

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine

ONLINE VERSION JULY/AUGUST 2014



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Parish Church Magazine



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JULY/AUGUST 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)
	Evening Prayer on Thursdays will alternate between St Mary's, St Thomas' and Holy Trinity Amblecote
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 Day Off: Friday	

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS



Bible Study Group:	Tuesday afternoons 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 am and 11.00 am for Vestry Hour. You will be warmly welcomed. Tea and coffee will be available.

DIARY FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2014

Thursday 3	July	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 5		10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
		12.00 noon Wedding
SUNDAY 6		THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
		3.00 pm Baptism
		4.30 pm President's Service— Rotary Club of Stourbridge
Monday 7		7.30 pm Standing Committee
Tuesday 8		11.30 Holy Communion at Hollycroft
		2.30pm Mothers' Union meet at the home of Brenda Selby
Thursday 10		10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 12		10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
		12.00 noon Wedding
SUNDAY 13		THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
		10.00 am Worship Together
		12.00 noon Parish Picnic
Tuesday 15		2.00 pm Anchor Bereavement Group
Wednesday 16		7.00 pm Old Swinford Primary School Leavers Service
Thursday 17		10.30 am Holy Communion and Confirmation
Saturday 19		10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
		12.30 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 20		THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
		3.00 pm Baptism
Monday 21		7.30 pm PCC Meeting
Wednesday 23		11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 24		10.30 am Holy Communion
Friday 25		12.00 noon Wedding
Saturday 26		10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 27		THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 29		2.30 –4.00 pm Tuesday Tea
Thursday 31		10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 2 August		10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
		12.00, 2.00, 4.00 pm Weddings
SUNDAY 3		THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
		6.30 pm Service of Commemoration for WW1
Thursday 7		10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 9		10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 10		THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
		Copy date for September magazine
Thursday 14		10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 16		10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
		1.00 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 17		THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 19		Anchor Bereavement Group
Thursday 21		10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 23		10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 24		THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 26		2.30-4.00 pm Tuesday Tea
Thursday 28		10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 30		10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 31		THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

Summer time finally seems to be here. And with the warmth come the memories of summers past. The possibilities of breaking with routine, and perhaps going away for a week to the seaside, (and before the time of exotic holidays abroad a week at the seaside in a caravan or chalet was a real treat).

Of course just as there will be hoards of people going away on holiday very soon, coinciding with the end of school terms, so there will be a large number of people who will be staying at home, and because they don't have to go away during official holiday time they will choose to take holidays in the early or later summer weeks when it is quieter and cheaper. And so, although it might be holiday time many things within the parish carry on as normal. There are the normal services, and of course weddings and baptisms are held in large numbers. But there is still a residual feeling of holiday. And so there are the opportunities to do things a little differently, and perhaps engender the feeling of holiday as we do them.

This summer I would like to invite you to come to Church or the Rectory on Monday afternoons for a Social and Study afternoon. The Study is very gentle and will focus on the Prayer that we all use so frequently that we might forget its significance – The Lord's Prayer. The level of study and discussion is such that it will suit people just exploring faith for the first time or those wishing to revisit the basics of their faith. We will first meet on Monday 21 July at 2.30pm, then we will continue meeting on Mondays throughout August finishing on Monday 1 September. Each week our meeting will finish by 4.30pm, and we will, of course provide tea and other refreshments. As we look a little at the prayer we know so well we can relax and enjoy the feeling of the summer in the company of friends.

I hope that you will come along and enjoy the course. Initially I will be asking people to sign up for the meetings so that we have some idea of numbers and whether the meetings are best held in the Rectory or in the Narthex.

Other events to look out for over the summer are a Deanery Quiet Day at Holland House on Monday 14 July. This is being sponsored by a retired clergyman, Canon David Rogers, and so the cost for the day will be a mere £15 (including tea / coffee and lunch). The theme will be 'Elijah and the life of faith', and numbers are strictly limited, so first come, first served.

Also later that week three members of the Clover Leaf community will be confirmed in St Mary's at the Thursday morning Communion service, which they attend every month. This will be a very special service which I hope many of the St Mary's congregation will want to support.

For other events taking place over the two months of summer please see the calendar and enjoy the holiday time whether you are going away or staying at home.

Stephen Agnew

SERVICES IN JULY 2014

6 July 3rd Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 7. 15-25a	Matthew 11. 16-19, 25-30
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Samuel 2.1-11,3.1	Luke 18.31-19.10
13 July Fourth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	2 Samuel 7. 18-29	Luke 19.41-20.8
20 July Fifth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 8. 12-25	Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Kings 2. 10-12,16-28	Acts 4. 1-22
27 July Sixth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 8. 26-end	Matthew 13. 31-33, 44-52
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Kings 6. 11-14, 23-end	Acts 12. 1-17

THE CHURCH HALL

St Mary's Church Hall is a valuable asset providing outreach to the local and wider communities.

It was built in the mid 60's and has given sterling service over the years. However it is important to ensure that the building remains fit for purpose and with this in mind, thought is currently being given to upgrading the kitchen and toilet facilities.

