



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## Parish Church Magazine



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**NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 2013

Saturday 2 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour.  
Quiet Retreat Visit to Glasshampton  
**SUNDAY 3** **FOURTH BEFORE ADVENT—ALL SAINTS**

3.00 pm Baptism  
6.30 pm All Souls Evensong  
Tuesday 5 11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft  
Wednesday 6 3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House  
Thursday 7 10.30 am Holy Communion  
Saturday 9 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour.

**SUNDAY 10** **THIRD BEFORE ADVENT—REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Copy date for our November Parish Magazine  
Open the Book team at Old Swinford Primary School  
Monday 11 10.00 am Full Peal to be rung  
Tuesday 12 7.30 pm Christmas Market meeting for helpers

Thursday 14 10.30 am Holy Communion  
Saturday 16 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

**SUNDAY 17** **SECOND BEFORE ADVENT**

Tuesday 19 Quiet Retreat Visit to Holland House  
7.30 pm PCC Meeting

Thursday 21 10.30 am Holy Communion  
Saturday 23 10.00 am Vestry Hour and Open Church

**SUNDAY 24** **CHRIST THE KING**

Monday 25 Open the Book team at Old Swinford Primary School  
Wednesday 27 11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge  
Thursday 28 10.30 am Holy Communion.  
Saturday 30 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour  
4.00 pm Mary Stevens Hospice Tree of Light Service



### LOOKING AHEAD

Three dates you may wish to enter in your diary are:-

**Sunday 1st December 6.30 pm Advent Carol Service**

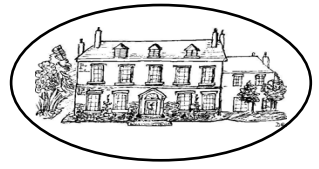
**Saturday 7 December 09.30 am Christmas Market at St Mary's**

**Sunday 8th December 10.00 am Toy Service**

For our Toy Service we invite those attending to bring an unwrapped toy for a child of any age or toiletry items for mums. These gifts will be given on your behalf for the benefit of the Women's Refuge.

Details of all our Christmas services are available on the parish website.

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

I find books about journeys fascinating. The thought of setting out with some destination in mind, but not having the remotest idea of what difficulties you might encounter on the way, is a very attractive read. I have always felt that life is a sort of journey, only on this journey not only are we unaware of what we might encounter on the way, but we don't really know what the end point will be. So it is a journey into the unknown, and as we undertake that journey we change in our understanding of ourselves and of the world around us.

As I talk to people when they ask about Baptism for their children I am always drawn to this language of journey, and encourage them to think in terms of the spiritual journey on which I believe we are all embarked. For the Christian the endpoint of this journey is to a certain extent known. As Paul writes in the letter to the Philippians Chapter 1: 'I desire to depart and be with Christ'; and whilst that might be a goal for us, most of the time we would prefer that goal to remain some distance away, and to continue on the journey of life and exploration for a little longer.

It is not only at Baptism that we think of the idea of a spiritual journey, at Confirmation we think of people making a spiritual decision of their own which is a mark of reaching a particular point on their own spiritual journey. We must also recognise that at a Wedding another milestone is reached on someone's life journey, and that milestone has a spiritual significance for many people.

The Church has a responsibility for encouraging people on their spiritual journey. It is not enough for the Church just to mark the milestones on that journey, but they must help to nourish people and encourage them on the way. Last year Ruth and I between us led a Bishop's Certificate Course at Old Swinford. During this course we journeyed with a group of people from St Mary's and other churches, as we explored new ideas and challenged long-held beliefs, and moved on in our understanding of our faith. Since the Summer there have been a number of conversations taking place with people who are considering Confirmation, some of those have been confirmed at St Mary's this October, some will be confirmed at the end of November in Worcester Cathedral, and some are preparing to be confirmed in St Mary's in the Spring. All of this is encouraging people on their faith journey. I also think that the 'Open the Book' team are encouraging pupils at the local school on their own spiritual journey, challenging them, as this scheme does, to consider Bible stories and what impact they can have on people's lives.

