

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



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



***FOR YOUR TOMORROW
WE GAVE OUR TODAY***

PRIEST IN CHARGE: The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2HA
Tel: 01384 395410
E-mail: revsmagnew@yahoo.com

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

NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 2012

Saturday 3	10.00 am Vestry hour 10.00 am Mission Coffee Morning in the Narthex
SUNDAY 4	ALL SAINTS SUNDAY Baptism 3.00 pm
Tuesday 6	Bishop John's visit to the Stourbridge Deanery 11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft Open meeting with the Bishop
Wednesday 7	9.00 am Full Staff Meeting Baptism Preparation
Thursday 8	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 10	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 11	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
Thursday 15	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 17	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 5.00 pm RSCM Choir Festival - Worcester Cathedral 7.00 pm Barn Dance in the Church Hall
SUNDAY 18	SECOND BEFORE ADVENT
Monday 19	7.30 pm PCC meeting in the Narthex
Wednesday 21	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 22	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Saturday 24	10.00 am Open church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 25	CHRIST THE KING
Thursday 29	10.30 am Holy Communion

DECEMBER - advance notice

Saturday 1	4.30 pm Mary Stevens Hospice Tree of Light Service
SUNDAY 2	10.00 am Confirmation with Bishop John



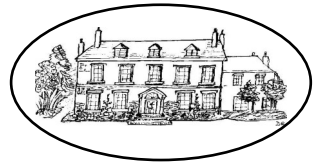
Please join us for a
Mission Coffee Morning
Saturday, 3 November 2012
10.00 am – 12.00 noon
in the Narthex



Raising funds for Mission Giving

Coffee/tea and delicious cakes - £1.50

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

After the best of our Summer weather came in September we have suddenly started to feel the sharpness of autumnal cold, and the increasing coolness just happened to coincide with the need to repair some ancient heating pipes in church. So as we entered the season of Autumn, and started to embark on that downward slope towards the dark days of winter, we have noticed the change! Long term weather forecasters have suggested that we might be in for some serious storms by the end of October, and then there is the suggestion of snow by the beginning of December! Second guessing the weather in this country is almost a national pastime and certainly makes for a constant source of conversation because you are never quite sure what is coming next.

As we move towards the darker days of winter we are perhaps reminded of the spiritual darkness which can sometimes surround us, and as we experience that we may feel at odds with the world. There are many things which make us feel distinctly uncomfortable at the moment, not least the economic news which constantly bombards us with grim warnings about the economic future of the UK, of Europe and the Western World. We see on our TV screens images of hardships faced in Greece and Spain, and wonder if we will have to face the same. We have also been caught up in the darkness faced by the community in Machynlleth, and further afield in Syria and Afghanistan.

Dark days may seem to plague us at all levels. But the Christian belief is that God has made a world which is essentially good, and it is God's will that ultimately the brokenness of the world will be repaired as the world is reconciled with God himself. It is this message which Jesus came to bring, and in the season of Advent which leads us towards Christmas there is an emphasis on hope which prepares us for the coming of the 'light' into a dark world.

As Christians we are people who should live with that hope, and as we are confronted by the darkness and sometimes our feeling of alienation from the world around us, we need to be reminded of the God-given nature of the world and that God wants us to spread the good news of his love and acceptance of us and all people. As we move towards Advent and hear in Church about God's kingdom we need to rediscover the hope which Christ came to bring. It is a hope which was referred to again and again by the Old Testament prophets as they yearned for a time when God would convince the world of its essential 'Godness', something which was done when his Son came to live amongst us.

Let's not be dragged down by all the bad news which seems to surround us – instead let's bear testimony to our faith in Christ, that we are loved by God, and that this world which is, despite evidence to the contrary, essentially a good place, because it is a place where God reigns and that reign is growing in the lives of those who follow his Son, Jesus Christ.

Instead of bemoaning our fate let's pray that God's Kingdom may come among us and be seen within his world.

