

# **ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD**

**Parish Church Magazine**

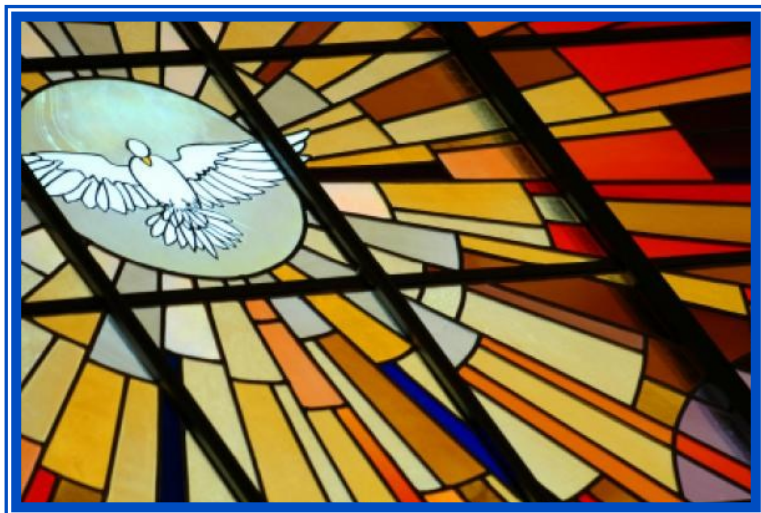
**JUNE 2014—Online edition**



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## Parish Church Magazine



*I will pour out my Spirit on all people*

**PRIEST IN CHARGE:** The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,  
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**JUNE 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)
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 5.00 pm Evening Prayer on Tuesdays will alternate between St Mary's, St Michaels and Holy Trinity Amblecote
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 Day Off:</b>	Friday

## OTHER REGULAR EVENTS



Bible Study Group:	Tuesday afternoons at 2.30pm	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

**Parish Office:** Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday  
441003

**Church website address:** [www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk)  
E-mail: [st.mary.os@btconnect.com](mailto:st.mary.os@btconnect.com)

**Magazine e-mail address:** [stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 JUNE 2014

<b>SUNDAY 1</b>	<b>THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> 3.00 pm Baptism
Tuesday 3	7.00 pm Archdeanery Meeting in the Narthex
Thursday 5	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.45 pm Admission of Wardens Service, St Stephen's, Redditch
Saturday 7	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 12.30 pm Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 8</b>	<b>PENTECOST - WHIT SUNDAY</b> 10.00 am WORSHIP TOGETHER AND EUCHARIST
Monday 9	Open the Book team at Old Swinford Primary School
Tuesday 10	Copy date for July/August magazine 11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Thursday 12	2.15 pm Mothers' Union Deanery Festival 10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 14	7.15 pm Deanery Synod in Narthex 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 15</b>	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b> 3.00 pm Baptism
Tuesday 17	2.00 pm Anchor Group
Thursday 19	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.00 pm King Edwards Charter Day Service
Saturday 21	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 10.00 am-12.00 noon Mission Coffee Morning 3.00 pm Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 22</b>	<b>THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b> 2.30-4.00 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex
Tuesday 24	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Wednesday 25	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.30 pm Mary Stevens Hospice Midsummer Service
Thursday 26	9.30 am St Mary's Walking Group 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
Saturday 28	12.30 pm Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 29</b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>

Please join us for a  
**Mission Coffee Morning**  
**Saturday, 21 June 2014**

10.00 am – 12.00 noon

in the Narthex

*Raising funds for Mission Giving*

Coffee/tea and delicious cakes

£1.50

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

The Annual Church Meeting took place at the end of April; because of the late Easter this year it actually took place on the latest date it could (well almost), as all APCMs must be held before the end of April. So a group of us retired to the Church Hall after a shortened Evensong on 27 April and heard reports of what the Church has been doing over the last 12 months and elected people to take on leadership responsibilities over the coming 12 months.

As we looked back over the year past we recognised the contributions of so many to the life of St Mary's and took the time to say 'Thank You' to many people for the things they had done for the Church, often with little recognition. In an organisation which calls on the skills and dedication of so many people we can sometimes take those people and the tasks that they perform for granted. I believe that central to the Christian gospel is the valuing of each and every person as a child of God, and I believe that Jesus demonstrated this during his lifetime, often making a point of reaching out to people who were ignored and treated with disdain by the religious leaders of the time. We must always guard against such crass behaviour which is both unworthy of those who call themselves Christians and frankly un-Godlike. So unashamedly the Wardens and I took the time in that meeting to say 'Thank You'. If you were not able to be at that meeting I would like to extend a 'Thank You' to YOU as well for your contribution to the life of St Mary's.

Many of us were brought up with a Church which operated in much the same way that we imagined it always did. Whether or not that assumption is true, the same cannot be said for the Church today which seeks to reach out to people to proclaim the love of God, not just passively but actively. So the Church like many institutions is constantly looking for new ways to 'be Church'. The new Priest comes with initiatives for how this might be done, and every initiative requires people to make it happen: Open the Book, Messy Church, Marriage Preparation, whatever the initiative people are asked to 'come on board'. One of my heartfelt 'thank yous' of the evening of the APCM was that people had said and continue to say 'YES', and they do come on board, and that I find so encouraging.

