



*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

FEBRUARY 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

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.

March 2015 edition deadline is Sunday 8th February 2015 (see page 14).

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

An engraving of Polycarp by Michael Burghers, c.1685

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2015

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

WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS

Verger	Catherine Templeton	749025
Stewardship envelopes	Irene Allen	422684
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Parish Administrator	Liz Edwards liz.edwards@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	420490
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Ringling Master	John Sheehan	422389
Church Flowers	Eileen Cantrill Di White	422579
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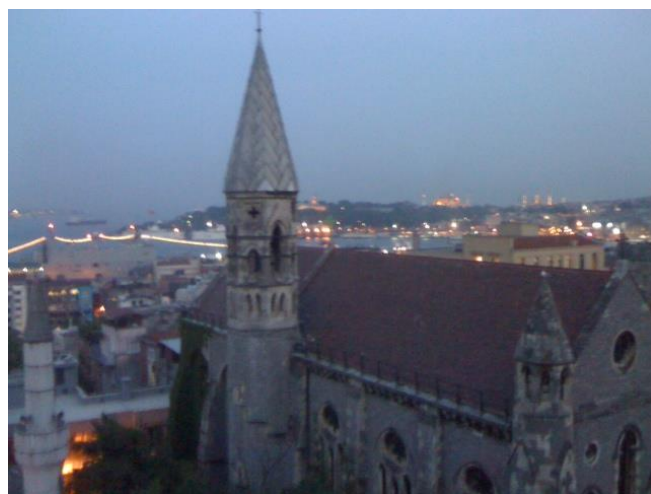
LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

As you know, last year I led a pilgrimage to Turkey. Turkey – ancient Asia Minor - is where Christianity really took off. If Israel/Palestine was the birth place of Christianity, Asia Minor was its wet nurse: the majority of the New Testament was written in Asia Minor; many famous writers – including St Luke and St John – lived, worked and died there; the Creed we say each Sunday was written there.

And yet, these days 99% of the population is Muslim, and though there isn't any out and out persecution of Christians, the Christian population are often treated as second class citizens - aliens in their own country.

Most of the surviving Christians are Orthodox, or Catholic – most but not all. Tucked away in a side street is Christ Church – the only Anglican church in the city. Our group joined them for worship one Sunday. The vicar is obviously an animal lover: we were met by his hens, pecking around the churchyard. The hens weren't churchgoers (they didn't join us in church); the vicar's cat, by contrast,



was a faithful soul (if regrettably lax in its time keeping): she strode up the nave during the gradual hymn, and made herself at home during the service.

It was all charmingly eccentric – but not as eccentric as the building itself, or, for that matter, as the Anglican church in Izmir, further south along the coast. Because both churches – in Istanbul, and in Izmir – look exactly like an English country village church. The one in Izmir in particular looks like the church out at Astley, or Martley. To say they look a little out of place in a predominantly Muslim country would be an understatement! It's a characteristic of Anglican churches abroad: some of you will have been to St George's Anglican cathedral in Jerusalem: another church that looks like something out of rural England (complete with copies of the new English Hymnal).

Why do these churches stick out like a sore thumb? I don't think it's that the builders lacked imagination. No, I think that perhaps part of the rationale is that these churches were built for English ex-pats in the days of Empire, homesick for England; they were built to remind them of England, to make them feel at home.

It made for quite a contrast with another church Sarah and I visited last year when we visited Russia on holiday: the cathedral church which serves as the headquarters of the Russian Orthodox Church, in Moscow.

What struck me the most was the way in which the church is laid out. The chancel area at the front of the church is hidden behind a huge screen, covered with icons of saints; in Orthodox tradition, the area behind that screen is, literally, heaven. Every now and then during the worship the doors open and you get a glimpse through into that heaven, where the bread and wine are consecrated, where the priests sing the most heavenly music, and where the clouds of incense (which are the prayers of the saints - Revelation 8: 3-4) perfume the air. As you watch, a part of you is swept through those doors, even though you remain outside for now; a part of you is there, with God. Heaven is being with God, close to him; and every time we feel him in our lives, heaven is there, now.

