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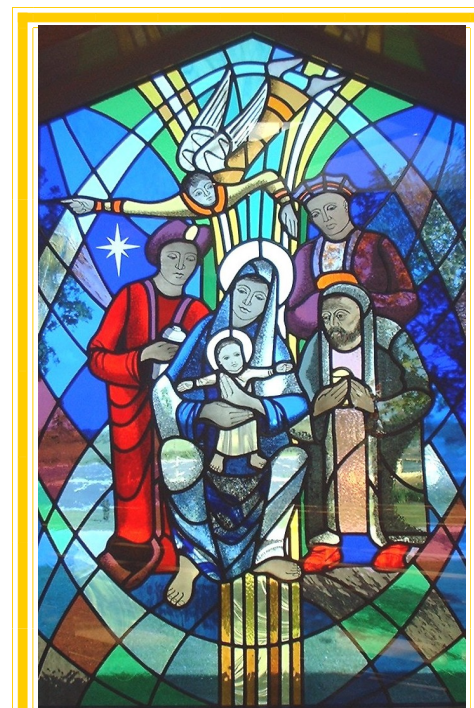
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ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine



RECTOR: The Revd Canon Greville Cross, The Rectory, Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2HA Tel: 01384 395410
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E-mail: home@riatkinson.plus.com

January 2010

40p

SUNDAYS AT ST MARY'S

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion (with OY Group)
11.30 am	Sunday School
6.30 pm	Evensong
10.00 am	(second Sunday) Worship Together

WEEKDAYS AT ST MARY'S

Daily:	9.00 am - Morning Prayer (except Fridays and Saturdays) Morning Prayer on Thursdays will alternate between St Mary's and St Thomas'
Daily:	5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (except Fridays)
Wednesday:	1.30 pm - Noah's Ark at St Mary's (term time) parents & toddlers
Thursday:	10.30 am - Holy Communion in Lady Chapel
Thursday:	7.30 pm - Bell ringing Practice
Friday:	Choir Practice and Youth Groups (in term time)
Saturday:	10.00—12.00 am - Open Church—refreshments available
Rector's and Curate's Day Off:	Friday

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Bible Study Groups:	Tuesday, last in month at 2.30 pm	(Tel: 379972)
Mothers' Union:	Second Tuesday at 2.15 pm	(Tel: 422677)
Outreach Group:	Occasional meetings	(Tel: 01562 851491)
Music Group Practice:	Second Saturday at 10.00 am	(Tel: 441003)
St Mary's Walking Group:	Last Saturday of the month.	Depart 9.30 am

Reader Emeritus and

Parish Publicity Officer:	Mr Roy Peacock	379972
Reader:	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
Church Wardens:	Mr Edward Haden	378104
	Mrs Marjorie Ferguson	393454
Organist / Choirmaster:	Mr Robin Walker	01905 353939
Treasurer:	Mr Richard Harris	395760
PCC Secretary:	Miss Katey Fletcher	378182
Magazine Editor:	Miss Gemma Sutton	825983
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
Coach House: - Bookings	Parish Office	441003
- Enquiries	Mrs Pamela Green	371415
Parish Administrator:	Mrs Helen Plaice	441003
Parish Office:	Open 9.00 am -1.00 pm, Tuesday to Thursday	441003
	9.00 am - 12.00 noon, Friday	Closed Mondays
Church Website Address:	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk	
	Email: st.mary.os@btinternet.com	

ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

Please come to the Church on Saturday morning between 10.00 and 11.00 for Vestry Hour.. You will be warmly welcomed. Tea and coffee will be available.

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

You can't always believe the Weather Forecast!

The forecast for our November walk was for strong easterly winds with heavy squally showers. In spite of this 10 intrepid walkers turned out for the walk. We parked at the Red Lion at Bobbington and undertook a 5.5 mile walk with only modest winds, no precipitation and a carefully chosen route that was reasonably firm underfoot, in spite of the recent torrents of rain.