Of course there are always other things that I would like people to 'come on board' with, and at the Annual Meeting, some of these things were highlighted. We need extra help with maintaining the churchyard, with working with our young people, with joining various tea / coffee rotas, with serving in our Communion services and with helping to clean the church and arrange flowers, to name just a few. One of the other things that I mentioned was that we need help with developing the pastoral care of the parish; whilst this has traditionally been the responsibility of the clergy, with the number of clergy decreasing and the likelihood of taking over additional churches there is a potential gap here, and over the next year I would like to encourage people to take some responsibility for pastoral care within the parish.

In preparation for that I encourage you to look seriously at whether you might like to take advantage of the ALM training offered by the Diocese of Worcester in the Autumn of this year. There are a number of members of the congregation who are undertaking this training and specialising in 'Pastoral Care' – would YOU consider joining them? Have a look at the Diocesan website <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/FH/221> and 'come on board'. Whether you do or not, thank you for all that you do for St Mary's.

With every blessing,



## SERVICES IN JUNE 2014

<b>1 June</b> <b>The Sunday after</b> <b>Ascension</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 1. 6-14	John 17. 1-11
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Samuel 23. 1-5	Ephesians 1. 15-23
<b>8 June</b> <b>Pentecost</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER AND EUCHARIST	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Joel 2. 21-32	Acts 2. 14-21
<b>15 June</b> <b>Trinity Sunday</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 40. 12-17, 27-31	Matthew 28. 16-20
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 6. 1-8	John 16. 5-15
<b>22 June</b> <b>First Sunday</b> <b>after Trinity</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 6. 1b-11	Matthew 10. 24-39
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Samuel 24. 1-17	Luke 14. 12-24
<b>29 June</b> <b>Second Sunday</b> <b>after Trinity</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 12. 1-11	Matthew 16. 13-19
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 34. 11-16	John 21. 15-22

## JUNE IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER

The month of June is usually regarded as the transition from spring to summer and the meteorological calendar takes 1 June as the start of summer for weather-related references. The apparent paradox of Midsummer's Day falling on 21 or 22 June arises because it is based on astronomical observation as the days start to shorten. Whichever calendar you refer to, the month is associated with long summer days and warm weather. The well-known song from Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical 'Carousel' – June is bustin' out all over – reflects the profusion of flowers which come in to bloom this month and June is traditionally known as the month of the rose. June is supposedly named after the Roman goddess Juno who was the goddess of marriage and the month is most popular for weddings.

Midsummer's Day, or the summer solstice, is an event which is observed worldwide. In England the largest celebration is at Stonehenge which itself is believed to be a form of astronomical clock as the alignment of the stones points to the position of the sunrise on the longest day of the year. The date is also associated with magic, mystery and fairies and inspired Shakespeare's comedy – A Midsummer Night's Dream.



The Queen's official birthday is also celebrated in June with the 'Trooping the Colour' ceremony – a colourful spectacle of traditional pageantry performed by the Queen's infantry regiments and allows the troops of the Household Division to pay a personal tribute to the Sovereign.

The birthday of St John the Baptist is observed on 24 June and St John's Day is celebrated in many European countries and Catholic communities in combination with summer solstice events. This saint gives his name to St John's Wort, a yellow flowered plant used in herbal medicines prescribed for the cure of depression.

In the poem 'The poet's calendar' by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the joy of June is expressed in the following lines:

"Mine is the Month of Roses; yes, and mine  
The Month of Marriages! All pleasant sights  
And scents, the fragrance of the blossoming vine,  
The foliage of the valleys and the heights.  
Mine are the longest days, the loveliest nights;  
The mower's scythe makes music to my ear;  
I am the mother of all dear delights;  
I am the fairest daughter of the year."

**Alec Beevers**



## **MESSY CHURCH**

### **Easter Saturday 19 April**

Today was St Mary's first ever Messy Church in the Church Hall. It was a lovely get together for children and their parents to enjoy craft activities, to celebrate God through worship and to eat together.

I made lots of lovely crafts – a decorated biscuit, an Easter nest cake, an Easter chick, a decorated tea light holder, a Resurrection Garden and an Easter basket. Stephen told us the Easter story in a simple way we could understand and we joined in by answering questions. Les Timms led some lively singing of Easter songs. Then we sat down for pizza, hot cross buns and drinks together.

The afternoon was fun and lively, and a really great way to come to church. Thank you to all who organised it – including the Youth Club leaders. Your hard work was greatly appreciated and myself and my friend really enjoyed it. I'm sure all the other children and parents did too. It was a wonderful Celebration of Easter and a very successful first Messy Church. I hope that another Messy Church will be planned again soon.



**Georgia Hawkins**

## **WOMEN BISHOPS**

On Wednesday 30 April, the Worcester Diocesan Synod overwhelmingly supported the proposals from the General Synod of the Church of England to enable women to become bishops.

The following day Bishop John said: "Yesterday's vote was wonderful news. The Diocese of Worcester has always been overwhelmingly in favour of allowing women to become bishops so I was not surprised that the vote was almost unanimous. We hope that other dioceses will give a similarly clear steer to General Synod and it won't be long before we are consecrating our first female bishop."

