



# *St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine*

May 2015

40p



*I love to go a wandering .....*

## LETTER FROM THE BISHP OF DUDLEY

Dear Friends,

We are God's hands and feet – now is the time to take action on climate.

Who gives a monkey's about climate change? Not many of us it seems. But please wait if you're about to turn to the next page. This is crucial stuff and is the biggest moral question in front of us.



Perhaps we feel the topic is just too big. Perhaps the sceptics have done such a good job at saying the science is all wrong. Perhaps we quite like our lifestyle and creature comforts and don't want to lose out.

Yet, there are ways for each of us to make our own contribution and make a difference; the scientific consensus is that we are seeing major effects from increased carbon in the atmosphere and these effects will increase unless something major is done; and Christians need to keep asking how do we live in a Jesus centred way where having sufficient and caring for our world neighbour are priorities.

When we see so many devastating effects of climate change in terms of increased sea levels, major weather events, flooding and drought, we need to wake up. In the Solomon Islands, for example, the rising sea level has made the soil of some of the low lying atolls so salty that people have had to leave their homes and move to other islands resulting in community tensions.

Across the globe climate change is having a disproportionate impact on the world's poorest people, who are not the major polluters of the atmosphere with carbon. Climate change knows no international borders. It will come back to bite us and make life more precarious. We should not tolerate that the suffering and death of others is inevitable and acceptable.

On Good Friday, Bishops from across the Anglican Communion issued an urgent call for action for climate justice. Called 'The World is our Host',

[http://issuu.com/anglicancommunion/docs/the\\_world\\_is\\_our\\_host](http://issuu.com/anglicancommunion/docs/the_world_is_our_host) (continued opposite)

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### COVER

The Vicar preparing to start his coast to coast walk, with his wife Sarah who was accompanying him for the first days of the journey. Photograph by Rob Little.

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(continued from opposite) I commend this pastoral statement to you. Please read it, reflect upon it, and then make a personal transformational response. Be drawn into its message of a loving, creative God who shares his creation so that it might be enjoyed but not exploited for greedy short-term and selfish motives.

We need also to be putting pressure on our new government to take the impact of climate change seriously. Churches have an admirable history in campaigning and this is our new moral challenge. The voice of the poorest and all of us who want to protect our planet for our children's children to flourish, need to be heard by the leaders of the world so that they will make the prophetic step change that is needed at the Paris Climate Talks in December. Many say this is our last chance. Pray and act now.

As part of the statement, all Anglicans are encouraged to:

- Join in prayer and fasting for climate justice on the first day of each month as an integral part of life and worship.
- Implement energy conservation measures in church buildings and move towards renewable energy sources as quickly as possible.
- Take measures to conserve, recycle and collect water around church buildings and properties.
- Nurture biodiversity on church land by creating safe habitats for indigenous species.
- Support local communities by sharing water, energy and arable land resources for local food production.
- Support sustainable land use initiatives, including a halt to the clearing of native forests.
- Advocate for sustainable water, food and agricultural practices in our communities. It is imperative to take into account the interwoven relationship of food, water and energy systems.

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## **A WORD FROM THE EDITORS**

Welcome to our May 2015 edition, which takes us through the Easter season with Ascension Day, Pentecost and then Trinity Sunday right at the end of the month.

All these festivals grow out of the amazing significance of Easter when Jesus gave his life for us. How will we respond to that good news? In this magazine there's food for thought: In the Bishop's letter; in the Vicar's review of 2014-15 of much that has gone on here and more is to come; in the many events that you can get involved with; or take inspiration from the life of St. Alcuin to do some study or writing.

We pray for the Holy Spirit to be in us as we respond to the good news of Christ's resurrection.

*Graham and Sue 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

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	Joy Job joyjob@dsl.pipex.com	423051
<b>PCC Lay vice-chair</b>	Sue Bale	423257
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### 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 June 2015 edition is Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015 (see page 23). 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**

<b>WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS</b>
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## IN MEMORIAM

Nicholas James Carter	1 May 1990
Reginald William Finch	6 May 1976
John Bertram Bentley	7 May 1988
Marie Antionette Grosvenor	11 May 2007
Marjorie Mantle	12 May 1988
Norman Jackson	12 May 1996
Christabel Lilly Page	14 May 1983
Lawrence Jack Perkins	14 May 1983
Edgar William Barnard	16 May 1934
Douglas Charles Haines	18 May 1989
Laura May Bircham	20 May 1989
Terry Sherratt	21 May 1992
May Barnes	22 May 1983
Ronald Arthur Barnes	22 May 1983
Herbert Heaven Williams	23 May 1993
Marjorie Victoria Davies	29 May 1995
George Thomas	30 May 1972

