

October Online edition of St Mary's Parish Magazine



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



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OCTOBER 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 email address 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 OCTOBER 2010

Saturday 2	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 3	THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 5	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
	7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at 10 Rectory Close
Wednesday 6	3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House
Thursday 7	Old Swinford Primary School Harvest
	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 9	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 10	THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	HARVEST FESTIVAL
	Copy date for November magazine
Tuesday 12	2.15 pm Mothers' Union at the Coach House
Thursday 14	10.30 am Holy Communion
	7.30 pm Deanery Synod
Saturday 16	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 17	THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Thursday 21	10.30 am Holy Communion
	2.30 pm Old Swinford Hospital Founder's Day Service
Saturday 23	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 24	THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Wednesday 27	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 28	St Simon and St Jude, Apostles
	10.30 am Holy Communion
	8.00 pm Resources Committee
Saturday 30	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 31	ALL SAINTS
	British Summer Time ends.
	6.30 pm Commemoration of All Souls



The Social Committee
with Eve and John Evans
present a

HARVEST SUPPER AND BARN DANCE

On Saturday 30th October 2010

POSTPONED



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

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

“Raise the song of harvest home”

Dean Henry Alford of Canterbury (1810-71) is the author of one of our favourite Harvest hymns, ‘Come, ye thankful people, come’. Holidaying in Somerset this year I saw a number of posters advertising the activities of the ‘Harvest Home’ in several villages and small towns. It is good to see this tradition, that long precedes the Church’s Harvest Festival, being maintained. Whilst Christian worship was always closely related to the agricultural year with Ember seasons in June, September and December and Lammas (loaf mass) on 1st August, harvest home was a secular, weekday observance. George Herbert (1593-1632) strongly recommended the taking of communion, then only an occasional service in the year, ‘afore and after harvest’. It was the Vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall, Revd Stephen Hawker, who set out to redeem the secular character of harvest home and who introduced the Harvest Festival as a special church service to be held near the beginning of October. He used bread made from the first ripe corn for the communion for that occasion.

Our Harvest Festival this year (10th October) will be very special. Not only will we be giving thanks for the wonders of creation and all that the good earth provides for our sustenance and joy, but on this occasion we will be also celebrating the work of our Sunday School over many years. It is difficult to establish quite when it began but it probably dates back to the nineteenth century. Countless numbers of children have learnt about and experienced the Christian faith through the ministry of those who have taught in St Mary’s Sunday School. Now that Sunday School has evolved into ‘Children Together’ we are making this Harvest Festival a ‘Harvest of Sunday School’ and in particular celebrating the unique and devoted contribution of Wendy Tranter over the last 66 years. Through her remarkable ministry she has influenced for good the lives of generations of children and we hope that some will be there to join in our thanksgiving.

Daily Prayer is a long established tradition in the Church of England. Morning and Evening Prayer are said in many parish churches around the country, the doors are opened and all are invited to participate. Here at St Mary’s, Morning Prayer (half an hour) is said in the Lady Chapel at 9.00 am Monday to Wednesday with Thursday mornings being shared with colleagues either here or at St Thomas’ or Holy Trinity, Amblecote. Evening Prayer (about 15 minutes) is said from Monday to Thursday at 5.00 pm and also on Saturday evening. Why not come and join us.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Greville

SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2010

Date	Service	Readings		
3 October Trinity 18	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Habakkuk 1. 1-4, 2. 1-4	2 Timothy 1. 1-14	Luke 17. 5 -10
	6.30 pm Evensong	Nehemiah 2	John 8. 31-38, 48-end	
10 October Trinity 19	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Worship Together	HARVEST FESTIVAL		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Deuteronomy 26. 1-11	John 6. 25 - 35	
17 October Trinity 20	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Genesis 32. 22-31	2 Timothy 3. 14 – 4.5	Luke 18. 1-8
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Samuel 3. 1-20	Ephesians 4. 1-16	
24 October Trinity 21	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Jeremiah 14. 7-10, 19-22	2 Timothy 4. 6-8, 16-18	Luke 18. 9-14
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ecclesiastes 11.12.	Matthew 22. 34-end	
31 October All Saints	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18	Ephesians 1. 11 - end	Luke 6. 20-31
	6.30 pm Evensong All Souls	Ecclesiastes 3 1 - 13	1 Peter 1 3 - 9	

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

Most people simply don't know how beautiful the world is and how much splendour is revealed in the smallest things, in a common flower, in a stone, in the bark of a tree or the leaf of a birch. Grown-up people, who have occupations and cares and who worry themselves about mere trifles, gradually lose the eye for these riches, while children, if they are observant and good, quickly notice and love with their whole heart.