Stephen Agnew

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2012

4 November 4th Sunday before Advent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Deuteronomy 6. 1-9	Hebrews 9. 11-14	Mark 12. 28-34
	6.30 pm Evensong	Wisdom 3. 1-9	1 Peter 1. 3-9	
11 November 3rd Sunday before Advent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER WITH EUCHARIST - REMEMBRANCE -		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 10.33-11.9	John 14. 1-29	
18 November 2nd Sunday before Advent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Daniel 12. 1-3	Hebrews 10. 11-14, 19-25	Mark 13. 1-8
	6.30 pm Evensong	Daniel 3.	Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43	
25 November Christ the King	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Daniel 7. 9-10-13-14	Revelation 1. 4b-8	John 18. 33-37
	6.30 pm Evensong	Daniel 5.	John 6. 1-15	

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

As the summer holidays drew to a close, the first two weeks of September saw the start of much activity in the churchyard as two Saturday work parties set to tackle the rampant growth, product of our warm, damp summer. With strimmer, sickle, shears and mowers, grass and shrubbery were cut back whilst very many helpers cleared the areas of the debris to restore some sense of order.

Such was the generous response to the invitation to help on these occasions that a great deal of work was done with a hugely beneficial impact being achieved. This has resulted in the eastern end of the churchyard now looking much tidier and being much more accessible, something we now hope to maintain over time.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped in the churchyard, to those who helped organise and provide for the eventand from all of us who enjoyed them so much, thank you for the fortifying bacon baps so kindly prepared for all by Jean Agnew.

Whilst Ken and Max strive to continue their much valued work in the church grounds their efforts have been hampered by three breakdowns of our lawnmower, a symptom of its age and rapidly approaching time for permanent retirement. As the reality of the situation dawned, independently and with no appeal being made, two benefactors quietly provided generous donations that have enabled us to buy a new, fit for purpose mower that is now the pride of the fleet and have left provision for additional equipment for when we decide what is most suitable. A further offer, by a third benefactor, to meet the cost of some monthly gardening care in the churchyard has also been warmly accepted. We hope this will lead to the removal of ivy and other self-seeded plants from around many of the larger stone monuments, so enabling the inscription on the memorials of those buried in these grounds to be more visible. To all these kind and generous supporters we send our thanks.

A group from Beacon Employment has also been busy in the churchyard clearing ground to the west of the area during what will be their last period of commitment for this year. The impact of their work is considerable such that the western end of the churchyard is, currently, in large part, free of overgrowth.

At some point in the months when he was unable to take an active part in his duties as church warden, Edward Haden asked for bulbs to be planted in the churchyard, 'To bring some colour to the area early in the year.' This request has been honoured with the first of what is hoped to become a host of daffodils planted so that they will be visible from the church in the early days of spring each year.

It is encouraging and rewarding that current work is building on the work so effectively undertaken by others who have given so much care to this important place. In particular, it was with great pleasure that the PCC recently recorded public thanks to Doreen Ryan for over twenty years of care and oversight for the St Mary's Churchyard. Once again, thank you Doreen.

Tony Tatford

ENTRANCE
£1
Children
Free

CHRISTMAS MARKET

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER

ENTRANCE
£1
Children
Free

10.00 am– 12.00 noon

in the Church Hall

Please join us on this happy occasion

If you are able to help before or on the day please get in touch

We would be very grateful for contributions of items for the various stalls as indicated*.

Also, help with setting up the evening before and with running stalls on the day would be much appreciated.

BOTTLE STALL* CAKES* GIFT STALL*
GROCERIES AND PRESERVES * WHITE ELEPHANTS*
BOOKS* SOFT TOYS JEWELLERY PLANTS
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

GAMES FOR ALL AGES and FATHER CHRISTMAS for the young

REFRESHMENTS: TEA/COFFEE and a MINCE PIE

And a warm welcome to all

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Will you help us sparkle? The jewellery stall needs odd 9ct gold earrings fine broken (un-mendable) 9ct chains, damaged rings and brooches. Although Chris Morgan is now in charge of the 'bling', I still maintain my bullion links and am available in an advisory capacity and also head the valuation side. We are offering a special service during November only, when we will value and/or sell your antique jewellery for you and hope to put the resulting charges (usually 10%) towards the stall takings. Please give donations to Chris, Frank, Roy or myself but Special November sale items to me. With many thanks and many donations gratefully received.