All of this tends to be about the spiritual journeys of other people, but what about our need of encouragement on our own spiritual journey? Attending Church to worship with other Christians is encouraging for us, but if we are really to grow in our faith and progress along the way, we need to embark on regular prayer and reading of the Bible, because these provide the spiritual water and nutrients which will help us to grow and mature as Christians. This month our 'Quiet Days' are an attempt to encourage people to spend time in quiet prayer and reflection together, and I hope that we will follow these up with the start of a group meeting fortnightly in the Rectory to talk about our faith, to pray, to read the Bible together and to

encourage one another in our own spiritual journey. I hope that you will want to join us and give yourself some spiritual sustenance for your own journey.

*Stephen Agnew*

### SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2013

<b>3 November</b> <b>Fourth before</b> <b>Advent</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	Daniel 7. 1-3, 15-18	Ephesians 1. 11-end	Luke 6. 20-31
	6.30 pm Evensong-All Souls	Isaiah 65. 17-end	Hebrews 11.32- 12.2	
<b>10 November</b> <b>Third before</b> <b>Advent</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER Remembrance Sunday		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	1 Kings 3. 1-15	Romans 8. 31-end	
<b>17 November</b> <b>Second before</b> <b>Advent</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Malachi 4. 1-2a	2 Thessalonians 3 6-13	Luke 21. 5-19
	6.30 pm Evensong	Daniel.6	Matthew 13. 1-9, 18-23	
<b>24 November</b> <b>Christ the King</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Jeremiah 23. 1-6	Colossians 1. 11-20	Luke 23. 33-43
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Samuel 8. 4-20	John 18. 33-37	

## BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Our monthly parish magazine is an important part of St Mary's outreach and as well as providing a spiritual link with news of the church's services and activities it also aims to provide topical features of general interest to our readership. It has been published almost continuously for over a hundred and twenty years and we have archive copies from the nineteenth century. The technology today is somewhat different to the typesetting and binding which were carried out by Mark and Moody in those early decades. However we have preserved much of the editorial policy in terms of content and resistance to advertising (apart from the acknowledgement to sponsors on the back cover page).

Each month the joint editors, Gemma Sutton and Antony Tatford receive material from various sources and compile the contributions into the familiar 20- or 24-page A5 booklet format. About half the contents are regular pages while other reports and articles cover a wide variety of topics. The whole process has been simplified in the last two decades by computing technology. Most of the articles are transmitted by email and desktop publishing software enables rapid insertion into the magazine template. The deadline for the receipt of the material is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and there is always a last minute rush to complete each issue. Draft copies of the magazine are printed and distributed to members of the committee who proof read the pages before the editorial meeting.

The meetings are enjoyable occasions as we check through the contents, share corrections and occasionally tackle the puzzles in the children's page. We feel very privileged to have the news and contents in advance and aim to deliver an accurate and interesting final edition. Gemma or Tony then apply the corrections to the digital version. The 'Dropbox' computer software enables the magazine files to be actively shared across several users simultaneously and the administrator has a final version ready to print in the parish office in the morning following the meeting. It's not quite Fleet Street but nevertheless quite impressive thanks to the prompt efforts and digital skills of our editors. The latest printer provides high quality colour copies at the touch of a button and the entire print run (usually 350 – 400 copies) is then collected for sorting and taking to our team of twenty distributors.

The circulation of the magazine covers the whole parish area - and beyond – and the services of the distributors are appreciated both by the church and the recipients, some of whom enjoy the monthly call and visit for a pastoral chat. A batch of magazines is also placed in the Narthex on the last Sunday of the month for visitors to 'pay and collect'. Additional copies are mailed to postal subscribers and John Sutton places an electronic version on-line through the St Mary's Church website. We hope all readers receive the magazine before the end of the month as we start our cycle of preparing the next issue again.

At the end of each meeting we make an initial review of possible articles and contents for the next edition to ensure that there will be sufficient material. This necessarily involves looking ahead at forthcoming events and we are always surprised at the rapid approach of significant dates. Advent and Christmas will soon be upon us and the editors will be choosing appropriate seasonal cover pictures. The New Year also marks a significant point for the magazine as most readers have annual subscriptions which have to be collected – another task willingly undertaken by the distributors.