Rainer Maria Rilke

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society would like to say thank you for all donations received. We are a leading charity driven by the belief that every child deserves a good childhood. It is known that thousands of children are denied this for various reasons, so the Children's Society works with children to stop their childhood being taken away. Sadly it is impossible to help every child in need, so the society provides vital help and support for those children who face the greatest danger, discrimination or disadvantage in their daily lives; children who are unable to find the help and support elsewhere are helped by the charity.

The Children's Society supports a network of projects which help 50,000 children and their families each year. This is only possible because of the generous support and donations of supporters like you and volunteers whose work is concentrated where the need is greatest, not just in areas where government funding is available.

We are a truly independent organisation. Sue Wilcox and I would like to say a huge thank you to all our box-holders who, year by year, fill their boxes the contents of which support the work of this wonderful charity.

If you wish to add your support please do contact me.

Anne Davies

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH HALL



Since our last newsletter we have completed the double glazing of the two rows of upper windows in the hall.

We are very grateful to Elaine Pritchard, Head of St Mary's Pre-school who, with help from her husband Bev and son, have voluntarily done a superb job in decorating the hall. It looks lovely and smells fresh and clean.

At the time of going to press we are busy selling tickets and making preparations for our fund raising 'Supper with Entertainment'.

The Rector has offered us the sound equipment which was originally used by the church. Is there a sound engineer in our midst who could give advice and help (on a voluntary basis) for installing it? If so, please contact Ian Ferguson on, 01384 393454.

We still have various free afternoon slots in the weekly calendar available until the end of the year. Please think of us when you need a venue.

Ian Ferguson

ST MARY'S WITH ST JOHN'S MOTHERS UNION

A terrific cloudburst was our greeting as we parked the car in the car park at our first meeting after the summer break. It was the Wave of Prayer service that is held every year when we remember our sister members all over the world and pray for their work in their area.

Pat Whalley welcomed everyone, thanking them for coming, especially our guests from other groups. Kanthi Ariaraj conducted our service; she began by welcoming everyone, and then asked us to remember in our prayers the places whose names we had been given, Central Solomons, Kigezi, N. Kigezi, Ankole and N Ankole, Ideato and Minna, North and West Australia, The Arctic, Peru and ourselves in Worcester.

Prayers were then asked for those unable to come and those sick and in trouble, also for those suffering the effects of the earthquake in New Zealand, the miners still waiting for rescue in South America, Pakistan and all troubled areas worldwide.

Readings were from Isaiah, Psalm 67, Galatians, and St. Luke, and prayers of praise and thanksgiving were offered by Kanthi in between.

After the blessing we went to the Narthex for tea, coffee and refreshments and a chance to chat with our guests.

At 7.30 pm on the 4 October there will be a Bring and Share Harvest Festival at Wollaston. On the 12 October our meeting will be a talk entitled "A Finger in Every Pie" by Jean Swift.

Betty Foulkes

COAST2COAST

Already having reached nearly a third of the £5,000 target by various fundraising events in aid of the wonderful work carried out by Macmillan Cancer Support, Philip Bartram and two friends, Steve Clifton and Ross Watson start the classic 192 mile Wainwright Coast-to-Coast walk on 7 October. The expedition is scheduled to take 11 days.



Anyone willing to contribute to this deserving cause can sign a sponsorship form on the notice-board in the Narthex. Alternatively, money can be given at www.justgiving.com/spscoast2coastwalk where more information can also be found.

