



*St John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Magazine*

March 2016

40p



**St. John-in-Bedwardine
Worcester**

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 except 2nd 2nd Sunday in month	Parish Eucharist with Children's Church Family Service with Children's Participation
5.00 p.m.	1st Sunday in month 2nd Sunday in month 3rd Sunday in month Last Sunday in month	Evensong (BCP) Café Church Evensong (BCP) Service of Wholeness and Healing

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 The Clergy

As midnight approached on a cold winter's night, a middle-aged man and his wife were walking along a snowy, city centre street. A driver waiting for friends in his car noticed another man in a dark coat heading towards the couple. He recalled being afraid the figure was going to snatch the woman's handbag. Instead, he saw the man suddenly grab the older man's shoulder, pull out a gun and shoot him twice in the back. The gunman stared at his fallen victim for a few seconds,



put the gun back inside his coat and dashed away up a side street, passing another man in the shadows, who gave chase but quickly lost the assassin. The first police team to respond realised that the man was probably dead, but could not extract any sense from his hysterical wife. Another group of armed police charged aimlessly up the side street in pursuit of a long-vanished target. Only when the ambulance arrived did the

**he was staring at
the blood-soaked
body of the
prime minister**

chief policeman at the scene take a proper look at the victim. To his horror, he realised that he was staring at the blood-soaked body of the prime minister. What sounds like the opening to a spy movie is a very brief summary of real events in Stockholm on 28th February, 1986. The assassination of Olof Palme is one of the great unsolved mysteries of modern

policing. How was it possible for the Swedish prime minister to be gunned down in the middle of his capital city, unprotected, and for no one to know who did it?

(continued overleaf)

Cover

The “new” magazine cover picture introduced in 1950 – see page 25.

The Magazine

Copy for the April 2016 edition should reach us by Sunday 13th March. If you can, please use e-mail: magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk. The March edition of the magazine will be available on Easter Sunday, 27th March.

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 39.*

(continued from the previous page)

When we talk about witnesses, it is this kind of scenario we often have in mind. ‘Police are appealing for witnesses to ...’ is a common news item. In modern parlance, witnesses are crucial for two things: solving crimes and validating documents. At the heart of these activities lies the actual process of seeing. A witness is someone who can make a court case a success or a failure because of their credibility or doubt about what they saw. To be a witness, in our understanding, is to be someone who actually sees something happen with their own eyes. The Palme case failed because there were too few witnesses and the crucial two failed to see the most important thing, the identity of the prime minister’s killer.

If witnessing and vision are thus inextricably linked, how can we be witness to the gospel?

If witnessing and vision are thus inextricably linked, how can we be witness to the gospel? It is a phrase which is frequently used, and one of the Diocese of Worcester’s Kingdom People characteristics is that we should be ‘equipped to witness to the Gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom’. Yet at the heart of the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ, whose life, ministry, death and resurrection no one alive today – or for many generations –

has personally witnessed. The gospel is not something tangible, like a shooting or a will, which can be directly seen. To witness to it thus seems a strange idea.

Christian witnessing is something different, and in an age which is sceptical about anything which cannot be empirically shown or visualised, that is worth remembering. Our word ‘martyr’ derives from a Greek term which means ‘witness’. Those who died for their faith, especially in the early centuries of the Church, came to be termed martyrs because their actions – refusing to renounce their beliefs, having the courage to stand up for others – were seen as the most eloquent form of witnessing that could be imagined. Witnessing was not about seeing. It was about being so imbued with the truth of the gospel that the only way to bear witness to it was to embody it, even if that ultimately meant dying for it.

In the twenty-first century, people in this county fortunately do not have to make that choice. But we can still bear witness to the gospel by embodying it, by living out those characteristics of love, compassion, justice and freedom. Too often, the Church as a collective body has hindered and opposed such notions, and its actions in recent years have tended to witness to a gospel that demonstrates few of these characteristics. That is our challenge as Christians in this time and this place, to find a way of living out the gospel that shows the saving love of God for all people. We need to discern how best to do that, and it is something we need to bear in mind as we consider the Kingdom People in West Worcester in the months to come.

Phil

A Word From The Editors

Welcome to the March edition of our magazine. March is a veritable potpourri this year containing as it does most of Lent, then culminating in Easter. We've responded by giving you a varied selection of articles rather than concentrating on any particular aspect of these seasons.

The third of the eight Kingdom People Characteristics is "Equipped to witness to the Gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom". To us, that sounds like a destination; 'wait until you are equipped then go out and witness'. We prefer to think of it as a journey; always striving to be better equipped, but nevertheless witnessing as you travel, and pray for the Holy Spirit to be with you and help you along the way.

One way to be better equipped to witness is simply to be thinking about your faith and how it applies in the difficult, complex and often painful world that we live in. How does our faith understand the holocaust; or mental health issues; or someone embroiled in both at once? We have articles around these topics that we hope will provoke you to think about these things.

As Phil points out above, witnessing in this context is not about seeing, but about living out the Gospel. We do that as individuals and small groups, but we also do it together as 'the Church'. Our steadfast presence and activity in the community is one way that we witness to and live out the Gospel, and our church building is a constant symbol of that.

