

Welcome to the September  
2011 online edition of the  
St Mary's Parish Church  
Magazine



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## Parish Church Magazine



**RECTOR:** Interregnum in process  
All enquiries to the Parish Office

**CURATE:** The Revd Ruth Atkinson, 58 Arlington Court,  
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 1NN Tel: 01384 373286  
E-mail: [home@riatkinson.plus.com](mailto:home@riatkinson.plus.com)

**SEPTEMBER 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
<b>Curate's Day Off:</b>	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	

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

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

Thursday 1	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 3	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 4</b>	<b>THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
	6.30 pm Greville's Licensing at Hanley Swan
Tuesday 6	7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at 4 Worcester Lane
Thursday 8	10.30 am Holy Communion
Friday 9	7.00 pm Family Beetle Drive in the Church Hall
Saturday 10	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	Church open for English Heritage Weekend 10.00-12.00
	Copy date for October magazine
<b>SUNDAY 11</b>	<b>THE TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
	10.00 am Worship Together
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong
	6.30 pm ALM Authorisation Service at Worcester Cathedral
Monday 12	7.30 pm Flower Guild Meeting in Narthex
Tuesday 13	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
	2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House
Wednesday 14	7.30 pm PCC Meeting in the Narthex
Thursday 15	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 17	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 18</b>	<b>THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
Tuesday 20	2.00 pm Anchor Bereavement Care Group
	7.30 pm Christmas Market Meeting in the Narthex
Wednesday 21	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 22	10.30 am Holy Communion with Mothers' Union
	Corporate Communion
Saturday 24	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 25</b>	<b>THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
	Back to Church Sunday
	6.30 pm Songs Of Praise
	St Michael and All Angels
Thursday 29	10.30 am Holy Communion

### YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS

We hope our Songs of Praise at 6.30 pm on Sunday 25 September will feature hymns and music of meaning for you. If you wish to request a particular hymn to be considered for inclusion in this service please complete one of the slips you will find at the back of church or e-mail/phone Ruth the Curate or the Church Office. Please include details of why your chosen hymn is of special significance to you. We will do our best but cannot guarantee your choice will be included.

The front cover illustration reproduces the picture given to Greville and Pauline as part of their gift on the occasion of their leaving St Mary's. Thanks are due to neighbours in Rectory Road who co-operated in the project to produce this photograph.

## FROM THE RECTORY

## FROM YOUR WARDENS



Dear Friends,

The saddest duty either of us have had to perform is to accept back the keys of the rectory from Greville and Pauline – all in immaculate order, as you would expect. The rectory was inspected by the Diocesan Parsonages Committee on 26 August. This is to see what repairs and improvements are necessary for the next minister.

We are very disappointed that the process of appointing a new minister happens in a very rigid manner. This means it appears we shall be some many months before an appointment can be made. This is not what we were originally led to believe.

We have been greatly cheered by the support and offers of help we have received from the congregation. Thank you all.

We are very grateful to those members who are already doing extra work, particularly Ruth who is working so hard and so well and to those of you who will be helping out in the coming months. Many visiting ministers will be assisting us in this time and our thanks are due to them.

Greville rightly paid tribute to Richard Ryan's magnificent service as Verger Extraordinary and we are pleased to announce that his many and various jobs have been filled by volunteers - our thanks to them.

In conclusion, we feel we have been extremely privileged to have had Greville as our Rector. His selfless service to the Stourbridge community and to St Mary's in particular has been outstanding.

We wish Greville and his most supportive Pauline the happiest of lives in South Worcestershire.

With our kindest wishes and prayers

**Edward and Marjorie**

Dear Edward and Marjorie,

Thank you and the whole community of St Mary's, Old Swinford for the excellent service and celebration of Greville and Pauline's ministry that you hosted yesterday. In the speeches, we had a chance to look back and consider how much has been achieved over those thirteen years and there were some wonderful stories and jokes too. The hospitality afterwards was most generous, thank you.

I enjoyed the chance to catch up with members of the congregation and was pleased to see that many aspects of church life appear to be in good heart. The next few months will be challenging and I pray that you are able to find the right person to take the church forward – there are big shoes to fill!

Every blessing and love from all the family,

**Christopher Bryan**  
**Former Curate at St Mary's**

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2011

4 September Eleventh after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Ezekiel 33. 7-11	Romans 13. 8-14	Matthew 18. 15-20
11 September Twelfth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	Worship Together		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Ezekiel 20. 1-8, 33-44	Acts 20. 17-38	
18 September Thirteenth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Jonah 3.10-4.11	Philippians 1. 21-30	Matthew 20. 1-16
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 33	Acts 26, 19-25	
25 September Fourteenth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Ezekiel 18. 1-14, 25-32	Philippians 2. 1-13	Matthew 21. 23-32
	6.30 pm Songs of Praise	Ezekiel 37. 15-end	1 John 2. 22-25	

## STREET PASTORS

Churches Together in Stourbridge set up the Street Pastors scheme two years ago and continues to support the teams. Every Saturday and every other Friday night (and some Thursdays) the street pastors are out and about in town supporting those in need. While they are out, members of the team, based at New Road Methodist Church, are praying for them and for any others who have asked for prayer.