We walked via field paths to Six Ashes (on the A458) with the clouds high enough to allow distant view and then back via field paths to the Red Lion where we enjoyed a good lunch and good company. Unusually for a "Blaxland" walk there were no steep hills.

Our next walk will be on 30th January and is a change to the published programme. We will be walking from Belbroughton to Stourbridge and will be using the 318 bus to Clent, departing from Stourbridge bus station at 10.15am. Lunch will be at the "Crabmill" in Hagley Road on our return.

Mike Blaxland



The Panto Factory presents...

Robin Hood

by Michael Buchanan-Smart

Stourbridge Town Hall

Thursday 25th—Sunday 28th February
2010

Evening performances:

Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7.30 pm

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

15 November	Freya Lainey Rew Marnie Willow Rew Roman Bourne Massey
29 November	William Patrick Barron Evie Grace Ashton Ray Stephen David Pepper

Funerals

17 November	Bert Maddock	aged 86
25 November	Dora Ballard	aged 83
26 November	Muriel Harris	aged 94
4 December	Mary Jones	aged 89
7 December	Frank Wootton	aged 64
9 December	Ted Cartwright	aged 77

.....

ST MARY'S WITH ST JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION

Twenty-nine members and friends enjoyed the Christmas meeting of the MU. It was a happy and informal occasion when the main theme of the celebrations seemed to centre on bells. We sang carols with the hand-bell ringers and listened to a variety of well-chosen poems and prose, a number of which made reference to bells. We sang for Eileen McGilvray to mark her 85th birthday. A quiz and mince pies followed, finishing off a very pleasant afternoon. Thank you everyone who contributed.

An interesting programme of meetings for the coming year has been arranged by our co-ordinator. Its focus will be on 'Relationships not Rules'.

The first meeting of 2010 will be the AGM on Tuesday 12 January at the Coach House, starting at 2.15 pm.

Pat Whalley

DIARY FOR JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY 3

THE EPIPHANY

All are invited to Mulled Wine and Mince Pies at the Rectory following the 10.00 am service.

Tuesday 5

7.00 pm Police PACT meeting at St Peter's, Pedmore

Thursday 7

10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 9

10.00 am Vestry Hour and Open Church

SUNDAY 10

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

Tuesday 12

9.30 am Standing Committee

11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft

2.15 pm Mothers' Union AGM in the Coach House

7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at the Rectory

7.30 pm Baptism Preparation

Wednesday 13

Thursday 14

10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 16

10.00 am Vestry Hour and Open Church

SUNDAY 17

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Monday 18

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

Wednesday 20

7.30 pm PCC at the Rectory

Thursday 21

10.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Coach House Committee

Saturday 23

10.00 am Vestry Hour and Open Church

SUNDAY 24

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

6.30 pm United Service at Hanbury Hill Baptist Church

Wednesday 27

11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge

Thursday 28

10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Saturday 30

10.00 am Vestry Hour and Open Church

Trip to 'Pride and Prejudice' in Malvern

SUNDAY 31

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE Candlemas

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

*Blessed be he who in his love stooped to redeem mankind!
Blessed be the king who made himself poor to enrich the needy!
Blessed be he who came to fulfil the types and emblems of the prophets!
Blessed be he who made creation to rejoice with the wealth and treasure
of his Father*

*Ephraim the Syrian
(c.306-73)*

FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends,

The forty days from Christmas to Candlemas are full of promise. We reflect on the incarnation and what it reveals to the world as well as to God's ancient people of Israel.

Our Toy Service on the third Sunday of Advent fell in the middle of the UN Copenhagen conference on climate change. In it the shepherds and wise men of the nativity became the representatives of all the nations and the crib animals were emblematic of the creatures of the earth for whom humankind has responsibility. We prayed that Copenhagen would become Bethlehem, the place in which Christ is born anew as God's gift to fallen humanity, and that his spirit of justice, generosity and selflessness would bring the sort of conclusion to the conference that would give our planet a sporting chance of survival in a state that would provide a reasonable life for our descendants. The challenge of self-induced climate change poses an ultimate spiritual test for our human race. The technology is potentially there to deal with it, but is there the will? As I write the conference is still in full swing, and we continue to pray for an epiphany.

