

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine

Online edition MAY 2014



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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

MAY 2014

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: toddlers	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 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, BANNES OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

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

DIARY FOR MAY 2014

Thursday 1 10.30 am Holy Communion
 Saturday 3 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
 1.00 pm Wedding
 4.00 pm Service of Welcome for Bishop Graham Usher at
 St Thomas' Dudley

SUNDAY 4 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Tuesday 6 7.30 pm Standing Committee
 Thursday 8 10.30 am Holy Communion
 Saturday 10 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
 Copy date for June magazine
 1.00 pm Wedding

Christian Aid Week, 11-17 May

SUNDAY 11 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

 10.00 am WORSHIP TOGETHER
 Monday 12 Open the Book team at Old Swinford Primary School
 pm Church Warden's Deanery Visitation
 Tuesday 13 11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
 2.15 pm Mothers' Union meeting at the Coach House
 Thursday 15 10.30 am Holy Communion
 Saturday 17 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 18 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

 3.00 pm Baptism
 Tuesday 20 7.30 pm PCC Meeting
 Thursday 22 10.30 am Holy Communion
 Saturday 24 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
 Marriage Preparation Day

SUNDAY 25 THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER—ROGATION SUNDAY

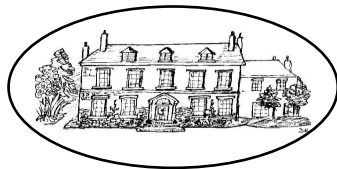
 12.30 pm Wedding
 Tuesday 27 2.30-4.00 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex
 Wednesday 28 11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
 Thursday 29 Ascension Day
 10.30 am Holy Communion
 Friday 30 2.00 pm Wedding
 Saturday 31 9.30 am St Mary's Walking Group
 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2014

Please make a note in your diary that Christian Aid Week for this year will be 11-17 May. Watch out in the coming weeks for further information of how we at St Mary's will be supporting this important opportunity to contribute to the vital work of Christian Aid as it challenges world crises with the messages, "You are not alone. We're with you, helping you to rebuild your lives, and working for peace."

Please try to help, especially with the delivery and collection of Christian Aid envelopes in a street near you during Christian Aid Week.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

During the Easter season I always get the feeling that we are living in the time of the possible. After all, at Easter we have celebrated the impossible becoming possible (the dead rising to life); and if the God that we worship can raise someone from the dead, then what can there be that God cannot do?

Christians are, above all else, the people of the resurrection, and the resurrection of Jesus undergirds everything we think and do. The reason that we worship on a Sunday is because it is the day of the resurrection, the first day of the week. Every time we meet together for worship we celebrate that fundamental tenet of our faith.

Our faith is therefore a very positive faith: it recognises the destructiveness and negativity in the world, and all the bad things that happen to people, but it transforms that view of the world by making the claim that in all situations God can bring good out of evil and hope out of despair. The Christian faith tells us that ultimately good will defeat evil, and that claim is proved by the resurrection of Jesus.

If that is the case then we, as followers of Jesus, need to express that hope in our day to day lives. We need to testify to the 'God-given' nature of life, that it is a gift which is ultimately good, and we need to celebrate that gift.

Over the years the Christian church, especially in Western Europe, has not been very good at demonstrating a feeling of celebration about life, it has tended to be life-denying rather than life-affirming. But that attitude goes against so much of Jesus' life as portrayed in the gospels. Jesus seemed to have the capacity to attract people as he celebrated life with them.

I wonder if we can say the same of ourselves? Do we as a Church and as individual Christians attract people to this life-affirming faith? Are we the positive, resurrection people that we are called to be, or does the truth lie in a different direction?

The resurrection of Jesus, and the hope that it brings for all Christians is something that we should wear as a badge, a badge which invites people to come with us on a journey of faith because that is the positive, attractive thing to do.

How many people have you attracted to our attractive faith, and conversely how many people have you put off?

May we always express our faith positively because fundamentally that is what it is about, and our mission in the world is to attract others to faith in Jesus, risen from the dead.

