

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine

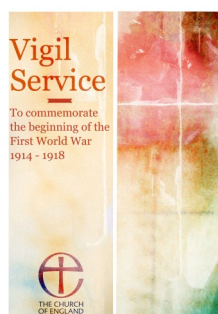
SEPTEMBER 2014
Online edition



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



PRIEST IN CHARGE: The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,
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SEPTEMBER 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)
	5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (except Fridays)
	Evening prayer on Tuesdays will alternate between, St Mary's, St Michael's Norton 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 2.30pm	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	

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	07968 586285
	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 SEPTEMBER 2014

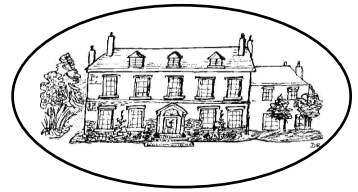
Monday 1	2.30-4.30 pm Pilgrim Study group 7.30 pm Standing Committee
Thursday 4	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.00 pm Archdeaconry Meeting in the Narthex 7.30 pm Coach House Meeting
Friday 5	12.00 noon Wedding
Saturday 6	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 12.00 noon Wedding
SUNDAY 7	TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 12.30 pm Baptism
Tuesday 9	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft 2.15 pm Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service
Wednesday 10	Copy date for October magazine
Thursday 11	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 13	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 14	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 2.00 pm Anchor Bereavement Group
Tuesday 16	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Wednesday 17	Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival at Worcester Cathedral
Thursday 18	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.30 pm PCC meeting
Saturday 20	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 3.30 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 21	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 3.00 pm Baptism
Wednesday 24	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge 7.30 pm Churches Together meeting
Thursday 25	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 27	St Mary's Walking Group
SUNDAY 28	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 2.30-4.00 pm Tuesday Tea
Tuesday 30	

Saturday 4 October **Parish Harvest Supper - see pewsheet for details**

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/CHOIR LEADER/ORGANIST

The search for a new Director of Music, someone to lead the choir, music group and to play the organ is on-going. Efforts are directed to finding the best possible outcome for future quality music in worship at St Mary's following a long tradition which deserves to be maintained. As soon as there is positive news on this matter we will inform the church community at large. In the meantime please include our music makers in your prayers.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

With September comes the end of the Summer holidays, though for some of us holidays are still to come! But everything seems to start afresh in September, every group or committee needs a meeting at some point in the month. As someone who spent 10 years teaching I also know the pressure of 'getting off to a good start' as the new courses begin in school and college. September is essentially a time of busyness in marked contrast to the relaxed atmosphere of the month of August.

Being busy can be a blessing and a curse. It can be a blessing because when we are busy we are aware that we are contributing to the running of society on a larger or a smaller scale. There are many people within St Mary's who will be gearing up for a busy few months, and that busyness makes us feel good because we know that we are not wasting the God-given gift of life and that we are contributing to the work of the church.

But there can also be a downside to busyness as we become so obsessed with being busy and with doing things that we lose sight of the need to stop and think about what we are doing. We cease to give ourselves the time to 'take stock', or to find the space to listen for the promptings of God's Spirit in our lives.

I am very privileged in that each day I can go into St Mary's in the morning and in the evening and just have a few minutes when I take stock, when I think about what God is calling me to do and who God is calling me to be. These times of prayer are very important to me because they set me up for a busy morning or evening of work and put that work into a context much larger than myself. Occasionally someone joins me for this time of prayer at 9am or 5pm Mondays to Thursdays, you are always welcome, although if you are planning to join me it might be worth just checking with me beforehand because sometimes I might have to be elsewhere on a particular day.

Whether you want to join me or not for a time of quiet I do urge you to find space during each day and not be subsumed under the busyness of your day to day activities.

It is often in the 'space' that we find the promptings of the Holy Spirit and we learn whether all our bustle is really what God is calling us to do or not.

With every blessing,

Stephen Agnew

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2014

7 September Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 13. 8-14	Matthew 18. 15-20
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 12.21-13.16	Acts 19. 1-20
14 September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 63. 1-16	1 Corinthians 1. 18-25
21 September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Corinthians 4. 1-6	Matthew 9. 9-13
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ecclesiastes 5. 4-12	Matthew 19. 16-end
28 September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Philippians 2. 1-13	Matthew 21. 23-32
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Kings 6. 8-17	Matthew 18. 1-6, 10

NEWS OF OUR LOOP SYSTEM

An apology and a thank you for your patience is due to those who have been affected by the breakdown of the loop system in church. For those who rely on hearing aids to support their ability to listen to services this has been a frustrating time, something that has been at the forefront of efforts to put matters right. Sadly, a breakdown to our high quality amplifier has required it to be removed for repair and the addition of supplementary equipment to bring the sound projection system up to modern-day expectations have been the cause of delay. The financial cost of reinstating the system, an item for which we had no reason to budget, will be considerable, but the benefits to those who rely on the system are priceless. If you are able and wish to contribute to the cost of the repairs Harold White has organised a contribution procedure. Please place any donation in a yellow Gift Aid envelope and mark it clearly 'For the loop system.'

GOOD NEWS AT LAST

It was with great joy and much celebration that news was received of the announcement by the Rt Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham, that Revd Ruth Atkinson is to become the new vicar of St Michael and All Angels in the parish of Bartley Green, just a few miles east of Halesowen.

There can be no denying that the past months have been a very testing and demanding time for Ruth as her future role within the church lay undefined. Many have held Ruth and her future at the heart of their prayers and it is with thanks and praise that we send our best wishes to Ruth and our congratulations on her appointment. No doubt there will be further challenges ahead as Ruth settles into her role and begins her ministry in this not too-distant urban corner of Worcestershire. When all the details are known, the opportunity to share in Ruth's service of Licensing at Bartley Green on 2 October will be the most meaningful way we can say to her, "Thank you for all you brought to and gave to the people of Oldswinford. May God guide and support you in your future ministry."

