

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

**Parish Church Magazine
September 2013
Online edition**



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



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SEPTEMBER 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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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.

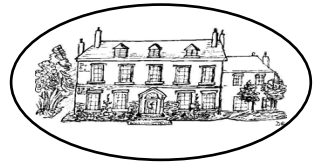
DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

SUNDAY 1	THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 3.00 pm Baptisms 6.30 pm Songs of Praise
Monday 2	7.30 pm Standing Committee
Tuesday 3	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft Induction of the new Priest in Charge at Wollaston (time to be confirmed)
Thursday 5	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 7	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 8	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 10.00 am Worship Together 4.00 pm Diocesan Service of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Fred Trethewey as Archdeacon of Dudley. There will be no 6.30pm Evening service today
Tuesday 10	Copy date for October magazine 2.15 pm Mothers' Union Service in Church
Thursday 12	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 14	FESTIVAL OF CHURCHES 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 15	THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY FESTIVAL OF CHURCHES Baptisms
Monday 16	10.00 am Open the Book Presentation at Oldswinford Primary School
Tuesday 17	7.30 pm PCC Meeting
Thursday 19	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 21	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 22	THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Wednesday 25	10.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday 26	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
Saturday 28	
SUNDAY 29	THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 3.00 pm Baptism

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The picture on the front cover is one that many people may recognise but have never viewed for real. From the top of the church tower, the car park is easily identified as the built-up areas of Stourbridge and beyond stretch away into the distance to the north east.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

The life of St Benedict of Nursia (6th Century AD) may not be familiar to you, but he made a lasting contribution to the way in which Christian religious houses developed. One of his great contributions to the Christian life was to insist on the life balance between work and prayer for all who lived under his rule. In creating this balance Benedict was copying the example of Jesus who was very active in his mission, preaching and healing, but also relied on times of quietness and prayer as we see on a number of occasions in the gospels. His time of communication with his 'Abba' underpinned all that he did.

This balance between prayer to God, our heavenly Father, and work undertaken in God's name is a good balance for all Christian people as it roots our activity in the will of God. For those of us who are called to priestly ministry in the church this is particularly the case as we are called in our ordination promises to both pray and work for God's kingdom.

When a priest is licensed to a parish, that priest is reminded that it is their duty to pray for the people in that parish as well as work amongst them, and in order to aid them in that task they are reminded that they should pray the daily office of Morning and Evening Prayer.

One of the great perks of the job of being a parish priest is that you have access to a building which is set aside for prayer and worship, because although you can pray to God absolutely anywhere it is often easiest to still yourself and focus on the 'quiet, insistent call of God' in a place which is dedicated to prayer.

At St Mary's there is a tradition that each morning between 9.00 and 9.30am the clergy and sometimes one or two others will join for Morning Prayer, whilst between 5.00 and 5.30pm we will again meet for Evening Prayer. In that time of prayer we will be praying for the parish and for you, the parishioners. The form of prayer used is not dissimilar to our Sunday Evensong except that instead of hymns it uses quietness and there is the space to both offer prayer to God and to wait on God's response. This prayer is offered by them, but it is a delight not just to be enjoyed by the clergy, because anyone can join in with this time of prayer.

So if you would ever like to join us at Morning or Evening Prayer come along any weekday (except the clergy day off) and you will be made very welcome and will be joining in with the task of praying for the parish and helping to discern what God's will is for us in St Mary's, Old Swinford.

With every blessing.

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2013

1 September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	Ecclesiastes 10. 12-18	Hebrews 13. 1-8, 15-16	Luke 14. 7-14
	6.30 pm	SONGS OF PRAISE		
8 September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER Patronal Festival		
	4.00 pm	Diocesan Service of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Fred Trethewey, Archdeacon of Dudley There will be no 6.30pm Evening service today		
15 September Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Exodus 32. 7-14	Timothy 1. 12-17	Luke 15. 1-10
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 60.	John 6. 51-69	
22 September Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Amos 8. 4-7	Timothy 2. 1-7	Luke 16. 1-13
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezra 1.	John 7. 14-36	
29 September Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Genesis 28. 10-17	Revelations 12. 7-12	John 1. 47-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Daniel 10. 4-end	Revelations 5.	