You may not feel that you have a call to pound the late night pavement in Stourbridge, but if you find yourself called to prayer perhaps you would like to consider joining the prayer team. At the moment these invaluable workers are eager to find others to join them. Not to worry—you wouldn't be expected to stay up all night! The prayer team is generally at the base from 9.45pm to 1.00 am.

Please call Naja on 07910 641833 or write to [Stourbridge@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:Stourbridge@streetpastors.org.uk) for more information and the dates of our patrols. You are very welcome to join us for an evening just to see what it's like.

## THANK YOU AND FAREWELL FOR NOW

In the afternoon of Sunday, 17 July the bells at St Mary's rang out a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples to call us all to worship. By 5.00pm over 400 people filled the pews for a Eucharist Service to celebrate our farewells to Greville and Pauline in recognition of their 13 years of ministry in Old Swinford. Led by the choir, the building filled with the sound of joyful voices singing the opening hymn in celebration of a pastoral leadership and friendship widely appreciated. In different and positive ways Greville and Pauline had touched the lives and hearts of so many.

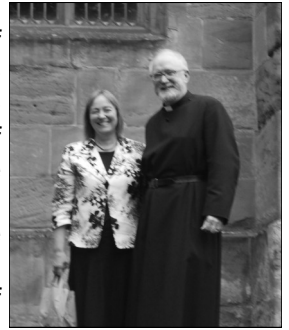
The service readings and hymns had been selected by Greville and Pauline to highlight the principles of vocation and ministry and included some wonderful choral pieces from Haydn's Little Organ Mass that were sung with special meaning for the couple who have so valued and encouraged the musical talent with which St Mary's has been blessed. The young voices of children from Old Swinford C of E Primary School sang with their thanks to a Rector who has always found time to share in their learning and progress and to delight in their success. Throughout the service in prayers, readings, intercessions and hymns the congregation united in their praise and thanks to God for all Greville and Pauline have brought to their lives and with good wishes for the future.

The Sermon was presented with great warmth and glowing confidence by the Revd Jennifer McKenzie, former Curate of this parish. There was a real sense of anticipation as this much-loved lady stepped into the pulpit to speak to us all, with God's love and guidance, of the value of Greville's ministry. In words we may have wished to have chosen ourselves Jennifer acknowledged the grace, love and generosity with which Greville had blessed, inspired and enriched our lives. She spoke of God's calling of us all to ministry, of the part each of us may have to play and the importance of meaningful prayer in helping us to meet that calling to bear fruit that would last. Jennifer reflected on how the fruit of Greville's and Pauline's ministry has lasted throughout their service in this parish and elsewhere. She reminded us of God's will. That, with our lives enriched from love and through the resources God himself would provide, we should celebrate what has been and face the challenges of the future with confidence through prayer.

Jennifer recollected for us the words from the New Testament Reading of Paul's letter to the Philippians: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"

As the choir and clergy assembled in the nave and on the chancel steps to surround Greville and Pauline, the service concluded with prayer. Aptly and ably led by the Revd Ruth Atkinson we made an exchange of thanks and pledges in the form of a Franciscan Liturgy. The choir then sang Rutter's "The Lord bless you and keep you" before Richard Hall played the Voluntary - "Fanfare" by Nicholas Jacques Lemmens.

Later, in the church hall where the Social Committee had overseen the provision and preparation of a rich 'Bring and Share' tea, we assembled for the presentation of gifts to Greville and Pauline. Such is the esteem in which this couple is held that the generosity of contributors had provided a very substantial boost to the Cross Family Holiday Fund, a camera, a glass memento, for Pauline specifically a hotel voucher and some perfume and, at the centre, a most beautiful picture of the church and rectory. The scouts added their tribute in the form of a mounted display of scouting regalia.



Edward Haden, Churchwarden, led the presentation with a moving tribute that recognised the skills and talents Greville, with Pauline's support, had applied to the benefit of the parish, the church building, the community and to each of us as individuals. In so doing Edward shared some personal reflections and then referred to Greville's enduring respect and appreciation for all those who have worked alongside him at St Mary's. He highlighted the enormous contributions of Michael Woodall and Jane Jukes who, in their own spheres of responsibility had helped to ensure the current rude health of the St Mary's community.

Marjorie Ferguson, Churchwarden, continued the tribute with some heartfelt words that expressed on behalf of us all the love with which we were saying our goodbye and thank you to a couple who individually and together had brought so much of value to our spiritual and wider lives.

Greville responded on behalf of Pauline and himself with an intended brevity that was soon lost as he recalled many instances of special meaning and support that had enabled him to realise God's calling throughout the past 35 years and, in particular, during his time at St Mary's. He paid tribute to many people whose support and counsel had enabled him to cope with the demands of the task he had undertaken, mentioning in particular our Churchwardens, Edward and Marjorie and the musical leadership of Robin Walker and Richard Hall. With obvious deep affection Greville referred to his plans for the future with his 'beloved blonde' and characteristically presented a warm welcome from them both to enjoy a cup of tea and a chat whenever we might be in the vicinity of Hanley Swan.

**Tony Tatford**

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**ENGLISH HERITAGE OPEN DAY**

As in previous years the Church will be open for the English Heritage Open Day on 10 September from 10.00 until 12.00. Our theme this year is the Great War memorials of Oldswinford and Stourbridge. A short talk will be given by Roy Peacock on researching memorials at 10.30 and repeated at 11.30. An opportunity will be available to search for family and other names in 'Soldiers who died in the Great War', the national database. Everyone is invited.

