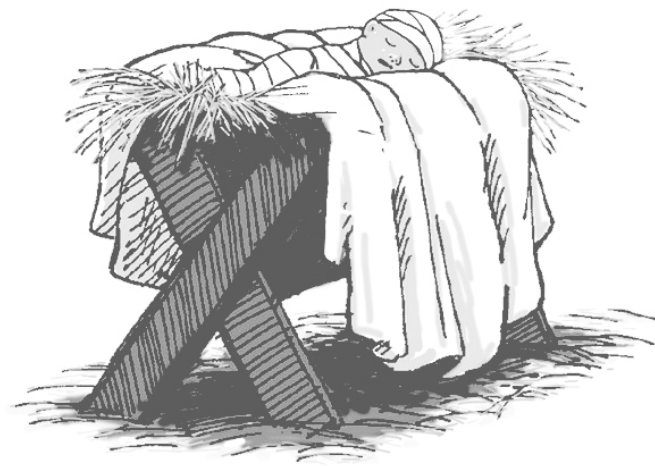




*St John-in-Bedwardine  
Parish Magazine*

December 2016

40p



Hope for a broken world

**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		Parish Eucharist with Children's Church
2nd Sunday in month	10.30 a.m.	Family Service with Children's Participation
1st & 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)
2nd Wednesday in month (at St David's)	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (Modern language)
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](mailto: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*

Not long before midnight on a late July day, I emerged from Jaurès metro station into the streets of the nineteenth arrondissement of Paris. As I did so, I noticed the police closing off a main road. I wondered whether it might be some anti-terror operation, but it was late and I was heading for bed, so I didn't really give it too much thought. My familiar route took me through a sea of tents and mattresses which had definitely not been there on my last visit a month earlier. This makeshift camp was full of hundreds of what I could only assume were refugees who had made



their home beneath the raised metro line and beside the canal, none of whom spared me a second glance as I meandered wearily through their midst. I continued to bed and by the time I awoke the next morning I had forgotten all about them.

**by the time I awoke  
the next morning I  
had forgotten all  
about them**

Then I went outside to be confronted by a closed metro station, sealed off streets and an area swarming with police, their hundreds of vehicles obstructing major roads and causing traffic gridlock. Given recent

terrorist incidents in Paris, I was initially alarmed. However, it became apparent that they were clearing the refugee camp of its 2,500 inhabitants, taking them to 'welcome centres' to be processed. The local press informed me that it

(continued overleaf)

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## *Cover*

The word was made flesh and dwelt among us - Hope for a broken world.

Courtesy of Parish Pump.

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## *Pictures in this magazine*

Our thanks to those who have contributed photographs for this magazine including Brian Askew, Phil Bradford, Graham Evans, Colin Nash, Chris Stuart, Ruth Reeves.

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## *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) was the twenty-sixth such clearance of a camp in Paris in 2016 alone. The refugees were being lined up and patiently waiting to be placed onto coaches. There was no violence, no protest, just a pervasive air of resignation and despair. By the time I returned that evening, everyone was gone and street sweepers had cleared away all evidence of the camp.

Early in November, I again found myself walking through a camp clearance, this time around Stalingrad metro station. The scenario was the same, only it was now early winter. The shelters beneath the metro line cannot have kept out much of the damp cold. What kind of desperation had caused people to live beneath line 2 of the Paris

**faced with the  
reality, with the  
human misery  
and desperation**

metro in cold, uncaring streets? This was a stark exposure to an issue which has been so prominent in the news lately, but rarely directly touched everyday life in cities like Worcester. It is one thing to talk of a refugee crisis in Europe, to come up with grand theories or pontificate afar. It is another to be faced with the reality, with the human misery and desperation in the very midst of our cities.

As we enter the ‘season of goodwill’, it is worth considering how we share the good news in such circumstances. There has been precious little goodwill evident in our world this year. The horrific conflict in Syria drags on. We have had an angry, bitter referendum in this country and an angry, bitter presidential election in the United States, both marked by outpourings of hatred and violence. We seem to have forgotten how to act with basic compassion and humanity towards one another, illustrated by an

**the way to share  
the good news is  
to share our  
humanity**

alarming rise in incidents of racial hatred. And perhaps the way in which we need to share the good news in these circumstances is to share our humanity. That is, after all, at the very heart of the Christmas message. In the incarnation, God chose to share our human nature, a choice which had an immense cost as it led to the brutality of Golgotha. Surely

the way in which we can best share that good news, to show the extent of God’s love for the world, is to recognise the value of that humanity he shared in and which he considered important enough to become a part of and to die for. To share the good news with those desperate refugees from conflict on the streets of Paris – and London, and Berlin, and other cities – is to recognise that they are human beings as well, with all the consequences that entails. If we share the basic values of the kingdom, values such as love, compassion and justice, with those who have nothing to offer and whose faith in humanity is destroyed, then we begin to echo the great love God showed to us in coming among us.

*Phil*



## *A Word from the Editors*

Welcome to the December edition of our magazine. It's Christmas, the season of goodwill! How should we share our joy at the birth of Christ? How should we share the goodwill? Phil wrestles with this question in his letter and later in the magazine describes how the Diocese of Worcester shares the goodwill in supporting the Anglican Church in Peru.

