

St John-in-Bedwardine Parish Magazine September 2016 40p



Christ is pointing at Matthew the tax collector, who in turn is pointing at himself in a gesture which clearly asks:
"Who? Me?"

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)

Thursday

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.

Every week	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)		
Every week except 2nd	10.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist with Children's Church		
2nd Cunday in month		Family Service with Children's		
2nd Sunday in month		Participation		
1 st & 3rd Sunday in month	5.00 p.m.	Evensong (BCP)		
4th Sunday in month		Service of Wholeness and Healing		

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday to Saturday	5.00 p.m.	Evening Prayer
4th Saturday in month	10.15 a.m.	Cafe@10.15
Tuesday	10.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Thursday (at St Clement's)	9.45 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
Thursday (at St Michael's)	10.45 a.m.	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 Sarah Cottrill

On September 21st the Church marks the feast of St Matthew. One of the early disciples and the accredited writer of one of the Gospels, but what do we know about this man? The answer seems to be "Not a lot!"

Matthew is believed to have been born in Galilee and to have worked as a tax collector. It was whilst collecting taxes in Capernaum that Matthew received Christ's call to follow Him and from that point he became a disciple. Scholars generally believe that Matthew's gospel was written before the destruction of Jerusalem in AD70 and of the four living



creatures depicted in the Book of Revelation, Matthew is the form with the human face. In his gospel Matthew emphasises the role of Jesus as the human face of God. It is not certain whether Matthew was martyred or died of natural causes, but he is the patron saint of bankers.

"Who? Me?"

Whilst in Rome earlier this year, I visited San Luigi del Francesi and saw Caravaggi's painting "The calling of Saint Matthew." In the picture, Christ is pointing at Matthew the tax collector, who in turn is pointing at himself in a gesture which clearly asks: "Who? Me?"

This disbelief in the face of a clear call from God to serve Him, in whatever capacity it may be, is no doubt familiar to many of us. Few of the clergy I have heard describe their call to ordained ministry, have not said that they couldn't (continued overleaf)

Cover

The calling of St Matthew (1621), by Hendrick ter Brugghen (1588 – 1629). (For this magazine, the Caravaggi painting referred to by Sarah above is unfortunately too dark to reproduce satisfactorily, laser-printed in monochrome)

Pictures in this magazine

Our thanks to those who have contributed photographs for this magazine including Colin Nash, Catherine Templeton, Joy Job, Luise Horrocks and Philip Evans.

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) believe it; feelings of incredulity and unworthiness are a common feature. Nor is this by any means unique among clergy. Lay people are no less called to various forms of ministry and service and also fall victim to this same feeling of disbelief and unworthiness. We can always think of somebody who is better – a better Christian; a better person; better organised; better placed; better equipped – than ourselves to do the job. We are always surprised if it turns out that we are actually

why should we be so surprised?

the one God wants to use —but why should we be so surprised? Even the most basic knowledge of the Bible tells us that God delights in using the most unlikely people; the elderly and childless Abraham to be the founder of a great nation; the inarticulate Moses to tackle Pharaoh; the shepherd boy David to

defeat the mighty Goliath; an unmarried young girl to be the mother of His Son. When Jesus began His ministry, those called to be His followers were chosen not from the great and the good but from the poor, the humble and the outcasts. Peter, Andrew, James and John were all humble fishermen; Mary Magdalene was a "sinful" woman and Matthew, as we have seen, was a despised Tax Collector. After the Resurrection and Ascension Jesus still continued to call the least likely candidates — even that dedicated persecutor of early Christians, Saul of Tarsus. All of these were ordinary people, with the same weaknesses, faults and foibles that we all have, and yet God was able to use them to do incredible things in His service. Regardless of social status, gender or race, these people had one important characteristic in common: they recognised and responded to the call of God on their life. We know that in many cases they doubted their ability to fulfil what God asked of them and we know that they made many mistakes along the way. But we also know that this didn't matter. All that mattered was that they were willing to try — and to trust God to guide and strengthen

By the grace of God I am what I am.

them when they made the mistakes that are inevitable when human beings are involved!

One of the Scripture verses I find hardest to apply to myself – and I suspect I'm far from being alone in this – is 1 Corinthians 15.10: "By the grace of God I am what I am." The English are

notorious for putting ourselves down and under-playing our strengths and abilities. We often tend to dwell on our weaknesses instead and forget that it is not by accident that any one of us is as we are — it is by God's design and, with all our failings and weaknesses, He can and will use us if we are willing to trust and serve Him. As I heard Bishop John say on a day that proved to be of huge significance to me, "God can use you warts and all!"

Matthew, like the other disciples of Jesus, was an ordinary man, going about his daily business. Unlike many of the others, that daily business made him unpopular, something of an outcast, and so he had extra difficulties to overcome when he

responded to Christ's call to follow Him, but nonetheless he did respond and apparently did so without hesitation. That initial response not only changed Matthew's own life but enabled him to be instrumental in helping to change the lives of countless others through the millennia.

Whatever our circumstances, our perceived strengths or limitations, the same Lord who called Matthew and the other disciples, still waits for our answer to a simple, gentle question:

"Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name?"

