



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## Parish Church Magazine



**REMEMBER THE MEN OF OLD SWINFORD**

**PRIEST IN CHARGE:** The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,  
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**NOVEMBER 2014**

**50p**

## SUNDAYS AT ST MARY'S

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion and Children Together
6.30 pm	Evensong
10.00 am	(second Sunday) Worship Together

## WEEKDAYS AT ST MARY'S

Daily:	9.00 am - Morning Prayer (except Fridays and Saturdays) Morning Prayer on Tuesdays will alternate between St Mary's, St Thomas' and Holy Trinity Amblecote
Daily:	5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (except Fridays)
Wednesday:	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 noon - Open Church –refreshments available
<b>Priest in Charge Day Off:</b>	Friday

## OTHER REGULAR EVENTS



Bible Study Group:	Monday, first in month at 2.30 pm	379972
Mothers' Union:	Second Tuesday at 2.15 pm	392951
Outreach Group:	Occasional meetings	01562 851491
Music Group Practice:	Second Saturday at 10.00 am	375167
St Mary's Walking Group:	Last Saturday of the month. Depart 9.30 am	

<b>Reader Emeritus:</b>	Mr Roy Peacock	379972
<b>Reader:</b>	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
<b>Church Wardens:</b>	Mrs Marjorie Ferguson	393454
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
<b>Organist / Choirmaster:</b>	Mr Robin Walker	01905 353939
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr Russ Fowler	442684
<b>PCC Secretary:</b>	Miss Katey Fletcher	378182
<b>Magazine Editors:</b>	Miss Gemma Sutton	07968 586285
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661

<b>Church Hall and</b>		
<b>Coach House: - Bookings</b>	Parish Office	441003
<b>Parish Administrator and</b>		
<b>Publicity Officer:</b>	Mr John Sutton	441003
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
<b>Church website address:</b>	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk	
	E-mail: st.mary.os@btconnect.com	
<b>Magazine e-mail address:</b>	stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk	

## ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNINGS 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 NOVEMBER 2014

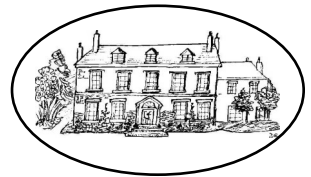
Saturday 1	10.00 am - 3.00 pm Churchyard Work Party 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 2</b>	<b>ALL SAINTS / ALL SOULS</b>
Monday 3	7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting
Tuesday 4	Beacon Employment working in churchyard
Thursday 6	10.30 am Holy Communion in church
Saturday 8	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 11.00 am Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 9</b>	<b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b>
Monday 10	9.30 am Open the Book Team visit Old Swinford Primary School Copy date for December magazine
Tuesday 11	Full Peal by visiting bellringers 11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft 2.15 pm Mothers' Union meet in Coach House
Thursday 13	10.30 am Holy Communion in church
Saturday 15	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 16</b>	<b>SECOND BEFORE ADVENT</b>
Tuesday 18	3.00 pm Baptism 2.00 pm Tea at the Coach House
Thursday 20	10.30 am Holy Communion in church
Saturday 22	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour Archdeacon's meeting re Deanery Plan.
<b>SUNDAY 23</b>	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b>
Monday 24	3.00 pm Baptism 9.30 am Open the Book Team visit Old Swinford Primary School 7.30 pm PCC Meeting
Tuesday 25	2.30 - 4.00 pm Tuesday Tea
Wednesday 26	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 27	10.30 am Holy Communion in church 7.30 pm Coach House Meeting
Saturday 29	St Mary's Walking Group—Birmingham Canals. 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 4.00 pm Mary Stevens Hospice Tree of Light Service
<b>SUNDAY 30</b>	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 6.30 pm Advent Carol Service

## THOUGHT FOR THE SEASON

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

From Corinthians 9

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

It always seems to me that there is an inherent sadness about November: it is a month when we look back and remember. The month starts with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, and as we celebrate these occasions we look back to people who are no longer on earth with us. On All Saints' Day we remember those champions of our faith who have stood firm, often in the face of persecution, and from whom we have inherited the faith that is ours as Christians. On All Souls' Day we remember and give thanks for people who have been a part of our lives and have often been of great help to us as we have progressed on our own life journeys.