Epiphany is, of course, the main theme of our worship in January. It has been celebrated in a variety of ways in different parts of Christendom. In the western church the emphasis has been on the visit of the Magi. But in other Christian traditions the revealing of the true nature of Christ has been focused on his baptism and the first miracle at Cana in Galilee. All are now included in our Epiphany journey for the different traditions speak of the one who is the saviour for all humanity. It is very appropriate, therefore, that the feast of the Conversion of St Paul, great Apostle to the Gentiles, falls in this season, as indeed does the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The latter challenges us with the thought expressed in a recent newspaper headline "If Christians can't embrace each other, how can they convince the world to do the same?"

The start of the second decade of the third millennium poses many challenges for the Church of Christ and for the world that he came to save. Ultimately our response to them will depend upon spiritual values. Mission needs to get to the top of our agenda.

With my prayers and best wishes for a very Happy New Year,



Greville

Our fruit loaf, complex with tangy mature fruit really calls for one of those dried-grape wines of Italy or Greece. Fresh, youthful fruits are not the order of the day here. Vin Santo is perhaps the obvious choice, but I always warn that these wines can sometimes be too oxidised and fruitless. They are also expensive. Line up a Vin San Giusto from Italy, a Vino Santo from Santorini and a Vin de Paille from the Jura region of France and you won't have much change from £100! Best explore what left-overs we have in the drinks cabinet! Something fortified or a liqueur may well have survived the Christmas period. Nuttier cake-bars can be enjoyed with an oloroso sherry or a tawny port; but the concentration of fruits here steers us to a drop of Commandaria - the ancient fortified wine of Cyprus. Out with the old I say !Enjoy your New Year sipping.

Richard W.B. Ryan

.....

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE AT WORK

In the interests of research the magazine committee undertook to investigate a recipe recently presented in the November issue of this magazine.

Dutifully prepared and presented by Helen Plaice, the Clementine Cake with Chocolate Orange and Spice Topping was delivered to the November committee meeting (December magazine) where all the assembled members tucked in to their slice. The outcome of this serious scientific investigation ranged from 'scrumptious' through 'delicious' to 'Can I have some more please?' Regrettably, as Ewan and Naomi had been promised their fair share of Mum's culinary skills, there were no second helpings. The photograph

provides evidence of the serious nature of this investigation and the absence of any excess that might be construed as the mortal sin of gluttony! The success of this investigation has proved beyond doubt, the value and appreciation of Ann Jennings' efforts to select interesting and worthwhile

recipes for us all to try. Thank you Ann. We all look forward to the delights to be found in the 2010 editions.



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

FULL-ON FRUIT LOAF

I make this recipe for my grand-children's lunch boxes. It's a great way to use up the overripe bananas and the dried fruit left over from Christmas. It makes a dense energy-packed snack and is great for breakfast.

100g soft butter
125g caster sugar
2 large eggs
75g dried apricots, chopped
75g sultanas (I have also substituted cranberries)
Zest of 1 lemon or orange
3 large ripe bananas
200g SR flour

Preheat the oven to 170/gas 3-4. Line a 2lb (900g) loaf tin with baking parchment. Can be made in 2 x 1lb loaf tins and cooked for less time.

In the food processor cream together the butter and sugar. Add the chopped bananas and process, then add the zest and eggs and process again. This can be carried out using a hand whisk also.

Remove the blade from the processor and mix in the dried fruit. Put the mixture into the prepared tin, level the top and bake for 50 minutes to 1 hour until firm and risen.

Ann Jennings

.....

AND FOR THE WINE.....

Well done if you refrained from over-indulging with your Christmas eats! Anyway, that last banana and those remaining dried fruits are perfect for a fruit left-overs loaf cake. Not so easy in the case of wine - there are techniques to preserve a part-drunk bottle : creating a vacuum or pumping nitrogen gas in to displace the air will prevent wine from deteriorating but eventually it has to be drunk..... or poured away -quelle horreur!