Sarah Cottrill

A Word from the Editors

Welcome to the September edition of our magazine. Our focus this month is the apostle Matthew and his example to follow Jesus no matter who we are or how inadequate we feel ourselves to be. To be realistic, few of us are likely to follow Jesus by leaving our homes and our families and giving up all we presently have. But it is not all or nothing: We can still follow Jesus by doing something which makes a difference to those we can reach out to in love and help. In this magazine there are a number of opportunities to do just that. When the headline says "Will you...?", stop and think "Will I...?"

We've made some changes to the layout of the magazine. As always, we appreciate your feedback when you tell us what you think about the magazine.

Graham and Sue Evans

The Magazine

Copy for the October 2016 edition should reach us by Sunday 11th September. If you can, please use e-mail: magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk. The October edition of the magazine will be available on Sunday, 25th September.

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 20.

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 September 2016

	olless otherwise stated, the venue for all the events below is St John's Church, or one of the church rooms. an eye on the new "What's On" board at the back of church.	See page
Saturday 3 ^r	rd September	
3.00 p.	.m. Children's Activities	35
Sunday 4th S	September: 15 th Sunday after Trinity	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Thursday 8	S th September	
Various ti	mes Heritage open day	12
Sunday 11 th	h September: 16th Sunday after Trinity	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
3.00 p	p.m. Sunday Serenade Concert	14
Saturday 17	7 th September	
9.00 a.	.m. Table Sale (9am-noon)	13
5.00 p.	.m. Tea and Talk	13
Sunday 18th	h September: 17th Sunday after Trinity	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Wednesday	21 st September	
7.00 p	p.m. Craft Group (Blakefield Room)	16
Saturday 24	4 th September	
10.15 a.	.m. Cafe@10.15 (Speaker Luise Horrocks)	
Sunday 25 th	h September: 18th Sunday after Trinity	
	See the back cover for Sunday services on this day	
Weekday C	Communion Services:	
Tuesday:	St John's 10am (Book of Common Prayer - traditional languag	e)
Thursday:	St Clement's 9.45am (Book of Common Prayer - traditional lar	iguage)
	St Michael's 10.45am (Common Worship - modern language)	
Café@10.15	5: Join us for our service with food. Come for 'Friendship and the	noughts'
together with	th fresh coffee and Danish pastries: Cafe@10.15 is at 10.15am o	n the

Bibles, Bumps and Babies

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

fourth Saturday of each month.

In Memoriam

Mrs RI Dobbins 1 September 1996 George Herbert Mayall 2 September 1970 Charles William Warner 3 September 1954 Bessie Sage 4 September 1995 Alice Beatrice Ingham 5 September 1999 Willian Henry Lewis 6 September 1963 Gordon William Taster 8 September 1963 Beatrice Eva Jones 11 September 1987 Martha Ricketts 13 September 1996 Reg Brunyee 16 September 2006 Florence Smith 17 September 1996 Joan Pauline 19 September 1996 Elizabeth Goodsell 21 September 2003 Charles Trevor Edmunds 24 September 1975 Doreen Hall 24 September 1987

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, June/July 2016

BAPTISMS:	FUNERALS:	
(June)	d. 14 th May	Hannah Prangnell
Laila Jai Wilde	d. 15 th May	Colin Russell
Ivy Rose Elizabeth Dale	d. 16 th May	Ron Clayton
Wilfred Timothy Schofield	d. 23 rd May	Royston Hannay
Gabia Frances Meaney	d. 26 th May	Sidney Cullis
(July)	d. 31 st May	Lilian Worton
Riya Shelby Wilson	d. 3 rd June	Geoffrey Hodgson
Evie Mae Matthews	d. 5 th June	Lilian Davis
Everly Blu Ryland	d. 24 th June	Edmund Jones
	d. 28th June	Helen Morocco
WEDDINGS:		

(June) Luke Pitruzzello and Rebecca Jones

JUNE SERVICES: (Four Sundays)

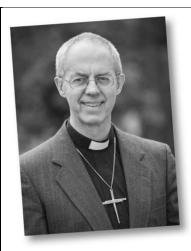
Communicants 283.

Total attendance at all services 1106. The total attendance includes 535 at funerals, weddings and baptisms.

JULY SERVICES: (Five Sundays)

Communicants 253.

Total attendance at all services 553. The total attendance includes 68 at funerals, weddings and baptisms.





Archbishop of Canterbury's visit 7 - 9 October 2016

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will be visiting our diocese from 7 – 9 October

There are three public events, which we hope as many people as possible will support

Friday 7 October, 7pm~Worcester Arena WR2 5JN

Archbishop Justin in conversation with BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine

An opportunity to come and listen to the Archbishop talk about his life and faith 'in conversation' with the BBC journalist, Jeremy Vine. Audience members will have the chance to ask questions and there will be a performance from a choir put together from local church schools. Tickets: £5 available from:



Please consider inviting your non-churchgoing friends to this event!



Saturday 8 October, 1.30pm~St Stephen's Church, Redditch B97 4DY

Craft, stories and refreshments for families

Archbishop Justin will join this event for families, which will be based around the story of Jesus walking on water (Matthew 14: 22-36). Bring the children to have a go at the crafts, play on the bouncy castle, listen to the story told by the Archbishop, and enjoy tea and cake together.

