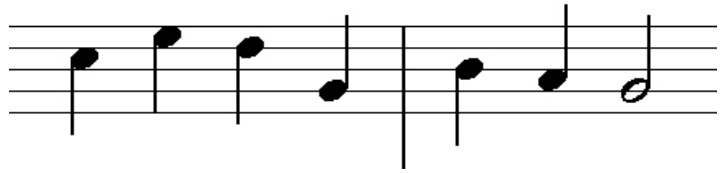
Type of person:

We are looking for someone with excellent communications skills, who is well organised and comfortable with computers (Word-processing and email).

Please think if this might be something you could get involved with, even if you haven't taken a formal role in the life of the church before. If you would be willing to share the role but not take it all on, it does not have to be done by one person. To discuss, please speak to me or email me at pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Philip Evans

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR



After introducing two of the ladies from the choir in recent months, it is the turn this time for one of our tenors to have his say and Philip Evans very kindly agreed to answer some questions for me. Philip has been part of St Johns for many years, singing in the choir for the last 19! He has recently been on a 3 month placement, spending time in 4 churches across 3 parishes and I was interested in his experiences during this and during his time over the years in St Johns Choir.

Have you seen lots of changes over your years in the choir? *I started out as the only boy treble with 5 girls but more boys joined and I eventually became Head Chorister, sitting at the front and singing the solo in Once in Royal David's City in the Carol Service. The choir did go through a phase of shrinking but now, as a mixed adult choir, it has grown once again which is very exciting.*

Tell me something about the music in the churches you visited. *None of the 4 churches have a choir and all depend more on piano accompaniment than organ for the most part. Cotheridge church is particularly interesting as they have a strong tradition of singing Anglican Chant with every one of the small congregation joining in and relishing the lovely acoustic. One of the most moving experiences was in Knightwick Chapel where David Sherwin led the service on the guitar and the sun was streaming in from the open door. Although only the size of the Burroughs room, the Chapel was filled with sound of about 30 people singing together and enjoying praising God in song.*

After these experiences how do you now feel about singing in the St John's choir? *Singing in 4 part harmony is not the norm in the churches I visited and I really appreciate coming together with others who are committed to their singing and enjoy it so much. The current rejuvenated choir is continuing and maintaining a well-established tradition, which is great.*

My thanks to Philip for taking the time to chat to me. Watch this space in the future for thoughts from the Bass section!

Luise Horrocks

NUMBER EIGHT JOKE

What did number 0 say to number 8?

"I like your belt."

A BIT MORE ABOUT

ROBERT JONES



In the September edition, we published the information that Robert Jones will be the next Archdeacon of Worcester. As promised, here is some more information about Robert.

Robert has been a priest in the Diocese of Worcester since he was ordained in 1980 and is currently Director of Development.

Robert is well-known throughout the Diocese of Worcester, having served as Vicar of St. Francis in Dudley for eight years and then as Rector of St. Barnabas with Christ Church in Worcester for fourteen years. He was also Rural Dean of Worcester East, is a Canon of Worcester Cathedral and served as one of the diocesan representatives on General Synod, the Church's governing body for ten years. He was appointed Director of Development in 2006 where he has been responsible for training of clergy and laity throughout the diocese, establishing the popular Authorised Lay Minister programme, which has trained over 300 people.

Bishop John said: "Robert's appointment was made with the unanimous recommendation of the advisory group set up to find the next Archdeacon of Worcester. He is a very gifted and well-loved priest who is very mission-minded and fulfils all the criteria of the role. At a time when we've had a number of senior appointments from outside the diocese, Robert's appointment will help provide stability as we move forwards as Kingdom People."

Robert said: "I am very much looking forward to this new role within the diocese. As Director of Development, I've got to know clergy and laity from all corners of Worcestershire and Dudley and know that there are some great initiatives happening as our churches reach out to their local communities. It'll be great to get more involved in these at a local level, and be able to provide support and encouragement across the parishes of the Worcester Archdeaconry."

Robert moved into the Diocese from just over the border in Birmingham when he was young and was confirmed in St John's, Halesowen in 1966. He studied languages at University before he trained for ordination at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and, as a fluent German speaker, is very involved in the diocesan partnership with Magdeburg and the Church of England's Meissen Agreement with the German Protestant Church. In his spare time Robert enjoys the odd pint of beer, walking, singing in a choir and music-making.

Robert will be installed as the next Archdeacon of Worcester during Evensong at the Cathedral on Sunday 16 November at 4pm.

MEETING ROOM PROMOTER

We have a well-established system to handle the bookings for, and liaison with users of, our meeting rooms (the Burroughs' and Blakefield Rooms). However, there are times when the rooms are not used when they could be, and we do not have anyone to promote the rooms to potential users.

