

# **ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD**

**Parish Church Magazine**

**May 2013 online edition**



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## Parish Church Magazine



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**MAY 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 departing at 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 MAY 2013

Wednesday 1	Full Staff Meeting
Thursday 2	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 4	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 5</b>	<b>ROGATION SUNDAY</b>
Thursday 9	<b>ASCENSION DAY</b>
	10.30 am Holy Communion
Friday 10	Copy date for June magazine
	Churchwarden's Visitation with the Archdeacon
Saturday 11	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 12</b>	<b>SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION</b>
	10.00 am Worship Together
Tuesday 14	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Thursday 16	10.30 am Holy Communion
Friday 17	1.00 pm Wedding
Saturday 18	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	St Mary's Visioning Exercise
<b>SUNDAY 19</b>	<b>PENTECOST</b>
Wednesday 22	7.30 pm PCC Meeting
	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 23	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 25	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	1.00 pm Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 26</b>	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>

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### ST MARY'S LONDON



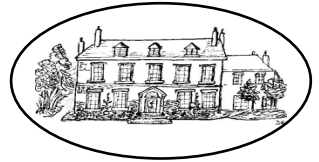
In March we had an interesting trip to London to visit an exhibition at the Garden Museum. This is situated in the deconsecrated Church of St Mary at Lambeth which is in the grounds of Lambeth Palace. It is a very appropriate building as John Tradescant 1570-1638 and his son, both plant hunters, are buried there.

The churchyard is planted including a small knot garden. Inside, on two levels, is a restaurant (vegetarian of course) a shop and many displays, pictures, artefacts etc. telling the history of planting and growing.

Nestled near the south bank of the Thames this museum is a delightful oasis in the middle of the busy metropolis.

**Maureen Baker**

## FROM THE CURATE



Dear Friends,

We are now well and truly into the wedding season. During the rehearsal for a wedding I take the bride and groom to the high altar and tell them about the symbolism of leaving behind their families and friends as two single people and returning to them as one. We also speak of the sanctuary as representing the presence of God and that they stand alone before him - not as God as judge but as God the Father who loves them, God the Son who walks beside them and God the Holy Spirit who lives within them enabling them to live this new life.

As Easter is the season of hope so Pentecost is the time when we celebrate the coming of this third part of the Godhead, the one who is present within each of us and is the enabler. It is our Father's desire that each one of us is encouraged and enabled but then, as we are made in his image that we seek to give that blessing to others.

The week before Pentecost is Christian Aid week; supporting this is one way that we can help to enable others to escape the misery of poverty and all that is associated with it. This is not just fundraising to create a more dependent people but to help to provide knowledge and support to become independent. Sadly today we need not only to support the third world but those in our own country who are coping with homelessness, hunger and unemployment. The past month has seen the biggest changes to the welfare state for many, many years. Whilst I can support their advertised aims to release people from being bound by the benefit system, I see little in the changes which encourage and enable. How much more effective it might be if an equal amount of attention had been given to providing support to help people find work and in particular to understanding the needs of the disabled in the workplace. I suspect that our support of projects such as the Food Bank and Top Church Training will become even more important as people struggle to cope with the changes.

May God Bless you and enable each of you as we seek to work with the Holy Spirit in ministry.

## SERVICES IN MAY 2013

<b>5 May Rogation Sunday</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 16. 9-15	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 14. 23-29
	6.30 pm Evensong	Zephaniah 3. 14-end	Matthew 28. 1-10, 16-end	
<b>12 May Sunday after Ascension</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 44. 1-8	Ephesians 4:7-16.	
<b>19 May Pentecost</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Genesis 11:1-9	Acts 2. 1-21	John 14. 8-17
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 33. 7-20	2 Corinthians 3. 4-end	
<b>26 May Trinity Sunday</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Proverbs 8. 1-4, 22-31	Romans 5. 1-5	John 16. 12-15
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 3. 1-15	John 3. 1-17	

### NEW SIDE PEW CUSHIONS

After much research and consideration of fillings, covers, styles and fabrics the PCC has authorised the placement of an order for new cushions for all of the side aisle pews and for the priest's and curate's stalls (they have only had a cushion cover up to now!). Thanks are due to a group of ladies who researched the matter and advised the PCC, even to the extent of offering to make the cushion covers should this prove to be viable. Inevitably such a project will not be completed without some considerable expense - a sum approaching £1800 will be the final cost. Should you wish to make a donation towards the cost this will be most gratefully received.

## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE FLOWER GUILD

*The Annual Parochial Meetings each April provide a platform for all the Church organisations to present an account of their year's activities. Their reports illustrate the diversity of interest of these groups and the richness of their contribution to St Mary's. In recent issues the magazine has been taking a look behind the scenes of the groups and this month we continue with The Flower Guild.*

Our worship at St Mary's is always enriched by the floral decoration in the church which is provided by members of The Flower Guild. Each week with the exception of Lent they ensure that the High Altar and Lady Chapel are decorated with fresh flowers. In addition to the regular weekly rota The Guild comes together for a concerted effort to decorate the whole church for the major festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

I am in church on Saturday 30 March to see The Guild members prepare the decoration for Easter Sunday. The Narthex is full of flowers and foliage, supplemented with lilies provided from donations in memory of loved ones. Display stands emerge from storage and there is a buzz of activity as the members create their appointed arrangements under the coordination of Sally Frost - window ledges, porches, font, altar, pulpit and Narthex all feature in the grand plan. There is an extra urgency this year as there is a wedding in the church this afternoon and arrangements must be completed and the Narthex cleared by midday. The talents and artistic skills of the members are quite remarkable as the displays are built up from bundles of 'materials' into beautiful arrangements with delicate shape, form and colour coordination. Final adjustments are made with a stem here, a bud there and a flower repositioned to achieve the desired effect. Soon everything is in place, discarded stalks and foliage are packed away and everything is ready for the Easter Sunday services when the congregations will admire the floral decorations as they rejoice in The Resurrection with joyful Alleluias.

**Alec Beevers**

### **....And an invitation**

The Flower Guild year begins during Lent when we have our AGM, ladies are invited to choose dates on the rota when they would like to arrange the flowers. This date is usually chosen to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one. At the AGM there is also the opportunity to voice any moans or groans ladies might have, thankfully these are not too great.

Then comes Easter, the first of the festivals when all the ladies come together to decorate the whole church. After the starkness of Lent when there are no flowers on the altar and particularly Good Friday when the altar is stripped, I feel the decoration of the church has a much bigger impact than when it is decorated for Harvest or Christmas. Not only do the flowers look beautiful but the smell of the lilies fills the church.



I always enjoy the morning when we prepare for festivals; these are very happy social events with lots of fun and laughter shared between the arrangers. Everyone works together so willingly not only doing arrangements but helping with clearing away afterwards, this also includes willing husbands.

Last year we did an additional flower festival when the church was decorated for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Members of the Guild produced some very imaginative arrangements which included the use of a model stage coach, a mannequin dressed as royal page, a flower cushion of the Union flag and vases with the Jubilee crest on. It was a very successful event.

Most of the Guild members have been using their talents to enhance our worship for many years. Whilst members are committed to arranging flowers each week some are finding it increasingly difficult. If we are to continue providing flowers week by week there is a real need for new members in the Guild or if people would like to pay for flowers I would be happy to arrange them on their behalf. If you would like to know more about what is involved please contact me.

Thank you very much to everyone who helped with the decoration of the church for Easter. The ladies who arranged the flowers, husbands who assisted with preparation and clearing away, Alec and Janet Beevers who supplied coffee and delicious biscuits and Will Peart who entertained us during the morning playing the organ. It was a lovely, happy atmosphere with everyone beavering away, ensuring that the church looked beautiful for Easter and the wedding on Saturday afternoon. Thank you all.

**Sally Frost**

## **GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP**





## THE LONG MARCH OF 'FRANCUS PONTIS STURIS MIL'

A walk along Hadrian's Wall is this year's fund-raising challenge for 'No Limits', the charity organised by Frank McGain-Harding and Chris Morgan. Frank will not exactly don a Roman toga or wear a Roman helmet but he will walk the full length of Hadrian's Wall from Bowness near Carlisle to Walls End in Newcastle. He will walk a total of 86 miles over some rather difficult country.

