

Online version of
St Mary's Parish Church
Magazine
October 2011



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



RECTOR: Interregnum in process
All enquiries to the Parish Office

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OCTOBER 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
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@btconnect.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 OCTOBER 2011

Saturday 1	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 2	15th AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 4	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Thursday 6	10.30 am Holy Communion
Friday 7	2.00 pm Church open to decorate for Harvest
Saturday 8	10.00am Open Church and Vestry Hour Church open to welcome visitors to our Harvest Flower Festival
SUNDAY 9	16th AFTER TRINITY - Harvest Festival
	10.00 am Worship Together
Monday 10	Copy date for November Magazine
Thursday 13	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 15	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 16	17th AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 18	2.00 pm Anchor Bereavement Care Group
Thursday 20	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 22	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 23	18th AFTER TRINITY
Wednesday 26	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 27	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 29	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 30	4th SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT
	6.30 pm All Souls Service
	N.B. British Summer Time ends

CONGRATULATIONS

As we go to press many of us are reflecting on the celebratory service in Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 11 September at which John Sutton, our Parish Administrator was commissioned by Bishop John as an Authorised Lay Minister. Congratulations John and thank you for your commitment to this role in support of us all and the work at St Mary's. Our prayers support you.

ALFRED BERNHARD NOBEL

October 21, 1833 – December 10, 1896

Swedish chemist, engineer, innovator, and armaments manufacturer. He is the inventor of dynamite. On 27 November 1895, Alfred Nobel signed his last will and testament, giving the largest share of his fortune to a series of prizes, the Nobel Prizes. As described in Nobel's will, one part was dedicated to "the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses". The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded 91 times to 121 Nobel Laureates between 1901 and 2010 – 98 times to individuals and 23 times to organisations.

(see feature on page 12)

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends

October 8 and 9 is our Harvest Festival Weekend and this year we are looking to celebrate the work and harvest of the parish. It will be exciting to see the material that has come in from our community to represent the fruits of their work and then to see the creativity of those working with the displays. As Marjorie said in her letter about the event 'Our parish is not fields of wheat, apples and cabbages but shops, garages, schools, commerce, hairdressers, dentists, buses and trains'. We are fortunate to live in a community with so many and so varied gifts and we look forward to celebrating all that they bring.

At our 10.00 am 'Worship Together' service on Sunday 9 October we will still have our traditional collection of food gifts which this year will go to Stourbridge Food Bank and if you would like to make a contribution please bring tins, packets and jars of food to church at some point over the weekend. I know that in the current economic climate many are struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their families.

Please come and celebrate with us. The church will be open on Saturday to view the displays and Robin, our Director of Music, is arranging for some of the musicians to come and perform. The Sunday service will be for all ages with a message which is accessible for the children.

In September John Sutton our administrator was licensed as an Authorised Lay Minister; his understanding of the role as being so much more than administration is a gift to us all but in particular in helping to be a bridge between the church and the community. I hope that some of you will be inspired to look at Authorised Lay Ministry in other areas such as pastoral care, worship leading, evangelism and youth and children's work. Many of you have gifts in these areas and it would be lovely to see a group going off for training next year. If you would like to know more please speak to myself or John and look at the Diocesan web site under 'Training and Ministry'.

It is now just over two months since Greville left. Although he is now licensed into a new post this church community will be bearing the fruits of his ministry for a long time to come. I am enjoying the challenge his leaving has created but I also want to say thank you for all your encouragement and support.

With my prayers and best wishes,

SUNDAY SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2011

2 October	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 5. 1-7	Philippians 3. 4b-14	Matthew 21. 33-46
	6.30 pm Evensong	Proverbs 2. 1-11	1 John 2. 1-17	
9 October	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Worship Together		
	6.30 pm Evensong	Proverbs 3. 1-18	1 John 3. 1-15	
16 October	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 45. 1-7	1 Thessalonians 1. 1-10	Matthew 22. 15-22
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Proverbs 4. 1-18	1 John 3.16-4. 6	
23 October	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Nehemiah 8. 1-4a, 6-12	Colossians 3. 12-17	Matthew 24. 30-35
	6.30 pm Evensong	Nehemiah 8. 1-4a, 8-12	Matthew 24. 30-35	
30 October	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Micah 3. 5-end	Thessalonians 2. 9-13	Matthew 24. 1-14
	6.30 pm Evensong	Special Readings for All Souls		

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's a little thing, do something for others - something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it.

