

# **ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD**

**Parish Church Magazine**

**OCTOBER 2013—online edition**



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## Parish Church Magazine



**PRIEST IN CHARGE:** The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,  
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2HA  
Tel: 01384 395410  
E-mail: [revsmagnew@yahoo.com](mailto:revsmagnew@yahoo.com)

**CURATE:** The Revd Ruth Atkinson, 58 Arlington Court,  
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 1NN  
Tel: 01384 373286  
E-mail: [home@riatkinson.plus.com](mailto:home@riatkinson.plus.com)

**OCTOBER 2013**

**50p**

## SUNDAYS AT ST MARY'S

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion and Children Together
6.30 pm	Evensong
10.00 am	(second Sunday) Worship Together

## WEEKDAYS AT ST MARY'S

Daily:	9.00 am - Morning Prayer (except Fridays and Saturdays) Morning Prayer on Tuesdays will alternate between St Mary's, St Thomas' and Holy Trinity Amblecote
Daily:	5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (except Fridays)
Wednesday:	1.30 pm - Noah's Ark at St Mary's (term time) parents & toddlers
Thursday:	10.30 am - Holy Communion in Lady Chapel
Thursday:	7.30 pm - Bell Ringing Practice
Friday:	Choir Practice and Youth Groups (in term time)
Saturday:	10.00 - 12.00 am - Open Church –refreshments available
<b>Priest in Charge and Curate's Day Off:</b> Friday	

## OTHER REGULAR EVENTS



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

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

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

## ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

Please come to the Church on Saturday morning between 10.00 and 11.00 for Vestry Hour. You will be warmly welcomed. Tea and coffee will be available.

## DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2013

Tuesday 1	11.30am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Wednesday 2	7.30pm Baptism preparation evening.
Thursday 3	10.30am Holy Communion
Saturday 5	10.00am Open Church and Vestry Hour.
<b>SUNDAY 6</b>	<b>NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
Tuesday 8	1.30pm Visit by Y3 children from Old Swinford Primary School to view our harvest experience.
Thursday 10	10.30am Holy Communion
1.30pm	Visit by Y3 children from Old Swinford Primary School to view our harvest experience
	Copy date for our November Parish Magazine
Friday 11	12 noon Wedding Service
Saturday 12	10.00am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	2.00pm Wedding Service
<b>SUNDAY 13</b>	<b>TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
	<b>HARVEST FESTIVAL</b>
Monday 14	10.00am Open the book team in Old Swinford Primary School
Wednesday 16	1.30pm Visit by students from the Cherry Tree Learning Unit
Thursday 17	10.30am Holy Communion
Saturday 19	10.00am Vestry Hour and Open Church
	10.00am Visiting bell ringers from Newport
	7.30pm Harvest Supper
<b>SUNDAY 20</b>	<b>TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
	10.00am Parish Communion including confirmation by Bishop Mark Santer
Wednesday 23	11.30am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 24	10.30am Holy Communion.
	2.30pm Old Swinford Hospital School Founders Day Service.
Saturday 26	10.00am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 27</b>	<b>TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

To find out more details about the services and activities at the church please visit our website at [www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk) or visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford) or scan this QR code.



## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

When I wrote in the July/August magazine I reported on the Visioning Day in May, where a comment that many passed was that they felt unsure about discerning what God's will was for the parish. I wrote at that time that during the Autumn I would seek to provide times of prayer and space to which people would be invited. I am now pleased to be able to invite you to one of two opportunities to spend time away from the parish in quiet reflection on the parish and its future direction under God.

The venues and dates have been chosen to enable different people to attend them, both are limited in the numbers that can be accommodated, and lists will be available in Church for people to 'sign up' and give their time to a day of quiet reflection and enjoyment.

The first of these days will be held at Glasshampton Monastery, near Shrawley, on Saturday 2 November. Glasshampton is the home of Anglican Franciscan brothers amongst whom is Bro Nicholas Alan who came to speak on spirituality at our Lent Course earlier this year.

The second of these days will be held at Holland House, near Evesham, on Tuesday 19 November. Those who visited Holland House last Summer will testify to the calm and comfort of the house, and the warm welcome received by all.

You might be wondering what we are going to be doing on these days. Firstly we will enjoy the hospitality of the houses and the space which they provide, both inside the buildings and, weather permitting, outside as well. We will also spend some time in prayer and worship, and there will be a little verbal input from members of the houses as well as from myself. But the primary aim is to give a little time to quiet reflection and space. I hope that many of you will want to come on one of the days away: the numbers are limited, so the spaces will be filled on a 'first come, first served' basis.

