

St Mary's Old Swinford
Parish Magazine
June 2012 online edition.



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



RECTOR: Interregnum in process
All enquiries to the Parish Office

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JUNE 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	
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 JUNE 2012

Friday 1	10.00 am St Mary's Pre-school Fund Raising/Street Party
Saturday 2	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 3	TRINITY SUNDAY
	3.00pm Baptisms
Monday 4	Spring Bank Holiday
Tuesday 5	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday
	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Thursday 7	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 9	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 10	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 12	6.30 pm Licensing Service for Revd Stephen Agnew with reception after in the Church Hall
Thursday 14	10.30 am Holy Communion
	7.00 pm King Edward VI College Charter Day Service
Saturday 16	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 17	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	3.00pm Baptisms
Wednesday 20	11.30 Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 21	10.30. am Holy Communion
	7.00pm Mary Steven's Hospice Memorial Service
Friday 22	10.30 am Church Hall Committee Meeting
Saturday 23	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	Mission Coffee Morning in the Narthex
SUNDAY 24	THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Thursday 28	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 30	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	Ordination of Priests at Worcester Cathedral

CHRISTIAN AID IN ACTION



Just as Ruth had made plans for Christian Aid week for this year without a coordinator at St Mary's, her prayers and a humble appeal for help resulted in a generous offer. We are very grateful to Helen Fowler who quickly moved into action to very effectively encourage and enable others to fulfil our commitment to this annual collection.

So, by the time this magazine goes to print, the little red envelopes will have dropped through the doors of homes throughout the parish ready for these to be collected, with contributors generous gifts, to promote the work of Christian Aid.

Thank you Helen and all who support this charity.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

As this magazine goes to press Stephen and Jean Agnew will have moved into the Rectory and will be beginning the process of making a new home. No doubt neighbours will soon be making themselves known with a welcome and offers of friendship and the streets and shops of the locality will be becoming more familiar. Many of us will be preparing for and looking forward to the evening of Stephen's Licensing and Installation Service and the following days when Stephen will really get down to business. Exciting times.

At the same time, in the parish of St John Baptist, Claines, people will be coming to terms with an uncertain future, an ill-defined period without a vicar to lead them. No doubt they will be coping with a range of feelings and opinions about what has occurred, all tinged with a degree of uncertainty about what the future may bring. We can at least empathise with them as we share our prayers for a swift and satisfactory conclusion to their current situation. If you have access to the internet, you might care to have a look at www.clainesfriends.org.uk. Indeed, you may have already done so. This is the website of St John Baptist, Claines, a site that provides an interesting and easily accessible insight into a parish about to experience what we have shared for the past year.

Which brings us to a very important thank you to everyone who has supported Marjorie during the past year. Her workload in this time has been enormous and successfully met with the support provided to her by so many kind and thoughtful friends.

One of the useful features of a parish magazine is the manner in which it facilitates greetings and farewells. Most months, whether simply in the register of births and funerals, or in more detailed accounts, we are able to express our feelings as people come and go. At times, these changes have particular significance, as indeed, we face at present.

As we welcome Stephen and Jean we find ourselves doing so, having to say our goodbyes to a particularly faithful servant of St Mary's, Edward Haden. Everyone who knew Edward as a member of the St Mary's congregation, as churchwarden, friend, colleague or passing acquaintance knew a man of integrity, of compassion, with common sense and the determination and business acumen to get the job done. That we are preparing for his funeral so soon after acknowledging his retirement with heartfelt appreciation, is a difficult reality to face.

Thank you Edward for all that you did for so many. Your contributions and the monument of well-being in which we find St Mary's at this time will serve as a legacy of your generosity and care and will, in time, help to ease the grief of your family whom we look to support with love.