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in March 2015

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

Eva Toni Ann Price

Evie Shurey

**WEDDINGS:** *Those whom God has joined together*

Ben Long and Shelbea Stanley

**FUNERALS:** *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015 Sheila Stanley

d. 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Ivor Atkins

d. 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Annie Fairhurst

d. 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Ronald Clegg

d. 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015 Raymond Woodward

## FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR MARCH 2015

(5 Sundays): Communicants 419. Total attendance at all services 935.

## MAY FESTIVALS

**Pentecost:** Before Pentecost the disciples found it hard to do easy things; after Pentecost, they found it easy to do hard things. *AJ Gordon*

The fruit of the Spirit is not excitement or orthodoxy: it is character. *GB Duncan*

**Trinity Sunday:** Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the mode of the divine existence. *John Wesley*

## DATES FOR MAY 2015

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

See  
page

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**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

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**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May:**

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

9

3.00 p.m. Children's Activities

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**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May:** 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

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**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May:** Ascension Day

7.30 p.m. Deanery Ascension Day Service

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**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May**

7.00 p.m. Promise Auction, **St Clement's School**

9, 22

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**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May:** 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

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**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May:** Alcuin, deacon, abbot, 804.

18

7.00 p.m. Craft Group

9

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**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

10.00 a.m. Plant Sale 10am-1pm

9

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**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May:** Pentecost

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

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**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May:** Trinity Sunday

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

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### THURSDAY MORNING SERVICES

There is a 9.45am Holy Communion (BCP) each Thursday at St Clement's. There is also a 10.45am service at St Michael's, which is a Eucharist on the 14<sup>th</sup> May and Morning Prayer every other week during May.

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### CONFIRMATION CLASSES

This year's Confirmation service will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November. In preparation for this, we'll be running a six week adult Confirmation course, beginning on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 7pm, and running weekly through until 6<sup>th</sup> July inclusive. The sessions will last an hour, and will be quite informal. If you or someone you know is interested in Confirmation, please speak to the Vicar.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2015**

**10th – 16th May**

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### **TEDDY BEAR JUMP FOR CHRISTIAN AID**

On Saturday 9th May from 3.00 - 5.30 pm, come and join us for a Teddy Bear Parachute Jump and Teddy Bear Picnic at St John in Bedwardine

Make a parachute for your brave bear to jump from the church tower and raise funds for Christian Aid. Enjoy a light picnic tea too. You can register your bear on the day. Donations will help to transform lives.

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### **WESTSIDE WALK AGAINST WANT**

On Sunday May 10th 2015 there is the Westside Walk Against Want, with Afternoon Tea and an Ecumenical Service For Christian Aid Week (at 5.30 pm) at St John in Bedwardine Church.

The walk starts outside St John's Church at 3.30pm. In 2015 Christian Aid is encouraging people to get sponsored to 'walk for want' in thin shoes like flip-flops or carry something like water or firewood in solidarity with the women we're supporting in Ethiopia. Using back roads and paths where possible, the route will go from St John's Church to Bromyard Road Methodist Church, to St Clements, down to Sabrina Bridge along the river. From St Clements or through Cripplegate Park, people can choose to return to St John's Church, for tea and cake which will be served from 4.00 pm. Those wanting to walk further will continue along Bromwich Parade past the swimming pool to Bromwich Road Mission before returning to St John's.

Sponsorship forms are available from church.

During Christian Aid week, door-to-door collections will be made in some streets and Westside is collecting outside St John's Sainsbury's on Friday 15th May.

*Sally Mills*

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### **OPEN GARDEN**

Under the National Garden Scheme (NGS), we are opening our garden at 68 Windsor Avenue, St. Johns, WR2 5NB on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May from 11am until 4pm. The cost is £4 and refreshments are available. The NGS has given over £24 million to the charities supported by the scheme in the last ten years, including such worthwhile ones as Marie Curie and MacMillan Nurses amongst others.

*Roger and Barbara Parker*

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### **SO TRUE.....**

If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.





**Fellowship and Fund Raising Events**  
**at St John in Bedwardine Church**



Saturday  
2<sup>nd</sup> May

NO table sale

Saturday  
9<sup>th</sup> May

Bridge Day 10.30am - 3.00pm. Play starts 11am.  
£10.00 to include lunch. Tel 749025 to book.

