



St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine

MARCH 2015

40p

Sponsor the Vicar!

In April, Chris will be walking Alfred Wainwright's 190 mile

Coast to Coast Path

from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay in Yorkshire

and hopes to raise £1000 for

Maggs Day Centre for the Homeless

and

The Worcestershire Breast Unit Campaign

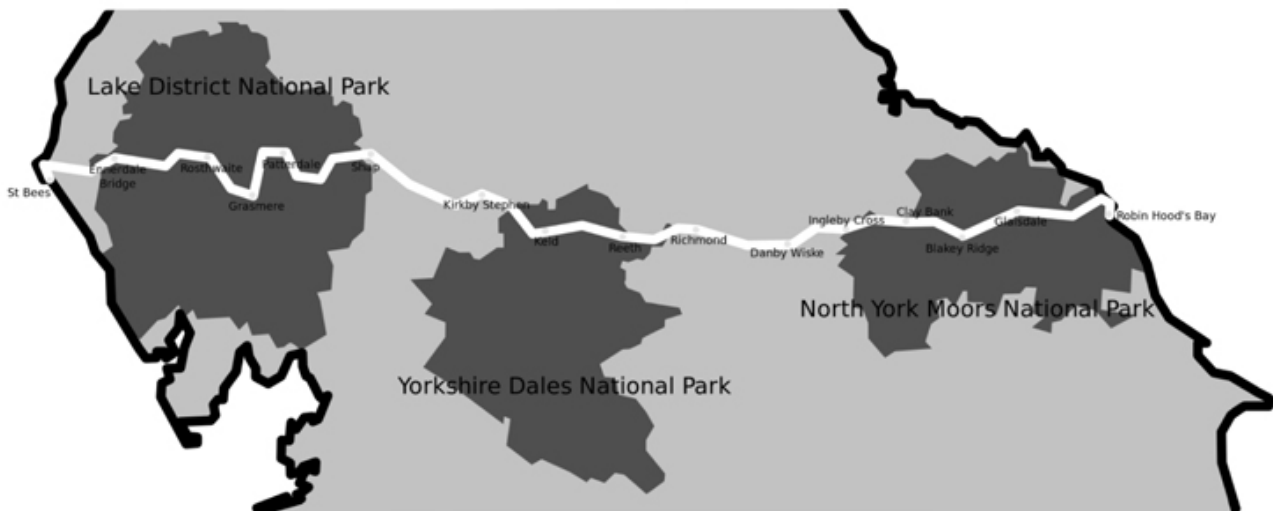


Image © James F Carter

Give online at:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/christopherstuart>

(donations will be split equally between the two charities)

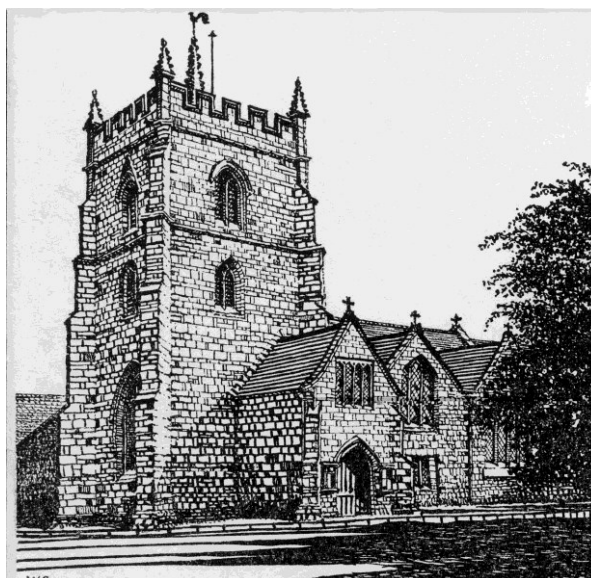
You can also sign up to sponsor him using the form at the back of church
or

Send him a cheque/cheques via the Parish Office, payable to 'Maggs Day Centre' or 'The Worcestershire Breast Unit Campaign' (or even two cheques, one for each!)

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.

The deadline for the April 2015 edition is Sunday 15th March 2015 (see page 22).

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

Information about the Vicar's sponsored walk.