As with most church groups visited for these 'behind the scenes' features, the

magazine team enjoys the fellowship of the meetings as much as the pleasure in providing a modest service to St Mary's church activity.

**Alec Beevers**

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## **AMAZING GRACE**

Back in the early 1970's you could not fail to hear the tune of Amazing Grace played by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards! The tune was Top of the Pops for nine weeks and remained in the charts for some weeks after. That said, the words of Amazing Grace have appeared in very few major British hymnbooks. The situation in the United States is quite different where its popularity has lead it to appear in most Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist and Lutheran hymn books.

John Newton, at the age of 11 was sent to sea with his father. He was flogged for deserting from the navy and became captain of a ship engaged in slave trading. His conversion was in part influenced when he found himself at the ship's wheel in a terrible storm which lasted well over 24 hours. Following this, he became friendly with John Wesley and George Whitfield, themselves leaders in Evangelical revival. He was ordained in 1764 and became curate at Olney in Bedfordshire and later went, until his death, to St Mary, Woolnoth, in the City of London.

The words describe Newton's conversion as a wretch saved from eternal damnation. The verse which begins: "When we've been there ten thousand years," is of suspect authorship. The tune is based on an American folk melody and is almost certain of Scottish origin, probably brought across the Atlantic in the eighteenth century.

**Robin Walker**  
**Organist and Choirmaster**

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## **SECRETARY NEEDED**

The Coach House Charity committee needs someone to act as secretary. This is an unpaid role which would require a commitment of a few hours each month. There are four to six meetings a year where minutes are taken and agendas prepared for each following meeting. Work would normally be undertaken at home or at the Coach House when meetings are held. For further details please contact Joan Barwick, 01384 395319 or speak to a committee member .

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## **WANTED**

Yes, it's that time again. The Christmas Market will be on Saturday 7 December and we need more 'bling' for our Jewellery Stall.

Please. look out any unwanted jewellery particularly that odd earring or cuff link or broken chain. We have our scrappage contact who will be willing to give us cash for any bits of gold or silver. Every little helps. So, now is the time to throw out the old in time for those new Christmas presents! Please pass on any contributions to Pamela Peacock or Chris Morgan. As always, our thanks and we look forward to seeing you at the market.

## CLOVER LEAF VISITS

On Friday afternoons during the summer holidays I took Poppy, my greyhound, to visit the Clover Leaf students at the Coach House. Poppy is a 'Pets as Therapy' (PAT) dog so she is used to visiting people and being the centre of attention. The students enjoyed giving her lots of love and dog biscuits. One of the students called Nicky told me about going on holiday to Butlins at Minehead.

Clover Leaf is a talented group who do lovely craft work such as cross-stitch, rug making and knitting. They made a lovely congratulations card of the Stourbridge Lion which they sent to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge when Prince George was born. A few weeks later a 'Thank you' card arrived at the Coach House with a beautiful photograph and personal message from William and Kate. It was very exciting and the card is on display with the Jubilee card they received from the Queen last year.

The students who attend Clover Leaf are a really happy group. They enjoy their time at the Coach House with Tracey, Wendy and Sharlene who help and encourage them to produce their colourful displays including a spectacular mural of Bewdley.

Thank you all so much for letting me visit you with my dog and I hope to see you again during the next school holiday.

**Georgia Hawkins (age 9)**

### **Clover Leaf Community Group Receive Gold Award**

Earlier this year Clover Leaf were presented with a Gold Quality Mark by Dudley MBC for the provision of their services. The group work with adults with a learning disability to reach their full potential by supporting their students with arts, crafts, money management, numeracy and literacy skills and improving their social skills. They have demonstrated some great outcomes by encouraging students to be more self-sufficient by travelling independently.

(from L to R) Wendy Garbett, Sharlene Romano, Tracey Lissimore from Clover Leaf Community Group being presented with Gold Award by "Making it Real" Programme Lead Stuart Lackenby.





