

September Online edition of St Mary's Parish Magazine



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

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

September 2010

40p

SUNDAYS AT ST MARY'S

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion and Children Together
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 Editors:	Miss Gemma Sutton	825983
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661

Church Hall and

Coach House: - Bookings	Parish Office	441003
Coach House - Enquiries	Mrs Pamela Green	371415
Parish Administrator:	Mr John Sutton	441003
Parish Office:	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
Church Website Address:	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk	
	Email: st.mary.os@btinternet.com	

Magazine website stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

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.

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

Wednesday 1
Thursday 2
Saturday 4
SUNDAY 5

3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House
10.30 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

ST MARY

4.30 pm Open House at the Rectory for Tea
6.30 pm Summer Songs of Praise
7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship
7.30 pm Resources Committee
10.30 am Holy Communion

7.00 pm Coach House Committee

Tuesday 7
Wednesday 8
Thursday 9

Friday 10
Saturday 11
SUNDAY 12

Copy Date for October Magazine
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 am Worship Together
6.30 pm Choral Evensong
7.30 pm PCC at the Rectory
10.30 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
11.00 am Magazine Distributors Meeting in the Narthex

Wednesday 15
Thursday 16
Saturday 18

SUNDAY 19

Wednesday 22
Thursday 23

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
7.30 pm Churches Together Meeting at St John's
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
7.30 pm Supper Party in Church Hall

Saturday 25

SUNDAY 26

Wednesday 29
Thursday 30

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

St Michael & All Angels
10.30 am Holy Communion



The Social Committee
with Eve and John Evans
present a

HARVEST SUPPER AND BARN DANCE

On Saturday 9th October 2010



There will be a list at the back of Church to sign up for this event.
Price and time on the pew sheets later.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that I have been here for just over a year; time has passed so quickly. Getting to know you and the parish that we serve has been a joy. I have loved the opportunity to work in such a variety of contexts through the Church, Coach House, Old Swinford Primary School and Mary Stevens Hospice. I am grateful to you all for your help, support and encouragement. My Priesting Service at Worcester Cathedral and First Communion Service at St Mary's in July were both very special with the presence of my family and friends from St Mary's, my sending church St Stephen's and placement church St Wulstan's in Worcester. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces in the congregations.

August saw the launch of the new government's concept of the Big Society

"Today is the start of a deep and serious reform agenda to take power away from politicians and give it to people. That's because we know instinctively that the state is often too inhuman, monolithic and clumsy to tackle our deepest social problems".

David Cameron

Since the 1980's we have seen a political agenda which has concentrated on 'my rights' and not 'my responsibilities'. The growth of technology such as the internet has offered great benefits to individuals and their families and has provided the disabled with the means to lead more independent lives. However, it has also resulted in an ideology which has fuelled the growth of individualism. The concept of community and the call to protect the weak and vulnerable are ancient and underpin the very basis of our faith. Archbishop Desmond Tutu explores this with his description of the African word 'Ubuntu' and describes it thus, *'It embraces hospitality, caring about others, being able to go the extra mile for the sake of others. We believe that a person is a person through another person, that my humanity is caught up, bound up, inextricably, with yours.'* The concept of the Big Society may help us to rebuild a joint ownership of our community. We must not allow this Big Society to be used as an excuse to remove the government's responsibility in providing for those who are in need. In the past year politicians from all political parties revealed an astounding lack of understanding of the lives of those who are vulnerable; and of their own responsibility to be wise in their use of our resources. It is ironic that the voluntary services are being encouraged to play a greater responsibility in society and yet cuts to their funding have never been so severe. We must play our role in fulfilling the words of Isaiah to heal the broken hearted and to set the captive free both in playing our part in society and in holding our leaders to account. We have many opportunities to do this through both Church and Coach House but you might also like to explore further the work of the London Citizens which brings together different groups in society, both religious and secular, to work together on common projects to build a fairer and whole society.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Ruth

SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Date	Service	Readings		
5 September	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 61. 10-11	Galatians 4. 4-7	Luke 1. 46-55
	6.30 pm Evensong	SONGS OF PRAISE		
12 September	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Worship Together			
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 60.	John 6. 51-69	
19 September	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Amos 8 4, 7-9	1 Timothy 2 1-7	Luke 16 1-13
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 1	John 7 14-36	
26 September BACK TO CHURCH	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Amos 6 1a, 4-7	1 Timothy 6 6-19	Luke 16 19-31
	6.30 pm Evensong	Nehemiah 2	John 8 31-38, 48-end	

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

I asked for strength that I might achieve;
 I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
 I asked for health that I might do greater things;
 I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
 I asked for riches that I might be happy;
 I was given poverty that I might be wise.
 I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;
 I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.
 I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;
 I was given life that I might enjoy all things.
 I got nothing that I had asked for, but everything that I had hoped for.
 Almost despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered;
 I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

Prayer of an unknown Confederate soldier killed at the
Battle of Gettysburg, 1863.

NEWS AND NOTES

ONE MIGHT SAY “THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS”

On Monday 5th July we were invited to Ruth’s First Communion in our church. What a lovely service it proved to be. Ruth led the service with confidence and much warmth. Our Rector provided support with priests and parishioners from Ruth’s previous Parishes attending and taking part in the service. We folk from St Mary’s were also there in goodly numbers.

The incumbent from her previous parish spoke very highly of Ruth’s God-given gifts and wished her well as she travels her new pathway as Curate at St Mary’s. Ruth looked so happy, as did her Mother and Godmother who were there in support. After the service tea and cakes were provided and enjoyed by all those present; truly a happy evening to celebrate a new beginning.

On Wednesday the 7th July we saw a coming together of many members of the Mothers’ Union. They had travelled from areas throughout the Diocese and proudly carried their banners during the service. The preparation to make this evening such a success must have been huge. It was truly an uplifting event for the Diocesan Festival hosted by St James’, Wollaston.

On Saturday 10th July, a number of people travelled to Malvern to attend, or should I say witness, a performance of Whistle Down the Wind. This was a very powerful performance which quite obviously touched many of those people attending. Thank you, Pauline, for arranging this outing. It was very much appreciated.

Anne Davies

Choir News at St Mary’s

Triple Success at RSCM Gold

Congratulations go to three of our choristers. Francesca Casey, Lauren Holman and Eleanor Peart, recently took and passed the prestigious flagship RSCM Gold Chorister Examination and are proud recipients of the special gold coloured medal and burgundy coloured ribbon.

They had been learning the music for some time and entered the examination with ten pieces of music. Also, there is a requirement for Gold candidates to prepare programme notes on some of the pieces and devise a short service to include three pieces of music, a prayer written by the candidate and a suitable reading from the bible.

An excellent result – the girls can be rightly proud of their results.

Robin Walker—Director of Music

MARY STEVENS RESOURCE CENTRE

THOMAS POCKLINGTON DAY SERVICE

Are you aware that there is a Day Centre for the visually impaired on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm?

Fancy some social time; Tea, coffee, meeting others, craft sessions, local speakers, lunches and day trips out? Then please contact Jackie or Tracey on 01384 440333

Also, Monday sessions will soon be starting; volunteers always welcome.

Please add your name to our list if this day suits you better.

CHILDREN TOGETHER

Children Together is a new group taking place in the 10.00 service; it has grown from a combination of Sunday School led by Wendy Tranter and the activity session previously led by Pauline Cross and Les Timms. At our Harvest Festival we will be celebrating the work of our Sunday School; if you have memories of Sunday School in the past at St Mary's please write them down and hand them in to one of the clergy.

Ruth Atkinson

THE ORDINATION OF PRIESTS – WORCESTER, 3rd JULY 2010

Bright rays of intense summer sunshine illuminated Worcester Cathedral as the ordinands were led in procession to complete their last steps to ordination as priest. The congregation, including a strong supporting group from Oldswinford, stood in anticipation of what was to be and all that had proceeded this day, willing, through prayer, their support for the events of the day and for the future of these new priests.