How will you share the goodwill? There are many Christmas services and events mentioned in this magazine. Invite someone you know to one of them to hear the Good News for themselves. Look out for the "Will you help us to help our community?" items in the magazine for some practical possibilities that you might be able to respond to. Most of all, let Christmas affect you and God's grace guide you. We pray with these words written by Nigel Beeton:

*May your Christmas be surprised by joy,  
Put a smile upon your face;  
But don't forget that baby boy –  
God's great surprise of grace!*

*Graham and Sue Evans*

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## *The Magazine*

We publish a Parish Magazine each month, except August.

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.

Copy for the January 2017 edition should reach us by Sunday 11th December. If you can, please use e-mail: [magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk). Unless otherwise directed, please send all written correspondence for the magazine to the Parish Office.

The January edition of the magazine will be available from Saturday, 24th December.

If you wish to advertise in the magazine, please see page 46.

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## *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 see page 33 and return the subscription form to the parish office if you would like to subscribe.

## *In Memoriam*

Robert Telfer Dedicott	2 November 1984
Rowland Taylor	4 November 1996
Andrew FI Jenkinson	4 November 2007
Rose Hodgetts	5 November 1985
Reginald James Rogers	6 November 1995
Derek James Keating	7 November 1981
Marion Edna Thomas	7 November 1982
William Henry Thomas	12 November 1953
Margaret Dance	14 November 1996
Herbert Willian (Bill) Bosley	17 November 1998
Harold Ricketts	19 November 1996

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, October 2016*

### ***BAPTISMS:***

Poppy Jude Lessemun  
Poppy Diane Disley

### ***FUNERALS:***

No funerals.

### ***WEDDINGS:***

No weddings.

### ***OCTOBER SERVICES: (Five Sundays)***

Communicants 395. Total attendance at all services 822. The total attendance includes 120 at funerals, weddings and baptisms.

## *Advent Course: The Nativity*

This year's Advent course takes a slightly different form than that used in previous years. Each week we'll watch a half hour episode of the BBC's dramatisation of the Christmas story, The Nativity. This will be followed by tea and coffee and a chance to reflect and discuss the content. At the end there'll be a short time of prayer and reflection. All in, the sessions will last about an hour.

The course will run at St Clement's church on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. The dates are:

30th November  
7th December  
14th December  
21st December

This promises to be a gentle and thoughtful way of coming together, socialising, and remembering the heart of what it is we celebrate at Christmas. Do come if you can!

*Chris Stuart*



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
IN  
WEST WORCESTER

# Christmas in West Worcester

## Dates for your diaries

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

St. Clement's 10am-2pm **Christmas Fayre**  
St John's 5pm **Family Carol Concert**

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

St. John's **Christmas Festival Weekend** *See the Festival poster on page 12 for more details*

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

St. John's 5-7pm **Sing-along-a-Santa!**

### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

St Michael's 7pm **Churches Together Carol Service**

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

St. Clement's 6pm **Family Christmas Carol Service** *A service suitable for everyone!*

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

St. Michael's 10.30am **Christmas Carol Service**  
St. David's 4pm **Carols Round the Tree**  
St. John's 6pm **Carols by Candlelight** *Traditional choral service of lessons and carols followed by seasonal refreshments.*

### **Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December**

St. Clement's 4pm **Crib service**  
St. John's 5pm **Christingle and Crib Service;** *particularly for children; lasts about an hour*  
St. David's 9.30pm **Christmas Eve Communion**  
St. John's 11.30pm **Candlelit Midnight Mass** *Join us as we share bread & wine or receive a blessing. Incense will be used. Lasts about 1 hour*

### **Christmas Day, 25<sup>th</sup> December**

St. John's 8.30am **Christmas Communion.** *A quiet, reflective said service using traditional language.*  
St. Clement's 9.30am **Christmas Family Eucharist** *Celebration for all the family; lasts about 1 hour*  
St. Michael's 10am **Christmas Eucharist**  
St. John's 10.30am **Christmas Eucharist** *with choir and organ*

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January**

St. David's 4pm **Eucharist**

## *Dates for December 2016*

Unless otherwise stated, the venue for all the events below is  
St John's Church, or one of the church rooms.  
Keep an eye on the "What's On" board at the back of church.

See  
page

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### **Friday 2nd December**

10.00 a.m. Live at Home Carol Service

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### **Saturday 3rd December**

5.00 p.m. Family Carol Service

21

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### **Sunday 4th December: Second Sunday of Advent**

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

12.00 noon Young adults' monthly lunch (meet at the church)

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### **Wednesday 7th December**

10.00 a.m. Prayer time, coffee and chat (Burroughs Room)

23

7.00 p.m. Craft Evening (Blakefield Room)

---

### **Friday 9th December and Saturday 10th December, Christmas Festival**

12

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### **Saturday 10th December**

8.30 a.m. Women's Breakfast (Speaker Venerable Nikki Groarke,  
Archdeacon of Dudley, venue tbc)

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### **Sunday 11th December: Third Sunday of Advent**

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

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### **Wednesday 14th December**

10.30 a.m. Eucharist (Common Worship) at St David's

2

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### **Sunday 18th December: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

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### **Saturday 24th December**

10.15 a.m. Cafe Church will be open for peace and quiet prior to our  
Christmas celebrations.

