



July/August 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	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	Parish Eucharist with Children's Church
	2nd Sunday in month	Family Service with Children's
	2nd Sunday in monui	Participation
5.00 p.m.	1st Sunday in month	Evensong (BCP)
	3rd Sunday in month	Evensong (BCP)
	4th Sunday in month	Service of Wholeness and Healing

WEEKDAY SERVICES

5.00 p.m.	Monday to Saturday	Evening Prayer
10.15 a.m.	4th Saturday in month	Cafe@10.15
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)

PASTORAL 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 Phil Bradford

The smooth, almost white sand stretches into the distance beneath a blazing sun. There is a shimmering, cobalt blue sea, its glassy stillness highlighting the absence of wind. The palm trees dotted around subtly suggest the exoticism of the location. Not a person is in sight. This idyllic spot calls out to you. How could you resist such an untouched place of blissful tranquillity?

Many people long for such beach holidays, the combination of sun and sand irresistible. For me, this is a pretty good description of one of

the circles of Dante's Inferno. Leave aside the fact that there are no such empty paradises left and that when you arrive, you will most likely be fighting for an inch of beach space with half of Northern Europe. What agitates me most is the idea of enforced inactivity. I have never been able to understand why I would fly halfway around the world – or even just to Spain – simply to sit and do nothing, something

people I have left trailing in my wake, pleading for mercy which can be achieved quite easily in my living room. If I am going abroad, then I want to see the place I am visiting. It is probably not good for me to think about the number of people I have left trailing in my wake, pleading for mercy as their blistered feet will not co-operate with just one more quick, three-mile walk to see some obscure historical

building I read about in a book where something happened (continued overleaf)

Cover

The St John's Village Fete is on 9th July, 11am to 3pm. We look forward to welcoming you there to join in the fun.

Pictures in this magazine

Our thanks to those who have contributed photographs for this magazine including Colin Nash, Gordon Templeton, Ruth Reeves and Keith Wood.

Don't shoot the messenger!

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.



(continued from the previous page) which absolutely no one but me cares about. Only the foolish will now hazard telling me that I can't possibly see all of Moscow in a day or walk the entire length of Paris. Holidays, in my mind, are for activity. Rest is for the weak.

I suspect that my attitude to holidays is somewhat unusual, but in other contexts, the constant feeling that activity is what matters is less contentious. Our entire society has

What matters is being seen to be busy

become based on some elusive concept termed 'productivity', reflected most obviously in the way politicians have tried to turn the education system into a kind of robotic production line, oblivious to the wider purpose of education. What matters is being seen to be busy, to be able to assert our importance because of the amount we are doing. How many people in our society are

afraid to take their full holiday entitlement, because they are afraid of what will happen in their absence, or afraid that they will be criticised for being away 'yet again'? Presence and activity have been turned into idols, ends in themselves. Rarely do people stop to question the value of the activity, whether we are doing things for the sake of it or simply to look busy. Even less often do they pause to consider the effect of this attitude on other people, those who feel they have no option but to conform to these demands and attitudes.

The truth is that human beings need rest. Yes, it is possible to keep going, to keep putting in the hours and being busy, but at what cost? Tiredness results in mistakes, in unhappiness, and in illness. We are not robots; our bodies are fragile. They need rest

Rest is a crucial part of being human and times to recuperate. And what is true of our bodies is equally true of our minds. Rest is a crucial part of being human and that is ingrained in our faith. There is a reason that the Judeo-Christian tradition has valued the Sabbath, a time of stillness amidst the frenzy. Think of all the times in the gospels that Jesus is recorded as withdrawing to rest after the pressures

grew too great. If we fail to recognise the value of those moments of rest (and these should form a significant part of life, not merely something we squeeze in when we have no choice), then we deny some essential part of our humanity and of God's calling.

It is unlikely that I am going to be converted to beach holidays any time soon, but I think to continually question the purpose of our activity is important. As we enter this summer holiday season, it is worth reflecting on the value of relaxation and how we treat ourselves. If we fail to take care of ourselves, what does it say about how we value our humanity and how we respond to God's injunction to love ourselves and others?

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to the July/August edition of our magazine. Our theme this month is the opportunity that Summer will offer many to enjoy themselves, laugh a little, take a break and recharge their batteries. This could be a major holiday, such as a beach holiday (but not with Phil Bradford!) or enjoying nature's beauty around us, or it could be by attending some of the many events on offer where we can enjoy ourselves. Such events at this church have recently included the Breast Cancer Care tea party (page 19) and Tea on the Green for the Queen (see page 26) and coming soon is the Summer Fete (see the front cover!). There are other events too; see page 13.

We are pleased to record that this magazine received a Certificate of Achievement in the Association of Church Editors annual awards for church magazines (see page 9). However, a magazine can only be as good as its contributors. Therefore, we urge you to put finger to shutter and pen to paper as you go about your holidays and your life through the Summer and pass on your pictures, thoughts and experiences for this magazine and its readers.

As holidays often involve travel, we leave you with an extract from a prayer to St Christopher, the patron saint of travellers:

Grant us, O Lord, not to miss through love of undue speed the beauty of the world; that thus we may with joy and courtesy go on our way.

St. Christopher, holy patron of travellers, protect us and lead us safely to our destination.

Graham and Sue Evans

The Magazine

Copy for the September 2016 edition should reach us by Sunday 7th August. If you can, please use e-mail: magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk. The September edition of the magazine will be available on Sunday, 28th August.