Sunday 9 October, 2.30pm ~ Merry Hill Shopping Centre, Dudley DY5 1QX

Prayer walk and Songs of Praise event

Archbishop Justin will be walking around Merry Hill shopping centre, offering to pray for those visiting. We hope that lots of people from parishes will then join us for a short 'songs of praise' type event, with prayers, songs and a short reflection from the Archbishop.

Come along and let's show that the Christian community is flourishing in Dudley and the surrounding areas!

More information from www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/archbishops-visit





Jesus calls Matthew

Matthew 9:9-13

- 9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.
- 10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples.
- 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
- 12 But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.
- 13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Mark 2:13-17

- 13 Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them.
- 14 As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.
- 15 And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples—for there were many who followed him.
- 16 When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"
- 17 When Jesus heard this, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Luke 5:27-28

- 27 After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me."
- 28 And he got up, left everything, and followed him.
- All the above are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).
- Scholars seem to agree that the events described are so similar that "Levi" and "Matthew" must be the same person. One possible explanation is that these are pre- and post-calling names (like Simon then named as Peter/Cephas by Jesus). There are various other explanations and researching these is left as an exercise for the reader.

Graham Evans

Church Directory

	CLERGY	
Vicar of St John's and St Clement's with St David's	Rev'd Dr Christopher Stuart chris.stuart@westworcesterchu	
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.co.uk gordtemp@btinternet.com joy.job@btinternet.com	749025 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. Please contact the parish office and leave details of your name and address if you would like 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	428667
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Distribution co-ordinator	Mary Hancock	

Church Directory

ST JOHN'S CHURCH OFFICERS							
Child Protection Officer	Jane Askew	424811					
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Pastoral Care	Sylvia Render 422654						
Coordinator	sylviarender@talktalk.net						
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Organist & Choirmaster	John Brierley 358474						
Music Group	Peter Yates pjyates194@btinternet.com	422565					
Ringing Master	John Bower jandjbower@btinternet.com	07792 574554					
Church Flowers	Eileen Cantrill 422579 Di White						
Webmaster	Philip Evans webmaster@westworcesterchurches.org.uk						

OUR CHURCH

St John-in-Bedwardine Church is an active Anglican church which has its roots in the Norman period. The church is open daily, as a haven of peace at a busy road junction in the St. Johns area of Worcester.

The church was originally built in 1165 as 'The Chapel of St John' – the parish church then being St. Cuthbert's in Lower Wick. When the church of St Cuthbert's was demolished in 1370, St John's became the parish church.



OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2016

Outreach and serving the community This includes understanding the community, social concern, value to the community, creating a buildings vision (to make our buildings fit for purpose to serve our objectives) and embodiment of West Side Collaboration as collaborating on projects.

Children and Families, Schools and Christian Nurture



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



See page 6 for September events at St John's

Keep an eye on the new "What's On" board at the back of church.

	FUTURE DATES
7th-9th October	Official visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Worcester Diocese (see page 8).
Saturday 8th Oct.	Women's Breakfast (Speaker Revd Ann Hadley)
Saturday 15th Oct.	Group Harvest Ceilidh (6pm at St Clements School)
Saturday 29th Oct.	Table Sale
Saturday 12th Nov.	Women's Breakfast (Speaker Revd Anne Potter)
Saturday 19th Nov.	Craft Fair
Saturday 26th Nov.	Coach trip to Berrington Hall for Christmas with the Georgians (free entry for NT members)
SOME EVENTS AT S	ST CLEMENT'S, ST DAVID'S AND ST MICHAEL'S
Wednesday 7th Sept.	Coffee morning (St David's, 10.30am-noon)
Wednesday 7th Sept.	Light Lunch (St Michael's, noon-1.30pm)
Monday 19th Sept.	Mothers' Union at St Michael's Church (2.30pm)
Friday 30th Sept.	Macmillan Coffee Morning (St Clement's 10.00am)



We are taking part in this year's Heritage open day on Thursday 8th September.

Why not come and try your hand at an old art and discover new friends.

Come and have a go at bellringing (2pm-6pm), try your hand on the organ (6pm-6.50pm) or join our wonderful choir as they invite you to a choral workshop (7pm) with Luise Horrocks.

Lots of other activities planned!



Tea and Talk

On Saturday 17th September at 5.00pm, we shall be having one of the popular Tea and Talk sessions. We will be again welcoming one of the Discover History team to talk to us. Those of you who have been before will know that whatever the subject matter, the talk is entertaining.

Tickets are £7.00 and can be purchased from the Parish Office or by telephoning 423257 or 424811. However if you are a 'Friend of St John's Church', the event is free, as a thank you for your support.

If you would like to become a 'Friend' or want to know a bit more, call in at the office for a leaflet or phone the numbers above. The cost is £20 per person a year, funds raised are used purely for the upkeep of the building. Would you like to be part of keeping this important building in good order?

Refreshments will be available.

Table Sales

Saturday 17th September, is the first date for our Table Sales for the autumn. The time is 9.00am-12noon and the cost per table is £10.00. The second sale is Saturday 29th October.

