

St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine JANUARY 2015 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					
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PCC Lay vice-chair	Sue Bale	423257			
PCC Secretary	Graham Evans pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667			
Treasurer	John English 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. February 2015 edition deadline is Sunday 11th January 2015 (see page 18).

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.

COVER

The Rev'd Libby Lane, who was announced as the next Bishop of Stockport on 17th December 2014.

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

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2015

<u>Outreach and serving the community</u> 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

WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS							
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LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF DUDLEY

I wonder how often you look in a mirror? And I wonder what you see? Perhaps you pull a funny face and laugh. Or you pull and tuck here and there to imagine what the plastic surgeon could do to defy gravity. Or you cry, knowing that there is hidden pain there. Or smile, knowing some hidden joy. Thank goodness the bathroom is a private place!



At Christmas we looked into the manger and saw the face of God in a vulnerable baby. At Epiphany we see the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh reflected in his face with their rich portents of future kingship, holiness and death. At Candlemas we will hear again how Simeon and Anna, with the wisdom gleaned from years of being in God's company, saw the Messiah in the face of this baby brought to the Temple.

That face did not side with the ruler who beheaded his cousin, John the Baptist, but with the victim. It did not side with those who hated foreigners, as he himself had been a refugee. It did not side with the powerful, but with the marginalised. Nor the respectable, but with the scandalous. Or those deeply faithful people who followed every dot of the religious law, but with those whose lives were messy and complex. And ultimately that face, blood-stained and bruised, turned to face the cross at Golgotha.

At the centre of our hope in the future is the face of Jesus. The face where we can look deeply and always find love and joy, mercy and forgiveness. The face whose glory we discover more and more as we live the words of the Psalmist, 'your face, Lord, will I seek, hide not your face from me' (Ps 27.10-11).

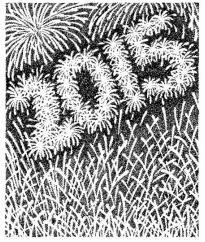
We glimpse that face in the poorest, the lost, the least and the lonely; those who the world so often forgets. At the end of last year I was part of a group from the Diocese who visited our link diocese of Peru. We visited a shanty town, built amongst the rubble and graves of a community hit by a massive earthquake to the south of Lima that killed 7000 people. There was no electricity and no water, with buildings made from bamboo matting. As people gathered in the open-air Anglican church, I saw resilient faces smiling and prayerful, and in their eyes there was immense warmth and love as they spoke about their great hope for the future in Jesus. They had, as Saint Paul wrote, seen 'the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ'.

We also see Jesus' face in Christ-like people; people who slowly take on his face by trying to live as he did. They are not those who only think of themselves, but those who live lives of love and service. Not those who trumpet their achievements, but who quietly go on supporting others in their community. Not those who chart ambitions, but those who discover that in order to care for others they sometimes have to leave behind their own futures.

Jesus calls us to travel in the company of those in whom we see his face until that day when we will no longer see dimly in a mirror but see his glory face to face.

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our January 2015 edition. As we move into a new year, thoughts turn to how the new year will differ from the last one? What new experiences and new beginnings will the new year bring? We report on some in this edition with the news that the Church of England will shortly have its first woman bishop (cover and page 11) and its own credit union (page 10). In our own diocese, we have a new Archdeacon of Worcester, Robert Jones (p12).



In our own parish, we now begin the journey to becoming a Team with St Michael's and St Clement's: What newness will that bring?

And you? Will you try something new by visiting our fellow Anglican churches in west Worcester? See page 17 for details. Or perhaps there's a new role in our church which might suit your time and talents? See page 19 and don't be shy!

In his letter, Bishop Graham calls on us to be those who support and care for others in our community, and this fits in well with one of our two priorities for 2015 which is "Outreach and serving the community". How can you be part of this?

Of course, the new year will not be positive for everyone. Some must struggle with ongoing health issues or loss of loved ones or other challenges: We pray that they may see the face of the Lord and be comforted.