With every blessing,

SERVICES IN MAY 2014

4 May Third Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 2. 14a, 36-41	Luke 24. 13-35	
	6.30 pm Evensong	Haggai 1.13-2.9	1 Corinthians 3. 10-17	
11 May Fourth Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Ezra 3. 1-13	Ephesians 2. 11-end	
18 May Fifth Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 17. 55-end	John 14. 1-4	
	6.30 pm Evensong	Zechariah 4. 1-10	Revelation 2. 1-14	
25 May Rogation Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 17. 22-31	John 14 15-21	
	6.30 pm Evensong	Zechariah 8. 1-13	Revelation 21.22-22.5	

A MESSAGE FROM SPECIAL FRIENDS

Doreen Ryan writes : Thanks to all our friends at St Mary's for the cards, messages, flowers and plants during my recent stay in hospital. Thanks also for the surprise visits and it was a lovely gesture when the Mission Committee sent cakes from their Tuesday Tea. Richard and I are sorry we cannot attend church these days - we are missing our St Mary's activities. We hope you all enjoyed a Happy Easter - Peace Be With You.

THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY

To most people May is the favourite month of the year. We forget the dullness of the winter months and enjoy the warmer days as emergence of new growth in the spring brings us blossom and greenery in gardens, hedgerows and countryside. This new life is at the root of many centuries-old traditions and customs which are observed during May and May Day is celebrated across the country with different festivities.



Maypole dancing is a popular children's activity in schools and on village greens while morris dances are performed in towns and villages. Some of the dances reflect the movements and actions in planting crops and are thought to originate from fertility rites to encourage growth and good harvests. Other rural communities join in processional dances

often led by characters in special costumes such as the Padstow 'Oss' in Cornwall and 'Jack in the Green' in some English and Welsh counties. The 'Green Man Festival' has now become established as a major annual event in the village of Clun in Shropshire. (See Page 8)



Well-dressing is another May custom in which wells in villages are decorated as an act of blessing and thanksgiving. The decorations are typically made from a mosaic of flower petals often with a religious theme. Although the tradition is usually associated with the Derbyshire Peak District it is also practised in other areas including Malvern. This year The Malvern Well Dressing Festival is on 2-3 May when dozens of springs and wells around the Hills will be decorated on the theme of 'Peace'. The topic will enable some dressers to remember the First World War, while others are likely to approach the theme from a broader perspective.

Music features in many of the celebrations and in Oxford, madrigals are sung from the top of Magdalen College tower to welcome the sunrise on 1 May, providing an opportunity for much student revelry.

It is not surprising that the season has inspired our great poets to address the month in verse. John Milton's *Song, On May Morning* is a particularly lyrical expression of the joys of May.....

Now the bright morning star, day's harbinger,
Comes dancing from the east, and leads with her
The flowery May, who from her green lap throws
The yellow cowslip, and the pale primrose.
Hail, bounteous May, that doth inspire
Mirth, and youth, and warm desire;
Woods and groves are of thy dressing,
Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing,
Thus we salute thee with our early song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long.

Within the church calendar May is marked with the festival of The Ascension of Christ forty days after Easter; this year Ascension Day is on 29 May.

Alec Beevers

ST MARY'S TUESDAY TEA

Thank you to everyone who came to support our special afternoon on 25 March, fund-raising for the Royal Marsden Hospital where Richard Tatler has had wonderful treatment.

It was a lovely afternoon with members of Richard's family present. There was tea and cake, and time to chat to friends. As well as enjoying the cakes, we sold a vast selection, from beautifully-decorated cupcakes to larger ones, and we auctioned a lovely Simnel cake. An exciting raffle added to the proceeds of the afternoon.

So many people gave generous donations, made cakes and donated numerous raffle prizes. Between 75 – 80 people were there to support Richard and his family and a total of £485 was raised for the Royal Marsden. This is an amazing amount - thank you all!

St Mary's Mission and Pastoral Committee

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT TUESDAY TEA

Richard Tatler writes:-

I would like to thank everyone who came to the cake sale and also donated money towards the Royal Marsden Hospital. Myself, Shama and Emily have benefited from wonderful support and treatment. We are truly blessed. All our love to all at St Mary's.