With our prayers and best wishes,

The Churchwardens

SERVICES IN JUNE 2012

3 June Trinity Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 6. 1 - 8	Romans 8. 12-17	John 3:
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 1. 4 -10	Revelations 4	
10 June First after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Jeremiah 6. 16-21	Romans 9. 1 -13	
17 June Second after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Ezekiel 17. 22-24	2 Corinthians 5. 6-10(11-13)14-17	Mark 4. 26-34
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jeremiah 7. 1 -16	Romans 9. 14 - 26	
24 June Third after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 40. 1 - 11	Acts 13. 14b - 26	Luke 1. 57-66,80
	6.30 pm Evensong	Malachi 4	Matthew 11. 2 - 19	

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

*We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.*

Winston Churchill

**RICHARD HARRIS,
HONORARY TREASURER, ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD**

It has been a great pleasure and privilege to work with Richard in just the last quarter or so of his long and distinguished service as Treasurer of St Mary's. Not only is his knowledge of St Mary's and its finances encyclopaedic, but he also served the wider Church as a Diocesan Trustee and a member of the Glebe Committee.

Treasurers sometimes have a reputation for following the example of General de Gaulle with a resounding 'Non' to proposals for any expenditure beyond what they deem to be strictly necessary. Richard was invariably balanced, positive and supportive in his approach and I relied heavily on his judgment which was always wise, perceptive and thoughtful. As treasurer he had an amazing ability to find money for things that needed to be done and he put a vast amount of work into the many fund-raising appeals and subsequent building projects undertaken over the last few years always making sure that the money was available when and where needed, correspondence and form filling completed and bills paid on time! I hope that Richard will forgive me for saying that not only is he utterly professional, but he is also the nicest person one could wish to work with. The fact that St Mary's finances have been so well managed over nearly half a century under Richard's stewardship is borne out by their ongoing health. He, with his assistant Jane Jukes, doing sterling work with the computer accounts, (Richard would not even countenance a calculator, let alone a computer!) made a superb team and our debt to them is immense.

Greville Cross

A special presentation was made to Richard at the Annual Parochial meeting to thank him for his 48 years of outstanding service. See page 12.

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Please join us for a
Mission Coffee Morning
Saturday, 23 June 2012

10 am – 12 noon
in the Narthex



Raising funds for Mission Giving

Coffee/tea and delicious cakes

£1.50

ST MARY'S MISSION PASTORAL COMMITTEE

As many of you will know, Doreen Ryan has led this committee for more years than any of us can remember but she has now stepped down. We would like to express our grateful thanks to Doreen for the commitment and care with which she has always worked for Mission at St Mary's and for her wise and thoughtful leadership. She has always thought of those in need and of ways in which we could help others, ensuring that we have remembered as many people as possible and increased our Mission giving on behalf of St Mary's. Very many thanks, Doreen, from us all.

I shall now follow in this role, assisted by a very supportive committee. My previous work as Treasurer of this committee will be undertaken by Charmian Nex and I am most grateful for her kind offer of help.

Please make a note in your diaries for our **Mission Coffee Mornings** on Saturday, 23 June and Saturday, 3 November in the narthex. Come and spend a very enjoyable morning with time for friends and visitors to chat over coffee and cupcakes, or any of our other delicious cakes on offer. It's difficult to choose!

All funds raised go from St Mary's to help and support others, at home and abroad, so if you see a committee member advancing towards you with a ticket, please buy one and come and join us! Your donation will make a real difference.

Here's a tiny selection of comments and thanks from some of those whom we've supported, as a result of your help:

USPG Anglicans in World Mission: Thank you very much for St Mary's donation. In Malawi USPG is transforming communities surrounding hospitals by bringing medical personnel and communities together to improve community health.

St Basil's, Birmingham: Please thank the members of your church. Unfortunately we are seeing a rise in the number of young people coming to us for help but staff are determined to offer them the best possible service. We could not do this without your help.

The Mary Stevens Hospice: This welcome and thoughtful donation will enable us to support our patients and their families through a very difficult period in their lives and ensure that they receive the very best palliative care possible. Sincere thanks to all concerned.

Mission Aviation Flying: in South Africa – Please pass on our thanks to the whole church. Our plane took off from Lanseria Airport, heading to Venda, with loads of educational toys donated by Pick n Pay. These will go to nursery schools that have nothing, where children have to bring their own toys, food and chairs. On board were also 4,000 highly nutritious fortified meals for the little ones.

On behalf of the Mission Pastoral Committee

Pamela Scudamore

‘WANTED’, CHARLES STUART, TRAYTOR!

Recently a ‘WANTED’ poster issued by Oliver Cromwell offering a reward for the capture of Charles II in September 1651 was expected to fetch one thousand pounds at an auction house in Shropshire. It eventually went for the princely sum of £33,000.