Pamela Peacock

A SHORT TALE OF CRIME IN THE CHURCH

The County Express reported a case before the Stourbridge magistrates in its issue of the 5 October 1957. The defendant's address was c/o the Waterloo Inn, Hagley Road, Oldswinford, and this was his statement to the police:

I went to the church to see the vicar as I was in need of help and advice and I wanted to borrow some money. As there was no one there, I walked around and picked up an offertory box. I managed to open the front a little with a nail file and some money fell out.

In finding him guilty, it was stated that he had previous convictions for stealing from an offertory box. He was fined £5 and ordered to return the money to the church. His name was ... Arthur Daley – the original, one presumes.

One aspect of the pleasures of historical research.....

Roy Peacock

.....

THE MILE LONG SCARF

Way back in February, after a snowy and frosty walk across the limestone Way in Dudley, the party I was with finished up at the Beacon centre for the Blind for a coffee in their excellent café.

On our way in we were given leaflets about a sponsored knit to create a scarf a mile long. As I go to the craft group at the Coach House on a Monday I thought that members there would be willing to help. I gave them details of what to do and said I would collect scarves up to the time we finished for our summer break.

In all we knitted thirty one scarves and sent a donation for £30 to the Beacon Centre. In August a couple of friends and I went to the centre to take the scarves and the donation and I received a very prompt reply, a thank you letter from Karen Gullick, their fundraising officer.

The sponsored scarf knit is continuing until 1 December 2012. Their aim is to create a scarf at least one mile long and raise £3000 to help run their weekly youth group for visually impaired children for one year.

The official measurement takes place in the week beginning 7 January 2013 and afterwards the pieces in the scarf will be made into blankets and given to the homeless.

Sue Wakeley

.....

FLOWER GUILD

Thank you to all those people who assisted with the decoration of the church for our Harvest Service and a special welcome to new Guild member Carol. As usual, all your hard work and talents achieved an outstanding result much appreciated by others.

NEWS OF OUTREACH

Many of those in the Outreach Group have the opportunity to get together if needed after communion on Thursday morning and conversations at this time have served in place of formal meetings. Nevertheless, we continue to organise and serve tea/coffee and biscuits after this service when we make special efforts to celebrate birthdays and to share news of each other and to provide for those in need and those unable to join our act of worship. The reality is that we are an ageing group, increasingly limited by what we can do despite our determination to do our bit. We would welcome some more youthful members to help us maintain our vitality.

We are fortunate to have some special friends who help when needed, especially in providing transport and assisting to ensure the success of the outings we arrange for those who might otherwise rarely share a social event. Our list of local places to visit is quite long but for reasons of illness, infirmity and disappointing weather our programme has been slightly limited during the past year. We have welcomed visits to Garden Centres, local hostleries, and cinemas, often to enjoy the entertainment provided and to share a meal together. Rowberry's Nurseries at Chaddesley Corbett and the cinema visit to see 'The Kings Speech' were particularly successful and memorable outings of the sort we would hope to repeat in times to come. Indeed, preparations are in hand for a visit to Rowberry's in the near future. If you would like to help with or take part in any of these events please do get in touch. We would warmly welcome anyone who would like to share the visit and anyone who could offer transport for two or three peoplecars preferred as those who possessed them no longer have their leathers and helmet!

Aside from our visits we continue to contribute to our church community in various ways. We are kindly given space for a stall at the Christmas Market where we sell attractive articles made by busy and skilled ladies.

Ann and Howard May's Quizzes have been a popular buy and have brought fun and entertainment and hours of family togetherness as the clues have been studied and the answers sought.

Over the years Outreach has been involved with the design and preparation of the St Mary's Christmas card, an important means of contact between the church and all those who live in the parish. This card sends greetings from St Mary's to all in our wider community and presents a welcome to and the times of our Christmas Services.

My hope is that we are able to continue to do what we can with these tasks and to help where we can with other ideas to play our part so to maintain our outreach in the community.

