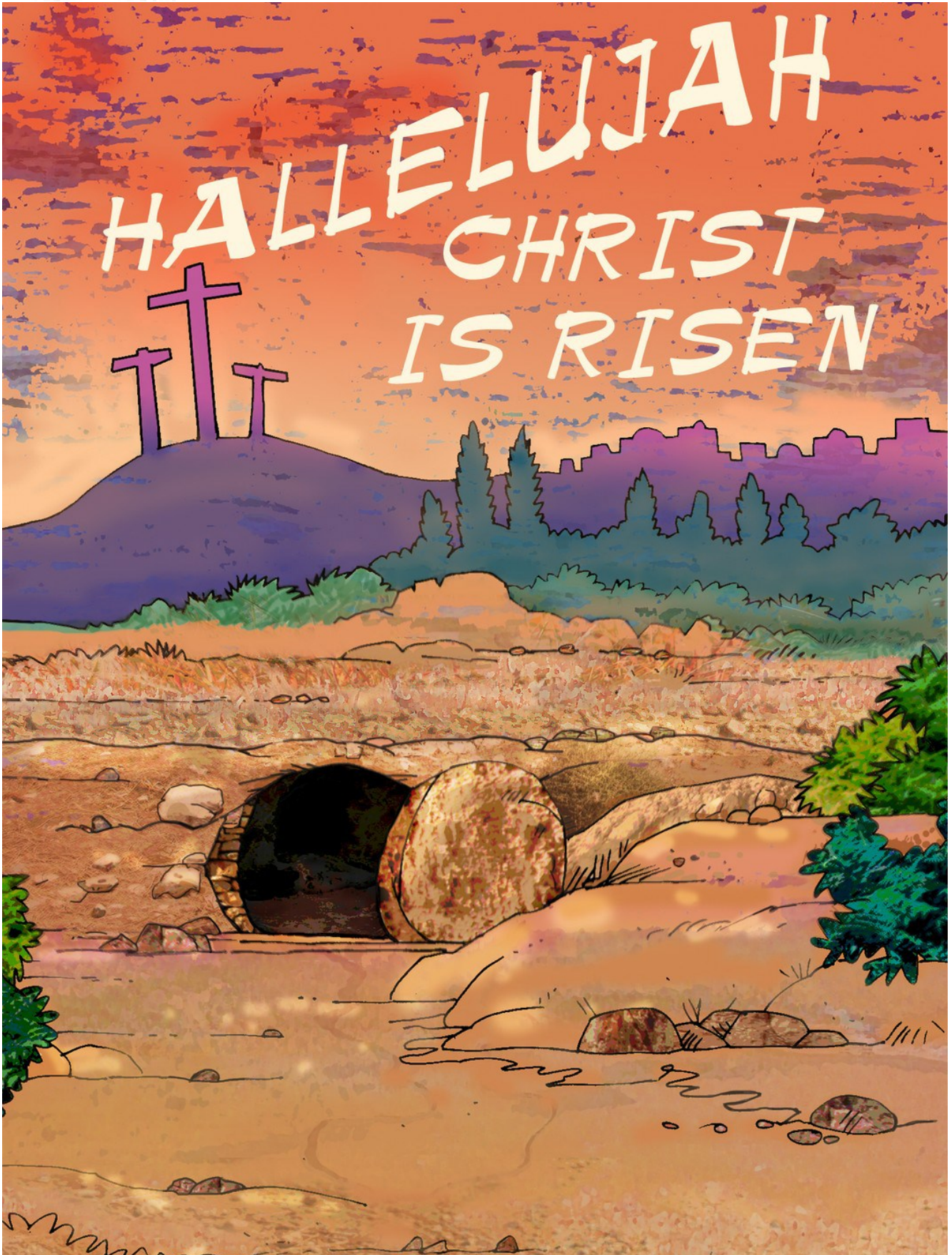




*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

APRIL 2015

40p



LETTER FROM THE CURATE

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter we are exactly half way through Lent. Signs of new life, in the form of Daffodils and other Spring flowers, are beginning to show, and thoughts are turning towards the joyful message of Easter. But what is that message – to me, to you, to society in general?

