

Online edition of  
St Mary's November  
2010 Church Magazine



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## Parish Church Magazine



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**NOVEMBER 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
<b>Rector's and Curate's Day Off:</b> Friday	

## OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Bible Study Groups:	Tuesday, last in month at 2.30 pm	(Tel: 379972)
Mothers' Union:	Second Tuesday at 2.15 pm	(Tel: 422677)
Outreach Group:	Occasional meetings	(Tel: 01562 851491)
Music Group Practice:	Second Saturday at 10.00 am	(Tel: 441003)
St Mary's Walking Group:	Last Saturday of the month.	Depart 9.30 am

### Reader Emeritus and

<b>Parish Publicity Officer:</b>	Mr Roy Peacock	379972
<b>Reader:</b>	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
<b>Church Wardens:</b>	Mr Edward Haden	378104
	Mrs Marjorie Ferguson	393454
<b>Organist / Choirmaster:</b>	Mr Robin Walker	01905 353939
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr Richard Harris	395760
<b>PCC Secretary:</b>	Miss Katey Fletcher	378182
<b>Magazine Editors:</b>	Miss Gemma Sutton	07968 586285
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661

### Church Hall and

<b>Coach House - Bookings</b>	Parish Office	441003
<b>Coach House - Enquiries</b>	Mrs Pamela Green	371415
<b>Parish Administrator:</b>	Mr John Sutton	441003
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
<b>Church Website Address:</b>	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 NOVEMBER 2010

Monday 1	All Saints' Day
Tuesday 2	All Souls' Day 9.30 am Standing Committee 7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at 4 Worcester Lane
Thursday 4	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 6	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 5.30 pm RSCM Festival in the Cathedral
<b>SUNDAY 7</b>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT</b> (Trinity 23) 6.30 pm All Souls' Service of Commemoration
Tuesday 9	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Croft
Wednesday 10	Copy Date for December Magazine 7.30 pm Baptism Preparation
Thursday 11	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 13	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 14</b>	<b>THE SECOND BEFORE ADVENT</b> Remembrance Sunday (Trinity 24) 10.00 am Worship Together with Act of Remembrance 7.30 pm PCC in the Narthex
Tuesday 16	10.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday 18	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
Saturday 20	
<b>SUNDAY 21</b>	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b> (Next before Advent) 11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Wednesday 24	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Thursday 25	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
Saturday 27	
<b>SUNDAY 28</b>	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 10.00 am Confirmation with Bishop David
Tuesday 30	St Andrew the Apostle

.....  
We apologise for an error in last month's diary that listed the Commemoration of All Souls service on 31 October. Please note the corrected date of 7 November.

### 100 YEARS AGO – HARD TIMES

Parishioners were reminded of the impending half-yearly collection on Advent Sunday for 'The African Child' and were urged to reflect that at Whitsun-day the collection only amounted to 15s. 1d.

The Curate was to be away from the parish for several weeks taking advantage of an unexpected offer of a tour of the Holy Land. Parishioners were assured that he would not be receiving his stipend during his absence.

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

How lovely on the mountains  
are the feet of him  
who brings good news,  
announcing peace,  
proclaiming news of happiness:  
Our God reigns!

This well known hymn of Leonard E Smith Jnr. (b1942) sums up the spirit of Advent.

It is based on a passage in Isaiah 52 when, at a time of deep darkness, the prophet acknowledges the depth of the problems that have brought the people to this lowest point, but then speaks words of hope, expectation and excitement. He tells them that God will act to save his people, and through them all humanity, by sending his righteous servant who will share their suffering and in so doing bear upon himself the cause of that suffering, namely the sin of the people. And it needs to be in this same spirit that we prepare for Advent, a season of hope and anticipation, because it too is based upon an understanding of the reality for society of our own drift away from God and the inevitable consequences in terms of ethical standards and caring community. It is the season of John the Baptist, preparing the way by holding up a mirror before the people, enabling them to realise what is happening, to turn around, or repent, and to prepare in their hearts for a new life.

So Advent is really a penitential season, one that is reflected in the mauve liturgical colour, but it is never a sombre one. For we know that the One has come to save, that his spirit can be born in us anew, that he cares passionately about his whole creation and that his redeeming work will never cease. If we want to appreciate the spirit and excitement of Advent, then it is to the children that we should look: the sense of anticipation in the advent calendar with a new window opened each day until on Christmas Eve the doors open onto the manger; Nativity plays, born out of the medieval Miracle or Mystery Plays, that not only teach the Christmas story but also convey its mystical joy; the sense of wonder on a child's face reflected in a Christmas tree bauble. Advent is a time to light new candles and to remember that the darkness has been overcome, and always will be.

