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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](mailto:home@riatkinson.plus.com)

## February 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
<b>Rector's and Curate's Day Off:</b>	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.

## NOTICE OF STREET COLLECTION

The Borough Council of Dudley granted me a permit to collect money for the benefit of **Mary Stevens Hospice**.

In **Stourbridge & Ryemarket only**

**On 18th December 2009.**

The total amount collected was **£346.64**

The collection incurred no expenses, nor were any amounts paid by me to persons in connection with the promotion or conduct of the collection.

Dated: 23 December 2009

Name: Michael Harrison

Address: 52 Field Lane, Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2E

*The American Presidents are:-  
Barack Obama, George W Bush, Bill Clinton, George Bush, Ronald Reagan,  
Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Richard Nixon, John F Kennedy, Dwight D Eisenhower,  
Harry S Truman.*

## PARISH REGISTER

### Funerals

23 December	Derek Entwistle	aged 85
31 December	Alan Jasper Cartwright	aged 89
14 January	Frederick (Derick) Bartlett Cook	aged 78

.....

### ST MARY'S FLOWER GUILD

The annual General Meeting of St Mary's Flower Guild will take place in the narthex at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 9th February 2010. Anyone who is interested is very welcome to attend. If you would like more information about the flower Guild please do not hesitate to contact me on 01384 377146.

Members of St Mary's Flower Guild decorate the High Altar and the Lady Chapel each week on a rota basis. The ladies choose dates to coincide with birthdays, anniversaries and in memory of loved ones. For the festivals of Easter, Harvest and Christmas members work together to decorate the whole church. At this point I would like to take the opportunity to say a really big 'Thank you' to all those who worked so hard to decorate the church for Christmas, it looked really beautiful.

We are always looking for new arrangers, if you do not feel confident to do a pedestal arrangement but would like to try with something smaller you are very welcome to come along and have a go. There are always people willing to help if you would find this helpful. If you would like to donate flowers for someone else to arrange to commemorate a special occasion please contact me.

**Sally Frost**



## DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2010

Thursday 3	10.30 am Holy Communion
<b>SUNDAY 7</b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</b> <b>(Sexagesima)</b>
Tuesday 9	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft Nursing Home 7.30 pm Deanery Synod at St Mary's
Wednesday 10	7.30 pm Baptism Preparation
Thursday 11	10.30 am Holy Communion
<b>SUNDAY 14</b>	<b>THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT</b> <b>(Quinquagesima)</b>
Wednesday 17	Ash Wednesday 7.30 pm Holy Communion
Thursday 18	10.30 am Holy Communion
<b>SUNDAY 21</b>	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
Wednesday 24	St Matthias, Apostle & Martyr 11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge 7.30 pm Lent Course : Mission in a Troubled Age. Holy Trinity, Amblecote
Thursday 25	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
<b>SUNDAY 28</b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b>

### QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

*O Lord, my years grow long,  
my time short:  
Let me haste with my repentance  
and bow head and heart;  
Let me not stay one day from amendment,  
lest I stay too long:  
Let me cease without delay  
to love my own mischief,  
and abandon without a backward look  
the unfruitful works of darkness.*

**Eric Milner White**

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

I write in the middle of the big freeze with the hope that by the time you read this it will be well past and there may even be the first signs of impending spring. It is also a few days before the start of the week of prayer for Christian Unity and I find myself mourning the loss of a former colleague on Churches Together in Stourbridge, The Revd Marion Whittington, sometime Minister at Hanbury Hill Baptist Church who died from cancer shortly after Christmas. Marion and I worked closely together on the executive committee of Churches Together for several years. We also shared in an ecumenical ministry to Mary Stevens Hospice as chaplains. She was a tremendous support, very caring and excellent fun to work with. Marion had become a committed Christian having approached her local Anglican Church about the baptism of her children. As a minister she was inherently ecumenical, being confident in her own tradition whilst open to the experience of others. Over the years we developed a great banter and repartee that sometimes took CTS delegates a bit by surprise! Along with many others I missed her greatly when she moved to another Church in London and her enforced retirement and premature death have deprived the church on earth of a good and loving pastor. May she enjoy the peace and fulfilment of all the Saints.