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



## THE ANNUAL PARISH CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parish Church Meeting took place on a rather damp evening on 27 April. About 30 people braved the weather to share in this important event in the church calendar when reports are received and elections take place for the coming year. Marjorie Ferguson and Tony Tafford were elected as Church Wardens for 2014/2015.

Revd Stephen Agnew presented his report for the past year in which he reflected on what had been achieved as a consequence of the team effort of a great many generous contributors. Stephen especially acknowledged the contributions of Revd Ruth Atkinson and expressed our shared hope that she will soon be successful in finding the full-time placement she seeks.

A key element of the past year had been work that has included the consideration of how St Mary's may continue to promote and reflect the diocesan 'Kingdom People' initiative, something that had been central to the 'Parish Away Day' of last May and Quiet Days organised at Glasshampton Monastery and at Holland House. Along with the best of former practices, new ways of thinking, praying, worshipping and sharing the mission of St Mary's would seem to be required if we are to re-grow a congregation that has experienced the sad but inevitable reduction in numbers due to poor health and life's end. The challenge for the coming year will be to see how ideas may evolve into practice as the invitation into the St Mary's community is promoted widely and in a manner that is welcoming and meaningful. Special mention was made of those whose passing had brought to an end a very long and committed involvement with St Mary's.

It is to be recognised that much has already been achieved through the substantial and highly valued work of many people. New Order of Service booklets, the parish website, Tuesday Teas, Wedding Preparation Days serve to illustrate how many people in various ways are already actively promoting the relevance and role of St Mary's in a vibrant local community.

The Reports of the Treasurer, Secretary and Master of Fabric were received, along with the message that underlined a financial challenge for the future. Essential works and increasing costs will inevitably impose additional financial and work burdens for which creative solutions will need to be sought. Katey Fletcher, Secretary to the PCC, encouraged people to access and read the records of PCC meetings which are filed in the Narthex and are constantly available. With a fuller knowledge of the issues facing the PCC it may be that links to other sources of help may be forthcoming and further new ideas may be formulated. Revd Stephen Agnew, Revd Ruth Atkinson, Russ Fowler, Katey Fletcher and Tony Lloyd were formally thanked for their work.

The Deputy Wardens and those who fulfil the roles of Sidesmen and Sideswomen were confirmed in their roles in response to their agreement to serve. Thanks were recorded to them and to everyone who contributes in many and varied ways to our acts of worship and the wider work of the parish for their much valued and appreciated support.

# THE FIRST WORLD WAR – WHY WE SHOULD REMEMBER

## (2) THE WAR ON THE WESTERN FRONT

The German plan to avoid a war on both an eastern and a western front failed in the face of strong opposition from French and British troops at the Battle of the Marne. This led to German and Allied troops 'digging-in' to form defensive lines of trenches that faced each other across an empty and exposed 'no-man's land'.



In these trenches, over several years, troops endured a twice daily routine of artillery bombardment of the opposing enemy line intended to kill and scare men, destroy and clear defences to enable an advance as men went 'over the top' with bayonets fixed to face a barrage of shells and machine gun fire in an attempt to gain a few metres of advance.

When this fighting eased, men turned to the daily task of reinforcing defences, recovering the injured, burying the dead, re-supplying the front line and attending to the essentials of existing in such extreme conditions, all whilst trying to avoid the threat from snipers and the invisible terror of gas attacks.

The weather, both great heat and freezing temperatures, often so wet that troops lived waist-deep in water and mud, poor shelter, inadequate food, attacks of pestilence and disease brought even greater hardships in the face of an expectation that every man should do his duty. Shell-shock, a long unrecognised consequence of exposure to this unbelievably harsh environment caused some men to break down, often to face accusations of cowardice for which they would be court-martialled and, in some cases, shot.

Over four years, hope turned to despair as offensive after offensive failed to break the stalemate, and the apparent futility of the war angered many. Poetry, often written by those who experienced these conditions first-hand provides poignant images of what men had to face and their reactions to the horrors.

One such poet was Captain John McCrae a Canadian medical officer and gunner who, having buried his close friend, Alexis Helmer, who was killed during a battle on 2 May 1915, noticed how quickly poppies grew on the disturbed ground.

The poppy has since been adopted as a symbol of remembrance.



In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae (1872-1918)

## **ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER TO BECOME BISHOP OF COLCHESTER**

Downing Street announced on the 2 May that the Venerable Roger Morris, Archdeacon of Worcester, has been nominated by Her Majesty the Queen as the new Bishop of Colchester in succession to the Rt Revd Christopher Morgan.

Roger said: "I am really thrilled to have been asked to go and serve the churches and people of this wonderfully varied part of Essex. These are exciting times for the Church as we live out and celebrate our faith in new, engaging and transformative ways. This is a time in which we are called to re-imagine a vision for the church in the 21st Century which is authentic and relevant and helps us become all we are called to be.

"However, I am very sad to be leaving such an amazing group of people. These have been an incredible six years and it's been a real privilege to work among the clergy and people of Worcestershire. Bishop John has been a good friend and an excellent mentor and I am hugely in his debt. There's never a perfect time to leave but the arrival of the new Archdeacon and also Bishop of Dudley has strengthened an already brilliant staff team. I will miss everyone here very much and the people of this county and diocese will always be in my prayers and affections."

