

Welcome to the March
online version of St Mary's
Parish Magazine



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



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MARCH 2011

50p

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: 375167)
St Mary's Walking Group:	Last Saturday of the month.	Depart 9.30 am

Reader Emeritus:	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	07968 586285
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661

Church Hall and		
Coach House: - Bookings	Parish Office	441003
Parish Administrator and		
Publicity Officer :	Mr John Sutton	441003
Parish Office:	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
Church website address:	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk E-mail: st.mary.os@btinternet.com	
Magazine e-mail 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 MARCH 2011

Tuesday 1	9.30 am Standing Committee 7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at the Rectory
Thursday 3	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 5	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 7.30 pm 'Murder Mystery' in the Church Hall
SUNDAY 6	THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT Quinquagesima
Tuesday 8	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Wednesday 9	ASH WEDNESDAY 7.30 pm Holy Communion
Thursday 10	10.30 am Holy Communion Copy date for April Magazine
Saturday 12	10.00 am Open Church 5.00 pm Choir sing Evensong at Tewkesbury Abbey
SUNDAY 13	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 10.00 am Worship Together with Holy Communion 6.30 pm Choral Evensong
Wednesday 16	7.30 pm Lent Course at St Mary's
Thursday 17	10.30 am Holy Communion 2.30 pm Mission Committee at 4 Worcester Lane
Saturday 19	Joseph of Nazareth 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 20	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
Tuesday 22	7.30 pm PCC at the Rectory
Wednesday 23	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge 7.30 pm Lent Course at Holy Trinity, Amblecote
Thursday 24	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Saturday 26	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 27	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT N.B. British Summer Time begins
Wednesday 30	7.30 pm Lent Course at St Thomas'
Thursday 31	10.30 am Holy Communion

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

God in heaven, you have helped me to grow like a tree. Now something has happened. Satan, like a bird, has carried in one twig of his own choosing after another. Before I knew it he had built a dwelling place and was living in it. Tonight, my father, I am throwing out both the bird and the nest.

Prayer of a Nigerian Christian

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

I hope you are looking forward to the three days of 'Shrovetide', the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday! 'To shrive' is an old English verb that means to 'write down'. In these days before the start of Lent the priest would hear confession, pronounce absolution and, from a written list, give a Lenten penance. These days the penance is usually self-imposed, perhaps the giving up of a luxury or, better still, the taking on of some something extra that will bring benefit to another. So Shrove Tuesday or Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) was the occasion for using up all feasting foods, a pre-fasting feast now traditionally marked with pancakes.

Something extra for Lent could also be coming along on Wednesday evenings firstly to the Ash Wednesday communion and then to our Lent Course on the Bible entitled "The Word cradled in the words". We have managed to obtain the services of some excellent speakers whom, I'm sure, will be not only informative but also inspirational. (Details elsewhere in this issue)

The traditional ritual of 'ashing' at the start of Lent can be traced back to the sixth century but the use of ashes as a symbol of penance and purification is to be found in many faiths. For us the ashes imposed are from palm crosses from Palm Sunday in the previous year that are burnt and mixed with a little water. As we are marked in ash on the forehead with the sign of the cross the priest says "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ". These awesome words help to put our lives and our Lenten observance into a proper perspective as we take ourselves to the cleaners in order to be spiritually bright and shiny for the glorious celebrations of Easter.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Greville

SERVICES IN MARCH 2011

6th March The Sunday next before Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Exodus 24 12 - end	2 Peter 1:16 - end	Matthew 17: 1 - 9
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Kings 2: 1 - 12	Matthew 17:9 - 23	
13th March 1st Sunday of Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Worship Together		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Deuteronomy 6: 4 - 9, 16- end.	Luke 15: 1 - 10	
20th March 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Genesis 12: 1 - 4a	Romans 4: 1 - 5, 13 - 17	John 3: 1 - 17
	6.30 pm Evensong	Numbers 21: 4 - 9	Luke 14:27 - 33	
27th March 3rd Sunday of Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Exodus 17: 1 - 7	Romans 5: 1 - 11	John 4: 5 - 42
	6.30 pm Evensong	Josh 1:1 - 9	John 2: 13 -22	

This magazine, service information, prayer diaries and weekly
pewsheets are all available online from our website at:
www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk

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

Nineteen members were joined by four visitors at the February meeting which opened with a short service led by Pat Whalley on the theme of "Promises." We were reminded that many promises and resolutions are made but are of no use until they are delivered. Mike Blaxland then gave a slide show of a rambler's holiday which he and Janet had in Nepal. We were shown people, villages, towns, beautiful temples and magnificent views of the Himalayas which climaxed with sights of the summit of Everest on a special flight. It had been a fascinating journey.