Unless otherwise directed, please send all written correspondence for the magazine to the Parish Office. If you wish to advertise in the magazine, please see page 36.

Please 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.

Dates for July/August 2016 Unless otherwise stated, the venue for all the events below is See St John's Church, or one of the church rooms. page Saturday 2nd July Children's Activities 3.00 p.m. 24 Sunday 3rd July: Sixth Sunday after Trinity See the back cover for Sunday services on this day Wednesday 6th July Craft Group (Blakefield Room) 7.00 p.m. 15 Saturday 9th July St John's Village Fete (11am-3pm) 11.00 a.m. Sunday 10th July: Seventh Sunday after Trinity See the back cover for Sunday services on this day Saturday 16th July 8.30 a.m. Women's Breakfast group Sunday 17th July: Eighth Sunday after Trinity See the back cover for Sunday services on this day Saturday 23th July 10.15 a.m. Cafe@10.15 (speaker Chris Stuart) Sunday 24th July: Ninth Sunday after Trinity See the back cover for Sunday services on this day Friday 29th July 1.00 p.m. Craft Group (Blakefield Room): Accidental Artists (1/4) 15 Sunday 31st July: Tenth Sunday after Trinity See the back cover for Sunday services on this day Friday 5th August 1.00 p.m. Craft Group (Blakefield Room): Accidental Artists (2/4) 15 Saturday 6th August Women's Breakfast group 8.30 a.m. Sunday 7th August: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity See the back cover for Sunday services on this day Friday 12th August 1.00 p.m. Craft Group (Blakefield Room): Accidental Artists (3/4) 15

	Dates for July/August 2016	
Unless of	therwise stated, the venue for all the events below is	See
St	John's Church, or one of the church rooms.	page
Sunday 14 th Aug	gust: Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Wednesday 17 th	August	
7.00 p.m.	Craft Group (Blakefield Room)	15
Friday 19 th Aug	ust	
1.00 p.m.	Craft Group (Blakefield Room): Accidental Artists (4/4)	15
Sunday 21 st Aug	gust: Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Saturday 27 th A	ugust	
10.15 a.m.	Cafe@10.15	
Sunday 28 th Aug	gust: Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
e	ing Services: There is a 9.45am Holy Communion (Book of each Thursday at St Clement's and a 10.45am service at St M	ichael's

(Eucharist, modern language).

Café@10.15: Our service with food has moved its time and day. Join us for 'Friendship and thoughts' together with fresh coffee and Danish pastries: Cafe@10.15 is at 10.15am on the fourth **Saturday** of each month.



In Memoriam

	11011a111
Dorothy Lock	3 July 1986
Elsie Muriel Collins	6 July 1977
Roy Houghton	5 July 2007
Brenda Tithecott	7 July 1995
Joyce Jones	7 July 1995
George Harris	8 July 1999
David Ian Hollister	13 July 1972
Reginald H Glover	17 July 2003
Lucy Jane Brown	20 July 1972
Mary Elizabeth Sandford	21 July 1968
Annie Powell	21 July 1993
Samuel Hodgetts	24 July 1958
Frank Miller	24 July 1993
Gladys Maskew	24 July 2000
Myra Houghton	25 July 2000
Henry Nelson Russell	31 July 1972
Stephen Arthur Holloway	6 August 1969
John Bullock Newman	10 August 1954
Mary Louise Keating	10 August 1985
Arthur Leonard Sage	11 August 1990
Josephine East	12 August 1977
William Palmer	13 August 1977
Albert David Oxford Williams	13 August 1981
May Osborne	20 August 1971
William Walter George Dow	24 August 1982
Kevin Paul Houghton	28 August 1973
Julian Michael Emery	31 August 1974
Alfred Henry Sandford	31 August 1976
Additions to In Memoriam are not automatic by	it must be specifically requested via the clergy

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, May 2016

BAPTISMS:

Annabelle Rose Holland Oliver Richard Williscroft Archie Paul David Smith

SERVICES: (Five Sundays)

Communicants 301.

Total attendance at all services 1108. The total attendance includes 573 at funerals, weddings and baptisms.

WEDDINGS:

Lawrence Pullin and Lauren New

FUNERALS:

- d. 5th April Priscilla Bird
- d. 12th April Eva Bennett
- d. 15th April Alan Rowberry
- d. 17th April Alwyne James
- d. 26th April Ian Simister

Editor in the limelight



This magazine took part in the Association of Church Editors (ACE) annual competition for church magazines. The editors were delighted to hear that the magazine had been awarded a Certificate of Achievement. The judges said "We liked this magazine very much and it ranked very high in the list of all the magazines entered for the awards. We had no hesitation in awarding it a Certificate of Achievement and it is fully deserved."

Graham travelled to the ACE annual meeting at Methodist Central Hall to receive the award. Sadly, Sue's ME/CFS meant that a day trip to London was not feasible with her energy levels at the time.

The awards were presented by Revd Tony Miles, who is a Methodist minister and Deputy Superintendent at Methodist Central Hall. Tony is a Media Chaplain and broadcaster who currently presents the Saturday Quiet Time show for Premier Christian Radio and is a fairly regular contributor to BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought on the Early Breakfast Show with Vanessa Feltz.

