

St Mary's Old Swinford
Parish Church Magazine
September 2012
Online edition



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



In appreciation of everyone who has contributed to the 2012
London Olympics and its message of international goodwill

PRIEST IN CHARGE

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CURATE:

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SEPTEMBER 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 SEPTEMBER 2012

Saturday 1	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 1.00 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 2	TRINITY 13 3.00 pm Baptism 6.30pm Songs of Praise
Tuesday 4	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft Nursing Home 7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting
Thursday 6	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 8	All day, Church open for visiting cyclists 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 9	TRINITY 14 10.00 am Worship Together
Wednesday 12	1.30 pm Noah's Ark meets for the new term 7.30 pm Baptism Preparation
Thursday 13	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 15	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 12.30 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 16	TRINITY 15 3.00 pm Baptism
Tuesday 18	2.00 pm Anchor Bereavement Care Group meeting
Wednesday 19	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge 7.30 pm PCC Meeting. Postponed to 2 October
Thursday 20	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 22	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour Kingdom People workshops and celebration at the cathedral 2.00 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 23	TRINITY 16 10.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday 27	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
Saturday 29	
SUNDAY 30	TRINITY 17 Back to Church Sunday

15 September is Battle of Britain day which commemorates the contribution made by RAF Fighter Command in aerial battles in the skies over southern England in 1940.



On Weald of Kent I watched once more
 Again I heard that grumbling roar
 Of Fighter planes; yet none was near
 And all around the sky was clear
 Borne on the wind a whisper came
 'Though men grow old, they stay the same'
 And then I knew, unseen to eye
 The ageless Few were sweeping by.



Lord Balfour of Inchrye

This poem was submitted by Jack Witley, resident of Oriel House

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

If you don't like sport then this summer has been hard for you. You may think that we have had a veritable surfeit of sport, but do bear with those of us who enjoy watching and even participating in sport, and perhaps bear with me as I reflect on what we have seen over the summer.

One of the things which always strikes me as I watch high levels of sport is the sheer determination of those who compete, the determination to push the boundaries of what can't be done until those things become attainable. As I watch athletes of so many disciplines I am reminded that we are born to strive, and as we strive to become better followers of Jesus Christ, more loving, more caring people I think that we, like those many athletes we have witnessed over the summer, become more fulfilled.

As Christians we must not expect that our life of discipleship will be easy; it is sometimes hard to love your neighbour, it requires much self-discipline to be involved in a life of prayer and worship, it sometimes feels quite unnatural to be generous, and yet we are called to do all these things by a God who was prepared to give up his Son for the world. Surely the image of Jesus on the cross is the ultimate image of striving and self-discipline, but out of that situation comes the glorious hope of the resurrection and being one with God, which is our ultimate fulfilment.

In the Olympics the focus of attention of the media is on those who succeed, and yet they are very much a minority. The majority of the athletes will face failure; but the greatest stories of the Olympics are the stories of those who have overcome failure and ultimately achieved success. For those of us who have embarked on a faith journey their example gives us great encouragement, and shows us the level of determination we need to succeed in our lives, especially when things go wrong.

One other reflection from the Olympics is that although athletes compete with each other there is a palpable sense of support and mutual encouragement as they strive to achieve greater things. Whilst the church is not essentially about competing with one another it is a group of people who encourage one another in the journey of faith, and that mutual support sustains and refreshes us as we follow countless millions of Christians on the journey of faith following in the footsteps of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

May you be blessed in your own journey of faith and may we continue to encourage one another as we travel the road together.

With every blessing.

Stephen Agnew

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2012

2 September Trinity 13	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Deuteronomy 4. 1-2,6-9	James 1. 17-27	Mark 7. 1-8,14-15,21-23
	6.30 pm Songs of Praise	1 Chronicles 16. 7-36		Mark 11. 1-11
9 September Trinity 14 The Feast of Blessed Virgin Mary	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 61. 10-end	Luke 1. 46-55	
16 September Trinity 15	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 50. 4-9a	James 3. 1-12	Mark 8. 27-38
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 18. 13-26	Matthew 7. 1-14	
23 September Trinity 16	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Jeremiah 11. 18-20	James 3.13-4.3, 4.7-8a	Mark 9. 30-37
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 19. 10-25	Matthew 8. 23-34	
30 September Trinity 17	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Numbers 11. 4-6,10-16,24-29	James 5. 13-20	Mark 9. 38-50
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 24.	Matthew 9. 1-8	

NOAH'S ARK (ST MARY'S TODDLER GROUP)

Noah's Ark is a group for anyone with a preschool child, be they a parent or grandparent, other carer or child-minder. It is open to anyone who chooses to come, whether they are members of the church or not. Everyone is welcome. Whilst the church takes a keen interest, the aim of Noah's Ark is to provide a service in the community and for there to be a bridge between Noah's Ark and the church for those who choose to use it as such. Meetings are Wednesday afternoon at 1.30 pm.