*Greville*

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2010

Date	Service	Readings		
7 November 3rd Before Advent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Job 19. 23 – 27a	2 Thessalonians 2. 1-5, 13-17	Luke 20. 27 - 38
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Kings 3 1 - 15	Matthew 22. 15 -22	
14 November 2nd Before Advent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Worship Together	<b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>		
	6.30 pm Evensong	Micah 4. 1 - 5	Romans 8. 31-end	
21 November Christ the King  Giving for Life Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Jeremiah 23 1-6	Colossians1. 11 - 20	Luke 23. 33-43
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Samuel 8. 4-20	John 18. 33-37	
28 November Advent Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 2. 1 - 5	Romans13. 11 - end	Matthew 24. 36 - 44
	6.30 pm Evensong	Advent Carol Service Readings		

### QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;  
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
 We will remember them.

**Laurence Binyon**  
*1869-1943*

## **DISTANT READERS**

The September magazine invited information on our most distant readers. For over ten years I have been sending the monthly magazine to Pat Cowen in Vancouver. Pat used to visit Joan Scriven in Priory Court and while she was here she helped in Priory Court gardens as well as in cleaning the church (including the curtains behind the altar!). She will be known to some of our congregation. I also send a copy to Doris Prosser who used to live in Love Lane and now lives in Marlbrook in Herefordshire.

**Dorothy Cotton**

And in a personal letter to Norma Haden, her cousin wrote on 8 September, 'Old Swinford Parish Magazine is fantastic this month'

I look forward to receiving a copy of St Mary's Parish magazine each month. I was born in Hagley, to where my grandfather, a clergyman, and his wife had retired. I attended Stourbridge High School and lived in the Midlands until my marriage. My grandmother, Louisa Addison, lived in the Hagley Road and her father, a cabinet maker died just two weeks before his 102nd birthday.

My husband and I now live in a very rural village near Salisbury. With that background I always look to see if I recognise any of the names mentioned in the magazine.

St Mary's Parish magazine is varied, human and interesting, sometimes profound. I copied out and gave a copy of Easter by St Meleto of Sardis to our team vicar last Good Friday and , on a completely different level, I have twice already made Healthy Egg and Chips, adding some tomatoes to it.

I enjoy reading where the walking group has been. I hiked and cycled in those areas myself when I was growing up.

I think the magazine demonstrates an energetic caring parish. The attractive and varying cover design is an invitation to open and start exploring the contents. Congratulations to those who compile and put so much thought and effort into it.

**Ann Thomas**

We also have on our regular monthly mailing list the Roffes at Wymondham and Jean and Stanford Hill in Craven Arms.

**Editors**

**With regret, as from the January 2011 issue, the price of the magazine will rise to 50p. We hope this will not cause any reader hardship but advise that the rise is necessary in order to meet the increased costs of printing.**

## Christmas Market

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> December**



Please come and join us on this happy occasion

– make a note in your diaries and on your calendars!

We would very much appreciate contributions of items for the various stalls and also help setting up the evening before and running the stalls on the day. Your gifts help to ensure the market's continuing success. If you leave donations at the back of Church, we shall arrange for them to be stored safely until the day of the market. Alternatively, please contact me on 01384 378182.

Especially welcome are contributions of:-

Groceries, Jams and Pickles - Prizes for the Tombola - Books  
Gifts for the Gift stall - Bottles for the Bottle Stall

Interesting items of Bric-a-Brac - Home-made Cakes and Mince Pies  
*(please bring these to the Hall preferably on the evening before or in the morning before the Market opens).*

Any jewellery bits and pieces please pass direct to Pamela Peacock.

Jam Jars filled with Presents or Sweets for Children– please  
pass to Pauline Cross.

**Katey Fletcher**  
01384 378182

## **The Fraternal Visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Archbishop Rowan Williams**

On Friday 17 September 2010 His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI visited His Grace Archbishop Rowan Williams at the Archbishop's London home, Lambeth Palace. In his address to the assembled bishops Dr Williams said,

"Perhaps we shall not quickly overcome the remaining obstacles to full, restored communion; but no obstacles stand in the way of our seeking, as a matter of joyful obedience to the Lord, more ways in which to build up one another in holiness – by prayer and public celebration together, by closer friendship, and by growing together both in the challenging work of service for all whom Christ loves, and mission to all God has made."