Graham Evans

Church Directory

	Church Directory	
	CLERGY	
Vicar of St John's and St Clement's with St David's	Rev'd Dr Christopher Stuart chris.stuart@westworcesterchu	01905 429773 arches.org.uk
Vicar of St Michael's, Dines Green	Rev'd Phil Bradford phil.bradford@westworcesterc	01905 423794 hurches.org.uk
Assistant Curate	Rev'd Sarah Cottrill sarah.cottrill@westworcestercl	01905 426257 hurches.org.uk
Rural Dean	Rev'd David Sherwin davidwin56@aol.com	01886 888664
ST	JOHN'S PCC OFFICERS	
Churchwardens Gordon Templeton Joy Job	churchwardens@stjohninbedwardine. gordtemp@btinternet.com joy.job@btinternet.com	co.uk 749025 423051
PCC Lay vice-chair	Sue Bale	423257
PCC Secretary	Graham Evans pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
Joint Treasurers Chris Rees John English	treasurer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	427822
John English	THE MAGAZINE	127022
purchase and can be obtained	e each month, except August. The mag from the back of church. Subscription r year. Please contact the parish office a	s are available at
welcome - do contribute if yo	istian and parish life, letters, jokes and ou can. If you have a story to tell, pleas anonymous contributions will not be co	e make contact.
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				
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Coordinator sylviarender@talktalk.net						
Press Officer	Philip Evans	428667				
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Dinging Mastor	John Bower	07792				
Ringing Master	jandjbower@btinternet.com	574554				
Church Flowers	Eileen Cantrill	422579				
Church Flowers	Di White					
Wahmastar	Philip Evans					
Webmaster	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

<u>Outreach and serving the community</u> 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

Welcome To Our New Advertisers

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Fellowship and Fund Raising Events

<u>at St John-in-Bedwardine Church</u> (unless stated otherwise)



	······································			
Saturday 2nd July	Children's Activities (Afternoon)			
Wednesday 6th July	Craft Evening			
Saturday 9th July	St John's Village Fete			
Saturday 16th July	Women's Breakfast (home of Margaret Rutter)			
Friday 29th July	Craft Group with 'Accidental Artists' (1/4)			
Friday 5th August	Craft Group with 'Accidental Artists' (2/4)			
Saturday 6th August	Women's Breakfast (home of Margaret Rutter)			
Friday 12th August	Craft Group with 'Accidental Artists' (3/4)			
Friday 19th August	Craft Group with 'Accidental Artists' (4/4)			
Wednesday 17th Aug.	Craft Evening			
F	FUTURE DATES TO KEEP FREE			
Sunday 11 th Sep	Light hearted concert (see page 29)			
7th-9th October	Official visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Worcester Diocese.			
Saturday 15th Oct.	Group Harvest Ceilidh (at St Clements School)			
SOME EVENTS AT	ST CLEMENT'S, ST DAVID'S AND ST MICHAEL'S			
Saturday 2nd July	Strawberries & Cream Tea (St Clement's, 2-4pm)			
Wednesday 6th July	Coffee morning (St David's, 10.30am-noon)			
Wednesday 6th July	Light Lunch (St Michael's, noon-1.30pm)			
Saturday 16th July	St Clement's Church Fayre			
Saturday 23rd July	Quiz Night at St Michael's Church (7pm)			
Wednesday 3 rd August	Coffee morning (St David's, 10.30am-noon)			

Bibles, Bumps and Babies

An informal bible study group. Contact Sarah Cottrill for details.

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 funds

Craft News

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! The first session is Friday 29th July and the following 3 Fridays, from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. You do not have to come to all the sessions. All equipment will be provided.



If you feel you would like to come along please phone 424811 to book a place on the first session. Places are limited so make sure you get in touch early, to get your name down. Tea and cake will be served.

This seems a great opportunity to learn something new in a friendly environment. Hope to see you there.

Our July craft evening is Wednesday 6th July and then August 17th.

Jane Askew

Women's Breakfast Meeting

The monthly women's breakfast meeting was launched on Saturday June 11th. A time of fun, fellowship, renewing old friendships and of course eating was had by eight women from across the group churches. Revd Sarah Cottrill gave an inspiring and challenging talk centred round her journey to ordination.

The next breakfast meeting will be on July 16th, 8.30am to 10am, at the home of Margaret Rutter. The speaker will be Jo Dowling MBE who will share thoughts on her visit to India.

Please join us.

Margaret Rutter



St Michael's Church - Light Lunches

First Wednesday in each month from May to December (except August), 12 noon to 1.30pm.

Soup, Bread, Cheese. Tea or Coffee. £3.50. Proceeds to church funds.

The Queen's is not the only 90th birthday...

On the day before his ninetieth birthday, Arthur Lee was whisked away to stay with daughter Caroline at the Vicarage of St John's, Bromsgrove, where her husband Ray is the incumbent.



On the Saturday, grandson Nathan left to prepare the Church Room. When Arthur asked where he was Caroline, said he was buying some milk. Not cottoning on, Ray said he had already bought some and this caused Arthur some consternation as he kept wondering why they would need even more. However the secret of the party remained safe.



Bessie, helped by granddaughter Bethany, was donned in a pretty dress and smuggled into the Hall whilst Ray and Andrew were persuading Arthur to wear his suit, even though they were just going out for a stroll and afternoon tea.

As he walked through the Hall door Arthur was truly surprised to be greeted by friends and relatives, many of whom had travelled some distance, even from Spain. Caroline said she wished that

more people could have been invited but it was difficult when it had to be so secretive.