It is hoped to attract funding for this work from some of the various sources that are available and we are therefore seeking the help of anyone who has experience of drafting successful funding applications.

If you are able and willing to help us in this way, then please contact me, either by phone, 07768 255827 or email, malcolmfrost51@msn.com

Thank you.

Malcolm Frost
Chairman of Hall Committee

SERVICES IN AUGUST 2014

3 August Seventh Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 9. 1-5	Matthew 14. 13-21
	6.30 pm Evensong	TBC	
10 August Eighth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	1 Kings 11.41-12.20	Acts 14. 8-20
17 August Ninth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 11. 1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15. (10-20) 21-28
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Kings 4. 1-37	Acts 16. 1-15
24 August Tenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 5. 12-16	Luke 22. 24-30
	6.30 pm Evensong	Deuteronomy 18. 15-19	Matthew 10. 1-22
31 August Eleventh Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 12. 9-end	Matthew 16. 21-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Kings 6.24-25, 7.1-end	Acts 18. 1-16

NEW SERVER IN TRAINING

Those who attend the 10.00 am service on Sundays will have noticed how Harry Fussell is undertaking training as a Server, training largely under the expert guidance of his Dad, Mark. A very warm welcome is extended to Harry in this role. We wish him a rewarding and purposeful experience as we thank him and all Servers for their contributions to our worship.

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

Eighteen members provided a warm greeting to a special visitor to our meeting in May. "Brother John", wearing a full habit, was representing a monk from Lindisfarne Island—a time-travelling distance from the 8th Century—to explain his special work in the monastery.

Brenda Selby led the opening worship service and explained how Celtic monks were called from Ireland and Iona by King Oswald to be missionaries among the pagan Anglo-Saxons of Northumbria. Aidan became the founder of the Celtic church there and St Cuthbert was his famous successor in Lindisfarne. Though the settlements were devastated and destroyed by Viking raiders, the witness survived, centred in Durham. Later, in the 13th Century, Lindisfarne re-established St Mary's church which is the centre of worship on the island. Today pilgrims still go to the Christian centres where the community welcomes and serves all visitors. Brenda enjoyed special times there with her late husband, Peter.

Imagine you were given the following list of requirements for a task. What do you think you would be asked to make?

1. A sheep's skin, cleaned of flesh, wool, stretched and dried. 2. Twenty five hairs from a red squirrel's tail. 3. Hairs from the pelt of a sable or marten from Kalinski in Russia. 4. A piece of lapis lazuli from Afghanistan. 5. Several ground pigments. 6. Oil. 7. Soot. 8. A piece of grey allotropic carbon. 9. Wax candles. 10. Wood. 11. A female swan's left wing feather. 12. A small sharp knife, a half-moon scraper and half sea shells.

The answer is that these items would form the tool kit for producing the wonderful illustrated Lindisfarne Gospel pages with Latin text.

Sheepskin produced the vellum pages on which the Gospels would be reproduced. Hairs from the squirrel and the sable for fine brushes set in wooden shafts. Wooden blocks held shell paint holders. The lapis gave rare, deep blue pigment for rich embellishment. Plumbago, found on the island, made pencil lead for drawing. The feather became a pen (so-called from the female PEN swan) trimmed by a penknife for a right-handed scribe. Patterns were sketched out on wax-covered double-joined wooden blocks, looking like a lap-top.

"Brother John" had produced wonderful copies of Gospel pages with intricate Celtic-style geometric patterns. Within margins intertwined birds, flowers and animals were shown. He even reproduced the pencilled Saxon translation between each line of Latin text which had enabled vernacular readers to understand the meaning of the Gospel. The original Lindisfarne Gospels can be seen in the British Library.

We all appreciated the high quality research and practical skill shown in this work and thanked 'Brother' John Wheeler for his illuminating talk.

Dawn Nex

THE FIRST WORLD WAR – WHY WE SHOULD REMEMBER

(2) THE WAR ON THE HOME FRONT

Whilst the troops faced the horrors of the battle front, at home in Britain, the population was affected in many ways. Recruitment of men for the fighting battalions was encouraged through a poster campaign which played on the senses of men and women in a way that tended to underline the shame of 'Not playing one's part' and the excitement of a war that would be over by Christmas.



Families had to face the emotional and practical reality of their menfolk no longer being around as part of day to day life. This included the knowledge that to go to war was a dangerous thing, from which many would not return. Those who 'made it through' could well be injured, incapable of working and emotionally changed so that families would face a bleak future after the war ended. In the face of all this, women took on even more responsibility for the care of and providing for their families while older children had to undertake the care of their younger siblings.

In 1916, conscription was introduced through the Military Service Act so that, by law, every man aged 18-45 was required to 'sign up'. Some would be exempted on grounds of their poor health or that their civilian occupation was of national importance. Others would declare themselves to be conscientious objectors. These men who held well-founded personal objections to being a party to war, were rarely respected for the strength of their conviction but were mostly regarded as weak or cowardly. They were rarely treated in the way the law intended, often being subjected to very harsh treatment, imprisoned or sent into the army despite the provision, under the law, of alternatives.