I am also in the process of arranging a Saturday visit to Worcester Cathedral during the Spring of next year. This will be a mini-pilgrimage, and will include tours around the Cathedral and its places of interest, as well as time for worship. Although this will not be a quiet day as such, there will be space to think and reflect during the day and, of course, to enjoy one another's company. We will be able to take a greater number of people on this visit and I would encourage you to join us for the day. The precise date will be publicised in the November magazine, so please look out for that.

In addition to these 'special days' I urge you to find the time to pray for our parish each and every day and to ask God for his blessing and direction on St Mary's and on each one of us.

May God bless us all.

*Stephen Agnew*

## SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2013

<b>6 October</b> <b>19th Sunday</b> <b>after Trinity</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	Habakkuk 1: 1-6	2 Timothy 1: 1-14	Luke 17: 5-10
	6.30 pm Evensong	Nehemiah 5: 1-13	John 9	
<b>13 October</b> <b>20th Sunday</b> <b>after Trinity</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	<b>WORSHIP TOGETHER - HARVEST FESTIVAL</b>		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11	Matthew 6: 25-33	
<b>20 October</b> <b>21st Sunday after</b> <b>Trinity</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	<b>CONFIRMATION</b>		
	6.30 pm Evensong	Nehemiah 8: 9-end	John 16: 1-11	
<b>27 October</b> <b>Trinity 22</b> <b>Bible Sunday</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Ecclesiastes 35: 12-27	2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18	Luke 18: 9-14
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18	Luke 18: 9-14	

## ARTICLE ENTRIES

We warmly welcome all article entries for the Parish magazine. If you feel you have something that may be of interest, please contact the editors of St Mary's Oldswinford Parish Church Magazine before the 10th day of each month. Email Tony Tatford or Gemma Sutton at:

**[stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk)**

Please note: we cannot guarantee inclusion of your article if it is sent to any other email address.

**The Editors**

## **CREAM TEAS AT THE RECTORY**

An annual feature of our early family life was a fondly remembered stay at a Devon farm during the week of Spring half term. One of the many highlights never to be missed was that we were able to indulge ourselves with the most scrumptious of traditional cream teas at The Old Bakery in a nearby village. Imagine, therefore, my delight when reading on a pew sheet in early June of a forthcoming cream tea to be held at the Rectory.

When signing up at the back of church, there was a choice of dates and space to indicate whether attending as an individual or couple. I chose the latter, planning on taking my granddaughter Connie.

The day eventually arrived and much of the morning was spent in speculating whether the event would be indoors or in the garden, and what we might find on our plates. On arrival we sat at a table on our own in the Reception area as the lounge was already almost full. We were soon joined by Jan Sutton and Marjorie Ferguson while the other table was rapidly occupied by a lively group of ladies who soon became absorbed in excited chatter creating a jolly atmosphere.

Connie's eyes widened when she saw the table laden with plates of chocolate éclairs and scones accompanied by a deep dish of clotted cream. We were all well looked after by Stephen, who proved to be a very attentive waiter, and behind the scenes in the kitchen Jean was fully occupied dealing with the drinks orders for thirty thirsty people.

A delightful occasion ended all too quickly and it was time to leave. Many thanks are due to Jean and Stephen for making us so welcome, and from me especially, for reigniting treasured memories of the West Country here in Old Swinford.

**Rod Jukes**

I was fortunate enough to be allowed to join the second of two cream teas arranged by Jean and Stephen as the date coincided with the Anchor Group meeting usually held at the Coach House.

What a wonderful time we all had. There were tables in the dining room and the lounge. All were set beautifully with tablecloths and very pretty china. Each table was generously provided with scones and chocolate éclairs. Butter, jam and clotted cream were there to accompany the scones. Milk and sugar were ready and as we sat and chatted a large teapot was put on each table and we were told to shout for more tea or hot water when we were ready.

Jean and Stephen appeared occasionally to make sure we had all we needed and to join in with the chatter.

People continued to talk, eat and drink – probably eating more

than they intended. It was about 4.00pm when we began to take our leave. Many thanks are due to our host and hostess for such a delightful afternoon. I like to think we did justice to the cream teas in appreciation of the work that went into providing them. The perfect pop-up tea room!