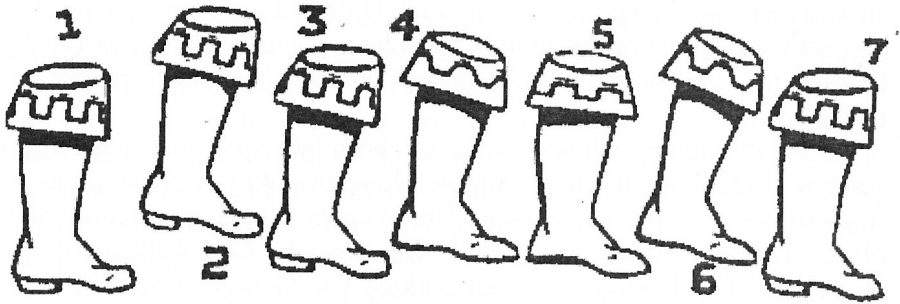
Anne Davies

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

BOOTS AND SHOES

PANTOMIME BOOTS

How many pairs can you spot?



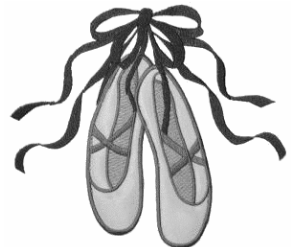
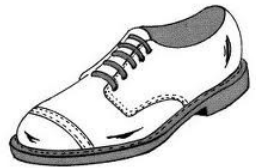
Look carefully for tiny differences.

A PILE OF JUMBLED SHOES

Can you sort out the types of boots and shoes?

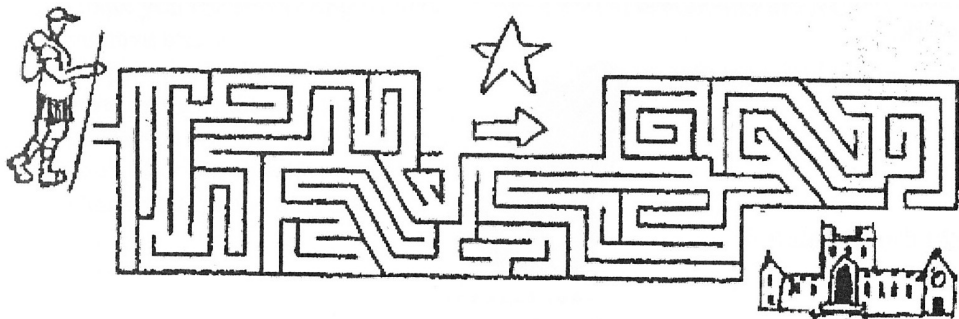


- 1) SSIRPLEP
- 2) OPPIFFLLS
- 3) RESTIRAN
- 4) SALECUP
- 5) FLOATLOB
- 6) TABLEL
- 7) NASSLAD
- 8) STOLWENGLIN



A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY

Can you follow the right path for the pilgrim to follow to get to the shrine?



SANDALS IN THE BIBLE

Who said:

1) "Take off your sandals for the place you are standing is holy ground"

ANSWER _____

2) "One more powerful than I will come the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie"

ANSWER _____

3) "Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet for... this son of mine was lost and is found"

ANSWER _____

Think of three things you should do to follow in Jesus' footsteps:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

WORD SQUARE

Usual rules. Make thirty words and find the nine lettered word.

T	N	O
I	O	T
F	R	P

REMEMBRANCE

The picture on the front cover of this month's magazine is of the headstone to the grave of Private T. H. Aston, whose remains lie in the post World War 1, Harelebeke New British Cemetery, West Flanders, Belgium. Sue and I visited here in September to seek the grave of this brave soldier, the uncle of a friend of ours.

Private Thomas Aston of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment died on 11 April 1918 having survived the previous years of this horrific war. It is believed that he, like many others, lied about his age in order to sign up in 1914 to 'do his bit.'

From Harelebeke we travelled to Ypres, to once more share in the daily Act of Remembrance at the Menin Gate Memorial. Since 1928 the Last Post Association, an independent body of private Belgian citizens has been responsible for the organisation of this event and to maintain it "in perpetuity". This was the fifth time we have attended the service where once again we were part of an assembly of over three hundred people all of who fell silent as the bugles sounded the Last Post at 8.00 pm. As is a frequent occurrence, groups of schoolchildren were among those taking part, some of whom laid wreaths on behalf of their schools, watched over by a few ex-servicemen who stood proudly to attention in remembrance of their own colleagues and all that this simple ceremony represents. All ages and many nationalities were present to share a few moments of silent tribute before melting away to leave the floral tributes and poppy wreaths to the night.

