

Grapevine

St James Family news and PCC highlights

August 2014

Signs of the Kingdom

Worcester Diocese recently released a checklist of 8 points designed to help churches take a look at where they are, and to identify ways in which they can be more effective as signs and agents of God's Kingdom. After completing this check Harvington PCC identified two areas that they felt needed improvement, and the Mission and Worship sub-committee has been asked to look at these more closely.

The two points that we want to work on are: that we 'are equipped to witness to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom,' and to 'be renewed and transformed by regular worship.' We are already doing some things in relation to the first point, the home groups and the recently started Pilates groups are an example, but we will be looking at ways in which we can equip ourselves to share the gospel of love more fully and effectively.

For the second point, as a first step members of the congregations will be asked to express their experiences of worship in St James' in several ways, including anonymous appraisal forms, so that we can identify both strengths and weaknesses.

All this is being done so that we can continue 'to show our love for God and you.'

Editor Gill Thorniley: please use the "Contact Us" page on the website

ARCH Group's aim: "To show our love for God and You"

Family news

Revd. Steve has now completed his curacy with us. The good news is that he likes us so much he wants to stay. The Diocese has agreed to this, so Steve will be licensed as our Associate Minister at a service, the time and date of which has still to be decided. We have benefited so much from Steve's ministry and it is great news that our relationship will continue.

Congratulations to Diana Huggins on the occasion of her recent 80th birthday.

Several members of our community have had to have operations or other treatments recently, please continue to hold them in your prayers.

If you know of any significant events in the lives of members of St. James' or those close to them then please let Gill know.

Activities

The normal routine of **CAMEO Teas** was disrupted in June and July, by the now traditional annual link with Harvington First School. In June Year 5 visited St James' Church for tea, cake, chats and a quiz, and in July CAMEO Teas went to school. In the school hall Year 5 not only provided the refreshments, they also entertained those attending with a couple of songs and a dance. For the first time they also got their own back by providing a quiz of their own, based on the studies they have been doing on the Victorian era.

The annual **Fete** took place this year a bit later than usual on Saturday 28th June, but with all the usual activities, stalls, refreshments and the Craft Marquee. It was another great success, and the weather was amazingly kind; despite rain in surrounding areas, Harvington stayed dry during the Fete itself. There are some interesting and humorous comments about the weather on the Harvington Fete Facebook page, which suggest that Revd. Richard may have had a hand in it – or maybe a thigh bone.

As a benefice, we have been supporting **Caring Hands** for many years now, and on Sunday 20th July, its founder, Diane Bennett, was the speaker at the Family

Service. She gave a very interesting talk on the history and work of Caring Hands, the highlight of which was showing us the contents of one of the rucksacks they give out to the homeless. The items were very ably carried round the church by some young helpers. It was sobering however to hear from Diane how great the need is in our area, and how recently even those in employment have been in receipt of food parcels. They are providing a valuable service to some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

St James' Church was ablaze with flowers for the recent **Flower Festival** to mark the patronal festival of St James'. The theme chosen by the Flower Team was 'Praise in Flowers,' and all the arrangements were based on well-known hymns, including 'For the Beauty of the Earth,' 'Lord of the Dance,' 'O Praise ye the Lord' and, decorating the newly restored bier, 'Abide with me.' The team worked hard setting up the displays, and serving tea and cakes over the weekend, and the church looked stunning.

Over the three days 29th-31st July, Revd. Richard and a team of young (12-18) and slightly more mature helpers, ran a **Holiday Club** for 35 children aged between 5-10. For the second time this year the club sold out. The title of the Club was 'Muddy Kids' and it had an outward-bound theme, with bell boating, a walk and an obstacle course on offer, as well as the usual games and crafts.. Great fun was had by all, and over the three days the only casualty was a set of van keys!

Rhoda Arora , has a vision to see people become healthy in body and spirit, and to help with the former at least, has set up the **Harvington Churches' Pilates Group** which meets in Harvington Baptist Church. There are now two groups meeting on Wednesday at 7.45pm and Thursday at 9.30am. Cost is £6/session and there is a varied programme of exercises. For more information contact Rhoda on *****@***** or catch up with her at church.

The **Home Groups** and **Faith Today** continue to meet regularly, and are always happy for new members to join. For Faith Today please contact Sophie Dodds, and to join one of the other home groups, which include members from around the benefice, please contact Revd. Richard who will be able to tell you when and where they are meeting.

(PTO for the PCC digest)

PCC Digest

The PCC met on Tuesday 8th July, and the following items were discussed.

Woodworm Following the recent discovery of woodworm on the stairs to the bell tower, the church architect has been asked to carry out an inspection on the extent of the problem, and to recommend treatment. *(The architect's report is now in – and he is a woodworm specialist – and he advises that no more than a few pews need looking at with domestic woodworm treatment.)*

Church charity Water Aid was adopted as our charity for this year, which means that collections made at the occasional services, baptisms, weddings and funerals will go to Water Aid unless otherwise specified.

Toilet The Fabric committee reported that the faculty had been received back from the Worcester Diocesan Registry with two conditions. The project had been put out to tender, and the committee were awaiting responses.

Harvington First School The PCC agreed to support the school joining the Prince Henry's Multi-Academy Trust, subject to Diocesan Board of Education approval.

Germany The PCC agreed to Revd. Richard attending the ordination of Pastor Theo Spielmann, our link minister in the diocese of Magdeburg. *We hope to organise a return visit soon.*

Social Committee Although Sue Coley has stepped down from being Chair of the committee after many years hard work, she will continue to run the popular Winter Lectures. There is now no official chair of the committee, but those involved are happy to continue to support the PCC in running events.