



*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

October 2015

40p



Welcome to
St JOHN-IN-BEDWARDINE
The Parish Church of St John's

St John's is far more than the most historic building on the Westside of Worcester; it is the centre of a worshipping and sociable community of people, and a resource for everyone in St John's.

WEST WORCESTER CLERGY

	Day off
The Reverend Dr. CHRISTOPHER STUART (Vicar of St John's)	Saturday
The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD	Friday
The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (Assistant Curate)	Monday

CHURCHWARDENS

Gordon Templeton, Joy Job.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

This is the usual pattern. Please see the other notices or the back cover of the Parish Magazine for the actual services in a 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 Sunday in month	Evensong (BCP)
	2nd Sunday in month	Café Church
	3rd Sunday in month	Evensong (BCP)
	Last Sunday in month	Service of Wholeness and Healing
	Other Sundays	Evening Prayer (said)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

5.00 p.m.	Monday to Saturday	Evening Prayer
9.45 a.m.	Thursday (at St Clement's)	Holy Communion (BCP)
10.45 a.m.	Thursday (at St Michael's)	Holy Communion (Modern language)

The church is open most weekdays for people to drop in to visit or for quiet; to sit, pray or light a candle.

The church's Pastoral Care Group offers support if you are lonely, bereaved, or unable to attend church. Please contact Sylvia Render (tel 422654/email sylviarender@talktalk.net).

Letter From Robert Jones

Shining like the sun

It is rare for people to comment to me about Thought for the Day on the radio. But one broadcast obviously hit the spot in the sense that several people mentioned it to me, and indeed I'd heard it myself. The presenter was speaking about prayer and he quoted two former archbishops of Canterbury. The one, Rowan Williams,



likened prayer to sunbathing - the sense that you just put yourself in the place where you let the sun do its work on you. The other was Michael Ramsay, who, when asked about praying, simply said, 'I get down on my knees, and wait to see what happens.' It is this same Michael Ramsay, when asked how long he prayed for each day replied, 'About a minute, but it takes me an hour to get there.'

These are striking images of prayer, because they are almost passive, certainly receptive. My praying has often seemed like a long shopping list or worse still a 'to do' list (and I'm never quite sure whether mine or God's!). They are striking because although you have to put yourself in the place of prayer, when you are there you leave it up to God. You see, prayer is a gift, not a work. It is all about God's grace and not at all about my achievement. 'My grace is sufficient for you.' So Cardinal Hume used to say that even wanting to pray was already prayer.

God wants to bless us. I believe that God wants the Church to be a community of blessing too, a sign of delight on the side of humanity. That is a (continued overleaf)

Cover

Some of the 68 ALMs authorised on 13th September (see page 14)

The Magazine

Copy for the November 2015 edition should reach us by Sunday 11th October. If you can, please use e-mail: magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk.

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.

Unless otherwise directed, please send all written correspondence for the magazine to the Parish Office. *To subscribe or advertise in the magazine, please see page 29.*

(continued from the previous page) calling stretching right back to Abraham in the Old Testament: 'I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.' No wonder we end every act of worship with a blessing, and are then sent out to be that blessing.

The contemplative monk Thomas Merton was, unusually, out of his monastery in a neighbouring town. Seeing the people about their business he said to his companion, 'who is going to tell these people they are shining like the sun?' 'Shining like the sun' - a powerful image of people reflecting the love of God because they know they are loved by God and made in God's image and likeness. If prayer is a long, loving look at what is real, then let's get down on our knees and wait to see what happens when we bask in the warmth of God's love.

Robert

A Word From The Editors

Welcome to our October 2015 edition. Our theme this month is the blessings God gives us. And surely the biggest worldly blessing that God gives us is each other?

As you read this magazine, think about the people who put their love and commitment into pretty well every item on every page! We are blessed by those who organise the events mentioned in this magazine: There are many, but we will highlight the Parish Breakfast (page 11) run by a group blessed with cheerfulness and energy. We are blessed with the ministers who seek to lead us in our faith (new ALMs page 14, Quiet Day page 8, Pilgrim Course page 21). We are blessed by those who take exception to something and put their head above the parapet to express it (see the letter on page 9 and note the hint that the editors welcome respectful discussion through these pages).

