

# **ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD**

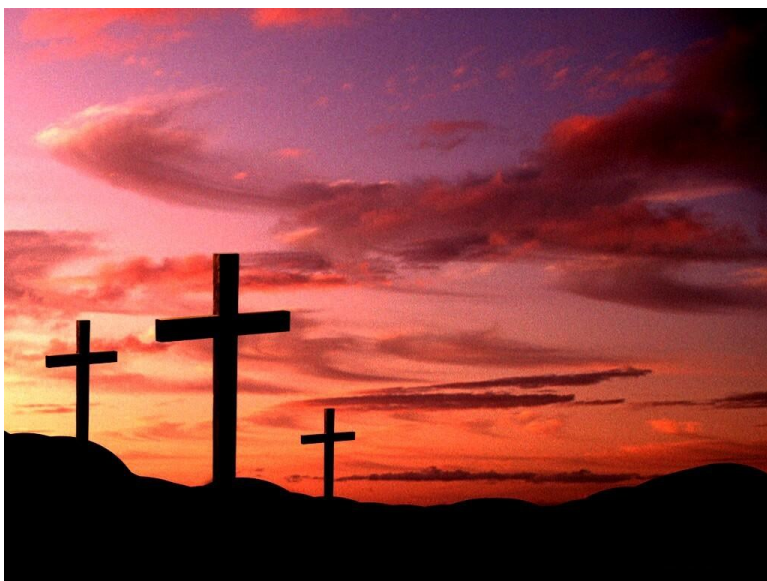
**Parish Church Magazine  
April 2013  
Online edition**



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## Parish Church Magazine



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**APRIL 2013**

**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
<b>Priest in Charge and Curate's Day Off:</b> Friday	



## OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Bible Study Group:	Monday, first in month at 2.30 pm	379972
Mothers' Union:	Second Tuesday at 2.15 pm	392951
Outreach Group:	Occasional meetings	01562 851491
Music Group Practice:	Second Saturday at 10.00 am	375167
St Mary's Walking Group:	Last Saturday of the month. Depart 9.30 am	

<b>Reader Emeritus:</b>	Mr Roy Peacock	379972
<b>Reader:</b>	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
<b>Church Wardens:</b>	Mrs Marjorie Ferguson	393454
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
<b>Organist / Choirmaster:</b>	Mr Robin Walker	01905 353939
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr Russ Fowler	442684
<b>PCC Secretary:</b>	Miss Katey Fletcher	378182
<b>Magazine Editors:</b>	Miss Gemma Sutton	423021
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661

<b>Church Hall and</b>		
<b>Coach House: - Bookings</b>	Parish Office	441003
<b>Parish Administrator and</b>		
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	Mr John Sutton	441003
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
<b>Church website address:</b>	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk	
	E-mail: st.mary.os@btconnect.com	
<b>Magazine e-mail address:</b>	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 APRIL 2013

Monday 1	Bank Holiday
Wednesday 3	Full Staff Meeting
Thursday 4	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 6	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 7</b>	<b>SECOND AFTER EASTER</b>
	3.00 pm Baptism
Wednesday 10	Copy date for May magazine
Thursday 11	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 13	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	10.00 am Coach House Coffee Morning
<b>SUNDAY 14</b>	<b>THIRD AFTER EASTER</b>
	10.00 am Worship Together
Tuesday 16	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
	7.30 pm Bishop's Certificate Course
Thursday 18	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 20	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 21</b>	<b>FOURTH AFTER EASTER</b>
Wednesday 24	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 25	10.30 am Holy Communion
	7.30 pm Coach House AGM
Saturday 27	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 28</b>	<b>FIFTH AFTER EASTER</b>

### PICTURES OF JOY!

This is a picture of Mark, Sasi's son, the Sri Lankan family supported, in part, through the work of our Mission Committee. Mark is proudly wearing the new shoes that were bought for him with the generous donation made by a member of the St Mary's congregation.



Pictured with Mark is his mother, Sasi, a lady who is clearly proud of and cares very much for the son she works so hard to provide for and to create the opportunity for Mark to benefit from his education and to enhance his future prospects. We wish them both well.

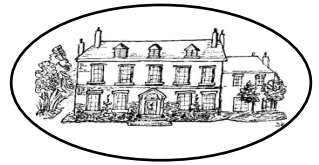


### QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

**Mother Theresa**

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

April is usually the month when we see signs of growth all around us, as the earth seems to come back to life after the rigours of winter. At the time of writing this, in mid March, it seems unlikely that Spring is just around the corner, after all the news reports tell of motorists stranded in snow on the motorways in Southern Britain. Perhaps in our unpredictable and 'much discussed' climate there is some sort of parallel with the Christian message of this time of Easter.

