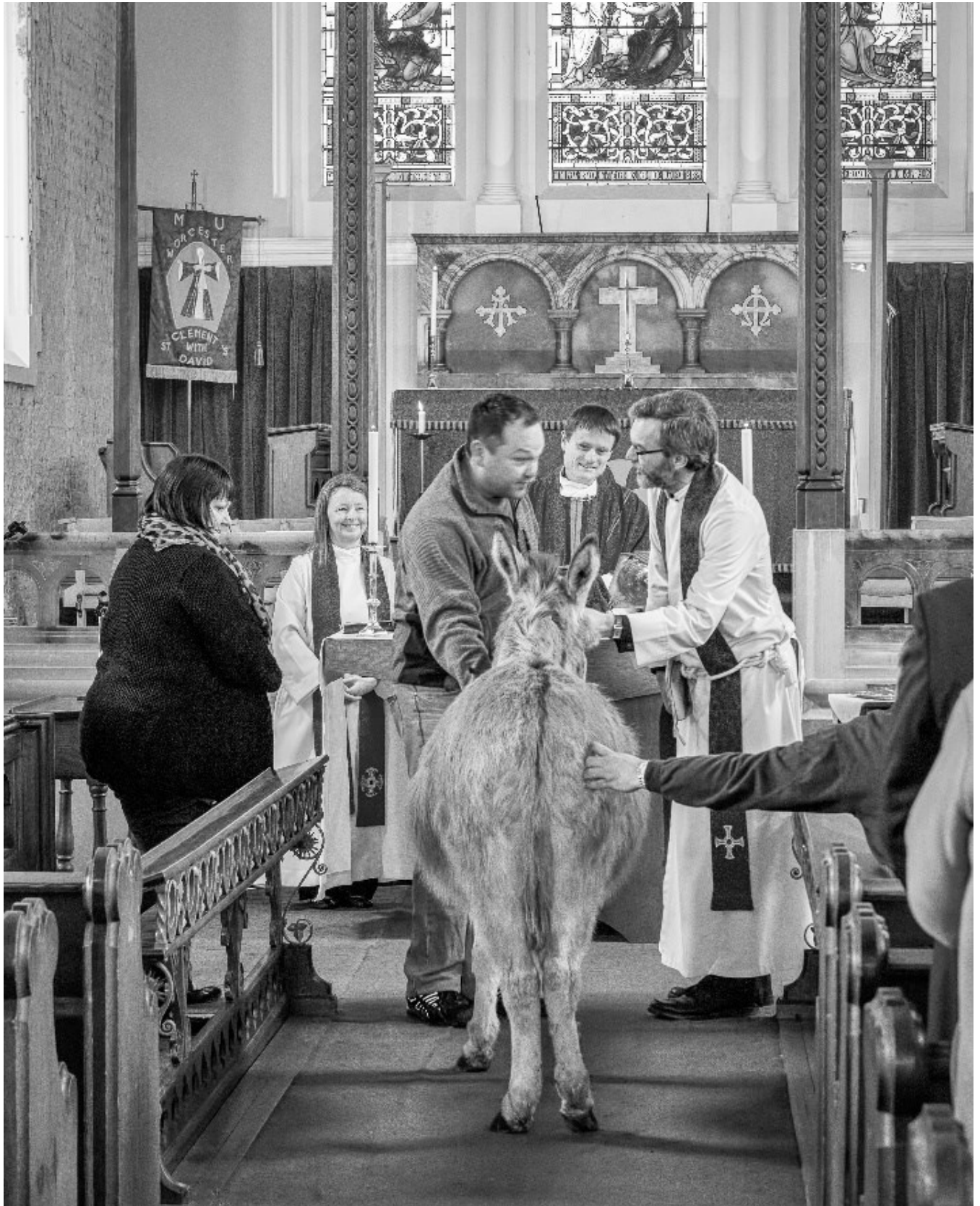




St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine

May 2016

40p



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

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

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

WEST WORCESTER CLERGY

The Reverend Dr CHRISTOPHER STUART (Vicar of St John's)	Day off
The Reverend PHIL BRADFORD	Saturday
The Reverend SARAH COTTRILL (Assistant Curate)	Friday
	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 3rd Sunday in month 4th Sunday in month	Evensong (BCP) 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)

PATORAL CARE: 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).

SAFEGUARDING: If you have any concerns about possible abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, please contact the PCC Safeguarding Representative, Jane Askew on 424811 or any member of the clergy.

Letter From The Archdeacon of Dudley

Thy Kingdom Come



Many of us lack confidence in talking about our faith – perhaps we’re only just beginning to realise how easy it is to share a story of how God has been at work in our life with a friend, or perhaps we’ve yet to be convinced. Hopefully what we can all do, however long we have been a disciple of Jesus, is pray!

**join a great
wave of prayer
for our nation to
know Jesus
Christ**

This month there is an opportunity to do this in an intentional way, praying for our friends to discover what it means to have a relationship with Jesus. Churches across the country are signing up to join a great wave of prayer for our nation to know Jesus Christ. In the week before Pentecost this year (8th – 15th May), the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have invited every church in England to pray for all Christians to be blessed with new joy and confidence to share their faith. [*Editors: see page 20*]

Many churches are considering hosting 24-7 prayer rooms. Some prayer rooms will be held across a rural benefice or deanery, others in larger churches or with sisters and brothers from other denominations and streams. There’ll even be a dedicated prayer room at the heart of Lambeth Palace, the home of the Archbishop of Canterbury. A round the clock prayer room can sound a daunting prospect, but (continued overleaf)

Cover

Palm Sunday 2016 – photograph by Colin Nash. One donkey, two handlers, three clergy..... and an arm. Who is saying what and to whom? Answers to the editors!

The Magazine

Copy for the May 2016 edition should reach us by Sunday 8th May. If you can, please use e-mail: magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk. The June edition of the magazine will be available on Sunday, 22nd May.

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 43.***

(continued from the previous page) when I was involved in one in my curacy parish in London it was a really powerful experience, where my faith grew enormously. We've committed as a diocese to pray for the week, with sign up slots on the website, so you can join in from home if you can't make it to an actual prayer room. Perhaps sign up for an hour with a few friends from your church, and pray for five people each!

There are lots of ideas about how to pray on the website: <http://thykingdom.co.uk/>, including some inspiring videos, encouraging stories and practical ideas.

In the letter to all clergy announcing this wave of prayer the Archbishops said:

“At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus himself taught us – ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.’ It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord’s Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to his glory.”

**dangerous
enough to be
banned in
cinemas**

As the kingdom people of the Diocese of Worcester this prayer is a core part of our life together. I do encourage you to pray it with faith as you pray for your friends, as part of this national wave of prayer.

*Nikki Groarke
Archdeacon of Dudley*

A Word From The Editors

Welcome to the May edition of our magazine. Our growth and ministry should be rooted in prayer and in her letter above Archdeacon Nikki asks us to be involved in the national wave of prayer planned for May (see also page 20). How will you respond?