If the Anglican churches in Istanbul and Izmir were designed to remind the congregation of home (England), Orthodox churches are designed to remind Christians of their ultimate home – in heaven.

The Anglican churches of Izmir and Istanbul are comforting, but for the wrong reasons, I think. They tend to root their comfort – their hope – in the past: they are reminders of an ‘old England’ that never really existed. Sometimes, we allow our worship to fulfil the same purpose; it can end up comforting us for the wrong reasons. History, in the form of ‘old England’ churches or comfortably familiar worship, makes us feel safe, rooted, permanent. But all things earthly pass. Thank God, our comfort – our hope – is rooted not in the past, but in the future. We are pilgrims on a journey, as the song goes, and we’re on a journey home; times change, things pass – but the things that really, truly matter, never change (Hebrews 12: 26-27).

Where is Christ in this world? Where he’s always been: on the cross; on the cross, showing us the path to that heaven which glows around us and within us as we journey on through a world that is passing.

Christopher

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our February 2015 edition. Our theme this month is transition and journeying, inspired by our historical Christian figure, Polycarp. He lived during the most formative era of the church, at the end of the age of the original apostles, when the church was making the critical transition to the second generation of believers.

The Vicar has reflected above how we must be rooted in Christ as we journey: As a parish we are seeking to change and become more outward looking (see our priorities on page 3); also, we face a long slow change in West Worcester from being a group to a team – which may make some of us wish to take refuge in ‘old England’.

We pray for ourselves as individuals and as a church that God may be with us whatever changes and transitions we encounter on life’s journey.

Graham and Sue Evans

IN MEMORIAM

Olive Mary Peggy Outram	2 February 1992
William John Davies	3 February 1999
Frederick Grice	8 February 1983
Doris Winifred Osborne	10 February 1975
Frederick James Cole	10 February 1975
Stanley Edward Price	11 February 1982
John Lunn Newman	14 February 1976
Rosanna Walker	14 February 1990
Stanley Reginald Jones	15 February 1963
Mary Ann Harrison	15 February 1978
Maurice Charles Pearson	24 February 1999
Reginald Edward Osborne	25 February 1984
Emily Jane Haynes	26 February 1976
Florence Harrison	26 February 1977
Reginald Frederick Jones	27 February 1974
May Smith Bloodworth	28 February 1976
William Joseph Probyn	28 February 1987
Doris Betty Dear	28 February 1989
Doreen Iavarone	28 February 1998

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in December 2014

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

Freddie Mitchell

Kieran Blockley

Piper Smith

Aaliyah Blockley

Ethan Rushton

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

Shawn Coombs and Clare Partridge

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 14th November 2014 Ronald Williams

d. 4th December 2014 Gwyneth Pritchett

d. 5th December 2014 Mary Goodman

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2014

(4 Sundays): Communicants 438. Total attendance at all services 1853.

TEA AT TWO ON TUESDAY

Tea at two is now cancelled. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all our volunteers from the pastoral care team for all their support; and not forgetting all the wonderful cakes they provided.

Sylvia Render

DATES FOR FEBRUARY 2015

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

See
page

Sunday 1st February: Candlemas

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day.

Saturday 7th February

11.00 a.m.	Table sale 11am-2pm (note new time)	8
3.00 p.m.	Children's Activities	8,13

Sunday 8th February: Second Sunday Before Lent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 11th February

7.00 p.m.	Craft Group	8
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Saturday 14th February: St Valentine

7.00 p.m.	Valentine Meal	8
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Sunday 15th February: Sunday Next Before Lent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 18th February: Ash Wednesday

7.30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday service at St John's.	
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Sunday 22nd February: First Sunday of Lent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

LENT LUNCHESES

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

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

There will be the following services on Ash Wednesday (18th February):

9.45am	St Clement's
6.00pm	St Michael's
7.30pm	St John's





Fellowship and Fund Raising Events
at St John in Bedwardine Church



Saturday 7 th February	Table Sale Note NEW TIME 11.00am - 2.00pm £10.00 Tel 424811 or 423257 to book a table. Setting up from 9.00am Refreshments available.
Saturday 7 th February	Children's Activities 3.00pm - 5.30pm. Fun and craft with a message. Light tea included. Tel 424811 for more details.
Wednesday 11 th February	Craft Group 7.00pm Try something new. All materials included, refreshments, £5.00.
Saturday 14 th February	Valentine Meal 7.00pm Come and join us for a friendly evening, you don't have to come with a partner. Enjoy a 3 course meal with friends, only £10.00. Tel. 423257 or 424811 to book.