THE GREEN MAN - WHO IS HE?

The “Green Man” is the dimly remembered symbol of an ancient spirit of Nature, recognized and revered by many civilizations and adopted by many religions. His name means the Green One or Verdant One. He is the symbol of the eternal cycle of Nature, the mysterious figure who dies and is reborn each year.



Clun Green Man and
May Queen

He is a part of interwoven beliefs and customs associated with ploughing and sowing, with harvest and the autumn slaughter of beasts – the seeming death of Nature in winter, followed by the miracle of rebirth in the Spring. To the medieval Christian mind he

became a symbol of rebirth after death.

He can be found in churches, chapels and cathedrals all across Europe. He appears on temple walls in India and in churches in Borneo. He dances in May Day processions in Britain. In one such festival in Clun, Shropshire, the Green Man enters the village on Mayday by crossing the bridge in the centre of the village where he encounters 'Old Frosty', the spirit of winter. The two engage in a battle of words before the Green Man drives out the winter so that the Queen of May, along with her attendants, are permitted to cross over and bring Spring to the village. The Queen is accompanied by musicians, Morris dancers and other traditional figures. They travel up the hill to the castle where there is a May festival in full swing with stalls, entertainment, duck racing and music.

The Green Man may be said to be associated with other ancient gods too. He is Osiris, Dionysius, Odin, Tamuz. He is still very much with us today. He is a symbol of the eternal cycle of nature. Where the Old Religion celebrated New Year with 'Samhain' in November today we have Halloween followed by All Saints' Day. 'Beltane' in May marked the beginning of new life in the spring; now we celebrate the reborn Christ at Easter.

The Green Man is as old as four thousand years. He has become intertwined in folk tales with “Jack in the Green”, “John Barleycorn” and even “Robin Hood”, but each and every “Green Man” is different in the way the craftsman or the age interpreted him.



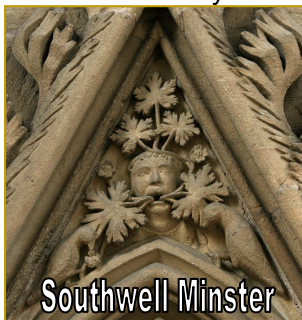
Defeat of Old Frosty



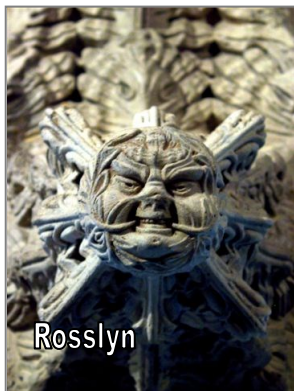
The message of his image is always the same – there is life after death. So many amazingly designed images of the same icon, created all over the world long before communication could have influenced the earliest copies bear testament to a strong and long-held belief.

Green Men are found in so many places once you start looking. To be so widespread in comparatively modern cathedrals as St Paul's and Notre Dame is an indication how closely he was linked to Christianity at that time. Green Men can be found all around the world. In France they are in Rouen Cathedral, in Bourges, Chartres, Sees, Auxerre and many smaller churches.

In Germany there are many more and in England they can be found in Exeter, Ely, Winchester, Lichfield and in hundreds of parish churches. The Chapter House at Southwell



Minster has a dozen or more – but never a likeness of Christ or the Virgin! In Rosslyn Chapel, (famous in Dan Brown's book – The Da Vinci Code) a Templar church south of Edinburgh, there are reputed to be over a hundred Green Men – but they say you



will never be able to count them all correctly! Where other pagan symbols were crushed under the weight of iconoclastic Christianity, the sacred tree, the vine and the oak survived along with the Green Man, symbol of rebirth, irrepressible vitality and love of nature.

Helen Plaice

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

On a bright sunny day with a gentle breeze, the March walk took place in Warwickshire. The group of ten assembled at the Boar's Head in Hampton Lucy and set off across the recently flooded fields towards Newbold Pacy, past fields with lambs and the hedgerows filled with the blackthorn flowers, before swinging south once more to enter Wellesbourne Village.