The Bishop of Worcester, The Rt Revd Dr John Inge, commented: "All those who know Roger Morris will be aware that he is an immensely gifted priest. He has given so much to the Diocese of Worcester and I am one among very many who will be sad to see him go, but frankly it was only a matter of time before he was whisked away. Roger will make a wonderful bishop and the people of the Colchester Area of the Diocese of Chelmsford are very fortunate. May God bless him and his wife Sally and their children Fiona and Imogen richly as they begin this new stage of their lives."

The Bishop of Chelmsford, The Right Reverend Stephen Cottrell, added: "It is a joy to welcome Roger Morris as the next Bishop of Colchester. Roger comes to us with great experience of ministry in rural areas and brings evangelistic flair and a strong teaching ministry. He will bring energetic and creative leadership to the Colchester Episcopal Area. We welcome Roger and

Sally and their family to the diocese, and look forward to them joining us."

It is anticipated that Roger will leave the Diocese of Worcester in June. He will be consecrated as Bishop of Colchester at St Paul's Cathedral on 25 July and will start his ministry as bishop in the Autumn.

**Diocesan News**

## BOTSWANA EXPERIENCE

An illustrated talk was presented at the Coach House by Andrew Scudamore during the evening of Saturday 26 May. During his career, Andrew worked in the water supply industry and spent much time in various countries in Africa and in Nepal advising on and supervising the installation of water supply equipment.

As part of a fund-raising event in support of NO LIMITS Community Project, Andrew shared his experiences of his time in Botswana.



The challenges of the environment, the availability of materials, the question of whether spare parts would be available to correct problems when things went wrong, all these helped to create a job which was both interesting, rewarding and full of the unknown.

The evening was well attended and everyone enjoyed an informative slide show, good company with wine and cheese refreshments. Thanks to Andrew for his time and presentation and to all who came along and supported the event. We raised £219.

**Chris Morgan**

**No limits Community Project Manager**

## NOAH'S ARK AT THE THREE COUNTIES SHOW

Adults and children alike will be finding refuge at the Church Tent at the Three Counties Show from 13-15 June. This year's tent has a Noah's Ark theme, with the opportunity to get up close to a range of different animals thanks to our friends at Shortwood Farm.

And in the families' area, we will be thinking about waiting and time, asking: 'What would you ask Noah?' 'What are you waiting for in your life?' 'How do you feel when it rains?' and 'How has God answered your prayers?' There will be opportunities to hear and join in with the story of Noah through the weekend - in song, in Godly Play and in Open the Book. And of course, there will also be crafts - a chance to make a creative mess - and a chill out area for the youngest visitors and their parents.

The stage outside the church tent will be buzzing throughout the weekend, with performances from our church schools, the Worcester Ukulele Club Band and our very own Busking Vicars! There will also be the chance to watch a stonemason at work or get tips on organic gardening.

And as in previous years, the tent provides the opportunity for frazzled show-goers to sit down and enjoy a reasonably-priced, fair trade cup of proper coffee with a slice of homemade cake. And if they'd like, the chance to share a prayer or chat to one of our chaplains over coffee, or peruse some books from the Lyttelton Well Bookshop.

If you're coming to the Three Counties Show, do pop in and say hi!

**Diocesan News**

# CHILDREN'S PAGES

Mark 16:16 "The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."



??True or False??

How much do you know about Ascension?

1. Jesus did not come to the earth in a physical body like ours.
2. Jesus sent the apostles to teach the world about Him.
3. Jesus said, "He who believes shall be saved."
4. Jesus left through the sky.
5. An angel told the apostles that Jesus would never return.

## CAN YOU NAME THE TWELVE APOSTLES?

Unscramble the letters to reveal them all...

RTEEP

WADREN

SEJAM

HOJN

PILPHI

ORMOBETALWH

TEMTAWH

HOMTSA

MAJES

DATEHDUS

MISON

SUJDA

## WORDSEARCH



### Can you find the hidden words?

opened  
understand  
Scriptures  
Written  
Christ

suffer  
repentance  
remission  
sins  
Jerusalem

witnesses  
promise  
Father  
tarry  
Bethany

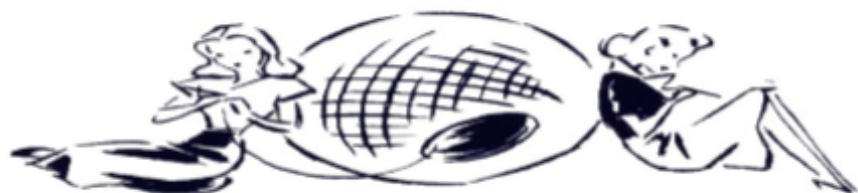
carried  
heaven  
worshipped  
joy  
continually

**Gemma Sutton ©**

# *Get Hooked On Crochet!*

## *Beginners Crochet Workshops*

*Learn the basic stitches to start you off:-  
chain, double/treble crochet and slip stitches.*



*Saturdays 10am to 1pm or 2pm to 5pm at:*

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*The Coach House Arts and Crafts Centre, Rectory Road,  
Oldswinford, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 2HA*

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*For further information and to book a place  
contact Debbie on 07504958536*

## ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

The walk this month began from the White Hart in Hartlebury and fourteen walkers set out in warm, dry weather.

