

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine

JUNE 2013 E Version



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JUNE 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
Priest in Charge and Curate's Day Off: 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	

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

Church Hall and		
Coach House: - Bookings	Parish Office	441003
Parish Administrator and		
Publicity Officer:	Mr John Sutton	441003
Parish Office:	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
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	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 2013

Saturday 1	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 2	THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 4	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Thursday 6	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 8	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 3.00 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 9	THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	10.00 am Worship Together
Monday 10	Copy date for June magazine
Thursday 13	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.00 pm King Edward's Charter Day Service
Saturday 15	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 16	THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Thursday 20	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.00 pm Mary Stevens Hospice Mid-summer Service
Saturday 22	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 23	THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Wednesday 26	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 27	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 29	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 1.00 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 30	THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

CHURCHYARD NEWS

Spring weather arrived recently and within a few days the warm and damp conditions have encouraged plants into growth and the mowing rota has begun. As we try to keep on top of this year's growth please help to keep the churchyard tidy by removing dead flowers and wrappings. New bins are to be located in key areas to make this easier.

Recent problems have arisen, particularly for those working in the churchyard, as a consequence of people not clearing up after their dogs. Please ensure that dog waste is bagged and removed from the churchyard. It is clearly inappropriate for bags to be thrown into undergrowth or along the churchyard boundaries. If you can, please encourage others to use this area with respect.

A review and long-term plan for the churchyard is to be undertaken. This will involve addressing issues with over-grown and inappropriately positioned trees and with creating better paths. If you have an ideas or views on how this community facility may be enhanced and made more accessible please share these with one of the churchwardens.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

Some years ago Jean and I went on a holiday to Egypt where we sailed up the Nile from Luxor to Aswan. I suspect a number of you will have undertaken that journey and so will be familiar with the beauty and peace of the encounter with temples and tombs on either side of that great river. One of my memories of the trip was on the first morning as we arrived at breakfast talking to other Brits about how nice the weather was. By the second morning it was clear that such a line of conversation was totally irrelevant – it was always nice weather there! What a contrast that is with this 'green and pleasant land' where we always have something to talk about because the weather is always changing.

The weather does affect our moods, that was very clear as I went about on that most unusual of occurrences, a sunny Bank Holiday Monday, and watched people enjoying being out in the warmth of a spring day, revelling in the natural world. What a rarity that was, and what a delight to witness.

As Summer comes I hope that you will find some time to relax and enjoy some warm days, because relaxation and re-creation sets us up to cope with the challenges of another winter, a time when we all feel under pressure.

Of course, often when Summer comes there is a feeling that everything shuts down, and all those things which we enjoy taking part in and those occasions where we meet other people just cease to happen, and our society goes into 'shut down' mode. So here are a few extra occasions when we can enjoy time together and hopefully even enjoy some good weather.

The Parish Picnic, in the Rectory Garden, will take place after the Morning Eucharist on Sunday 21 July. Anyone is very welcome to come along, young or old, or somewhere in the middle. Bring some food and we can enjoy lunch together, and stay as long as you like. Last year some of us even played a few exhausting games on the lawn, so be prepared!

On a slightly more sedate note there may be people who live alone who would be interested in coming to the Rectory for a Cream Tea and chat over the Summer. If this appeals to you note these dates in your diary: Tuesday 30 July & Tuesday 20 August between 2.30 and 4.00pm. We will ask you to sign up in advance so that we can bake the right number of scones.

You might think this a rather unusual letter to come from the Parish Priest and be included at the start of the magazine. Normally such letters include spiritual insights and reflections and try to help people on their journey of faith, whereas this is just about hospitality, and enjoying ourselves, something which I seem to remember Jesus did quite a lot of!

I hope that you have a relaxing Summer and can be warmed by the sun as well as the friendship at St Mary's.