In his sermon, the Revd Canon Matthew Vernon, Canon Pastor of St Edmundsbury Cathedral, referring to the candidates, spoke of the awesome expectation faced by those who aspire to lead others to holiness. He propounded that holiness is not confined to a traditional view of a quiet and contemplative life but is equally part of our everyday life, both the life of the priest and of those whom priests are called to serve and shepherd. His chosen presentation of how priesthood confers such immense responsibility and duty whilst not mystically doing away with the humanity of the individual was clearly and indelibly impressed on our thoughts.

In a lively, spirited and spiritual service eleven Deacons made their declarations in response to the Liturgy of Ordination led by the Bishop of Worcester, The Rt Revd Dr John Inge, and were supported by the will of the congregation. With the laying on of hands by the Bishop of Worcester and the assembled priests and the anointing by the Bishop of Dudley, the congregation welcomed the newly ordained with applause.

Following the celebration of the Eucharist and the presentation of a commemorative New Testament to the newly ordained priests the Bishop led them through the cathedral which resounded with the congratulatory applause of all present.

This was a memorable, moving and very enjoyable afternoon when those present, and the good wishes of those unable to attend were able to express their support for Ruth as she continues her ministry at St Mary's and in the wider community of Oldswinford.

NEWS FROM THE BELFRY PEAL ATTEMPT

Those of you who were near church on the afternoon of Friday 9th July will have heard the bells ringing. The bells were being rung by a group of people from the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. This is a society with members from the UK and overseas, who have their headquarters at St Martin-in-the-Fields in Trafalgar Square, London. Established in the mid 18th century, the Society has a strong reputation for promoting good ringing. Members travelled up to the midlands for a week of ringing in the area and over the course of one week various groups rang a total of 20 peals. Details of the peal that was rung at Old Swinford are as follows:

Friday 9th July in 2h 50
5024 changes of Rutland Surprise Major
Composed by : DW Beard.



Emma J Southerington (c)
Jessie H Macleod
Andrew J Davey
Malcolm M Powell

Russell A Brown
John J Ford
Alan R Baldock
Matthew D Hetherington

I hope you enjoyed the quality of the ringing and the sound of bells on a Friday afternoon.

John Sutton – Tower Captain

SATURDAY 7TH AUGUST

A lovely evening was spent at Kanthi Ariaraj's home. An event to raise funds in support of a new Support Group being set up by Ruth our Curate with Kanthi, Janice Sutton and I aiding and abetting her.

It was such a pleasant coming together; more than twenty people were present to support this new development (see opposite page).

Kanthi was a perfect hostess as she welcomed us all into her lovely home. The food was delicious and I was delighted to see so many friendly faces there.

Thank you Kanthi and thank you to Chris Brinsdon who, as usual, was such a wonderful support. Last but not least, thank you to all who came.

Anne Davies

NORMAL SERVICE RESUMED

My thanks to the editors for their kind remarks in the July/August magazine regarding my appointment as Parish Administrator. It seems a little strange writing this piece at the end of July before I go on holiday as by the time the magazine is published I will already have been in post for two weeks—however such is the nature of deadlines.

I consider it a great privilege to be able to carry out this role and see it not just as a job but also as a part of the ministry of St Mary's Old Swinford. To support this I am also hoping to undertake an Authorised Lay Ministry course or ALM as it is known, provided by the Diocese of Worcester. This course allows people to focus on different aspects of church life including, pastoral work, evangelism, children's and youth work, worship and for me parish administration.

I hope the short period between Helen leaving and me taking over hasn't caused too much disruption but I can assure you that business should now be back to normal with the office being open every day Monday to Friday from 9.00 – 12.00. I would like to pay tribute to Helen who left everything very well organised, making my induction very easy and ensuring that only minimal disruption to business was caused by the changeover.