Our Parish Retreat on 25th June will use the Kingdom People values, so it will be valuable to have covered all eight values in the magazine by then. The last two (seven and eight) will be next month, while this month (see also pages 21 and 22) we have:

*“Devoted to growing deeply as disciples, offering our time, talents and money to God”
and
“Resourced and released to minister to others”*

There are many examples in this edition of ways in which different people offer their time and talents and grow through ministry to others. We pray that you will find something here to enable you to grow in your Christian life.

Graham and Sue Evans

Dates for May 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 1st May: Sixth Sunday of Easter

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Wednesday 4th May:

12.00 noon St Michael's Light Lunch (at St Michael's Church) 23

Thursday 5th May: Ascension Day

8.00 a.m. Eucharist (Common Worship)

Saturday 7th May

Group Outing to Coventry 10

Sunday 8th May: Seventh Sunday of Easter

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Saturday 14th May

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

3.00 p.m. Children's Activities (3.00pm–5.30pm) 19

Sunday 15th May: Pentecost

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Tuesday 17th May

7.00 p.m. Pilgrim Course commences 20

Wednesday 18th May

7.00 p.m. Craft Group (booking essential) 12

Sunday 22nd May: Trinity Sunday

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

Thursday 26th May: Corpus Christi

7.30 p.m. Eucharist

Saturday 28th May

10.15 a.m. Cafe@10.15 10

Sunday 29th May: First Sunday after Trinity

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).

Church Directory

CLERGY

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

ST JOHN'S PCC OFFICERS

Churchwardens	churchwardens@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Gordon Templeton	gordtemp@btinternet.com	749025
Joy Job	joyjob@dsl.pipex.com	423051
PCC Lay vice-chair	Sue Bale	423257
PCC Secretary	Graham Evans pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
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
Advertising	Sue Hussell sue.hussell@talktalk.net	01684 893397
Subscriptions	Joan Tyler-Gunston	
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
Verger	Catherine Templeton	749025
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Ringling Master	John Bower jandjbower@btinternet.com	07792 574554
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

In Memoriam

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

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, March 2016

BAPTISMS:

Albert Joseph Blinston
Arlo Colarossi-Leavy
Alfie Stanley Wheatley

FUNERALS:

d. 7th Feb. Derek Hyde
d. 21st Feb. Joan Holmes
d. 22nd Feb. Kenneth Ellis
d. 24th Feb. Hayley Shuttleworth
d. 7th Mar. William Barker
d. 11th Mar. Trevor Arnold

WEDDINGS:

Russell and Sharon Edwards (Renewal of Vows)
David Blinston and Karina Brookes

SERVICES: (Four Sundays)

Communicants 289.
Total attendance at all services 1135.
The total attendance includes 440 at funerals, weddings and baptisms.

Thank you....

On April 11th 1966, we were married at St. John's Church. This year was our 50th Anniversary and Sarah kindly agreed to give us a blessing and Holy Communion Service to remember the day. She had prepared things beautifully with a printed order of service to make it a special day. Thank you very much Sarah.

Glenis and John Cole.



You're invited to our Big Brekkie

So come along, tuck in and help raise
money for Christian Aid Week.

You are invited to the Westside Big Brekkie for Christian Aid to be held on Tuesday 17th May at Bromyard Road Methodist Church. Breakfast will be served from 8.30 am to last orders at 11.00 am. Donations requested.

Sally Mills

Live At Home Scheme – Dates for May

Thursday 19th May 11.00am: “Songs of Praise” Bromyard Rd Methodist Church.

Tuesday 24th May 2pm: Afternoon Tea & Entertainment by Debbie Miles, Bromyard Rd Methodist Church.

We also have many regular activities – please contact the office for details.

Membership numbers have dropped over the year and, with our new cook on board, and the lovely meals that are now served at our clubs—it is a chance to “spread the word” about what we do and attract new people. We are also starting our guided walks which may appeal to people.

We are always looking for suggestions for different activities so please email westworcester.liveathome@mha.org.uk or contact the office (tel 420805) to speak to Elaine, Ruth or Jo.

Bibles, Bumps and Babies

An informal bible study group. Wednesdays 9.30am. Contact Sarah Cottrill for details.



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



Saturday 7th May	Group Outing to Coventry (see below)
Saturday 14th May	Bridge Day
Saturday 14th May	Children's Activities
Wednesday 18 th May	Craft Group (booking essential - see page 12)

FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE

Saturday 4 th June	Children's Activities (Morning)
Saturday 4 th June	Disabled Christian Fellowship Service (afternoon)
Saturday 11th June	Tea on the Green for the Queen!
Wednesday 15 th June	Craft Evening
Saturday 18 th June	Table Top Sale
Saturday 25th June	St John's Parish Retreat (at St Michael's Church)
Saturday 2nd July	Strawberries & Cream Tea at St Clement's (2-4pm)
Saturday 9th July	St John's Village Fete
Saturday 23 rd July	Quiz Night at St Michael's Church
7th-9th October	Official visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Worcester Diocese.

Bingo and Banger Night

Please see page 43 for the result of the Bingo and Banger night.

Café@10.15

Our service with food is moving its time and day. Join us for 'Friendship and thoughts' together with fresh coffee and Danish pastries. Launching 10.15am on Saturday 28th May and then fourth **Saturday** of each month.

Group outing to Coventry

At the time of writing, there are still a few places available, so please contact me if you would like to join the trip. You are also welcome to book to come along to the fish and chips afterwards (6pm), even if you are not coming to Coventry.

Philip Evans



St John's Village Fete

SATURDAY 9TH JULY 11AM TILL 3PM

EVENTS ARENA WITH DOG SHOW
TEA GARDEN AND FOOD STALLS
CAKE STALL

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT
STALLS AND GAMES

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH



REG. CHARITY NO. 1152583
ALL PROCEEDS TO CHURCH



Craft Evenings at St John's

Our May session, Wednesday 18th at 7.00pm, is the only one that we ask you to telephone to book a place as we have to know how many people are coming to ensure we have enough supplies. Just call 424811 if you would like to come along.



Later on in the year we are lucky to have booked 4 consecutive art sessions with a group called 'Accidental Artists'. They come along and show us different techniques with paint; sounds exciting and I will have more details later. The first session is Friday 29th July and then the following 3 Fridays, the time is being sorted. You do not have to come to all the sessions. All equipment will be provided. Keep the dates in your diaries and I will let you know more in the future. This seems a great opportunity to learn something new in a friendly environment. Hope to see you there or at one of our Wednesday sessions.

Jane Askew

Women's Breakfast Group

This is a new venture, aiming to provide friendship, food and Christian fellowship for women from all the churches in the West Worcester Group.

The format for the meetings will be to eat breakfast together, to share a time of prayer and fellowship and to listen to an invited speaker. We will meet at 8.30am with the expectation of finishing not later than 10.00am.

Our first meeting will be at the home of Margaret Rutter on Saturday, June 11th when the "invited speaker" will be me, telling about my journey to Ordination.