**Roy Peacock**



## THROUGH THE PENNINES BY BOAT

### PART 1

There are three inland waterways which cross the Pennines between Lancashire and Yorkshire, and all vary in their size and style. The most northerly of these is the Leeds and Liverpool canal, which runs between the two big cities of Skipton and Burnley, passing through Blackburn on the way. It is also Britain's longest canal at 127 miles, and it has 91 locks.

Further south comes the Rochdale canal, which links Sowerby Bridge in Yorkshire with Manchester, running via Hebden Bridge and Rochdale. This waterway is 32 miles long and also contains 91 locks. Both canals have broad locks, 14 feet wide, although Rochdale locks are longer.

Most southerly of all though, lies one of my favourite canals, the Huddersfield Narrow, which runs from Ashton-under-Lyme near Manchester, northwards to the town of Huddersfield in Yorkshire. It is only 20 miles long but contains 74 locks and a tunnel over 3 miles long, and it is perhaps not a canal for beginners. This was to be my way over and through the Pennines aboard my Narrow Boat "Waverley".

It was a wet Monday morning in late April when we arrived in Ashton-under-Lyme, after travelling north from Birmingham along the Coventry, Trent and Mersey, Macclesfield and Peak Forest canals. Here we entered the Huddersfield canal for the first time. My crew member Richard, who comes from Huddersfield, is new to canals. Did he know what he was letting himself in for I wondered? Nigel, my already canal-hardened crew member would not be joining until Thursday.

As its name suggests, this canal has narrow locks, seven feet wide, and they come in quick succession after leaving Ashton. We forged ahead in very urban surroundings, with the rain slowly clearing. After a dozen locks, we arrived in the town of Stalybridge, and moored right beside a new Tesco store, very handy!

This section of canal through Stalybridge is entirely new and very smart, as until recently, the Huddersfield Narrow was a derelict canal after 50 years out of use. Fortunately, it is now restored to its former glory, including this section, which had previously been built over, and now stands as the focal point of Stalybridge. We then ascended through a few more locks, before mooring out in the country by the short Scout Tunnel, the Pennines now looming ahead of us.

Tuesday saw us ascending more locks, and as we did the scenery improved. It was easy to see why there were so many locks on this canal, although the scenic views make up for the labour of working so many of them. Also prominent on the Huddersfield Narrow are the number of old mills, built during the industrial revolution, although today they are not the dark satanic mills of a century or more ago. We moored that night by an old Canal Transhipment Warehouse, now smartened up by the Huddersfield Canal Society, who instigated the restoration of this fine waterway. Later that evening, we visited "The Navigation" for a meal and a drink. ....*To be continued*

**Michael Rolfe**

## PRESENTATION TO VERGER

Father's Day was extra special this year as it coincided with a presentation in church on my retirement as Verger and thanks go to all those concerned. I don't know how I ever came to be a verger...

About twenty years ago I was asked to write the wedding registers for about three or four months during the interregnum before Owain Bell came as Rector. But twenty years on I was still writing them and on the way I somehow picked up other duties as Verger and Sacristan, all of which kept me busy at times. But I have been very happy to serve at St Mary's in this way. I can't believe I did all those various duties for so long but it was all made easier by the fact that I had two excellent Rectors to work with: both Owain Bell and Greville Cross were very helpful and understanding and kept me informed of all that was happening.

The churchwardens, Marjorie Ferguson and Edward Haden, have also been very supportive. My wife Doreen has turned out to help on funeral days and I am very grateful to her for this.

But sadly now it is time to stand down. I wish success to those who are succeeding me and I hope they derive the same satisfaction from these duties that I have done.



**Richard Ryan**



## BARN DANCE

### A Social Event for Harvest Festival

**7.00 pm Saturday 8 October  
in the Church Hall**

**Full details and a list to sign will be available  
at the back of church in mid-September**



## ST MARY'S FLOWER GUILD

In support of the Deanery Mission Weekend we hope to decorate the church on Friday 7 October with floral arrangements incorporating items that reflect the commercial nature of the Old Swinford Community. You are warmly invited to a meeting, in the Narthex, at 7.30 pm on Monday 12 September to discuss and organise our approach to this event. All are welcome to attend.

**Sally Frost**

## **DEAR FRIENDS....**

Pauline and I were quite overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity that accompanied our leave taking on 17 July. It is hard to express in any way adequately the gratitude we feel for the cards, letters and gifts that we have received at the Rectory. The 'farewell' service was memorable and poignant, blessed by the excellent singing of the choir, the address by Jennifer and the presence of so many good friends singing heartily. We were simply wrapped in love and moved very deeply. We are particularly grateful to the social committee and all who contributed to a splendid spread in the church hall and the kind words of Edward and Marjorie. But we never had the opportunity to thank you all for the wonderful gifts with which we were presented. There was a camera (digital SLR) for me and exotic perfume and a restaurant token for Pauline, the most splendid framed photograph of the Rectory and Church and a cheque towards our travel fund the size of which left us speechless – quite an achievement! It will provide us with an opportunity to see some parts of the world that we thought we would never get to, and when we go we will think of you all with great affection and gratitude. We take with us many good memories that will be treasures in the years to come and a profound gratitude for all we have shared. Thankfully there are never any good-byes in the Christian family – but till we meet again may God be with you.