## THE HIGH TECH DRAGONFLY

For St Mary's Walking Group's September walk we met at the Plough Inn at Trysull. Six of us enjoyed warm dry weather and a variety of different terrains; field paths, quiet lanes, abandoned railway line and canal towing path. From Trysull we crossed fields onto a lane that led us to The Bratch. As we came to the houses we first caught sight of the gothic turrets of the old waterworks pumping station. The steam engine and pump had been lovingly restored to full working order only for "Health and Safety" to be invoked to prohibit its operation. If you would like to see the machinery working the following link gives access to an on line video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19ITuktcTt4>

The octagonal tollhouse at The Bratch locks was most attractive in the sunshine; with a St George's flag flying full out from the flagpole. After a short length of road we turned north, at Wombourne Station, onto the Kingswinford/South Staffs Railway Walk. Very shortly there was need for a minor diversion to take us into the café at the old station for a welcome cup of coffee. One of our group was found wistfully gazing from the platform down onto the now rail-less track bed, but not even a ghost train came through.

We followed the line of the railway for almost two miles before a short stretch of road led us to the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal at Dimmingsdale Bridge. We crossed the canal, on the road bridge, to access the tow path south as far as Awbridge Bridge. This is the only original road bridge left on the canal; built by the engineer James Brindley. It is thought to be his first bridge on a public road, and has most unusual parapets comprising nine brick pillars with a stone coping.

Another quiet lane and several fields brought us back to Trysull alongside the Smestow Brook. A fine modern iron and brick bridge took us over the brook and into the centre of the village. A right and a left past All Saints Church returned us to the Plough Inn, where we enjoyed a drink, good conversation and a hearty lunch.

In case you are wondering, the high tech dragonfly was a canal barge named "Dragonfly" moored at Awbridge complete with an array of solar panels!

Our next walk is on Saturday 26 October at Hatton Locks (Henley) departing from St Mary's at 9.30am. Why not join us?

**Mike Blaxland**

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## CHRISTMAS MARKET



With just a few weeks to go, please support our stallholders with your presence on Saturday 7 December, 9.30-11.30 am and through donations of cakes, books, bottles, jigsaws and quality bric-a-brac—you bring it and we shall find a stall for it!

**Katey**

**Fletcher**

**01384 378182**

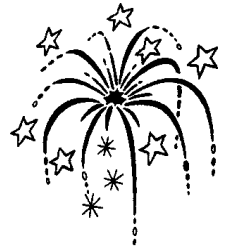
# BRIGHT STARS

## NOVEMBER: GUY FAWKES!

Can you fill in the letters to name these fireworks?

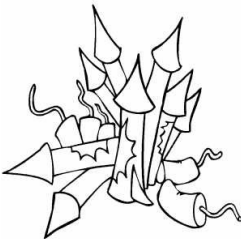


1. B \_ \_ \_ ERS

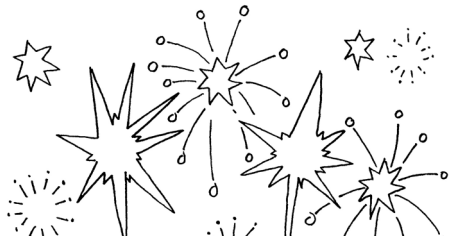


3. \_ OCK \_ TS

2. \_ OM \_ \_ C \_ N \_ \_ ES



4. SC \_ \_ AMI \_ \_ D \_ \_ \_ LS



Why not colour in some of these fireworks and rockets to make them bright and colourful ready for fireworks night?

## DO YOU KNOW?

1. Which bright star gives us day light and warmth?
2. Which bright star is called the Dog Star?
3. Which planet is known as the evening 'star'?
4. Which planet is called the red planet?

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

### **BUSY HANDS**

Search out the names of ten workers who use their hands to help us. Some letters are used twice.

Remember to look across rows, up and down or diagonally but beware of the words written backwards!!!



### **Prayer for November**

Dear Lord Jesus, who went about doing good, help us to be ready to use our hands to do your work.