Stephen Agnew

SERVICES IN JUNE 2013

2 June First Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	1 Kings 8. 22,23,41-43	Galatians 1. 1-12	Luke 7. 1-10
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 4. 1-16	Mark 3. 7-19	
9 June Second Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Genesis 8.15-9.17	Mark 4. 1-20	
16 June Third Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Samuel 11.26-12.10,13-15.	Galatians 2. 15-end	Luke 7.36-8.3
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 13.	Mark 4. 21-end	
23 June Fourth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaac 65. 1-9	Galatians 3. 23-29	Luke 8. 26-39
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 24. 1-27	Mark 5. 21-end	
30 June Fifth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Kings 19. 15-16, 19-21	Galatians 5. 1, 13-25	Luke 9. 51-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 27. 1-40	Mark 6. 1-6	

ARCHDEACON FRED TRETHAWAY TO MOVE ON

Fred has decided to step down from the role of Archdeacon of Dudley after twelve years in post. He will be retiring from full-time ministry at the end of September to take up a part-time pastoral role as Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church, Brittany, France.

Fred has been a vicar in the diocese since 1988, serving as vicar of Brockmoor and Chaplain at Russell's Hall as well as Rural Dean of Kingswinford before becoming Archdeacon. His new role in Brittany will be part of a chaplaincy mostly serving English and English-speaking people. He will look after three places of worship in central Brittany and he and his wife Margaret are likely to be based in the town of Ploermel.

Fred said: "It is with very mixed feelings that I look forward to the next chapter in my life and ministry. It has been a great privilege to work in the diocese of Worcester, and I have received a huge amount from all my excellent colleagues, lay and ordained. I will miss the warmth of the support and friendship that has been offered from so many quarters. The Brittany appointment however provides an opportunity for Margaret and me to take on new challenges, at a different pace, and we are looking forward to the adventure."

Bishop John said: "Fred has been an exemplary Archdeacon of Dudley and I am one among very many people in this diocese and beyond who owe him a great debt of gratitude. We shall be very sorry to lose him, but rejoice with him at this exciting new appointment and pray that God will bless him and Margaret richly in their new life in Brittany."

Fred's move to Brittany is subject to completion of the usual safeguarding arrangements. The Bishop of Worcester will shortly be convening a small group of people, drawn largely from the Bishop's Council, to advise on the vacancy which will result from Fred's departure.

Diocesan News

CHRISTIAN AID - BITE BACK AT HUNGER

"It's very rewarding to know that Christians of different traditions are working together for one common aim during Christian Aid Week." is the observation of one Christian Aid volunteer.

At 'Worship Together' on Sunday 12 May pupils from Oldswinford Church of England Primary School led a thought-provoking presentation about the work of Christian Aid and how we might help. Their message was clear.....There is enough food for everyone in the world, but one in eight people will go to bed hungry each night.

The support of those who give and those who organise the collections for Christian Aid each year does much to challenge this shocking situation. Thank you to all who have supported the Christian Aid appeal this year. You can discover how you can be more involved by contacting your local Christian Aid Week representative or by visiting www.caweeek.org/article.

THE ROYAL THREE COUNTIES SHOW

The Three Counties Show, taking place from 14-16 June, has been granted 'Royal' status this year and is now one of the biggest livestock shows in the country. Serving the Counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, the show can trace its roots back over 200 years.

The Church tent at the show has evolved considerably in recent years and is now a rich collaborative enterprise between the Worcester, Hereford and Gloucester dioceses. It is located on the 'village green' at the heart of the show and the planning group, which includes representatives from all three dioceses, has worked hard to ensure that the Church's presence is as effective as possible.

Archdeacon Roger says: "This is a great opportunity for the church to reach out to the 100,000 people who come to the show as well as show our solidarity with those who work in agriculture and farming during what has been a very difficult time. We'll be offering chaplain support, activities for children, entertainment in the form of our church school choirs, busking vicars and Greenbelt regulars *Folk On* and a chance to see Hereford's stone masons in action. And this year, we'll also be serving the best coffee at the show!"

If you're planning a trip to the Three Counties Show this year, please do come and visit the Church Tent!

Diocesan News

WHAT SENIOR CITIZENS ARE WORTH

Did you know that we old folk are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs! I have become olde since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old woman. I am seeing six gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up WILL POWER helps me out of bed and I go to see JIMMY RIDDLE. Then it's time for breakfast with MR KELLOGG, followed closely by the refreshing company of MR TETLEY or my other friend who I know only by his initials, PG. Next comes someone I don't like at all, ARTHUR IT IS – he knows he is not welcome but he insists on being there and what is more he stays for the rest of the day. Even then he does not like to stay in one place so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a hectic day I am glad to get to bed with JOHNNY WALKER. What a busy life! Oh yes, I am flirting with AL ZHEIMER. The vicar came to call the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him, I did, all the time, no matter where I am, the bedroom, the kitchen, the sitting room....I ask myself all the time, "Now what am I here after?" Well I will close now and I hope that WILL POWER is your constant companion. Watch out for the crafty one – GERRY ATRIC.

