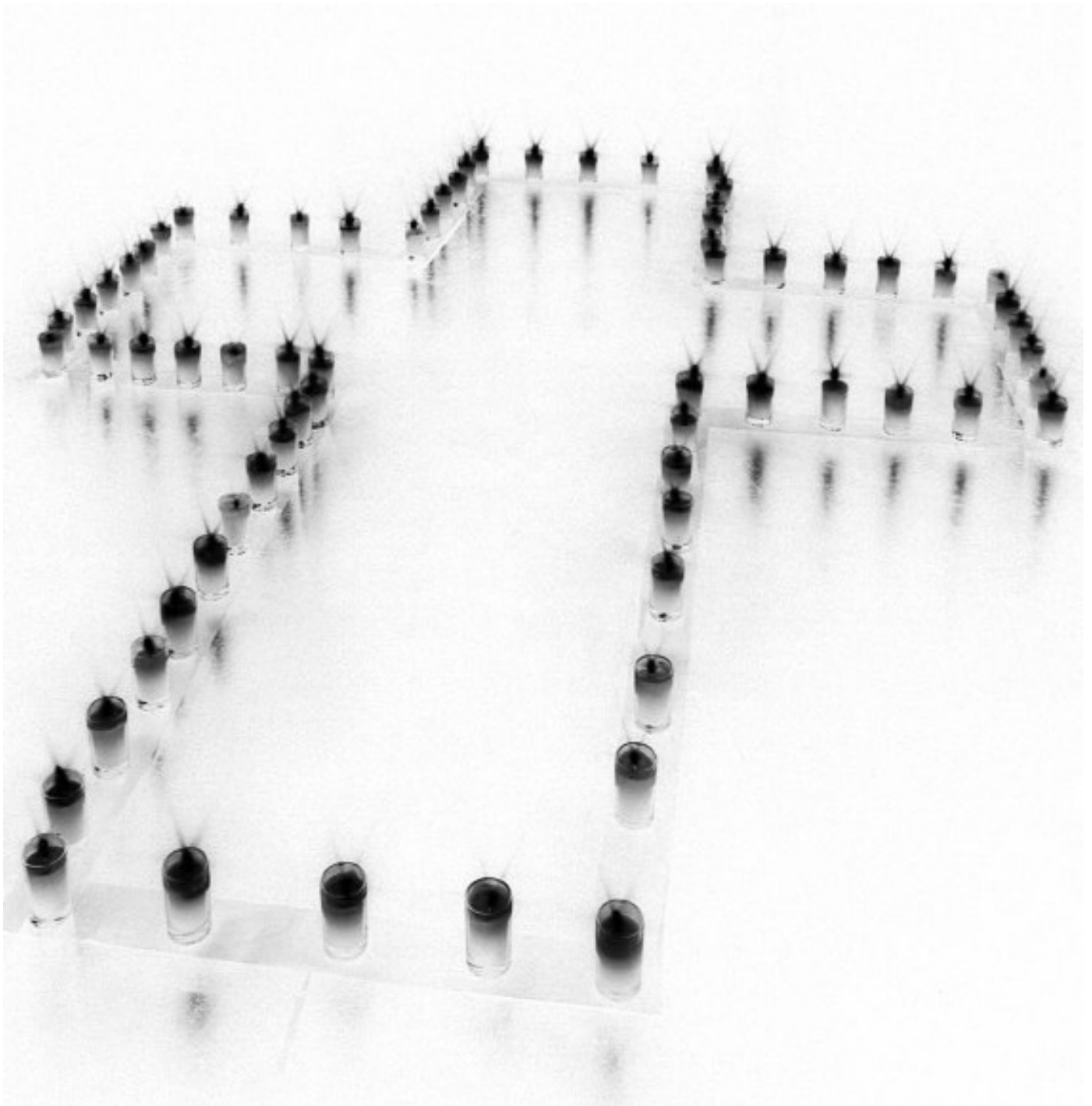




St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine

DECEMBER 2014

40p



OUR CHURCH

St John-in-Bedwardine Church is an active Anglican church which has its roots in the Norman period. The church is open daily, as a haven of peace at a busy road junction in the St. Johns area of Worcester.

The church was originally built in 1165 as 'The Chapel of St John' – the parish church then being St. Cuthbert's in Lower Wick. When the church of St Cuthbert's was demolished in 1370, St John's became the parish church.

WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S PCC OFFICERS

Churchwardens	churchwardens@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
	Gordon Templeton	749025
	gordtemp@btinternet.com	
	Joy Job	423051
	joyjob@dsl.pipex.com	
PCC Lay vice-chair	Sue Bale	423257
PCC Secretary	Graham Evans	428667
	pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Treasurer	John English	427822
	treasurer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	

Unless otherwise directed, please send all written correspondence for the magazine and the church to the Parish Office address on the inside back cover.

January 2015 edition deadline is Sunday 14th December 2014 (see page 17).

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.

Please note that the January 2015 issue of the magazine will be available on Sunday 4th January, rather than the usual last Sunday of the preceding month, to spare our printing team from having to work in Christmas week.