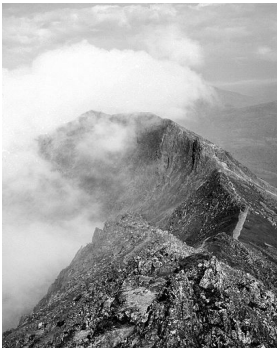
Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965)

FRANK'S WELSH 3,000 CHALLENGE

As most of you know Frank aimed to climb the 15 mountain peaks in Wales that are 3,000 feet or more above sea level. The challenge was to gain sponsorship to raise funds for NO LIMITS Community Project: working 4 autism, of which Frank is Chairman.



Frank is a very dedicated, committed person who, when he sets out to do something, does it to the utmost of his ability. This challenge was no exception. Before departure there were many hours of planning and preparation including a reconnoitre 3 weeks beforehand.



He set off with a volunteer, Ian 'Crazy' Humphries and two friends who would be staying with him for the weekend. They set off from Stourbridge at 4 a.m. on Saturday 6 August, reaching Pen y Pas at the foot of Snowdon at 7 a.m. They then began the climb of the first three peaks, those that form the Snowdon Massif, Snowdon, Carnedd Ugain and Crib Goch. On Sunday 7 they faced the challenge of the next 5 peaks that form The Glyders; Elidir Fawr, Y Garn, Glyder Fawr, Glyder Fach and Tryfan. All the time conditions were deteriorating and slowing progress so that Tryfan was not approached until 5 p.m. Tryfan rises to 3002 feet and Frank decided wisely that although he would be without his friends who had to return home to report for work on Monday morning he would be better attempting Tryfan first thing next day.

Monday brought no improvements in the cold weather as rain lashed down. Scrambling up the boulder strewn paths that ran like streams he managed to reach the summit of Tryfan and descend, returning to Idwal Cottage Youth Hostel. The next day he and 'Crazy' set off for the first peak of The Carnedd, Pen yr ole Wen, 3210 feet. This was a very arduous climb as weather made visibility poor and progress dependent upon Frank's GPS (a kind of pedestrian Sat Nav!). Faced with treacherous conditions Frank made the call to descend Pen yr ole Wen and make their way to their base at Rowan. Frank was hopeful that should the weather improve in the afternoon he may be able to tackle the remaining 5 Carnedd peaks, Carnedd Llewelyn, Yr Elen, Foel Grach, Carnedd Uchaf and Foel- Fras in reverse order from Rowan. Frank and 'Crazy' managed to climb Foel-fras but time ran out.

Frank was very disappointed and frustrated at being unable to fulfill the challenge he had set himself. He is determined not to be beaten and intends to return to complete these peaks in the near future.

To share the details of this epic we are putting together a free slideshow along with some refreshments. Obviously some of the slides will be from the reconnoitre visit when the sun was shining and the weather glorious!! This will take place in the Narthex one Saturday evening soon. We will advertise it in the pew sheet.

A huge thank you to all of you who sponsored Frank to support our charity and thanks also to the many friends who rang me and stopped me in church or in the street with their concerns for Frank as they followed the weather forecast. I was overwhelmed and so was Frank!! Bless you all.

Chris Morgan
NO LIMITS Project Manager

HARVEST FESTIVAL FLOWER DISPLAY

Once again the talents of our ladies have been enlisted as the Flower Guild will be decorating the church for our Harvest Festival during the weekend of 8 and 9 October. Local organisations and businesses have been approached in the hope that they will provide artefacts representative of their activities so that these may be incorporated in the floral decorations. It should prove to be very interesting to see the range of activities represented and how these are interpreted in the displays.