Reflecting on the beauty and variety of God's world in Nepal we had also been treated to a beautiful sunny winter's day in Old Swinford. Flowers were opening, showing the promised coming of Spring in our corner of God's wonderful world where the promises of love are always kept (See Genesis: 8v22).

Next Meeting: 2.15pm Tuesday 8th March in the Coach House. Ruth Atkinson will be the speaker. Visitors will be most welcome to join us.

Dawn Nex

ANNUAL GIVING AT ST MARY'S

Every year the PCC gives the Mission Committee £1700 to allocate according to needs. This is over and above any money raised by bucket collections or coffee mornings etc so everyone of our congregation contributes in some way. This year we have taken into account rising food and kerosene prices so have allocated Sasi a little more, hoping it will also help with her building project.

Mission Giving:

Sasi	£400	St Basil's	£200
USPG	£300	Homeless Young	
Sightsavers	£200	People in Dudley	£350
MAF	£200	'What' Centre	£200

Thank you to all who supported our Christmas Cards sale. We raised £220 with a profit of £180 for our Mission Funds. Over Christmas the collective amount for Water Aid was £554.30; a generous sum for one of our regular charities.

Doreen Ryan
Mission Secretary

NEW FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE

Do you want to make a contribution to Parish Funds at **NO** cost to yourself?
HOW? By searching and shopping for goods and services on the internet.

Easyfundraising collect money from online retailers as you spend money with them. There are currently some 2,000 retailers (including Amazon and Marks and Spencers) in the scheme giving a variety of contributions. Once you have signed up to easy fundraising they tell you how much you have earned for our Parish.

To sign up to easy fundraising go to:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmoldswinford>.

Or via the fundraising page on our website at:

<http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk>

Once you have signed up, you only need to login to *easyfundraising* and give your password on each future visit.

In order to obtain the contribution from the retailer you MUST first log into *easyfundraising* and from there go to your chosen retailer (if you are an existing customer all your user names and passwords for that retailer remain the same) and then order in the usual way.

Similarly instead of using Google as your search engine make *easysearch* your chosen search engine by going to:

<http://stmoldswinford.easysearch.org.uk> or via the link on our website.

Each time you make a search any sponsors which appear will donate to St Mary's. If each supporter searches only 10 pages a day they can earn £20 a year. If 5 people do this there's £100 earned! So simple and yet so beneficial to us.

Please try it.

John Sutton

ST MARY'S CHURCH COACH HOUSE

The annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 31 March in the upstairs room of the Coach House at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

Joan Barwick
Honorary Secretary

OUR LITTLE SCHOOL IN KENYA

It has been some time since the last episode in the story of our little school in Kenya, and we are delighted to tell all of our friends at St Mary's of our wonderful news!

First of all, we were granted Gift Aid status by the Inland Revenue, THEN After what seems like YEARS of patiently responding to all of the requirements asked by The Charity Commission, WE HAVE NOW BEEN GRANTED A REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER! This has been helped in no small way, by the love and support of you, the congregation and Mission Group of St Mary's, Oldswinford! Through YOUR donations, by sponsoring Susie-Mae and by holding a Mission Coffee morning, we slowly attained the magic income threshold required before registration could be approved! THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

Our next fund raising event will be a CONCERT FOR KENYA to be held at CHADSGROVE SCHOOL, CATSHILL, BROMSGROVE on TUESDAY 22ND MARCH. Tickets will be £10 each and include refreshments but BRING YOUR OWN WINE ETC (See Poster at the back of church, in due course!) We are also doing a "Buy a £1 TILE "to help provide floors and ceilings for all the classrooms replaced so far. We would be most grateful for any support which you can give.