However 2015 finds you, one thing is sure; we will be stronger if we travel with Christ. We pray for ourselves and for you, with these lovely words from Psalm 121:

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and earth..... The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and for evermore.

Graham and Sue Evans

⁺ Graham

		_				
IN MEMORIAM						
Alfred Victor Bishop	5 January 1979					
Vera Rolph	5 January 1995					
Florence Mary Newman	8 January 1971					
Gladys Eileen Price	8 January 2010					
Ada Halls	11 January 2011					
Albert James Hughes	12 January 1976					
Reginald Hemming	12 January 1976					
Margaret Tolley	12 January 1995					
Mary Bishop	12 January 2010					
Mildred Christina Waterson	13 January 2007					
Edith Mayall	15 January 1999					
Kenneth Plumpton	15 January 2012					
Frances Lillian Griffiths	19 January 1995					
Jack Shearer	24 January 1986					
Joseph Lowe	26 January 1982					
Beatrice Louisa Lerigo	26 January 1988					
Vera Mabel Glover	28 January 1990					
Charles Hodges	29 January 1998					

FROM THE REGISTERS

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

BAPTISMS: We welcome you into the Lord's familyFern BradfordRocco GrovesFUNERALS: Rest eternal grant unto them O LordMargaret Entwistle

d. 15th October 2014 Audrey Walton
d. 18th October 2014 Iris Matthews
d. 11th November 2014 Thomas Attwood

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2014

(5 Sundays): Communicants 344. Total attendance at all services 1150.

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 meeting is on Tuesday 6th January 2015.

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

WALK TOGETHER

Christians may not see eye to eye, but they can walk arm in arm.

Unless of	DATES FOR JANUARY 2015 nerwise stated, the venue for all the events below is	See
	John's Church, or one of the church rooms.	page
Sunday 4 th Janua	ary: Feast of the Epiphany	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day.	
Thursday 8 th Jar	iuary	
6.30 p.m.	Parish office open for bookings of weddings and baptisms only (in lieu 1 st January)	39
Saturday 10 th Ja	nuary	
10.30 a.m.	Bridge day (play starts at 11 a.m.)	8
3.00 p.m.	Children's Activities	8,14
Sunday 11 th Janu	uary: Baptism of Christ	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Sunday 18th Janu	uary: Second Sunday of Epiphany	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Wednesday 21 st .	January	
7.00 p.m.	Craft Group	8
Saturday 24 th Ja	nuary	
3.00 p.m.	Tea & Talk	8
Sunday 25 th Janu	uary: Feast of the conversion of Saint Paul	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	

LENT LUNCHES

St Michael's will be holding Lent Lunches each Wednesday during Lent starting on Ash Wednesday 18th February until Wednesday 1st April. Lunch starts at noon and finishes at 2pm, and consists of soup, filled roll, and tea/coffee. All are welcome.

Mike Dowling

THE POPPY PROJECT

Many thanks to all who sold, bought or made poppies for the British Legion (Nov 11 2014). The total raised this year was just under £1300.

We compiled a cross of poppies consisting of 104 to represent the First World War fallen of St Johns. Their names are on the war memorial in the churchyard. Besides the many single poppies sold, the 104 were sold twice over.

The president of the British Legion and the Chair of Worcester Branch of the Worcester and Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association have also thanked us for our effort.

Pat Richardson





at St John in Bedwardine Church

Welcome to 2015, do come along and join us.					
Saturday	Bridge Day 10.30am - 3.00pm. Play starts 11am.				
10 th January	£10.00 ·	to include lunch. Tel 749025 to book.			
Saturday	Children	i's Activities 3.00pm - 5.30pm.			
Saturday 10 th January	Fun and	craft with a message. Light tea included.			
10 January	Tel 4248	811 for more details.			
Wednesday 21 st	Craft Group 7.00pm Try something new. All materials				
January	included, refreshments, £5.00.				
	Tea & Te	alk 3.00pm.			
Saturday	Ever wai	nted to go on a safari? Come along to our			
24 th January	'Tanzani	an Safari' talk with photos, to see if it's for			
	you! £5.	00, to include tea and cake.			
	FUTUR	E DATES TO KEEP FREE			
Saturday 8 th February 2015 Table Sale (time to be confirmed, watch out					
for notices on the railings)					
Saturday 16 th May	2015	Promises Auction			
Saturday 11 th July	2015	St John's Summer event			

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

If you have an idea for a fund raising event please see the Vicar's letter below.