NEWS OF SASI

In June I had the pleasure of meeting Sasi in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Since it entailed an overnight bus ride to meet each other, she suggested she would come to see me at the hotel where I was staying.

On a Friday evening, Sasi and Mark and Sasi's younger sister, boarded the bus for their overnight drive to Colombo. That night the weather was atrocious. In fact I feared it was a tsunami. No weather warning was issued and forty fisherman lost their lives along with fishing boats and other livelihoods. Sasi's coach battled through the stormy weather and arrived late at the depot. They then boarded a tuktuk, and arrived at the hotel, tired and wet. It was so good to see them. They enjoyed the food at the hotel, and Mark loved the ice cream! He was so thrilled to see the swimming pool and other luxuries one takes for granted at a hotel. He has grown tall and looks well and has a cheeky smile. He studies hard - every evening he goes for tuition after school. I asked him what he does on a Saturday. He replied 'tuition' again! I am told the whole class go to the same teacher, to prepare for exams for secondary school. They pay their tutor SLRs 500/-each (approximately £2.47). Sundays are busy with church, and evenings free for play. The routine begins again on Monday.

I showed Mark the sea, beyond the swimming pool, and told him it was 'the Indian Ocean' - one of five oceans he would have studied in geography. To see his eyes wide with awe, to know he was actually seeing an ocean, was a delight. Sri Lanka is an island, sadly there are many who have not been to the coast.

It is good he saw the ocean. It is good he saw a city. His horizons have widened, and this trip will be something to remember. Who knows what it will lead to?

Sasi is a doting mother, and is very keen for Mark to have a good education (they left on Friday evening, after school, so that he would not miss classes). Sasi feels it is her duty to see him through education as our financial help to them should not go to waste. She is much obliged and deeply grateful for their house, and goats and all the gifts given to them. It is a pity I couldn't go to see their house, as it meant the same overnight journey for me, specially after my long flight to Sri Lanka.

Sasi is a good cook and currently works as a domestic for a rich family. She earns what she gets this way. The monthly support from St Mary's helps them a long way.

Their goat is ready for slaughter for Diwali this year. It will no doubt bring extra cash. This time, I noticed the family looking better and happier. A house is a great blessing and much to be thankful for. It provides security in their turbulent world. Sasi looks well - wearing a skirt and blouse she looked so young - her sister reminded me of Alicia in the Emmerdale soap. We exchanged gifts. Mark was thrilled with a football, a member of the committee gave him, another gave a pair of shorts and shirt, which fit him beautifully. Sasi received a purse she requested. She gave me homemade 'halwa', made of ghee and other calorie rich food. She made it



herself. On your behalf I enjoyed a childhood treat. In spite of bad weather, they made it to Colombo, and amongst the ruins of the storm love and relationship blossomed. Sasi and Mark feel blessed in knowing us.

Thank you for your continuing funds for her, for fundraising, the effort and the generosity of all members of St Mary's.

Kanthi Ariaraj

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CARM RETREATS

Last week I went on my fourth embroidery retreat with CARM which stands for the Creative Arts Retreat Movement. The retreats take place in a number of Christian retreat houses around the country; some are deep in the countryside such as Launde Abbey in Leicestershire; others are more easily accessible.

I spent my week at Bishop Woodford House in Ely, a more modern setting than some just around the corner to the cathedral affectionately known as the 'ship of the fens' due to its appearance as it rises through the clouds in misty weather. CARM runs a variety of creative retreats including photography, embroidery, painting, calligraphy and poetry. Usually they are eight days although some are shorter and only five. Each retreat has a chaplain and a tutor, there is a time of silence from the end of evening prayer to the end of the

morning meditation around 10.00 am, times of creative pursuit during the morning and after tea and usually some free time after lunch. The retreat generally has a theme and those on the retreat work to that theme on a piece of creativity of their choice. The theme last week looked at Celtic spirituality and we explored concepts such as bridges, mountain tops and valleys from Margaret Silf's book Sacred Spaces. It was interesting to see how different people explored the theme of



'weaving the dream' in a wide variety of ways. Some considered a general theme of a world of peace; others explored more personal issues from their own lives. I had been touched by the words left on the wall of a prisoner of war cell which begins with 'I believe in the sun even when it does not shine'. The resulting piece was quite different to my usual work and full of bling.

