



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



PRIEST IN CHARGE

Rev'd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2HA
Tel: 01384 395410
E-mail: revsmagnew@yahoo.com

CURATE:

The Rev'd Ruth Atkinson, 58 Arlington Court,
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 1NN
Tel: 01384 373286
E-mail: home@riatkinson.plus.com

JULY/AUGUST 2012

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 Tuesdays will alternate between St Mary's, St Thomas' and Holy Trinity Amblecote
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
Priest in Charge and Curate's Day Off: Friday	

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

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:	Mrs Marjorie Ferguson	393454
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
Organist / Choirmaster:	Mr Robin Walker	01905 353939
Treasurer:	Mr Russ Fowler	442684
PCC Secretary:	Miss Katey Fletcher	378182
Magazine Editors:	Miss Gemma Sutton	423021
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661

Church Hall and		
Coach House: - Bookings	Parish Office	441003
Parish Administrator and		
Publicity Officer:	Mr John Sutton	441003
Parish Office:	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
Church website address:	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk	
	E-mail: st.mary.os@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 JULY 2012

SUNDAY 1

Tuesday 3
Thursday 5
Saturday 7

SUNDAY 8

Monday 9
Tuesday 10
Thursday 12

Saturday 14

SUNDAY 15

Wednesday 18
Thursday 19
Saturday 21

SUNDAY 22

Wednesday 25
Thursday 26

Saturday 28

SUNDAY 29

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

3.00 pm Baptism
7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting
10.30 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
4.00 pm Wedding
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

3.00 pm Baptism
7.00 pm Oldswinford Primary School Leavers' Service
10.30 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
1.00 pm and 3.00 pm Weddings

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Holy Communion at Holly Lodge Nursing Home
10.30 am Holy Communion
Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

DIARY FOR AUGUST 2012

Thursday 2
Friday 3
Saturday 4

SUNDAY 5

Thursday 9
Saturday 11

SUNDAY 12

Thursday 16
Saturday 18

SUNDAY 19

Thursday 23

Saturday 25

SUNDAY 26

Thursday 30

10.30 am Holy Communion
2.30 pm Wedding
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
3.00 pm Baptism
10.30 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
11.00 am and 1.00 pm Weddings

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.30 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

3.00 pm Baptism
10.30 am Holy Communion
Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
10.00-12.00 and 14.00-16.00 International Festival of Glass

TWELTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.30 am Holy Communion

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this I will have been licensed as the Priest in Charge at St Mary's (DV). This is both a big challenge for you as parishioners of St Mary, Old Swinford and for myself as the new priest. Over the next few months we will start to forge a relationship, and as with any relationship the first moments of meeting may be filled with uncertainty, as you may catch yourself wondering: 'What's this new person like?'

Of course we are all different, and as we 'rub up against one another' there may be differences of opinion but I trust that our meetings will be characterised by the mark of those early Christians which was love. In the 2nd Century Tertullian wrote 'See how these Christians love one another'; that is an excellent model to use, but too often the Church has not really lived up to it. I believe that the mark of love is an indication of the mark of faith, at least that is how I understand Jesus's teaching and ministry.

Over the next months I will be trying to visit as many of you as possible in order to get to know you and to give you the opportunity to get to know me. As we meet I will be aware, and I hope you will also be aware, that our meeting is not just between you and me, but also contains a third party. We meet as Christians and so in every meeting Christ is present, something which we may recognise or not, but that does not alter the fact of his presence.

As someone who takes a great deal of strength from the traditions of Celtic spirituality I am constantly encouraged by words in that rather unusual hymn based on St Patrick's breastplate: 'Christ in mouth of friend and stranger'. Mother Teresa testified to the value of each individual by stating that she saw the face of Christ in each beggar, each outcast and each person dying on the streets of Calcutta. As Christians we should look to see Christ in one another, and also perhaps with more difficulty recognise Christ in ourselves.

I look forward to getting to know you all and to recognising the presence of Christ in your lives.
Wishing you every blessing.

Your new priest.

