

Online edition of the June Magazine from St Mary's Old Swinford



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

June 2010

40p

SUNDAYS AT ST MARY'S

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion (with OY Group)
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:	Mrs Helen Plaice	441003
Parish Office:	Open 9.00 am -1.00 pm, Tuesday to Thursday	441003
	9.00 am - 12.00 noon, Friday	Closed Mondays

Church Website Address: www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk
Email: st.mary.os@btinternet.com

ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

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

DIARY FOR JUNE 2010

Thursday 3	Corpus Christi 10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 5	10.00 am Open Church
SUNDAY 6	THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY Choir to sing in Worcester Cathedral (details in this issue.)
Monday 7	Pilgrims return from Oberammergau
Tuesday 8	Visit from Cam Mothers' Union 7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at the Rectory
Wednesday 9	7.30 pm Deanery Synod
Thursday 10	Copy date for July & August magazine 10.30 am Holy Communion
Friday 11	St Barnabas the Apostle
Saturday 12	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 2.30 pm Readers' Service in the Cathedral
SUNDAY 13	THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 10.00 am Worship Together
Tuesday 15	7.30 pm Resources Committee
Thursday 17	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.00 pm Charter Day Service for King Edward VI College
Saturday 19	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 20	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 11.00 am United Deanery Service on Pedmore Cricket
Ground	(If wet at St Mary's) N.B. Please note there is <u>no</u> 10.00 am Service at St Mary's today
Wednesday 23	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 24	The Birth of John the Baptist 10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Saturday 26	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 27	THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 29	St Peter & St Paul, Apostles 9.30 am Standing Committee

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

*Think often on God, by day, by night, in your business,
and even in your diversions or recreations.*

He is always near you and with you; leave him not alone.

*You would think it rude to leave a friend alone who came to visit you;
why, then, would you let God be neglected?*

Brother Lawrence

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

Amongst the heroes of the very early Church, Barnabas (June 11th) is often forgotten. His contribution, however, was both inspirational and critical to the whole Christian movement.

Described by Luke as “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith”, he was a Cyprian Jew known as Joseph, until he was given the name Barnabas by the apostles. It means ‘Son of encouragement’ which ably describes the whole of his life thereafter. It must have been a real boost to the struggling, embryonic church in Jerusalem when he appeared having sold his property, presumably in Cyprus, and gave the proceeds to the Church. However, his decisiveness was also to play a vital part in promoting the ministry of St Paul and thus the spread of the faith across the known world.

Immediately after his dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, Saul, as he then was, tried to join the disciples but they were so frightened of him that they refused even to see him. It was Barnabas who then took the initiative, befriended Saul, and brought him to them. Some time later the apostles sent him to the rapidly growing Christian centre of Antioch. After seeing what was happening, and having encouraged them in their mission, Barnabas went immediately to Tarsus to find Paul and get his help in teaching and building up the Church in Antioch. Between them they also raised financial assistance there for the Church in Jerusalem that was facing some hardship and persecution.

It was also in the Church in Antioch that Barnabas and Paul were commissioned to take the message of the Good News on their first missionary journey beginning in Cyprus. It was the start of the great movement that resulted in a chain of mainly gentile churches that stretched far into Asia Minor and eventually reached Europe and Rome. With Paul, Barnabas was instrumental in the decision to take the message of Christ to the Gentiles and together they persuaded the Council in Jerusalem to allow gentile converts to become Christians without first having to be made Jews. Although his partnership with Paul ended with a disagreement over his cousin John Mark, their friendship remained. He was still at work when Paul wrote his first letter to the Church in Corinth but it is thought that he died shortly afterwards, probably martyred at Salamis in his native Cyprus.