Amen

## CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Thank you to all you supportive Children's Society box holders. Every pound raised will enable the Children's Society to make a real difference to the lives of thousands of vulnerable children and young people in this country.

The generous people of Old Swinford have been donating money through their boxes for many years. Starting way back in the 1970's, I remember Norman and I encouraging support. I know full well that Josie Capewell inspired us all by her commitment to handing out boxes and, later, collecting them in, counting the contents and making sure the money reached the Children's Society.

The support has continued throughout the years since, with many kind people making sure we did all we could to support this important work. This year we are especially grateful to Maggie Abbotts who helped to introduce a fund-raising Coffee Morning and has meticulously counted the products of all our collections. Thank you also to Sue Wilcox who has helped others to further the cause by delivering empty boxes and collecting the full, counting the contents and returning the boxes for future donations.

Recently our collections have helped to fund the project 'Standing by Disabled Children'. This project seeks to reinforce the recent government initiative to review the support provided for children placed away from their homes. The Children's Society aims to ensure every such child has access to an independent advocate, someone with the right skills to ensure the disabled child can be listened to, understood, and is able to get across their views in whatever way is best for them. The important aim is to ensure that these vulnerable children are provided with essential help at times when they may otherwise be ignored, unhappy, frightened or unsafe.

**Anne Davies**

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### 2013 BOX COLLECTION

What a fantastic result! This year, our amazing box holders and their families have collected the magnificent total of £1081.31. The society will also be able to claim Gift Aid on many of the donations, so the final total will be well above that figure.

As well as collecting the full boxes from holders via the tried and tested routes, calling in at a holders home or, bringing them into church for counting, we also held a "Bring and Open your Box Coffee Morning" on Saturday 31 August.

We had a really good response from St Mary's community. Existing box holders and new recruits alike came along to enjoy a cup of coffee, piece of cake and a good chat. Anne Davies gave us a history of St Mary's work for the Children's Society and many of those attending donated extra funds to the cause, raising a further £47.00.

Many, many thanks to everyone supporting this very important work. The Society run over 70 projects delivering practical and emotional support to more than 48,000 children, young people and families in this country every year. Much of their work would not possible without your support.

**Maggie Abbotts – Box Co-ordinator**

## POVERTY ISSUES

### A MATTER CIRCULATING IN MANY PARISH MAGAZINES

The Baptist Union, the United Reform Church, the Methodist Church and the Church of Scotland recently cooperated in the production of a report entitled 'Truth and Lies about Poverty'. Many regret the absence of the involvement of the Church of England in an investigation and challenge of the commonly held beliefs, often quoted as absolute by some politicians, that are printed in the press and accepted by much of the population.

The report cites its evidence from 78 different sources which range from government department reports and records to individual experts, professional organisations and many support agencies.

The opening Executive Summary begins....*In 1753 John Wesley, the founder of Methodism said, "So wickedly, devilishly false is that common objection, 'They are poor, only because they are idle'." Yet today many churchgoers and members of the general public alike have come to believe that the key factors driving poverty in the UK are the personal failings of the poor – especially 'idleness'.*

The following myths are among those examined:-

**'They' are lazy and don't want to work.** The most commonly cited cause of child poverty is that 'their parents don't want to work'. In work poverty is now more common than out of work poverty. Claims that there are families in which three generations have never worked have not been supported by the evidence; no such families have been found.

**'They' are addicted to drink and drugs.** Addiction is devastating for the families and communities touched by it but evidence shows that fewer than 4% of benefit claimants report any form of addiction.

**'They' are not really poor- they just don't manage their money properly.** 60% of the UK population agrees the poor could cope if they handled their money properly. Life on a small income is a constant challenge with small events having serious consequences and real help often not being available.

**'They' are on the fiddle.** Fraud in the benefits system has fallen to historically low levels with just 0.9% lost to fraud, a level the tax system can only dream of. If everyone claimed and was paid correctly the welfare system would cost £18 billion more than it does now.

**'They' have an easy life.** Government ministers speak of families opting for benefits as a life style choice yet it is known that benefits do not meet minimum income standards.