From 2.00 pm on Friday 7 October the church will be open for members of the Flower Guild and anyone who wishes to help to decorate the church. If you are able to help please contact Sally Frost

NOAH'S ARK AT ST MARY'S

This much valued group for parents, grandparents, carers and children 0 to school age has been supervised by Liz Holman and her helpers for some time. Now she has decided to retire and the PCC wishes to record grateful thanks to Liz for her work.

Mrs Janet Peart and Mrs Jane Knowles have generously volunteered to take on the duties of organising the 'Ark' and we are delighted and grateful to them. In a future issue we hope to share more detail of how you might wish to become involved with this group.

Edward Haden
Church Warden

CELEBRATING NEW MINISTRY

The Parish visit to Greville's licensing in his new ministry was widely supported by almost 100 people who filled two coaches and a few cars for the journey from Old Swinford to southern Worcestershire. Largely organised by our Churchwardens, to whom thanks are recorded, the visit proved to be a popular opportunity to see Greville and Pauline settled in their new location. It was obvious that they are already deriving some impetus from new encounters and challenges.

For most of those who made the trip this was a first visit to Hanley Castle, a picturesque and enchanting village of traditional rural cottages and some grander architecture that clearly had appeal to many of us more urban dwellers. Rural provision may not always keep pace with that expected in more populous locations and so it is that toilet facilities have not yet been made available in the church building. As a consequence, shortly after our arrival in Hanley Castle, several of our members were observed to head for 'The Three Kings' before entering the church. It is not known whether the landlord's takings benefitted from enhanced sales or whether simple thanks were all he collected.

In the church the welcome was a warm and comforting one as we settled into pews less enclosing but little more comfortable than our own. The building was full of interest and worthy of a future visit to investigate in more detail what which this occasion did not provide the opportunity to peruse.

Following a welcome from Canon Frances Wookey, the incumbent at Hanley, Bishop David presided over the service to licence Greville as Associate Priest in the benefices of Upton-upon-Severn and The Hook, Ripple and Earls Croome with Hill Croome and Strensham and Hanley Castle with Hanley Swan and Welland. Some title! It was a much enjoyed service, meaningful, uplifting, and joyous. After the Dismissal, Bishop David led the way to Upton-upon-Severn where he welcomed everyone at Upton Memorial Hall for refreshments and an opportunity to exchange greetings. Inevitably, Greville and Pauline were constantly surrounded by well-wishers from both their old and new parishes and the time passed quickly. After warm words of thanks from Greville to all those involved in the provisions of the day it was time to leave, into the rain which by now had begun to fall, and to the coaches for the journey back to Old Swinford.

The thanks of all those who travelled to Hanley are extended to everyone involved in the warm welcome we received, together with our best wishes for the future.

The Editor

A RECIPE SPECIAL

Our very own recipe expert, Ann Jennings, has been busy in the competition field and has received recognition for the quality of her creative skills in the recipes she submitted. Ann submitted a Trifle Cake recipe that was selected to appear with others, including those from celebrity chefs, in a Macmillan Recipe Book that went on sale in Marks and Spencer in August. In the October edition of Country Homes and Interiors, Ann's chocolate pear recipe is featured as the winning entry of the Divine Chocolate Recipe Competition. Ann has kindly allowed us to print this winning recipe for you - a second bite of the cherry (or pear) for this month only.

Congratulations and our thanks to Ann for the much enjoyed contributions she makes to our magazine and our diets.

The Editor

Divine Chocolate & Amaretto Pears

This is a stunning looking dessert, pears covered in Divine 70% dark chocolate with more than a hint of vanilla and Amaretto liqueur. What's not to like!!!!

4 ripe pears (Williams or Comice are good)
50g Divine 70% Dark Chocolate
2 dessert spoons of espresso coffee
Small knob of butter
1 dessert spoon of Amaretto liqueur (leave out for children)
1 large egg separated

Melt the chocolate and coffee in a bowl over hot water.

Peel the pears, leave the stalk on, dry them with kitchen paper.