International conflict and the loss and destruction it brings continue to be part of day to day life in many parts of this world. On November 11 we shall once more remember in our services the dedication given and the sacrifices made by so many over the years whilst we pray for greater understanding and an end to the human misery brought by armed conflict.



**'At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.'**

Tony Tatford

HOLY DUSTERS

Please could we have some volunteers to join our rota? You would be part of a team to work for about 1½ hours about three times a year. We meet in church usually on a Saturday morning or any day to suit the team. The work involves polishing the brass and general dusting.

If you think you could help please phone John Sutton in the parish office.

PCC UPDATE

Acts of Worship have been accompanied by autumnal chill inside St Mary's in recent weeks as it was deemed too risky to turn on the heating until repairs had been carried out to leaking pipe work. In all, three leaks had been identified in the steel pipe work, one, the most serious, in the central aisle and two others in the large 4½ inch pipe that runs along the south wall. Repairs to the system have been far from straightforward and it has been a challenge to find heating engineers experienced and willing to consider repairs. Inevitably there has been considerable financial cost, but a cost far less than that we will one day have to face when full replacement of the system will become necessary. In the meantime we hope we have a system that will serve us well during this winter. Thank you to Tony Lloyd and Ray Drew who have led the search for a solution to the problems we faced.

At the October meeting Treasurer Russ Fowler presented accounts for the incomplete year to the end of August, a reflection of the skill and dedication he has brought to the task during his short time in office. Amongst issues considered, reference was made to a small account referred to as the Churchwarden's Account. The historical origins of this account are as follows:- *'The Churchwarden's Account arose from a legacy under the 1620 will of William Sebright, born in Wolverley, who rose to be Clerk of London and MP for Droitwich. Funded by property in Bethnal Green, the charity supported education in Wolverley and provided £3 7s 4d annually to several local churches from which to distribute £3.0.8d worth of bread to the poor and needy leaving 6s.8d to the parish clerk for his pains in the distribution.'* A 1620's Food Bank?

Various matters relating to fire protection, the lightning conductor, lighting and roofing were reported as being satisfactorily resolved.

Malcolm Frost is now serving as Chairman of the Church Hall Committee. Various matters of on-going maintenance were reported and initial consideration of ideas for the extension of the kitchen were shared.

To comply with the rules the names of various Eucharistic Assistants have been submitted to the Bishop for approval of their on-going service.

New Union and St George's flags for flying from the church tower have been purchased as a consequence of generous donations.

With authorisation of a new Youth Leader for the Youth Club the work of all Youth Leaders is to be formally recognised in a letter of appreciation from the PCC.

Katey Fletcher



SATURDAY, 17 NOVEMBER

7.00 – 10.00 PM

BARN DANCE

**IN THE CHURCH HALL
TICKETS £6.00 ADULTS, £4.00 CHILDREN
TO INCLUDE FISH AND CHIP SUPPER**

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

Great fun for family and friends
in aid of Church Hall Funds
Details at back of church



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

Our opening service was led by Pat Whalley. After a reading, Mark 10 v 13-16, of the welcome and blessing of Christ on little children we were reminded that many children absorb and learn their behaviour and attitudes from their parents and family even when we think they are not looking or listening. Beware how you act or what you say, it may come back from your children!

Our speaker Chris Morgan explained the work of the charity NO LIMITS which she founded four and a half years ago for adolescents with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome. There is little provision in Dudley to meet the needs of these people. The meetings are based at the Coach House. There is a waiting list and constant needs for volunteers.

The charity tries to promote understanding and independence for those with these conditions for which there is no cure. No two people show the same symptoms and the behaviour spectrum is very wide. Research indicates the babies develop a cluster of extra brain cells at birth which fail to fully connect.

