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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  
E-mail: [canon.cross@btinternet.com](mailto:canon.cross@btinternet.com)

**CURATE:** The Revd Ruth Atkinson, 58 Arlington Court, Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 1NN Tel: 01384 373286  
E-mail: [home@riatkinson.plus.com](mailto:home@riatkinson.plus.com)

**May 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

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

Bearing in mind the wintry weather forecast, fourteen of us brave souls set off from The Old House At Home at Blakedown, warmly clad and ready to face the elements on 28 March.

Turning quickly away from the busy A456, we took a bridle path up to Sandy Lane to turn left and head for Hunter's Lodge where we again turned left onto a section of the Monarch's Way. We crossed Belbroughton Road to walk along the wooded edge of Knoll Hill, home of the famous Palethorpe sisters, Dawn and Jill, leading show-jumping riders of the early fifties. We crossed the A456 at Harborough Farm and walked to Stakenbridge where, just after the bridge, we turned right to walk alongside the pools to Brake Mill, passing beautiful blackthorn blossom and glowing celandines under the trees.

We bore left beside another bridleway - horse riders are very well catered for in this area and indeed we saw no cattle but only horses, dozens of them, in the pastures. Just beyond the end of Brake Lane we veered left to pick up part of the North Worcestershire Path, eventually turning sharp left along a field ridge with superb views of the Abberley and Malvern hills. Recent strong winds had blown light soil, like sand, up onto the top of the ridge and into the adjoining coppice. Having descended to cross Stakenbridge Lane we walked on towards Churchill gaining a delightful view of St James the Great church at "Churchill-in-Halfshire", one of the ancient Hundreds, into which Worcestershire was once divided for judicial purposes.

Turning away from the village, we climbed to gain yet another wonderful view across Iverley before descending to cross Waggon Lane to walk alongside Blakedown golf course and back to our starting point for good refreshment.

We enjoyed a delightful, varied walk of about six miles with daffodils all the way, wonderful views of beautiful countryside and no wintry weather!

**Roy Fox**

## Children's Page Answers

LOOKING, SPIRIT, JESUS, SKY  
KINGDOM, GUIDE, ANGELS, JERUSALEM, TEACH, HEAVEN, GIFT, BAPTIZE,  
APPEARED, RESURRECTION, BELIEVED, DISCIPLES, COMFORTER, CLOUD,

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

21st March      Stephen Alex Riley  
                      Daisy May Oliver  
                      Harvey Jay Stuart Clarke

### Funerals

17 March      Irene Handy      aged 89  
 1 April      Joan Bunce      aged 79  
 12 April      Mary Ashfield      aged 88

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

Have you ever visited or been to a prison? At our April Mothers' Union meeting Betty Foulkes gave us a fascinating account of her early life as a prison engineer's daughter. Transferred from the country-side of Devon to Strangeways mixed prison in Manchester, her family had to be housed in the matron's house which was actually built into the prison walls and their kitchen with its barred windows overlooked the prison exercise yard. The area was one of the most dangerous, deprived and dirty in the land and the only young children she saw were in the local school opposite. The whole place was isolated from neighbours and the only greenery was in the burial area for executed prisoners – both men and women.

The light in her experience came from her rich memories of visiting weddings and enjoying hospitality. The area was 80% Jewish so the synagogue was as familiar as the C of E church which her family enjoyed. All this ended following a very serious riot in 1932, after which her father was transferred back to Dartmoor and the countryside became like heaven where she could play in the open again. So we heard wonderful memories of a unique childhood.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 11 May will be a talk on 'Top Church Training'. Do join us if you can at 2.15 pm in the Coach House.

**Dawn Nex**

.....