Could you help out by spending a little time trying to promote these rooms? We want someone who can think of organisations and others who might be potential users of the rooms, and then get the word out to the right people. We are not expecting a huge time commitment!


As well as helping the community, by providing rooms when they are needed, this can also help the church by increasing our income from these rooms.

If you are interested in this, please have a word with me or drop me an email via the magazine email address magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Graham Evans

ROOM HIRING AT THE CHURCH

The church has two meeting rooms and a large space in the church available for hire. All rooms have access to the church car park.

Blakefield Room	<p>Suitable for up to 30 people: Fully fitted kitchen, including dishwasher; toilets, including one disabled toilet and a baby-changing facility; Tables and/or chairs.</p>	
Burroughs' Room	<p>Suitable for up to 12 people. Drink making facilities and toilet. Television with VCR provided.</p>	
The North Aisle	<p>Suitable for 120 people seated theatre style or up to 48-64 seated around tables. Tables and/or chairs are provided. It is a large open area with plenty of electric sockets. It has been used to host exhibitions, meals and conferences.</p>	

All access to the church is level and therefore suitable for wheelchairs. A toilet for the disabled is available.

For more information, please email hiring@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

PRIORITIES FOR 2015

The PCC met on 15th September. Part of the meeting (reported below) was to set priorities for 2015. The summary of the rest of the meeting will be in the next edition.

In thinking about our 2015 priorities, these were some of the points made:

- Make sure our buildings are fit for purpose
- Serve our community
- Help new Christians
- Make “Outreach” a main priority which can encompass much of what we want to do
- Keep “Children and schools” or even make them two separate priorities
- Retain “Worship, Mission and new services”, “Children and Schools” and “West Side collaboration” and add “Providing value to the community”
- More work on the existing priorities

The Vicar summarised that these ideas fell into two headings:

“**Outreach and serving the community**” and “**Children and Schools and Christian Nurture**”. The first of these will include understanding the community, social concern, value to the community, creating a buildings vision (to make our buildings fit for purpose to serve our objectives) and embodiment of West Side Collaboration as collaborating on projects.

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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ENTERTAINMENT AT ST JOHN'S

Well if September didn't give you lots of entertainment the next few months will. The Murder Mystery Evening went well, apart from the murder! (part of the act) and is something we would like to hold again.

October starts with our joint Harvest Meal with St Clement's. The Parish Breakfast gives you the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones over a delicious cooked breakfast. We have an evening with Philomusica later in the month.

November kicks off with a table sale, a good time to sort out the cupboards and earn a bit for Christmas shopping, or why not come along and grab a bargain. The stall holders always have some amazing things for sale at ridiculously bargain prices!

Finish the day off with Elvis as The Rev'd Andy Kelso brings you his fantastic tribute act. Supper is served and all for £10.00, bring your own alcoholic or soft drinks. At this event we will be holding our Grand Charity Draw, with fantastic prizes on offer with proceeds from the raffle being split between the church and St Richard's Hospice. An evening of fun while at the same time helping a very worthwhile charity. Doors open 6.30pm. Booking essential Tel 749025.

Saturday 15th November 10.00 – 3.00pm we are having our 3rd Craft Fair. So many talented crafters under one roof! Come along and get that special, personal Christmas gift. Or if you are a crafter and would like to showcase your wares, telephone 424811 to book a table.

Keep Sunday afternoon 23rd November free for one of our fascinating 'Tea & Talk' events: This time on tree carvings from the 1st World War. A really fascinating topic, more details to follow.

We are always keen to hear about new ideas for fund raising. You may want to organise an event yourself or join the team. The more the merrier and it makes less work for everyone. Just get in touch.

Fund Raising Team

FESTIVAL OF HEALING AT THE CATHEDRAL

The Festival of Healing is on Saturday 4th October in the Cathedral and will welcome the Rt Revd Dominic Walker, recently Bishop of Monmouth, as guest speaker. His talk at 10.00am "By His wounds you have been healed", followed by coffee and discussion. Lunch is at 12.45pm (please bring a packed lunch), with opportunity to visit stands manned by representatives of healing organisations, followed by healing Eucharist at 2pm.

There is a £5 charge for the morning session, payable on the day. To book contact Peter & Sue Perry or 01386 861791.

ST BRIGID OF IRELAND

Irish folklore says that Brigid came from a village near Kildare, of parents of humble origin, and was baptised by Patrick and became a nun at an early age. She is credited with founding the monastery of Kildare, a powerful influence for Christianity in Ireland.

Brigid, you could say, was the female Patrick of Ireland.