And we are blessed by those who help others. On pages 16 and 17 we are reminded that some have to cope with homelessness or dementia or other "trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or other adversity". Hopefully, even in troubles, there will be blessings in the people who relieve and care (see the letter on page 12). And it is in adversity, if we let him, that God sends his Holy Spirit to help us and blesses us with his peace to withstand the trials of this life. This is one of Graham's favourite prayers and we pray it for us and for you:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord
And the blessing of God almighty,
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be among us and remain with us always.
Amen

Graham and Sue Evans

Dates For October 2015

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

See
page

Sunday 4th October: 18th Sunday after Trinity

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Sunday 11th October: 19th Sunday after Trinity (Harvest Festival)

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 17th October

8.30 a.m. Parish Breakfast (8.30am to 10.30am) 10,11

3.00 p.m. Children's Activities (3.00pm–5.30pm) 10, 15

Sunday 18th October: St Luke the Evangelist

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 21st October

7.00 p.m. Craft Group 10

Sunday 25th October: Last Sunday after Trinity

2.00 a.m. Clocks go back one hour

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Thursday Morning Services: There is a 9.45am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) each Thursday at St Clement's and a 10.45am service at St Michael's (Eucharist, modern language).

St Michael's Church

Light Lunches

First Wednesday in each month from May to December (except August). 12 noon to 1.30pm. Soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee, £3.00. Proceeds to church funds.



Religious Christmas Cards

Do you find it difficult to buy a 'religious' Christmas card? Last year the cards we sold were very popular, so we have ordered a large selection from the same supplier. They come in packs of 5 and we are selling them for £1.99 (the recommended selling price is £2.60). We will be selling them after services whenever we can.

All profits will go to church funds.

The Evans Family (Sue, Graham and Philip)

Church Directory

CLERGY

Vicar of St John's and St Clement's with St David's	Rev'd Dr Christopher Stuart chris.stuart@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 429773
Vicar of St Michael's, Dines Green	Rev'd Phil Bradford phil.bradford@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 423794
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill sarah.cottrill@westworcesterchurches.org.uk	01905 426257
Rural Dean	Rev'd David Sherwin davidwin56@aol.com	01886 888664

ST JOHN'S PCC OFFICERS

Churchwardens	churchwardens@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Gordon Templeton	gordtemp@btinternet.com	749025
Joy Job	joyjob@dsl.pipex.com	423051
PCC Lay vice-chair	Sue Bale	423257
PCC Secretary	Graham Evans pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
Treasurer	John English treasurer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	427822

THE MAGAZINE

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August. 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. Contact the Parish Office or see the magazine for how to subscribe.

Articles on all aspects of Christian and parish life, letters, jokes and anecdotes are welcome - do contribute if you can. If you have a story to tell, please make contact. Please include your name as anonymous contributions will not be considered.

Magazine Editors	Sue & Graham Evans magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
Magazine Distributor & Treasurer	Philip Evans pjevans@physics.org	428667
Magazine Advertising	Sue Hussell sue.hussell@talktalk.net	01684 893397

Any written correspondence for the magazine which cannot be emailed, please send to the Parish Office.

Church Directory

ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS

Child Protection Officer	Jane Askew	424811
Verger	Catherine Templeton	749025
Stewardship envelopes	Irene Allen	422684
Estates Manager	Brian Askew brian.askew@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	424811
Parish Administrator	Liz Edwards liz.edwards@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	420490
Archives Officer	Philip Evans	428667
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Sylvia Render sylvia.render@talktalk.net	422654
Press Officer	Philip Evans pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
Organist & Choirmaster	John Brierley	358474
Music Group	Peter Yates pjyates194@btinternet.com	422565
Ringing Master	John Bower jandjbower@btinternet.com	07792 574554
Church Flowers	Eileen Cantrill Di White	422579
Webmaster	Philip Evans webmaster@westworchesterchurches.org.uk	

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.



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

In Memoriam

John Bertram Smith	1 October 1990
Jack Render MBE	2 October 1991
Percival Charles Pearson	6 October 1970
June Edith Clayton	6 October 2011
Albert J Cake	8 October 1993
Juliana Maud Godwin	12 October 2010
Neil Kenneth Pritchett	13 October 2003
George Edward Griffiths	28 October 1976
Marjorie Fisher	29 October 2003
Florence Annie Constance Bosworth	30 October 1999

Additions to In Memoriam are not automatic but must be specifically requested via the clergy.

From The Registers

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in August 2015

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

Phoebe Nicola Jean Harris

Finley James Tandy

Lilia Pearl Pincher

Thomas Anthony Jenkinson

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

James Hodgkins and Bethany Sales

Scott Mitchell and Claire Moran

Scott Meacham and Emily Nanni

Ben Roberts and Samantha Fieldhouse

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 14th July 2015 Dennis Moore

d. 4th August 2015 Wendy White

d. 22nd July 2015 Martin Bayfield

d. 11th August 2015 Marcia Nicklin

From the register of services for August 2015 (5 Sundays):

Communicants 367. Total attendance at all services 1736.

