

Welcome to the online
version of St Mary's
Church magazine



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION WINNERS



Alice Aged 6

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

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION WINNERS

I would bring Jesus a dog because it gives you company and gives you as much as you give it.

A Dog has soft fur and is playful and comforting when stressed.

It's also said that when you have a dog you live longer apparently.

Meaning he could help more people.

Plus a Dog can protect you from bad people.



Winner Aged 9 Daniel

We are delighted to print some of the many entries received in response to the Christmas Competition promoted by Ruth Atkinson. Thank you to all who worked so hard to present their entries and congratulations to those selected as winners.....More on page 19.

Alice (see front cover) wrote....I would give a cake to baby Jesus so he is not hungry and so on his birthday he can have cake.

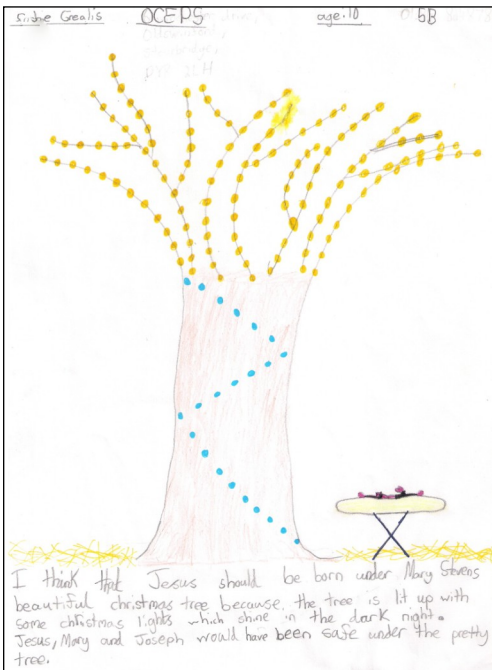
THE NATIVITY 2010

If Jesus was born in Stourbridge he would have to have been born in the Bandstand at Mary Stevens Park. This is because the bandstand is the closest thing in S'brige to the Stable. He would be in the very center of the Bandstand in a picnic basket with Mary and Joseph either side. around the outside a choir would be singing christmas carols and the band would be playing. All the trees would be wrapped in white christmas lights and everyone would have the

chance to give

Jesus their present. They would place it under the trees all in different wrapping paper. Everybody would have street parties with party papers and sparklers. It would be the best Christmas anybody in Stourbridge would have seen.

Winner Aged 12 Kelly



Winner Aged 10 Sophie

SUNDAYS AT ST MARY'S

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion and Children Together
6.30 pm	Evensong
10.00 am	(second Sunday) Worship Together

WEEKDAYS AT ST MARY'S

Daily:	9.00 am - Morning Prayer (except Fridays and Saturdays) Morning Prayer on Thursdays will alternate between St Mary's and St Thomas'
Daily:	5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (except Fridays)
Wednesday:	1.30 pm - Noah's Ark at St Mary's (term time) parents & toddlers
Thursday:	10.30 am - Holy Communion in Lady Chapel
Thursday:	7.30 pm - Bell ringing Practice
Friday:	Choir Practice and Youth Groups (in term time)
Saturday:	10.00—12.00 am - Open Church—refreshments available
Rector's and Curate's Day Off: Friday	

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

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

Reader Emeritus:	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 FEBRUARY 2011

Tuesday 1	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
SUNDAY 6	THE FIFTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Epiphany 5)
Tuesday 8	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Wednesday 9	7.30 pm PCC
Thursday 10	10.30 am Holy Communion
	Copy date for March Magazine
Saturday 11	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 13	THE FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Epiphany 6)
Tuesday 15	7.30 pm Deanery Synod
Thursday 17	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 19	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 20	THE THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Septuagesima)
Wednesday 23	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 24	St Matthias, Apostle and Martyr
	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Saturday 26	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 27	THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Sexagesima)
	3.00 pm Dedication of additional War Memorial

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

Love

*Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.
But quick-eye'd Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd any thing.*

*'A guest', I answer'd, 'worthy to be here.'
Love said, 'You shall be he.'
'I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.'*

*Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
'Who made the eyes but I?'*

*'Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them; let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'
'And know you not', says Love, 'who bore the blame?'
'My dear, then I will serve.'
'You must sit down', says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
So I did sit and eat.*

George Herbert, Priest and Poet

- 5 - whom we remember on 27th February

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

Easter is about as late as it can be this year and so Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent is not until 9 March. Those with long memories may recall that Easter fell one day later, on its latest possible date of 25 April, in 1943. Such a late festival plays havoc with school holidays but on the other hand offers the prospect of a warmer bank holiday!