SERVICES IN JULY 2012

1 July Fourth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Samuel 1. 17-27	Corinthians 8. 7-15	Mark 5. 21-43
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jeremiah 11. 1-14	Romans 13. 1-10	
8 July Fifth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Worship Together		
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jeremiah 20. 1-11a	Romans 14. 1-17	
15 July Sixth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Amos 7. 7-15	Ephesians 1. 3-14	Mark 6. 14-29
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Job 4.1, 5.6-27	Romans 15. 14-29	
22 July Seventh after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	S of Solomon 3. 1-4	Corinthians 5. 14-17	John 20. 1-2, 11-18
	6.30 pm Evensong	Zephaniah 3. 14-20	Mark 15.40-16.7	
29 July Eighth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Kings 4. 42-44	Ephesians 3. 14-21	John 6. 24-35
	6.30 pm Evensong	Job 19. 1-27a	Hebrews 8.	

GOD'S WORLD

The picture on the front cover of this edition is part of an illustration produced by pupils of Oldswinford Primary School. The work was part of the 'Values for Life' studies that form an important element of the curriculum which impact on the pupil's wider experiences. More details are provided on pages 8,9 & 10.

SERVICES IN AUGUST 2012

5 August Ninth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Exodus 16. 2-4, 9-15	Ephesians 4. 1-16	John 6. 24-35
	6.30 pm Evensong	Job 28.	Hebrews 11. 17-31	
12 August Tenth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Kings 19. 4-8	Ephesians 4.25 – 5.2	John 6. 35, 41-51
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Job 39.1 - 40.4	Hebrews 12. 1-17	
19 August Eleventh after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Proverbs 9. 1-6	Ephesians 5. 15-20	John 6. 51-58
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 2.23 - 3.10	Hebrews 13. 1-15	
26 August Twelfth after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Joshua 24. 1-2a, 14-18	Ephesians 6. 10-20	John 6. 56-69
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 4.27 - 5.1	Hebrews 13. 16-21	

CHRISTIAN AID

A big thank you to everyone who supported in any way the appeal for Christian Aid. We managed to cover almost all the roads in our area and maintained a bucket collection in church for three consecutive weeks. Special thanks are due to Helen Fowler for coordinating the event. The total collected and forwarded to Christian Aid amounted to an amazing £2165.82

JANE JUKES

Everyone who knew Jane must have used every means possible to hope that the courage and determination she displayed during her illness might be reflected in a successful outcome from the treatment she underwent. Sadly, and to the dismay of all who have prayed for her during past months, Jane died on Saturday, 26 May.

To Rod, Caroline, Rowena and Edward and all the family we send our sincere condolences, our concern and support, with our appreciation of a lady who gave so much and was filled with so much goodness.

Jane was cared about so much by so many in the St Mary's community, someone who was held in the highest esteem by all those who were privileged to know her and to be aware of the enormous contribution she made in terms of friendship, care and work for the church.

Jane brought so much to this community through her associations with St Mary's in many roles over time, as a member of the congregation, as PCC Secretary, Churchwarden and as Assistant Treasurer to name but a few. Jane brought the technological age into the financial world of St Mary's, providing immense support to Richard Harris in the latter stages of his 48 years as Treasurer. Jane displayed a mastery of modern ways and administered our accounts on a day to day basis with skill and total efficiency, all with that amazing smile and friendly sense of humour.

Jane's funeral service was a wonderful celebration of who she was and what she meant to so many people, a perfect tribute and genuine thanksgiving for her life. The comparison drawn by Greville in his reference to Barnabas, 'Son of Encouragement', was truly reflective of how Jane worked with others. One of her great joys, the bells of the St Mary's tower, rung with love and meaning by so many who have stood alongside her in the tower, rang out as she made her final journey from the church.

WITH THANKS

During the most difficult times the most amazing things happen. The support we have received following Edward's passing, for the funeral and afterwards has been amazing. How he would have enjoyed that service, the contributions made by all the friends at St Mary's that he held so dear. As he would have said, the church 'looked a picture' and the way in which everyone pitched in to help it to be such an occasion in so many different ways would have touched him deeply, in the way that it did us. While we may not immediately be in full circulation, rest assured that you are in our thoughts and your kindnesses help to sustain us.

With love.

The Haden family.

SCHOOL REPORT



Oldswinford C.E. Primary School is an important element of St Mary's mission. During the year clergy engage in various school activities including weekly assemblies and in May the school pupils provided a special feature for the Worship Together service. (see below). As the school approaches the end of its first year under the headship of Ross Workman we are pleased to include a report of the school's work and achievements.