**We acknowledge in appreciation the photograph taken by John Sutton of the flower arrangement presented by Chris Morgan that is printed on the front cover of this month's magazine.**

**The Editors**

## DIARY FOR MAY 2010

Saturday 1	St Philip & St James, Apostles
<b>SUNDAY 2</b>	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
Tuesday 4	7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at the Rectory
Thursday 6	Election Day 10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 8	10.00 am Open Church
<b>SUNDAY 9</b>	<b>THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <b>10.00 am Parish Communion with Dedication of Building Works</b> <b>Preacher : The Very Revd Peter Atkinson, Dean of Worcester</b>
Monday 10	Copy date for June Magazine Start of Christian Aid Week
Tuesday 11	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft Nursing Home
Thursday 13	Ascension Day 10.30 am Holy Communion
Friday 14	St Matthias the Apostle
Saturday 15	10.00 am Open Church
<b>SUNDAY 16</b>	<b>THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
Tuesday 18	7.30 pm Churches Together at Chawn Hill Church
Wednesday 19	7.30 pm PCC at the Rectory
Thursday 20	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 22	10.00 am Open Church
<b>SUNDAY 23</b>	<b>PENTECOST</b>
Tuesday 25	7.45 pm Archdeacon's Visitation
Wednesday 26	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 27	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Saturday 29	10.00 am Open Church
<b>SUNDAY 30</b>	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>
Monday 31	Pilgrimage to Oberammergau. Coach departs for the airport at 7.15 am

### *QUOTE FOR THE MONTH*

The Ascension is a festival of the future of the world.

The flesh is redeemed and glorified,

for the Lord has risen for ever.

We Christians are, therefore,

the most sublime materialists.

**Karl Rahner**

## FROM THE RECTORY

Dear Friends,

*"Craftsman's art and music's measure  
for thy pleasure all combine"*



These words from Francis Potts' great hymn 'Angel-voices' were written for the dedication of a new organ in Wingate Church, Lancashire but are appropriate for all art and architecture employed in a church building for the glory of God.

It was wonderful to walk into St Mary's on Easter morning and to be greeted not only by the superbly creative flower arrangements but also by the stunning newly decorated interior. The latter marks the culmination of a series of building works over the last few years which include interior and exterior stonework (notice the tracery in the great east window), the re-wiring and re-lighting of the nave, the urgent replacement of the structural spreader beams under the trusses in the north and south walls, and replacement of lead (both that which was stolen and that which had perished). This has involved a great deal of work for our Master of Fabric, Michael Woodall (see article in this edition) which was undertaken with characteristic cheerfulness, generosity and professionalism; but also fund raising for the considerable costs involved and stoic patience from the congregation with scaffolding coming and going and vast quantities of dust to cope with. Without the generous support of so many parishioners and substantial bequests to the Church building fund from Eric and Kath Brooks it would have taken much longer.

But we have done no more than follow in the footsteps of former generations who worked hard to build, maintain and beautify a great building in order that it should be a statement in stone in the heart of our community that speaks of the majesty and glory of God and his love for us revealed in Jesus Christ. It is there also to enhance weekly worship and to welcome people from across the parish for services at special times in their lives. So there is much to celebrate when we come together on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May when the Dean of Worcester will dedicate all that has been achieved. I do hope that everyone who values this magnificent building and especially those who contributed to our appeal will know that they are most welcome to join us on that occasion. May future generations see it as a witness of our confidence in Christ and in the future of his Church here in Old Swinford.

With my gratitude, prayers and best wishes,

*Greville*

## AND FOR THE WINE.....

The Mediterranean flavours of bruschetta combining with prime sardines should open up some promising wine options. Thoughts of sardines take us first to Portugal and then more generally the Bay of Biscay. However it is the Mediterranean dimension which holds appeal, and serves up a wider range of wines to consider. My own thoughts turn to a Portuguese/Italian restaurant in Southampton [I hope it's still there].

Indeed this almost sounds like their signature dish doesn't it?! I recall drinking a wonderfully crisp Bical from Portugal: ideal. Wines from Arinto and Encruzado grapes are lovely too but sadly rarely seen. Freshly caught fish grilled with Mediterranean accompaniments could be Greece. Here the native whites : Moschofilero, Assyrtiko and Athiri fall into the same category - great fish matches but elusive. Easier to find would be a Muscadet : perfect with sardines from the Bay of Biscay. However there are lots of extra flavours here so maybe not the best match. Italy is rich in crisp fish-friendly whites - a good Soave or Gavi, Vernaccia di San Gimignano or perhaps a Grillo from Sicily - all would be fine. If you haven't already done so, try to make an acquaintance with the wine Picpoul de Pinet. From the village of Pinet in the Languedoc near the Mediterranean coast of France, it is commonly drunk there with seafood. Crisp with a citrus finish, it perfectly captures the grilled fish by the Med. concept. Drink young and fresh .....and you will almost smell the garlic and hear the fish sizzling. Enjoy your wine-sipping.