**Sue Wakeley**

\*\*\*\*\*

**A DIAMOND CELEBRATION**

Richard and Doreen Ryan are pictured at St Mary's on Sunday, 26 August as they cut a celebratory cake and shared a glass of wine with the congregation to mark their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. On the table, beside the cake, is a card from Her Majesty The Queen, one of many cards received by Richard and Doreen in recognition of a 60 year long marriage. According to Richard, the secret to such marital longevity is simple.... "Yes Dear." With the very best wishes of all at St Mary's.



\*\*\*\*\*

We would like to thank our friends at St Mary's for their cards, greetings and messages on the occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

For 40 of our 60 years we have worshipped at St Mary's and the church has played a big part in our lives.

Recently we have not been able to attend so regularly, much to our disappointment. But accompanied by Richard and Rachel, our son and daughter we were very happy to see so many old friends at two services near the time of our celebration and to share cake and wine with them. God bless you all and keep up the good work.

**Doreen and Richard Ryan**



## THE VERGERS' TALE

Traditionally, a verger might have been something of a strong-arm character, someone who would be at the front of a procession to wield his virge or rod as required, to move the masses out of the way to allow the processional dignitaries to pass. According to location the verger fills many roles, from master of ceremonies, caretaker, guide, marshal and general factotum. Certainly, the three of us who, in turn, perform this duty at St Mary's these days, would hope to present a more friendly and considerate approach as we fulfil our roles in support at weddings and funerals.

Our day may begin early, usually about 7.00 am, with the need to ensure the church car park is reserved for the necessary vehicles. The setting out of cones, along with a notice which sits under the beech tree, is a clear request to leave this space free for access. For weddings there is an additional notice asking for confetti to be thrown only outside the churchyard gates from where, later, it may be swept up by one of the choir members who is remunerated with a small fee. Later that day, when we return to church at least one hour before the start time for the service, we may need to re-establish the order to correct the outcome of a gentle nudge given to a cone or two by someone who had reason to venture on to the car park.

In large part the role is about preparation and welcome. We set out to ensure the church is ready to receive those attending a service and ready for the priest to carry out his or her duties, all in a manner which befits the occasion. The more mundane tasks include unlocking doors and turning on lights, moving the odd item of furniture or cushion and readying orders of service before attending to more spiritual matters such as lighting the altar candles and the legal necessities of ensuring registers and certificates, along with other key components of the service, are in place.

For a wedding, the concern is to enable everyone to take part in and celebrate the marriage, for everything to be in place for the bride and the groom and for their families and friends. Others will have played their part too. Floral decorations may have already been attended to by members of the family or the Flower Guild and the registers and certificate, previously prepared by others in meticulous freehand, need to be set out ready for signing.....Must make sure the pen is filled with ink and the blotting paper is available! In support of ushers we welcome visitors to St Mary's, guide them to their seats and ensure that everything runs smoothly, whatever challenges may arise.

With the groom and best man and other guests already in their places, when the bride arrives we welcome her at the gate and with her entourage lead her to the west door to be greeted by the priest, in

readiness for that long-awaited walk down the aisle to meet her prince. We signal the bell ringers and the organist to guide them in the fulfilment of their role. At the appropriate time, we guide the witnesses to the Lady Chapel for the signing of the register and ready all for the moment when the new Mr and Mrs walk from the Chancel to be greeted by their guests. As the guests leave we do what we can to politely encourage a contribution to the collection plate before turning to the task of tidying the church, returning everything to its place in readiness for whatever service is next on the schedule. Oh, and throughout all the service we need to be aware of the potential for an overzealous photographer to interrupt proceedings with a constant clicking.....it is simply disruptive, distracting and the vergers has to say, politely, No!

Inevitably, a funeral is a more sombre affair, but equally one at which everything needs to run smoothly. Good liaison with the funeral directors is a much appreciated link which ensures that family wishes are observed with dignity, respect and reverence. A warm and meaningful welcome for mourners is equally important at these difficult times. Help with a variety of requests supports many who may have travelled a long way for the service and find themselves in unfamiliar territory.

As the funeral cortege arrives at the church gate the vergers, carrying the cross, attends with the priest and waits whilst the priest speaks with the family and the funeral directors prepare the coffin to be borne into church. With the vergers and cross at the front, all proceed to the West door and into church as the priest begins the service with comforting words from the Scriptures. Throughout the service there is a need to be aware of anxious parents urgently trying to quieten a fractious child or of someone overcome by the emotion of the event. The provision of a few simple toys or a glass of water served with comforting words is often all that is required. At the end of the service the vergers leads the procession from the church, either to the cars for an onward journey or into the churchyard for burial, when the vergers stands with the cross at the head of the grave during the committal. (It is always a good idea to have checked the location and readiness of the grave beforehand.) In due course the vergers returns into church to tidy and secure the church once more.