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

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
Estates Manager	Brian Askew brian.askew@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	424811
Parish Administrator	Liz Edwards liz.edwards@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	420490
Education & Heritage Officer	Philip Evans edofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
Child Protection Officer	Jane Askew	424811
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Sylvia Render sylvia.render@talktalk.net	422654
Press Officer	Philip Evans pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
Organist & Choirmaster	John Brierley	358474
Music Group	Peter Yates pjyates194@btinternet.com	422565
Ringing Master	John Sheehan	422389
Church Flowers	Eileen Cantrill	422579
Magazine Editors	Di White Sue & Graham Evans magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
Magazine Distributor & Treasurer	Philip Evans pjevans@physics.org	428667
Webmaster	Philip Evans webmaster@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	

LETTER FROM THE PHIL BRADFORD

‘In this tragic moment when words appear so inadequate to express the shock we feel, the first thing which comes to mind is this: we are all Americans!’ So ran the opening line of the editorial in the French newspaper *Le Monde* on 13 September, 2001, following the events which had stunned the world two days earlier. In January this year, following the terrorist attacks which brought France’s own capital to its knees, a similar sentiment was echoed back to the French in a mass outpouring of European solidarity. There were many like me, with family in Paris, who felt the impact of the attacks especially sharply, but western society as a whole recoiled at the attack in the land of liberty, equality and brotherhood. The images from those three terrifying days will be seared into the minds of those who saw them for many years to come, but one in particular came to symbolise a defiant response to the terrorist atrocities. ‘Je suis Charlie’ (‘I am Charlie’), etched in white letters on a black background, was held aloft by numerous protestors and even adorned the Arc de Triomphe in an act of solidarity with the murdered journalists from the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*.

Later that month, I stood on top of the Pompidou Centre gazing in the direction of the Eiffel Tower. In the foreground was a huge banner proclaiming ‘Nous sommes tous Charlie’ (‘we are all Charlie’). I had seen surprisingly little evidence of the events of a fortnight earlier, but as I considered this bold declaration juxtaposed against what is for many foreigners the defining symbol of Paris, I realised that I did not agree. We are not all Charlie and I am certainly not Charlie. The attack on the *Charlie Hebdo* journalists was a cowardly, abhorrent act, and there is nothing that can justify or minimise such cold-blooded slaughter. However, my outrage at their murders does not mean that I am automatically in accord with what they represented. The emotion of the immediate response prevented a distinction being made between the absolute sanctity of human life and the responsible limits to freedom of speech.

The guiding principle of a democratic society has to be the maxim usually misattributed to Voltaire: ‘I disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.’ Yet the fact that something can be said does not necessarily mean that it should be said. Inherent in the right to say anything is often the responsibility to say nothing. Too often, free speech is claimed in order to assert a power relationship, in which the dominant voice feels uninhibited at mocking and ridiculing the weaker voice which is easily attacked. Religion is a particularly easy target in our society, not least because it can be satirised with relatively few consequences in comparison with the outcry which would result from ridiculing other groups.

I do not think that religion should be exempt from questioning and criticism, or indeed from ridicule when its proponents behave in ridiculous fashion. I have been amongst the fiercest critics of the Church’s stance over gender, sexuality and several other issues, and the Church deserves to be held to account for its prejudice and intolerance

in these areas. However, I do not think that this gives a general licence to deride people's most fundamental beliefs, or to disguise hatred and intolerance beneath the mask of satire. If we think that such things are without consequence, we would do well to examine the rise of Pegida in Germany, or look at the notable rise in anti-Semitism in this country in 2014. Free speech, when exercised ignorantly or malevolently, can have serious consequences, and it is usually minorities who suffer those consequences.

The need for restraint in speech, for a genuine dialogue with and openness to other people, is something worth reflecting on this Lent. People often use Lent as cause for restraint in other respects, by giving up material things, but how often are these actions geared towards building up other people and constructing the kingdom of God rather than being a personal indulgence? Relationship is at the heart of Christianity. Perhaps reflecting on what we say to – and about – others this Lent will help us understand the value of both speech and silence in a world which so often seems at risk of drowning in an ocean of meaningless words.

Phil

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our March 2015 edition. Our theme this month is preparation and journeying towards Easter, as Lent covers the whole of the month of March. Our cover very much has journeying in mind as the Vicar prepares for his sponsored walk in April. Also, we have Penny and Juan Carlos with us this month, who have journeyed from Lima.

Phil in his letter above asks us “how often are these actions geared towards building up other people and constructing the kingdom of God?” so we have included a number of pieces from and about outside organisations where our response could help build them up in different ways.

We pray for ourselves as individuals and as a church that God may be with us as we reflect in Lent and journey towards Easter.

Graham and Sue Evans

PENNY AND JUAN CARLOS TO VISIT ST JOHN'S ON MOTHERING SUNDAY (15TH MARCH)

We are now in the UK and are scheduled to visit St John's on 15th March. We enjoy visiting our link churches and friends so please note the date, and hopefully we can see as many of you as possible.