The Wall was one of the most remarkable building enterprises in our history and much of it remains today. It was ordered by the Emperor Hadrian and started in 122 AD. He was keen on establishing frontiers and another wall was built to link the defences of the Danube and Rhine. He was also the Emperor who finally destroyed the city of Jerusalem and built a new one on its ruins. His problem was that he disliked invaders and preferred to keep them out by building 'limes' - the Latin for limits. Ironically, his successor as Emperor built a new turf wall further north from Clyde to Forth but by 200 AD Hadrian's Wall was the frontier again.

In Britain it was the north British (no Scots yet) who resisted Roman rule. An earlier general, Agricola, had built a line of forts across Britain in about the year 85 AD and the new wall followed the same general line but along the steep escarpments two miles to the north. It was built of local stone with a look-out tower every third of a mile and mile castles for 100 men every mile. Larger garrisons were in major fortresses to the rear and these included cavalry for quick response to enemy action. It was more than a wall. On the fighting side was a deep ditch and on the rear side a 'vallum' or very wide ditch with turf walls.

Not all of it is intact but in the wild central area the almost unchanged wall remains. In the towns and along the main roads much of the stonework has been re-used.



Francus is a 'miles', a legionary, or equivalent of a 'private' in our army, and he will set out from near Carlisle for his six day march. He will start by the sea, the estuary of the Solway Firth, hoping for a westerly breeze, pass through Carlisle and not see the Wall for miles. At Birdoswald he will pass the first fortress overlooking the crossing of the river Irthing. But then comes the central section, so wild that most

of the structures have left extensive remains. From Great Chesters to Housesteads, Vindolanda and Corbridge there are splendid forts with wonderful museums housing the excavated items. And then it is downhill all

the way. The final section into Newcastle is devoid of interest but Wallsend and the sea will be a thankful sight.

So find a denarius or two for 'No Limits' and pick up a sponsorship form from the church or Chris at 376796.

Remember Francus when he sets off on the 27 May and six days later when he reaches Wallsend.

**Roy Peacock**

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

On Saturday 30 March nine people set out from the Plough Inn at Claverley on what was a dry day with a nip in the air. We proceeded down the Wold into the Danbrook area where there is a 'Sat Nav Error' sign and followed a track which took us across a very small ford (hence the sign) which was definitely not suitable for traffic.

Going forward through a lovely little valley and country lanes we eventually arrived at the Woodman Inn on the B4176. Crossing this busy road with care we took the path immediately opposite and continued straight ahead towards a short, steep climb to Wolmore Farm.

This became quite interesting because although there was snow about. We hadn't walked through any, but up on the ridge there were drifts of snow that had blown through the hedges and which were right across our path. So we needed help from one another to negotiate this hazard safely. By this time the sun was shining and there were clear blue skies and we had excellent views over the countryside.

Going through Wolmore Farm we then walked along a bridle path that was enclosed at one point with hedges so we decided to take a short break here. At the end of the bridleway we walked down Brantley Lane to pass in front of an old chapel which has been turned into a delightful residence and, taking a right and a quick left, we followed a green lane that still had some snowdrops in bloom. Exiting this lane at Upper Ludstone, we turned right down the hill to pass an impressive property called 'The Cottage on the Hill' with large grounds and a pool. A small cut through near the end of the road led us once more across the B4176 to cross a field which took us to follow the walls of Ludstone Hall, a fine old Jacobean property. We all looked through the gates in the wall to admire the beautiful gardens, each of us glad it wasn't our job to look after them.

Going ahead we passed another property called The Dairy and followed the path down through a lovely peaceful valley that, after we encountered and had to walk through 'a bit of mud', led us back to the Plough Inn car park. Here (where the licensee had been most accommodating with car parking and toilet facilities) we had an excellent lunch served by the most pleasant staff.