At the present moment, we are searching the late deals to get across to Kenya to see all of the work YOU have helped to finance. God willing, we will be bringing back lots of photos / videos to show everyone, together with the love and thanks of these special people!

Jan and Brian Drew

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! TUESDAY 22 MARCH 2011

Following last year's fantastic "Raise the Roof for Kenya" concert, we are delighted to announce our: "2011 CONCERT FOR KENYA".

Organised by well known comedian and friend of the school, Rod Beech, starring alongside: **CHRIS KING** (compere, singer and impersonator), **BARRY STEELE** (top Roy Orbison tribute) and **JIMMI CARLO** (top award winning, international comedy magician).

There will also be free refreshments, a raffle and tombola. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

All proceeds will help us rebuild our little school in Kenya and provide the children with a safe and secure place in which to learn.

Cost will be around £10 a ticket. (Gift aided if possible)

CENTENARY OF CHURCH SCHOOLS

2011 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of Church Schools. One million pupils attend Church of England schools, which were founded by the Church of England's National Society in 1811 offering education to the poor in every parish – 50 years before the state joined in. The pioneering vision to provide inclusive and distinctive education remains the Church of England's commitment today and into the future. On Sunday 13 February, around 1000 pupils, teachers, parents and governors from church schools in Worcestershire and Dudley attended a service at Worcester Cathedral to mark the celebration. All were asked to learn a song 'Let the Children Come to Me', which was especially written by Moira Gutteridge for the occasion. The schools also brought a shoebox decorated with the school logo and school ethos statement which was put together during the service to make a big wall.



Worcester Diocesan News

WEBMASTER UPDATE

I hope all our net surfers have been keeping an eye on our website which is proving more and more popular with increasing numbers of hits. You can keep a check on what's going on in church via the calendar on the front page as well as being able to view the pewsheets each week and download podcasts of sermons that have been delivered. The Diocesan Prayer Diary is also available to view from the website as well as a 3D view of the church for visitors to be able to view the inside of our beautiful building. Communicating ourselves as a church and what we stand for in this way is becoming increasingly important in the technological age in which we live in and many couples who apply to be married or have children baptised at Old Swinford have visited our website to gain information or just get a 'feel' of what kind of church we are. A recent addition to the site has been the ability to raise funds really easily by signing up to easyfundraising and easysearch.co.uk which have links from our website. See Page 7 for more details. Please try it and consider making

<http://stmoldswinford.easysearch.org.uk/> your homepage.

John Sutton

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

WE NEED LIGHT

Without light we would not see anything. Our eyes are made to receive light. When this happens we say we can see. When it does not happen we say we are blind. We would not know what was in a room, in the garden, on the television or what our family looked like without light.



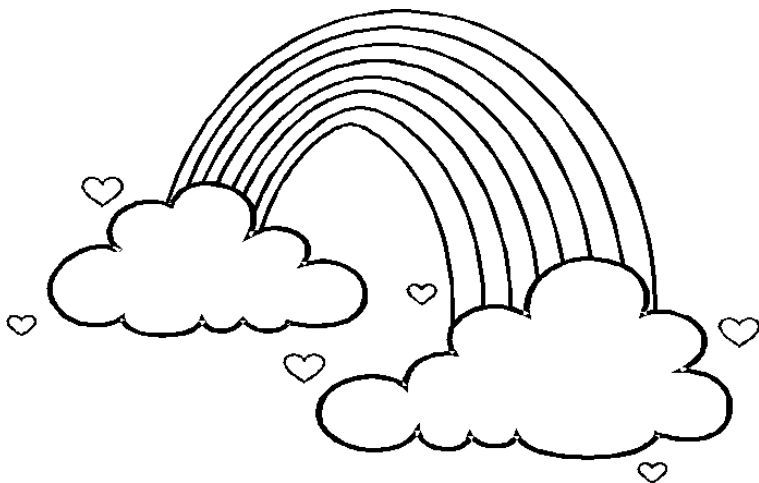
WE GET OUR LIGHT FROM THE SUN

White sunlight is really made up of seven colours. We see them best in a rainbow.

Can you work out the seven colours and then colour in this beautiful rainbow?