Easter is for all Christians a time of hope. As we celebrate the raising of Jesus from the dead so we are celebrating the Christian hope that there is life beyond this life for all those people who follow Jesus. But more than that, we are celebrating the possibility of positive outcomes when they seem most unlikely. As we travel on our Holy Week journey through the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus the hope that Easter brings seems to be an impossibility. As we identify with those early disciples of Jesus who all ran away when he was arrested, except for those who betrayed him or denied him we can see little hope of any positive outcome. Instead we see lives destroyed and hopes dashed. That was the reality of Good Friday for the early Christian community as the disciples skulked and hid away. They could see no hope.

It is only against that background of hopelessness that we can really appreciate the dramatic unfolding of the events of Easter morning. For that early Christian community they really struggled to believe that Jesus had risen. But then who can blame them for that? People do not rise from the dead. And for those who had watched Jesus die on the cross there was just no way forward. Hope had died with him.

It is because of this that Jesus is raised and hope comes alive with the resurrection. Hope is something that springs up when it is not expected. That may be true in your life as it was in the lives of those disciples all those years ago. When **you** feel like despairing, when **you** feel that there is no possibility of a way forward in your own situation, look to the hope that Jesus brought on the first Easter morning. And if you think that it is most unlikely that there is any hope for you, remember that the resurrection was a complete surprise for the disciples, so that they could scarcely believe their own eyes.

With God, hope is always a possibility. Easter reminds us of that. As you celebrate the Easter feast may you be filled with hope.

With every blessing.

*Stephen Agnew*

## SERVICES IN APRIL 2013

<b>7 April Second Sunday of Easter</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 5. 27-32	Exodus 14. 10-end, 15. 20-21	John 20. 19-31
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 52. 13-53	Luke 24. 13-35	
<b>14 April Third Sunday of Easter</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 38. 9-20	John 11. (17-26), 27-44	
<b>21 April Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 9. 36-end	Genesis 7.1-5,11-18, 8.6-18,	John 10. 22-30
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 63. 7-14	Luke 24. 36-49	
<b>28 April Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 11. 1-18	Genesis 22. 1-18	John 13. 31-35
	6.30 pm Evensong	Daniel 6. 1-5, 6-23	Mark 15. 46 – 16. 8	

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This year our Annual Parish Meetings will be held on Sunday 21 April at 7.15pm in the Church Hall.

So that, in preparation for the meeting, you may have a chance to read what has been happening and how we are doing financially we are arranging for sets of documents including the Minutes for 2012, Agendas, Accounts and organization reports to be placed at the back of church during the week before this year's meeting.

**Katey Fletcher**

## TO JESUS CRUCIFIED

Lovely tears of lovely eyes--  
Why dost thou me so woe?  
Sorrowful tears of sorrowful eyes--  
Thou breakest my heart in two.

Thou sighest sore;  
Thy sorrow is more  
Than man's tongue can tell;  
Thou singest of sorrow,  
Mankind to borrow  
Out of the pit of hell.

I proud and keen,  
Thou meek and clean  
Without woe or vile;  
Thou art dead for me  
And I live for thee,  
So blessed be thy will.

Thy mother seeth  
How woe thou beest,  
Therefore she yearns apart;  
To her thou speakest,  
Her sorrow thou slakest--  
Sweet prayer won thy heart.

Thy heart is rent,  
Thy body bent  
Upon the rood tree;  
The tempest is spent,  
The devil is schent,  
Christ, by the might of thee.

Lovely tears of lovely eyes--  
Why dost thou me so woe?  
Sorrowful tears of sorrowful eyes--  
Thou breakest me heart in two.

**Anon 14th century**

Poem kindly presented by Kanthi Ariaraj

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

Our March meeting was a visit to St. Mark's Pensnett. This was at the invitation of the Revd Sue Oliver, the present incumbent, who also happens to be the daughter of one of our church and MU members, Joan Barwick.

On a very wintry day, with snow flurries for company, twenty-one of our branch members were given a very warm welcome by Sue and her MU branch.

Following a very special Eucharist service in which Sue talked to us about healing both practical and spiritual, we were given a talk and guided tour of the Church.