Jane, Sue and Catherine

CHANGING THE WAY WE FUNDRAISE

How Are We Doing Financially?

We've made excellent progress over the last few years in balancing our books as a church – and a big factor in that process has been the work of our fund-raising group, led by Sue, Jane and Catherine.

What Are The Issues We Face?

However, the year ahead looks like being a difficult one for us, not least due to a large amount of repair work needed to our church. It's important not to rest on our laurels, and though the fund-raising team has done some excellent work, a new year seems a good time to look again at the way we raise money for the important work we do here.

What Are We Doing About It?

Until now, our fund-raising has been co-ordinated by a small but faithful group of volunteers – Sue, Jane and Catherine. We'd like to spread that load a bit more widely, and with that in mind the Standing Committee has taken on responsibility for co-ordinating fund-raising.

(In case you didn't know, the Standing Committee is made up of the clergy, churchwardens, PCC Treasurer, PCC Lay Vice Chair and PCC Secretary: it has been taking a lead on addressing our financial problems, and so it makes sense for it to take on more responsibility for fundraising.)

Sue, Jane and Catherine will continue to organise a number of events, but we'd like to encourage others to do their own thing too, under the oversight of the Standing Committee.

What Does This Mean In Practice?

In the past, all fund-raising ideas have gone through Sue, Jane and Catherine, but this is changing.

The vision is to have lots of different groups of people organising all kinds of events, often quite independently of one another but co-ordinated by the Standing Committee. Why not get together with a few friends and lay on an event for the church? It needn't be a regular event – perhaps a one-off? Whatever it is, however offbeat it may seem, drop us a line.

I've Got An Idea... What Do I Need To Do?

Brilliant! The Standing Committee would love to hear from you, and are keen to say 'yes'! All you need to do is get in touch with either the vicar, or Graham Evans (PCC Secretary). Tell us what you'd like to do, and we'll do everything we can to support you. For example, we can give you a mentor to guide you through the process of organising the event; or, we can give you a checklist of handy hints/suggestions for laying on events at St John's; or again, we can put you in touch with volunteers within the church who might be willing to help you deliver your event – for example, people to help with publicity, or with 'back-room' stuff like teas and coffees.

We know we've got a fantastically gifted congregation; folks are already doing a lot, but we'd love to release even more of that energy to help our wonderful church. Why not drop us a line?

Chris Stuart, Vicar

NEW YEAR THOUGHT

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you. James Allen



GO-AHEAD FOR MAJOR CHURCH CREDIT UNION

Fair returns to savers, fair interest rates on loans and the aspiration to be a flagship credit union are among the aims of the Churches' Mutual Credit Union Ltd (CMCU) which received formal authorisation from the regulatory authorities on 16th December 2014. This has been a rigorous process undertaken by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. CMCU plans to begin to offer its services to those eligible for membership from February 2015.

CMCU has been formed for and with the help of the Church of England, the Methodist Church of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church in Wales. CMCU President, Canon Antony MacRow-Wood, said, "I am delighted at the news of authorisation. CMCU will help many, even in its first year of operation and, in due course, it should become a significant financial resource to the church and individuals throughout England, Wales and Scotland. CMCU will enable a virtuous re-cycling of money within the church community, through a combined portfolio of savings and loan products."