With our love and thanks

**Greville & Pauline**

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## **DEANERY MISSION WEEKEND**

Churches in the whole of the Stourbridge Deanery have been asked to become involved in a Mission Weekend on 7, 8 and 9 October. A programme will be created describing how each Church is contributing.

As the Mission Weekend will include our Harvest Festival, it has been decided that it would be wonderful if we could include the local area in our harvest as a celebration of their gifts to our community.

Our parish is not fields and wheat, apples and cabbages but shops, garages, schools, commerce, hairdressers, dentists, buses, trains and other important aspects of our lives. We will be asking people, who would like to take part for a returnable item, which depicts their business, public service, etc. and these will be used in our harvest flower decorations.

Our Flower Guild has agreed to decorate the church on the Friday afternoon so that the church can be open to visitors on Saturday October 8, with refreshments and music. We hope that lots of people from our parish, including people associated with the businesses that are represented through the displays, will come and visit our beautifully decorated church.

As part of the weekend we also plan to host a barn dance in our church hall on the Saturday evening as a social event but also as a means of gathering harvest gifts which we can later share with others.

## WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

Twelve months ago when I began my role as Parish Administrator I successfully applied for ALM training which was offered by the diocese. Authorised Lay Ministry Training seeks to recognise and support the many gifts of ministry that people can offer the work of the church through practical and spiritual development within a chosen subject area. The areas on offer have been evangelism, working with children, leading worship, pastoral care and administration. Over the past 12 months I have attended specialist evening sessions with other administrators looking at different aspects of the role and work as well as five whole-day sessions when all trainees came together to develop their spiritual and theological thinking through guided workshops and discussion.

I have found the course to be very stimulating and supportive in not only developing my own faith, but also underpinning the work that I do on a day to day basis from the church office. The culmination of the year will be through official authorisation by the Bishop at a service in Worcester Cathedral on September 11 at 6.30pm when we will each be presented to the Bishop and duly authorised within the specialist area in which we have studied.

Numbers of ALM's are growing rapidly within parishes as during the last two years just over 250 have been authorised to carry out work in the areas they have studied. It is seen as a very important development of parish work where ordained clergy are becoming fewer and more and more work is being taken on by lay people who are happy and willing to give their time, gifts and talents to promote God's kingdom. I am the first person from Old Swinford to follow the ALM course but in some parishes now there are up to six people who are ALM trained and being employed within their areas across their parish. The next training course will begin in September 2012 as the plan is to monitor the effectiveness and impact of the 250 ALM's already trained before continuing.

During September I hope to speak in church about what I have been doing. I will display a copy of the code of practice which may be helpful in giving a clearer understanding of the role of an ALM.

Thank you all for your prayers and support during the past 12 months and please feel welcome to attend the service in the cathedral on the 11 September at 6.30pm when I will be officially authorised by the Bishop as a Lay Minister in Parish Administration to work within the parish of Old Swinford.

**John Sutton**

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**Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises**

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

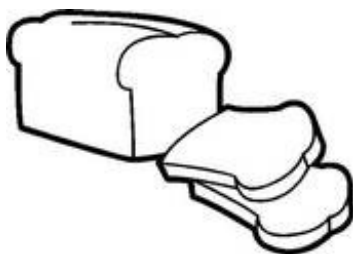
# COME TO OUR PARTY

BREAD is a food that has been made ever since people settled in one place and became farmers. There are many stages before we can eat the bread. Put these processes in order:

**GRINDING SOWING HARVESTING MIXING**  
**BREAKING BAKING GROWING**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_



How many loaves does your family eat in a week? \_\_\_\_\_

## PARTY FOOD

What are your favourite party foods?  
Get a paper plate or cut one out of card  
or paper. Draw, colour and label your  
plate of food.



**THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH HAS A SPECIAL PARTY** when we all eat and drink bread and wine. Jesus gave us the food so that we can grow strong and happy and become closer to Him.

## **MAKE YOURSELF A SILVER CHALICE**

You will need:

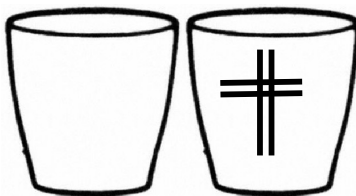
Glue

Silver foil

Egg Boxes

And a small piece of string

1) Cut two cups from the egg boxes



2) Stick string to make a cross on one half



3) Cut two D shaped holes on the other half



4) Stick them together

5) When the glue is dry cover the chalice in silver foil pressing it round the cross and turning it up inside the foot.

## **WHAT DOES YOUR FAMILY DRINK ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS?**

Put down the people in your family.

Uncles, aunts, grandparents, children etc

Find out what they like to drink.

Jesus and his friends drank wine.

**Gemma Sutton ©**

## SIDE BY SIDE THEATRE COMPANY

A few weeks ago Side By Side went to Prague to perform at the English Speaking Festival, an event which has been held there for the last 10 years. The actors were very excited and looking forward to the great experience! They went by plane to Prague, but all the props and costumes had to be driven over land by van, taking a couple of days.