Please look in the pew sheets and at the back of church for details of arrangements for attending Ruth's licensing.

CHURCHYARD WORK PARTY

Plans for a community work party in the churchyard on Saturday, 19 July were foiled by what turned out to be the only day of really wet weather during July. With promises of help and preparations made, the day proved too wet for anything worthwhile to be achieved and the few people who started to work during the only short dry spell around 9.00 am retired, soaked to the skin, just before ten.

A special thank you to everyone who intended to help, both those members of the St Mary's congregations and those who live locally and felt driven to do their bit to help. Thanks are also due to the group of dog walkers who, recognising that not all such pet lovers behave in a socially responsible manner and clear-up after their dogs, spent time the previous day removing waste others had left behind.

If all goes well, we shall try again.....

Following a visit by the local authority Tree Protection Officer, approval has been given for essential works to trees in the churchyard. Safety must be at the forefront as we prioritise what we can afford to do, work which can only proceed when the approval of the Diocese is provided. If you become aware of concerns with any trees in the churchyard please let us know.

Thank you to all those people who have contributed as part of a silent team mowing lawns, strimming, maintaining pathways, weeding, and generally keeping the church grounds respectable. Your work and time is very much appreciated.

TAX JUSTICE

Sunday 21 September is St Matthew's Day and has been designated 'Tax Sunday' in the Diocese of Worcester, when parishes are being encouraged to reflect on issues of tax and economic justice:

"As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?' " (Matthew 9:9,11)

This scripture reading for St Matthew's Day, reminds us of the corrupt exploiter of the poor who became an apostle of the one who called him in mercy, and this act can inform us as we too struggle with questions of discipleship and justice.

Often, as Christians we have to confront hard questions about finance and economics because they lead directly to deeper issues that are at the heart of our faith. And as we face huge challenges, at home and internationally, we ask, what does good news to the poor mean today?

Tackling poverty is a complex issue and it costs money. Tax systems are in place to provide equal access to those amenities which we all need - health, education, infrastructure. Those in employment need a wage which keeps them out of poverty. But, just as in the times of Jesus, the poor may be exploited by the rich, with tax systems being abused to profit the wealthy at the expense of the poor, and employers taking advantage of desperate workers.

As part of "Economic and Tax Justice: economy for the common good", a partnership between the Diocese, Christian Aid and Church Action on Poverty the film, "The UK Gold" will be shown in Stourbridge on 7 October in St Thomas's church hall at 7.30. Hugh Williams, member of the Diocesan Synod and Jill Stone, Regional Advisor for Christian Aid extend a warm welcome to all who may be interested in this topic.

'This is a very hard hitting film about the close UK involvement with tax avoidance and tax havens. It explores tax dodging through the eyes of an east-end vicar standing for election to the Corporation of the City of London. As one notice says "A story seismic enough to shift perceptions of finance and flag forever" It was partly sponsored by Christian Aid and Oxfam.'

Further information on the Diocese's partnership with Christian Aid on the issues of tax justice is available on the diocesan website.

Diocesan News

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF

Out bicycling one day with my eight-year-old granddaughter, Carolyn, I got a little wistful. "In ten years," I said, "you'll want to be with your friends and you won't go walking, biking, and swimming with me like you do now."

Carolyn shrugged. "In ten years you'll be too old to do all those things anyway."

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP ILE JUNKERMAN, BISHOP OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN MIDDLE GERMANY

Dear sisters and brothers in our partner diocese of Worcester!

This year we are commemorating the beginning of the First World War 100 years ago. We will be doing so in acts of worship and with prayers for peace, and in our close relationship with one another. I am so happy that this is possible today!

Germany entered into war on 1st August 1914. On 4th August there followed Great Britain's declaration of war - Britain and Germany on opposing sides, and once again later on in the Second World War.

In Magdeburg Cathedral, the seat of the bishop of the Evangelical Church in



Middle Germany, there is a memorial to the sacrifice of war, created from 1924 to 1929 by Ernst Barlach. In the course of his life he found himself increasingly drawn to a pacifist standpoint. The artist was commissioned to design a warrior's memorial in honour of those who fell for Kaiser, God and Fatherland. What appeared was more of a warning, which moved people greatly. In the middle is a cross with the dates of the war. Behind that an unnamed figure with a vacant look, hands wearily leaning upon the cross. On each side to left and right, a soldier, now standing idly by, as if set in stone. In the foreground, as allegories, need (with despairing clenched fists),

death (hiding a skull under a steel helmet) and despair (hands pressed to the head, as if to bear what he's lived through, the gas mask still hanging on the chest.)

In 1934 the memorial had to be removed because it was seen to undermine Nazi ideology, and was returned in 1955, ten years after the destruction of Magdeburg in the Second World War. From the 1980s onwards it became the focus of weekly prayers for peace, strengthening people through the years of the Cold War and in the fight against the unjust regime of East Germany. And it continues to encourage us today when we pray for peace and ask what the Church and the community of Jesus Christ could be doing for a more peaceful world.

When now we think with sadness and shame of the horrors of the First World War, it is no longer as enemies, but joined in relationship to one another. When we commit ourselves to work for a just peace, peace and fair living conditions for all people, then we do it together in Christ, following His words in Matthew 5, 9: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.' In this we are part of an alternative worldwide network, a network for peace around the whole world.

May the peace of Christ bind us together and strengthen us in the Spirit! I thank God that He strengthens our partnership in prayer for a just peace!



