

*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

June 2015

40p



LETTER FROM THE VICAR

Dear Friends,

I was a mile out of Robin Hood's Bay, with around 190 miles behind me, when I finally realised that I was reaching the end of my Coast to Coast walk. Until then I don't think I'd quite believed I'd make it, but now I knew I was almost there. I'd left St Bees in thick fog a fortnight before, but now I had bright sunshine, a light breeze at my back, and the yawning beauty of the North Sea so close I could almost touch it...

It was a moment to savour, those last few yards down to the beach. I must have looked a little out of place dressed in my walking gear, passing the crowds of tourists who thronged the place even in April. I didn't care. I was too tired to strut, but there was a spring in my step all the same.

With a wry smile I discovered that the tide was out when I reached the bay (another quarter of a mile on the walk!), but I wasn't sorry: it meant that by the time I'd walked out for my paddle, the crowds were far behind me. I had this moment to myself.

I don't know about you, but I'm the sort of person who relishes the challenge more than the achievement – I like to get stuck in, and there's always a slight feeling of anticlimax when the job in hand is complete and the dust has settled. But this was a little different. Standing there was a curious experience; for me, it wasn't a moment of exultation – of cheering and whooping – but of peace, of stillness, and of contemplation. It had been a long, slow walk across England and it had changed me. The length – and the struggles – had changed me; the simple fact of finishing changed me – and in ways I couldn't put into words. The pain was all part of the gain, and it was a moment to be still.

My doctorate was probably the hardest thing I've ever done in my life – by a long way. It took six years to write my 100,000 word thesis, all researched and written in my spare time: a day snatched here, a few hours snatched there, making up any hours I took off work. At one point it got so difficult, I gave up – properly gave up, something I've never done before in my life – only to go back to it a few weeks later, to try again. I remember once repeatedly punching the wall in frustration. Finishing my doctorate was a little like that moment standing in the sea – and for the same reasons. When you've been through a struggle like that, the feeling goes much deeper. It's not about jumping up and down waving your arms in the air;

(continued opposite)

COVER

A small portion of the Sheldon tapestry map of Worcestershire showing St Johns.
See page 19. Photograph by Graham Evans.

(continued from opposite) it's about reflecting back on all that you've been through. The pain has become part of the fibre of the achievement, and somehow the joy at finishing goes much deeper because of it.

Two different kinds of celebration: but both came at a cost, and that cost changed the nature of the joy I felt at the end – changed it, and made it into something deeper, something I treasure.

One of my favourite Easter hymns is “The Strife is o'er”: at first glance, it seems an odd hymn for Easter morning, with its strangely dark sounding tune. But I've always felt that the joy is somehow deeper, more genuine, precisely because of it – something about it reminds you of Good Friday, and the joy it embodies feels all the deeper, richer, precisely because you're reminded of the cost of it all. For me, it sums up what it means for us as Christians to celebrate the Eucharist, Sunday by Sunday.

The things we value most are the things that have proved most costly - I mean spiritually and emotionally costly, not financially. My friendships mean more to me because of the pain we've shared. And when you know that cost then it seems to me the joy isn't silly and superficial, but something deeper – deeper, and (because deeper) life-changing.

Christopher

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to our June 2015 edition, with a theme of celebration.

This month, we celebrate our history and presence in St Johns, through our Patronal Festival on 21st June. The cover picture shows both those elements as the church is clearly visible in the 16th century map of Worcestershire. And we celebrate people and look to the future. This month, Sarah Cottrill is ordained priest and celebrates her first Eucharist and Phil Bradford is licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St Michael's.

We've included edited highlights of the remainder of the reports from the Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Rather a lot of text, but an important report on Parish life and again a celebration of what we do in church and in our community.

The Vicar in his letter has reflected how celebration is deepest when something valuable has come at a cost and after a struggle along the way.

We pray for all those celebrating achievements along life's way – and we pray for all still on the road, especially those at a difficult part of the road; that they may find the courage and support to continue their journey.