R _ _
_ _ A _ G _
_ _ L L _ _
_ _ E _ N _
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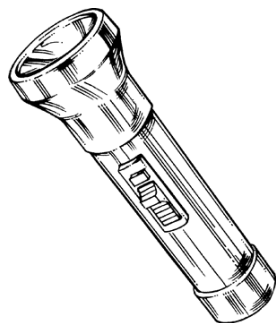
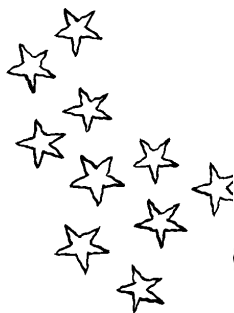
I _ D _ _ _
_ _ O L _ _



DIFFERENT LIGHTS

Fill in the names of these sources of light:





LIGHT IN THE BIBLE

1. What was the first thing God created?
2. On which day did God create the moon and the stars?
3. When did God make a rainbow appear?
4. What led the wise men to baby Jesus?
5. Where, did Jesus say, people do not hide their lighted lamp?

LIGHT SQUARE

How many words of three letters or more can you make? Do not jump a square or use the same square twice in a word.

There are 40 to find altogether.

Find the 9 lettered word.

D	L	T
N	E	I
C	A	L

THE NEW PRAYER DIARY

I hope that by now everyone has seen and is using our new prayer diary. The deepening of prayer is one of Bishop John's key priorities for the diocese and with that in mind, it was felt important to place greater emphasis on our intercessions diary to enable it to be accessible to everyone.

The prayer diary is pocket-sized to enable it to be carried around or simply kept by your bedside; as well as being suitable for use in church. It features news happening around the diocese as a basis for prayer (as well as praying for the individual parishes as has always happened). Hopefully it will be an effective prayer tool as well as an alternative way of communicating some of the great things that are happening in the diocese.

The diary is free to all parishes and there should be enough for everyone who wants one to have a copy, it's definitely not just for readers and clergy. If you haven't seen it, then please do ask in church and make sure you get your copy! It's also available on the diocesan website and I'm happy to produce versions in large-print if people contact me.

The January-March edition is the second prayer diary in the new format and it still continues to evolve, so I'd really appreciate any feedback and thoughts about what you find most and least useful.

Sam Setchell
Diocesan Communications Officer
ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk

SLIMMING WORLD

NO PILLS, NO POINTS, NO POTIONS:
Just passion for real food. Lose weight without going hungry. All welcome. No obligation to join, come and find out more.

ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL, EVERY WEDNESDAY
5.30pm or 7.30pm FREE magazine when joining with this advert.
11-15 year olds come free with a paying adult.
Call Kerry for more info on 01384 833812

‘ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE: POSITION OF ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC’

This cathedral church of St Mary’s, Old Swinford, Stourbridge, seeks to appoint a well-qualified and enthusiastic musician to further the musical development of the church and to compensate for the past four years under the present incumbent. More than anything we seek continuity, the main duties being outlined below:

- To play as loudly as possible at all times.
- To ensure there is at least one hymn in every service which nobody knows (but always argue they do!)
- To argue at all possible times with the flower arrangers but especially during the seasons of Easter, Harvest & Christmas.
- To be as rude & difficult as possible with all potential wedding couples, their families and photographers and video operators.
- To always know better than the visiting musicians at weddings and to make this known via biting sarcasm during the rehearsal.
- To ensure the clergy are kept in their place at special services by assigning the vicar's stall to visiting solo singers.
- To ignore all requests from the Parish Administrator especially those concerning hymns, orders of service and weddings.
- To encourage the choir through positive criticism & praise, but in reality this is not expected beyond the first month of employment.
- To choose large-scale works the choir will enjoy but never be able to sing.
- To threaten to leave at least once every month when criticised by a member of the congregation.
- To do that which ought not to be done and leave undone all that which should be done.
- Above all, to ensure you can laugh at yourself as well as those less fortunate.
- Salary is based on RSCM rates and is in no way linked to the amount of stress induced by this position. It is however index-linked which is something only understood by the Hon Treasurer.

Interested parties should apply in writing to the Parish Administrator explaining why on earth they would want to spend all their free time in such a manner, together with the names and addresses of two referees who can reliably vouch for the applicant's insanity.