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday 18 th April 2015	Philomusica Concert (Mendelssohn: Elijah)
Saturday 16 th May 2015	Promises Auction
Saturday 11 th July 2015	St John's Summer event

Parish Breakfast

Saturday 21st March 2015

8.30am – 10.30am

St John's Church



A full English breakfast will be served
to you, your friends, neighbours and family

All are welcome

Saturday's newspapers to read,
and drawing and colouring activities for children

Good conversation

This is a FREE event

Fiddler on the Roof

Swan Theatre, Worcester 17–21 March 2015

Great Witley Operatic Society (GWOS)

Nominated for 10 Tony Awards when it opened on Broadway in 1964, **Fiddler on the Roof** won 9 and ran for almost 10 years. With numerous revivals on Broadway and in London, the show continues to touch audiences worldwide with its humour, warmth and honesty.

Set in a little Russian village in 1905, the story centres on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colourful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instil in them traditional values in the face of a changing world and the growing anti-semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, **Fiddler on the Roof's** universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

The part of Tevye is one of the most memorable roles in musical theatre. The show's music is well-suited to GWOS' well-known strength and is much more than the iconic and beloved songs such as *Tradition, Sunrise, Sunset, If I Were A Rich Man* and *Matchmaker, Matchmaker*. **Fiddler on the Roof** is the perfect mix of audience-pleasing humour and heart.

For more details phone Mrs Pat Bosworth on **01905 422789** for your ticket (£11-£16) requirements. Then send SAE and cheque (*payable to GWOS*) to **Mrs Pat Bosworth, 153 Columbia Drive, Worcester WR2 4XG**. Until Feb 16th tickets are only from Pat. From Feb 17th only from Worcester Live Box Office on **01905 611427**.

NB: special offer of one free child seat per paying adult on the 2.30pm Sat Mat only.

Forwarded by Edward Reeves

WITH LENT IN MIND...

Still water and still religion freeze the quickest. - *Anon*

Some Christians are not only like salt that has lost its savour, but like pepper that has lost its pep. - *Albert George Butzer*

It is dangerously possible for activity to be no more than a dizzy whirl around a central emptiness. - *Anon*

Nature forms us; sin deforms us; school informs us; Christ transforms us. - *Anon*

Happy moments, praise God. Difficult moments, seek God. Quiet moments, worship God. Painful moments, trust God. Every moment, thank God. - *Anon*

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR



This month I thought it would be interesting to share some thoughts from our newest choir member, Roger Job who has joined the Bass section. He very kindly jotted down his musings and so, without further input from me, here they are!

The 'Bass Line'



I have been associated with St John's church for over twenty years but only as a regular congregant for the last four. I joined the choir last September so I am very much the new kid on the block. Earlier last year at a social evening at the vicarage, the subject of church music was being discussed over a glass or two (maybe three!) of wine and Chris asked me whether I sang. I replied that I quite enjoyed singing bass, and thought no more of it as the discussion moved on. The wine must have been quite strong because I must have failed to notice the twinkle in Chris's eye as after a few days I was approached by both

John Brierley and later Luise Horrocks who both enquired as to whether I had thought of joining the choir! After some very gentle persuasion I was invited to attend a Thursday evening choir practice (7 – 8.30 pm) and take things from there.

The last time I sang in a choir was at school, so it was with a little trepidation that I went to choir practice in early September. I need not have worried because right from the start I was made to feel very welcome. I took my seat with the basses and tenors, Philip Evans helped me interpret plainsong, and very soon I was singing a selection of hymns, psalms and anthems for forthcoming services. The following Sunday I took my place in the choir stalls and I was hooked!