One of the greatest changes brought about on the Home Front was the opportunity for women to be employed in all manner of jobs previously regarded as 'men only' occupations. Over 2 million women worked in such jobs, firmly establishing the demise of the expectation that women were suited only to 'domestic work'. Women were recruited as nurses, drivers, cooks and telephonists in the armed forces although never as combatants. Although, at the end of the war, their efforts were not fully recognised by many, this led, eventually, to the emancipation of women. In 1928 women over 21 won the right to vote in elections.

The Defence of the Realm Act of 1914 enabled the government to take over control of the railways, shipping and coal mines and to run munitions factories producing war-essential items. Strikes, previously an indicator of discontent in many industries, were largely avoided through closer liaison between government and trades unions and the patriotic desire to serve the needs of one's country at a time of war.

So strong was this patriotic message that many boys, far below the legal age of 18 tried, often with success, 'to sign up and take the Queen's shilling'. The tales of such determined, brave young men often ended with a short inscription on a headstone in a cemetery far from home.

Rationing became a feature of daily life which restricted the availability of many products in the later war years. The growing of food in home gardens was encouraged and women who were responsible for running their homes had to find all sorts of ingenious ways of making food and other necessities stretch that bit further.

Propaganda, information deliberately promoted by the authorities to encourage and to reassure a civilian population, was not necessarily the whole truth. Letters from those at the war front were read by senior officers and the contents censored. News was carefully controlled with details of the positive actions of the home troops enhanced and the actions of the enemy often misrepresented.

As the machinery of war at the battle front evolved, so the risk of war reaching the homeland became greater. In all there were 57 zeppelin airship bombing raids on Britain and the German navy shelled Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarborough.

It should not be forgotten that the scale of this war led it to be known as the 'First World War' such that a 'home front' was to be found in many countries. Those not involved with the fighting had to face up to and cope with other hardships including the separation from and ultimate loss of so many men; fathers, husbands, sons who gave their lives in the hope of a better future for those to come.



SUMMERTIME

July and August are the months of 'High Summer' when we enjoy the warmest period of the year. Customs and traditions reflect the expectation of fine weather as we engage in more outdoor activities in sport, leisure and garden. The farming season focuses on hay-making, giving us the saying 'Making hay while the sun shines'.

The finals of Wimbledon lawn tennis championship occur in the first week of July. This popular event marks the start of 'the season' and this year it coincides with Henley rowing regatta. Apart from the celebration of the sport these events provide the opportunity to indulge in the traditional summer fare of picnics, champagne, Pimms and strawberries and cream. At home it is a time for families to enjoy alfresco dining with barbecues and garden parties. No doubt the football world cup will boost these activities as the final occurs just a week after Wimbledon.

The tradition of the 'Summer Holiday' emerged during the industrial revolution in the first half of the 19th century when there was a realisation that people needed time off to give their best, and organised holidays were preferable to the unpredictable practice of skipping days. The advent and accessibility of public transport enabled workers to travel away from their mills and factory towns. This resulted in the development of our seaside resorts during the Victorian era and which are still an essential part of our national heritage. It is not surprising that July and August became the most popular months for annual leave as the enjoyment of the family holiday depended so much on fine weather.

The best-known, and probably the most inaccurate, weather lore for this season is based on St Swithin's Day – 15 July. The tradition says that whatever the weather is like on St. Swithin's Day, it will continue so for the next forty days. The weather-rhyme which has been commonly recited throughout the British Isles since Elizabethan times says that:

'St. Swithin's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St. Swithin's day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain nae mair.'

The season is celebrated more optimistically in song, verse and art by many different composers, writers and painters. An internet search reveals over fifty songs with 'summer' in the title. 'Summertime' from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess is perhaps one of the most memorable, while the traditional medieval English round or rota, 'Summer is a'cumin in' was composed in about 1250 and is still a delight to listen to. In modern translation the first verse goes:

Summer is coming in,
Loudly sing, Cuckoo!
The seed grows and the meadow blooms
And the wood springs anew,
Sing, Cuckoo!

Many landscape pictures by 'Old Masters' illustrate the countryside in summer and the familiar painting of 'The Hay Wain' by John Constable captures the mood of a lazy summer day. The original picture is in the National Gallery in London.



Alec Beevers

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

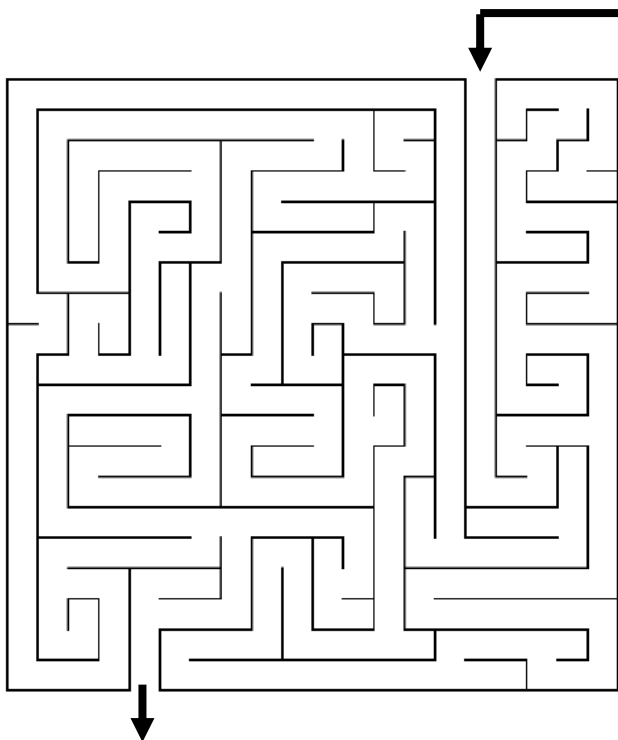
This time of year is always a challenging one for anyone trying to keep some degree of control over the growing vegetation in the churchyard. We are very conscious of the expectations of visitors and our own desires for the churchyard to be as neat and easily accessible as possible. If you have been disappointed by an over-growth of the grass in recent weeks, please accept our apologies.