At first, churches and individuals (notably ordained ministers, licensed lay ministers, elders, employees and trustees of churches and church charities and the charities themselves) will be able to become members and benefit from the financial products. It is estimated that at least 60,000 individuals plus churches and church charities will be eligible to join CMCU. This will enable savings and provide loans to individuals for essential items and to churches for mission projects and equipment. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme covers deposits up to £85,000.

CMCU plans to offer a range of loan products which will be a major funding stream for the dividend that will be paid on savings products such as ISAs, instant access and regular (monthly) savings accounts. These products will include a competitive car loan scheme.

Once the credit union has built up an established track record it is intended that CMCU will be open to all church members and extend its denominational base. This would require permission from the regulators to alter CMCU's common bond (the definition of those eligible for membership). CMCU aspires to become an example of best practice in the sector and aid the Church's involvement in a critical area of national life for renewal and transformation.

THE REVD LIBBY LANE ANNOUNCED AS BISHOP OF STOCKPORT

Downing Street announced on 17th December 2014 that the new Bishop of Stockport, and the first woman bishop in the Church of England, will be the Revd Libby Lane, currently Vicar of St Peter's, Hale, and St Elizabeth's, Ashley. Libby succeeds the Rt Revd Robert Atwell, who is now the Bishop of Exeter.



She will serve as Bishop of Stockport, a suffragan (assistant) bishop in the Diocese of Chester. She will be

consecrated as the 8th Bishop of Stockport at a ceremony at York Minster on Monday 26 January 2015.

Libby Lane was ordained as a priest in 1994 and has served a number of parish and chaplaincy roles in the North of England in the Dioceses of Blackburn, York and Chester. For the past eight years she has served as Vicar of St. Peter's Hale and St. Elizabeth's Ashley. Her husband, George, is also a priest; they were one of the first married couples in the Church of England to be ordained together.

She is one of eight clergy women elected as Participant Observers in the House of Bishops, as the representative from the dioceses of the North West.

Speaking at Stockport town hall where she was announced as the new Bishop of Stockport Libby Lane said: "I am grateful for, though somewhat daunted by, the confidence placed in me by the Diocese of Chester. This is unexpected and very exciting. On this historic day as the Church of England announces the first woman nominated to be Bishop, I am very conscious of all those who have gone before me, women and men, who for decades have looked forward to this moment. But most of all I am thankful to God.

"The Church of England is called to serve all the people of this country, and being present in every community, we communicate our faith best when our lives build up the lives of others, especially the most vulnerable. I am excited by the possibilities and challenges ahead."

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, said: "I am absolutely delighted that Libby has been appointed. Her Christ-centred life, calmness and clear determination to serve the church and the community make her a wonderful choice."

The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Revd Dr Peter Forster, said: "Libby has had a varied and distinguished ministry, and is currently a first-rate parish priest. As the first woman bishop in the Church of England she will face many challenges as well as enjoying many opportunities to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ. I have no doubt that she has the gifts and determination to be an outstanding bishop."

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER

Thank you to all those who made it along to Archdeacon Robert's installation on Sunday 16th November. There were approximately 800 of you there! Following the service Robert said: "It was a very moving service and I was overwhelmed by the warmth and presence of so many people.



There were lots of friendly faces who have been part of my story all the way along and it was a wonderfully affirming start to this next part of my ministry."

Bishop John, who preached at the service, said: "No-one knows the Diocese better than Robert; few have ministered in it as long, or love it as much. One of Robert's best qualities is a love of God and a love of people – he is a priest through and through.

"In his new role, Robert will have a wide brief and I know he will care for churches in the Worcester Archdeaconry with great love and diligence.

"My prayer is that he be able to lead as Archdeacon as he did on the diocesan pilgrimage earlier in the year, not getting between people and God, but allowing God to reach people and transform them."