It does enable me to give advance notice of our Lent course this year. Celebrations have already begun to mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of what has become known as the King James or Authorised Version of the Bible. Not only was this to become a national treasure arising out of one of the most creative literary periods of our history, something that has influenced our language and culture even more than Shakespeare, it also brought the teaching of Scripture much more within the sphere of ordinary people. Early in January a number of AV biblical readings were broadcast which resonated especially with those who were brought up long before more modern translations were available. There is undoubtedly a beauty in the language that makes it memorable and, although the meaning of some words has changed over the years and biblical scholarship has advanced our theological understanding, the poetry of the AV retains the ability to speak to the heart.

In Lent we will be joining our friends at St Thomas' and Holy Trinity for a programme of talks on Wednesday evening beginning on 16 March and have engaged a number of scholars, including the Dean of Worcester, to speak about the Bible and its relevance for us all today. Many read the Bible as part of their daily prayer time but there are still a lot of home editions that merely gather dust upon the shelves. Our hope is that this course will enable us to engage with scripture in a new way, discover afresh the strength and guidance that it can bring to our daily lives and realise the vision of those who produced the King James version all those years ago.

With my prayers and best wishes,

For more details of national events and campaign visit www.biblefresh.com

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2011

6 February Fifth before Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 58. 1– 9a, 9b –12	1 Corinthians 2. 1-12,13-end	Matthew 5. 13-20
	6.30 pm	Amos 2. 4-end	Mark 1. 29-39	
13 February Fourth before Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Evensong	Amos 3. 1-8	Ephesians 5. 1-17	
20 February Third before Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Leviticus 19. 1-2,9-18	1 Corinthians 3. 10-11,16-end	Matthew 5. 38-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Amos 9. 5-end	Mark 2. 1-12	
27 February Second be- fore Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Genesis 1. 1-2,3	Romans 8. 18-25	Matthew 6. 25-34
	6.30 pm Evensong	Proverbs 8. 1, 22-31	Luke 12. 16-31	

CHRISTINGLE 2010

In spite of severe weather, several families gathered for our Christingle Service just before Christmas. One lady and her small child had walked in deep snow from Penfields, Amblecote.

Last year over 500,000 children shared in Christingle Services. This is a particularly special way for us all to reach out together to help even more children and young people who are in such urgent need.

We are most grateful to all those who took part in our celebration at St Mary's and raised the sum of £115.61.

Wendy Tranter

NEWS AND NOTES

I felt very marooned prior to Christmas. Living at the top of a steep drive proved to be too big a challenge. I am sure many people experienced the same feeling of frustration. I was sad to miss helping in the decoration of the church and the Christingle Service due to the snow and icy conditions.

In Church last Sunday I thought how lovely the decorations were. The window sills and pew ends were so pretty and the other arrangements were beautiful. What talented ladies there are in the Flower Guild and what helpful husbands there are helping to clean up. I so missed the camaraderie one enjoys on these occasions.

I also had to delay my journey south so I missed visiting the Pantomime with my daughter Claire and family. Apparently my grandson Henry was asked/volunteered to step up to the stage to give some help!

We were all destined to be together in Romsey, there to enjoy Christmas Day with the rest of the family. Taking a taxi to Kidderminster was the beginning of my adventure. I started the journey with hope in my heart that the train would be able to get me to my destination.

The Cotswolds looked beautiful, covered with white, fluffy snow with sheep gathered here and there. It was truly a sight to behold.

Reaching Oxford we were warned that we were to give way to another train prior to reaching Reading. This meant several of us missed our connection so I rang the girls to tell them what had happened and that I would be late arriving at my destination, there to be met by Claire.