Historical facts about this first abbess of Kildare may be scarce, but her “Lives”, written from the 7th century, tells many anecdotes and miracles which over the centuries have become deeply rooted in Irish folklore.

The miracles attributed to Brigid show her to have been a woman of great compassion and generosity. There are stories of how she could multiply food, especially butter, for the poor. Other stories tell of her changing her bath-water to beer, in order to satisfy the thirst of unexpected visitors. Even her cows gave milk three times the same day, to enable visiting bishops to have enough to drink. Hence she is the patron saint of milkmaids.

Brigid’s cult grew rapidly in Ireland, where it became second only to that of Patrick. In England, there were at least nineteen ancient church dedications in her honour (the most famous is St Bride’s Fleet Street). There is also St Bride’s Bay, Dyfed, which underlines the strong connection between Irish and Welsh Christianity. St Brigid is patron of poets, blacksmiths, and healers. She is sometimes depicted with a cow lying at her feet, which recalls her phase as a nun-cowgirl.



Parish Pump

DIOCESAN REGISTRAR RETIRES

Several members of the staff have moved on recently, but none has given such a long and faithful service to the Diocese of Worcester as Michael Huskinson who retired as Diocesan Registrar on 28th August having taken up the post in 1992.

Michael worked extremely hard in this role - I would very often receive emails from him still in the office late in the evening or at weekends - and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude.

I am personally grateful, not only for his hard work, but for his wisdom and graciousness. It has truly been a delight to work with him.

I'm delighted that he is now acting as consultant to our new Registrar, Stuart Ness, and we are not losing him entirely.

Bishop John

EMERGENCY UPDATE

The news internationally – and also at home – is terrible. Below are items of information about two major causes for concern which particularly affect our communities. These are the growing antisemitism here and in Europe, and the plight of Christian minorities in the Middle East. Please can I ask you to pray, and to offer practical and vocal support if appropriate. We would also be keen to hear of local communities who are in need of practical support.

*Jane Clements, Director and the office staff
CCJ – The Council of Christians and Jews*

Antisemitism

This has included recent attacks on synagogues attended by and led by our own CCJ members, including Muswell Hill and Brighton and Hove Hebrew Congregation.

Christian minorities

From the Vicar of Baghdad: I have just returned from a secret visit to Qaraqosh – once the largest Christian town in Iraq, but no longer. Today, Qaraqosh stands 90 per cent empty, desecrated by the gunmen of the fanatical Islamic State terror group now in control. The majority of the town's 50,000 people have fled, fearing that, like other Christians in this region, they will be massacred.

Statements by religious leaders:

The Chief Rabbi:

"I offer my deep sympathies and full, unreserved support to the Christian and Yazidi communities in Iraq, who are suffering at the hand of those who distort Islam and in its name bring death, destruction and misery. As we are witnessing in Iraq and elsewhere the denial of freedom of religion in such a brutal manner is antithetical to everything we stand for.

Archbishop Justin Welby:

"In a globalised world where even distant nations are our "neighbour", we cannot allow these atrocities to be unleashed with impunity. And while the behaviour of the ISIS jihadis in Syria and northern Iraq is particularly savage, it is also part of rising and increasingly serious persecution of Christians and other groups in many countries.

"These [jihadi] groups are, rightly, rejected by the vast majority of Muslims. The struggle being faced is one for a world that can cope with diversity, and disagree without destruction. ISIS, Boko Haram and their equivalents seek only destruction for their own ends.



KNIT A POPPY

Last year, many of you will remember helping to make, buy and sell poppies for November 11th – we managed to raise £700 for the British legion. This year, by starting early, we have £200 raised, 200 poppies in stock and 200 patterns out with knitters, so our target is £1000. To maximise the effort we are making wreaths and also making a specific task of 118 poppies, one for every name on the war memorial (to the men of the First World War) in the churchyard.

Please help in whatever way you can. I will be in church on Friday mornings 10-12noon from September 26th to knit, sell, receive, give out patterns and save wool which has been donated by WCH Housing Association.

On October 31st at Gheluvelt Park, there is a service and ceremony for the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Ghulevelt in which soldiers of the Worcestershire Regiment lost their lives; some of the 118 above will have been at that battle. I will be there to show and tell with 118 poppies.

Thank you for whatever help you are able to give.

Pat Richardson



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Lyn Rimell 01905 820140 or on the door

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches



John & Thomas Pound outside St. George's Church, Barbourne.

Six members of St. John's congregation and Rev'd Sarah Cottrill took part in this year's "Ride & Stride".

John, Emma and Thomas Pound cycled to the north side of the city and described their day by saying "We had great fun, great to see inside Churches we rarely visit, and very nice to have a well earned luncheon at the Mug House!"