After the execution of his father, the young Charles II was determined to recover the throne. Backed by a Scottish army of some 15,000 men he travelled down through Lancashire and arrived at Worcester. Meanwhile, Cromwell had assembled an army of 30,000 men at Evesham. Advancing on both sides of the Severn he drove the Scots into the city of Worcester where considerable slaughter took place. Charles managed to escape through one of the city gates after having left his lodging house by the back door as Parliamentary soldiers entered through the front. The king was joined by more Royalists and the cavalcade rode through Stourbridge, Wordsley and Himley before reaching White Ladies, a convent which was slighted in 1536 and the nuns evicted.



The party then rode on to Boscobel where Charles met the five Penderal brothers who were to guard him and assist in his escape. (It was here where the king and his friend Major Carless hid in the famous oak tree.) Whilst he was at Boscobel one of the brothers, Humphrey Penderal, a miller by trade, went to the town of Tong to pay his taxes. There he noticed a poster (similar to the one recently auctioned) offering one thousand pounds for information leading to the capture of Charles, described as a ‘traytor’. The poster described how the young king was defeated at Worcester on 2 September 1651 by Cromwell’s New Model Army.

When Humphrey returned to Boscobel and described the contents of the poster to Charles, the king whispered to Major Carless, “Do you think these poor men might betray me for such a sum?”

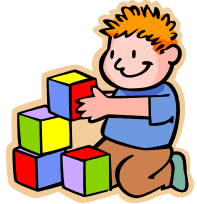
Carless said to Humphrey, “Would you betray His Majesty?” Humphrey then replied, “We would never betray His Majesty however big the sum.” The king apologised for doubting the brothers’ loyalties.

Eventually Charles escaped to the coast where he sailed from Shoreham to join his mother in France. Nine years later, two years after Cromwell’s death, he was restored to the throne.

Peter Selby

ST MARY'S PRE- SCHOOL

St Mary's Pre-school has enjoyed a warm association with the church for quite a few years. The children enjoy their visits to and involvement in activities in the church but it is rare that we can invite visitors into the pre-school environment. Here is your opportunity to pay us a visit and join in the fun.



On Friday 1 June we will be holding a fund-raising event in support of funds to develop our outdoor area. We wish to extend a warm invitation to you to pay us a visit on this occasion and to support our appeal.

Fences may be safe and secure, but they don't look very attractive. A little TLC, alongside some gardening advice, with the provision of plants, containers or other devices, would enhance their appearance. Can you help?

On the same day, from 10.00 am, we will be holding a 'street party' for the children to celebrate our Queen's Jubilee.

We would like to invite you to come and join in with the fun and experience of the day.

If anyone would like to donate a prize or offer any help we would always appreciate it.

Hope to see you there.

Elaine Pritchard
Pre-school Leader

BISHOP CALLS FOR RETHINK ON VAT ON LISTED CHURCHES

Bishop John is joining voices throughout the Church of England pressing the Government to reconsider their budget proposals to impose 20% VAT on alterations to listed churches.

Of the Grade 1 listed buildings in England, 45% of the total are Church of England churches and most of them are medieval, which makes their maintenance, repair and alteration very expensive. Although churches do receive grants from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery, much of the repair of these buildings relies on the voluntary giving by parishioners.