We pray for us all as we live out our lives and witness to the Gospel through these rich seasons of Lent and Easter and beyond.

Graham and Sue Evans

Bishop John's Lent Appeal

Bishop John's Lent Message (see page 14) launched his Lent appeal to raise money to help the famine relief in our partner Diocese of Morogoro. If you would like to contribute to this, please send any donation to the Diocesan Office, marked 'Bishop's Lent Appeal'. A Gift Aid declaration form is available: If you are a UK taxpayer, please gift aid your donation. Cheques should be made payable to Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd. Please contact the Diocesan Office with any queries.

We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey him."

Acts 5:32

"The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."

Luke 24:34

Dates for March 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 6th March: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 12th March

8.30 a.m.	Parish Breakfast	23
3.00 p.m.	Children's Activities	15

Sunday 13th March: Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 16th March

7.00 p.m. Craft Group 7-9 pm

Saturday 19th March

9.00 a.m. Tidy Up Day 13

Sunday 20th March: Palm Sunday

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

24th -26th March See page 27 for services at the West Worcester Group of Churches on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Friday 25th March: Good Friday

9.30 a.m. Children's Activities 15

Sunday 27th March 2016: Easter Day

1.00 a.m. Clocks go forward one hour

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

INCENSE AT OUR EASTER SERVICES

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

- Maundy Thursday (7.30pm Thursday 24th March)
 - Dawn Vigil (5.45am Sunday 27th March)
 - Easter Day (10.30am Sunday 27th March)
-

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). **See page 27 for Maundy Thursday, 24th March.**

Sunday 3rd April

On Sunday 3rd April there will be a Group service at St John's Church at 10.30am. This will be followed at 12 noon by the St John's Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

In Memoriam

Beatrice Edna Gilbert	1 March 1980
Joan Kathleen Burgess	1 March 2009
Archibald [Bob] Sim	2 March 1963
Ann Brickwell	3 March 1972
Mickey Brown	4 March 1977
Robert Leslie Osborne	6 March 1986
Charles William Hinds	8 March 1959
Henry Barrow	8 March 1998
Dennis Ernest Wheeler	9 March 1977
Ronald Victor Roberts	10 March 1995
Thomas Teague	11 March 1966
Jonathan Nicholas Sigley	14 March 1953
Lily Williams	15 March 1983
Marjorie Mary Jones	22 March 1984
Susan Alice Potter	23 March 1990
Frederick John Halls	24 March 1987
William Hooper	27 March 1985
Stanley Norman Frank Parrott	28 March 1987
Samuel Frank Hodgetts	28 March 2005
Reginald Joseph Sigley	31 March 1978

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 January 2016

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

Georgina Rose Hope Shotton

WEDDINGS: *Those whom God has joined together*

There were no weddings in January.

FUNERALS: *Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord*

d. 20th December Doris Anthony	d. 2nd January Muriel Macklin
d. 24th December Barry Hemmings	d. 3rd January Robert Whippe
d. 30th December Berenice Shinnie	d. 10th January Roy Price
d. 31st December Bernard Macklin	

From the register of services for January 2016 (5 Sundays):

Communicants 320. Total attendance at all services 1093. The total attendance includes 465 at funerals/memorial services.

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
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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.

Editors	Sue & Graham Evans magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
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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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Stewardship envelopes	Irene Allen	422684
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Church Flowers	Eileen Cantrill Di White	422579
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



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



Saturday 12 th March	Parish Breakfast
Saturday 12 th March	Children's Activities
Wednesday 16 th March	Craft Group
Saturday 19 th March	Tidy Up Day
Friday 25 th March	Good Friday Children's Activities

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday 9 th April	Children's Activities
Saturday 9 th April	Bridge Day (NB no Bridge Day in March)
Saturday 16 th April	Bingo and Banger Night
Saturday 7 th May	Group Outing to Coventry
Saturday 11 th June	Tea on the Green for the Queen!
Saturday 9 th July	St John's Summer Fete
7 th -9 th October	Official visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Worcester Diocese.
Evening of Friday 7 th October	Event at the Worcester Arena: The Archbishop of Canterbury will be interviewed about his life and his ministry. This will be entertaining and engaging as well as thought provoking and evangelistic. Invite your friends!

Bibles, Bumps and Babies

An informal bible study group. Wednesdays 9.30am.

Contact Sarah on 426257 for more details.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Anon

I **N** **G**
B and **O**



Banger Night

April 16th St John's Church 6pm

**£5 per person includes your food BYOB
and your games of bingo with fun prizes
Children welcome**

**Tickets available from the
Parish office or
Buds and Bows**

Buds and Bows 



*St John's Summer
Fete*

*Saturday 9th July
11am till 3pm*



Easter Flowers 2016

Easter Day is the 27th March this year, and we will be decorating the Church and arranging the Easter Garden on Holy Saturday 26th March 9am-1pm. You are most welcome to come and help and refreshments will be served about 11am. Please, if you have suitable greenery or flowers we could use, they will be most gratefully received.