Saturday  
9<sup>th</sup> May

Children's Activity Session 3.00 - 5.30pm.  
Come and join us for our Christian Aid 'Teddy Bears'  
Picnic' Bring your teddy along.

Saturday  
16<sup>th</sup> May

Promises Auction. St Clement's School 7.00pm

Wednesday  
20<sup>th</sup> May

Craft Group 7.00pm - Try something new.  
All materials included, Refreshments, £5.00.  
Please book, 424811

Saturday  
23<sup>rd</sup> May

Plant Sale 10.00am - 1.00pm  
Lots of plants available for the home and the garden.  
Refreshments available..

**FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE**

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015

St John's Village Fun Day - A world of fun!



**FUN DAY**

**DONATIONS OF WINE WANTED**

One of the stalls at the **St John's Village Fun Day** is to be a "Wine Grab". The prizes on this stall will be (surprise, surprise) bottles of wine!

For the month of May, our request to you is, if you can, please donate a bottle of wine for this stall.

So that you know what's coming; in June, we hope you may be able to help us by donating chocolates. In July, we'll be asking for cakes.

Please bring your bottles of wine to church on Sundays during May or drop them off at the office during the week.

Many thanks – from the Fun Day organisers.



# REPORTS FROM THE 2015 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Vicar's review of the year 2014-15

Dear Friends,

2014 was a mixed year for us: we made some excellent progress, not least in our work with children and young families, but we also suffered some setbacks - particularly through the loss of some faithful long-standing members of the congregation.

## **A Review: Goals for 2014**

The clergy and PCC set the following goals for 2014:

1. Worship and Mission.
  - A continued focus on building quality in our worship.
2. Children/youth.
  - Developing our new monthly Saturday activities for families and children.
  - Finding ways of drawing children more actively into our worship on the second Sunday, without dumbing down what we do.
  - Working closely with Christopher Whitehead and the University to develop our public debate programme.
3. Finances.
  - Continue to implement the Five Year Plan, identifying new sources of income that can help us stabilise our finances.
4. Links with St Clement's, St Michael's and St David's.
  - Build closer links between the congregations.

How did we do?

1. Worship and mission.
  - New service booklets have now been introduced for most of the Church seasons. Roll out will be complete with the new Easter booklet, to be used for the first time this April.
  - The welcome page on the front of the pew sheet, together with the 'Introduction to the Readings' have been very well-received. A number of people have commented in particular on how helpful they find the readings summary both in terms of their own preparation for the service, and in their meditations/reflections/prayer time during the week.
  - The choir has continued to grow, both in terms of numbers and repertoire.
  - We have set up a new Outreach Committee, to look at ways of enabling us better to serve the needs of our community.
  - Our parish mission breakfasts are very well attended.
  - Our Fund-Raising Committee have put on a number of events – for example, craft evenings, table top sales – which have brought new people into contact with the church.
  - We have a young, vibrant band of bell ringers who are full of creative ideas for using ringing to advertise and reflect the life and work not only of the church but also the wider community: for example, ringing to raise awareness of breast cancer on St Agatha's Day, and supporting the vicar's fund-raising efforts for his Coast to Coast walk.

- A new *Café Church* style service is to be introduced at 5pm on the second Sunday of each month, replacing the current pattern of Evening Prayer. This is an informal style of worship, centred around hospitality and fellowship, headed up by our ALM team under the guidance of Phil Bradford.
- Sadly, attendance by members of the St John's congregation at Advent and Lent courses has been quite low – especially in comparison with attendance from other churches. We will therefore not be running an Advent Course in 2015.
- We have lost a number of very faithful souls in the last twelve months: Ron Cantrill, Tom Attwood, Fran Goodman, Joan Smith, Edna Molloy, Janice Sheehan, Nancy Horsman, and Sylvia Dovey, to name but a few. Inevitably this has had an impact on attendance: our congregation at 10.30am grew by 21.2% between 2009 and 2013, but fell slightly in 2014.
  - o Despite these temporary setbacks, the general trend in attendance remains upwards: the 21.2% increase between 2009 and 2013 compares to a national average fall in Church of England attendance of around 5%. Crucially, we've seen signs of renewed growth in the first three months of 2015.
- *Overall verdict:* a good year, though there is still work to be done.