It was Barnabas’ decisiveness at a time of change that enabled the Church to grow and the message of Christ to spread. We owe him a lot.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Greville

SERVICES IN JUNE

Date	Service	Readings		
6 June	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Kings 17. 8-16	Galatians 1. 17-end	Luke 7. 11-17
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 8.15-9.17	Mark 4. 1-20	
13 June	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Worship Together			
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Genesis 13.	Mark 4. 21-end	
20 June	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	11.00 am Deanery Service at Pedmore Cricket Ground			
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 24. 1-27	Mark 5. 21-end	
27 June	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Kings 2. 1-2, 6-14	Galatians 5. 1, 13-25	Luke 9. 51-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 27. 1-40	Mark 6. 1-6	

THE WEDDING OF JENNIFER AND IAN

April 24th was a day of sunshine. The countryside was beautiful and the hedges were just turning green as we made our way to Dursley, the village of Cam and the Church of St George. A church filled to over-flowing to greet a radiant Jennifer, her three bridesmaid sisters and two young pages. The congregation filled the church with joyous hymns and fervent responses to the service conducted by the Revd Canon Cross. It was a memorable and moving occasion, a reminder to us all of the meaning of this traditional ceremony.

Afterwards the Mothers' Unions and their families from the two Parishes under Jennifer's care provided a generous buffet in the church, including wine and wedding cake - very welcome, especially to those of us who had come from Oldswinford.

What a happy outcome of a holiday trip to Egypt four years ago where Jennifer and Ian met. Our hopes and prayers are that their lives together will be full of sunshine and happiness as was this day in April.

Pamela Green

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

One of our recent Sunday morning worship services was led by Revd Michael Dunn, a friend of Ruth's who in his sermon invited us to reflect again on the events of the Last Supper and how St John had described Judas, after having received bread, going out into the dark night – no doubt with a darkness also in his soul, perhaps reflecting the forces of evil that were at work.



This idea of light and dark soul if brought up to date could well reflect aspects of our life today with many things that could make us feel that we have darkness in our soul, unemployment, relationship problems, poverty, homelessness, drugs the list could go on. However if we are to embrace the love that Jesus has offered it seems that the darkness can be turned to light. Jesus said "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Later in his sermon Michael also gave us a very powerful image to reflect upon when receiving communion, an image that really struck a chord with me and has stayed with me since. He asked us when receiving communion to offer in our open hands our thoughts, worries, concerns, perhaps our dark thoughts before Jesus so that when our open hands were filled with the bread of life this darkness could be turned to light and we could be nourished and fed spiritually by the light and love of Jesus.

As always we would follow this by offering thanks and return to the world renewed, revived and refreshed with the Holy Spirit remembering that "we whom the spirit lights give light to the world".

Thank you Michael for your challenging thoughts and memorable sermon.

John Sutton

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 Special Needs Students
Please come and support us.

WORSHIP

t o g e t h e r



AS STOURBRIDGE DEANERY

**Preacher : Ven Roger Morris.
Archdeacon of Worcester**

**SUNDAY 20 JUNE 2010
on Pedmore Cricket Ground.**

***If wet, at St Mary's Oldswinford**

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 11am | Service of Holy Communion
for all ages (0 - 90+) |
| 12.30* | Picnic lunch
(bring your own food and drink) |
| 1.30* | Walk / Play Games or sit and
watch the fun |
| 3.30* | Cream Tea |

*times are approximate

Please - No dogs! Thank you!

FOOD BANK CALL

Now that the Food Bank has extended into the Dudley area the demand has outstripped the resources at the warehouse. Could you please help to fill the stores again? If everyone brought just one item of tinned or dried food our baskets would be overflowing and you would be fulfilling Jesus' call to feed the hungry. Oh!, and before you put your gift in the basket, could you please check that it is not past its 'sell by' date so it does not have to be thrown away. These are desperate times for many people but your donation of one item a week could help save a family from going hungry.

Doreen Ryan

Missions Secretary

100 YEARS AGO

The June 1910 magazine was almost entirely given over to the acknowledgement of the death, on 6th May, and the funeral, on 20th May of King Edward VII. At services throughout the month and at a memorial service on the day of the funeral parishioners attended to register expressions of loyalty and devotion to their King. The Rector said that the name of King Edward would be handed down to posterity and his memory immortalised as Edward the Peacemaker.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH HALL

The Church Hall committee has discussed and agreed a programme of improvements to bring the hall up to modern specification. The first item was cavity wall insulation to the hall and adjoining flat. This has now been completed and we are planning the next improvement which is to be the double glazing of top two tiers of windows. This is subject to PCC approval and availability of funds.