Please leave any messages for me in the tray at the back of church, use e mail or give me a ring on 441003 and please visit the church website which has lots of very useful information on it. www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk

John Sutton - Parish Administrator

BEREAVEMENT CARE GROUP

September will see the launch of our Bereavement Care Drop In Group in the Coach House. We hope that this will be place where people can come and have a cup of tea, find someone to talk to and perhaps share their experiences.

Some time ago I met a lady who was newly widowed who said to me, 'I had no idea that it was this hard to be single'. The loss of a spouse or partner is not just the bereavement of a relationship but of all that is involved in being a couple. The loss of a parent, close friend or other member of the family can be equally difficult and people will be welcome who ever they have lost. We hope that in a small way the group will help people to begin again. .

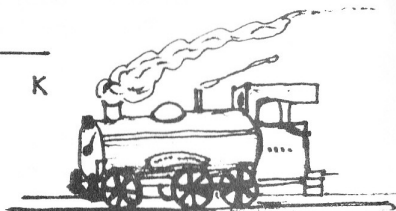
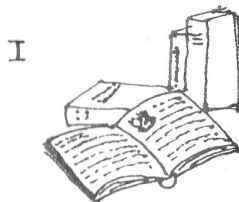
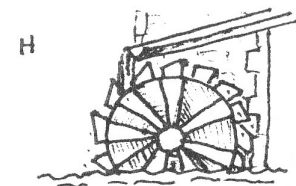
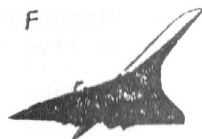
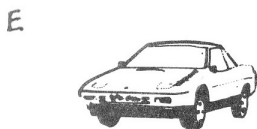
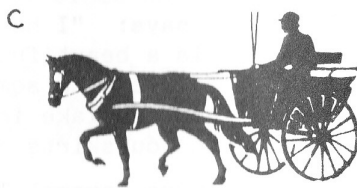
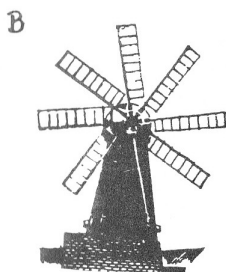
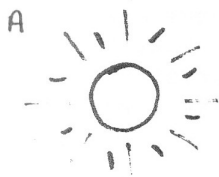
Ruth Atkinson



FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

POWER

WHAT KIND OF POWER IS BEING USED IN EACH PICTURE? Write your answers on the line below each picture.



THE POWER OF GOD

Find out what was happening when these words were written?

1. “The Lord will put you into my power this day” (Samuel 13. 46)
2. “They saw how the fire had no power to harm the bodies of those men.”
(Daniel 3.27)
3. “Where does he get this wisdom from and all these miraculous powers?”
(Matthew 13. 54)
4. “The power of the Most High will overshadow you.”
(Luke 1. 35)

POWER FOR CHANGE

God has the power. He wants us to use His power in the world until everyone feels God’s great love.

Can you colour in this dove to make it eye catching and bring out the message of power, peace and hope?



ANGELS KEEP WATCH

Can you join the dots to complete this angel?

A BELL RINGERS OUTING

Last autumn Harold White gave me a copy of “Ringing Around Devon”; a magazine for bell ringers in Devon. Looking through it once again recently I thought it might interest readers as to how some Church members have a day out.

The ringers of Aylesbeare, a small village in east Devon, collected together fifteen ringers and their families and went for a winter ring at two different parishes. Their first call was at Thorverton where they were welcomed by the Thorverton tower captain. An hour passed happily engrossed in call changes on ten bells followed by Grandsire and Plain Hunt Triples.

It was time to proceed to the next venue after picking up their things and making themselves comfortable for the short journey. One ringer was last in the toilet queue and on leaving the cubicle found that he had been locked in. He was not unduly worried as he was giving three others a lift so he knew they would come to find him sometime. His cries for help were going unanswered as the organist was practising full blast in the church; eventually it was she who released him when she paused to change pieces.