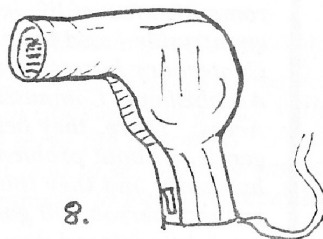
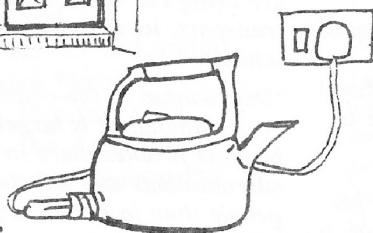
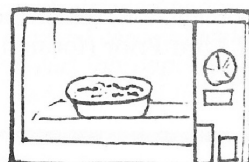
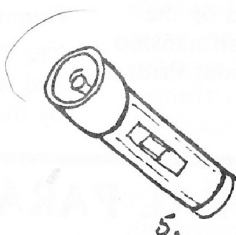
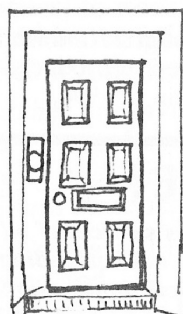
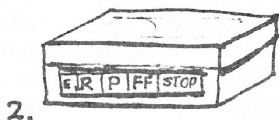
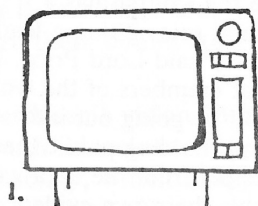
Bishop John said: "While it may be possible to argue for fairness in the application of VAT in the case of listed private dwellings, serious consequences to listed places of worship in the proposed VAT changes seem not to have been foreseen by the Government. A very large proportion of the alterations to church buildings are concerned with making them viable for use by the wider community by installing meeting rooms, lavatories and kitchens. This is the "Big Society" in action. I am quite sure that the imposition of 20% VAT will have a detrimental impact on this work across the Diocese of Worcester."

Bishop John is asking that VAT on alterations to listed places of worship remain zero rated and is encouraging as many people as possible to sign the Church of England's petition on this topic: <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/32229>.

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

PRESS THE BUTTON!

Colour in the button that you press to make these items work:



Write their names:

1. _____ 5. _____

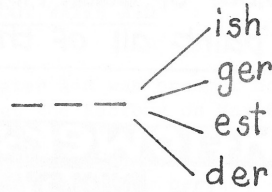
2. _____ 6. _____

3. _____ 7. _____

4. _____ 8. _____

STARTING WORDS

Find the three lettered word that you can place in front of any of these to make new words.



STARTING UP

What started these people? Read the verses from the Bible and fill in the answers.

1. What happened to David? (1 Samuel 16)

2. What made Elisha become Elijah's disciple? (1 Kings 19)

3. What happened when Jesus was baptised? (John 3)

4. What made the disciples start to preach about Jesus? (Mark 16)

5. What did Jesus give Paul when he sent Ananias to him? (Acts 9)

Paul said "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit."
Let your Spirit work in us Lord Jesus, that we may bring your love to others.



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING

Our Annual Parochial Meeting was held on Sunday 22 April. In observance of the Church's formal procedures it was preceded by the Annual Meeting of Parishioners which is called to elect the churchwardens and deputy wardens.

Both events were rather more subdued this year partly as a result of the absence of a rector during the interregnum but also through the sadness of the circumstances of the retirement of Edward Haden as our long-serving churchwarden. The Parishioners' Meeting were pleased to elect Tony Tatford and Marjorie Ferguson as churchwardens. In a very fitting tribute to Edward, Tony reflected on the enormity of service that Edward had delivered to the Parish, much of it unnoticed as it was so often 'behind the scenes' but other more tangible achievements can be seen in the fabric of the church and the churchyard.

Marjorie Ferguson took the chair for the Annual Parish Meeting to receive reports of various aspects of the church's management and reviews of the year's activities. Ruth gave a confident account of her work as curate during the interregnum and acknowledged the help she had received from our Readers, visiting clergy, the PCC and the choir. The period had been made more difficult by ill health of several members but the church had delivered its full programme of services including the special events for the Christmas and Easter festivals. Marjorie thanked Ruth for her dedication and commitment to her duties as curate and for carrying the additional burden of responsibilities during the interregnum.

Richard Harris introduced the treasurer's report with the announcement of his retirement after 48 years in service. The Church's finances were a little stronger this year with a modest surplus resulting partly from generous bequests and also from a reduction in the 'Diocesan Parish Share'. This annual contribution is lower as there are fewer clergy in the Diocese. Tony Tatford presented Richard with an engraved glass plaque to mark his retirement. The PCC will be co-opting Russ Fowler in May and he will be taking over the duties of Treasurer.

Katey Fletcher reviewed the work of the PCC during the past year and Tony Lloyd gave an account of the maintenance of the church fabric in which theft of lead had been a recurring problem. Additional reports of church organisations covered a wide range of the activities embraced by St Mary's Church, reflecting the vibrancy and strength within the church community. The meeting concluded on an optimistic note with the election of sidespersons and PCC members, and in eager anticipation of the arrival of Revd Stephen Agnew as our new priest-in-charge.