Our next act of remembrance is on Remembrance Sunday and then Armistice Day itself. On these days we remember people who gave their lives in armed conflict, protecting a way of life which we now enjoy freely. These acts of remembrance are particularly poignant this year as we commemorate the Centenary of the outbreak of the Great War and as the number of people who participated in the Second World War and are still alive becomes fewer and fewer.

It is important to remember and to value people both for the things they have done and the people they have been. In remembering such people we honour them, but the greatest honour that we can bestow on those we remember is to allow our lives to be a testament to the influence they have had on us. As we remember All Saints we should seek to imitate strength of faith of the saints, a strength which drove them to remain faithful to Jesus Christ despite facing all sorts of challenges. As we remember our own friends and ancestors we should honour them by remembering and acting on the lessons of life which they left us. As we remember those who died in conflict we honour them by seeking to live lives of peace and encouraging individuals, communities and nations to live at peace with one another. We also honour them by standing up to those who would deprive the weak and powerless of their freedom to live their own lives.

As this month is a particular time of remembrance we should not forget that such remembrance is at the centre of our faith, as we are reminded every time we celebrate Eucharist that we 'do this to remember Jesus'. As we look back and remember in our own faith we also honour Jesus by living our lives in accordance with his teaching and his life.

As we start this month with significant acts of remembrance we end it not by looking backwards, but instead by looking forwards to the coming of Jesus in judgement. We look forward to when God's Kingdom is fully realised on earth, and the reign of peace and justice on earth is brought into being as we enter the season of Advent. And so as we might start the month with a certain sense of

sadness we end with a feeling of hope that ultimately God's kingdom will come on earth as it has already come in heaven.

May God bless you in this season of remembrance and hope

*Stephen Agnew*

### SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2014

<b>2 November All Souls</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Revelations 7. 9-17	Matthew 5. 1-12
	6.30 pm Evensong	Wisdom 3. 1-9	John 6. 37-40
<b>9 November Remembrance Sunday</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER WITH ACT OF REMEMBRANCE	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Judges 7. 2-22	John 15. 9-17
<b>16 November Second Sunday before Advent</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Thessalonians 5. 1-11	Matthew 25. 14-30
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Kings 1. 15-40	Revelations 1. 4-18
<b>23 November Christ the King</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Ephesians 1. 15-end	Matthew 25. 31-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Samuel 23. 1-7	Matthew 28. 16-end
<b>30 November The first Sunday of Advent</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Corinthians 1. 3-9	Mark 13. 24-37
	6.30 pm	ADVENT CAROL SERVICE	

## CHRISTMAS MARKET PREPARATIONS

As last month's magazine went to print the date for the Christmas Market had to change. Please note, this year's **Christmas Market** will now be on **Saturday, 6th December**.

I apologise for the confusion – for various reasons the original date was changed but since then an event was arranged within the diocese at which clergy and church-wardens **must** attend so we have had to return to the original date of 6th December.

**HELP WANTED** Any help you can give to maintain the vibrant spirit of our Market will be really welcome. It's always an enjoyable occasion with lots of laughter but new people and new ideas can only help to add to the general enjoyment of everyone. Another planning meeting is arranged for Monday evening, 10th November, in the Narthex area of church, at 7.30pm. If you are unable to come to the meeting then please give me a call on Stourbridge 378182 or email me on [kateyfletcher@btinternet.com](mailto:kateyfletcher@btinternet.com).

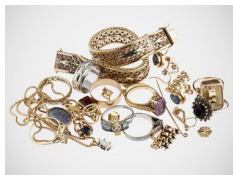
**DONATIONS** As always donations and gifts are welcome and these can be left at the back of church from early November onwards. I know you will support our wish to retain our reputation for quality so won't be tempted to treat this in the same light as a jumble sale clear out!

Thank you,

**Katey Fletcher**

## CHRISTMAS JEWELLERY STALL

I shall be behind the stall as ever, but this year I may be invisible. I am collecting, evaluating, pricing, gluing, threading, repairing and dealing with bullion (scrap and broken gold pieces) as ever. This will be my sixteenth year and coming of age literally prevents me from actually arranging and selling the loot. Fortunately we have the inimitable and most valuable Chris Morgan and Marion in whose capable hands we hope to raise our usual financial contribution. None of the above could happen without your generosity and support for which we thank you now in advance. Contributions gratefully accepted by Chris, Frank, Roy and myself.