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

Churchwardens	churchwardens@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
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	Joy Job joyjob@dsl.pipex.com	423051
PCC Lay vice-chair	Sue Bale	423257
	Graham Evans pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
PCC Secretary	John English	427822
Treasurer	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 July/August 2015 edition is Sunday 14th June 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

WHO'S WHO – ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS
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IN MEMORIAM

Eva Stanton	1 June 1987
Stanley Frederick Smith	2 June 1983
Laura Ellen Mister	3 June 1964
Theresa Dedicott	3 June 2008
Ronald Cantrill	5 June 2014
Harold James Smith	6 June 1974
Doris Allen	9 June 1995
Andrew David Brunyee	11 June 1995
Thomas Alec Brown	12 June 1981
Kenneth Edward Cole	12 June 1988
Sophie Perry "Auntie"	13 June 1995
Walter Edward Moss	16 June 1968
Joy Doreen Pincott (neé Rastall)	18 June 1968
Pete Gleadall	19 June 1996
Henry Frederick Charles Owen	24 June 1985
Arnold Colley	27 June 1991

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in April 2015

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

Sophie Eve Taylor	Leo Ivor George Smith
Lexi Rhian Taylor	Isabella Mai Theakston
Bethany Deborah Taylor	Theo George Lock

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

Jake Aughton and Catherine Dicks

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 24th March 2015	Maryn Harris
d. 28th March 2015	Reginald Willis
d. 7th April 2015	Nancy Saunders
d. 10th April 2015	Vera Chadwick

FROM THE REGISTER OF SERVICES FOR APRIL 2015

(4 Sundays): Communicants 348. Total attendance at all services 952.

THURSDAY MORNING SERVICES

In June, 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 every week during June except on 18th June when it will be Morning Prayer.

DATES FOR JUNE 2015

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

See
page

Saturday 6th June

3.00 p.m. Disabled Christian Fellowship Service

Sunday 7th June: 1st Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 10th June

7.00 p.m. Family and Youth Worker – Open Meeting 19

Saturday 13th June:

3.00 p.m. Children's Activities 8

Sunday 14th June: 2nd Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 17th June

7.00 p.m. Craft Group 8

Sunday 21st June: 3rd Sunday after Trinity – Patronal Festival

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Friday 26th June

Time tbc (Portobello, Bransford Road) Skittles Evening 8

Saturday 27th June

2.00 p.m. (Cathedral) Ordination of Sarah Cottrill as priest 7

Sunday 28th June: 4th Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Monday 29th June: Peter and Paul Apostles

7.00 p.m. (St Michael's) Licensing of Phil Bradford as Priest-in-Charge of St Michael's, Dines Green and St Thomas', Crown East

SARAH COTTRILL'S ORDINATION

As most of you will know, Sarah Cottrill will be ordained priest at 2pm on Saturday 27th June. The next day, 28th June, there will be no 8am, 10.30am or 5pm services at St John's – instead, we'll be joining Sarah at St Clement's as she leads her first Eucharist as priest. The service will be at 10.30am; all the west Worcester churches will be coming along to share in this very special day.

Afterwards there will be a buffet lunch over the road at St Clement's school – please do make the effort to come along for this, as it's a great opportunity for the west Worcester churches to get to know each other better over a shared meal.

Chris Stuart



Fellowship and Fund Raising
Events
at St John in Bedwardine
Church



Saturday
13th June

Children's Activities 3.00pm-5.30pm.
Light tea included. Tel 424811 for details.

Wednesday
17th June

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

Friday 26th June

Skittles Evening at the Portobello with St Clement's.
Time to be confirmed - please watch the weekly notice sheets.

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday 11th July 2015

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

FUN DAY

DONATIONS OF CHOCOLATES WANTED

One of the stalls at the **St John's Village Fun Day** will be including chocolates in the prizes.

For the month of June, our request to you is, if you can, please donate a box or packet or bag of chocolates for this stall.



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

Please bring your chocolates to church on Sundays during June or drop them off at the office during the week.

Many thanks – from the Fun Day organisers.



P.S. If you still have bottles of wine for us, please do bring them!

BRAVE BEARS JUMP AT CHANCE TO GIVE AID!



On Saturday, May 9th, about 25 teddies jumped bravely from our church tower to raise funds for Christian Aid!

The afternoon's activities began with Peter Holzapfel telling children and parents about Christian Aid, running a quiz which revealed some surprising facts about the world's richest and poorest countries, and organising a fun activity which illustrated the importance of sharing.

It was then time to move into the craft activity – making parachutes for the teddies and preparing them for their adventure. This done, the bears were collected by Chris Rees and Sandra Nash who took them up the tower and, watched by anxious children and parents, they, (the bears, not Chris and Sandra!), made their jump. All landed safely and although one bear, leaping to celebrate, did get stuck in a



tree, he was rescued without needing to call the fire brigade! The bears were awarded certificates to mark the occasion before sitting down to a delicious picnic tea provided by Jane Askew and Margaret Morris.