Our fund raising coffee morning - **on Saturday 29th May** - has been well supported and we thank all who have bought tickets or otherwise supported us. A Supper Evening with Entertainment is planned for Saturday 25th September and we hope to have a full Church Hall for this exciting occasion.

Ian Ferguson

.....

CHOIR NEWS AT ST MARY'S

The weekend of June 5th and 6th will see the choir of St Mary's leading the worship at Worcester Cathedral for the three major musical services that weekend. This will include Evensong on Saturday 5th June at 5:30 pm, and on Sunday 6th June the Cathedral Eucharist at 10:30 am and Evensong at 4:00 pm.

The choir has been working very hard on the music for this event and it would be marvellous if there were members of the "home team" there to support them.

I have invited two friends of mine to join us on this occasion; as you know our tenor ranks are a little low at this time and they will help us greatly. Richard Hall has kindly agreed to be organist for all three services.

May I take this opportunity, once again, to advertise for men to join the choir at St Mary's. There are some boys coming through but there are some things in life which cannot and should not be rushed! I would be pleased to give a simple audition and coaching if anyone is interested in joining.

Robin Walker
Director of Music

.....

A NIGHT OUT

Don't forget the production by the Side by Side Theatre Company of Prometheus on June 9th, 10th, and 11th at Stourbridge Town Hall. This group of very professional actors and actresses, all of whom experience learning difficulties, provide very worthwhile and rewarding entertainment.

HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

As we approach the summer holiday season I wonder what new experiences await us.

In summer 2006, Avril and I, together with my brother and his wife, were fortunate to go to British Columbia, driving through the Canadian Rockies, taking the Rocky Mountaineer train to Vancouver before going on to Victoria (on Vancouver Island) and then up the Inside Passage to Alaska. British Columbia joined the state of Canada in the late 19th century at which time the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) was built. The CPR Company also built a number of majestic hotels to develop tourism, which of course was then confined to the wealthy members of society. One such hotel is The Empress Hotel, in Victoria. It overlooks Victoria Bay and one can easily imagine the aristocracy journeying across Canada on the CPR, steamer to Victoria and then horse and carriage from the harbour to spend a few months in The Empress.

On arriving in Victoria, both my brother and I recalled that my father had convalesced in that city at the end of WW2. Just three days after marrying my mother, Dad was sent overseas with his regiment, ultimately to Singapore. That so called fortress fell to the Japanese Imperial Army in February 1942 and Dad became a prisoner of war. He was sent to a forced labour camp in Japan and survived 3 ½ years of brutal captivity although very many of his friends died. On release in August 1945, he was so weak and under-nourished that he was taken to Victoria BC for convalescence, not being able to return home to my mother until January 1946. One of the nurses that helped dad to recover remained in contact and I remember her visiting our home in Peterborough when I was a young boy. After Dad died, this nurse continued in correspondence with Mum until suddenly the letters stopped. My brother and I very much regretted that we did not know this lady's former address or the details of Dad's time in Victoria.

Whilst in Victoria, we decided to go on an hour's guided tour of The Empress as it is not otherwise open to non-residents. At the end of the tour we heard about how it was built for wealthy tourists from Europe in the early part of the 20th century and how it fell into hard times during the Great Depression of the 1930s. Then we were told that at the end of WW2, The Empress was used to accommodate convalescing British prisoners of war from Japan.

I believe that we discovered, by chance, where Dad had stayed in Victoria 61 years ago.

Stan Williams

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Ruth's Ordination as Priest will take place at 2.00pm on Saturday, 3rd July in Worcester Cathedral. It is hoped that as many as possible will be present to support her with our love and prayers on this occasion.