Once again we are sharing our Lent course with our friends from Holy Trinity, Amblecote and St Thomas'. The subject is "Mission in a Troubled Age" and will focus on the opportunities and means of mission today and in the future. We have booked some excellent speakers including the Archdeacon of Worcester, The Ven. Roger Morris, the Diocesan Director of Development, Canon Robert Jones, and our own Roy Peacock who will be offering some of the insights gained from the Reformation. Full details will be available in Church but the course, which will be on Wednesday evenings as usual, begins on February 24<sup>th</sup> at Holy Trinity, Amblecote at 7.30 pm. This is an opportunity not to be missed!

With my prayers and best wishes,

*Greville*



The key here perhaps lies with the chef. If the emphasis is on the mild yoghurt characters then an oaky creamy Chardonnay would be just right. No need for a grand Meursault - a new world offering is fine; just make sure it's oaky and substantial. If our dish celebrates the stronger, more intense flavours of chilli and mint, then the rules change. Mint leans towards a crisp, clean, herbaceous white : Sauvignon Blanc being the first thought; but tingly fresh fruits is not what this dish is all about. The chilli enhances the dish but moves us towards a wine with more expressive fruits. Albarino and Torrontes are two favourites of mine. Each would perform the role well here with Torrontes being the preferred red option if the finished dish emphasises the spicy elements. Consult your chef! .....Enjoy your wine-sipping,

**Richard W.B. Ryan**

.....

## INTERNAL REDECORATION OF ST MARY'S

The above redecoration starts on the 1st February and may last for up to 6 weeks. We apologise for any inconvenience that may be caused during this time but anticipate that the final result will be an enhanced church environment to be enjoyed by all.

It has only been possible to proceed with this redecoration due to a generous legacy from Kath Brooks which covers all the costs. Kath designated the gift should be spent on the fabric of the building.

A permanent memorial to Kath and Eric (who also gave us a generous legacy) will be arranged by the P.C.C. Their generosity to St Mary's has been outstanding as well as their hard work and commitment during their lifetimes. St Mary's will always be grateful to them.

**Edward Haden  
Church Warden**

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

### CHICKEN WITH YOGURT AND SPICES (LOW FAT)

Small tub of wholemilk yogurt  
 ½ dessert spoon Pataks Mild Curry Paste  
 4 skinless chicken breasts sliced into diagonal pieces  
 Chilli flakes and chopped mint (optional)

Mix together the yogurt and curry paste. Add the chicken and leave to marinate for 1 – 4 hours.

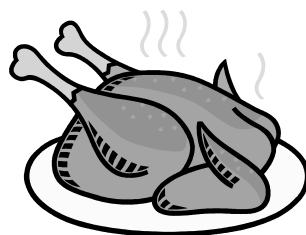
Heat the oven to Gas 8 , 230C

Lay the chicken on a baking tray covered with a piece of non-stick baking parchment. You may need to prepare two trays to fit all the pieces on.

Bake for 10 -12 minutes. Sprinkle with chilli flakes and chopped mint.

Serve with salad and Naan Bread.

As an alternative you could use whole chicken breasts, cook for 25 – 30 minutes, and finish off under a hot grill.



**Ann Jennings**

## AND FOR THE WINE.....

It's so much a question of balance isn't it? Flavours require sufficient intensity to reflect the ingredients and the nature of the cuisine - without being so fierce and pungent that they drown out the flavours in the wine.

Clearly there is weight here which pushes us towards a fuller-bodied bottle of white. A wine writer once suggested that if a wine list could only contain one entry, then that wine should be Gruner Veltliner : full-bodied Austrian white with weight and flavour to carry a wide range of dishes - a thought! A similar argument can be made for Semillon too.

## SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

Date	Service	Readings		
7 February	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Genesis 2. 4b-9	Revelation 4	Luke 8. 22-25
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 1.1 – 2.3	Matthew 6. 25-end	
14 February	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Worship Together			
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 3. 1-6	John 12. 27-36a	
21 February	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Deuteronomy 26. 1-11	Romans 10. 8b-13	Luke 4. 1-13
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jonah 3	Luke 18. 9-14	
28 February	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Genesis 15. 1-12, 17-18	Philippians 3.7- 4.1	Luke 13. 31-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jeremiah 22. 1-9, 13-17	Luke 14. 27-33	

## APOLOGIES AND YOUR VIEWS PLEASE

On behalf of the magazine committee we offer apologies for the late publication of the January edition. A breakdown of the printing machine combined with the challenges of the holiday time delayed printing until well into January.