A great time was had by all and the donations bucket made a satisfying rattling sound at the end of the afternoon!

Sarah Cottrill



MARCES MAILING

We have received a four page newsletter from Penny and Juan Carlos. Unfortunately we do not have space to include it all, but here are some highlights from it:

We write this having been back in Peru 2 weeks, and grateful for the wonderful time we had visiting our link Churches and friends.

We are very privileged to be able to see what God is doing here in two very different parts of the family of God, Peru AND the UK, so we enjoy our visits. It was good to see so many of you again, and interesting to see in each of our link churches the things that have been taking place since our last visit. It is also interesting to see the different challenges each of you face, and how these are met; often the things we see in UK become factors in what is done here (obviously culturally adapted). It is wonderful to know that God is sufficient for each of us in our needs.

Over the last 30 years some of you may have realised that Peruvians love extravagant celebrations and we are no exception (by UK standards!). We weren't actually IN Peru on the exact date that Penny's 30th anniversary of arrival-in-Peru fell (we were in the UK), but it was good to remember and think a little about all that we have seen God do in and through us during these 30 years. However, now back in Lima and newly-energized, we ARE celebrating our Silver Wedding; we decided that a celebration service at the Cathedral to which we can invite many of the people we have met in our different areas of life and ministry would be an opportunity for them to meet each other and to praise God together.

We are also thinking about how to share with people HERE a similar thing to the meetings we hold in UK. Most people we know find it hard to understand what exactly we do during so many weeks in the UK, and tend to think we have had a "nice long holiday". So, we are planning to have an "English evening" where we can share what we have experienced during our time in the UK.

During our absence work continued in the Diocese on dividing into smaller regions/pro-Dioceses. Nominations have now been made to the Province and maybe we will know in the fairly near future who the new area Bishops will be. Please continue to pray for this whole process.

You are my God, and I will praise you;
you are my God, and I will exalt you.
Give thanks to the LORD,
for he is good;
his love endures for ever.
(Psalm 118:28,29)

Thank you for your prayers and other forms of support, which we value very much. Thank you for being with us for 30 years!

*With our love and thanks,
Juan Carlos, Penny, Rebeca, Elizabeth
& Jonatan*

REPORTS FROM THE 2014 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The above meeting was held on 26th April 2015. Last month we printed the Vicar's review of the year and the PCC report. This month we print in the churchwardens' annual fabric report (incorporating the Estate Manager's Report) and edited highlights from the remainder of the reports.

CHURCHWARDEN'S ANNUAL FABRIC REPORT for 2014

Herewith a report from Brian Askew, our Estates Manager, which provides a review of the fabric work carried out in our church during 2014. The Churchwardens are happy to advance this verbatim as the substance of their own official report. We would add that there is nothing new to report on church ornaments. We conducted an inventory of the main portable artefacts (candlesticks etc.) in February 2015 – these remain in order. Once again, we offer our thanks to Brian for his energetic work in ensuring that our buildings are in good order.

Gordon Templeton and Joy Job, Churchwardens, March 2015

ESTATE MANAGER'S REPORT for 2014

- The installation of the church's new sound system was actually started just before Christmas of 2013 but wasn't completed until January 2014. At a cost of around £10,000 the new system gives the church the ability to control all the sound from within the body of the church. The system was designed with music reproduction in mind so now the music group play through the sound system and also CD's and iPods are fed through the system as well. Four radio microphones are now available which gives the church greater flexibility during services/concerts etc. Extra speakers were fitted near the High Altar so that people sitting in the choir stalls can hear what is being reproduced through the sound system.
- During January it was discovered that none of the lights in the Blakefield Room had a satisfactory earth connection – so this was quickly remedied.
- In the early part of the year we allowed the builders who were refurbishing the Post Office to use our car park. During that time one of our car park walls was hit by a heavy vehicle and the wall was cracked and deformed. No-one claimed responsibility so a repair was effected and (again) our insurers picked up the bill.
- During June all of our portable electrical equipment was 'PAT' tested as was our fire equipment.
- Also in June all of our gas appliances were safety checked and serviced. Everything was satisfactory but it was recommended that a carbon monoxide detector was fitted in the kitchen because it was such an enclosed space – this was done. It was also recommended that an air brick was fitted on the opposite side of the kitchen

to the cooker so that fresh air could be brought into the kitchen to replace that being burnt by the cooker. This needed a faculty application so that was bundled in with the faculty request for the Blakefield Room – see below.