CHILDREN'S PAGES

The picture below illustrates Jesus' Ascension.
Can you colour it in and perhaps even provide a caption?



??True or False??

How much do you know about Ascension?

1. Jesus did not come to the earth in a physical body like ours.
2. Jesus sent the apostles to teach the world about Him.
3. Jesus said, "He who believes shall be saved."
4. Jesus left through the sky.
5. An angel told the apostles that Jesus would never return.

CAN YOU NAME THE TWELVE APOSTLES?

Unscramble the letters to reveal them all...

RTEEP

WADREN

SEJAM

HOJN

PILPHI

ORMOBETALWH

TEMTAWH

HOMTSA

MAJES

DATEHDUS

MISON

SUJDA

WORDSEARCH



Can you find the hidden words?

opened

understand

Scriptures

written

Christ

suffer

repentance

remission

sins

Jerusalem

witnesses

promise

Father

tarry

Bethany

carried

heaven

worshipped

joy

continually

WOMEN ON REMAND AND THE MOTHERS' UNION

In the April issue of the magazine your attention was drawn to the collections we have made for the Women's Refuge: our thanks to those who have responded. If you noticed the box you may also have spotted that the words 'and on REMAND' are there too. Here is an explanation of another part of our work.

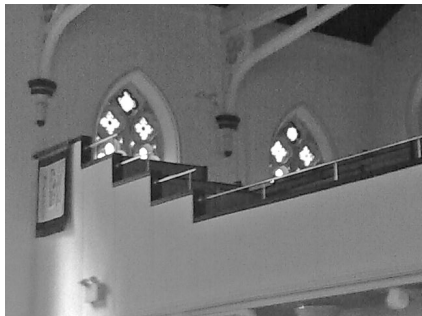
Countrywide the MU works in prisons, usually with the families of prisoners. However, our attention was drawn to the plight of women who may find themselves incarcerated at short notice and kept there until a suitable Court is convened to hear the case against them. Under English Law they are innocent until proved otherwise and many of those in prisons - men and women alike - are on remand. (it's easy to spot this from proceedings at magistrates' courts as given in local newspapers). I'll give you a story of what could happen.....

Anna was taking a year off to work in a supermarket to make a bit of money before taking up her place at university. It was November. Her brother had returned for his final year of study and her parents were away arranging for an aged aunt to go into care. In the check-out queue Anna noticed Sharon whom she had not seen since they left the local school three years ago. In the short time available they agreed to meet in town the next evening and 'catch up'. They went to a club and settled themselves in a corner with a glass of wine apiece and talked as well as they could under the surrounding racket. Suddenly the place was full of police. It was a drugs raid and no-one was allowed to leave until all had been searched. In the back pocket of Anna's jeans a packet was found containing what looked like cocaine and a few ecstasy tablets. Her insistence that 'someone must have put them there' was regarded as a customary excuse and along with three or four others she was taken to the local police station where she spent a night in the cells. She was relieved that her family were not around to witness this disaster, and also that she was likely to be brought before the magistrate the next morning when she hoped she would be released. However, the magistrate did not believe her either and she was 'remanded in custody' until the next session of the County Court. She was loaded into a prison van and taken to a women's prison about twenty miles away. She had nothing with her in the way of toiletries - not even a clean pair of knickers. She felt frightened, dirty, dishevelled, alone.....

You may think this is an improbable tale but it is a possible one. The MU helps a bit by providing toiletries (and knickers!) which can be issued by prison staff at reception to remand prisoners who often arrive without basic necessities. Each prisoner is given a couple of pairs of disposable briefs (and sanitary towels if necessary). However, It may be some little comfort to a woman to find that someone, somewhere, cared enough that there was a little more than such basic help. This MU tries to do. Feel free to add to our box!

Dorothy Gibson

PICTURE GALLERY



The new gallery rail



Presentation to Michael Woodall on the occasion of his retirement from the role of Master of Fabric



The happy couple -
Jennifer and Ian

and with
supporters



In appreciation of the
work of all members of
the Flower Guild

ST MARY'S WITH ST JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION TOP CHURCH TRAINING

Do you know what Top Church Training is? Have you heard of it before?