At St John's we are fortunate to have John Brierley as our choirmaster. He has infinite patience and as well as tinkling the ivories he does the same to our vocal chords and so gets the best out of everyone. It has been clear to me that over many months the choice of choral music has sometimes been quite challenging but I feel that the choir has risen to that challenge and 'upped their game'. The result must surely have a positive effect on the congregation and make our worship more meaningful and enjoyable. For me, to have played my small part in this process has been very special indeed.

I have always enjoyed listening to choral music including that of modern composers like Karl Jenkins and John Rutter and I have found that since joining the choir reading music has improved with practice. I have no doubt that there are many parishioners

who have good voices and may have thought about joining a choir. All I would say is - if I can do it then anyone can! Being a member of the choir does not mean that the obligations are onerous. On the contrary – remember this is a voluntary parish choir and all of us have work and personal commitments that often take priority and make regular attendance difficult. So, come when you can – no pressure. As I have already mentioned, the choir is a very friendly bunch and the fellowship generated within it is infectious. One word of warning though, the cakes supplied by the ladies for our tea breaks at choir practice are to die for!

Luise Horrocks

WHAT'S ALL THIS "TEAM" AND "GROUP" STUFF?

In West Worcester we are on a journey from being a "Group" of parishes to being a "Team". What does it all mean? Here are a couple of formal definitions:

A group ministry is a grouping of benefices whereby the clergy (incumbents or priests-in-charge) of two or more separate benefices are under a legal duty to assist each other to make the best possible provision for the cure of souls in the area as a whole.

A team ministry is an arrangement whereby a team of clergy, and sometimes lay people, legally share the pastoral care of the parish or parishes of a single benefice (or two or more benefices held in plurality).

These are taken from the "Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 Code of Recommended Practice". If you want to read more (!) the full document can be found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/1496763/mpm2011codevolume1.doc>

As so often, looking up words leads to other terms one is not quite sure of, like "benefice":

Benefice: One of those words loved by the lawyers that are difficult to define. The Shorter Oxford Dictionary says "an ecclesiastical tenure", whatever that may mean. For our purposes it may do to say that it relates to all that an incumbent accepts on his appointment to a parish – any endowments, the cure of souls in the parish, the freehold, the occupation of the clergy residence, be it vicarage or rectory (from <http://www.churchofenglandglossary.co.uk/>).