If you wish to donate money for Easter lilies in memory of family and friends, please place the gift in an envelope with the name(s) of those to be remembered written clearly on the front. These names will be rewritten on the memorial list which is placed on the Welcome Table near to the church door. This is an old custom and a lovely way to remember special family members and friends.

Please give your gift to the Clergy, Churchwardens or Eileen Cantrill.

The Flower Team wish you all a very Blessed and Joyful Easter and thank you for your encouragement and generosity throughout the year.

*Eileen Cantrill, Jeanette Davies, Anne Sherratt, Margaret Rowberry,
Carol Morris, Joy Job, Di White and Sue Hussell*

19th March 'Tidy Up Day' 2016

With the permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens it is time to have a 'Tidy Up Day' in Church, so that everything looks clean and cared for in time for Easter, our greatest festival.

Please come and help. There are small and large jobs depending on whatever you can do and everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served mid-morning. The cleaning stuff will be supplied, but please bring your own rubber gloves if you may need them.

There will be a big list at the back of the Church. Please sign up and bring a friend to help, if possible. This is usually a very happy morning, when we all get together.

We start at 9am and finish by 1pm. Thank you.

Joy Job and Eileen Cantrill



St Michael's Church

LENT LUNCHES

Every Wednesday from 10th February to 23rd March,
12 noon to 1.30pm. £3.50 for soup, bread, cheese, tea or
coffee. Proceeds to Samaritan's Purse.

Bishop John's Lent Message

Late last year I was privileged to travel with the Dean to our link Diocese of Morogoro in Tanzania to join in the wonderful celebrations there to mark the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese. It was a really very moving occasion and what came home to me as I travelled around the Diocese of Morogoro and particularly in that celebration, is the vibrant faith that people have there, the joy that they show in that faith and the way in which God seems ever-present and close to them.



I was also struck by the terrible poverty that afflicts that nation and particularly so at the moment. In this country we are worried about food poverty and rightly so - Christians have responded gloriously to the challenge of meeting the need which seems to be around in our society for food. However, I've never seen malnutrition develop to the extent that it is developing in Morogoro and other parts of Africa as a result of the failure of the crops following lack of rains over the last two or three years. Here we very often have more than enough rain, if not too much.

In Lent we have a responsibility as Christians to try to draw closer to the living God and experience as we do so some of the vibrancy, some of the joy, in faith, that our friends in Morogoro exhibit in such abundance. The traditional ways of doing that have been through prayer and almsgiving and fasting. I'd like to encourage you to re-discover those disciplines this Lent and as you do so, to link it with our diocesan link with Morogoro. I'm starting a Bishop's Lent Appeal and the money raised will go to help priests, pastors, and catechists who are suffering as a result of the malnutrition which is becoming all too rife. It will go towards the furthering of the mission and ministry of our link Diocese.

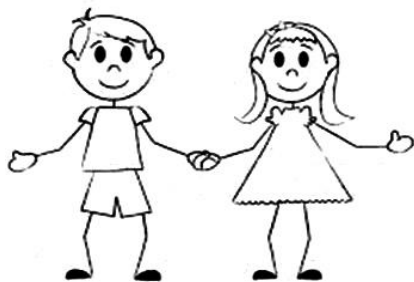
Maybe as you pray during Lent, you will be able to find time to pray for your brothers and sisters in Morogoro and other Christians suffering in different ways all over the world.

And maybe as you fast, you might be able to give some of the money that you would otherwise have spent on food to this Bishop's Lent Appeal. That would be a wonderful way of supporting our friends in Christ who are suffering in ways that we don't have to and it would be a great way too of being able to enjoy with them that vibrancy of faith and draw close to the Living God whose great love for us we prepare to celebrate this Holy Week and Easter.

God bless you during this coming Lent.

+ John

Children's Church News



How quickly the year is moving as we are now having our third session of the year. The number of children that come changes, but one thing that does not change is that the children and adults alike have fun. Do come and join us, our next session is

Saturday 12th March 3.00 - 5.30pm. We also have an extra session on Good Friday which will be Friday 25th March 9.30 - 11.30am.

The Family services on the second Sunday of the month continue to be a success with the children taking an active part delivering readings and prayers. On other Sundays there is Children's Church during the service. 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 12th March and the Family Service Sunday 13th.

Children's Church

Group Outing to Coventry

The Group Committee have a particular focus at the moment of organising joint social events for the four churches in the West Worcester Group to encourage us all to get to know one another. The Committee is therefore organising the exciting opportunity of a joint day-trip to Coventry on Saturday 7th May.



We will visit Coventry Transport Museum and Coventry Cathedral. Both places are conveniently located in the City Centre if people want to explore other places of interest too. On Saturday 7th May the Coventry Transport Museum is also hosting a special exhibition by the Audi 100 Coupe S Club.

A coach is booked to pick up from St. Michael's Church at 8.30am and from St. John's Church at 8.45am. We will arrive at the transport museum at about 10am. The coach will leave the museum at 4.15pm to arrive back at St. John's Church at about 5.30pm. An optional Fish & Chip supper will be served at 6pm at St. John's Church (at which people who could not take part in the day-trip will be most welcome to take part in). Final costs are still being worked on. The all-in price (including the Fish and Chip supper, but not lunch) will be about £15. Booking Forms will be available from me when final details have been agreed.