The total attendance includes 1130 at funerals, weddings and baptisms.

Group Quiet Day

"May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting." (Common Worship Daily Prayer: Morning Prayer in Advent).

This year the decision has been made not to run an Advent Course. There is, however, going to be a Pilgrim Course, (See separate article about this), running in November and at the end of November we will mark the beginning of Advent with a Group Quiet Day. This will be held on Saturday, November 28th from 10 until 5.00 at St Johns Church. The day will consist of times of led worship and reflection with plenty of time for personal reflection and creative activities. A charge of £5 will cover morning coffee, a light lunch, afternoon tea and all art materials.

Sarah Cottrill

Tea and Talk

On Saturday 21st November at 4.00pm, Friends of St John's Church are holding one of our popular 'Tea & Talk' events.

We will be welcoming Paul Harding from 'Discover History' again and he will be talking about Christmas, through the ages. The Christmas theme will be continued with a Christmas tea. Paul is a very entertaining speaker and last year's event was very enjoyable.

Tickets for this event are £7.00 and can be purchased from the Parish Office or by phoning Worcester 424811. However, if you are a Friend of St John's Church the event is free as a thank you for your support.

If you would like to become a Friend, the cost is £20.00 a year. Funds raised are only used for the upkeep of the building. If you would like further details do call in at the Parish Office to pick up a leaflet or phone 424811 or 423257.

Jane Askew/Sue Bale

Letter to the Editors

As a member of the Music Group at St Johns Church, I took exception to the sentence in the magazine about the poor congregation when it is the children's service.

This could have been said maybe twelve months ago, but over the last few months the attendance has been quite good. More families are coming to this service and surely this is part of the growth of the church?

Irene Allen

----- 00000 -----

The Editors: Irene is referring to the report of the PCC meeting on 24th June which appeared in the September magazine. We asked the PCC Secretary for his comments:

Please don't shoot the messenger! As PCC Secretary I report what was discussed at meetings.

This discussion at the June PCC meeting was picking up on figures from the Service Registers, first discussed at the February PCC meeting. These figures showed that attendance on second Sunday mornings had fallen by nearly 20% from 2013 to 2014. These figures did not cover the last few months, and Irene could therefore be right that attendance has picked up over the last few months.

The PCC discussion was about how this service can be supported and grown, as the PCC agrees whole-heartedly that families (and our worship provision for them) are important and vital to the growth of our church.

Graham Evans, PCC Secretary



**Fellowship and Fund Raising
Events**

at St John in Bedwardine Church
(unless stated otherwise)



Saturday
17th October Parish Breakfast at St John's Church from 8.30 am to 10.30 am All are welcome. This is a free event.

Saturday
17th October Children's Activities 3.00pm-5.30pm.
Light tea included. Tel 424811 for details.

Wednesday
21st October Craft Group 7.00pm - Try something new.
All materials included, Refreshments, £5.00.

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday
14th November Bridge Day

Saturday 21st
November Craft Fair in conjunction with Daisychain charity
(see below).

Saturday 21st
November Tea and Talk (see page 9)

Saturday
28th November Parish Quiet Day to mark the beginning of Advent
(see page 8).

Friday 4th to Sunday
6th December Christmas Tree Festival (see page 13).

Craft Fair Saturday 21st November

This year we are joining with the Daisychain Charity to hold this event. Crafters come along and show off their amazing talents. In November it is helpful to find that special unique gift for a loved one. It maybe that you see a craft that you may be interested in pursuing, the stall holders are always willing to talk about their crafts.

Tables are still available telephone Worcester 424811. We do hope to see you there as we raise money for this very worthwhile charity.

Parish Play

Unfortunately the Parish Play, scheduled for 26th September had to be cancelled.

Parish Breakfast

Saturday 17th October 2015

8.30am – 10.30am

St John's Church



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

All are welcome

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

Good conversation

This is a **FREE** event

Traidcraft at St John's

When I took on the Traidcraft stall about five years ago it received very good support from the congregation and I had a reliable band of regular customers.

Now, however, sales have declined dramatically and many of those who supported the stall in the past seem to have drifted away. This is in line with a national trend, as Traidcraft report that many of their church based stalls are struggling to make ends meet. In the past year I have subsidised the stall in order to pay invoices on time and to ensure that it keeps going, but I feel that I can no longer afford to do this.