Ilse Junkermann

YOUTH GROUP CAMP - FAR FOREST

On the evening of Friday 27 June about twenty five members of the Youth Group went to Far Forest for our annual camp. The group leaders had arranged our accommodation in dormitories and we were soon settled in for the weekend.

After a wonderful breakfast on Saturday morning our leaders took us in their cars to West Midlands Safari Park. We drove through all the enclosures and we were able to feed some of the animals. Then we went to the fun park area and had a great time on the scary rides. We had a lovely picnic before driving back to Far Forest. In the evening we had a water bomb fight and Stephen came to see us – I hope he missed the bombs!

The following day we went on a long walk and played by a river. We had fun building a dam with stones and swinging on a rope over the river. Back at camp we had pizzas for lunch then packed our bags to come home.

Thank you to all the group leaders who gave up their weekend to give us such a good time.

Georgia Hawkins

THE LEANING TOWER OF BURNHAM

Recently holidaying in Burnham-on-Sea we visited the nearby church of St. Andrew on The Esplanade. The 78 foot tower was built on poor sandy foundations and immediately after completion settlement took place and the tower has been leaning ever since. It supports six bells hung in 1823 and two more added in 1902.

The nave has a huge, impressive brass chandelier made by Thomas Bayley of Bridgewater in 1773. The oldest windows in the nave are mediaeval and typical of Somerset work. The Pulpit is mainly of the Jacobean period.

The church has several marble sculptures which were commissioned by James II and removed from Westminster Abbey in 1820 on the orders of the Bishop of Rochester who happened also to be the vicar of St Andrew's. He instructed them to be sited in the Sanctuary but they are now spread around the church. Two large, magnificent angels mounted on new plinths are now on either side of the leaning arch of the tower where the baptismal font is sited.

The chapel is early 14th century and dedicated to St. Nicholas, patron saint of sailors. It was restored in 1921 when a fine screen was erected. This is now for private prayer and daily offices.

On the west wall is the pre-reformation altar stone which was rescued from the churchyard where it had been sunk into the ground and used as a gravestone.

We were made to feel very welcome by Father Graham who has been at St Andrew's for eight years. He is assisted by Father Paul and his two curates. We were introduced to a parishioner who used to live in Unwin Crescent, Stourbridge but made Burnham her home twelve years ago.

Chris and Frank



THE FIRST WORLD WAR—WHY WE SHOULD REMEMBER

(4) LOCAL STORIES— A TRIBUTE TO ALL THE FALLEN

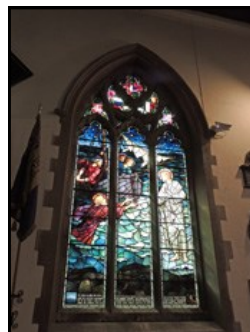


Robert Henry Grazebrook - Engineer Commander Royal Navy H.M.S. "Cressy"

Robert Grazebrook was the second son of Charles Grazebrook of The Racecourse, Pedmore, and grandson of George Pearson of Thorn Hill, Oldswinford. He was educated at Stourbridge Grammar School from 1884 to 1891 and then at Devonport, where he embarked on a career in the Royal Navy. He had been very successful. For six years he had been an engineer officer in King Edward VII's royal yacht 'Victoria and Albert'. Then he had joined HMS Tartar and went on to HMS Sappho. Some months before the outbreak of war he became Engineer Commander of HMS Cressy, a pre-Dreadnought battle cruiser.

The sinking of the Cressy, together with her sister ships, Hogue and Aboukir, was a naval disaster. It came only six weeks after the outbreak of war and brought home to both the navy and the public just how serious a threat submarines could be. These three ships had been posted not far off the neutral Dutch coast to deter the German High Seas fleet from entering the Channel. Their vulnerability had been eventually realised, not least by Winston Churchill as First Sea Lord. However, orders requiring the ships to retire to British waters were delayed and then it was too late. A German submarine, U9, attacked the Aboukir at 7.30 am on 22 September 1914 and a single torpedo was responsible for its sinking. The Hogue stood by to rescue the crew and was sunk by another torpedo. In turn, the Cressy gallantly attempted to rescue the survivors, while firing at a periscope. Thirty minutes later three torpedoes had been launched by U9. The first had little effect, the second missed but the third hit the hull, causing the ship to heel over. Commander Nicholson, a survivor, reported that Robert Grazebrook was seen with others on the upturned keel of the vessel before it finally went down. Although he was an expert swimmer, he was not seen again. The losses were 1459 men dead while 837 were saved by Dutch vessels and British trawlers.

A memorial window to Robert Grazebrook is erected in the Lady Chapel at St. Mary's. The main scene is a poignant depiction of Christ saving St. Peter from the waves. The window was designed and erected by William Morris and Co. At the bottom is a view of HMS Cressy, together with a portrait of Robert. He was 38 years of age.



Against the wall of the churchyard, beside the path just before the gate that leads out towards Hagley Road, is a bright, white, Portland head stone. This stone, maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, marks the last resting place of a young man who died, aged 16, a soldier in the service of his country. His name was Ernest Perks and his story is told on the following page. An unknown local person has cared for this grave regularly.

Private Ernest Perks
2/7th BN Worcestershire Regiment



Ernest Perks lived at 13 Birmingham Street and at 16 he was the youngest soldier from the local area to die in uniform during the First World War. Because he did not go overseas his name is not on the St Mary's memorials. However, he was buried in the churchyard, with full military honours. After he attended St John's school he enlisted in the 3/7th Battalion of the Worcesters, but after some training transferred to the 2/7th Battalion who were preparing for overseas service. He was in D Company in billets at Malvern when he contracted pneumonia and died.