Philip Evans

Kingdom People Characteristics (3)

The third of the eight Kingdom People Characteristics is:

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

Jesus commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all the nations. If our faith is important to us we shall want to share with others the good news of God's healing and forgiving power. We do not need to be great theologians to describe to others what God has done for us in our lives. There is nothing more powerful than testimony.

For many of us, our faith is a little like our underwear. We're glad that we've got it – but we are very reluctant to talk about it. Witnessing to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom might be something that takes us out of our comfort zone. Our faith is something that is deeply personal, but that does not mean that it is a private matter. People are genuinely interested in stories – and every one of us has something that we can say about how our lives have been transformed by the love and grace of God. Your story contains much that could shape and transform the lives of those around us. It really is something that we should reveal to others.

Roger Morris

Former Archdeacon of Worcester

Worcester Diocese website:

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

A new Church goer

With the approval and support of our clergy, we would like to bring our house-guest to services. She is, at the moment, a couple of weeks old and with her mother and siblings. Her name is Jinney and she is a yellow Labrador.

She has been bred with the intention of becoming a guide dog for the blind and we have been approved as her 'puppy walkers'. She will live with us for about a year and we have to keep in mind that she is to be a working dog. We are to introduce her to as many sounds, people and situations as possible. That includes the train - it's very convenient that Worcester has two stations- buses and even the theatre.

Although she will have lots of fun and attention she, and we, have to learn to abide by certain rules. So, as she will have a restricted diet and must not learn bad habits, for the sake of her future owner please do not offer her titbits or tempting titbits or sweet biscuits at coffee time.

We hope that she will not draw too much attention to herself when in church, or upstage the Vicar, and that we can all enjoy her for the time she is with us.

Ruth Reeves

Notes From The Choir



Easter is so early this year that it seems as if Christmas, Epiphany and Lent have just rolled together with no gaps in between. It certainly means that the two big stories of the birth and death of Jesus are thrown into stark relief. The turning point of this journey for me is Good Friday as the reality of the sacrifice Christ made on the Cross is commemorated.

It seems strange perhaps that it should be called 'Good' Friday. Crucifixion can hardly be called a good death and indeed in Germany the day is called Karfreitag, which translates as 'sorrowful' or 'suffering' Friday. In Anglo Saxon times the day was called Long Friday and in other parts of the world it is known as Black Friday or Great Friday. Perhaps the most convincing explanation as to why we call it Good Friday is that this is simply a corruption of the original 'God's' Friday.

One more name for this special Friday is Silent Friday. Certainly at St Johns the liturgy of Good Friday where we spend three hours in worship and contemplation does contain much silence. This gives time and space for reflection. It also gives the music we sing more power and meaning as it breaks into the stillness and allows us to express the sorrow and pain of Jesus. The music chosen is calm and mostly unaccompanied, stripped back as it were to just the purity of sound of the human voice expressing the deepest emotions. We sing some plainsong and this always seems to me to transport us back in time, linking us to the thousands of Christians from long ago who also sang of the misery of the Cross.

Perhaps though we should also be reminded that Good Friday, in the words of the Baltimore catechism, is called Good because Jesus: 'showed His great love for people and purchased for them every blessing'.

Luise Horrocks

Jo Dowling MBE

Jo Dowling, with her husband Mike, travelled to Buckingham Palace on Thursday 11th February to receive her MBE from Prince Charles. This was awarded for her service to the community, especially in Guiding and Church organisations.

They then rushed back to Worcester to attend a meeting of the Deanery Synod, where I caught her for this photograph.

Well done, Jo!

Graham Evans



Holocaust Memorial

I had the privilege this year of attending the Holocaust Memorial Service at the 'Hive'. Never having attended such service before I wondered its format and effect on my thoughts. The simple pre-service scenes set a tone of poignancy and emotion, symbols of death and man's planned destruction. That people sat down to drawing boards and designed these buildings and equipment, others had built them and yet more had operated the finished product to its final purpose left me wondering just how man can plan such suffering. Man's cruel and wicked indifference to one's fellows.

Those attending the service well represented all generations, an appreciation of the history evident in emotional readings well presented by our city's secondary pupils.

**the last views
of her family
were from the
moving train
window.**

We then had a powerful and moving address from a lady who arrived in England in 1939 aboard the Kinder transport. A Jewish child survivor. A story of strength and courage and sadness as she told of the last views of her family were from the moving train window. As one of retirement age and whose Father fought in the second world war and subsequent conflicts I struggle to cope, still, with the enormity of the death toll through deliberate murder born of hate and

indifference; the sheer destruction and yet at all levels such human suffering, from the small scale personal level to the state sponsored genocide and religious intolerance, still greets us daily upon our wakening.

When love for one's fellow men and women dies that vacuum is filled so often by hate but even worse, indifference.

The 85 year old Kinder transport survivor asked, as we spoke, why I came, what brought me that evening to join the service. My answer: shared suffering; the need to also appreciate the suffering of others. To gain a perspective.