Mood swings can be severe and are sometimes stifled with heavy medication which often has terrible side effects. Some may lack language, dislike close contact or hate noise. Some develop food allergies, others can develop high ability e.g. Bill Gates, Patrick Moore and the pianist Glenn Gould. Boys are affected more than girls in a ratio of 8:1.

Finally NO LIMITS helps parents to try to understand and support them with extra care. Their aim for all the adolescents is to be able to feel they are themselves and worthwhile in every society.

Chris was thanked for the work which continues to help so many young people. Anne May thanked members for providing toiletries for the women's refuge and women prisoners and showed us contents for each bag.

Diana de Souza has had to stop making jams and pickles for Coach House fund as new EU regulations will require a large cash outlay on new jars for all products.

The Women's Institute is challenging the ruling and it is hoped that MU will join this as well.

Next meeting 2.15 pm Tuesday 13 November in the Coach House. The speaker will be Roy Peacock. All are welcome.

Dawn Nex

.....

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

On Saturday, 29 September, ten walkers plus one dog, assembled on the car-park of the Black Swan at Henley-in-Arden for a 5 mile walk around the area.

Beginning our outing, we walked along the High Street which, because of its historical buildings, some dating back to medieval times, is a conservation area.

Leaving the High Street, we walked towards Beaudesert Church then through a kissing gate, following the Heart of England Way. Climbing steeply uphill we reached the summit and had commanding views over Henley and the surrounding countryside. A little further and we were walking over old earthworks of the former castle of the De Montfort family.

At the top of the field, we left the Heart of England way, crossed over a stile and followed the hedge through two fields. Another stile and then diagonally across a further field brought us to Kite Green.

Then followed a ¼ mile walk along a lane before turning off to follow another footpath eventually exiting fields at Manor Farm. Another stretch of lane led us to the A4189 Henley to Warwick road. Crossing over this, we descended on to the Stratford-upon-Avon canal and followed this in the direction of Henley.

After a brief coffee break on the canal, we continued for a short while before leaving the canal to follow another lane to Pettiford Bridge. Crossing the road, we entered and crossed a field to reach the River Alne. Following the riverside path for a while before eventually leaving the river, we headed for Blackford Mill Farm. Passing to the right of the farm buildings, we were back on to the A4189 again and then back at the Black Swan.

Once again, the weather was kind to us and lunch was very quickly served to us by the very friendly staff at the Black Swan.

Malcolm Frost

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

SAUSAGE AND ROASTED RED PEPPER ROLLS

A recipe you can make ahead and freeze ready to serve at Christmas. The quality of sausage meat is generally very poor so I usually buy my favourite sausages and skin them. If you haven't made your own sausage rolls for a while these are much better than what is on offer in the supermarkets.

Makes 20

2 garlic cloves crushed (optional)

4 tablespoons finely chopped parsley

Finely grated zest of one lemon

450g/1 lb sausage meat

150g/6oz finely chopped roasted red peppers (available in jars)

375g/13oz pack of ready rolled puff pastry.

1 egg beaten with a pinch of salt to glaze

1 tablespoon sesame seeds to sprinkle (optional)

Pre-heat oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Place the garlic, parsley, lemon zest and sausage meat in a food processor and blend to mix. Stir in the peppers and season.

Unroll the pastry, place on a floured surface and gently roll it a little to make it more pliable. Cut into half lengthways.

Divide the sausage into two and spread along the length of each pastry strip, leaving a 1cm/ ½in edge. Tightly roll the pastry around the sausage meat and brush the ends with the beaten egg. Use a sharp knife to cut each roll into ten pieces, and place the little rolls on a baking sheet. Brush a little egg over the pastry and sprinkle over the sesame seeds.

Bake for 25 minutes until the pastry is puffed and the meat has cooked through. Try to save some for Christmas!

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE

Buying and then skinning sausages to turn them into sausage rolls may seem rather like buying a bottle of wine and pouring it into a flask or box but the variety of sausage meats which we can command by doing so makes it a winner in my view too. Pork, beef, venison, wild boar and then a wide range of additional flavourings, Alsace, Germany and Umbria will all claim to be master sausage makers. Savoie likewise, although the red wines there don't rise to any great heights. Some will say the finest sausages are made in Lincolnshire, but vineyards are very thin on the ground in the fenlands!

