Diary dates
16th May  Messy Church.
10-16th May  Christian Aid Week.
17 June  Climate Change event London.
20th June  Licensing of Maureen Hughes.
28th June  Ordination of Allison Davies.
10th Oct  Kingdom People at Worcester Cathedral.

Please pray for:
Gary and April, Garth and Jenny, Richard and Wendy - our Parish clergy and wives.
For Garth as he is made Canon of Worcester.
For Ventures camp; for the planning, for Dot and St John’s children attending.
The Kigezi Water and Sanitation project we are supporting.
Persecuted Christians around the world.
The NHS and other public sector workers.
For our Borough, county council decision makers and MP.
For those who manage people within their places of work.
For children living in care.
For refugees.
For orphans of war.
For charities reaching out to the lost, lonely and hungry.
Those who are mourning.

Keep praying for
Roy Bush.
Please be praying for Tony Ball, as he goes recovering from a major operation last week, he is out of intensive care and on a specialist ward. Ann has asked for the church to pray for Tony and the whole family.
Martin Cavender.
John Beasley.
Sylvia Czink and family.
Peggy Snellgrove.
Claire and Paul Burnham.
Allison and Maureen preparing for ministry in the Church of England.

News from St John’s
Sunday 26th April 2015

Garth
Garth Nathaniel will be made a Canon of Worcester Cathedral during the service of Evening Prayer tomorrow Monday 27th April at 5.30 p.m.
Please pray for him as he prepares for this appointment - we are all invited to attend, no booking required.

Thought for the week
Please be praying for me as I preside/ preach at the Holy Communion service at St Peter’s this morning. Garth will be with you at St John’s this morning.
We recently had the pleasure of welcoming Gavin Calver to the parish, when he spoke very powerfully. He has written a good article in the latest New Wine magazine about the whole area of young people and church; well worth reading!
He makes many points, and these are a few:
’Picture...the adults go away for a week allowing the teenagers to reform the church into whatever they want it to be. Can you picture what might happen? Would it be disastrous? I have to say that I would find it incredibly exciting, but I know there are many churchgoers who would be terrified by such a suggestion. The hopes and desires of young people for the church are often very different to the older members, and as a sad result the young people can frequently feel like outsiders in the one place they should call home.’ As you know, we are taking steps to address this within St John’s, and that’s great, but Gavin goes on to say: ‘Let’s create an environment that can live up to the mandate of being the Bride of Christ, where young people are loved, empowered and blessed.’ And, I would add, properly integrated within the whole worshipping community. This is all incredibly relevant stuff for the whole church in the UK, and needs our prayer, action, and attention. (I can do copies of the article, if requested.)
Gary
Churches Together event today
Rosie as our representative on the Churches Together Group in her report for the AGM said ‘I would encourage members of St John’s to support events organised by Churches Together. We have seen the benefit of being involved in projects on a parish basis, just think what a difference we could make to Redditch, if all the members of the churches worked together!’
A faiths walk is taking place on Sunday 26th April, starting at 2pm at St Stephen’s, visiting the new Mosque, and ending at Ridgeway Middle School, where there is the opportunity to learn about the Sikh and Hindu faiths. Transport will be provided from the Mosque to Ridgeway and back to the town centre by local taxi drivers. This is a great opportunity to find out about how others worship. This event is organised by Bill Hartnett, leader of Redditch Council, and is endorsed by Churches Together in Redditch.

PFT meets next Thursday – What can we learn about pastoral care from the life of Jesus is the subject.

Climate Change Event – information from CAFOD
17 June will be an inspirational day of action on climate change. It’ll be a chance to tell the new government loud and clear that we all care about something that’s affected by climate change – and we all support them in taking strong action to protect everything we hold dear.

It will be a day of great hope, a lot of fun, and a big step towards a better future. You’ll have a chance to meet other people who care about the impact of climate change, including from your own area, to hear great speakers and to help build a safer world. Cafod (CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International) has booked a coach, leaving from Carr’s Lane, Birmingham and calling at Hopwood services at 8am, price £11. To book a place on the coach please phone 01922 722944, which is the Cafod local office. Seats on the coach are first come, first served.

Christian Aid Week 10-16th May
Churches Together in Redditch will this year be collecting at Tesco, if you would like to help with this please see Rob or Vicki Quarton; at St John’s we will also be collecting as usual door to door in Greenland’s, please be thinking about which roads you might like.

Martin Cavender from Resource
(Martin has in the past, visited St John’s to minister to us)
Following a diagnosis of cancer, Martin welcomes (indeed covets) your continued prayers, for himself and his wife Cesca, who he says shoulders the real burden. Martin will be undergoing chemotherapy shortly and comments ‘On we go, deeper and deeper in the Lord’.

Currently, Resource are running national events led by Martin and Alison Morgan with the theme ‘I am the Lord who heals you’, and each evening includes worship, teaching, prayer and the opportunity to ask questions and browse resource materials. There is no charge for these events, and feedback from previous ones has been very positive! Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start. The nearest event to us is next Wednesday in Martley, Worcester, please see the flyer on the notice board.