For Christians Easter is the “Raison d’etre” of our faith, without which we are lost and all our other major celebrations and festivals are empty and meaningless.

Without Easter, Christmas becomes just the birthday of another illegitimate child who grew up to be a deluded dreamer and Pentecost becomes the ravings of a group of possibly drunken men! With Easter, we are turned into a people with a loving relationship with our Creator God; a people who know themselves to be loved and forgiven; a people with a certain hope for both the present and the future; a constant companion to guide and keep us. What a difference a day makes! Or does it? Are we “Easter people” full of joy and eager to share our good news with others or are we more like the women who according to the original ending of Mark’s Gospel “fled from the tomb ... and said nothing to anyone”?

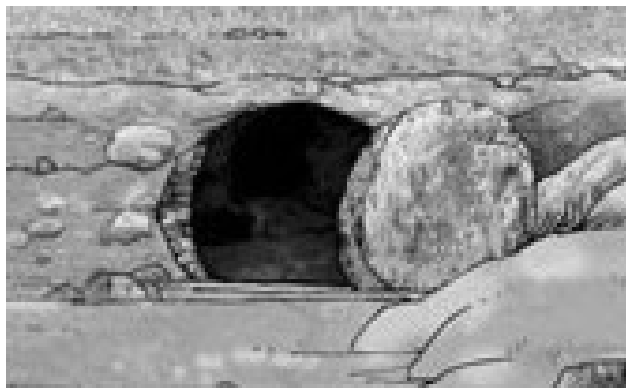
In our politically correct society where we must respect all and risk offending none, many Christian values and observances have been lost and, sadly, I think that Easter is one of the main victims of this. Ask any young person under the age of thirty and, unless they come from a family who regularly attends church, I am confident that they will have, at best, a very sketchy idea of the Easter story, much less see any personal relevance in it. And yet the message of Easter is incredibly personal to anyone and everyone who will allow it to be so. When I was eleven I was given a copy of St John’s Gospel and in John 3:16, where the text reads:” For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life” a space was left in place of the word “Whoever” for me to write my own name. At that moment, Christianity – and the amazing significance of Easter – became personal to me. Try it – it is incredibly powerful!



COVER

Courtesy of Parish Pump

As part of my role on the Chaplaincy team for the YMCA I have been setting a weekly quiz through Lent and I wanted to include a picture round. On Google Images I went through 53 pictures of “cute” rabbits, chicks and chocolate eggs before finding a remotely religious image and even then it was a cross largely obscured by flowers! Image 173 bore the message “He is risen” but could easily leave one wondering “Who is – the bunny or the chick?” It wasn’t until image 316 that I found a picture clearly indicating Christ rising from the tomb.



Surely it is the empty tomb which most accurately symbolises Easter and all that it offers each one of us.

The slogan “Jesus is the reason for the season” is one usually associated with Christmas but this year let’s make it our Easter refrain – spread the word, send Easter cards, give “Real Easter eggs” which at least:

have the Easter story printed on the box. Let’s make it our business to put Christ back into Easter as we shout it to the roof tops:

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Sarah

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our April 2015 edition, celebrating Easter. Jesus gave his life for us, the ultimate gift. We have responded by including articles on some of the charities to which our church makes gifts. We hope this will inspire you to respond to God’s love. We pray for God’s love to shine in us and through us as we reflect on the cross and the joy of the good news of Christ’s resurrection.

Graham and Sue Evans

CAN YOU HELP? VILLAGE FUN DAY – SATURDAY 11th JULY 2015

Is Saturday 11th July marked in your diary? Planning is going on apace for the St John’s Village Fun Day. There will be a fun Dog Show (supported by ‘Pets’ Corner’), a Vintage Tea Garden and lots of performances, demonstrations and games to enjoy. Before the day there will be a photographic quiz and Grand Draw tickets on sale.

You can help us in advance by selling (and buying) draw tickets and photo quizzes and by telling your friends and neighbours about the event. We need LOTS of people to come and enjoy the fun!

We will need people to help out on the day – if you are interested in doing that please speak to Sandra Nash, Tracey Ward or Philip Evans.