Mr Workman writes:

At Oldswinford we are committed to building a distinctive community, grounded in the universal values which we share with children on a monthly basis and encourage them to think about in all aspects of their lives. As a Church of England school we draw much inspiration from the Christian tradition, but we know that *truth, love, honesty and kindness* (along with all the other monthly themes) are as valid to people of all faiths and no faith. Our motto of building a "caring, sharing" community is no empty marketing jingle and we put these values into action in the way we live together at our school and beyond. Your support in sharing these values with your children at home is vital in this.

High academic standards are the goal of any school and Oldswinford C.E. Primary were delighted that this year their achievements brought them again to the top of local league tables. However there is a lot more to school life than statistics and the school has high hopes of providing outstanding achievement in other areas too.

Behind every aspect of its work lies a commitment to foster "values for life". *Caring, honesty, co-operation and understanding* are amongst the 22 values that staff and children share together. Taking one of these ideas a month, assemblies, and other activities help them explore each one. Shared with parents, these discussions are taken up at home as well. With strong links with local parish and community, there are always opportunities to put them into practice. Most recently, more than 100 senior citizens were entertained to a Harvest Tea and Concert at the school: a chance to put *caring* into action. Values education is going global, too, with a new

partnership with a primary school in Tanzania. It will add a whole new meaning to work on *understanding* when children get the chance to learn a little Swahili from their new African friends. Can these successes be measured? There is no reason why they should be, but how about this for an example?

After an assembly about *honesty*, children were challenged to find thirty 5p coins (promised to a local charity) that had been “lost” around school. We were amazed to find, within an hour, that not only the 30 precious coins had been found but that another 7 had been added! A 123% success rate for his school....!

These “values for life” do indeed provide an ideal foundation for the children in our community and they are equally relevant to us all as we reflect on our own standards and commitments.

..... AND THE SCHOOL COMES TO CHURCH

Love is.....

Our latest (May) ‘Worship Together’ service was blessed with the presence of children from Oldswinford C.E. Primary School, along with their headmaster Mr Workman.

The congregation was enthusiastically welcomed by the children and treated to a Christian Aid themed activity which told us the story of the Gbap community in rural Sierra Leone where a remarkable change is taking place. Sierra Leone is one of the hungriest countries in the world but helped by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL), some people there have found the tools to move beyond hunger and speak out for the changes they want to see.

We heard about various members of the Gbap community, young and old, who have tirelessly worked in their village development committee in order to rebuild their school and ensure work on the land is shared and farmed together, so they can grow much more food than in the past for their village.

We were also informed of the work now going on at Oldswinford to become a Fairtrade school. The children are encouraged to boost awareness and understanding of trade issues, and promote the purchase of Fairtrade products which will then ensure that ordinary people and farmers in countries like Sierra Leone get a fair price for their produce.

At the end of the service the children very ably undertook the dismissal, collected our books and said goodbye to us all at the door.

It has been a while since they have been here and we would love to see them again – soon!

Maggie Abbotts
Foundation Governor - Oldswinford C.E. Primary School

.....AND CELEBRATES THE JUBILEE

Parents, families and friends were invited to join the School's Jubilee celebrations on the last day before the Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend. As this was a special day, the school uniform was abandoned and pupils were encouraged to wear red, white and blue. The theme was complemented by many wearing beautifully designed and crafted crowns, and we were welcomed into the school playground in a sea of patriotic colour. The school choir and orchestra led by Mr Workman entertained us with traditional songs from around the British Isles and during the celebrations pupils decorated small oak trees which had been grown from acorns from The Queen's gardens. The performance ended with everyone joining in the National Anthem during which the Union Flag was raised in a moving ceremonial style.

Pupils were presented with a souvenir edition of the New Testament which included pictures from The Queen's reign and messages of her faith – a fitting gift as a reminder of this special 60th anniversary occasion.

Janet Beevers

.....AND THE CHURCH GOES TO SCHOOL

The 'value' for assembly in school during April was 'Thoughtfulness'. Linking this in with the idea that to create something takes care to work through aspects such as colour and pattern and texture, I read the children a poem about 'Creation'.