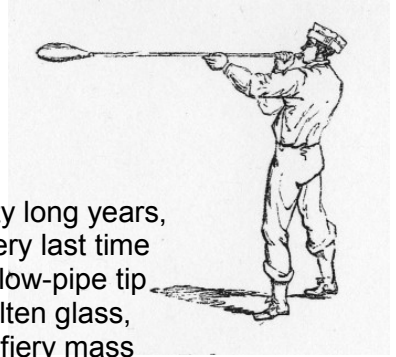
Leaving the train I followed a gentleman and two ladies up the slope. Walking was tricky with snow, ice and some slush underfoot. At the top of the hill the aforementioned gentleman turned to me and said, "May I ask, is someone meeting you?" "Yes." I said, "My daughter." He was concerned that I might have to wait alone and asked me to join his wife, his mother and himself for a cup of tea. At that very moment I espied Claire across the track. She was with me in minutes, there to tuck me into her warm car and away we went with many thanks to the kind gentleman.

I wanted to share this story because I was profoundly moved by his kindness. I felt really, this is a Christmas story of caring for another in a time of need. Surely a very Christian action. There are so many kind people in this world.

With my love and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Anne Davies

THE GLASS BLOWER



It was hard to believe, after forty long years,
That this was the end. The very last time
He would skilfully thrust the blow-pipe tip
Deep into the crucible of molten glass,
And gather the ball from the fiery mass

Of the furnace. Like treacle on a spoon,
It oozed and leached around his rod,
The amorphous blob of chemical fusion
Which he turned and twisted, smoothly and slow,
Awaiting that perfect moment to blow

Air through the pipe. A bubble appeared,
Transforming the mass. It swelled and surged
To create a shape, a vessel of value,
An object of beauty, burnished and bright.
It grew in brilliance, as it caught the light

From the flames. He finished his task
While a century's' ghosts watched, and waited
For the furnace to die, the tools to lie still.
Hiding in shadows, doors finally close,
They guard the bowl as it glimmers and glows.

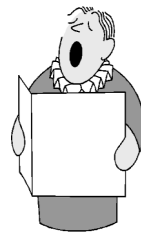
Pat Whalley





ST MARY'S CHOIR IN CONCERT

On Saturday 26 February at 7.30pm.
In St Mary's Church, Oldswinford.

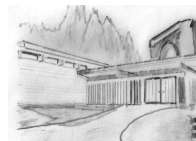


Vocal and instrumental music performed by
members of St Mary's Choir
Group, solo and choir items.

Refreshments provided.

Tickets from Tina or Alice Timms (tel 01384 375167), or Robin Walker
£4.50 (£3.50 concessions)
In aid of the Choir Fund.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH HALL



The first very cold snap of the winter is over and, to date, we have managed to keep the hall warm enough for purpose! We appear to be getting good benefit from the double glazing and cavity wall insulation. We are due to finish the double glazing on the top row of windows in the vestibule in the next few weeks and that will complete the window work.

We are now receiving help with the sound system from Stuart Brydges, grandson of Harold and Hazel White. We are very indebted to him and hope to get the system up and running.

Arrangements have been started for the 'Fun Night - Skittles and Quiz' on Saturday evening, 7 May. Watch out for details!

Ian Ferguson

MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER GROUP

Our group meets once a month to share a quiet hour thinking, praying and discussing themes chosen for our study beforehand. We pray for the needs of the world and share our experiences together. The subjects chosen for the New Year are: light, forgiveness, peace and The Cross.

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 10.30 am until 12 noon. For more details please contact me on 01384 394444

Janice Sutton

COULD DO BETTER

Next month it will be Lent. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. Before that we have a day of feasting and merry making, Shrove Tuesday.

During Lent people have always fasted, which meant they only ate plain food. They tried to spend the six weeks of Lent putting God first.

They had to eat up all the meat, eggs and butter (rich foods) before Lent so on the Tuesday they had a great feast. It became known as Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras. We know it as Pancake Day.



PANCAKE RECIPE

In a bowl, mix together:
4 tablespoons of plain flour
2 dessertspoons of sugar
A pinch of salt.

Crack two eggs in a bowl.

Beat them and then add

A teaspoon of warm butter.

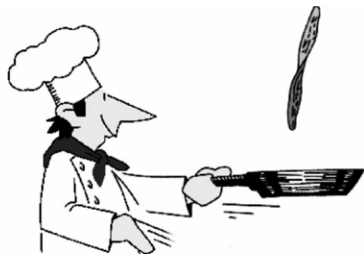
Stir this into the flour mixture.