Many Fairtrade products are available in supermarkets and the Co-op has a good record in this area. Purchasing from the supermarket does serve to generate demand and raise the profile of Fairtrade. Nevertheless, buying from a Traidcraft Fairtrader results in more direct benefit to the producer. Traidcraft is uniquely dedicated to working with producers, re-investing profits into training and business development, finding new producers and lobbying governments or supermarkets to effect change. Traidcraft is also committed to education, running campaigns in schools and operating a network of volunteer speakers, of which I am one.

The fall in support is a great pity, not least because St John's is supposed to be a Fairtrade Church. Without a Traidcraft stall we still satisfy the minimum requirements to qualify for Fairtrade Church status, but one of those criteria is that we move forward on the use of Fairtrade products and obviously the loss of the stall will make that more difficult to achieve.

I will still keep the account open so that any individual orders may be made via the catalogue, and I will continue to make seasonal orders for Christmas and Easter. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about buying Fairtrade products from Traidcraft, please get in touch.

Sarah Stuart

Letter to the Editors

Through the magazine I want to thank all the people who have asked about my health problems over the past few weeks. It has been a rewarding experience.

I am still waiting for another procedure at the hospital which may improve my walking and balance. It is a very strange feeling when you realise that what you used to be able to do becomes impossible. In my head I know what I have to do but when I try it, it does not happen.

I have a very supportive family which I thank God for and they help me every day. Your thoughts and prayers are important to me. I am grateful for all your good wishes.

Glenis Cole



The latest news from the Christmas Festival Team.

We are now ready to start inviting local charities and organisations to enter a tree.

Do you know of a local charity or organisation whose profile would benefit from displaying a tree. If so please let Joy Job know either by catching her in church or email churchwarden@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

We are also hoping to raise as much as we can for our chosen charity as well as church funds. To help us do this we would like to ask everyone if they could again donate bottles of wine for the bottle pull.

Thanks to you this stall was one of our most profitable at the summer fete and we have high hopes for it again with it being Christmas time.

Many thanks 

NB the email address in the above should be *churchwardens@* (with an “s”).

New ALMs authorised

68 people from Worcestershire Diocese have been commissioned as ‘Authorised Lay Ministers’. This included three from St John-in-Bedwardine: Jenny English, Graham Evans and Chris Rees.

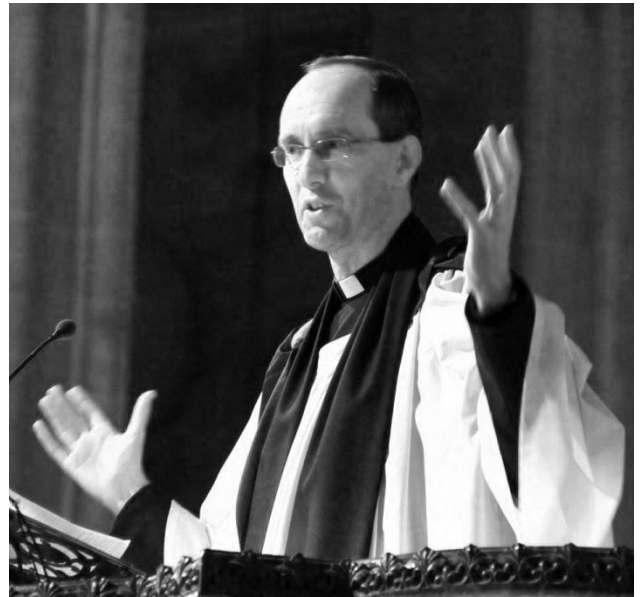
The new ALMs were commissioned by Bishop John at a special service in Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 13th September. They will now work as part of the ministry teams in the parishes, supporting their Vicars and Lay Readers.



Those authorised have all completed a year-long course to work as volunteers in their parishes as pastoral workers, community workers, in helping to lead acts of worship, in sharing their faith with others, as children’s and youth workers or as parish administrators. There are now almost 400 Authorised Lay Ministers working in parishes across Worcestershire and Dudley.

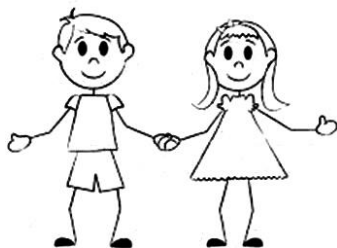
The Director of Ministry and Discipleship for the Diocese, Canon Dr. Jonathan Kimber, preached in the service on the subject of God’s freedom. He said:

“As newly authorised lay ministers I hope that you will keep growing in the freedom that God wants for you and that you’ll share that freedom abundantly with others. You have the freedom to become the person that God is calling you to be – I hope that you will offer that same freedom in joyful service to God and to others.”