A number of individuals and groups contribute to the cutting of the grass and shrubbery, mostly volunteers, although we do have a regular agreement for the main lawns to be cut and a contract for one area of the grounds to be cut three times a year. Such contracts are very expensive so that it would be impossible for us to afford the costs of a contract providing regular care of the whole churchyard. Voluntary groups contribute as they are able and we are very grateful for the help they provide. By the nature of their organisation and the vagaries of the weather, plans for a regular pattern of maintenance are all too easily disrupted. Recent, long-established plans for local scouts to work in the churchyard over two days came to nothing because weather conditions threatened and ultimately destroyed the opportunity that had been created.

In recent weeks additional volunteers have come forward to help and thanks are due to them. In due course we hope to invite anyone willing and able to help to support a work party, details of which will be published via the pew sheet and other means. Do try to take part. We would especially like to welcome those who make use of the churchyard but may not attend worship at St Mary's. Let's try to look after what we cherish together.

CHILDRENS PAGE

The Summer holidays are finally here and you have 6 weeks until you go back to school; what are you going to do?



Time to go swimming perhaps?
Help these two children find their way to the swimming pool.

SQUARE WORD

How many words can you make from this square?

Use 3 letters or more.

Move in any direction but do not jump a square or use one letter more than once

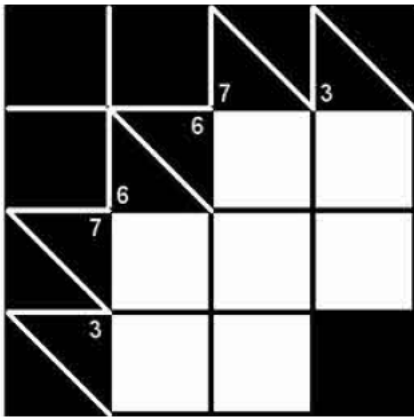
K	I	N	G
I	D	E	A
S	L	A	T
S	E	R	E



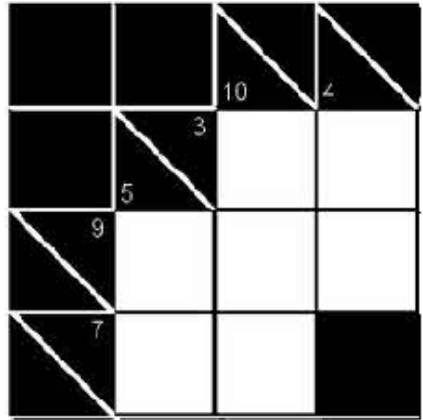
EVER TRIED A KAKURO PUZZLE?

Kakuro are similar to crosswords in that there are black cells and white cells. In some of the black cells you will find little numbers which refer to the "run" of cells adjacent to them, either across or down. These little numbers are your clues and are the total to which the numbers you will put into each "run" should add up to. You must fill each run with numbers from 1 to 9, using each number no more than once in each run. For example, if the total of a run must be 4, you cannot use 2+2, but must use 3+1. Use logic to work out the order in which you must write in the numbers so that all the runs are correct. Kakuro puzzles are a little complicated to explain, but if you have a go you will be able to work it out!

1.



2.



Do you know my friend Jesus?

God loves you so much that He sent you His Son Jesus.
If you have not asked Jesus into your heart then stop
right now and think about it.

Don't miss this opportunity!! You don't know what
tomorrow will bring.

It is really easy to become a Christian! The Lord has a
wonderful treasure chest of blessings and joy for you to
share with Him. They are not material treasures or
diamonds and jewels, but they are wonderful treasures
that are beyond your wildest dreams. He offers you a life
with the certainty of knowing that HE loves you
UNCONDITIONALLY!! Even if no one else loves you He
does!!!



Want to find out more? Then visit **"The Story of the Wordless Book"** at

<http://berean.org/bibleteacher/wb.html>

MESSY CHURCH CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

Messy Church is ten years old! For those people who were part of the first one to begin in April 2004, in Cowplain near Portsmouth, this has become a way of life: for them this is church. Since then many other people have become part of this large and growing phenomenon. What began as one congregation ten years ago has been joined by 2342 others worldwide and the list is growing.