SERVICES IN JANUARY

Date	Service	Readings		
3 January	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 60. 1-6	Ephesians 3. 1-12	Matthew 2. 1-12
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 60. 1-6	John 2. 1-11	
10 January	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Worship Together			
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 55. 1-11	Romans 6. 1-11	
17 January	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 62. 1-5	1 Corinth. 12 1-11	John 2. 1-11
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Samuel 3. 1-20	Ephesians 4. 1-16	
24 January	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Nehemiah 8. 1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Corinth.12 1-31a	Luke 4. 14-21
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 49. 1-13	Acts 22. 3-16	
31 January	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Malachi 3. 1-5	Hebrews 2. 14-end	Luke 2. 22-40
	6.30 pm Evensong	Haggai 2. 1-9	John 2. 18-22	

YOUR VIEWS PLEASE

In response to several requests to make the magazine more easy to read this month's issue has been printed using a different font. Do you approve? Is this better or are there other matters you would like to see addressed in the course of the magazine production each month? Please let us know your opinions by one of the many means of communication available so we may produce a magazine that continues to serves our church community.

The Editors

REMEMBERING YOU

Grave Tending Services

*As seen in local and national press and
featured on BBC Radio WM & Smooth Radio*



We have all experienced the loss of a loved one. Whilst they are always in our hearts and thoughts, it can be difficult to visit the graveside to pay our respects as often as we would wish. REMEMBERING YOU can assist.

I offer a high quality grave care service with a sensitive and personal touch that may bring you peace of mind in the knowledge that the final resting place of your loved one looks beautiful, clean, tidy and cared for.

The care package includes the cleaning of the memorial, removal of wind blown debris, a grave maintenance report, a posy of fresh flowers and a before and after digital photograph.

Mark Room
Proprietor

Tel. 07815 462275 email: mail@rememberingyou.org.uk
www.rememberingyou.org.uk

TO KENYA WITH LOVE

EPISODE 4

In our last report of the ongoing tale of our lovely little school in Kenya, we had embarked upon trying to raise enough money to build them a small kitchen and dining room. This would ensure a meal for the young children, who often have to walk long distances to get to school without any food inside them! THE NEWS IS SO ENCOURAGING!

As you will see from the photo, the longed-for dream has become a reality! We managed to send the last £720 raised with the help of the school where I still work as a Supply Teacher. (We had the idea of "selling bricks" at £1 each to parents, staff, friends and any other unsuspecting passers by, and held a Kenya afternoon at the school.)



THE COACH HOUSE – MONDAY AFTERNOON GROUP

Friends of the Coach House

Our Coach House News report in last month's issue referred to the valuable work of the Friends of the Coach House. One of the founder members of the Monday Afternoon Group, now the leader, Pamela Green, describes its history.

The Monday Afternoon Group started in 1996 under the auspices of Donald Henderson, the Coach House's first coordinator. The group's early activities were originally dedicated to needlework and an initial project was to make a patchwork quilt which was raffled at a church fair in 1998. The membership and activities expanded and soon the group embraced other forms of needlecraft as well as interests in cooking, recipes and home produce. In 2002 a recipe book was published which raised about £500 and since then the group has arranged regular spring and autumn coffee mornings with craft, cake and produce stalls. These fund-raising events are complemented by occasional summer activities such as summer concerts and strawberry teas all of which are provided by the generosity and voluntary services of 'The Friends'.

Another more recent development has been the concept of the Coach House shop. Visitors may have seen the attractive shelves of produce and preserves, jams, pickles and marmalade, alongside the books and gift cards. All these goods are made and given to the Coach House by the Monday ladies and are available to visitors on a self-service arrangement. The quality and value of the produce is reflected in the popularity and turnover which generates an income of about £400 per year.

We have a current membership of about 16 ladies most of whom are regular attendees at our weekly meetings. Four of the five original ladies, Margaret Casey, Pamela Green, Cynthia Moseley and Janice Sutton, are still dedicated supporters. Our meetings are very informal – tea, biscuits and a good natter are as important as the craft work! New members and visitors are welcome at any time so do come and join us.