Sam Setchell

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18th to 25th January 2015. Here is a set of responses from the order of service provided for 2015:

Almighty God, breathe into us the wind of unity that recognises our diversity,

Breathe into us tolerance that welcomes and makes us community

Breathe into us fire that unites what is torn apart and heals what is ill,

Breathe into us grace that overcomes hatred and frees us from violence,

Breathe into us life that faces down and defeats death,

Blessed be the God of mercy, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and makes all things new.

Amen!

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

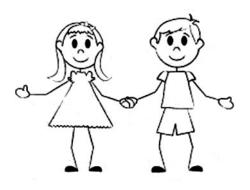
Another year over! A New Year always suggests new beginnings and looking forward but also a chance to reflect on the year just gone. 2014 was a good one for the choir as we welcomed in new members and tackled new music. My year was also one packed with new experiences not least my three weeks away in November when I went on a work visit to Hong Kong and Buenos Aries.

The two cities are so different in so many ways. Hong Kong is a relatively tiny place packed full with over 7 million citizens. It is an international city with a 24-hour culture and yet is also very Chinese (for the protesters who were still active when I was there, possibly too Chinese with their feeling that true democracy is not being allowed to flourish). Towering buildings dominate the sky line yet are nestled next to low rise ancient temples filled with the smoke from burning incense as worshippers pray and leave gifts. The underground is the most efficient I have ever encountered and yet is heaving at whatever time you choose to travel. People form orderly queues to alight and disembark but when the trains arrive, pushing and shoving to squeeze on is still the order of the day! Western Classical music is held in the highest regard with concerts sold out well in advance and at least half of the audiences below the age of 25.

Buenos Aries is, by contrast, a city of wide boulevards, fine European style buildings and little by way of an efficient transport system. The tree lined avenues in the centre are filled with elegant apartment blocks and shops but, alongside the regular economy is what is called the 'blue' market where you can exchange the hard currency of US dollars at a much more favourable rate than the official one. Driving out of the centre you quickly see shanty townships of makeshift dwellings where there is obviously huge deprivation. Yet music still abounds. Here of course it is the ubiquitous tango that you hear and there are classes, concerts and informal gatherings celebrating this National Dance. Classical Music though is also highly prized with the youngsters I encountered learning orchestral instruments, hoping to be selected to travel internationally to play.

In both cites I was made to feel very welcome and my travels really remind me once again of how international music is and how it can break down the barriers that separate people. Political unrest and poverty are everywhere but then so is music.

Luise Horrocks



CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS

Saturday 13th December was our last Children's Activity for 2014. Our theme was, 'Party'. We learnt more about the gift of Jesus through play and finished off with a party tea, including jelly.

The fun search around church this time was

looking for things in the church, reward on finding - chocolate!

Although a new initiative, the sessions seem to be popular with children, parents and the adult helpers. Why not come along and try it for yourself. No need to book but we would appreciate people arriving by 3.15pm so that we know how many people to feed!!

The next session is Saturday 10th January 3.00pm

Children's Church takes place every Sunday during the 10.30 service, except for the 2nd Sunday in the month which is a family service with the children taking an active part.

Do come and join us. If you feel you would like to help, we would welcome adult helpers. Telephone 424811 for more details.

Children's Church

Thanks to your generosity we were able to fill 50 shoeboxes. Many thanks

NEW YEAR THOUGHT

'The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.'

G.K. Chesterton

WORCESTER CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC – OPEN DAY

Worcester Chiropractic Clinic, one of our advertisers, is holding an open day on 20th January 2015. They would love to see you at 102 Bromyard Road, St Johns, Worcester, WR2 5DJ between 11.00am and 2pm. For information about the clinic, see the website (www.worcester-chiro.co.uk) or the advert on page 24.

JANUARY 1950

A DAY IN TOWN

SOME members of the Women's Fellowship spent a most enjoyable day on Wednesday, 6th December, 1949.

Several early risers trotted up and down the streets knocking up their friends. One husband, to make sure that his wife was not late, set the alarm clock an hour too early!

Eventually the Party entrained at 7.28 a.m., to settle down for a comfortable journey during which they enjoyed cups of coffee.