For further details, please speak to Margaret or myself in church or email me at sarah.cottrill@westworcesterchurches.org.uk

Sarah Cottrill

St Michael's Lent Lunches

Thank you to all who supported us, we raised £400 which is good. This is going this year to Samaritans Purse, a worthy project.

Hope to see you at our monthly lunches starting May 4th and every first Wednesday in each month except August.

*Thank you all.
Margaret, Alison, Jenny and Val*



Open to people aged over 50, living in St Johns and Dines Green who want to meet new people and become involved in their local community.

*** Wednesday 18th May 12.30 – 2.45pm at: At St John's Working Men's Club,
3 Church Terrace, Worcester, WR2 5BX**

Film: Adventure / Comedy

Based on the true story of the greatest treasure hunt in history, this film is an action drama focusing on an unlikely World War II platoon, tasked by Franklin Roosevelt with going into Germany to rescue artistic masterpieces from Nazi thieves and returning them to their rightful owners. It would be an impossible mission, but as the Monuments Men, as they were called, found themselves in a race against time to avoid the destruction of 1000 years of culture, they would risk their lives to protect and defend mankind's greatest achievements. * Refreshments £1

**Wednesday 25th May 12.30 pm – 2.45pm at: The Green Centre,
Gresham Rd, Dines Green, Worcester, WR2 5QS**

Film: Comedy / Western

Robber Roy King loses his wife, Alicia, to revolutionary Montero. Despite their rivalry they collaborate in an attempt to rob the Mexican government of one million dollars. * Refreshments £1

For more information please contact:

Lisa Owen, Stand By Me, Worcester Volunteer Centre

01905 24741 / Lisa@wvc.org.uk



*St. John-in-Bedwardine
Parish Church*



Come and try Lawn Bowls at Cripplegate Park

Available each Saturday in May - 10am till noon, weather permitting. Equipment is provided and we offer two free sessions per person.

Directions: Vehicular from Tybridge Street: Enter Pay and Display car park, take first right turn across the car park, the bowling greens are

through the double gates. On-site parking is available for bowlers only.

Pedestrian access from the St Johns' direction: In Cripplegate Park keep to the left hand path; just before the tennis courts go left through the iron gate, walk along the path between the two bowling greens and register at the bowling pavilion.

Pedestrian access from the city direction: In Cripplegate Park keep to the right hand path; just after the tennis courts go right and through the iron gate, walk along the path between the two bowling greens and register at the bowling pavilion.

Trips Out

Fortis Living are organising day trips this year which are open to non-tenants and carers. Customers pay the driver for the cost of transport on the day. Once booked in, customers must give 48 hours' notice to avoid incurring a charge. Please note that these trips are usually unaccompanied. To book, please call me on 01905 670236.

Kate Fenton



Spring and Summer Trips 2016 ~ part 1!

- **Evening Mystery Trip** – Friday 8th April (£8.00 – transport)
Pick up points: Droitwich Spa and Worcester
- **Evesham Country Park** – Wednesday 13th April (£9.00)
Pick up points: Droitwich Spa and Worcester
- **Evening Mystery Trip** – Friday 22nd April (£8.00)
Pick up points: Malvern, Colwall and Ledbury
- **Evening Mystery Trip** – Wednesday 4th May (£8.00)
Pick up points: Worcester and Malvern
- **Snowhill Manor and Broadway** – Friday 13th May (£12.00)
Tickets for the beautiful gardens and fascinating manor house cost £10.50 per person. Worth a visit!
Pick up points: Worcester, Malvern and Ledbury
- **Downy Ducklings at Slimbridge** – Friday 3rd June
£21.00 for entrance and transport.
Pick up points: Worcester, Malvern and Ledbury
- **“Bands in the Park”** – Let’s enjoy the Queen’s 90th birthday celebrations in Malvern. Bring a picnic! (£7.00)
Pick up points: Worcester, Malvern, Colwall and Ledbury

To book please call Kate Fenton on 01905 670236



Fortis
LIVING
LOVING LATER LIFE



Spring and Summer Trips 2016 ~ part 2!

- **Royal Three Counties Show** – Friday 17th June
(£22.00 including transport and entrance.)
Pick up points: Wychbold, Droitwich Spa, Hallow and Worcester
- **Evening Mystery Trip** – Thursday 23rd June (£8.00)
Pick up points: Wychbold, Droitwich Spa, Ombersley and Hallow
- **Ludlow Fringe Festival/Berrington Hall** – Monday 27th June
(£12.00 for transport. Entrance to the Hall - £9.50)
Pick up points: Worcester, Malvern and Bromyard
- **Cotswold Wildlife Park** – Wednesday 13th July (£24 in total)
Pick up points: Worcester, Hallow, Droitwich Spa
 - **Llandudno** – Tuesday 26th July (£20.00)
Pick up points: Malvern, Worcester, Droitwich Spa/Wychbold
- **Evening Mystery Trip** – Wednesday 10th August (£8.00)
Pick up points: Malvern, Colwall, Martley and Colwall
- **Upton River Cruise** – Wednesday 24th August (£20 in total)
Pick up points: Worcester, Malvern and Upton
- **“Blood Brothers” @ Malvern Festival Theatre** –
Wednesday 14th September (2.30pm) (£35 in total)
Pick up points: depends upon interest!

To book please call: Kate Fenton on 01905 670236



Fortis
LIVING
LOVING LATER LIFE

Forest Flowers & Food

On Sunday May 8th join us for a guided walk in Almshouse Wood, Knightwick to see the flowers, early purple and twayblade orchids, bluebells, wild garlic, and violets. We offer an outdoor, 2 course hot lunch at 1.00pm (£10, free under school age) or walk only at 2.30pm (£3). Sorry, the woodland path is not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs. Non-walkers are welcome to come for the lunch only. Vehicle access is only 50 yards from the camp-fire lunch place.

Location is Pewcroft Farm, Suckley Road, Knightwick, WR6 5QQ. Please let us know by May 4th if you are coming. Any profits will be shared between Alfrick WI and Suckley Church.

John and Jill Hammonds, 01886 884221, john@pewcroft.fsnet.co.uk



“A wonderful experience”

After Jo Dowling received her MBE from the Queen in February, another lady from the West Worcester churches received an award from the Queen on Maundy Thursday.

Margaret Jones, who is a churchwarden at St Michael’s church, Dines Green, travelled to St Georges Chapel, Windsor to receive Maundy money in recognition of her service to the church.

Margaret said “It was a shock to find out I’d been picked. It was a nice surprise, but I couldn’t get my head around it.”

The Bishop of Worcester, John Inge, is the Queen’s Lord High Almoner, and is responsible for the liturgical arrangements for the occasion. He accompanied the Queen as she made the distribution, giving her the pouches of money.

Because of the number of recipients, the Queen does not have time to speak to everyone. However, she did speak briefly to Margaret as the Bishop told the Queen that “This lady is a churchwarden in one of my parishes”.

Margaret summed it up: “It was a great honour. A very memorable day. A wonderful experience”.

Graham Evans



Christian Aid Week

If you can distribute and collect envelopes this Christian Aid Week please sign up in Church. You can deliver to a whole road (or roads) or just to a few neighbours you know. Every penny collected helps to transform the lives of people living in poverty.