- We now have the bells safety checked every six months. This was done by John Slater in April and October and minor repairs carried out.
- The annual clearing out of the rainwater gutters, downpipes and gulleys was carried out at the end of November; as was the replacing of a few missing roof tiles.
- The damp walls and musty smell in the Blakefield Room complex is an ongoing issue. During the year several ‘experts’ visited and made recommendations on solving the problem – usually for lots of money. Our church architect suggested that an initial first step would be to fit some air bricks to freshen and circulate the air. Because the air bricks would be seen from the outside of the church a faculty for this work had to be applied for. Work will be carried out during Spring 2015.

Brian Askew, Estates Manager, March 2015

Electoral Roll Report:

April 2015: 9 people have been added since the 2014 APCM and 4 have been removed (all deceased). The new roll is 151 (an increase of 5).

The Children’s Church reported:

It has been a busy but productive year for the Children’s Church with two new initiatives. First, the beginning of a Saturday Activities session for children aged 3-14 on a Saturday afternoon. A range of activities and crafts are enjoyed and we finish with a light tea. The numbers started slowly with 10 but have risen to as many as 31. Parents stay and can join in or enjoy a catch up with each other. Peter Holzapfel has been the leader for these sessions and Phil Bradford has supported us when he is available. Anyone who knows Peter, knows the enthusiasm he has and this has rubbed off on the helpers and the children. We make the craft relevant to the teaching.

The success of the days is also due to the help given by the junior church helpers. A big thank you goes to Margaret and Sue who cope with organising the food as we never know the numbers in advance.

The second new venture is the return of the Family Service. Phil Bradford has been taking these and the children have been involved in the readings and intercessions and generally a part of the service. It is a joy to see some of the younger members put so much thought and feeling into their roles.

Children’s Church still continues every Sunday. Numbers are few and not consistent. However, the thoughts and discussions that we have are very

worthwhile. Sometimes children amaze you with their understanding. It would be good to see more children involved.

We are short on helpers. If there is anyone who feels they would like to join in and help we would be most grateful, just see one of us to find out more.

Finally, a great big thank you to all the brilliant team of helpers, there would be no Children's Church without them.

Philip Evans reported on Communications:

The past year has provided us with various opportunities to remind people about the church's presence in the community, through specific short-term projects, many in collaboration between St John's, St. Clement's and St David's. We advertised our Easter services in a joint advert in the local press and our Christmas services through a joint letter delivered around the three parishes and a joint advert in all the local newspapers.

Our continuing on-going communications include our monthly Parish Magazine, weekly newsletter, the website, noticeboards and banners.

We are currently looking for someone to help us communicate better with the role of "Publicity Officer". If you might be interested in this role or to be involved in any communications activities, then please speak to me.

Our work on the welcome communicated by our building has continued to progress. This past year has seen some more of the proposals implemented. Now some of the "bigger" and longer-term ideas are going to be looked at as part of one of the 2015's priorities to "Develop a Buildings' Vision (to better adapt our space to meet our priorities)".

The Outreach Group reported:

The PCC set up this group to explore how we as a church could reach out to the community and serve it better. The group started with the big picture and then aimed to focus towards specific projects. Although projects might have an evangelical dimension, the greater weight was to social concern.

The group started its work by looking at parish data and talking to stakeholders. From this, the key areas were seen as pensioner isolation, household poverty and single parents. As a group, the Outreach Committee decided to focus on two areas: loneliness/isolation and poverty.

Some of the projects and further exploration that resulted were: The Film Club; expanding the Saturday breakfasts; building links with Regent House; considering homelessness on this side of the city (via contact with Maggs); better advertising of the charitable pots we have to help people in poverty.

From Graham Evans' report on the work of the Standing Committee:

The Standing Committee acts for the PCC between PCC meetings, and holds strategic financial and operational responsibilities. Each meeting of the Standing Committee receives financial and fund-raising reports, and covers other topics as required at the time.

John English gave his treasurer's report:

Helped by a small but dedicated group who count, record and bank most of the regular sources of giving, the treasurer oversees the general financial dimension of the work of St John's Church by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and co-ordinating the annual review of Christian Stewardship by planned giving.

