

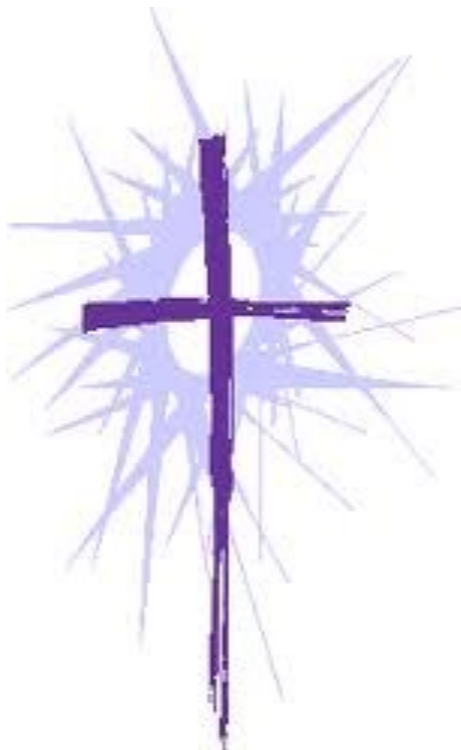
St Mary's Parish Church
Old Swinford
Parish Magazine
February 2013
Online Edition



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



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FEBRUARY 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
Church website address:	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk	
	E-mail: st.mary.os@btconnect.com	
Magazine e-mail address:	stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk	

ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

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

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2013

Saturday 2	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 3	PRESENTATION OF CHRIST
	3.00 pm Baptism
Wednesday 6	9.00 am Full Staff Meeting
Thursday 7	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 9	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 10	QUINQUAGESIMA
	10.00 am Worship Together
	Copy date for February magazine
Tuesday 12	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
	7.30 pm Bishop's Certificate Course
Wednesday 13	ASH WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST at St Saviour's, Hagley
Thursday 14	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 16	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 17	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
18 – 22	School half-term holiday
Wednesday 20	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 21	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 23	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 24	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
	3.00 pm Baptism
Thursday 28	10.30 am Holy Communion
	Advance Notice
March 2	St Mary's Choir singing at Tewkesbury Abbey

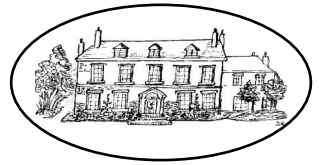
The Ash Wednesday Service will be a joint service for the Deanery held at St Saviour's Hagley. After the Service Paul Hunt, Diocesan Adviser on Spirituality will speak about deepening our prayer life. This will then be the theme for our Lenten Study which will be held on Wednesday evenings during Lent in various churches in Stourbridge.

Lifts will be offered for the Ash Wednesday Service, please keep an eye open for the list.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the Revd Stephen Agnew, to the Revd Ruth Atkinson and to all who took part in the many services and events at St Mary's during the Christmas season. The work of all who contributed to the organisation and presentation, the readings, the music, the decorations and the refreshments was very much appreciated and enjoyed.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

New Year is now well and truly established, and all those resolutions which were made in the euphoric times between Christmas and New Year's Eve have been forgotten. New Year is usually greeted with a mixture of emotions, there is a sense of joy at looking forward to good things which may happen in the year to come, but also a sense of trepidation about what we might encounter in the days and weeks ahead. If we are honest we all feel this mixture of emotions at the prospect of anything new, though perhaps the fear becomes more profound as we become older.

Within the church we are faced with the challenge of proclaiming the message of God's love for the world anew. Each and every year we can feel a little daunted by the prospect of undertaking that task, because although the task may remain the same the method of undertaking it will change. We all know that the world does not stay still, and as people of a faith which seeks to speak to the world we have to adapt our ways of communication so that people can hear in this era. What that means is that ways of communicating faith from bygone times may not be effective means of communicating that faith today. And all of this leaves us 'The Church' with a challenge, the challenge to be relevant and understandable.

One of the particular challenges we face is that the agreed language and stories of our faith, which in times past were common currency in this country, are no longer so, and part of the duty of the Church is to proclaim that language and those stories to people so that they might hear them for the first time.

It is in this context that I would like to put together a team of people from St Mary's who would be prepared to take the stories of the Bible into our Primary School. In times past the responsibility for this transmission of stories lay within families or in education, but now the Church must take a more active role in this.