Sally Mills

John 20.19-20

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Update from the Curate

A few months ago I wrote, mysteriously, that I was in the process of setting up a placement but couldn't say more until it was settled! Obviously, you have all been on tenterhooks, wondering where I'm off to, so I can now reveal that I'm going to spend a week at Holland House!

In all seriousness, this is an exciting venture for me as the role of hospitality within the context of Christian ministry is one which I find very interesting. By spending time with Ian Spencer at Holland House, I hope to discover more about what is involved in running a Retreat House and reflect on whether or not this may be an area of ministry I should consider in the future. I will be on this placement from May 10th to 15th so please hold me – and Ian – in your prayers at that time.

Meanwhile, I am starting to establish myself at St David's where I have been very grateful for the friendship and support I have received. We had a successful Open Church event to mark our Patronal Festival and at the time of writing, we are busy preparing for our Queen's Birthday Tea Party on April 21st and our Spring Fair on April 30th.

Sarah Cottrill



The Glade

Bransford, WR6 5JD

Website: www.theglade.org.uk

The Glade Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is a specialist facility where recent victims of rape and sexual assault can receive immediate help and support. We aim to provide all of our clients with information, support and referrals to assist in their recovery, in a safe and welcoming environment.

We can also assist with accessing support for you if you have been a victim in the past.

The Glade is a dedicated service available to everyone; women, men, children and adolescents and covers the area of West Mercia including Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford, Wrekin and their surrounding areas.

Clients may access the following services through The Glade:

- Forensic medical examination performed by a specialist forensic doctor or nurse;
- Crisis support at your initial visit;
- Self-referral telephone support and options;
- Referral to GP and Sexual Health follow up;
- Referrals to ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) support and counselling.

Call our 24 hour self-referral number on 0808 178 2058.

Lydia Johnson, SARC Coordinator

REPORTS FROM THE 2016 ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Vicar's review of 2015

Sitting down to write this report, I realise just how much has changed, grown and developed in St John's over the last twelve months. We're a rich and active church, and it's heartening to be able to report on all that's gone on, and in particular on a number of new and promising initiatives.

As a church we set ourselves two key areas that we wanted to focus on in 2015 – Outreach, and Worship/Christian Nurture/Work with Young People. Consequently, I have divided my report up to focus in on progress made in these areas.

Worship/Work with Children & Youth/Christian Nurture

Worship

Perhaps the most visible change has been to our service pattern: once each month our Sunday 10.30 Eucharist has been replaced by a family-focussed service of Morning Prayer, led by members of our Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) Team. Although this was rather thrust upon us by the necessity of sharing our clergy amongst the four Anglican churches west of the river, the service itself has been well-received.

In particular, it brings two benefits. First, it eases some of the pressures on me as vicar on Sunday mornings: I don't now have to rush between churches quite so much and consequently can spend more time with the congregations I serve, both before and after the service. Second, the new service is perhaps more "family-friendly", particularly for those who aren't used to Eucharistic services; as such it helps us broaden our appeal to those on the margins of the church.

A lot of work has gone into preparing the new service format, reflecting my strong conviction that good quality worship is at the heart of what we do as a church. In the coming year we'll continue to build the quality of our worship, whilst also offering more mid-week celebrations on Feast Days (for example, Epiphany, Candlemas, and All Saints'.) We're blessed with an excellent organist who has done wonders to grow and nurture our choir; John, I know, has all kinds of plans for the coming twelve months. Meanwhile, the Music Group have engaged enthusiastically with our new family-focussed Morning Prayer service, whilst continuing faithfully to support our Healing Service. I'm grateful to Peter in particular for the hard work he puts into the Group.

I believe that the more we strive to give our best in worship, rooted in a deep and sincere faith, the better we can touch the hearts of those who visit. What counts is not the age, or the familiarity of what we do, but its depth, its quality and the sincerity with which we engage with it.

Incidentally, have you thought about training as an Authorised Lay Minister? We're always in need of more people to help lead our worship. Why not drop me a line – there's a new course beginning in the autumn, and it would be great to have a few more people from St John's in training.

(Continued on page 30)



Jinney's Diary

The Magazine Editors kindly asked whether I would like to tell you about myself, so here goes. I'm Jinney, a yellow Labrador and I was born on 1st February. My parents were both black Labs; there were eight of us in the litter, four black, four yellow. Sadly, my mother was very ill when we were born, so from three days

old we were hand reared. She's recovering now but has been retired so has become the family pet. It was hard work for that family looking after us but it meant we were cuddled a lot, and I love being cuddled. I am sometimes allowed to snuggle up on a lap, but only when that person is sitting on the floor.

I moved to Worcester when I was seven weeks old and I was a good weight of 5kg. My fur was almost white, although within a week my top coat was becoming a light sandy colour. Of course, as with all puppies, I sleep for the majority of the time but when I'm awake I scatter my toys all over the floor, attempt to chew anything I'm not allowed to, and generally see what's going on in my tiny kitchen world and further on through the gaps in the stair guard. It doesn't take long for me to flop and drag myself into my cosy bed which is under the corner of the dresser and cuddle up with the teddy bear that is as big as me and the bit of towelling that has the scent of my siblings.

My bladder is so small that I have to be carried down to my 'spending' area at least every half an hour and when I've done something they say 'busy busy'. Apparently I will eventually learn to go on demand when I hear these words so that if I am about to go for a walk with my blind owner I will use their hard surface before leaving the house area and not go in the street. Of course I have lots of accidents and they say that the kitchen floor has never been so clean.

I like my grub, but then I am a Labrador. I will only, ever, be allowed to eat my special dried dog food, -absolutely nothing else. That's a challenge for me as we are like 'Hoovers'. I think it is so that I do not steal or beg, especially when walking around supermarkets. I'm fed four times a day with four hours in between. I have the ability to be sound asleep and yet when I hear the tinkle of the kibbles being weighed out I can be at Ruth's feet in the twinkle of an eye. I'm learning to sit and try to wait before gobbling it down.

Of course, I have a variety of toys and as my teeth are like needles people prefer that I bite them, rather than hands, which I'm afraid I often try to do. These teeth are going to trouble me until I am at least 16 weeks old by when I hope to have cut my adult set.

My supervisor, whom I like to call my Health Visitor, regularly checks up on me and the humans. She was pleased with my progress and paid me the great compliment of having the cleanest ears she has ever seen. But she kept saying, 'Remember, Jinney, you are aiming to become a working dog, so there are many rules that have to be learnt and kept.'

After I have had my sixteen week vaccinations I will at last be allowed to walk in places where other dogs have been. Up till then, because it is important that I experience new places and sounds and socialise, I can go to places like the doctors or shops which only allow Guide Dogs. I am also carried to the main road so that I get used to traffic whizzing by. The bin-lorry was terrifying. I've met lots of neighbours and visitors including the postman. You, too, are also very welcome to visit me at home and I hope to meet lots of you when I am old enough to attend church.