On the first day it was off to the theatre to set up the props, lighting, sound and sort out the costumes and then a full rehearsal as Side By Side's first performance was to be the next day. They performed five times while in Prague with very good reviews. The show was called "Who is Pilgrim?", a very thought-provoking story of trying to find out who you are. On the first night the British Ambassador came to see the show and brought her family with her. You can imagine the excitement of it all especially as she stayed to see the actors after the show. Later on in the week they received an invitation to a garden party at the Embassy! What an honour!

The actors had some time to spend in the city of Prague - going to see the Castle and the Cathedral; the Astronomical Clock; a boat trip on the river and shopping.

Then it was back home and after two weeks of frantic rehearsals it was off to Stourbridge Town Hall to perform "Who is Pilgrim?" three times in our own town.

**Jane, John and Amanda Hill**

Worcestershire & Districts Association  
Old Swinford, Worcestershire  
St Mary  
Saturday, 9 July 2011 in 2H 50M

5184 Old Swinford Surprise Major

1 Christopher Lees  
2 Catherine Taylor  
3 Michael Chester  
4 Stephen Bedford (C)  
5 Richard Hurst  
6 Stephen Horton  
7 Mark Wilson  
8 Gordon Birks

Rung as a tribute to Revd Canon Greville Cross and marking the end of his full time ministry with the church and 13 years as Rector of Old Swinford

Worcestershire & Districts Association  
Old Swinford, Worcestershire  
St Mary  
Sunday, 17 July 2011 in 43M

1260 Grandsire Triples

1 David Banks  
2 Georgina Preston  
3 Alan Roberts  
4 Stuart Brydges  
5 Christopher Lees (C)  
6 Mark Wilson  
7 John Sutton  
8 Anthony Lloyd

Rung as a farewell tribute to Greville and Pauline Cross as they prepare to leave Old Swinford. With thanks for their love and ministry over the last 13 years.

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

Our final meeting before the summer break was an invitation to the home of Ian and Dawn Nex. Twenty members were served delicious refreshments in Ian and Dawn's beautiful garden. Ian is a true plants-man and the garden is a wonder of different varieties of plants, flowers, shrubs and trees, a quiet oasis. We are indebted to Ian and Dawn and their daughter, Charmain, for their generosity and the warm welcome we all received. Given the vagaries of the English summer weather we were also blessed with a fine day. We left feeling a little lighter in heart with memories of a special afternoon of Christian fellowship.

Members are respectfully reminded that the Annual Wave of Prayer takes place during the 4 – 9 of September, with Wednesday 7 being our allocated day. The Wave of Prayer Service is in the centre of member's copies of 'Worcester Waves'. Please make every effort to set some time aside to use it, as it is the keynote of our Annual Worship. Any member who does not have their copy please contact Anne May on 01384 392951.

Our new Diocesan President, Margaret Penn, is being commissioned on 7 September at St. Mary's Church, Kingswinford. Please remember Margaret in your prayers.

Our next scheduled meeting is in the Coach House at 2.15 pm on Tuesday, 13 September, our speaker is Betty Foulkes. Betty recently received her long service award for 70 years as a member of the Mothers' Union. Congratulations Betty!

**Anne May**

In a letter dated 5 July, Stuart Oddy, Treasurer, The Mothers' Union-Diocese of Worcester wrote to Anne:- "Thank you for the donation of £201 following the Fund Raising/MU Awareness Event you recently held. All the money will be used for work the Mothers' Union-Diocese of Worcester is undertaking within the diocese."

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### IN ABSENTIA

Take heart my friends. I see you pray,  
a sad face here and anxious looks-  
uncertainty, and queries flourish.  
"There's no-one at the helm," you say.

I saw his smile across the nave.  
I heard his voice in a hymn.  
I see his shadow behind you.  
There is no doubt, it's surely true.

Sadly now our Conduit distanced  
but he left us deeply nourished.  
If your heart's still 'heavy laden'  
remember the Advocate's here.

Look in the exchange of an eye,  
warmth of a smile, kind words healing.  
Obvious now? He is here – leading.

**Pamela M Peacock**



## NEWS AND NOTES

As I was preparing to wend my way to Oriel House, there to assist the Rector as he administered to the residents of this home, my thoughts turned to some of the places in the world where we have shared Communion.

I recall many occasions of attending services in some of our beautiful cathedrals: York, Worcester for Ordinations and Evensong when our choir has led the service from time to time. Romsey Abbey is another 'special'. When attending services there with my daughter Jane and family there is such a warm welcome, beautiful singing and memorable sermons. Others include Guildford Cathedral and the little church in Milford, Surrey, where daughter Claire was married.

I remember attending Communion in churches here and there: a Stave Church in Norway, a little church on a Danish island where the service was spoken in German. It did not matter that we could not read the service sheet for we could follow the service. A Russian monastery was another location where we were invited to join the congregation. Instead of wafers a large white roll was offered. The congregation were mainly the poor and needy. What a lasting impression that left.

The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, led by the Rector, was very special. I remember us sailing across the water and taking communion by the sea. At the appropriate time a cockerel crowed. What an unforgettable experience that was. The Oberammergau visit arranged by Brian Sutton, our visit to Assisi where we were later rocked by an earthquake, Rome, Venice, Lerwick, the Italian Church in Scotland, Canada, all have brought special memories to mind.