The 'Open the Book' scheme has been tried and tested in many parishes and schools across the country with great success, and those who have taken part in it have found it most enjoyable. If you would like to be part of a group which takes Bible stories into school, and you don't mind a bit of 'dressing up' have a word with Jean or myself and we will tell you about the fun we have had with 'Open the Book' in the past.

With every blessing.

Stephen Steward

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2013

3 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	Malachi 3: 1-5	Hebrews 2: 14-end	Luke 2: 22-40
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 1:1-2:3	Matthew 6: 25-end	
10 February Sunday before Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Exodus 3: 1-6	John 12: 27-36a	
17 February First Sunday of Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11	Romans 10: 8b-13	Luke 4: 1-13
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jonah 3	Luke 18: 9—14	
24 February 2nd Sunday of Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Luke 13: 31-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jeremiah 22: 1-9, 13-17	Luke 14: 27-33	

SMILE PLEASE

Eagle-eyed Archdeacon Roger Morris spotted this tweet with its amusing twist courtesy of the typographical error:

#gb12 Fabulous @greenbelt misprint in the communion order of service: “Eat my beard and drink my cup.”

Equal measures of amusement and dismay were observed at St Mary’s by the misprint in The Blessing in the Christmas Day Order of Service:

May the Holy Spirit.....give you the grace to carry the good news of Chris.

Amen.

CHRISTINGLE AND THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Thank you so much to all those who supported our Christingle celebration. It was a happy family occasion, with several of our young people taking part in the service. A total of £175.29 was raised, which will go towards the work of the Children's Society helping disadvantaged children and young people in our country,

Wendy Tranter

Thank you to everyone who joined our Christmas celebrations and attended the Christingle Service on 16 December when, as a result of your generous giving, a substantial contribution was made to the funds of the society. Similar thanks are due in recognition of the generosity of our regular box holders for the contributions these make in support of work to help children. The following extracts from a recent Children's Society newsletter illustrate some of the work of the Children's Society.

"Every day, 275 children run away, and of these, approximately 70 are thrown out of their homes."

"By donating to our work you are already helping support some of the most vulnerable children and young people who run away. But the scale of the problem is such that it's not something we can solve alone through our runaway projects. We want to tackle the root causes of children and young people running away as well as addressing the symptoms. That's why this year we are launching our national Make Runaways Safe campaign calling for the government to establish a national network of support for every child that runs away from home."

"Sadly, however, the success of this project is in jeopardy as Central Government no longer prioritises the issue and Local Government cuts reduce the response of children's services and the police to issues of missing young people.

"Annabel is the main carer for her parents who both have chronic health problems. Two of her siblings are profoundly deaf, so she communicates with them through sign language. At only 17 this is a lot for her to cope with. Through the Children's Society Annabel was able to share her concerns and to find ways of overcoming the pressures. Now, with continuing support, she is studying Health and Social care, preparing to go to university with a far more positive outlook on her life.

"Caroline faced problems after her parents separated and remarried. Suddenly she didn't fit in with either of the new families and was the centre of arguments abuse and rejection. For Caroline the risks of a life on the streets seemed to offer less conflict."

To help contact The Children's Society, 69-85 Margery Street, London, WC1X OJL, www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Anne Davies

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

The Mothers' Union welcomed Lynne Tembey as our Worldwide President. Our branch begins a new year with the theme "The seeds we sow". Pat Whalley was thanked for her service as co-ordinator and was presented with garden tokens in appreciation. Anne May was welcomed to serve in that post for 2013.

Marion Tyler is unwell and we prayed for her speedy recovery. We remembered the families of Dorothy Sewell, our member and Stuart Oddie (M.U. Diocesan Treasurer) both of whom had died recently.

Nineteen members were present at the AGM which opened with a service led by Sally Frost. Reports for 2012 were given, new programmes were available and Anne thanked members for their support.

Our speaker, Revd Adam Dickens gave an excellent account of his work at the Pilsdon Community in West Dorset. In 1954 Revd Percy Smith purchased a manor house, church and 12 acres of land to give an open caring base for a community to serve anyone needing special support and practical help.