Penny and Juan Carlos

IN MEMORIAM

Beatrice Edna Gilbert	1 March 1980
Joan Kathleen Burgess	1 March 2009
Archibald [Bob] Sim	2 March 1963
Ann Brickwell	3 March 1972
Mickey Brown	4 March 1977
Robert Leslie Osborne	6 March 1986
Charles William Hinds	8 March 1959
Henry Barrow	8 March 1998
Dennis Ernest Wheeler	9 March 1977
Ronald Victor Roberts	10 March 1995
Thomas Teague	11 March 1966
Jonathan Nicholas Sigley	14 March 1953
Lily Williams	15 March 1983
Marjorie Mary Jones	22 March 1984
Susan Alice Potter	23 March 1990
Frederick John Halls	24 March 1987
William Hooper	27 March 1985
Stanley Norman Frank Parrott	28 March 1987
Samuel Frank Hodgetts	28 March 2005
Reginald Joseph Sigley	31 March 1978

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in January 2015

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

Amelia Anne Collins

Jake Anthony Wiggin

Harry Christopher Jones

Dexter Kenneth Jones

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

No weddings in January

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 21st December 2014 Magda Collier

d. 27th December 2014 Ronald Jordan

d. 7th January 2015 Sheila Webster

d. 9th January 2015 Constance Tribe

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2015

(4 Sundays): Communicants 329. Total attendance at all services 877.

LENT LUNCHESES

St Michael's are holding Lent Lunches each Wednesday throughout March and finishing 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

DATES FOR MARCH 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 March: 2nd Sunday of Lent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day.

Saturday 7th March: Perpetua, Felicity and companions, martyrs, 203.

10.00 a.m. Table sale 10am-1pm (note new time)

8

Sunday 8th March: 3rd Sunday of Lent

3.00 p.m. Tea & Talk

8

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 14th March:

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

8

3.00 p.m. Children's Activities

8,14

Sunday 15th March: Mothering Sunday

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 18th March: Cyril, bishop, teacher of the faith, 386

7.00 p.m. Craft Group

8

Saturday 21st March

8.30 a.m. Parish Breakfast 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

21

Sunday 22nd March: 5th Sunday of Lent

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Sunday 29th March: Palm Sunday

1.00 a.m. **Clocks go forward one hour**

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

LENT COURSE

The Lent course in 2015 will begin on Wednesday 25th February at 7.30pm. It will run for five weeks. The course will be led by each of the churches in 'West Worcester Churches Together' in turn.

25 th February	He carried a crown of thorns and the sin of the world. Our Lady Queen of Peace.
4 th March	He carried His followers' disappointments. Bromwich Road Mission.
11 th March	He carried the hopes of God. St John's.
18 th March	He carried our sorrows and a broken heart. Bromyard Road Methodists.
25 th March	He carried a cross. St Clement's.

Chris Stuart

ENTERTAINMENT AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH

How quickly the year flies past as we move into spring. Light nights and warmer days are always a pleasure to welcome back.

We start March with a Table Sale on Saturday 7th March, we have changed the time slightly again, this month it will be 10.00am – 1.00pm. There are always lots of bargains on offer. Why not book a table and have a spring clear out yourself. On Sunday 8th, we have our next Talk and Tea. This month we have a talk on Acupuncture. Come and find out more about this popular alternative therapy and where it comes from. A Bridge session and Children's Activities are on offer on Saturday 14th March.

We do hope to see you at one of the events.



Fellowship and Fund Raising Events at St John in Bedwardine Church



Saturday 7 th March	Table Sale Note NEW TIME 10.00am - 1.00pm £10.00 Tel 424811 or 423257 to book a table. Setting up from 8.00am Refreshments available.
Sunday 8 th March	Talk & Tea 3.00pm £5.00 Tel 424811 or 423257 to book a place
Saturday 14 th March	Bridge Day 10.30am - 3.00pm. Play starts 11am. £10.00 to include lunch. Tel 749025 to book.
Saturday 14 th March	Children's Activities 3.00pm-5.30pm. Mothers' Day Theme. Light tea included. Tel 424811 for details.
Wednesday 18 th March	Craft Group 7.00pm - Try something new. All materials included, Refreshments, £5.00.
Friday 3 rd April	Good Friday Children's Activities 9.00am - 11.30am Come and join us for some Easter fun.

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday 18 th April 2015	Philomusica Concert (see page 15)
Saturday 16 th May 2015	Promises Auction (see page 11)
Saturday 11 th July 2015	St John's Village Fun Day - A world of fun!

SMILE ON ST PATRICK'S DAY (17th MARCH)

Why do people wear shamrocks on St Patrick's Day? Because real rocks are too heavy.
Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun? Because they're always a little short.
"I married an Irishman on St. Patrick's Day." "Oh, really?" "No, O'Reilly!"