The vergers's duty is an honour to serve, satisfying to fulfil, rewarding to complete, and a pleasure to be able to contribute something to moments of importance in the lives of many.

**Jan Drew, Malcolm Frost, Tony Tatford**

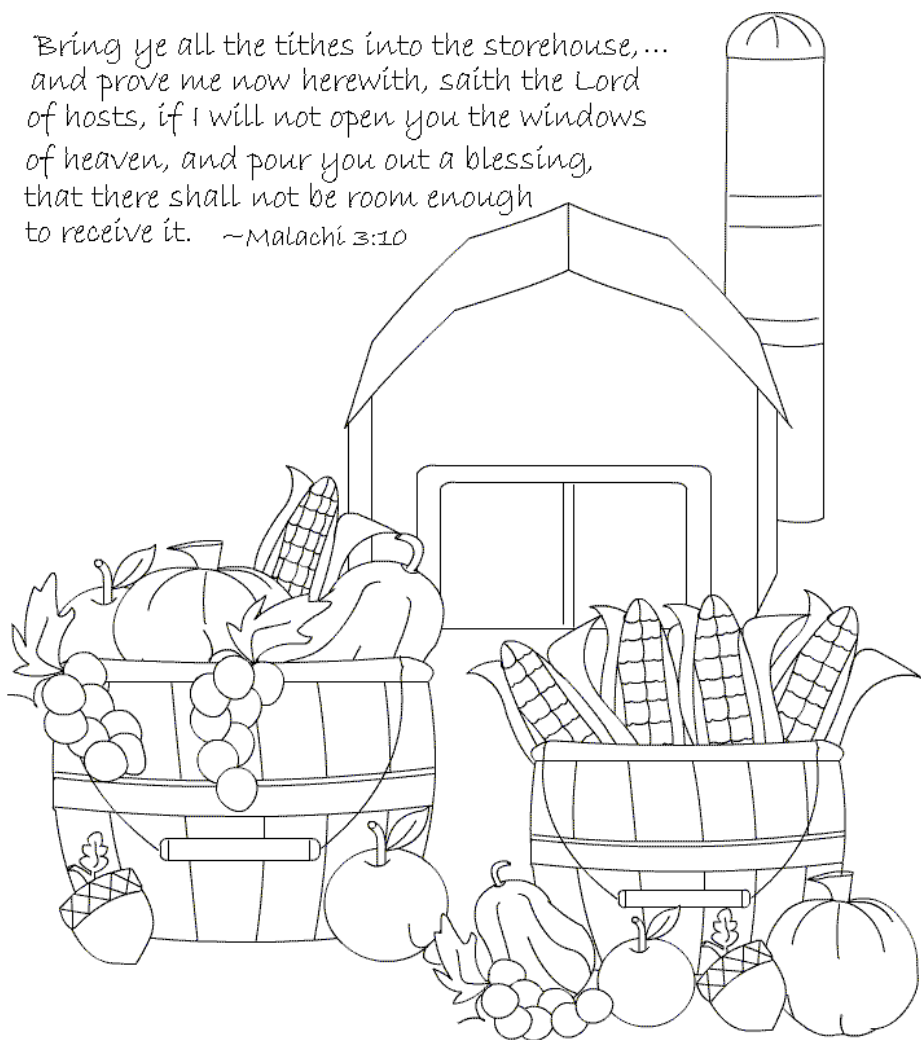
FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

# HARVEST

## COLOUR—ME—IN

Read through the following bible passage about harvest. What does Harvest mean to you and why is it important in the Christian community? What foods can you see in the picture below? Colour in the picture and put it on your fridge to remind you every day of why we are grateful for all God's creations.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, ...  
and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord  
of hosts, if I will not open you the windows  
of heaven, and pour you out a blessing,  
that there shall not be room enough  
to receive it. ~Malachi 3:10



## FIND THE FRUIT

At harvest, we can celebrate the amazing variety and amount of fruit God has given us. There are 30 fruits hidden in this word search. We've given you the names of 25. Can you find them all and find the extra five fruits?

