



St John-in-Bedwardine *Parish Magazine*

January 2016

40p



Kingdom People

love • compassion • justice • freedom

The Church is not an end in itself. It is God's gift to the world whose purpose is to be an effective sign of God's Kingdom. As Kingdom People our vision is for a Church which more fully enables its people to be:

Deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures

Renewed and transformed by regular worship

Equipped to witness to the Gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom

Dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith

Devoted to growing deeply as disciples, offering our time, talents and money to God

Resourced and released to minister to others

Ready to engage with and serve our community

Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource

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 Bishop Graham



“Be who you truly are this New Year”

A New Year brings with it a reflecting back over the last 12 months. We have the various personalities of the year, the top 100 of this and that, we are reminded of the major news events and iconic images that perhaps we have all too quickly forgotten.

It is also a time to look forward, praying for a more peaceful, generous, caring, loving 2016 between people and with creation on this our common home.

Recently I read an incredible little novel by the German author Robert Seethaler. ‘A Whole Life’ is a delightful warm and gentle book that describes one man’s life living in the Austrian Alps. One reviewer has written that it is “an exquisite novel about a simple life, it has already demonstrated its power to move thousands of readers with a message of solace and truth”.

It is the story of Andreas, a man of few words, who is left broken hearted following the death of his wife. He leaves his valley just twice in his whole life. Once to fight in World War II - where he is taken prisoner in the Caucasus - and then, six months before his death, on a disorientating day trip by bus. Yet he knows (continued overleaf)

Cover

Kingdom people material from the Diocese of Worcester website.

The Magazine

Copy for the February 2016 edition should reach us by Sunday 17th January. If you can, please use e-mail: magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk. The February edition of the magazine will be available on Sunday 31st January.

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) the landscape of his home in immense detail; scaling its mountains, crossing its pastures, and sitting pondering at the doorway of his simple home.

‘A Whole Life’ is a tender but not sentimental book, about finding dignity and beauty in solitude. In the closing pages the author writes of Andreas, ‘He couldn’t remember where he had come from, and ultimately he didn’t know where he would go. But he could look back without regret on the time in between, his life, with a full-throated laugh and utter amazement’.

Above all, in crossing backwards and forwards through one man’s life, the novel weaves together the experiences and moments, often seemingly insignificant as they happened, that shape Andreas into the person that he is.

In this month of New Year resolutions, I wonder who God would truly have you be? God loves us as we are because we are as God made us. He who knit ‘me together in my mother’s womb...for I am fearfully and wonderfully made’ (Psalm 139.13-14), calls us to be somewhere between living life looking backwards, and living looking too far into the future. God’s gift to us today is often lost, ignored or simply not seen. It lies in the sacrament of the present moment. There we find who we truly are. God calls us in every situation to be ourselves: nothing more and nothing less.

It is from ourselves that we can be sources of new life for others. It’s a life-time's task but we are supported in this by other members of Christ’s community, inspired daily by the Holy Spirit, the love of God the Father, and the companionship of Jesus who is the truest self of all.

+ *Graham*

A Word From The Editors

Welcome to a new year and our first edition of the year.

In his letter, above, Bishop Graham encourages us to “Be who you truly are this New Year”; but who are we, individually and collectively? And what does God want us to be? One way of looking at this is through the eight “Kingdom People” characteristics, areas for growth and support of individuals and churches identified by the Worcester Diocese. The first of these is that the Church should more fully enable its people to be “Deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures”. We’ve got more about that on page 11, and a relevant book review on page 18. The theme is also reflected in other snippets in the magazine. We will look at more of the Kingdom People characteristics over the coming months, and we pray that thinking about this will help you to “be who you truly are”.