With thanks to Anne Davies

ST MARY'S CHURCH HANDBELLS



'Handbells can be instruments of worship, for when they ring we sense the Majesty of God and when they stop we sense the Grace of God.' *

This quotation represents the conflicting views that people have about the sound of bells. Love them or hate them the fact remains that bells have been part of church worship for hundreds of years. Handbells were developed from their larger tower bell ancestors to practise change ringing and play simple tunes. Their main advantage was that they were transportable.... usually to the local hostelry.

Their popularity reached a peak in Victorian times when every tower band would have a set of twelve or more to play in tune-ringing competitions. But as the century ended they fell into decline and hung silently tarnishing in dusty ringing rooms until the latter part of the twentieth century when tune ringing on handbells became fashionable again.

The handbells that we use are part of a larger set. They were cast by James Shaw of Bradford in 1894 and inscribed with the name of the church and the date. They are used for tune ringing and, more recently, change ringing. This means that the bells change places according to a set numerical pattern which has to be learned and memorized.

Clearly over a period of 120 years these bells have seen lots of action and when we, as a group began to ring them they were in a poor state of repair. However they have recently been restored, thanks to the generosity of the church and the tower fund, and the dedicated and specialised work of Bernard Stone. They now look fantastic and sound much sweeter and more tuneful. I hope you agree when you hear them.

Pat Whalley

*The above quotation can be found at www.oocities.com/hartleyhandbells.

SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL....

....Not a return to the '60s music scene but the sound of intense activity in the Church Hall as about thirty players took part in the beetle drive on 27 April. The event was arranged to raise funds for the Anchor Bereavement Group and it provided a happy evening for all participants – young and old – as we tried to defy the statistical odds of rolling dice to complete our beetle diagrams.

Ruth coordinated the proceedings and acted as referee but there were no controversial decisions or need for goal-line technology. The progression of the winners of each round to the next table ensured a mixing and meeting of guests throughout the evening. At half-time Sue Wakely prepared pizzas and cakes which were served to renew energy for a fast and frantic second half. The excitement mounted with cheers as required scores were achieved and groans as elusive numbers were missed. At the final count Marjorie Ferguson emerged as the deserving winner. Ruth concluded the evening with an expression of appreciation for all helpers and participants and reminded us of the valuable work of the Anchor Bereavement Group. They meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 2.00 pm in the Coach House – anyone interested in visiting the group is invited to contact our curate, Ruth on 01384 373286.

Alec Beevers

ORDINATIONS 2013

Nine candidates will be ordained in Worcester Cathedral over the weekend of 29 and 30 June to serve in parishes across the diocese. Three candidates will be ordained priest on Saturday afternoon. They have completed a year with a parish and will now be able to preside at the Holy Communion. A further six candidates will be ordained deacon on Sunday morning and will enter their first year of training as a curate. Those being ordained are:

Ordained Deacon:

- Tom Fish to serve at Christchurch in Lye
- Carey Saleh to serve in Bromsgrove
- Bridget Woodall to serve in Brierley Hill
- Peter Davies to serve at All Saints in Worcester
- Nick Daw to serve in the Worcester South East Team
- Barbara Wheatley to serve in the Bowbrook Group of parishes

Ordained Priest:

- Richard Bubbers who serves in Ipsley
- Hazel Charlton who serves in the Worcester South East Team
- Richard Tweedy who serves in the Worcester West Rural Team Ministry

Please pray for all the candidates and the parishes in which they will serve and also all those who are involved in the ordination service itself.

CHILDREN'S PAGES

Mark 16:16 "The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."



??True or False??

How much do you know about Ascension?

1. Jesus did not come to the earth in a physical body like ours.
2. Jesus sent the apostles to teach the world about Him.
3. Jesus said, "He who believes shall be saved."
4. Jesus left through the sky.
5. An angel told the apostles that Jesus would never return.

CAN YOU NAME THE TWELVE APOSTLES?

Unscramble the letters to reveal them all...