**'They' caused the debt.** The proportion of our tax spent on welfare has remained stable for the past 20 years. How can it be logical to blame increasing welfare spending for the deficit and so lay the blame at the feet of the poorest?

The full report is available at [www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandlies](http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandlies). where an examination of the issues, the evidence and the conclusions may be read and considered at length.

## **WAR MEMORIALS TRUST**

On Remembrance Sunday many of us will visit our local war memorials to pay our respects for those who died for our country. Many of these monuments are maintained by the charity, the War Memorials Trust.

There are estimated to be over 100,000 war memorials in the UK. Many of these are treasured but sadly others are neglected and vandalised or left to suffer the effects of ageing and weathering. The War Memorials Trust aims to ensure each and every memorial is preserved and the memory of the individuals remembered, whether they be from past or present conflict, civilian or service personnel.

War memorials were created by individual communities according to decisions made by local committees. There were no government directives or any rules about what form a memorial should take, which led to an incredibly diverse range of designs. They reflect the wishes of that community at that time and provide a fascinating insight into the feelings of the population in the aftermath of war.

Popular types of monument include cenotaphs, obelisks and pillars. The word 'cenotaph' derives from Greek and means 'empty tomb.' This is often used to symbolise casualties with no known grave, the most famous example being the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London. Many war memorial pillars are constructed to look broken off, symbolising lives cut short. Sculptures may form the whole memorial or be part of a larger monument and are often used to commemorate a specific group. Notable examples include the 'Women of World War II' memorial in Whitehall, London, and the 'Shot at Dawn' memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Victory or peace sculptures are often incorporated into war memorials, as are sculpted figures of service personnel.

War Memorials Trust is a charity that relies entirely on voluntary donations to enable it to protect and conserve war memorials in the UK. If you would like to get involved visit <http://www.warmemorials.org>.

## **INTER FAITH WEEK**

Sunday 17 November marks the start of Inter Faith Week, an opportunity to increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society.

Inter Faith Week is also a chance to strengthen the relationships held between different faiths in our parishes and communities and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

It is organised by the Inter Faith Network for the UK, which encourages parishes, community organisations, local authorities and chaplaincies to put together a range of activities such as exchange visits between places of worship or schools, photography, art and education exhibitions and 'speed faithing' - where participants have two minutes to explain their faith or non-religious belief.

Fiona Haworth is the Bishop's Inter Faith Adviser and is also the Chaplain to the University of Worcester. During Inter Faith Week Fiona will be organising a different activities and the AGM of the Worcestershire Inter Faith Forum will be held featuring inter Faith work undertaken in schools, the University and the County throughout the past year.

Fiona has also commissioned some of the Creative Digital Media students to produce films with people talking about their different faiths. These can be seen at [www.worcester.ac.uk/student-services/chaplaincy](http://www.worcester.ac.uk/student-services/chaplaincy). She said: "There are students of all faiths at the University and it's important that we understand and respect each others' views. I hope to be able to produce more of these films so that we can hear real people's voices and overcome stereotypes."

Find out more about Inter Faith Week at [www.interfaithweek.co.uk](http://www.interfaithweek.co.uk).

### **Articles from Diocesan News**

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## **THE BEST LAID PLANS...**

Some readers may have noticed a brief report in the Daily Telegraph recently of a wedding service during which the rings were to be delivered by a barn owl released at the appropriate time to fly to the falconer at the front of the church. However the owl, perhaps sensing it was in its natural environment, reverted to its more typical behaviour and took to the rafters. The service was delayed for some time while the falconer tried unsuccessfully to persuade the owl to its correct objective much to the amusement of the congregation. The couple eventually resorted to 'Plan B' using back-up rings which they had wisely provided for such a contingency. The vicar at the ceremony was none other than our ex-curate, The Revd Chris Bryan.

**Alec Beevers**

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## **FAIRTRADE UPDATE**

The Fairtrade logo has become a familiar sight on products and in shops and restaurants throughout the area, much promoted since Stourbridge became the first Fairtrade town in the Dudley Borough. Your support for the regular Fairtrade stall in church once a month is a significant contribution to this programme. Fairtrade is a simple way each one of us can make a difference through our everyday choices. It's about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade aims to enable the poorest farmers and workers to improve their position and have more control over their lives.