I then challenged them to produce a whole school picture on the same theme. The school has a writing wall where the children can comment on what has been talked about in assembly or pose a question. Mr Workman put up a very large sheet of paper on the wall and drew a large circle in the middle. The children filled the whole space with lions and tigers, dogs and cats, space ships and dinosaurs; the ideas were endless but the children took great care when placing their picture not to impact on anyone else's. A small part of the picture is reproduced on this month's front cover.

Ruth Atkinson

CHARLES II REVISITED

Oak Apple Day and The Monarch's Way

Last month's article on Charles II provided a timely reminder of events and features which are preserved to mark his historic escape to France and his eventual return to be restored to the English throne.

Oak Apple Day is still celebrated on 29 May to commemorate the restoration of the monarchy on that date in 1660. Samuel Pepys's diary (on 1 June 1660) records that: "Parliament had ordered the 29th of May, the King's birthday, to be forever kept as a day of thanksgiving for our redemption from tyranny and the King's return to his Government, he returning to London that day."

Originally Oak Apple Day was a time for dancing and parties. To show their support for the monarchy, people wore sprigs of oak leaves or a sprig with an oak apple on (gall produced in oak buds by wasps). Special events are still held at various centres across the country. London celebrates 29 May at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, which Charles founded as a home for Army pensioners. The Chelsea Pensioners



parade on this day for inspection by a member of the Royal Family in honour of King Charles II. In Worcester, the 'Faithful City', Oak Apple Day is commemorated by decorating the entrance gate to Worcester's Guildhall with oak branches and leaves while stalls in the courtyard demonstrate various aspects of the civil war history with attendants dressed in period costume.

Occasionally these displays have featured the Monarch's Way which is a long-distance footpath tracing the escape route of Charles II while fleeing from Worcester to the South Coast. In its early stages the Way towards Boscobel follows a route through Old Swinford, approaching from Wychbury Hill via the Dingle, through the wood next to the churchyard and along the path behind the church hall into Church Road. Small way-marks can be seen on gate-posts and stiles along the route. While on holiday in Sussex two years ago we happened to come across the same Monarch's Way signs on a footpath on the South Downs, close to the southern end of the path at Shoreham. The Monarch's Way website provides a comprehensive guide to the 615 mile path and messages from many travellers who have walked the entire route. However our daily dog walking along the short stretch through Old Swinford is sufficient to provide an occasional reflection of the turbulent times of the Civil War.

Alec Beevers

FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

THE SEA

⚓

M

A

T

C

H

⚓

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

⚓

M

A

K

E

R

S

⚓

SORT OUT THE FISH

Colour the letters K, V, and B in red and C, P and X 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

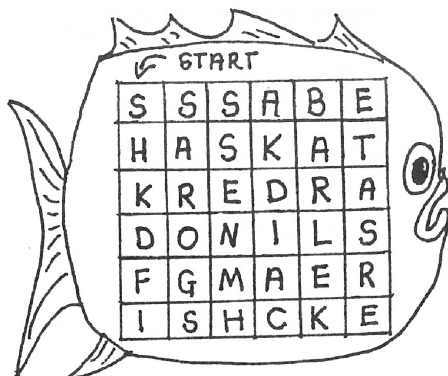
SEA FISHING

Net the answers

1. Peter and Andrew were both _____ (Matthew 4 v18)
2. Jesus fed the 5000 by its shore _____ (John 6 v1)
3. Where was Jesus when the storm rose? _____ (Mark 4 v 38)
4. He tried to walk upon the water _____ (Matthew 14 v 29))
5. James and John worked on their father _____'s fishing boat
(Mark 1 v 19-20)
6. The number of big fish caught in the net? _____ (John 21 v 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.



The answers can be found at the bottom of page 22

A WARM OLD SWINFORD WELCOME

Following weeks of preparations the bells rang out on the evening of 12 June to announce the Licensing of Revd Stephen Agnew as Priest in Charge at St Mary's and the long months of interregnum came to an end. During a service led by Bishop David, a large congregation of family members, invited guests and supporters from St Mary's and from Stephen's previous parish of St John Baptist, Claines, united in voice, prayer and song, to witness and bring blessing on this important and joyous event.

