

The online edition of the
July/August Parish Magazine
of St Mary Old Swinford.



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



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JULY/AUGUST 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

First Tuesday Fellowship:	First Tuesday in month	(Tel :441003)
Bible Study Group:	Monday, first 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
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	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 JULY/AUGUST 2011

JULY

Saturday 2

10.00 am Open Church & Vestry Hour

2.00 pm Ordination of Philip Bradford in the Cathedral

SUNDAY 3

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

12.00pm Parish Picnic in the Rectory Garden

6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 5

7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at 17 Rectory Road

Wednesday 6

3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House

Thursday 7

10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 9

10.00 am Open Church & Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 10

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

4.00 pm The choir sing Evensong at Worcester Cathedral

Tuesday 12

11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft

7.30 pm PCC in the Narthex

Wednesday 13

7.30 pm Baptism Preparation

Thursday 14

10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 16

10.00 am Open Church & Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 17

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

5.00 pm Leaving Service for The Rector and Pauline

Wednesday 18

7.00 pm Old Swinford Primary School Leavers Service

Thursday 21

10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 23

10.00 am Open Church & Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 24

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

St James the Apostle

Monday 25

11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge

Wednesday 27

10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Thursday 28

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

SUNDAY 31

AUGUST

Thursday 4

10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 6

10.00 am Open Church & Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 7

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 Parish Communion (No Worship Together in August)

Thursday 11

10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 13

10.00 am Open Church & Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 14

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday 15

10.30 am Holy Communion

Thursday 18

10.00 am Open Church & Vestry Hour

Saturday 20

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

SUNDAY 21

St Bartholomew the Apostle

Wednesday 24

10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Thursday 25

10.00 am Open Church & Vestry Hour

Saturday 27

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

SUNDAY 29

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

It seems very strange to be writing this final letter for our magazine. "Are you looking forward to moving?" people ask. "Can't wait!" I respond, somewhat tongue in cheek, and then explain the dread of leaving a place where we have been happy and have so many good friends and heading off into something new and unknown. It's a bit like waiting for an exam or operation – there may come a point once the decision has been made that one simply wants to get the 'sweet sorrow' over and done with.

I learnt a lot about coping with change from our late lamented, faithful four-legged retainer, Ben. On walks in the countryside he would often find something really interesting, perhaps a rabbit burrow or the trail of a fox, and it would be an awful business to drag him away from it. But from the moment he was persuaded to move on he never once looked back but bounded forward to enjoy what lay ahead. I was reminded of this when a patient at Mary Stevens Hospice, with whom I was indulging in some mutual nostalgia, put it in a very straightforward way. "Why", he said, "do you think God placed our eyes in the front of our heads and not at the back?" At all stages in life and in all situations we need to be looking forward. As former UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld put it "For what has been - thanks! For what shall be – yes!"

So I am not going to look back except to say thank you from both Pauline and me to you all for your love and support over the last 13 ½ years and for affording us the privilege of serving in this wonderful parish. Please hold us in your prayers in the months ahead and also our hard working Churchwardens, PCC and ministers Ruth, Roy, Kanthi and John in their leadership during the interregnum. I do hope that you may be able to come to our farewell Eucharist on 17 July at 5.00 pm when the preacher will be a former curate Revd Jennifer McKenzie. You would also be most welcome at the licensing at a Church yet to be specified (see the pew sheet in August) in the Upton & Hanley Benefice at 6.30 pm on Sunday 4 September.

Meanwhile there is a much more worthy retirement to acknowledge. Richard Ryan has been our Verger for over ¼ of a century. This has involved so much more than preparing the church for Sunday worship, weddings and funerals. It has been a real ministry of care to the bereaved and gentle reassurance to the nervous bride or groom. He has been the most wonderful support to the clergy, utterly reliable with a careful attention to detail that has enabled services at important times of people's lives to run smoothly. His contribution to the life of our church has been incalculable and we would all want to wish him a long, happy and well-earned retirement.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Greville