Graham and Sue Evans

Dates For January 2016

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

See page

Sunday 3rd January: Second Sunday of Christmas

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 6th January

7.30 p.m. Epiphany Service (Eucharist)

Saturday 9th January

10.30 a.m. Bridge day (play starts at 11 a.m.) 9

3.00 p.m. Children's Activities (3.00pm–5.30pm) 9/13

Sunday 10th January: Baptism of Christ

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Sunday 17th January: Second Sunday of Epiphany

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 20th January

7.00 p.m. Craft Group 9

Sunday 24th January: Third Sunday of Epiphany

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Sunday 31st January 2016: Candlemas

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 - OPEN

We are delighted to report that St Michael's Church re-opened in December after repairs following the flood that it suffered.

All activities and events at the church are now back to normal, including Sunday and Thursday services, and the monthly light lunches.



LIGHT LUNCHES

First Wednesday in each month, 12 noon to 1.30pm. Soup, bread, cheese, tea or coffee, £3.00. Proceeds to church funds.

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	
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Joy Job	joyjob@dsl.pipex.com	423051
PCC Lay vice-chair	Sue Bale	423257
PCC Secretary	Graham Evans pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
Joint Treasurers	treasurer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Chris Rees		
John English		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.

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Magazine Treasurer	Ian Thompson	
Distribution co-ordinator	Mary Hancock	

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
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	pjyates194@btinternet.com	
Music Group	John Bower	07792
	jandjbower@btinternet.com	
Church Flowers	Eileen Cantrill	422579
	Di White	
Webmaster	Philip Evans	
	webmaster@westworcesterchurches.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 2016

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 Families, Schools and Christian Nurture

In Memoriam

Alfred Victor Bishop	5 January 1979
Vera Rolph	5 January 1995
Florence Mary Newman	8 January 1971
Gladys Eileen Price	8 January 2010
Ada Halls	11 January 2011
Albert James Hughes	12 January 1976
Reginald Hemming	12 January 1976
Margaret Tolley	12 January 1995
Mary Bishop	12 January 2010
Mildred Christina Waterson	13 January 2007
Edith Mayall	15 January 1999
Kenneth Plumpton	15 January 2012
Frances Lillian Griffiths	19 January 1995
Jack Shearer	24 January 1986
Joseph Lowe	26 January 1982
Beatrice Louisa Lerigo	26 January 1988
Vera Mabel Glover	28 January 1990
Charles Hodges	29 January 1998

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

From January 2017, in memoriam items are included until the fortieth anniversary.

An extension may be requested by family or friends of those named.

From The Registers

Baptisms, weddings and funerals which took place in November 2015

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

William Peter Davies

Olivia Grace Arnold

Isabella Diane Marie Dixon

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

There were no weddings in November.

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

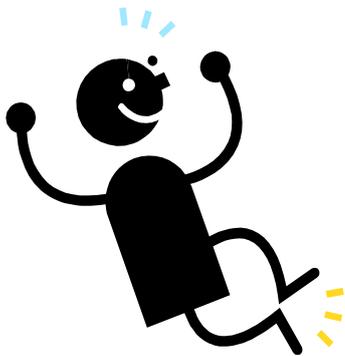
d. 21st October Joseph Lilley

d. 31st October Marguerite Newman

d. 23rd October Dennis Harford

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

Communicants 260. Total attendance at all services 1346. The total attendance includes 518 at funerals/memorial services, weddings and baptisms.



Fellowship and Fund Raising
Events
at St John in Bedwardine Church
(unless stated otherwise)



Saturday 9 th January	Bridge Day 10.30am - 3.00pm. Play starts 11am. £10.00 to include lunch. Tel 749025 to book.
Saturday 9 th January	Children's Activities 3.00pm - 5.30pm. Light tea included. Tel 424811 for details.
Wednesday 20 th January	Craft Group 7.00pm - Try something new. All materials included, Refreshments, £5.00.

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday 20 th February	Children's Activities
Saturday 12 th March	Bridge Day and Children's Activities

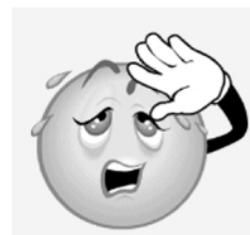
You are invited to....

ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH FRIENDS

WINTER WARMER

Saturday 9th January 2016

in Church – 2.00pm – 4.00pm



Bring and Share Finger Buffet
Home Made Entertainment
And lots of Silly Fun and Games
Free Admission

PCC Meeting 15th November 2015

The Vicar chaired the meeting. 13 members were present. Sarah Cottrill opened the meeting with a prayer.

West Worcester Churches:

The Diocese has not yet started to draw up the Scheme to unite the three parishes as a single Team (i.e. no change before 2017).

The Group Council is looking initially at joint social events. The Bring and Share lunches have been successful. Planned future joint events include an outing to Worcester or Coventry, a skittles evening and issuing an extended invitation to the St Clement's 'Winter Warmer' event on 9th January.

News from other churches:

- St Michael's: A meeting to decide if the building can be handed back (following the repairs after the flood of sewage) will be held on 27th November. [*Update: The church is now open again*]
- St Clement's: Numbers at the 'Worship for Everyone' service have grown after a dip over the Summer.
- St David's: Part of Sarah's training is to manage a church for a period and she will take on St David's from the end of 2015 until the end of her training here.

Outreach and serving the community:

Youth and Family Worker: Sarah Cottrill gave an update: Lottery Grant application forms (for a 12 month exploratory project to identify the need) have been completed and are with St Michael's and St Clement's PCCs for approval before submission. The present target is 'Youth' (age 11-18) rather than 'Children' (up to age 11) although the focus could shift as the need is clarified.

The Secretary read out a report from the Pastoral Care team. They continue to be working well to care for our congregation.

Sarah Cottrill provided an update from the Charity Committee.

The Accommodation Committee report was accepted. The PCC agreed to seek a faculty for installation of secondary double glazing throughout the ground floor of the 1A Bromyard Road (Parish Office etc.).

Children and Schools and Christian Nurture:

The PCC received verbal updates on clergy activity in our local schools, our children's Saturday events and our new toddler group, Little Lambs, which is going well.

The Vicar reported that the Pilgrim Course is going really well. 16-18 people have been involved. He described how the course is structured to continue and hopefully

evolve into a Home Group, so that the process can begin again next year.

The change of service pattern will start in January. The clergy are planning with the ALM team and putting support in place. The Vicar said he hoped that all would support this while it was bedding in.

Finance and Operations:

The Vicar reported that he has written to the diocese for previous parish share debts to be written off for parishes whose past share was above the fairer share amount.

The PCC received a written report from the Standing Committee and a 2015 financial update. The projected 2015 finance figures (with known adjustments) show an outcome near to balance

Under **Correspondence** the Vicar drew attention to the new diocesan Kingdom People fund which could give grants of up to £1,000. We should think whether we have any suitable projects. It was agreed to have an extra meeting in mid-2016 to review our parish against the eight Kingdom People characteristics (*Editors: see below*) to help identify our 2017 objectives

Under **Any Other Business** the Vicar described the state of Churches Together in West Worcester (the local ecumenical partnership); the PCC considered the discretionary fees for weddings and funerals and approved an application to use the night safe at the local bank.

The **Strategic Item** was the setting of our budget for 2016. Figures compiled by the joint treasurers were presented and discussed. The PCC discussed setting aside a sum to specifically cover our priorities and it was agreed to use a previous surplus (spread over three years) to insert a “Kingdom/Mission” line into the budget. Projects to utilise this will be discussed at the next PCC meeting. The budget was approved.

The meeting closed with all saying ‘The Grace’.

Graham Evans, PCC Secretary

Kingdom People Characteristics (1)

The first of the eight Kingdom People Characteristics is “**Deeply rooted in prayer and study of the scriptures**”. We are made for relationship with God in Jesus.