Noah's Ark has been ably run by Jane Knowles and Janet Peart throughout the last year with the support of others who have generously given of their time. To them all we extend our thanks for all they have achieved. As a church we now intend to set up a management group to share the running of the group and be involved in decision making.

The management group would consist of:

- A member of the church leadership team, who would also be the bridge between the church and the group. This will be Revd Ruth Atkinson, the Curate who can be contacted on 01384 373286 or home@riatkinson.plus.com

- A main coordinator for the weekly running of the group, who amongst other roles, would liaise with the church representative and produce a termly newsletter. Mrs Elaine Pritchard who runs the St Mary's Pre School has kindly agreed to take on this role. She can be contacted on 01384 896343 or 07900104490 or e mail pritchard-b@sky.com

- The person who coordinates the refreshments will be Diana Perry.

- A Treasurer and Secretary will be appointed in due course.

- At least 3 members of the management group would be playgroup carers i.e. parent, grandparent, carer.

It is intended that Noah's Ark will run largely as it has done for many years, but a management group will help to ensure that everyone has a voice and those voices can be heard. This would also most simply provide the means to produce rotas, plan special events etc. to ensure everyone can contribute to and benefit from commitment to the group.

The management group would be expected to meet once a term.

The new term will begin on Wednesday 12 September when we look forward to welcoming new and longer-standing members to meetings which all may enjoy and which serve the parents and children who attend.

NEWS AND NOTES - AND THE DOGGIE CAME TOO!



Very recently I received a telephone call from my daughter, Jane. "Mummy" she said, " We've done it." "Done what?" I wondered. "Lorna and I have taken part in the 'Race for Life' which supports the work of Cancer Research UK."

It appears that two bubbly young ladies had organised and prepared themselves to take part in the race and had successfully completed the course.

This is a national event. Jane ran, as she put it, "In memory of my wonderful father, Norman Davies." and Lorna ran in memory of both her Granpy and Luke's Grandmother.

Added to this, their little dog, Jess – a bit of a star, was dressed in his coat and completed the course to the delight of onlookers.

Between them they raised a handsome sum of money for the aforementioned charity and I think surprised themselves, not only on completing the course, but finding much enjoyment in the process.

From one very proud Mother and Grandmother:

Anne Davies

THE PARISH PICNIC

For a welcome few hours the weather finally achieved an acceptable standard for summer in time for a delightful parish picnic in the Rectory gardens on Sunday 15 July. Through the kind generosity and warm invitation of Jean and Stephen Agnew who declared the Rectory gardens open and welcoming to all who were able to attend, a party of some fifty people joined together for a few hours of good company, conversation, games and shared food.

As the majority of the assembled throng sat and enjoyed the sunshine, the younger members of the party, led by a very agile Stephen and a very enthusiastic Bo (Jean and Stephen's dog), entertained the onlookers with games energetically pursued on the Rectory lawn. If there ever was a final score, no one seemed to be concerned, simply a good time was had by all and friendships were cemented.

The event was a welcome opportunity to share with Jean and Stephen some of our appreciation of their commitment to the St Mary's community. Thank you to Jean and Stephen for their warm and generous hospitality, a special thank you to Jean for her kindness with which she made available her kitchen to the Social Committee and thank you to members of the Social Committee for their hard work in arranging the food, providing drinks and ensuring the smooth operation of a very enjoyable occasion.



HELP NEEDED - BACON BUTTIES FOR FREE!

Substantial efforts are underway to re-establish closer control over the upkeep of the churchyard utilising the services of Beacon Employment and others. The area currently used for burials is in most urgent need of attention and to this end we intend to run two Saturday work parties, 9.00 am - 12.00 noon, on 1 and 8 September. Tony Tatford (07801 241114) and Revd Stephen Agnew (01384 395410) will coordinate these respectively.

The main task will be to remove excess grass growth using petrol trimmers and to tidy the area. If you are available to help on one or both of these dates please contact Tony or Stephen with details of any equipment you may be able to make available. As necessary we will endeavour to provide equipment whilst drinks and bacon butties will be supplied to reinvigorate and to say thank you.

VISIT TO HOLLAND HOUSE

As a result of Ian Spencer's (the warden at Holland House) talk at the 2012 Lent Course one or two members of the congregation said how much they would like to visit in return. This finally took place on 24 July when fifteen members of the church, including Stephen and Ruth, went to spend the day there. Weather-wise we could not have asked for a more perfect day; it was warm and sunny and the gardens looked wonderful.