SUNDAY SERVICES IN JULY 2011

Date	Service	Readings		
3 July Thomas the Apostle	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Habakkuk 2: 1-4	Ephesians 2: 19-end	John 20: 24-29
	6.30 pm Evensong	Job 42: 1-6	1 Peter 1: 3-12	
10 July 3rd Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 55: 10-13	Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23	
17 July 4th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 44: 6-8	Romans 8: 12-25	Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
	5.00pm	Farewell Eucharist for Greville and Pauline		
24 July 5th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Kings 3: 5-12	Romans 8: 26-end	Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52
	6.30 pm Evensong	Deuteronomy 30: 11-end	Mark 5: 21-end	
31 July 6th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 55: 1-5	Romans 9: 1-5	Matthew 14: 13-21
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 55: 1-5	Matthew 14: 13-21	

SUNDAY SERVICES IN AUGUST 2011

7 August 7th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Kings 19: 9-18	Romans 10: 5-15	Matthew 14: 22-23
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Kings 19: 9-18	Matthew 14: 22-23	
14 August 8th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8	Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8	Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28	
21 August 9th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 51: 1-6	Romans 12: 1-8	Matthew 16: 13-20
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 51: 1-6	Matthew 16: 13-20	
28 August 10th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Jeremiah 15: 15-21	Romans 12: 9-end	Matthew 16: 21-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jeremiah 15: 15-21	Matthew 16: 21-end	

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

One the light of God's own presence
 o'er his ransomed people shed,
 chasing far the gloom and terror,
 brightening all the path we tread:
 one the object of our journey,
 one the faith which never tires,
 one the earnest looking forward,
 one the hope our God inspires.

B S Ingemann (1789-1862)

NEWS OF SASI'S NEW HOME 'JEBA ILLAM' (HOUSE OF PRAYER)

On May 12 2011, Sasi had a party. We were invited; I have put the invitation on the mission board for all to see. It was a dream come true for her, as her house is now complete, and she had a 'house warming party'; more on the party later.

It was blest by no less than three Pastors, each of them giving thanks and invoking God's blessings on her, her son Mark and those who helped her to 'own' her new home. It is a miracle for one so poor, so destitute, to now, own a home. We were prayed for - all at St Mary's - thanking the Lord for the generous support given to get this project completed. If not, her life would be so different.

Sasi belongs to a Christian denomination called 'Tent Mission', where services are held in tents. I remember them in Sri Lanka'. I remember a woman priest, who wore saree and cycled everywhere. In 'Tent Mission', the church moves from place to place within an area, and it is considered a blessing to host the pastor during that period. It is those pastors who blest her house.

Sasi has named her home 'Jeba Illam' (in Tamil, 'Jebam' is prayer and 'Illam' is house/villa, hence 'Jeba Illam' - house of prayer. Her house is wired for electricity, but has no supply as it is expensive to connect. She is happy and content to work with lamps. Mark was given a small table to study.

For her party, Sasi invited family and friends for a home cooked meal. Her printed invitation began with humble thanks followed by a verse from Psalm 126 verse 3; 'The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy'. What a lovely choice: it reflects her joy and thankfulness. In all about fifteen attended with one of them cutting the ribbon to enter! I was told she served a vegetarian meal of rice, served with lentils, brinjals (aubergine) and manioc (casava) curries. Her pudding was a dish made with sago ,milk and honey.

Her son Mark is brilliant at archery! He won first place at school and at 'province' (county) level. He should take part nationally! However, due to his status in life, children from more 'upper class' backgrounds are given that chance to win. It is sad: that is how life is over there.

I am sure you have enjoyed reading about Sasi. Thank you for helping her - she is happily settled and her happiness is our happiness.

Kanthi Ariaraj

The Churchwardens and PCC have pleasure in inviting you to

A Celebration of The Eucharist

at 5.00 pm on Sunday 17 July,

with refreshment in the Church Hall afterwards,

to mark the retirement from full time ministry of

Canon Greville Cross and to wish him and Pauline well

as they move to a new stage of life and work.

Preacher : The Revd Jennifer McKenzie

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Reading Greville's interesting letter in May's magazine about spiritual places prompted me to recall some of the places I have visited over the years which have inspired me and where I have felt the presence of a higher power. The feeling is hard to define and is probably different for everyone, but I experience a deep tranquillity and peace accompanied by a heightening of the senses so that colours are more vivid, smells are more potent, sounds more immediate.