The Fairtrade Premium is an amount received by producers on top of the agreed Fairtrade minimum price. The projects on which this money is spent is voted on democratically by the workers or farmers, maybe to build roads, equip nurseries or processing plants or to buy tools and other equipment. It provides for investment to ensure future production, employment and the development of business opportunities that will safeguard people's futures.

Have you bought Fairtrade today?

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE GOES WITH ANYTHING GRAVY

I am often asked how to get ahead with gravy making, something that can take up valuable time when entertaining. This is a very helpful recipe which can be made ahead of the event and the gravy frozen. It's good with sausages, roasts and can come into its own over Christmas. It adds to the flavour and colour if, while the meat is resting, you remove any fat from the roasting tin and re-heat the gravy in the tin, making sure all the brown sticky bits are incorporated. For food safety reasons, if you are making it ahead of time make sure the gravy is really boiling before you serve it.

1 onion chopped	
2 carrots finely diced	2 tablespoon plain flour
2 celery sticks finely chopped	1 teaspoon marmite (optional but helps the colour)
2 bay leaves	1 tablespoon tomato puree
Large sprig of thyme	2 tablespoons red or white wine
Knob of butter	1 litre stock (approx.)
1 good teaspoon sugar	Soy sauce to taste

Fry the vegetables and herbs in the butter for at least 15 minutes until they start to brown. Sprinkle over the sugar and cook until brown and caramelised. Stir in the flour and cook until incorporated into the vegetables.

Add the tomato puree, marmite if using, and wine then start to pour in the stock stirring all the time until it is as thick as you like it. Sieve, then add the soy sauce.

I don't usually season it till I am ready to use it, black pepper loses its flavour quickly and it's always better added at the end.

Don't worry if you don't have all the ingredients it will still taste fine.

**Ann Jennings**

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

With the clocks turned back we are starting to think about Christmas festivities.....certainly the shops are encouraging us to!

After the poultry of Christmas Day, we can return to red meats for Boxing Day safe in the knowledge that we have a ready-made rich herby gravy waiting. Our prized bottles vie for selection - the wild berries of an Hermitage; an intense Western Australian Cabernet Sauvignon; a brambly and perfumed Bordeaux or an Italian classic: a gamey Barolo or a powerful Brunello perhaps.

In truth, Christmas get-togethers seem to be more numerous and start sooner than ever. So for that early December group gathering to reflect upon the year's achievements, we might prefer a mid-priced option. Some intense, powerful but never too expensive wines are produced in Portugal. They are generally made from a blend of local grapes. Touriga Nacional, Tinta Barroca,



Tinto Cao, Touriga Franca and Tinta Amarela are grapes grown for Port, which also find their way into wines from the Douro region.

A little further south, Bairrada's wines are (unusually for Portugal) made from one grape variety: Baga - tannic and high in acidity, best to look for a bottle with some age. In the Dao region, the Port grapes Touriga Nacional and Tinta Barroca are joined by Castelao Frances. If you see Tinta Roriz or Aragonez on a bottle label, this is the Rioja grape Tempranillo and like Rioja it will be less tannic and overlaid with oak flavours. Portugal's wines are great partners to red meats and you will still have your star wines intact for the centrepiece of your Christmas celebrations..... enjoy your wine-sipping.

**Richard W. B. Ryan**

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

Anne May, our group coordinator, welcomed 22 members and one visitor to the October meeting. Mrs Betty Taylor and Marion Tyler have now become indoor members of the group due to mobility problems.

Dawn Nex led the service based on the theme 'Moving on', whether to new homes or taking new life journeys on our pilgrim way now or in the future.

Sally Frost, our speaker, presented a well-illustrated and informative account of her recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Led by Revd Greville Cross, ten members of St Mary's joined the group and shared a very special experience and challenge from Jerusalem to Galilee. Members thanked Sally for enabling us to journey along the way with her.

Refreshments were then served.