I always find these retreats spiritually refreshing and time to reflect and take stock.

Ruth Atkinson

DIDN'T WE HAVE A LOVELY DAY!

July 2, 9.00 am, three friends and I set off to Aberdovey, for it had been a long time since we had seen the sea. Margaret was driving, Pat the navigator, Christine and myself in the back. This green and pleasant land looked beautiful. We stopped for coffee on the way and got to Aberdovey at 11.00 am.

Just a little soft rain was falling so we had our picnic in the car. With no more rain we enjoyed a walk to the Life Boat Station where we bought some early Christmas cards in support of this important organisation. The sea looked bright with waves and the sands, with no one walking on them were just golden.

Lots of honey ice cream, and then, while the girls had a walk into town, I sat and took in sea, sand and sky. After a good run home, we stopped for a meal at Bridgnorth; the end to a wonderful day.

Dorothy Cotton

A PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI & FLORENCE

Next May a group of us will be travelling on a pilgrimage to Assisi where we will be following in the footsteps of countless pilgrims who have marvelled at the story of St Francis' life and how his example of poverty and humility challenged and transformed the church of his time. We will indulge in the beauty of the Umbrian countryside and take in the staggering majesty of the Basilica di San Francesco and its wonderful Giotto frescos of the life of Francis.

The pilgrimage will then take us to Florence, the ultimate Renaissance city, with its stunning architecture, art galleries and inspiring churches. For all who love the art of the Italian Renaissance and who have not had the experience of visiting this wonderful city this is an opportunity not to be missed.

As we travel home after eight days of journeying together we stop off at Pisa where we can wonder at the famous leaning tower in the Campo del Miracoli.

If you would like to join us on this wonderful pilgrimage please collect a brochure from Church or speak to Stephen.

An Important Date for Your Diaries

This year's Christmas Market will be on **Saturday 30 November**. Any help you can give to maintain the vibrant spirit of our Market will be really welcome. It's always an enjoyable occasion with lots of laughter, and the more people helping, the greater the enjoyment for everyone.

We are looking for new ideas and ways of doing things so any suggestions you have, please let me know. We are holding a planning meeting on **Wednesday 18 September**, in the Narthex and look forward to seeing you then. If you are unable to come to the meeting then please give me a call on 01384 378182.

Katey Fletcher

THE BIG BIBLE STUDY IS BACK!



THE BIG BIBLE STUDY

Saturday 21st September
WORCESTER CATHEDRAL
10am - 1pm

Led by

John Inge
The Bishop of Worcester



Bernard Longley
The Archbishop of Birmingham



Keith Judson
HEBA Regional Baptist Minister



For further information:

www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

bbs@worcestercathedral.org.uk

Goodbook

This completely free event gives Christians from all denominations a chance to come together and explore different approaches to studying the bible. The day will be led by Bishop John, Archbishop Bernard Longley (Roman Catholic Archbishop of Birmingham) and the Revd Keith Judson (Heart of England Baptist Association Regional Minister).

Those interested in attending are encouraged to share transport, to arrive early and to be warmly dressed. To have your own refreshments will ease the pressure on the Coffee Shop and whilst text will be provided your own Bible may be useful.

Space will be set aside for parents and young children although a crèche cannot be provided. Older children and teenagers may participate in one of the main groups or in age-specific groups, guided by a Youth Worker.

After joining with others for a picnic lunch you might wish to take the

opportunity to explore and enjoy time in and around the cathedral.

YOUTH CLUB FAR FOREST WEEKEND JUNE 21 -23

I have just had an amazing Youth Club Weekend with my friends at the Far Forest. I had never been before, but I had a great time. On the Saturday, we went to Acton Scott Historic Working Farm. We bottle fed lambs and we held some adorable three day old chicks. We were laughing at one very loud chirpy chick! Also, we milked a pretend cow, and rounded up sheep into another field. In the evening we had a very special treat. A magician called Mr Genie came to entertain us with magic tricks and balloon modelling. I really enjoyed watching him as he was very funny.