St Mark's was built in around 1846. It is one of three Churches in the area funded and built by the Earl of Dudley and is on land that belonged to his Dudley Estate. It was reputed to be able to seat 1,000 people and as such, was known as "The Cathedral of the Black Country". It is constructed entirely in stone as opposed to brick and retains its original glorious stained glass windows.

Due to considerable subsidence in the area, the new millennium found the church in need of extensive restoration work. This work, at a cost of over £400,000, was begun during the incumbency of the late Revd Linda Woolhouse, a previous Curate here at St Mary's. She was also a member of the Mothers' Union, thus forging these connections between our two churches.

St Mark's closed completely for five months during which time new floors were laid with underfloor heating, the old pews were removed and replaced by new ones, donated by families as memorials to loved ones. A bright modern kitchen has also been installed along with toilets and disabled facilities bringing the church in line with health and safety regulations. There is a new vestry/office and an enclosed children's area. Whilst retaining all its historical features the main body of the church is light and modern. Those of us who knew Linda were sad that she never saw her project completed.

The meeting ended with afternoon tea. St Mary's members presented their hosts with a book of Prayers and also expressed the wish that they visit St Mary's in the near future.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9 April, in the Coach House when our speaker will be the Revd Stephen Agnew. All are welcome.

Date for your diary: The Mothers' Union Deanery Festival. Tuesday 21 May, 2.30 pm Holy Trinity, Amblecote.

**Anne May**

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## BAPTISM TEDDIES

Some time ago Ruth wrote an article for the magazine about the Mothers' Union teddy ministry. Members of MU across the diocese knit teddies to give to children who are visiting parents in prison. Several of our members were involved in this project. So enthusiastic were they that there were more than enough teddies produced. Ruth took some teddies into Oldswinford Primary School and also into Mary Stevens Hospice. In the latter they were primarily for children visiting patients but gradually patients too were taking one. The patients see them as "a hug in the hand".



Ruth suggested to our MU group that members might like to produce teddies to be given to babies when they come to church for baptism. Ruth wanted to have 36 before distribution was started (this is enough for all babies through this year). The teddies are knitted in white wool and given different coloured scarves.

There have now been enough teddies knitted to start this ministry. The teddies were blessed at the Mothers' Union corporate communion at the end of February and the first ones will be handed out at the baptism on 10 March.

This ministry is not exclusive to MU members. If anyone from the congregation enjoys knitting and would like to contribute please feel free to take a pattern from the MU table at the back of church or if you would like more information contact Anne May or Sally Frost.



## THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW ST MARK'S CHURCH AT VERSAILLES

We were most pleasantly surprised to receive an invitation to the dedication of the new church building at St Mark's on Saturday 16 February. It was a real pleasure and a privilege to be there as, with our twice yearly visits to our daughter, we have got to know the church and some of its membership quite well.

Bishop David Hamid, the Suffragan Bishop of Europe, celebrated the Dedication and Eucharist. He is based in Westminster, but serves a Diocese that stretches from the Canary Islands to Moscow. The new church building was packed to overflowing, and we heard the Bishop stress that the Church is the people, not the building. Members are the living stones who bear witness by living the Gospel of love and good news.

The Bishop's address was followed by a potted history of St Mark's and the people who made it happen. The church will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and has occupied five buildings over its life. The first church of their own was built in 1860, but was totally destroyed by fire in 1911. After this a chapel, near the palace of Versailles, was made available for their use. Their fortunes waxed and waned, and at least twice closure was threatened.

With a leap of faith the decision was made to purchase a house with a large garden on the SW edge of Versailles, with the intention of building a church in the garden, with the house becoming the Chaplain's Residence. An outbuilding in the garden was converted into the first small chapel on the site, and is now incorporated into the present church. The site slopes quite steeply which has facilitated building on two levels.



Phase one (1992 – 1993) provided a church worship room, and rooms for Sunday school and youth work sited at the lowest end of the development area.

Phase two was built in 1998, at first floor level, linking the original chapel and the new building with a foyer, staircase, kitchen and toilets. Due to the slope of the site, entry to both phases is available at ground level.

Phase three was constructed in 2011 – 2012 after fund raising totalling well over €1M. This provides a light and airy church at first floor level, above the original Phase 1 rooms. These rooms now seem very low and dark in comparison to the new building, which is much higher, with white painted walls, and large windows. The altar is at one corner where the roof is at its highest, backed by a circular apse with a prominent wooden cross. The apse has a pool, which is for baptism by total immersion. The room splays out from the altar, with seating for 250 people, the ceiling slopes down to large windows in the rear walls.