COVER PICTURE

By Wing-Chi Poon [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)],
via Wikimedia Commons adapted by Graham Evans.

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

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2015

The PCC met on 15th September and set our priorities for 2015. They are:

Outreach and serving the community This includes 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.

and

Children and Schools and Christian Nurture

These priorities are used in shaping our 2015 budget at the PCC meeting in November.

WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS

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Child Protection Officer	Jane Askew	424811
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Music Group	Peter Yates pjyates194@btinternet.com	422565
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LETTER FROM THE PHIL BRADFORD

I am writing this in the middle of the Andes, on a bus bumping and fighting its way through the streets of Arequipa, Peru's second city. We have just passed a large Plaza Vea (the Sainsbury's of Peru) with an enormous Christmas tree in the car park. Glistening and garish, it was a fake tree covered in tinsel in a city where a real fir tree would die rapidly. It is mid-November and spring is giving way to summer, the temperature rising and the midday sun fierce as the Christmas decorations are starting to adorn shops in earnest.



The decor has rather less impact than back home. As I discovered when I lived in Lima five years ago, something feels wrong about Christmas in the Southern Hemisphere. For us in Britain, Christmas occurs at the darkest time of the year, and is a moment of brightness and joy amidst the chilly depths of winter. Irrespective of when Jesus was actually born, our Christmas songs have become intricately linked with notions of snow and cold and winter. The notion of Christ as the light of the world somehow seems easier to grasp amidst the cold and darkness of winter, where the language and imagery of our liturgy is readily apparent.



Yet as we edge out along the dirt roads into the shanty towns beyond the city, I realise that we need to break the link we often create between Christmas and time of year, for what we celebrate in December is a light in a far less literal darkness. It may be bright and warm here in Arequipa, but I have spent the past ten days across this country amidst the darkness of poverty, in some of the most desperate shanty towns in Latin America. Houses are little more than teetering edifices of cheap, scavenged wood and grimy woven fabric. Children play in

the sand and dirt in dusty, torn clothing, often without shoes. In many of these places there is no water, and the children beg some from the rare stranger who enters their midst. What does it mean to speak of Christ as a light in that darkness?

I'm not sure there are any easy answers to that question, which is one I have been wrestling with since I first became involved with Peru. But it does remind us that when

we speak of Christ as a light in the darkness, the image is intended to emphasise the contrast between God and the evils and imperfections of this world. Christmas cannot be confined to one season or time since it is universal, a continuing assertion by God that he loves his creation so much that he submits to becoming part of it. The darkness of the Peruvian shanty towns is a consequence of the sin and injustices of humanity, something which the incarnation challenges us to address. Jesus was born into a poor, obscure community, a reminder that the love of God is good news for all, not just the few; Christ is the light of the world, not a particular part of it. If God was willing to take the risk of incarnation, is that not a challenge to us to bear that light into the darkest corners of the world around us and seek to transform that darkness through God's love?

As we live through the Advent and Christmas seasons, not least the lights twinkling on trees and the beauty of candlelit services, perhaps we can call to mind what those lights mean to us as Christians, the fact that Christ is the light shining in the darkness, which the darkness cannot overcome, and think about how we can share that light throughout the year. In the meantime, when it comes, Chris, Sarah and I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Phil

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our December edition. The name of this month is derived from the Latin word for ten, so we've decided to make a tenuous link to the latin word "tenebrae", meaning shadows or darkness.



That fits well with our month of December which has the penitential season of Advent for the larger portion as well as the physical darkness of the shortest day. However, the gloom does not prevail and the month ends with the joy of the arrival of Christ at Christmas coupled with the start of lengthening of the daylight. Phil, in his letter above, has asked us to think about Christ as a light in the darkness when the darkness is not seasonal but the evils and imperfections of this world: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" is not just for Christmas time. Our cover reminds us that Christ's death and resurrection are the ultimate expression of "The light shines ... and the darkness has not overcome it".

To reflect the interplay of darkness (ignorance) and light (enlightenment) in a more light-hearted way, we have included extra puzzles this month. Think about the metaphor as you work out the puzzles!

We pray for Christ to shine on you at Christmas, and to show us all how to share his light in the world now and always.

Graham and Sue Evans

IN MEMORIAM

Alice Moulder	1 December 2009
Bertie Harvey Bosworth	3 December 1970
Albert Harold Southall	3 December 1984
Amanda Louisa Warner	5 December 1969
Arthur Frederick Ching	6 December 1973
Sarah Rose	8 December 1985
Emily Potter	10 December 1984
Vera May Bullock	10 December 1991
William Bishop	10 December 1996
Hubert Mitford Harvey	12 December 1984
Charles Hubert John Lerigo	13 December 1983
William GS Oldershaw	14 December 1971
Thomas Barlow Langford	14 December 1976
Jack Taylor	16 December 1998
Ivy Muriel Rogers	17 December 2001
Fanny Elizabeth Holloway	19 December 1958
Harry Palmer	19 December 2001
John Goodsell	21 December 2004
George Frederick Harrison	23 December 1982
Ivy Hooper	25 December 1984
Derek A Bowen	28 December 2007
Ann Smith	28 December 2010
Gladys Mitchem	30 December 1995
Henry Nelson Russell	31 December 1972

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings (none) and funerals which took place in October 2014.