Twenty Mothers' Union members came to the Coach House to hear Marjorie Ferguson give a talk, as we expected - on Church Affairs and Churchwarden's duties. How wrong we were!!

Through the Soroptomist movement Marjorie became involved in the foundation of the Top Church Training which is a body of people drawn from many sources, both religious and public, in order to help and advise young people in less advantaged areas of the population.

Help and advice is given on many subjects, from work, health, finance, legal, to family breakdown and personal problems.

We heard several case histories - some with very successful outcomes - many more very difficult indeed, and all hampered by lack of funds.

We thanked Marjorie for her very instructive and thought provoking talk and hope Top Church training will receive the financial help that they need for this important work.

The Deanery Festival was held at St John's, Hagley, 2.30pm on Wednesday 19 May.

Next meeting—Tuesday 8th June Visit of M.U. group from Cam and Stinchcombe.

Betty Foulkes

.....

NEWS AND NOTES

Recently I was asked by a very kind lady, Gaynor Hill, if I would like to join her, Wendy Tranter, and Maureen Harrison a visit to Cam, there to attend the wedding of Jennifer Doores and Ian. Wendy was the prime mover in this escapade and we were all glad to be asked to join in - and what a lovely day it was. The sun shone all day long enhancing this very moving and beautiful occasion.

Jennifer looked absolutely beautiful in her lovely wedding dress. Her hair hung loosely around her radiant face and placed in her hair where some pretty decorative adornments. She carried pink-red/golden yellow roses which linked in colour to the dresses worn by her bridesmaid's, her three sisters.

The handsome groom, Ian, was in morning dress, as were the groomsmen. Jennifer's father gave her away and her mother looked delightful.

Our Rector took the service which was so moving and so apt. One almost wished one could 'bottle' the joy and happiness which was all around.

After the signing of the register we were asked to leave the church and go into the grounds for photographs to be taken. When we returned we found the chairs had been moved and tables erected which were laden with delicious looking finger-food. Wine and juice were served outside and the Wedding Cake was cut by the Bride and Groom.

What a lovely, lovely day. It was also so special to meet up with the Pophams who were there with their dear little son. The family have moved to Nottinghamshire and seem to have settled well.

Another occasion of note was a visit to Symphony Hall to hear a Welsh Choir and a girls' choir from Edgbaston Girls High School. Aled Jones was also involved. A most successful evening which had been arranged by the Stourbridge Probus Club.

The following day, Stourbridge Probus and the Hagley Probus Club met up at the Granary, there to share a delicious lunch followed by an interesting talk.

This morning members of St Mary's Flower Guild were busy creating the beautiful arrangements to mark and celebrate the beauty of our church after all the improvements which have taken place over recent time.

Certain people come to mind. A lot of fundraising events were organised by different church groups but one has to say thank you to Andrew Scudamore for his leadership in so many ways. With Pam by his side, together, they achieved an incredible result. which ensured a successful conclusion to our challenge.

Michael Woodall has also made a huge contribution. The time he gave, supported by Margaret, supervising the ongoing works in his role as Master of Fabric is to be admired.

The Rector and our two hard-working Wardens had a good team but his leadership was evident at all times. We cannot thank the workforce enough for the care taken in their work and in the clearing up as they went along.

Lastly, but not least, Janice Sutton celebrated a Special birthday recently. Surrounded by loving family and friends she hosted a happy time of celebration of a life of loving and giving. Well done dear friend.

With love,

Anne Davies

.....

REQUEST FOR HELP

At the most recent meeting of the resources committee we discussed ideas for this year's First to the Lord Sunday. This may seem a little way off at the moment but we wanted to prepare well in advance. It has been proposed that a short documentary-type film could be produced as a DVD highlighting the many activities that make up the life of the church. The finished product would be made up of movie, still images and interviews. This would make a very visual resource which would not only serve to make people aware of the many facets of church life but also a resource that we could distribute to people visiting or preparing for marriage or baptism or simply wanting to know more about what goes on at St Mary's.