Mix the butter, Amaretto and lastly the egg yolk with the melted chocolate mixture.

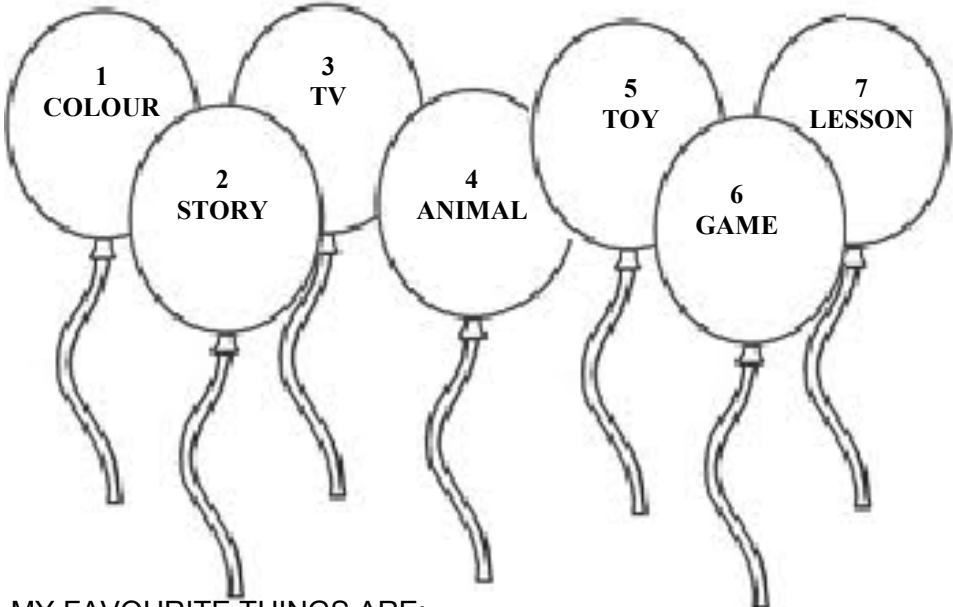
Whisk the egg white until just peaking. Stir a little egg white into the chocolate mix and then carefully fold in the remainder.

Holding the pear by its stalk over the bowl, spoon the mixture over the pear to coat evenly.

Put into the fridge to set. Decorate with mint leaves and serve with a small scoop of ice cream.

Ann Jennings

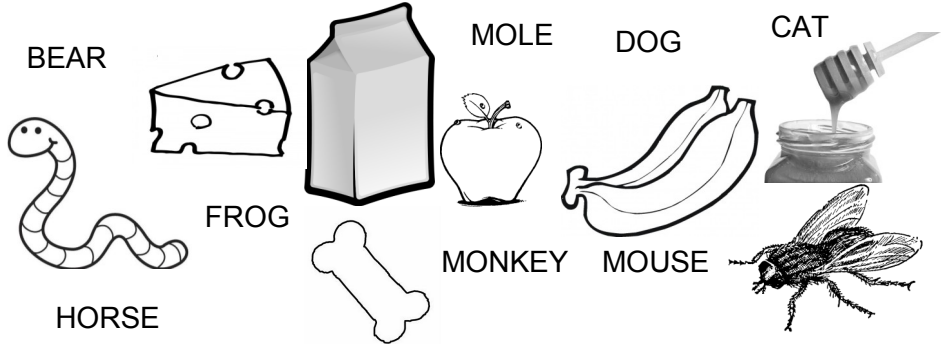
OUR FAVOURITE THINGS



MY FAVOURITE THINGS ARE:

1	_____	2	_____	3	_____
4	_____	5	_____	6	_____
7	_____				

ANIMALS like to eat lots of things but which animal do we associate with which food? Draw a mapping line to join them together.



DOING THINGS WELL

Very often the things we can do well become our favourite things.

Perhaps this is because they give us pleasure.

Can you fill in the spaces to tell about people in the Bible who could do things well?

1. Joseph could interpret _____
2. _____ could play the harp
3. James and John could catch _____
4. Noah can build _____

What can you do well?