The walk takes you past three churches - Hampton Lucy is a most impressive building for a small village. The church in Wellesbourne is much smaller although the village has grown considerably in recent years. The path goes through the churchyard past fields and over a footbridge. The group took a minor detour to view the oldest part of Wellesbourne. This is where Chedham's Yard is located, a site which won lottery funding on the TV programme hosted by Griff Rees Jones. It was not yet open for the season. The route then follows the river to Charlecote where we passed the third church set within the grounds of Charlecote Hall.

The walk was about six and half miles and led us back to the Boars Head where we were ready to have our lunch.

Sue Solly

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

WEEDING YOUR GARDEN

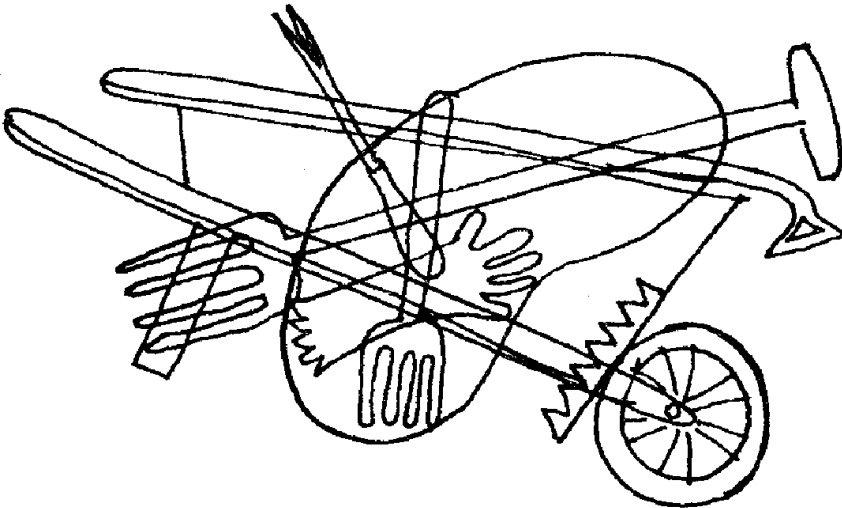
Do you help to weed the garden? You can pull out all the weeds and leave the garden looking clean and neat, but the next day the weeds are growing again. Where do they come from? Has an enemy come in the night and sown them? No, the seeds are always there although we cannot see them, ready to grow as soon as there is space.

The seeds of sin are in our hearts and they keep coming up! Saint Paul said “I do not want to sin, but I do sin!”. It is very hard to be good.

WEEDING TOOLS

Here are some tools we can use to help us weed the garden. Can you work out what they are?

How many tools can you see?



WEEDING

Pick out the 'good' from these 'weeds' and put a ring round it:

1. WITCH, WIZARD, FAIRY, OGRE, GOBLIN
2. FROST, ICE, SNOW, HAIL SUNSHINE, THUNDER
3. CHICKEN, ROOK, SPARROW, MAGPIE, CROW
4. SATAN, DEVIL, DEMON, IMP, ANGEL
5. DISLIKE, FEAR, LOATHE, LOVE, HATE

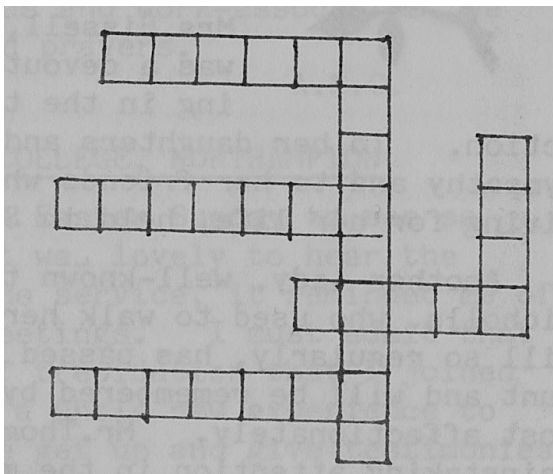
FIND THE FLOWER

Take one letter from each 'weed' in turn to find the name of a flower:

PLANTAIN
SPURGE
BINDWEED
MUSTARD
GROUNDSEL
DOCK
THISTLE
CHICKWEED

KNOW YOUR WEEDS

Here are 6 weeds of our hearts that we often let grow. We are often jealous, selfish, lazy, angry, dishonest and unkind. Can you fit these into the grid?