Obviously the traditional location of a mountain top as a site where one can be physically closer to God has been the focus of attention for people over generations and across the world, and it is true that mountains in their immensity and majesty have the power to inspire and to terrify us in equal measure. When I visit a mountain I do experience that awe and wonder and also a sense of how small and insignificant my little life is in the grand scheme of creation, how the scale of the landscape has swallowed me up so that I am just a tiny dot among billions of other tiny dots who are trying to make sense of their lives.

The night sky has a similar effect: viewed in a rural location, away from the pollution of amber lighting in the towns the star-scape stretches to infinity above us in all its wondrous beauty. On the occasions I have gazed at the stars from beside our tent in the wilderness of Wales or Southern France, I have felt at once the tiny insignificance, the awe and the fear but also the endless questions about distance and time which the vastness of the universe inspires.

If I had to choose two specific locations where I have felt especially close to God, however, they would not be on mountains or underneath a shimmering night sky, but in places much more homely and more simple. The first was two years ago when we walked to the Worm's Head on the Gower in South Wales. This tiny peninsula can only be reached at low tide when the causeway is clear for a few hours and people scramble across the rocks to reach the headland overlooking Rhossilli Bay. On a glorious August morning we reached the outcrop and sat above the precipitous cliff watching the seals playing in the sparkling water below. The sun was warm on my back, the gulls wheeled overhead and I managed to drift into a state of total relaxation and happiness. God was indeed present in such a landscape as surely he had created its beauty and led us there to see it.

The other place where I felt the presence of a deep spirituality was also beside the sea but in a place where the human habitation of the landscape was

as ancient as it could be. The prehistoric houses at Skara Brae in Orkney nestle below a white sandy beach, sunk into the turf to protect them from the wind. They are the oldest houses in the British Isles and the sense of a place long-loved lingers in the stones which remain. I was quite alone when I arrived, the wind whipping up from the sea and not a living creature in sight. There was a feeling of complete peace, of history speaking its secrets, of a time long past but not lost, of human frailty and human endurance. I doubt that on another visit I would be able to replicate this wonderful experience, but I know that on that day, I felt closer to God than at any other time in my life.

Helen Plaice

**THE CELESTIAL CONDUIT
AND THE GIRL WITH THE GLORIOUS LAUGH**

From the hills came a priest to our aid.
Reluctantly. Obediently.
From his loving parish persuaded
with the girl with the glorious laugh.

He demonstrated Christian ways
and he taught us with God's Good Grace.
He brought many gifts but the best
gift of all, a benediction ace,
love each other better, always!

Each Christmastime the Church Hall rang
with stallholders selling their wares
and Santa gifted children's song.
But in memory framed for choice
is that special glorious laugh.

The Farewell party is imminent
and our gratitude holds no bars,
(secretly some tears will be spent
when they move on to spread more joy.)

Apostle years complete they go.
Reluctantly, Obediently.
So we'll think joy, (our tears repressing,)
that others now shall share his blessing
and feel the healing in their hearts.
Farewell, beloved Rector and your wife
the girl with the glorious laugh.

Pamela M. Peacock

REACH OUT – FRENCH STYLE

During our spring visit to our daughter in France, we once again attended the Sunday morning service at St Mark's, the English speaking church in Versailles, and received the usual warm welcome. Over the last 18 months they have raised in excess of €650,000, sufficient for construction of the main "Church Upstairs" which will provide seating for

250. Work started in March with the handover of a usable shell due in August. The new church is being built on top of the existing one, which they have outgrown, and which will become the church hall. A further €500,000 is still to be raised to complete a new



entrance, reception area and extended car park. The enlarged building will have a greater impact on the local community, as with its increased height and tower it will be visible from the road, motorway and railway. The photo shows the present state of construction.

In addition to enlarging their own building, St Mark's committed to giving 10% of the monies raised to help other church building projects overseas, and are helping projects in Baghdad, India, Uganda, Romania, Nottingham and Zermatt.

Our visit coincided with their worship together Sunday, called "On Your Marks". The teaching part was a fun, "on the sofa" TV style interview, with the "Duke and Duchess of Cambridge". The main theme was the prayer that Kate and Will wrote for their wedding. Our daughter was elevated to royal status for the morning!!