Compared with 2013 the income was down and our regular giving fell short of the recurrent costs by some 29% (last year 19%).

Restoration/repair work continued and these and other maintenance costs were mainly covered by grants provided by the Feoffees Trust and property rentals.

In 2015 we are being asked to meet a Parish Share of £55,585, an increase of 4.3%. The 2013 quinquennial inspection report indicates that the work needed on electrical equipment, lighting and buildings could amount to well over £20,000. As in previous years, paying our Parish Share, carrying out any necessary repair work on our ancient building and maintaining support for the growing activities of the church including Mission and our children's groups presents us with a major challenge.

Simply to break even in 2015 our regular giving needs to increase by an average of around £1 per week per household on the Electoral Roll.

As we have seen with the legacies we received in 2013/2014, making provision for a legacy to the Church in our Wills can provide much needed income for the ongoing maintenance and other activities of the church into the future. Such legacies are free of inheritance tax.

Graham Evans gave a report on behalf of the Deanery Synod representatives:

Each meeting is divided into two sections. The first half looks at a particular topic of concern or interest, often with a visiting speaker. For example we heard from John Dentith, who spoke on the links with Magdeburg, and Philip Betts from Malvern Deanery who was involved in drawing up the original "Fairer Shares" scheme. We shared experiences of lay ministry in the deanery.

During the second half of the meeting, the Synod conducts its business, including receiving reports and voting on Diocesan-wide and National matters. That included receiving news that our Diocesan Synod has voted to adopt the "Fairer Shares" scheme as Diocesan Policy and it will now be rolled out.

Luise Horrocks reported on the conclusions of the Charity Committee:

The annual fund for charitable giving totals £3000 and, after discussions among the committee, it was decided that the emphasis for 2014 would be helping local charities and those supporting the lonely and vulnerable. The following charities were the chosen recipients: Frankie's Legacy, National Churches Trust, St Richards Hospice, Maggs Day Centre, Worcester Snoezelen, Worcester Volunteer Centre, Big Issue Foundation and The Cinnamon Trust. The remainder of the allotted money was allocated to the emergency help fund designed to help local people in immediate need.

Sue Bale, Catherine Templeton and Jane Askew provided a report on Fund Raising: 2014 was a busy year and we managed to raise the amount set by the PCC. The regular events carried on and there were some memorable concerts, two skittles evenings and a new venture, the Murder, Mystery Evening.

The Summer Fair was disappointing (although the event did raise just over £1000) mainly due to a very popular event on Pitchcroft. It is hard to find a date when you don't clash with something. It was felt by the PCC that more effort needed to be put into major events and so a group organising the Christmas and Summer Fairs has been formed.

The idea of fund raising is to raise money but also to provide entertainment, fellowship and fun. We hope that we have, in some small way, been able to achieve this. We will continue to put on some of the minor events, but the main fund raising will be co-ordinated by the standing committee. We are sure they will be pleased to hear of any new ideas you may have.

We thank you for your support over the past twelve months and also those who have tirelessly helped us when we have put on events, it was much appreciated.

Sylvia Render reported on the work of the Pastoral Care Team:

The team has continued to offer support to members of the congregation by phone or visits when ill or unable to attend church services. We contact families who have been bereaved offering support and visits if requested. Members of the congregation are continuing to contact the team when it is noticed people have not attended services for a time. Each month we visit the following care homes in the parish: The Firs, Teme Court and Regent. Communion can be taken to members of the congregation who are unable to get to church.

Thursday at Two (latterly Tuesday at Two) has been cancelled due to lack of interest.

Healing service continues to be well supported with an average congregation of 15. The service is held around the font and is slightly less formal: Prayers and different ways of praying are experienced by those who attend. Jenny English

leads a short meditation during the service. Time is given at the end of the service for those requesting private prayers.

Following last year's successful visit from The Disabled Christian Fellowship they will be joining us again on June 6th at 3pm. It is a very uplifting service including a good old fashioned afternoon tea provided by the Pastoral care group. The service will be open to church members so do come along and support.

Ann Sherratt reported on baptism follow-up:

I post out 1st Anniversary cards to all people baptised at St John in Bedwardine. Mostly these have been sent to babies and young children. This last year I have posted a total of 47 cards to those baptised in 2014.