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	

ST JOHN'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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 May 2015 edition is Sunday 12th April 2015 (see page 22). 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.**

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

Vergers	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	

IN MEMORIAM

Eileen Bosworth	2 April 1955
Ethel Mary Teague	4 April 1973
Florence A Lewis	4 April 1994
Phyllis Manton	5 April 1974
Sydney Roberts	5 April 1980
Patricia Rosalie Surman	7 April 1986
Rev'd James William Newton	10 April 1988
Florence Lewis	12 April 1975
William Henry Fox	18 April 1984
Doris Drinkwater	18 April 1989
Alice Tipton	24 April 1972
Amelia Thomas	27 April 1942

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in February 2015

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

Megan Olivia Cutler

Blake Andrew Nigel Smith

Charlotte Elizabeth Cutler

Thomas Henry Aidan Staiger

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

No weddings in February

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 13th January 2015 Albert Williams

d. 16th January 2015 Eileen Horsman

d. 21st January 2015 Audrey Tonks

d. 21st January 2015 Margaret Haywood

d. 1st February 2015 Daisy Martin

d. 3rd February 2015 Iris Little

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2015

(4 Sundays): Communicants 379. Total attendance at all services 894.

EASTER FLOWERS

A reminder that 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.

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

Eileen Cantrill

DATES FOR APRIL 2015

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

See
page

2nd – 4th April: See overleaf for services at the West Worcester Group of Churches on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.	
Friday 3 rd April: Good Friday Children's Activities 9.00am – 11.30am	14
Sunday 5th April: Easter Day	
See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Saturday 11th April:	
10.00 a.m. Table sale 10am-1pm (note new time)	9
Sunday 12th April: 2 nd Sunday of Easter	
See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Wednesday 15th April:	
7.00 p.m. Craft Group	9
Saturday 18th April	
10.30 a.m. Craft Fair 10.30am-3pm	9
7.30 p.m. Philomusica Concert	20
Sunday 19th April: 3 rd Sunday of Easter	
See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Sunday 26th April: 4 th Sunday of Easter	
See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
12.00 noon St John's Annual Parish Meetings	
Wednesday 29th April	
7.30 p.m. Special service at St John's (see below)	

INCENSE AT OUR EASTER SERVICES

Incense will be used at three services at St John's over Easter:

- Maundy Thursday Eucharist with Foot-Washing (7.30pm Thursday 2nd April)
 - Dawn Vigil (5.45am Sunday 5th April)
 - Easter Day Parish Eucharist (10.30am Sunday 5th April)
-

SPECIAL SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S

The Worcester Diocese is holding a service to celebrate the diocesan tax and economic justice year – with Christian Aid and Church Action Against Poverty. This will be on Wednesday 29th April at 7.30pm at St John-in-Bedwardine Church.

Doug Chaplin
Diocesan Mission Development Officer

**EASTER SERVICES
AT THE
WEST WORCESTER GROUP OF CHURCHES**



Palm Sunday, 29th March

10.15am **Palm Sunday Procession** from St. Clement's to St. John's.

10.30am **Palm Sunday Eucharist** at St. John's Church

Maundy Thursday

10.30am **Eucharist** at St. Michael's Church

5pm **Eucharist with Foot-Washing** at St. Clement's Church

7.30pm **Eucharist with Foot-Washing** (*with incense*) followed by
Vigil until 10pm at St. John's Church

Good Friday

10am **March of Witness** from Homebase car-park to St. John's

10.45am **Open Air service** at St. John's Church

12 to 3pm **Three Hours' Devotion** at St. John's Church

3 to 4pm **Watch at the Foot of the Cross** at St. Clement's Church

Holy Saturday / Easter Eve

8pm **Tenebrae** *A service of light and dark* at St. Clement's Church

EASTER DAY

5.45am **Dawn Vigil** (*with incense*) at St. John's Church

8am **Holy Communion** (*BCP traditional language*) at St. John's

9am **Holy Communion** at St. Clement's Church

10.30am **Parish Eucharist** (*with incense*) at St. John's Church

10.30am **Parish Eucharist** at St. Michael's Church

10.45am **Worship for Everyone** including breakfast from 10.30am
at St. Clement's Church

11.15am **Holy Communion** at St. David's, Comer Gardens

ENTERTAINMENT AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH

After a fairly quiet month, April has another of our Craft Fairs. It is always impressive to see the amazing intricate handmade crafts on offer. Do come along and support this event.