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

Amalise Cody Shelbea Leigh Farmer Summer Hope Fredericks
Katie Elizabeth Rose Shearer

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 16th September 2014 Mary Harris
d. 22nd September 2014 Janice Sheehan
d. 27th September 2014 Vivienne McNichol
d. 28th September 2014 Raymond Morgan
 d. 5th October 2014 Steven Whitehead
 d. 8th October 2014 Charlotte Scarrott
 d. 9th October 2014 Charles Hankins
d. 11th October 2014 Valerie Hall
d. 15th October 2014 Harvey Hudson

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2014

(4 Sundays): Communicants 335. Total attendance at all services 965.

ADVENT: EXPLORING PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

As in previous year's, we'll be running an Advent Course during December. The course will run for three weeks and will use art, poetry, music and film gently to explore, in turn, past (Christ's Nativity), present (the in-between times, and in particular the question of how we should live as we await Christ's coming again), and future (Christ's Second Coming). The course will run on Wednesday afternoons at St Clement's, with each session being repeated in the evening of the same day at St John's for those at work and unable to attend during the afternoon. The dates are 3rd December, 10th December and 17th December. The times (on all three dates) are:

3pm-3.45pm (St Clement's) and 7.30pm-8.15pm – St John's

There's no charge, and no need to sign up – and you're welcome to mix and match between afternoon and evening sessions, as best suits you. Each session is 'stand-alone', so there's no problem if you miss one or even two sessions.

Chris Stuart

CHRISTMASTIDE AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

We shall be decorating the Church for Christmas on Saturday the 20th December between 9am and 1pm. Anyone who would like to help will be most welcome to join us and make the Church beautiful for Christmas. If you have any variegated greenery and/or holly you could give towards the decorations this would be very helpful. Please leave at the back of the Church or in the Porch if you are unable to come on the Saturday morning.

Each year at this time we ask if you would like to donate some money towards the Christmas flowers in memory of friends and family members, whose names will be added to the Memorial List which is placed on the table near the Church door. If you wish to donate money please place it in an envelope with the name/s of those you wish to have remembered on the front and hand it to a member of the clergy, churchwardens, or myself.

The Flower arranging team join me in wishing you a very joyful and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you for all your support.

Eileen Cantrill

DECEMBER by Daphne Kitching

December, December,
A month to remember,
A month full of darkness and light,
A month full of rushing
And sharing and hoping,
A month full of one special night.

DATES FOR DECEMBER 2014

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

See
page

For a full listing of Christmas services at St John's, St Clement's, St David's
and St Michael's, see opposite.

Wednesday 3rd December: Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552

7.30 p.m. Advent course 7

Saturday 6th December: Nicholas, bishop, c.326

9.00 a.m. Table Sale 10

Sunday 7th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day.

Wednesday 10th December

7.30 p.m. Advent course 7

Friday 12th December

6.00 p.m. 6pm to 8pm Drop in Carols. 10

Saturday 13th December: Lucy, martyr, 304

3.00 p.m. Children's Activities 10,11

Sunday 14th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 17th December

7.30 p.m. Advent course 7

Sunday 21st December: 4th Sunday of Advent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

5.00 p.m. Christingle and Crib Service 9

11.30 p.m. Candlelit Midnight Eucharist (with incense) 9

Thursday 25th December: Christmas Day

9.00 a.m. Christmas Communion 9

10.30 a.m. Christmas Family Eucharist 9

Sunday 28th December: The Holy Innocents

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Sunday 4th January 2015: 2nd Sunday of Christmas

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

DID YOU KNOW?

A person who makes or deals in candles is a "chandler" from the Old French "chandelier" (in turn from "chandelle" meaning candle). The link with the English word chandelier is clear.

Another, possibly more familiar, meaning of the word chandler is a dealer in a specified trade or merchandise: E.g. corn chandler; ship's chandler.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 30th November

St. John's 5pm **Advent Carol Service** *Quiet, choral reflection on the theme of waiting for Christmas*

Friday 12th December

St. John's 6-8pm **Candlelit Drop-in Community Carols** *Informal "drop-in drop-out" evening with lots of carols and a visit from Father Christmas!*

Tuesday 16th December

BRMC 7pm **Churches Together Carol Service** *A carol service at **Bromyard Road Methodist Church**. Everyone welcome.*

Thursday 18th December

St. Clement's 6pm **Worship for Everyone Christmas Carol Service** *A service suitable for everyone!*

Friday 19th December

St. Clement's 6.30pm **Christmas Carol Service** *A service of lessons and carols*

Sunday 21st December

St. Michael's 10.30am **Christmas Carol Service**

St. John's 6pm **Carols by Candlelight** *Traditional choral service of lessons and carols followed by seasonal refreshments.*