Date for your diary

Next meeting.....Tuesday 12 November, 2.15 pm at the Coach House, "The Seeds We Sow", speaker Dorothy Gibson.

All are welcome to join us.

**Dawn Nex**

*We are saddened to report that, since this meeting, Marion Tyler has passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.*

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## **CHOIR NEWS**

I'm pleased to report that Thomas Fowler has just been awarded his light blue ribbon and the latest two recipients of the Dean's Award are Mollie Chilton and Thomas Bannister. Congratulations to all three choristers!

**Robin Walker**  
**Organist and Choirmaster**

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

22 September	Ben Cockett
29 September	Molly-May Fisher
6 October	Sophia Jane Harcourt
	Nathaniel John Harcourt
	Savannah Alexandra Billings
13 October	Amelie Kate Ward-Welch
	Beau William Tavis Ward-Welch
	Holly Ann Boex
	William Adam Cooper

### Weddings

11 October	Philip Tromans and Jenna Edwards
12 October	Lee Jones and Gill Barrow

### Funerals

21 September	Amy Croasdell
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

On Sunday 13 October during a special service at Worcester Cathedral farewells and 'Thank you.' were said to Bishop David as he leaves Dudley for Manchester. On behalf of the Parish of St Mary's Old Swinford, we record our thanks to Bishop David and send our best wishes to him and Sue as they start this exciting new stage of their life.

Nikki Groarke is to be the new Archdeacon of Dudley. She comes to Worcester from London where she is currently Vicar of St. Stephen's Church in Canonbury, Islington. Bishop John said, "She is an exceptionally gifted priest with a wealth of experience both within and beyond the church."

Paul Harrison is the newly appointed Rural Dean of Stourbridge. We welcome him to his new role and say thank you to Andrew Hazelwood for his work in this role over the past years.

## Children's Page Answers

### FIREWORKS:

1. BANGERS
2. ROMAN CANDLES
3. ROCKETS
4. SCREAMING DEVILS

### BUSY HANDS:

FARMER, DUSTMAN, FIREMAN, BARBER,  
NURSE, BAKER, MUMMY, MILKMAN, BUILD-

### ER AND COOK

### DO YOU KNOW:

1. THE SUN
2. SIRIUS
3. VENUS
4. MARS

## **Letter from Bishop John** **'YOUR KINGDOM COME'**

Over the last couple of months we have been launching our Kingdom People Vision. I hope you may have seen the booklets and flyers that have been produced and that these will stimulate discussion within your parish.



The Kingdom People Vision is the result of wide consultation throughout the Diocese. It emerged from the deliberations of the 2020 Vision Group which sought to discern God's will for the future of the Diocese in 2020 and beyond. The exact form of the Vision was considered carefully at both Bishop's Council and Diocesan Synod before being enthusiastically adopted.

The Kingdom must surely be central to any Christian witness and ministry. We pray for its coming every time we pray the Lord's Prayer. Jesus was passionate about the Kingdom and so should we be. As the Church of England, we are called to be an effective sign of God's Kingdom - people who embody Kingdom values of love, compassion, justice and freedom.

There are eight marks of our Kingdom People Vision:

1. Deeply rooted in prayer and the study of scripture
2. Renewed and transformed by regular worship
3. Equipped to witness to the gospel of love, compassion, justice and freedom
4. Dedicated to helping children, young people and young adults to belong and be nurtured in faith
5. Devoted to growing deeply in discipleship, offering our time and talents and money to God
6. Resourced and released to minister to others
7. Ready to engage with and serve our community
8. Committed to making our buildings fit for purpose as a spiritual and community resource.

I believe that if we are able to embrace and focus on these marks, we shall become a healthier Church, one that is truly responsive to God's will and able to make a real impact in the lives of our communities. There is already some wonderful work going on in our churches and I hope that consideration of this Kingdom Vision will enable this work to be better recognised and valued. I hope too, that it will enable discernment of what new things God is calling us to do and, indeed, what we should stop doing.

I do hope that all parishes will want to engage with this Vision wholeheartedly and find it to be a real gift in developing the witness and ministry of the Church of God where you are.

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