In his address, Bishop David expanded on the reading of Matthew 5.13-16, illustrating how Stephen and the St Mary community may continue to serve as salt and light. Bishop David explained how, by being a channel for God's will, we may enhance and illuminate experience of God's world for all. By bringing the human dimension we may champion the weak and enable all to make their contribution to our experiences. Through a community dimension we may reach out from our own church groups to bring God's message, through a variety of means, to a wider audience. Through an environmental dimension we may serve as true stewards of this earth, to use its' wealth wisely and to minimise waste. In these way, he assured us, the praise of God will follow.

Through prayers and promises, the presentation of welcomes and symbolic gifts, the signing of the declaration and presentation of his licence Stephen was installed as the Priest in Charge at St Mary's and a new era of calling was begun with celebration.

Following the service the guests assembled in the church hall for refreshments and the opportunity to exchange words of welcome, thanks and congratulations. In a brief address on behalf of the St Mary's community our churchwardens warmly welcomed Stephen, Jean and all members of their family and presented them with flowers and chocolates to mark the occasion. The officiating and visiting clergy were thanked for their contributions and the support provided during the interregnum, whilst the people of St John Baptist, Claines were wished well as they face the uncertainty of the coming months.

In a special tribute, Tony Tatford recognised with praise and appreciation the lead provided throughout the past year by Marjorie Ferguson. In a time of increasing challenge from difficulties arising on many fronts, Marjorie had worked tirelessly for the good of St Mary's and in support of all. For many the extent of her work for St Mary's remains largely unseen and behind closed doors but the product of her energetic commitment and determination that all that should be done to the highest of standards, becomes evident in the seamless running of a church community that has continued to look far and wide, as well as closer to home, in order to meet its purpose.

Equally, the pastoral guidance of Roy Peacock and Kanthi Ariaraj was acknowledged with grateful thanks, as was the pastoral leadership provided by our Curate, Ruth Atkinson. Ruth has shouldered the bulk of service leadership during the interregnum, as well as ensuring the availability of spiritual guidance

and the opportunity for worship to a great many local people in their home, in hospital or care home. The words 'Thank you' may be quickly said, but they were expressed on behalf of us all with genuine meaning and warm affection, with the presentation of bouquets for both Marjorie and Ruth.

Stephen responded with thanks for his welcome and for the work of all those who had contributed to the service in church and the reception in the church hall. He looked forward to exciting times of pastoral leadership in Old Swinford.

Sue Wakeley sends the grateful thanks of the Social Committee to all who so kindly contributed cakes for the Licensing reception.

A VERY SPECIAL MAN—A LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Roy

Thank you so much for accepting our invitation to join us at the Children's Society Coffee Morning, there to share with us your wonderful Maundy Thursday experience.

It was a delight to hear that you and your dear wife Pamela had been invited to be within York Minster on this special occasion and to receive the Maundy Money from Her Majesty in this Diamond Jubilee year. No one deserved the honour more than you. The work you have carried out within the Diocese and elsewhere is commendable.

Your talk contained so many facets of what happened within the Minster, providing a clear insight into what it must have been like to be there, and seeing your Maundy Money purses was, I think, a 'first' for everyone there.

Thank you again.

Anne Davies

Yesteryear

*The sights and sounds that linger still.
Of plough and horse over the hill,
The hammer and the anvil's ring
And wild anemones in spring.
The leggy lambs that frisk and play,
That special smell of new-mown hay,
Woodsmoke wisps on autumn eves,
The swishing sound of fallen leaves.
Soft gentleness of tumbling snow,
And inglenook and fire's glow;
So far away yet still so near.
The sights and sounds of yesteryear.*

Brian H Gent.

EDWARD HADEN

When someone is lost to a community such as the congregation of St. Mary's Oldswinford everyone who knew that person sees with their own eyes; recollects their own memories and often shares more of what has been private until then. For those present at the Thanksgiving Service for Edward's life an inevitable confirmation of his fruitful working relationship with Greville was heard, but a deeper friendship and mutual reliance became apparent. Edward's family were also able to present the love which survives death and remains important to his dearest kin for ever.

Much of what he did for others was quietly done and great was his pride and satisfaction in the achievements of those he supported, or believed in or simply knew with affection. All this in a human being who was straight and fair by his own strongly held convictions, kind to many yet a human being with the complexities of such creatures.