Christmas Eve, 24th December

St. Clement's 4pm **Crib service**

St. John's 5pm **Christingle and Crib Service**; *particularly for children; lasts about an hour*

St. David's 9.30pm **Christmas Eve Communion**

St. Clement's 11.30pm **Midnight Communion** *Join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Lasts about 1 hour*

St. John's 11.30pm **Candlelit Midnight Eucharist** *Join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Incense will be used. Lasts about 1 hour*

Christmas Day, 25th December

St. John's 9am **Christmas Communion**. *A quiet, reflective said service using traditional language.*

St. Michael's 10.30am **Christmas Eucharist**

St. John's 10.30am **Christmas Family Eucharist**. *Celebration for all the family; lasts about 1 hour*

St. Clement's 10.45am **Worship for Everyone Christmas Celebration**. *Breakfast will be served from 10.30am.*

Sunday 28th December

St. John's 10am **Christmas season Eucharist**

St. David's 4pm **Carols Round the Tree**



Fellowship and Fund Raising Events
at St John in Bedwardine Church



Do come along and join us in 2014 and into 2015. Where has the year gone?

Saturday 6 th December	9am-noon, Table Sale. Tables £10.00. Tel 749025 to book a table.
Friday 12 th December	6pm to 8pm Candlelit Drop-in Community Carols. Informal "drop-in drop-out" evening with lots of carols and a visit from Father Christmas!
Saturday 13 th December	Children's Activities 3pm - 5.30pm for children 3 - 14 years. Activities and finishing with a light tea. Tel 424811 for more details.

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday 24 th January 2015	Tea and Talk
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Check the Church noticeboards for more details about our events. Further details from Worcester 423257, 749025 & 424811.

Thank you to everyone who has supported events at St John's Church over the past year. We have tried to put on events to suit everybody's interest.

If you have an idea for a fund raising event please let us know.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a restful New Year and we hope to see you at one of our events in 2015.

Jane, Sue and Catherine

CANDLELIT DROP-IN COMMUNITY CAROLS

The annual Drop-in Community Carol evening will be held Friday 12th December between 6pm and 8pm. Father Christmas will be visiting and children (of whatever age!) will have the opportunity to tell him what they would like for Christmas!

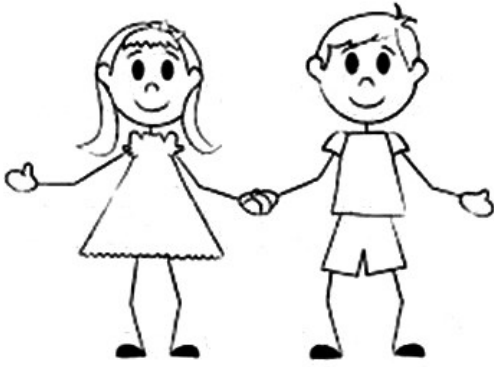
There will be seasonal refreshments served, for which donations of mince pies would be appreciated! (Please leave any donations in the Parish Office during the week of the 12th).

This year the Christmas Grand Draw will be drawn following the singing at 8pm.

Last year this event was more popular than ever so any help on the night to welcome people and to hand out carol sheets and candles would be much appreciated.

Philip Evans

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS



Saturday 8th November, we moved back to our normal time of 3.00 - 5.30 for the activity session. Our theme was Remembrance. Lots of fun was had searching for poppies around the church but the meaning of Remembrance Sunday was explained. Before sitting down to eat pizza, the children split into four groups and created their own poppy made from buttons. It is still hanging up in the church so do pop in to see it.

Saturday 13th December 3.00 - 5.30 will be the last session for 2014. We will be celebrating this special time of year, do come along and join us. The family service will be on Sunday 14th December at 10.30 and the children will be taking an active part in the service.

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



SHOEBOX APPEAL 2014

We would like to thank you all for your fantastic response to the 'Shoebox Appeal' We have so far made up over 40 boxes with empty boxes and items to put in them still arriving.

Thank you once again for being part of making a caring difference to children at Christmas.

WORDSEARCH FOR DECEMBER

How will Christmas begin for you this year? For **millions** of **radio** listeners, it will begin on Christmas **Eve** with the clear **treble** voice of a single **Cambridge choirboy**. As has happened every year since 1919, he will begin the **hymn** ‘Once, in **Royal David’s City**’ at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols, broadcast from **King’s College Chapel**. The hymn was written by a Mrs **Alexander** in 1848 who was inspired by the **Apostles’ Creed**: ‘....born of the **virgin Mary**.’. It is a superb introduction to **Christmas**: ‘Once, in royal David’s city, stood a lowly cattle-shed, where a mother laid her baby, in a **manger** for his bed. Mary was that mother mild, **Jesus Christ** her **little child**. He came down to **earth** from **heaven**, Who is God and **Lord** of all; and his **shelter** was a stable, and his **cradle** was a **stall**. With the **poor** and **mean** and **lowly** lived on earth our **Saviour holy**.’