Stir in enough milk, slowly, until it is like cream.

Beat it until it bubbles.

Let an adult then fry your pancakes.

Enjoy!



'PAN' WORDS

Fill in the missing letters:

1. Pan _ _ _ A food store
2. Pan _ _ A flower
3. Pan _ _ A bear
4. Pan _ _ _ _ An animal
5. _ pan _ A smack
6. _ _ _ _ pan You cook in it
7. _ _ _ pan _ _ _ A friend
8. Pan _ _ _ _ _ A show
9. _ pan _ _ _ A dog
10. _ _ pan _ Get bigger

JESUS KNEW PEOPLE WHO COULD DO BETTER

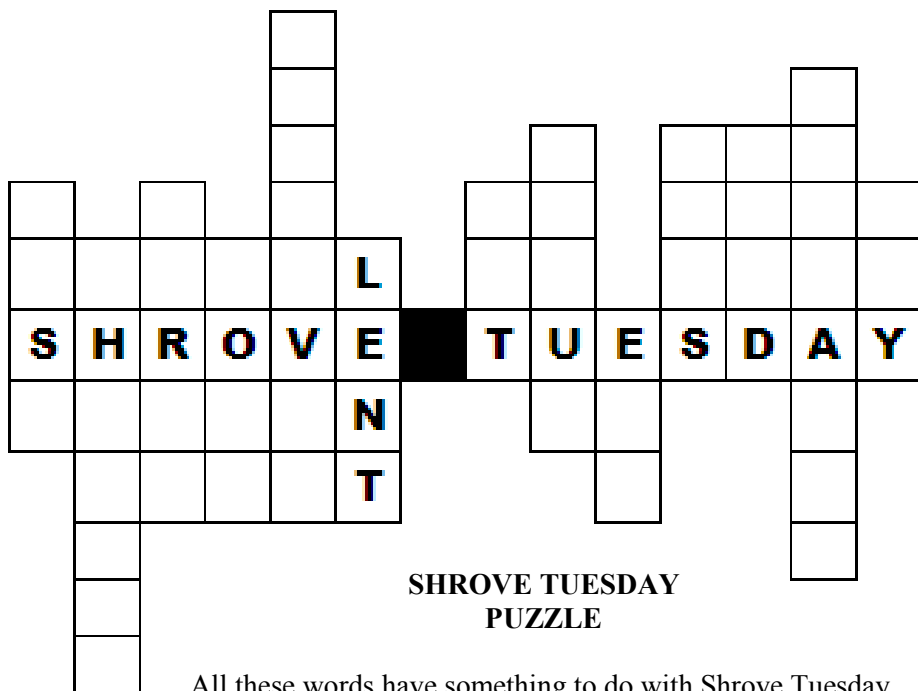
Can you name two taxgatherers who did better?

1. _____
Luke 19. 7-8

2. _____
Matthew 9. 9-10

How many times did Jesus say we were to forgive?

3. _____
Matthew 18. 22



SHROVE TUESDAY PUZZLE

All these words have something to do with Shrove Tuesday.
Fit them into the squares to read downwards.
One is done for you.

MARDI
GRAS
CARNIVAL
FAST
SHRIVEN

FOOD
EGG
FRY
FLOUR

SHRIVEN
TOSS
PANCAKES
FAT

COAST TO COAST

On 20 October Philip Bartram and two friends, Steve Clifton from Stourbridge and Steve's future son-in-law, Ross Watson from Nottingham completed the 192 mile Wainwright coast-to-coast walk in thirteen days. The course was from St Bees in Cumbria, over the southern Lake District and the Pennines via the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors. The weather was good for most of the expedition with rain on just one day and a light covering of snow on the moors leading into Robin Hood's Bay.

The staff at Asda in Brierley Hill had raised money to buy us a GPS system. In addition to O.S. maps and Wainwright's book, it proved to be an invaluable help, although on the first day we began to have doubts, because the guiding arrow was advising us to walk on the Irish Sea for a couple of miles!