Pamela Green

NEWS AND NOTES

This last month seems to have been a very busy time for so many people.

Beautiful services have taken place which have proved to be very uplifting and thought provoking, for example, the beautiful Advent Service. The sermon and intercessions were very special, as were the readings. The Choir was in fine voice, led by our talented choirmaster and organist. We have been so fortunate to have had the services and talents of Richard Hall, now followed by Robin. What skill and knowledge these musicians have and share with all around them.

Our Christmas Market has taken place. So much work by so many people taking part and pulling together to make the event such a success. Well done Katey.

Daughter Jane was very impressed by the family running the stall next to us. Adults and children all working together for the good of our church. She was truly delighted when she was asked if she was my granddaughter. That person had a big hug—I took it in my stride!

The music was much appreciated and the 'Icing the buns' was great fun. I ended up with a rather large red nose on my bun. Poor soul! I fear he had rather a nasty cold or rather too much to drink.....and his teeth fell out too!

To finish-a funny tale Margaret told me about her grandson counting up to ten. After which she asked if he could count backwards. He

looked at her for a minute or two. He started to count again walking backwards at the same time. I did laugh. What a poppet.

May I finish by wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

With all my love.

Anne Davies

.....

Printed in the Magazine for January 1909 these words have as much relevance today as they did 100 years ago.....

*Make some other life more happy
By the life you live,
Make some other heart more
steadfast
Through the help you give,
Strengthen other feet to travel
On life's pilgrim way,
Comfort other hearts in sorrow
By the words you say;
Through the gladness shed around
you,
Yours shall be the gain,
For the life for others given
Is not lived in vain.*

A.E.G.

Toys and toiletries kindly donated at our Toy Service on December 13th have been donated to the Dudley Women's Refuge where they have brought much joy and appreciation. Thank you from all who have benefitted from your generosity.

The children are now able to have at least ONE good meal a day which helps their ability to study and learn what they need to improve their lives and futures! Or at least they will if we can get a ROOF over their heads!

Our current project is to finish off the block of 6 classrooms which have been built with money from the sale of water from our well, with what little the parents can afford, and any money which we have managed to raise for them.

When we were there in February, we heard that an old block of 5 classrooms finally succumbed to the ravages of time, the weather and the termites eating away the foundations! They had made a start on the long term project of trying to build a replacement block, but the kitchen was a priority.

So now began the task of trying to help them with putting a roof over the children's heads, as well as building an extra classroom to bring in some of the many orphans in the village.

As you will see from the picture below, thanks in part to the wonderful generosity of my dear sister, her family and some other kind friends, we have managed to get the trusses on the roof, and NOW, we are pulling out all the stops to get the corrugated roof in place, and God willing, the floors, doors and window!



As many of you know, our little grand-daughter Susie-Mae, her dog Bonny, and her little cousin Georgina did a sponsored walk to raise as much as money as they could for the roof. At the point of writing, she has yet to collect in all the money, but thanks to the wonderful generosity of our friends at St Mary's, the total

should go a long way to getting the roof on!

We do have another idea for completing the building thanks to the generosity of a wonderful man who is arranging a Charity Concert for us, with the proceeds going completely to the school in Kenya. He has persuaded several of his "show bizz" friends to take part free of all fees so things are looking very promising that we will be able to take enough money with us (later in February) to finally complete this latest project to help our lovely school!

The children, staff and parents could never find the words to express just how much the kindness of people like yourselves has changed their hopes and dreams of finding a way to a better life. WE can only try on their behalf!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Jan and Brian Drew

Ring and Ride

West Midlands
Special Needs Transport



Readers may find the following information helpful.

What is Ring and Ride?

Ring and Ride provides a fully accessible, door-to-door bus service for people whose circumstances limit their personal mobility. Ring and Ride buses are available 365 days a year, from 08.00am to 11.00pm.