9

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### **Sunday 25th December: Christmas Day**

See the back cover for Sunday services on this day

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### **Weekday Communion Services (NB not on 27th/29th December):**

Tuesday: St John's 10a.m. (Book of Common Prayer - traditional language)

Second Wednesday of each month: St David's 10.30a.m. (Common Worship -  
modern language)

Thursday: St Clement's 9.45a.m. (Book of Common Prayer, traditional language)  
St Michael's 10.45a.m. (Common Worship, modern language)

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## FUTURE DATES AT ST JOHN'S

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Friday 6th January: Epiphany Eucharist (6.30pm) with incense

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Saturday 14th January: Bridge Day

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Saturday 14th January: Children's Activities

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Saturday January 21st: Bring and Share lunch for Christian Unity; all are welcome. There will be a service prior to lunch.

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Saturday January 21st: Bingo and Banger Night

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

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## SOME EVENTS AT ST CLEMENT'S, ST DAVID'S AND ST MICHAEL'S

---

Saturday 3rd Dec. Christmas Fayre (St Clement's 10am-2pm)

---

Wednesday 7th Dec. Coffee morning (St David's, 10.30a.m.-noon)

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Wednesday 7th Dec. Light Lunch (St Michael's, noon-1.30p.m.)

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December No Mothers' Union meeting (St Michael's).

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Churches Together in West Worcester

# CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

7pm

St Michael's Church, Dines Green

Refreshments

*All Welcome!*

## *Café@10.15*

Join us for our service with food. Come for 'Friendship and thoughts' together with fresh coffee and Danish pastries. Cafe@10.15 is at 10.15am and *usually* on the fourth Saturday of each month (but will be on 18th February and 18th March).

24th December Cafe Church will be open for peace and quiet prior to our Christmas celebrations.

28th January Speaker, Rob Little.

# *Church Directory*

## CLERGY

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

## ST JOHN'S PCC OFFICERS

<b>Churchwardens</b>	churchwardens@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
Gordon Templeton	gordtemp@btinternet.com	749025
Joy Job	joy.job@btinternet.com	423051
<b>PCC Lay vice-chair</b>	Sue Bale	423257
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Graham Evans pcc@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
<b>Joint Treasurers</b>	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.

<b>Editors</b>	Sue & Graham Evans magazine@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	428667
<b>Advertising</b>	Sue Hussell sue.hussell@talktalk.net	01684 893397
<b>Subscriptions</b>	Joan Tyler-Gunston	
<b>Magazine Treasurer</b>	Ian Thompson	
<b>Distribution co-ordinator</b>	Mary Hancock	

## ST JOHN'S CHURCH - OTHER CONTACT POINTS

<b>Child Protection Officer</b>	Jane Askew	424811
<b>Verger</b>	Catherine Templeton	749025
<b>Events Team</b>	events@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	
<b>Stewardship envelopes</b>	Irene Allen	422684
<b>Estates Manager</b>	Brian Askew brian.askew@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	424811
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Liz Edwards liz.edwards@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	420490
<b>Archives Officer</b>	Philip Evans	428667
<b>Pastoral Care Coordinator</b>	Sylvia Render sylvia.render@talktalk.net	422654
<b>Press Officer</b>	Liz Edwards pressofficer@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk	420490
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>	John Brierley	358474
<b>Music Group</b>	Peter Yates pjyates194@btinternet.com	422565
<b>Ringing Master</b>	John Bower jandjbower@btinternet.com	07792 574554
<b>Church Flowers</b>	Eileen Cantrill Di White	422579
<b>Webmaster</b>	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**



## St John-in-Bedwardine Christmas Festival

**Friday 9th December 5pm till 7pm**

**Candle lit 'Sing along a Santa'.**

**Come and visit Santa in his**

**Grotto, free gift for all children.**

**Cake stall, a fun evening for all the  
family with hot food and drinks  
available.**

**Saturday 10th December**

**Breakfast with Santa**

**Free for all children with a visit  
from Santa**

**Adults food and craft activities at  
a small charge.**



## *Events Team News*

As the nights draw in and the planning for the Christmas Festival is drawing to an end the Team's thoughts turn to reflecting on their full first year of working together.

We have a dual role of fund raising and community events and it has been a juggling act over the last 12 months trying to get a balance of the two. However, the experience we have all gathered throughout the year has enabled us to plan more effectively. We have been blessed with an amazing band of volunteers, all with different skills, and this has enabled us to create a diverse programme of events for 2017. Some will be organised by the Team, but others have come forward with some exciting ideas and we are thrilled to be able to support them in any way we can. We have had a generous offer of a quiz evening, ideas for concerts on a Sunday afternoon and some coach trips already planned by kind volunteers, but we are always around to hear any other ideas you may have.

So to start the year off with a bang we have a Bingo Banger night planned for the 21st January and a family coach trip at Easter to Weston Super Mare. Look out for all the upcoming events on the 'What's on Board' at the back of church or join us on our Facebook page 'St Johns Church Events'.

But before we go we would like to thank you for all of your support over the last year. Without your help these events wouldn't get out of the planning stage and we are looking forward to working with you all again next year.

*The Events Team*

---

### *I heard the bells on Christmas Day*

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth, ' I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

## *Christmas Flowers*

As Christmas Day is on a Sunday this year, we will be decorating the church in two stages. Firstly, on Friday December 16th, from 9am-12 midday, we will decorate with greenery and festive decorations. Then, on Thursday 22nd December, we will put in fresh flowers. This is so that the flowers will be fresh for Christmas Day. You are most welcome to help on either or both days.