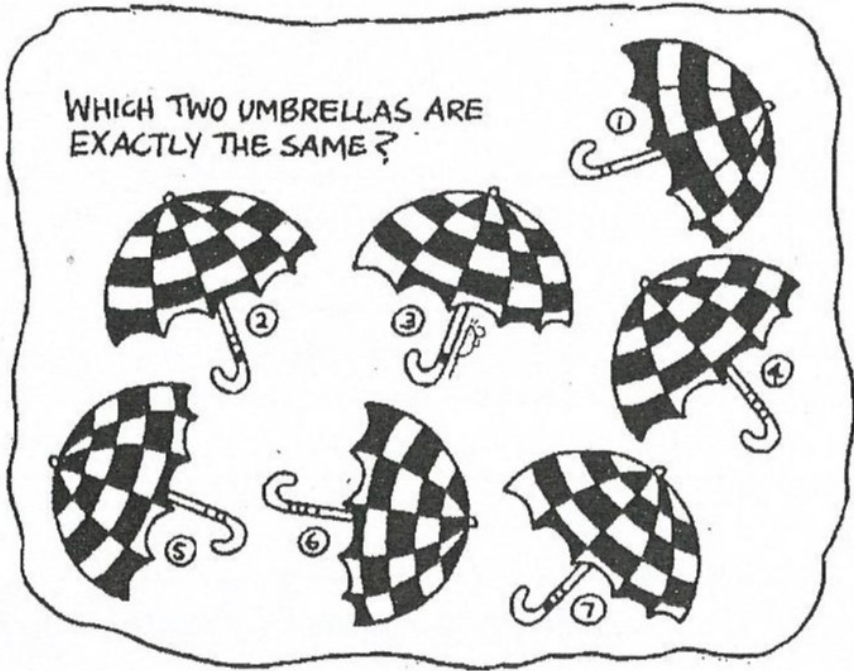
All agreed it was a good day!

**Sylvia Cooper**

# CHILDREN'S PAGES

## MAKING CHANGES

### FINDING THE DIFFERENCES



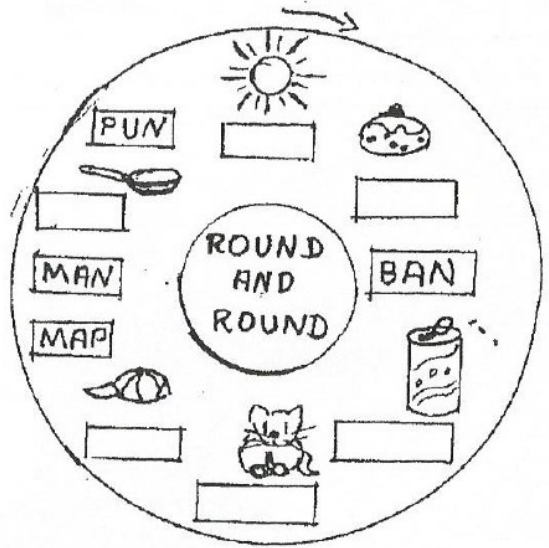
## WORD CHANGES

Can you unscramble these anagrams to reveal the word which tells us what Jesus did:

1. VOLE becomes \_ \_ \_ \_
2. HALE becomes \_ \_ \_ \_
3. CHEAT becomes \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. RACE becomes \_ \_ \_ \_

## THE WHEEL OF CHANGE

Change one letter of each word to guess the next using the drawings to help you. Get it right and you are back to where you started!



### IN THE SAME WAY

Can you change:

HATE to \_\_\_\_\_

LOVE?

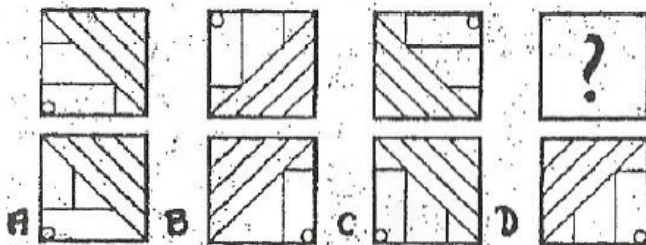
FEAR to \_\_\_\_\_ HOPE?

## JESUS' POWER MADE CHANGES

1. He changed \_\_\_\_\_ into wine.
2. Fishermen into \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ to calm
4. A boy's lunch into food for \_\_\_\_\_
5. Death into \_\_\_\_\_

### WHICH COMES NEXT?

Choose A, B, C or D to complete the series. Look how they change.