The ALMs come from a range of parishes across the Diocese. They have been trained to work collaboratively in ministry teams in their own locality. Although there are now fewer ordained clergy than there were, there are more people offering authorised ministry in the Diocese of Worcester than ever before.

Sam Setchell, Communications Officer



Children's Church News

September's activity session had a theme of Harvest and started with our usual sing song. We then had to identify fruit just by feeling the wrapped item. Things got tense as Peter gave scores to the 2 teams, boys v girls. We then went on to make bread, which proved very popular. A final search round the church then tea and home!

Again we have to thank, Peter and all our volunteers who give their time and energy, but also the parents who become involved in what we are doing.

We seem to be getting out of rhythm with our activity sessions which should be followed on the Sunday by the Family Service. October is the same; the Family Service is on Sunday 11th October with the theme of Harvest and the Saturday session on Saturday 17th October. We hope to see you there.

Children's Church is held every Sunday except for the Family Service. All children are welcome. 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

Operation Christmas Child

We will again be making up 'Shoebboxes' for, Operation Christmas Child. You may find some bargains in the shop sales to brighten a child's Christmas. Please fill your box with a selection of new gifts from the following list, or similar items:



TOYS: Include items that children will immediately embrace, e.g. dolls or stuffed toys (with CE label), toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothbrush & toothpaste, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel.

OTHER ITEMS: Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, wrapped sweets (best-before-date must be at least March 2016).

DO NOT INCLUDE: used or damaged items, war related items (toy guns, soldiers or knives); chocolate or other food items; liquids or lotions of any type including bubbles; medicines; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; anything of a political, racial or religious nature; playing cards (of the 4-suit variety); sharp objects; glass containers, mirrors or fragile items; clothing other than as listed above.

Thank you for all your support with this charity last year. You can find information about the organisation at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

YMCA Worcestershire

The YMCA has been part of the community in Worcester since 1896; not quite as long as our famous sauce, but almost 120 years. During that time we have supported young people practically, in times of need, with housing, basic education skills and healthy activities. Many of you will be aware of the YMCA's hostel and its homelessness work at Henwick Road, however you may be surprised to know that our work isn't just limited to this site. In 2013 the YMCA's in Worcestershire (Redditch YMCA and Worcester YMCA) merged to form the county wide organisation YMCA Worcestershire. We've taken some time to work out what we should do, looking to the future, and have come up with some new long term strategic goals for our association. It is our hope and prayer to enable everyone we interact with to live, learn and share in mind, body and spirit and to do this we're focusing our work in three important areas; children, family and young people.

As a YMCA, we provide opportunities for children and young people that prepare them for adult life and the world of work through our nurseries, positive activities, after school clubs, playschemes, supported accommodation, alternative curriculum, employability skills, volunteering and family engagement, including within prisons. We run vibrant, bustling community centres with popular youth clubs in Malvern, Upton upon Severn, Kidderminster and Redditch. Malvern Vale and the Hill Community Centre in Upton boast impressive sports facilities, suitable for football, cricket, basketball, roller hockey and bowls.

Today, as has been throughout our history, YMCA remains a Christian charity committed to the founding principles set out in the 1855 Paris Basis - *To unite those who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be his disciples in their faith and in their life, and associated their efforts for the extension of his Kingdom.* We're striving to achieve this by creating partnerships with churches up and down the county and working with them in their mission to the local community.

We have a number of exciting developments that we'd like to let you know about:

- Chaplaincy Service – over the past 6 months we have been working on developing a coordinated chaplaincy service at our hostels in Worcester and Redditch. We have had some outstanding support from the local churches and theology colleges enabling us to deliver one to one work with young people and a monthly communion service in both locations. In Worcester we are particularly grateful to Rev Sarah Cottrill who is volunteering with us as a chaplain.
- Dyson Perrins C of E Academy (Malvern) – we have been working with local churches and partners to develop an integrated chaplaincy and youth service at one of Worcestershire's C of E Academies. YMCA has been working to secure

£90,000k worth of funding over three years, to develop a brand new chaplaincy service within the school and a corresponding community and youth work project that will support young people at home, in school and in the community.