Robin Walker

LENT COURSE 2011

ST MARY'S, ST THOMAS', HOLY TRINITY, STOURBRIDGE

"The Word cradled in the words"

***A study on the use of the Bible to mark the
400th anniversary of the publication of the
King James Version.***



MARCH 16TH

"In the beginning was the Word..."

The King James' Bible: its origin, influence and relevance today.
Speaker : The Revd Colin Simpson
Curate of 5 country parishes in south Northamptonshire.
Venue: St Mary's, Old Swinford

MARCH 23RD

"Introducing the Bible to young people"

Speaker : Very Revd Peter Atkinson
Dean of Worcester and author of the Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible.
Venue: Holy Trinity, Amblecote

MARCH 30TH

"Living Mark's Gospel today"

Speaker : The Revd John Vincent
Founding Director of the Urban Theology Unit, Sheffield and
former President of the Methodist Conference.
Venue: St Thomas', Stourbridge

APRIL 6TH

"There went out a sower to sow":

The Bible and Imaginative prayer.
Speaker : Fr Paul Nicholson SJ
Novice Master for Prospective Jesuits and former Director of
Loyola Hall spirituality Centre.
Venue: St Mary's, Old Swinford

APRIL 13TH

"The Bible amongst other holy books"

Speaker : The Revd Ray Gaston
Lecturer in interfaith studies at Queens Foundation, Birmingham
and Interfaith enabler for the Methodist Church in the
West Midlands.
Venue: Holy Trinity, Amblecote.

Wednesday evenings beginning at 7.30pm

Heaven's Grocery Store

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
One day, I saw a sign that said "Heaven's Grocery Store",
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child shop with care".
Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.
First, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row,
Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.
I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this race.
By then my basket was getting full, but I remembered some GRACE.
I didn't forget SALVATION for SALVATION is free,
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.
As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in,
For I know when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.
PEACE and JOY were plentiful; they were on the last shelf.
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.
Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said, "Just take them everywhere you go".
Again, I said, "How much do I really owe?" He smiled again and said:
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!"

From a cruise ship service

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

RICE PUDDING

'Tis a gift to be simple', words from a traditional hymn from the Shaker movement and something I try to keep in mind especially when working with students who are new to cooking or struggle with basic tasks. Cooks in the home rarely have the oven on for 2-3 hours and this quick version can be baked after cooking for half an hour at 180c/gas mark 4, if you are in the 'like the skin camp'. It is also good cold the next day with fresh fruit. We spend lots of money on yoghurts and rice desserts and these simple sweets are more wholesome with no additives or preservatives. I always double up the recipe.

3 ½ oz (85g) Carolina Rice (pudding rice)
1 pint (500ml) milk
1-2 oz (40-50g) caster sugar
vanilla essence, grated nutmeg, little knob of butter (optional).

Bring rice to boil in a little water, boil for 2 mins, drain and rinse.
Bring the milk to the boil in a pan with the rice and simmer for 30-40 mins on a low heat. Stir occasionally.
Stir in the caster sugar and cook until thickened (5 mins). Flavour with vanilla or nutmeg if liked.
To bake put into a shallow dish, grate over a little nutmeg and a few dots of butter. Bake for 30 mins or until a skin appears.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

Tahiti, Madagascarvanilla originates in some wonderfully exotic corners of the world doesn't it? It is one of my favourite flavours and wins my vote to add that extra dimension to our rice pudding. Creamy texture is the main component with which we are matching, ideally with a vanilla flavourand all from a grape! You could turn to a vanilla liqueur such as Navan or Vanilla Royale but that would nearly be cheating! Oak is the secret weapon that winemakers employ to add these extra layers in a wine. European and American oak is used for the maturation process and it is the kiln-dried American white oak which imparts the well-defined vanilla and tobacco notes which we find in a classic red Rioja for instance.