Ring and Ride exists for people of all ages who find the use of conventional bus and taxi services difficult as a consequence of a mobility problem. It can be used for any number of purposes, to go shopping, to attend a medical appointment, to visit family or friends, to go to church, the cinema, a concert or anything else you can think of. There are very few restrictions on a service that many people are entitled to use but may not know much about. The cost is generally the same as a conventional bus ride although with concessionary passes being accepted often it is free.

The service is designed to help you whatever may be the cause of your mobility problem. *Ring and Ride* exists to enable people to live their lives without the restrictions that may be imposed by limited mobility and access to transport.

To qualify to use *Ring and Ride* you must:

- Have a mobility problem which makes it difficult or impossible for you to use conventional public transport.
- Be a resident in one of the seven West Midland urban boroughs which include Dudley.
- You can be of any age.
- You must complete a form declaring that you have a mobility problem.

The Charity may ask you to produce a Doctor's Note if there is doubt about qualification to use the service.

To register in the Dudley area you, or someone acting for you, should ring **0121 505 7316**. Basic information will be requested and it is best to book your first journey at this time. Often your handbook and any information will be given to you by the driver who will collect you for your first journey. All drivers carry authorisation and drive vehicles with the distinctive Red, White and Blue livery.

CHRISTMAS MARKET RESULTS

Despite all the financial gloom we had another excellent Christmas Market this year - raising a grand total of £2,393.25! The Market was opened by Eddie Gale who commented on how pleased he was to see that the event had such a happy festive atmosphere as when he and Beatrice had been actively involved some 20 years ago. The stalls looked attractive and welcoming; the gifts, jewellery, cakes, plants, groceries and preserves started to sell very quickly. Members of the choir serenaded us with carols throughout – so glad they were able to join us. The various games and raffles were soon drawing in the crowds – virtually all the tombola prizes went and most of the bottles from the bottle stall. Many of us had a go at Decorating a Cup Cake, with some surprisingly artistic results. Coffee and a Mince Pie were served steadily throughout; the eight tables were always occupied. Father Christmas in his beautifully decorated Grotto proved a great attraction from the moment he arrived. The two Peters did steady business on the book stall and the White Elephant stall provided its usual interesting variety of items – this year there were lots of games and jigsaws as well as the more usual bric-a-brac. The various stalls raised:-

		<i>Brought Forward</i>	£1,103.35
Book Stall	43.00	Groceries and Preserves	168.58
Bottle Stall	103.95	Jewellery Stall	514.20
Cake Stall	266.90	OY Group's Jam Jars	34.00
Christmas Cards	31.00	Plant Stall	64.90
Hamper Raffle	166.00	Refreshments	91.95
Decorate a Fairy Cake	29.05	Soft Toys	105.00
Donations	125.00	Tombola	155.50
Entrance Fees	228.12	Win a Guitar	86.00
Father Christmas	38.00	White Elephant	69.77
Gift Stall	<u>72.33</u>		
<i>Carry Forward</i>	£1,103.35	Grand Total	£2,393.25

The few items remaining on the MU Grocery Stall are to be sent with the next consignment to Cockermouth Food Bank—probably you have heard how their own Food Bank was washed out by the flood. Thank you everyone for your contributions and help in making this a really enjoyable and financially successful event.

Katey Fletcher

.....

And thanks to Katey and her team for the hard work that resulted in this magnificent achievement.

THE TREE

The tree stood alone on the crown
Of a distant hill,
With leafless, claw-like branches
Silhouetted and still.

Back-lit by the low-hanging moon
In the bitter black sky,
Bent by the winds, shattered by storms
And the wild cat's cry.

Once part of a copse that gave shade
To whispering lovers.
Allowed climbing fun in its branches
For sisters and brothers.

Looked out on the daily toil
Of the working men
Scraping out a living from the crofts
Far below in the glen.

Witnessed the land cleared for sheep,
Homes reduced in the night
To rubble and mounds of stone
Silvered by moonlight.

Of all the trees, this is the last
On a silent peak.
Only the roving sheep, and the echoes
Of the past, can speak.