The dedication service was followed by a splendid buffet lunch in the lower church room, where we were greeted with tables groaning under the weight of good things to eat, and a plentiful selection of drinks.

Sunday 17 February was another day of celebration for St Mark's, as Bishop David had stayed on for the confirmation of seven candidates.

**Mike & Janet Blaxland**

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**WELCOME TO THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE**

The Social Committee's Chinese New Year event to celebrate the year of the snake was a party full of entertaining surprises and was a novel experience both for the guests and the Committee.

With the hall laid out in a festive oriental style, guests were introduced to the history of the Chinese Zodiac through an illustrated narrative by Sally Frost. We were then given a chart to determine our personal Zodiac animal sign from the year of our birth and read our predicted personal character features, much to the amusement of friends around the table.

Before the first course, guests were invited to join in various craft activities which were laid out on benches in the corner of the hall. This provided an opportunity to meet and mingle as we made lanterns, snakes and dragons from folded paper to add further decoration to the room and tables.

With appetites sharpened the Committee served a splendid three-course meal starting with an assortment of spring rolls, samosas and sesame prawn toast followed by a main course of chicken, noodles, water chestnuts and bean sprouts. Spoons had thoughtfully been provided for those who found chopsticks digitally challenging. During the final course of sweets with ginger biscuit rolls and jasmine tea, we were given a sheet of Chinese trivia questions and a cryptic quiz based on Chinese food to puzzle over before Sally revealed the answers to groans of admission of ignorance and the contrivance of the clues.

A further practical task was offered to those who were willing to test their manual dexterity by transferring Smarties from one dish to another by means of chopsticks. As a modest reward we were allowed to eat the transferred sweets!

This really was an enjoyable evening and as we watched the New Year celebrations on the national news the following day we could feel rather more informed in having shared the experience with the 1.3 billion citizens of the People's Republic of China (as learnt from the trivia quiz!)

Many thanks to the Social Committee for such an imaginative effort.

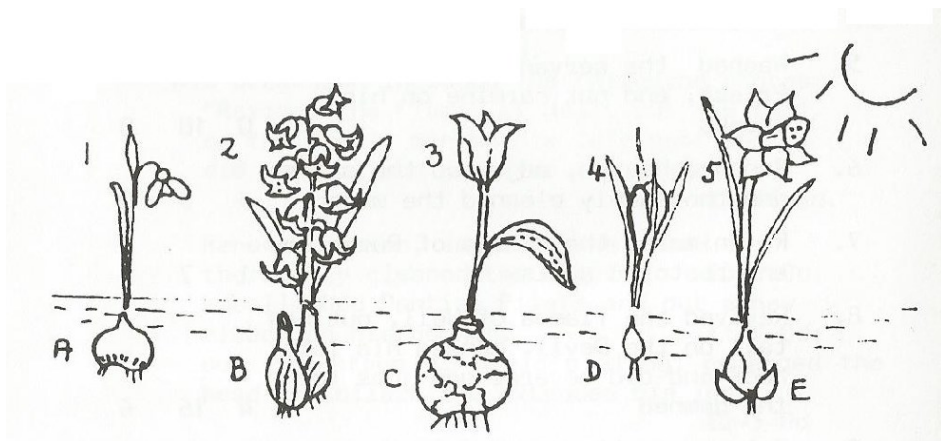
**Alec Beevers**



# CHILDREN'S PAGES

## FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Have you planted bulbs in a pot or in the garden? They are put in a deep hole and then covered over with dark, cold earth. There they lie hidden in the dark until they start to grow towards the light and burst into flower.



These flowers are growing from the wrong bulb or corm. See if you can sort them out.

### CHANGE FROM DARK TO LIGHT

You can change DARK TO DAWN like this, changing only one letter at a time to make a different word.

DARK....DARN....DAWN

See how few moves you have to make to change BLACK to WHITE and DEAD to LIVE:

WHITE	LIVE
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
BLACK	DEAD

## FIND THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

Read St John's Gospel, chapter 20 to remind yourself of the Easter Story. Search the Word Square for ten words about Easter. Some letters are used twice.

That will give you 20 extra letters. Rearrange those letters to make the Easter message.

