

Tutbury Women's Institute

President Mrs. Carol Hall



It's the flaming Vicar again!

I suppose you could say that anyone talking to a roomful of women is playing with fire but the reverend Ian Whitehead did just that! After showing us a fire eater's rod he entertained the Tutbury crowd and our friends from Hatton W.I. for over an hour, with stories of his life as a vicar, before finishing with a display of fire eating.

Ian talked about his life working in a factory, before he became ordained and his trials and tribulations with the training. It had never occurred to us that you have to learn how to walk in a cassock but, as Ian pointed out, once you have walked up the inside of a cassock, you never do it again! At least he can really advise brides on how to walk up the aisle.

Ian talked about the hatching, matching and dispatching parts of his job. Do you know, he knows more about wedding dresses than any man we have ever known, mainly because his wife always demands details of the bride's outfit.

And, of course, traditions have changed over the years. Recently Ian held a christening and, as the congregation sang the last hymn, the parents went outside. A few moments later, they reappeared and Ian conducted their wedding ceremony. As Ian says, the order may have changed but the vows stay the same.

Throughout Ian's very funny talk, his commitment to his job shone through. He made us laugh out loud at his stories and gasp at his fire eating but he also gave us much to think about.

Janice Hamer