It would be sensible to save our Bordeaux, Burgundies, Barolos and Amarones for greater banquets than a sausage roll snack. Let's head this month to the South of France for a match for our sausage, peppers and herbs. The widely planted Grenache grape can bring violet aromas and a sweet touch on top of its power and alcohol, which doesn't quite hit the right note. However, the other grapes: Syrah, Mourvedre, Cinsaut and Carignan combine well enough for our needs. So steering clear of the Grenache dominated wines (Chateauneuf du Pape/Gigonda) and their hefty price tags- a regular blend from perhaps Costiers de Nimes would work well. Whether sightseeing in the city of Nimes Roman arena and the magnificent temple, or busy with Christmas preparations, a quick snack and a drop of red wine might be all you have time to fit in!

Enjoy your wine sipping.....

Richard W. B Ryan

.....

LETTER OF GRATITUDE

On the 15th of March this year I said farewell to my husband of just four months as he set off to Afghanistan. Since that date I have kept my spirits buoyed by keeping busy, especially with my choir. Who would ever have thought that I would record a single, 3 tracks for an album and perform at numerous outstanding places including the jubilee concert, the House of Commons, Germany and Salisbury cathedral to name but a few! I have joined a close community with great support networks, and have had fantastic support from my family, but the thoughts and prayers from all those at St Mary's have been a constant support for both of us. To know that so many people care so much and were praying for Simon's safe return has been really heart warming. On September 21st Simon landed safe and sound in Brize Norton, with only one man missing. Please continue to pray for those still fighting in Afghanistan, and for those who aren't as lucky as us. The picture attached was taken at Simon's medals parade where he was awarded three medals. Twelve members of our family were there brimming with pride for Simon and the whole of 26 Engineer Regiment who did such a fantastic job building and preparing locations ready for the handover to Afghan forces.



Now we look forward to our long awaited honeymoon, and wait and see where our army journey will lead us next. Thank you so much for your continued support and love, we greatly appreciate it.

Simon and Becca George

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

16 September Daisy Autumn Tonks

Weddings

15 September Adam Priest and Gemma Boyle
22 September Christopher Moore and Natalie Rowley
5 October Oliver Wilcox and Gemma France

Funerals

12 September	John Lutwyche	Aged 69
19 September	Harry Watkins	Aged 94
24 September	Thomas Williams	Aged 89
27 September	Gladys Meeson	Aged 89
10 October	Peter Edwards	Aged 43

CHOIR NEWS AT ST MARY'S

Excellent news...I am pleased to report that the three candidates who took their RSCM Deans' Award on 13 October have all passed. This brings the total number of successes this year from St Mary's to four. Mark Wilson took his Dean's in the spring session of exams and passed with distinction. Molly Butcher, Jack Kirton and Megan Knowles all passed in the autumn. Molly passed with merit. Congratulations to them all – they will receive their awards formally at the Diocesan Choirs' Festival in the cathedral on Saturday 17 November at 5pm. You are all welcome to attend this service which is based on BCP Evensong and will attract choirs from across the diocese.

Robin Walker – Organist and Director of Music

.....

OUR HARVEST SUPPER AND THE IFAKARA BAKERY

St Mary's Harvest Supper on 13 October was a very enjoyable evening, with an excellent Harvest meal followed by a talk on the Ifakara Bakery in Tanzania from our guests, Margaret and Eugene Schellenberg. Thank you to both our Social Committee and our Mission Committee who worked together for this event.

As we were hoping to raise funds to support the Ifakara Bakery in its production of bread for the local community, the total sum raised reflects the kindness and generosity of all who made donations following Eugene's presentation. The final total, from personal donations on the evening, other donations and the addition of Gift Aid, came to **£819** - an amazing amount! This will provide many loaves of bread for the people of Ifakara, their school children, hospital patients, a nursery and other centres helping those in need. Thank you all so much for your help for the Ifakara Bakery's wonderful work.