Ten years can seem to be an enormous length of time and a real cause for celebration but Lucy Moore, founder of the first Messy Church, also acknowledges: 'In another sense it feels as though we're just ten years old -what do we know? We've hardly been in existence for the blink of an eye. Yet on the wider front, beyond our own Messy Church and looking at the network of Messy Churches across the world, again it feels as if it's both a huge life force within the kingdom of God for our time and simultaneously a tiny, microscopic, fragile element of the story of God's grace across time and space, drawing people to himself in ways beyond our understanding.'

This fresh expression of church life builds upon Christ-centred elements of welcome, creativity, sharing food and celebration. Most Messy Churches meet monthly, at a time that suits the community, and seek to share Christ with families for whom traditional or inherited forms of church life feel alien to their experiences.

Ten key moments from ten years of Messy Church...

1. Growth from 1 to over 2340 Messy Churches
2. Messy Church has been featured on BBC's 'Songs of Praise'
3. St Paul's Cathedral in London hosted a Messy Church celebration
4. Spring Harvest is a popular place to dip into Messy Church seminars
5. Greenbelt has been known to get messy too!
6. Messy Nativity sheep trails are popping up in shopping centres around the country each Christmas
7. Messy Church regional coordinators get very Arthurian with their own Round Table gatherings!
8. Messy Church Theology - a new book for a new idea?
9. Messy Church has even had its own (Messy) Wedding!
10. 'Messy Church crafts colourful alternative Sundays'- that's what they said in The Times!

Lucy continues: 'A teenager asked me this year if it was really my church that had started the first Messy Church.' You mean, you really invented Messy Church? You mean, your church really started it? And now it's, like, enormous? Doesn't it make you feel weird?" And as I look at the shouting, laughing, praying, awestruck, grateful, life-giving, weeping, eating, loving Messy multitudes gathered in churches around the world, it does indeed feel weird-and incredibly humbling'.

Since its outset in 2004, Messy Church has become established in many countries worldwide, with over 2300 churches currently registered. Messy Church is a core ministry of Bible Reading Fellowship.

We are hoping to run our next messy church session at St Mary's during July or August. Please keep an eye on the website or pewsheet for further details.

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

The walk, on Saturday, 31 May, started from The Bell pub at Pensax which is near Abberley in Worcestershire. The landlord was very obliging so we all chose our lunchtime meals before starting on our walk.. We set off down the lane opposite the pub through Riddings Coppice and turned right on to a bridle path. On reaching a lane we walked towards Pensax Church, branching off through Jacobs Wood (a little muddy) where walking poles were helpful at this point.

Continuing towards Menithwood we went through several wild flower meadows, stopping for coffee where we had lovely views of the Malvern Hills, The Clee Hill and also the mountains of Wales. We arrived at the hamlet of Menithwood which was our halfway point of the walk.

More wild flower meadows and a fishery were passed before we entered Riffle Coppice, a very pretty and peaceful place to be. We came upon a house which had been moved by a landslide, and chatted with a man who was building his own house, while living in a caravan next door.

After walking through a crop field we crossed a lane to an area known as Snead Common. A tricky manoeuvre through houses, gardens and stables took us to the final ascent towards the pub, past the brand new War Memorial which was to be dedicated on the following Monday by the Bishop of Worcester.



THE COFFEE STOP



THE MEMORIAL AFTER THE DEDICATION

On our arrival we thought it would be a good idea to tell everyone that they had climbed twenty eight stiles and walked only four and three quarter miles which, due to the undulating ground felt more like seven miles.

The Bell real ale pub (highly recommended) served excellent food and drink which were enjoyed by all.

Jean & Ray Drew

The next walk will be on 26 July. There will be no walk organised for the month of August.



VISIT FROM OLD SWINFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL



It is always a great pleasure and privilege to welcome young people into church as part of a school visit both to be able to share something of your own faith but also to be able to feed from their enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge. Each year the Year 1 classes at Old Swinford Primary School work through a topic called 'Home and Away' which involves a morning's visit to St Mary's to learn something about the building, its purpose and its link with the school. The visit begins with a general introduction and then we split into four groups to experience four different activities: 1. sketching 2. reflecting 3. identifying and 4. a walk around the outside of the church with a brief visit to the graveyard.

It always seems to fall to me to lead the walk outside and so we look at the tower with its clock, flagpole and bells. We visit the Stevens grave to make the link with Marys Stevens Park and we look at a family grave to reflect for a moment about the importance of graves and why people visit them. I use my own father's grave for this and often think how pleased he would have been to know that having worked all his career with children in schools, in some small way he is still able to be an inspiration for children's learning. I always aim to create a special moment or in education jargon a time of 'awe and wonder' as I ask the children to stand for a few seconds and take in the peace and tranquillity of our graveyard area. Judging from the many references to this in the children's follow up work it obviously does have some impact upon them.