RTEEP

WADREN

SEJAM

HOJN

PILPHI

ORMOBETALWH

TEMTAWH

HOMTSA

MAJES

DATEHDUS

MISON

SUJDA

WORDSEARCH



Can you find the hidden words?

opened
understand
Scriptures
Written
Christ

suffer
repentance
remission
sins
Jerusalem

witnesses
promise
Father
tarry
Bethany

carried
heaven
worshipped
joy
continually

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Early in April twelve members of St Mary's congregation joined with others under the leadership of the Revd Canon Greville Cross on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. After 18 months of patient anticipation the day for our journey to Jerusalem began early and with the promise of a long day ahead. Distance, airport procedures, security systems, flight schedules and coach transfers combined to deliver us to the Golden Walls Hotel in Jerusalem soon after midnight, where a light supper awaited us before a night's sleep that was to seem far too brief a preparation for the day ahead.

After breakfast at 7.00am we travelled by coach with our guide, Oliver, to the Mount of Olives, for that first spectacular image of Jerusalem across the Kidron Valley (see front cover). We visited the Pater Noster Church (traditional setting for where Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer: Luke 11.2-4), the modern building on an ancient site of Dominus Flevit Chapel (where Jesus wept: Luke 19.37-42) and the Church of All Nations in the Garden of Gethsemane. In each location we reflected on the events with readings from the Bible to inform and enhance our experience.

The busy nature of the days ahead became clear by mid-morning as we drove across the valley to the Church of St Peter in Gallicantu (possibly the site of the High Priest's House) and then to St Andrew's Guest House for lunch. In the afternoon, whilst most of us were dreaming of a mid-day nap, we were once more on the move, into West Jerusalem, first to Yad Vashem Memorial to the Holocaust and then onto the model of Ancient Jerusalem and the Shrine of the Book, museum of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The first of our evening group meetings was to provide valued opportunity to reflect on the day's experiences.

Thursday morning brought another early (and cool) start as we walked through Dung Gate at 8.00am to visit the Western Wall, most holy of sites for those of the Jewish faith. Here we saw family preparations (males and females in separate areas) for the Bar-Mitzvah ceremonies. The intensity of their prayer actions, ceremonial and decisive movement around the area underlie the strength of the commitment and the determination presented by these people, just as the stones of this highly symbolic section of wall illustrate the enormity of the Temple structure that once filled this site.



All too soon it was time to move on, to join the queue for security clearance to ascend the Temple Mount, onto Mount Moriah, to view from the outside, the El Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. This site is of immense significance to Muslims, Jews and Christians and is sadly an area over which conflict exists in an uneasy peace which allows only limited access under Muslim control. Even at the early hour of the day hundreds of Muslim children in carefully guided and supervised files were visiting with their teachers, delighting in waving at and greeting us as we shared this place of wonder.



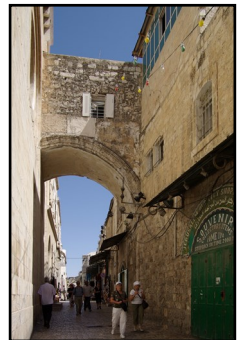
Following much coffee in a traditional arab café where we were welcomed and served with much care and attention we walked on to the Pool of Bethesda (a reservoir created in the 8th century BC at which Jesus cured a man who had been ill for 38 years: John 5.1-13) and the Church of St Anne's, built on a site believed to have been the birthplace of Saint Mary, mother of Jesus. Here we



we were warmly greeted and encouraged into the church to savour the magnificent acoustics as we sang together in anticipation of the experiences yet to come. Lunch was scheduled at the Ecco Homo Convent, traditionally the site where Jesus was presented to the crowds. (John 19.5, "Then Jesus came forth, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the man"). Here, before we ate, we shared in a moving service of Holy Communion

presided over by one of our party, Revd Linda Bedford.

In the afternoon we walked in silent reflection along the Via Dolorosa, stopping at the signal from our guide in key locations, Stations of the Cross, along this traditional route of Jesus' last journey to Golgotha. This presented something of a dichotomy for many as we listened first to the guide's descriptions of significant sites inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and then, a short distance later, to the custodian at the Garden Tomb. Where did these events actually take place? Does it really matter and how does it impact on our faith?