On arriving at Paddington, Sister Caunt met her sister and the party went their own separate ways. Arrangements were made to meet at Oxford Circus at three o'clock when sister was to take charge. The ladies were warned that Londoners knew the Country folk by the "grass growing in their ears", however, everyone split up but imagine the laughter when some boarded a bus and no one knew where they were going and someone said she could "feel the grass growing".

The conducted tour included Whitehall, Cenotaph, Downing Street where Mr. Attlee, Mr. Bevan and Mr. Dalton were seen, The Horse Guards Parade, The Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square, St. Martin's in the Field, etc.

After ascending and descending elevators and lifts, riding in Tubes and 'buses and partaking of a good tea, all returned to Paddington very tired—in fact some almost walking on their knees, so glad to be able to remove their shoes.

Full marks, Sister Caunt, for arranging such a lovely day, and allowing these ladies to forget their families for a few hours. They haven't stopped talking about it yet! DELIGHTED HUSBAND.

NEW YEAR THOUGHT

Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow: The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson.

MOTHERS' UNION – LOCAL BRANCH

Mother's Union is a worldwide organisation of over 4 million members in more than 80 countries, working towards improving family life through prayer, giving and volunteering. It was founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife in Malvern, who realised the enormous responsibility motherhood brings as she watched her daughter and grandchild. From these small beginnings has sprung our present global organisation.

Mother's Union members in Worcester Diocese offer practical support for those whose family life has met with adversity and have several outreach projects throughout the diocese. Nationally we are involved in vital outreach projects in prisons, contact centres, hospitals, refugee camps and wherever there is a need worldwide.

The Mothers' Union, City/Cathedral branch meets on the last Thursday of each month at St Oswald's Chapel, The Tything, Worcester, at 10.30a.m. You would be very welcome to come to our meetings.

As members we can; Meet and make friends; Develop new skills; Volunteer; Campaign; Serve local communities; Join a worldwide family network; become informed about issues affecting society; Support family life.

MEMBERSHIP: Our members are not all mothers, or even women. There is no age limit and the organisation is open to men and women, married, single, divorced, grandparents. We have various types of membership to suit the lifestyles of those who wish to join us. Most members belong to a branch attached to a church, but some are indoor members or diocesan members and some are central members.

All members pay an annual subscription and receive a copy of Families Worldwide which contains a prayer diary, news features and current information about projects. A bi-monthly magazine 'Families First' is available on subscription.

PRAYER: Prayer is central to member's lives. We are linked as partners in prayer with our sisters and brothers in Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Burundi and North India.

We take advantage of opportunities for our own spiritual growth with a programme of midday prayers in our daily lives, retreats, quiet days and worship.

You would be very welcome to come to our meetings where we have guest speakers from within the mother's union.

Barbara Davies 01905 22522



GET OUT AND ABOUT..... TO WORSHIP AT OTHER WEST WORCESTER GROUP CHURCHES

To celebrate the new year, the PCC invites you 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	 	•••••
T.1.1.		

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				
St Clement's								
St David's								
St Michael's								

To the recipient at St John's; please get this to the magazine tray in the Team Office

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.

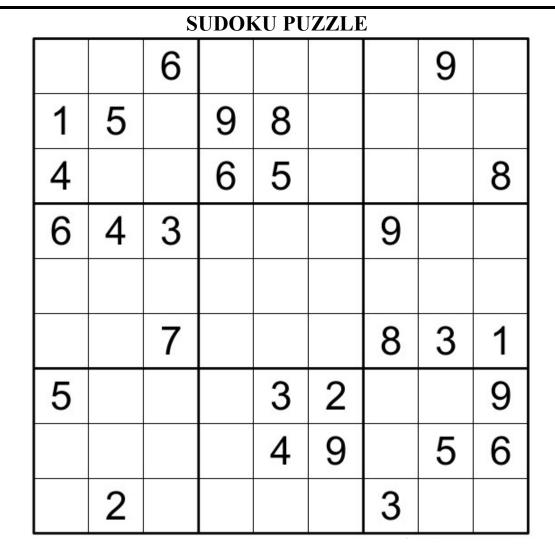
Opinions expressed in this magazine are personal opinions of the authors concerned and may not represent the views of the editors, our PCC or The Church of England. Such material is offered as a source of debate or reflection.