He was given a military funeral on Saturday 19 March 1916 at St Mary's church with soldiers from his Company bearing the coffin which was draped with the Union Flag. His comrades also placed flowers at the grave side and a bugler from the Battalion sounded the Last Post. The rector of St Mary's officiated and his parents, Mr and Mrs A Perks led the mourners.

The County Express reported 25 March 1916: "The bereaved parents have had many messages of sympathy. One is from Mrs Robbins of Malvern where the deceased was formerly in billets. Another from B Company of the 2/7th signed by Corporal Hodgetts says, 'I have been requested on behalf of the NCO's and men to convey their deepest sympathy in the loss you have sustained by the death of your son. He was of a willing, cheerful disposition and was respected by all his comrades. We are sending this wreath as a token of our respect.' A third from the chaplain of the military hospital said, 'I saw your boy twice before he passed away. It is so sad that his young life should be so short, but he has given his life for his country, a thing you will always remember with pride.' Captain E Rowland Hopewell, commanding D Company, wrote, 'As the officer in command of your son's Company, I am writing to sympathise with you very much in his death, which was very unexpected and sudden. He would have made a good soldier.'

Gunner Arthur Henry Lambert
331st Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

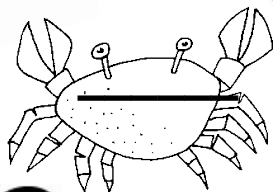
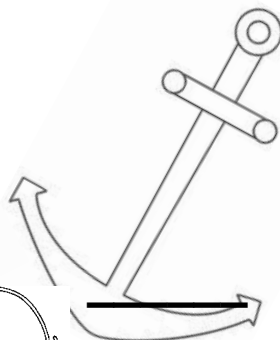
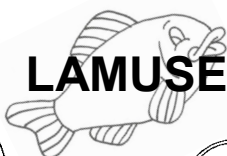
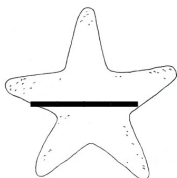
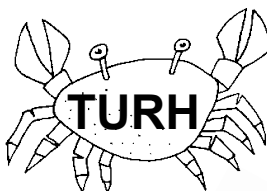
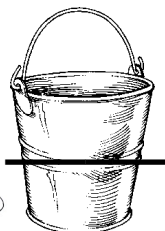
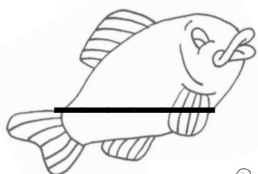
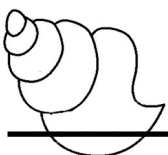
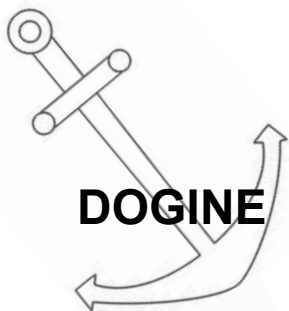


On the High Altar in St Mary's church is a brass book stand, a memorial given by his wife, Elizabeth, in memory of Arthur Henry Lambert, Gunner of D2 Battery, 331st Brigade Royal Field Artillery who died 13 July 1918, in hospital in Hamelin, following action near St Quentin, being wounded and taken prisoner in 1918. St Mary's parish magazine for September 1918 included the following notice: 'We remember him as a Choir Boy, a Sunday School Teacher, a Scoutmaster, a Bible Class Conductor and a Sidesman of our Parish Church. Besides these offices he acted as Secretary of our Branch of the Church of England Men's Society. He was a most valuable helper in the Church Work of the Parish, and we have never ceased to miss him since the day came for him to obey the call of his country.'

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

THE SEA

Write the unscrambled names of these Old Testament people in the matching shape.



Colour them in when you're done.



SEA FISHING

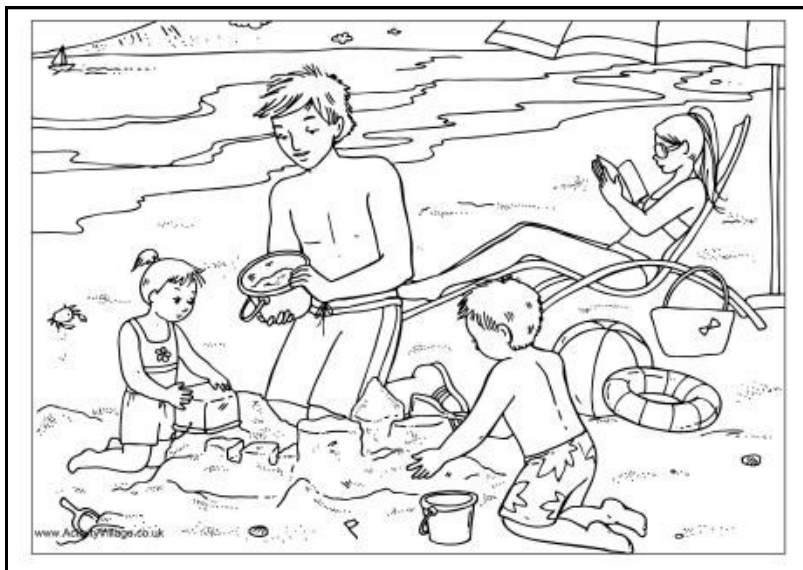
1. Peter and Andrew were both:
_____ (Matt 4: 18)
2. Jesus fed the 5000 by its shore:
_____ (John 6: 1)
3. Where was Jesus when the storm rose? _____
(Mark 4: 38)
4. He tried to walk upon the water:
_____ (Matt 14: 29)
5. James and John worked on their father _____'s fishing
boat (Mark 1:19-20)
6. The number of big fish caught in the net? _____
(John 21: 11)



Have you enjoyed a summer holiday away from home? What did you enjoy most? Did you meet any special people? Did you go anywhere very unusual? Perhaps you would like to write about your holiday.....if you send your story to us we will try to include it in the next edition of the magazine.