Using the theme of water, in recognition of the important part it had played in our lives over the past few months, we had two periods of reflection using images and words and a Eucharist service just before lunch. Perhaps the most poignant idea being that water can be powerful and destructive but equally creative; we also thought about water as cleansing, refreshing and healing. Some of the images used came from photographs of the lovely grounds; a meditation in the Eucharist of the story of Jesus walking on the water linked very well with our own church window on the same theme. The food was excellent; there was plenty of time for exploring the gardens and to just sit and chat.

Ruth Atkinson

MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY



**ST MARY'S
CHURCH HALL**

BARN DANCE

**SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER
A GREAT FAMILY FUN EVENT**

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



Saturday 22nd September

7:30pm

New Performing Arts Centre

Oldswinford Hospital School

Heath Lane, Stourbridge

All proceeds in aid of Building Fund for
Hanbury Hill Baptist Church, Stourbridge

Tickets £8 incl. interval refreshments
from Stewart Hall 01384 422953
07814717323

ST MARY'S HARVEST SUPPER
Saturday, 13 October 2012
commencing at 7.00 pm in the Church Hall

Our Harvest Supper will be held this year on the evening of Saturday, 13 October, starting at the slightly earlier time of 7.00 pm. This article is to let you know well in advance that in addition to having an excellent Harvest celebration, as always, this year we shall also have two very special guests with us who will talk about **The Ifakara Bakery Project, Tanzania**.

Eugene and Margaret Schellenberg were delighted to accept our invitation to join us at St Mary's, particularly at our Harvest celebration here in Oldswinford, as theirs is a story of a different harvest in Tanzania which has improved lives daily for so many people.

In 2001 Eugene and Margaret were visiting their son, David, and his young family in Tanzania where David was a specialist in Tropical Medical Research and Paediatrics. There they met the Sisters of St Francis who had a vision to run a bakery. From this visit came a most exciting project - The Ifakara Bakery. Back home, with a huge amount of work and fund-raising to buy machinery, an oven, equipment and a generator, and then returning to Tanzania, they began to produce up to 100 loaves of bread daily in Ifakara.

Later, following generous gifts from friends, Eugene and Margaret set up the "Free Bread Funds" for those who could not afford to buy their daily bread. Last year, 80,000 loaves reached many children who would have had none.

The story of the Ifakara Bakery is one of inspiration, dedication and commitment to the people for whom it is a lifeline. It is a fascinating talk from Eugene and Margaret and only the briefest information can be given here. Please do come, celebrate at our Harvest Supper, and hear the full story for yourselves!

Pamela Scudamore
St Mary's Mission and Pastoral Committee

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

'Let us not become weary in doing good for at the proper
time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'

Galatians 6:9

The following article was presented by Bishop John as his 'Thought for the Week' as the Olympic Games began in the second week of August. Our publication schedules did not coincide so this could not be shared at the time but we think the message is still worthy of a wider audience.

The Editors

THE OLYMPICS AND CHRISTIAN SYMBOLISM

The Olympics are in full swing and the whole nation seems to be gripped by them.

It started with the Opening Ceremony, which was a wonderful and spectacular celebration of all that is best in this country. What I liked best about it was the fact that it was rich with Christian symbolism.

That's not surprising in view of the fact that both Danny Boyle and Frank Cottrell Boyce, whose vision it was, were brought up as Catholics and their imagination is infused with Christianity.

Most people probably wouldn't even have noticed that this was the case - but that's the way it is with our Christian inheritance: it's so much part of our culture that we don't even notice that it is Christian. We take it for granted, for example, that if someone is in trouble then the right thing to do is to help them. Some would think that common sense but it's not - it's the result of hundreds of years of the teaching of Jesus that we should love our neighbours as ourselves.

What moved me most, however, was the comment that IOC President, Jacques Rogge, made in his speech that 'in a sense, the Olympics are coming home.' He went on to say: 'This great, sports-loving country is widely recognised as the birthplace of modern sport. It was here that the concepts of sportsmanship and fair play were first codified into clear rules and regulations.' Fair play is something that is also derived from our Christian inheritance. We may take it for granted but one only needs to go to countries in the world that are riddled with corruption on an appalling scale to be reminded how important it is.

Judging from the wonderful performance of our athletes and the crowds supporting them, fair play and sportsmanship are still very much alive and well in this country. It has been wonderful to see.

I can't imagine anyone was not moved to see Jessica Ennis win her gold in the heptathlon. Even most seasoned journalists, we are told, were reduced to tears. It has been so good, too, to see the crowds encouraging and cheering on athletes of all nationalities.

That is the very best of sportsmanship and I hope and pray that the great British spirit, born of a nation founded on Christian principles, which is so evident in the Olympics, will renew the life of our nation when they are over.