I can _____

TRACK SQUARE

Track from one square to another, up, down, sideways and diagonally. Do not jump squares or use the same square twice.

How many words of three letters or more can you find?

What is the nine lettered word? It means the same as talents.

17 words = Good

20 words = Excellent!

I	A	I
T	L	B
I	E	S

God wants us to use our gifts and talents to help other people to know of God's love for them. Can you help?

LET US PRAY

Thank you my God for the day you have given us!

Thank you because you are great and worthy.

Thank you for another day of living,

Thank you for each breath we have taken

Thank you for dying on that cross my God For our sins!

Thank you, Amen

ALBERT SCHWEITZER
January 14, 1875-September 4, 1965

In his sermon on 28 August Roy Peacock referred to the life of Albert Schweitzer, theologian, music scholar, organist, philosopher, physician, and medical missionary, recalling the anniversary of his death on September 4. This brief summary of Albert's life and of his award of the Nobel Peace Prize may be of interest to our readers.

Albert was born into an Alsatian family which for generations had been devoted to religion, music, and education. His father and maternal grandfather were ministers; both of his grandfathers were talented organists; many of his relatives were persons of scholarly attainments.

Schweitzer entered into his intensive theological studies in 1893 at the University of Strasbourg where he obtained a doctorate in philosophy in 1899, with a dissertation on the religious philosophy of Kant, and received his licentiate in theology in 1900. He began preaching at St Nicholas Church in Strasbourg in 1899; he served in various high ranking administrative posts from 1901 to 1912 in the Theological College of St Thomas, the college he had attended at the University of Strasbourg. In 1906 he published *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, a book on which much of his fame as a theological scholar rests.

Meanwhile he continued with a distinguished musical career initiated at an early age with piano and organ lessons. Only nine when he first performed in his father's church, he was, from his young manhood to his middle eighties, recognized as a concert organist, internationally known. From his professional engagements he earned funds for his education, particularly his later medical schooling, and for his African hospital. Musicologist as well as performer, Schweitzer wrote a biography of Bach in 1905 in French, published a book on organ building and playing in 1906, and rewrote the Bach book in German in 1908.

Having decided to go to Africa as a medical missionary rather than as a pastor, Schweitzer in 1905 began the study of medicine at the University of Strasbourg. In 1913, having obtained his M.D. degree, he founded his hospital at Lambaréné in French Equatorial Africa, but in 1917 he and his wife were sent to a French internment camp as prisoners of war. Released in 1918, Schweitzer spent the next six years in Europe, preaching in his old church, giving lectures and concerts, taking medical courses, writing *On the Edge of the Primeval Forest*, *The Decay and Restoration of Civilization*, *Civilization and Ethics*, and *Christianity and the*

Schweitzer returned to Lambaréné in 1924 and except for relatively short periods of time, spent the remainder of his life there. With the funds earned from his own royalties and personal appearance fees and with those donated from all parts of the world, he expanded the hospital to seventy buildings which by the early 1960's could take care of over 500 patients in residence at any one time.

At Lambaréné, Schweitzer was doctor and surgeon in the hospital, pastor of a congregation, administrator of a village, superintendent of buildings and grounds, writer of scholarly books, commentator on contemporary history, musician, host to countless visitors. The honours he received were numerous, including the Goethe Prize of Frankfurt and honorary doctorates from many universities emphasizing one or another of his achievements. The Nobel Peace Prize for 1952, having been withheld in that year, was given to him on December 10, 1953. With the \$33,000 prize money, he started the leprosarium at Lambaréné.

Albert Schweitzer died on September 4, 1965, and was buried at Lambaréné.

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ST MARY'S FAMILY EVENT

"Don't talk—shake!" "I haven't got a body yet." "Is it three for a feeler?" "You can't have a feeler; you haven't got a head yet."