The most exciting, dangerous part was coming off the 3000 foot Helvellyn fell in the Lake District. The eastern side of Helvellyn is the most dramatic. Two sharp arêtes lead off the summit. The knife-edged Striding Edge is very difficult to negotiate with no discernible path to follow. Thanks to the popularity of this challenging descent, constant upkeep of the area is underway. Fortunately, we enjoyed good weather so that we could scramble down with great care (It must be dreadful when there is rain and wind!)



We had hired, and paid for ourselves, a comfortable motorhome at a price just above cost. Camp-site and public-house owners allowed us free-of-charge overnight stops and electrical hook-ups. Mike Ryder, a retired helicopter pilot from Birmingham, did the driving and some of the cooking. Much of our food, which we all enjoyed preparing and eating, had been supplied for nothing by local supermarkets. Lights-out was at 9 o'clock so that we could be up early to take full advantage of day-light the following day.

In retrospect, it would have been an even more enjoyable experience had we taken more time to complete the journey. We would have had time to take in more of the awe-inspiring scenery and have a couple of days rest. On a personal note, walking behind the other two through Shap because of a sore right foot, I bumped into a school-friend who now lives there with her husband. I enjoyed an unexpected cup of tea on their patio!

Many people from St Mary's had sponsored us in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. This together with tremendous encouragement from family, friends and organisations such as Belbroughton Beer Festival helped us to keep right on till the end of the road. Over the previous eighteen months we had organised several events in aid of MCS including a comedy evening, a car-wash, a bouncy castle at a bikers' event, a photo-opportunity with the Premiership Trophy in conjunction with Barclay's Bank and bucket-shaking at shopping centres.

We are confident that when all the sponsorship is in, we will have surpassed our target of £ 5,000 for this worthy charity. Our thanks go out to the hundreds of generous contributors who inspired us to keep going.

Philip Bartram

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

The January edition of this publication encouraged retired and semi-retired people to consider their interest in helping to start a u3a in Stourbridge? The u3as exist to provide educational and leisure activities for men and women, no longer in full time employment at minimal cost. The u3a believes retirement age should be one of creativity, fulfilment and friendship.

The Launch meeting of the new Stourbridge Group took place on Thursday, 20 January 2011. However there is a follow-up Inaugural meeting arranged for Thursday 17 February 2011 at the New Road Methodist Church Centre, Stourbridge commencing 2 pm when the u3a will really be formed. This meeting will be of interest whether or not you were able to attend the Launch Meeting on 20 January 2011. A cordial welcome awaits all interested.

As a reminder, in addition to the monthly general interest meetings, interest groups are organised, with a vast range of subjects such as art, foreign languages, music, history, geography, crafts, gardening, archaeology, astronomy and computing. There are also activities such as walking groups, luncheon clubs, bridge, scrabble and theatre visits. At the Inaugural meeting, you will have chance to organise your own individual interest groups; perhaps to suggest new ideas.

The National website is www.u3a.org.uk

Mervyn Evans

DEBASEMENT OF THE COINAGE

The present coalition government has suggested that the metal in our 5p and 10p coins be debased; that means that the metal contained in the coins should be lowered in value.

This slight measure hardly seems necessary and it does not compare with the great debasement of the coinage in the reign of Henry VIII. By 1526 the Royal coffers were empty. His father Henry VII through careful spending had accumulated a full treasury of two million pounds. His greedy son soon depleted it on extravagant clothes, a richly appavelled court and expensive presents for his numerous wives. However, a very necessary expense was an impressive fleet including the formidable Mary Rose with a hundred cannons, which were fired from the sides of the ship instead of the open deck. This was a bulwark against the aggressive French.

Henry now looked about for means to replenish the Royal treasury and his Chancellor Sir Thomas Cromwell and his agents, vandalized the monasteries in what today is known as "The Dissolution of The Monasteries". They stripped the lead from the roofs and generally slighted the holy buildings in a way, which would have pleased the other Cromwell (Oliver) some years later.

Henry's excuse for the destruction was that the monks were corrupt; that they had broken their vows of chastity and poverty and had indulged in fornication, and in quite a few cases this statement was justified. Fortunately however, there were few persecutions except where the monks refused to co-operate with Cromwell. In these circumstances they were subjected to hanging or beheading according to Henry's wishes. Some of the monks who were of course very well educated, turned to teaching, illustrating manuscripts and calligraphy; some became private tutors.