Take the opportunity to sell unwanted items. If you feel you have nothing to sell, do come along as there are always lots of bargains on offer.

Refreshments will be available.

If you would like to book a table, let the Parish Office know or phone 423257 or 424811.

Craft Fair

Saturday 19th November we are holding a Craft Fair. This will start at 9.00am until 2.00pm. Tables are again £10.00 and are ready to be booked straight away. It is always amazing to see the range of crafts available, made by very talented people. You are sure to find that unusual personal Christmas gift you have been searching for!

Refreshments will be available.

If you would like to book a table let the Parish Office know or phone 423257 or 424811.



A Sunday Serenade



Reg. Charity no. 1152583

Join us on
Sunday 11th September
at 3pm
St John-in-Bedwardine Church
Worcester
WR2 5BS

A light hearted concert with singers and professional musicians

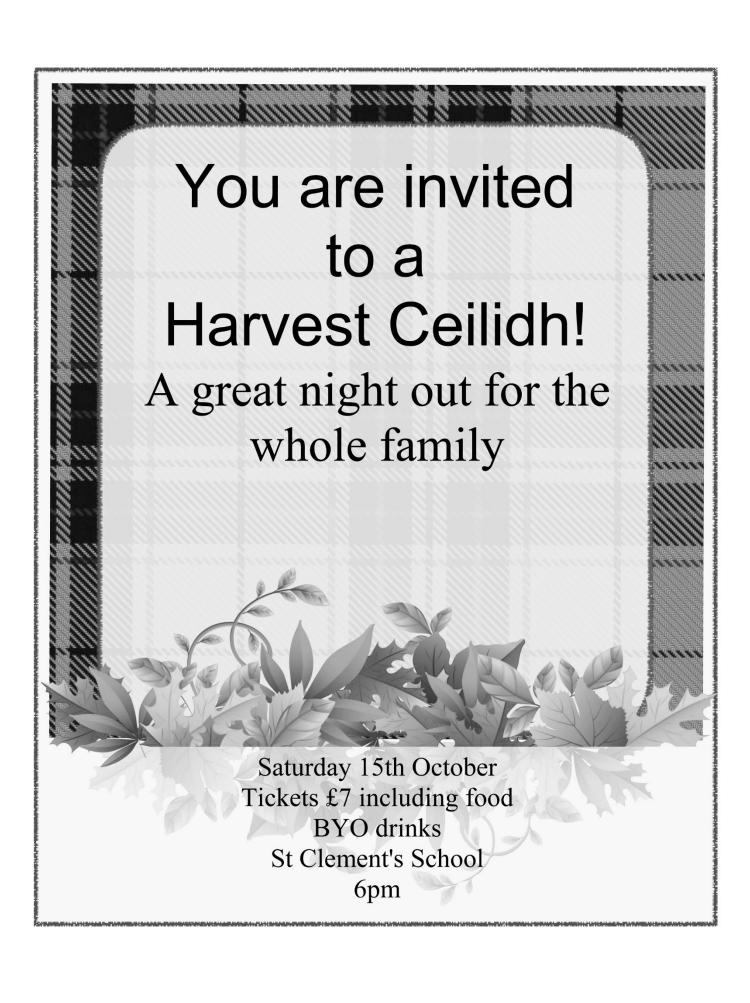
John Brierley (Organ) & Shulah Oliver (Violin)

No charge but donations welcome in aid of Guide Dogs and St John's Church. Afternoon tea available and fund raising stalls.



events@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk





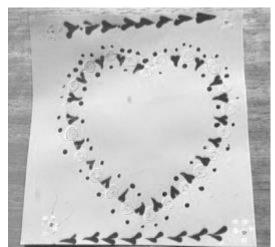
Craft News

As I write this we are half way through the 4 consecutive art sessions with a group called 'Accidental Artists'. We have so far been shown some different techniques and we hope to be able to pass on some of them in our craft group sessions.



Our next session will be Wednesday 21st September; do feel free to come along or telephone 424811 for more details. The cost is £5.00 to include refreshments and all materials.

Jane Askew



A good looking accident!

It was with some apprehension that I entered the Art Class last Friday. Everyone was very welcoming and our artists Ann and Irene reassured us that anyone can do what they proposed which was point art - a form of folk art. The style is similar to what is seen on canal barges and other native forms of artwork across the world. So after a demonstration we were set free to practise the different strokes

with acrylic paint and a special point tool. Then we were allowed to set to with the heart design as seen in the photo! The room fell quiet as everyone concentrated. It was certainly a great way to while away all the stresses of the day and was most enjoyable. Unfortunately I was only able to attend this one class out of the four but hopefully more classes may be arranged in the future. Many thanks to Jane for organising the course!

Joy Job



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.

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 babychanging facility; Tables and/or chairs.
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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 hiring@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk

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Will you be an "ng" or a "gn"?



Singers and Signers Needed For A Unique Musical Project



Deaf Direct, a local charity supporting people with hearing loss, are working with Soroptimist International Worcester and District to launch an exciting new singing and signing choir.