Millions	Cambridge	David	Chapel
Radio	Choirboy	City	Alexander
Eve	Hymn	King’s	Apostles
Treble	Royal	College	Creed

Y	T	I	C	A	M	B	R	I	D	G	E	R	C
N	L	T	T	H	L	H	L	I	O	V	G	R	Y
O	I	Y	S	T	R	E	B	L	E	H	E	S	V
R	T	G	I	C	P	I	X	L	E	A	L	H	S
E	T	Y	R	A	M	P	S	A	R	S	L	E	E
O	L	E	H	I	A	A	V	T	N	A	O	L	D
Y	E	C	C	D	V	E	H	S	M	D	C	T	R
D	L	R	K	I	N	G	'	S	I	A	E	E	O
R	D	O	O	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	R	S
I	A	U	H	Y	D	I	J	R	L	O	D	D	H
O	R	D	M	L	A	C	H	O	I	R	B	O	Y
E	C	E	I	W	V	L	D	R	O	L	O	C	M
A	A	H	S	O	I	R	E	G	N	A	M	O	N
N	C	A	O	L	D	T	S	U	S	E	J	D	P

Virgin
Mary
Christmas
Manger
Jesus
Christ
Little
Child
Earth
Heaven
Lord

Shelter
Cradle
Stall
Poor
Mean
Lowly
Saviour
Holy
**Solution on
page 24.**

CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS PARADE

SATURDAY, November 4th was Children's Day in our Fayre Fortnight, when a Fancy Dress Parade was held in the hall of the Christopher Whitehead School. Despite the counter attraction of Guy Fawkes there were nearly eighty entries and many parents and other friends were also present.

There was a wonderful array of costumes both humorous and beautiful. There were crinoline ladies, golliwogs skeletons, scare-crows and, of course, most of the favourite nursery rhyme and fairy tale characters. The judge was Miss Anne Scott, a singer from the Theatre Royal, and she and her husband had a very hard task in deciding who should be the prize-winners. After the Parade the children were entertained to tea.

Our most grateful thanks are due to everyone who helped in any way to make the afternoon a success, especially the parents of the children who must have worked very hard to produce such delightful costumes. The prize-winners were:

Group I. Judith Mann (Fairy), John Nicholls (Boxer), Judy Steadman (Chocolate Box).

Group II. Margaret Stone (Old Lady), Peter Richardson (African Warrior), Geoffrey Glover (Road Accident).

Group III. Janet Wilks (Gainsborough Lady), Noel Sneed (Old Mother Riley), Jeremy Richardson (Scarecrow).

"Advertisement" Fancy Dress. Janet Tipping (Clarke's Stranded Cottons), Richard Moule (Quality Street Toffees).

E. HARWOOD

TEN JOKE

There are 10 types of people: Stupid, smart, strong, successful, unsuccessful, crazy, lazy, excited, drunk, and those who thought this joke was going to be funny.

Anon



Please Support Our Music Group and Mixed Blessings who will be playing and singing carols 10-11 am for Sing for Change outside St John's Sainsbury's on 13th December.

This Christmas every pound Christian Aid and its supporters raise at Christmas will be matched (i.e. doubled in value) by UK Government AID. You can text HOPE1 to 83080 to donate £3; this will be matched by the UK Government.

www.christianaid.org.uk/deliverhope

All the Christian Aid materials reflect on the Nativity story we are so familiar with but draw parallels with the issues facing mothers and their babies in Kenya where, shockingly, as many as 40 women die in childbirth each day. We trust that together we can help change this awful statistic. We have high hopes of making a real impact with poor communities this Christmas and we do hope you will support us.

Sally Mills

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I have just returned from the Remembrance Day Service full of thought. A service attended by an ever increasing number of people, who wish to remember and share in the sacrifice of those who serve and served. Indeed, let us never forget them. I am the proud and eldest son of one who served at Dunkirk and returned home wounded and who then served in the Far East for the duration and fought at the battle of Kohima, with the Dorset's, when the tide of the Japanese advance was finally halted and turned by sacrifice unknown to us. This was a man who returned home in 1945 from the army of occupation in Japan who knew the war ended with "some sort of super bomb". A man who came home having left in 1939 at the age of 19 and returned as a 25 year old in 1945. A man minus his youth; a youth spent fighting and killing. A man who returned to work, found love and married but the happiness and peace was to be short lived when he was called up, as a 'Z' reservist to fight in the Korean war and was to serve with the "Glorious Gloucesters" at the battle of the Imjin River when only forty eight men escaped death or captivity at the hands of the cruel Chinese and North Koreans. A distinguished service record indeed and to have survived physically, return and raise a family. Times were hard and his suffering, like so many of those returning today was unrecognised mental stress and trauma. We are blessed with modern science and medicine to treat the physical but so many of our young soldiers fall through the net of support and end up "astray" through no fault of their own because of that which we cannot see or diagnose. How much more we need to treat the mental and spiritual