On to Bickleigh where once again they were met by the tower captain; now there were only six bells to ring. They stopped for lunch in a Bistro by the river and its bridge in lovely surroundings. This was followed by a little more ringing and a group photograph before heading home. How I wish I could have joined them!

An interesting fact; they were told that Paul Simon had composed “Bridge Over Troubled Water” whilst stopping at Fisherman’s Lot.

Betty Foulkes

CHILDREN’S FUN AFTERNOON

In July we held our Children’s Fun Afternoon led by Emma Pettifer the Diocesan Children’s Officer. Thankfully it was warm and although cloudy the rain held off and we were able to include all the planned activities. The theme was Daniel in the Lions Den, a ferocious lion roared from the pulpit assisted by Dave Timms. The music was led by our worship group and Drum Love. Three young leaders from our Youth Club worked hard to keep up with the number of people wanting face painting whilst refreshments were provided by the Mothers’ Union. What was particularly special was seeing the afternoon supported by people of all ages.

Look for the photographs on the Children Together notice board and, in particular, a lovely one of three of our members who are more than young at heart. We hope to follow the Fun Afternoon with Come and Sing in the New Year.

Ruth Atkinson

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

On a very wet July afternoon a group from the branch enjoyed an outing to The Old Palace in Worcester. We were met by Judith Nex who is on the staff at The Old Palace. She gave us a fascinating and comprehensive tour of the building.

The building's history began in the 13th century. It was constantly updated in Tudor times, the 18th century and even today in the 21st century. Disabled access became a legal priority in this Grade 1 listed building and scheduled ancient monument which caused a lot of problems but now even a lift for the disabled has been installed. Our current Bishop John has his office suite in The Palace which has always been an administrative centre for the diocese. We learned not only about the building but about the many fascinating people involved in the story here.

Ruth conducted a service based on the dedication and prayer of Mothers' Union activities and service. We were then served with a special strawberry cream tea with cakes in the café and thanks were expressed to Judith for an excellent afternoon.

Why not visit The Old Palace for yourselves? The staff are most helpful. There is a library available and the café in the Old Hall area is open Monday to Friday for lunches and teas whenever The Palace is open.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 7 September at 2.00 pm – MU 'Wave of Prayer' at St Mary's Old Swinford
Monday 4 October – Bring and Share Harvest Festival at Wollaston.

Dawn Nex



OBERAMMERGAU 2010

Field and fountain; moor and mountain... we certainly traversed afar. A fine small jet made Munich on time and with good connections we found ourselves in the ancient village of Ettal with impressions of Beautiful Bavaria and welcome refreshment.

At 8.30 that evening Rococo Gold and German devotions drew us in to the Monastery Church to exercise our tourism and calmly prepare for the morrow.

Shuttling down to Oberammergau itself the next morning we immediately experienced the excitement of being there on a Passionspiel day. The throng populated all the usual attractions of the village and one could not see them all, but the unusually wet weather was not important compared with the thrill of place and prospect of the play.

On the Saturday after our return, by good fortune, Radio 4 broadcast an account of a visit taking in a performance and talking to the wonderful local people. Just the notes of the summoning instruments were enough to take me back to memories so strong and varied:

The discipline of the choir
The majestic Old Testament tableaux
The bustling crowd scenes with children, animals and Jerusalem life
The marvellous music
The unfolding story so familiar yet utterly fresh
The sense of space to watch and reflect

In short, five hours of what Basil Moss called “ Food for the Journey”

The next day the village was a different place because of no performance. We could appreciate the contrast and lingered for a while to learn a little more of the history, craft and culture.

Then we swept or swam off to Austria in driving rain and many more delights of the pilgrimage. Chaucer would have made much of the characters we encountered in extremes of alpine beauty, glorious music, riotous assembly and sober prayer and gratitude.

Led by Greville with such good humour, patience, inspiration and his own enjoyment of what we did, who could do anything but account it a major experience of one's lifetime.

We thank everyone, companions, arrangers and all those we met, for it was very fine.

