

# Bishop Comes to Clifton !



Every year at the end of January since the beginning of the West Worcestershire Rural Team Ministry, we have had a big coming together of all the parishes between here and Leigh. This time it is our turn to host the gathering, we are delighted to say that the Bishop of Worcester, Bishop John Inge, has agreed to come and be our special guest at a Service of Rededication.

If previous events are anything to go by, it promises to be a lovely service, and there will be refreshments afterwards.

It is open to everyone, so do come along: **Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am.**

## More Dates

Lent starts (Ash Wednesday) February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Evening Service at Harpley.  
Mothering Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> – Special Family Service at St Kenelm's.  
Good Friday April 6<sup>th</sup>, **Easter Day April 8<sup>th</sup>**  
Rogation Sunday May 13<sup>th</sup> – Service at Farm **Whit Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>**

For details of all our services and all church news please see **Teme Triangle**.

STOP PRESS: "Flicks in the Sticks" at the Village Hall, Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. "THE WAY" – a moving film of an exterior and interior trek to Santiago. Doors open 6.30. Film at 7pm.  
Ticket £5 includes a drink.

## Summer Garden Party



Well, yes, it is time to start planning now. Do you remember the 2010 Rectory and Church Garden Party opened by 'The Countess of Teme', and incorporating traditional games on the lawn as well as cakes, books, and live music etc.? We are going to do it again, but this time BEFORE the summer holidays. Last time we raised £600. This time our target is £1,000, because we hope that there will be more people around. **Please note the Date - 14 July!**



# Have You Heard ??

Winter news from your local church



We had a lovely Christmas (Thank You, Everyone), and now

## 2012 is a Year of Celebrations

There are the Olympics being held in the summer.

2012 comes just 1200 years after the death of St Kenelm.

And of course, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on the first weekend in June.



For us in the Church we have a particular reason to celebrate the Jubilee because of the quality of Christian service the Queen has brought to everything. **"When I ascended the throne I dedicated my life to the service of my peoples, and I asked almighty God to assist me in this great enterprise. That was in the Salad Days of youth, but I would not now take back one word of it".** So said her Majesty at a previous Jubilee.

This is surely one of the main reasons why, despite all the troubles of the Royal Family, she continues to be sincerely loved throughout our nation.

She is continuing the example set by her father, who at the start of WWII quoted the poem:

**I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,  
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."  
And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way."  
And the King added,  
"May that Almighty Hand guide and uphold us all."**

So what are we in Clifton going to do to celebrate her long reign? St Kenelm's are keen to join with other parish organisations in this great weekend, and are delighted that the Village Hall Trustees are offering the whole complex free of charge for a day. We are very interested to know what YOU would like us the Church to do, and look forward to arranging a joint planning meeting very soon.

## Charity Collections

At **HARVEST** we raised **£98** to help work with homeless people in Worcester.

In **October** the retiring collection in memory of Ted Hooper was **£223** for St Michael's Hospice.

The **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** (Poppy Day Collection) in the service at St Kenelm's came to **£351**.

At **CHRISTMAS** we had the **Big Sing-In** for Christian Aid on December 9<sup>th</sup>, which raised **£ 210** (plus £100-worth of Traidcraft sales).

**Carol singing** in The Lion and The New Inn and the Christmas Morning service collection raised a total of **£125** again for homeless people in Worcester (St Paul's Hostel).

The **Christingle Service** collection for The Children's Society was **£ 97**

THANK YOU, too, for the many **face flannels** donated for the Morning Star children's AIDS centre in S. Africa.



**Christian Aid week** is **May 13th to 19th** this year.

In 2011 Clifton raised a total of £ 1,528. Can we continue to beat our record?

## We are a Charity Too....

Contrary to popular thinking, we have never had state funding. And for many reasons, the Church Commissioners' contributions have been shrinking rapidly over recent decades, so that more and more we have to pay all our own expenses, just like a Scout or Guide group.

Now that we have completed some brilliant renovations to the church and its heating system at a total cost of well over £125,000, we are setting about the business of knocking our on-going finances into shape. More of this later in the year.

## We are Here For Everyone

**St Kenelms is open daily** during most of the daylight hours. Please feel free to come to look around or have a quiet few moments. We also welcome groups for services or social events.

**The Reverend John Sumner**, like all Parish Priests, is here for everyone too.

*John writes:* "It does not matter whether you believe, or what you believe – the church and its priest are here to help. There are many ways in which a listening ear or a healing prayer can make a difference. And I always prefer to be meeting people than to be doing admin!"

"My parish days do vary greatly over the weeks, because there are so many different activities in our parishes for me to be interested in. But although I am part-time, we are around a lot, so we can make sure anything urgent is attended to promptly. So please don't hesitate to leave us a message. If Alice and I are unavailable for any length of time, the answer phone will give you other numbers to ring"

The Rectory contacts: (01886) **812483** or [aliceandjohn@sumner4.plus.com](mailto:aliceandjohn@sumner4.plus.com)

## Young People and Children



St Kenelm's are helping Scouts and Cub Scouts with their Faith Badges. We are delighted to have growing friendship between St Kenelm's and our Scouts and Guides, and we do appreciate all that their leaders do in giving their time, energy and love.

*(The Scouts in this picture are on the new carpet kindly donated by the Friends of St Kenelm's)*

**Messy Church** will be happening 5 times this year: 14<sup>th</sup> Jan, 31<sup>st</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> Sept, and (provisionally) 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**Pushchair Praise** is moving to **Mondays** – 10am (refreshments) for 10.30 (short service)



And of course we continue with monthly **Family Services**, and with **Young Peoples Choir** for special events. The village **Youth Club** which St Kenelm's gladly sponsored at its start is a secular club. We now plan to have a spiritual **Discussion Group** for young people.

## Book of Remembrance

This year we are introducing a Book of Remembrance for you to remember loved ones. For this we have commissioned a craftsman-made glass-topped cabinet. Already we have raised £185 towards the overall cost of £400. *If you would like someone to be entered in the Book, please send a note to the Rectory, or send an email.*

## Jubilee Garden of Remembrance



The ground next to the churchyard, which is covered with nettles and spills water into the next field, we plan to turn into an attractive Garden of Remembrance.

commencing this Jubilee Year. John actually planted two tree 'whips' over a year ago and they are now much taller than he is! This project will call for a lot of care and effort, including water management and we will *welcome help and advice, and would love to make it a COMMUNITY PROJECT.*