Write it below:

R	E	N	E	D	R	A	G
L	I	N	E	N	E	D	I
E	D	S	P	I	C	E	S
S	A	H	E	R	O	M	R
T	R	E	M	N	D	H	E
A	K	S	P	B	M	O	T
E	N	O	T	S	I	F	E
M	A	R	Y	R	H	N	P

H\_\_\_\_\_ I\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_

## DO YOU KNOW?

### DARK DEEDS:

- 1) What sign did Judas give to the Priests to betray Jesus?
- 2) What did the soldiers do to Jesus?
- 3) Who denied knowing Jesus?

### BRIGHT DEEDS:

- 1) Who helped Jesus to carry the cross?
- 2) Who gave Jesus his tomb in the garden?
- 3) To whom did Jesus speak first after he rose from death?

**We thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving us so much that you were willing to go through the darkness of death to bring us to Your Light. Amen.**

## TRACING OLDSWINFORD ANCESTORS – Part 4

### Probate Records

Before late Victorian times, only about one in ten of our ancestors actually made a will. It was, however, not only well-to-do persons who bothered to write a will, so it is always worth looking for one for each of your forebears. Where a will does survive, it can often provide a wealth of additional information, which may include the names of children (including the married names of daughters), grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins, place of residence, other land and properties owned, and the names of executors and witnesses.

Since 11 January 1858 wills have been proved in a National Probate Office. This is good news, as a printed index (called a calendar) for the whole country exists, arranged annually by surname of testator. This index can provide very useful information in its own right, including the full name of the deceased, their address, the date and place of death, date of probate, names of executors or administrators, the value of their estate and the office where proved. Copies of this index can be found in Birmingham Central Library and also for most years on the Ancestry web site. Should you also need a copy of a will, this can be obtained for about £5 from the Probate Registry – see [www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk](http://www.hmcourts-service.gov.uk), choosing 'probate service'.

Before 1858 wills were proved in a bewildering variety of ecclesiastical courts. The most important of these was the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) with wills dating back to 1384. The index for this is online and free at the Documents Online site with the long name <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20040116235613/nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/wills.asp>. This can be searched for personal names, places and other keywords such as occupations. The actual copy of the will can then be downloaded directly to your computer for £3.50. This court was used by ancestors who had property in more than one diocese or whose assets were quite considerable. If you had property north of the River Trent, the equivalent court was the Prerogative Court of York (PCY). The records for this are kept at the Borthwick Institute, part of the University of York ([www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/bihr)).

You will, however, find that the wills of most of your Oldswinford ancestors are housed at the Worcester Diocesan Record Office at The Hive, Worcester. A personal visit is required to search through the printed indexes and then consult a microfilmed copy of the will on their machines. A photocopy can then be ordered, if required. If your ancestor lived on the north side of the River Stour in Staffordshire (perhaps in Amblecote or further afield), then the will may be found at the Lichfield Diocesan Record Office at The Friary, Lichfield, WS13 6QG (telephone 01543 510720). Again a personal visit is best to search their indexes, but here you can still handle the original will! Alternatively a copy can be sent by post, if you know the date of death of your ancestor. The Lichfield website also includes search facilities for individual surnames (google 'Lichfield Record Office'). Other diocesan record offices are located at Warwick, Hereford and Shrewsbury.

It is also worth visiting the Dudley Archives at Mount Pleasant Street, Coseley, WV14 9JR (telephone 01384 812770) to find many types of local record which may be useful in your research. Unfortunately this Coseley office is moving to Tipton in 2013 and will be closed for some six months.

### **Newspapers**

Local newspapers can also be an excellent source for your family history. They obviously contain lists of births, marriages and deaths, but in the nineteenth century also give detailed coverage of people attending marriages and funerals, besides coverage of unusual deaths. One can also find reports of court cases and local auctions of property, all of which add to the details of your family story. On microfiche at Stourbridge Public Library can be found copies of the local 'County Express' and 'Brierley Hill Observer' newspapers, dating back to early Victorian times. You do need to know an approximate date to search, however, as looking through newspapers can be rewarding but very time consuming.

Online newspapers include <http://announcements.thetimes.co.uk/obituaries/timesonline-uk/>, which provides an index for obituaries in 'The Times' and [www.london-gazette.co.uk](http://www.london-gazette.co.uk) for a list of bankruptcies and liquidations. [WWW.ancestry.com/search/obit/?uk&dbid=8960](http://WWW.ancestry.com/search/obit/?uk&dbid=8960) is a more general obituary source. If you think that there may have been some criminal activity in your past family history, do try [www.oldBaileyonline.org](http://www.oldBaileyonline.org), for fascinating details of trials. As a purely speculative exercise, try entering your own surname into the Google search engine – you never know what unusual facts may appear!