G	K	O	R	Y	R	R	E	B	W	A	R	T	S
Q	U	I	N	C	E	L	M	A	J	P	A	N	I
U	M	A	N	D	A	R	I	N	O	L	E	M	W
A	Q	L	V	M	U	T	L	A	S	U	P	T	I
X	U	O	T	A	M	O	T	N	I	M	N	N	K
T	A	R	A	N	R	P	I	A	B	O	R	A	C
O	T	T	A	G	E	A	A	Y	M	B	I	R	E
C	I	T	R	O	N	P	S	E	G	I	F	R	W
I	S	D	E	G	P	A	L	P	A	L	E	U	O
R	C	A	O	L	R	Y	E	D	B	B	T	C	L
P	O	M	E	G	R	A	N	A	T	E	J	D	I
A	Z	S	R	E	H	R	P	T	Y	R	R	E	V
K	U	O	L	E	T	C	H	E	R	R	Y	R	E
E	G	N	A	R	O	O	G	I	S	Y	A	F	Y

apple	apricot	banana	bilberry	carob
citron	damson	date	grape	guava
kiwi	kumquat	lemon	lime	mandarin
mango	olive	orange	papaya	pear
pomegranate	quince	redcurrant	strawberry	tomato

## **SEPTEMBER NEWS**

### **Summer Songs of Praise**

Although Advent is the formal start of the Church's year, the start of the school year in September provides an additional opportunity to celebrate as the choir and congregation return from holidays. This year the occasion was marked on 1 September with a 'Summer Songs of Praise' instead of the usual Evensong. An earlier invitation for nominations of favourite hymns had resulted in an 'oversubscribed' list from which Stephen had composed an uplifting service. His introductory notes provided an interesting background and context to each hymn and the theme was continued through the readings and anthem. The choir were in fine voice after the summer break and inspired the congregation into joyful worship - welcome back!

### **Farewell Service for the Venerable Fred Trethewey**

St Mary's Old Swinford provided the venue for a special farewell service for the Archdeacon of Dudley on 8 September. The church was filled with visitors from across the Diocese to wish Fred farewell as he retired from full-time ministry to take up a part time pastoral role in Brittany.

Archdeacon Fred had designed the service to include special compositions by his brother-in-law, Robert Davidson – the setting for the Magnificat and the music for the anthem. These pieces were challenging for the extended choir but were beautifully performed with the addition of two soloists Susannah Vango and Stephen Lindner. In his address Fred acknowledged the support he had received from a great number of friends during his ministry and cited two particular colleagues who had made a profound influence on his faith. His wife Margaret had also played an indispensable role in his mission and she provided the accompaniment for some of the songs of worship during the service. Bishop John led the many tributes and presentations as he wished Archdeacon Fred success as a 'Gallic Missionary' and presented him with a Bible embossed with a crest of the Diocese of Worcester. The happiness and informality of the occasion was evident at the end of the service as Bishop John hastily coordinated the order of procession from the chancel steps to the applause of the congregation. – Farewell Fred.

### **Three Counties Festival of Churches and Heritage Open Day**

On Saturday 14 September St Mary's joined with most churches across the region to celebrate the heritage of our church. The event attracted many visitors including sponsored cyclists and people interested in the church's history. Roy Peacock provided the major attraction to the day's programme with talks on the valuable contributions which Ernest and

Mary Stevens had made to the benefit of the people of Stourbridge. Their achievements, work and charity were illustrated through a series of display boards in the church and the talks were followed by a visit to the Stevens memorial in the churchyard.

**Alec Beevers**

.....

### **ANOTHER MUSICAL SUMMER!**

In the third week of August I was once again privileged to attend the Royal School of Church Music summer school for young singers at Kingswood School in Bath. The RSCM encourages all ages and levels of ability to learn more about church music and to live up to the RSCM motto 'Psallam spiritu et mente' (I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also) (1 Corinthians 14:15). Young choristers from a diverse range of parishes attend the course which gives an enriching opportunity for individuals to build upon training received in their own churches as well as enjoying young musical fellowship. Many of the young people on the course return year after year and enjoy studying a wide range of music with inspiring tutors. Completion of a residential RSCM course is also part of the requirements for attaining the Gold Award which I hope to apply for later this year.

All course members sang the daily services at the Kingswood School Chapel as well as a beautiful service of Compline at St. Stephen's Church in Bath. The highlight of the course for me was the chance to sing the Tenor solo in the Nunc Dimittis by Herbert Howells 'Collegium Regale' in Bath Abbey.