I had recently walked through our affluent City centre and saw the usual beggars and homeless. Where will they sleep, where (and when) will they eat? Who will look after them when they feel ill, warm them when cold? Who are these people, ragged and dirty sitting on the cold pavement outside Marks and Spencer? I stood and looked through M and S large and reflective plate glass window. I watched the pavement artist begging for people's loose change. I looked back at the window expecting to see my reflection but all I saw reflected was him; it is him looking back at me. I had become him. These people are you and I. We are but a moment away from them. Take a good look. It is fate, good fortune, luck that we don't walk there but just one change and there we can be. Of that I can assure you. Unloved, unwanted, their purpose served, cast off by a partner, wife, husband, society. How do they feel, as surely they

do? As surely as the rest of us they just want to be cared for, loved, someone to value them, ask them who they are and how they are. We can all achieve their status with relative ease and speed when circumstance and fate decree.

Just reflect on the innocent Jew, whisked away from home in an instant to a death camp. Unfinished letters, no goodbye to family, no possessions. Families broken up, homelessness and insecurity in an instant. We could so easily be a mirror of these people. They are me, they are us. And all the while the worlds of others glide serenely along, embracing the changes and ignoring and indifferent to those around them and denying the love others and mankind so dearly needs. When love dies so does the heart. We must never forget--the lesson must be learnt at all levels and in all areas of life.

Bill Amos.



Etty Hillesum

“For beauty is nothing but the beginning edge of the dread
we may barely endure”

Rilke, First Elegy.

Recently my synagogue hosted a performance of the one woman show, Etty, in which Susan Stein dramatises the writings of Etty Hillesum, a 27 year old Jewish woman in 1940s Amsterdam. Etty was extremely bright, fluent in several languages and in 1941 was studying for her second degree, in Russian, having already achieved her first, in law. Yet she suffered from sometimes overwhelming depression and had been encouraged by her therapist to write a diary.

Etty’s diary is primarily one of her innermost thoughts. It records her feelings and responses to her immediate world, what she sees and very often, what she reads. Unsurprisingly, she read a great deal and had a particular affection for the work of the German poet, Rainer Maria Rilke. She does not necessarily set out to record what is happening around her, but as events close in around her in Nazi occupied Holland, her diary begins more and more to reflect her responses to her situation.

Etty refuses to see herself as a victim. Despite, and indeed probably because of her depression, she is able to see beauty in almost everything and to feel intensely alive even in the face of extreme fear. Often she describes a single flower as though in seeing it she is able to encapsulate the entire world and herself in one. “I want to be right there in the thick of what people call horror and say: life is beautiful.”

Etty was given the opportunity to work for the Jewish council in Amsterdam, and even though this meant cooperation with the authorities, she justified it by hoping that she may achieve some good through her work. She worked at Westerbork transit camp 1942-43. Thanks to her position she managed to have her immediate family removed from transport lists on two or three occasions, although this was clearly at the expense of three other lives. Such were the choices to be made.

Etty, her parents and her brother Mischa, a pianist and former child prodigy, were deported to Auschwitz in September 1943. Her last lines, addressed to her friend Christine, were written on a postcard and thrown from the freight train:

Christine, opening the Bible at random I find this: “The Lord is my tower.” I am sitting on a rucksack in the middle of a full freight car. Father, Mother and Mischa are a few cars away. In the end, departure came without warning. We left the camp singing, Father, Mother, firmly and calmly, and Mischa too.”

Etty’s body has never been found, but her writings keep her spirit alive. The second act of Susan Stein’s play takes the form of a dialogue with the audience, so that every performance is unique. The play is frequently performed in prisons as well as in schools, to teach of the effects of genocide and to explore issues of imprisonment.

Some extracts from Etty’s writings:

**I am ready to
bear witness in
any situation**

July 1942: Next week, no doubt, it will be the turn of the Dutch Jews. With each minute that passes I shed more wishes and desires and attachments. I am ready for everything, for anywhere on this earth, wherever God may send me, and I am ready to bear witness in any situation and unto death that life is beautiful and meaningful and that it is not God’s fault that things are as they are at present, but our own.

September 1942: One thing I now know for certain: I shall never be able to put down in writing what life itself has spelled out for me in living letters. I have read it all, with my own eyes, and felt it with many senses. I shall never be able to repeat it. It would be enough to make me despair had I not learned to accept that one must work with the inadequate powers one has been given-but that one must really work with them.

Sarah Stuart

“You’re Not Even Trying to Get Better”

You miss school because you need a mental health day and people will ask you what was wrong and you’ll lie about it. For a moment you’ll hesitate, maybe tell the truth - but then, before you know what you’re doing, you’re lying and saying that you just had a migraine. You didn’t have a migraine. It’s then that you realise that you’re ashamed of your mental illness, embarrassed even, and you don’t know why.

**‘all in your head’
(where else is it supposed to be?)**

Maybe, it’s because mental illnesses are so often invalidated, deemed as unreal and ‘all in your head’ (where else is it supposed to be?). It’s choruses of ‘they’re just attention seeking’ or ‘you’re not even trying to get better’ and ‘just cheer up’, plastered across the minds of society, in response to mental illness. This seems to be a direct contrast to the attitude towards physical illness.