Bishop John

CHOIR NEWS AT ST MARY'S

As the Choir returns from the Summer break, here are a few lines to let you know what members are undertaking in the next few weeks and months.

Some more of the senior members of the choir are working towards the prestigious RSCM Gold Award. We have met a couple of times and discussed repertoire. This takes place on a Friday evening. Candidates for this award also have to prepare a short service, geared to a specific festival, to include music and readings. Other junior members of the choir have started working from RSCM workbooks to promote their progress in the ribbon schemes. The children work at their own speed to earn the usual blue and red ribbons. All this is carried out before Evensong in the chapel.

In the Autumn, juniors will be taking examinations and many choir members, including adults, will be taking part in the Annual Diocesan Choirs' Festival in the Cathedral on Saturday 17 November.

Please may I take this opportunity to remind you about membership of and recruitment for the choir. I would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to find out more about singing in the choir at St Mary's, the fun and the commitment involved. Normally, I would conduct a short audition to assess ability and be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

My contact details may be found at the front of this magazine.

Robin Walker – Organist and Director of Music

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MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE

The words of the prayer by St Francis of Assisi were adapted by the South-African born Catholic, Johann Sebastian von Tempelhoff. His pen name is Sebastian Temple.

The verses were written in response to a request for a collection of songs for the Franciscan Third Order's church in Los Angeles. The tune did not come easily – there was a point where Tempelhoff was shouting at a statue of Francis because a tune would not appear. Following the refreshment of a cup of tea, Tempelhoff returned to the writing, switched on the tape recorder, picked up the guitar and the tune appeared!

The words in the first line are intended to reflect imagery of Martin Luther; who spoke of humans as channels passing on to our neighbours the love which we receive from God.

Chorus:

Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PICNICS AND PARTIES

Do you like to go to a party or have a picnic? Jesus loved eating with other people and sharing a meal with friends.

DO YOU KNOW?

1. Jesus had a picnic in the hills. How many people were there?
2. _____
3. _____
Which meal did Jesus have Zacchaeus?
4. _____
What did Jesus barbecue on the lake side?
5. _____
At what party did Jesus change water into good wine?
6. _____
Who thought Jesus was breaking The Law when he ate with tax-collectors and sinners?
7. _____
What is Jesus' last party with his disciples now known as?
8. _____
What is your favourite picnic food? Get a plain paper plate and draw a colourful plateful of picnic food.



PICNIC FOOD FOR YOU TO MAKE

Crunchy Raisin and Carrot Salad (4-6 people)

Ingredients:

- 75 grams of raisins
- 4 tablespoons of salad
- 75 grams of salted peanuts
- 400 grams of carrots
- Cream or mayonnaise
- Juice of half a lemon
- 1 teaspoon of caster sugar
- 4-6 buttered rolls



Soak the raisins for 5 minutes, just covered with boiling water, in a small basin. Grate the carrots on the large side of the grater (eat the end when it gets too small to hold!). Put the grated carrot in a basin with the peanuts.

Mix together the salad cream, lemon juice and sugar. Drain the raisins. Now mix all the things together in the basin adding the raisins last. Fill buttered rolls with the salad and place in separate plastic bags ready to eat. You could also add chunks of apple and walnuts to make it even more adventurous.

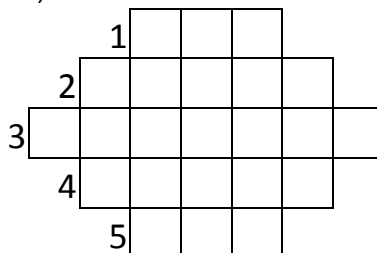
If it rains, spread a cloth on the carpet and have your picnic at home!

Why not try this with Ann's pizza? See the recipe on page 20.

WE ALL NEED IT

Put the answers in the grid and the middle squares going down will reveal the word.

1. Female sheep
2. A song of praise (old testament)
3. Tax-man disciple
4. Broken at supper time
5. Noah's ship



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

St Mary's with St John's Branch of the Mothers' Union is taking a summer break; however, the work of the Mothers' Union never stops. We now have over four million members world wide, supporting marriage and family life, helping all those whose lives have met with adversity and for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, regardless of race, colour or faith.

Our work overseas is well documented, in countries where the membership exceeds any diocese here in the UK. With members travelling great distances, many walking for hours at a time, as there is no transport, just to meet and pray with their fellow members. One of our projects is 'The Wheels Appeal' providing and keeping motor vehicles, often quite old, on the road.

Our Aid workers overseas provide parenting skills; a literacy and finance and education programme; help in setting up village gardens to provide healthy food for the village members, especially in places where they have set up groups to help those suffering with HIV/Aids or those who are living with the consequences.

In our own country however, I am not sure how the Mothers' Union is perceived, even if people are aware of what we do.