Adam and his wife Teresa have worked there for 8 years and Adam was warden for the past 3 years. They were supported by a small Christian staff. The work is structured, 4 services are held every day and attendance is voluntary for the 15-20 people being served there but they are all welcome. Places for 4 women and 16 men are available. The staff receive no stipend but get a small weekly allowance and some pension benefits. The charity supports itself in a practical way and is helped by volunteers and outside donations. Some benefits do come from the County and Government 'supporting people scheme' grants but this was recently cut by 50%.

No drugs or alcohol are allowed but recovering alcoholics, wayfarers, homeless, ex prisoners, addicts, those needing a few days break are welcomed to this care and attend expert advisers and counsellors outside the group such as GPs and Probation Officers. Everyone has to share in the practical tasks on the farm, garden or house maintenance and chores as this is their home for as long as they are able or wish to stay.

We thanked Adam for sharing this experience of his ministry with us. Adam and Teresa are now in a transition year. They will be working at Hillfield Anglican Friary near Dorchester before moving on to their next adventure in the Lord's plan. We wish them God speed.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday February 12 at 2.15 pm in the Coach House. "Land of the Midnight Sun" – a talk by Mike Blaxland. All are welcome.

Dawn Nex

20 LITTLE CHILDREN

Twas' 11 days before Christmas, around 9:38
When 20 beautiful children stormed through heaven's gate.
Their smiles were contagious, their laughter filled the air.
They could hardly believe all the beauty they saw there.
They were filled with such joy; they didn't know what to say.
They remembered nothing of what had happened earlier that day.
"Where are we?" asked a little girl, as quiet as a mouse.
"This is heaven" declared a small boy. "We're spending Christmas at God's house".
When what to their wondering eyes did appear,
but Jesus, their saviour, the children gathered near.
He looked at them and smiled, and they smiled just the same.
Then He opened His arms and He called them by name.
And in that moment was joy, that only heaven can bring,
Those children all flew into the arms of their King,
and as they lingered in the warmth of His embrace,
one small...girl turned and looked at Jesus' face.
And as if He could read all the questions she had,
He gently whispered to her, "I'll take care of Mom and Dad."
Then He looked down on earth, the world far below...
He saw all of the hurt, the sorrow, and woe.
Then He closed His eyes and He outstretched His hand,
"Let My power and presence re-enter this land!
May this country be delivered from the hands of fools.
I'm taking back my nation. I'm taking back my schools!"
Then He and the children stood up without a sound.
"Come now my children let me show you around."
Excitement filled the space, some skipped and some ran.
All displaying enthusiasm that only a small child can.
And I heard Him proclaim as He walked out of sight,
in the midst of this darkness, "I AM STILL THE LIGHT."



St Mary's Social Committee
Invite you to
CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR
Saturday 9 February 2013
At 7.00pm for 7.15pm
In St Mary's Church Hall
CHINESE STYLE MEAL AND ACTIVITIES
FOR ALL THE FAMILY
Cost £6.00.
Please bring your own drinks. Please sign list at back of Church

I HAVE A LITTLE SATNAV

I have a little Satnav
It sits there in my car
A Satnav is a driver's friend
It tells you where you are

It lists the vehicles just in front
And all those to the rear
And taking this into account
It specifies my gear.

I have a little Satnav
I've had it all my life
It's better than the normal ones
My Satnav is my wife

I'm sure no other driver
Has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car
It still gives its advice

It gives me full instructions
Especially how to drive
"It's thirty miles an hour", it says
"You're doing thirty five"

It fills me up with counselling
Each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it
And get a quieter sort?

It tells me when to stop and start
And when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever
Safe to overtake

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house,
Makes sure I'm properly fed,
It washes all my shirts and things
And keeps me warm in bed!

It tells me when a light is red
And when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively
Just when to intervene

Despite all these advantages
And my tendency to scoff,
I only wish that now and then
I could turn the wretched thing off.

Provided by Kanthi Ariaraj

HANDBELL QUARTER PEAL

On Wednesday 16 January, at the home of Pat Whalley, a successful attempt was made to ring a quarter peal of 1260 changes on the handbells. This is the first time for many years that this has been achieved. The present group of handbell ringers began ringing together two years ago, so it was a first completion of the task for everyone, and they are delighted, especially the conductor, David Banks, who not only had to keep his own two bells on course but also direct the other ringers. The quarter peal was rung to celebrate the birthday of Christopher Lees and also in memory of Rod Lees, a former member of the band who died recently. The handbells will soon be undergoing some much-needed renovation work by Bernard Stone.