Arthur had spent many years as Churchwarden and a member of the PCC and St Johnin-Bedwardine was represented by several clergy that he had 'worked with': The Venerable Frank Bentley, Canon Ruth Wintle and the Reverends Peter and Christine Holzapfel.

The cake's candles were blown out with ease and it was obvious that Arthur had thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.



Adult Confirmation

This year's Diocesan Confirmation Service will take place in Worcester Cathedral at 6.30pm on Sunday, November 20th.

Beginning in late September, I will be running a course of about eight sessions for any adults who are interested in being confirmed at this time. The day and time of these sessions will be negotiated amongst those who sign up, so if you are (even only tentatively), interested, please speak to me in church or contact me on 426257; email sarah.cottrill@westworcesterchurches.org.uk

Please note that you don't need to have been baptised to attend the sessions as Baptism can be arranged before November or can be incorporated into the Confirmation Service itself.

If you are interested in this, please speak to me in church, or contact me by phone.

Sarah Cottrill

Proposed Parish Retreat

At the beginning of Advent last year, I organised a Quiet Day which was very well received and people said they'd like something similar in the future. Encouraged by this, and by Chris's comments that it would be good experience for me to organise a Pilgrimage, I am hoping to take the half-way step of organising a Parish weekend retreat, possibly again around the start of Advent.

At this stage, although I have begun looking at venues, it is very much a vague possibility but before I go any further it would be helpful to know if there would be a take-up for such a venture. Obviously, time of year and cost would be influencing factors but sign-up sheets will appear in church around mid-July and I would appreciate an idea of levels of interest. No commitment at this stage, just an indication of possible interest.

Thank you.

Sarah Cottrill

What do you want to be?

A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears.

When his mother asked him why he was crying, he sobbed: "Jesus wants me for a sunbeam, but I want to be an engine driver."



Saturday 10th September 2016

As reported in the last Magazine, the time for the annual Ride+Stride is fast approaching. I am therefore looking for people to participate.

Ride+Stride is a sponsored bike ride or walk in which people from all over the country walk or cycle between churches, exploring and enjoying the countryside. The money they raise helps to preserve some of Britain's 47,000 churches, chapels and meeting houses which are at risk of falling into serious disrepair.

The event raises money through events and volunteers getting sponsorship to either cycle or walk from church to church. Their sponsorship money is shared between their local churches trust (in our case the Worcestershire & Dudley Historic Churches Trust) and the church of their choice.

How did we do last year?

In 2015 a total of £507 was raised across the West Worcester Group, which meant that £253.50 was raised for WDHCT and £253.50 came back to churches in the West Worcester Group.

How can you help?

We need volunteers to take part in the sponsored walk or cycle ride on Saturday 10th September. I would like to organise a group(s) of people to go around together. For example, a group of people could do a "short walk" between the churches within our Group, whilst another group could do a "long walk" exploring churches further afield.

It would also be nice to have volunteers to 'man' the church to welcome visitors that day (which is also the annual 'Open Doors' day when many historic attractions open their doors for free). If you might be interested, please speak to me or ask me for more information.

Philip Evans

Company for the chickens

A big thank you to everyone who made the Breast Cancer Care tea party such a success. The weather was superb and over thirty people enjoyed an afternoon in the Vicarage garden, providing lots of entertainment and company for the chickens.



Many thanks to members of the events team who all clubbed together to provide tables and gazebos, and particular thanks to Jeanette for the wonderful flower arrangements and bunting which gave it a real sense of atmosphere. Thank you also to all those who brought contributions of food.

We made £323 on the day and some more donations are coming in so the total should reach £350. Breast Cancer Care supports patients and their families from the point of their diagnosis, through their treatment and beyond.





It also helps to spread awareness about symptoms and early signs of the disease.

Sarah Stuart

'English Teas' in Birmingham

A few months ago some of you kindly donated blankets for our Synagogue's refugee appeal. These were added to a collection of clothing and basic supplies which have since been given to newly arrived refugees in the city.

Following on from that appeal, the Birmingham Jewish Community has teamed up with Carrs Lane Methodist Church to run a series of afternoon teas, designed to help welcome refugees and asylum seekers and to give them the opportunity to improve their English.

We provide a meal, bringing donations of both sweet and savoury food which we all share together towards the end of the afternoon. Some of us help in the kitchen whilst others chat to our visitors. We sometimes use board games or word games as a way of breaking the ice and providing opportunities for language practice.

At first I found it rather daunting to walk into a room full of people who speak very

it was much easier than I expected

little English and have been through unimaginable journeys or experiences. I don't find it easy to make conversation at the best of times and did not feel confident at all, but it was much easier than I expected. Everyone is very keen to improve their English and to learn about life in England. I have been working with a

gentleman from Afghanistan who walked for five months with his six year old son. His little boy was settling well at school and already speaking pretty fluent English. It was a real joy to see him playing with the daughter of one of our volunteers and to watch how easy it was for two six year olds to make friends, completely unaware of any cultural or language barriers.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the project is seeing the same people return again and forming connections or even friendships. I imagine that for them, the fact that they are able to come somewhere where they are recognised and remembered and where they see familiar faces, is vitally important. As we get to know each other better we learn from each other and have begun swapping recipes and comparing customs.