This is a unique project as singers and signers will be rehearsing and performing together from live music, not a recording, to break down barriers between those who can hear and those living with hearing loss.

We will perform popular, classic songs to entertain our audiences and make the experience fun for all.

The new choir will rehearse for the first time in September at Deaf Direct's Head Office, Vesta Tilley House, Lowesmoor, Worcester, WR1 2RS.

We will be holding a pre meeting before rehearsals start in September and our first performance will be singing Christmas Carols at the Worcester Victorian Fayre. This will be followed by other local performances next year to raise funds and awareness of our charities.

If you're interested in having fun and being part of something new, we are looking for the following members:

- Choir Master/Mistress for Singers and Signers (Choir Master/Mistress for Signers must have minimum BSL Level 3)
- Keyboard Player
- Singers and Signers

If you would like to be part of this fun and unique group, please get in touch for more details:

Singers, Choir Master/Mistress for Singers and Keyboard Player, please contact Lynda:

lyn@lynda-owen.co.uk

Signers, Choir Master/Mistress for Signers please contact Sarah:

fundraising@deafdirect.org.uk or 01905 746 301

Deaf Direct is a local deaf-led charity which helps deaf and hard of hearing people. Our services include providing Interpreters, Support Workers, Family & Youth Support and Deaf Awareness Training. We promote independence and equality of opportunity for deaf and hard of hearing people living in Herefordshire, Oxfordshire and Worcestershire.

Soroptimist International Worcester and District are part of the global volunteering movement that helps to educate, empower and enable women and girls to reach their full potential in a safe environment. We also help in the community by fund raising and volunteering for various local charities.

Thank you for your support and we hope to meet you soon!

Lynda Owen



Call: 07530063113/ 01905 312552

E-mail: williamsoli86@yahoo.co.uk

Heating | Bathrooms | Tiling

To advertise in the magazine

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

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

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





The annual Ride+Stride is coming up on Saturday 10th September. Ride+Stride is a sponsored bike ride or sponsored walk in which people from all over the country walk or cycle between churches. Sponsorship money is shared between the local churches trust (in our case the Worcestershire & Dudley Historic Churches Trust) and the church of each participant's choice.

I have put together an itinerary for a walking group to participate in the Ride+Stride. If you would like to join the group for either all or part, you would be most welcome. Please let me know if you would like to join, and which part, so I know to keep an eye out for you.

- o 10am Meet at St. John's Church for bacon rolls
- 10.30am Leave St. John's Church
- o 11am Leave St. Michael's Church
- o 11.30am Leave St. David's Church
- 12noon Leave St. Clement's Church
- 12.15pm Leave All Saints' Church
 - Pass by St. Andrew's Spire [redundant]
 - Pass by St. Alban's Church [redundant]
 - Pass by St. Helen's Church
- 12.30pm Leave St. Andrew's Methodist Church (Pump Street)
- 12.45pm Lunch at Worcester Cathedral / picnic
- 1.45pm Leave Worcester Cathedral
- 2.15pm Leave Old St. Martin's
 - Pass by St. Nicholas' Church [redundant]
 - Pass by Baptist Church
 - Pass by St. Mary's Church [redundant]
- 3pm Leave St. George's Church (Barbourne)
- 3.45pm Arrive back at St. John's Church for tea & cake

Philip Evans



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Will you help us to help our community?

As a church, we administer a number of very small charities. Most of these charitable "pots" were given to the church in people's wills, and date back (in some cases) several hundred years. Most were given with one of two broad aims in mind: either, to help the sick and poor of the parish, or to support the fabric and wider life of the church.

Most are fairly small: For example, we have the 'Poor Fund' which now contains £1786, and a 'Sick and Poor Fund' which contains £812. Again, we have a Monuments Fund, which contains £162. But one or two of the pots are quite substantial – for example, the Blakefield Hall Trust contains £15,196.

Most of these pots haven't been touched for decades. However, as a registered charity, and under the terms of the Charities Act, we have a duty to use these monies for the purposes for which they were given. Quite apart from which, we also have a moral obligation to make sure the money reaches those in need. Yet few if any of them have been used for the purposes for which they were given – or at least, not for many decades.

Can you help? We'd like to consolidate all these charitable pots into two funds: a "Poor Fund", and a "Fabric Fund", but in order to do this we need to do some research into each pot, to find out exactly why it was given, whether we can spend the capital or just the interest, and whether or not it would be possible to consolidate them. Would you be willing to work with the treasurer to help research these funds, and to draw up terms of reference for the two new charitable funds, and help us register them with the Charity Commissioners? Full help, guidance and support can be provided.

This is a fantastic opportunity to help us make a difference in our community. The money is there, and the need is there – but we can't effectively meet that need without researching these funds and, ideally, putting them altogether under two distinct funds, both with clear aims and objectives.

Please think seriously about helping with this – and pass the message on to anyone you know who might be willing to help. Speak to the vicar, or to the treasurer.

Chris Stuart

Little green friends?

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for.

"Sorry, mum," he confessed. "I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer."



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Group for "young adults"

We are starting a social group for "young adults" across the West Worcester churches. The group is aimed at people aged 18 to 40.

