

Grapevine

St James Family news and PCC highlights

February 2015

Unity

Psalm 133 begins 'how pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity,' and ends with 'For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.'

Under the Pastoral Measures Act, Harvington and the ARCH benefice will soon form one group with the churches of the Inkberrow Benefice and become the North Avon Group. There will still be two benefices with two priests. On a day-to-day level nothing will change in our patterns of worship, but together we can do things that would be difficult on our own, for example the John Bell weekend would not have been possible for either benefice on their own.

We now have another chance to get together for our joint Lent Course 'Parables of the Kingdom.' This starts on Ash Wednesday 18th February at Cookhill with a joint ashing ceremony. Our own Revd Steve Jordan, will kick off the series of talks, which will include speakers both from within and outside the two benefices.

Full details of the Lent course can be found inside the ARCH Messenger or on the back of the weekly notices. It will be a chance to meet friends old and new, to engage more deeply with what Jesus said about the Kingdom life, and as we dwell in unity we pray that God will indeed command the blessing.

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

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

Family news

We now have an official new Associate Minister following Revd. Steve Jordan's licensing on Sunday 14th December by the Bishop of Dudley. We welcome Steve in his new role!

Talking of licensing, Janet's license to minister to us has been renewed for a further five years.

We are blessed to have Steve and Janet as part of the team, and continue to pray for them both in their lives and ministry.

Our Youth Worker, Hannah, will be on maternity leave from February half-term.

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

Christmas was a busy time at St. James'! Harvington First School celebrated a thought-provoking **Advent Assembly** in the church on 3rd December, which the children had organised and presented themselves.

The **Christmas Fayre** took place on Saturday 6th December. Congratulations and "thank you" to the team who provided the lovely festive atmosphere and raised **£2,272** for church funds.

The **CAMEO Teas Carol Service** was held on Wednesday 10th December in St. James' Church with a mixture of traditional carols, Bible readings and seasonal readings that got everyone in festive mood in time for the Christmas lunch afterwards at the Kings Court Hotel near Alcester. Watch out for some new faces on the CAMEO Teas team this year. A big "thank you" to those who are standing down.

The **Harvington Singers** performed their concert on 12th and 13th December, with seasonal refreshments in the interval, and the church decorated throughout with seasonal greenery, festive silver highlights and flickering candlelight.

The **Family Christmas service** on 14th December was in the form of Messy Church, with everyone involved in making a nativity scene which became the focal point for the second half of the service. It was led by Revd Richard, with Hannah Owen giving the talk ably assisted by Mark Davies.

Many of us enjoyed watching the **School Play**, ‘Countdown to Christmas,’ on 15 December. The play followed the adventures of a family as they prepared for Christmas, remembering the reason for the season as they wrestled with the busyness.

The traditional **9 lessons and carols evening service** was taken by Janet Stean on 21st December, and provided a more reflective time of seasonal worship.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day provided a range of worship opportunities with the early evening **Family Service** and the **Midnight Communion** service on Christmas Eve, and a **Communion Service** on Christmas Day itself. It was lovely to see so many joining in as we celebrated the birth of Christ.

Harvington Handbell Ringers were out and about in December ringing at Ellenden Tasting Day, the Avoncroft Museum, Greenhill Care Home, supermarkets, restaurants, pubs, and churches. They collected money for their usual charities: Midland Air Ambulance, Warwickshire Air Ambulance and St. James’ Church and this year they collected over **£4,000**.

St. James’ Church has become a much more convenient place to meet after the **official opening** of the new toilet block on 11th January. The ceremony was carried out by the Archdeacon of Worcester, the Venerable Robert Jones, who after blessing the building proceeded to splash those assembled with (clean) water. The congregation are very grateful to the generosity of an anonymous benefactor who paid for all the building work., which will benefit not just the members of the church, but the school on their visits and those attending weddings, baptisms and funerals.

(PTO for the PCC digest)

PCC Digest

The PCC met on Tuesday 11th November, and the following items were discussed.

Toilet Work had commenced. The roof tile choice agreed by PCC was rejected by Worcester DAC, who insisted on reclaimed tiles being used. This change to specification approved by PCC.

Quinquennial Inspection. Report received, nothing urgent except need to cover old boiler house trap door. Tape will be put round to highlight danger and it will be topped with concrete.

John Bell Weekend Agreed that it had been a success and within budget.

New Architect John Middleton approved as new architect following retirement of Peter Rhodes.

Water Heater New one now required as the part to repair old one is no longer available.

Woodworm The architect's report commissioned by the PCC stated that there was very little live woodworm. PCC to reimburse the bell ringers the cost of brackets put on tower stairs. DIY woodworm treatment was all that was required on choir stalls and will be applied in spring.

The PCC met on Tuesday 13th January, and the following items were discussed.

Water heater New one installed and teething problems overcome.

Toilet All completed. Thanks given to all involved in project.

Janet Stean Her Reader's license has been renewed for a further 5 years.

Finance It was reported that Planned Giving was down. It was agreed relevant information should be shared with members.

Reorganisation It was affirmed and confirmed that Harvington were happy to form single group of two benefices with Inkberrow Benefice.

Monthly Benefice Service The idea to make benefice services more frequent was raised by the Mission and Worship sub-committee, to allow clergy to spend more time after services with members and also because members of the four churches enjoyed getting together, Broad approval given by PCC, other PCCs to be asked