We are told not to ask people about their families or journeys for obvious reasons, but

Their stories put our own lives into perspective sometimes they volunteer the information. Their stories are sobering and moving and they certainly put our own lives into perspective. I am always very glad that I have given up the time to help but I also come home in a much more reflective mood and cannot help but be upset by what I hear. Last week, one lady from Pakistan, who had been at my table the previous

time, came through the door and gave me a huge hug when she recognised me. These encounters are incredibly moving. They remind us of our common humanity. They remind us of the vital importance of basic human kindness. Yet the fact they are happening at all reminds us of just how inhumane we can be. Every time someone moans about refugees or suggests that we should be less than hospitable, they diminish the humanity of people like Abdullah or Nusrat. But they and all the others with them are not simply refugees or asylum seekers. They are individuals, each with a name, a family and a story. The teas give us all an opportunity to get to know each other better and to remember no matter who we are, we are all human and should do much more to value that humanity in each other.

Sarah Stuart

Poison leaking through gaps in our laws

Traidcraft regularly campaigns to raise awareness and to effect change in the way that trade is conducted. This summer's campaign focuses on the behaviour of UK companies abroad. Currently, UK companies are immune from prosecution for offences they commit abroad. This often results in abuse of rights or in damage to local communities and it is frequently the vulnerable who suffer most.

Locals often suffer from the effects of toxic pollution. Sometimes they are forced to move out of the area in order to make room for foreign operations, without receiving any compensation. In the last ten years there have been 303 allegations of abuse by 127 British companies, with not a single prosecution.

They justIn Zambia, for example, one copper mine run by a UK company
currently pumps out sulphur over the nearby village. Many of
the locals suffer from breathing difficulties and crops are often
burnt by the gas. As one local man, whose daughter suffers
severe chest problems said, 'They just take the copper and go.'

These abuses are inevitably occurring in countries with weak legal systems, and while it may be desirable to pursue prosecutions where the offence has been committed, it is often simply not practical and in the meantime the victims go without justice. A few victims have received compensation via English civil courts, but this does not have the same deterrent effect for companies which can easily afford relatively small pay-outs.

That is why Traidcraft is campaigning to close the gaps in the law which allow British companies to escape prosecution for actions undertaken abroad. You can support the campaign by signing the petition; copies will be at the back of church over the summer. Also at the back you will find postcards on the issue which are to be sent to the Attorney General and the local MP. Please take some and pass them on to friends.

Although I have stopped running the stall after services I am still happy to take individual orders if anyone would still like to support Traidcraft's work in this way.

Sarah Stuart

Notes from the Choir



It's that time of year again when you can almost hear things growing. Overnight it seems that a freshly cut lawn has become a wilderness, begging to be mown once more. Flowers are quite frankly showing off, revelling in a glorious display of colour, and green in every conceivable shade is the fashionable colour of the hour. Nature is overflowing with bounty and munificence.

Travelling to London as I have been doing most weeks I miss the feeling of connecting with the natural world. Lots of concrete, traffic and crowded pavements coupled with rising temperatures can lead to tension and stress. For me this is where music comes in. I sometimes feel that there is a sound track running in my head and when I cannot physically give voice (not a good idea on a crowded tube train!) I can hear songs and

the hillside where the fat sheep dozed in shade

arias and this connects me back to a calm, peaceful world. There is a particular song by Elgar called The Shepherd's song which has had particular resonance for me this summer. The words of the third verse speak of the fat sheep dozed in shade' with 'bright red poppies (which) I found blowing, drowsy, tall and loosely made'. In our garden we have a flowerbed filled with

huge red poppies and I can see them in my mind as I hear the music inside and even in the rush of London, I feel that connection back to the splendour of the natural world.

Even better than hearing any song as a sound track is the actual physical act of singing and as I have written before in these notes, nothing beats singing with others and lifting voices in the praise of God. Somehow in the summer it seems to me that singing brings us even closer to the beauty of God in creation and connects us with the abundant life around us.

Luise Horrocks



May was my last month with Stand By Me and Worcester Volunteer Centre.

Stand By Me is still continuing and I wish everyone the very best of luck with it and its continued success. Watch out for notification of future sessions.

If you require any information regarding Stand By Me please contact St. John's Parish Office, email office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

Lisa Owen



GRANDPARENTS

July 26th is the feast day of St Joachim and St Ann – and you are probably asking, who are they? Legend says that these are the names of Jesus' grandparents, his mother's father and mother. If these are their real names or not it doesn't matter: what does matter is that Mary's parents brought her up to be a very special person; someone who was calm in a crisis and loved her family. And this comes from being part of a close-knit, loving family.



July 26th is the 'feast of grandparents'. It reminds all grandparents of their responsibility for generations to

come; to make family traditions and history live.

But the feast has a meaning for the younger family members as well. It reminds younger people that older people's wealth of experience is to be celebrated and appreciated. And we do, don't we?

IT'S ALL RELATIVE

All these people in the Bible are related. Do you know how? Answers at the bottom of the page.

- 1. Mary and Martha (Luke, chapter 10)
- 2. Saul and Jonathon (1 Samuel, chapter 14)
- 3. Naomi and Ruth (Ruth, chapter 1)
- 4. Lois, Eunice and Timothy (2 Timothy, chapter 1)
- 5. Joseph and Benjamin (Genesis, chapter 42)
- 6. Aquila and Priscilla (Acts, chapter 18)
- 7. Simon Peter and Andrew (Mathew, chapter 4)



Why should Elijah's parents be remembered by all business people? Because they made a prophet.