For the full story and other information log on to [commsupdate@c-o-e.org.uk](mailto:commsupdate@c-o-e.org.uk)



## THREE ALTARS

When I saw the beautiful photograph of the altar in St Mary's Church on the cover of the September Magazine I immediately thought of two other photos of altars that had remained in my memory as unforgettable.

The first one was part of an exhibition in the entrance to the Abbey in Caen, Normandy. The photo was of the altar stripped of all its beautiful hangings and silver because the struggle to take Caen was at its height after the D Day landings and the Abbey had been occupied by the public having lost their homes. The altar was now just a plain table with a wooden cross on it but at the foot of the cross sat a little girl and by her side an enamel bowl of water and a towel. Her mother was washing her feet as comfortably as if she was at home in the kitchen by the fire.

The second photo was a Christmas card sent to me with the photo of a desert scene by an Army Charity. The colours were all dull brown and grey, and in the distance one could just see two tanks waiting. In the foreground there was a group of soldiers, some sitting, some standing and others kneeling. The altar was just a pile of boxes with a cloth thrown over and on the top a very small wooden cross. Behind stood the Chaplain dressed in desert strip but with his dog collar and a black stole round his shoulders and, uplifted in his hands, were the chalice and patten to be blessed. The only flash of light came from the silver catching a small ray of sunlight; this was a Holy Communion service during the desert war.

The third photo of course was our own altar in all its glory, all light and beauty and so peaceful in contrast to the others and yet somehow I felt the other two had such a strong message to the viewer that no matter where or what the circumstances are, we have a home.

**Betty Foulkes**



## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH HALL

The 'Supper with Entertainment' held on September 25 proved to be a happy and successful evening. Ninety guests enjoyed a lovely meal prepared and served by the highly efficient Social Committee and enhanced by salads and many delicious trifles provided by Social Committee and other church members. We thank the ten superb entertainers of 'Just Us' for the wide-ranging and professional concert which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We thank Michael and Margaret Woodall for arranging this. A successful raffle was held with all prizes generously donated.

As always it was a big job to set up and put away tables, chairs etc. Help was given by many of our church family. We could not run these events without this unfailing and cheerfully given help. We made over £715 and this, plus the proceeds from the coffee morning, has raised over £1100 towards the double glazing costs. A big thank you to all who came along and supported this event.

**Ian Ferguson**

## CHURCH HALL SUPPER CONCERT

Our Church Hall is a vital part of our Oldswinford community life, providing a venue for a wide range of social events and activities. It is currently undergoing a maintenance and development programme to improve its facilities. The supper concert on Saturday 25 September was one of several fund-raising projects to support this work. The event was greatly appreciated by the whole audience and it was not surprising that it was a sell-out success.

Many thanks to all the organisers, performers and providers for such a memorable evening. We hope there may be more similar events in the hall in the future and that we might see more performances by Just Us.

**Alec Beevers**

## NEWS FROM THE BELFRY



One of the purposes and pleasures of ringing bells is to celebrate and so it was with great pleasure that the Old Swinford ringers were able to meet at 5.15pm on 3rd October to celebrate, with the Lucas family, the christening of Alexander Lucas, son of Caspar and Louise. Caspar is a member of our band of ringers and it seemed very appropriate that his parents Sue and Sebastian were able to join us on this occasion. Together we rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples which has been officially recorded as shown below:

### **Worcestershire & Districts Association, St Mary's, Oldswinford,**

Sunday, 3 October 2010

### **1260 Grandsire Triples**

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Sue Lucas        | 2 Harold White    |
| 3 Pat Whalley      | 4 David Banks     |
| 5 Christopher Lees | 6 Sebastian Lucas |
| 7 John Sutton      | 8 Caspar Lucas    |

Rung for service and to celebrate the christening of Alexander Edward Peter, son of 8 and grandson of 1 and 6.



**John Sutton -Tower Captain**

## CHOIR NEWS

The choir is delighted to report further Diocesan Award successes: congratulations to Peter Thomason and Thomas Peart on earning their Dean's Award and to William Peart on earning his Bishop's Award. They will formally receive their awards at the Diocesan Choirs Festival on November 6 at 5.30pm.