What is this? Sounds like a séance but—a family event at St Mary's — surely not? Of course it was a Beetle Drive. At a mere pound ahead the Social Committee organised a delightful evening. The youngest participant was seven and the oldest eighty-six. We gathered at our tables for four each with blank sheets and a plastic cup with a die to share. At a word from Sue Wakeley we began and interjections such as those above rang round the hall until one player shouted, in triumph, "Beetle!" Silence fell for a bit with occasional mutterings as we added up. (No-one used a calculator!) Those at each table with the highest scores moved up. There was a bit of time for welcoming the newcomer and off we went again.

About an hour into the evening, and with three blanks on our scores sheets to be filled, delicious slices of hot pizza were served with a choice of coffee, tea or squash. When the last three beetles had been tackled and final scores calculated, Malcolm Frost was declared the winner. It was great fun and an opportunity to meet others at St Mary's; perhaps those who attend a different service or sit in a part of the building far from the one we tend towards.

Thank you to the organisers—a quality evening if not one for quantity. Why didn't you come? There were only seventeen people there.

ST MARYS WITH ST JOHNS MOTHERS UNION

Our September meeting opened with a minute's silence as we remembered our member, Betty Tandy, who had died. Our sympathy goes to her family.

Janice Sutton led our service on the theme of people we meet on our journeys through life and the response we should have towards them. We heard again the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10: 25-37.

"Railway Journeys" was the topic of our speaker Betty Foulkes. Her experiences showed that each journey had something to teach us. Her recollections began on a journey she had from Exeter to Lisguard when she was eight years old to visit her grandparents unaccompanied, but looked after by the guards. Returning to Exeter she missed meeting her mother, ignored the instruction to wait, but decided to have an adventure. She paid one penny for a bus journey to her Uncle's home alone. Meanwhile, her frantic mother and station authorities stopped the train, now on the next leg of its journey, and searched for the missing child. Upon return to her mother, she soon learnt to do as she was told and adventures were out.

Wartime journeys as an army wife to Liverpool, Hull and Bristol were steep learning curves. In the Blitz in Hull sudden destruction and death were all around. It taught her never to make possessions the aim of life but hold them lightly for they can all be lost in a moment.

Finally, recently starting at 6.00am with her daughter and son-in-law, she travelled on the special steam train day for a journey from Stourbridge to Devon. Observing that most of the passengers were single men and train buffs she advised all ladies "if you are looking for a man, don't advertise in the newspaper but take a long ride on the steam train and you may find someone special"! Thank you Betty for a thought-provoking and humorous talk.

The next meeting will be at 2.15 pm in the Coach House on Tuesday 11 October. The theme will be "keeping in touch with the family" by Ray and Jan Drew. All are welcome to join us.

Dawn Nex

CHRISTMAS MARKET

This year's Christmas Market is to be held on Saturday 3 December. Come and see Santa, place your chances on the raffle and buy various wonderful wares. As always, more help would be very welcome – perhaps you have ideas for a stall that the children would find fun? Give me a call on 01384 378182. Many Thanks!

Katey Fletcher

NEWS FROM THE PCC

The PCC met on Wednesday, 14 September for a Section 11 meeting, a key step in the process of finding a new Rector for St Mary's.

As a consequence of the Deanery Plan for Stourbridge that will ultimately see parishes combined, the process will lead to the appointment of a 'Priest in Charge' at St Mary's, the role of Rector not being applicable until the completion of the changes to be implemented under the Deanery Plan.

The PCC unanimously appointed Edward Haden and Marjorie Ferguson to represent the PCC in the future selection and appointment of a new Minister. The PCC approved the Parish Profile and Statement, compiled with the support of many contributors under the leadership of Marjorie Ferguson, to describe and illustrate the role to be filled. In seeking the most effective way forward the PCC further approved the provision for the Bishop to recommend a priest for the post. This recommendation would be subject to interview and approval by the PCC's representatives. Only if approval is not forthcoming will the post then be advertised and the more lengthy alternative procedure be undertaken. It is probable that even under the chosen option the process will take some time and, as previously advised, it is unlikely that a new priest will be in post before Easter 2012.

The formal role of the PCC in this process is now complete and we all await the outcome of our prayers and the work of all those striving on our behalf.