At the moment we are planning to: have a monthly social get-together (for example lunch on a Sunday following the morning service); promote the Ceilidh and Harvest Supper in October and run a series of weekly Advent-themed socials, each finishing with either Compline or Taizé, throughout Advent.

Please would you help us promote this venture?

We could also do with some inspiration for "suitable" names for this group rather than just "young adults". Do you have any ideas?!

The first event will be:

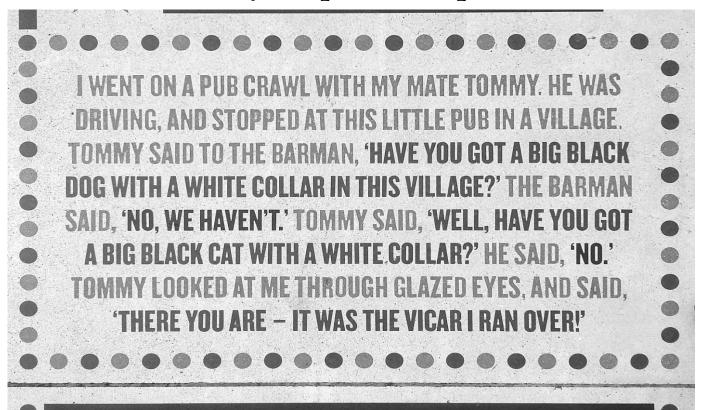
• Sunday 4th September:

Sunday lunch at The Pavilion in the Park, meeting at St. John's Church at 12 noon. Please let us know by Sunday 28th August if you're coming so we can book a table – contact Beth Broadway on either 07752 738591 or beth_broadway@hotmail.co.uk

Please speak to any of us for more information.

Beth Broadway, Alice Peirce, Philip Evans

From the Comedy Carpet, Blackpool Promenade



St John's Village Fete, 9th July 2016



The sun shone, and everyone came to have a great time at the summer Village Fete. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to be part of this event.







There were delicious refreshments; more stalls inside the church;









a children's roundabout; and for the tombola, the best outcome: "All gone".

Well done to the Events Team for a lovely day which raised £1,600 for the church.

Graham Evans



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Marjorie Wheeler celebrating her 95th birthday!





Marjorie is part of the Worcester Contact the Elderly tea party group, and joined them on an outing to the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire steam railway, on her birthday weekend. A wonderful time was had by all.

Catherine Templeton

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News from Saint David's

Our monthly coffee mornings, held on the first Wednesday of each month, have quickly established themselves as a popular local event and we now intend to also offer a mid-week Eucharist once a month. Details of this service will be published later.

Our Kingdom People Consultation Day, held in July, was a successful and productive day with some honest discussions and we identified both strengths and weaknesses for us as a church. Please pray for us as we begin the process of trying to improve in two areas of weakness: being deeply rooted in prayer and study of the Scripture and being dedicated to helping children and young people to belong and be nurtured in faith. As a start for the first of these, I am reading the office of 'Prayer During the Day', each day, Tuesday – Saturday, in St David's Church at 12.30pm. Anybody wishing to join me is most welcome. It is a very short service, lasting less than twenty minutes.

Following consultation with our insurers we will also be leaving the church open for others to visit and use during the day as soon as I have resolved the problem of where to safely store our cross, plate and candle-sticks.

Sarah Cottrill

Pilgrim course

Over the course of the last year 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 starting on 27th September.

The first module we used offered a basic overview of faith and focussed particularly on Church teaching; in Lent, we had the module on The Lord's Prayer, focusing on deepening our prayer and spiritual life. In May, we used 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. This time we'll be starting with the beatitudes.

The beauty of this course is that you can drop in or out at any time; you don't have to come every week. More importantly, you don't need to have attended previous modules in order to come along to the sessions. So will you join us in the Blakefield Room from 7.30pm-9pm over the six Tuesday evenings commencing on 27th September?

Chris Stuart



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Notes from the Choir



There is a lovely sense of community at St Johns and celebrating together is always a real pleasure. The members of the choir love a party and recently we have had the privilege of sharing in the happiness of our bass Roger and his wife Joy's Ruby



Wedding Anniversary festivities. The choir members all signed a card and presented this to Roger in the Blakefield room after choir practice, beckoning Joy in to join us to the strains of 'Here comes the bride' from John on the piano. Then, thanks to the generosity of Roger and Joy we all, along with the congregation, enjoyed cake and wine and much conviviality.

As the photo below shows, there was not much

left by the time we had all shared! I think though that the smiles show that the whole occasion was great fun.

There was a celebration of a different kind for the choir members on the same morning. One of our tenors, Lawton, had decided it was time to retire from active duty in the choir. Amid much secrecy, a collection was gathered and a print of St Johns, along with a decent bottle of red was purchased. On the





pretext of joining in with the giving of the card to Roger and Joy, Lawton was lured into the Blakefield room and presented with his 'retirement' gifts. John said a few words, reminding everyone of how loyal and committed a member of the choir Lawton had been and how blessed we had all been by his gift of singing. We are of course very sad to see him leave the choir but, once a member of the choir, always a member and Lawton will still be included in all our social activities. Celebrating his huge contribution to our singing community reminded us all of the fact that the gift of singing just keeps on giving!