Philip Bartram

COFFEE AND CAKE

In spite of its being holiday time the Narthex was full for our Missions Coffee Morning. A lovely variety of homemade cakes was offered to our supporters who enjoyed meeting and chatting over a cup of coffee. Together with donations we raised £415.40 for those we are committed to help and for the many charities in desperate need of funds. Thank you to Margaret and Mike Woodall and Philip Bartram for setting up the Narthex and to all those who gave towards the raffle. Our thanks also go to the many people who baked and gave the cakes which make our coffee mornings rather special, and also to all who came to support us.



Doreen Ryan

FIRST TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

St Mary's First Tuesday Fellowship provides a forum for informal discussion on wide-ranging topics relating to the Church's work and activities. We resumed our monthly meetings on 7 September after the summer break.

The meeting started with a reflection on Charles Wesley's remarkable life and achievements which had been the theme of the Summer Songs of Praise service on the previous Sunday. The main topic of the evening's discussion was the Church in Society which coincided with the subject of our curate Ruth's letter in the September magazine. Our aim was to consider the moral and spiritual issues which we face in everyday life.

Not surprisingly, the discussion wandered along several different paths visiting aspects of family life, marriage and baptism, justice, defence and medical ethics. We shared some entertaining anecdotes and experiences on the way. On education the group agreed that the school assembly had been an important element in our Christian upbringing and regretted that it was no longer a daily feature in the school schedule. While it was acknowledged that the church and faith had a significant influence on social development, opinion was divided on the extent to which the church should be involved in political affairs. The comments in Ruth's letter on the potential reduction of government responsibility which could arise from recent political developments were noted and we shared the concern of the effect this might have on the vulnerable, the poor and those in need.

At the next Fellowship meeting the discussion will literally be more parochial as it will consider some of these issues and their effects and experiences within our own parish of Old Swinford. The meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 October at the home of Dawn and Ian Nex, 10 Rectory Close.

Alec Beevers

THE CHURCH ORGAN



This picture shows the plight of the organ blower motor. At a funeral in August there was a bang and then the familiar whooshing sound of the air in the instrument dying away. It has not been heard since.

One of the motor bearings had dried out and the bearing had seized to the armature and pulled it away from the outer casing. With the motor now stopped, the windings burnt out and the blower became unusable.

At the time of writing, quotations are being collected for a replacement motor. The PCC has given approval for the repairs to be carried out.

The second picture shows the existing obsolete switchgear.

Robin Walker



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

NO LIMITS Community Project:working4autism and the Sounding Board Carers Group are putting on '**A Salute to WWII Years**' in the church hall on Saturday, November 20th. Look out old photos for our remembrance board. A plated supper, flag-waving and sing-songs, plus wartime sketches by Hagley Theatre Group will provide the entertainment. This is a fund raising evening. Please come in war time dress. More information will be issued in pew sheets closer to the time. Entrance will be by ticket only at a cost of £6.50.

Should be a good night!

Chris Morgan

BEWARE

Lead me not into temptation; I can find the way myself.

Rita Mae Brown

HARVEST

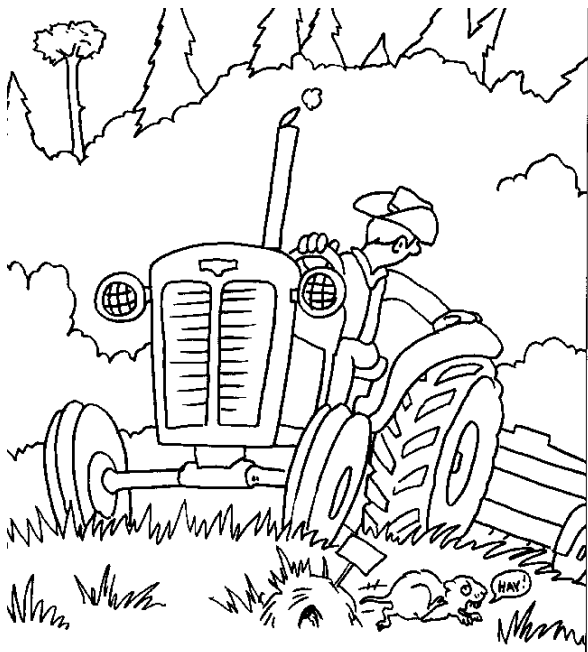
Every year we have a Harvest Festival in our schools and churches. Do you know why?