Deepening that relationship is our first priority. This happens through prayer and study of God’s Word. It is in God’s power, not our own, that we seek to be instruments of his Kingdom.

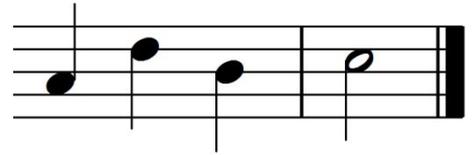
We seek to remain always connected to Jesus, the true vine, in prayer and study of the Bible, for without him we can do nothing.

Worcester Diocese website:

www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/kingdom-people/



Notes From The Choir



“Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.” *Berthold Auerbach*

I have written before in these notes about the power of music as a transforming force, uplifting and transcendent. It can bring us closer to God by moving us beyond the everyday hustle and bustle of our lives. For me the route upwards is singing and, as I believe that everyone can sing, I think that it can be the route for everyone.

At the beginning of another year we can take stock of what has gone before and what is still to come. But I also feel that it is an opportunity to reconnect with the present and how we can be in the here and now. If singing is a wonderful release from the mundane it is also a way of re connecting with the moment as we are drawn through the lines of a song. We are also connected to the choirs of angels as they sing in heaven. That is a thought worth remembering as we sometimes struggle with notes, rhythms and words in our choir practices!

I hope that the New Year will bring us all closer to what really matters in our lives and that we in the choir will continue to sing and worship God through our songs. Martin Luther said that: As long as we live there is never enough singing. I really hope we can all explore even more music and raise our voices even higher this year.

Luise Horrocks

What a lot of big knits!

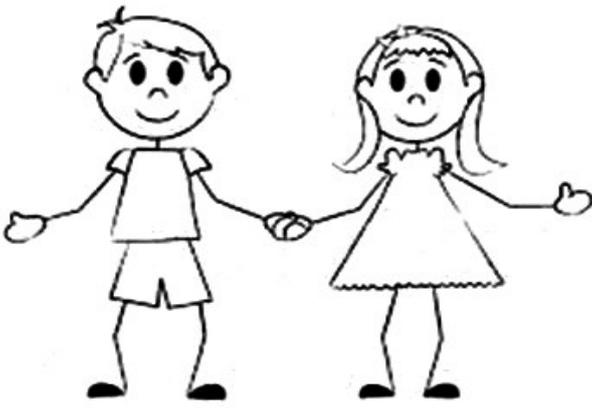
When Sarah put an appeal for Prayer Squares in the December Magazine, I never expected there would be such a massive response. The Hospital Chaplains - David and Guy - my fellow volunteers and I have been amazed at the number of Prayer Squares produced over the last few weeks and they have been very much appreciated by patients, visitors and staff at the hospital. It's very difficult to describe exactly what these small knitted squares mean to people; I just wish you could see, and hear, some of the comments made about them.

To say 'thank you' seems a very inadequate way to express what we all feel but I'm afraid that is all I can say. So, many thanks from all of us connected with the Chaplaincy team and from the patients for whom the squares are such a comfort.

Pat Bridges

Acts 10.4

He stared at the angel in fear and said, “What is it, sir?” The angel answered, “God is pleased with your prayers and works of charity, and is ready to answer you.



Children's Church News

On Saturday 12th December we held our final Children's Activity for 2015. The obvious theme was Christmas. We made Christmas cards, had a quiz and finished off with a Christmas tea. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by children and adults.

We must take the opportunity to thank all the people that help make the sessions a success. Peter, always makes everything so enjoyable. He is helped by Sylvia, Gail and Brenda who are often seen flying round the church with the children to help find clues for the quizzes. Irene is our admin person and makes sure all the children are signed in. Busy in the kitchen are Sue and Margaret who make sure we all enjoy a tasty tea. The children and parents also need a thank you for making the event fun for everyone. We look forward to even more entertainment in 2016.