Luise Horrocks

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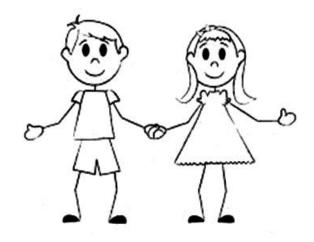
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Children's Church News

The next Saturday session is Saturday 3rd September, just before the children go back to school, at 3.00pm. Just a reminder that we would like the children who are coming to be there by 3.15pm so that we know numbers and everyone is involved in the activities. If there is a problem, please telephone 424811 and let us know.

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 that are going to be christened, with their families, 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.

The children decided

During the Summer Fete we had a stall to raise funds. We managed to raise £150, which will be shared between Children's Church and Snoezelen. The children decided on the charity they wanted to support and this was the one they decided on. A big thank you to all those who supported us.

Although it may seem a long time off, we have started thinking about the Shoebox Appeal for this year. Many of you have supported our efforts over the past few years to fill shoeboxes with items for children who will have very little at Christmas. Boxes can be made up for children in the age ranges 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. If you do not feel you are able to make up a whole box, we will take your donations and the children will make up the boxes with other items sent in. Alternatively, you can give a cash donation and we will buy suitable items. Boxes need to be completed by mid-November, so it is sooner than we think. Telephone 424811 for more details or look on their website www.samaritanspurse.org.

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

Children's Church



REGENT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

'Keeping kindness at the heart of our care'









Regent includes all of the comforts you'd expect along with some special touches that make it a true home.

Our residents spend their time how they wish whether that's enjoying a home-cooked meal, having their hair done in the salon, taking part in an activity or relaxing with a good book.

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.

REGENT RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME

School Road, St. Johns, Worcester WR2 4HF Tel: 01905 337100

www.sanctuary-care.co.uk

Sanctuary Care Limited is a subsidiary of Sanctuary Housing Association, an exempt charity

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:

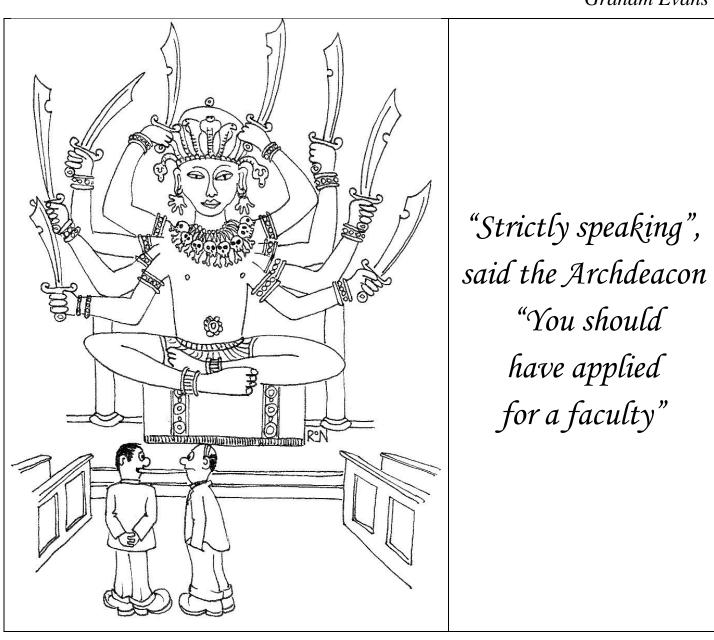
Searching online: Set your search engine to www.eveyclick.com/sjib

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



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



LET DOWN BY HIS FRIENDS

In the Bible there are many accounts of Jesus healing people. You can read about one in Mark's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 3 - 12. I like this one because it is about friends.

The four men made a tremendous effort to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. When they reached the house where Jesus was it was surrounded by lots of people; they could have given up and gone home. But they didn't. What did they do?

At that time houses had flat roofs and a stairway outside the house that led up to the roof. The four men broke through the roof and lowered their friend down on his bed. Imagine all the faces looking up and wondering what was going on as the dust, earth and lumps of wood fell down! Then the Bible says "When Jesus saw their faith..."

The all important change came from faith - not from the faith of the man but from the faith of his friends. One man's life changed forever because of four good friends and one Best Friend, Jesus.

OVER & UNDER?

The answers to all of these are either OVER or UNDER...

- When a car passes another vehicle.
- In London, they call it the Tube.
- A thick winter garment you wear outside.
- Dungarees, or worn to do a dirty job.
- One way to throw a ball.
- Another name for a funeral director.
- When someone falls off a boat.
- 8. Knickers, vests etc.

(Answers at the bottom of the page)

On a school trip to France, the teachers were reminding the children about behaving properly. 'And,' said the headmaster, 'what do you do if one of the children falls overboard?' 'Shout for help, sir,' said one boy. 'Good. And what do you do if one of the teachers



falls overboard?' 'Which one, sir?'

Answers: 1. overtaking 2. Underground 3. overcoat 4. overalls 5.underarm 6. undertaker 7. overboard 8. underclothes



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For an informal, no obligation chat to discuss your needs, <u>OR</u> if you feel you have the right qualities to become one of our CAREGivers please call: Samantha Smith on 01905 420404.