In my final article, I shall conclude this brief introduction to genealogy by listing some lesser known local sources for the family historian.

**Nigel Perry**

### **CHOIR NEWS AT ST MARY'S**

Congratulations and thank you to the members of St Mary's Choir and a few additional supporting voices for the wonderful presentation of Choral Evensong in Tewkesbury Abbey on Saturday, 2 March. Over twenty members of the St Mary's congregation joined with others and enjoyed a few hours in Tewkesbury on a very pleasant early Spring day before attending the Abbey to support and appreciate the quality of our choir's voices and the talented organ accompaniment provided by Will Peart. Thanks also to our Director of Music, Robin Walker for his leadership.



**The Editor**

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

Reading last month's magazine and the details of Dorothy Gibson's awful experience followed by the heart-warming tales of help made me reflect.

I looked back to the period just before Christmas. I intended to travel south to Cranleigh, to be with the family for Christmas. Try as I might I began to think this adventure was not going to happen. Heavy snowfalls, flood water on the line, sporadic strikes, what on earth was I going to do?

After Sunday morning service several people asked what I was going to do. I felt somewhat bewildered to say the least. Then a dear lady said, "You mustn't be alone, Do come and join us." Then another voice repeated, "You mustn't be alone." I was overwhelmed by their kindness. Then another voice said, "We will take you Anne. We are travelling south in the morning." Although Pam and Andrew Scudamore were assisting with the 'Midnight' Service they told me they would pick me up - "It wasn't any trouble."

Transfer arrangements were made and the following morning we set off to meet up at the suggested rendezvous. I was so anxious about taking Pam and Andrew out of their way but I was constantly reassured that it was no trouble.

I was so very grateful to those friends who had offered help—The spirit of Christmas in abundance!

**Anne Davies**

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## **CHURCH BUILDINGS - WELCOME THE VISITORS AND TOURISTS**

Parishes across the diocese are being encouraged to think about how they might improve the visitor welcome and interpretation of their church buildings. Andrew Mottram, Heritage Buildings and Community Development Officer explains why this is important.

"Church buildings are everywhere in the English landscape. They are sacred spaces in cities, towns, villages and the remotest rural places. They are sacred spaces in the landscape. They bear witness even when empty of people. So how the buildings look, how they feel and whether they are open and accessible are significant factors in their witness. Statistics show churches are of significant interest to all manner of visitors - over 75% of the British population has been inside a church in the last 12 months.

Take time to walk into and around your church building with the eyes of a visitor who may know little about the faith or is searching but hasn't yet found what they are looking for. Ask yourself, "What does this building say? What impression does it give? How clean? How tidy? What is all this stuff for? Does it speak of people? Does it provide space for reflection and openness to ask questions?" Look out for training planned in different churches during April and May which will help you to do this."



*Lord God of all, as Disciples of Christ and People of the Way, may both our hearts and our church buildings be open to visitors. May we be generous in our welcome; offering peace, support and nourishment to those who journey and those who are searching. As Jesus came to give life in all its fullness, may our buildings be sources of life and inspiration bearing witness to the welcome and generosity of Gospel.*

All Churches are being encouraged to open their doors and plan to do something during Heritage Weekend on 14 and 15 September - visit [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/festival-of-churches](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/festival-of-churches) for more information.

**Diocesan News**

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## **ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP**

24 February

The weather had been dry for a week, so our group of seventeen people and one dog (Harriet) was quite hopeful that the walk wouldn't be too muddy.

We parked at the Dog Inn, Dunley, near Stourport, where we were able to use the facilities and book our lunch before setting off.

Starting our walk along a short stretch of road we soon headed off over fields from where we enjoyed lovely views. We walked across a large potato field in which, due to the bad summer last year, the crop had rotted in the ground. This was very sad to see.

Walking down to a road, we saw Astley Church in the distance. Crossing the road and then following a long drive we came upon a private fishery which had been very neatly landscaped. Then, entering a wood (where we met our first mud) we made our way to Dick Brook. The path led through private property and over a bridge and then up the very long drive to Glasshampton Monastery. At this point we changed our coffee stop, as the farmer had been muck-spreading and the smell was a bit overpowering. Walking through another wood we all had a photo stop on an old packhorse bridge (see picture).



Following a rather muddy bridle path we reached the very lovely setting of Astley Church surrounded by springtime snowdrops. A few of us went inside to admire this pretty church. Then it was off across fields again with views of Abberley Hill to our left, where we entered another wood leading to a very steep descent to the road. After more fields and a steep track up hill, we saw the welcome sight of the Dog Inn. A short walk along the road took us to a very warm and welcoming lunch.