Tony Tatford

TREE OF LIGHT

In early December within the grounds of The Mary Stevens Hospice our tree will be illuminated by thousands of little lights.

You are invited to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one, or as a gift for a member of your family or a friend. Join us, if you can, on Saturday 3 December at St Mary's Church at 4.30pm, when we raise our voices in song at this very special time. The Tree of Light will be lit until the twelfth night in January.

If you wish to send a poem, that may be selected to be read out at the service in memory of your loved ones, please email it to info@mshfundraising.co.uk. Or pick up a leaflet, attach a copy of the poem to the form or send it separately to the Chaplain c/o the Fundraising office.

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE ONE POT SUPPER

Not really a pot more of a roasting tin. Recipes that can be assembled in advance and popped in the oven are great for feeding family and friends. Vary the vegetables to suit you and your families likes and dislikes. Thighs are less likely to dry out unlike chicken breast meat and they cost less.

8 chicken thighs, skin on
85g/3oz garlic and herb soft cheese (full fat version)
500g/1lb 2oz small new potatoes (halved if larger)
1 large red pepper cut into large pieces
1 crushed clove garlic
4 sprigs of thyme (leaves stripped off)
Olive oil

Pre-heat oven to 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas mark 6. Lift the skin on the chicken thighs and spread the cheese between the skin and the flesh. Put the chicken in a roasting tin skin side up.

Put a good 'slug' of olive oil into a mixing bowl and add the potatoes, pepper, and garlic and give them a mix to coat in oil. Add to the roasting tin. Drizzle a little oil over the chicken thighs. Bake for 45 minutes until chicken is cooked and potatoes crisp and golden.

Halfway through the cooking turn the vegetables to help cook evenly and sprinkle over the thyme leaves.

Serve with a tomato and onion salad.

A quick creamy sauce to use up leftover soft cheese: mix 2tbsp cheese with 1 finely chopped spring onion and ½ carton tomato passata. Gently re-heat and toss with pasta for a quick supper.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

Chicken dishes invariably see us weighing up whether to select red or white wine. The cream cheese filling would suggest a white and a quest for a fuller-bodied Semillon or Chardonnay. However, the peppers, olive oil and thyme open up a red route. Let's follow the latter, although being cautious to avoid anything too tannic which would clash with the creamy notes.

The dark Grenache grape might be our most promising option. Widely grown in Southern France and Spain it is commonly blended with Syrah and Mourvedre in France and with Cariñena and Tempranillo in Spain. The grape's most famous manifestation is as the major constituent in Chateauneuf Du Pape and it can be even more dominant (70—80%) in neighbouring Gigondas and Vacqueyras. Here it can make a powerful spicy wine way beyond our needs for this chicken dish.

Garnacha (to use its Spanish form) plays a significant role in the Priorat region producing concentrated intense wines — superb but again not quite what we are wanting for this month's food match. Elsewhere, however, wines from the Grenache grape can be just right : warm generous berry fruit, not too tannic and frequently matured in old oak. This is important: new oak can obscure the aromatic notes of the grape: old oak treatments deliver less marked flavours and let the Mediterranean thyme and olive shine through.

Spain in particular produces some wonderful single varietal Garnacha wines accompanied by a lovely violet streak. The memorably named El Bombero comes to mind : track one down and you will be in for a treat.

Enjoy your wine-sipping,

Richard W.B. Ryan

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Saturday 30 July

Eight walkers departed the Dell Sports Centre for the last walk of the current programme.

Having negotiated our exit from the car park, we made our way to the nearby canal where we were immediately confronted by two “free range” horses, grazing on the towpath greenery.

We followed the canal down, via various locks, passed the Red House Cone and then branched off along the Stourbridge Arm to the Bonded Warehouse. Crossing the main road, we followed the cycle and footpath up through the residential area built on the old gas works site finally exiting on the road to Merry Hill. After a stop for blackberry picking, we carried on along the pathways through Withymore Village, passing behind Sainsbury's supermarket and back on to the canal just below the nine locks. Lunch was taken here before setting off to rejoin the canal and return to the Dell.