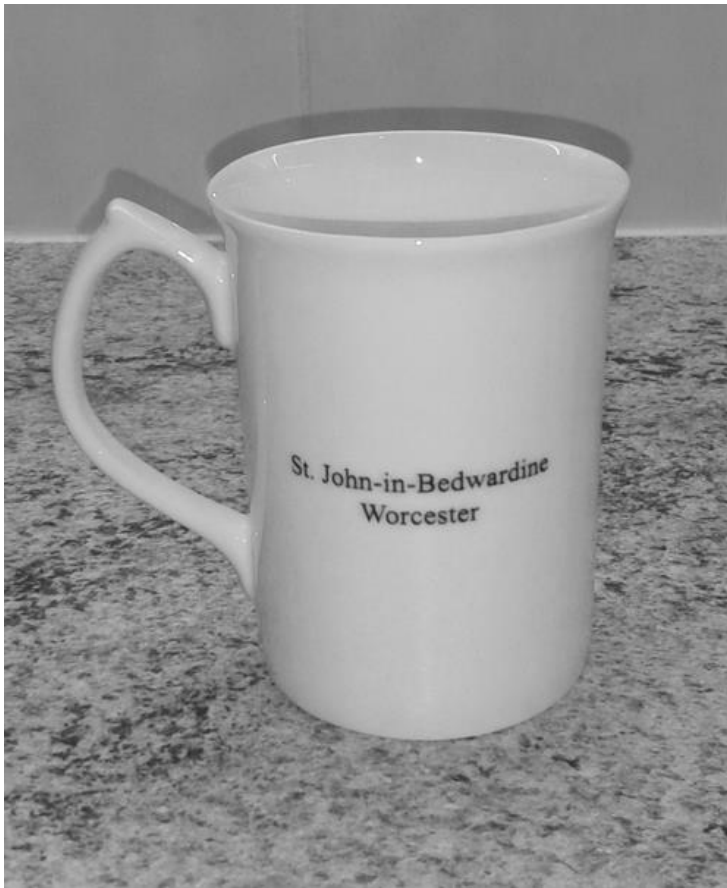
Graham Evans

THE POWER OF LOVE

Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyses life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonises it. Hatred darkens life; love illumines it.

Martin Luther King

CHURCH MUGS ON SALE



We are now selling the mugs that we are using for coffee in church and we have 100 to sell.

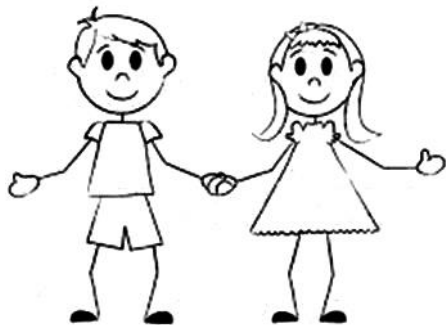
They are £5.00 each made of fine bone china in England with a photograph of St John's church taken by Colin Nash. They are dish washer proof.



If you would like to purchase a mug they are available on a Sunday morning at coffee time or through me

Jenny English
Tel.427822

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS



Saturday 10th January was our first Saturday session of 2015. The weather was windy and wet, so we were pleased to welcome 16 children. There were some old and new faces. The children learnt more about the visit from the Wise Men and in teams made one of their gifts

and the three Wise Men. The judges found it too hard to decide on a winner so each child received a winners chocolate bar!

We also had the popular search around church. Collecting clues of letters to make words was enjoyed by the children of all ages, even if the adult helpers found the racing round tiring!

The New Year looks promising for this group and it is lovely to see the children enjoying themselves but also the fellowship between the adults. 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 the first Saturday in February, the 7th, 3.00 - 5.30pm. 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. It was wonderful to see the children being involved in the service on 11th January. Well done to all of those who did a reading or read prayers.

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

HOW DO YOU DEFINE LOVE?

When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love. *Rebecca - age 8.*

Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your chips, without making them give you any of theirs. *Chrissy - age 6.*

Love is what makes you smile when you're tired. *Terri - age 4.*

If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate. *Nikka - age 6* (we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet).

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 8th February for the March 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

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

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The solution is on page 26.
There's also a Wordsearch on page 38.

INTERESTING BITS ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE

You may not realise just how much interesting material can be found on our church website (www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk). From the home page, you can click the link “Click here to visit the Online Archive”. This leads to a section containing:

History notice in porch

The text from a written history that used to hang in the porch.

Inscriptions on Gravestones

The inscriptions that were on some of the gravestones, now removed from the graveyard. These inscriptions were recorded by William Henry Thomas, who was Parish Clerk 1908-1953.

Tower Appeal Project Diary

A diary has been created detailing the project from when the problem was first discovered to when ringing resumed.

Notes Respecting Bellingringing

A diary kept by the Parish Clerk Mr. W.H. Thomas about Bellingringing at St. John's.

Meeting Room Project


Architectural plans drawn up in 1998/9 for a possible new church hall.

Parish Magazine Online Archive

Our archive of Parish Magazines stretches back to the 1870s.

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 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 [hiring@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto: hiring@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

FROM THE MAGAZINE ARCHIVE

February 1952 – The curate moves on

TAKING LEAVE OF THE REVD. C. H. CARVER

THE members of the Great Family of St. John's Church gathered together in large numbers in the Boys' School on January 18th to pay tribute and present their gifts to the Revd. C. H. Carver, as he left the Home Circle of St. John's, to build up another Church Family at St. Peter's, Hindley.