**Ray and Jean Drew**



## **NEW ROLE FOR THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER**

Buckingham Palace has announced that Her Majesty The Queen has appointed Bishop John to be the next Lord High Almoner. This office has been held by the Bishop of Manchester (until his retirement in January) since 1997 and dates from at least the early twelfth century. The Lord High Almoner's chief responsibility is to oversee the liturgical arrangements for the Royal Maundy Service, which is where The Queen distributes 'Maundy Money', a small number of silver coins symbolically representing alms to the poor. Bishop John said of his appointment: "I am honoured to take on this ancient role which is the Queen's personal appointment. I shall be responsible for the Royal Maundy service which is a wonderful reminder each year that the ideal of Christian service lies at the heart of the monarchy, an ideal which Her Majesty the Queen has embodied so wholeheartedly in her devoted service to her people for over sixty years."

The Royal Maundy service used to take place in London but early in her reign The Queen decided that the service should take place at a different cathedral every year. The Queen has distributed Maundy on all but four occasions since coming to the throne in 1952. Today's recipients of Royal Maundy, as many elderly men and women as there are years in the sovereign's age, are chosen because of the Christian service they have given to the Church and community. During the Service, officers of the Royal Almonry escort the Queen to those who are to receive the Royal Maundy gifts. The Lord High Almoner wears a linen towel round his waist symbolizing the foundations of the ritual by Jesus who chose to wash the feet of his disciples as an act of humility.

Last year's Maundy Money was distributed at York Minster in a very special ceremony to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Each diocese was asked to send a representative and Roy Peacock, Reader at St. Mary's, Old Swinford was chosen from Worcester Diocese. Roy said: "I was delighted to be chosen for the work I have done for the diocese - I was a member of Diocesan Synod as far back as 1970 and have served on numerous diocesan and deanery committees. My abiding memory is of how happy the Queen was - at the age of 85 she was beaming the whole time she gave out the coins. It was the best part of the whole thing and much appreciated. We were given 86p - because the Queen celebrated her 86th birthday later in the year - the coins were all especially minted for the occasion. It was emphasised that the money was not from the church or the state, but was the Queen's personal gift. I left the Minster with a deep feeling of exhilaration and pride: exhilaration, because I had been present at an uplifting spectacle of pageantry, praise and glory, and pride at the Church's continuing mission to serve the community and the whole of society."

Alongside helping to organising the service on Maundy Thursday, the Royal Almoner also gives the Royal Maundy lecture. The lecture contains a history of the service, explanations of the symbolism and a chance for people to question the Lord High Almoner. Those who will receive the Maundy Gifts from the Queen are especially invited to it - but it is open to all.

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

### UPSIDE-DOWN SAUSAGE TART (Serves 4-5)

This is a great mid-week supper. If you are cooking for 2-3 people you can scale it down and make it in Yorkshire pudding tins.

4 tablespoons olive oil                      A glug of red wine (optional)  
500g good quality sausages, cooked and browned well  
2 medium sized onions, very finely sliced  
250g all butter puff pastry                      Salt and pepper  
Beaten egg (optional) Not strictly necessary as the bottom becomes the top

Cook the sausages in one tablespoon of the oil. Pre-heat the oven to 200C/  
Gas 6.

Heat the remaining oil in a frying pan and fry the onion with a good pinch of salt, stirring frequently, until the onion is golden, not brown. This will take at least 15 minutes. Pour over the wine and allow it to boil and then simmer until there is hardly any liquid left. Season well.

Slice the cooked sausages in half lengthwise and arrange them in a 20cm/8inch round tart tin, you may have to cut some sausages to fit. Spoon the onion mixture around the sausages.

Roll out the pastry thinly on a floured board. Cut it into a round about 1 cm/ ½ in. wider than the tin. Prick the pastry all over with a fork. Cover the sausage mixture with the pastry and tuck the edges of the pastry all around. If using beaten egg, brush the pastry all over with the egg to glaze.

Bake for 25-30 minutes until the pastry is golden.

To serve, place a large round dish over the tin. Carefully turn the dish over..... upside down tart!

**Ann Jennings**

.....