**Pamela M Peacock. F.G.A.**



It has been estimated that just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story, and more than one-third of children don't know whose birthday is celebrated on 25 December. Meanwhile, 51 per cent of people now say the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas.

Part of the Diocesan programme of events planned for the Christmas Campaign 2014 is an initiative to encourage communities to reclaim Christmas for Christ and to do what they can to promote the true Christmas story.

At St Mary's we do our best to recognise how important it is for Christmas to be celebrated in shared services of Readings and Carols, to remember the needs of others, particularly those who may find this a difficult and lonely time of year, and to share the story of Christmas with children and adults as widely as possible. Some of our Christmas events are listed below.

Do try to take part in as much as you can, encourage others to come along and share in our celebrations and activities and, above all, do your best to take the Christmas story to as many people as you can.

#### **SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 10.00AM TOY SERVICE**

A Worship Together service to which we invite contributions of unwrapped toys and toiletries as gifts to be donated to the Women's Refuge.

#### **SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 4.30PM CRISTINGLE**

A popular service for all the family of songs, prayers and a collection in aid of the Children's Society. Children are given an orange decorated with ribbon and sweets and a candle which symbolises Jesus, the light of the world, who brings hope to those who live in darkness.

#### **24 DECEMBER - CRIB SERVICE**

This is a service directed specially at children and families. With carols and readings, the Christmas story is told and the congregation is invited to take an active part in bringing the various story characters to be placed in the crib to complete the decoration of the church for Christmas.

Details of our full programme of Christmas services and events will be published in next month's issue of the magazine.

## BARTLEY GREEN CELEBRATES

The congregation of St Michael and All Angels, Bartley Green celebrated in style on Thursday, 2 October as The Right Revd David Urquhart, Bishop of Birmingham presided over the Collation and Installation of Revd Ruth Atkinson as the new vicar. Revd Priscilla White, Area Dean of Edgbaston Deanery, and then Bishop David set the scene of this joyous occasion as one of celebration and thanks to God for the realisation of a career ambition and a parish's hope for new leadership.

Throughout a service which was filled with hymns of praise and words which were so fitting for the occasion, Ruth seemed at ease, smiling, as the momentous reality of the event became the conclusion of the challenging road she has travelled in recent years.

In the presence, and with the support of many robed colleagues in the church, a great many friends from St Mary's, a warm and welcoming community at St Michael's and representatives of local organisations, Ruth stood before the Bishop for the Collation and made her Declaration of Assent and took her Oaths of Allegiance and Obedience with confidence and commitment.

Following her installation in the Vicar's seat, Ruth was led to the church door by the churchwardens where the Archdeacon of Birmingham, the Venerable Hayward Osborne placed Ruth's hand on the door to induct her to the Benefice as the churchwardens handed the keys of the church into her care.

Bishop David then formally presented Ruth as the Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Bartley Green and invited the congregation to support Ruth to the full by worship of God, through prayers and with work. A strong, affirmative response was voiced by all, support echoed in the applause which greeted Ruth in her new mission.

Ruth led the congregation in prayers before being presented with the traditional symbols of her ministry; water, oil, a Bible and a lighted candle, bread and wine, and a scrapbook of the story of the church, a symbol of intention to look back with thanksgiving and forward with hope. In response Ruth pledged herself to care for the community, to share, to celebrate and to encourage.

During refreshments following the service Ruth was greeted by friends old and new and joined with all in recognising the contributions made by several individuals who had work tirelessly to support the community during the interregnum.





## **A MESSAGE FROM RUTH**

A huge thank you to everyone who came to support me on Thursday 2 October. It was a wonderful service which I really enjoyed. Thank you for your gifts and cards and most of all thank you for your support, not just on the night, but over the past few months. I hope you will stay in touch; John has my contact details and if you are in the area give me a ring and see if I'm free.

**Revd Ruth Atkinson**

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## **COMMEMORATIVE PEAL**

A visiting band of bellringers will be ringing a full peal on our bells on Tuesday 11 November. This is Armistice Day so the bells will be rung half muffled as a tribute to all those who have given their lives in conflict.