## 2. Children/youth

- Our monthly Saturday activities afternoon is very successful, regularly drawing around 30-40 children and adults. A number of these people now attend our special service on the second Sunday of each month.
- We have introduced a new format for the service on the second Sunday of each month, with a particular focus on outreach to children and young families. Children's Church take an active part in the service, which has been very well received.
- On other Sundays, Children's Church remains active but the numbers are still quite small.
- Links with schools: we continue to enjoy good links with Perryfields Short Stay School, but our links with Pitmaston and Christopher Whitehead are weak.
- *Overall verdict:* there's still significant room for improvement, despite some good progress. A number of longstanding issues remain – the Children's Corner often doesn't seem to be loved/treasured by the wider church family; storage space for Junior Church is cramped; the Blakefield Room isn't ideal for Children's Church activities on Sunday mornings, and they're often squeezed by other (no less legitimate) activities.

## 3. Finances

- 2014 was a good year overall, and we managed once again to make a small surplus on the year.
- In 2013 (following a difficult period for our finances) we devised a 'Five Year Plan' to help us get our finances back into the black. The goal was to increase our income by 2018 by an extra £20,000 per year, using 2012 as our base.
  - o We broke that figure down into five manageable chunks; after a very successful year in 2013, we set ourselves the target of increasing our income by £4,750 to £118,500 in 2014. Although we had a good year, we didn't quite make this

target - our income was £116,168 – around £2,300 down on where we'd hoped to be.

- Consequently, and although our finances remain relatively strong (and well into the black) it's clear that we still need to be very prudent in how we manage our finances. There are no grounds for complacency.
- The Standing Committee is working very hard to make our Five Year Plan a success in order to ensure our long term financial viability. The Committee continues to generate new ideas for raising income, whilst also co-ordinating our annual stewardship campaign and (new from 2014) taking on overall responsibility for organising fund-raising events.
- *Overall verdict:* a good year, but we mustn't be complacent.

#### 4. Links with St Clement's, St David's and St Michael's

- Rev'd Robin Charles's resignation from Dines Green has triggered implementation of the Deanery Plan, which will see St John's, St Clement's and St Michael's merged into a single team with a Team Rector and Team Vicar. This new structure will take effect (all being well) sometime in 2016; in the meantime, it is important that we begin to work more closely with our neighbouring parishes.
- To this end, a new Group Council has been set up, with a brief to find ways of forging closer links between the churches, looking in particular at:
  1. Mission
  2. Children's Work
  3. Service Patterns
  4. Publicity
  5. Teaching (prayer and spirituality)
  6. Oversight of Transition to a Team
- A handful of joint events have been held in the last twelve months – such as last year's Harvest Supper – and these have been well-attended; overall, however, links between St John's and St Clement's remain weak, and there is only sporadic contact between the congregations.
- *Overall verdict:* some progress, but even allowing for the current sense of 'limbo', there is more that could be done to forge links with St Clement's.

### **Goals for 2015**

The clergy and PCC have set the following goals for 2015:

1. Outreach and Serving the Community
  - Identifying new ways of serving our community, via the Outreach Committee
  - Developing a Buildings' Vision, to better adapt our space to meet our priorities (e.g. addressing issues of storage for Children's Church).
  - A continued focus on building quality in our worship (e.g. introducing a new version of the 'blue book' used for our 10.30am services in Ordinary time.
  - Nurturing links with St Clement's, St David's and St Michael's.
2. Children and Schools, Christian Nurture.
  - Nurturing our Second Sunday and Saturday activities.
  - Reaching out to families through Café Church.
  - Exploring new ways of building links with Christopher Whitehead school.

## **The Future**

It's now two years since I took over as vicar of St Clement's with St David's. Both churches have significant problems: a great deal of my time, and Phil's time, has been spent supporting them. Both churches have made great progress in the last year, but there is more work to be done in 'bedding in' that progress. As Phil and I become more active in supporting St Michael's, I anticipate that we will have to shift the focus of our efforts to Dines Green – there is a great deal of work that needs to be done there in supporting and building that congregation.

All of which highlights the danger that St John's might be neglected. Certainly St John's is thriving at the moment, and I think that allows Phil and me the space to focus our efforts on St Clement's and St David's, and later on St Michael's.