Harvest Festival is a celebration of the food grown on the land.

Thanksgiving ceremonies and celebrations for a successful harvest are both world-wide and very ancient. In Britain, we have given thanks for successful harvests since pagan times. We celebrate this day by singing, praying and decorating our churches with baskets of fruit and food in a festival known as 'Harvest Festival'

Harvest Festival reminds Christians of all the good things God gives them. This makes them want to share with others who are not so fortunate. In schools and in Churches, people bring food from home to a Harvest Festival Service. After the service, the food that has been put on display is usually made into parcels and given to people in need.

This farmer is in the process of trying to plough his fields ready for the Harvest Festival. Can you colour him in?



Harvest Wordsearch

Can you find the Harvest themed words hidden in the grid?

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL WHEATSHEAF CORN DOLLY
LAMMASTIDE MICHAELMAS COMBINE HARVESTER
FARMER HOME MOON CROP MOW TRACTOR

HARVEST OFFERINGS

Below are some names of things you might take to Church for offering during the Harvest Festival. Can you unscramble the words to find out what you could take on Harvest Sunday?

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. SITN | 6. ERIC |
| 2. SAATP | 7. AKEPCTS |
| 3. ERIDD TUFIR | 8. FECOEF |
| 4. DKEAB ABENS | 9. SAJR |
| 5. RELEAC | 10. UPOS SNIT |

AT A DISTANCE

Parish Magazines have more impact than editors might be aware. Even those available in open churches can be of interest and inspiration to the casual visitor.

My own parish (Farlington near Portsmouth), after deciding the existing magazine needed improvement, had a brief unsatisfactory run of 'designer style' publications. Now we have only an uninspiring monthly sheet of Lectionary Readings and Register records of births, marriages and deaths. Not having a 'proper' magazine is a sad loss to many parishioners who may not be aware of the need for material to print and willing people to undertake production.



I have appreciated St Mary's Parish Magazine having had some personal knowledge of worship in your church through my brother Alec Beevers. Earlier this year I passed on the issue with the first of the 'Christian Year' articles to a friend from our study group, now disbanded because most people reached the elderly or infirm stage. She passed it on to her husband in a care home. Both of them appreciated a reminder of parish life (if not our own) and a glimpse of a world of activity beyond present limitations and of insight into Christian values.

So the rest of the 'Christian Year' issues followed and established a sense of belonging still to a church that was the basis of life in younger days and can continue to enliven in less active older age. And I have the satisfaction of providing some interest to share from your efforts.

Many thanks to all who are involved in production of St Mary's Old Swinford Parish Magazine.

Elsie Chapman

FOOTNOTE

Whilst in the process of 'taking on' the editorship from Alec Beevers we looked at examples of other church magazines whilst discussing possible evolutionary changes. On top of the pile was a magazine from St Andrews, Farlington, sent by his sister to Alec. By coincidence, this was the church in which Sue and I were married 37 years ago. Sue and I revisited the church one Sunday last summer where we received a very warm welcome....although we were sorry Elsie was not there at the time. This has been a real chance encounter that has brought encouragement in that the St Mary's magazine is appreciated 'At a Distance'. Thank you to Elsie for her kind words. Does anyone know of anywhere further afield where the St Mary's Parish Church Magazine is read?

Tony Tatford

‘WHAT DID SHE COOK?’ I ASKED ‘OH, SUNDAY LUNCH, ROAST BEEF, SHEPHERD’S PIE....

This may seem quite a strange heading for an article on bereavement but it stems from a comment made to us when training for the priesthood that a funeral is about telling God’s story alongside the story of the one who has died. Listening to the story of the deceased in a funeral visit, it is often something seemingly small that provides a significant moment for the tribute. It speaks of their humour, their courage and their love for their family. This seemingly small note is often an indication of the very essence of who they are. Whilst on placement in Worcester, the family we were visiting prior to a funeral said that the lady had loved cooking. ‘What did she cook?’ I asked ‘Oh Sunday lunch, roast beef, shepherd’s pie...’ The picture was so strong you could smell the gravy on the plate. It is these points that provide the trigger for memories to be shared more fully later in the day with family and friends.