If you would like to keep up to date on building progress at St Mark's please visit <http://www.stmarksversailles.org/photoblog/index.html>.

Janet and Mike Blaxland



Confirmation 2011

Are you interested in exploring what it means to be a Christian and to be a member of the Anglican Church?

Do you have questions such as:

- ♦ Why do the colours change in church some weeks?
- ♦ Why do we eat bread and wine as part of some services?
- ♦ What is in the Bible?
- ♦ Why is confession a part of every service?
- ♦ OR ??????????

In September we hope to start new confirmation classes for adults meeting one evening a week and for young people meeting probably after the morning service. Experience has taught us that we need to begin the process early so the new groups will begin mid September.

It may be that :

- ♦ You are new to the church and wonder what it is all about.
- ♦ You are a young person who has grown up in the church and would like to explore what it means to have a faith for yourself.
- ♦ You are a couple coming to church in preparation for your wedding or someone bringing your baby for baptism and you would like to learn more.
- ♦ Your are an established member of the church who has never been confirmed and would like to take that step.

For whatever reason, you are welcome to join us. The groups will be informal with lots of opportunities to ask questions.

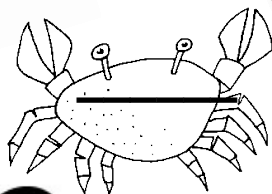
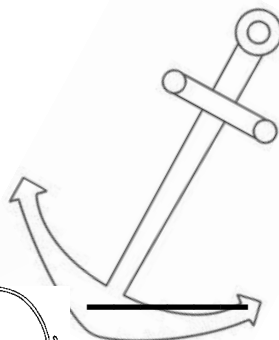
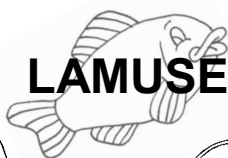
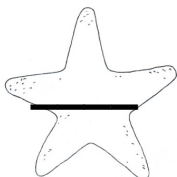
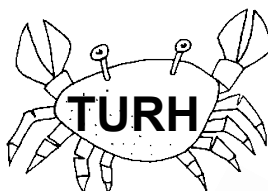
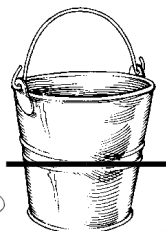
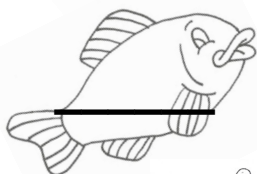
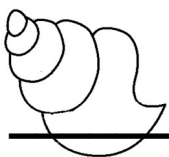
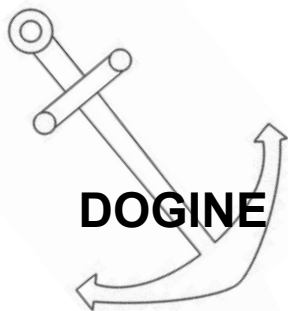
If you are interested please contact Ruth the Curate by phone on 01384 373286 or e mail her on home@riatkinson.plus.com Alternatively you could ring the church office on 01384 441003 or e mail st.mary.os@btinternet or you could fill in a welcome card marking it confirmation and leave it in the clergy tray at the back of church.



FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

THE SEA

Write the unscrambled names of these Old Testament people in the matching shape.



Colour them in when you're done.



SORT OUT THE FISH

Colour the letters K V B in red and CPX in blue. You will find what Jesus told his disciples they would be.

K	V	F	I	B	S	C	H
E	P	R	S	X	K	P	B
X	C	V	K	O	P	F	C
V	M	P	E	B	X	N	V



SEA FISHING

1. Peter and Andrew were both: _____ (Matt 4: 18)
2. Jesus fed the 5000 by its shore: _____ (John 6: 1)
3. Where was Jesus when the storm rose? _____ (Mark 4: 38)
4. He tried to walk upon the water: _____ (Matt 14: 29)
5. James and John worked on their father _____'s fishing boat (Mark 1:19-20)
6. The number of big fish caught in the net? _____ (John 21: 11)