We would be very grateful for any variagated greenery and holly that you can spare. If you wish to give a donation for flowers in remembrance of loved family or friends this would be very helpful. Please put the donation in an envelope with name(s) printed on the outside and give it to the churchwardens, clergy or myself. The names will be displayed on the remembrance list placed on the welcome table near the church door.

Thank you for your encouragement and help over the past year. The members of the flower team join me in wishing you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Eileen Cantrill*

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## *Remembrance Sunday 13th November 2016*



There was an excellent turnout for the Remembrance Service on Sunday 13th November. The service included the reading of all the names of the fallen on the St John's war memorial - very moving - and the familiar evocative words outside.

*Graham Evans*



## *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.

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### *Editors' email file*

7th November 2016

Dear Jinney,  
Please would you let us have a further instalment of your diary for our December magazine.  
Many thanks,  
The Editors

10th November 2016

Will do, but leaving out that I have just removed the stuffing from my new toy.  
Well, if they will make them with a squeaker, what do you expect?  
Jinney

11th November 2016

You asked me to write something, so as the email was being typed I sneaked an ink pen and chewed it up all over the white stair carpet.  
I have a black tongue and had to have my paws cleaned with white spirit!  
I thought it was great fun. Edward wasn't happy.  
Jinney

*See page 17 for this month's instalment of Jinney's diary.*

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## **Christmas - did you know?**

### *The story of mince pies:*

Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages, when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry baby Jesus on top.

### *Mistletoe's smelly history:*

'Mistletoe' means 'dung on a tree' The Anglo-Saxons thought that mistletoe grew in trees where birds had left their droppings. Mistel means dung, and tan means twig.

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# Jobs Done

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Fencing - Pruning - Paving - Decking**

*No Job Too Small*

**Colin Davis**

**Tel: 07767 025 574**

**Office: 01905 452 950**



## *Jinney's Diary*

I'm supposed to act more maturely now that I am nine months old, but it is difficult, especially when passing other dogs. Still, I have had the chance of lots of play and fun because I did a house swap for a week. Three other dogs lived there and an old ginger tom called Eddie. The adults really shouted at me when I jumped up at them so I've realised that I shouldn't do it. Their Guide Dog Puppy, Nala, stayed at my house to find out what it could be like to be on her own as a Guide Dog. She was so well behaved that she put me to shame. For a short while some people at church were fooled into believing I was a reformed character, until they realised it was Nala.



*“All this diary writing is so tiring”*

steps were so narrow and I could see the gap to the rails. I had to leap on and off. I don't know how blind people manage.

I'm thinking of applying to the Council to become a chewing-gum inspector. Some of the tastiest pieces I've discovered were under the check-out desk in a local supermarket and beneath a church pew, but I won't say which church! Annoyingly, they always take it off me before I can swallow it.

At last, I don't mind being brushed to remove my masses of loose hair. I'm not quite as bad as Churchwarden Joy's golden retriever. He's a serious shedder! I have the same type of coat as Gentleman Jim, the Vicarage dog. As he's a black labrador I have to take the blame for the white hairs when the cleaners attack the church carpet but I'm not in the dog house yet.

I have a train pass that allows me to go for 15 minutes to the next station. We went to Malvern to visit a friend in a care home. I had plenty of attention and listened to stories of others' dogs. I made a man with Parkinson's dementia happy because I stood very still and he just managed to scratch my back with his forefinger. The return train terminated in Weymouth and it was tempting to stay on to find out what the sea is like. Oh but the train

*Jinney*

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*TO THIS COMMUNITY and SURROUNDING AREAS*

1, St John's, Worcester WR2 5AE

## *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.

<p>Blakefield Room</p> <p><b>Now redecorated and looking splendid!</b></p>	<p>Suitable for up to 30 people: Fully fitted kitchen, including dishwasher; toilets, including one disabled toilet and a baby-changing facility; Tables and/or chairs.</p>	
<p>Burroughs' Room</p>	<p>Suitable for up to 12 people. Drink making facilities and toilet.</p>	
<p>The North Aisle</p>	<p>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.</p>	

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For more information, please email [hirings@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:hirings@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

## *Sudoku Puzzle*

© 2011 CrazyDad.com			1		7			3	The solution is on page 35.	
				8				7		
			5				6			
	1				4			3		
	9			7		6				5
		8			3					1
			6				5			
		9				4				
	4				8		7			





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# St John in Bedwardine Family Carol Service

in church

Saturday 3rd December 2016

5.00 pm



Christmas  
around the world



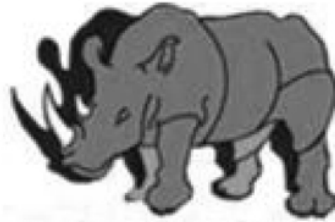
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An opportunity for families to join together  
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*Christmas around the world*

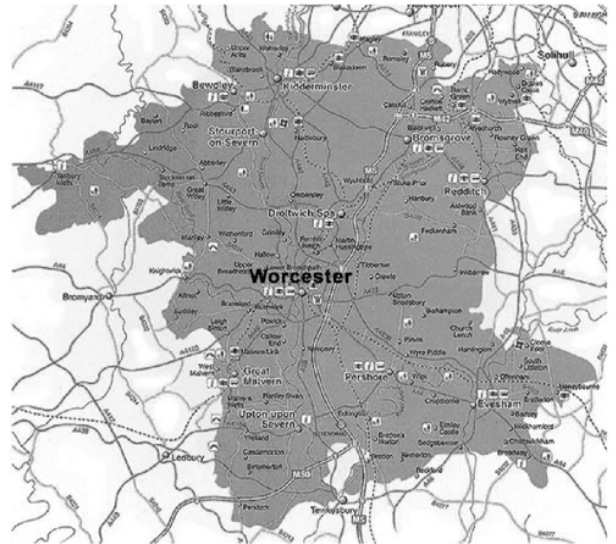
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## *Will you help us to help our community?*