How long did Cain hate his brother? As long as he was Abel.

Answers: 1.sisters 2.father and son 3.mother-in-law and daughter-in-law 4. grandmother, mother and son 5.brothers 6.husband and wife 7.brothers



Children's Church News

The next Saturday session is Saturday 2nd July at 3.00pm. As we mentioned in the June magazine, to keep children safe and enabling everybody to have a good time, we have to think about the timing of the sessions and so we have had to say

that if you would like to attend, please make sure you are there by 3.15pm. This is so that we can start activities so that everyone can be involved and also so that we know numbers for providing food. We feel that this will enhance the sessions rather than limit them as everyone will be a part from the beginning and we hope you appreciate why we are having to say this. There will not be a session in August.

The family services continue to be warm, welcoming and thought provoking. The children deliver the readings and prayers with confidence and clarity. It is lovely to see the children, with their families, that are going to be christened welcomed into the church during this service.

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

Have a lovely summer holiday.

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

Children's Church

It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it!

You can raise money for our church, doing things that you would do anyway:

Searching online: Set your search engine to www.eveyclick.com/sjib

Shopping online: Sign up at **www.giveasyoulive.com** and then, when you make your purchases at hundreds of online stores (including Amazon) a donation also comes to the church. Give As You Live can also be used when you are switching energy, insurance, broadband, etc. (go to **www.giveasyoulive.com/switch**).

Shopping in-store: Buy gift cards through **cardsforcauses.giveasyoulive.com** – you get the amount you pay onto the store gift card, but the church gets a donation too, and at no extra cost to you.

Over time, through the above, over £800 has been received by St John's Church.

Graham Evans

What on earth is a ciborium?

Let me start with what is isn't: A Ciborium is not a galaxy-conquering race from an episode of Doctor Who. Sorry about that! So what is it?

A ciborium is a vessel, normally in metal. It was originally a particular shape of drinking cup in Ancient Greece and Rome, but later referred to a large covered cup designed to hold the host (bread) for, and after, the Eucharist. Thus, for the bread, it is the equivalent of the chalice for the wine. The word is also used for a large canopy over the altar, which was a common feature of Early Medieval church architecture.

So, "Ciborium" now refers to a covered container used in churches to store the consecrated hosts of the sacrament of Holy Communion and it takes its name from its cover, surmounted by a cross or other sacred design.

In the early Christian Church, Holy Communion was not kept in churches for fear of sacrilege or desecration. Later, the first ciboria were kept at homes to be handy for the Last Rites where needed. Modern usage includes holding consecrated elements to be used later at home communions or for lay-led services (as at Regent) using 'reserved sacrament'.

Why am I telling you this? When you read the summary of the PCC minutes on pages 32 and 33, you will see why.





Wendy checked the message on her mobile.

Tea on the green in the church for the Queen

Unfortunately, the weather on Saturday 11th June was not dry enough for the Tea for the Queen's birthday to be held outside on the green. However, the church was easily able to accommodate all the people who came, even though that was around 350.



The events team looked amazing in their blue sweatshirts and did a fabulous job of making the whole event run smoothly – "Thank you" and "Well done" everybody.



The 90th birthday cake looked splendid, and so did the 'queen for the day' who cut it.





There was a timeline for everyone to contribute to and show what memories and events each year evoked for them,



A fabulous time was had by all, with tea, cakes, sandwiches and (wait for it...) jelly! Thanks again to all the team who made this event so fabulous.

Graham Evans

.... together with face-painting, a vintage stall, community singing and a magician.

Ginney's Diary

June 2016

Well, I've made it to the 10.30 am service on several occasions and tried hard to sit still and keep quite. Most of the time it has been fine except for the time <u>she</u> forgot to exercise me enough beforehand and that chew was rather hard for my jaw. I've lost a few front teeth and the new ones are peeping through but I can still give a sharp nip with the many needle ones that are left.

I now weigh over 12 kg, which is three times what I weighed when I first came to Worcester. I have three meals a day and am learning to sit and look at my dish on the floor and not attempt to eat until I have heard the three quick blasts on the whistle. At first I found it quite confusing and disappointing when I heard the 'pips' on the radio.



Sometimes I can walk sensibly but I've a long way to go and I don't think they believe me at Puppy Class. It is so exciting to meet up with the other Guide Dog puppies that I can hardly concentrate and I'm only just about ready to think and obey by the time we have to leave.

I also have to learn to be sociable and I've been to several events such as the Guide Dog stand at Pershore Carnival and a 'Pat and Chat' at The Hive. One little girl told me that I was the first dog she had ever touched and her mother, who was wearing a beautiful sari, smiled and took a photo. There were a couple of older, more selfcontrolled puppies there who ignored me when I barked at them. Then a member of staff came over and asked who had barked. I hung my head in shame but he said that he was making a recording of sounds in the library and would I do it again. Rapture!

Another fun moment was when I was outside St Oswald's Hospital in the Tything where I came across a well behaved crocodile of young children. Then I spotted

Thomas, from church, and he spotted me. We both ground to a halt and the column concertinaed. The adult with them was not as amused as Ruth.



Please would you make a note in your diaries, even though it's some time off. We are organising a **light-hearted concert** given by professional musicians on Sunday 11th September at 3pm in church. Rather than set a ticket price we would be happy to receive donations to be split between Guide Dogs and St John's Church. We hope you will come along, support us and enjoy.