damage. Dad was unable, couldn't, speak of his experiences except to acknowledge he was "there". Countless young friends, men of his age fell around him as they fought for their lives and freedom for us today. News coverage wasn't as prolific then as it is now, providing us with live coverage of battles and their horror. We see it first hand and are somewhat immune to the suffering and horror. Violence is almost a form of entertainment and the danger is we see modern conflicts as an extension of entertainment; battles recently fought turned into Hollywood movies which belie the terror of servicemen and suffering. Those who fought and died 100 years ago or more recently in the Second world war didn't have the benefit of press saturation but people like my father who returned and "just got on with it" hid terrible and untreated mental damage and scars that influenced their lives and conduct. We need to understand and care for those young men whose youth has been so marred or denied to them. And the broader aspect of their families who bear so much of the burden of suffering, caring and loving their returned sons and daughters, bearing the nightmares of combats and the night sweats of terror and horror of the fallen around them. How difficult it is for us to appreciate what has been lost and given; we who read the headlines and watch the news. As the father of a serviceman I perhaps have a slight realisation of service life and how those serving cope. So many service personnel are self-supporting and survive within their own camaraderie. They need to know that we are all there for them and that their problems are ours also, having accepted their sacrifice. Let us remember the dead with pride but never forget the living and their trials as a result of serving us and their country. How much has changed in 100 years--we who remain at home, how much do we understand the serviceman's life and what do we do for them when they return home? A land fit for heroes?

*Yours,
Bill Amos*

May I comment on Chris's November letter?

Yes, silence is important. But so are words. I know of many people who will think the daily progress of the next royal baby as of far greater interest than the horrors of the Middle East.

Auriol Pakington

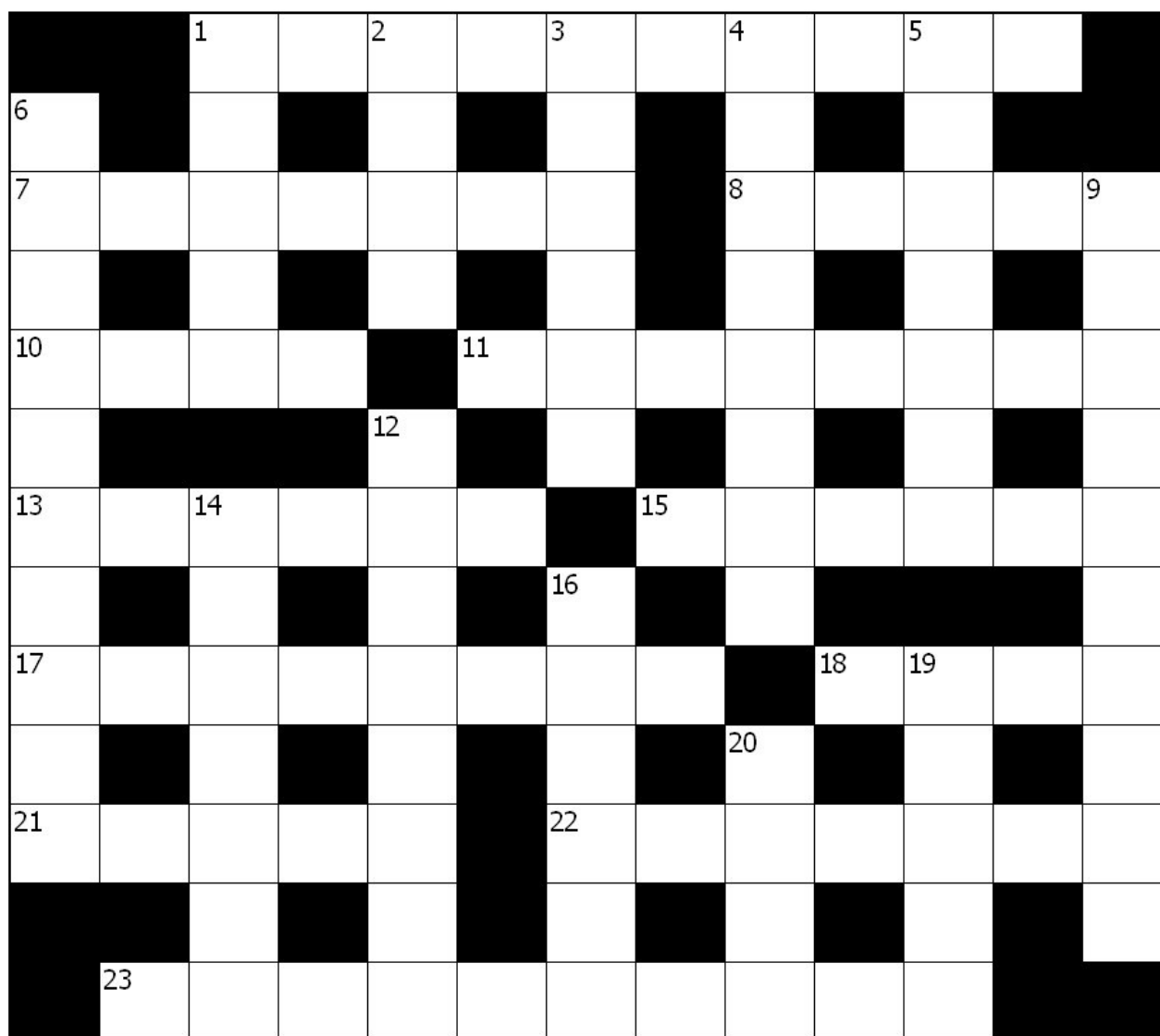
TEA AT TWO ON TUESDAY

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 2nd December 2014 and Tuesday 6th January 2015.