### *Little Lambs Need a Shepherd!*

Amy Rees is stepping down as co-ordinator of the St John's weekly toddler group, Little Lambs. Little Lambs has been hugely successful, with anything up to 30 babies and toddlers (plus their mums, grandparents etc.) at any one session. We really want it to continue, but so far don't have anyone to take Amy's place. Can you help? We have plenty of helpers, but no-one to take on the leadership role.

Amy calculates the role needs around 4 hours per week, with the main focus being on:

- Planning craft activities and messy play
- Leading the story and singing time
- Keeping accounts
- Purchasing supplies
- Setting up before the session, and making sure everything is tidied away at the end.
- Making sure we meet all child protection and health and safety requirements

If we can't find anyone, we really only have two choices – to see Little Lambs fold, in spite of the tremendous success it's enjoyed so far, or somehow find a way of paying someone to take on the role (at a cost of around £40 per week). Can you help? Do you know anyone who might be able to take this on? Please speak to one of the wardens, or to me.

*Chris Stuart*

---

### *Bibles, Bumps and Babies*

An informal bible study group. Contact Sarah Cottrill on 426257 for details.

---

### *Prayer time, coffee and chat*

On the first Wednesday of each month there is a meeting in the Burroughs room at 10am for "Prayer time, coffee and chat". This is an opportunity to join together in prayer and chat in a friendly environment. Please come and join us.

The bible study group has been discontinued at present, but hopefully will be reviewed in the New Year as to restart.

*Sylvia Render*

---

### *Present time*

First man: "My wife doesn't know what she wants for Christmas."

Second man: "You're lucky. Mine does!"

## *Bangers in church on 5th November*

It is with great pleasure that we can report on yet another very successful parish breakfast held in the north aisle.



It was a really lovely occasion when as a church we had the opportunity to welcome not only members of our own family, but also friends from across the community including visitors from The Maggs Day Centre and the YMCA.



We were blessed by having 23 volunteer helpers who carried out their tasks with great cheerfulness and enthusiasm, and the whole occasion was orchestrated with great aplomb and good humour by Jenny who managed to keep us all in line.

We served 125 cooked breakfasts and a number of other visitors

simply enjoyed coffee and toast. It was also encouraging for the future to appreciate that we covered all of our costs for the breakfast and have a sizable float to take forward for the next occasion.

There was a real buzz about the meal and observing the behaviour and talking to volunteers and visitors everyone thoroughly enjoyed the conviviality and

friendship which was so apparent. We should feel justifiably pleased with this significant opportunity for mission from within our church family reaching out to the community of St John's.



*John Prangnell*





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## *Introduction to Gentleman Jim*

Hello! By now most of you will have met me as I commenced duties in the parish about a month ago when I was appointed as the Bishop's special companion for over-worked clergy.

My job is to keep Chris company, whether he is behind the altar, working in his study or visiting parishioners. So far I have settled into this role very well. On most days I attend both morning and evening prayer, and my Sundays can get very busy. Last Sunday I did four services altogether, along with two pastoral visits. I had to admit defeat when it came to compline time at about 9pm because I really was rather tired.

Overall, I am enjoying my new job very much. I am particularly enthusiastic about the importance of the daily office and I'm told I am the only person in the parish who completes laps of the kitchen table, barking with excitement at the prospect of morning prayer. You should try it. It gets your day off to a great start.

So far the most trying engagement I have attended has to be Deanery Synod. I was very excited and thought that it might be a similar experience to the daily office with Noel, Sarah and Phil, but instead I'm afraid it was mind numbingly boring and I was half way home before I summoned up the energy to wag my tail again.

I am very grateful to everyone at St John's, St Clement's and St Michael's for the welcome they have given me. It may be while before I can learn all of your names, so please bear with me as I get used to my new routine.

Before I came to St John's I was living in foster care under the Oldies club charity. Although I don't look or feel like an oldie, I am, believe it or not, 12 years old. The Oldies Club helped me to find new employment, as in the present climate, many people are reluctant to take on an older dog. Experienced dogs do tend to be more expensive, but sometimes that is worth investing in.

To express my gratitude to the Oldies Club I will be holding occasional events such as cakes sales to raise funds. The Oldies Club also accepts your used stamps, so if anyone saves stamps and would like to contribute, please do pass them my way.

In the meantime, look out for me as I complete my rounds in the parish and do stop to introduce yourself when we meet.



***barking with excitement at the prospect of morning prayer***

*Jim*

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## *Will you help us to help our community?*

### *Christmas Hospitality Scheme for International Students at the University of Worcester*

Amy Rees is stepping down as co-ordinator of the St John's weekly toddler group, Can you imagine what it would be like to be in a foreign country during a national holiday? Or what it would be like if most of the people you were just getting to know went away for several days to spend time with their family and friends?

This is the experience that many of our international students have, spending Christmas in Worcester. Most home students will leave on or around the 9th December and return for 3rd January. Staying in the halls of residence during this time can be lonely and isolating. Even students from a Christian background find the family focused nature of Christmas celebrations in Britain strange.