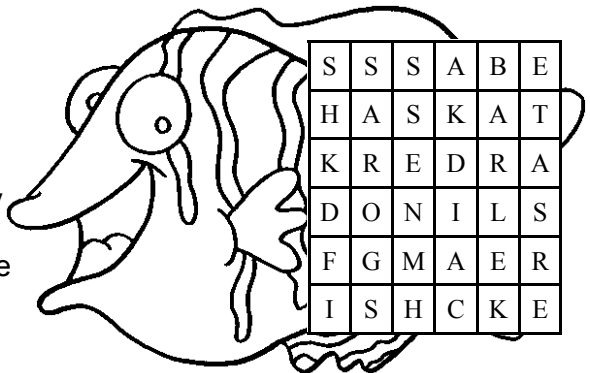
BIG FISH

This fish has swallowed lots of other fish.

You can find out which ones by tracking across, up and down (not diagonally) from one square to the next.

Use all the squares.

There are 6 fish to be found.



S	S	S	A	B	E
H	A	S	K	A	T
K	R	E	D	R	A
D	O	N	I	L	S
F	G	M	A	E	R
I	S	H	C	K	E

FIRST TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

At our May meeting the group reflected on Kanthi's Easter sermon in which she presented her interpretation of a painting of the Resurrection by Vittore Carpaccio, an Italian artist of the late 15th Century. After the discussion it was suggested that we could use the theme of Christian Scripture in Art for further Fellowship meetings.

In the first of the series at our June meeting in the Rectory we discussed two very different works. The first painting was Salvador Dali's Christ of St John of the Cross. We were told that this striking image was Dali's first painting after his conversion from surrealism following the atomic bombing of Japan. The picture of the Crucifixion is viewed from above the Cross and it has received protests from some critics in the past for looking down on Christ. However when the large picture is hung on a wall the clever use of light and perspective gives the impression that the viewer is looking up at the Cross. This was effectively demonstrated when Greville produced, as if by magic, a large, framed print of the picture and placed it on the mantel-piece. Interpretation from the picture included Jesus as the light of the world and the triangle of arms and body as representative of the Holy Trinity.



Christ of St John of the Cross
Salvador Dali 1951
© Culture and Sport Glasgow



The Adoration of the Magi
Johanne Friedrich Overbeck 1813
Kunsthalle Hamburg

The second painting for our discussion was a picture of The Adoration of the Magi by Johann Friedrich Overbeck, a lesser-known 19th century German artist who tried to recreate the Italian Renaissance style. The apparently simple picture is less intense than some of the classical paintings of this subject but contains many details of interest which were questioned by the group. Was Joseph an old man? Was the third of the magi a woman? Were the musicians the shepherds in the popular story of the Nativity? The Christ-child as the focal point of the picture was clearly defined by the light and spectators' views while their postures were seen to express serenity, humility and love.

Following our art discussion Greville entertained us with stories of some of his childhood experiences while living in Wales including the rules of 'sermon cricket' in which the movements of the preacher's arms and hands are interpreted as scores and dismissals in a cricket match. He also told us of an occasion when, while sitting with the family in the congregation in a Welsh church the 'four Crosses were condemned to Hell!'

The next meeting of the First Tuesday Fellowship will be held on Tuesday 5 July at 17 Rectory Road, when we will continue our series of discussions of Scripture in Art. Do come along and join us (bring a picture if you wish!) but please advise Alec and Janet Beevers (01384 444229) in advance.

COFFEE AND CAKE

Our Coffee and Cake morning in the Narthex held in May raised £320 for our funds. It is always good to see so many people enjoying meeting and chatting: a very pleasant way to help the needy in the world.

Thank you to all who fetched and carried, baked cakes and served them, made coffee and washed up, made donations to the raffle and sold tickets. Our grateful thanks go to all of you who came to support our coffee and cake morning we cannot do it without you.

Doreen Ryan

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

At the recent Deanery Service six members represented the branch. Special service membership certificates for three of our members were announced: fifty years for Hazel White and Marion Tyler, and seventy years for Betty Foulkes. What a remarkable achievement and congratulations go to them all.

Anne May reported that the tea party held in the Narthex for the Mothers' Union projects in the Worcester Diocese has raised £200.75 so far and she thanked everyone involved.