Ginney via Ruth Reeves

Update from St David's

We have been very busy at St David's over the last few months. In May we hosted a debate on the future of Britain in or out of the E.U. at which university lecturer Michael Webb put the case for us remaining in the E.U. whilst former Councillor and Deputy Mayor, Mike Whitehouse explained why he feels the time has come for us to leave. Both men forward some very convincing arguments and a lively debate followed. The vote came out as 8:4 in favour of remaining in the Union but differences of opinion did not impede a very pleasant time over wine and nibbles to conclude the evening.

June saw the launch of our monthly Coffee Mornings at a well- supported event where fresh (Fairtrade) coffee accompanied an assortment of home-made cakes. It was lovely to welcome some new faces to our church. The next one will be on Wednesday July 6th when everybody will be most welcome.

Sarah Cottrill

Galatians 1.17-21

I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus.

Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord's brother. I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie.

After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia.

Going Dutch in Cropthorne

Last month I was fortunate enough to spend a week on placement at Holland House. As part of our on-going training, the second year curates were asked to explore a form of ministry of which we had no experience but which might interest us in the future. For some time now I have wondered about hospitality and the role of warden at a



Retreat House and this was an ideal opportunity to look further into this.

A brief conversation with Ian, warden at Holland House, was enough to tell me that Retreat House Management on the model of Holland House, is not for me. Although owned by the diocese, Holland House is not operated by them, but is managed by Ian and the trustees as a business. There is a huge annual cash turn-over and there is infinitely more to running the business than I could ever understand and manage. Over the week I spent time with Lucy, (Reception, shop, health and safety), Shirley, (Housekeeping, administrator and bookings) and Tarn (Finance) learning about their (very complex) roles. As Ian said, for this model and scale, you really do need a background in business management. However, this is only one model and conversations later in the week led me to consider the possibility of combining Retreat House/Quiet Day facilitating with parish ministry in the future.

Meanwhile, I was learning a great deal about hospitality too. It is far more than welcoming people and putting a reasonable meal in front of them. At Holland House, a

all people are made to feel welcome and valued huge amount of time and effort goes into ensuring that everybody's needs are catered for; that all sensitivities are, as much as possible, foreseen and taken into account and that all people, regardless of gender, age or creed are made to feel welcome and valued. In addition to learning about the various roles within the team I attended a planning meeting for an

inter-faith picnic, and meetings of the Quiet Day Facilitator Team, the Worcester Interfaith Forum and the Friends of Holland House as well as a Zen Buddhist Sangha.

It was a fascinating and extremely informative week in which I certainly learned all that I'd hoped I would – and lots more besides. Almost as an aside, I had some incredible conversations with Ian about Scripture, faith and spirituality which on a purely personal level made the week profitable and memorable.

Sarah Cottrill

Room Hiring At The Church

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

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 chairs are provided in a large open a sockets. It is used to host exhibition	area with plenty of electric

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

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

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Summary of the minutes of the PCC meeting held on 25th May 2016

The Vicar chaired the meeting. He opened it with a prayer and welcomed new members.14 members were present. For the information of new members, the various PCC formal committees and groups were described: Accommodation Committee, Pastoral Group, Charity Committee, Standing Committee.

The strategic item for this meeting was "Mission". The Group Council (GC) had discussed this. Is it even possible to have a Group mission strategy? What are the individual churches doing? Prioritising? GC needs input from each church. The discussion was divided up into following headings, with key points from the feedback:

What are we doing? What do we do well/care about? What are our strengths?

- Parish breakfast/Café church/Hospitality
- Spectrum of worship, done well
- Nurture our own congregation (Pilgrim course)
- Overt Outreach (walk of witness)
- Christmas/Summer Fetes
- Carol/Christingle/Remembrance services

What are we not doing (or not doing so well)?

- Encouraging others in the congregation to come forward. What talents do we have in the congregation? No succession planning for volunteers who do a job well
- Getting out and meeting non-• Christians on their own terms
 - Very unclear how we bring people in Welcoming newcomers to church
- We can't provide for everyone we should see what God is doing and join in •

Opportunities/'Threats':

- Not following up the contacts that we do have
- Are we keeping things going that should be allowed to die? •
- Opportunity we are at the centre of the village ullet
- Family Carol Service/Student Carol Service (early in December)
- Older people who can't get to church (stream/record services)
- Tackle barriers with young people
- Our building a lack of usable space ullet
- Youth Club ullet

The Vicar said that he had found the discussion very helpful and it would inform his thinking about work in our church and in the group.

- Little Lambs/Children's Saturday Activities (outreach to families).
- Church open in the week
- Reach out to people with Christian values but who are not churchgoers
- Being nudged out of our comfort zone
- Marriage and Baptism prep
 - Service provision: Teenagers; preseniors; other than Sundays

- Students (a difficult nut to crack!)
- Modern life
- Parish Magazine

Under **West Worcester Churches**, the Vicar reported that the group outing to Coventry was a great success (thanks to Philip Evans). No progress at the diocese on transition to a Team. There was a brief update about each of the other churches.