Mary and John Yeates

24 YEARS AT ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

While recently sorting out the parish office ready to begin his new position, my father, John Sutton found a box of archived St Mary's Church magazines. It was fascinating to see how many traditions of writing have been kept within the magazine; Doreen's decorative and fun children's pages, the Mothers' Union articles, the thoughtful Rector's letters, the coffee mornings and offerings from the local schools, plus lots more!

My family have always been committed members of the church and have taken on many roles such as singing in the choir, bell ringing, server, organist, choir master, Mothers' Union, and maybe more? So as I have just turned 24 I was intrigued to look in the magazines dating back to the year I was born, 1986. Sure enough, my baptism was mentioned on various occasions including by my much missed Grandfather, Brian Sutton, who was tower captain at the time and who led his trusty team through a quarter peal of 1260 changes which was rung to welcome me into the church.

As I read through the heart-warming words I began thinking about how privileged I am to be part of such a friendly, caring and loving community. There are hundreds and thousands of churches all over England; I have of course not visited them all but of those I have, I would have to say that St Mary's is truly one of a kind! There is a strong congregation who regularly attend service and uphold the word of God. They welcome every person who walks through the door with a warm smile, without judgment or question and they are always ready to listen when you need help and support. The building itself is magnificent; so quiet and peaceful when you need a place of sanctuary, and yet so warm and joyous during services when the choir are singing in harmony to the sound of the fantastic organ. As I write this, I listen to the words of Psalm 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd", as sung by Bryn Terfel, and every word perfectly describes what my faith means to me and reaffirms my strength within. If only I was sitting in the Lady Chapel listening to him instead of in my study!

I have seen many faces come and go over the years, such as Owain Bell and his family, David Busk with his stuffed sheep, Christopher Bryan and Jennifer Doores, but one thing will never change... the strength and support that my faith in God and his family lends to me. I hope St Mary's is still as wonderful and awe-inspiring in another 24 years time, when hopefully my children can appreciate the words within this article.

Gemma Sutton

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE HEALTHY EGG AND CHIPS

My daughter used to make this at university so I thought any soon-to-be students would like the recipe. It does rely on a good non-stick roasting tin. If scaling it down for two servings you will need a smaller roasting tin.

4 medium-large sized potatoes, washed and dried really well, then diced.
1 small onion finely sliced
200g/8oz small chestnut mushrooms
4 eggs
1-2 tbsp light olive oil

Heat the oven to 200C/Gas 6

Put the potatoes and sliced onions into the non-stick roasting tin, drizzle over the oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper, give it all a good mix then bake for 30 minutes.

Mix in the mushrooms and cook for a further 15 minutes approx until brown and tender.

Make four gaps in the vegetables and crack an egg into each space. Return to the oven for 5 minutes. If the egg is not cooked enough for your liking switch off the oven and leave for a few more minutes.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

Ooh, if this is what University life is all about, I'm going to enrol too! Eggs are one of those tricky ingredients firmly in the category of AYB [Avoid Your Best (bottle)]. Not too oaky Chardonnay or Pinot Blanc would suit but add in the chipped/diced potatoes, mushrooms and olive oil and something sparkling might be a better bet to cut through everything. A student at University might not stretch to Champagne - in any case Avoid Your Best and save the Belle Epoque and Grand Siecle Champagnes for Graduation Day! So let us look at some of the cheaper student-friendly sparklers available. Once a year I organise an evening of 'blind' tasting pitting Champagnes against pretenders from around the world: the results are fascinating. Sekt and Prosecco are lighter in style and not quite right here. The Spanish candidate Cava is in the right mould but hasn't fooled many people at my tastings. The same can be said of the other French sparklers: Blanquette de Limoux, Saumur and the regional Cremant wines. English sparkling wine has scored well, the RidgeView wines in particular.....but they are nearly as costly as Champagne. The big names of the new world : Pelorus, Quartet, Green Point, we've tried them all but the star turns have been the sparklers of Graham Beck [South Africa] and Rotari [Italy] - both under £10. And the list of Champagnes which have failed the test?now that would be damning to disclose wouldn't it?! Enjoy you wine sipping