For our breakfast each morning, we had lots of delicious food such as sausage sandwich, bacon, cereal and toast.

On Sunday morning we went for a walk which was approximately three miles. I liked skimming stones in the stream and playing on a swing that went over the stream! Then we went back and had delicious pizza for lunch.

Thank you to all the kind volunteers for giving up their weekends to look after us.

Georgia Hawkins

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

THE BIBLE

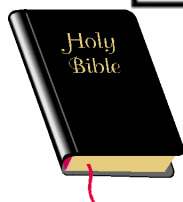
Can you remember the first time you read the Bible? When was the last time you read something from it for yourself? How much can you remember? Have a go at this word search and quiz to test your knowledge!

Most of the animals in the word square below might have been found in Noah's Ark—But which one wasn't?

BEAR
CAMEL
DONKEY
GAZELLE
GOAT
HART
HORSE
IBEX
JACKAL



LEOPARD
LION
MOLE
MOUSE
NIGHTHAWK
OSTRICH
SHEEP
UNICORN
WOLF



Bible Quiz



1. What was the first thing that God created?
2. Which day did God create plants?
3. What was the boat Noah built called?
4. How many of each type of animal did Noah have on the ark?
5. What is the symbol of God's promise to Noah?
6. Who received the 10 commandments from God?
7. What are we told to do in the fifth commandment?
8. What was the name of Moses' brother?
9. What food do we ask God to give us in the Lord's prayer?
10. People look on the outward appearance, but what does God look on?
11. His father gave him a coat of many colours?
12. Who was thrown into a lions' den by King Darius? This person prayed to God three times a day.
13. This young boy defeated a giant.
14. This prophet was swallowed by a fish.
15. What animal was often used for transportation in the Bible?
16. Who was the Son of God?
17. What was the name of Jesus' mother?
18. What did Jesus' father do for a job?
19. Jesus told a parable about a prodigal _____.
20. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
21. How many disciples or apostles did Jesus have?
22. Which of the apostles betrayed Jesus?
23. What is another name for the sermon on the mount?
24. What did Jesus feed to 5,000 people?
25. What was the name of the Sea where Jesus calmed a storm?

ST MARY'S BELLS

At the PCC meeting on Monday, 15 July, a small gift accompanied a very big thank you to Ray Drew and his helpers Chris Lees and Martin Pocket for their supreme achievement in fitting new bushes to the clappers of all eight of our church bells. Traditionally, the bushes have been made of a very hard wood, and despite the care provided, these wear and can cause a double strike when the bells are rung. Ray, with his constant interest and concern to keep up to date with such matters, sourced a new, synthetic material that should ensure the task will not need to be repeated for a very long time. The material was supplied by Devol Engineering, based in Scotland, and machined to Ray's directions by Harco Engineering of Brierley Hill, to whom a further expression of our thanks is due. The generous contribution of expertise and skills has meant that a very substantial task has been undertaken at a fraction of the cost had the process been contracted out on a commercial basis.



The removal and subsequent re-fitting of the clappers with new bushes was no mean feat, requiring accuracy and skill, muscle strength, a head for heights and the commitment and dedication to the task we are so fortunate to have in our bell tower keeper, Ray. The completed task means the bells are safely hung and will ring out for many long years to come, all thanks to the contributions of several members of a much appreciated team.



When you next hear the bells of St Mary's marvel at the complexity of all that is needed for this apparently simple sound to bring the pleasure it gives to many and give thanks to those who care for and ring bells throughout the country.

FESTIVAL OF CHURCHES

On Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 September the church will be open to welcome visitors as part of the Three Counties Festival of Churches and Heritage Open Days. Roy Peacock has assembled a display of material that focuses on the importance of the contributions, to the benefit of the people of Stourbridge, of Earnest and Mary Stevens and will present a short talk during the morning and afternoon on Saturday, with a visit to the Stevens memorial in the churchyard. Sunday services will proceed as normal and visitors will be welcome to share in these or to tour the church and display when services have finished. Refreshments will be served and the church will need to be supervised whilst it is open so there will be plenty of opportunity for helpers to contribute an hour or two to this event. If you are able to help please sign the sheet at the back of church.