Bells 1&2 Pat Whalley

Bells 3&4 David Banks

Bells 5&6 Christopher Lees

Pat Whalley

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

TEMPTATIONS

During Lent Christians often give up something they enjoy as a sign that they recognise the suffering Jesus experienced for us.



Write around the cross the name of items that each member of your family will try to give up for Lent. Remember it is important to try really hard to keep this promise. You could cut this out and keep it where it will help to remind all your family.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Do you know the story of Jesus being tempted by the Devil? Read it in Matthew or Luke, Chapter 4.

1. For how long was Jesus in the desert?

2. How many times did the Devil test Jesus by asking him to do things?

3. Who did Jesus say must be worshipped and served?



PANCAKE FUN!

Before you give up something for Lent try making pancakes to use up some of the luxuries you will go without.

You will need 110g/4oz plain flour, sifted, a pinch of salt
2 eggs, 200ml/7fl oz milk mixed with 75ml/3fl oz water
and some oil or fat for cooking.
Try to use a healthy oil.

Sieve the flour into a bowl and whisk in the two eggs, mixing thoroughly. Continue whisking adding the milk/water a little at a time to make a thin cream that has no lumps.

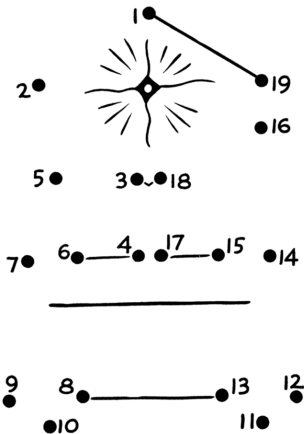
Ask an adult to help you to heat a little fat in a small frying pan. When this is hot pour in enough mixture to just cover the pan. Cook



until the bottom turns a golden brown, then flip or toss to brown the other side. Turn on to a plate and fold over, add your choice of flavour and enjoy!

For flavouring your pancake you can use sugar, lemon juice, jam, chocolate spread, lemon curd, fruit slices, cream..... Just remember you are not going to enjoy this again for at least forty days.

A picture to colour and dots to join



Gemma Sutton ©

TRACING OLDSWINFORD ANCESTORS – Part 2

Census Returns

My initial recommendation is to use census returns as a rewarding way to start researching your family tree backwards into Victorian times. A census has been taken in the UK every ten years since 1801 (apart from 1941). The early ones did not often survive and access is not allowed to returns taken less than one hundred years ago. This leaves the 1841 to 1911 censuses for our research. Each household entry lists as a minimum the names of persons living in the property, their relationship to the head of the household, whether married or single, their age, occupation and where they were born – a very detailed and useful source!

Before the era of personal computers, one would have to have known exactly where one's ancestor was living at the time of each census and then visited a nearby library to search through the census copy street by street. No longer so! Many returns have been transcribed and hard copies of these can be found in local libraries. But now there is a wonderful countrywide surname index for each census, displayed on sites like Ancestry and Find My Past. At the time of writing, index information is free to non-members of Ancestry for the years 1881 and 1911. Enter www.ancestry.co.uk into your internet browser, select 'search' and 'census', then follow the links to the relevant date. When you have located the correct person, you can even see a copy of the original document on your screen. But beware that there are many errors in the indexing. If your initial search does not find your ancestor, try various combinations of the surname, for example by using the "*" wildcard or by putting less detail into the search fields. People could often be living miles away from their home on the census day, so do not limit the search to just one town or county.

Work backwards from 1911. Later the age and birthplace information found will enable you to more easily locate birth certificates and baptismal records for each person on the census. The age of the oldest child will also help estimate the date of marriage of the parents, the ceremony often taking place in the birth location of the wife.

Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

Civil registration began on 1 July 1837 and two entries should exist for each ancestor, one of which is kept by the Superintendent Registrar of the local district in which the registration took place (Dudley Register Office in the case of Oldswinford); the other is at the General Register Office (GRO) in London. For the Stourbridge area, first search the computerised indexes for free at www.westmidlandsbmd.org.uk, or www.freebmd.org.uk for a national index. The dates in the index are arranged alphabetically in Quarters. Unlike the census index, the actual certificate cannot be seen on the screen, so make a note of the references and dates given.