The table sales are proving popular, although we could do with more customers. Each stall has goods on offer at ridiculously cheap prices. There is always something for everyone.

We hope to see you at one of the events on offer in April.

May will also be very busy with Sarah's Promises Auction and the return of the Plant Sale. With the fine weather approaching and making the steps into the garden, please remember us if you are splitting plants.



Fellowship and Fund Raising Events at St John in Bedwardine Church



Friday 3 rd April	Good Friday Children's Activities 9.00am - 11.30am Easter theme - telephone 424811 for more details.
Saturday 11 th April	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.
Wednesday 15 th April	Craft Group 7.00pm - Try something new. All materials included, Refreshments, £5.00.
Saturday 18 th April	CRAFT FAIR 10.30 - 3.00pm. Tel 424811 Or 423257 to book a table £10.00. Setting up from 8.00am Refreshments available.
Saturday 18 th April	Philomusica Concert 7.30pm. Mendelssohn's Elijah. See page 20 for more details.

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday 2 nd May 2015	Table Sale
Saturday 9 th May 2015	Bridge Day
Saturday 16 th May 2015	Promises Auction (see page 21)
Saturday 23 rd May 2015	Plant Sale
Saturday 11 th July 2015	St John's Village Fun Day - A world of fun!

BOOK SALE

St Clement's Church is holding a book sale from 10am to 2pm on April 25th to raise funds.

Sheila Brice

MORE ON THE CHARITIES WE SUPPORT

Last month we had a report from the charities committee about all the charities that St John's Church is supporting in 2014/15. This month we are featuring three of the charities in more detail.

The Editors

CINNAMON TRUST

KEEPING MAN AND BEST FRIEND TOGETHER

Many of us know the sense of companionship and comfort involved in sharing our lives with a pet. Often, in old age, a cat or dog may be the only source of company for those who have lost loved ones or live far away from their children. However, as age advances it can become more difficult to care for a much loved pet. Dog walking can be a major problem for some elderly people and many give up their pets because they are no longer able to get out and about.

The Cinnamon Trust works to keep the elderly or terminally ill and their pets together for as long as possible, providing volunteers to carry out tasks such as regular dog walking, taking animals to the vet, or undertaking short term fostering if owners have to go into hospital. Knowing that someone will be there to care for a much loved pet provides the reassurance which many people need. They are then able to enjoy the company of their pets, knowing that their basic needs will be met.

I recently began volunteering with the charity and have received my first dog walking assignment. The arrangement provides a perfect match- many of the volunteers, like myself, would love to own a dog, but find that a busy life makes it impossible. I can spare the time, however, to help out with Charlie, and I'm sure I benefit as much if not more than he does!

If you know of someone in the local area who may benefit from a Cinnamon Trust volunteer, please get in touch at www.cinnamon.org.uk. There is also plenty of information on the website about volunteering.

Sarah Stuart

Why Cinnamon?

The Trust was founded in 1985 by Mrs Averil Jarvis whose determination and dedication has ensured that the manifest need is fully addressed.

Just as Mrs Jarvis was starting her work to develop the charity, her beloved Corgi, Cinnamon, died in her 17th year. It seemed appropriate to name the Trust in her memory.



WORCESTER SNOEZELLEN

Worcester Snoezelen is a multi-sensory leisure therapy centre specifically for people of all ages who have disabilities. The charity was founded in 1993 when the Community Care Act saw people who had learning disabilities moving from long stay institutions & hospitals into the community.



The Worcester Snoezelen centre was created in order to fill the gap in specialist leisure provision for this section of the community. The centre has 4 multi-sensory rooms, a hydrotherapy pool, and a comprehensive arts and music service. Snoezelen staff members enable carers and families to get the most out of their sessions. We also run weekly activities such as Rock School, Activity Wednesday, Sports and Drama Club. On alternate week Sundays we run an open session for families who have disabilities.