PICK OUT THE NAMES

Pick out the names from these sentences. All the names are in the Bible.
E.g. He has a pet ermine. Put a ring round them.

1. My savings had amounted to ten pounds.
2. She had to change her odd socks.
3. I did 'is' and 'are' in grammar yesterday.
4. I like jam especially scones.
5. She sat down to rest her aching feet.
6. The chapel is having a new bell.

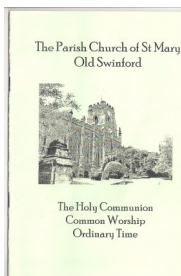
We all know when we have done wrong. It makes us unhappy when we have to be told off. Mummy and Daddy do that to help us know right from wrong and show us the weeds that can grow in our hearts. But when we say "sorry" they show us that they still love us.

It is the same with God, our Father. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

OUT WITH THE OLD.....IN WITH THE NEW

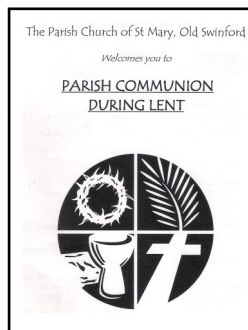
Over the past several months worshippers will have noticed the introduction of a series of new orders of service. In what has been a very substantial task, Revd Stephen Askew has reviewed all orders of service and dedicated service sheets to provide a full series for the various seasons of the church year and for most special services.

The old, familiar format has now been dispensed with as a newer format has taken its place. The changes are not simply in terms of presentation, although this element of the work is of importance. Much thought has gone into the form of the services, the wording used, the prayers included and the way in which all is laid out in each booklet.



The purpose of this review is many-fold. Certainly, the booklets have a fresh and attractive appearance which, in itself, brings a degree of refreshment to our worship. This may be welcome by some

and not regarded as of great importance by others. On the other hand, the more contemporary appearance of the booklets provides something which those not familiar with the format of a service may find less daunting and more relevant. Hence it serves a very important purpose in that it makes worship more accessible to those to whom we would hope to reach out to and invite to share with us. Hopefully, the format is more accessible to younger people and may help to involve children more in parts of our services.



Each booklet provides variety, a degree of variance within a basic theme. For those familiar with the services it introduces the challenge of the slightly unfamiliar, something different, which requires one to pay attention and to follow with concentration. It invites one to consider the various elements of the service in a way that constant familiarity with the same may bring about a sense of staleness and repetition without any real engagement with what the words are and what they mean. Illustration serves to add interest to the presentation and relevance in that symbols assist understanding and associations with events.

The introduction of new prayers or new ways of addressing established elements of our services may help us to think afresh about what each of us are saying in our prayers and may encourage a reflection that will enable each of us to secure our relationship with God. All of this combines to contribute to our sense of being 'Kingdom People', part of a community which may be renewed and transformed through worship.

Thank you to Stephen for all the work that has gone into assembling these service guides and for the care and thought he has provided for his congregation through this work and leadership. Thank you also to John Sutton for his contributions, especially the many hours it has taken to see these booklets printed and presented for us to enjoy.

The Church Wardens

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

Twenty members were welcomed to the April meeting and received the Branch Lines newsletter which Anne May had produced. She announced that Jean Swift was elected Deanery Co-ordinator on 31 March and will be formally commissioned at the Deanery Festival on 10 June. This will be hosted by our branch in St Mary's.

Members were reminded that they are required to sign and return their data protection forms for the diocese. Please contact Anne May for further details.

Kanthi Ariaraj led our meditation for Lent on the subject of 'Hope'. We were reminded of the last week of the life of Christ, from Palm Sunday to the day of the Resurrection, and how different aspects of hope are experienced today, as then. Hope is our privilege for in Christ we receive love, forgiveness and mercy and it continues today and beyond.

False Hope – as on Palm Sunday, Christ was not a Messiah to crush the Romans or to drive them from the Holy Land, so disappointment came. For us, we feel our prayers unanswered, but our hope must be His will, not ours to meet every need.