Pat Whalley

After you have registered, to use the service you telephone a number to book, in advance, the transport you require to take you to and from the place you wish to visit. Be ready a little early and be prepared to wait for a few minutes as traffic conditions and the needs of other users can cause short delays. With a little planning this service can make it simple to get to places you may have thought impossible.....And if one of those places is St Mary's Church, Old Swinford, you can be assured of a very warm welcome when you arrive.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The Social Committee Presents
Saturday 13th February 2010

A Barn Dance Social

With Eve Evans

and a

Fish and Chip Supper
in the Church Hall

More details to follow soon.

Sue Wakeley

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

What a moving event our Advent Carol Service on Sunday 29 November proved to be. Building on the text of Greville's letter in the December magazine the service featured the great 'O's of Advent as, one by one, each verse of that much loved hymn 'O come, O come, Emmanuel' was sung after each of the seven readings.

As the service began in darkness and the light of the candles built as they were lit by the passing of flame from one to another so the symbolism of the anticipated arrival of Christ in the world evolved, vocalised in the response "Come, Lord Jesus."

With readings carefully and thoughtfully presented and the delights of our talented choir and organist the service provided a much enjoyed and reflective opportunity with which to begin our preparations towards Christmas.

Thank you to all who contributed to this service.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

EPIPHANY



Also known as Three Kings' Day, celebrates the visit of the 3 wise men.

"Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose, and we have come to worship him.' " --

Matthew 2:1-2

The birth of Jesus showed what God considers important. He chose a young faithful woman, and a man who was willing to believe and act when God asked him to. He chose for Jesus to be born in a stable in very humble circumstances, perhaps surrounded by beasts of service. He chose shepherds out in the fields to be the first to know about the birth of the Saviour of the world. God values faith and trust in Him, not the riches of the world and wisdom of man.

1. Why were Joseph and Mary going to Bethlehem?
2. What did the shepherds see in the sky?
3. What were the wise men doing in Jerusalem?

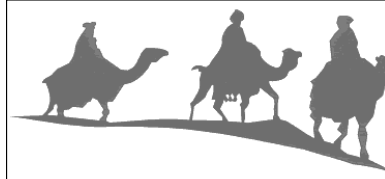


CRAFT CORNER



Draw a picture of the angels singing using white crayon. Paint over it with slightly watered down black or blue paint. When dry, add some glitter for stars.

Make a beaded star: (2 pipe cleaners, sparkling beads, fishing line) Cut pipe cleaners in half. Holding 3, twist together in centre. Spread apart to make star shape. Thread on beads and fold over ends.



The Wise Men probably travelled on camels or walked alongside the camels to give them a rest.

What would it be like if such people had to visit a new-born king in these days? Who might they be? How would they travel? Where would this king be? What gifts might they bring?

Try writing your own story of Three Wise Men. If you want to send it to the editor, with you name and address or a telephone number (please ask Mum or Dad first) the magazine committee will find an award for every entry.

The following words are hidden in this grid. Can you find them?

AFTER, BRING, CHIEF, COUNTRY, DEPARTED, EAST, FEAR, FRANKINCENSE, GIFTS, GOLD, HEROD, ISRAEL, JESUS, KING, MAGI, MARY, MYRRH, PACT, RETURN, SEARCH, SHEPHERDS, STAR, WARNED, WAY, WISE.

M	A	G	I	D	E	T	R	A	P	E	D	L	G
A	F	I	S	R	A	E	L	R	A	N	Y	A	W
R	T	F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E
A	F	T	E	R	W	I	S	E	T	P	S	H	A
J	E	S	U	S	H	N	T	R	J	H	T	E	S
P	A	B	R	I	N	G	U	E	S	E	A	P	T
D	R	F	E	I	H	C	S	M	Y	R	R	H	I
O	M	R	T	H	Y	R	T	N	U	O	C	E	V
S	T	A	U	R	M	Y	G	O	L	D	H	R	J
S	E	A	R	C	H	M	W	A	R	N	E	D	U
P	U	C	N	Y	Y	L	T	E	R	C	E	S	E