Imagine you have a computer and there is a prominent crack etched into the screen, and then imagine the same computer, but with a software issue instead. There’s a problem with both the computers so they can’t work efficiently, but the only difference is that with one, you can see a crack on the screen, while the other’s exterior seems perfectly fine. Now, apply this same idea to a human being. The crack on the screen is a physical injury - a broken leg or arm, that everyone can see, while the software problem is the mind - the hub of mental illness. We can easily see the physical illness, the broken screen, but with mental illness, the scrambled software, there isn’t any cast to sign or crutches to use. Perhaps the fact that it’s all internal and practically invisible to the outer world, explains why it is deemed as less important and not as big of an issue. Ironically, its anonymity also makes it more dangerous. It is also interesting to point out that computer users tend to become frustrated with their device when the problem isn’t immediately apparent, hidden amongst lines of coding within software, and shouting at the computer frustration, despite the fact that it won’t fix anything. This mirrors the attitude that is commonly presented towards victims of mental disorders, with people sometimes becoming irritated and impatient that the person’s illness isn’t written all over them and they can’t figure out what is going on in their head.

Parts of the NHS spend less than 10% of their budget on mental health.

Physical illness is constantly held as something of higher importance than mental illness, especially in environments where attendance is seen as incredibly important. A day off for a sickness bug at school is widely seen as a more legitimate reason to miss a day, with other reasons being seen as you just being ‘lazy’ or ‘skiving’: too often does it feel like students have to choose between their mental health and their education.

Even in wider situations, it is shown, by the steep cuts into mental health budgets and with it being predicted that parts of the NHS spend less than 10% of their budget on mental health, despite conditions such as anxiety and depression making up 23% of the NHS burden of illness. In reality, it should be evenly split, since the two types of illness are not in competition with one another. Physical illness and mental illness are on a parallel trajectory, in a way that makes them simultaneously similar and different at the same time. You wouldn't tell a person with a broken leg to 'just run' to fix their problem, and in the same way you can't tell someone with depression to 'get over it'. The fact of the matter is, people die from both mental and physical illness, it's just that one cause is easier to see as a killer.

The correlation between different people's suffering impacting your ability to suffer yourself is hazy and weak.

The stigma of 'you can't be mentally ill, so many people have it worse than you' is also a prominent idea. It's true; people do have it worse. In the world right now, a child has just lost their parents, a teenager is homeless and shivering on the streets and someone is taking their very last breath. However, the correlation between different people's suffering impacting your ability to suffer yourself is hazy and

weak, deeming that feelings work in the sense that, if someone else is feeling something to a greater extreme you can't feel it at all. The ridiculousness of this is made apparent if you apply this sentiment to a wider scale. In which case, humans wouldn't have any emotions at all.

There is always going to be someone who feels something stronger than you - you are happy but they are euphoric, you are sad and they are in despair - and, with 7 billion people on the planet, and only one person being allowed to feel each emotion at a time, where does that leave everyone else? Surely, that would mean we are all cold, empty shells, void of feeling and compassion. In reality, emotions are a spectrum that we can all exist on and yours are not any less significant because someone else has them too. Invalidating someone's mental illness isn't going to make them suddenly cured and mental illness is indiscriminate, no matter who you are. It isn't caused by the person suffering, nor is it some sort of punishment. Someone can have an idealistic, picture perfect life, but still be a victim of depression. There aren't terms and conditions, or an instruction manual to follow when it comes to humans and that includes mental illness.

Mental illness is rife in our everyday conversations, yet at the same time, we are yet to start the conversation. You hear people every day with the casual exclamation of 'are you mental?' or 'you look so depressed', yet we feel awkward when we're told that 1 in 5 young people suffer from a mental illness, (our classmates, the people we pass by in the corridor). When did mentally ill become a synonym for 'crazy'? When did OCD come to mean no less than a preference for organisation? When did bipolar start to

mean indecisive? When did mental disorders become adjectives? For some reason, we're fine to use the words, but the context behind them is still an uncomfortable one and, the more we refuse to talk about it, the deeper and deeper we dig ourselves into silence. Feeling ashamed for having an illness you can't control needs to end - as does the feeling of awkwardness surrounding the subject. It's time to stop the mentality that people with mental illnesses are broken in some way or that they aren't any less whole. They don't need someone to fix them and put them back together: they're not jigsaw puzzles - they're human.

Becky Adams (Year 12)

Christopher Whitehead Language College Sixth Form

Parish Breakfast

On Saturday 12th March 2016 we are holding a Parish Breakfast at St John's Church. It is from 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. with a full English cooked breakfast, toast, home-made marmalade, tea and coffee.



All free with excellent fellowship.

Everyone is welcome, so invite your friends, families and neighbours to come and share with us.

Jenny English

Matthew 27:31, 41-44

Then they led him away to be crucified.

The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way.