May he rest peacefully, missed sorely by some, with gratitude for personal experiences by others, with realisation now by those who knew him not so well that this was a man who brought the gifts he was blessed with and offered them to this church with conscientious devotion.

John Yeates

A SAD LOSS

I've been dreading writing with the news that Edward Haden died recently following a protracted illness.



Edward was an excellent stockman and breeder of pure-bred poultry; he specialised in the Wyandotte, with the gold laced, Columbian and silver pencilled being his favourites. In this regard, he had few peers.

He was a kind and generous man, too. I'll never forget the fact that he once drove 200 miles just to fill my poultry drinkers when I was incapacitated with a leg in plaster; that was typical of the man.

As well as poultry, he loved sport and was a keen supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers and Worcestershire Cricket Club.

My sincere condolences to his wife, Norma, and three children.

Richard Rowley

With acknowledgement to 'Practical Poultry'

OLDSWINFORD DIAMOND JUBILEE PARTY

The Diamond Jubilee week-end provided a great opportunity for expression of affection of our monarchy as the nation celebrated in so many different ways. The major events in London which were broadcast worldwide attracted admiration both for the spectacle and organisational skills and also for the popular support of our Royal Family. However local events across the country were equally effective in bringing together communities in a unique sharing of joy at The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Oldswinford joined in the celebrations with a very special party.

St Mary's had expressed its intention of arranging a Jubilee event and welcomed the initiative of local residents, Heidi, Michelle and Jo, who proposed to arrange something in the church car park. The culmination of their plans on the Monday afternoon of the Jubilee week-end was a wonderful party for the whole community which was enjoyed by everyone from the youngest infants to the very senior citizens. Bunting, flags and balloons decorated the whole area and many guests came in fancy dress with a patriotic theme. Magicians and entertainers were there to amuse the children and a Tai Chi expert gave a demonstration of this martial art with grace and control which a few brave visitors tried to follow.

The 'bring-and-share' food table seemed to extend for ever with good things to eat and with a very international flavour. Our MP, Margot James, joined in to help with the event including the judging of the fancy dress competition.

The Church had prepared for the Jubilee week-end with special flower arrangements in red, white and blue with displays which included a ship, a royal guardsman and coaches. The flower festival was enjoyed during the Sunday services and the church was open again for visitors to the Jubilee party on Monday afternoon.

The party ended with a rousing chorus of 'Jerusalem' followed by 'Land of Hope and Glory' and the National Anthem - a very enjoyable event maintaining the best of British traditions. Thank you to the organizers and helpers for a very memorable occasion.





JUBILEE FUN TIME

Did you enjoy the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations? Did you visit any of the main attractions, come to the Jubilee Party held on St Mary's car park or watch the celebrations from the comfort of your armchair? If you have photographs or thoughts you would like to share please pass them to a member of the magazine committee (in-tray at the back of church) for inclusion in our next edition.



ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

On the lovely sunny morning of 26 May, with just a little welcome breeze, eleven walkers set off from Stoke Pound up the Tardebigge flight of locks, passing on the way several holiday-makers on their barges negotiating the locks.

At bridge No. 52 we left this pretty section of the canal and set off across green fields and meadows full of buttercup and clover to link together with one or two quiet country lanes so we eventually arrived at Thrift Hill.

Here, because our advantage point gave us the opportunity to gaze out over lovely countryside, we stopped for some refreshment.

Later, as we continued, we passed through Lower Bentley and Woodgate, negotiating one or two awkward stiles that prompted much jocular comment from some in our group.

Eventually, after walking along some good pathways and through a couple of fields of rape-seed (where a path had been left by the farmer) we arrived back at Stoke Pound.

Here we retired to the Queen's Head where an excellent lunch was enjoyed by all.

Sylvia Cooper

KEEPING CONTROL IN THE CHURCHYARD

If you have had the opportunity to stroll through the churchyard recently you will be aware of how the strategy begun by Doreen Ryan and Edward Haden to control the growth and limit the intrusion of plants has been continuing. We are very grateful to the scout groups that have, in past weeks, attended to many areas, maintaining pathways, clearing fallen trees and restricting the growth of self-seeded plants that were proving to be threatening the integrity of some of the monuments. The rapid growth so evident at this time of the year quickly diminishes the overall impact of the hard work undertaken so we will look to continue the work as labour becomes available.