For the past three years it has been my privilege to serve on the Diocesan Board of Trustees and as the Social Policy Representative within the Faith and Policy Unit. I have learned so much about the workings of the Mothers' Union at both National and Local level, of how it is financed and how extremely hard the membership works on a voluntary basis, often exceeding normal weekly hours: Prison work, the Hospital Chaplaincy, working in the baby unit at Russells Hall Hospital, Parenting Project, Marriage Preparation, helping at Baptisms, the AFIA project (Away From It All), providing holiday breaks for low-income families or long term carers: giving help and support to teenage mums; the Women's Refuge and the Knitting Ministry. There is so much more and not enough room here to document it all.

Here at St Mary's, over quite a few years now, we have valiantly supported the refuge, the prison and the knitting ministry. We have provided toilet bags for both the refuge and the women on remand at the prison, on an average of between 30 and 50 toilet bags a year. Often when women who have been in abusive relationships decide to leave the family home, they just gather their children and leave every thing else behind. Also women placed on remand often don't realise they may not return home and do not have anything with them. Our toilet bags contain everything they need for their self-respect.

Our knitting ministry is well known and is something we can all get involved with. The more senior members who are less active love to knit. We knit baby clothes for premature babies, cot blankets for the baby unit, baby blankets for stillborn babies, prayer shawls for the sick and those in nursing home care and of course our teddies. You will have read about the teddies in the April magazine. Our curate Ruth became the champion of the teddies when they threatened to take over my home. Teddies travel everywhere, to prisoners' children, hospitals, playgroups, some have even travelled to Uganda with the Diocesan President and, thanks again to Ruth, some now reside in the Hospice where they bring comfort to both young and old. We are very close now to having in place our 'Baptisms Bears', another of Ruth's champion ideas. These are smaller and white and will be given out with the Mothers' Union cards at the time of Baptism.

To everyone in St Mary's congregation and to all those kind and generous people who donate toiletries for our box at the back of Church, for the wool for our knitting and for the many other gifts so kindly given, my heartfelt thanks for helping us, the members of the Mothers' Union, to make a difference for those who are in need.

As I finish this article I have been informed of a generous donation from St Mary's Mission Group to help with providing toilet bags. I am overwhelmed. Thank you and God bless.

Anne May

JANE JUKES

This year has been an especially difficult one for us, from first learning of Jane's illness up until her untimely death. People like Jane do not come along too often. She was someone we adored and her loss has left a massive hole in our lives. We continue to draw great comfort from those who played a significant part in her life and remain somewhat overwhelmed by the number of cards and messages of support, and subsequently sympathy, that we received.

Jane was helped enormously by her love for St Mary's and for the many friends she knew here, something we believe contributed to the strength she showed during her final months. In order to help our grieving we felt Jane's funeral needed to be something special - and it was! The warmth of welcome, the music, readings, prayers and address made it an uplifting occasion that we are sure will live long in people's memories. Those who were in church on that day loved Jane and will never forget her.

Thank you

Caroline, Rowena, Edward and Rod

ST MARK'S VERSAILLES

One of the highlights of our recent visit to France, to stay with our daughter between Paris and Versailles, was the opportunity to attend a service in their newly completed church; (Phase 3 of 4). This has been partly built on top of the original church room, which is now the church hall.

The new church is much, much higher than the original and is airy and light with very good acoustics; it was all paid for by the efforts of the church members; as it receives no support from the C of E or the Intercontinental Church Society. The present phase has cost over 800,000 Euros.

The tower and cross of the new building are highly visible from the railway, and two main roads, making Christ's presence very obvious in this part of Versailles. St Mark's has also been going through an interregnum since last August, which will run until September this year, when their new priest is licensed. Almost his first service will be the formal inauguration of the new church, attended by The Bishop of Europe.



After the Sunday service we joined in a "bring and share" lunch, and enjoyed the company of some of the congregation whom we had met previously, and some we had not. The plan was to picnic in the church grounds; but the weather was no better than in the UK, and the picnic had to be moved to the church hall to keep us dry!

Mike Blaxland

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GETTING A LIFT ON THE SALT RIVER

This cruise on my narrow boat "Waverley" took me up to Cheshire and its main river, the Weaver. The County of Cheshire is not only known for its cheese and dairy farming, but also its salt industry. Towns such as Nantwich, Northwich and Middlewich have their salt industry connections as well as being located on the Inland Waterway network. I would pass through all these 'Wiches' on my cruise north.

"Waverley" left base in Birmingham with my friend Philip in mid-summer, headed up the Shropshire Union canal from Wolverhampton. We spent one night moored by the 'Anchor' at High Offley, near Market Drayton, a truly unspoilt country pub, unchanged for many years and run by the same family since 1870. The beer still comes up from the cellar in a jug. My favourite canal-side pub!