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

CROSSWORD



The solution is on page 31.

Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14–15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith — (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone 'unclean' (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 ‘ — and see that the Lord is good’ (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 ‘The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as — as a lion’ (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19–20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 ‘Offer your bodies as living — , holy and pleasing to God’ (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)
- 16 He asked Jesus, ‘What is truth?’ (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 ‘You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will — his people from their sins’ (Matthew 1:21) (4)

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 December for the January 2015 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

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, “When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple and an orange.” The little girl clapped her hands in amazement: “Wow, a computer and a mobile phone!”

CHRISTIAN AID RESPONDS TO THE EBOLA CRISIS

Christian Aid has delivered emergency food and hygiene kits to some of the most vulnerable families under quarantine in two of Sierra Leone’s Ebola ‘hotspots’ in order to prevent families from starving.


Pregnant women, single mothers, people living with HIV, the elderly and young children were among the 2,100 quarantined residents being targeted in the eastern Kailahun district and in the rural Freetown suburb of Waterloo. The kits contain enough food to give a family a balanced diet for two weeks, including oil, tinned fish, rice, onions and powdered milk. They also include essential hygiene materials.

With the national death rate now exceeding 1,000 and the infection rate rising sharply, Christian Aid is working with local health teams to identify the ‘at-risk’ households in quarantined areas.

To donate to Christian Aid’s Ebola response visit www.christianaid.org.uk/ebolacrisis

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	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.	
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The North Aisle	Suitable for 120 people seated theatre style or up to 48-64 seated around tables. Tables and chairs are provided in a large open area with plenty of electric sockets. It is used to host exhibitions, meals and conferences.	

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

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

We are looking for someone who can promote our meeting 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

THE COURAGE AND WITNESS OF MERIAM IBRAHIM

One of the best ‘good news’ Christian stories of this year has got to be the courage that Meriam Ibrahim showed when arrested in Sudan for allegedly renouncing Islam, for her resilience against death threats in prison, and for her ultimate release and move to the United States.

In an interview with Fox News in the USA, after she was freed, Meriam said that she had never once considered abandoning her faith to save her life. She explained that her faith in God had been her “only weapon” in the on-going confrontations between her and various imams and Muslim scholars. She went on: “I was given three days (to renounce my faith). I faced a tremendous amount of pressure. The situation was difficult, but I was sure that God would stand by my side. It’s my right to follow the religion of my choice. I would like to help the people in Sudan, in Africa, especially women and children, to promote freedom of religion,” she said. “If you don’t have faith, you’re not alive.”

Courtesy of Parish Pump

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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The solution is on page 36.

THE EVERLASTING TURKEY

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.
On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard
As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird.
On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.
On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince
When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince.
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer.
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto.
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.
On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting.
On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS.

Courtesy of Parish Pump

CHRISTMAS HOSPITALITY APPEAL

This Christmas the university would once again like to offer students the opportunity to experience a traditional British Christmas. A simple act of hospitality and kindness makes a huge difference to a student's experience of their time here and can lead to lasting friendships.

If you are able to offer a meal to two, or more, students, ideally on Christmas Day, or would just like to find out more, please get in touch with Revd Dr Fiona Haworth. Fiona will be able to offer you advice and support. Asking for more information doesn't commit you to anything at this stage!

Fiona can be contacted by email: f.haworth@worc.ac.uk Tel: 01905 542327

THE NIGHT ELVIS CAME BY

On the evening of Saturday 1st November, for two hours only, Elvis (aka Reverend Andy Kelso) was in the (St John-in-Bedwardine) building. Following a ploughman's supper, an audience of around ninety of us were treated to many of The King's best known standards. Whether you were there for the rocking and rolling or the slow stuff, Andy duly delivered. His high energy performance was interspersed with his potted life story of how he came to be a Christian and how his values changed accordingly.



The evening ended with a raffle draw for some wonderful prizes including trips to the House of Commons, Worcester Warriors, and the Morgan car factory. Over £500 was raised, to be shared between St Richards' Hospice and the church. Thanks to all who contributed - Elvis himself, the audience and the generous contributors of prizes.

Gordon Templeton

RIDE & STRIDE 2014

Thank you to everyone who sponsored this year's "Riders & Strider". As reported previously, we all had a really enjoyable day and a very successful one too. Collectively, we raised £470 in West Worcester, which is more than double last year's total! This money will be split 50:50 with our churches and the "Worcester & Dudley Historic Churches Trust".