Oldswinford CE Primary School,
Field Lane,
Oldswinford,
West Midlands
DY8 2JQ
9.5.14

Dear Mr Sutton,

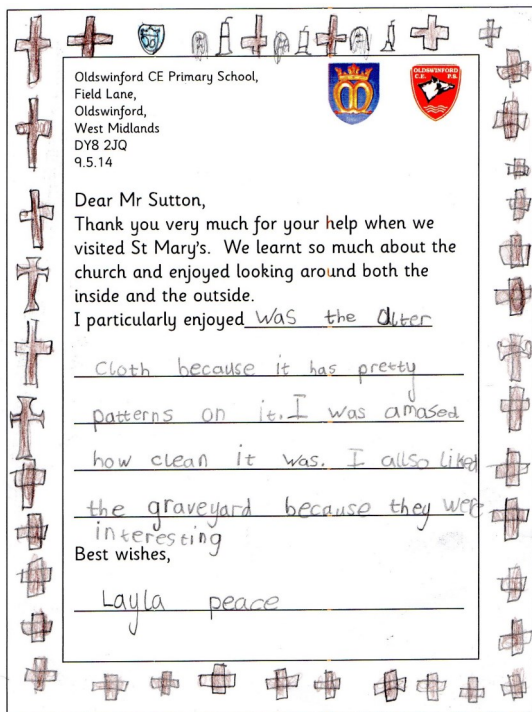
Thank you very much for your help when we visited St Mary's. We learnt so much about the church and enjoyed looking around both the inside and the outside.

I particularly enjoyed the stained glass window because it told my favourite story

The last supper

Best wishes,

Abbie Bayles



Half way through the morning we break for snacks (healthy of course) and then, at the end of the morning, we all come back together to reflect briefly on what we have seen and learnt during the morning and for me to be able to learn a little of the impact the visit has had on the children. The visit then usually concludes with a short time of prayer as the children take the opportunity to say their class prayer in their 'other home.' As part of the follow-up work that the children do in school after the visit they have produced some letters, two of which I have reproduced and added to this article to share.

Thank you Year 1 for sharing your thoughts with us and for reminding us all of what a rich resource St Mary's is for a young mind.

John Sutton

NEW CHOIR LEADER AND ORGANIST

The process of finding a replacement for our Director of Music, Robin Walker, is well under way. Discussions have taken place with several people who are able to offer advice and support in this process. Job descriptions have been prepared and the vacancy has now been advertised in relevant publications.

We are hopeful of a positive response that will provide the opportunity for the appointment of someone who will build on the strengths of St Mary's musical traditions and further encourage and enthuse our musicians and choristers. We are particularly keen to appoint someone who is motivated by the challenge to address the recruitment and retention of choir members and to provide interesting and exciting opportunities for younger and more experienced singers to contribute to a wide range of musical worship.

In the meantime we continue to appreciate the support and services provided by Robin.

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

On 10 June our branch was honoured to host the Annual Deanery Festival at St Mary's. Rev Stephen Agnew led the worship. He spoke on the Triune God who links Heaven and Earth - the divine and mortal within an open circle and fellowship of love.

Jean Swift was commissioned as Deanery Leader. Susan Clark and Iris Wheeler were enrolled as M.U. members and special congratulations were given to Josie Capewell who received her 50 year long service award. All three members of our branch. Refreshments were then served and a time of fellowship was enjoyed with our visitors.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 2nd July at 7.00pm. Diocesan AGM—St Saviour's Church, Hagley.

Tuesday 8th July at 2.30pm. Garden visit and tea with Brenda Selby at 29 Parkfield Road, Stourbridge.

Saturday 9th August at 11.00am. Mary Sumner Day at Holy Trinity Church,

Amblecote. A light lunch will be available following the service

Tuesday 9th September at 2.15pm. The Annual Wave of Prayer Service led by Roy Peacock at St Mary's. We will be joined by MU members from St Mark's Pensnett.

Wednesday 17th September. Diocesan Festival at Worcester Cathedral.

Dawn Nex

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL

This year's Three Choirs Festival takes place in Worcester from 26 July to 2 August and marks the 287th meeting of the three choirs of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester (taking into account the break during two world wars), and the 299th year since the birth of the festival in 1715.

The centenary of the outbreak of WW1 is a theme running throughout the festival and a new piece has been jointly commissioned with Chemnitz Opera. A Foreign Field by Torsten Rasch is a memorial which moves beyond reconciliation towards an openness and sharing of memories, bringing together singers from the Three Choirs with those from Chemnitz. Inspired by the words of the Dymock poets, the work will be repeated by Chemnitz Opera together with members of the festival choirs, in 2015.

The opening three days start with a Requiem and finish with Resurrection - Britten and Mahler framing a miniature festival in themselves! There will also be performances of Elgar's The Spirit of England and The Apostles. The main evening cathedral concerts are fully supported by a wealth of daytime performances, recitals, lectures, exhibitions and events.

If you are planning to come along to the Three Choirs Festival, why not consider visiting the Café @ the Old Palace. The Cafe will be open for morning coffees, light snacks and lunches from Monday to Friday throughout the festival and small parties can also be catered for with advance booking. Contact on 01905 732827 or restaurant@cofe-worcester.org.uk.

Diocesan News

BELL RINGING AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

My name is Eleanor Fussell. I am 14 years old, I live in Stourbridge and I go to Bromsgrove School. At the start of Year 10 we had to decide what activities to undertake to enable us to achieve our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

I needed to decide what to do as a physical skill. I am not very sporty, I prefer music and drama. I had no wish to do any more running, netball or rounders than I do at school already and I wanted to do something different.