- Unify – Worcestershire YMCA is also working alongside other YMCA's across the UK to develop Unify, a space where we can openly and critically reflect upon our Christian mission today. Last year we hosted a conference in Malvern for over 90 people from 20 different YMCA's. This year we will aiming to increase those numbers enabling more of our colleagues to join the conversation and by also extending an invitation to our local church partners.

We are delighted to be working closely with the local parish churches, St Clement's and St John's, and continue to support one another to create excellent services for young people; honouring and remaining faithful to our Christian ethos and working towards the extension of God's Kingdom here in Worcestershire.

If you would like to know more about the work that we are doing at the YMCA please contact me by email (james.williams@ymcaworcestershire.org.uk) or telephone (01905 423197).

James Williams, Christian Spiritual Development Coordinator

Did you know?

For the purposes of Council Tax, a person with dementia ("severe mental impairment") is disregarded as an occupant – so a couple where one has dementia may then qualify for the single occupancy discount of 25%.

http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=137 provides more information and the detailed criteria.

Many people with dementia meet the criteria, so are disregarded under the severe mental impairment rules.

Prayer for heart-peace

Dear Lord,

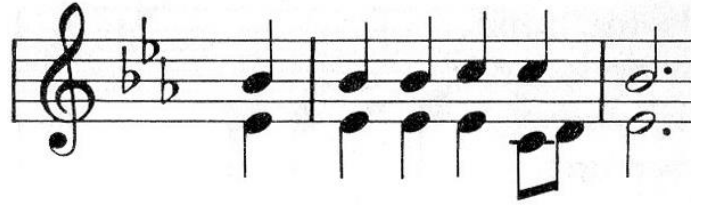
Sometimes the world is a worrying place, so many problems, so much pain for so many. We feel overwhelmed and don't know which way to turn. Help us to turn the right way - to you Lord. Help us to hand over to you our worries, to exchange them for your peace in our hearts no matter what's going on all around, knowing that you walk with us through it all, today, tomorrow and forever.

In Jesus name, Amen

By Daphne Kitching

Notes From The Choir

*Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices*



I love this hymn. These opening lines beg to be sung out with full voice as we thank God for all of his blessings. This is not a passive thanks but an active one as we offer our whole hearts in prayer, our hands in active service to help those around us and our voices lifted up in musical praise.

I found myself wondering how many times I had sung this familiar hymn tune and then how many times the hymn had been offered up across the centuries and across the continents. It is certainly a hymn that has a great deal of history. It originally appeared in Germany in the middle of the 17th Century in a collection of Protestant hymns called *Praxis pietatis melica* by Johann Cruger. An explanation of the Latin title was given in German to those first singers and this has been translated into English as ‘the practice of Godliness in Christian and comforting chants’. Much of the harmony the lower voices of the choir now sing comes chiefly from the much later German composer Mendelssohn’s *Lobgesang* or Hymn of Praise.

Already a musical work of two different centuries, I then became interested to see how the text had evolved. A Victorian lady called Catherine Winkworth undertook the translation from German into English. In his lifetime, Mendelssohn had travelled to England from his native Germany and she did the opposite, spending time in Dresden and it was here that she nurtured a love of German hymnody, translating texts into English.

What of the original poet though? His name was Martin Rinkart and he lived his life during the horrors of the thirty years war across central Europe. This period of history was full of destruction and devastation and Rinkart was caught right in the middle of it. The town he lived in saw a huge influx of refugees and with overcrowding and poor conditions, epidemics and famine claimed thousands of lives. Rinkart saw his fellow Pastors flee or die of disease until he was the only one left. 1637 was the year of the Great Pestilence and he was conducting up to 50 funerals a day. In May of that year his own wife died.

Yet he wrote ‘Now thank we all our God’. Even in the midst of such horror he not only kept God in his heart, but also reached out to people in a very practical way whilst lifting his voice in praise with his words. Those words have been translated, set to music and harmonised by different people across time but still today they remind us to count our blessings and keep God at the centre of our lives.