In response to several requests to make the magazine easier 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**

## EDWARD CARTWRIGHT

With the passing of Ted Cartwright the churchyard has lost another willing worker. For many years Ted cared for the lawns and gardens around the church keeping them mown and tidy. He also cut back the verges along the paths; so keeping them neat when little else could be done in the churchyard. Ted was a great worker and could turn his hand to anything. How fitting it is that he is now buried in his churchyard, together with his spade, both now at rest. We send our condolences to his wife and children.

Doreen Ryan

## 100 YEARS AGO

The Vestry Clerk, Mr Ed. Chance, begged leave to remind the pew and seat-holders that the annual subscriptions for church expenses were now due. No amount was mentioned. Could this have been the same Edward Chance who features in the photograph on page 7?

.....

## BURIED TREASURE

'Twas in the time of Captain Drake  
In countries far across the seas,  
That sailors and adventurers  
Sought riches beyond measure.  
They plundered many foreign lands  
For bullion, jewels and treasure.

But, in the bold, amidst the gold  
Lay booty undiscovered,  
Pearly white with ruby eyes,  
Priceless nuggets encased in brown,  
A precious cargo from El Dorado  
Was carried home to coastal towns.

And buried there beneath the soil.  
Soon they grew and multiplied,  
Enough to feed a nation.  
In Autumn when the time had come  
The valuable crop was lifted.  
'Thank goodness,' said everyone  
'For Solanum Tuberosum.'

Pat Whalley

The Social Committee Presents  
**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

### A Barn Dance Social

with **Eve Evans**

and a

**Fish and Chip Supper**

in the Church Hall

Tickets £6.00 from Committee Members

Please bring your own drinks



## A ROYAL CHALLENGE

We recently received a series of photographs illustrating our Queen, Elizabeth II, with each of 11 past Presidents of the United States of America. Thank you to this contributor.

It would be difficult to print all these photographs in this small publication but you might like to accept the challenge to name the Presidents. The answers are printed on page 19.

## WEDDINGS

From March until October (or Later) every Saturday and many Fridays will see a wedding being celebrated at St Mary's Church. I wonder why? A few years ago one could prepare for a civil ceremony in a register office or a church service. One had the feeling that while the former was plain, fairly cheap and a necessary licence for co-habiting, the latter was ornate, expensive and had, one hoped, God's blessing on the union. When 'living in sin' became acceptable many expected that marriage would decline. Was it commercial pressures to outdo friends and relations in splendour and expense that ensured the continuation of the ceremony? Did the change in the law allowing other premises to be licensed for weddings re-invigorate the proceedings?

It seems strange that people who have little or no connection with formal worship still seek a wedding in church. At St Mary's would-be candidates must live in the parish or be on the electoral roll, they must also commit themselves to regular church attendance in the weeks preceding the ceremony. I expect that a church choir and organist-if music is required- are less costly than a professional group arranged by the hotel, castle or stately home sort of venue. Many couples like bells to be rung and I assume that means a church service is essential (unless a DVD is played over the public address system!). If the church is Anglican, the priest assumes the role of registrar, and the attendance of one of the local officers is not necessary for the signing of the register. Surely that cannot be a significant factor in choice of setting?

It would be good to think that the tradition -that's what our parents did - or I've always expected to be married in church—held sway with some folk. Even more that marriage has continued to be a rite of passage during which one wants to feel God is there as well—even if one does not pay attention to feelings of religious affinity at any other time (unless that children are brought along for baptism!) What do you think?

**Dorothy Gibson**

## MOTHERS UNION PRAYER GROUP

On the third Wednesday morning in the month, a group of ladies meet to share a time of quiet reflection and prayer for the many needs of today's world.

A theme is chosen around which a guideline is given, and this opens the way for discussion and an opportunity for everyone to take part. Blessings, worship, renewal, friendship, prayer, assurance and gifts are just some of the topics chosen.

Everyone is most welcome to share in this peaceful and spiritual experience. For details contact Janice Sutton on 01384 394444.