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In April, Chris will be walking the **260 mile**

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Blog: <https://www.ramblingrevchris.wordpress.com>

Presentation to St Richard's Hospice



The proceeds from our Christmas Tree Fair were shared with St Richard's Hospice and a group from St John's went up to St Richard's to present a large cheque.

Joy Job

From The Magazine Archive, March 1950

THE PARISH MAGAZINE

SOMETIME ago, a Magazine Committee was set up to help the Editor. This committee has done excellent work, and I am grateful for all the help which I have received.

The new *cover design* was formulated by the committee and I think you will agree that this is an improvement. We are indebted to our magazine committee for this. The excellent *line drawing* was done for us as a generous gift by MR. PYKE and we are very grateful to him for his kindness.

The cover design referred to above is used again this month – Editors.



Stand by Me
Community project for
people aged over 50
living in St Johns and
Dines Green

March events

Film: Adventure Comedy

Inspired by "The Canterbury Tales," this is the story of William, a young squire who breaks all the rules when he passes himself off as a knight and takes the jousting world by storm. **2001**

Wednesday March 23rd 12.30 - 2.45pm

**At: St John's Working Men's Club, 3 Church Terrace,
Worcester, WR2 5BX**

Film : Action, Comedy, Crime

Charlie's got a 'Job' to do. Having just left prison, he finds one of his friends has attempted a high risk job in Italy right under the nose of the Mafia. Charlie's friend doesn't get very far so Charlie takes over the 'Job'. Using three Mini Coopers, a couple of Jaguars and a bus, he hopes to bring Turin to a standstill, steal the gold and escape. **1969**

Wednesday March 30th 12.30 - 2.45pm

**At: The Green Centre, Gresham Rd, Dines Green,
Worcester, WR2 5QS**

Lisa Owen
Stand By Me Project Manager
Tel: 01905 24741 / 07725724735



*St. John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Church*



WEST WORCESTER GROUP



Palm Sunday, 20th March

- 10.15am **Palm Sunday Procession** from St. John's to St. Clement's.
10.30am **Palm Sunday Eucharist** at St. Clement's Church
11am **Worship for Everyone** at St. John's Church

Maundy Thursday

- 10.45am **Eucharist** at St. Michael's Church
5pm **Eucharist with Foot-Washing** at St. Clement's Church
7.30pm **Eucharist with Foot-Washing** (*with incense*) followed by
Vigil until 10pm at St. John's Church

Good Friday

- 10am **March of Witness** from Homebase car-park to St. John's
10.45am **Open Air service** at St. John's Church
12 to 3pm **Three Hours' Devotion** at St. John's Church
2pm to 3pm A Service at St. Michael's Church (***details to be confirmed***)
3 to 4pm **Watch at the Foot of the Cross** at St. Clement's Church

EASTER DAY

- 5.45am **Dawn Vigil** (*with incense*) at St. John's Church
8am **Holy Communion** (*BCP traditional language*) at St. John's
9.30am **Holy Communion** at St. Clement's Church
10.30am **Parish Eucharist** (*with incense*) at St. John's Church
10.30am **Parish Eucharist** at St. Michael's Church
11am **Worship for Everyone** at St. Clement's Church
11.15am **Holy Communion** at St. David's, Comer Gardens

westworcesterchurches.org.uk

PCC meeting 1st February 2016

The Vicar chaired the meeting and opened it with a prayer. 12 members were present.

In **Matters Arising**, it was agreed to hold the Parish Retreat, open to all the congregation, on Saturday 25th June, from 10am to 1pm. The Churches Together lunch was successful as an event in itself (about 70 there).

Under **West Worcester Churches**, it was reported that the Group Council had agreed to hold a coach outing to Coventry on 7th May.

News from other churches:

- St Michael's church re-opened shortly after the last PCC meeting. The congregation has picked up.
- St Clement's will not redevelop the crypt after a survey showed little interest in using such a facility; the inside of the church will be reordered instead. Numbers at 9.30am are up (after the change from 9am) but Worship for Everyone has dipped.
- St David's is now being looked after by Sarah Cottrill. She has ideas to build up the congregation and increase links to the community.

The PCC passed a motion calling for action by the Deanery Synod:

The PCC of Saint John-in-Bedwardine supports the principle that Parish Share arrears should be written off for parishes due a smaller Share following the Fairer Shares exercise and calls on the Deanery Synod of Martley and Worcester West to discuss the issue at its next meeting and to put forward a motion to the Diocesan Synod on this principle.

Outreach and serving the community: There were updates on the Youth and Family Worker and from the Pastoral Group. Grant applications are being prepared to support the continuation of the Stand By Me project (the present funding runs out in May).

The PCC received the Ringers' Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy for acceptance and approved it with small amendments. This flowed from the diocesan and PCC policies on safeguarding and needed to be approved by the PCC as the PCC has ultimate responsibility for Safeguarding in the church.

The Accommodation Committee report was accepted. The choir stall candle stands will be removed (now that Candlemas has passed) until next required. Expenditure was approved for recommended works to prevent ingress of surface water into the parish office. The purchase of seven tables and a trolley in place of some of the old wooden tables was approved. They will be stored behind the curtain by the organ.