But I want to offer a word of reassurance: *St John's will not be forgotten in all this.*

True, it's simply not possible for me to put the same amount of time into St John's as once I did – but then, most clergy in the Church of England now regularly do in excess of 70 hours per week and the Diocese of Worcester is no exception. So, for example, it's simply not possible to attend all the events that happen at St John's – I worry that this causes some anxiety for folks, but there really isn't anything I can do about it; I just wish it could be otherwise. Sadly, we simply can't turn the clock back to the old days of one church, one vicar.

But I do want to reassure you that it's important to me not to lose touch with folks at St John's. So, for example, I've just launched the first of a series of monthly socials here at the vicarage (if you haven't yet received an invitation, you should be doing so in the next twelve months or so – my aim is to invite everyone on the electoral roll over the course of a year. If you don't get an invite by April 2016, please let me know). I provide wine and nibbles (at no expense to the church) and the aim is to give me an opportunity to spend a little more time with folks, and to thank them for all they do for the church; it's also a chance for members of the congregation to get to know one another better. So far, the evenings have been a great success, and a really good opportunity to spend time with folks. However hamstrung I am by my workload, I want to do everything I can to make sure that we don't lose that sense of community which makes the church so special.

## **A Time to Give Thanks**

The Vicar's report is always an important opportunity to say 'thank you' to all those who give to the life of our church. I'm always afraid to 'name names', because someone always inevitably gets left out – though I feel I must say a particular thank you to our churchwardens, and our PCC for all that they have given, not least those members stepping down this year.

Likewise, a quick word of thanks must also go to our ALMs, who have become an invaluable source of support in a number of aspects of ministry, not least by contributing new and fresh insights into our worship.

But, as I said last year, what about those who clean the church, who decorate it with flowers, who serve teas and coffees, who welcome people into church, who serve on the

Pastoral, Standing, Accommodation, Fund-Raising, and Charities Committees? The bell ringers, the organist and choir, the Music Group, the Toddler Group, Bible Study Group, and the Junior Church? The office staff? Those who prepare the Parish Magazine? And this is just a part of it – what about all the other jobs, less formal but by no means less essential, that go on behind the scenes? Whatever your contribution, however small: we couldn't do without you - thank you!

These are times of great change for our church - but we are not only 'surviving', we are flourishing. We are all part of something that is growing, and making a real difference in the lives of people. Long may that continue, and long may this be a place where God is worshipped, honoured and served.

Yours in Christ  
Christopher

### **Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2014-15.**

The PCC met six times during the year. There was a short meeting straight after the last AGM to appoint officers, and six ordinary meetings (in May, July, September, November, February and March). The PCC had 18 members (no vacancies) and average attendance at the meetings was twelve.

The PCC focussed its work around four key areas that we wanted to work on in 2014 (Worship and mission, Children/youth, Finances and Working more closely with St Clement's, St David's and St Michael's). The vicar has looked at how we got on in each of these areas in his review. He has also set out the goals which the clergy and PCC have set for 2015 (*at the foot of page 12 – Ed.*).

The PCC operates through a number of sub-committees, and there are separate reports from some of these:

- Standing Committee (Main focuses are Finance and Operations)
- Pastoral Committee
- Charity Committee
- Accommodation Committee
- Fund Raising Committee
- Outreach Group

Membership of the committees (except the Standing Committee) is not restricted to members of the PCC.

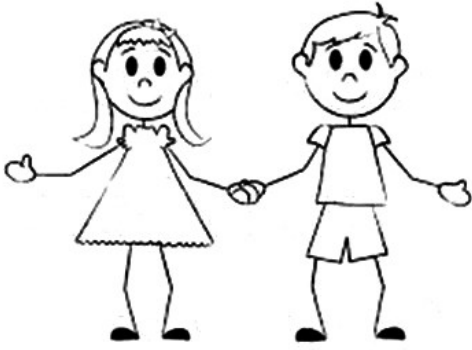
The PCC expressed thanks to elected PCC members retiring and not seeking re-election at the 2015 AGM.

Each meeting opened with a prayer and closed with all saying 'The Grace'.

Graham Evans  
PCC Secretary

**There will be more reports from the Annual Meeting in the next edition.**

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS



April saw a change in our activity session. We had a session on Good Friday morning. We did not have as many children but an enjoyable and creative session for children and parents was achieved. We all enjoyed hot cross buns.

Easter Sunday Children's Church held an Easter number hunt in the Church garden. The children had to collect numbers which gave them jigsaw pieces that made a relevant picture from Holy Week. On completion they were rewarded with Easter eggs.

The family service moved to 19th April, with the children taking an active part.