An informal discussion of the work undertaken by the branch followed and the scope of the Mothers Union work is displayed in the Narthex: do examine this when you are in St Marys.

The meeting concluded with a service led by Brenda Selby in which we recalled past work of the branch, especially remembering the Belorussian family from Chernobyl. They were sponsored for a Mothers' Union holiday in Old Swinford and the diocese following the nuclear explosion.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: The next meeting will be on 12 July at 2.30pm which will be a garden visit and tea at 10 Rectory Close. The Mothers' Union wave of prayer will be on 7 September. And finally, Betty Foulkes will be leading us with her report on "Railway Journeys" at the Coach House on 13 September at 2.15pm.

Dawn Nex

NEWS AND NOTES

Mothers' Union held a most successful afternoon tea-party hosted by Anne May. She was ably assisted by members and friends, and a delicious tea and friendly conversation were enjoyed by all. As Anne's tickets explained, the main purpose was to raise funds for M.U. Diocesan projects but so much more was achieved in the sheer happiness of the gathering. Well done Anne!

Another 'Narthex' event was the celebration of a significant birthday for Margaret Casey following a Thursday morning Communion Service. The Rector set us a challenge to write a limerick starting "There was a young lady from Lye..". It caused a great deal of merriment. I think it was agreed that the offerings from Diana Perry and Geoff Skelding were most successful. We also sent a card to Betty Tandy.

To finish may I say thank you to Pauline Cross who arranged for us to visit the National Arboretum where so many of our servicemen are remembered. We attended a service in the chapel just as the clock struck eleven. It was a special place to be - moving and peaceful.

Anne Davies

PRAYER DIARY

How stimulating and useful I am finding the Prayer Diary! When we were told that the diary was to be increased in its scope and availability, funded by discontinuing the publication of the Diocesan News, my reaction was initially of relief at the passing of the WDN. Apart from the Bishops' Letters and information about the movements of other clergy around the diocese I read none of it. On more than one occasion I wrote to the editors deploring the presentation and I liked even less the empurpled version. I sent lively samples from other dioceses and suggested that if expense was a problem that perhaps six instead of ten annual issues could be produced. Nothing happened!

Now I have a very personal booklet alongside my other prayer time papers. Each Sunday there is a special article on some initiative around the area and every day a request for prayer from parishes followed by the name of a bishop from abroad together with the land which he represents. From Old Swinford I look out across Worcester Diocese to other Christians in India, Australia, Africa and the Americas, both north and south. Sometimes I catch a glimpse of a once familiar face. Recently there was news from Hanley Swann where Greville and Pauline will be established later in the year. When the family was younger we used to tramp up Bredon Hill to look across Housmann's "coloured counties" and those memories have resurfaced as I read of and prayed about those parishes around its foot.

I was finding the print rather small and therefore pleased to take up the offer of a large print edition which is posted to me quarterly. When I phoned to ask about postage Sam Setchell suggested that I made a contribution to my parish expenses so I dropped a two pound coin into that useful wall safe. (I expect the paperwork at the Diocesan Office would have exceeded what I might have sent but the gesture was friendly and appreciated).

As this magazine now includes the letters from the Bishops I have most of what I valued in the WDN. Thanks to those who thought of increasing our diocesan prayer circle. I am very grateful.

Granny

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH HALL

We are still trying to get the loop system working but, at the moment, it is 'back to the drawing board'. We will persevere! We have no events planned at the moment but would welcome suggestions from our readers for autumn and winter. If anyone has a working hover mower they would be willing to donate to the Church Hall, it would be very much appreciated.

Ian Ferguson

RECIPE FOR JULY PRAWN COCKTAIL CROSTINI

When I am entertaining I often miss out on the starter and serve something like this with drinks before. It frees me up to concentrate on the main course while friends are eating and drinking.

INGREDIENTS

½ long thin baguette
Little softened butter
4 tablespoon mayonnaise
1 tablespoon tomato ketchup
A dash Worcestershire sauce
A dash lemon juice
200g shelled cooked large prawns, drained well and dried on kitchen paper
Paprika

Cut the baguette into 24 slices (1/4 in), spread one side with butter. Arrange butter side down on a baking sheet lined with baking parchment. Cook in a hot oven for 8 minutes, until golden brown.