A walk through the churchyard reveals many names which are a familiar part of the church’s story as are the numerous memorial plaques on objects that we work with everyday in the church itself. These memories are not just carved onto stone or brass or glass but come alive when someone says ‘Oh do you remember when...’

A funeral service has a strong theme of letting go; a liminal event; when we let go of the physical body of our loved one and death becomes very real. Following the coffin in the car was the hardest moment, I have been told by several families; already there seemed to be a sense of distance and a new loss. It is very easy to feel despair at this moment as though life itself has come to an end. Bereavement brings pain and sorrow and tears are an important part of expressing those emotions. Bereavement involves considerable change and we can feel lost as to how to begin again.

In reality those we have let go in the funeral service live on in our lives through the lives they have touched, the telling and retelling of their stories; sometimes they can almost seem present with us as we ask, ‘What would they have done?’

The Anchor Bereavement Care Group held its first meeting in September in the Coach House and will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 2.00-4.00. On the 31 October we will hold our annual All Souls’ Service in church in which we remember those who have gone before; candles are lit and the names of those we want to remember are read out by the clergy. Sometimes the funeral itself can seem to be too much; feelings of numbness and shock can be the uppermost emotions. Grieving is not a one off event that is over and done with in a short period after the funeral but a journey into a new life; the All Souls’ Service is a step on that journey and an opportunity to re-remember.

ST MARY'S WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial in the Lady Chapel is the memorial for the whole community of Oldswinford. Two brass plates commemorate those who died in the two world wars. Since then many thousands of service-men have lost their lives and the Armed Services Memorial at Alrewas now commemorates their names in a splendid environment.



One of the names is that of an Oldswinford man serving in the Staffordshire Regiment. His funeral took place in the church and he is buried in the churchyard. The grave is marked by a Commonwealth War Graves headstone and can be found in the bottom row of the cemetery. It might be nearly twenty years ago but the Church Council has agreed to place a new brass plate beneath the existing pair to commemorate his name.

Private Shaun Patrick Taylor was killed in action at the age of 20 on the 25 February 1991 during the First Gulf War. He was born and bred in Oldswinford, lived in Grange Road and attended the Grange School (now Pedmore College of Technology and Community School).

It is also appropriate that his name on a new plaque should be added to the Stourbridge War Memorial in Mary Stevens Park. Dudley Council has lifted its ban on adding new names and has agreed that this may be done so long as it has no cost to bear and that the work is carried out in a suitable fashion.

An estimate for making and fitting the two metal plaques has been provided by the contractor who has recently renovated the Stourbridge Memorial and amounts to £630+VAT for the church memorial and £1450+VAT for the park memorial. Contributions have been made by some local groups but I hope that we at St. Mary's can deal with the cost of our own. Cheques may be made out to 'Old Swinford P.C.C.' and sent to 'War Memorial Appeal' c/o The Parish Office, Rectory Road, Oldswinford, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 2HA. They can also be placed in the Office tray at the back of the church.

Roy Peacock

HARVEST FESTIVAL—10 OCTOBER



We will hold our usual collection of harvest gifts at our 10.00am service on this date. Whatever donation you are able to make will be gratefully received by those we endeavour to support. Please do check the 'sell by' date on produce to ensure our gifts are fit for purpose.

BEACON EMPLOYMENT – AN EXAMPLE OF MUTUAL SUPPORT

If you have walked through the churchyard in past months you may have noticed that the usual summer growth of weeds and trees has not had quite such an impact this year. Indeed, some areas have been considerably enhanced by the restriction of the overgrowth such that the gravestones remain the dominant feature and distant view is more accessible.



BEFORE and



AFTER

This progress towards the controlled maintenance of a more extensive area of the churchyard is the result of the efforts of a team of adults from Beacon Employment. Beacon Employment is a local charitable organisation that provides training and work for adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues. Their Mobile Service Team undertakes paid work of the sort our extensive churchyard is so often in need, clearance work, grass cutting, hedge trimming and small tree work. The efforts of this team have been considerable and the successful outcome of the tasks we have contracted them with to date suggest that we shall be looking to make more of a mutually supportive relationship between St Mary's and Beacon. Thank you to all members of the team for their work.