The next Children's Activity Session on Saturday 9th May is linked with Christian Aid. We are holding a Teddy Bear's Picnic, so you need to bring your teddy with you. Children can come along and make a parachute for their teddies so that they can sky dive off the tower, the teddies not the children!! We hope the sun will be shining as we join with children from other Westside churches for a fun picnic.

The family service will be on Sunday 10th May, we do hope that you can come along and join us.

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*

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## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND SCIENCE

A Church of England-backed project has been launched to promote greater engagement between faith and science. Scientists and theologians are to be brought together with Christian leaders as part of the three-year Durham University programme, funded by Templeton World Charity Foundation.

The project will invite proposals for grants for "scientists in congregations" – aimed at using the expertise of Christians who are scientists to promote greater understanding of the relationship between science and faith. More than 1,000 people training for Anglican ministry will be offered access to training and resources on contemporary science and the Christian faith as part of the project.

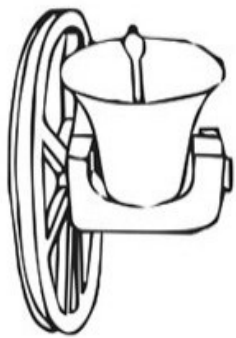
*Parish Pump*

## NOTES FROM THE CHOIR



Another Easter has sped by and Spring, which somehow seemed a long time coming this year, finally burst onto the scene in a riot of daffodils and birdsong. John and I were lucky enough to spend a few days in Cornwall, walking round the Lizard Point on the coast paths, enjoying the sunshine and the fresh air. The feeling of the whole world coming to life and blossoming forth was very powerful and I was reminded of the lovely words from the Eucharistic Prayer G: ‘From the beginning you have created all things and all your works echo the silent music of your praise’. It seems to me to be a wonderful thing to think of all the parts of God’s creation praising their Creator in music. Even the movements of the sun, moon and planets join in, according to an ancient philosophical concept, with the inaudible yet poetic Music of the Spheres. How are we to respond to all this music that surrounds us? Well to return to the words of the Eucharistic prayer, our response is clear: ‘You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels and all the power of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise.’ Joining in a hymn or a setting on a Sunday morning, singing a Psalm or an ‘Amen’ adds our voices to the praise of God on earth and in heaven.

*Luise Horrocks*



## Ring For England

### RINGING FOR ENGLAND

This year St Johns Clangers again took part in the country’s largest ringing event. The plan was to get the 44,000 bell ringers to ring the 208,000 bells in the 12,000 churches ringing in England, all at exactly the same time, at 6pm on St. George’s Day, England’s Day, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Who was ringing? There were people from all walks of life, all ages, even teenagers, ringing out of every corner of the entire country. Some rang from towers that have only one bell or some from towers that have a stupendous 13.

And why April 23<sup>rd</sup>? Because that was when St. George was martyred for refusing to give up Christianity. He was a brave young man and a worthy Patron Saint. He shares this date with another well-known Englishman – William Shakespeare. The aim of the Campaign was to get ringers from across the Nation to ring out and make the country proud of her Patron Saint and to make it a national celebration every year. Anyone can learn to ring no matter what age so if you want to get involved we would love to hear from you so please contact us via the parish office or [nannyouse@gmail.com](mailto:nannyouse@gmail.com)

*Tracey Ward*



## BEST OF WORCESTER AWARDS

Congratulations to Sue Wright, Barbara Bishop and Dilys Round who, after being shortlisted for the Best of Worcester Awards, were presented with first prize by the Mayor of Worcester. This was for their work in the church, serving the refreshments and doing afternoon tea on a regular basis for the older parishioners who are lonely and need company.

Congratulations and well done!

*Margaret Dixon*

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## ST CLEMENT'S – BUILDINGS' VISION COMMITTEE

Two factors have prompted St Clement's to explore the re-ordering of the church building:

The loss of the parish hall, which for many years served as an important resource for the local community.

A shift in the Sunday service pattern, and in particular the introduction of a new non-Eucharistic family service – 'Worship for Everyone'.

Both these factors prompted the clergy/PCC to set up a 'Buildings' Vision Committee' (BVC), to re-imagine the way in which we use the space inside our church. The Committee was given the following vision statement:

*'Our aim is to broaden our outreach beyond our existing congregation by seeking to respond to the needs of our wider community, whilst continuing to provide an open and welcoming church that remains, at its heart, a centre of worship.'*

So far, the Committee has confirmed the need for a visionary reordering of the church, and has identified the key elements in that reordering. Consideration is also being given to bringing the crypt into the re-ordering proposals since some facilities could be relocated / created there, the initial provision of which would have little impact on current patterns of worship and usage of the nave and Lady Chapel.