Last year I was able to arrange for 17 students to spend Christmas Eve or Christmas Day with families or at Bromyard Road Methodist Church where they were served a traditional three course Christmas meal alongside people who would otherwise be on their own. It was overwhelmingly successful for students and hosts.

I could give you many comments, but here is one from a host and two from students:

- Lili and Ting were delightful company and their command of English made the whole occasion informative and fun.
- I had a really good time with Sarah's family. She and her mom were so nice with me and it made my Christmas so much better.
- It is the priceless and memorable moment for my first Christmas Day in the UK. I had a traditional meal, I did traditional customs and I met energetic people. Thank you very much for creating this special experience for me.

This Christmas we would like to offer more students the opportunity to experience a traditional British Christmas. A simple act of hospitality and kindness makes a huge difference to a student's experience of their time here and can lead to lasting friendships.

If you are able to offer a meal to two, or more, students, ideally on Christmas Day, or would just like to find out more, please get in touch with me. I am able to offer you advice and support.

We would also be interested in offering similar hospitality to home students who are care leavers and have no homes to return to, so if you would be interested in hosting home students, please contact me.

*Revd Dr Fiona Haworth, University Chaplain  
email: [f.haworth@worc.ac.uk](mailto:f.haworth@worc.ac.uk) Tel: 01905 542327  
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## *Notes from the choir*



The British have in the past always been known for that famed British reserve or the ‘stiff upper lip’. Of course, like any generalisation there is a large element of anecdotal evidence in such a statement, and, whilst we all know people who are natural introverts we also all know those who are much more extrovert. Certainly, the growth of social media over the last decade or so has shown that there are many who are more than happy to share most if not all the details of their lives in a very public forum. However, there is probably still some truth in the fact that, as a nation our heritage is to be somewhat reticent to open up. Does this make us reluctant to share our thoughts and feelings?

This was brought home to me many years ago when I was booked to sing at a funeral in South London. It turned out to be the funeral of a man of West Indian background and the congregation of family and friends was largely drawn from the community. There was no holding back in the expression of grief for the deceased with loud and passionate outbursts of tears and cries and when it came to the congregational singing, the outpouring of emotion continued with everyone joining in, singing to assuage the sadness of the passing but also to celebrate a life completed. It was a real experience for me who had been much more used to a restrained sense of mourning.

There was certainly no fear or worry in the singing on that day. Do we hold back from really letting go in our singing because we are afraid that we may somehow give something away? Perhaps it is just a lack of confidence in the sound we make. So often people have told me that they can’t sing or that they only sing in the privacy of the shower when no one is listening. Or are we scared that we will sing a wrong note or two and so be really embarrassed? Well a choral colleague of mine used to say to his choir: ‘If you can’t be with the note you love, love the note you’re with’. In other words, just sing out and if it is wrong it doesn’t matter! Certainly, God is never going to be critical of our efforts and in the spirit of Him loving ‘a cheerful giver’ I would urge everyone to sing out with real strength and share in that wonderful sound that a Church full of people can make. With the Carol Service coming up and all the wonderful celebrations for Christmas, let’s really raise the roof with our singing this year!

*Luise Horrocks*

---

## *Hallelujah,.... but not yet*

A visiting choir was due to come and sing The Messiah at a church just before Christmas. When a big snowstorm postponed the performance, the vicar put up a sign outside which read: “The Messiah is postponed - due to snow.”

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## Sharing

Inspired by the sermon on sharing the joy of Christmas in a practical way, the parishioner, the week before Christmas, invited a local homeless man to his home for Christmas lunch.

The man sighed, put his hand into his very worn jacket, and took out a grubby diary. "It won't be easy," he said. "I am already booked for Christmas lunches on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

But how about after Christmas? I could definitely fit that in."

---

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## *It's not all about marmalade*

Most of you know that I periodically vanish to the depths of darkest Peru, although I am aware that many might be slightly confused about why! So it seemed a good idea to write something about Worcester's partnership with Peru and my own part in the link, both to make people aware of what is happening and also to try to explain a little about what I actually do.

My own involvement with the Anglican Diocese of Peru began seven years ago. While I was at theological college, I was on placement there from September 2009 to January 2010. Primarily based in Lima, I worked with visiting teams, provided

**an exciting time in which I became deeply passionate about the country**

support for the diocesan administration and at the cathedral, and generally helped out as necessary. I became deeply passionate about the country and the work of the Anglican Church, and when I returned to the UK I naturally wanted to have a continuing role in Worcester's link with Peru. In 2012, I took over from Margaret Rutter as chair of the diocesan Task Group

which oversees that link. Margaret had spent many years working hard to build up and sustain the partnership, and continues to be strongly involved in it.

