

Music

There is a very small but dedicated choir and we have a skilled, paid organist. The organ is regarded as a fine Nicolson instrument and Carlo Curley will be returning to give another concert in the summer, the second here in three years. The parish also has an active Music Group who provide the music for the 10.00 am Parish Communion on the second Sunday of each month. Once a month they join the Choir for a service with both musical traditions represented. The Music Group also combine with musicians from other churches, notably Our Lady Queen of Peace RC church, when collectively they are known as "*Mixed Blessings*". In that guise they provide the musical lead for a variety of services including the outdoor service of witness on Good Friday, various events for Christian Unity week, and, of course, events at Christmas. The musical canon of the Music Group includes Taise, Caribbean, modern folk and traditional music.

Church Members

The inhabitants of St John's do have an allegiance to both the locality and St John's Church and whilst they may not be regular worshippers they fill the church on special occasions such as the carol services and Remembrance Day.

We often welcome children from Christopher Whitehead Language School, Pitmaston Primary, the Pupil Referral Unit and playgroups as part of their school syllabus or for a special service but we no longer have a church school affiliated with St John's. This has changed the dynamics of the congregation. Although we have a number of young and middle aged families attached to the church, it appears that they are unable to commit themselves as people did in former times by supporting the running of the church and taking leading rôles in many aspects of its life, but we would still hope to engage them in our worship. We are very aware of the need to encourage, inspire and teach younger people but at the moment we are lacking anyone who can bring those particular skills of direction and leadership.

Details from the Registers for 2008

Electoral roll for 2008 = 132

Baptisms: 31

Weddings: 17

Funerals 34 in church.

(More only at the Crematorium)

Communicants: 8am: 15 average

10am: 50* average

(*This number excludes children or adults who have received a blessing.)

Home Communion: 12 average per week

Evening Prayer: 11 average

Easter Day: 10am: 89 communicants out of 135 present

Remembrance Service: 100 approx.adults; 260 approx.children

Carol Service: 309 adults; 67 children

Christingle 24th Dec. 162 adults; 105 children

Midnight Service: 120 communicants out of 152 present

Church Organisations

It is important to note, as an indication of the commitment of our membership, that the following activities are **all** led by the laity, with some contribution from clergy.

Bell-ringers	Tuesday evenings (suspended at present due to work on bell-tower).
Bible Reading Fellowship	1 st Tuesday of month
Bible Study Group	Wednesday mornings
Choir Practice	Thursday evenings
Flower Group	Friday mornings
Friendship Group	Wednesday evening, last in month
Lent and Autumn Courses	Organised with RC, Methodist and Anglican Churches in West Worcester
Music Group	Friday evenings
PCC	Every two months (17 members)
Toddler's Group	Friday mornings, short service & fellowship
Women's Fellowship	Tuesday afternoons

Almost everyone in the congregation helps in some way with the every day running of the church. The duties and rôles carried out include vergers, cleaners, stewards, brass cleaners, refreshment & social teams, flower arrangers, administrators of the chalice, servers, intercessors, baptism service helpers, volunteers who work in the Parish Office, the Magazine Editor, Treasurer, PCC members, two Wardens and two Deputy Wardens.

The Tower

Sadly our peal of eight bells has had to be silenced recently because death-watch beetle has been found in the tower. The bell frame has been declared unsafe and water damage has meant that the roof is in need of repair. The estimated cost is £200,000. Although this is a huge amount of money we believe that we can raise it through our official appeal because the inhabitants of St John's will be supportive, especially as the tower is such a landmark which we feel is our duty to retain.

Financial Situation

Summary of PCC's most recent accounts

Parish Share	£48,000	(always been paid in full)
Major financial issues	Quinquennial Report (always ongoing, but report recommendations cleared.)	
Church Tower	£200,000	(See previous paragraph.)
Fund Raising	£10,000 in 2008	
Charity support	£3,900 in 2007 (Our ongoing policy is to allocate 10% of giving both locally and to our church links in Peru, Mexico and the Church Army.)	
Clergy Expenses	Paid by the church	
Payment to Organist	£2,000 annually	

St John's Church also maintains and manages some ancient charities such as Smith's and Feoffees.

St John's is here at the centre of our community to proclaim and celebrate the love of God for all and to live out the values of the Gospel within our daily lives. St John's encourages spiritual growth through a deeply reflective approach to prayer and worship.

The values by which we seek to live as a Christian community are:

- Seeking God's direction for us;
- Living out the teaching of the Gospel by worshipping and serving God in our daily lives;
- Standing in our community as a witness to the presence of God, through Jesus Christ;
- Encouraging the development and exploration of spiritual growth;
- Maintaining a worshipping Christian community, open to every age group;
- Displaying Christian love in our dealings with each other and members of our local, national and international communities;
- Maintaining hope and vision for the future;
- Ensuring that we reflect a generosity of spirit in our actions.

We wish to live out our values by:

- Ensuring that through worship, we encourage people to experience God's love;
- Providing worship that is vibrant, engaging and nurturing of our faith;
- Serving the needs of our members, but to be outward looking through our mission and giving;
- Being ready to attempt new ways of fulfilling our mission statement and, thereby, respond to the needs of the community;
- Recognising members' gifts and encouraging lay people to take a full part in the worship and running of St John's;
- Placing a strong emphasis on the social life of St Johns' in order to strengthen our relationships;
- Welcoming diversity of age, background and ethnicity;
- Providing a high standard and putting a great deal of thought into our regular worship and significant offices such as baptism, marriage and funerals.