THE SEASIDE

Look at the picture. Before you colour it, make a list of all the different activities shown in or suggested by the scene.



MY VISIT TO STANBROOK ABBEY, WASS, YORKSHIRE

'You will be travelling on the A170. The road takes you through NY forestry commission woods, - then a steep bank (Wass Bank). Don't turn left when the sat nav tells you. Instead turn right. Cross two cattle grids as the path winds its way up, past Crieff Lodges (run by Stanbrook) bear left, follow signs to abbey'. Those were the instructions given to us!

There I was, on the feast day of Mary Magdala, 22nd July, making my way on the A170 to 'a much longed for ' visit to Stanbrook. We stopped the night before at Wetherby, which made it less tiring.

I looked forward to meeting with Sister Petra, one of the 22 sisters at the Abbey. I looked forward too to see the newly built Abbey - an architect designed building using local stone and materials, and in every way adapted to Eco methods of energy conservation, using rain water etc

The sisters moved to their 'new home ' about five years ago from Callow End in Worcestershire. When we were on the A170, I thought of them, making that journey - same route, leaving their Worcs home of many many years, where many sisters are buried, and moving to a brand new abbey. It is hard to move house - as we know, but theirs even harder. No doubt their faith and trust and stability in God, helped them.

It was a delight to meet Sister Petra (since Worcester), and enjoy steaming cups of welcome coffee and biscuits together. The other sisters were busy with their day. We had a conducted tour of the abbey - what was available to the public. It still has the 'new' feeling, white interior and modern. The sisters in their habits and way of life linked the 'old and the new '.

Building work is still in progress - currently their church, with a most interesting shape, is being built. I believe it will be clad in wood, which will enhance the earthiness of their order. Diggers and machinery, workmen and dust, all surround them at present, but the sisters continue their monastic life in tranquility, peace and calm. A complex for guests too is being built, catering to those unable to walk up to the abbey from Crieff Lodges.

We went out to their landscaped gardens, most of the hydrangeas had taken root, and looked gorgeous in their pink colour. They grow vegetables, that is if the deer don't get to them first(!) have chickens and a few sheep. I believe they will expand once they fully settle down. There are peacocks - inherited from the previous owner. We went to their 'Garden of Rest', - a lovely peaceful area with two wooden crosses to mark two deaths. On the far side was a pond called 'dew pond'. Sister tells me it has been there for centuries, which links with their rootedness in prayer . We found a peacock feather in that garden, which she gave me to remember my visit. It sits in a vase on my kitchen window.

It was time for midday office, - we met in their chapter house. Being the feast day of Mary Magdala, a reading from Hans Urs von Balthasar, was read which spoke to me. I asked for a copy of that text which they kindly forwarded.

Lunch was at Ampleforth, nearby (5 miles,) - a village well known for its Catholic school and beautiful buildings in that mellow yellow colour.

We met again after lunch. This time there was a fire drill - the first one at the Abbey. I shared that experience with all the nuns running to that set place. We waited in the hot sun, till a roll call was made. The one who stood next to me was Sister Phillipa, a good friend of Owain Bell. She was really happy to know I knew Owain !

The day soon ended. It was rich in hospitality, love and prayer. I felt blest and privileged to return to them. It was good to meet sister Petra, after many years. We were back on the A170, leaving behind blue skies, green pastures and cotton wool sheep

If you are in that area, a joyous welcome awaits you at Stanbrook.

Kanthi Ariaraj

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

Taking a break as usual for the month of August, after a very busy but enjoyable six months of meetings, sixteen members plus Stephen Agnew and Mike Blaxland, whom we were very happy to welcome, relaxed over afternoon tea at the home of Brenda Selby, who with the help of Margaret, Brenda's sister, treated us to a range of delicious homemade cakes and bara brith.

For a short time the weather was kind enough for some of us to walk around Brenda's beautiful garden and enjoy the peace and tranquillity. When the rain finally brought us back inside we were able to enjoy the view whilst having our tea.

These times of fellowship are very special and as ever we are very grateful to Brenda and Margaret for their hospitality.

We resume our autumn programme with our Annual Wave of Prayer on Tuesday 9 September at 2.15 pm with Pensnett Mothers' Union. Roy Peacock is leading the service as well as giving our guests a talk about and tour of the Church. If any members of the congregation would like to join us, we will be very happy to see you.

Reminder:- Wednesday, 19 September, Mothers' Union Diocesan Festival at Worcester Cathedral when the Worldwide President will be present.

Anne May



Worcester College Chapel
University of Oxford

Director of Chapel Music

Worcester College is delighted to announce the appointment of Thomas Allery as Director of Chapel Music. Thomas held the Organ Scholarship of Worcester College between 2007 and 2010 and has since held posts at Canterbury Cathedral, St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge and Magdalen College, Oxford, alongside undertaking further study at the Royal College of Music. Thomas will work with both choirs and the organ scholars to further develop the chapel's music.

Congratulations to Tom from all at St Mary's.

A VERY SPECIAL SERVICE

The weekly Thursday morning communion service took on a new dimension on 17 July in celebration of baptisms and confirmations of candidates from Clover Leaf – the 'Special Needs' group based in the Coach House.

Clover Leaf students regularly participate in the Thursday morning service then help with table-laying and serving coffee and biscuits afterwards. Over recent months Stephen and Pauline have joined the Clover Leaf group in the Coach House to prepare Tracey, the Group leader and students, Michel and Joanne for confirmation. The new Bishop of Dudley, Bishop Graham, also visited the Coach House a few weeks ago to meet the candidates.