Alec Beevers

THANKSGIVING FOR LIFE

I thank Thee, God that I have lived
 In this great world and known its many joys;
The song of birds, the strong sweet scent of hay
 And cooling breezes in the secret dusk;
The flaming sunsets at the close of day;
 Hills, and the lonely, heather covered moors;
Music at night, and moonlight on the sea,
 The beat of the waves upon the rocky shore
And wild white spray, flung high in ecstasy;
 The faithful eyes of dogs and treasured books;
The love of kin and fellowship of friends,
 And all that makes life dear and beautiful.
Because of these and other blessings poured
 Unasked upon my wondering head,
Because I know there is yet to come
 An even richer and more glorious life,
And most of all, because Thine only Son
 Once sacrificed life's loveliness for me –
I thank Thee, God, that I have lived.

**Elizabeth Craven,
writer and socialite (1750 - 1828)**

This poem was presented by Jack Witley of Oriel House. He read this to his fellow residents on his 91st birthday.

A FLOWER FESTIVAL FOR THE DIAMOND JUBILEE

On Bank Holiday Monday, I set out on a mission. Armed with information very kindly provided to a meeting of our own Flower Guild by Maureen Baker, I was uncertain whether to view my task as that of a spy seeking to capture information from the other side or as a well-meaning supporter of our Flower Guild, intent on helping to develop our own ideas for displays.

I drove to Little Witley, to the beautiful St Michael's and All Angel's Church, to inspect and admire the displays for a three day Flower Festival with the theme 'The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.'

In comparison with St Mary's, St Michael's is a very small church but it possesses a delightfully decorative wooden roof made from English Oak. As it stands today, the church was almost entirely rebuilt in 1867 on the site of a former 13th century building. At the entrance to the churchyard a Lych Gate was richly embellished with colourful plants, creating a welcoming theme that continued alongside the path leading to the south porch of the church, brightening what was a dismal, rainy day.

Within the church every key element of the building had been transformed with floral arrangements, interpretations of aspects of the Monarch's life from the Coronation, Christmas Broadcasts, Trooping the Colour, Garden Parties, Windsor Castle and The Commonwealth to name but a few.



It really was a delight to see the outcome of so much thought and care by such skilful arrangers and to appreciate their displays which clearly represented many hours of work.

Sue Tatford

FIRE DRILL

Before I retired from teaching – over twenty years ago – fire drills were a regular termly feature. One of the aims was to ensure that children did not panic at the sound of the alarm. We always stressed – ‘Walk but don’t run.’ Afterwards we would perhaps discuss why running was not such a good idea. ‘You might trip and if you fell.....’ Imaginative pupils came up with some lurid outcomes from breaking bones to being consumed by flames

My neighbour is a fire officer. I asked him, “Why does the illustration on a fire exit show a figure running?” He did not know. “We call him the running man but of course he should be walking.”



Perhaps this is a psychological device. We can imagine serious, white-coated scientists considering the tests to be given to a trial of twenty thousand people. “If you show them what to do there will be significant numbers who will resist or do the opposite.”

Maybe there was a competition to design a sign for fire exits and the running figure in the winning entry had more artistic merit than a briskly walking character.

Perhaps the running man was a copyright representation and the funding was not sufficient to buy into it.

Whatever the reason for this perpetuation of the current illustration I think it is inappropriate. How about you?

GRANNY

Granny does get a bee in her bonnet over some things doesn't she! I am certain she would welcome your response and we would all enjoy reading opinions that agree with or challenge her point of view. All replies to the editor please.

WHAT WOULD GOOGLE DO?

There is a fascinating book entitled 'What Would Google Do?' It looks at the world through the eyes of Google, the fastest growing company in history, perhaps the one organization that has truly understood the internet age that we live in.

Using the ethos and ethics that Google operates by, the book examines what we can learn from Google's approach to engaging with the world and how that might apply to a variety of industries, companies, and institutions.

In our churches we might do well to ask ourselves the same question, but of course, in time-honoured fashion, we'd be asking 'What would Jesus do?' Jesus told stories, he engaged with people, he listened and he built relationships. These same principles apply to how we should be using the social media tools of the internet age.