Although it is often a surprise to many people that there is an Anglican presence in Peru in the first place, the Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd was established as long ago as 1846, to serve

English-speaking expats working in the country. The church occupied several sites around Lima until the current church, now the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, was consecrated in the Miraflores district of the city in 1949. It continued to cater only to English-speakers until 1977, when the Diocese of Peru and Bolivia was created to



begin a Spanish language ministry to Peruvians as well as expats. In 1981, the diocese became part of the new Province of the Southern Cone

*(continued on page 39)*



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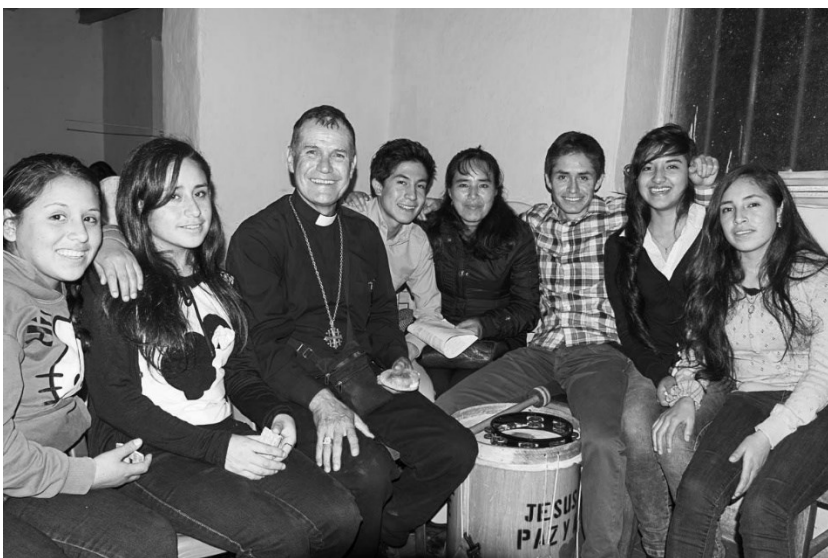


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(continued from page 37) (renamed the Province of South America in 2014), and since Bolivia became a separate diocese in 1995 it has been the Diocese of Peru.

Between 1977 and 2016, the diocese was overseen successively by three missionary bishops, all British. There have been Anglican churches and missions in Lima and Arequipa (the second city, around 500 miles south-east of Lima) for more than thirty years. Gradually the number of indigenous clergy has increased. Many are former Roman Catholic priests, although some have trained in independent seminaries and others are products of the Anglican system. Work has also spread into other areas, including some of the Quechua-speaking parts of the Andes. In July 2015, the first three Peruvians were consecrated as suffragan bishops, then in April this year one of these – Jorge Aguilar – was installed as the first indigenous Bishop of Peru.

There was much talk last year about consecrating new bishops, splitting the country into four dioceses, and even creating a Province of Peru. Since Bishop Jorge was installed, constructive discussions within the diocese and the Province of South



**Some of the youth group with Bishop Juan Carlos Revilla in Cajamarca**

America have led to the conclusion that this would be unwise at this stage. Instead, the country has been split into five areas, to be known as archdeaconries and each based around a major city: Lima, under Bishop Jorge; Chiclayo, in the north of the country, under Bishop Juan Carlos Revilla; Cusco, in the south-eastern Andean region, under Bishop Alejandro Mesco; Arequipa, in the south, under the Revd Carlos Quispe; and Huancayo, in the Andes just east of Lima, under the Revd Misael Varillas. There is already much going on in Lima and Arequipa, and some work in Chiclayo and Huancayo, but at the moment Cusco is very much a missionary area. Across the diocese, there are approximately forty churches and missions and around fifty clergy, the majority in the shanty towns and poorer districts of the cities.

In addition to these churches, the diocese has several social projects. The Shalom Project in Lima provides support and therapy for disabled children. Ladies in another part of Lima create arpilleras (the 3D embroideries) as part of a co-operative which helps provide them and their families with an income.

*(continued on page 41)*



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*(continued from page 39)* There are some children's playgroups in the shanty towns around Lima, while two diocesan youth officers (one a British missionary, one Peruvian) work with children and young adults across the country. There are three Anglican schools, two in Lima and one in Arequipa. In Arequipa, there is a home which provides housing and education for a small number of children under eighteen. There are thus many positive developments, but there are also significant challenges. Because most of the work is amongst the poor, lack of finance is a constant issue and there are occasions on which there is not enough money to pay clergy stipends. There is currently no one based in



Peru able to deliver theological education, which means that clergy training is a real problem. Bishop Jorge is aware of the need for sustainability within the Diocese of Peru and beginning to work towards that, but at present the diocese is reliant upon support from partner churches. There are some new partnerships with dioceses in the USA, but the most longstanding and well established is that with the Diocese of Worcester.



**The majority of clergy work in the shanty towns and poorer districts of the cities**

reviews and renewals in 1997, 2002 and 2012. Although the relative wealth of the two countries means that one of the ways Worcester provides support is financial, the link has always been first and foremost about relationship within the Anglican Communion. These are not the type of relationships which can be maintained by Skype or e-mails, especially as many in the Anglican churches in Peru do not have access to this technology. Every two or three years (recently this has coincided with the clergy conference), we bring two members of the clergy over from Peru to experience something of the Diocese of Worcester. We also try every two years or so to take a small group out to Peru to maintain existing relationships and develop new ones. Sometimes this involves work with specific

*(continued on page 43)*

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(continued from page 41) projects, at other times it is about being present with these communities and learning from them as well as offering what we can. As a Spanish speaker who has worked in both dioceses, I act to enable and develop those links on a diocesan level, but there are also links between parishes and individuals. St John's, for example, supports the work of Penny and Juan Carlos Marces, and the arpilleras Margaret sells supports the women in the Pamplona district of Lima.

I could, of course, write far more about the link and exactly what my role is, but that would doubtless fill an entire magazine. Hopefully this gives something of a brief insight into the Diocese of Peru and its relationship with Worcester; I am always happy to give talks or answer questions if people would like to know more.