Edward Haden had been keen to have planted in the churchyard some bulbs to enhance the appearance of the site at the breaking of Spring. It is the intention to see this wish realised and in due course we shall invite those who wish to take part in a bulb-planting event so that next Spring may be heralded in colour.

We are, as always, very grateful for the work and care undertaken by those who, like Ken, Max and Kevin Holman help to maintain the grounds around St Mary's. This is always a major task and one which at times becomes almost overwhelming. Recently Nick Pullen has kindly offered help with mowing some of the more challenging areas of the grounds and we thank him for his help. Nick is available for hire to undertake all sorts of garden maintenance. Should you need to contact Nick his phone number is 07946 809314.

Tony Tatford

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

ROYAL SCONES (RED, BLUE AND WHITE SCONES)

My granddaughter and I made these last year to celebrate Prince William's marriage to Catherine. If you find yourself with a few blueberries left over you can freeze them and use them up in this recipe. They are also good to make when you have been blackberry picking in the autumn.

225g (8oz) self raising flour
Good pinch of baking powder
Pinch salt
25g (1oz) caster sugar
75g (3oz) butter cut into cubes
75g (3oz) blueberries or blackberries
3-4 tablespoons of natural yogurt at room temperature
Flour for rolling

Pre-heat oven to 220°C/Gas7

Sift the flour, baking powder and salt into a bowl. Rub in the butter until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Carefully stir in the sugar and blueberries.

Add the yoghurt a tablespoon at a time mixing very gently until the mixture comes together. Remember, the wetter the better for scones. Bring it together kneading lightly and put onto a well-floured baking tray. Pat it out into a circle 2cms/1inch thick. Mark out into eight sectors with a sharp knife. Sift flour over the scone to finish. Bake for 15 minutes approximately.

When cooked, transfer to cooling tray. When cool cut into the eight individual sectors. Serve with jam and cream if making the royal version.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

Not even the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations were blessed with summer sunshine; but for those hot lazy days in the garden eating scones with jam and cream, let us look this month at pink fizz. If you have Royal blood, then Krug Rose, Roederer Cristal Rose or Perrier-Jouet Belle Epoque Rose with its exquisitely decorated bottle would top the list of Rose Champagnes. Highly recommended also, but at a more affordable price stand the Deutz and Billecart Salmon Roses. However, for *dejeuner sur l'herbe* rather than high tea at Lanesborough, what of the more modestly priced offerings? I've never yet met a great Cava Rose – even though they invariably forsake the local grape varieties and employ Pinot Noir to make a pink fizz.

New World sparkling wine-makers are more successful in my view with the Graham Beck sparkling Rose from South Africa topping my list, having just the right richness and weight of fruit. Any alternatives? In France they would chill the native reds in Beaujolais, Cahors and Alsace; and from Australia sparkling Shiraz and Cienna appear on our shelves.....but I'm not convinced. If fine weather has you reaching for a summer-in-the-sun Asti, make it a Moscato d'Asti – a cut above. White rather than rose of course but the acceptable face of light frothy fizz for non-Royals!! Enjoy your summer sipping

Richard W.B. Ryan

.....

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

Pat Whalley opened the meeting and confirmed the appointment of Elizabeth Green as Diocesan President.

Prayers were asked for Janet Bristow, the branch leader at Amblecote, who is unwell.

Dorothy Gibson led the service on the importance of Pentecost, when the church celebrates the universal gift of the power of the Holy Spirit. It should give us all the initiative to 'get up and be active' in the church, to spread the good news of Christ.

Dorothy questioned whether we took time for thought and prayer and described how she found great help in using the diocesan prayer booklet and the M.U. resources for prayer and action and a time for bible reading to focus her day.

Fred Shaw then described his job for CAPITA in 'Service Birmingham.' This is an outsourced I.T. unit which deals with corporation finances and undertakes initiatives for those less advantaged but in special need. Fifteen apprentices aged 16-18 are given 3 years training in I.T. in the main contact area. Special schools are enabled with extra resources to be active in the community. A virtual college for 16-18's suffering extreme bullying, often initially too frightened to leave home, are linked with the Symphony Hall education studio. Theatre links in the Hippodrome are opened for schools for the disadvantaged. Work in I.T. and computers is given to stroke victims and also for people having to work from home due to handicap. Recently work to include injured servicemen following their rehabilitation and army widows has begun. Many charities are aided and links are forged with Rotary worldwide. Our eyes were opened by the extent and positive outcome of this work and our thanks were expressed to Fred and all who make a difference to others.