## TRACING OLDSWINFORD ANCESTORS – Part 5

**Local Trade Directories** can provide details of family members who carried on a trade or business. Many people, for example, will be recorded as selling beer or working as public house landlords, because of the area's industrial heritage. Stourbridge directories include Pigot & Co. published in 1829, Bentley's Directory of 1841, and Melville & Co.'s Directory of 1852. Telephone Directories began to be published in the 1880s, although it was not until the 1960s that many ordinary members of the public obtained their first telephone. Copies of all of these directories can usually be found in Stourbridge Public Library.

**Old Maps** of the locality can be useful in finding where your family lived – these often name individual pieces of land and larger houses. The oldest map surviving for the Manor of Oldswinford was drawn up in 1699 and for the Township of Stourbridge in 1782. In that same year much open common land such as Lye Waste was legally enclosed, an attached plan providing a detailed list of families then living there. A detailed 1837 Plan of Stourbridge can be purchased from Stourbridge Public Library. In the 1840s the church Tithe Maps appeared, providing further details of family holdings. Through Victorian times the Ordnance Survey series of maps began to be published showing even more detail – the earliest ones have been republished and can be purchased at various record offices and libraries. Late in the nineteenth century various commercial maps were produced, including the Stevens and Mackintosh Map of Stourbridge of the 1890s.

The series of **Poor Law Documents** administered by the parish Overseers of the Poor give a detailed insight into the lives of the poorest members of society, who do not normally appear in any other type of record. St Mary's Oldswinford is particularly fortunate in having some 1,500 of these documents, recording examinations as to place of settlement, orders to remove persons to another parish and apprenticeship agreements for children. The originals are now held in Worcester Record Office (WRO), but a summary can be found on a CD (reference D101) issued by the BMSGH Shop, which was referred to in my third article. If one of these records relates to your ancestor, unique information can be found regarding their spouse, children, place of birth and jobs held.

**Other Parish Records** exist for Oldswinford dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards, which can occasionally contain a clue to a forebear living here. These include the Churchwardens' Accounts from 1650, a Book of Burials in Woollen with entries between 1678 and 1814, a Book of Briefs showing charitable collections made in church between 1680 and 1759 (the earliest of which record individual names of persons donating) and Parish Minutes from the 1720s onwards. All are now held in the WRO.

**Title Deeds** to family properties and other legal documents such as indentures and trust settlements can occasionally be found in record offices. A good local website to visit for an index to Black Country records is [www.blackcountryhistory.org](http://www.blackcountryhistory.org). All kinds of documents, place names and photographs are recorded here. For a similar national search, try the Access to Archives website at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/). Search results can sometimes take you as far back as the sixteenth century.

Eventually your research will arrive in a period before parish records existed. Your options then become very limited, but **Manor Court Rolls** contain details of many individuals serving on a jury or the transfer of land on the death of an ancestor. The Oldswinford Manor Rolls dating from 1550 to the 1640s are kept at Birmingham Central Library, but reading them can be a huge challenge as they are written in Latin with many abbreviations!

I do hope that these brief articles have persuaded readers to try out this fascinating hobby and some progress has been made. You will find that for each successful area of research resolved, many further questions will be begging to be answered. Good luck with your quest.

**Nigel Perry**

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**KINDNESS (continued)**

It was kind of Anne Davies to mention in last month's magazine that Pam and I had taken her to London with us on Christmas morning. We were very pleased to help Anne. As Anne spends most of her time helping others, it was lovely to be able to help her for a change!

Following Dorothy Gibson and Anne in their reports of kindnesses shown, I also have experienced the kindness of others, many of whom are friends and others acquaintances, when my email was hacked recently. A scam message was sent on 4 March to my email contacts, about 500 people, supposedly from me, saying that I was stranded in Limassol, Cyprus, having lost all my possessions, passport and money. The message asked for help and requested money to be sent to me so that I could return home.

Many people rang my mobile asking whether I really was stranded as they would send money to help. Many rang our Parish Office to ask John how they could help. John, with great enterprise then emailed the St Mary's contact list advising them that it was a scam and that I was in England. This saved me a great many explanations. Thank you, John.