## AND FOR THE WINE

Wines for a hearty rustic farmhouse dish; nothing too grand, nothing too tannic. Red, yes—there's a glug in the recipe; let's find a good splash for our glass. A wine with an oaky layer would work well. Many Spanish wines score points here. Those produced from the Monastrell and Garnacha grapes are generally matured in old oak barrels, which just impart a rounded note but leaves the fruit in the leading role. However, in this instance we can cope with some more distinct oak flavours.

Riojas are made mostly from the Tempranillo grape and reveal an altogether different philosophy. Tobacco, vanilla, cinnamon and toasty flavours delivered by NEW oak barrels are regarded as virtues. Moreover, the tradition in the Rioja region is to age the wines before release. The result; mature developed flavours with a layer of oaky complexity—perfect. Just don't spend a fortune: big name Riojas can burn a hole in your purse.

Alternatives? Pinot Noir is a genuine candidate. Forsaking the grand wines of Burgundy in search of a more modest bottle, we find pockets of Pinot Noir grapes popping up all round the world. Capturing the correct flavours of the grape tests many winemakers: too much oak, too sweet, too alcoholic, meaty wines of power and no finesse are common traits. My current favourite in this respect is the Alto Pampas Pinot Noir from Argentina: a well made wine with an accurate spectrum of flavours - and a double bonus - it's inexpensive and available from Tanners' outlets in Shropshire! Enjoy your wine sipping.

Richard W. B Ryan

**PARISH REGISTER**

**Baptisms**

17 February	Maximillian George Smith George Edward Chambers Isobel Rose Wheeler
23 February	Martha Elizabeth Creedy
10 March	Ella May Rose John Lewis Broden Macleod

**Funerals**

18 February	Annie Nicholson	Aged 90
19 February	Jean Hetherington	Aged 91
1 March	Francis Gibson	Aged 89
1 March	Daisy Clark	Aged 95
11 March	Alan Thomson	Aged 77
12 March	Jack Whitley	Aged 92

**Children's page answers:**

**BULBS** - A4, B5, C2, D1, E3

**CHANGES** - BLACK, CLACK, CLICK, CHICK, CHINK, CHINE, WHINE, WHITE  
DEAD, LEAD, LEND, LAND, LANE, LINE, LIVE

**HIDDEN MESSAGE** - The ten words were: gardener, linen, spices, tomb, stone, Mary, dark, empty, Peter, risen. The final message was: He is risen from the dead

**DARK DEEDS** - 1. a kiss 2. mocked and beat him 3. Peter

**BRIGHT DEEDS** - 1. Simon of Cyrene 2. Joseph of Arimathaea 3. Mary of Magdala

## LETTER FROM ARCHDEACON ROGER

Sometimes the greatest revolutions start quietly. That is certainly the case with the greatest revolution ever to have taken place.

For nearly six hundred years there had been rumours, prophesies and predictions about this great revolution but for much of the time heaven seemed silent and nothing really changed. Then a teenage girl spoke of the proud being scattered and of rulers being dethroned. She said the humble and the meek were going to be exalted, the hungry were going to be fed and the rich were going to be sent empty away. An old priest spoke of the falling and rising of many; of a sign that will be spoken against and of thoughts being revealed. A wild and outspoken prophet talked of valleys being filled in and of mountains being levelled; of crooked roads being made straight and of rough places being made smooth. And then we caught a glimpse of the revolutionary leader. He spoke of good news to the poor and of blessing to those who have nothing; of prisoners being set free and of blind people receiving their sight; of slaves throwing off the chains of their oppression, of debts being cancelled and of all things being made new. For three years the revolutionary leader healed and restored and liberated. He spoke of a new age of change and of a great and mighty revolution.



But then it all went wrong. The great revolutionary leader was arrested, tried in a kangaroo court and then he was publicly humiliated, tortured and executed. It looked to everyone as if the revolution was over. That Sabbath was a day spent largely in shock. By the Sunday many had fled. A few women remained and, on that Sunday morning, three of them went to embalm their leader's body. But something was odd; the stone that should seal the tomb had been moved. The tomb was empty. The body had gone.

Little did people know that the real revolution had only just begun. God had released a surge of power that would soon shatter the despondency of the disciples and override their despair. Their leader had risen from the dead. And now, 2000 years later, the revolution is in full swing. A new reality has come into being because God has released new life into this dying and decaying world. God has let loose a force for good in this armed and fearful world; a force that will free people rather than keep them enslaved; a force that will build up rather than destroy; a force that, when experienced, will lead to leaping and dancing and singing and praising the power beyond all our controlled powers.

A new age has dawned. A new reality is in our midst. A revolution is taking place. Things need never be the same again.

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