St Mary's Mission and Pastoral Committee

BEATRICE LOUISE FOULKES

As the daughter of Betty Foulkes, I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity to thank all who attended her funeral. My mother found it very hard to move from Devon. It was the warmth of the friendship that she encountered that helped her to make Stourbridge seem like home. Readers of this magazine will know that she enjoyed writing. This was one her poems that I found; it shows how she felt about her friendships.

NEW START

In life there is pain
But joy is there too
No day dawns again
For me or for you.
For each drop of rain
Earth blossoms anew.

The moon with her train
Of stars leaves the sky,
While sun guilds the main
And birds greet the day.
Look up look around,
Find your friends, take heart.
Their love is unbound,
You can make a new start.

I should also like to thank all who gave to the Hill Wheeler Preparatory School. To build an orphanage above the classrooms had been a project that Mum took a great deal of interest in. She and my father always loved children and gave what they could in money and care.

We raised enough money to bring the whole project forward by one to two years - a fitting tribute. I intend to build on your support. I will give lessons to children here and the money will go directly to the charity (please refer to the advert on the back page). Children learning here are giving opportunities to many more children there.

In case this seems all too sombre, I leave the last word to Mum whose humour was her trademark: 'She's bats in the belfry' I hear you all say. Well here's to the bats. Hip Hip Hooray!

Elizabeth Parkes

CHILDREN'S PAGE ANSWERS

BOOTS

There are two matching pairs: 1 and 3, 4 and 6

JUMBLED SHOES

1. Slippers 2. Flipflops 3. Trainers 4. Laceups 5. Football 6. Ballet 7. Sandals 8. Wellingtons

SANDALS IN THE BIBLE

1. God to Moses 2. John the Baptist 3. Father of the Prodigal Son

WORD SQUARE

The nine lettered word is FOOTPRINT

**Unfortunately the Bishop's letter was not available as we went to print.
A copy is available for you to read in the Narthex at the back of church.**

We are grateful for the sponsorship of the following businesses.



The Coach House

Rectory Road,
Old Swinford.

Tel: 01384 828890

Available for Hire evenings /
weekends. Small parties up to 40.
Contact Parish Office—01384 441003

Chiropodist

Rachel Clark MSSCH MBCHA

Visiting Practice

Qualified and Insured.

Registered with Health Professions Council

Tel: 01384 873938 or 07860 771442

Chris Genner

FOREVER LIVING PRODUCTS

Natural Aloe Vera health drinks,
beauty and nutritional products.

Free advice, samples, talks
and demonstrations.

BUY DIRECT **www.genner.net**

Chris Genner **01384 371336**

Davis Memorials Ltd

Monumental and Masonry Contractors

Established 1841 Suppliers of all
forms of memorials. 56A Station Road,

Old Hill, Cradley Heath, West

Midlands, B64 6NU

Tel: 01384 566958 Fax: 01384 569708

Website www.davismemorials.co.uk

Top Team Tutoring

Maths & English One-to-One Tuition

David and Joanna Evans - a family
business providing a personal
service.

All Key Stages, GCSE, 'A' Level, 11+ &
13+ Selection. Free advice.

Visit **www.topteamtutoring.co.uk** or

Tel: 01384 392553

Maths Tuition

Teacher with 36 years experience

SATs examiner

£24 per hour to Hill Wheeler

Preparatory School

Registered Charity 1139536

Contact - **01384 397354**

H Porter & Sons

Old Church House, 60 South Road,

Stourbridge. **Tel: 01384 395048.**

Funeral Directors for over 160 years.

J Vernon Kendrick

Vernon House, Cemetery Road, Lye.

DY9 8DB **Tel: 01384 422123.**

Funeral Directors.

Golden Charter Pre-payment Plans.

R B Porter Heating Ltd

For all Central Heating

and Plumbing needs.

Servicing, Repairs and New Systems

Gas Safe Approved

191 Hagley Road, Old Swinford

Tel : 01384 396719

Swinford Pharmacy

90 Hagley Road, Old Swinford.

Tel: 01384 440030. We offer a free
collection and delivery service for
elderly and housebound patients.

J & J Upperdine

*High Class Private and Commercial
Painting and Decorating*

82 Birmingham St. Stourbridge

DY8 1JH

Tel: Day 07969 864131

Evening 01384 827281