Others left messages on our home telephone to let me know of this hacking. Once again, the moral of the story is that people are very kind, as both Dorothy and Anne found - the spirit of kindness is always with us.

**Andrew Scudamore**

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

On 7 April 2013, Ian and Jennifer McKenzie (nee Doores) welcomed Matthew Peter into the world. He was born a healthy 8 lb 9 oz: Mother and baby are doing well.

## TO KENYA WITH LOVE ..... THE STORY GOES ON!

Friends at St Mary's will recall that our work for our little school has been ongoing since 2007 when we first came across this lovely, but pretty derelict school in the slum settlement of Mtomondoni. Mtwapa, Kenya. So much has happened since we last wrote our news letter.

### **MORE RECENT PROJECTS**

As our little school is slowly improving, we became very concerned that children might become victims of the high incidence of child prostitution in this very poor slum area of Mombasa and so we decided to make this our next priority.

We enlisted the wonderful help of the 7 / 8 year old pupils at St Anne's School, Bewdley who raised over £400 to replace the dangerous gates and to help build a wall at the front of the school. Whilst we were at the school in January 2012, we actually witnessed the gates being made from the raw materials. It was fantastic to see the money we had sent financing a project before our eyes.

Before we left for home, the front wall was built, the gates had been hung primed and ready to be painted during the next few weeks, much to the delight of the pupils and Staff.

### **FUTURE PROJECTS**

We are hoping that our next huge project will be to build a two-storey building to replace a derelict class block which has only the small office remaining in the rubble. The plan we have had drawn up is for an office/staffroom, 3 classrooms and toilets on the ground floor and included dormitory accommodation for the orphan pupils on the upper floor.



These photos are of the new gates being made in front of the derelict block and the new classrooms through the ruins of the old.

### **BREAKING NEWS**

Sadly, our little school is currently facing such a huge crisis in its existence. The run up and aftermath of the recent elections in Kenya meant tremendous hardship for the residents of the slum settlement in which our school is situated. The hotels in which many of the parents work have closed due to lack of visitors, meaning that they have lost their jobs and are unable to pay the small fees needed for their youngsters to attend school. The knock on effect of this is that the teachers could not be paid for February and March ... leaving their families with no means of support and sustenance. It also meant that the electricity bill could not be paid and there was a threat that the electricity would be cut off, meaning no water could be pumped from the well to the toilets as well as coping with the darkness at night.

The trustees have had to make the decision to alleviate the immediate problems by using some of the money we have been raising for new classrooms, to pay the teachers and electricity bills, as well as buy some maize flour and sugar to give the little kindergarten kids breakfast. Few of them arrive for school having eaten and there is nothing all day.

We are hoping that it will be possible to either run a “ buy a £1 brick for Hill Wheeler school in Kenya” as we have done on previous occasions at St Mary’s , or maybe even have a bucket collection if that proves possible. (We have always been able to claim gift aid on individual donations .... but understand that it can now be claimed on group collections such as bucket donations.) This will hopefully be one of the Sundays after the May magazine has been published. The children and their school need our help so desperately so we are always looking for good ideas to raise funds

If anyone has a brilliant suggestion on how we can achieve this, we would be so grateful to hear it.

**JAN AND BRIAN DREW**

Hill Wheeler Preparatory School the Community of Mtwapa, Kenya

Registered Charity No: 1139536

Website: [www.thehillwheelercharity.com](http://www.thehillwheelercharity.com)

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## **ST MARY’S WITH ST JOHN’S MOTHERS’ UNION**

On a bright, cold April day we welcomed two visitors to our meeting which was led by the Reverend Stephen Agnew.

The celebration of the Annunciation of the Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary occurred on Monday 8 April and the opening service was in the form of a meditation of this event. The Scripture reading was Luke 1 v26-38 and then we had poetry, music and saw a series of Renaissance pictures of the event leading to those showing the birth of Christ.

Following this we were reminded of those members who were on pilgrimage in Israel and the main theme of Stephen’s talk was based on journeys and pilgrimage and illustrated by pictures of his own journeys on pilgrimage.