Philip Evans

THE CONTEXT OF CHRIST

It is frustrating that there is such general ignorance of the facts surrounding Jesus, with some even denying that He was a historical figure. In fact, not only was He a historical figure but, in human terms, the product of a very specific time and place. We have written a book "The context of Christ" which is a short introduction to His historical and political context for the general reader, so that Christians and others can refute commonplace errors and misconceptions. Written jointly by a Christian and an agnostic, it presents the known facts objectively, with no agenda and no conspiracy theories. Please check it out for yourself: The introduction and a substantial part of the first chapter can be read free on Amazon.

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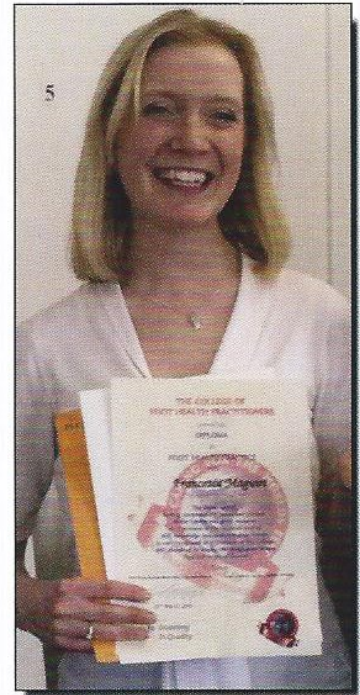
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ANGELS

We hear a lot about angels at Christmas. A lot of the carols we sing have angels in them – like 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night'.

Angels are God's messengers and you can read about the good news they brought to the shepherds in Luke's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 8-20.

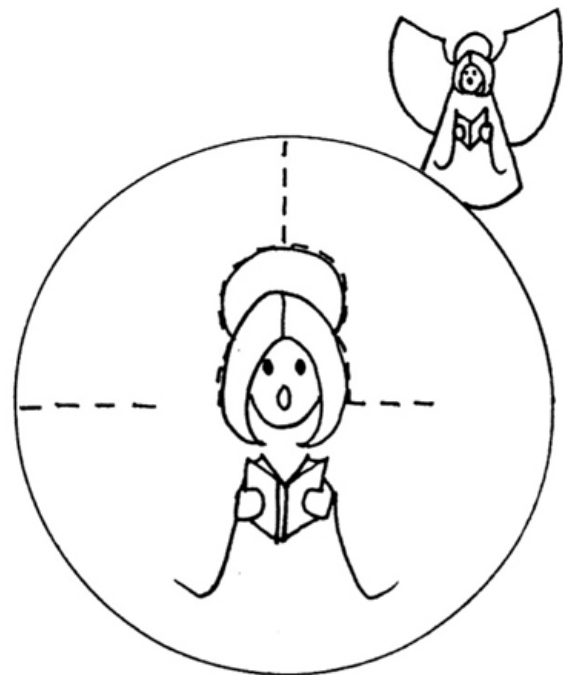
MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS ANGEL

You can make a whole host of angels, one for the top of the tree and a row of them, all different sizes, to go on a windowsill. To alter the size simply draw a bigger or smaller circle, you could use a dinner plate or a small tin to draw round. You could even make a giant angel using a dustbin lid!

You will need:

Scissors, thick white paper or thin white card, some felt tip pens and something circular to draw round (use a small plate or saucer to start with).

- Draw a circle on the paper and cut it out. Mark the centre of the circle (lightly fold it into quarters to find the centre).
- Copy the face and features on to the circle and colour them in.
- Mark the dotted lines and cut around them and around the halo and hair as marked.
- Fold the angel into a cone by putting one wing over the other and slotting them together. A little piece of sellotape will hold it firmly.



How do angels greet each other?

They say,
Halo.



What do fish sing at Christmas?

Shark, the herald angels sing.

ST JOHN'S CLERGY

Vicar	Rev'd Dr Christopher Stuart vicar@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 429773
Associate Vicar	Rev'd Dr Phillip Bradford phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 423794
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill curate@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 426257

OTHER WEST WORCESTER GROUP CLERGY

Rural Dean	Rev'd David Sherwin e-mail: Davidwin56@aol.com	01886 888664
Ministers, St Clement's with St David's	As St. John's (above)	
Vicar of St Michael, Dines Green with Crown East & Rushwick	Vacant	

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

8.00 a.m.	Every week	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30 a.m.	Every week	Parish Eucharist with Children's Church
5.00 p.m.	1st & 3rd Sundays in Month Last Sunday in Month Other Sundays	Evensong (BCP) Service of Wholeness and Healing 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 & St Michael's, December 2014

	Saint John's	Saint Clement's	Saint David's	Saint Michael's
7th December	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	 4pm Evensong	10.30am Holy Communion
14th December	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 Eucharist	10.30am Holy Communion
21st December	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 6pm Candlelit Carol Service	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	 11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
28th December	10am Joint Eucharist	Joint service at St John's	 4pm Carols round the tree	Joint service at St John's
4th January 2015	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	 4pm Evensong	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.