**Richard W.B. Ryan**

### 100 YEARS AGO

In the Oldswinford Parish Magazine of May 1910 the Rector, Ithel George Owen confirmed with the parishioners his desire, should God spare him, that urgent repairs and the continued building of the church be completed.

He commented that the interior of the church was certainly not up to modern standards and, in particular, failed to provide accommodation suitable for the many children attending services . "The galleries are more akin to the galleries of a theatre than a part of the House of God, they provide no proper kneeling accommodation and children packed into the pews can hardly see over the top. Children of the parish are being brought up with no proper idea of reverence or order." The Churchwardens felt shame that the church, now the church of the rural deanery, beautiful though it was, was not quite worthy of the dignity and importance of the parish.

Despite over £250 having been spent on the building in the past four years still very serious decay went on. The walls were in a state of dilapidation, the parapets and stones were loose and the mullions on the windows were disappearing.

## A CHAT WITH A FRIEND - RAY MILNER

Ray was born in Arkengarthdale, North Yorkshire in 1929. His father worked for the local land owner. Sadly, Ray's mother died when he was three years old. He attended the local school after which he transferred to the Grammar School in Richmond - in fact on the very day war broke out.

Ultimately Ray decided to go into teaching. He was called up and had to do the compulsory term of National service. Ray was drafted to Egypt where he spent the following two years, years that were not the happiest time of his life.

Returning to "Blighty", prior to his demobilisation he applied to the Teacher Training College at Worcester where he qualified. Later, he attended St Luke's College, Exeter to do a Diploma in Physical Education.

On leaving college Ray saw an advertisement for a position at Old Swinford Hospital School. His application was successful so he started work there in 1952. There were just 90 boys in the school at that time.

Ray introduced 'serious' rugby to the aforementioned school. He finished teaching in 1988 but stayed on at the school for five more years as the House Master of Prospect House. Rosemary said it was a happy time for them both.

Ray then changed direction somewhat and became Secretary of the English Schools' Rugby Union. He subsequently took boys' teams to Australia to celebrate their Tercentenary. Martin Johnson was in the team - Yes, the same Martin Johnson who was to become coach of the England squad.

Ray is now retired but what wonderful memories he and Rosemary have to enjoy.

**Anne Davies**

### THIS MONTH'S RECIPE SUPER BRUSCHETTA

I call this 'Super' because it contains more than one super food. The recipe depends on top quality sardines—I find them in Sainsburys Special Selection. A crunchy slice of toasted sourdough, covered with salsa and topped with hot sardines—yummy and good for you. This makes a good starter, snack or light lunch.

4 slices of toasted sourdough bread, rubbed with garlic and drizzled with olive oil.

Finely chop 1 small avocado, ½ red onion, ½ a Granny Smith apple, season and dress with olive oil and lemon juice.

Drain two tins of sardines, place on a heatproof plate and grill.

Assemble and finish off with extra lemon juice and olive oil.

**Ann Jennings**

## SERVICES IN MAY

Date	Service	Readings		
2 May	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 11. 1-18	Revelation 21. 1-6	John 13. 31-35
	6.30 pm Evensong	Daniel 6.	Mark 15. 46-16.8	
9 May	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 16. 9-15	Revelation 21. 10, 22-22.5	John 14. 23-29
	6.30 pm Evensong	Zephaniah 3. 14-20	Matthew 28. 1-10, 16-20	
16 May	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 16. 16-34	Revelation 22. 12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17. 20-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 44. 1-8	Luke 24. 44-end	
23 May	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 2. 1-21	Romans 8. 14-17	John 14. 8-17
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 3. 7-20	2 Corinthians 3. 4-end	
30 May	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Proverbs 8. 1-4	Romans 5. 1-5	John 16. 12-15
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 3. 1-15	John 3. 1-17	

### Sunday 20th June

On this day there will be no 10.00am service at St Mary's. You are all invited to join a massed congregation from Stourbridge churches at the Deanery Service to be held at Pedmore Cricket Ground.

## NEWS AND NOTES - LENT TO EASTER

May I preface this article by saying that sadly I was unable to attend all the weekly lectures. However, I did think the subjects to be considered were well thought through and planned. The last of the lectures gave me much to think about and ponder upon. I also thought the seating arrangements helped enormously.