Henry soon disposed of the monastic money and by 1542 he was again on his 'beam ends'. His second venture into acquiring more cash was to debase the coinage; (a similar situation was not to arise again until the aftermath of World War 1 in 1920; and again after World War II, which reduced our coinage to nothing more than tokens.)

Henry debased the silver coinage to a great extent, the groat being the highest in value. This was the coin used in the market place by shoppers and traders alike. However, Henry needed even more silver to pay his soldiers and the crews of the large fleet he had built, also his own personal spending was way out of control. To remedy this situation more silver was taken from the groat and copper and other base metals were added instead.

The army and navy would not accept the debased coins and so for a while there were both pure silver and debased coins in circulation. This caused many problems for the 'man in the street'. Traders would not accept the debased coins and so trading was reduced to bartering. The heavily debased silver coins soon wore thin and the copper would show through, especially around the nose, which protruded slightly from the coin.



Today's collector will often find a copperish glint to these coins giving rise to the nick- name for King Henry VIII as "Old Copper Nose".

Peter Selby

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

December

On 14 December Pat Whalley greeted members for our final meeting of 2010. Ruth, our Curate, led a meditation on aspects of the Christmas Story in five episodes.

Each one opened with a carol and was illustrated by a painting and poem from 'Hay and Starlight' - an Iona Community publication.

Joseph was illustrated twice. We saw and thought of his concern for Mary before Christ's birth and then, with Jesus in her arms, of his tranquillity and support for them both afterwards. Two pictures of Mary showed her immediate worry of having to cope with a newborn - then we saw the close embrace and joy as her confidence grew. Finally a shepherd reflected that he could relate directly to God in human form in his own life after seeing the Child in Bethlehem. Ruth ended this time with prayer.

In all the whirl and busy period before Christmas it was good to have this peaceful time to consider again the true impact of Christ's coming on human lives.

Margaret Ager, our member in America, had returned home for Christmas and joined us. She said it was good to sing the old well-known carols to familiar English tunes as American tunes were quite different.

Members then served refreshments.

Dawn Nex

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

STICKY CHICKEN WITH LEMON AND HONEY GLAZE

This makes an inexpensive and tasty midweek supper. Don't be tempted to make it with chicken breast, the thighs take longer to cook giving the chicken time to develop its dark sticky glaze and allows the meat to become tender and almost falling off the bone. If I have time I like to prepare the chicken the night before and leave it to marinate in the fridge.

6 large chicken thighs with bone in and skin on.
1 tbsp black peppercorns crushed in a pestle and mortar
juice of two lemons
1 dsp. coarse grain mustard
1 dsp. honey
3 cloves garlic crushed
sea salt to flavour

Cut off any excess skin on the chicken. In a large shallow casserole dish put the lemon juice, peppercorns, mustard, honey, garlic, and salt and with a small whisk mix to combine. Add the chicken and rub the marinade all over. Cover the dish and put into the bottom of the fridge.

The next day, pre-heat the oven to 200c/Gas6. Cook the chicken for 45-60 mins, you may need to turn the oven down if it is browning too quickly. Turn them over halfway through the cooking and then 10 mins or so before the end turn them back skin side up so they can become dark brown and crispy. Rice and stir fried vegetables make a good accompaniment.

Ann Jennings

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

January

Eighteen members and one visitor attended the AGM in the Coach House. The meeting began with a service led by Brenda Selby on 'Hope'. Reports were given and a card was signed wishing Dorothy Gibson a speedy recovery following a road accident. We currently have thirty five members and two indoor members in the group.

Dates for your diary:

An Invitation—Thursday 3 February, 2.00-4.00 pm, Clent MU Open Afternoon at Clent Parish Rooms

Next meeting—8 February : Nepal-Slides and Talk by Mike Blaxland. 2.15pm in the Coach House. Visitors will be most welcome.

Dawn Nex

AND FOR THE WINE.....

An inexpensive midweek supper in February doesn't invite selection of a premium bottle of wine. However, Sauternes is favoured to accompany honey-glazed chicken in the famous dessert wine region of France; and there they may well imbibe on a February evening too! But our dish does not simply involve a coating of honey glaze - there are peppercorns, mustard and garlic present, making the fruits of a sweet dessert wine less appropriate..... Well it's better than saying Sauternes is out of the price bracket!