The Worcester Snoezelen ethos focuses on ability rather than disability and potential rather than limitations. We have found that with an open approach and quality resources, experiential learning can happen effortlessly. The multi-sensory rooms are designed to stimulate the senses. The rooms include a warm waterbed, twinkly fibre-optic lights and projections, an aroma fan and soothing tranquil music. These rooms are an oasis for relaxation.



The music and arts services are very popular and provide an opportunity for community engagement. For some of our members music is integral as an outlet for expression and as an aid for communication.

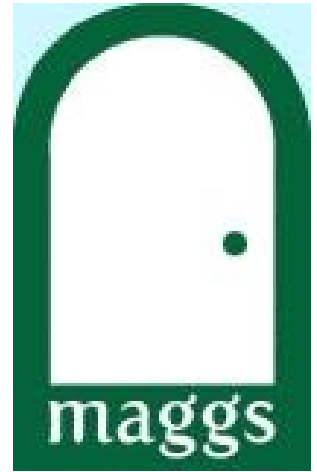
350 people a week travel from all over the Midlands (Gloucester, Birmingham, Hereford etc.) to enjoy Snoezelen services because they do not have access to this provision within their own area.

The people who use Snoezelen services are a vibrant and diverse section of the community. Some may have Downs Syndrome, others Cerebral Palsy, Autism, or chromosomal syndromes. What everybody has in bundles is enthusiasm and we are privileged to share some very precious moments.

Jane Roberts, Chief Officer, Worcester Snoezelen

MAGGS DAY CENTRE

The manager and staff of the Maggs Day Centre would like to thank all of those members of our church who have loyally supported the work of Maggs over recent years by placing items of clothing, food and toiletries in the grey Curver box by the church door. Our continuing support as a church provides a fine example of one practical way in which we attempt to live out the teaching of the Gospel and care for the homeless and socially isolated of Worcester.



For those members who are unaware of its work, Maggs offers:

- **MAGGS DAY CENTRE** - a direct access Day Centre offering food, shelter, support, washing/shower and laundry facilities;
- **THE ACTIVITY CENTRE** – The Centre runs skills training to help people manage their lives better, such as reading, writing, cooking, art, together with the social skills necessary to reintegrate back into society and;
- **MAGGS CLOTHING PROJECT** - providing free clothes, bedding and domestic items to those in need or hardship across the city.



Maggs Day Centre is primarily for the homeless of Worcestershire. It is a welcoming, safe haven for those who are roofless to take care of their personal hygiene needs, have a substantial meal, get advice, social interaction from others in the same position or to just sit and have a warm drink in safety. Also welcome at Maggs are those who feel socially isolated, for whatever reason they

may feel unable to go to somewhere socially and meet people. They are made welcome and are able to have a meal at the centre.

John Prangnell

WITH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS AT CHURCH IN MIND...

It was not an accident that seventeen of the thirty-six parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship. - *William James Dawson*

Stewardship is what a man does after he says, 'I believe'. - *WH Greaves*

All God's giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on Him being with them. - *J Hudson Taylor*

AFRAID, ALONE, IN PAIN



Loko's choice in life is simple:
'If I can't collect firewood,
my children will die.'

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.

This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko.

From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.

Every year, 100,000 volunteers demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. This fantastic witness is a chance to take the mission of the church into your community.

Find out how you can play your part at caweek.org

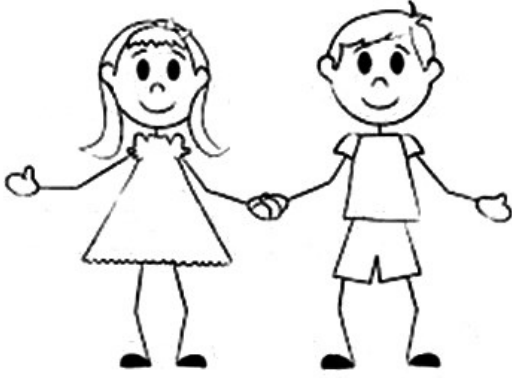


In St Johns we will start off Christian Aid Week with a 'teddy bear drop' (from the tower) and teddy bear picnic at St Johns Church in the afternoon of 9th May. The following afternoon, 10th May, as Christian Aid week gets under way, there will be a Westside Walk for Want followed by tea and an evening service at St John's Church for Christian Aid supporters. Further details and times of events next month.