HOPE IN A BEAUTIFUL VALLEY AN INVITATION TO A DAY ABOUT AFGHANISTAN



For over 35 years the people of Afghanistan have known almost continuous conflict. So much has been destroyed. So many lives lost. For many years, under Taliban rule, girls and women were denied opportunities in education and employment. Now “we fear that what we have achieved so far will be lost” says one.

But here’s a good story!

Six years ago a French girl working for the UN set up a small school for girls and boys at Astana, a village in the stunningly beautiful Panjshir Valley, north of Kabul .Today the school flourishes under the leadership of Rahilah, a local lady of astonishing energy, and two teachers. To see pictures of the children at work and play is to be inspired with hope. The project is supported by the ecumenical “Community for Reconciliation” (based in Bromsgrove) and a small London based charity called “Afghan Mother and Child Rescue”. Together we have been able to secure the school’s future to the end of 2015 and beyond.

Come and hear more about this beautiful work! Meet Roddy and Annabel who know the school at first hand. See pictures to lift your spirit. Meet a family from the Panjshir. And hear the story of what links this remote spot to West Worcester and its churches: an enduring friendship of 35 years!

This is on Saturday, March 28th (10.30-3.30) at the Community for Reconciliation, Barnes Close, Bromsgrove, B61 ORA. Refreshments and lunch are included. Please contact me for details (directions, cost etc.). Expressions of interest really welcomed.

Owain Bell, dowainbell@yahoo.co.uk or 01905 820209

FROM BISHOP JOHN’S LENT MESSAGE

At the end of St Matthew’s gospel Jesus sends his disciples out to make disciples of all the nations. It’s important that we hear that call in conjunction with his prior call to come to him. ‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.’ (Matthew 11.28-30).

If we are wearied by the burdens laid upon us by this world we should come to him afresh this Lent. He will give us the grace, and the energy and courage we need to go out and be Kingdom people of love, compassion, justice and freedom seeking to make disciples of all those whom we meet.

The full message can be found via www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

REPORT FROM THE CHARITIES COMMITTEE

In 2014 the charities Committee had a budget of £3,000 which was used to support a variety of charities, both local and national. The chief recipients of this money were:

Frankie's Legacy: A local charity founded by Frankie's parents after he was "born sleeping" on November 29th 2013. The charity aims to provide help and support for families who have suffered early pregnancy loss, stillbirths or neo-natal deaths. They fund memory boxes and counsellor sessions as well as a support network and links with other support organisations. Help is also offered to parents of children with cleft lip or palate or who are diagnosed with rare chromosome disorders.

National Churches Trust: founded in 2007, the trust helps to maintain church buildings and promotes the benefits of churches to the local community. Grants are offered for repair projects as well as the installation of toilets and kitchens and generally improving community facilities in places of worship.

St Richard's Hospice: founded in 1984, this is an independent local charity which receives 75% of its annual costs from voluntary donations. It aims to enable the terminally ill to remain at home for as long as possible, offering the support of a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, counsellors and therapists. No charges for any of these services are made to users or their families.

The Cinnamon Trust: is the only national charity which works to enable people in the last years of life to keep their pet with them. Volunteers will dog walk, buy pet food, clean bird cages etc. if the owner is unable to do so. They will foster a pet if a stay in hospital is needed and keep a register of care homes which will accept pets. It is also possible to arrange lifelong care of a bereaved pet.

Maggs Day Centre: Founded in 1984 and named after a homeless man who died after many years on the streets; Maggs provides care for the homeless and vulnerable of Worcester. The centre offers food, shelter, support and facilities for showers and laundry.

Worcester Volunteer Centre: established in 1989 to support voluntary and community action in and around Worcester. Individuals are helped to find opportunities to volunteer and to live independent lives supported by other organisations. Businesses are helped in recruitment of volunteers and in engagement in local community projects.

Big Issue Foundation: helps people throughout the U.K. to rebuild their lives by establishing them as Big Issue Vendors. Basic business training is provided and help offered to deal with housing, debt and addiction issues.

Snoezelen: a multi-sensory leisure therapy centre for people with disabilities and additional needs. Worcester Snoezelen provides several multi- sensory rooms with accessible and inclusive activities for all.

Additional, smaller donations have been made to Blind Veterans, Kidney Research, the Royal British Legion and the Association of change ringers.

If you have any views on our support of these charities, or would like to nominate a charity for our support this year, please speak to Chris or a member of the committee – Luise Horrocks, Margaret Morris or myself.