**Robin Walker - Choir Master and Organist**

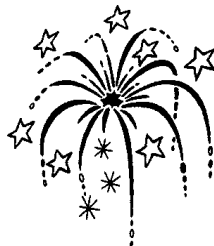
# **BRIGHT STARS**

## **NOVEMBER: GUY FAWKES!**

Can you fill in the letters to name these fireworks?



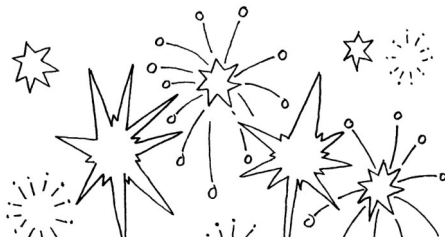
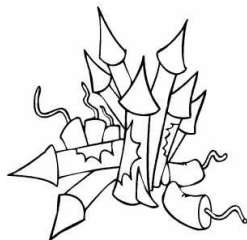
1. B \_ \_ \_ ERS



3. \_ OCK \_ TS

2. \_ OM \_ \_ C \_ N \_ \_ ES

4. SC \_ \_ AMI \_ \_ D \_ \_ LS



Why not colour in some of these fireworks and rockets to make them bright and colourful ready for fireworks night?

## DO YOU KNOW?

1. Which bright star gives us day light and warmth?
2. Which bright star is called the Dog Star?
3. Which planet is known as the evening 'star'?
4. Which planet is called the red planet?

M	R	E	M	R	A	F	A
D	I	B	A	R	B	E	R
U	N	L	N	Y	I	H	R
S	A	W	K	C	T	L	E
T	M	Y	M	M	U	M	D
M	E	W	U	T	A	P	L
A	R	E	S	R	U	N	I
N	I	R	E	K	A	B	U
E	F	K	O	O	C	Y	B

## **BUSY HANDS**

Search out the names of ten workers who use their hands to help us. Some letters are used twice.

Remember to look across rows, up and down or diagonally but beware of the words written backwards!!!



## **Prayer for November**

Dear Lord Jesus, who went about doing good, help us to be ready to use our hands to do your work.

Amen

## **WORK OF ART**

Well done to Emily Baron who coloured in the picture of the tractor so beautifully from last month's Harvest edition of the magazine.

If you would like your work displayed in the magazine please do send it to one of the editors.



Gemma Sutton ©

## MEMORIES

The cloudy, cooler days of Autumn  
come on.

The swallows have all flown away,  
every one.

Taking the summer days with them  
to the sun.

I want to call them back, but unheeding  
they are gone.

I recall their soaring arcs and turns  
at a height,

Their water-skimming prowess  
in their flight,

With tail-feathers streaming comet-like  
in the light,

Over the rooftops and trees and  
out of sight.

Theirs is a life on the wing  
spent half away.

While we who are left with our feet  
trapped in clay

Dream of release and freedom but  
have to stay

And remember the carefree pleasures  
of a summer's day.

**Pat Whalley**

## WHAT'S YOUR STYLE ?

When I picked up the phone I was asked,  
"Are you Stephen Grainger's Nan?"  
When my grandson moved to the  
secondary school his parents were asked  
to give contact numbers in case they  
were needed and emergency numbers  
for use if they were unavailable. I was  
tempted to say, "Certainly not!" and put  
the receiver down. However, I decided  
that Stephen's need was probably  
greater than my disgust at the  
inappropriate style of address. I accepted

the call and the message and went to  
bring a sick and sorry boy to my home  
where he vomited quite cheerfully  
(making the basin neatly every time) until  
he was collected.

There are many affectionate styles  
of address for grandparents. Some are  
very amusing such as Boozy for a rather  
solemn friend of mine who seemed  
entirely unaware of the incongruity. My  
father-in-law was Hippo to everyone  
(except his wife). The origins were lost  
but when you became a family member  
you were included in the Hippo camp.  
(Bad joke! I apologise but he would have  
liked it as he was an academic despite  
his soubriquet). Other parts of our family  
have been more staid. We have  
Grandmas and Grandpas and  
Granddads and Grannies. A cousin's  
family has a Nan. Nannie is another  
familiar term.