There will be door to door collections and collections in churches and outside supermarkets. If you would like to join in contact me on sally.mills@talktalk.net.

Sally Mills

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS



The March children's activity session was certainly very busy. A search around church found the children working out clues to find famous mothers in the Bible. The craft session was making mother's day gifts with felt. We hope the mums were pleased with the children's efforts. The last activity was talking about what

Mothering Sunday means. We all sat down to pasta and bolognaise followed by apple crumble, kindly donated by the Bridge Club caterers. Thank you to all the helpers who make it run smoothly.

The Family Service was on Mothering Sunday. The children took an active part with readings, prayers and Becky reading a poem about Mothers written by the Children's Church group. The address was given by Penny Carlos, who told us about Peru. After starting with a discussion about Paddington Bear, some of the younger children thought that that Peru only had bears! We have purchased some more musical instruments so were able to distribute them around young and old!

The next session is a change of time to Good Friday 3rd April from 9.00 - 11.30am with an Easter theme.

Children's Church takes place every Sunday during the 10.30a.m. service, except for the 2nd Sunday in the month which is a family service with the children taking an active part. The family Service this month will be Sunday 19th April.

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

Children's Church

HEAVEN?

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!'"

PARISH BREAKFAST, 21st MARCH 2015

You will be delighted to learn that our fourth parish breakfast held on 21st March was a great success and provided once more a really powerful example of our church's mission to reach out beyond our immediate membership.

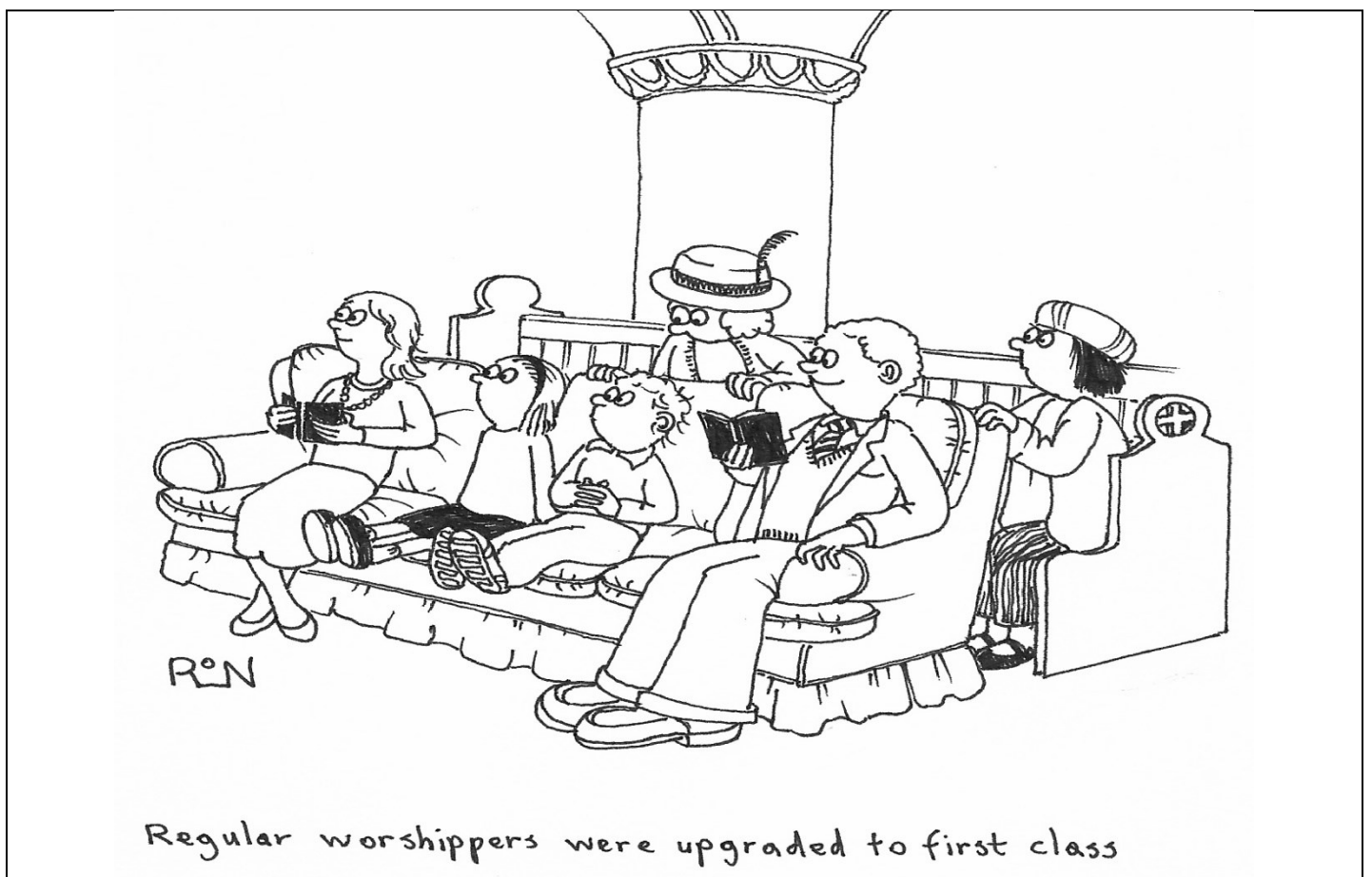
Our thanks go in particular to Jenny for so ably organising the event and to the cheerful and hardworking band of 15 volunteers who helped to make it such a joyful occasion.