**Janice Sutton**

## Pictures from the past

1880



The beadies, or officials, of St Mary's Church in Stourbridge, photographed in 1880. On the back row is sexton Thomas Harris, William Orford and knobbler Joseph Hall who would 'knobble' children with his stick when they misbehaved. Seated are parish clerk Edward Chance, and organ blower Harry Chance.

Readers of the Express and Star may have seen this photograph, printed in the edition of Friday, 18 December 2009. Should we decide to produce such a photograph today who should fill the five places available?

## ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD 'MISSIONS' COFFEE MORNING

Please join us for coffee and cakes  
in the Narthex

on

**Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2010, 10.00 – 12.00  
noon**

**Tickets available from Committee members  
Admission £1.50**





## CHRISTINGLE 2009

The first Christingle service was held in the small town of Marienborn, in Germany, in the year 1747. Some children of the Moravian church there had heard their Pastor talk of something special he had arranged for them. He said, "God has kindled in each child's heart a flame which keeps burning to their joy and happiness."

The symbolism of the Christingle soon developed and before long it took the form of an orange representing God's world: a goose quill divided into four and loaded with sweetmeats to represent the four seasons of the year, a red ribbon tied around the orange to represent the death and resurrection of Jesus and, in the centre of the orange, a lighted candle to show God's love in sending His son Jesus, "The light of the World" to be with us always.

Our service at St Mary's on was a special celebration this year. It was forty years ago when we first arranged such a service. Christingle entered the Anglican church in 1968 and, through The Children's Society I discovered it in 1969. The rest is history! Many thanks to everyone who supported us this year. The amount raised was £170.

**Wendy Tranter**

*Special thanks were said to Wendy at this service in recognition of her dedication and commitment to the cause over the past forty years.*

### REMEMBER

**'A child in church is for life, not just for Christmas.'**

## HOLY TRINITY, BELBROUGHTON WITH ST MARK, FAIRFIELD

Wednesday, 24th March 2010 at 7.45

A presentation of Stainer's Crucifixion to which all are invited to participate as members of the congregation or as part of the choir. This is essentially an act of worship, supported by enough experienced singers to ensure success such that all those who wish to participate at their chosen level of involvement may be welcome and find reward.

For more details <http://www.bfchoir.org/schedule.html> Or The Parish Office, 19 Church Road, Belbroughton, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 9TE. 01562

The word Shrove; derives from "shrive", meaning to confess, a remnant of ancient, Middle Ages observance when confession and the forgiveness of sins before Lent was regarded as essential. Shrove Tuesday falls 47 days before Easter Sunday and so is another moveable feast.



**Ash Wednesday**, follows Shrove Tuesday and is the first day of Lent. Ashes are an ancient symbol of mortality and penitence and were traditionally put onto the forehead as a sign of repentance of all sins of the previous year. The ash was produced from the burning of the palm crosses left over from the previous Palm Sunday. Using ashes to mark the cross on the believer's forehead symbolises that through Christ's death and resurrection, all Christians can be free from sin.

**Lent** is the period of forty days (excluding Sundays) before Easter. Sundays are not included because they are days of celebration in any event, celebration of the resurrection. As the days of Spring lengthen and the new growing season advances this time was often viewed as a time of renewal and traditionally was a period of Christian teaching that led up to baptism or confirmation. The forty days of Lent have much biblical significance including the representation of the forty years when the Israelites wandered the desert and most importantly for Christians, the forty days during which Jesus was alone in the desert facing temptation by the Devil. Jesus used this time to prepare for His work by prayer and fasting and so many Christians try to follow His example in their lifestyle during Lent. The celebrations of Shrove Tuesday, followed by forty days of a degree of fasting, both of food and festival, are traditional markers of Lent. Observance is more than giving up chocolates, it requires genuine reflection and consideration of the way we lead our lives.



**We are indebted to The Rev'd Jennifer Doores for her thoughts about Ordinary Time printed in the Parish Magazine of St George, Cam and St Cyr, Stinchcombe and shared in this article with her permission.**



## THE CHRISTIAN YEAR PART THREE

Following the revelation of Jesus to the world as Lord and King in the Epiphany the Christian Year observes a period of Ordinary Time, its length is dependant on the date on which Easter Sunday is to fall that year.