To sum up I quote the hymn, "Be still for the presence of the Lord is moving in this place." What more can I say except to reflect on how very meaningful and special our services have been for me and I'm sure many others. To our Rector may I say, "Thank you for all you have done throughout the years you have been with us" and to Pauline, "Thank you for all you have given and especially for your understanding of having to share your husband's time."

**Anne Davies**

.....

### STAMP OF APPROVAL

For several years now St Mary's has collected used postage stamps, both Great Britain and foreign, and forwarded them to the RNLI. The local branch of the RNLI last year alone benefited by over £500 from the sale of those stamps to a reputable stamp dealer.

Ideally, these stamps should be trimmed with a quarter inch margin all the way round ready for the RNLI to remove the backing.

Please continue to support this very worthwhile cause by leaving stamps in the box provided in the Narthex and also encourage your friends to save stamps too.

If you would like any further information please contact me on 01384 392232.

**Mike Woodall**

# ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

## PROGRAMME FOR YEAR 2011 TO 2012

Date	Location	Miles	Leaders	Tel No	Lunch
24 Sept 11	Cannon Hill Park and Rea Valley (Birmingham)	7.5	Sue	01384 829211	Picnic
29 Oct 11	Devil's Spittlefull & Rifle Range (Bewdley)	5.5	Janet and Mike	01384 390537	Pub
26 Nov 11	Hagley to Broome (Worcestershire)	5.5	Toni and Bob	01384 377096	Pub
No Walk in December					
28 Jan 12	Norton and Bunkers Hill Wood	5.5	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146	Pub
25 Feb 12	Alverley (Shropshire)	5.5	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146	Pub
31 Mar 12	Stourton and Enville (Staffordshire)	5	Ann and Roy	01562 886728	Pub
28 Apr 12	Stoke Prior (Worcestershire)	5.5	Sylvia	01384 392244	Pub
26 May 12	Dunley (Worcestershire)	5.5	Jean and Ray	01384 836924	Pub
30 June 12	Canals, Langley Green to Moxley (Black Country)	7.5	Janet and Mike	01384 390537	Picnic
28 July 12	Chelmarsh (Shropshire)	7	Jean and Ray	01384 836924	Picnic
No Walk in August					

- Notes
1. Unless otherwise stated all walks start from St Mary's at 9.30 am.
  2. All walks are on the last Saturday of the month
  3. For picnic lunches please bring your own food
  4. For pub/café lunches there is usually a good selection of meals for purchase
  5. All persons joining our walks do so at their own risk.

### FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR HEALTH

Men over 50 may have early signs of prostate cancer and yet know nothing about it. Kingswinford and Stourbridge Lions Club have arranged free PSA testing at Stourbridge Institute, in Bell Street, on 26 October from 7.00 until 9.30 pm. You are invited to come along and get yourself checked out.

**Mike Blaxland**  
**President K&S Lions Club.**

## A SPECTACULAR PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday this year, I missed our regular procession from church hall into church singing 'All Glory Laud and Honour' in a feat of synchronisation with the organ! We were in Granada in southern Spain. After a day of sunny sightseeing exploring the Alhambra palaces and gardens, I set off again from the hotel again around 7pm with two aims in mind: to try and see one of the famous Holy Week processions, and to walk through the city centre and up to the Albaicin, the Moorish quarter of pretty whitewashed houses, which lies on the opposite hillside from the Alhambra, to see the legendary red stone palaces at sunset.

The first aim was easily achieved. I had no idea there would be so many processions carrying heavy and ornate floats from parish churches all over the city, to the cathedral – virtually every street converging on the cathedral area was a procession route. By chance I arrived at a street corner with a few minutes to spare, enough time to get a spot on a raised tree bed between groups of families with children on shoulders, smartly dressed ladies, and young people in shades, looking cool and vaguely bored on the edge of the crowd. For the best view, you could buy tickets to sit in a red velvet clad spectator stand.

Raucous brass band sounds could be heard in a gradual crescendo, and very, very slowly the procession appeared. First were groups of figures with faces and heads covered by pointed hats in white and blue with holes for eyes to see through. Then suited men carrying huge palm branches, and then the enormous float itself, carried I guess by at least 20 young men. Elaborately carved wooden structures, decorated with gold and silver, these floats are so heavy that teams of carriers change shifts every few minutes. This one was a Palm Sunday tableau of Jesus on the donkey with disciples and Mary surrounding him.

Cameras on huge booms zoomed in on the procession and the crowd. Some small children on shoulders started to cry or covered their ears (that band was loud and not very tuneful!) Everyone applauded and cheered as the carrier teams changed and the whole spectacle moved on.

The atmosphere was festive, not at all sombre - much like the first Palm Sunday I imagine. Knowing there were processions set to happen every day of Holy Week, and that people spend a large part of the week in the streets following and taking part, I wondered if the mood changes as the week goes on, until Good Friday. I wonder if anyone has ever been in Spain for Good Friday and Easter Sunday? If so, let me know! Somehow I get the impression that the spectacle is as much a part of national culture and community life, as a religious exercise. A ban on processions under the short lived anti-clerical Republican government in the 1930s was so unpopular it was soon repealed.