The two trees made for the Christmas Tree Festival were successful and won a prize for the trees most voted for by the congregation at the Family Service.

The Family Services have been a pleasure to attend and the children have confidently delivered Bible readings and prayers, often written by them. The New Year sees a new format for these services, but we hope the children will have as much involvement. Junior Church is held during the service on all the other Sundays. Children often have a much more mature level of understanding than we realise and we, as adults, should listen to their reasoning on many diverse topics.

If you would like to be involved in any of our activities do not hesitate to get in touch. Tel 424811, visit our Facebook page or just turn up. The next activity session is Saturday 9th January and the Family Service Sunday 10th.

Children's Church

Matthew 6.9-10

Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.

May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Marcés Mailing

Dear Friends,

As we hurtle towards Christmas and the celebrations involved (which, in Lima as in UK, frequently have little to do with the “Christ” in Christmas), it is not inappropriate to think of the **unexpected** – and as events in the last few months have shown, these too give cause for celebration.

Shortly after sending out the last edition of Marcés Mailing, Penny received a phone call informing her that her **Dad**, who had been in hospital for 3 days but with no apparent reason for particular concern, was not expected to live for more than a few hours. For those of you who know about long distance travel, a Lima-London trip usually takes 22 hours door to door (this will improve when BA restarts a direct service next year!). Less than 23 hours after receiving the news, Penny arrived at the hospital, and was thus able to join with Graham and Kate in talking, singing and praying with him and with each other before he died. His funeral was indeed a celebration of his life, lived to the full until just a few weeks before his death; someone commented that “your faith really helps you at times like this” to which the apt reply has to be “It could be YOUR faith too!” His ashes will be buried with Mum’s on 27th Dec, and all the family except Juan Carlos and Penny intend to be there.



Penny’s hasty departure came at the end of the visit of Wilfredo Luna, Latin American coordinator for **Alpha**. The workshop, with sessions on Alpha, Youth Alpha, Alpha for Prisons, the Marriage course and the Parenting course, gave a taste of what Alpha is like to many who had not experienced it, and hopefully next year courses will be started in different churches.

In the Cathedral the decision has been made to hold a Marriage course (in Spanish) during the summer, which we are thrilled about. The Bishop-elect of Lima, Jorge, is also interested in promoting this course, beginning with the clergy. The specific workshop for those interested in Alpha in Prisons did not result in a huge demand for using Alpha but DID lead to different groups of people working in different prison ministries being able to meet together and pool resources (including how to get permission to ENTER a prison); this is certainly something to celebrate.

November brought the start of the **Christmas shoe box project**. Somehow this year the coordinations didn't quite work as smoothly as previously, with the unexpected and not-very-happy discovery that the school that provides around 90% of the boxes had not apparently received 2 of the lists. How could this be a cause for celebration?

Well, there was a wonderful response from several people who gave donations, and Penny and the "elves" spent some creative hours making up over 50 boxes in a very short time. One man who comes to Peru for 2 months each Christmas, and who is a self-proclaimed atheist, has been helping; he has been impressed by the way things have been available /fitted into the boxes etc. and even commented "I shall begin to think praying works". One little aspect was acquiring 50 shoe boxes in a hurry; a few trips to the markets to ask for empty boxes, plus learning the techniques of dismantling



the aforementioned boxes for transport, before remaking them at the Church...

This year we have distributed over half the boxes to some non-Anglican Sunday School groups in some of the more abandoned areas of Peru; Juan Carlos has been to some villages near Cuzco, at the first of which there were over 100 children waiting; a little unfortunate since we had only received 54 names on the list; even worse was the fact that there didn't appear to be a copy of the list readily available... (This had, to a certain extent, been thought about, and there WERE gifts for everyone).

In the end, partly due to Penny's trip, the booklet that accompanies the boxes was reproduced informally again by us; but hopefully NEXT year...