From the car-park, we turned right along the B4193 Hartlebury Road, walking past the entrance to the Hartlebury Museum and Castle. At the bend in the road, we crossed over into Hildditch Lane, then immediately onto the public footpath that seemed to lead through a private garden and past an old rundown watermill.

Exiting the garden, we followed a path which led over several fields before eventually arriving at Stourport Riding Centre.

Passing through two more fields, avoiding the inquisitive horses, we came out onto Hartlebury Common.

Crossing the common, we dropped down and crossed over the A4025 Worcester Road at Cook's Nursery and continued to follow the footpath over the common before reaching habitation. From here a short walk brought us onto the River Severn. Turning right, we followed the Severn towards Stourport, crossing over the River Stour at its confluence. A little further and it was time for coffee and this we had next to the lock that gives access from the canal basin to the river.

Stourport Canal Basin has been completely regenerated, work finishing in 2008. There are five basins, home to almost hundred narrow boats and yachts. There are five canal locks and a dry dock. Stourport became the busiest inland port after Birmingham because the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal linked the Severn to the Trent and Mersey Canal.



**Hartlebury Museum**



**Stourport Canal Basin**

After coffee, we continued along the canal for a while before passing under the old Leapgate Railway line. Here we left the canal and followed this disused railway line that last saw a train more than twenty years ago and which is now designated as Leapgate Country Park. It is a linear park,

approximately 3 km long. The walk follows the old line, sometimes in a deep cutting and sometimes up on the embankment.

Eventually we left the railway behind and crossing several more fields and passing near to the castle, we were back on the Hartlebury Road for the short walk back to the White Hart where we were joined by two other members for a well deserved lunch.

**Malcolm Frost**



## DR DENISE INGE

On Tuesday, 6 May hundreds of people filled Worcester Cathedral to pay their respects to Denise Inge, the wife of the Bishop of Worcester, who lost her battle against cancer.

Bishop John was joined by his eldest daughter Eleanor, 15, as well as the the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu and almost 1,000 mourners.

The moving and often uplifting service gave thanks for the 51 year-old's life and people were reminded throughout of her words shortly after she was diagnosed with an inoperable sarcoma in her abdomen. - "Whatever happens, Alleluia is our song."

Dr Inge, who is also mother to Olivia, nine, lost her fight to cancer on Easter Sunday (April 20) surrounded by her loved ones.

Stirring songs performed by members of All Saints Church, where Dr Inge was a member, filled the air as people began to take their seats with the sound of the magnificent Cathedral bells sounding out during lulls in the music.

Dr Helen Farish read an extract from Dr Inge's forthcoming book *A Tour of Bones*, to be published on November 6, for which she toured chanel houses in Europe after becoming troubled living above a chanel house in Worcester.

The extract ended with the line: "What I have been surprised to discover, as these questions chase and wash over me, is that preparing to live and preparing to die are in the end the same thing."

Dean of Worcester, the Very Reverend Peter Atkinson gave a touching sermon entitled *Alleluia Is Our Song* which included a reading from Luke 24.13-35 and referred to Denise as an "Easter Christian".

In an extremely poignant moment, he told those gathered: "If all of us have shared part of that road with Denise, none of us have done so more closely, more lovingly, or more intensely than her husband and her daughters.

"If Denise longed to live, it was to be wife to John and mother to Eleanor and Olivia.

"And during these recent months the rest of us have shared their hopes and fears; and now we offer them – we offer you, John, Eleanor, Olivia – our helpless but still deeply-felt love."

He spoke of the strength of her belief, the "enormous web of praying" that followed Dr Inge's diagnosis and her love of Thomas Traherne who she became a respected authority on.

A smattering of laughter broke out as the dean told those gathered: "Three months ago, during that gracious respite of her disease, John and Denise with many others from this diocese made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

"You have all seen the picture of Denise and John standing, hand in hand, trousers rolled up, shin-deep in the River Jordan, looking for all the world like a pair of children on holiday – which they were."

Dr Sentamu spoke warmly of Dr Inge and called her a "real woman of encouragement" who was full of faith.

Music played a big part in the service with the Cathedral choir performing and hymns including *Lift High the Cross*, *God is our Strength and Refuge* and *Thine be the Glory* as well as modern pieces.

As the coffin left the cathedral through the west door carried by Denise's three brothers and brother-in-law and followed by Bishop John and his daughter, the choir sang the Nunc Dimittis to a setting by Geoffrey Burgon.

Berega Hospital in Morogoro, Tanzania, run by Anglican Diocese of Morogoro which is linked with the Diocese of Worcester, will benefit from the retiring collection.

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If you would like to give a donation in memory of Denise you can do so via this webpage: <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/deniseinge/129110>

Alternatively you can send donations to:

Alison Vincent, Worcester Diocesan Office, Deansway, Worcester. WR1 2JE.

Please mark your donation: Berega Hospital Appeal in memory of Denise Inge.

Cheques should be made payable to: Worcester Diocesan Board of Finance Ltd.