From the report by the St John's bell-ringing committee:

The last year has been a good year for bellringing at Saint John's. The band has continued to grow and develop and good progress has been made by all. The bellringer's committee identified a number of key areas for development and we have been particularly focusing on these in the last year.

One area was community outreach. We as a band feel that bellringers must reach out to their local community and make sure that bellringing and the sound of the bells are at the heart of the local area. We held an open tower event at last year's summer fete and a special open tower night in February for St. Agatha's day. St. Agatha is the patron saint of bellringers and breast cancer.

Our second focus was training and recruitment. As people leave and move on we need to be constantly recruiting new members to ensure that the band does not die out as has sadly happened at some towers. We are also encouraging our existing members to take up responsibilities in the tower such as Community Outreach officer and Steeple Keeper so that everyone feels that they are involved and making a contribution to the smooth running of the band.

As to the future, we hope to continue to progress and expand the band. We have a new team of leaders in place to accommodate the pending departure of the Ringing Master John Sheehan and with this new structure, we hope that bellringing at St. John's will continue to blossom and that the sound of bells ring out across St. John's and west Worcester for many years to come.

From the report by Peter Yates on the Music Group:

The Music Group's prime function has always been to provide a musical ministry of accessible hymnody to expand upon the liturgy for formal and informal occasions within the church and beyond. We continue once a month to provide the music for the hymns and the Children's Church make their valued contributions to the Parish Communion at the 10.30 service, and for the

refreshed pattern of Wholeness and Healing Services on the last Sunday of the month. Beyond St John's, we continue to provide music at the "Worship for Everyone" services at St Clements and we continue to play at St Thomas, Crown East once a month: Many months, the Music Group is in action on every Sunday.

The music group has a long tradition of co-operation with other churches on the Westside – notably through our ministry as “Mixed Blessings”. We play a number of “Regular” once a year slots and continue to be involved in one off outreach and other occasions.

Overall, we continue to be very busy - and would hugely appreciate any new members to share the duties (and privilege, not to mention pleasure) of contributing to worship both in churches and elsewhere on the Westside.

From the report of John Brierley, the Organist & Choirmaster:

As Organist and Choirmaster, my main aim from the outset has been to build up the choir both in numbers and in the amount and range of music that they sing, to provide a growing lead and support to the congregational singing whilst offering more choral music in worship. We now have 20 members. We would like some more basses and altos but all voices are welcome.

The choir sings on most Sundays at the 10.30am Eucharist, twice a month at 5.00pm for Choral Evensong, and at major festivals during the Church's year. The choir is available for Weddings. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm for 90 minutes including a short break. We have a 10am warm-up practice on Sunday mornings. Morale is high and we enjoy our rehearsals where we work hard but also have fun.

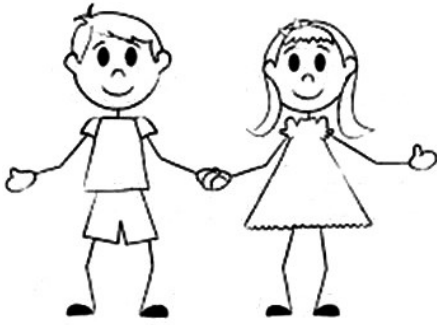
I choose hymns and other music for the services reflecting the seasons, themes and readings of services, where practicable, in the music. We continue to build and I am always delighted to hear from singers interested in joining the choir. I thank Chris Stuart, the choir and the people of St John-in-Bedwardine for their friendship and support.

Eileen Cantrill reported on the work of the Flower Arrangers:

The Flower Team continue to meet each Friday, except during August and Lent, and welcome all visitors and many friends who call in and join us for a cup of coffee mid-morning. We also have great pleasure in meeting the toddlers and their mums.

Over the year we decorated the church for several weddings and one blessing when the church looked exceptionally beautiful and memorial services. We all enjoy looking after the flowers for these occasions and especially for the festival days, and we continue to be self-funding with your help at Christmas and Easter. We thank you all for your support and encouragement. **(End of reports)**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWS



Our children's activity session in May joined with Christian Aid to hold a teddy bear's picnic and teddy bear sky dive!

Peter talked about the needs of people around the world and we looked at how fortunate we are.

We then made parachutes for our teddies, so that they could 'jump' safely from the tower roof. Thanks to Chris and Sandra for helping the bears succeed in their dives! In true British weather our picnic was an indoor affair but still enjoyed by children and parents.