The way we engage with our neighbour is changing, especially for the younger generation who use Facebook and Twitter to build relationships, to share ideas, to encourage and debate. I wonder how Jesus would go about spreading the gospel in 140 characters or less? There's a Facebook page dedicated to the Bible with over 8.5 million 'Likes'. With that many people paying attention how would Jesus communicate with them?

If your church is experimenting with social media let us know how you're getting on on the Diocese of Worcester Facebook page - www.facebook.com/cofeworchester. Let's share some of the good ideas and success stories out there!

And if you're not, I urge you to tread fearlessly into the realm of social media - tell your stories, encourage others, join the debate and love your "virtual neighbour".

www.facebook.com/cofeworchester

<https://twitter.com/cofeworchester>

P.S. If you've got a spare 4 minutes, please help us to improve the Diocese of Worcester by completing our short survey on our website homepage - www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

Dan Kemp

Digital Media Adviser
Diocese of Worcester

LIFE AND OTHER ART

Summer Exhibition 2012

St Mary's Coach House, Oldswinford -

Saturday 14 July, 10.00-5.00 and Sunday 15 July, 11.00-4.00

COACH HOUSE SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 23 June, 10.00-1.00

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

This month I have provided two ideas for simple puddings for summer.

CRUNCHIE PUDS

This is not really a recipe, more a way of using up the pot of double cream in the fridge.

300ml double cream, whipped to soft peaks. Bash the 2 or 3 Crunchie bars but not too finely, leave in little chunks. Fold into the cream. Spoon the mixture into four small ramekins or glass dishes. Chill in the fridge before serving. For more sophisticated tastes chop up 2-4 (depending on size) chocolate florentines in place of the Crunchie bars.

ELDERFLOWER ICE CREAM

The problem with most ice cream recipes if you don't have an ice cream maker is having to keep taking the mix out of the freezer and whisking it. This recipe requires no whisking. Make it the day before to prevent large crystals forming. I usually make some little biscuits to serve with it but feel free to buy some.

600ml double cream

100ml elderflower cordial

100g icing sugar sifted

Juice of 1 lemon

Put the cream, cordial, icing sugar and lemon juice into a large bowl. Whisk until stiff. Put into a lidded container in the freezer for at least 4 hours or overnight.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

The Crunchie Cream Pud sounds right up my street. However let us take the elderflower ice cream as the departure point for this month's wine quest.

It is a flavour we particularly meet in wines from Germany and England/Wales. This is the extremity of the wine world but applied wine science has created a number of new sub-varieties eg Seyval Blanc, Reichensteiner, Bacchus which can ripen adequately even in Europe's most northerly vineyards.

Incidentally, the Pinot Meunier grape planted across a third of the Champagne vineyard area is really there for the same reason; it buds later and ripens earlier than Pinot Noir, which is much more noble but more troubled by hazards of weather.

The vineyards of England and Wales are widely planted with specially created varieties. Viticulture here can still be a small scale hobby/enthusiast venture with wines being made by the larger commercial wineries such as Denbies (Surrey), Three Choirs (Gloucestershire) and Shawsgate (Suffolk). The light chalky soils of Sussex and Kent are well studded with vineyards although vines grow in Cornwall, Shropshire and as far north as County Durham! Decent wines are produced on our doorstep at Halfpenny Green; while a particular favourite of mine is the Sharpham winery in Devon's Dart Valley.

Flavours of elderflower, russet apple and greengage regularly feature in native wines – often deliberately made medium or off-dry with notes of sweetness to offset the high acidity. A scoop of artisanal elderflower ice-cream and a locally crafted wine : perfect! Enjoy your wine sipping.....

Richard W.B. Ryan

.....

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

At the May meeting members were asked to vote for a candidate for diocesan president of M.U. Elizabeth Green received our unanimous support to serve for three years.

Pat Whalley informed us that Edward Haden had died following a long, painful illness. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to Norma and all the family.

Following the service based on the theme of gifts led by Doreen Ryan and Dawn Nex, we welcomed our speaker Susan Price. Her subject was "Your gift? Discover and Celebrate." She explained that talents and gifts are not the same. Talents can be learned or developed but are mainly based on innate ability, aptitude or are hereditary. These qualities are shown by actors, artists, musicians, writers, scientists and so many more. They can also use and develop their talents or neglect and lose them.