The Churchwardens

A BEQUEST TO THE PCC

The PCC has been pleased to accept a bequest in the will of the late Revd. Alan Hayward and, at the July meeting of the PCC, consideration was given as to the most appropriate application for this bequest.

Alan was born in Stourbridge and regularly attended St Mary's with his parents, where he played the organ, before leaving to train as a teacher; plans which were interrupted by a wartime career in the RAF. Following the war, Alan completed his teacher training and was soon headteacher of a school in Bristol before, some eight years later, returning to study in Oxford and to train for the ministry. He returned to this parish as a Reader, moved to St Francis's Church, Dudley and then, in 1959, to St Andrew's, Wollescote, where he spent the next twenty five years in very active ministry growing a congregation and over-seeing the building of a new church. His teacher background helped him to focus on provision for the young in Sunday School, Junior Church, activities, visits locally, further afield and abroad, the choir and wider musical experience. In 1985 Alan was appointed to Alvechurch for another vibrant and successful ministry from where he retired to Romsley. In time he returned to St Mary's to share in the Thursday morning Eucharist service so completing a full circle in his devotion to God and the communities he served.

In recognition of Alan's interests and concern for the provision of opportunities for the young, the PCC decided to share the distribution of the bequest between supporting the work of the choir, providing for young people's needs through support for the Youth Club and provision for the newly introduced programme of sharing Bible stories with children, Open the Book. The generous bequest will ensure some very significant work at St Mary's with young people in line with one of the key priorities identified at the Parish Visioning exercise in May. In your prayers please remember this generous man and the work to be done in his name.

With thanks to Roy Peacock

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THANK YOU FOR OUR PARISH PICNIC

For the second, consecutive year, the sun shone and the wet-weather contingency plans were relegated to the bin as many members of the congregation assembled for the Parish Picnic. Thank you to Jean and Stephen for their hospitality in hosting the picnic in the Rectory Gardens on Sunday, 21 July. Those who participated feasted from a Bring and Share picnic organised by members of the Social Committee and laid out in Jean's kitchen. A few younger and lively members enjoyed some more active entertainment whilst most sat to enjoy the warm, sunny weather and the opportunity of good conversation with fellow picnickers. Once again, thank you Jean and Stephen.

St Mary's congregation

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

PROGRAMME FOR YEAR 2013 TO 2014

Date	Location	Miles	Leaders	Tel No	Lunch
28 Sept 13	Trysyll/The Bratch/ Lower Penn/ Awbridge Bridge	5	Janet and Mike	01384 390537	Pub
26 Oct 13	Hatton Locks (Henley)	5	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146	Pub
30 Nov 13	Buckpool and Fens Pool	6	Sue	01384 829211	Pub
	No Walk in December		No Walk in December		
25 Jan 14	Kinver	5	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146	Pub
22 Feb 14	Tuckhill/Six Ashes	6	Janet and Mike	01384 390537	Pub
29 Mar 14	Wellesbourne/ Hampton Lucy/ Charlecote	5	Sue	01384 829211	Pub
26 Apr 14	Hartlebury	6	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146	Pub
31 May 14	Pensax	6	Jean and Ray	01384 836924	Pub
28 June 14	Hampton Loade/ Dudmaston	5.5	Toni and Bob	01384 377096	Picnic
26 July 14	TBA	TBA	Sylvia	01384 392244	TBA
	No Walk in August		No Walk in August		

Notes 1. Unless otherwise stated all walks start from St Mary's at 9.30 am.

2. There are no walks in December 2013 or August 2014

3. All walks are on the last Saturday of the month

4. For picnic lunches please bring your own food. For pub lunches there is usually a good selection of meals for purchase.

5. Country walking is not risk free, all persons joining our walks do so in the knowledge of this fact.

6. For further information on the walks please telephone the leaders.

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP JANUARY IN JUNE!

Our planned walk in January could not take place, because of icy conditions and a threatened blizzard. As a consequence the walk was put back until June when seven intrepid walkers set out from the Red Lion at Bobbington to walk to Six Ashes and back, on a figure of eight route. When we planned the walk, crops were either not planted or had grown very little. We very soon discovered how much growth takes place in six months!