Sarah Cottrill

PROMISES AUCTION

JOINT EVENT BETWEEN ST JOHN'S AND ST CLEMENT'S CHURCHES

The venue is booked (16th May 2015 at St Clements School from 7pm) and already we have some great promises coming in – a game of bowling for four, ten swims at Lower Wick Swimming Pool, a fruit cake a week for a month, an iconic ride in a vintage car, bell ringing and dancing lessons, a photograph portrait! It's a great start – but we need LOTS more!

Everybody can give something – a few hours' gardening, a basket of ironing, an evening's babysitting, a home cooked meal delivered to the door, car washing etc., etc. Please think about what you can offer to make this evening a great success and raise huge amounts of money for our two churches. **To make your promise, please fill in the form below and return it to me in church or email details of your promise to me at curate@westworcesterchurches.org.uk** Please describe your promise in as much detail as possible to avoid confusion or disappointment. (for example, if offering lifts or delivery of goods, a mileage limit; if offering gardening, is there anything you are not prepared to do etc.).

Thank you for your support.

Sarah Cottrill



St John's and St Clement's Promises Auction. May 16th 2015

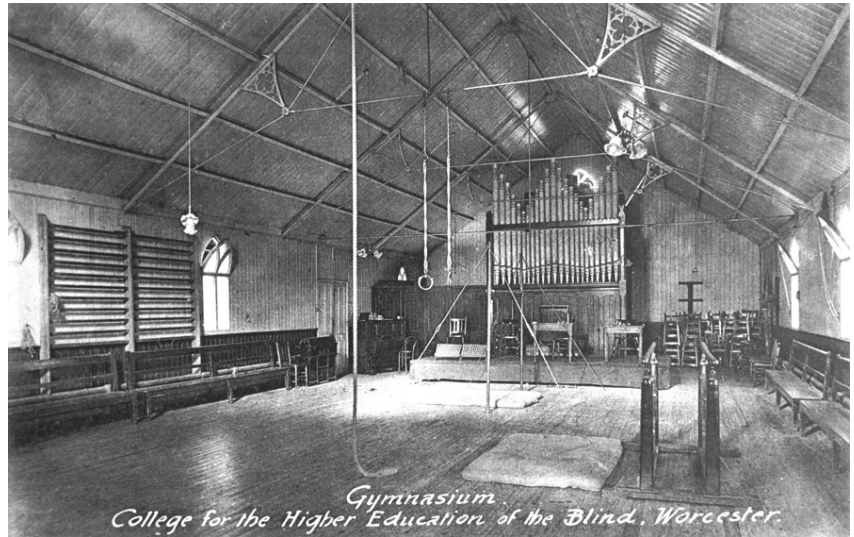
Name:

Contact details:

Exact details of my promise, including any limitations:

MEMORIES WELCOMED

New College Worcester,
the UK's college for
students who are blind or
partially sighted, celebrates
its 150th anniversary in
2016. Could your
memories be part of the
celebration?



In the autumn of 1866, "The College For The Blind Sons Of Gentlemen" was opened at the Commandery in Sidbury. The school was founded by The Rev. William Taylor, and Rev. Robert Hugh Blair. In 1887, the college moved to Slaughter's Court, Powick. Slaughter's Court, owned by Earl Beauchamp, was more spacious (with four acres, including "pleasure grounds" and a garden) and generally much healthier for the boys who passed through its portals. However, there was nowhere that the two manual organ could be installed, nor was there room for bulky Braille books. So "The Iron Room" was built, where lectures, concerts and services could also take place. This is pictured when it was removed to Whittington Road and ultimately served as the chapel, until 1958.

The College transferred in 1902 to its purpose-built site on Whittington Road, where it remains today, though with many additions!

Over the years, the college has had many links with the local community, and many people have taken part in activities with students within the college or at other local venues. As part of the 150th anniversary celebrations, the New College Worcester Former Students Association (NCWFSA) is keen to hear of any recollections people have of their contact with the school.

If you worked at the College, had relatives who did (and may have had names like Bevan, Knott, Davis, Jones, Lawrence, King, Yarnold, Hughes, Hooper, Barrow, Saunders, or Yelfs), in whatever capacity, volunteered in some way, taken part in sporting or other activities with the College, were related to any of the sighted pupils who went to the College between 1866-1889, or, came to our dancing classes please get in touch with me. Whether memories or memorabilia, everything will help us celebrate 150 years!

David Scott

38 Brocks Hill Drive, Oadby, Leics., LE2 5RD

Email: david972scott@btinternet.com, or phone 0116 271 5847

WEST WORCESTER LIVE AT HOME SCHEME

Live at Home run a wide variety of Regular Activities.