We were able to build successfully on our first three breakfasts and draw into church, once again, a really good mix of visitors as well as friends from St John's. In all 102 cooked breakfasts were served (though a number of the younger visitors managed seconds!) and over 140 patrons attended. The new style Indigo Valley coffee was especially appreciated and the L shaped style layout was considered by all to be a great success in encouraging conversation with visitors.

Although the occasion was completely free of charge, a number of generous donations were once more made such that not only were all the costs covered, but sufficient remained for a float to be available to go forwards for the next parish breakfast.

So, we look forward with enthusiasm to the next parish breakfast and drawing into church yet more visitors and friends.

*John Prangnell
On behalf of the volunteers*





NOTES FROM THE CHOIR

Having interviewed a representative from each of the four voice parts for this column in recent months, I thought that it was the turn of the Organist and Choirmaster, John Brierley, to have his say.

What made you first start learning the organ?

As a very small boy I used to go to church with my mother and I was fascinated by the organ from day one. I loved the huge range of sounds it made and just wanted to dive in and find out how it all worked!



Tell me your thoughts about the St John's organ:

Well this organ is a very flexible instrument coping well with many different styles of music. It also has a very comfortable console, which is not something that can be said of all instruments. It is a good solo instrument but also works well accompanying the choir.

Do you have a favourite composer?

It has to be J. S. Bach. I love the skill and economy in his compositions and also the fact that his music is so expressive.

What are your other musical interests outside the church?

Well I play the flute and the piano and I particularly enjoy accompanying singers and instrumentalists. I conduct Bromsgrove Choral Society and for the last 6 years have arranged and directed the live music for the Worcester Rep's outdoor Shakespeare in the Commandery's productions. I have also worked in Musical Theatre.

Having been organist and choirmaster at St John's for just over 3 years now, what are your impressions of the place?

I love the way the church is at the heart of the community and that it remains open during the day for people to drop in. There is always so much going on during the week and I particularly like the approach to worship taken by Chris and the team. I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting this work, choosing the hymns and the choral music to complement the themes of the services. It has been great working with the choir, which is making real progress in terms of growth and musical output. Of course new members are always welcome and I know that anyone who is keen to join would be made to feel very welcome.

My thanks to John for sharing his thoughts with me.

Luise Horrocks

ST GEORGE

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who may not have existed at all. That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of England to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.



The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity.

The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our gratitude and admiration.

David Winter, via Parish Pump


OUT WEST

A devout cowboy lost his Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up carrying the Bible in its mouth. The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the book out of the cow's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward, and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside the cover."