Where do we go? We saw many places in Britain, Europe, Turkey and the Middle East including Egypt, Jordan and Israel where pilgrims had journeyed for centuries or even to recently formed centres like Taize.

Why do we go? Here we have many challenges and personal reasons as we share different cultures and practices whether we travel on foot, camel or have luxury travel.

What do we find? The conclusion was that the most important experience was meeting people along the route whether in the group of fellow travellers or those we encounter on the journey rather than experiencing or achieving a final goal or end.

So, as Christians, whether we journey at home or abroad we are all pilgrims. We are still people called to follow ‘The Way’ our Lord Jesus Christ and His teaching and know He is always with us (Matthew 28 v20).



Dates for your diary:

The next meeting will be at 2.15pm in the Coach House on Tuesday May 14. We will have guest speaker Tony Lloyd talking about church architecture. On Thursday May 9 there will be a coffee morning from 10am to 12pm with the Clent Mothers Union. On Tuesday May 21 the Deanery Festival will be held at 2.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Amblecote.

**Dawn Nex**

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### **THIS MONTH'S RECIPE BOLOGNESE BAKE**

I work with students with learning difficulties and this is one of their favourite dishes. It has all the ingredients of lasagne but with less of the bother. I would urge you to use butcher's mince as I find supermarket mince very poor.

500g minced beef  
Jar of passata with onions & garlic/or Bolognese sauce  
350g (or less) penne or other pasta twists  
1 pint white sauce  
25g grated parmesan

Cook the mince in a large non-stick frying pan until browned. Pour over passata or Bolognese sauce, season and allow to simmer while making the sauce and cooking the pasta. Cook the pasta according to the instructions on the pack, drain, don't overcook it.

Make a white sauce and pre-heat the grill.

Combine the mince and pasta and put into an ovenproof dish.

Pour over the white sauce and sprinkle on the parmesan cheese, grill to brown.

Serve with a mixed salad.

**Ann Jennings**

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### **AND FOR THE WINE**

I have a confession: I arrived in Bologna in early afternoon just as the restaurants were all closing. I had other business in the evening so I departed the city feeling that I had omitted the main course. True, its ancient towers, though not as numerous as those of San Gimignano, are striking but I still felt Bologna had eluded me.

In truth the wines of the region may not match its gastronomic fame. However, to accompany our pasta bake we probably don't need a bottle of Italy's finest. A gamey Barolo? - Sounds wonderful but not really what is called for here. A gritty tannic-edged Chianti? - too much power and teeth. The great grape of Tuscany to the south is of course Sangiovese. When it isn't trying to be a Chianti Classico or a Brunello, it can make a more smoothly fruited quaff....The other grape I have turned to in these columns for a simpler and

modestly priced wine is Montepulciano which does everything we want.

However, in the interests of variety let us suggest a Dolcetto. It is a native of Piedmont, further north, but it scores well being neither too tannic nor high in acid. Importantly, its cherry fruits are less of the bitter-dry style but more of the fleshy morello character. I'm sure I would have found a bottle on wine lists in the restaurants of Bologna if only.....! Enjoy your wine sipping.

**Richard W.B. Ryan**

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## **WHAT'S ON IN THE CHURCH HALL?**

*The church hall is an important facility and provision at St Mary's. Besides its use as a venue for specific church events, the hall serves a valuable community purpose as a location for a wide variety of educational and recreational activities. In this series of articles we aim to bring to our readers an idea of the opportunities offered to people in the locality by those organisations that use the church hall. In the first of this series we invited ZIG-ZAG Dance to introduce their activities.*

The Zig Zag Dance Factory is run by the internationally famous dance partnership and award winning, former British champions, Warren Bullock and Jane Phillips. During a glittering professional career they travelled the world to compete at international level with much success, before retiring in 1997 to primarily concentrate on teaching. Their professional standing is such that they continue to be much in demand as adjudicators, both nationally and internationally; as performers, advisers and choreographers for TV and Film and as reporters and critics for the dance press. They have been voted 'Top Teachers of the Year' for the last 11 years and 'Supreme Teachers of the Year' for the last 7 years and also find time to be parents to their triplet girls born in 2000.