*The full text of the Dean's sermon can be found at [www.cofe-worcester.org/uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org/uk)*

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*An error crept into last month's edition on page 12 where the Revd Stephen Agnew was credited with work to produce new orders of service. The incorrect spelling of his name is regretted and we apologise for the error.*

## **REFLECTIONS FOLLOWING MY EASTER DAY APPEARANCE IN THE MAIL ON SUNDAY**

"Mum", the email read, "You're famous at last!" I was very tired after getting up at 4-45 am to serve at the Easter Vigil at dawn, but my spirits rose (just for a moment!). A charming photographer from Associated Press had come into the food bank last Wednesday and asked whether he could follow me around. "You never know", he said, "You might be on the front page of The Guardian tomorrow". Of course, I was foolish enough and my pride was flattered enough for me to be leafing through its pages the next day. O mea culpa! My shrewd husband had warned me that it was far more likely to be the Mail on Sunday in some article attacking food banks. This was a horrifying prospect, but proved to be correct. There I was, twice over, surname misspelt although I had spelt it out (oh yes, and I've aged a year since last Wednesday, by the way). It's since occurred to me that the day in question was 'Spy Wednesday', i.e. the day when the Church remembers the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot.

The story to which my picture was attached was scurrilous and designed to discredit the work of the Trussell Trust. The Mail on Sunday had sent an undercover reporter to pose as someone in need, and shock, horror: they were given some food! They were not sufficiently interrogated by the referring agency which issued them with the food bank voucher. Sufficient proof of identity was not sought goes the story line. Well, food banks are not perfect. Big News, Mail on Sunday! What humanly designed system *is* perfect? If the benefits system were perfect there would be no benefit delays, and benefit delay is the most common reason for referrals to food banks.

Those entrusted with distributing donations, whether tins of food or money, have a responsibility to use those gifts honestly and with the greatest care, and we do our very best to fulfil that responsibility. I've been helping at the food bank in Orpington, which is part of Bromley Borough Food Bank, for two years now. The managers and my fellow helpers are committed, hard working and diligent, and they do all in their power to make sure that the donated food goes in the appropriate measure to each client. Do we ever have a client come in who's been issued with a voucher and shouldn't have been? Yes, occasionally, and when there is a suspicion that that is the case, the manager immediately contacts the voucher issuer and questions their decision. Is there occasionally a client who comes in more often than the 'rules' stipulate that they should? Yes, occasionally, but their circumstances might well be exceptional. For the sake of argument, suppose one client in twenty is playing the system or trying to pull the wool over our eyes: Do we not feed the other nineteen honest clients who may be in desperate need, because one other might be getting some food they did not deserve? Compassion doesn't work like that, Mail on Sunday. I wonder whether it has occurred to them that some food bank volunteers might also be donors?

I think that most donors to food banks understand that we do our best to make sure that their generous donations go to the 'right' people. Knowing who the 'right' people are is in the first instance the responsibility of the voucher issuing agency. The reasons for poverty are complex. Do some people spend money on alcohol or cigarettes that they should have spent on food? Yes, of course. Should we not feed them? Should we not feed their young children? If you were in dire straits, might you not resort to some such prop, however useless that prop might be? It's so easy to sit in judgement on other people, isn't it? Should the agencies issuing food bank vouchers interrogate the needy more fiercely and with greater rigour? Many find it hard enough to come through the door of a food bank. Many are embarrassed to have to come to us for help. What about those tight knit rural communities in Caithness featured on the TV the other day? Some would rather starve than have their neighbours know they were struggling. Is that not the greater scandal than a gift to an undeserving one?

You see, Mail on Sunday, Christians understand about unworthiness. Every one of us is completely unworthy, but God pours out his gifts with overflowing abundance on everyone. It's hard to grasp, isn't it? "All are invited to the Feast of Life" to pinch Christian Aid's slogan. Ours is a God who prepares a rich banquet for all peoples. (Isaiah 25: 6) His generosity and love know no limit. Our response to that must be to turn the other cheek and to give to the man who takes our cloak our tunic too. (Luke 6: 29)

The Easter Faith turns the world's values upside down. It's not logical, but it's not illogical either. It's a pity about all those secular humanists getting worked up and writing to the Daily Telegraph, because the Prime Minister said that we are a Christian country. It's irritating that they include some scientists I greatly admire. What a thrilling Prof. Jim Al-Khalili lecture we went to last year! And the wonderful Prof. Alice Roberts, recently interviewed by my daughter for her university science magazine. What a pity they can't see a divine hand at work in the amazing facts they unearth. Those of other faiths are not ranting about 'alienation and division'. That was well illustrated by the editor of the Jewish Chronicle on Radio 4's 'World at One'. The rabbi told the humanist philosopher that "We're a Christian country in every sense of the word."

I'm not sure it's entirely true, but how refreshing to hear!

Christianity is not logical, but God is utterly beyond human logic, i.e. not contrary to logic, but beyond our understanding. My father was a physicist and an avid reader. How he loved books on mathematics and logic! He was engrossed by such a book to the very hour of his death last year. However, he did not neglect a few days earlier, to receive the sacraments of the Church and to give precise instructions for his funeral, knowing that the day was near. You can be a devout Christian and a scientist. There's no conflict.