Jinney



Children's Church News

Good Friday we had a small, but very friendly, group busy making Easter nests, on Easter Sunday we managed to escape the rain to have an Easter egg hunt, this involved lots of chocolate eating!

Our next Saturday session will be on Saturday 14th May at the normal time of 3.00pm - 5.30pm. Can we give you a note that the June session will be on Saturday 4th June in the morning, 10.00am - 12.30pm. We will be preparing for the Queen's birthday celebration the following weekend.

The family services continue to be warm, welcoming and thought provoking services. The children deliver the readings and prayers with confidence and clarity. The last hymn usually sees the congregation join the music group with the percussion instruments. I'm not sure our rhythm and timing is correct but there is plenty of enthusiasm.

Sunday mornings, Children's Church carries on through part of the 10.30am service and new children and adults are always welcome.

Watch what we are doing on Facebook or tel 424811 for more details.

Children's Church

Deepening Your Faith

Over the course of the last six months we've been running The Church of England's new Pilgrim Course. The course itself is designed to help both existing Christians and seekers explore and deepen their faith. The modules are designed to look at different aspects of faith: Church teaching, spirituality, ethics, and lifestyle. Due to popular demand, we'll be running another module in May/June.

We've been genuinely impressed by how popular Pilgrim has proved: more people have been attending this course than any other course we've run in the parish in all the time I've been here.

Last autumn's module offered a basic overview of faith and focussed particularly on Church teaching; in Lent, we used the module on The Lord's Prayer, focussing on deepening our prayer and spiritual life. In May, we'll be using the module on The Ten Commandments as a vehicle for exploring Christian ethics - the question of how far we should mould our lives in line with Christian moral teaching.

The beauty of this course is that you can drop in or out at any time. More importantly, you don't need to have attended previous modules in order to come along to the sessions in May/June. So why not join us from 7.30pm-9pm on the following Tuesday evenings: 17th May (Blakefield Room), 24th & 31st May (St John's Library), 7th, 14th and 21st June (Blakefield Room).

Chris Stuart

Week of Prayer to Pentecost 2016

The Archbishops have called for a week of prayer to evangelise the nation in the run up to Pentecost (15th May). In Worcester Diocese, we're supporting it in two ways that everyone can get involved in. We've produced a simple prayer card for the week and we're asking parishes to sign up for a few hours of continuous prayer so we can cover the whole week.

Sam Setchell

Day 1 Pray for all in our churches to become more deeply rooted in prayer and the study of scripture. It is through God's power, not ours that we can be instruments of his Kingdom.

Day 2 Pray that we will be renewed and transformed by regular worship and that this worship will touch the lives of those on the edges of our churches.

Day 3 Pray that we will be equipped to witness to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom to be able to tell others of the great things that God has done in our lives.

Day 4 Pray that more children, young people and young adults will be nurtured in faith and feel they belong in our churches.

Day 5 Pray that people across the Diocese will continue to deepen in discipleship and feel able to offer their time, talents and money to God.

Day 6 Pray for all those in our churches who minister to others and for more people to hear the calling to witness and minister in Christ's name.

Day 7 Pray that we will love our neighbours effectively through engagement and service in our local communities; showing those around us what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Day 8 Pray for our church buildings, that they will become a more effective spiritual and community resource for all.



www.cofe-worcester.org.uk





Kingdom People

love • compassion • justice • freedom

The fifth of the eight Kingdom People Characteristics is:

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

Conversion is not a one-off but a continuous process. If we are to find the abundance of life which God yearns to give us in Jesus and share that life with others, we need continually to turn to God.

Becoming a disciple is a lifetime's task as we share ever more fully in His will for us. It happens through both grace and discipline. It requires commitment to the life of prayer, to study of the scriptures and to receiving the sacrament in public worship. It requires sacrificial giving of our time, talents and money.

Discipleship training

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (www.licc.org.uk) has some very good resources and courses to equip Christians and churches for ‘whole”life discipleship’ in the world.

Helped to grow

All Christians need to be encouraged to grow and develop in their discipleship. Churches need to ask whether they are putting their resources into ministries that help people become more like Christ, or whether they are just keeping people busy.

Small groups, mentoring, short courses and Bible study

These are proven ways of helping people grow in their discipleship and encourage others in their growth. The generous giving of time, energy and resources can be encouraged through the careful use of material such as the Giving for Life material (free and online at www.parishresources.org.uk).

<http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/kingdom-people/>



Kingdom People

love • compassion • justice • freedom

The sixth of the eight Kingdom People Characteristics is:

“Resourced and released to minister to others”

When Jesus proclaimed at the beginning of his ministry that the Kingdom of God is at hand he did not expect his listeners to sit about and wait for it to appear. He wanted them to embody it. Each of us within the body of Christ has God-given gifts and a calling to witness and minister in Christ’s name.

We must ensure that we discern how God wants us to use our gifts in His service and seek His power to do so.

There is no more fulfilling way to spend our lives.

Open to the Spirit’s leading

A conscious effort to discern God’s priorities and an openness to being guided is essential.

God uses all sorts of people with all kinds of different gifts and experiences. The people who welcome, lead prayers of intercession and administer the sacraments should reflect this diversity.

Mutual support and accountability

Many churches now have a variety of different staff meetings and gatherings so that everyone is able to exercise their ministry within a supportive and affirming framework.

Vocations

Jesus told his disciples to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send more labourers into the field (Matthew 9: 38).

Call Waiting (callwaiting.org.uk) has been designed to help churches pray for and promote vocations as well as offer guidance and inspiration to individuals.

<http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/mission-and-ministry/kingdom-people/>

Notes From The Choir



The month of May sees us celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi. It was established in the Catholic Church in Medieval times and it celebrates the institution of the Eucharist. It is traditionally held on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. With Easter and the lead up to Easter still fresh in our minds we know that Maundy Thursday also looks back to the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper when Jesus was gathered with his disciples. However, with the washing of the feet and the darkening tone as the Service progresses towards the commemoration of the betrayal and the journey to the Crucifixion, the joy of the gifts that Jesus gave us in His body and blood are perhaps a little overlooked. So Corpus Christi gives us the opportunity to celebrate freely and to offer up our thanks to God for the huge privilege he has bestowed on us in inviting us to share in his supper.

The choir will sing a setting of the Ave Verum which is a short Eucharistic hymn dating from the fourteenth century. It reminds us of the redemptive power of the suffering of Jesus and the Latin words translate as follows:

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary
Who having truly suffered,
Was sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
Whose pierced side flowed with water and blood.
May it be for us a foretaste (of the Heavenly banquet)
In the trial of death.

O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,
O Jesus, son of Mary,
Have mercy on me. Amen.

In celebrating Corpus Christi we can be refreshed and renewed once again in our connection with God through His son, Jesus Christ. As we are ministered to in this special Eucharist we are strengthened once again so that we can go out into the world to minister to others.

Luise Horrocks



St Michael's Church

Monthly light lunches restart on May 4th and are on the first
Wednesday in each month except August.
12 noon to 1.30pm. Proceeds to church funds.

Sponsor the Vicar!