Then came Holy Week with the lovely Service of Compline on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. On Thursday came Agape. What a special time of readings, prayers and the sharing of food. The Social Committee members are to be congratulated on the meal they prepared—delicious and very symbolic.

On Good Friday morning there was a walk of witness through Stourbridge and activities for children which Wendy Tranter said were very good. In the afternoon was the wonderful hour of witness with readings and prayers led by the Rector. Such a special and moving hour between two and three o'clock.

I am told on good authority of the lovely evening service of readings and music—we are so well blessed with our musical capabilities.

On Saturday morning members of the Flower Guild decorated the church with beautiful lilies and other flowers - thus to remember our loved ones. Donations had been received from many members of our congregation. What a wonderful celebration of the life of Christ this whole week has been.

Just to add - a lovely coming together recollection. On the Thursday after Easter we had a delightful visit from friends at the Coach House. After Communion we enjoyed coffee and biscuits and this was followed by an Easter Parade. Our friends who attend the Fun Club in the Coach House arrived in their Easter Bonnets. We all helped to judge their creations but it was really difficult to reach a decision so everybody had a prize. It was such a happy time. With thanks to Diana and Basil de Souza who, with two other friends lead this club and provide such 'fun times'.

With love

**Anne Davies**

### STREET COLLECTION

At a street collection on 2 April 2010 in Stourbridge Ryemarket on behalf of The Mary Stevens Hospice the total sum raised was £382.22. There were no expenses incurred and no payments were made to any persons in connection with the promotion or conduct of the collection.



**Michael Harrison**

52 Field Lane, Old Swinford.

the Quantity Surveyor during its building years before. Knowledge and contacts helped to save the day and led to a new role for Michael as Master of Fabric.

The role involves much that will ensure the building operates to meet the needs of the church community. Heating, lighting, drainage and window damage form the core mundane demands on time. Often frustrating, these issues just have to be coped with and resolved.

Inevitably, in an old building there is a constant need for repairs and Michael has spoken plainly and persuasively to seek the support necessary to ensure these are attended to. Equally, as times change, the need for buildings to adapt to meet new challenging expectations and standards has been an issue which Michael has been keen to pursue.

As a consequence the list of major tasks undertaken in his time in this role forms something of a reference for others to follow. The tasks completed include major drainage improvements, tarmac coating of the drive and carpark, a new boiler for the church hall, a lift for the Coach House, the installation of chancel lighting, the re-wiring of the nave, new lighting throughout, major roof repairs, replacement of rotten spreader beams, the creation of the ladies/disabled toilet, replacement of stolen roofing lead, re-siting of the font, installation of ramps and safety rails, the creation of the narthex, repairs to the stonework of the East window and the recent culmination in the redecoration of the interior.

Michael is keen to point out that these projects have been realised as the consequence of major team efforts. He regards the success of this work as the product of his own sense of responsibility for a task undertaken, the professional skills of a range of contractors with whom he has created a secure working relationship, the willing contributions of the many who have helped to raise and gift funds and, inevitably, Michael is keen to recognise the support, understanding and encouragement provided by his wife, Margaret.

Faced with the request to identify his top three projects Michael gave the following response. The most challenging was the creation of the narthex because of the many unknowns it presented in terms of coping with development within the existing building. The most frustrating has been the need to respond to the theft of lead, a needless and thoughtless act that creates destruction and heartbreak far in excess of the pitiful sums gained by those who resort to such acts. The most rewarding has been to see the outcome of the redecoration programme which has been the culmination of years of dedication to a task and sees the building in a condition that will bring pleasure to the community and glory to God.

Thank you Michael.

**The Editors**

## IN RECOGNITION OF A JOB WELL DONE

Our Master of Fabric, Michael Woodall, retires with effect from the 18<sup>th</sup> April. In recognition of his highly valued contributions in this role and as a gesture of appreciation for all he has achieved for our much-loved building Michael was asked to submit to an interview with the editor.

Michael's association with St Mary's began in 1973 when, as very expectant parents-to-be, he and Margaret moved from Cradley Heath to Old Swinford. Their welcome could have been somewhat disconcerting as the theme chosen by Phil Winter, a visiting preacher, for what was their first sermon at St Mary's, was 'over-population'. In keeping with the character trait we all recognise in Michael he was not to be deterred by first impressions and so began a close association that has, to date, spanned some 37 years.