Hope Lost - as at the Crucifixion the cry is heard, 'My God why have you forsaken me?' (Psalm 22 v1). So many are crushed by stress, unemployment, difficult relationships. We question "Why?" (See Psalm 22 v24-31)

Hope Found - Matthew 28 v1-10, Mary recognised The Risen Lord and he encourages her to tell others of the glory in resurrection. Her commission is ours, we must share this work to tell others.

Hope at Work - Like Peter, the church is called to come to Christ, but then always to go with the invitation to others, wherever we are.

Hope Today - We need to share Christ's desire of reconciliation with others and repentance in our lives with God, among others, everywhere.

Our Hope at Easter - Like a butterfly emerging from a chrysalis, full life, joy and glory have no bounds. This is our true hope.

Kanthi ended by playing a song written by Colin Hodgetts, "Song of the Still Heart" followed by us saying the Grace together.

This was a deep and wonderful preparation for Easter and we thanked Kanthi for leading us in our time together.

Next Meeting - Tuesday 13 May, 2.15 pm at the Coach House-

"The Art of Illustrating Manuscripts" - Speaker, John Wheeler.

Invitation - Annual Coffee Morning in Clent Parish Hall, Thursday, 1 May,
10.00 - 12.00 noon, charge £1.00 to include refreshments.

These meetings are open to all

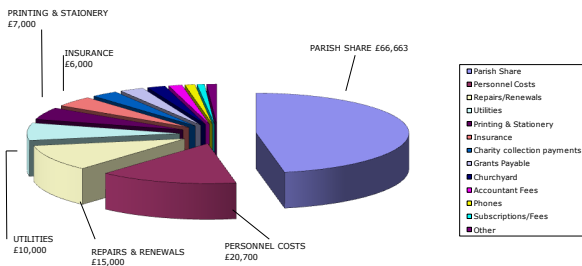
Dawn Nex

A very special thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Lent Course, especially to Revd Stephen Agnew and Hilary Savage who put much work into the preparation and presentation of the six evening meetings.

THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF ST MARY'S

At every service on Sunday 6 April there was a presentation of the financial circumstances of St Mary's. Outgoings for 2013 amounted to almost £142,000 whilst income was just over £144,000. We just remained solvent!

St Mary's Total Expenditure for 2013 = £141,558



It may be difficult to imagine how we spent this amount of money so this pie chart displays where the money goes. By far the largest single expense, at £66,663 is the Parish Share, a sum we are obliged to pay to the Diocese. This covers the cost of diocesan ministry and mission, includes clergy pay, housing, National

Insurance, Rates, pension contributions and training of existing and new clergy. The cost to the Diocese of an incumbent in a Parish is currently very nearly £50,000 (This is not the stipend actually paid). When considering these costs we should be aware that for many years we have benefited from a curate, the cost of whom is included in this budget.

Our Parish Share is bound to increase. Although the size of St Mary's congregation may be diminishing due to illness and death, other congregations are decreasing more, so we must shoulder a higher share of the total. At present levels of income it is almost certain these will not meet our expenditure for 2014.

Of our income, by far the largest share comes from donations; almost £94,000 in 2013. Fees for weddings and funerals and the hire of the church hall account for most of the rest. If our costs are bound to increase, we need to increase our income. We need to increase our donations.

Whether you give by standing order, envelope or Gift Aid envelope, please review your giving and, if possible give a little more. If you are a tax payer please ensure you gift aid your donations. For every £1 given we can claim 25p of gift aid. That makes a big difference. Thank you.

For more detail please see the information displayed in the Narthex.

Resources Committee

A PRAYER FOR WISE FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Lord Jesus Christ,
by taking human flesh you sanctified material things
to be a means of your grace;
grant us wisdom in our attitude to money,
and a generous heart in the use of the resources entrusted to us,
that by faithful stewardship we may glorify you. Amen.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR – WHY WE SHOULD REMEMBER

(1) HOW IT STARTED

This year brings the commemoration of the start of what we in Britain call the First World War. It was the duration, the horrors, the enormous death toll, the extent of the destruction and the challenge of recovery that led to a national observance of remembrance that has endured to this day. As we move towards the anniversary of the declaration of war by Britain, on Germany, this series of articles is intended to inform our younger generation, encourage reflection and reconciliation and to pay homage to those who contributed to a conflict in the hope of an everlasting peace.