By the time you read this, Chris will have returned from his walk of the Pennine Way. However, he still welcomes sponsorship for

Acorns Children's Hospice

and

Maggs Day Centre for the Homeless.



Give online at

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/christopherstuart/>

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

Sudoku Puzzle

© 2008 CrazyDad.com		2			1	4		6
	9				3	8		
					4			3
		6		2				
		5					4	
					9		7	
	6				2			
			3	9				1
	8		1	5				9

The solution is on page 44.

From The Magazine Archive, May 1953

THE ANNUAL VESTRY AND CHURCH MEETING
THE Annual Vestry and Church Meeting took place on Thursday, March 26th. It was, I am told, a record attendance. If standing room is an indication of this, it is true. It was indeed a great encouragement to know of the interest shown in this important meeting.

Tribute was paid to the retiring Churchwardens for their years of useful work as was also done to the Church Council members and others who have taken their part in the affairs and administration of this Church and parish.

It was a pleasure to nominate Mr. J. J. Roberts as Vicar's Warden for he is a member of an old and respected family of St. John's. It gave equal pleasure to receive the unanimous nomination of Mr. A. W. J. Baker as People's Warden. He has rendered long and splendid service to our Church. It is obvious that in all our Church work Vicar and Wardens, together with the Church Secretary, work in close co-operation and confidence, and it means not a little to the Church that this co-operation should be preserved as long as possible, together with experience that lies behind it.

All our business was transacted smoothly and with quite a unanimous mind. The finances showed us that remedies must come this year to keep us much more than on an even keel. A copy of the accounts can be seen for inspection. It is to be found on the Hymn Book table in the Church. Space in this News Letter does not permit us to give details of all the accounts.

The new departure of the election by ballot of Parochial electors was approved and stimulated interest as was shown by over sixty nominations duly proposed and seconded. The reduction of numbers of the Church Council to thirty-six (approximately by half) including ex-officios meant of course losing the services of certain members. This is always so when there is an election and keen competition for membership. But it should not mean that to do work for one's church one must be a member of the Council. The right spirit is to do what one can irrespective of whether one holds a particular office or not.

The Electoral Roll and its purpose is now largely understood as was seen by the number of people who signed the forms and are now conscious of their privileges.

We now look forward to the future with hope, though it is obvious that we have many responsibilities which we must tackle with undiminished resolve and effort.

The following were elected to Office:

Vicar's Warden: Mr. J. J. Roberts, Malvern Road.

People's Warden: Mr. A. W. J. Baker, Stan-Lea, Blakefield Road.

To serve as Deputy Warden: Mr. Maurice Armson.

To serve as Deputy Warden: Mr. Maurice Armson.
Miss Gertrude Potter (both ex-officio P.C.C.).

Elected to Ruri Decanal Conference: Mrs. A. W. J. Baker, Miss Edith Harwood (both ex-officio P.C.C.).

Parochial Electors for 1953: S. W. Brickwell, J. C. Cooper, F. W. Davis, H. G. Edwards, T. Grosvenor, A. C. Jefferies, K. G. Langley, A. G. Lewis, W. H. Norton, P. Owen, R. A. Higgins, R. Smith, H. Roberts, T. R. C. Protheroe, B. F. Wells, S. J. Withers, Mrs. G. M. Annis, Mrs. Brickwell, Miss H. M. Davis, Miss V. Denham, Miss E. Bonnett, Mrs. Laffin, Miss E. Mearns, Miss M. E. Parker, Mrs. M. E. Lancey, Mrs. S. Sharples.

Sidesmen: Elected en bloc with the addition of Mr. S. Sharples.

Editor (and current PCC Secretary): The thought of a Church Council of 36 is mind-boggling enough, but the implication is that the year before it was around 70!

Palm Sunday Pictures

Thank you to Colin Nash for the photos





Easter Flowers

Thank you to Joy Job
for the pictures



John 20.30-31

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Another Charity Knitting Pattern

Judging by the fantastic response to the Prayer Square Knitting Pattern, we thought that our readers might like to know about another charity knitting pattern.

Age UK is the country's largest charity dedicated to helping everyone make the most of later life. Age UK are sponsored by Innocent Smoothies to knit (or crochet) little hats to go on the top of bottles of Innocent Smoothie drinks. Local partner, Age UK Worcester and District (based on the corner of Shaw Street and Farrier Street in Worcester) will be given a target of hats (it was 3,500 in 2015) to knit by this coming November. Each hat knitted is worth 25p to the charity.

Please give any hats that you have knitted to me or take them to the Age UK shop in St Johns (opposite King Charles Place).



Here is one simple pattern for the hats.

- (1) Using double knitting yarn and some small needles, cast on 28 stitches.
- (2) Knit 2 rows. Then, starting with a knit row, work in stocking stitch (knit 1 row, purl 1 row, knit 1 row etc) for 12 more rows.
- (3) For the next row, knit 2 together to the end (14 stitches). And for the row after that, purl 2 together to the end (7 stitches).
- (4) When you've finished, cut the yarn leaving about 25 cm. Thread the cut end of the yarn through a sewing needle, then run it through the loops and remove the knitting needle.
- (5) Tighten the yarn and sew the little hat together at the side. Once finished, turn it right-side out so that the seam you've just sewn runs up the inside.
- (6) When laid out flat, the hat dimensions should be about 5-7cm along the bottom and at least 3cm high.
- (7) Sew a little bobble onto the top of the hat (optional).

More patterns can be found on <http://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/raise-money/get-knitting-for-the-big-knit/knitting-patterns/>

Sue Evans

Don't get that sinking feeling

"Never underestimate the power of volunteers: Noah's Ark was built by a volunteer...the Titanic was built by professionals.

A Mission Opportunity

Volunteers, lay or ordained, needed to join local teams of workplace chaplains.

Faith at Work in Worcestershire (FWW) aims to encourage Christian Ministry in Economic Life by placing and supporting local workplace chaplains. Through regular visits chaplains build relationships with those they meet and grow in understanding the issues and pressures faced in particular workplaces.

We are looking for people who have:

- A vision for ministry with those at work as part of the church's mission to proclaim Christ.
- A desire to build meaningful links between their church and local workplaces.
- Time to commit to a fascinating form of ministry – 2 or 3 hours a week during the working day.
- The confidence to share the Love of God with those they meet through careful listening and loving concern.



FWW offers training and continuing support to volunteers and the churches they are part of, working ecumenically wherever possible.

To find out more about becoming a Workplace Chaplain you are invited to a **Discover Chaplaincy** event in your area. At this you will have the chance to –

- hear from those serving as chaplains about this ministry;
- find out about current workplace chaplaincy in your area;
- have a chance to ask questions;
- sign up for a training course – six 2 hour sessions.

May 10th Worcester

7.30 – 9.00 p.m.