Activities at St John's Library

Libraries and Learning

ADULT LEARNING COURSES AT ST JOHN'S LIBRARY AUTUMN 2016

<u>Fundamentals of Salsa:-</u> By the end of this short course you will be able to dance with the rhythm of music and complete some basic Salsa steps.

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Will you spare some time to be a friend?

Hello, my name is Elaine Redding and I am the manager of the West Worcester Live at Home Scheme (based at Bromyard Road Methodist Church). Live at Home is a small charity who offers services and support to help older people lead independent, active and fulfilled lives. Our aim is tackle isolation and loneliness, build confidence and enrich older people's lives. We run a number of activities including lunch clubs, afternoon teas, exercise classes, singing, trips out, escorted shopping, dementia friendly walks and befriending.

We have recently have had a number of enquiries from older people, who for various reasons, are unable to leave their own homes independently and are looking for befrienders – someone maybe to play cards with, or someone who could potentially accompany them outside or even just someone who would listen to them and they could talk to.

Volunteer befrienders are matched with older people based on their interests and personalities so that they are compatible and have things in common to talk about.

If you have a spare hour a week (or even once a fortnight) and would like to help to improve the quality of an older person's life, then please give me a call on 01905 420805 or email Elaine.Redding@mha.org.uk I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Elaine Redding

Will you help a lonely older person?

Inter Generations Worcester (Vestia Community Trust) is a unique home share scheme aiming to tackle loneliness amongst older people (aged 55+) in Worcestershire. We carefully match a lonely older person with a University of Worcester student, the student then pays a one off admin fee and contributes towards household bills, as well as buying their own food. No rent changes hands, so council tax is unaffected.

Vestia Community Trust and the University of Worcester believe that this is the first scheme of its kind in the country, we have the backing of Worcestershire County Council.

If you know of anyone that may benefit from this scheme, please contact me, further information is available on request. Here is a link to a short overview of the scheme:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzhuJp1T5Nc

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Will you help with our prayer space?

I wonder if you can help us with a new project that we are trying to start at YMCA.

We are looking to improve our courtyard area in our Worcester hostel to create a calm prayer garden filled with vibrant flowers and vegetable plants. The area will support our young people by creating a place that they can use if they are stressed and need some time away.

We have looked at some funding streams for this but to get the ball rolling we need some plants and pots.

Please could you ask your congregations for their support particularly in prayer for this adventure but also if they are willing to donate a plant or two for the project it would be a great help. We aren't fussy so anything you can spare would be appreciated.

We are happy to come and collect them or if you want to leave them anywhere please could you bring to our reception in Worcester.

Thank you in advance for all your help with this!

Every blessing.

James Williams Christian Spiritual Development Co-ordinator YMCA Worcestershire



Mrs Todger became
A Living Artwork "Woman who saw a snake."

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Items always needed:

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Vegetarian Meals

Tinned Soup

Shampoo, Shower gel, soap bars

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Deodorant

Long Life shopping bags

Shopping trolleys

Small packs of rice

Tinned Fruit

Long life milk

Small bags of sugar (½kg)

At the moment we do not need cereals, pasta, pasta sauces, and soup.

Thank you for your support. *Please note:* We are very grateful for your donations. However, we can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods which are still within their "use by" date.

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From The Magazine Archive, September 1950

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

I shall conclude by trying to draw the message of the bells. What is this message for us? First of all—they remind us of the infinite possibilities which lie hid in the souls of men. As the metal once unsightly and useless is capable of being wrought to noble uses, so the hidden music can be awakened in souls now dead, that they may glorify God with hearts set in motion and tuned from above. When we think of the rough ore, long concealed in the earth and mixed up with baser materials, we are reminded of the rough ore of humanity, apparently valueless, but transformed by the preaching of the Gospel, moulded into a worthy shape and placed within the Church of God. For the same purpose, that is for His own glory, God makes the baser things of nature to become vessels of honour and changes the lowest of sinners and the most barbarous of heathens into instruments of God.

SOME THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

What a privilege, says the hymn, to carry everything to God in prayer. Everything means joy as well as trouble—happiness as well as sorrow. And everything presupposes all the time. Prayer with God is not confined to a ceremonial going down on one's knees—it is also included in work for others. As the old washerwoman said—"I put my religion into my washing." How wonderful it would be if we could all say—I put my religion into my work; I want all my work to be a prayer to God.

To go through life without praying is like travelling along a maze of roads without asking the way.

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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 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, September 2016

Pired 3. Solibrewbarning	St. John's	St. Clement's	St. David's	St Michael's				
4 th September	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9.30am Morning Prayer	6.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion				
11 th September	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Family Service with Children's Participation	9.30am Eucharist 11am Family Church	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion				
18 th September	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9.30am Eucharist 11am Family Church	6.30pm Holy Communion	10.30am Morning Prayer				
25 th September	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Service of Wholeness and Healing	9.30am Eucharist 11am Service to celebrate the beginning of the new school year	11.15am Morning Prayer	10.30am Holy Communion				
The information above is correct at the time of going to press, but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.								