We experienced waist high cereal crops and grasses, and chest high oilseed rape; the cereal crops generally had a narrow path left through them. The oilseed rape might have had a path left originally, but had grown so much that we literally had to push our way through. It had rained a little the night before our walk, hence the person in front had to push aside crops and soak up moisture as we progressed! This did mean that those following had much dryer conditions and offending crops that were aligned in the direction of travel. An attempt by the leader to flatten out one of the humps on the path, by falling flat, failed miserably.

June proved to be an excellent time for wild flowers, which were in great profusion along field margins. We were also able to directly compare common Hawthorn with Midland Hawthorn. The former has deeply lobed leaves, and the Midland variety lobed less than half way to the midrib; and leaves having a much more rounded appearance. We had some good long views back across Highgate Common towards Dudley.

After our walk we all enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Red Lion, before heading for home.

Our programme for the coming year September 2013 to July 2014 appears opposite. We are a very informal group and will be pleased to welcome new walkers.

Mike Blaxland

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ARTICLE ENTRIES

If you feel you have an article that may be of interest, please contact the editors of St Mary's Oldswinford Parish Church Magazine. Email Tony Tatford or Gemma Sutton at **stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk**

We cannot guarantee inclusion of your article if it is sent to any other email address.

The Editors

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE NUTMEG CAKE

I must thank my friends and family for their constant encouragement. My special thanks to my husband Martin who has never to my knowledge declined to eat cake. An Australian friend who like me enjoys cake gave me this recipe. This cake tastes delicious warm as a dessert or can be cooled and left in the cake tin. Don't be tempted to use ready ground nutmeg buy a whole one and grate it finely.

125g (4oz) plain flour
125g (4oz) self-raising flour
125g (4oz) butter
200g (7oz) soft brown sugar
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
250ml (9floc) milk
1 egg
½ a nutmeg, grated
optional 50g (2oz) pecan or walnuts roughly chopped

Put the two flours and butter in a bowl and rub in the butter until it resembles breadcrumbs. You can use a food processor for this. Then stir in the sugar.

Butter a 20cm (8") cake tin and tip in half the mixture. Press it flat to form a base.

To the remaining mixture stir in the bicarbonate of soda and nutmeg followed by the egg and milk. (Again, this can be done in the food processor). Pour the batter onto the cake base and sprinkle with walnuts.

Bake at 180C, 350F, gas mark 4 for about 40 minutes.

Ann Jennings

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AND FOR THE WINE.....

I once recall drinking a sweet Austrian wine made from an obscure variety grown in the Neusiedlersee area near the Hungarian border. With wonderful spicy apricot flavours, it would be the perfect companion for our nutmeg cake. Oh that I could track down another bottle! The most promising options for baked, cakey, flavours are dried-grape wines: though not too raisined or dried-fruit in character. At the other end of the spectrum, avoid a floral and fruited sweet Riesling - best saved for fresh fruit flans.

Dried-grape wines are prevalent in Italy and Greece and an Italian Vin Santo would fit the bill nicely. These are wines produced primarily in Tuscany from the Trebbiano grape variety with Malvasia normally playing a supporting role. They can vary in sweetness and intensity and on occasions can be sublime: a bottle of Vin San Giusto a Rentennano made mostly from the more characterful Malvasia still ranks as one of the best bottles I've ever tasted!

The addition of pecans and walnuts sounds a superb idea and opens up another possibility. Vin Santo is made by an oxidative technique similar to that of oloroso sherry. The nutty flavours in an oloroso would harmonize gorgeously with our pecans and walnuts. The cake is not intensely sweet so a good quality even dry oloroso would suit perfectly and let those nutty notes shine!

Enjoy your wine-sipping.....

Richard W. B. Ryan

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

Our July meeting this year will go on record as the hottest and sunniest ever; well at least for the past few years.

Nineteen members and three guests joined Dawn and Ian Nex for afternoon tea in their delightful garden. Unlike last year, we were seeking shade from the sun rather than the rain.

Amid colourful plants, shrubs and cascading roses, we enjoyed a selection of delicious cakes and that always-welcome cup of tea, giving us plenty of time to chat and catch up on all the news.