As part of the process of giving Michael remembers becoming involved with the Christmas Market in those early days. When he expressed concern at the meagre amount raised as a consequence of a great deal of work eyes turned to him to find ways to improve the profitability of this event. One aspect of involvement led to another and in 1978 when changes to the service times displeased other members of the congregation and led to their resignation, Michael accepted the challenge and became Churchwarden.

During the next ten years Michael filled this role with distinction. Even then meeting the needs of the fabric as a means of serving the wider community were high in Michael's list of priorities. During these years he supervised a re-wiring of the building, the installation of a new gas-fired boiler, the provision of the first toilet and, controversially at the time, the removal of the spire in 1982. Whilst this considerable alteration was seen, understandably, as a rather negative step by some people in the community, Michael's knowledge of building structures knew this to be the right decision to safeguard the remainder of the St Mary's building for the future.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is a phrase that is very applicable to Michael's approach to life. When something needs to be done the means to pay for it need to be found, so Michael and Margaret would engage themselves in the organisation of Barn Dances and such events, often in the ballroom at The Old White Horse, with the proceeds going to the appeal of the time.

Michael handed on the duties of Churchwarden in 1988, when he had undertaken other community roles that would make particular demands on his time. Then, in 1990, a crisis presented in the form of a serious blockage of the drains in the church hall. An initial interrogation of the 'Yellow Pages' was underway to secure assistance when Owain Bell mentioned the problem to Michael. Michael had previous, detailed knowledge of the church hall having been

## SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

**10.00 am Sunday, 9th May 2010**

for all the work completed  
at St Mary's Church, Old Swinford, during recent years,  
work that will help secure the fabric of the building  
for generations to come.

**Dedication by the Very Revd Peter Atkinson, Dean of Worcester**

## ST MARY'S COACH HOUSE

### Spring Coffee Morning



Coach House coffee mornings have become established as a regular fixture in our calendar of activities and this event was as popular as ever. Our spring coffee morning was held on Saturday 20 March, slightly earlier than in previous years, and although it was a rather dull day it attracted many of our regular visitors, keen to make a break from the cold winter days of recent weeks.

Our February magazine had included a feature about the work of the 'Friends of the Coach House' and their efforts were very much in evidence again at this event, with wonderful cake and produce stalls as well as their serving of refreshments and topping up provisions on tables. New for this year we had an attractive 'bring-and-buy' stall and a colourful display of cards in the reception area. The prizes on the raffle table seemed to be more generous than ever with a selection of wines which were very popular with the lucky ticket holders.

Volunteers also appreciated the recently-delivered new tables which contributed to easier handling and greater flexibility. The improved layout enabled visitors to circulate more freely to enjoy the friendly occasion. In addition to the happiness and joy which naturally ensues from the social chatter and exchange of news, the event raised over £500 towards the much needed funds to cover the running costs of the Coach House.

Many thanks to all visitors, contributors, helpers and friends for your support.

**Alec Beevers**

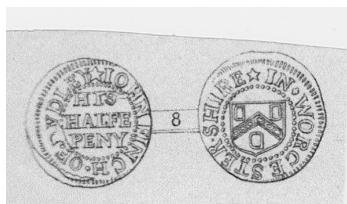


## TOKENS OF DUDLEY, HALESOWEN AND CLIFTON-ON-TEME

The remains of the castle medieval keep and range of Tudor domestic buildings overlook the borough of Dudley, from where three tradesmen issued their tokens for the convenience of their customers. William Biggs was one of these, his farthing token reading WILL BIGGS OF DVDLEY IN – the Mercer's arms. IN STAFFO (RD) W.M.B. (a reminder that at one time Dudley was in Staffordshire).

In contrast the ironmonger John Finch places his halfpenny token in Worcestershire – JOHN FINCH OF DVDLEY IN WORCESTERSHIRE.

Edward Nightingale displays the Grocer's arms upon his halfpenny token and also describes himself as a mercer (MERCER IN DVDLEY). However, it is not unusual for a vendor to combine two trades at this time.