Bishop Graham led the baptism and confirmation service in St Mary's church on a beautiful, sunny day in worship that was full of joy, love and happiness. The congregation was delighted to be part of these special celebrations as the Bishop led us through the formalities of the service. The scene was set with joyful hymns which Stephen and Pauline had rehearsed with Clover Leaf and Ruth delivered the Gospel reading before the Bishop's address.

As Joanne and Michel were presented for baptism, fellow Clover Leaf students, relatives and friends gathered round the font to welcome them and 'help them in their life in Christ'. Tracey then joined Joanne and Michel at the chancel steps for their confirmation with the laying on of hands – a most moving and spiritually rich part of the service. The congregation was invited to greet the newly confirmed with applause as Bishop Graham observed that "That was bostin'!" – clearly adapting to his Black Country community.

The Communion started with a lively hymn of thanks and praise led by Les Timms who introduced impromptu lines as the song progressed. The congregation took Communion on the chancel steps and after the prayers Bishop Graham led Tracey, Joanne and Michel through the church to the hymn 'Jubilate' – most appropriate for the occasion.

After the service many guests assembled in the Coach House for a reception hosted by Clover Leaf and continued to reflect on the joy of the occasion, and the admiration of Bishop Graham's officiation – a truly special day.

Alec Beevers



CLOVER LEAF CELEBRATES

Our friends from Clover Leaf have been joining the Thursday morning congregation for several years. During this time their interest in the service has grown. They visit us once a month, helping to prepare the tables, serve the coffee and cakes and have proved to be experts at washing up!

How wonderful it is that this has led Michelle, Joanne and their leader, Tracey to confirmation. On 17 July the congregation celebrated in a very moving service led by Bishop Graham. Joanne and Michel were baptised prior to their confirmation, making their responses clearly and reading together their commitment to a life following in the footsteps of our Lord.

The service was followed by a very enjoyable lunch in the Coach House completing a celebration of a very special day.

Pauline Pettet

COMMEMORATIVE VIGIL SERVICE

Revd Stephen Agnew and Reader Roy Peacock led a Vigil Service at St Mary's church on the evening of 3 August to commemorate the centenary of the beginning of the First World War.

This was a very meaningful service which served to encourage reflection on the pain and suffering of war, the contributions and sacrifices made by so many in such varied ways and as a tribute to all those who lost their lives. Each member of the congregation will have held their own private reflections associated with their family involvement which would have been reinforced by the spiritual and historical references so aptly presented by Stephen and Roy. An informative display prepared by Roy and floral tributes assembled by members of the Flower Guild decorated the church. In the churchyard a floral tribute had been laid on each of the WWI graves to commemorate the service of those who had lost their lives.

TUESDAY TEA

A very pleasant afternoon tea was enjoyed by many who were able to attend on Tuesday 29 July. The warm, sunny weather encouraged those who were not away from home on holiday visits to join together for good company and the special delight of a summer tea of scones and cream. Special thanks go to the members of the Mission Committee and helpers who undertake the organisation and provide the means by which these important social events take place.

You are very welcome to attend Tuesday Tea on the last Tuesday of each month. If you can, please bring along a friend or neighbour for whom the opportunity may be a rare outing. In this way you can contribute to the real purpose of the events and bring a little cheer to someone else.

NEW ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER

The Bishop of Worcester, Dr John Inge, has announced that the Revd Canon Robert Jones is to be the next Archdeacon of Worcester.

Robert has been a priest in the Diocese of Worcester since he was ordained in 1980 and is currently Director of Development.

Robert will be well-known throughout the Diocese of Worcester, having served as Vicar of St Francis in Dudley for eight years and then as Rector of St.Barnabas with Christ Church in Worcester for fourteen years. He was also Rural Dean of Worcester East, is a Canon of Worcester Cathedral and served as one of the diocesan representatives on General Synod, the Church's governing body for ten years. He was appointed Director of Development in 2006 where he has been responsible for training of clergy and laity throughout the diocese, establishing the popular Authorised Lay Minister programme, which has trained over 300 people.

Bishop John said: "Robert's appointment was made with the unanimous recommendation of the advisory group set up to find the next Archdeacon of Worcester. He is a very gifted and well-loved priest who is very mission-minded and fulfils all the criteria of the role. At a time when we've had a number of senior appointments from outside the diocese, Robert's appointment will help provide stability as we move forward as Kingdom People."

Robert moved into the Diocese from just over the border in Birmingham when he was young and was confirmed in St John's, Halesowen in 1966. He studied languages at University before he trained for ordination at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and, as a fluent German speaker, is very involved in the diocesan partnership with Magdeburg and the Church of England's Meissen Agreement with the German Protestant Church. In his spare time Robert enjoys the odd pint of beer, walking, singing in a choir and music-making.

Robert will be installed as the next Archdeacon of Worcester during Evensong at the Cathedral on Sunday 16 November at 4.00 pm.



Diocesan News

PARISH PICNIC

Thank you to Stephen and Jean for a most enjoyable parish picnic. On a day when the temperature was considerably less than it had been for many days a group of stalwart enthusiasts braved the occasional fresh breeze for the pleasure of good company, shared food and a drink with which to toast the significant birthday of our host, Stephen Agnew. Stephen and Jean had kindly made available the rectory garden for this annual get together whilst the kitchen had been prepared by ladies of the Social Committee with the gifts each had brought to this shared lunch. A very special time was enjoyed by all those who were able to be present.

TEA AT THE COACH HOUSE

Looking for somewhere to spend time drinking tea, eating cakes and having a chat? Look no further than the Coach House on the third Tuesday of the month. The first 'Tea at the Coach House' will take place on Tuesday 16th September between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Drop in any time. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Wakeley.