Leaving the canal, we came upon the same two horses, now munching happily on the side of the playing field.

The day that had started out a little overcast, had by now got much brighter and very much warmer, a fitting end to the walking calendar.

Malcolm Frost

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

21 August	Holly Ayems
	Holly Frances Moore
4 September	Sophia Louise Trimbee
	Lucy Jane Trimbee

Weddings

20 August	Andrew Cook and Emily Bird
26 August	Paul Clark and Laura Rowbottom
27 August	Robert Tickle and Hannah Cooper
	Leon Newton and Jenna Thompson

Funerals

16 August	Gladys Smith	aged 88
22 August	Patricia Bradley	aged 69
30 August	Leonard Nock	aged 91

NEWS AND NOTES - TALENTED PEOPLE

Over a long, long period of time the congregation of St Mary's has been blessed with so many talented people who represent a wealth of skills. Many of you will have memories which go back to times long before we came to live in Old Swinford.

I recall today the strong traditions of church music within our services. High standards have been strived for, achieved and maintained and so many young people have been helped along their way by organists and choir masters who have shared their talents with them and with us to provide a much enjoyed element to our worship.

On Thursday mornings we are always delighted to see William Peart seated at the organ and even more pleased when he leads us in the singing of an appropriate hymn or, if we are lucky, perhaps two.

As one gentleman said to me very recently, "I do enjoy singing a hymn" voicing what I feel sure is an opinion we all share often.

Thanks goes to you William and to your mother, Janet, for her support and encouragement.

Anne Davies

CHILDRENS PAGE ANSWERS

ANIMALS:

Bear—Honey
Dog—Bone
Horse—Apple
Cat—Milk
Mole—Worm
Mouse—Cheese
Frog—Fly

DOING THINGS WELL:

1. Dreams
2. David
3. Fish
4. Boats

TRACK SQUARE ABILITIES

THE BISHOP'S LETTER

Starting in what is known as 'The Kingdom Season' before Advent the 2020 Group will be encouraging all Church communities in the Diocese to reflect on how they are measuring up as a sign and symbol of God's Kingdom and also to identify those things that hinder or prevent us from making progress in this role and I want to set what is being suggested in context here.



When I arrived in this Diocese I stated my priorities as 'mission, mission, mission'. I spoke in terms of the enormous privilege we have been given of playing a part in God's great mission to reconcile the whole creation to himself in Jesus, a vision gloriously articulated in the first chapter of the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Within my first year here Bishop's Council came to the decision that, in focussing upon mission, we should concentrate upon three priorities:

- The deepening of prayer
- The renewal of (public) worship
- Equipping people to share their faith

To address the first, a Diocesan Spirituality Group, chaired by Bishop David, has been established to work with the Diocesan Spirituality Adviser, Paul Hunt. Doug Chaplin, as Diocesan Worship Adviser has been working with others on the second and David Sherwin, as Diocesan Evangelism Adviser on the third. I see these three priorities as essential in preparing the ground for our full participation in God's mission to the world.

A year ago the '2020 Group' was set up to consider what playing our full part in God's mission might require as we look to the year 2020 and beyond. From the very first meeting, conversations in the Group have focused upon what should be, as Christians, our core conversation: the Kingdom of God. Mission and Kingdom are two sides of the same coin: God's mission is to reconcile the creation to Himself and, in so doing, inaugurate the Kingdom, the reign, of God. When the creation is reconciled to God in Christ every knee shall bow to God's rule, whether in heaven or in earth or under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. The Church is called to be God's chosen instrument for his mission in the world and the effective sign of the inauguration of His Kingdom here on earth, that Kingdom for whose coming we pray in the words that Jesus taught us.

I hope that all of us, individually and corporately, will want to join together to reflect deeply on our part in God's plan to inaugurate the Kingdom - to celebrate what we are doing and reflect upon ways in which we can widen our hearts to allow God's grace to work through us to build His Kingdom.

Bishop John

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