Today, the Zig Zag Dance Factory Group is widely known as the most successful and prolific dance school not only in this country, but in Europe, specializing in teaching absolute beginners through to international competitors for those who want to develop their dancing skills at the highest level.

At St Mary's, Zig Zag offers dance classes for adults and children on Mondays, 5.30—9.30 pm and Tuesdays, 7.00—9.30 pm. A range of adult classes are

available in Ballroom, Latin American and Zumba as well as Streetdance, Disco, Latin and Ballroom for children. Adult classes cost just £4.50 and children's just £3.50. Private lessons and lessons in preparation for a wedding are also available. Much more information is easily accessible on the website [www.zigzagdance.co.uk](http://www.zigzagdance.co.uk) or why not drop in one Monday evening after 5.30pm to see for yourself and to chat. Come with a partner or on your own for fun, exercise and a great experience.



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**THANK YOU**

On Monday 8 April, I found myself at the console of the organ at St Martin's, London Road, Worcester. This was the sponsored hymn book play for Hugo Johns, a neighbour of mine with an undiagnosed disease which has taken away the use of his legs. The response from you, the congregation at St Mary's, was overwhelming. Your generosity was fantastic and I write with my thanks but more importantly, on behalf of Hugo's parents who have been staggered and humbled by the support you have all shown. Thank you very much.

**Robin Walker**  
**Director of Music**

**PARISH REGISTER**

**Baptisms**

17 March	Pippa Grace Isobel Harrison
7 April	Isobel Lily Andrews
	Olivia Grace Belwood
	Lily Ava Meese

**Weddings**

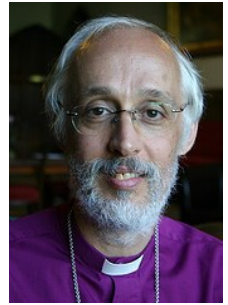
16 March	Ashley Hickman and Jenny Courtney-Donovan
30 March	Paul Merrick and Victoria Cooper
13 April	Stuart Ayers and Emma Pardoe
	Andrew Cutler and Trudi Bennion

**Funerals**

18 March	George Clive Evans	Aged 75
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## LETTER FROM BISHOP DAVID

Amidst that splendid service to enthrone Archbishop Justin that I was privileged to attend, there was a completely unscripted moment. It came in the middle of one of the hymns. The printed order of service contained a particular word, but, audibly, the majority of the congregation sang a quite different one. They weren't correcting a misprint in the text. Nor were they misreading what it said. It was a deliberate choice, and one made for theological reasons.



What has fascinated me is not so much the particular hymn, or even the specific word, so much as that a congregation would spontaneously act in this way. It's surprising because I would have expected most people to simply sing what was written on the page without really giving a great deal of thought to it. Admittedly, we were not an ordinary Sunday congregation. It's hard to imagine a larger gathering of people who have studied theology and who think hard about their faith. But it did make me realise how little attention we often pay to the words that we are singing in church.

When I first came to the Diocese of Worcester as a Bishop I found that often in the middle of a service I could be expected to sing a hymn but somehow there wouldn't be a hymnbook to hand. I started trying to sing as many hymns as I possibly could from memory. What I discovered was that it made me concentrate on the words much harder. It's almost impossible to remember the next line if you don't pay attention to the current one. And if it has made me slightly grumpy about modern hymn books that unnecessarily change a word here or there, it has made me much more attentive to the meaning of what I sing.

So let me offer you a challenge for this next month. When you are singing hymns or songs in church, don't just let the words pass from the book to your mouth without visiting your brain. Think about what you are singing, what it means to you, and whether it expresses your faith in Jesus. And if that means occasionally you're singing a different word than the one that appears on the page, so much the better.

### Children's page answers:

Umbrellas: 4 and 6

Word changes: 1.Love 2.Heal 3.Teach 4.Care

Wheel of change: sun, bun, ban, can, cat, cap, map, man, pan, pun, sun

HATE: have, cave, cove, love

FEAR: feat, meat, melt, malt, male, mole, hole, hope (there may be other ways)

Jesus' Power: 1.Water 2.Disciples 3.Storm 4.Five thousand 5.Life

Which comes next? D

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