In a bowl mix together the mayonnaise, ketchup, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice. Add the prawns and season. Spoon the mixture on top of the pieces of bread so that each one has about three prawns on each. Sprinkle with paprika.

Cook in a hot oven 220°C/gas7 for 6-8 minutes.



Or you can make my easier version:

200g shelled prawns, drained and dried.
2-3 tablespoons mayonnaise
1 teaspoon of curry paste (I like the hot one)
A bag of small readymade bruschettas

Mix together the mayonnaise and curry paste, add the prawns. Put 3 prawns on each bruschetta and bake for 5-6 minutes in a hot oven.

RECIPE FOR AUGUST ALMOND PANNACOTTA

This light, just-set cream has taken over in popularity from Tiramisu though I like both. For ease I usually make it in martini type glasses or ramekins to avoid last minute turning out and this allows you the right amount of wobble. Can be flavoured with 2 teaspoons of vanilla bean paste or essence omitting the almonds.

INGREDIENTS

40g whole almonds or flaked almonds
175 ml milk
225 ml double cream
2 tablespoon of caster sugar
1 ½ teaspoon of gelatine powder
Toasted almonds to garnish

Toast the almonds lightly, chop and put in a pan with the milk, cream and sugar bring to a simmer then turn off and leave for 10 minutes to infuse.

Put 2 tablespoons of cold water into a bowl and sprinkle over the powdered gelatine. Leave to sponge (about 3 minutes). Strain the milk mixture into it and stir until completely dissolved, discard the almonds.



Pour into glasses or moulds and chill overnight. Sprinkle over the toasted almonds. If you have made a vanilla version a fresh raspberry makes a simple garnish.

Ann Jennings

Have you ever made one of Ann's delicious recipes? Why not write in and tell us about it. We'd love to give Ann some feedback or perhaps you may want to make some requests for the future...

The Editors

AND FOR THE WINE.....

What is the best bottle of wine you've tasted so far this year? I recently enjoyed a bottle of the Etienne Sauzet Puligny-Montrachet 2001. Mature and oaked, its style was rich with flavours of butterscotch and apple crumble. The village is one of the finest sources of white Burgundy - the great glory of Chardonnay. However you may not want to spend £25+ on a bottle of wine to accompany light bite crostini!

So, Chardonnay yes, but at a more modest price please and without the big oaky flavours. Indeed we are primarily looking for a wine to cut through the mayonnaise and complement the fleshy prawns rather than match the toasty crostini. A classic dry Chardonnay is in order so we will stay in France/Burgundy. Chablis is of course the epitome of crisp dry Chardonnay, but even the lesser Petit Chablis can be pricey these days.

Best bet might be a St-Veran or Macon-Villages from a little further south. With extra ripeness, these wines don't rely on oak treatments for their weight but they still exhibit the classic dry style. There are always limited alternatives for a weighty white. Semillon can answer the call. The Italian Greco and the Austrian Gruner Veltliner have the body but are rather obscure. Hopefully you haven't lost the taste for Chardonnay; but if you have, try one of these wines and then next Birthday treat yourself to a bottle of Puligny-Montrachet - and remind yourself just how good Chardonnay can be.....Enjoy your wine-sipping.

Richard W.B. Ryan

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP MAY WALK

Nine walkers took part in the May walk which was a linear one. The Group used the number 9 bus to Manor Way Halesowen and then walked back to St Mary's-approximately 8 miles.

Having crossed a surprisingly quiet A456 the public footpath takes you to the remains of the fishpond of Halesowen Abbey with a good view of the Abbey remains. Field paths led to a good tree lined path leading to Illey and the Black Horse Pub where we saw lovely views, as the weather was fine and clear. After crossing Illey Lane we followed a metalled track that

leads to Lower Illey and then into fields crossing one of the tributaries of the Stour. It began to rain as a field track took us to Hunnington where we crossed the Bromsgrove Road. A short walk down the hill put us on a good track through a farmyard to Uffmore Wood-a little muddy due to recent rain. Across Uffmore Lane and a good track up towards Clent and the Nimmings car park where the walk followed the contour line above the Penorchard Nature Reserve. Lunch was taken with a view of Halesowen and across to Rowley Regis.