If you have any expertise, equipment, skill or willingness to help then I would be very glad to hear from you. Also if you already have movie footage or still images in digital format that would illustrate a particular aspect of church life then please get in touch. You can contact me on 01384 820325 or jsutton@blueyonder.co.uk

John Sutton

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE - WALKING WITH THE WHOLE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

On Sunday May 9th St Mary's celebrated the culmination of several years of restoration work with a service of thanksgiving and rededication. It was lovely to welcome relatives of Kath and Eric Brooks, representatives of trusts and other organisations and members of the local community who had donated funds to the work and, craftspeople of all types who had used their gifts and expertise to create the beautiful and secure building that we worship in today.

If I needed any reminding of the sense of history of this place I only have to think back to the day after my ordination when someone said to me, 'I have known the last twelve curates!' In reality the presence of a sacred space here goes back centuries, each generation having placed its own mark on it. The prayers and worship of the faithful of both recent and past generations is steeped in the very foundations of this site.

The church itself looked splendid not only with the new paintwork but also with the beautiful flower arrangements in white and yellow

Our preacher the Very Revd Peter Atkinson used all three Biblical texts to leave us with three challenges,

1. What has God called you to that is new? As Paul responded to a call to go to Macedonia it is appropriate that our offering for this service is being sent to help with building a church in Peru.
2. This church must be seen as a place for others, it is not for a private society but a place to be used for healing and wholeness for our local community. I understand that everyone in the parish responded with generosity to make sure that the restoration of the stonework in particular could be completed.
3. How can we respond to the command of Jesus to be at peace in a troubled and changing world?

The choir surpassed itself with Haydn's Little Organ Mass, the Gloria and Sanctus in particular were stunning.

It was a glorious day of celebration in which we gave thanks for so much and to so many. As I walked up to the hospice today on my weekly visit I stood by the memorial plate for Kath and Eric in the ashes garden and said thank you for all that has been, for all that is and all that is to come.

Ruth Atkinson

THANK YOU

The collection in support of the Church of Peru raised £320.00

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

ITALIAN PINE KERNEL COOKIES

These are perfect for serving with creamy desserts and coffee and ideal for people on wheat-free diets. When buying pine nuts always look for the country of origin.....the best come from Italy.

Makes 6

50g ground almonds

50g caster sugar

½ egg white

1 tsp vanilla bean paste or vanilla essence

50g pine nuts

Icing sugar for sprinkling

Put the almonds, sugar, egg white and vanilla bean paste into a bowl. Mix to form a firm dough. Allow to stand for ten minutes.

Divide into six small balls. Roll in the pine nuts.

Place on a baking tray lined with baking parchment and sprinkle with icing sugar. Bake for 10 - 12 minutes.

Cool on a wire rack

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

Pine kernel cookies with creamy desserts - that sounds like a case for my old friend "Torcolato" the dried-grape wine made by Maculan in northern Italy. We will ponder some alternatives but whatever we choose to drink, we are not looking for a fresh, vibrantly-fruited dessert wine. The oxidized flavours of vin santo are of course the common match for the celebrated crunchy Italian "cantucci" biscuits. For the most part, vin santo is made from Trebbiano grapes [not strongly fruited]. Blends which contain more Malvasia grapes have greater fruit flavour - the superlative San Giusto a Rentennano being 90% Malvasia. However, let us contemplate munching our cookies with an end-of-meal Italian 'digestivo'. Whilst the Baltic has its Kummel and Scandinavia champions akvavit, Italy offers a range of herbed liqueurs and sticky nutty liqueurs. The latter are well-suited here. I am not aware of a pine-nut flavoured liqueur but the almondy Amaretto, Nocino [walnut] and Frangelico [hazelnut] would be a typically Italian accompaniment to an end-of-meal cookie. Grappa, once a rustic fire-water is now enjoying greater care and attention and whilst even Italians might still opt for a Cognac or Armagnac as brandy of choice, there are very palatable grappas now being made: either freshly grapey, or smooth and oak-aged. However they don't always get it right, so for all-round sip-ability go for a nut-based liqueur and crunch that cookie!Enjoy your sipping,