This leads me to a passing thought  
about the continuing popularity of the  
very upper-middle-class Christopher  
Robin who also had a Nannie. I suspect  
that many regard her as his grandmother  
and her 'blue dressing-gown hung on the  
door' not as an anachronism but like their  
own Nan's although hers is 'Flowery and  
faded'. If they have a live-in carer she is  
probably an au pair younger than their  
parents and addressed as Heidi or Inge!

However, I think it is inappropriate,  
twee and unprofessional for a member of  
staff to call an emergency number unless  
to say "Are you Blog Bloggins'  
grandmother?" I am almost tempted to  
contact the school and suggest this as a  
topic for an in-service training day. I  
shall resist the temptation because I  
would not want my identity to get back to  
my own Blog who finds me quite enough  
of an embarrassment I am sure.

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

Our Autumn meetings resumed at the Coach House on October 12. Pat Whalley led our congratulations to our member Marian Taylor and her husband Harry who were celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary.

Our Deanery leader, Anne May, has had to retire temporarily and Jenny Barton, the Diocesan leader, is retiring to Wales to be near her family. Sadly, Winnie Meade, 94, who had been a member of the branch for 55 years, had died and a minute's silence was held in her memory.

Audrey Tranter led the service on the theme of remembering the faithfulness, goodness and love of God in all circumstances, especially reflecting on the provision of harvest.

Our scheduled speaker, Jean Swift, was unable to be with us as she was convalescing following a serious fall so Dorothy Gibson spoke Instead on Remembrance of Times Past, 1940-1950. She shared many amusing experiences of times as a schoolgirl in Bradford and demonstrated her love and enthusiasm for poetry. She recited several of her favourite poems from memory and was word perfect!

Next Meeting: 2.15pm Tuesday, 9 November in the Coach House - Breaking the Rules around the World—by Margaret Penn.

Do join us if you can, you would be most welcome.

**Dawn Nex**

## **CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL AT ST MARY'S**

The Revd Andrew Hazlewood (far left), Rector of St. Peter's, Pedmore and Priest in Charge of St. James, Wollaston has been appointed an honorary Canon at Worcester Cathedral and was installed in office with two others on 3 October. Honorary Canons form a bridge between the diocese and the Cathedral and meet to reflect and advise on the life of the Cathedral. Bishop John commented: "It is a great delight to be able to appoint these three people who have given and continue to give outstanding service to the church in the Diocese of Worcester. They will be great representatives for the cathedral in the diocese and vice versa."



## **MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTION**

On Saturday, 18 September a meeting was held to express thanks to all those who give of their time and energy to distribute the St Mary's Parish Church Magazine. This was also an opportunity to invite wider comment and advice on the development and evolution of the magazine and its part in the mission of St Mary's. Thank you to the many people who attended (or were unable to) for your contributions and much valued support.

## **THE THOUSAND YEAR OLD MINCE PIE OR MINCE PIES FOR A THOUSAND YEARS**

What would Christmas be without mince pies? Did you know that when we eat a mince pie we are eating a part of our history for they go back long into our past?

In the Middle Ages mince pies were just that, meat which was chopped and minced by thrifty housewives and covered with a paste. In those days meat would be preserved by smoking or drying and then moistened with a wine vinegar. The Crusaders, returning from the Holy Land, brought back spices like nutmeg, cinnamon and pepper. These were used to cover the taste of preserved and tainted meat and became precious ingredients. Thus the link with the Bible Lands was made, three spices became the Magi and minced lamb represented the shepherds. The pastry crust sank in the middle and so represented the manger. Indeed, I was brought up never to cut a mince pie in half for this reason and even today I cannot bring myself to do it. I understand that in Scotland these pies are still called Christmas Pies.

During the fifteenth century large pies, stuffed with mutton, beef, pheasant, hare, capons and rabbits, all finely minced, would appear at royal tables. Henry V ordered mince pie for his coronation celebrations in 1413 and Henry VIII raised it to importance "above the salt."

By this time the minced meats were coloured and flavoured with saffron and spices and the exotic fruits of raisins and dates had been added. The paste made from butter, egg yolks and flour would be decorated with red colouring and gilt.

In Tudor and Stuart times Christmas was a time of great feasting and revelry with many great mince pies being offered. In the middle of the Seventeenth century the Puritans considered that the holy idea of Christmas had been lost, so they banned Christmas.

Christmas was cancelled by law. Anyone who kept Christmas or went to church on that day could be fined or sent to prison. Mince pies were outlawed. "Idolatry in a crust," they cried; "Devil's Pies," and spies kept watch to see none were baked.