Archdeacon Robert joined us for the family service on Sunday 10th May. Helped by him, we sang songs from around the world. The children took an active part in the service and a rowdy final hymn was achieved with the aid of the musical instruments and music group!

Junior Church are in the process of creating a freeze based on the story of Noah's Ark. All the children from 3- 14 have made their mark and we do hope you enjoy it when it is completed.

Our next Saturday session is June 13th 3.00 - 5.30pm.

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

ST CLEMENT'S SUMMER FAYRE

St Clement's Summer Fayre this year will be held in Church etc. on Saturday 13th June 10am till 2pm. We would love to see you if you can make it.

Margaret Dixon

THANK YOU...

Maggs celebrates its 30th anniversary this year and as part of our celebrations we are aiming to refurbish our kitchen which is looking very tired and worn.

Our aim is to raise £30,000 for a complete refurbishment, and so many thanks to the inspirational fundraising efforts of Rev Chris Stuart and his coast to coast walk, which have raised a substantial sum towards this project. If you would like to further contribute to this project please contact Maggs. Many thanks for your kind support

Mel Kirk (Manager, Maggs Day Centre)

THE SHELDON TAPESTRY MAP OF WORCESTERSHIRE

A few weeks ago Graham and I spent a weekend in Oxford. We visited the newly refurbished Weston Library which is part of the Bodleian Library.

One of the exhibits on view was the Sheldon tapestry map of Worcestershire. This amazing map was handwoven from wool and silk around 1590. In fact there are four of these tapestry maps which illustrate the midland counties of Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Gloucestershire.

The actual size of the map is what first catches the eye. It's huge - about four metres wide by three metres high. The stitching is beautifully crafted and the colours are still vibrant. It was fascinating to look up the local towns and villages. We noted the differences in the old spellings of places such as, Kemsey (Kempsey), Batnol (Battenhall), Poike (Powick) and S.Iones (St Johns).

The maps were commissioned by Ralph Sheldon for his home in Weston, near Long Compton, Warwickshire and designed to hang in the great hall, with Weston appearing on all four tapestries. The Worcestershire and Oxfordshire tapestries were donated to the Bodleian library in 1890 by Richard Gough. The Gloucestershire map was acquired by the Bodleian library in June 2007; the Warwickshire map is currently part of the Warwickshire Museum's collection. The four maps are of major significance for cartographic history, showing a unique representation of the landscape of the midland counties of England at a time when modern cartography was still in its infancy.

We were very fortunate to visit at a time when the Worcestershire map was on display. If you happen to be in Oxford it is well worth a visit to the Weston library to see this map or whatever other treasures are on display at the time.

Sue Evans.

FAMILY AND YOUTH WORKER

Over the last few months we have been exploring the possibility of appointing a family and youth worker to operate across our area. Conversations have been held with individuals and organisations who may be interested in the project and possible funding options have been explored. Now it's time for you to have your say.

There will be a short, open meeting, in St John's Church at 7pm on Wednesday 10th June. All welcome.

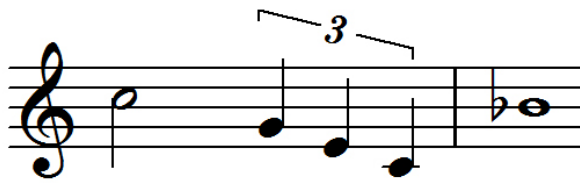
Sarah Cottrill

THANK YOU...

A very big thank you to everyone who has donated items for recycling. We have just received a cheque for £69.25.

Joy Job

NOTES FROM THE CHOIR



I wonder how long it takes for a traditional celebration to establish itself? Last year we had a lovely choir dinner on the evening of the second Thursday of May at the then relatively newly opened Premier Inn. It was such a fun time of fellowship that Graham Evans was talked into organising a very similar event.



So, on the second Thursday of May 2015 a repeat celebration was held at the now slightly more established Premier Inn and I am happy to report that another splendid evening was had by all. A Thursday in the diary without singing seems strange but I am hoping that the pictures here testify to the fact that even without lifting our voices in song, we can still have a great time and I for one would be very happy to see the choir dinner become an annual tradition!



Luise Horrocks

ST JOHN'S VILLAGE FUN DAY

a world of fun

SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2015, 11:00-15:00
ST JOHN IN BEDWARDINE CHURCH

WITH FUN EVENTS, SUCH AS

Dog show, Refreshments, Stalls,
BBQ, Chairplanes, Vintage fun &
Entertainment arena

This event is organised by St John-in-Bedwardine Church (registered charity 1152583).
Proceeds will be used to support repairs and maintenance of church building.