Next Meeting: 2.30pm 10 July at 10 Rectory Close,-Members are invited to a garden party.

Diary Dates: Thursday 9 August—Holy Trinity, Amblecote, 7.30pm, Mary Sumner Day.

July /August edition
of the
St Mary's Old Swinford
Parish Magazine

A GENEROUS GIFT

The Jubilee Street Party (see report on page 17) was organised on a Bring and Share basis with a small fee to cover other expenses. As a consequence of the community spirit that ensured the success of this event, actual costs were minimal, resulting in the donation of £100 to St Mary's Mission Fund. This was a very kind and generous gift that we acknowledge with appreciation. The Mission Fund is used to support various good causes locally, nationally and internationally.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

20 May	Samuel Thomas Cooper Jessica Rose Ward Benjamin Michael David Ward Amy Louise Cadman
3 June	Chloe Rosemary Cartwright Amelia Liane Fowkes

Weddings

26 May	Adam Tate and Natalie Norton
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Funerals

14 May	Harry Martyn Brearley	Aged 66
17 May	Patricia Wright	Aged 63
23 May	Edward Haden	Aged 75
24 May	Janet Lee	Aged 63
25 May	Mary Toogood	Aged 92
29 May	Terence Aldworth	Aged 83
11 June	Jane Jukes	Aged 63

CHILDRENS PAGE ANSWERS

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

SORT OUT THE FISH.....The disciples would be FISHERS OF MEN

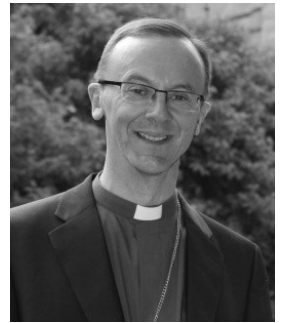
SEA FISHING.....1. Brothers, 2. Sea of Galilee or Tiberias, 3. In the stern of the boat.

4. Peter, 5. Zebedee 6. 153

BIG FISH..... Shark, Dogfish, Mackerel, Sardine, Skate, Bass.

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

Over the past year we have been encouraging people in the diocese to consider their calling to be 'Kingdom People'. Jesus's priority in his mission was to proclaim the Kingdom of God and it is our joy to be able to embody and promote that Kingdom, a Kingdom where love, compassion and justice prevail.



Churches throughout the Diocese are involved in a great deal of 'Kingdom activity', both corporately and through their individual worshippers.

The amount of good work that is done in, for example, caring for and educating the young, ministering to the elderly and providing all sorts of care for the most vulnerable in our society is very impressive indeed. It's very seldom high profile but it makes a crucial contribution to the welfare of our society - and to God's mission to the world.

I see signs of the church's invaluable work in promoting love, compassion, justice and freedom everywhere I go.

On Saturday 22 September we shall be celebrating all this at a Kingdom Celebration in the Cathedral. This will be an opportunity to rejoice in what others are doing and be inspired by it. As well as showcasing the good news stories from parishes - including yours, I hope - there will be the chance to learn from exhibitions and workshops laid on by individuals and organisations that want to support parishes looking to do something new.

Morning activities will include be a Diocesan 'Messy Church' at which everyone is welcome and various workshops. After a picnic in the Old Palace grounds (inside if wet) there will be a celebration service including an address by the Church Army's Chief-Executive, Mark Russell. Mark is an Honorary Lay Canon of Worcester and an inspiring speaker whom it is well worth hearing.

I do hope that your parish will be well represented at this gathering which should be an encouraging and uplifting one for us all. It will also enable us to pray together for God's guidance as we seek to discern what else He is calling us to do - and maybe what we need to stop doing - as part of His mission.

God's great mission is to restore the whole creation to Himself in Jesus as he inaugurates his Kingdom. It is our privilege to be part of that mission. I hope you will want to come and rejoice in it with your brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Diocese at what promises to be a memorable day.

Bishop John

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