We were all there, the young and the old, the Mayor of the City, our beloved Vicar, the Churchwardens, Church Councillors, Representatives of every organisation, Day and Sunday School Teachers and dear Mr. Thomas, the Parish Clerk, who has known many Curates and Vicars, but has never been so happy as he is now.

Mr. Robert Smith, our devoted Churchwarden, took the Chair, and after the Vicar had spoken in the most generous terms of the splendid work, loyalty, and co-operation of his colleague, whom he had regarded as a brother, called on the Mayor, who spoke of the excellent training Mr. Carver had received, and then Mr. Higgins, Churchwarden, who referred to him as a "Jolly Good Fellow".

Various other members of the Family were given the opportunity to tell of the value of Mr. Carver's work as they knew it, from their own experience. Mention was made of his eloquence in the pulpit, his friendliness, his kindness to the sick, his consideration for the elderly, his understanding of, and work amongst, the Youth of the Parish, and his love for the children.

Mr. Smith then handed a cheque to Mr. Carver, with the very best wishes of all the contributors, adding a special word of thanks from the sick Parishioners who were unable to be present.

Various organisations presented their own gifts and many others were sent privately, all showing the warm affection felt for him.

Friday's Household.

Linoleum.—There are any number of uses for linoleum in the home. In recent years new types have been developed, and the older ones adapted to new uses. Try it as a wall covering in the kitchen or bathroom. Choose a pattern best suited to the room, and cut it carefully to size. Then cement it down evenly and smoothly and allow it to dry. It will give years of wear and add attractiveness wherever it is used.—Miss E. M. HARDING.

Did anyone ever actually do this????

Please let us know!

The Editors

POLYCARP

Polycarp was one of the most important Christians in Roman Asia in the mid-2nd century, because of his link to the time of the Apostles and the earliest Christian Fathers.

He is among the earliest Christians whose writings survive. Saint Jerome wrote that Polycarp was a "disciple of the apostle John and by him ordained bishop of Smyrna" (Izmir). He was an elder of an important congregation which was a large contributor to the founding of the Christian Church.

Polycarp lived in an age after the deaths of the apostles, when a variety of interpretations of the sayings of Jesus were being preached. His role was to authenticate orthodox teachings through

his reputed connection with the apostle John: A high value was attached to the witness Polycarp could give as to the genuine tradition of old apostolic doctrine. Several ancient sources document the contributions of Polycarp to Christianity, including his letters written to the church at Philippi, in which he encourages the members to remain strong in their faith and to flee from materialism. He also instructs the members in the proper handling of financial dishonesty that was creeping into the church.

Near the end of his long life, Polycarp paid a visit to Rome to discuss with the bishop there the possibility of agreeing a uniform date of celebrating Easter. When they found they could not agree, they amicably agreed to differ, and parted in good faith.

Polycarp was martyred when Rome had unleashed bitter attacks against the Christians. Polycarp was arrested on the charge of being a Christian -- a member of a politically dangerous cult whose rapid growth needed to be stopped. Amidst an angry mob, the Roman proconsul took pity on such a gentle old man and urged Polycarp to proclaim, "Caesar is Lord". If Polycarp would make this declaration and offer a small pinch of incense to Caesar's statue he would escape torture and death. To this Polycarp responded, "Eighty-six years I have served Christ, and He never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" Steadfast in his stand for Christ, Polycarp refused to compromise his beliefs, and thus, was burned alive at the stake.



Graham Evans (Compiled from various sources)

Are You Struggling to Make Ends Meet?

Can We Help?

St John's church runs a small charity designed to provide financial assistance to those in genuine need.

Grants are usually between £50 and £100 and are available to anyone who is a resident in west Worcester. You don't have to be religious or Christian to receive help.

For more information, please write to
The Vicar, 1a, Bromyard Road, St John's,
Worcester. WR2 5BS,
or tel. 01905 429773.

Alternatively, you can email vicar@westworcesterchurches.org.uk

'BEST OF WORCESTER' COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Mayor of Worcester has announced the first ever 'Best of Worcester' Community Awards. In partnership with the Rotary Club of Worcester and supported by Regenerating Communities this will be the first event of its kind to celebrate all that is good about Worcester.