Richard W.B. Ryan

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP CHURCH STRETTON

Our final walk, before the summer recess, took place on the Long Mynd at Church Stretton. Ten, plus a dog, set off to climb to the top, from Carding Mill Valley, following a stony path under increasingly grey skies. We stopped at the top for elevenses, even though by then it was noon. At that point the first light rain came down and soon distant views were somewhat obscured. We followed grassy paths to the north, where it was thought that I had pre-marked the walk with white painted arrows; we soon discovered that these related to a route for horses.



It was soon after this that we first met a group of girls from Wolverhampton doing their silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition, we put them right not once, but three times, and even then when last seen, across the valley, they were off course again. We found some trees to provide shelter from the still light rain, for our lunch stop. One of the ladies was convinced the rain would continue, and wanted to put her waterproof trousers on without removing her boots; she received considerable help, but the result was that the over trousers were on back to front!! There was considerable discussion as to how to proceed, one suggestion even being for her to walk backwards.

Our route continued east and south via The Batch, where the sun came out, and over trousers were removed, then through Cwmdale. The scenery was a superb mix of rounded hills and deep winding valleys until we eventually skirted Church Stretton golf course. We crossed the fairway for one hole, with the tee a hundred feet above us to the right and the green twenty feet below us on the left. We were grateful that the golfers on the tee waved us through, as with a strong breeze there was plenty of scope for wayward shots.



We came back into Carding Mill Valley close to where the cars were parked. This was when one of the men found that he had lost his car keys!! He eventually found that modern day outdoor trousers have so many pockets that you inevitably forget to look in all of them. All was well when he remembered that there were back pockets as well as front ones!!

A good day out was rounded off by a visit to the National Trust tea shop for some well earned refreshments.

Mike Blaxland

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

20 th June	Alice Katharine Emmeline Goodby Megan Grace Khoury
11 th July	Theodore Thomas Paul Hadley Abby Mae Evans Bruce Raymond Deville
25 th July	Chloe April Jones Gracie Renee Burgess Elizabeth May Cotterill
1 st August	Kai and Louis Baxter Ella Poppy Dallaway

Weddings

10 th July	Blessing of Ian and Kerry Phillips
24 th July	Thomas Booth and Natalie Hadley
28 th July	David Moore and Wendy Giles
31 st July	Craig Taylor and Joanna Palmer Daniel Humphries and Lisa Goodwin

Funerals

6th July	Mavis Joan Motteram	aged 89
7 th July	Edna Mary Harris	aged 97
19th July	Eileen May Chance	aged 72
21 st July	Esther Madeleine (Madge) Mitchell	aged 90

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

PATTINGHAM WALK 26TH JUNE 2010

What a beautiful day for our walk (a little too hot at times). We started the walk at Pittingham Church, which looked very pretty in the sunshine. On leaving the village we went along a lane which led to a place called The Great Moor and turned left onto the Staffordshire Way. We went across fields and through woodland to reach Perton Golf Course, where a welcome drink stop was taken under the shade of a large tree.

Continuing on, we came to the site of the World War 2 airfield at Perton (now disused). There is a very interesting information board about its history giving us a chance to have another short break whilst reading all the information. We continued across fields and track to reach our lunch stop, again under trees for shade

On the last part of the walk we passed some very beautiful properties. Then skirting the boundary of Pattshall Park we arrived at the Millenium Trail, leading back to the church. A few of us could not wait to have a refreshing drink in the Piggot Arms. We certainly deserved it.