This busy day provided much for quiet contemplation later particularly as one tried to come to terms with the mysteries of the complex care (or lack of) and custodianship of the Holy Sepulchre,



shared as it is by the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Armenian Apostolic groups in an apparently uncooperative liaison regulated by various interpretations of the 'Status Quo'.

On Friday we left Jerusalem by coach for an excursion to the south east, first to Qumran (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered) and then south along the shore of the (shrinking) Dead Sea to the site of Herod's desert fortress of Masada. In this mountain-top refuge Zealots secured themselves for months in defiance of the on-going siege by thousands of Roman troops whilst a huge ramp of rock and soil was built using slave labour to provide the access that would finally bring about the Zealots' demise. Tradition



suggests that in recognition of the impending defeat the Zealots entered into a group suicide pact in which elders undertook to kill seven of their family members then, in turn, for seven of them to be killed by others until the final members committed suicide, thereby denying the Romans of their conquest. The majestic isolation of the site, the complexity of the sophisticated provisions in the fortress, the scale of the task needed to build the ramp and the extent of

the surrounding Roman camps combine to make this a very impressive visit.

We departed Masada for a few hours of relaxation with lunch at a seaside hotel and the opportunity to bathe in the waters of the Dead Sea. Here, at the lowest point on the earth's surface (1388 feet below sea level) the density of the water, due to the supersaturated salt content, enables the body to float high in the water, denying normal swimming movements, but enabling that classic picture of one laying back on the water to read. For a few brief hours we rested from the intensity of our pilgrimage journey and enjoyed a holiday atmosphere surrounded



by fascinating and often awe-inspiring features of the natural world. Then it was back to the coach for the return journey to Jerusalem through the Judean wilderness with a short stop at Wadi Qelt and the spectacular view of the sixth century St George's desert monastery (Greek Orthodox) perched on the valley cliff side. Whilst this is 'desert' territory there are remains that suggest the area has been inhabited in isolated

communities enabled, as is the monastery, by creative irrigation systems leading from the spring-fed rivulet that provides for the most essential need, water. The valley parallels the old Roman road to Jericho, the backdrop for the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37).

Our Saturday programme began after a short coach drive across Jerusalem to Mount Zion for a visit to the Upper Room, traditional site of the Last Supper. The present Gothic style building cannot be definitively dated; various scholars cite conflicting architectural evidence to place its construction between 1150AD and 1350AD. Evidence of a building on this site, possibly a synagogue, which was spared during the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD is strong.



Close by is the Dormition Abbey, traditionally the site where the Blessed Virgin Mary died. Archaeological inspection proved the site had been previously used for several other churches before the present abbey was built between 1900 and 1910, a base for Benedictine Monks. Today it is a place of study for outstanding students of theology from Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

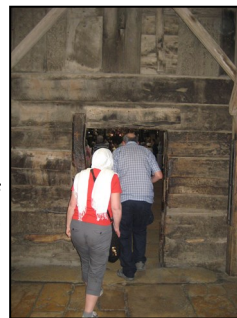


A further short coach drive took us into Palestinian territory to visit Bethlehem. At the Fields of the Shepherds we visited the Franciscan site of Khirbat Siyar al-Ghanim where, in a soot-blackened cave, now partly enclosed to form a modern chapel we celebrated Holy Communion. The site, a collection of beautifully maintained gardens and prayer chapels around a modern (1954) church, provides wonderful panoramas across the fertile hillsides where sheep have grazed for thousands of years. An opportunity to shop in the olive wood co-operative store served to placate those who had missed their retail therapy as well as providing a means to support this fair trade enterprise in an area which is almost totally dependent on tourists for a living.



Lunch was served in the hospital canteen of the Bethlehem Arab Rehabilitation Society, an organisation that, every year, provides medical care and post-operative support to many hundreds who would otherwise receive only the most basic of attention and so face little hope of future employment. The provision of a dining facility such as this seems a very creative use of the facilities they already possess as a means of raising additional funds for their work.

In the afternoon we entered Manger Square to visit the Basilica and Grotto of the Nativity, entering by the Door of Humility. Again, as we had seen in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the church is administered jointly by Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian Apostolic authorities. Such is the strength of each of their claims and demands that their own rites continue undisturbed that brawls between the monks are not infrequent and the Palestinian police may be called upon to restore the peace. We followed the directions of our guide, Oliver, as we toured the immediate vicinity before joining the long queue that wound to the Grotto. Unfortunate timing as the Armenians began a service which meant the door was closed in front of us and we had to wait for over an hour as we watched the rites of the Armenian service partly interrupted by the passage through the church of a Greek Orthodox funeral cortege. Fortunately there was no overt display of disagreement on this occasion although the manner of the demand for silence from the various guards seemed less than Christian. Once again, the dilapidated state of the building, a World Heritage Site, betrays the conflicting attitudes to how the church should be cared for and conserved.