Chardonnay has a particular affinity with oak, bringing forth creamy vanilla and toasty flavours - perfect with a skin-topped rice pudding. Check the back label to ensure the Chardonnay you select has been oak-aged. This style of wine is made all over the world so you won't have to pay white Burgundy prices! Enjoyed cold the next day with some fruit, we might opt for a botrytized Semillon or a Barsac/Monbazillac for richness of texture and the extra notes of sweetness. Assuredly for creamy mouthfeel there is nothing better than the fine bubbly mousse of a good Champagne. However a bottle of Bollinger Grand Annee is not exactly the 'simple gift' that the Shakers had in mind! So stick with a still Chardonnay and enjoy your wine-sipping.

Richard W.B. Ryan

WHAT SEX IS YOUR COMPUTER?

A teacher split her class into two groups and asked each group to decide whether their computer was masculine or feminine.

The men decided that it was definitely feminine because:-

1. no-one but their creator understands their internal logic.
2. the native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to every one else.
3. even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval.
4. as soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay cheque on accessories for it.

The women concluded it was assuredly masculine because:-

1. in order to get their attention you have to turn them on.
2. they have a lot of data but are clueless.
3. they are supposed to help solve the problem, but half the time they are the problem.
4. as soon as you commit to one you realise, that had you waited a little while, you could have got a better model.

PARISH REGISTER

No baptisms or weddings this month

Funerals

20 January Ronald Hallmark aged 73

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NEWS AND NOTES

In recent times the Outreach Group at St Mary's has 'spread' its wings. Having been involved in several adventures in the past we have started to look a little further afield. It all started with a suggestion from daughter Jane. She had been chatting to a lady from Cheshire, who told her about the work of a group of people in her church. They wanted to go to the coast for the day but this wasn't possible, so they 'recreated' a beach scene in their church hall, with a sand pit, water pool and deck chairs etc. This proved to be a lovely day for all concerned. This triggered my thoughts to people, who for one reason or another, may feel 'shut in the four walls.' Outreach met and a proposal was made and lists of possible venues were created. A visit to Webbs Garden Centre ensued, to be followed more recently by a visit to the cinema at Merry Hill to see 'The Kings Speech' which I felt, as did others, was a superb film. Trips out have been undertaken in the past by Pauline, our Rector's wife with visits to the theatre in Malvern and Birmingham, which were wonderful. I must say thank you to Gaynor Hill our secretary for booking the tickets and arranging lifts. Committee members too are to be thanked for their help in enabling people to get to the cinema. Also thanks for the help given in providing coffee etc on a Thursday morning when we share a special time in communion followed by refreshments and a wonderful feeling of fellowship. With love and thanks.

Anne Davies

Children's Page Answers

Rainbow

Red
Orange
Yellow
Green
Blue
Indigo
Violet

Different lights

Star
Torch
Sun
Candle
Moon
Electricity

Light in the bible

1. Light
2. The 4th Day
3. After the flood
4. A bright star
5. Under a bushel

Light Square

The 9-lettered word is
candlelit

THE BISHOP'S LETTER

When Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray, he gave them the prayer which is so well known to us which begins with the words 'Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.' The prayer is so familiar to us that there is a danger that it may well just wash over us. If that happens we shall miss a great deal: the heart of our faith is packed into those first few words of the Lord's prayer and we would do well to reflect on them anew this Lent.

They first remind us that through Jesus we have been adopted as God's sons and daughters and can call him our Father. That's an awesome thing if you stop to think about it, and is the best piece of news we shall ever have: the God who created the heavens and earth is our loving Father. Second, we are reminded that our response to this great good news, in gratitude, should be to hallow God's name. That means putting our relationship with God first in our life and doing all that we can to encourage others to do so, too. Then, finally, we are to await, and pray for, and seek to bring about the advent of God's Kingdom.

How can we hallow God's name and work for the coming of the kingdom? The best way to start is surely to do all we can to ensure that God rules in our own hearts and lives. As the old song puts it, 'Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.' To that we might add, let there be justice and mercy and compassion and kindness and truth and love and freedom and goodness and truth on earth and let them begin with me. In other words, let all the characteristics of God's reign be manifest in me. May God's Kingdom come in me.

Most Loving God,
I thank you that in your wonderful love
you have adopted me as your child.
In the power of your Spirit,
Give me a thankful heart and help me properly
To hallow your name.
May your Kingdom come in me
As I submit to your rule in my life
In and through Jesus Christ,
Who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

From Bishop John

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