The First World War, 1914-1918, began as a result of an instable 'balance of power' between the nations of Europe. Germany, Austria and Italy had formed an alliance by which they undertook to support each other in the event of international dispute. France, Britain and Russia had a similar agreement. Many countries were building up the size of their armies and navies and threatening the use of these to protect their interests in empires throughout the world. Inevitably, most countries were more concerned with looking after their own interests and when these were threatened the use of force was often the chosen response.

When the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in June 1914, Austria declared war on Serbia. Russia felt obliged to help Serbia because Russia had undertaken to protect the Balkan countries and so Russia mobilised her troops. Germany was alarmed by Russia's actions and hoping to avoid a war on two fronts put into practice the Schlieffen Plan (the only plan Germany had for war) which was to invade France via Belgium. Britain demanded Germany withdraw from Belgium and when Germany did not, Britain declared war on Germany. So began a war which spread throughout the world via the various colonial interests and alliances of each participant country.



***God is our shelter and our strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.
So we will not be afraid, even if the earth is shaken and mountains
fall into the ocean depths; even if the seas roar and rage,
and the hills are shaken by the violence.***

Psalms 46

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

EASTER LEMON AND LIME CHEESECAKE

A simple dessert to serve on Easter Sunday. If you have any children visiting they will enjoy decorating it for you

75g (3oz) digestive or ginger biscuits crushed
40g (1 ½ oz) butter
225g (8oz) cream cheese (full fat)
400g (14oz) condensed milk, chilled
grated rind and juice of 2 lemons and 1 lime
Easter speckled eggs and little chicks to decorate



Melt the butter and add crushed biscuits. Mix well.

Turn into an 8inch loose-bottomed cake tin and press firmly on to the base with the back of a spoon. (Can also be made in 6 ramekin dishes. Wet the dishes and line with cling film to allow easy removal).

Put the cheese into a bowl and mix well, beat in the condensed milk until smooth. Mix in the lemon and lime rind and juice. Pour over the biscuit base and chill in the fridge until set, preferably overnight.

Strawberries dipped in dark chocolate make a great decoration if not making at Easter.

Cream cheese is often sold in 200g packs. If it's something you don't use 200g will work fine.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

At the heart of our recipe lie pure and precise citrus fruits. Looking for a match in the wine world, we are drawn to two grapes in particular: Semillon and Riesling. Sweet Semillons, whether from Australia, South Africa or France combine clean citrus flavours with a richness well suited to the cheesecake. Rieslings announce themselves with piercing linear fruits capturing precisely the lemon and lime flavours and with these attributes would edge the contest.



That then leaves the question of which level to select. In ascending order of complexity, we meet Rieslings labelled Auslese, Beerenauslese and Trockenbeerenauslese (TBA). The term Auslese represents a wine with extra ripeness : tangy and mouth-watering. Those classified as Beerenauslese gain greater intensity of fruit and sweetness from late season harvesting and the effects of noble rot—the shrivelled grapes producing an unctuous liquid. Trockenbeerenauslese wines are fully botrytized (advanced noble rot): sweet, intense and honey-rich. We will elect a Riesling Beerenauslese as the best option here for our lemon and lime cheesecake.

People sometimes ask me about liqueurs or even cocktail drinks to accompany desserts. A glass of Limoncello offers a lovely clean intense lemon sip, although personally I prefer such at the very end of a meal as a 'digestivo'. The problem with cocktails (in my view) is that they frequently involve spoiling wonderful liqueurs like Amaretto with splashes of lemonade or cola. Perhaps a citrus flavoured vodka or a rum and lime combination has merit as a match for our cheesecake, but with the option of a delightful Riesling Beerenauslese available, what's the point ? ! Enjoy your wine sipping.