In the case of a marriage index, look also for an entry for the bride, if her maiden name is known, and compare the reference number to that of the groom to confirm that you have the correct marriage. To obtain a copy certificate, (if local) call 0300 555 2345 or apply online to www.dudley.gov.uk/community-and-living/registration-service/copy-certificates. For certificates of events outside our area, ring the GRO on 0300 123 1837 or use website www.direct.gov.uk and choose 'Births, Deaths and Marriages'. Certificates are not cheap as they cost at least £9 each.

A Birth Certificate will tell you the forename and sex of the child, name and occupation of the father, name and maiden name of the mother (which helps finding the parents' marriage) and the informant's name and address. A Marriage Certificate records for both bride and groom their names, the date and place of marriage, age, if previously married, their occupation, their fathers and occupations, names of witnesses and any signatures. A Death Certificate will give the date and place of death, the occupation and cause of death of the deceased, and the name and address of the informant. But it must be remembered that not all events were registered in times gone by.

My next article will help you look for entries in Parish Registers and to find monumental inscriptions in churches and gravestones in churchyards.

Nigel Perry

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MONUMENT MADE SAFE

Faced with a costly alternative, volunteer labour was sought to attend to the cautionary matter of the dilapidated box tomb that had recently been the subject of local press interest under the extravagant heading of "Tomb Raiders." The years and weather had taken their toll such that the inscriptions had been severely eroded and the nature of the stone had been reduced to a weak and crumbling structure. Professional advice was that the structure needed to be lowered to the ground before the potential for harm became a reality. Ever conscious of the nature of the structure, its symbolism and significance and with



great respect for the very substantial weights involved, the various component parts of the tomb have been carefully separated and laid flat, still in their original, unbroken form. What evidence of inscription and memorial remains on the stone surface should now be protected from further deterioration for a very long time and in the knowledge that the churchyard may be visited by those who choose to do so in safety.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE CURATE

Continuing our series of 'looking behind the scenes' of St Mary's Church groups this month we asked Revd Ruth Atkinson to describe her role.

Although there are regular events happening during the week no two days are ever the same and the unexpected is always just around the corner. It is a wonderful tension between being organised in knowing where I am meant to be and in being prepared to go with the flow and allow things to change. Often the times I have seen God at work have been when one event has been cancelled and something else has taken its place.

Most working days begin with morning prayer which Stephen and I do together each taking it in turns week by week to lead. During that time we pray for the day ahead and for events in the world, our country and the parish which we know are of concern. We also pray for new prayers which are on the prayer board at the entrance to the Lady Chapel.

On Wednesday morning, Thursday looked like being a fairly clear day with the exception of the morning Holy Communion service but a funeral came in for St Michael's parish; this meant a visit to the church to check how I would take the service. It is always interesting to see somewhere different and to get a different perspective. I was then called out to visit someone in a care home who is very ill. In the evening I hoped to write the homily for Sunday and to begin to think about my sermon for the 10.00am service. An unexpected call came from one of the cub leaders to ask me to help them with their Faith badge. Again Stephen and I will say Evening prayer together at 5 pm when we pray for the day that has been and also to hold before God those for whom we know the night will be difficult.

Mondays are often very different with a visit into school to take assembly based around the value they are emphasising that month such as hope, peace or quality. Usually on a Monday I will visit the hospice and do a ward round, chatting to patients and their families and also the staff. As a chaplain you are there for everyone and it is important to meet them where they are whatever their faith and also if they don't have one. I now take in Mother's Union teddy bears for visiting children and they are much appreciated.

Home Communion and Holy Communion in care homes, visiting the sick at home and in hospital, meeting families in preparation for funerals, baptism preparation and planning marriage services, general administration, preparing services and writing sermons, working with community groups such as Cloverleaf who meet in the Coach House, taking part in PCC meetings and other committee meetings are all parts of the job. It is a tremendous privilege to be a priest and I love what I do.

BISHOP'S DUTIES CHANGE ORDER OF SERVICE

Richard Harris, the ever-diligent observer of matters financial, recently passed to the editors an article he had read in the Financial Times. Richard considered the article worthy of a wider audience and suggested that it might be included in this issue of the St Mary's Parish Church Magazine. Grateful of the contribution and of the thought behind this it was agreed that the article would provide an interesting reflection of aspects of the wealth of knowledge, experience and spheres of influence of the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby.