Monday	Lunch club 12.00—1.30pm	Bromyard Road Methodist Church
	Good Companions & Neighbours 2.00-3.30pm	Dancox House
Wednesday	Fortnightly escorted shopping trips to Sainsbury's 10.15am onwards	
Every 1st & 3rd Thursday	Singing group 11.00am—11.45am	Bromyard Road Methodist Church
Every 2nd & 4th Thursday	Gentle Seated Exercises 11.00—11.45am	Bromyard Road Methodist Church
Thursday	Food & Friendship Lunch Club 12.00-1.30pm	Bromyard Road Methodist Church
Other regular services		
Sunshine Club	3rd Thursday of every month 2-4pm	Lower Broadheath Memorial Hall
Afternoon Tea	4th Tuesday of every month 2-4pm	Bromyard Road Methodist Church
Spiritual Services	First Thursday of month	Dancox House
Befriending Service	Regular visits to own homes	

If you are interested in joining in any of the above please contact the office 420 805 for more information or turn up to one of the clubs (although we would appreciate prior notice for lunch clubs)!

WANTED—DRIVERS

We desperately need more drivers to help us provide our invaluable “transport service” for our members to clubs. This could either be on a regular basis or for “occasional” lifts. We cover all expenses and provide any training that may be appropriate. If you are able to help, or know anyone who may be interested, or would like to have a chat to find out what would be involved, please contact us in the office.

OFFICE TEL 01905 420 805, WEBSITE www.live-at-home.co.uk

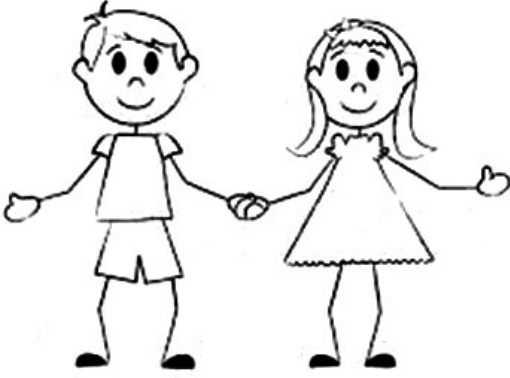
Anna, Ruth and Jo

SHORT PRAYER

Give me, good Lord, a humble, lowly, quiet, peaceable, patient, charitable, kind, tender and pitiful mind; with all my works and all my words and all my thoughts to have a taste of the holy blessed spirit.

Sir Thomas More

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS



Sometimes we underestimate a child's understanding and this was in evidence when we held our February activity session. The topic was the 'Circle of Life' and we were a little apprehensive about whether the children would understand this quite complex concept. They did and joined in the thoughtful discussion with

Peter. This chat involved a hula hoop and disclosure of some of the adults' ages, always a sensitive topic. Daniel proved to be the 'hula hoop king', nobody could compete with his prowess. The craft involved making a circle of paper plates with details of each child and some adults, to show that no matter how different we are we are all joined together with God. Finally with the help of sticky paper the children filled the church with paper chains that linked together to form a cross with God in the centre linking us all together. The session ended with pizza tea, always a popular choice. We had 25 children with their parents. Thank you to all those helpers who made the session possible. The next session is Saturday 14th March 3.00 - 5.30pm. The theme will be Mothering Sunday.

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. 8th February saw the children doing the reading and intercessions, a very confident presentation and an inspiring sermon from Phil. 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

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods, our human mothers; all have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

(continued opposite)



Philomusica Chorus & Soloists, conductor Linda Parsons,
will be performing

Mendelssohn's Elijah

at St John's Bedwardine on

Saturday 18th April 2015 at 7.30pm

Admission £8. Accompanied children under 16: free

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

MOTHERING SUNDAY (continued)

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name.

This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

Parish Pump

PCC MEETING 4th FEBRUARY 2015

Sarah Cottrill opened the meeting with a prayer. 14 members were present. The Vicar chaired the meeting.

Outreach and serving the community: The PCC received written reports on Mission and Outreach, and from the Pastoral, Charity and Accommodation committees.

Headline items from the reports and PCC discussions included:

- The Outreach Committee are focussing on two areas (loneliness/isolation and poverty) and are taking forward various specific initiatives in each of these areas.
- Thanks to all who work in the Pastoral Team. Sadly Tea at Two has ended due to lack of interest but can always be reinstated if the need arises. Home Communion and other pastoral activities continue. The Disabled Christian Fellowship service will be on 6th June.
- The Charity Committee meets regularly throughout the year to decide which charities to support, with the emphasis on helping local charities and those supporting the lonely and vulnerable. The Vicar has responded to three requests so far for the emergency funds. It is still difficult to get people to come forward.
- Buildings projects discussed included CCTV in church, secondary glazing in the Parish Office, fixings for choir stall candle stands (approved), repairs to the high altar screen and replacement of the old noticeboard (Malvern Road/St Johns side).
- It was agreed to form a small working group to take forward our 2015 priority “creating a buildings vision (to make our buildings fit for purpose to serve our objectives)”. This could initially concentrate on the recommendations of the Welcome Review, making better provision for the church library, and meeting the needs of those working with children.