My Dad had read somewhere that Bell-Ringing was good exercise and fun, so a quick email to church and I found myself learning to ring the bells at St Mary's every Thursday evening at 7pm.

Everyone is very friendly and John (my bell-ringing teacher) is very patient. I have now progressed to the point where I am starting to ring a Round, have rung before the Sunday service on a couple of occasions and I have successfully completed my Bronze Award.

John says that if I keep practising I will soon be good enough to ring at a few weddings and you get paid for that!

I would recommend Bell-Ringing to anyone who wants to try a new and different activity that is fun.

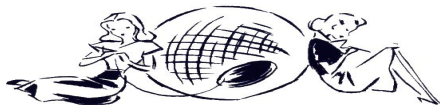
Thank you Eleanor. A much appreciated and interesting article which serves to illustrate yet another way in which St Mary's may contribute to young people's lives.



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:

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

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



A welcome awaits
at the
Diocese of Worcester

Festival of Healing

**Saturday 4 October 2014
at Worcester Cathedral**

We are delighted to welcome as our special guest speaker
The Rt Revd Dominic Walker.
Bishop Dominic was until recently Bishop of Monmouth. He has a long held
interest in the ministries of healing and deliverance, and was a member
of the group that produced the "A Time to Heal" report in 2000.

Programme:

(You are encouraged to come to the whole programme, but if you are only able to come
for part of the day, please do)

- 10.00am - 12.45pm:** A session with The Rt Revd Dominic Walker
- this session will comprise a talk, followed by coffee
and a time for discussion, questions and answers
- 12.45pm - 2pm:** Lunch (please bring a pack lunch), and opportunity to visit
stands manned by representatives of healing organisations
- 2pm - 3.30pm:** Healing Eucharist in the Cathedral. We anticipate that
Bishop John will preside, and Bishop Dominic will preach

There will be a very modest charge of £5 for the morning
session, to cover expenses only, payable on the day

To Book contact Peter & Sue Perry
e: peterandsue@gmail.com t: 01356 861791



www.cofw-worcester.org.uk

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE KRISPIE CHICKEN

This is something that can be eaten hot with a salad and new potatoes or taken out for a picnic.

Using Mayonnaise helps to keep the chicken moist. They are a real winner with the kids, and taste better than the famous takeaway chicken.

Serves 4-6

250g (8oz) Rice Krispies

Mayonnaise for dipping

4 boneless chicken breast fillets cut into nugget sized pieces

Salt & black pepper

Pre-heat oven to 200c/Gas 6 and line a baking tray with baking parchment

Put the cereal with salt and pepper in a bowl and crumble with your fingers to crush. The children like to use a potato masher.

Put the mayonnaise into a shallow bowl ready for dipping.

Dip each piece of chicken first in the mayonnaise then dip into the crushed cereal

Place the dipped chicken on the baking tray and bake for 25 mins approx. turning half way through cooking

Ann Jennings

ORDINATIONS AT WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Saturday 28 June, 2.00 pm, Worcester Cathedral: Ordination of Priests

Tom Fish who serves at Christchurch in Lye

Carey Saleh who serves in Bromsgrove

Bridget Woodall who serves in Brierley Hill

Peter Davies who serves at All Saints in Worcester

Nick Daw who serves in the Worcester South East Team

Barbara Wheatley who serves in the Bowbrook Group of parishes

Sunday 29 June, 10.30 am, Worcester Cathedral: Ordination of Deacons

Sarah Cottrill to serve at St. John in Bedwardine, Worcester

Gary Crellin to serve in Stoke Prior, Wychbold and Upton Warren

Sarah Brush to serve in the Halas Team in Halesowen

Gary Noyes to serve in the Ipsley Team, Redditch

Owen Gallacher to serve at All Saints in Worcester

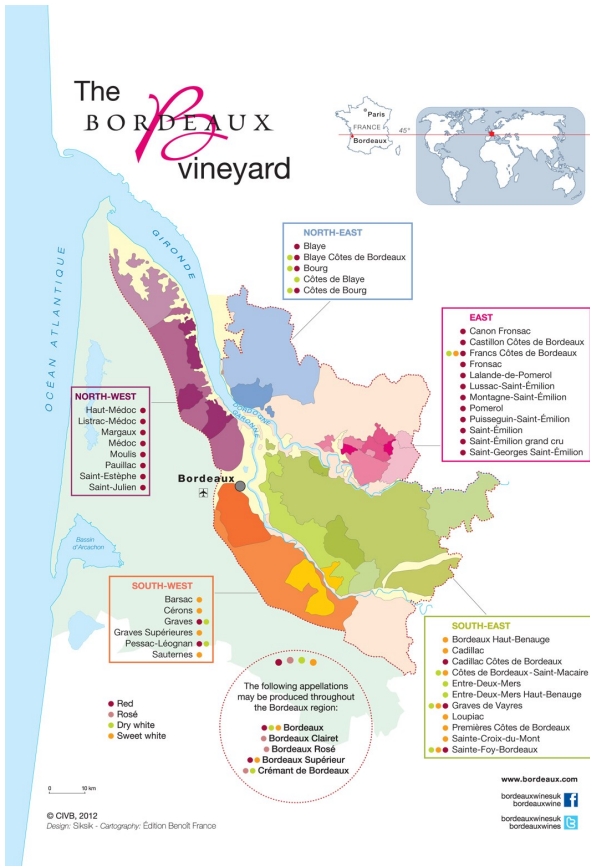
Emma Goldby to serve at St. James, West Malvern

Please remember these ordinands in your prayers.