Seeing the procession was easy - trying to make my way through the centre and upwards towards the Albaicin was less easily achieved. Every major street I tried to cross was full of people. Stewards prevented anyone crossing until the next procession had passed by. Weaving my way through back streets

and luckily timing one major street crossing just after one of the many statues of the Blessed Virgin had passed by, I got through, but by then the light was fading and with it my chance of seeing the Alhambra at sunset.

But I carried on, fuelled by coffee, a banana and adrenaline, up the little street that runs alongside the river Darro dividing the two hills of upper Granada, and reached a little plaza where I could look upwards at the towers of the red fortress way above, just as the floodlights were coming on, illuminating it for the night.

My sunset view from the opposite hill will have to wait till another visit. A must anyway, as Les spent Palm Sunday back at the hotel, suffering from a severe bout of dodgy tapas! Returning to the hotel, I found him watching local television with wall to wall coverage of the processions I had just witnessed firsthand, and national television showing similar processions from cities all over Spain. No commentary, just long, live scenes of crowds, floats, those hooded figures and multitudes of candles.

**Tina Timms**

### **CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION—MAY 2011**

This year we collected £2110.17 which was, once again, an excellent result. Additionally, 75 donors took the trouble to Gift Aid and their offerings totalled £746, resulting in an additional £150 being collected from the tax man. The key, as always, is the number of roads we are able to cover and the number of willing collectors who are prepared to give of their time knocking on doors, not the easiest of tasks in the present economic climate. We were able to attract two new collectors this year which helped to offset the loss of four regular collectors who could not help for a number of reasons, holidays, illness etc.

The young children of Old Swinford CE Primary School contributed £216.92 by bringing in a number of coins to help produce a line of almost 200 metres when placed side by side. My thanks go to the Headteacher, Mr Workman, all staff and especially the children for their support this year. An amount of £332 was received from Edward Haden representing 50% of the giving resulting from the Church Warden Admission Service held at St Mary's during Christian Aid Week. Thank you to the Archdeacon for agreeing to support Christian Aid in this way.

Counting the offerings can be painstaking but, at times, quite amusing. In addition to legal tender we found alternative currency ranging from euros, US dollars and including an old English sixpence. For the very first time, all foreign currency has been passed to the local treasurer for Christian Aid in order that some benefit can be derived from this.

This was an excellent result and thanks are certainly due, and have been given in church by Greville, to those who collected during the week. My thanks to you all.

**Stan Williams**

## **THIS MONTH'S RECIPE STUFFED MARROW RINGS**

Every year I am asked, what is the best way to prepare marrow? Being a family of two there is no way we want a whole stuffed marrow so I think the best way is to stuff the rings. I usually make the full recipe up and reheat the remaining half the next day. I also fill the rings with curried mince, make up your favourite minced beef recipe and add spice with curry paste. I use Patak's Hot Curry paste; they also make a mild version.

1 short thick marrow  
50g (2oz) butter  
50g (2oz) mushrooms chopped  
100g (4oz) lean cooked ham diced  
1 Tbsp chopped parsley  
Salt and Black pepper  
2 Tbsp breadcrumbs  
Cheese or tomato sauce (feel free to cheat and buy a tomato sauce if rushed)

Cut the marrow into rings 2 inches thick. Remove the peel unless the marrow is very young and tender. Scoop out the seeds; I use a small cutter for this. Butter a large ovenproof dish and arrange the marrow rings in a single layer, season with salt and pepper.

Heat 25g (1oz) butter in a pan and fry the mushrooms and ham for 2-3 minutes. Add the parsley, season well and stir in the breadcrumbs to bind the stuffing.

Fill the rings with the stuffing. Dot with any remaining butter and cover the dish tightly with foil so that the marrow will cook in its own steam. Bake in a pre heated oven gas mark 5/190°C for approximately 40-45 minutes or until the rings are tender.

Serve with (my sauce of choice) a hot cheese with ham or tomato sauce.

**Ann Jennings**

## **AND FOR THE WINE.....**

If you still have some picnic wines left after the inconsistent summer, then they might be just right for this creative dish of stuffed marrow rings. The parsley, marrow, mushrooms and sauce (whether cheese or tomato) point to a white wine and the whole dish suggests the sort of wine you may have bought for an outdoor summer event; dry and fresh rather than rich and oaky—Lugana, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, an unoaked Chardonnay or an Albarino. We can look to the wine to bring an aromatic dimension. This would extend our choice to our old friends Fiano, Torrontes and Viognier, which offer exactly this. Acquaintances of mine have just returned from Barcelona and when I asked which was the best wine they encountered there, they replied Albarino.

home in a tapas bar, so let our thought run to a land of reliable summer sun and follow the Spanish option. A white Rioja containing a fair proportion of Malvasia might be a good alternative but Albarino seems to have an extra shot of everything—intensity of fruit, variety of flavours: stone fruits and lime as well as an aromatic note. It is a native of the wetter north-west corner of Spain but I'll resist saying it makes the perfect wine for a summer picnic.

Enjoy your wine-sipping,

**Richard W.B. Ryan**

### **EAST AFRICA CRISIS APPEAL**

Thank you for your generous support of this appeal. A total of £853 has been forwarded to the Disasters Emergency Committee from St Mary's

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

Our June walk saw us in the footsteps of "Capability" Brown. Were we "browned off?" Not a bit of it! We were walking around the outer landscape features of Croome Park, the National Trust property, between Worcester and Pershore. We had a really good walk in near perfect conditions; the heavy rain of the day before had cleaned the air, so that the Malvern Hills were crystal clear in the sunshine and a constant backdrop.