Gifts are God-given, eternal and reveal love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faith and self control (see Gal. 5: 22).

So many of these qualities are evident in the service of God and others we meet. So many people are unaware of the differences they make in the community. Jesus observed the widow in the temple who gave two mites in God's service which was all she had. We can do no less.

The plant draw was won by Marion Tyler and refreshments were served.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 June at 2.15pm in the Coach House. The speaker will be Fred Shaw; "Corporate Social Responsibility in the Workplace (my job)." All are welcome. Also, on Saturday 16 June the Mothers Union General Meeting will be held in Llandudno and on Wednesday 20 June the Stourbridge Deanery festival will be held at Clent.

Dawn Nex

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

22 April	Daisy Mae Henderson Megan Emily Yates Heeks Amelia Josephine Glorianne Sherwood
8 May	Holly Catherine Jones Valentina Rose Roberts Kayden Nile Michael Jones Grace Lauren Weaver

Weddings

14 April	Adam Mills and Kirsty Sidaway
21 April	Robert Bishop and Melloney Osborne
28 April	David Merrick and Amy Mulligan
5 May	Mehrab Chadry and Lisa Booth

Funerals

25 April	Angus Adams	Aged 67
26 April	Helen Pereira	Aged 58
27 April	Ben Harris	Aged 72

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

The walk from Dunley on 28 March 2012 did not take place due to lack of support.

It will probably be re-scheduled for year 2012-2013.

Our next walk will take place on 26 May; you will be very welcome to join us.

Ray Drew

Thanks to Ray for organising the walk. What a pity other commitments forced regular walkers to miss this event. In the hope of improving weather, whenever summer arrives, perhaps new strollers will join the monthly walk.

CHILDRENS PAGE ANSWERS

COLOUR THE BUTTON

1. Tv 2. Dvd Recorder 3. Biro 4. Door Bell 5. Torch 6. Microwave 7. Kettle 8. Hair Dryer

STARTING WORD

FIN

STARTING UP

1. He became King 2. Selected by God 3. The Holy Trinity appeared 4. Jesus' Resurrection 5. His sight

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

Faithfulness and the Queen's Jubilee

This month we get to do something that last happened in 1897 and has in fact very rarely happened at all in human history, we celebrate 60 years of our monarch's reign. We've taken as our diocesan theme to extend this into a wider celebration of faithfulness, something exemplified by our Queen but also visible in the lives of many women and men across our diocese and nation.



A few years ago Archbishop Rowan asked me to represent him at the national conference of the protestant church in Germany and to share with them the findings of a report entitled "Faithful Cities" that had just been published in England. Having to explain and translate a word into another language presents quite a challenge. There is no single word in German that carries both the sense of persistence and dependability which the English word holds, at the same time as the idea of being "full of faith". It was of course exactly this double meaning that lay at the heart of how the report saw the ministry of Christian churches in many deprived urban communities, and it is that same combination that is so visible in the Queen's own fulfilment of her calling. If anything, as the years have passed, she has become more adept at showing how it is her fullness of faith in God that has enabled her to serve faithfully over such a long period of time, and to present that example to her subjects.

In the preparations for the Diamond Jubilee, we have seen again film footage of events from the last six decades. Looking back over that length of time, it has become more obvious than ever that to be truly faithful means to change much. The role and office of the monarch in 2012 is not greater or lesser than in 1952 but it is hugely different, and the Queen has adapted to fit the needs of today. Our calling, whether it be as Queen or Christian, requires us for the very sake of faithfulness to let go of many of the trappings and habits we have inherited or created in times past whilst holding onto the real core of our purpose. The trick is, as always, to distinguish between the two.

So let our celebrations this month be rich and full, let them not be nostalgic for a bygone era but rather let the past strengthen our resolve to welcome faithfully the future. And if you're up for a particular challenge, try to think of one thing this month that for the sake of faithfulness you need to let go of, and pray for God's grace to help you do so.

Stories of faithfulness from around the diocese can be found at:
www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/stories-of-faithfulness

Bishop David

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