The walk then crossed Hagley Wood Lane and followed a footpath below the Nimmings car park across a field and down to the A456 which was crossed to gain access to Wychbury Hill. A short walk through residential streets and then into Ham Dingle across Chawn Hill and brought us back to the Church.

Susan Solly

CHOIR NEWS AT ST MARY'S

On Sunday 10 July at 4:00 pm, the choir will be singing Choral Evensong in Worcester Cathedral. It was just over a year ago that the choir spent the whole weekend in Worcester leading the worship for the three major musical services that weekend – one service on Saturday and two on Sunday.

This year, by kind permission of the Dean and Precentor, Greville our Rector has been given the opportunity to lead the responses at Evensong. Like last year, I have invited a few friends to supplement our numbers and Richard Hall has kindly agreed to play for us once more. The music for this service is well under way and we are all looking forward to the event.

We do hope that, like last year, you will be able to support the choir at the cathedral. There will be no Choral Evensong at St Mary's on that day.

May I once again send out a plea for men's voices to join the choir? The boys coming through I believe will be quite loyal but they cannot be rushed!

Robin Walker
Director of Music

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

15 May Joseph William Darby
Oscar John Reese
Isabelle Amelia McCaul
5 June Edward Robert Lowe
Harry James Willetts
Darcy Ava Deakin

Weddings

14 May David Smart and Jody Thompson
21 May Johnathan Griffiths and May Helena Vivash
Joseph Maley and Charlotte Swain
27 May Craig Tucker and Louise Unwin
28 May Matthew Kitching and Shane Miller

Evenings with an Author 2011

September 21 - John Butterworth
October 19 - Carol Hathorne
November 16 - John Lampen

at: New Road Methodist Church Centre
7.30pm - £4.00 per evening

Further info from Sue Amer on 01562 66625

CHILDREN'S PAGE ANSWERS

Old Testament people:

David, Ruth, Samuel, Gideon, Jacob, Eve.

Sort out the fish:

Fishers of men

Sea Fishing:

1-Brothers 2-Galilee 3-Stern 4-Peter
5-Zebedee 6-153

Big Fish:

SHARK, DOGFISH, MACKEREL,
SARDINE, SKATE, BASS

THE BISHOP'S LETTER

The fact that this year is the 400th anniversary of the publication of the 'Authorised' or 'King James Version' of the Bible has been well publicised. And rightly so. No book has had more effect on our culture. It changed the way we think and speak.

The King James Bible is not just a literary masterpiece, though, it is the Word of God. For the Old Testament writers, the word of God is both a word and an action. God's words actually do something. The first mention of God speaking in the Bible comes right at the beginning of the Book of Genesis 'Then God said "Let there be light" and there was light. So God spoke and a universe came into being. As the psalmist put it 'By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; he spoke and it came to be.' The Word of the Lord still does remarkable things.



Robert Hicks was born tongue-tied and dyslexic. He was abandoned by his mother, beaten by his father and spent his childhood in and out of children's homes. He left school illiterate and worked as an errand boy for a local grocery shop where one of the staff, an ex-nurse, realised that he was physically tongue-tied. He had an operation, after which the surgeon recommended that he should copy words out from a book and practise reading them as he did so. The only book he could find was a battered King James Bible so he used that. For two years he copied and read it, slowly and painfully, and it was an exercise that changed his life. He found faith and a new determination to succeed. He joined a rising new company called Tesco, then became marketing director for the Co-op and opened the first hypermarket. Later he took over Scripture Union and within a year turned it around. He is best known for founding Back to Church Sunday. He was once interviewed by Esther Rantzen who said afterwards: 'During all the years I've spent making programmes I've been particularly interested in the stories of people who've had very tough childhoods ...,of all these stories the most inspirational was the story of Robert Hicks.'

The Word of God changes lives. I pray that it will go on changing mine, and yours, and many, many others.

Bishop John

My thanks to all those collectors who participated in the 'Knocking on Doors' during Christian Aid Week. Together we collected £2110.17, a pleasing result taking into account the challenging economic times we are facing at present. It is good to know that our efforts through Christian Aid will play a part in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you once again.

Stan Williams

More information can be found at christianaid.org.uk

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