Easter is a movable feast, being celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring equinox. Consequently, the date of Easter can range between March 22 and April 25 and the duration of Ordinary Time varies accordingly.

### Ordinary Time

The term Ordinary Time comes from the word 'ordinal' which simply means counted time, rather than common or mundane. Though in many ways these times are about the common, the everyday and the mundane as we spend time reflecting not only on the ways in which God is at work in those elements of human life but also on these elements of the life of Jesus.

The life of Jesus was filled with teaching, walking, healing, praying, spending time with friends, solving problems, eating, fishing and much, much, more. In many ways Jesus' life was no less hectic than our own, but there was a major difference.

Jesus lived His life by following the call of His Father, our Father. So, when He was faced with the day to day of His ordinary time, it became extraordinary because He lived His life in complete obedience to the will of the One who sent Him.

This same Father, the One who sent Jesus, still calls us today. We must take the time to listen to His call for us. If we do, then perhaps our ordinary time will become extra-ordinary too.

**Shrove Tuesday**, this year on February 16<sup>th</sup>, is the last day before Lent. It is a day that is celebrated in many different ways with carnivals and feasting. In England, Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day, is marked by the cooking of pancakes, symbolic of indulgence and of using up foods such as fat, butter and eggs traditionally prohibited during Lent.

## ST MARY'S MISSION GIVING 2009

In the past year St Mary's PCC allocated £1,750 to the Mission Committee for application, on behalf of our church, to causes selected for support.

At times of disaster and emergency the identification of the cause most in need is obvious. At other times many worthy causes contend for our support and make the decision one in which prayer can help to reach a decision.

Set out below are the details of the allocations made for 2009 to charities at home and abroad. Totals for the collections, during Christmas, for St Basil's Mission to Young People and those to Water Aid are not yet available.

### At Home

The Coach House	£300
Cockermouth Floods	£150—Churches Together
Mothers' Union	£150
Magdeburg Fund	<u>£100</u>
Total	£700

### Abroad

Sasi and Mark	£300
U.S.P.G.	£150
Five Talents	£150
M.A.F.	£150
M.A.N.N.A	£150
Sight Savers	£150
Water Aid	£150
Action Aid	£150
Mtwapa Village*	<u>£150</u>
Total	£1,500

**Grand Total      £2,200**

\*This is the village in Kenya that has received so much support through the coordinating and driving efforts of Brian and Jan Drew.

The Coffee Morning we held in October which raised about £400 has enable us to stretch a little further this year. Together with the money we always hold in reserve we still have about £150 ready for emergencies. We hope we are responding to the Archbishop's New Year message that Christians should give to all humanity when in need.

**Doreen Ryan  
Mission Secretary**

# CHILDREN'S PAGES

During Lent Christians often give up something they enjoy as a sign that they recognise the suffering Jesus experienced for us.



Write around the cross the name of items that each member of your family will try to give up for Lent. Remember it is important to try really hard to keep this promise. You could cut this out and keep it where it will help to remind all your family.

## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Do you know the story of Jesus being tempted by the Devil? Read it in Matthew or Luke, Chapter 4.

1. For how long was Jesus in the desert?

2. How many times did the Devil test Jesus by asking him to do things?

3. Who did Jesus say must be worshipped and served?



## PANCAKE FUN!

Before you give up something for Lent try making pancakes to use up some of the luxuries you will go without.

You will need 110g/4oz plain flour, sifted, a pinch of salt  
2 eggs, 200ml/7fl oz milk mixed with 75ml/3fl oz water  
and some oil or fat for cooking.  
Try to use a healthy oil.

Ask an adult to help you to heat a little fat in a small frying pan. When this is hot pour in enough mixture to just cover the pan. Cook



until the bottom turns a golden brown, then flip or toss to brown the other side. Turn on to a plate and fold

over, add your choice of flavour and enjoy!

Sieve the flour into a bowl and whisk in the two eggs, mixing thoroughly. Continue whisking adding the milk/water a little at a time to make a thin cream that has no lumps.

For flavouring your pancake you can use sugar, lemon juice, jam, chocolate spread, lemon curd, fruit slices, cream..... Just remember you are not going to enjoy this again for at least forty days.

A picture to colour and dots to join