Early next year the **Diocese of Peru** will cease to exist, and the 4 new Dioceses will come into being. This is of course a cause to celebrate – but along with this everyone will need the Lord's guidance as to how it will work out in practice.

This Christmas, as we remember the Son of God coming as a mere baby, we rejoice in all the Lord has done and continues to do – the unexpected and the expected! Thank you for your prayers and support; we are very grateful.

With our love and thanks,

Juan Carlos, Penny, Rebeca, Elizabeth & Jonatan

Are you,
or someone
you know,
feeling
lonely?

Reconnections offers a one to one service aimed at supporting people to reduce their feelings of loneliness.


reconnections
WORCESTERSHIRE

rediscover
rebuild
so lets
connect

You don't need to live your life alone
Reconnections Worcestershire will help you every step of the way.

0800 195 8040 01905 740954
www.reconnectionsservice.org.uk

Herefordshire
& Worcestershire
ageUK

Malvern Gate, Bromwich Road, Worcester. WR2 4BN
reconnections@ageukhw.org.uk | www.reconnectionsservice.org.uk

Charity No: 1080545

I am really pleased to introduce RECONNECTIONS - a new service, covering the whole of Worcestershire, which aims to reduce older people's feelings of loneliness by reconnecting them with interests and activities in their local communities.

Within Worcestershire it is estimated that there are nearly 12,000 older people who are chronically lonely. Not only does this feeling of chronic loneliness have a devastating impact on day to day living but it can also dramatically affect the person's mental and physical health. Reconnections aims to reduce those feelings of loneliness, reconnect people with sustainable activities, offer opportunities to share skills and learning and enhance lonely people's wellbeing.

In order to reach as many lonely older people as possible we need help in making referrals to the Reconnections Service. If you know someone who is over 50 and feeling lonely, please let us know. Referrals can be phoned through on 01905 740954 or emailed to reconnections@ageukhw.org.uk

Sophie Pryce
Reconnections Project Manager
Age UK Herefordshire & Worcestershire
Malvern Gate, Bromwich Road, Worcester, WR2 4BN
www.ageukhw.org.uk

Are You Struggling to Make Ends Meet?

Can We Help?

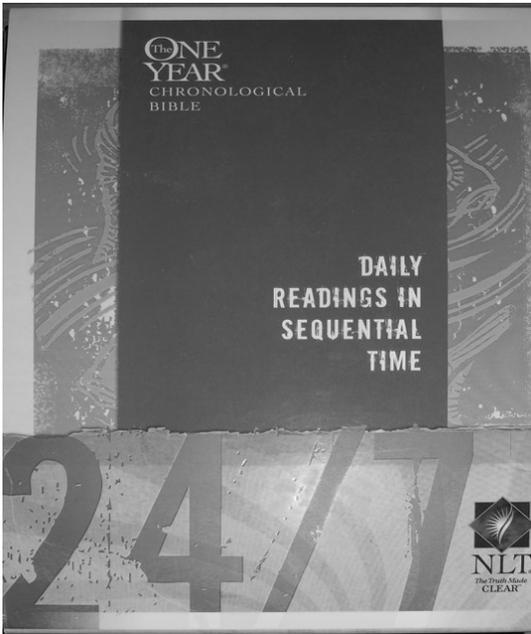
St John's church runs a small charity designed to provide financial assistance to those in genuine need.

Grants are usually between £50 and £100 and are available to anyone who is a resident in west Worcester. You don't have to be religious or Christian to receive help.

For more information, please write to The Vicar, 1a, Bromyard Road, St John's, Worcester WR2 5BS, or telephone 01905 429773. Alternatively, you can email vicar@westworcesterchurches.org.uk

Book Review

One Year Chronological Bible, New Living Translation.



I bought this book at the beginning of 2015 and have found it a fascinating read.