*Phil Bradford*

## *And finally....*

### ***Giving thanks:***

"Thanks very much for the beautiful jumper," said Charles, kissing his grandmother dutifully on the cheek. "Oh, there's nothing to thank me for," she murmured.

"That's what I thought, but Mum said I had to."

### ***Reflecting on the Christmas story:***

The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible story. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was her reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh," explained Kate happily, "that's Pontius - the pilot!"

### ***At the New Year:***

The bagpipes are the missing link between music and noise. *E K Kruger*

The inventor of the bagpipes was inspired when he saw a man carrying an indignant asthmatic pig under his arm. Unfortunately, the man-made sound never equalled the purity of the sound achieved by the pig. *Alfred Hitchcock*

Bring not a bagpipe to a man in trouble. *Jonathan Swift*

### ***New Year's resolutions:***

Woman's ambition: to be weighed and found wanting.

Putting on weight is the penalty for exceeding the feed limit.

*Don't miss the magazine archive item overleaf on page 45....*

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
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## *From the magazine archive, December 1952*

### **ST. JOHN'S GIRL GUIDES' 23rd ANNUAL REPORT**

THE Company has had a very successful year. For the second year running they won the Divisional Shield in July for General Guide Work, and came Second in the Divisional Swimming Sports.

There are now 29 Guides and 4 Recruits. Badges obtained during the year were—Five 2nd Class; Five Athletes; Three Singers and Two Knitters.

Patrol Competitions were held in November and the standard of work was high. Mrs. Follows, Miss Stone, Mr. W. Curnock and Mrs. Rowe kindly acted as judges and we started the evening with a Camp Fire.

The Christmas Party on January 9th was a very happy affair, and we were able, thanks to a big parcel from the U.S.A., to give the Guides a fine supper.

A Jumble Sale in February, very kindly organised by Mrs. Withers with the Committee, helped our funds greatly.

Thinking Day Service was held in St. Clement's Church on February 24th, and the Company marched there with their Colours. Church Parades have been well attended each month.

On February 5th, Miss Russell came and presented the Divisional Shield to the Company for 1951.

On Tuesday, April 29th, we held a Whist Drive which was well attended and seemed to be much enjoyed. Prizes were all kindly given.

Our Patrol Sports in May were blessed with a fine evening. We were sorry Bishop Mort was prevented from coming to present the Patrol Cup to the Swifts.

The Company entered for the Divisional Sports in June. Five Guides had a fine week at the Divisional Camp at Castlemorton and very much enjoyed themselves. I was able to go out and see them and had a very good report of them all.

About six Guides now have plots of land in my garden and have grown quite a number of things and spent many happy hours looking after their gardens.

The Guides also raised £2 2s. 0d. towards the Autumn Fayre by raffling a lovely toy rabbit, made and given by Mrs. Everton.

I should like once again to thank my Officers for all their loyal service and express how pleased I am to have Mrs. Ambrose back again as an active Guider. I would like also to thank Bishop Mort and the Committee for all their ready help and extend a welcome to our new Vicar who has kindly accepted the Chairmanship of our Guide Committee.

G. M. ANNIS, *Captain.*

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## *To advertise in the magazine*

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

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

If you wish to advertise, please contact Sue Hussell on 01684 893397 or by email at [sue.hussell@talktalk.net](mailto:sue.hussell@talktalk.net).



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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 the Parish Office.

### BIBLES, BUMPS and BABIES

An informal bible study group. Contact Sarah Cottrill on 426257 for more details.

### YOUNG ADULTS

A group for young Christians aged 18 to 40, with social and other events. Find us on Facebook or email [young.adults@westworcesterchurches.org.uk](mailto:young.adults@westworcesterchurches.org.uk)

### PRAYER TIME, COFFEE AND CHAT

Meet in the Burroughs room at 10am on the first Wednesday of each month to join together in prayer and chat in a friendly environment. Contact Sylvia Render on 422654 for 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.

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e-mail: [office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](mailto:office@stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)

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**Normally open for general enquiries and messages (please ring to check) Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 10am to noon.**

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**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.

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Parish Website: [www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk](http://www.stjohninbedwardine.co.uk)  
Group Website: [www.westworcesterchurches.org.uk](http://www.westworcesterchurches.org.uk)  
The church of St John-in-Bedwardine is a registered charity, number 1152583.





## Sunday services in the West Worcester Group, December 2016

	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>St. Clement's</b>	<b>St. David's</b>	<b>St Michael's</b>
<b>4th December</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 5pm Evensong (BCP)	9.30am Morning Prayer 11am Family Church	4pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion
<b>11th December</b>	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
<b>18th December</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church 6pm Carols by Candlelight	9.30am Eucharist 11am Family Church	4pm 'Carols around the tree', followed by a shared tea	10.30am Christmas Carol Service
<b>25th December Christmas Day</b>	Christmas Eve: 5pm Christingle and Crib Service 11.30pm Candlelit Midnight Mass with incense 8.30am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Christmas Eucharist	Christmas Eve: 4pm Crib Service 9.30am Christmas Family Eucharist	Christmas Eve: 9.30pm Holy Communion	10am Christmas Eucharist
<b>1st January 2017</b>	8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30am Parish Eucharist with Children's Church	9.30am Morning Prayer	4pm Holy Communion	10.30am Holy Communion

**The information above is correct at the time of going to press, but please watch the weekly church newsletters and website for the latest information.**