The re-ordering is similar to that undertaken in a number of parish churches. St James church in Welland and St Georges in Worcester are two examples. Following initial consultation with the congregation, members of the Electoral Roll and local residents/groups/businesses there has been enthusiastic support for reordering in principle, though the congregations have not yet been shown any detailed plans.

The BVC is about to submit a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to secure up to ten thousand pounds to undertake a feasibility study.

*Richard J Attwood*  
*Project Lead*

*On behalf of St Clements Buildings' Vision Committee*

## ST ALCUIN OF YORK

“Alcuin”? “Never heard of him.” Well neither had I. But his name is mentioned in the lectionary for this month, showing his day as 20<sup>th</sup> May, so curiosity drove me to look him up.

It turns out that Alcuin is an English saint; born around 735; died 19<sup>th</sup> May 804. He is celebrated on 20<sup>th</sup> May because 19<sup>th</sup> May is St Dunstan’s day.

He was an intellectual, scholar and writer. His early development was at the cathedral church in York where he graduated to become a teacher during the 750s and later became head of the York school. Around the same time Alcuin became a deacon in the church. He was never ordained as a priest and there is no real evidence that he became an actual monk, but he lived his life as one. In 781 he was sent to Rome to petition the Pope for official confirmation of York's status as an archbishopric. On his way home he met Charlemagne, in the Italian city of Palma.

Alcuin's intellectual curiosity led him to be persuaded to join Charlemagne's court. He was welcomed at the Palace School of Charlemagne in 782. Charlemagne wanted to broaden the school to include the liberal arts and, most importantly, the study of the religion. Alcuin revolutionised the educational standards of the Palace School, introducing Charlemagne to the liberal arts and creating an atmosphere of scholarship and learning.

In 790 Alcuin returned from the court of Charlemagne to England, to which he had remained attached. He dwelt there for some time, but Charlemagne then invited him back to help in the fight against the Adoptionist heresy which was at that time making great progress.

He wrote many documents which described contemporary events. In his description of the Viking attack on Lindisfarne in July 793, he wrote: "*Never before has such terror appeared in Britain. Behold the church of St Cuthbert, splattered with the blood of God's priests, robbed of its ornaments.*"

In 796, when Alcuin was in his sixties. Charlemagne put Marmoutier Abbey into Alcuin's care, and he spent the rest of his life there.

Below are some translated quotations from Alcuin’s works (the originals were in Latin):

'Oh how sweet life was when we sat quietly... midst all these books.'

'Remember to care for the soul more than the body, since the former remains, the latter perishes.'

'And do not listen to those who keep saying, 'The voice of the people is the voice of God.' because the tumult of the crowd is always close to madness.

*Graham Evans, based upon material from Wikipedia*

## 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.

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### SUDOKU PUZZLE

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## FROM THE MAGAZINE ARCHIVE, MAY 1950

### YOUTH CLUB

THE Youth Club continues to make progress under Mr. Grenville Stezaker and the new committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Brickwell have paid several visits to the Parish Room on Thursdays in order to teach Old Time Dancing. These visits have been greatly appreciated, and most of the members have taken full advantage of the opportunity of learning these old but matchless dances.

On Thursday, April 13th, a Social Evening was held for members and their friends. Our thanks go to Ena Reeves for her expert catering.

On Monday, 24th, and Tuesday, 25th, the Youth Club Dramatic Group presented scenes from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" in the Boys' School.

Much hard work has gone into the rehearsals, and a special word of thanks is due to Miss Madeline Davies whose able direction made the production possible.

The excellent audiences on both evenings were most appreciative.

The comic scenes, not the romantic passages, were selected, and the cast showed every sign of enjoying the cheerful story of the jest played by Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Agnecheek, the Fool, and Maria, upon Malvolio.

Bob Gammon, well padded and whiskered, lived up to his part and hiccupped robustly as the debauched Sir Toby, and Ernest Norman simpered exactly as Sir Andrew should. Kathleen Platts was excellent as the demure Maria, and Joan Short was appropriately melancholy as Olivia. Pam Stuart was a real jester and a convincing Sir Topaz. Jean Cooper, playing a male part, did exceptionally well, and Brian Biddle as the Page made his first stage appearance.