The Mayor is seeking nominations from all sections of the community for a number of categories for work that they feel should be recognised and rewarded (see the website <http://www.worcester.gov.uk/communityawards> for the categories and the nomination form).

All short-listed nominations will be invited to a special dinner in the Guildhall on the evening of Friday 20th March 2015, where the winners will be announced and presented with their awards.

Nominations must be submitted by 5.00pm on Monday 16th February 2015. People shortlisted for an award will be informed by Tuesday 24th February 2015.

Chris Stuart

Marcés Mailing January 2015



Dear Friends,

2015 began, as always in Lima, with numerous firework displays in the skies overhead, with terrified pets in many houses. In recent years we have been at Church at midnight rather than watching fireworks, but this time the service was 7-9pm, making it easier for people to get home afterwards. We had “9 lessons and carols” with an extra reading for the 1st Jan, with ample time to reflect personally on 2014, commit 2015 to the Lord, and pray for each other. All decided to stay for hot chocolate and paneton afterwards...

This Christmas/New Year saw a reduction in Christmas lights. Our ecologically-minded district did not give permission to small local parks to use lights – rather sad since this also resulted in few Nativity scenes (set up at the base of the statues to Mary in every park in the district, but maybe a result of Lima having been the venue for the UN annual conference on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (COP20). Despite the lack of lights Juan Carlos and Penny spent an hour from 0015 to 0115 on 25th Dec singing carols in the park. Last Christmas this was (surprisingly) well-attended by neighbours; not so this time, but at least the invitations meant people were reminded of what Christmas really is.

“What is Christmas?” is also the title of the booklet given and explained BEFORE the now- traditional Christmas boxes are given to children in areas of poverty. We have realised that it is preferable to give in places outside Lima since many businesses and

Continued over

universities etc. donate within Lima, whereas such gifts tend NOT to arrive further afield. The booklet, written 3 years ago, puts the Christmas story in the context of the whole Gospel, and is about to be upgraded; we have been encouraged to register it legally; it can then (after paperwork and payments!!!) be offered in e.g. the Bible Society. This time its scope was widened; having been invited to lead an event for patients, staff and (a few!) visitors in a state-run hospital for those with mental disabilities, we used enlarged drawings as the base; the hospital social worker was thrilled at how patients responded. Only one hitch - the refreshments (soft drinks and paneton) suddenly got brought out half way through, leading to a reduction in concentration on behalf of patients who were NOT going to miss out on the food.



The Alpha course held from Sept to Nov was very encouraging, for both leaders and those who attended. Give thanks especially for Debbie, José, Corina and Juan who found it a particular blessing, and pray that they will continue to grow in their faith and confidence. These, and others in both Spanish and English-speaking congregations, are some of those with whom we work pastorally and personally.

The AMA bi-annual retreat was also well-received. AMA has now existed for 15 years so, given that girls have a special birthday celebration on achieving the age of 15, the theme was “Development and maturity: the fruits of a changed life”, and the talks were given by the Bishop. There was a final celebration back in the Cathedral with a service and celebration; unfortunately the photographic displays etc. were inaccessible because of chairs in front of the displays Penny, having served on the AMA central committee since before it even began formally, is now stepping aside as a member, although will still help when needed to produce materials and lead music.



One reason for this is Penny's health, although she really IS much better. Having developed high blood pressure in 2013 (plus a – fairly minor – stroke), 2014 saw successive (cumulative) diagnoses of psoriatic arthritis, vitamin B12 deficiency and autoimmune thyroiditis. None in itself is major and all are controllable but when everything went awry all at once in 2013 it was an interesting mixture of symptoms...

We are now preparing for our trip to the UK later this month. We enjoy visiting our link churches and friends so please note where we will be when, and hopefully we can see as many of you as possible. The children will not be with us. Becky is now officially an "egresado" and is currently working; Lizi is studying and hoping to find her undergrad work experience (to continue when classes start again); and Jonny is working for the summer before starting back at Uni in March (he has now opted to study law; fortunately his studies so far have been general and so this does not mean starting all over again).