Philip Evans, Yvonne Hardwick and Sally Mills were "striding" around the city centre churches and managed to visit 21 church sites including some of the now disappeared churches from Worcester's past.

Sarah Cottrill went the farthest and afterwards said "Having set myself a target of 17 churches to visit, I managed to get to 18 and covered a staggering, (that's certainly what I was doing by the end!) 32 miles! Setting off from St Clements, I visited the Cathedral before heading north, ultimately arriving at Droitwich, via Ombersley. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day. Next year perhaps I'll head south."



Yvonne Hardwick & Sally Mills by the plaque identifying the location of St. Peter the Great.

All the Riders & Striders thank everyone who sponsored them.

Philip Evans



MORE RIDING AND STRIDING....

TO WORSHIP AT OTHER WEST WORCESTER GROUP CHURCHES

Following on from the Ride and Stride event, the PCC invites you to get back on your bike, (or back in your car, or walk out of your door), to go and visit the other churches in our West Worcester group (St Clement's, St David's and St Michael's).

We would like to encourage every member of our congregation to go to one 'ordinary' Sunday service at each of our fellow churches between now and Easter 2015. We want you to get to know the other churches, experience their worship, and take the opportunity to say "Hello" to some of our fellow Christians.

To give you an incentive, the magazine editors will donate a prize to go to one lucky winner who has visited all the other three group churches for an 'ordinary' Sunday service. Tear out (or photocopy) this page, and get a signature in the box as you visit each church. When you have completed the sheet, hand it in at any service at St John's. The winner will be selected after the closing date of Easter 2015.

Name

Address.....

Telephone number

Email address

The contact information will only be used to contact you if you win the prize draw.

To be filled in by someone at the church you are visiting				
Church	Date	Time of service	Signature	Name
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St David's				
St Michael's				

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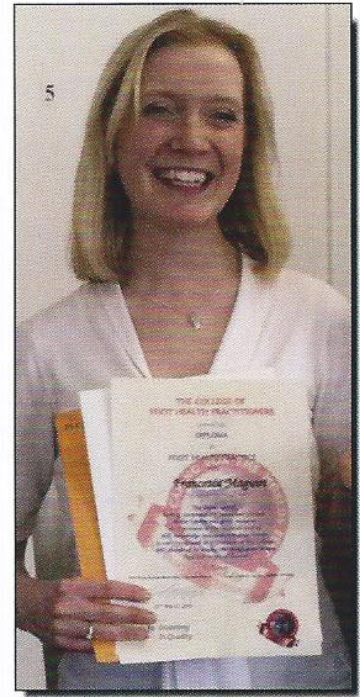
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31st OCTOBER – ALL HALLOW’S EVE

Many customs are linked with this day – most of them because this was the ‘day before’. To the Celts it was the day before winter and the New Year officially began. In later years it became the day before, or eve of, the Christian festival of All Hallows, or All Saints’ Day.

The Eve of All Hallows (Hallow’s Eve gradually became the word ‘Halloween’) was the day for driving out evil – which makes it seem very strange now that some people ‘celebrate’ Halloween by dressing up as witches and monsters and having special parties.

Wouldn’t it be better for us as Christians to celebrate by dressing up as angels and saints rather than as ghosts and devils?



BEFORE & AFTER

The answer to these questions are either ‘befores’ or ‘afters’...

1. What comes before thunder?
2. What comes after red on traffic lights?
3. What comes after Advent?
4. What comes before green in the colours of the rainbow?
5. What comes after dusk?
6. What comes after revision?
7. What comes before a surname?
8. What book comes before the Book of Ruth in the Bible?
9. What comes after Lent?
10. According to the proverb, what comes before a fall?



Why did the angel lose her job?

She had harp failure.



How do angels greet each other?

They say ‘Halo’.



- Answers:** 1. lightning 2. amber
 3. Christmas 4. yellow 5. night 6. exams
 7. fore or Christian names 8. Judges
 9. Easter 10. pride

ST JOHN'S CLERGY

Vicar	Rev'd Dr Christopher Stuart	01905 429773 e-mail: vicar@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk
Associate Vicar	Rev'd Dr Phillip Bradford	01905 423794 e-mail: phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill	01905 426257 e-mail: sarah.cottrill@westworcesterchurches.org.uk

OTHER WEST WORCESTER GROUP CLERGY

Rural Dean	Rev'd David Sherwin	01886 888664 e-mail: Davidwin56@aol.com
Ministers, St Clement's with St David's	As St. John's (above)	
Vicar of St Michael, Dines Green with 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.	Monday to 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, October 2014

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
5th October	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 Harvest Festival **	10.30am Holy Communion
12th October	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 Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
19th October	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
26th October	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	6.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion

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

*** shows services celebrating harvest*