The newspaper critic handed chief honours to Ronald Biddle for a lively, intelligent and always audible performance as Malvolio whose incredible conceit is always hard to make convincing.

The colourful and effective costumes were made by the Drama Group and were highly praised by the audience.

After the play Miss Davies was presented with a book by the cast as a token of their appreciation of her work for them. We appreciated the assistance given by Miss Harwood, Gerald Taylor, and others who were busy behind the scenes.

NOTE FROM THE VICAR.—I must say that I was amazed when I saw "Twelfth Night" last Monday evening. It was a splendid effort and I am proud of you all. When I heard that you were tackling this play I must confess to some misgivings—but they were speedily dispelled when the curtain was rung up.

Such efforts as this make for a sound cultural background so rare in these days.

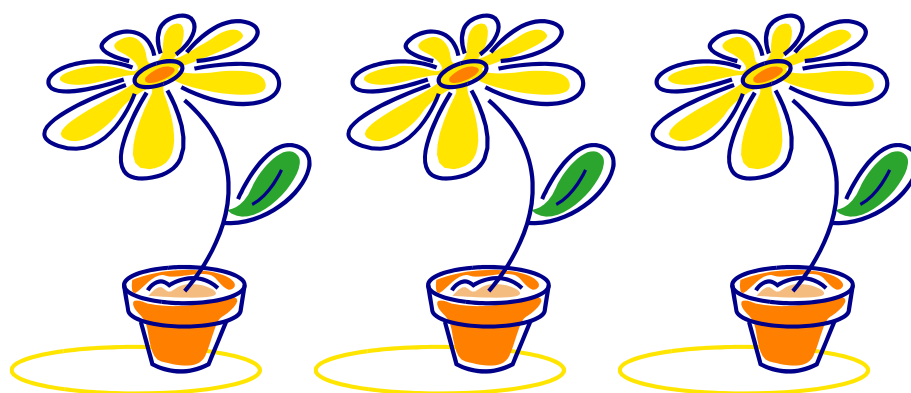
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## VILLAGE FUN DAY – SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015, 11am – 3pm

Don't forget the date. The bunting is ready and it's going to be a great day with lots of games stalls, entertainment arena and delicious refreshments. We've booked a local celebrity, Bertie the Duck to come and open the event!

Please help us in advance by selling (and buying) draw tickets and photo quizzes (they will be available soon). And, MOST IMPORTANT, tell 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 can do that please speak to Sandra Nash, Tracey Ward or Philip Evans*

## 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 classic 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](mailto: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 16<sup>th</sup> 2015

Name:

Contact details:

Exact details of my promise, including any limitations:

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## 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 include 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 17<sup>th</sup> May for the June 2015 edition. If you can, please use e-mail: [magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto: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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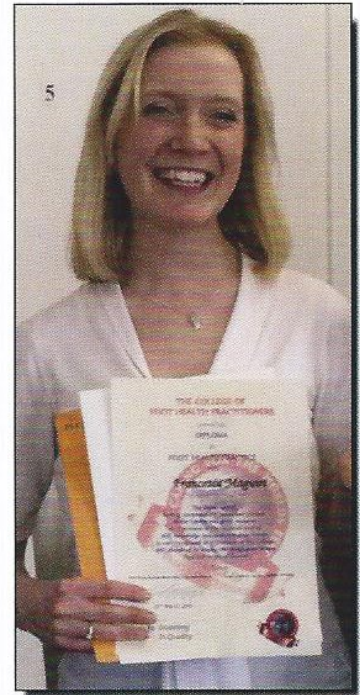
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
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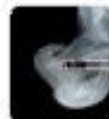
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Assistant Curate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill curate@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 426257

## 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
9.45 a.m.	Thursday (at St Clement's)	Holy Communion

## PARISH OFFICE

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From the church car park, walk up the Bromyard Road side of the church to the green door.  
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**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](http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)  
The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.





## Sunday services in the West Worcester Group, May 2015

	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Clement's</b>	<b>St. David's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9am Holy Communion  10.45am Worship for Everyone	   6.30pm Evensong	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's participation 5.30pm Christian Aid Service	9am Holy Communion  10.45am Worship for Everyone	  11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	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
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evening Prayer (BCP)	No 9am service  10.45am Joint service for 9am and 10.45am congregations	  6.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9am Holy Communion joint with St David's  10.45am Worship for Everyone	No service at St David's Joint service at St Clement's 9am	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.**