Our God 'counts the number of the stars  
And calls them all by their names'. (Psalm 147: 4)

He also 'heals the broken hearted  
And binds up their wounds'. (Psalm 147: 3)

So here we are in Easter Week in the Year of Our Lord 2014, still in those 'difficult economic times', with tragedies in the news, and arguments in the media. The Italians call Easter Monday 'Pasquetta', which means 'Little Easter'. They have a tradition of families going out into the countryside on that day and enjoying a picnic. In origin this practice commemorates the Emmaus Road, when the disciples walking in the countryside met the Risen Christ. (Luke 24: 13 - 35) The Risen Christ can't be pinned down. He's alive and active, and always ahead of us. (Mark 16: 7) I think his hand can be seen at work in the eleven fold increase in donations to the Trussell Trust since the Mail on Sunday article appeared!

At this point I think we should fold up our newspapers and go out into the countryside to enjoy our own 'Pasquettta', in the hope of meeting our Risen Saviour. I'll try to do something like that. Then, in a couple of days, I'll go back to work in the food bank unperturbed by the Mail on Sunday having taken my name (or at any rate my rather unflattering image) in vain.

To borrow some words from the nuns at West Malling, "Alleluia! On we go!"

**Vanessa Dixon**  
**(Sister of Tina Timms)**

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Not that any excuse is needed but this provides an ideal opportunity to say thank you to all at St Mary's who contribute to the support of the Food Bank; those who give food and other essential items, those who deliver it to the collecting points, those who spread the word and those who work and pray for a better and fairer sharing of our resources.

Thank you also to John Sutton who through his ministry and administration of the issue of vouchers via the parish office does what he can on our behalf to provide for those in real need.

### **EASTER FLOWERS**

Thank you to the Flower Guild team, to those who contributed to the cost of the flowers and all who helped to decorate the church for Easter. The arrangements were outstanding, served to enhance our celebration of this important festival and were a fitting memorial to those we remember with affection.

## **THIS MONTH'S RECIPE**

### **A'ja (Bread Fritters)**

I think we don't make good use of leftovers. This recipe is one of many for vegetarian fritters found all over the Middle East. It's ideal for filling pitta breads- add salad and yoghurt mixed with mint and garlic. It can also be served with a carrot salad. I have given some weights as a guide but it's something I make up as I go along, using whatever vegetables I have. You need lots of fresh herbs so it's something I make in the summer when herbs are plentiful in the garden. Feel free to change the spices and herbs as I do.

80g white breadcrumbs  
3-4 eggs  
1½ teaspoon. ground cumin  
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper  
½ teaspoon sweet paprika  
25g chives, snipped small - I use scissors  
25g flat leaf parsley chopped  
1 teaspoon thyme leaves  
50g feta cheese crumbled  
1 grated courgette (or whatever you have in the fridge. Chopped red pepper is good)  
Salt & black pepper  
Sunflower oil for frying

Put the bread into a bowl and add the eggs, spices, herbs and seasoning. Mix well. Lastly add the feta cheese.

Heat up some oil in the frying pan on a medium heat. Drop in spoonfuls of the batter, flatten them slightly they should be about 2-3cms thick. Fry them for about 3 minutes on each side until golden brown and a crust develops. I make large ones if we are having them for a main course. This amount makes five large ones or 8 smaller ones.

If you don't have a food processor to make breadcrumbs, soak the bread slices in water for a minute or two, then squeeze out well.

**Ann Jennings**

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## **NEW YOUTH OFFICER**

Simon Hill has been appointed as the new Youth Officer for the Diocese of Worcester, working with parishes and schools across Worcestershire and Dudley.

Simon, 38, is currently Youth and Children's Work Co-ordinator for St. Nicholas Church in Durham and will be moving to Evesham with his wife Claire and two young sons. He will start his new role on 1 July, which will involve supporting churches in their work with young people, providing training and resources, working with chaplains in secondary schools as well as Further and Higher Education and also liaising with other youth organisations and community groups.

Simon replaces the current Diocesan Youth Officer, Sarah Brush who will leave the post in June to be ordained and become a curate at St. Peter's, Cradley. We thank Sarah for her help and send our best wishes for the future.

**Diocesan News**

## AND FOR THE WINE.....

What wonderful flexibility these A'ja 'leftover' fritters present! Our choice of ingredients for the filling may vary - and likewise our wine: cumin, thyme and paprika steer us towards a red but the yoghurt and parsley prefer a white. So, what should we do where there is no clear-cut flavour match?

Local wines for a local dish? Quality wines from the middle east tend to feature French varieties: Lebanon's famed Chateau Musar is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Syrah. Moreover, its haunting aroma will be rather lost on the fritters. Turkish wines now appear on the radar, but rarely on our sales shelves. The rustic farmhouse nature of the dish provides a more useful guide, so if we select a red, we might opt for the flavours of southern France: Mourvedre, Grenache, Carignan or Sangiovese and Corvina from Italy.

Otherwise, rules state that if flavours are troublesome, match the WEIGHT of the wine with the strength and intensity of the flavours. A Burgundian Chardonnay, a good Semillon, Torrontes, Gewurztraminer and Gruner Veltliner all have these qualities; many lighter wines would be completely overwhelmed. We should be wary about treating a Rose as a safe 'half-way house'. A Rose is for the most part a light red-fruited wine. Sancerre Rose (made from Pinot Noir) has good weight but doesn't really say peasant/leftover food.