Under **Outreach and serving the community**, there was an update on Stand By Me: The HLF grant for the Film Club has now come to an end, so we no longer have the paid project manager. There seem to be enough people within the club to keep it going (the equipment is owned; ongoing running costs are low and covered by donations). Other updates: The grant application (by St Clement's PCC) for the Youth and Family Worker has been successful, so the job advert is out; the Pastoral Group team are working well; the Charity Committee is deciding how to divide up its funds.

Safeguarding: The PCC received a review of our working on safeguarding – resulting actions are in hand. PCC safeguarding policies are reviewed annually and were re-approved with changes where necessary.

The accommodation committee submitted its customary report on work done and in progress. Following the fall of stonework from the tower onto the roof, approval was given to get estimates for replacement of the fallen stone, essential repointing and possibly further work. Provision of a bike rack will be investigated. The Vicar is investigating the purchase of a ciborium and a holy water vat, to come from a legacy.

Under 'Children and Families; Schools; Christian Nurture' the Vicar reported that the Saturday activities and Little Lambs continue to go well. Little Lambs will need a new leader in the near future.

School links continue as before. There is a group from Pitmaston coming in soon. Graham (who is Chair of Governors at Christopher Whitehead) described the work going on at the school to meet the growth there. The basic classroom need is being met, but there are limited facilities for dance, music and drama. The school is looking to develop a proposal for a creative media facility which will include a bell tower. The school are working with Mark Regan. The Vicar emphasised that there is partnership working with the church and our tower.

The Vicar had nothing to report on worship and services.

The Standing Committee report was accepted, with discussion on a couple of items (NEST pension scheme and response to an invoice from SME solicitors, the diocesan solicitors).

2016 finances are generally on budget, with variances being due to timing issues.

The meeting closed with all saying 'The Grace'.

Graham Evans, PCC Secretary

Activities at St John's Library

Children's Activities



Mondays: Bounce & Rhyme, 10 - 10:30 a.m. FREE!

Tuesdays: Playaway Parent & Toddler Group, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon. 50p per child, refreshments available.

Fridays: Pre-school Story Time, 11:30 a.m. – 12 noon. FREE!

Family Fun Times!

2nd Saturday each month, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

And don't forget this year's Summer Reading Challenge, **"The Big Friendly Read"**, - coming soon!

St John's Readers' Group

St John's Library Readers Group is a small but very friendly group who enjoy reading and discussing different styles and genre of books. From a modern day classic to a 'nail biting' thriller, all books are discussed and given the thumbs up or down! Each book is chosen by the group and multiple copies are ordered through St John's Library, available for the next session. Please feel free to join us at our next meeting, with a warm welcome guaranteed. We meet on the last Thursday of each Month in St John's Library between 12:00 - 1:00pm.

(Extracts from the letter of the Vicar, John Mort)

The Vicarage.

My DEAR FRIENDS,

Since I wrote my last letter to you, I have spent three whole days at Llandudno. I am grateful for this break which I enjoyed in perfect weather. Some of you may be familiar with this popular resort on the coast of North Wales—the magnificent promenade and pier. When you return from your holiday, there are probably lots of details which you like to relate to your friends. But I was particularly attracted by the happiness and *Laughter* which seemed to abound on every side. This gives me a welcome theme for my letter this month— *Laughter*.

There is an idea which comes down to us from the days of the Puritans that the Christian Religion is all against laughter. It is an impression which may have been made upon us that, for the Christian, laughter is a perilous liberty, an indulgence which is hardly safe. Many have grown up with the impression that God is very near to the man who weeps; but far, far away from the man who laughs. But as we obtain a better insight into life and a better knowledge of the life and teaching of our Lord, we feel that somehow the Puritans were wrong. It is a strong tradition, this tradition of seriousness amounting almost to gloom, but at bottom it is an unhealthy one.

The more one thinks of it, the more one is convinced that laughter is, as Sarah says, a gift of God—like sunshine and colour and music and love. See how He sets the lambs racing and frisking in the spring-time and the children shouting with happiness in their play. It is a perverted and morbid idea of religion that thinks of God as looking askance at the laughter of His grown-up children.

There is sorrow and suffering in the world—enough and to spare, and plenty of times when we feel unlike laughter. But life is not all sorrow and suffering. There are times when the sun is shining and happiness abounds, and health is splendid. and life is brimming over. On a small pretext one laughs because one feels like it or because our God-given sense of humour finds us glad to be alive. And that in spite of all the sorrow and the sadness always close at hand, one is vastly the better for it. Moreover. God is in His heaven, God who hath made us to laugh, hears and understands.

Epres Sincerely.



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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 7.30pm 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 10.00am 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 10am every Wednesday for prayer and study. Contact Sylvia Render on 422654 for further details.

PARISH OFFICE

1a Bromyard Road	From the church car park, walk up the Bromyard
St John's, WR2 5BS	Road side of the church to the green door.
Tel: (01905) 420490	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, July/August 2016

Bedwardine St David	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's			
3 rd July and	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	9.30am Morning Prayer		10.30am Holy Communion			
7 th August	5pm Evensong (BCP)		6.30pm Holy Communion				
10 th July and 14 th August	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Family Service with Children's Participation	9.30am Eucharist	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion			
17 th July and	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	9.30am Eucharist		10.30am Morning Prayer			
21 st August	5pm Evensong (BCP)		6.30pm Holy Communion				
24 th July and 28 th August	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9.30am Eucharist	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion			
31 st July	Group service at St Clement's 10.30am						
The information above is correct at the time of going to press, but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.							