Richard W. B. Ryan

OPEN THE BOOK

“Now, who would like to be Jesus this week?” “ Who can make a boat?” “Who can get some material to make headdresses?” These are the sort of questions the Open The Book team face on a regular basis as we prepare for our next dramatization of a Bible story to the pupils of Old Swinford Primary School.



A group of around twelve members of St Mary’s congregation have performed twelve stories to date. Since last September we have re-enacted both Old and New Testament stories during Monday morning assemblies. Everyone brings their own gifts to the team. It may be acting or reading or simply preparing props or materials for a story. We swap around each time and share thoughts and ideas as to how we can involve the children in our presentations.

It has been a most rewarding experience for all of us, especially when you see the expressions on the faces of the children as they become absorbed in the storyline. If you feel you have something to contribute to this worthwhile activity, you are most welcome to join us as we proclaim the Good News in a new way.



Jean Agnew

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

16 March	Eliseo Jaxon Beck
6 April	Olivia Rose Weaver Alyssa Jane Ross

Weddings

28 March	Mark Wear and Nadine Jones
5 April	Sebastian Bird and Kathryn Woodall

Funerals

28 March	Martha Richards	Aged 95
7 April	Reginald Carradine	Aged 86

Reader Ministry Roadshow

A roadshow for anyone considering Reader ministry, however tentatively, and at any stage of their exploration, is taking place on Wednesday, 21 May, 7.30pm at St. Matthias Church, Church Road, Malvern Link WR14 1NG.

An opportunity to meet Readers, gather more information and identify next steps. It'll look at how Licensed Lay Ministry relates to Authorised Lay Ministry, at ways of discerning vocation and at resources for helping us grow in faith. Friends and supporters also welcome.

Book with Canon Nick Wright on 01386 792222 or at ink.vic@btinternet.com

For any general information on Reader ministry contact Canon Sheila Banyard on 01905 773134 or at sk.banyard@virgin.net

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday 17th May 2014 at 9.00 am
The Talbot Hotel, High Street, Stourbridge

Cereal, fruit juice, bacon butties etc.

Cost: £5 (payable on the day)

Men from any church or none are welcome!

Come and enjoy a chat

Please book in advance.
No booking, no food!

Alan Sanders
Hanbury Hill Baptist Church

SPEAKER:

Clive Dudbridge
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LETTER FROM THE NEW BISHOP OF DUDLEY

I am delighted to be with you and I'm looking forward to getting to know you and the parishes in the Diocese. I have much to learn, but I have already felt hugely supported by Bishop John and everyone whom I have met. In the coming months I'm going to be visiting each Deanery and I'm looking forward to hearing more stories about how people are living out their lives as Kingdom People.



I was recently asked about my priorities by a BBC Hereford and Worcester presenter. Whilst much is still to evolve, not least through listening carefully in my new context, I spoke of two things:

The first is Christian discipleship – encouraging us all to be rooted in the stillness of prayer, the wisdom and challenge of the scriptures, and the joy of Holy Communion. I'm keen to ask questions about how we might encourage more people into a loving and trusting relationship with Jesus Christ and how each of us can find ways to share with others the Good News that daily inspires our lives.

The second is celebrating the ways in which Christians are joining in God's mission through service to others in their local communities and further afield. That might be through the creative work we do with children and young people, or through practical aid such as food banks, or supporting our schools, or through the gentle hand of care for the lonely or the homeless, or being a beacon of light in a myriad of different places that we find ourselves in. The people of the Church of England, together with our ecumenical partners, do amazing things every day of the year to support others to flourish – that's Good News.

One of the most moving parts of the ordination service in St Paul's Cathedral, in which I became a bishop, was being given the pastoral staff. This was a gift from the Diocese of Newcastle and is beautifully simple in its design and thoroughly Northumbrian in its creation. In Northumberland a shepherd rarely uses the crook to catch a sheep. Instead they use it to remain absolutely still so that the sheep gather around in trust. It reminds me of the balance between the being and the doing of our lives as we wait patiently on God's loving kindness.

This is a kindness that I look forward to seeing at work in lots of places as our life together is lived out in love and peace, joy and hope.

With my prayers.
+Graham

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