If you might find the services of this group helpful please contact Craig Darby on tel. 0844 815 6145 or info@beaconemployment.org.uk

Edward Haden

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the members of the congregation, particularly the 8.00 am Communion and Mothers' Union members for your prayers and good wishes. Thank you for the numerous phone calls and visits, the beautiful flowers and cards. Special thanks go to Greville for his continued support.

God Bless you all

Ruth Hardy

HARVEST FLOWERS - ST MARY'S FLOWER GUILD

Help will be welcomed in church from 9.00 am on Saturday 9 October to prepare the floral decorations for our Harvest Festival. Please sign the list at the back of the church if you wish to do a particular display.

Sally Frost

HOLIDAY VISITORS

In August I had house guests for two or three weeks. Bugs Bunny and Fishy occupied opposite ends of my second bedroom and there was not a cross word between them. They ate all I offered them without complaint and never had me up once in the night with pleas for a drink or tales of nightmares.

Bugsy came first and he must have felt some resentment when his privacy was invaded by Fishy a few days later for he stamped his feet and rattled his dish which made his timorous companion dash for the shelter of the greenery where she lurked anxiously for some time. (I say 'she' with some doubt because I am not sure of Fishy's sex; Bugsy I know to be male because I was given a full pedigree on him when he entered my grand daughter's family five years ago).

I was assured that Bugsy had been to the vet just before his holiday for a general check-up including claw-trimming. Fishy, I know, has to have the water in her tank refreshed every week by the abstraction of one jugful and its replacement with another to which a measured dose of Aquasafe has been added. Bugsy is only allowed dried food in the form of pellets or hay which are better for his teeth than, for example, the dandelion leaves on which I recall feeding our rabbits when my sister and I were small.

Do I regard this as encouraging progress in animal care over the years or the demands of commerce? I don't know. I hope, however, that I am competent in carrying out the instructions left with me until the families return to reclaim their pets. I do know that it is one of the pleasures of being a grandmother to be asked, "Granny, you will look after Leo, Bumble, Brownie, Elizabeth, Bugsy, Fishy, (or whoever) while we are away, won't you?"

Granny

SEPTEMBER'S HEALTHY EGG AND CHIPS

I wish I had had my camera at hand to take a photo of this dish as it came out of the oven. It looked amazingly attractive and delicious.... and tasted just as good! Ha Ha! I never thought I would get excited over 'egg and chips'! I used a red onion and red Duke of York potatoes, leaving the skins on the potatoes of course.

We couldn't follow Richard's advice on the wine though - none of what was suggested in the cellar - so drank a very agreeable Chianti instead..... don't cringe too much Richard!

Jane Jukes

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE CURRIED SWEET POTATO SOUP

This is a great soup for vegetarians, the beans adding protein.

½kg sweet potatoes (orange fleshed) peeled and diced
Light olive oil
Vegetable stock
400g cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
2 tsp curry paste
1 Spanish onion, sliced
Coriander to garnish

Fry the onion in a little oil. Add the sweet potato and cover with stock. Cook for 15-20 minutes. Add half the drained beans and curry paste. Cook for a further 10 minutes.

Process the soup. Check the seasoning and adjust the consistency with water.

Add the remaining beans and reheat the soup. Garnish with chopped coriander.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

If the grape variety is key to our food-matching, the wine-making style can sometimes be even more so. Coriander, curry paste and sweet potatoes lead us to an aromatic white : maybe an Alsace Gewurztraminer or Pinot Gris. The wines from that region are unoaked - the emphasis is on fresh pure fruits. However I am left thinking that these ingredients call for something a little more complex. The Swiss make wines in an altogether different style using the process of malo-lactic fermentation to produce a more complex softer buttery wine, though they tend to be quite light on the palate.

Perhaps an oxidized style then? Louis Pasteur [yes him] did a lot of his work in Arbois in the Jura region of France. There a deliberately oxidized wine is made from the Savagnin grape.....but almost impossible to find. The dish is a soup so a sip of sherry perhaps to start the meal? Best bets are an Amontillado which is an aged fino produced under flavour-giving flor, or an Oloroso, oxidized and weightier : well-suited to the texture of the soup. Two more to consider : Madeira - save the sweeter styles for your blue cheeses and chocolate desserts - but the Sercial Madeira would be great, striking a lovely balance between oxidized flavours and fruits more prominent than sherry. The Danish akvavit Jubilaeums has dill and caraway flavours. It is served as a digestif in Scandinavia: have a glass after your curried sweet potato soup and say Wow !