Copy should reach us by Sunday 11th January for the February 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



The solution is on page 25.

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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.	
Burroughs' Room	Suitable for up to 12 people. Drink making	facilities and toilet.
The North Aisle	Suitable for 120 people seated theatre style tables. Tables and chairs are provided in a la of electric sockets. It is used to host exhibiti	arge open area with plenty

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

TALENT WANTED

We have a well-established system to handle the bookings for, and liaison with users of, our meeting rooms (see above). However, the rooms are not used as much as 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

We are also looking for someone who could act as our publicity officer. The full description of the role can be seen on the church website at <u>www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk/publicityofficer</u>, but even if you could only get involved in part of this, please do speak to Philip Evans or email him at <u>pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk</u>. This role can mostly be done by email and phone without being tied to a time or place.

Graham Evans

RECYCLING PROJECT FOR ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Many thanks to everyone who has already donated items for recycling!

As the post-Christmas 'tidy up' gets into full swing please remember that any old or unwanted gadgets such as laptops, games consoles, sat navs, cameras and mobile phones can be recycled. Also unwanted or damaged items of jewellery, gold, silver or costume jewellery and watches can be recycled. Old UK or foreign currency of any age can be put in our recycling box. In addition some antiques and collectables can be donated for example: Stamp albums, binoculars, model railways and cars, small bronze figures, medals, old maps, fountain pens, old smoking related items, old fishing equipment, old clocks and golf clubs and other sporting equipment.

Everything that you donate can be turned into cash for our Church! Please ask your friends, family and work colleagues to participate. If you have any queries then please contact me on W. 423051.

Thank you! Joy Job

RARE MIGRANT VISITOR TO WORCESTER

A strange sight was seen around St John-in-Bedwardine Church on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th November. A number of people were seen in the grounds of the church with cameras, with very large camouflaged lens, on tripods and binoculars all looking at the Tower and roof of the Church.



It seems that a rare migrant visitor had decided to stop off at the Church and use it as a rest stop and feeding place. The visitor was a Black Redstart, a small Robin sized bird that is not usually seen in Worcestershire. The Tower of the Church acted as a rock face for the bird and he was using it to catch flies and fill up. According to the RSPB there are fewer than 100 breeding pairs in the UK and less than 400 birds that winter in the UK, the majority fly south to the Mediterranean for the winter.

Earlier in the week a similar, or the same bird, was seen around the Cathedral. The sightings were reported by The Birder's Store in St Johns,

http://www.worcesterbirding.co.uk/worcestershire_bird_news_60.html, which brought the birdwatchers of Worcestershire to St Johns. Vern Wright took the attached photo on the Saturday and kindly sent a copy over for this article.

CWLCPRESENTS... Random Acts of Kindness Day

A clear strength of our school is the House system. All students are members of one of the six Houses: Brunel, Curie, Da Vinci, Pankhurst, Seacole or Shakespeare. Year 7 students arrive into mixed age learning mentor groups, and soon form bonds with older students that may not have occurred otherwise. To learn the importance of looking after each other is a key aspect of school life. This was highlighted on Thursday 13th November, with our first Random Act of Kindness day. This national event was designed to make everyone, staff and students, reflect upon how they treat their friends and peers. Students discussed in their forms what they could do on this day and filled their form's 'bucket of kindness' poster to demonstrate what they had done.