Children and Schools and Christian Nurture: The PCC received written reports on Christian Nurture, Children and Schools and Worship and Services. Headline items from the reports and PCC discussions included:

- The Vicar asked PCC members to encourage people to attend the Lent Course.
- Children’s Saturday activities are going well.
- Children’s involvement in the second Sunday services is going well. This is an area to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us when we look at where the service is going, and reflect on how we build on what we’ve got.

Finance and Operations: The PCC received written reports on ‘Steps towards a Team’, Standing Committee Report, 2014 financial outcome, and 2015 revised budget. Headline items from the reports and PCC discussions included:

- The road to a Team is a long and slow one. Phil Bradford will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge of Dines Green; he will continue to work in all three parishes.

- The 2014 finance figures show an £11k surplus but this may change through reallocation of some payments made in January 2015. The 2014 income contained two large exceptional items (£9k from the Miss Cull legacy and £6k of 2013 rental for the flat recovered in 2014). If these were removed, 2014 income was £2k below the figure set in our 5 year plan.
- The 2015 budget shows a deficit, but this is almost entirely accounted for by an item “Growth Fund/Family worker” which was funded from 2014 surplus. Apart from that, the budget was pretty well balanced. The revised budget was approved.

The PCC appointed Gordon Templeton and Colin Nash as the St John’s representatives for the ‘Group Council’ sub-committee. There is one further vacancy if someone will volunteer. The Vicar envisages quarterly meetings for about an hour. The committee should pick one item initially and focus on it e.g. bringing the congregations together socially to build fellowship.

Under **Any Other Business** it was agreed to donate some of our old orange hymns books to St Michael’s for free (matching the generosity of All Saint’s who likewise donated copies of our new hymn book to us). Six Communion assistants were ratified by the PCC.

The **Strategy item** was in fact two items. Firstly, the PCC considered an analysis of Sunday attendance which the Vicar had prepared. This showed that between 2009 and 2013, the average Sunday attendance at St John’s rose by 21.2%. However in 2014 attendance at St John’s fell by 7.6% – though this still constituted an increase of 11.9% over 2009. In discussion, members of the PCC highlighted the importance of welcome, and of reaching out so that we do have new members to replace the inevitable losses.

Secondly the PCC considered three possible projects to be developed in response to our 2015 priorities: (1) Pursuing the possibility of a ‘House for Duty’ post in the group; (2) Developing the case for Youth and Family Worker; (3) Extending the Blakefield Room into a full sized parish hall (or other options for a parish hall). After discussion, the PCC prioritised the three in the order shown above. (1) will be taken up with the diocese (as they own the house which might be used) to see where the costs would lie; (2) will be developed through research that Sarah Cottrill has already begun; (3) will draw upon an update of the plans for development drawn up in 1998 (and on the church website).

The next meeting is on Monday 23rd March, for approval of the 2014 Accounts and the Churchwardens’ Fabric Report and also the deadline for all reports for the Annual Church Meeting (which is on 26th April).

The meeting closed with all saying ‘The Grace’.

Graham Evans, PCC Secretary

FUN AND GAMES AT REGENT HOUSE

As part of our attempt to combat loneliness and isolation in our area, the Outreach team have been trying to develop links between the church and Regent House.

One initiative is a games morning, which will take place on a Tuesday. The home has a good selection of games such as cards, Scrabble, Skittles and Skiddles, (a new one on me, but apparently very similar to Skittles) and I have a variety ranging from Chess to Jenga! Our first session is set for 11.45 on Tuesday, February 10th and I hope it will become a weekly event, so I am hoping to get together a group of volunteers.

Nobody is expected to commit to every week but if you can spare one Tuesday morning a month please speak to me in church or send an email to curate@westworcesterchurches.org.uk Thank you.

Sarah Cottrill

THANKS FROM WORCESTER FOODBANK

Thank you for continuing to support the Worcester Foodbank and also to Catherine for delivering the goods to the store each week. Since opening we have fed 9,561 people with about 96 tonnes of food. You may be interested in these December statistics:-

Worcester people responded to the need and we received 4.5 tonnes of food - double our normal monthly collections. We gave away 4 tonnes of food including over half a tonne of Christmas treats!

People using the Foodbank must have a voucher, issued because they are in an emergency situation. Sadly in December more families came to us. This meant 436 people (including 179 children), which is a rise of about 50% over recent months.