Enjoy your wine-sipping....

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

15 August	Lewis James Willetts Ronnie Ray Robinson Short Kyle Stephen Martin Ronald Davies
22 August	Spencer Kian Thomas Ashton Maisie Libby-Beth Ashton Eva Leanne Gillis
5 September	Lenny John Carrington Frazer John Franklyn Smith Grace Harbach

Weddings

7 August	Adam Williams and Laura Harris Tobias Cale and Victoria Dee
14 August	Alec Simpson and Charlotte Rudge Adam McCarroll and Lucy Young
20 August	Iain Grant and Kaye Boyles
21 August	Thomas Smith and Charlotte Hurley
28 August	Daniel Norton and Joanne Peplow
4 September	Nathan Francis and Ami Tyler

Funerals

9 August	Mary Johnson	aged 97
10 August	David Greenway	aged 69
19 August	Muriel Garrett	aged 85
1 September	John Garner	aged 65
3 September	Joe Lawson	aged 73

WATCH OUT - CHRISTMAS CARDS ABOUT

The Mission/Pastoral Committee are offering two exclusive Christmas cards for sale to raise money for its work. Designed and painted by Elaine Smith they depict two scenes of The Nativity. We are launching them at the Supper Party in the Church Hall on Saturday, 26 September, but they will be available in church afterwards. So please look for them at the back of church and do all you can to support this worthy cause.

Doreen Ryan

PAKISTAN FLOODS APPEAL

The total for the above appeal was £940.38 and we are most grateful for your very generous support in providing funds to help mitigate this terrible disaster.

The Wardens and the Missions Committee Chairman have decided, on the advice of the P.C.C. Treasurer, that in future when an international disaster occurs that the Treasurer shall pay all monies from the 'Bucket Collections' to the "Disasters Emergency Committee" where possible and not to individual charities.

CHARITABLE DONATION		bank giro credit																											
Date: _____	Date: _____	HSBC Bank plc Head Office Collections Account DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE c/o DEC DEC PAKISTAN FLOODS APPEAL																											
Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal (insert name of appeal) Total Cash _____ Total Cheques _____ TOTAL £ _____	Cashier's stamp and initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES (Please tick) I am a U.K. taxpayer. This is a personal donation and I would like the DEC to claim the tax back on this donation.	Name: _____ Address: _____ Post Code: _____	<table border="1"> <tr><td>£50 Notes</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>£20 Notes</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>£10 Notes</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>£5 Notes</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>£1 & 1p Notes</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>£2 Coins</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>£1 Coins</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>50p</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>20p</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Silver</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Brass</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Total Cash</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Cheques, P.O.s etc.</td><td></td></tr> </table>	£50 Notes		£20 Notes		£10 Notes		£5 Notes		£1 & 1p Notes		£2 Coins		£1 Coins		50p		20p		Silver		Brass		Total Cash		Cheques, P.O.s etc.	
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Cashier's Stamp HSBC Bank plc, on behalf of the DEC, acknowledges with gratitude your gift for the current appeal. This counterfoil, properly stamped, is your official receipt.		Number of cheques _____ No fee to be charged _____ 42-64-71 60264717 73 £ 940.38 Please do not write or mark below this line or fold this voucher ⑈ 138855⑈ 42⑈6471⑈ 60264717⑈ 73																											

As far as we can ascertain this is the quickest route for the money to reach where it is needed.

Edward Haden

How reassuring it has been to see the extent of support from this country for those so seriously affected by the flooding in Pakistan and how heartening it is to know that Britain still lives by Christian principles.

Doreen Ryan



ST MARY'S COACH HOUSE

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Children's Page Answers

SOUP TINS	10.	CEREAL	5.
JARS	9.	BAKED BEANS	4.
COFFEE	8.	DRIED FRUIT	3.
PACKETS	7.	PASTA	2.
RICE	6.	TINS	1.

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