The lengthy cooking and overnight marinating will serve to blend the flavours together and tone down the sweet intensity of the honey. So a sip of Madeira might be the answer: try a glass of one of the less sweet styles - Sercial or Verdelho. However, if it's your Birthday and you want to open a bottle in celebration let's consider the options. The weightier ingredients compel us to avoid anything too light. An oaked white seems in order, combined with the ripe fruits of the new world. Somehow Europe's offerings seem to fall a little short here. An oaked white Rioja perhaps the best bet, but take care: most are light and unoaked.

So to the southern hemisphere, where Semillon is the prime candidate. Again many bottles we meet are of the light unoaked style. Australia's Hunter Valley and South Africa carry the banner for big Semillons. Wildekranz from the latter produce a superb example which wins my vote..... Enjoy your wine-sipping.

Richard W.B. Ryan

PUBLIC NOTICE CONCERNING STREET COLLECTION HELD IN DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH

The Borough Council of Dudley granted a permit to the person named below to collect money for the benefit of **Mary Stevens Hospice**:

in Stourbridge & Ryemarket only on 17 December 2010.

The total amount collected was **£265.00**

The total amount of the expenses incurred was **NIL**

The total amount of the payments made by me to persons in connection with the promotion or conduct of the collection was **NIL**

Name Michael Harrison
Address 52 Field Lane
Oldswinford
DY8 2ED

Dated 22 December 2010

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

19 December Lucy Jane Knowles

Weddings

18 December Luisa Massey and Richard Dawson

Funerals

15 December	Audrey Miles	aged 89
20 December	Stan Capewell	aged 92
21 December	Jock Poyner	aged 89
21 December	David Chaloner	aged 56
11 January	Hilary Wells	aged 83

.....

SAINT MATTHIAS - 24 February

Matthias was the apostle chosen to replace Judas after he betrayed Jesus and committed suicide. Matthias wasn't chosen by Jesus and isn't mentioned in the synoptic gospels. Instead, he was chosen by casting lots after Jesus reportedly ascended to heaven. After being chosen, Matthias disappears completely from the New Testament canon and isn't mentioned in any other reliable historical records.

The choosing of Matthias is depicted in the first chapter of Acts:

So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. [Acts 1:23-26]

.....

Children's Page Answers

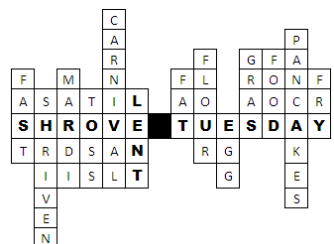
Panwords:

1. Pantry
2. Pansy
3. Panda
4. Panther
5. Spank
6. Saucepan
7. Companion
8. Pantomime
9. Spaniel
10. Expand

Could do better:

1. Zacchaeus
2. Matthew
3. 77

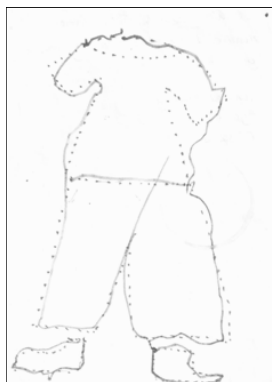
Shrove Tuesday Puzzle:



CHRISTMAS COMPETITION WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

The competition invited children to write and/or draw about gifts they would bring to Jesus or to describe the scene of where they thought Jesus might have been born in Stourbridge. Much thought, care and skill were exercised by all who took part and genuine consideration and love were made evident in their responses. Thank you to all who took part and to those who encouraged them.

Ruth Atkinson



Hannah, aged 4 was also a winner with this picture of clothing.

She wrote....
I would take baby Jesus clothes because I love him and they make you warm!



Jack, Runner-up, aged 9

Alice, Runner-up, aged 9



Jude, Runner-up, aged 9

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.



Mobile home available to rent sited at Camping Le Dauphin near Argeles, South of France. Sleeps up to 6 people and is available from April onwards. References available from Stourbridge people who have visited. Phone John Henley 01384 833108 for more info.

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

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