Luise Horrocks

RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

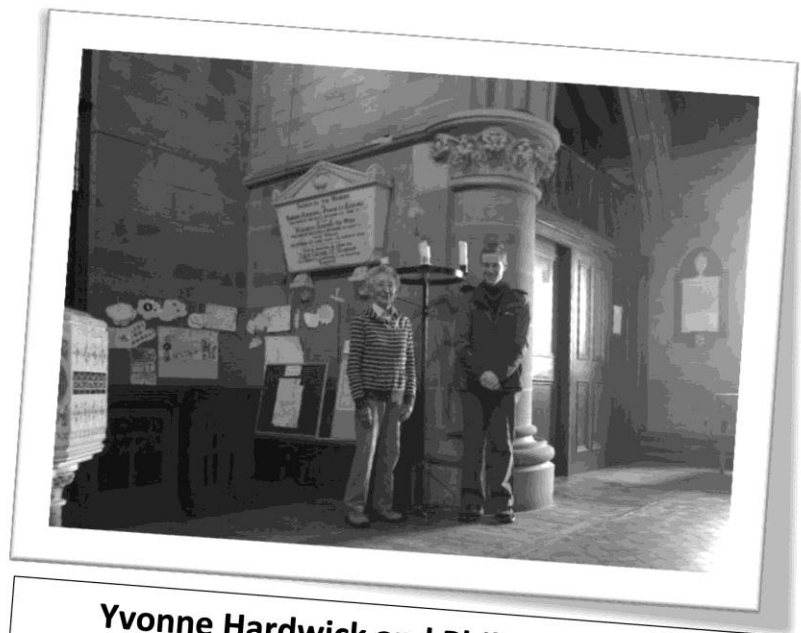


Philip Evans and Yvonne Hardwick being signed in at St. David's Church by Ginny Harrison

After visiting a large number of churches in a relatively short distance within the city centre last year, we (Philip Evans and Yvonne Hardwick) decided to do something a bit different this year. So instead we set off on the morning of Saturday 12th September for a 12 mile walk to visit some of our rural neighbours.

Over the course of the day we visited St. John's, St. Clement's, St. David's, St. Philip and St. James' (Hallow), Christchurch (Broadheath), St. Leonard's (Cotheridge), St. Thomas' (Crown East) and St. Michael's. We thank everyone who has sponsored us.

Philip Evans



Yvonne Hardwick and Philip Evans at Ss. Philip and James' Church in Hallow

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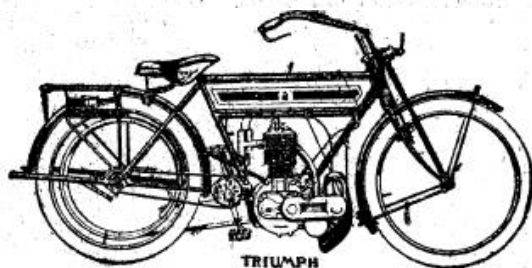
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To show you what the course is like, here is a sample of the material covered:

Session One: **Do you turn to Christ?**

With a Reflection by Stephen Cottrell

Explores the attraction of Jesus Christ. What happened when people met him? What would happen if you did?

Session Two: **Do you believe and trust in God the Father?**

With a Reflection by Paula Gooder

What do Christians believe about God? This session uses the Old Testament to look at how God is like a Father.

Session Three: **Do you believe in his Son Jesus Christ?**

With a Reflection by Stephen Conway

Looking in more detail at who Christians believe Jesus is, this session looks at what Jesus' baptism reveals about his identity.

Session Four: **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?**

With a Reflection by Stephen Cottrell

Uses the story of Pentecost to show how Christians believe the Holy Spirit makes Jesus present today.

Session Five: **Do you repent of your sins?**

With a Reflection by Stephen Cottrell

Looks at what Christians call sin: that inbuilt tendency to get things wrong and God's great desire to put things right.

Session Six: **Do you renounce evil?**

With a Reflection by Nick Baines

Explores the reality of evil, and how the Christian faith invites us to set the moral compass of our lives.

If you are interested in attending this course, which will run in the evening for six weeks from November 3rd, please speak to any of the clergy.

Sarah Cottrill

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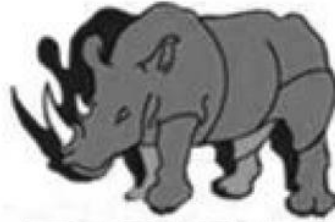
To see how it works and, if you wish, request your Everyday Shopping Card visit www.raisewithsainsburys.com/charity/sjib

(Editor – I've got one and it was very easy to sign up and use the card)