Faculty applications for the memorial bench and for the disposal of books from the archive have been approved. The diocese now advises that both a faculty and Listed Building Consent will be required for the secondary double glazing in the office.

After a discussion about various problems with the Blakefield Room (coldness, dampness, decoration and cleanliness), and noting that this room is both an income source and used for outreach activities, it was agreed to undertake a major refurbishment of the Blakefield Complex, drawing upon money previously received for decorating, plus the Margaret Cull legacy and possibly funding from the Blakefield Hall Trust.

Children and Schools and Christian Nurture: Children and Families work continues to go well. The Vicar expressed our thanks to Jane Askew and her team for their good work. It was agreed to fund Peter Holzapfel's work from core church funds after the transitional grant funding is used up. The Children's Corner needed to be better respected. There was nothing new to report on work with schools. The new Pilgrim Course is starting shortly and new books (Lent related) have been purchased for our church library.

The Vicar said that the new Family Service went very well at its first outing in January, with many positive comments and only one negative one. This can be a real vehicle for bringing in families. The new arrangements have helped him to have more time with the congregations. He is talking to people about the ALM training starting this autumn. The Café Church service will be reviewed after Easter in the light of the workload for the ALM team and the numbers attending.

Finance and Operations: The PCC received a written report from the Standing Committee and a 2015 financial outcome showing (with specific adjustments including grant funding) an outcome near to balance.

There was **Correspondence** from the Diocese about the statutory Living Wage (effective this April) and the living wage set by the Living Wage Foundation. St John's already pays all its employees above both Living Wage levels.

The **Strategic Item** was the consideration of projects to match our priorities for 2016. Decisions (mentioned above) were made about refurbishment of the Blakefield Room and funding of Children's work.

We had set aside a previous surplus (to be used over three years) to be able to 'pump prime' projects in response to our priorities. Discussion included the Blakefield Room, Children's work and funding of preliminary/preparatory work to consider re-ordering the interior of the church. No firm decisions were reached about use of the previous surplus and it was decided to leave this available to pick up outcomes from the Parish Retreat. The starting point of the Retreat will be to examine ourselves against the Worcester Diocese's eight Kingdom People characteristics and work from that to update/change our own priorities.

The meeting closed with all saying 'The Grace'.

Graham Evans, PCC Secretary

Sainsbury's Every Day Shopping Card – Update

Unfortunately, Sainsbury's decided to exit the Raise with Sainsbury's scheme as their focus for charity activity is on further developing their own local community programmes: Raise with Sainsbury's closed on 27/2/16.



Introducing Cards for Causes

Watch out for information on the new Cards for Causes scheme which gives charity supporters the opportunity to buy gift cards and shop in store at a range of retailers including Starbucks, Marks & Spencer and Tesco, raising up to 6% in charitable donations from Give as you Live.

Give as you live (EveryClick Ltd)



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

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The solution is on page 40.



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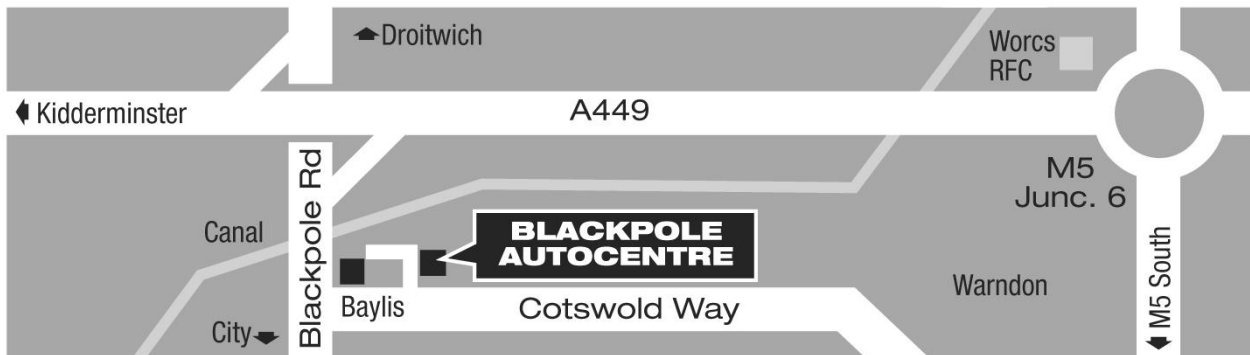
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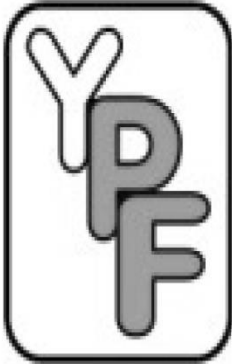


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36 Woodstock Road
Worcester, WR2 5NE
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Website:

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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, March 2016

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
6th March	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	11am Family Service	6.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
13th March	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
20th March	No service at St David's or St Michael's.			
	Group services: 10.30am Eucharist at St Clement's (following Palm procession from St John's commencing at 10.15am). 11.00am Family Service at St John's.			
	5pm Evensong (BCP)			
27th March Easter Sunday	5.45am Dawn Vigil 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9.30am Eucharist 11am Worship for Everyone	11.15am 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.				