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

18th April	Joseph Dylan Porter Matilda Rose Margaret Hodgkin
2nd May	Chloe Eastoe Millie Rose Shelton Jimi Liam Hammonds

Weddings

8 May	Elizabeth Marsden and Jonathan Welch
-------	--------------------------------------

Children's Page Answers

The twelve apostles:
1. False. 2. True 3. True 4. True 5. False
Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James,
Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas.

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

On a lovely sunny day at the end of April, 11 walkers covered the 5½ mile 'Bluebell Trail' starting at Chaddesley Corbett. We left the High Street and after passing by the old 'Vicarage Farm' conversion, headed across a couple of fields to encounter our first climb. We walked over a duckboard bridge thoughtfully constructed to keep our feet dry, although one of our group recalled that he had seen the bridge well under water. Negotiating a couple of stiles we passed through a field of curious cows. Another climb took us by a lovely horse farm, and it was now time to stop for a drinks break, gain breath and take a look at the lovely views. Eventually we entered Randan Wood and then into Nutnells Wood where in both cases we saw plenty of green leaves, but sadly very few bluebell flowers. In another couple of weeks it will be a complete sea of bluebells, and well worth a visit. Returning through Chaddesley Wood, which was part of the once extensive Royal Hunting Forest of Feckenham, we arrived back at the Talbot Inn where we enjoyed lunch sitting outside in the sunshine.

Toni Evans

The walking group report prompted some further enquiry which produced details of walks worthy of investigation. These are included for the benefit of those to whom they may appeal. An information-packed Walkers' Guide to accompany the routes are available priced £3.50 from Bromsgrove District Council, tel: 01527 873232 ext 219. All walks start at Sanders Park, Bromsgrove. Grid Reference: 955707

THE ROYAL HUNTERS' WALKS

Walking these routes is a great way to experience the area as our ancestors did. The great hunting forest of Feckenham covered 190 square miles of Oak forest. Although there are only patches of forest left here, you can explore the ancient woodlands, local legends, flower rich meadows and nature reserves, as you wander through the gentle rolling hills of North Worcestershire. There are three walks to choose from.

The **Hedgelayers Walk** is the shortest of the three at 5 miles. Explore in depth the trees, shrubs and hedgerow plants that were so vital for everyday life in the middle ages. They provided local people with food, tools, building materials, cooking fuel, shelter for stock and even diviners rods. Hedges were also often used as parish boundaries. The route through rolling farmland goes to the fascinating village of Dodford, via ancient lanes and tracks, crossing streams and passing two fine country pubs. Imagine what the trees and hedges that have stood unchanged for hundreds of years have seen of man's lifestyle changes over that time.

The **Chartists Walk** takes you through predominantly pastoral rolling hills, dotted with farms, houses and ancient woodlands along its 8 miles route. Quiet lanes, byways, medieval tracks and footpaths are used, as the story unfolds of the 19th century Chartists' political movement at the planned settlement of Dodford, quite unlike any other. Enjoy typical trackside flowers like vetches, cow-parsley and buttercups as you tread in the footsteps of the Chartists.

At 12 miles, the **Foresters Walk** is the longest and explores the impressive remnants of the Royal Hunting Forest of Feckenham. Traditional wildflower meadows and rolling farmland create the backdrop for this walk. The glorious ancient woodlands along this route are provocative reminders of times gone by. Chaddesley Wood Nature Reserve is managed as a valuable remnant of the ancient woodland, and is home to important species of plants, animals, birds and insects. Oak trees dominate the woodland with rowan, birch, hazel and hawthorn mixed in. Carpets of bluebells in the woods are a good sign of undisturbed ground.

The Editor

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