A couple more days cruising brought us to Nantwich where we turned along the Middlewich branch which took us into this Cheshire town. After a little shopping "Waverley" turned back north, now on the Trent and Mersey canal. This took us past the former Lion Salt Works, which I remember visiting some twenty years ago.

Our day ended at a place called Anderton, where we moored and visited the Stanley Arms, which overlook the 'Lift.' The River Weaver also flows through Anderton, fifty feet below the canal. The two waterways are almost side by side, making a flight of locks impractical, so a different solution was needed to connect them.

The problem was overcome in 1875 with the opening of the Anderton Boat Lift, a great monument to Victorian engineering and one of the "Wonders of the Waterways." It consists of two water-filled tanks which counterbalance each other like a pair of scales. They have a vertical rise and fall. The entrance to the tanks has rising gates which hold in the water, all this contained in a massive iron structure. The lift is controlled by hydraulic rams and was re-opened in 2002 after nearly twenty years of closure.

Waverley entered the lift at our allotted time of 8.30 am and the gate lowered behind us, sealing off the canal. Then, gradually, the lift began to descend towards the river as another boat passed, ascending, in the adjacent tank. As we reached the Weaver, the gate opened and Waverley surged into the main river channel. A great experience!

Now heading south, we cruised to the town of Winsford where Phil caught a train home and another friend, Richard, joined for a few days. The Weaver around Winsford shows obvious clues about its main industry, which we viewed cruising to Nantwich, a fine town and well worth a visit. We had lunch here, had a walk around the town, then took Waverley further down river.

The Weaver is a commercial river, has large locks and big swing bridges which open to allow ships to pass through. "Waverley" is small enough to pass beneath these bridges, but we had to use the locks of course. These are operated by keepers and the size of the chambers made "Waverley" look very small. We moored by one swing bridge at Sutton and had a very nice pint or two at the nearby "Leigh Arms". The best beer all week!

The scenery on the Weaver varies from the fine countryside of the Vale Royal to very industrial scenes around Runcorn. We spent the next evening and night moored by Weston Marsh Lock, near Runcorn, which gives access to the Manchester Ship Canal. On one side we had views over the Weaver estuary, the ship canal and the River Mersey. On the other side we were overlooked by a huge chemical works. There was no pub and we saw not a soul all evening, a lonely spot but memorable.

The following morning we cruised a little further to Weston Docks which also lead to the ship canal, took some pictures and returned to Anderton. Richard had his journey in the lift, soon followed by an excellent meal in "The Stanley Arms." We had really enjoyed our 'Lift onto the Salt River' and another waterway cruise was nearly at an end. We took "Waverley" to a nearby marina and caught a train home. I later returned to complete the journey, but that is another story.

Michael Rolfe

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

PROGRAMME FOR YEAR 2012 TO 2013

Date	Location	Miles	Leaders	Tel No	Lunch
29 Sept 12	Henley-in-Arden	5	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146	Pub
27 Oct 12	Salwarpe	6	Jean and Ray	01384 836924	Pub
24 Nov 12	Buckpool and Fens Pool	6	Sue	01384 829211	Pub
	No Walk in December		No Walk in December		
26 Jan 13	Highgate Common and Bobbington	6	Janet and Mike	01384 390537	Pub
23 Feb 13	Dunley	5.5	Jean and Ray	01384 836924	Pub
30 Mar 13	Wolverley - Lea Castle	6.25	Toni and Rob	01384 377096	Pub
27 Apr 13	Claverley	5	Sylvia	01384 392244	Pub
25 May 13	Spetchley Park and Worcester Woods	6	Sylvia	01384 392244	Picnic
29 June 13	Church Stretton	7	Janet and Mike	01384 390537	Picnic
28 July 13	Whitlocks End and the Kingfisher Way	7	Sue	01384 829211	Picnic
	No Walk in August		No Walk in August		

- Notes 1. Unless otherwise stated all walks start from St Mary's at 9.30 am.
 2. There are no walks in December 2012 or August 2013
 3. All walks are on the last Saturday of the month
 4. For picnic lunches please bring your own food. For pub lunches there is usually a good selection of meals for purchase.
 5. Country walking is not risk free, all persons joining our walks do so in the knowledge of this fact.
 6. For further information on the walks please telephone the leaders.

The editors hope you have enjoyed a summer break and have found refreshment and joy in whatever opportunities have come your way. If you wish to present an article for publication or suggest ideas for us to pursue please share these via the magazine email address or through direct contact with one of the magazine committee by the tenth of the month. For the October issue the best contact will be with Gemma Sutton.