The sparkling option? Well, you can drink Champagne with anything can't you? ..... hmm, yes - but with 'leftover' fritters?.....probably not! Of the other major players, Prosecco is too light; Cava can be made from the local varieties: Xarel-lo, Parellada and Macabeo or can include the Champagne grapes Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. The latter style has greater structure but still sells at Cava prices! It may be the opposite end of the Med. but it might be as good a bet as any. .... Enjoy your wine sipping.

**Richard W. B. Ryan**

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## TIME FOR A CHANGE

News often travels quickly so you may have already become aware that Robin Walker has presented his resignation and indicated his decision to move on from the role of Director of Music at St Mary's.

Few would believe that Robin is of an age for him to be considering retirement although many would empathise with him over the challenge of regularly travelling between Worcester and Stourbridge, especially when having to cope with the extremes of the wet and snowy weather we have faced in the past three winters.

Robin's knowledge, talent and skill, brought to his role as organist, choir leader and musical director, have given us enormous pleasure and provided many with outstanding leadership and professional advice alongside the friendship and support he has provided to many.

As we begin the process of seeking his successor, we look forward to an opportunity when we will be able to express our gratitude and good wishes for the future in an appropriate way.

**The Church Wardens**

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

20 April	Frederick John Harris Phoebe Louisa Harris Olivia Rose Booth
4 May	Eva Frances Dunckley

### Weddings

21 April	Lucie Roberts and Alex Thacker
3 May	Amy Cox and Robert Joyce
10 May	Matthew Vale and Jodie Smith

### Funerals

24 April	Colin Slater	Aged 85
24 April	Stanley Worton	Aged 68
30 April	Dorothy Matthews	Aged 91
7 May	Patricia Slater	Aged 91

## WELCOME TO BISHOP GRAHAM USHER

On Saturday 3 May dignitaries and parishioners from the northern end of the Diocese attended a service at the Church of St Thomas and St Luke (Top Church) in Dudley. During the service Bishop Graham was welcomed by Paul Sabapathy, CBE, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands and Imam Hashami Qudoos, Senior Imam at Dudley Central Mosque.

During his sermon, Bishop Graham said: "I come simply as a brother pilgrim, with many an imperfection - called to be a pastor, teacher and shepherd of Christ's flock. I ask you to pray for me to be the kind of bishop that has inspired me in the past: One that knows that it's in dying to self that we find new life; in putting away the old things and taking up our cross that we find new strength; in being so infused with the Resurrection message that we are seen alive with joy and hope and love."

On Saturday evening and during Sunday, Bishop Graham cycled and walked the 32 miles from Dudley to Worcester, before being met on the banks of the River Severn by the Dean of Worcester, Peter Atkinson and then rowed across the river to the Cathedral.

### Children's Page Answers

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | F   |   |
| 2. | T   |   |
| 3. | F (Jesus said, He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.) | Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas |
| 4. | T   |   |
| 5. | F   |   |

The twelve apostles:

## LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER

I must confess to feeling totally overwhelmed by the flood of very kind messages that have poured in following the announcement of my appointment as Bishop of Colchester. My own sense of excitement about the new role is very much tempered at the moment by the sorrow of departure.

This is a diocese in which grace abounds, in which love flourishes and in which the call to be a Kingdom People is lived out in extraordinary ways in every context of our life together. I will miss you all very much. When Jesus prepared to leave his friends, he gave them some advice to equip them for all that lay ahead. In Chapter 14 of John's Gospel, he says three things that are worth holding on to now. The first thing he said was 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God.'

Jesus said this to the disciples just before he was arrested, tried and crucified. It must have been hard for his friends to trust God and to not be anxious. We need to learn to trust God and, when it feels that God isn't on top of the situation, we need to remember that he is trustworthy – and he knows what he is about. God is at work even when we do not perceive it. God knows what he is about. He holds this diocese in the palm of his hand and his loving care is ever exercised upon you. So do not be anxious. But trust in God. The second thing Jesus said was 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.' He didn't say – 'I'll tell you the way' or 'This is the way.' He said 'I am the way.'

Christianity isn't primarily about a set of rules and nor is it primarily about a set of beliefs. It's about a person. It's about a personal relationship with Jesus and the best thing we can do is to stick close to him and he will then lead us in the way we should go. The third thing Jesus said was 'Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these.' You are heirs to this promise. You are a people who will do great things. Through your ministry in this diocese, others will come to know Jesus for themselves and their lives will be completely transformed. Through you, people will hear a message of hope and that will bring new life to them. Through your ministry, children will hear the good news and they will grow as disciples of Christ.

Through you and through your prayers, people will be healed, restored to wholeness and given new energy. Through you, people will experience love and will know themselves to be valued. Through you the hungry will be fed, the homeless will be sheltered and the poor will be blessed. Through you God's kingdom will be made manifest. You will do great things. Thank you for an amazing and inspiring six years in which I feel I have received so much more than I have given. Thank you for your love, grace and partnership in the work of the Kingdom. Don't worry, stick close to Jesus and you will continue to do great things through the power of God that is at work in you. And don't forget to have fun along the way.

With my prayers.

***Congratulations from St Mary's***





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