Earlier in the summer holiday I was also most fortunate to attend another Royal College of Organists 'Organ Scholar Experience' course in Oxford. I gained invaluable insight into the demands of the organ scholar. Workshops and tutorials were given by tutors such as David Goode (Director of Music, Eton College), Daniel Hyde (Informator Choristarum, Magdalen College, Oxford) and Catherine Ennis (President of the RCO). The course ended with Choral Evensong at Exeter College.

My sincere thanks to Stephen and St. Mary's Parochial Church Council for the very generous bursary awarded to me for the RSCM course. I am also as always indebted to Robin Walker for his continued support and guidance.

**William Peart**

## **COFFEE MORNING**

The Stourbridge Deanery Mothers Union are holding a coffee morning at St. Peter's Church Hall, Pedmore, on Saturday 19 October, 10am - 12pm. There will be various stalls selling cakes, produce, books, and DVDs as well as tombola and raffle. Admission is £1 which includes refreshments. Everyone is welcome!

.....

## **NEW AT ST MARY'S MONTHLY TUESDAY TEA**

Do please come along to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chat once a month in St Mary's Narthex. The first Tuesday Tea will be held on Tuesday 29 October 2013 from 2.30pm to 4.00pm.

If you know anyone who would like to spend an hour or so enjoying refreshments and friendship, please bring them with you.

The next Tuesday Teas will be held on 26 November and then on Tuesday December 10.

**St Mary's Mission and Pastoral Committee**

.....

## **EXPERIENCE HARVEST**

We are looking forward to Year 3 from Old Swinford Primary School coming to church in the week before Harvest to take part in a programme from Gloucester Diocese called 'Experience Harvest'. Sally Frost and other members of the Flower Guild are preparing six stations based on different harvests such as the Harvest of the Ocean and the Harvest of the Grain.

The children will visit each of the stations for a time of reflection led by members of the church. These are based on each of the harvests and a fruit of the spirit such as patience and generosity. When they have journeyed around the five stations they will then come together for the final session based on the Harvest of Thanksgiving which takes its inspiration from the Jewish Sukkah. The Sukkah was a temporary shelter built each night by the Israelites when they

journeyed from Egypt to the Promised Land. The shelter always had a small gap in the roof so that they could see the heavens to remind them that God was with them on the journey and had promised to provide for all their needs.

The stations will form part of the harvest decorations.

**Ruth Atkinson**

.....

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

### **13 July Walk**

Fourteen walkers took part in the July walk, which commenced, following a train journey, at Whitlocks End. A short walk along the main road brought us to the Stratford on Avon, Birmingham canal, which we followed towards Birmingham.

We were lucky enough to see a narrow boat using a drawbridge. This requires the narrow boat user to bring the electrically operated barriers down to prevent traffic crossing the canal while the road is brought up like a drawbridge. The walk followed the canal for some distance before turning off the towpath into a nature reserve which brings you out on Priory Road, Yardley Wood.

A short walk took us to Slade Lane, a no-through road, and led us to the river Cole. The walk took us along the route of the river Cole. The Mill Pool in Yardley is adjacent to the river and this is where we saw herons.

The route required a crossing of a number of quite busy arterial roads. Between those roads we were in a lovely green corridor with wide grassy fields and trees that in July were alive with bird song.

Our coffee break was at Sarehole Mill. A group of ladies with tasty food were supporting the Macmillan Nurses. There was also refreshments available from the Mill café. The lunch stop was at the Ackers Trust site, where picnic benches were available together with a climbing wall.

It was then a short walk over the only hill through the Ackers Trust site to the Grand Union Canal and along the towpath to Small Heath for the train back to Stourbridge. The total walking distance approximately six miles.

**Susan Solly**



## **THIS MONTH'S RECIPE**

### **DEAD MEN'S FINGERS WITH SLIME**

Keep your little spooks happy with this gruesome dinner. I wasn't sure if I liked the idea of one of our old traditions being Americanised with all the Halloween tat in the shops for weeks. That was until I had grandchildren and saw what fun they had with the dressing up. When I grew up our treat was treacle toffee so I am sure the health police would approve of this dish.

3 large baking potatoes washed and dried well and cut into thick wedges  
2 Tablespoons olive oil  
300g/10oz frozen petit pois  
Few mint leaves, optional  
3-4 tablespoons olive oil

Place the potatoes with the oil in a large baking tray, using your hands rub the oil over the wedges. Season with salt and pepper. Roast in a hot oven 200c/Gas 6 for 45 mins or until cooked and browned.