The article reported briefly on the importance of the role played by Bishop Welby to the work of the Banking Commission, an importance partly portrayed by the delay for a day imposed by the chairman of the commission, Andrew Tyrie, of the publication of his report. The chairman chose to delay publication because, as he said, "The Bishop made an outstanding contribution to our work. He is very thoughtful." The chairman was insistent that the Bishop should be present for the finalising of the report into the culture and behaviour of the banks. The delay enabled Bishop Welby to attend a Carol Service.

Keen as we were to include the article the editors were conscious of publication ethics and so we made contact with the Financial Times to seek approval for the reprinting of the article and to ensure that we included the appropriate acknowledgements. The response we received was both surprising and intriguing. We had supplied full details of the circulation of our modest monthly publication, together with the reasons for why we felt it an appropriate article to share with our readers, and we could not imagine that our inclusion of the article could in any way be regarded as a challenge to the might of this respected newspaper. How wrong we were. The reply we received gave approval for publication on payment of a fee in excess of £500 plus VAT, subject to the provision of various items of information about our magazine organisation and the signed acceptance of the terms and conditions as provided by the representative of the FT syndication who had replied to our enquiry.

Needless to say, we declined the offer for publication on the terms provided and have chosen instead to share this tale with you. Incidentally, should you not have been aware of the importance of the role taken by a major church leader in the moderation of excessive behaviour within the banking community, you now are. Also you will be aware of how relevant Richard considered it to be for this influence of the church in modern finance to be brought to your attention and the hope that may be found in the sequencing of a Carol Service and a report from a national enquiry.

Thank you for the challenge Richard.

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

PEAR AND POIRE WILLIAM CAKE

I like the simplicity of Easter's traditional foods compared to the massive hype that is too often associated with Christmas. This would make a good dessert to serve after a simple roast chicken lunch on Easter Sunday.

Use Conference pears or in late summer thin skinned Williams are best; the pear slices spiral out from the centre of the cake like the spokes of a wheel.

Serve the cake warm with plain yoghurt or custard. Don't worry if you don't have the pear liqueur, just sprinkle over a little lemon juice or ginger.

2 medium sized ripe pears peeled, cored, quartered and cut into thinner slices
3 tablespoons Poire William liqueur
100g/3 ½ oz butter
100g/3 ½ oz caster sugar
1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
2 eggs
100g/3 ½ oz ground almonds
50g/2oz Self-raising flour
1 teaspoon icing sugar

Pre-heat oven 180°C/Gas mark 4. Butter and line an 8in/20cm spring form tin.

Spoon the liqueur over the sliced pears and set aside while you make the cake.

Cream the butter, lemon zest and sugar together until light. Beat in the eggs and with the almonds and flour.

Arrange the pears in the base of the tin radiating out from the centre. Set aside the remaining liqueur. Cover with the cake mixture. Bake for 45mins or until a wooden skewer comes out clean.

Cool in the tin for 5 minutes. Drizzle over the remaining liqueur. Slide onto a serving plate, dust with a little icing sugar. This cake is best eaten warm but still tastes pretty good cold.

Ann Jennings

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AND FOR THE WINE

As Lent approaches, abstaining from drinking Poire William may be no great sacrifice – it's so difficult to find at any time!

Fortunately there are other options for a match with our pear cake dessert. However we should be careful: many sweet dessert wines burst with intense fruits; here we require a more subtle measured level of fruit sweetness. The Loire

valley provides our answer. When we think of this region of France, wines which figure prominently are Sancerre and Pouilly-Fume, the principal white wines made from Sauvignon Blanc. The other great white grape of the Loire is Chenin Blanc, grown further west and the star of Vouvray and Savennieres. Sweet styles are made too – ranging from Bonnezeaux and Quarts-de-Chaumes and at a more modest price, the wines from the Coteaux du Layon or a sweet Vouvray. All are particularly suited to white-fruited desserts such as pear cake. An alternative? Well it's in the recipe isn't it? Poire William is the world's leading pear liqueur and is the obvious match. It is quite spirity on its own. Indeed the last time I drank Poire William, I combined a small measure in a Champagne cocktail. Later I enjoyed the yellow plum liqueur Mirabelle in a similar cocktail: gorgeous! Why not try something new like that for 2013? On second thoughts, you might get to like it so do so when Lent is over! Enjoy your wine sipping.