AND FOR THE WINE.....

A picnic in the sun, a summer salad - even better if the children have helped with the preparation !and with some Rice Krispies to add some fun. Some summers, a picnic in the sun can almost seem like a special occasion ! Well a RARE occasion - but let's hope this summer will be a good one and we will have several opportunities to dine sur l'herbe.

What to sip? Most of the options are well rehearsed: Viognier, Fiano, Torrontes for an aromatic lift; Chardonnay or a well-chosen Semillon for fuller weight. Another reliable hit would be an Albarino from Galicia in north-west Spain: never fails. The Graves blend of Sauvignon Blanc and Semillon seems perfect. Its more aristocratic neighbour Pessac-Leognan of course offers the same blend but at loftier prices. A Cava, a sparkling Vouvray or a French Cremant if you are wanting some fizz - try the Cremant du Jura from Aldi which regularly receives good reviews.



Something different? One grape we rarely mention is Pinot Blanc. Much that is produced in Italy (as Pinot Bianco) is light and lacking in flavour or character. Good examples can be found in British Columbia, Canada.....but rarely on our shelves. Classier Pinot Blancs with good weight and fruit are otherwise the preserve of Alsace. You will have to pay near to White Graves prices but why not celebrate the summer sun - the combination sounds a real winner !enjoy your wine-sipping,

Richard W. B. Ryan

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

1 June Sophie Mae Hotton
Alex Jay Boden
Violet Grace Stephens

Weddings

25 May Richard Greenhalgh and Jennifer Parlett
7 June Matthew Hunter and Ana Maria Barriya

Funerals

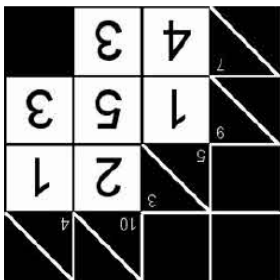
3 June Annie Stevens Aged 89



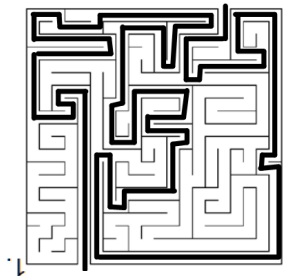
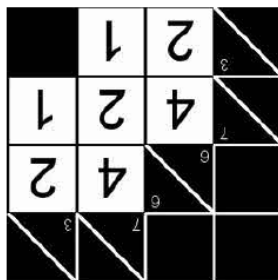
The certificate illustrated here has been received at St Mary's in recognition of the support provided by all those who contributed, in whatever way they were able, to a financial contribution to the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

To everyone who enabled the contribution to be made, thank you once more. The certificate will be displayed in church where everyone can see it and share in the recognition of this genuine expression of Christian giving.

Children's Page Answers



2.



LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER

I'm hugely grateful to all those in the Diocese who have given loving support and prayer during my wife Denise's year-long struggle with cancer and following her death. I and my two daughters Eleanor, aged fifteen, and Olivia, aged nine, offer our heartfelt thanks. We have been deeply touched by the support we have received, both practical and prayerful, and it has brought home to me what a precious gift it is to belong to the Christian family of this Diocese.



There are those who have been puzzled and disturbed by the fact, though so much prayer was offered for Denise's healing, she died. I have reminded them that for us, as Christians, death is the ultimate healing because, as St Paul put it in Romans 8: 'I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Therein lies our hope. It doesn't make the parting any easier, of course. I believe in the resurrection of the dead with all my heart, but I miss Denise terribly now. It is often said that the most difficult time in any bereavement is not the immediate aftermath of the death of the loved one but the months that follow. That is undoubtedly the case as I experience and observe bereavement: carrying on without her as the months go by, for me as a single parent or my daughters without a mother. However, our suffering is not in vain any more than Denise's was. As she wrote to a friend just before she died: 'If my story is part of a larger story of redemption then even if I can't see how it all fits together, I can believe that nothing is wasted. No suffering is useless, no end tragic, no pain pointless and no effort futile.'

We live in a society in which most people have long ceased to see their lives in an eternal perspective. That is a shame because, frankly, it is the only perspective from which anyone's life will ever make any sort of sense. Our witness as Christians is crucial for this reason as much as for any other. We must be wary, of course, of the old accusation of only being interested in 'pie in the sky when you die'. The fact is, though, that life in this world, in the here and now, becomes all the more precious when we realise that it has an eternal significance.

At the beginning of the Lord's Prayer we pray that our Father's Kingdom will come here 'on earth as it is in heaven'. As Kingdom people, we need to be clear about the reality of heaven as we work for the coming of God's Kingdom here on earth. We need, in other words, to see our lives in a heavenly perspective. That way we shall be convinced of the importance of promoting Kingdom values of love, compassion, justice and freedom in the here and now. May God bless you as you do so.

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