Jean & Ray Drew

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

PROGRAMME FOR YEAR 2010 TO 2011

DATE	LOCATION DISTANCE LUNCH	LEADERS + CONTACT NOS
25 September 2010	Blissgate 6miles Picnic lunch	Jean + Ray 01384 836924
30 October 2010	Wallheath to Wombourne (bring bus pass) 6miles Picnic lunch	Chris + Cliff 01384 396883
27 November 2010	Ismere and Caunsell 5.5miles Pub lunch	Janet + Mike 01384 390537
	No Walk in December	
29 January 2011	Netherton 5miles Pub lunch	Sue 01384 829211
26 February 2011	Birmingham Canal and Edgbaston Reservoir 6miles Pub lunch	Sylvia 01384 392244
26 March 2011	To be decided ?miles Pub lunch	Ann + Roy 01384 394578
30 April 2011	Kinver 7miles Pub lunch	Toni + Bob 01384 377096
28 May 2011	Bus to Halesowen and then walk back 7miles Picnic lunch	Sue 01384 829211
25 June 2011	Croome Park 8.5miles Picnic Lunch	Janet + Mike 01384 390537
25 June 2011	Planning Meeting. Venue to be decided.	
30 July 2011	Dudley 6miles T.B.D.	Sally + Malcolm 01384 377146
	No Walk in August	

Notes

1. Unless otherwise stated all walks start from St Mary's at 9.30 am.
2. There are no walks in December 2010 or August 2011
3. All walks are on the last Saturday of the month
4. For picnic lunches please bring your own food
5. For pub/café lunches there is usually a good selection of meals for purchase
6. All persons joining our walks do so at their own risk.

Children's Page Answers

What kind of power?	A.	Sun
	B.	Wind
	C.	Horse
	D.	Candle
	E.	Petrol
	F.	Jet
	G.	Kingly
	H.	Water
	I.	Knowledge
	J.	Wind
	K.	Steam
	L.	Electricity

We are grateful for the sponsorship of the following businesses.



The Coach House

Rectory Road,
Old Swinford.

Tel: 01384 828890

Available for Hire evenings / weekends. Small parties up to 40. Contact Parish Office—01384 441003

Chiropodist

Rachel Clark MSSCH MBCHA

Visiting Practice

Qualified and Insured.

Registered with Health Professions Council

Tel: 01384 873938 or 07860 771442

Chris Genner

Forever Living Products. Natural Aloe Vera health tonics, beauty and nutritional products. Free advice, talks and demonstrations. For a more fulfilling and rewarding career see our website at **www.genner.net** or call Chris Genner **Tel: 01384 371336**

Davis Memorials Ltd

Monumental and Masonry Contractors

Established 1841 Suppliers of all forms of memorials. 56A Station Road,

Old Hill, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 6NU **Tel: 01384 566958**

Fax: 01384 569708 Website: www.davismemorials.co.uk

Top Team Tutoring

Maths & English One-to-One Tuition

David and Joanna Evans - a family business providing a personal service.

All Key Stages, GCSE, 'A' Level, 11+ & 13+ Selection. Free advice.

Visit **www.topteamtutoring.co.uk** or **Tel: 01384 392553**

Mobility Homecare

Stairlifts, Scooters, Wheelchairs, Rise & Recline Chairs, Walking & Bathing Aids.

One hour home demonstration and assessment to suit your individual needs. Free delivery and instruction

Call freephone 0800 634 9674

H Porter & Sons

Old Church House, 60 South Road, Stourbridge. **Tel: 01384 395048.**

Funeral Directors for over 160 years.

J Vernon Kendrick

Vernon House, Cemetery Road, Lye.

DY9 8DB **Tel: 01384 422123.**

Funeral Directors.

Golden Charter Pre-payment Plans.

R B Porter Heating Ltd

For all Central Heating and Plumbing needs.

Servicing, Repairs and New Systems

CORGI Approved

191 Hagley Road, Old Swinford

Tel: 01384 396719

Swinford Pharmacy

90 Hagley Road, Old Swinford.

Tel: 01384 440030. We offer a free collection and delivery service for elderly and housebound patients.

J & J Upperdine

High Class Private and Commercial Painting and Decorating

82 Birmingham St. Stourbridge DY8 1JH

**Tel: Day 07969 864131
Evening 01384 827281**