For about thirty years people forgot Christmas and all its traditions. They did not know how to keep Christmas. Then a writer, William Winstanley, who could remember his childhood celebrations, mounted a campaign to bring back Christmas. He wrote and illustrated amusing almanacs under the name of "Poor Robin." When the Puritans had decamped to America and the Stuart kings had been restored, Winstanley's home was a centre of Christmas traditions. "Give lavishly to the poor" he wrote. "Provide a sideboard filled with cold roast beef, pigeon pies, venison and mince pies for friends and the needy." Christmas too was restored with games and dancing and mince pies.

Such jollifications fell into disuse during the hard times of the early 1800's. It was Charles Dickens who, coming across Winstanley's writings, used them in his *Pickwick Papers* and *A Christmas Carol* and so our Dickensian Christmas was re-born.

Mince pies had always been pale but with the coming of closed ovens the pies could now be glazed with milk or egg and baked until golden. Now they were filled with currants, raisins, sultanas, sugar, suet and spices and soured in alcohol. Rich people served them to their guests. The poorer people, unable to afford the expensive fruits still used minced meat in their pies. Indeed, I can remember as a young child eating "Pluck pies" at my great aunt's, the meat from the heart, kidney and liver forming the basis of the fruited pie.

So next time you take a Happy Month, and bite into it, think of the 1000 years that has gone into its making.

**Doreen Ryan**

.....

On Sunday 10 October, during a joyous Harvest Festival when the church was packed with well-wishers we celebrated 225 years of our Sunday School and the very special gift of 66 years loyal commitment to the children of our parish by Wendy Tranter.

**Thank you Wendy**

.....

**HARVEST THANKSGIVING  
AND A CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL 1785 - 2010**

*Sunday, 10 October, what a perfect day to say 'thank you'.*

*It was a day full of emotion for me. Here I was, in the place of God, where I had spent all my life, loving every minute, especially when working with the children. We sang our first hymn, a particular favourite of mine. The words "Does sadness fill my mind....a solace here I find" echoed in my ears. I looked up towards the chancel and my young friends in the choir looked down at me in my pew, and smiled. I felt a glow within me. What a comfort that was.*

*It has been a privilege working with the children and has always given me the greatest joy.*

*It was a lovely day and a pleasure to see so many faces from the past. Friends had been so kind sending their love and good wishes.*

*I would like to pay tribute to Martin Hardy who was such a loyal support and friend to me over the years. I am so grateful to him.*

*Yes! This was a day I shall remember with gratitude.*

**Wendy Tranter**



## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

### CITRUS FUDGE CAKE

Serves 8 as it is rich.

Use all lemons or a combination of lemon and lime. A good dish for entertaining as it can be made and baked up to two days ahead, but ice it on the day. It also freezes well un-iced. It would be nice decorated with fresh flowers or mini eggs for Easter but at other times blueberries or strawberries can be used.

For the base

10 digestive biscuits, crushed.

50g (2oz) butter, melted.

25g (1oz) Demerara sugar (optional)

For the filling

2 large eggs

150g (5oz) caster sugar

300ml (½ pint) double cream

50g (2oz) plain flour, sifted

Grated zest and juice of two lemons (or lemon and limes)



For the topping

150g (5oz) Greek yoghurt

2 tablespoons lemon curd

Decorations

Pre-heat oven to 180C/160 fan/gas4. Line the base of a 20cm/8in round spring form tin with baking parchment.

In a bowl mix the biscuits, sugar and butter. Stir until all the biscuits are coated and press into the base of the tin.

Make the filling: Whisk the eggs and sugar together, pour in the cream, sift in the flour and whisk again until blended. Stir in the lemon juice and zest, and whisk again to combine.

Pour into the tin and bake for about 35-40 minutes until the filling is just set and is pale golden brown on top.

Remove from the oven and cool.

Mix together the topping ingredients and spread over the cold cake.

Decorate to your liking.