Bromyard Road, Methodist Church

Bromyard Road, St. John's, Worcester WR2 5DL

For more details or to book a place contact
Dick Johnson dickjohnson@faithatwork.org.uk
01527 61936 or 07946 655450

(Continued from page 17, the Vicar's review of 2015)

Children & Youth Work

No less important over the last twelve months has been the fantastic progress made in our work with children and families. Most striking has been the growth of our monthly Saturday children's activities, co-ordinated by Jane Askew and Peter Holzapfel: there are regularly perhaps forty children and their parents in attendance, with worship, activities, games and food all combining to create a really strong sense of fellowship. For these families, the Saturday activities constitute "going to church": this is the way they feel able to engage with and belong to the church; it's important for us to recognise and affirm that, rather than trying to press them into fitting a more traditional mode of belonging. Though it's wonderful that some of these families and children feel able to come along to join us for our new service on the second Sunday of each month, that attendance is a bonus – the main thing is that they feel able to belong, and to meet God in the activities offered on Saturdays.

Sunday morning Children's Church, though still small in numbers, has benefitted from some "new recruits" and it's good to see more children in church and actively involved in our worship – not least in our Group services. We've also reintroduced the short "Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child" into our Morning Prayer service (this is where families wishing to have their child baptised come along to receive a blessing and a gift from us as a church, prior to the baptism itself). Hopefully, the experience of joining us will be an attractive one, and one that helps us draw them more deeply into the life of our church.

Thanks must go to Jane, Peter Holzapfel and the team for all the hard work they have put into nurturing our young people. It's important, too, to mention our Toddler Group on Monday mornings, which has proved hugely successful thanks to the hard work of Amy and her army of volunteers. It's heartening to see so many mums and their children in church.

We continue to have strong links with Perryfields Short Stay School (a referral unit for pupils who have been excluded from their own schools for a time). The clergy regularly lead assemblies here.

I'm conscious that the nature of Church links with schools is slowly changing in an age of increasing secularism. The clergy are not called on to take assemblies as often as was once the case, and Christopher Whitehead school is a good example of this shift. On the plus side, we are nowadays occasionally invited in to talk to specific classes as part of their lessons, engaging in one-to-one and group discussions with the pupils about all kinds of aspects of faith. For example, last year all three clergy were invited in to talk to GCSE RE classes about Christian views on creation/the environment and on the ethical treatment of animals. The conversations were rich and stimulating, and though it's a pity there isn't more scope to engage with the children in this way, we should be grateful for the links we do have with the school.

What has become increasingly clear in the last few years is the enormous potential for children/youth/family work in west Worcester – particularly following the City Council's decision steadily to cut back its youth work provision. With this in mind, we are currently exploring the possibility of employing a Youth and Family Worker, with a remit to work

across the whole of west Worcester. This would be about more than Christian evangelism (running a youth club!): rather, it would be a blend of outreach and social concern. So whilst, on the one hand, the worker might well offer more traditional faith courses to young people aged 13-18, and perhaps lead worship for families, they would also be involved in social work within the community. This social work might involve acting as a gateway to local families, helping them access training and support (for example, in parenting skills, or basic skills training like healthy eating/cooking). It wouldn't be about trying to fill the pews on Sunday mornings, but about sharing the love of God within our community whilst simultaneously helping young people and families think more deeply about faith – helping them work out a faith of their own, and to engage with the Church in their own way.

In the first instance, our plan is to try to obtain funding for a one year post to undertake a feasibility study: the aim would be to spend time carefully assembling a detailed picture of local need by building links with existing providers, by trialling a few one-off sample courses or events, and by one to one engagement with members of our community, perhaps particularly focussed on Dines Green and St Clement's. At the end of the twelve month period, my hope is that we would have a detailed picture of local need, and perhaps a job description and person specification for the kind of post needed in our area. This level of detail would hopefully then help us unlock funding from local and national charities for a permanent post – certainly, this level of research would be invaluable to us when it comes to approaching charities. I'm pleased to say that as of the end of February, we have so far secured 50% of the funding we need for our one year feasibility study post – please do pray for the other 50%, as we seek to build our work with young people.

Christian Nurture

All of the above is about Christian nurture, of course, but there are some other specific activities to mention too. Last autumn we ran the first module of the Church of England's new Pilgrim Course. Around 15 people attended, and the feedback was fantastic – so good that we decided to run the course again during Lent. Further modules will be run in the summer, open to all. In addition, we continue to grow our church library in the north aisle – please do take a look if you haven't browsed the books before. St James said that faith without works is dead; I think a faith that doesn't seek to learn and grow by study, prayer and reflection is, at best, on borrowed time!

Outreach

Community

Most of the above is outreach in one way or another, but there are a few things to add about our engagement with the wider community. Two particular highlights for me over the last year were the Summer Fun Day, and the Christmas Tree Festival. Both these events replaced our more traditional Summer/Winter fairs - and the response from the wider community was fantastic. Ian Narraway, the butcher, commented to me afterwards that it was fabulous to see the churchyard so full – and of the kinds of St John's folks (particularly families) that he knows so well from his shop and who don't normally come anywhere near the church. This is wonderful to hear – albeit a reminder that too often our appeal is rather narrow. It's important to stress that by letting go of some of the old ways of doing things, and by trying something new, we were able to reconnect with our wider community. I was

particularly pleased that a number of the volunteers supporting these events weren't regular church attenders – there was a lovely sense of the Church and community coming together to do something for St John's. Well done to all those involved!

Use of Our Buildings

Behind the scenes, plans are beginning to take shape for some changes to the fabric of our church. We are currently planning a major refurbishment of the Blakefield Room, and are beginning to explore possible ways of reordering the interior of our church – including, perhaps, the removal of pews. I would be interested to hear people's comments.

Meanwhile, the dip in numbers that we saw in 2014 seems to have levelled out, and our finances remain in reasonably good shape - we continue to break even. It would be good to have slightly stronger finances, not least so that we could part fund a Youth and Family worker from our own resources, but we do at least continue to make progress towards a stronger financial position.

Deanery Reorganisation

I must add a word on the reorganisation of the west Worcester parishes: no significant progress has been made on formalising the creation of a Team Ministry made up of St John's, St Clement's and St Michael's parishes. I doubt this will take place until 2017 at the earliest. However, in the meantime we actively seek to function as a de facto team, and seek to work more and more closely with our brothers and sisters in the other churches – not least through Group social events like the shared harvest lunch, the Group skittles evening and the Group outing coming up in May.

Looking to the Future

So many of the fruits we've seen over the last year or two have grown out of the Parish Retreat we ran six years ago when I came to St John's. This retreat gave us a chance to think about how healthy our church was, and how faithful in its witness; it helped us focus in on what we were about, and where we needed to do more work. From that retreat, a number of priorities emerged, and a lot of good fruit. I think it's time for us to repeat the exercise - to evaluate our life as a Christian community, to identify what we do well and what we do badly, and to think about how we can address the issues that we face as a church. The retreat will take place on Saturday 25th June from 10am-1pm, and all members of the congregation are invited – I can't stress to you enough how important it is that we undertake this kind of reflection and planning so please do put the date in your diary now. A venue will be confirmed nearer the time. [*Editors – it's at St Michael's Church*]

A Time to Give Thanks

Let me finish, as always, by taking this opportunity to say 'thank you' to all those who give to the life of our church. I'm going to avoid 'naming names', in case I accidentally leave someone out – though I feel I must say a particular thank you to our churchwardens, and our PCC for all that they have given, not least those members stepping down this year.