The first fascinating element is that the editors have “cut up” the Bible and put it together in the order the events written about are believed to have happened. For example, a psalm written about a particular event is put immediately after that event and similarly all

the Nativity stories are put side-by-side. This ordering allows the reader to get a feel for how the Jewish nation journeyed through time and how their relationship with God developed. This is different to the usual layout where each book of the Bible is kept completely separate. Secondly, the editors have allocated the whole Bible into 365 sections, which take about 15 minutes to read. This means that by reading for 15 minutes a day throughout the year, the reader can read through the entire Bible.

There are various versions available from the publishers.

- NLT 24/7 One Year Chronological Bible
 - o Includes “interior art” and verse call-outs in the margins.
 - o Font size 9
 - o Hardback ISBN 9781414314105
- The One Year Chronological Bible NLT
 - o Font size 9-10
 - o Paperback ISBN 9781414314082

It is also available in Kindle format.

Philip Evans

Epiphany Prayer

Father of all, Thank you for the revelation you gave to those travellers from the East so long ago. Thank you that everyone who truly searches for you will find you, in Jesus.

Show us your Son afresh, we pray, so that, at the start of this New Year, we can go forward hand in hand with him, into whatever the new Year might hold for us, knowing the security which only he can give.

Give us confidence and peace and strength to live each day with that assurance.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Daphne Kitching

From The Magazine Archive, January 1952

CENTRAL FUND

A FAITHFUL band of subscribers maintain this fund by contributing sums of money from 5/- to £5 every year. The Parish Clerk usually visits the subscribers to collect the donation and give his receipt.

In 1944 the total amount received in this way was £222. To-day the total is very much less largely because of the death of many of the subscribers. Among the subscribers are a number of business houses and firms of St. John's which have contributed regularly in the past.

A list of the subscribers is given below.

We appeal to all for a continuance of their support and we would welcome new subscribers to help us keep alive this vital source of income to the Church.

Mr. Thomas will make arrangements to collect your subscription.

Our special thanks go to all those who though no longer able to attend Church still give their support through the Central Fund.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS TO CENTRAL FUND.

Mr. and Mrs. Ashcroft, Miss Ashcroft, Mr. and Mrs. Acton, Mrs. Annis, Miss Bloodworth, Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Burley, Dr. Bunting, Miss Brown, Mr. Blakeway, Messrs. Bryan, Miss Butler, Miss Barnard, Miss Beard, Mr. Collard, Mr. and Mrs. Creese, Messrs. Clifford, Mr. Charlish, Miss Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Davies, Miss Davies, Mr. Drew, Mrs. Chisholm, Mr. Elt, Mr. Fray, Dr. Galbraith, Miss Goodwin, Mrs. George, Miss Hemming, Mr. and Mrs. Hemming, Haywards, Mr. Herbert, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Hopkiss, Mr. and Mrs. Holder, Mr. Jeynes, Misses Jordan, Misses Keeling, Miss Lewis, Mrs. Lancey, Mrs. Mason, Miss Minett, Nicholsons, The Mayor, Norman Bros., Miss Owen, Mrs. Palmer, Miss Pegram, Mr. Pimley, Mrs. Phillips, Mr. Roberts, P.J., Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, R.C., Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, J.J., Mrs. Rowe, Mrs. Rea, Mr. Sorrell, Misses Stockall, Major Smith, Smith and Sons, Miss Salter, Miss Skinner, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. Turner, Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Turton, Miss Turner, Mr. Thayer, Mr. Thomas, Misses Willshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Wassall, Worcester Ice Co., Mrs. Pakenham Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. Whiteley.

Allowing for inflation, the amounts mentioned are as follows in today's money:

1944	Today
5/- (five shillings)	£10
£5	£200
£222	£8,800

Christmas Tree Festival



Christmas trees in the North Aisle



Audience watching Mark is Magic



Father Christmas relaxing during breakfast



Afternoon tea party



More Christmas trees (and their owners!)