In the mean time decay continues.....

The rest of the journey will appear in the next issue.

Anthony Tatford

SOMETHING FOR FATHER'S DAY

Savoury Biscuits

These savoury biscuits are easy to make and are the perfect Father's Day treat. You could buy a piece of his favourite cheese to go with them. I am sure Richard could suggest a bottle of wine to complete the gift.

50g butter
125g plain wholemeal flour
85g extra mature Cheddar cheese grated
(..... I have made them with leftover Stilton cheese)
½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

Put the flour into a bowl and rub in the butter, it need not be fine crumbs. Add the cheese and Worcestershire sauce and gently squeeze everything together to combine.

Lay a piece of cling film on the work surface and tip the mixture onto it. Shape into a log 10cm long and 6cm across. Wrap in the cling film twisting it into a sausage shape. Chill for at least an hour - longer is good.

Pre-heat oven 180c/Gas4. Remove the cling film and carefully cut the log into about 12 even slices.

Line a baking sheet with parchment and lay on the lined sheet making sure they have some space around them in case they spread. Bake for 15-18 minutes. they should be just turning brown around the edges. Cool slightly before putting on a cooling rack

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

Wines with cheese.....it is a signature taste challenge for wine merchants to assemble a selection of cheeses paired with a variety of red and white wines.....and to wait for the remark, "Well actually the WHITE wines matched better than the reds." Creamy, fatty cheeses often do require the cutting acidity of a white wine. A weighty Chardonnay can be just right with a full-flavoured Cheddar. Similarly, Sauvignon Blanc works wonderfully with goat's cheese and the nettle-infused Cornish Yarg. However, switch to Stilton and blue cheeses and without doubt more concentrated reds come into their own. The third option is a dessert wine—sweet with intense fruits and clean acidity and thus able to cut through creamy fatty cheeses and also stand up to strongly flavoured and blue-veined cheeses.

But what does Dad want? What would make him feel special on Father's Day? A top white Burgundy for sure! The intense apricot fruits of a Tokaji Aszu: thrice yes! Ports—white, tawny, vintage-all have their merits, but he might be choosy with his ports. So track down a Bual Madeira; it shouts out 'special'. Not as sweet as a Malmsey but everything right with our savoury cheese biscuits. Tasting exercises may be illuminating but a drop of liquid pleasure is what Dad wants on Father's day! Enjoy your wine sipping.

Richard W. B. Ryan

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Thirteen people turned up for a lovely walk in the sunshine. We started from the 'Lock Inn' at Wolverley, and after crossing the river made our way up a bank to pass the church. We continued through the village, passing the old Court House to join a path through open fields and then followed an avenue of trees to pass a riding school.

Shortly we crossed a bridge and joined the canal for a pleasant stretch, leaving at Caunsall Bridge. After crossing the main road towards Churchill, we passed through a couple of fields before having to negotiate a stile gate which had a branch to be lifted and then replaced in order to keep the farm dogs from escaping. Another couple of fields led us to a huge pond and shortly after this we stopped for a break before continuing on our route to reach woodland and then open land, which is where the Lea Castle Hospital used to be.

We left the area via a pathway through trees and bushes with lovely views and banks of bluebells – yet to blossom. On leaving the woodland we crossed another busy road to approach the entrance through an archway in the castle wall of Lea Castle. No castle any more! It was demolished in 1945 and the grounds are covered by horse grazing fields and used by the Lea Equestrian Centre. We meandered along the different paths and at the border edge of the grounds we were faced with hundreds of daffodils all planted in rows. Amazing. We turned into a short stretch of woodland and then down steep steps to Lea Lane.

A little further on we crossed another bridge and turned along a pathway that led us back to the canal and a short stretch back to the Lock Inn for a very nice meal. We were very lucky with the weather, which changed to hail-stones as we made our way back to the cars after our meal.

Toni Evans

.....