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

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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	1		5	8	6			
5	4	7	3					
	8	2	4					

CONGRATULATIONS

MR. A. W. J. BAKER has been selected to play for England against Wales and Scotland in the International Indoor Bowling Matches to be played at Paddington on Saturday, March 25th. As we go to press, we do not know the result of these games, but we are certain that Mr. Baker will do extremely well—in the light of his true sporting qualities and the record of his play in Worcestershire.

I feel sure our readers will be delighted to hear of this honour which has been conferred on one of our faithful parishioners. St. John's Church owes a very great deal to Mr. Baker. Our warmest congratulations go out to our friend.

DRAMA NEWS

COME to the Boys' School at 7.30 p.m. on one of the following dates: Tuesday, 18th April; Wednesday, 19th April; Thursday, 20th April, and see the Drama Group present the first three-act play, "YELLOW SANDS". Tickets can be obtained from members of the Group, price 2/- (children half-price).

In the past we have confined ourselves to one-act plays, and you may remember "Hullabaloo", "The Mock Doctor", "Red Wax", and "The Dear Departed"; but now, as the result of experience gained, we are feeling more competent and ready to launch out on more ambitious projects.

In this first three-act play you will miss some of the familiar members of previous casts, but you will meet some new ones. However, we hope you will come and that you will enjoy the show—a successful production will encourage us to go forward!

NEW MEMBERS are always welcome; the subscription is 2/6 a year and Rehearsals are held every *Tuesday* at 7.30 p.m. (under the direction of Mr. F. N. Platts) in the Boys' School.

E. W. BONNETT, *Hon. Sec.*



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

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:

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 12th April for the May 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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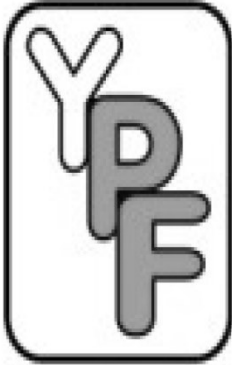


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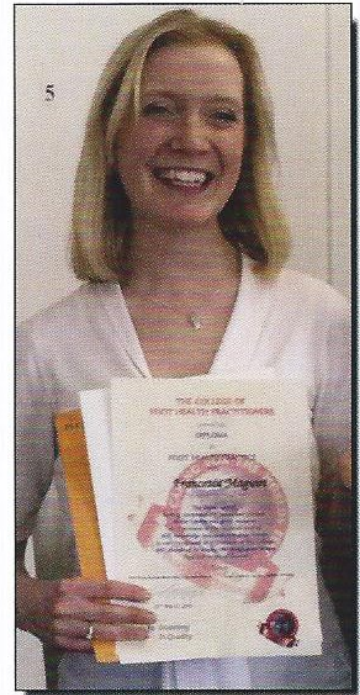
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
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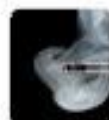
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Associate Vicar	Rev'd Phil Bradford phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 423794
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill curate@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 426257

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	Evensong (BCP)
	Last Sunday in Month	Service of Wholeness and Healing
	Other Sundays	Evening Prayer (said)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

5.00 p.m.	Monday to Saturday	Evening Prayer
10.00 a.m.	Thursday (at St Clement's)	Holy Communion

PARISH OFFICE

1a Bromyard Road
St John's, WR2 5BS
Tel: (01905) 420490

From the church car park, walk up the Bromyard Road side of the church to the green door.
Answerphone outside office hours.

e-mail: office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Normally open for general enquiries and messages (please ring to check)

Monday: 10.30am to noon. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am to noon.

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



Parish Website: www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk
The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.





Sunday services in the West Worcester Group, April 2015

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
5th April Easter Sunday	5.45am Dawn Vigil 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church No evening service	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
12th April	No services at St John's Joint service at St Michael's	No services at St Clement's Joint service at St Michael's	No services at St David's Joint service at St Michael's	10.30am Holy Communion West Worcester joint service
19th April	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's participation 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
26th April	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church followed by Annual Parochial Meeting 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone Annual Parochial Meeting at St Clement's 6pm.	No service at St David's	10am Holy Communion followed by Annual Parochial Meeting

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.