Our walk took us around the perimeter features of the landscaped park; Pirton Tower, a not too convincing purpose-built ruin; the recently restored Panorama Tower from where Lord Coventry could watch the hunt; the Park Seat from where he could look across the winding lake to his mansion; and the grand London Arch through which he travelled to and from his London residence. It would be interesting to have had Brown's opinions on the gleaming white satellite dish, on the old airfield, just over the hill behind the house!!

We found all the footpaths very well signed and in fields where crops were growing a wide strip had been cleared to allow walkers to cross. The crops we encountered were very varied, wheat (which seemed to attract ladybirds), oats, barley, sweet corn, broad beans and oilseed rape. This last was already chest high, in places, and starting to encroach on the cleared paths.

The only down side to the walk was the M5 motorway which carved through "Capability" Brown's landscape in the early 1960s. We crossed it twice and were able to look down on the motorised lemmings that were going far too fast to appreciate the landscape that we were enjoying so much.

On arrival back at the National Trust car park the tea room, in a building still remaining from RAF Dufford built during WW2, was too big a temptation to pass by. The brand new shop enabled purchase of the first Christmas cards of the year. Yes next Christmas is just three months away!!

**Mike Blaxland**

# PARISH REGISTER

## Baptisms

19 June	Dougie John William Bridgwater Zack Campbell Tromans Nadine Maisie Flynn Matthew Bridgwater
3 July	Isabelle Grace Dyson Olivia Grace MacDonald
17 July	Chloe May Turley Jessica May Hobbis
7 August	Rosalia Ellena Dandy George Henry Edward Willetts

## Weddings

25 June	Nicola Sanderson & Philip Hitchman Kaye Shepherd & David Higgs Amy Roden & Adam Davies
2 July	Steven Farthing & Samantha Williams Hayley Ferris & Danny Garfield
30 July	Jason Stevens and Jodie Jacomb
5 August	Dale Priest and Sarah Barker
6 August	Daniel Mills and Emma Cadman

## Funerals

17 June	Vernon John Smith	aged 76
22 June	Steven Howard Alexander Wilkinson	aged 95
28 June	Mary Hanor Edwards	aged 85
4 July	Edward Donald Gordon-Smith	aged 94
12 July	Margaret Rose Harris	aged 72
18 July	Frank Reynolds	aged 91
26 July	Eunice Cook	aged 79

### 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 22 April 2011.

The total amount collected was **£307.40**

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

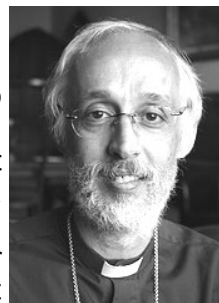
Dated 22 June 2011

## CHILDRENS PAGE ANSWERS

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. SOWING     | 5. MIXING   |
| 2. GROWING    | 6. BAKING   |
| 3. HARVESTING | 7. BREAKING |
| 4. GRINDING   |             |

## THE BISHOP'S LETTER

At the point when I was first seeking to respond to God's calling me to ordained ministry a wise priest said to me, "David, clergy are like horse manure - spread thinly they get the garden growing, but piled up all together they just make a stink!" It was an old joke even thirty years ago, but it's one I remember whenever I'm off to attend the House of Bishops or General Synod, and it has come to mind again as we get ready this month for the first Diocesan Clergy Conference we have had in my time in Worcester.



Like most of the jokes that pass the test of time, it has a grain of truth in it. The Church's licensed and ordained ministers are called to spend the vast majority of their time in their parishes and chaplaincies, growing the Church and Kingdom through their distinctive contribution to the ministry of all the baptised that is God's mission. And I've spent more hours of my life than I care to recall in clergy meetings that have descended into either competitive bragging, "my ministry is more fruitful than yours", or communal whinging about difficult funeral directors, over-demanding bishops and the intricacies of the Faculty system.

Also, like most good jokes, it's an exaggeration.

I'll be packing my bags later this month with a real sense of excitement and expectation. I'm looking forward to spending several days in the company of a large body of people deeply committed to living and proclaiming the Christian Faith and to responding to what the Holy Spirit is up to in the Diocese of Worcester. As we share our individual stories, I'll be looking to recognise the common themes and patterns that are the clues to where the most significant opportunities and challenges are arising, and hence where a Bishop's contribution can be most effective. I'll be enjoying praying **with** a body of people who, more commonly, I am praying **for**. And whilst the formal sessions and worship will be vital ingredients of the event, I'll also be looking forward to the informal chats and socialising that strengthen the friendships among us and so underpin the more formal occasions when I meet with our clergy and lay workers back in the Diocese.

So please pray for the Conference, for all who will be attending it, that we will be inspired both by God and each other, and return to Worcester strengthened for the time ahead.

**Bishop David**

## BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY- 25 SEPTEMBER 2011

This is the day when we are encouraged to invite people to come back to church and is becoming a regular feature of our church year. Songs of Praise at St Mary's will provide an opportunity for people to enjoy listening to or joining in with the singing of many favourite and much loved hymns. Please invite friends, family and neighbours to visit and enjoy worship at St Mary's on this occasion.



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