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

Dorothy Gibson led our service focusing our attention on the East window in the Lady Chapel showing the resurrection appearances of Christ, especially that of the supper at Emmaus. The account in St Luke 24 v13-35 was then read.

Throughout the gospels Christ is constantly present at meals and blesses those who share with Him whether 5,000 or 12 or just 2. We can share the same experience as it continues in communion today. No wonder Cleopas and his companion made a journey of 14 miles to spread the good news of the resurrection in Jerusalem. We, too, can have the same joy in sharing our faith with those we encounter whether family, friends or strangers.

C'ntd.....

Tony Lloyd, master of St Mary's fabric gave a very interesting talk on his work. For over 20 years Michael Woodall had served in that capacity. Tony, who rings bells in church, is a retired architect and since 2011 has taken on responsibility to ensure that St Mary's, a grade II listed building, is kept in good order and repair. English Heritage regulations have to be satisfied. The huge Churchyard has to be maintained. The church hall building is also in his remit with Malcolm Frost and the committee and the church responsibility of the Revd Stephen Agnew and the PCC.

So whether a light bulb needs replacing, or roof lead is ripped away by thieves, or old heating pipes burst, St Mary's is cared for by Tony and his team of practical helpers. We thank them all for maintaining St Mary's in its full beauty through their high standard and loving care.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 June - 2.15 p.m. at the Coach House. "A basket of treasures" speaker Rosemary Moss. All are welcome to join us.

Dawn Nex

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

21 April	Daisy May Mees Mia Grace Southall Joe Thomas Southall
5 May	Layla Hope Simms

Funerals

16 April	Margaret Betty Beard	Aged 89
	Maurice Bedford Castle	Aged 82
7 May	Helen Louise John	Aged 31

Children's page answers:

1. False. 2. True 3. False (Jesus said, He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.) 4. True 5. False

The twelve apostles:

Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas.

LETTER FROM ARCHDEACON FRED TRETHAWAY

Singing Hymns

In the event I was quite glad that the half-promised tickets never materialised. It would have been too painful to watch the humiliation of England at the Six Nations show-down in the Millenium Stadium in March. And it would have erased the memory of being there to see England win in 2011.



The steep tiers of the stadium create an electric atmosphere and the effect is multiplied when the roof is closed as it was that night. Sitting there before the match began I wistfully thought of the repertoire of hymns from the Welsh revival that such a fired up crowd would once have worked their way through. In 2011 however all we got was "Guide me O Thou great Jehovah" after working our way through a complete repertoire of the "hymns" of Tom Jones. Well ... at least Delilah was a character in the Bible.

Most powerful renewal and revival movements have produced their own distinctive hymns and songs. In the eighteenth century for instance the Methodists had Charles Wesley turning out passionate hymns by the score and we are still singing some of them, like "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "And can it be," and "Love Divine." It has often been said that the early Methodists imbibed their theology more from Charles Wesley's hymns than from the Bible or John Wesley's sermons.

Hymns and songs reach parts that may be left untouched by preaching. Music can stretch beyond rational thought processes and finger the spirit. It can also be a subversive medium, and advertisers have learnt to harness its subliminal powers, using pop "hymns" of the 60s and 70s to target the grey pound.

It was with some interest therefore that I read of the discovery of a Chartist hymnbook. The Chartists were a mainly secular, working class movement pressing for political reform who were something of a force for a while in the middle of the nineteenth century. Just outside Bromsgrove is the village of Dodford which they created and it stands as a reminder of their ideals.

The established Christian churches opposed their demands for such changes as the right of everyone to vote, a secret ballot, payment for MPs so that poorer people can serve, and constituencies of equal size. Their outlook was "that it was wrong for a Christian to meddle in political matters" - an attitude that has a familiar ring. These changes were only achieved long after the Chartists were a spent force, crushed by the government in 1848.

But there were Christian Chartists who had no interest in keeping religion out of the public sphere and wrote hymns to get their message across such as :

*Shall victim after victim fall
A prey to cruel class-made laws?
Forbid it Lord! On Thee we call
Protect us and defend our cause.*

I doubt if any Chartist hymns will make it into the next edition of Hymns Old and New or be sung in the Millenium Stadium as times have moved on. But the need to sing with fervour of God's love and justice, freedom and compassion in the times in which we live will never go away.

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