Richard W. B Ryan

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PAULINE BROWN

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Pauline Brown at the wonderful age of 90. Pauline's father Donald Lambert was organist at St.Mary's for 47 years. In 1922 the brass book-rest on the High Altar was donated to the church in memory of Arthur, Donald's brother who was killed on The Somme during The Great War.

Pauline loved St.Mary's and lived in Old Swinford for many years. Whilst her son John was growing up, she was secretary at Pedmore Primary School, before entering Shenstone Teacher Training College as a mature student. After qualifying she became a very popular teacher at Greenfield School.

Pauline had many interests; she belonged to Stourbridge Playreaders and was a talented flower arranger decorating The Lady Chapel at Harvest Time with foliage and flowers from her garden in Enville. She especially loved her holidays in North Wales and after her retirement went to live in Llwyngwrl where she was extremely happy. Later she returned to Enville where she remained for the rest of her life. During all of her travels she kept her interest in St.Mary's through reading the church magazine.

A few years ago Dorothy Gibson and I spent a delightful afternoon with Pauline in her Enville bungalow. She talked enthusiastically about her early life illustrating it with old photographs and documents.

Pauline was a very popular lady with many friends, she will be sadly missed.

Brenda Selby

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

6 January Harry Ronald Heeks
Duncan Aaron Davies

Weddings

28 December Jonathan Turner and Sarah Fourness

Funerals

17 December	Roy Billingham	Aged 70
17 December	Barbara Boxell	Aged 75

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Congratulations and thank you to Rachel for her picture and story.



Hello my name is donkey, I live in a stable in Nazareth and Mary and Joseph came to see me because a new born king was going to be born. Mary and Joseph asked me if I would take them to Bethlehem, it was a long, long way and my back got very tired and then we were there.

We had to search all the town for somewhere to stay and they all said go to the stable. When we got to the stable the new born king was born and he cried a lot and it hurt my ears. Lots of people came to see him because they had followed a star. Then I felt really tired so I snuggled in the hay and had a nice rest.

Rachel Deville aged 5

LETTER FROM ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY

In an episode of the BBC Radio sit-com *Births Marriages and Deaths* one of the Registrars decides that themed weddings would be a good way to make more money. What follows is a Dr Who inspired wedding with the bride entering to the distinctive theme music, the ceremony punctuated with Dalek-like incantations of "Contemplate" and "Registrar", and the whole thing descending into chaos. The idea is soon dropped. But most couples like to make their weddings personalised in some way. I attended a wedding last year where the bride and groom drove away from the ceremony in a camper van rather than the usual limousine.



This month many churches will be holding a themed Valentine's Day service, inviting back couples who were previously married at the church, and using a specially prepared service which enables couples to renew their wedding vows. For example, there will be a service at Worcester Cathedral at 7pm on Valentine's evening which will include a renewal of vows, enabling couples to re-dedicate their relationship to God before heading out to celebrate their evening.

Sometimes churches decide to:

- Ring the bells before the service to mark the occasion
- Serve wedding cake and champagne after the service
- Have musicians play wedding favourites before and after the service.

Valentine's Day is an opportunity to reflect on the way that the nature of love changes over time. One of the many secular websites set up to provide resources for wedding couples suggests a passage from *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernieres in which he compares the breathless passion of being in love with love itself, which is what is left over when being in love has burned away.

Over half a century ago C S Lewis wrote about four kinds of human love which were recognised in the ancient world: affection, friendship, love that is romantic and physical, and love that is unconditional and sacrificial.

The red roses on sale at inflated prices at this time of year symbolise the third of these which may be rooted in "need-love" and change with time. Lewis believed that the fourth, unconditional "gift-love," is the greatest of loves and is found most compellingly in the sacrificial life and ministry of Jesus.

At the wedding I attended last year the groom brought a tear to many an eye when he paid very simple but heartfelt tribute to his parents for their unstinting and unconditional love. That kind of self-giving love is not only a long term basis for marriage and parenthood but lies at the heart of the Lenten journey which we begin this month.

The Venerable Fred Trethewey

CHILDREN'S PAGE ANSWERS
THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

1. 40 days 2. Three 3. The Lord our God

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