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

PROGRAMME OF WALKS, September 2014—July 2015

Date	Location	Miles	Leaders	Tel No	Lunch
27 Sept 14	Tenbury Wells	5.7	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146	Pub
25 Oct 14	Kingsford Country Park	5	Sue	01384 829211	Pub
29 Nov 14	Birmingham Canals	6	Mike and Janet	01384 390537	TBC
	No Walk in December		No Walk in December		
31 Jan 15	Blackstone and Devils Spittlefull	5.5	Mike and Janet	01384 390537	Pub
28 Feb 15	Blakedown and Yieldingtree	5+	Sue	01384 829211	Pub
28 Mar 15	Stottesdon	5.5	Ray and Jean	01384 836924	Pub
25 Apr 15	Pershore	5	Sylvia	01384 392244	TBC
30 May 15	Grimley	6	Jean and Ray	01384 836924	Pub
27 June 15	Hampton Loade/ Dudmaston	5.5	Toni and Bob	01384 377096	Pub
25 July 15	TBA	TBA	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146	TBA
	No Walk in August		No Walk in August		

- Notes
1. Unless otherwise stated all walks start from St Mary's at 9.30 am.
 2. There are no walks in December 2014 or August 2015
 3. All walks are on the last Saturday of the month
 4. For picnic lunches please bring your own food. For pub lunches there is usually a good selection of meals for purchase.
 5. Country walking is not risk free, all persons joining our walks do so in the knowledge of this fact.
 6. For further information on the walks please telephone the leaders.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS CHANGE RINGING ASSOCIATION OLD SWINORD, WEST MIDLANDS, ST MARY

On Sunday 29 June, 2014, in 50 minutes, **1260 Plain Bob Minor**,
 1 Christopher Lees 2 Pat Whalley 3 Georgina Pearson 4 Richard Hurst
 5 David Banks (Conductor) 6 John Sutton 7 Anthony Lloyd 8 Robert Hill
 Congratulations to Robert Hill on ringing his first quarter peal.

To celebrate the 70th birthdays of the following :- Eve Evans(03/03): Ray Drew(13/03):
 Katey Fletcher(15/03): David Fox(23/03) :Christine Day(27/04): Anthony Lloyd(16/06):
 Bob Evans(18/06)

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

TWICE BAKED BUBBLE AND SQUEAK JACKET POTATOES

These make a good veggie main course, or a good side dish that can be made ahead of time and re-baked.

4 baking potatoes

½ a head of Savoy cabbage, finely shredded

Butter

Parmesan cheese (optional) Not all parmesan is suitable for vegetarians so check first.

Pre-heat the oven to gas 5/190°C. Bake the potatoes in the oven (I often start them off in the microwave to save time) until they are cooked through and crisp on the outside.

Sauté the cabbage in a little butter and a dash of water until tender. Season and drain really well.

Slice the baked potatoes in half. Scoop out the flesh put into a mixing bowl. Mash well with a little butter, milk and seasoning. Add the cabbage mix well. Spoon back into the empty shells. Place on a baking tray. Sprinkle over a little parmesan if using.

Return to the oven and bake for about 15 minutes until the tops are golden. It will take longer if re-heating from cold.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

Just returned from your holidays and wondering what exactly that novelty bottle of local liquid you bought tastes like? Something persuades us to buy Mediterranean "firewater"! Perhaps it was a monastic herbal liqueur (I bought one in Skofja Loka in Slovenia I recall), or a bottling from Morocco, Israel or Majorca? This may indeed be a good opportunity to open up that bottle which we keep deferring - we've all got one in our collection. Our bubble-and-squeak jacket potato takes us firmly into the realms of rustic farmhouse fare. No need to visit the premium wines cabinet.

Some possessions may even surprise us. The Yarden Winery in Golan, Israel has made a splash with its sparkling wines. Such wineries, as in neighbouring Lebanon, often bear witness to French viticultural connections and grow traditional Gallic varieties. Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Chardonnay abound at Yarden. Cabernet Sauvignon and Cinsaut predominate in Lebanon's famed Chateau Musar.

It is the same story in North Africa. We will certainly encounter wines in Morocco, although decades ago it was Algeria which was the big player in wine terms. When that country's revolution over 50 years ago took it in an Islamic direction, it was wine-making in the Languedoc region of southern France which felt a huge impact too. No longer able to rely on supplies of robust, deeply-coloured wine from Algeria to blend with the thin pale stuff prevalent at the time, the vignerons of the Languedoc set about wholesale replanting of their vineyards: ripping up the weedy Aramon vines and planting Carignan.

Today's wines from North Africa derive mostly from classic French varieties: perfectly drinkable, rarely exceptional - but if you've got one of those holiday bottles tucked away, now's the time to pop the cork and drink to the next far-flung adventure!

Enjoy your wine-sipping,

Richard W.B. Ryan

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY OF HEALING

There is great interest in the healing ministry, for obvious reasons. For one, we all get sick at some time or another, and so do our friends and family. And at least 20% of the Gospels is devoted to the healing ministry of Jesus.

Yet getting healed clearly isn't like getting something from a slot machine. Our wariness about being disappointed often discourages us from seeking prayer, whether for ourselves or for others. Yet James 5 directly encourages us to seek such prayer.

One of the Diocesan Healing Advisory Group's roles is to arrange days when we can unpick these things together, and be encouraged. We are very fortunate to have Bishop Dominic Walker as our guest speaker at the next Festival of Healing, and I know he will be a great encouragement to us. 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. His talk will be based on the text "By His wounds you have been healed".

Details are available in the pew sheet. Please do come and join us!

Michael Harper,
Chairman, Diocesan Healing Advisory Group

BIG BIBLE STUDY

The Big Bible Study Worcester 2014 takes place on Saturday 27 September..