The Christmas Tree Festival Team wish to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us by making cakes, donating chocolates and wine, those who helped over the weekend with welcoming all the visitors, making endless cups of tea and tidying up after each event. The list is endless but without all your help the Festival would not have been such an enjoyable and wonderful success! Thank you again!

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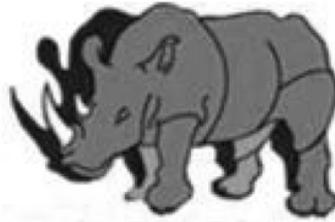
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(Editor – I've got one and it was very easy to sign up and use the card)



Sudoku Puzzle

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



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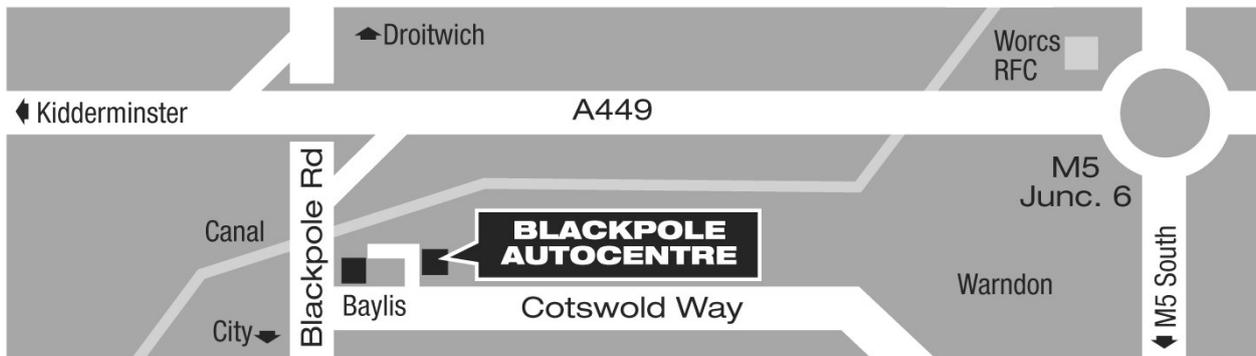
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<p>Blakefield Room</p>	<p>Suitable for up to 30 people: Fully fitted kitchen, including dishwasher; toilets, including one disabled toilet and a baby-changing facility; Tables and/or chairs.</p>	
<p>Burroughs' Room</p>	<p>Suitable for up to 12 people. 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>	

All access to the church is level and therefore suitable for wheelchairs. A toilet for the disabled is available.

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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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I look forward to hearing from you.

*"It was such a relief to find someone to talk to,
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I would recommend counselling with Sarah to
anyone who is struggling to cope." (Client RP)*



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.

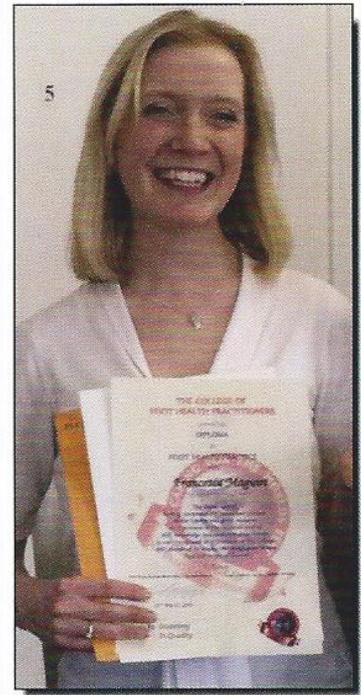
Please contact the parish office and leave details of your name and address if you would like to subscribe.

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



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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, January 2016

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
3rd January	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	11am Family Service	4pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
10th January	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Family Service with Children's Participation 5pm Café Church	9.30am Eucharist 11am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
17th January	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9.30am Eucharist 11am Worship for Everyone	4pm Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Prayer
24th January	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	9.30am Eucharist 11am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
31st January	10.30am Joint Group Service 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	Joint service at St John's	Joint service at St John's	Joint service at St John's

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.