Likewise, a quick word of thanks must also go to our ALMs, who are becoming an increasingly invaluable source of support both for our worship and our pastoral (and administrative) work.

But, as I said last year, there are many more groups and organisations I could name: the organist and choir, the Music Group, the flower ladies, the welcomers/servers/Eucharistic assistants, readers, intercessors, those who serve tea and coffees, those who serve on our committees, the bell-ringers, Children's Church, toddler group, Bible Study Group, the magazine and all the volunteers who produce and distribute it, the office staff, the cleaners, the Buildings' Manager. And this is just a part of it – what about all the other jobs, less formal but by no means less essential, that go on behind the scenes? Whatever your contribution, however small: we couldn't do without you - thank you!

We are part of something that is growing, and making a real difference in the life of our community. Long may that continue, and long may this be a place where God is worshipped, honoured and served.

Yours in Christ
Christopher

Report on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council 2015-16.

The PCC met six times during the year. There was a short meeting straight after the last AGM to appoint officers, and five ordinary meetings (in June, September, November, February and March).

The PCC had 16 members (two vacancies) and average attendance at the meetings was 10.

The PCC focussed its work around two key areas that we wanted to work on in 2015 (Outreach and serving the community; Children and Schools and Christian nurture). The vicar has looked at how we got on in each of these areas in his review.

The clergy and PCC have set goals for 2016 (editors – see the foot of page 7).

The PCC operates through a number of formal sub-committees and other groups/teams:

Standing Committee (Main focuses are Finance and Operations); Group Committee; Charity Committee; Accommodation Committee; Bell-ringers committee; Pastoral group; Fund Raising team; Outreach Group. [*Editors – see next month for reports from some of these*]

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

When planning our activities, the PCC is aware of and takes into account the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion. The specific activities are reported throughout this document.

The PCC thanks elected PCC members retiring and not seeking re-election at the 2016 AGM.

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

Graham Evans
PCC Secretary

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




Call: 07530063113/ 01905 312552

E-mail: williamsoli86@yahoo.co.uk

Heating | Bathrooms | Tiling

Room Hiring At The Church

The church has two meeting rooms and a large space in the church available for hire. All rooms have access to the church car park.

Blakefield Room	Suitable for up to 30 people: Fully fitted kitchen, including dishwasher; toilets, including one disabled toilet and a baby-changing facility; Tables and/or chairs.	
Burroughs' Room	Suitable for up to 12 people. Drink making facilities and toilet.	
The North Aisle	Seats 120 theatre style or seats up to 64 around tables. Tables and chairs are provided in a large open area with plenty of electric sockets. It is used to host exhibitions, meals and conferences.	

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

For more information, please email hire@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk



JUNIPER HOUSE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

'Keeping kindness at the heart of our care'



Our beautiful new care home includes all of the luxuries you'd expect along with some special touches that make it a true home.

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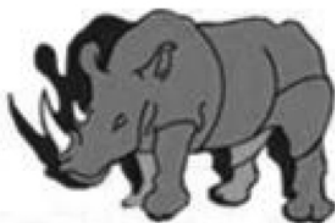
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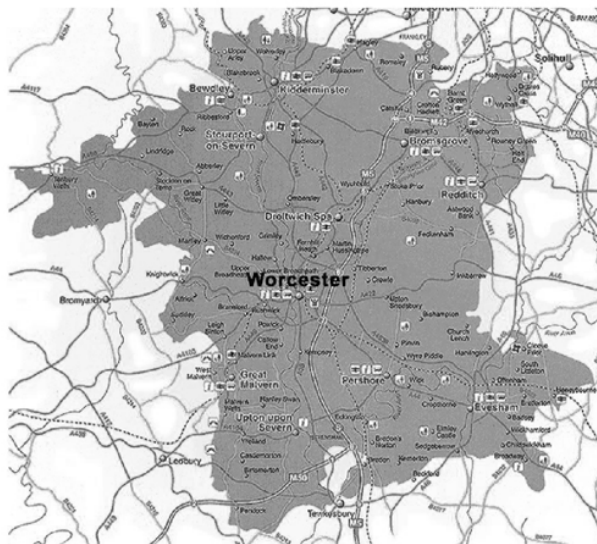
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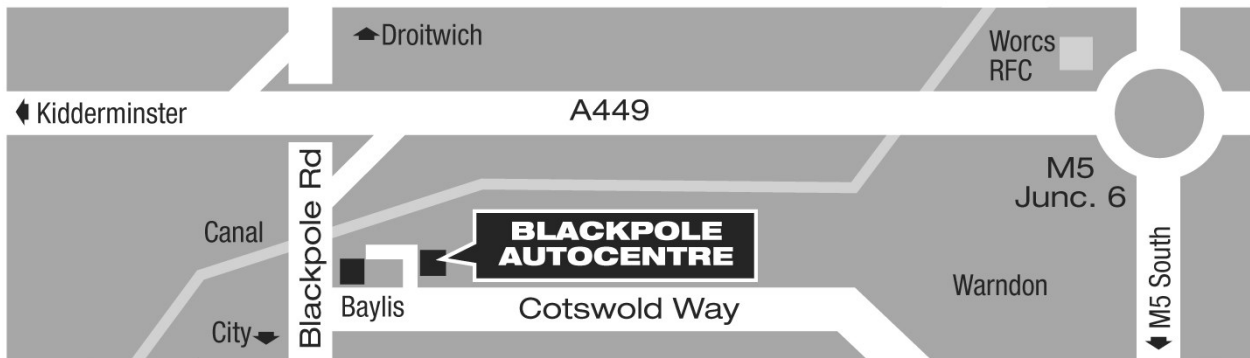
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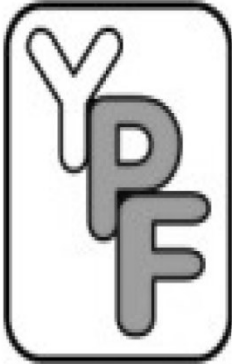


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Carefully chosen for their compassionate and kind approach, our staff provide a range of personal residential, dementia and respite care.

Please feel free to contact us at any time.

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School Road, St. Johns, Worcester
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Julie Davies
Qualified professional mobile hair stylist.

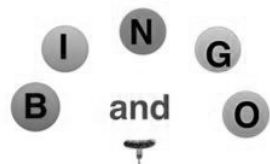
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Banger Night

Many thanks to everyone who came on Saturday evening helping to make the event a huge success. £260 was raised in just 2 hours along with lashings of laughter and community spirit.
The Events Team



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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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, May 2016

	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's
1st May	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
8th May	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Family Service with Children's Participation	9.30am Eucharist 11am Worship for Everyone	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
15th May	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9.30am Eucharist 11am Worship for Everyone	6.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Prayer
22nd May	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 Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion
29th May	10.30am Group service at St Michael's			10.30am Group Eucharist
		11am Worship for Everyone		

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.