**Ann Jennings**

## AND FOR THE WINE.....

Sweet dessert wines cover a broad spectrum of flavours - from the figgy liqueur Muscats, the raisined dried-grape wines, quinces in the great Loire Valley sweet Chenin Blancs and apricots and honey of Tokaji Aszu. But for sweet citrus flavours, we should look to the Riesling, Semillon or Sauvignon Blanc grape varieties. One technique to produce sweet wines is to deliberately leave the grapes on the vine and harvest them late. The practice only works if the late season is sunny with fresh dry breezes : otherwise the grapes will just rot and lose their acidity. Riesling can pick out lemon and lime flavours beautifully. Autumns in Germany and Austria have perfect conditions for the magic of noble rot : cool misty mornings followed by dry sunny days. A Beerenauslese Riesling, crafted with a proportion of noble rotted grapes, brings an extra dimension of richness which is just right here for our lemon curd topped fudge cake. In the Sauternes and Barsac regions of France, both Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc grape varieties are planted and the incidence of noble rot and long oak-ageing can produce unctuous marmaladey flavours. To retain the freshness of fruit, opt for examples with more moderate oak-ageing and a higher proportion of Sauvignon Blanc. So, top your cake with strawberries or blueberries, and a bottle of Chateau Filhot would be the optimum choice .....if you celebrate your birthday this month! ..... Enjoy your wine-sipping....

**Richard W.B. Ryan**

### **NO LIMITS Community Project & SOUNDING BOARD Carers Group**

Present a fundraising evening

#### **“Salute to WWII Years”**

**On Saturday 20 November 2010  
at St Mary's Church Hall, 7.30 pm**

Join us for a night of nostalgia & old fashioned patriotism. Enjoy war time sketches, speeches, music, songs, sing-a-long & flag waving. See wartime pictures. Celebrate wartime camaraderie. Come in wartime dress/uniform.

**SUPPER** provided. Bring your own drinks & glasses.

**ADMISSION £6.50 by ticket only,**

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**Or Diana De Souza 01384 374752.**

## **ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP**

### **Bliss Gate Walk 25 September 2010**

25 September turned out to be a beautiful sunny autumn day with clear visibility as far as the eye could see. The walk started from a lay-bye just beyond The Bell pub at Pensax, Worcestershire. Immediately we met a group of horse riders along the road. We exchanged greetings when suddenly a speeding tractor came by and severely frightened one of the horses. This was a very scary moment.



We left the road to pass through the first of two Sneed Farms and over undulating meadows to reach a farm with a strange "Command Post" and outbuildings. Continuing along a mostly level path we reached our "drink stop" where we had superb 360 degree views of the surrounding countryside.

There followed more undulating terrain, through a farm, through woods, over streams, and again with superb views all round.

The lunch stop was on an elevated field edge on the outskirts of Bliss Gate (see Pictures)

Suitably refreshed the walk continued alongside a stream which we later crossed, through an old orchard to finally emerge onto a lane which led us to the old village of Rock. We turned to walk behind the church past an ancient moat & through the garden of a barn conversion. The walk continued across gently sloping meadows to reach the second Sneed Farm, and then out onto the road which led back to the lay-bye.



**Jean & Ray Drew**

## **THANK YOU ST MARY'S FLOWER GUILD**

What a wonderful display of floral decorations was assembled with the skill of the members of the St Mary's Flower Guild to celebrate our Harvest Festival. The care demonstrated by these ladies, time after time, to enhance our church environment with the product of God's love is appreciated by all.

# PARISH REGISTER

## Baptisms

19th September	Freya Grace Allen Charlie Jack Wilday
26th September	Jack William Nicholas Harrison
3rd Oct	Alexander Graham McAdam Alexander Edward Peter Lucas Chantelle Alicia Kelis Jones
10th Oct	Abigail Morgan

## Weddings

7th August	Wedding blessing of Mark and Nicola Westwood
25th Sept	Kate Lloyd-Jones and David Humpherson
2nd October	Helen McAteer and Dean John

## Funerals

13th Sept	Gwynneth Borley	aged 81
16th Sept	John Raybould	aged 74
22nd Sept	Ivy Cornwell	aged 90
23rd Sept	David Brown	aged 55
30th Sept	Natalie Hampton	aged 43
4th Oct	Audrey Webb	aged 83

## Children's Page Answers

1. BANGERS	4. SCREAMING DEVILS
2. ROMAN CANDLES	3. ROCKETS
3. FIREWORKS:	4. FARMER, DUSTMAN, FIREMAN, BARBER,
1. BUILDER AND COOK	2. DO YOU KNOW:
2. THE SUN	3. SIRIUS
3. VENUS	4. MARS
4. NURSE, BAKER, MUMMY, MILKMAN,	

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