Boil the peas - not as long as at it says on the packet - until just cooked. Drain well. Whizz in a food processor with mint and olive oil till it looks suitably slimy. Season to taste.

Dip the Dead men's fingers in the slime!

**Ann Jennings**

.....

### **AND FOR THE WINE.....**

Luminous green slimy fingers make me think about colours in food/colours in wine. Although blue is commonly avoided in food (reminiscent of mould) a wide range of colours can be created: saffron, turmeric, pistachio, paprika produce a dazzling display. By comparison, the options for wine seem more limited: well there's red, white and rose isn't there? But let us examine our colours a little further.

Red is red, except when it's purple or brown or black! Young reds will be vibrant and purple and a youthful Montepulciano, rich in anthocyanins will (not surprisingly) appear a blue-purple shade of red. As red wines age they will progress through ruby and garnet to mahogany and in the case of a

mature Barolo, a distinctly brown hue. Where wine-makers have opted to extract a lot of colour from their grapes, deeply-coloured wines such as Malbec (Cahors) and Shiraz/Syrah (Hermitage) can be positively black. Roses too vary from a pale onion-skin through salmon to deep coral pink.

So what about whites? Well, they're really yellow aren't they? - straw yellow/golden yellow/green yellow. Vin Jaune (the treat of the Arbois/Jura wine region is a dense deep yellow and some aged dessert wines (think Tokaji Aszu) can be apricot/orange in colour. At the other end of the spectrum, Swiss wines made from the Chasselas grape are so pale and colourless they are normally described as 'water-white'! Drinking 'WHITE' wine will never catch on will it ?

Enjoy your wine-sipping!

**Richard W. B. Ryan**

.....

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

Our September meeting took place in Church and was our annual 'Wave of Prayer' Service. At this time of year members worldwide pray in an unbroken circle. The service was led by Kanthi Ariaraj and our organist was Daniel Campbell.

Prayer and Worship is the core of Mother's Union both in the way we live our lives and in the outreach projects we aim to achieve, in helping those less fortunate than ourselves. An addition to our service this year was an act of thanksgiving for seven of our members who have received Long Service Awards, a total of 203 years between them. Marion Tyler 53 years and 25 years to Janice Sutton, Judith Dickens, Dawn Nex, Margaret Moulton, Kanthi Ariaraj and Sally Frost. A card of congratulations was read out from Kim Bell who, 25 years ago, was the founder of our Evening Group.

We were delighted to welcome our Diocesan President Liz Green, our Deanery Leader Jayne Mottershead and the members of four other Deanery Branches

**Anne May**

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

18 August	Isabella Annalise Ward-Hotchkiss Eva-Mai Judith Mills Paul William Hotchkiss Jessica Dorothy Caroline Evans Robert Arthur Hotchkiss Lucy Anne Ward
1 September	George Anthony William Taylor Bria Mae Totney Marley Harris Williams Mark Robert Harris

### Weddings

16 August	David Jenkins and Sarah Richards
23 August	Ryan Gibbons and Emma Raybould

### Funerals

19 August	Gary Raybould	Aged 75
20 August	Luther Crompton	Aged 83
23 August	Nathan Edwards	Aged 33
9 September	Edith Brookes	Aged 93

## MISSION ACADEMIES

Youth leaders from churches across the Diocese are gathering in small groups to be part of a big national initiative for 2014. As part of Hope 14, Worcester Diocese is working with ecumenical partners to set up Mission Academies where young Christians aged 14-17 can learn about mission and evangelism and generate their own ideas for sharing their faith with young people in their area. The young people will form learning communities from different churches to focus on their neighbourhood.

Archdeacon Roger Morris said: "This is a really exciting opportunity to equip young people for a life-changing year of sharing their faith with their generation."

There are plans for Mission Academies in Worcester/Malvern, Wychavon, The Wyre Forest, Dudley and Stourbridge.

Diocesan Youth Officer, Sarah Brush, said: "Some of the leaders have already started planning and others went on their first training in September. If your leaders want to be part of this exciting opportunity then get in touch with me soon to be part of one of the teams."

There will be more news on Mission Academies and how to get young people involved during the Autumn, plus a special feature on them at Rock The Priory at Great Malvern Priory on Friday 1 November 7pm-10.30pm. For more details contact Sarah Brush on [sbrush@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:sbrush@cofe-worcester.org.uk) or 01905 20537.