I arrived at school that day to find that an anonymous stranger had tied a chocolate bar to my door with a brief note wishing me well for the day. This to me set the tone for all staff and students on this day. We carried out some very public acts of kindness such as bag packing for free at Sainsbury's or visiting Regent Sanctuary old people's home to deliver chocolates and flowers. Our Headteacher took students to collect litter in the community after school, whilst one learning mentor group had a collection to buy mosquito nets for Nigeria. It was the small stories that impressed me the most, a year 7 boy who got up at 1am to make his dad a cup of tea before he started the night shift still resonates with me.

The message from this day was a very positive one, but I hope that all staff and students reflected on the need to perform their own personal acts of kindness every day.

David Farmer Assistant Headteacher, Christopher Whitehead Language College



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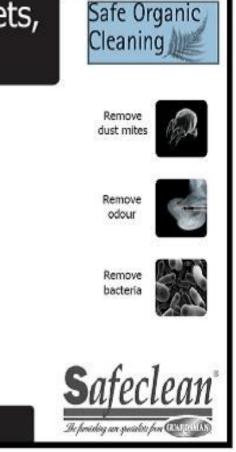


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Once in Russia, there was a woman called Babushka. Her house was perfect because she was always cleaning. One night, star appeared above the а village: everyone rushed outside to see it but Babushka missed it because she was too busy sweeping and polishing.

Three Kings came to the village following the star. Babushka invited them into her house and cared for them very well. As they left, the Kings asked her to join them on their journey. They were following the star to find the new-born King of Kings, the baby Jesus. Babushka wanted to follow them - she promised to catch them up, as soon as the house was tidy. It was days before the house was clean and then she set off, carrying a basket of toys for the baby.

But she was so far behind and when she arrived in Bethlehem. the kings and the baby had gone. So, still to this day, Babushka travels the world with her basket of toys, leaving them as presents for good children, just in case the child is Jesus.

PUTTING THINGS OFF

Sometimes we put things off because other things are more important to us, or because we frightened are too to start something that is different. There is a word for putting things off until tomorrow, it is

PROCRASTINATION

How many words can you make out of the letters of this word? Try today and don't put it off!

жжжжжжжжжжж

What do you call a magic dog? A Labracadabrador.

Where does the three legged horse live? In the unstable.

What's small and cuddly and bright purple? A koala holding his breath!

жжжжжжжжжжж

Babushka is the Russian word 'grandmother'. for Some Russian nesting dolls are called Babushkas, but mostly they are 'Matryoshka' called which means 'mother'.



ST JOHN'S CLERGY

Vicar	Rev'd Dr Christopher Stuart	01905 429773
	vicar@ westworcesterchurches.org.uk	
Associate Vicar	Rev'd Dr Phillip Bradford	01905 423794
	phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.or	g.uk
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill	01905 426257
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OTHER WEST WORCESTER GROUP CLERGY

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Ministers, St Clement's with St David'sAs St. John's (above)Vicar of St Michael, Dines Green with
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SUNDAY SERVICES

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

8.00 a.m.	Every week	Holy Communion (BCP)	
10.30 a.m. Every week		Parish Eucharist with 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	From the church car park, walk up the Bromyard
St John's, WR2 5BS	Road side of the church to the green door.
Tel: (01905) 420490	Answerphone outside office hours.

e-mail: office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Normally open for general enquiries and messages (please ring to check) Monday: 10.30am to noon. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am to noon.

For booking baptisms and weddings: Please visit or telephone the office during the normal opening hours on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Also open specifically for these bookings on the first Thursday** of each month from 6.30pm until 7.30pm

**NB <u>not</u> open 1st January 2015, but 8th January instead.



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, January 2015

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
4 th January	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion		
	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone	4.00pm Evensong	10.30am Holy Communion
	5pm Evensong (BCP)			
11 th January	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion		10.30am Holy Communion
	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's participation	10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Holy Communion	
	5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)			
18 th January	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion		
	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communio
	5pm Evensong (BCP)			
25 th January	8am Holy Communion (BCP)	9am Holy Communion		
	10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	10.45am Worship for Everyone	4.00pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
	5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing			

the latest information.