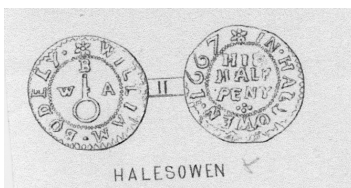
Edward Nightingale made his will on January 4<sup>th</sup> 1705 and his many bequests included twenty shillings to his son

Samuel, who owed his father the considerable sum of three score pounds; to his daughter he left two dwellings and to his two married daughters Mary Baker and Annie Dixon, twenty shillings apiece. To his favourite daughter Elizabeth one half of his household stuffs. The other half going to his wife who was the sole executrix. His personal estate came to an imposing ninety three pounds thirteen shillings and twopence. One item in the inventory reads – for things forgot and out of sight 10s.

Perhaps the most interesting of the Dudley trade tokens is that of Thomas Oxford whose undated farthing depicts a lace fringed hand holding a poised quill or pen. He does not state his calling but perhaps he was a scribe of some sort or a purveyor of writing materials and vellum!

Only two halfpenny tokens have emerged from the small industrial town of Halesowen. One of these was William Bodeley whose token reads WILLIAM BODELEY W. A. B. IN HALSOWEN 1667 and upon the reverse is an upright object which has been rather whimsically described as a frying pan, but under close examination resembles a large key. Since early times Halesowen has been associated with the manufacture of anvils, nails, rivets, anchors etc., so a key seems to be a logical explanation.

William Robertson appears to be a man of standing in the community for his halfpenny token depicts three escalop



## SIDE BY SIDE THEATRE COMPANY

As very proud parents of Amanda, who some of you know as she enjoys helping with the flower arrangements for special occasions at St Mary's, and who is a member of the above Company, I thought you might like to hear about the group. The Theatre Company was formed thirteen years ago by a talented lady called Susan Wallin who is their Artistic Director. The group meet two days a week to rehearse for their current production. This year it is entitled Prometheus and will be performed at Stourbridge Town Hall on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June.

Side by Side took part of their production to Dudley Festival in March this year and achieved very high marks for dance, drama and mime, winning three trophies. Then they were off to Worcester Festival, Swan Theatre, to perform a piece from their new production for which they received two trophies, one of which was awarded for "the most original piece of theatre".

The group are all people with learning difficulties. They have achieved so much over the thirteen years: performing three times at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; being invited to Motala, Sweden, by a college who had heard about them; Brighton Fringe Festival and on a number of occasions have been asked to perform for the Gentleman Songsters Concerts. They all love to be given high goals. They get there in the end and their sense of self-worth and achievement is so rewarding!

**Jane and John Hill**

## CLEAN UP TIME

On Saturday, 27th March a team of willing volunteers accompanied by a few 'pressed men' assembled in church to clean. Despite the valiant efforts of the team of decorators who had, throughout their work, cleaned up religiously, a layer of dust had settled on every surface. Brushes, dusters, vacuum cleaners, mops and window cloths were the tools for the task whilst old fashioned elbow grease, Danish oil and hot water assured the required quality of finish. Thanks are due to all who contributed in many and varied ways to this challenging task to ensure the church was in fine fettle for worshippers on Palm Sunday.

And thank you to the team of craftsmen from Lennon Decorators of Wolverhampton who worked so hard and with such care and consideration whilst employed to re-decorate the church. We hope you may be able to join us at our Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday, 9th May when we shall express our appreciation in full.

**The Editors**



## COACH HOUSE CARERS - SOUNDING BOARD

At the end of September last year we had reason to meet up with old friends from when Basil and I worked with special needs students. They were all long term carers who expressed their concerns that there was nowhere they could get together and support each other.

In November the first meeting of "SOUNDING BOARD" took place at the Coach House. We now meet on the first Tuesday of every month from 1.00pm onwards. Members meet to chat, exchange ideas and information and occasionally we have an informal speaker. Membership now stands at nineteen. We would welcome ANY CARERS who would like to come along and join us. In conjunction with Dudley Carers Forum we have an extensive social programme—meals out, day trips, and discos when not only carers but also their families can come along. Most of the events are subsidised by the Dudley Carers Forum and it is an opportunity to meet up with other Carers Groups across the Borough.

If you would like further information please telephone Basil or myself on 01384 374752.