Thank you for your prayers and other forms of support, which we value very much. We hope to see many of you soon....

With our love and thanks,

Juan Carlos, Penny, Rebeca, Elizabeth & Jonatan

"The LORD bless you
and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace."
(Numbers 6:24-26)

*Please
Pray...*

Prayer for Peru

- Alpha guests: Debbie, Corina, Juan and José
- Peru Tres Días weekends in April
- Adult Forum, homegroup and AMA group; those in charge (David, Lula & Martha)

General prayer for UK visit

- Building up new and existing relationships with all those we meet, in Church groups and personally
- Arranging meetings and events
- Times with Penny's family
- Safety in travels
- Rebeca, Lizi and Jonny working/studying in Lima

Penny and Juan Carlos are due to be in the UK from 27th January to 27th April and are scheduled to visit St John's on 15th March.

The Editors.

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

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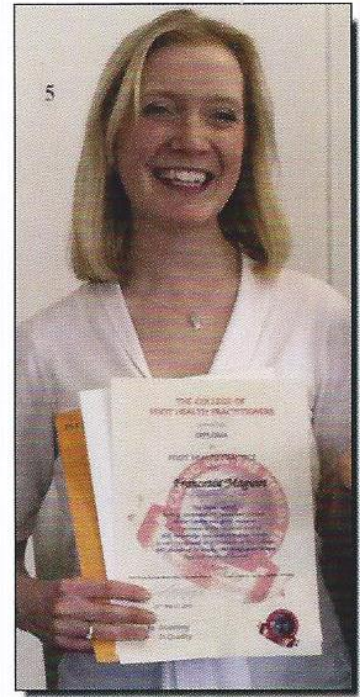
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SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING

Many people had seen the steam lift the lid of a kettle, but it took a James Watt to see it and go on to think of that power becoming a steam engine. It is all a matter of how we see things. We could see something a thousand times and not make the connection.

Jesus explained why he taught with parables, stories that explain some-thing in simple ways to do with everyday life that people of the time would recognise. He explained that it was because people look without seeing, and listen without understanding (Matthew chapter 13, verses 13-14).

We all do this, and that is why we need other people to help us learn more about what the stories in the Bible mean. People who can explain and help us to see with 'new eyes'.



SEEING THE WORDS

All the words hidden in this word-search are things you see with or look at:

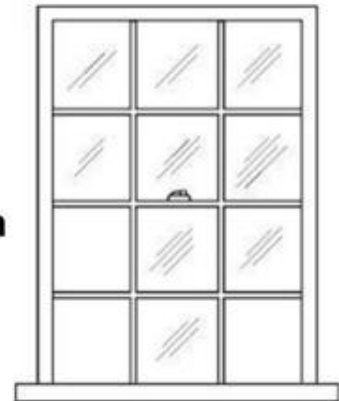
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E	A	K	S	V	I	D	E	O	E
S	T	C	L	I	C	E	L	F	O
S	C	O	O	S	T	G	G	R	W
A	H	L	O	I	U	O	G	E	E
L	C	C	R	S	R	T	O	L	I
G	A	M	E	N	E	U	G	O	V

* clock * eyes * game * glasses * goggles * lens * picture * scene * spectacles * television * video * view * watch



What gadget do we use to see through a wall?

A window.



Optician: What can you see out of the window?

Patient: Only the sun.

Optician: How far do you want to see, then?

Optician: You need glasses.

Patient: But I'm wearing glasses.

Optician: Then I need glasses.

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Associate Vicar	Rev'd Dr Phillip Bradford phil.bradford@westworchesterchurches.org.uk	01905 423794
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill curate@westworchesterchurches.org.uk	01905 426257

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Ministers, St Clement's with St David's	As St. John's (above)	
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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 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

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Parish Website: www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

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Sunday services at St. John's, St. Clement's, St. David's and St Michael's February 2015

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
1st February	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	4.00pm Evensong	10.30am Holy Communion
8th February	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
15th February	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
22nd February	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	4.00pm 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.