This year's event will be led by popular speaker Kathy Galloway. Kathy is a poet, songwriter and theologian and is also the director of Christian Aid Scotland. A leading figure in the Iona community, Kathy will lead a bible discussion followed by some worship and reflection. There will also be a shared lunch after the event has concluded.

"The mantra for the day is Pray. Study. Eat. The shared lunch is an integral part of the event as it encourages people to discuss what they have learnt. The event will be slightly different to previous years in the respect that there is only one lead speaker. This will hopefully lead to more time for small group discussion'. It promises to be a fantastic event and at only £3 per head, is also excellent value for money."

More information is on the Diocesan website: www.cofe-worcester.org.uk or you can email bbs@worcestercathedral.org.uk

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

15 June	Frederick Steven Floud Hugo Patrick Tate
6 July	Jack Stevens Ellis James McCarroll Lyla Fallon Walters
3 August	Nate J Pritchard

Weddings

21 June	Matthew Webster and Clair Stone
26 June	Rhys Lewis and Laura Bennett
5 July	Daniel Boughton and Gemma Hutton
12 July	Ian Lanchbury and Charlotte Partridge
19 July	Michael Marks and Rebecca Williams
25 July	Ben Westwood and Vicky Willetts
2 August	Adrian White and Donna Harris Paul Keightley and Lucy Cox Philip Round and Rachel Davies

Funerals

17 June	Bill Bedford	Aged 77
1 July	Brian Quinton	Aged 83 (Burial of ashes)
21 July	Jean Amy Lovell	Aged 78
25 July	Joyce Diane Allaway	Aged 84
4 August	Richard Harris	Aged 86 (Burial of ashes)

HAS YOUR FAMILY ATTENDED THE SAME CHURCH SCHOOL FOR GENERATIONS?

The Diocese of Worcester is trying to find families where multiple generations have been to the same church school. The family with the most generations will be invited to star in a special poster celebrating the generations of children that church schools have taught.

If your family has more than two generations who have been to the same school then please contact Sam Setchell, Diocesan Communications Officer on 07852 302516 or ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk. We need the name of family members, the school attended and a contact phone number. If you can send a photo that would also help.

CHILDREN'S PAGE ANSWERS

Old Testament people:

David, Ruth, Samuel, Gideon, Jacob, Eve.

Sea Fishing:

1-Brothers 2-Galilee 3-Stern 4-Peter
5-Zebedee 6-153

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF DUDLEY....The Face of Mosul

Back in mid-July I saw a photo of some graffiti on a wall. At first I thought that it was a happy face. A red line circling a big smile and a dot. I wondered if, in the graffiti artist's rush, they had missed the other eye. But then the symbol was explained to me and I lost my smile. The sprayed mark began to appear on the homes of the 3,000 or so Christians who until a few weeks ago were living in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul. These Christians, who have lived peaceably as a minority in a multi-faith context for centuries, can trace back their lineage to some of the first Christian communities.

The symbol daubed on their lintels by the extremist ISIS (The Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham) is the Arabic letter, نā nūn. The letter stands for Nasara which is the Qur'an's word for Christians: Nazarenes. The letter which should point to faith, hope and love, now meant 'convert to Islam, or get out, or pay a hefty Christian tax if you dare to stay' with its undertone of 'you're on our list and you'll be dead'.

Symbolism is important in hatred; marking out the other to be vilified, persecuted, or eradicated. Remember the Jews of Nazi Germany being forced to wear the Star of David on their clothing during the pogroms? Another holocaust, and, yes, I use that word carefully and sparingly, is happening before our very eyes.

Now by the river of Babylon the Nazarenes have sat down and wept, and then they ran for their lives as the crosses came crashing down from their churches and were replaced by the black ISIS flag. For the first time in nearly 2,000 years there are no longer Christians in Mosul.

Mosul is just one of numerous places in the Middle East where fragile Christian communities have had to leave their ancient places of prayer. Christians have been persecuted under the regime in Syria and faced daily bombardment in Gaza.

Many miles away, in Halesowen, there is a Church run project called 'The Welcome Group'. This group of ordinary churchgoers have developed an extraordinary ministry to over 50 people each week, all of whom are seeking asylum. When you hear the stories it's humbling. One young couple had to leave Iran overnight when they converted to Christianity and a price was put on their heads. Here in the UK they live on virtually nothing as they wait for permission to stay. You can see faith, hope and love in their very being.

To offer our prayers, as well as our help and support, for those persecuted for their faith is a part of our Christian living and must never be seen as being apart from it. So too must be our condemnation of the extremists of any faith who want to warp it for murderous intent.

But we also must not demonize Islam in the wake of these or other atrocities. During the holy season of Ramadan I met many Muslims who denounce all evil perpetuated in the name of Allah and struggle to see how ISIS or Al Qaeda, or Boko Haram in Nigeria, is in any way connected with their peaceable faith.

Of course, we as Christians know that we don't have an honorable history when it comes to respect for other faiths. In parts of Europe St James, for example, is still known as the Moor slayer and terrible crimes against Islam have been committed in his name.

The wisdom deep in our traditions, Nazarene and Mohamadan, may give us the best hope to lead us into a peaceable future. A wise Sufi elder was once asked how we will recognize our fellow travellers on the Way. To this he responded:

"Their faces are marked by the scars of love. No one will ever tell you that the Way is easy: only that it is possible. No one can tell you if the journey is worthwhile, for your wages are concealed in the hand of God. But whoever chooses to follow the Way will have the joyous company of God's beloved fools, and a resting place, at journey's end, in the Mecca of the heart."

Learning to travel together is the only way that the graffiti on the walls of Mosul can be seen to smile again.

Bishop Graham

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