Sudoku Puzzle

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



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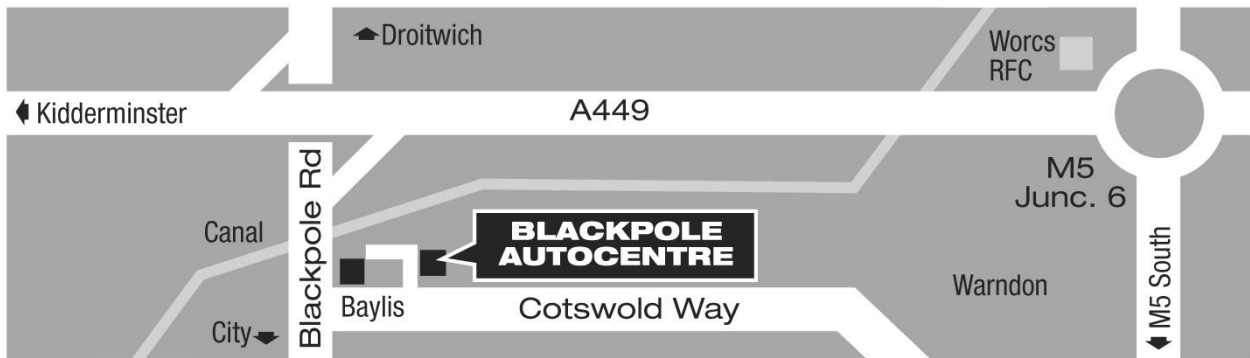
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<p>Burroughs' Room</p>	<p>Suitable for up to 12 people. Drink making facilities and toilet.</p>	
<p>The North Aisle</p>	<p>Suitable for 120 people seated theatre style or up to 48-64 seated around tables. Tables and chairs are provided in a large open area with plenty of electric sockets. It is used to host exhibitions, meals and conferences.</p>	

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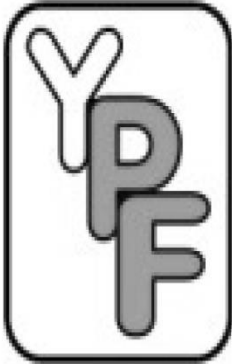


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To advertise in the magazine



The Parish Magazine is published A5 in size, in black and white. There are eleven issues during the year, July and August being a combined issue.

An advert can be full page / half page / quarter page in size and the booking can be from one month to one year.

If you wish to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell on 01684 893397 or by email at sue.hussell@talktalk.net

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To subscribe to the magazine

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.

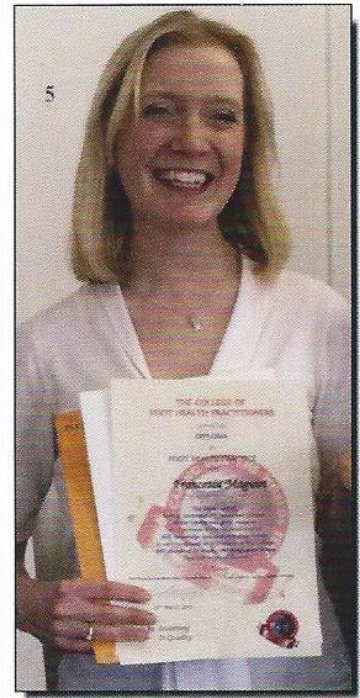
Please contact the parish office and leave details of your name and address if you would like to subscribe.

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9	6	4	1	3	8	2	5	7
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SOME OF OUR CHURCH GROUPS

To avoid disappointment, in case the arrangements are different in any particular week, please contact the person shown before turning up at one of the groups.

BELLRINGING

St John's has a fine peal of eight bells. If you are interested in ringing, or learning to ring, please contact the Ringing Master, John Bower 07792 574554.

CHOIR

The choir practises on Thursday evenings and sings at most Sunday services. If you can sing (or are prepared to learn) do speak to the Choir Master, John Brierley, 358474.

MUSIC GROUP

This meets on Fridays in church at 7.30 pm to play contemporary Christian music, and provides music for worship on a regular basis. Contact Peter Yates, on 422565.

LITTLE LAMBS (TODDLER GROUP)

Birth to 4 years old and carers. Here at the church; Mondays 10.00 am to noon in term time. Free! Come and join the fun, or contact Amy Rees via the Parish Office.

BIBLES, BUMPS and BABIES

An informal bible study group. Contact Sarah Cottrill on 426257 for more details.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP

Meets in the Burroughs room at 10 am every Wednesday for prayer and study. Contact Sylvia Render on 422654 for further details.

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

Group Website: www.westworcesterchurches.org.uk

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





Sunday services in the West Worcester Group, October 2015

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
4th October	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 Harvest Festival	10.30am Holy Communion
11th October	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist (Harvest Festival) with Children's participation 5pm Café Church	10.45am Harvest Festival	11.15am Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
18th October	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
25th October	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship for Everyone	6.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion

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