VILLAGE FUN DAY

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 (available **now**). 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

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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The solution is on page 28.

FROM THE MAGAZINE ARCHIVE, JUNE 1950

Vicar: THE REVD. JOHN MORT, The Vicarage. Telephone 5327.

Assistant Curate: THE REVD. C. H. CARVER, 109 Malvern Road. Telephone 4416.

Church Army Sister: EDITH A. CAUNT, 44 St. John's. Telephone 3969.

Church Wardens: MR. ROBERT SMITH, 7 St. John's.

MR. A. P. HIGGINS, 99 Malvern Road.

Hon. Secretary of Parochial Church Council: MR. O. H. LAFLIN, 8 Homefield Road.

Organist and Choir Master: MR. H. G. BISHOP, 78 St. Dunstan's Crescent.

Parish Clerk: MR. W. H. THOMAS, 17 Bromyard Road.

A note from the Vicar prompted by the completion of the Curate's first year:

MY COLLEAGUES

ON the twelfth of June, Mr. Carver will have completed twelve months at St. John's. I welcome this opportunity to thank him openly for all he has done to help me—and all of us—during this initial period of his ministry in St. John's. Both Sister and Mr. Carver have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the work. They have striven with complete singleness of purpose. I think you should know that it is the aim of the three of us—as one, to spend and be spent in the service of St. John's Church. No other line of thought or action will ever be allowed to cross our path. When I affix the title 'My Colleagues' to this note, I am conscious that such a title in this place covers a wide range. We are all colleagues. From the beginning this has been so. We have had some thrilling experiences in our Christian service, and we look forward to MANY MORE.

J.M.

GOING, GOING GONE!

On Saturday, May 16th a small but enthusiastic group from St Johns and St Clements Churches gathered in St Clements School hall for our Promises Auction. Encouraged by our witty auctioneer, Chris, people gave generously and although at the time of writing I don't have an exact figure, we should have raised close to £1000 for our two churches.

Thanks to all who contributed in any way to make the evening so enjoyable and profitable. Special thanks must go to Stella Power and Jo Pride who worked hard to get local businesses and attractions to make some very generous donations.

Sarah Cottrill

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.

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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

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 14th June for the July/August 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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SATURDAY 11TH JULY 2015, 11:00-15:00
ST JOHN IN BEDWARDINE CHURCH

WITH FUN EVENTS, SUCH AS;
Dog show, Refreshments, Stalls,
(more to come - watch this space)
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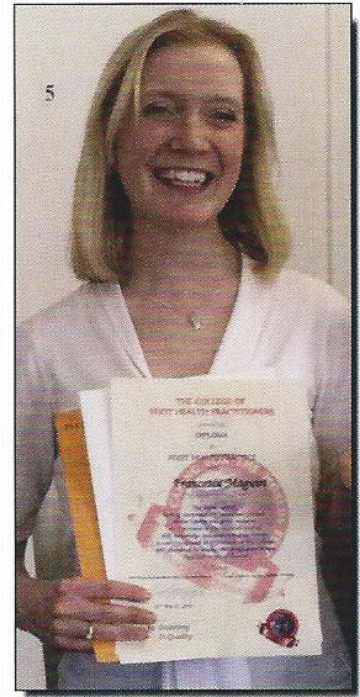
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
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Vicar	Rev'd Dr Christopher Stuart vicar@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 429773
Associate Vicar	Rev'd Phil Bradford phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 423794
Assistant Curate	Rev'd 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 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

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, June 2015

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
7th June	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 Favourite Hymns Songs of Praise Service	10.30am Holy Communion
14th June	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's participation 5pm Café Church	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
21st June	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Group Eucharist (Patronal Festival) with Children's Church 5pm No service	No communion service at St Clement's: Group service at St John's 10.30am 10.45am Worship for Everyone	No service at St David's. Group service at St John's 10.30am	10.30am Holy Communion
28th June	No services at St John's. Group service at St Clement's 10.30am	10.30am Holy Communion Group service as Sarah Cottrill leads her first Eucharist as priest.	No service at St David's. Group service at St Clement's 10.30am	No service at St Michael's. Group service at St Clement's 10.30am

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.