We remembered those members, who, for one reason or another, were unable to join us.

The members presented their hosts with gift tokens as a 'Thank You' for their hospitality. Dawn and Ian have been gracious hosts for the past three years and we are very grateful for their generosity.

Doreen Ryan was given a miniature potted rose and a card, as next month Doreen and Richard celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary: we send them our love and congratulations, what a wonderful achievement!

We have taken a break during August. Our next meeting will be in Church on Tuesday 10 September for the Annual Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Anne May

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

16 June	Billy Thomas Tromans Aiden John Heeks
23 June	Samantha Price Anna Matthews
7 July	Daisy Annabel Parsons Chloe Patricia Weaver Hannah Rose Riley
21 July	Harrison Taylor Wood Connor Alexander Anderson Mia Stevie Houghton
4 August	Pippa Nelly Elizabeth Bridgwater Felix Albert Lakey,

Weddings

20 July	Steven Parry and Amy Watkins
2 August	Stuart Coggins and Rachel Butler

Funerals

10 June	Jeanette Croft	Aged 86
11 June	Ethel Ann Yeates	Aged 96
12 June	Olive Brinkworth	Aged 92
13 June	Robert Williams	Aged 75
24 June	Barry Cook	Aged 82
25 June	Geoffrey Beards	Aged 74
22 July	Mark Rutter	Aged 40

Children's Page Answers

Missing Animal - UNICORN

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----|---|
| 1. | LIGHT | 14. | JONAH |
| 2. | THIRD | 15. | CAMEL or DONKEY |
| 3. | AN ARK | 16. | JESUS |
| 4. | TWO | 17. | MARY |
| 5. | RAINBOW | 18. | CARPENTER |
| 6. | MOSES | 19. | SON |
| 7. | HONOUR OUR FATHER AND OUR MOTHER | 20. | JESUS WEPT |
| 8. | AARON | 21. | TWELVE |
| 9. | BREAD | 22. | JUDAS |
| 10. | THE HEART | 23. | THE BEATITUDES |
| 11. | JOSEPH | 24. | FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD AND TWO SMALL FISH |
| 12. | DANIEL | 25. | THE SEA OF GALILEE |
| 13. | DAVID | | |

LETTER FROM ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY, FRED TRETHEWEY

Archdeacon Fred will retire 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.



It is amazing what has come to light as we have been sorting out our house ready for the move. From among the hoarded treasures of long, long ago we discovered, for example, a list of the thirty four candidates who were ordained at St Paul's Cathedral in 1978. Where are those fellow ordinands now? Well, one is a bishop, one laid the foundation for the Alpha Course, and one has become the legend that is Andrew Mottram. What a vintage!

We also unearthed a forgotten box of correspondence from forty to fifty years ago. It has been a struggle to remember some of the people who wrote us letters in the 60s and some of the incidents that are mentioned. The comedian Robin Williams once said that if you remember the 60s, you weren't there. I think he had something other in mind however than the simple wear and tear of time on the memory cells.

But as we have sifted through the letters, books, papers and photographs that have accumulated over the decades many good friendships and happy occasions have come to life again. That has led to some painful decisions over mementos that we have not as yet had the heart to let go.

The old saying "you can't take it with you" has a particular meaning in our circumstances. Going to live in furnished accommodation means that we are disposing of some items, blessing our children with others, putting some in storage, and taking just a few bits with us. It has all been proving both a practical and an emotional challenge.

There has also been a spiritual dimension to it. In a limited and defined way we have tasted something of another journey that we will have to make in due course, letting everything go, and facing that old saying in the context it is normally used. Here we do not have a lasting place to live, but we are seeking one that is to come, says the letter to the Hebrews.

Sorting out our stuff has been a test but it has also been strangely liberating. We are discovering that we can let go of much more than we thought and are realising that we have also been hoarding other kinds of treasure which will not be a problem to take with us, and which can never be taken away.

Fred

A special service to say goodbye to Fred will take place at St. Mary's Church, Oldswinford at 4.00 pm on Sunday 8 September. If you are available to help at this service please let John Sutton know and sign the sheet at the back of church.

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