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

A very small party embarked on our June walk which began at the Kingsford Forest Park picnic area at the Western end of Kinver Edge. We followed the North Worcestershire Path through the edge of the plantation on to Blakeshall Lane and admired desirable country residences to our right and a wonderful view of Wychbury and Clent Hills to our left.

Just before the road bends towards Cookley we turned right into a lane to join the Worcestershire Way and headed towards Drakelow. A radio mast marking the top of the Drakelow Tunnels came into view. These were a series of tunnels constructed in 1941/2 as an underground factory to produce aeroplane engines and between 1960 and 1990 part of the complex was maintained as a nuclear bunker. Our route took us through woodland alongside the tunnels compound.

Crossing Kingsford Lane into Sladd Lane for a short distance we left the Worcestershire Way, turning right into a narrow lane and passing a small development of holiday chalets before bearing left to begin a gentle but quite long ascent to Castlehill Farm. The lovely old farmhouse on top of the hill is now derelict.

We went on through fields, negotiating one or two stiles and bridle gates, over the brow of a hill and down towards Kinver Edge, through a muddy spinney to Brown's Farm and the stream which is the boundary between Staffordshire and Worcestershire. Going right into Sheepwash Lane, we admired more desirable country residences, together with livestock, to emerge into Castle Hill Lane. We crossed Kingsford Lane again and took the footpath for another lengthy ascent through woodland and eventually picked up the Woodpecker Trail back to the Kingsford Forest picnic area adjoining Blakeshall Lane.

An interesting walk of some 5½ miles and no rain! Weren't we lucky!

Roy Fox

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PETER SELBY

It was with sadness that we heard the news of Peter's death following his recent illness. Peter has been a respected contributor to the magazine and a much valued friend of all who have worked in its production over the years. Peter has written, and submitted for publication, a considerable number of articles on subjects of historical interest, most notably local history and his particular study and enthusiasm for coins and tokens, topics in which he held a wide and deep knowledge. His subject matter, his understanding and his style of presentation was such that his articles were always interesting, informative and much enjoyed by readers, many of whom looked forward in anticipation to the next in a series for the elements of relevance and curiosity Peter was often able to include in his writing. Our publication has lost a valued contributor whom we held dear and to whom we extend our thanks for the contributions he made to our lives for our enjoyment.

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

Pizza

Using bread mix makes a more authentic pizza. Feel free to add your own fillings. I love avocado so that's my choice. Children often like ham and sweetcorn.

175g/6oz from a 500g pack Ciabatta bread mix. Plus a little extra for dusting.

1 tbsp olive oil

125ml lukewarm water

Topping-

Olive oil

Tomato puree

Tomatoes

Cheese (cheddar or mozzarella)

Onion

Avocado peeled and sliced and sprinkled with lemon juice.

Basil leaves

Heat the oven to its highest setting, about 240°C/gas mark 9

Tip the bread mix into a bowl and pour over the lukewarm water and one tablespoon of olive oil then mix well to form a sticky dough. Knead for a few minutes using some of the extra dry mix to stop it sticking to hands or bowl. Place in an oiled bowl, cover with a tea towel and leave in a warm place until the dough has doubled in size.

Roll out and stretch the dough to a 25x30 cm rectangle or a large round about 10in/260cms diameter. Cover the dough with the toppings of choice then bake for 10-12 minutes until the base is crisp and the cheese is melted.

If using avocado, add this after cooking. Garnish with basil leaves.

Ann Jennings

.....

AND FOR THE WINE

Pizza, the much loved international food will scarcely ever grace a fine dining table and we would be wise to save our premium bottles for other occasions. Chance then this month to consider some pleasing but inexpensive wines.

Avocado adds a green colour to the pizza to complete the cherished red/white/green combination of the Italian flag. Flavours? My preference is still to choose a red – one with good acidity to sing with the tomato. If we go back to roots we should head first to Naples and southern Italy. In truth many wines of this region feature the Aglianco grape, whose earthy spices don't really hit the mark here. Primitivo from Puglia strays further from our Campanian base but is a better bet.

The other Puglian reds involve Negroamaro (whose literal translation of black-bitter may alarm) and Malvasia Nera – a more promising partner though normally only seen in blends. Castel del monte contain the lovely Uva di Troia but again mostly appear in blends with Aglianico.

So let's acknowledge that pizza has long left its Neapolitan home and head north – not as far as polenta country but into central Italy. Two grapes dominate: Sangiovese and Montepulciano. Both have the acidity needed. The former is the grape of Chianti.....probably better with a "meat-combo" pizza or saved for finer dishes. Montepulciano scores best with its fleshy fruit and bright acidity. Many varietal bottlings are available. It has no great pretensions but is pleasing and inexpensive—the ideal accompaniment.

Enjoy your wine sipping.