## Letter from Bishop David

Writing a piece for inclusion in parish magazines has been one of the constants of my 13 years in the Diocese of Worcester. So what I'm doing now for the last time does not feel very different from what I was doing when I penned a piece for the first time. But that apparent similarity hides much that is now radically different.



Back in late 2000 my words formed part of a printed insert which would appear in piles in the Old Palace for collection by parish representatives. Now it is conveyed electronically to each magazine editor, to be included how and wherever they wish. Again, my early articles were handwritten, then typed up by my secretary. Most today start their life on my iPad, either typed onto a touch screen or dictated using voice recognition software. It has taken a lot of change to continue to produce apparently the same thing.

Which is of course exactly what the wider life of the church is about. The things we are called to do have remained remarkably consistent over centuries. We proclaim the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ. We celebrate the sacraments. We care for the needy and for God's creation. We teach one another. We seek to continually deepen our spiritual lives. But the means we have for achieving these constants are themselves subject to huge change.

We have about three quarters of the stipendiary clergy we had when I arrived, but we now have far more non-stipendiary plus hundreds of Authorised Lay Ministers. We no longer have Diocesan Officers doing things for us, but we have Mission Development Officers whose task is to help us to work together to do what God is calling us to. We have fewer committees in the diocese but more groups of practitioners guiding aspects of mission. Parishes have more diverse forms of worship, including what we have learned to call Fresh Expressions of church. Many school assemblies have been revolutionised through Open the Book.

In short we have all been doing what the promise made by licensed clergy at each new appointment says; proclaiming an unchanging faith afresh in each generation. I'm grateful for the opportunity I have had in journeying with you over this last decade and a bit, and I wish you all the very best as you continue along the way through the years to come.

**Bishop David**

**We are grateful for the sponsorship of the following businesses.**

### **DONOVANS MUSIC STORE**

2 High Street  
Amblecote  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY8 4BX  
Proprietor David Donovan  
**Tel/Fax: - 01384 440820**

### **Chiropodist**

**Rachel Clark** MSSCH MBCHA

Visiting Practice

Qualified and Insured.

Registered with Health Professions Council

**Tel: 01384 873938 or 07860 771442**

### **Chris Genner**

#### **FOREVER LIVING PRODUCTS**

Natural Aloe Vera health drinks,  
beauty and nutritional products.

Free advice, samples, talks  
and demonstrations.

BUY DIRECT **www.genner.net**

Chris Genner **01384 371336**

### **Davis Memorials Ltd**

Monumental and Masonry Contractors

Established 1841 Suppliers of all  
forms of memorials.

56A Station Road, Old Hill, Cradley Heath,  
West Midlands, B64 6NU

**Tel: 01384 566958 Fax: 01384 569708**

**Website [www.davismemorialsLtd.co.uk](http://www.davismemorialsLtd.co.uk)**

### **Top Team Tutoring**

Maths & English One-to-One Tuition

David and Joanna Evans - a family  
business providing a personal  
service.

All Key Stages, GCSE, 'A' Level, 11+ &  
13+ Selection. Free advice.

Visit **[www.topteamtutoring.co.uk](http://www.topteamtutoring.co.uk)** or

**Tel: 01384 392553**

### **The Coach House**

Rectory Road,  
Old Swinford.

**Tel: 01384 828890**



Available for Hire evenings /  
weekends. Small parties up to 40.  
Contact Parish Office—**01384 441003**

### **H Porter & Sons**

Old Church House, 60 South Road,  
Stourbridge. **Tel: 01384 395048.**

Funeral Directors for over 160 years.

### **J Vernon Kendrick**

Vernon House, Cemetery Road, Lye.

DY9 8DB **Tel: 01384 422123.**

Funeral Directors.

Golden Charter Pre-payment Plans.

### **R B Porter Heating Ltd**

*For all Central Heating  
and Plumbing needs.*

*Servicing , Repairs and New Systems*

**Gas Safe Approved**

191 Hagley Road, Old Swinford

**Tel : 01384 396719**

### **Swinford Pharmacy**

90 Hagley Road, Old Swinford.

**Tel: 01384 440030.** We offer a free  
collection and delivery service for  
elderly and housebound patients.

### **J & J Upperdine**

*High Class Private and Commercial  
Painting and Decorating*

82 Birmingham St. Stourbridge  
DY8 1JH

**Tel: Day 07969 864131**

**Evening 01384 827281**