Ruth Reeves

EASTER FLOWERS

It will be Easter Day on April 5th, so we will be decorating the Church and arranging the Easter Garden on Holy Saturday 4th April from 9am until 1pm. Anyone who wishes to help will be most welcome. Refreshments will be served about 11am. Please, if you have any suitable greenery and/or flowers to help with the decorating, they will be most gratefully received.


If you wish to donate money for Easter lilies and flowers in memory of loved family members and friends, please place the gift in an envelope with the names of the person(s) to be remembered on the front. These names will be written on the memorial list which is placed on the welcome table near the church door. Please give your gift to a member of the clergy, the church wardens, or myself.

The flower team wish you all a blessed and joyful Easter and thank you for your encouragement and generosity throughout the year.

Eileen Cantrill

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 hire@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

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Live at Home Scheme office **01905 420805**

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Saturday 21st March 2015

8.30am – 10.30am

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Saturday's newspapers to read,
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Good conversation

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FROM THE MAGAZINE ARCHIVE

March 1941

FASTING DAYS THIS MONTH.

Every week-day this month is a Fasting Day. The 40 days of Lent do not include any Sunday, for Sunday is always a festival, being a weekly reflection of Easter Day, the Queen of Festivals.

March 1950

YOUTH CLUB DRAMATIC GROUP

WHEN we were informed that the Youth Section of the Dramatic Group intended presenting portions of William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" many of us thought the venture a little too ambitious.

However, attendance at rehearsals has shown that our fears were not justified. Under Miss Davies they are making splendid progress, and we are quite amazed to find how talented they are.

We look forward eagerly to their performance which will be in full costume.

CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

A FUNNY WALK

I WENT for a walk on mild day in early Spring. It was a lovely day, the sun was shining and the sky was blue. Christmas will soon be here I thought as I listened to the beautiful singing of the rooks in the elm trees.

As I went on down the lane the grass in the field on one side was long and full of moon daisies. It was ready for hay making. On the other side the corn stood tall and yellow with red poppies growing amongst.

At the end of the lane was a pond; it was covered with ice. I slipped down on it and over the hedge a cow brayed as if he were laughing at me. I decided it was time to go home. A thrush on a tree looked down at me, the sun shining on his golden beak. As I retraced my steps I stopped to pick some black-berries that were hanging ripe on the hedge and looked longingly at the rosy apples and pears in the orchard. The last sight I saw on my return journey was some lambs skipping in the fields and mooing loudly.

Make a list of all the mistakes you can find in this story, then add your name, age and address, and send your solution to THE EDITOR, St. John's Vicarage, by March 23rd. There will be a prize for the first correct solution opened.

Editors: There are no prizes for entries to the above received 65 years late.

Volunteers!



Worcester Cats Protection are in need of extra help in preparation for moving shop premises. Can you spare a few hours, a variety of jobs to be done include sorting, preparing and putting out stock.

If you are interested please call in to the St Johns shop or phone 01905 426748.

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 15th March for the April 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

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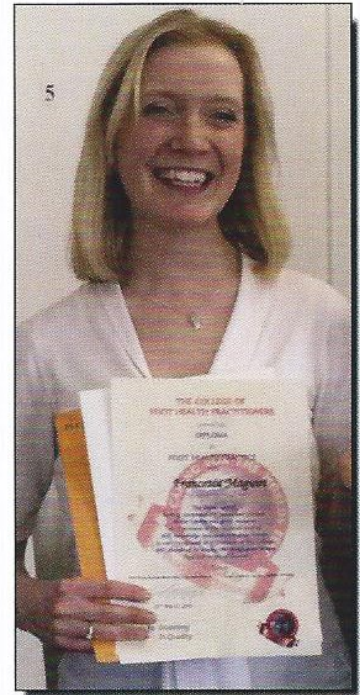
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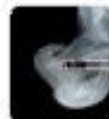
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Associate Vicar	Rev'd Dr Phillip Bradford phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 423794
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill curate@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 426257

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 and St Michael's, March 2015

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
1st March Lent 2	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 March Lent 3	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
15th March Mothering Sunday	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's participation 5pm Evensong (BCP)	(No 9am service) 10.45am Mothering Sunday Service (non-Eucharistic)	11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
22nd March Lent 5	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	4.00pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
29th March Palm Sunday	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	10.15am Palm procession from St Clements and joint service at St John's. 10.45am Worship for Everyone	No services at St. David's. Joint service at St John's.	No services at St. Michael's. Joint service at St John's.
	Procession from St Clement's at 10.15am to St John's church for the 10.30am service.			

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