**Diana de Souza**

### COACH HOUSE CARERS SOUNDING BOARD

Invite you to their  
**COFFEE MORNING AT THE COACH HOUSE**  
**Saturday 12th June 2010**  
**10.00am to 12.00 noon.**

Coffee and biscuits, Raffle, Cakes and Produce Stall, Gifts and Exhibition of the work of FUN CLUB—the Thursday morning Art and Craft Activity for People with Special Needs.

Please come and support us.

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The 9<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> May marks this year's Christian Aid Week. During this time, house to house collections help to raise money that will transform the lives of people living in poverty around the world.

I am hoping to add to the number of collections this year in order to make sure that all of our allocated streets are covered. If you feel you could help or would like to know more, then please give me a ring on 01384 392990.

**Stan Williams**

shells after his name. Three scallop shells form part of the arms of Lyttelton, Lord of the manor of Halesowen.

The village of Clifton-on-Teme, within sight of the Malvern Hills, had a solitary tradesman, named John Jenkins, whose halfpenny is dated 1666. He describes the village as CLIFTON-ON-TEAM, but his occupation is not disclosed. Obviously, he was so well known to his clientele that it was not necessary to advertise his trade or profession.

These modest trade tokens have a fascination of their own, shedding as they do a light into the lives of these long departed tradesmen and women who toiled to make a living in mid-17<sup>th</sup> century England.

**Peter Selby**

### COFFEE MORNING

**In the Narthex**

**Saturday 29th May, 10.00am—12.00noon**

**In aid of Church Hall Funds**

**A warm welcome awaits all**



### THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

Eastertide is the period of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. It is a period of time that allows for reflection on the great events of Holy Week in preparation for the shift of emphasis in worship from the life of Jesus to the ministry of His word.



**Pentecost**

For forty days after his death Jesus appeared to his disciples many times and in many ways to prove he was alive. Then, on Ascension Day, he ascended to heaven having told the apostles to await the power to be given to them by the Holy Spirit.

Ten days later, at Pentecost the disciples were empowered with the Holy Spirit and received through a miracle the ability to speak many languages so they were able to spread the Word of God and the teachings of Jesus. Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, and the start of the church's mission to the world.

*"On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind. It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak."*

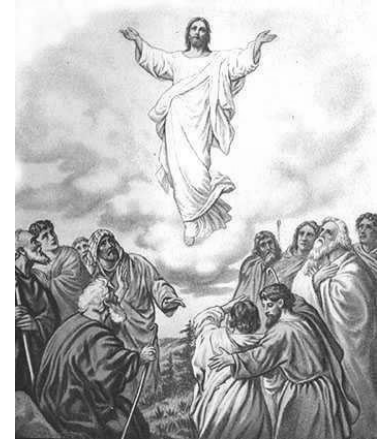
*Acts 2. 1-4*

# CHILDREN'S PAGES

Jesus enjoyed sharing meals with others. Sometimes he was a guest at a party. Sometimes he was the organiser. Many of his stories feature a meal.

Imagine that Jesus is a guest at a party your family has planned. In the space below, or on another sheet of paper, draw a picture of this party. Include a 'speech bubble' to show what Jesus is saying.

During the 40 days after Jesus' resurrection, (being raised from the dead), he appeared to his disciples from time to time. He spoke to them about the kingdom of God. Once he told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift he would send them. That gift would be the Holy Spirit. He would live in them and guide them. He would be a Comforter to them. Jesus wanted them to tell everyone on earth that he had died for them. He told them to teach and to baptize those who believed. After Jesus said this, he was taken up to heaven right in front of their eyes. A cloud hid him from their sight and two angels, who looked like men dressed in white, came and stood beside them. The angels said, "Why are you looking up in the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up into heaven will come back some day in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." We also believe that he will come again.



**Can you unscramble the words below?**

AEPPADER	_____	GANSEL	_____
ESECUINRORRT	_____	ACHET	_____
EBIDVELE	_____	EVAEHN	_____
ESLICSPD	_____	FGTI	_____
TRRCMEOOF	_____	EBZAITP	_____
OCDUL	_____	LIGNKOO	_____
NDMIKGO	_____	IPISTR	_____
DIGUE	_____	SSJUE	_____
USALMEREJ	_____	YSK	_____

Put your name, address and age (if under 18) on the back and get it back to the editors' by June 10th leaving it in the tray at the back of church or email your scan to [stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk) We hope to print one or two in the next issue.