Richard W. B Ryan

.....

CELEBRATING THE KINGDOM

Over the past year, Bishop John has been encouraging us all to become Kingdom People, embodying the values of love, compassion, justice and freedom. Many parishes have taken up the challenge and there have been lots of community projects - from Messy Church and Open the Book through coffee mornings and lunches to food banks and Street Pastors.

On Saturday 22 September, there will be a special day in the Cathedral to celebrate all these projects as well as give an opportunity for parishes to talk to organisations that might be able to help them start new ones.

The day will start with the opportunity to learn more about starting or developing Kingdom projects with a series of workshops from 10.00 am on planning, preaching, praying and proclaiming the Kingdom. There will also be lots of organisations with displays in the cloisters giving parishes ideas of where to start - including Christian Aid, Alpha, CPAS Growing Leaders and the Church Army. There will also be a chance for a more 'hands on' experience with some family activities in the Cathedral.

After sharing lunch together (hopefully with a picnic in the diocesan office grounds), at 3.00 pm there will be a service that will celebrate and inspire Kingdom activities taking place in parishes and Mark Russell, CEO of the Church Army, will preach.

"If you're wondering what it means to be Kingdom People, don't know how to get your project off the ground, or want to share your own experiences, then the Kingdom Celebration day is for you. Please consider bringing a group of people from your parish to join us," said Sam Setchell, Diocesan Communications Officer.

Diocesan News

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

1 July	Megan Louise McCarroll Ryley James Willetts Matteo Aloia
15 July	Joshua Carl Isakovich Lillia Marion Doris Wagstaff Emmie Susan Elizabeth Wagstaff Lauren Carlie Wagstaff
5 August	Henry James Hartland Louis John Binns

Weddings

30 June	John Bird and Katharine Gripton
12 July	James Spruce and Wendy Boucher
21 July	David Hazlehurst and Lauren Weaver Daniel Edwards and Katherine Leary
28 July	Daniel Harris and Helen Detheridge Justin Sisley and Jane Lewis
3 August	Dean Cartwright and Charlene Cope
11 August	Ian Stephens and Fran Buchan Stephen Hamer and Abigail Morgan

Funerals

19 June	Eugenia Robertson	Aged 72
26 June	Maria Hadley	Aged 86
4 July	Ann Harris	Aged 76
4 July	Helen Bull	Aged 78
5 July	David Cleveland	Aged 76
12 July	Gwen Johnston	Aged 83
16 July	Peter Selby	Aged 82
19 July	Beatrice Foulkes	Aged 90
8 August	Peter Marshall	Aged 76

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

It did not receive much attention in the media but last month saw the publication of what I think is a hugely important book. Its title is not exactly catchy: Church Growth in Britain. 1980 to the Present.

The book, which is written by a team of leading international researchers, provides good evidence that, though television and newspapers alike routinely depict churches as empty and populated by geriatrics, the truth is very different.

There has been decline in some denominations over the last thirty years but there has also been spectacular growth in others. For example, there are now over 500,000 Christians worshipping in black majority churches every Sunday when sixty years ago there were virtually none.

These are Christians whom most statistics tend to miss since such churches don't bother to count their members. Even the good old Church of England is growing fast in some places.

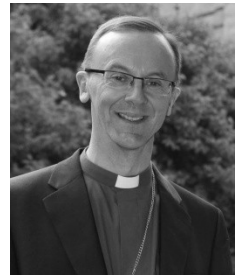
For example, the membership of the Anglican Diocese of London, the largest Anglican diocese in the country, has grown by 70% since 1990. There have been as many churches founded as closed in this country during this period and there are arguably as many people worshipping on Sundays as there were in 1980.

This book gives clear evidence that, alongside decline in some areas, substantial church growth has taken place in Britain in recent decade, growth which is reflected in some parts of the Diocese of Worcester. The fact is that the contemporary British church is much more interesting than those who have tried to persuade us that Christianity is in inexorable decline would have us believe.

Why is this significant? It's important for us as Christians since our confidence has tended to be sapped by the drip-drip effect of negative messages about decline. Under its pressure, we have been inclined to think that there is no future for the Church.

There is certainly no room for complacency - most of us are all too aware of the difficulties we face - but the fact is that decline is not inevitable and we do not need to be fatalistic about it. What has happened in the Diocese of London, whose desperate state in 1980 was held out as indicative of the future we all faced, can happen elsewhere.

God has not abandoned his church.



Bishop John

CHILDRENS PAGE ANSWERS

Did you know?

1. 5000 2. Fish and Barley bread 3. "Tea" 4. Fish 5. The wedding of Cana 6. The Pharisees 7. The Last Supper

We all need it

1. Ewe 2. Psalm 3. Matthew 4. Bread 5. Ark

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