A leather pad will be tied to one side of the clapper of each bell to muffle the sound on every other strike that is heard.

A full peal consists of a minimum of 5000 consecutive changes and lasts for just under 3 hours so you'll hear the bells ringing for quite a while. The name of the 'method' they will be ringing is rather appropriately called 'Remember Me.'



**John Sutton**

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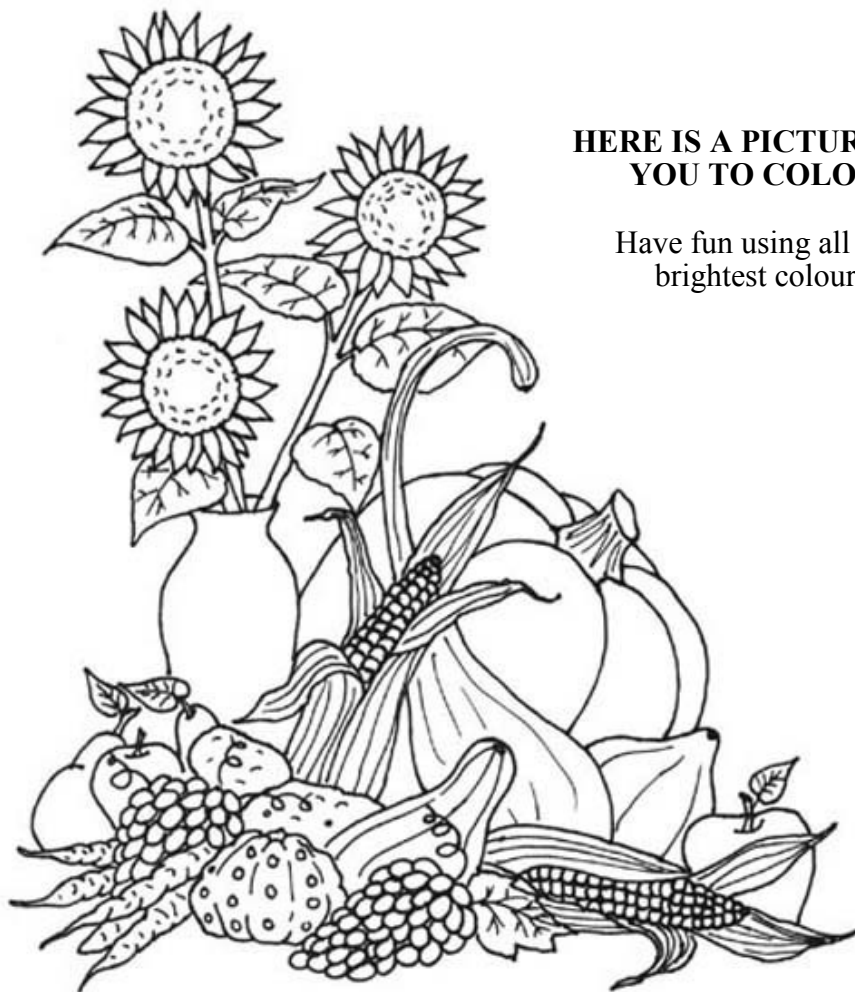
## **DEDICATION SUNDAY**

The 'Gifts and Talents' presentation at every service on Sunday 5 October, Dedication Sunday, was an appropriate recognition of the gifts of time, knowledge, skills and effort people bring to the church community in support of its activities and members. Equally it carried the message, 'If you can help in any way, if you can find a little time to spare or perhaps want to learn more about how your church community operates, please ask whoever you feel most confident in asking.' Wardens and members of the clergy will always point you in the right direction.

A very big thank you is expressed to John Sutton, Mike Blaxland, Margaret Ager, Frank McGain-Harding, Chris Morgan, Marjorie Ferguson and to Revd Stephen Agnew for their work in compiling the presentation.

# COLOURS

This is the time of year when your gardens are full of autumn colour. The flower beds are bright with red, yellow, orange and purple flowers. Trees and shrubs hang with garden fruit or scarlet berries. Vegetables grow in all shades of green, yellow and purple. At our Harvest Festival we bring some of this colour into our church and make it beautiful.



**HERE IS A PICTURE FOR  
YOU TO COLOUR**

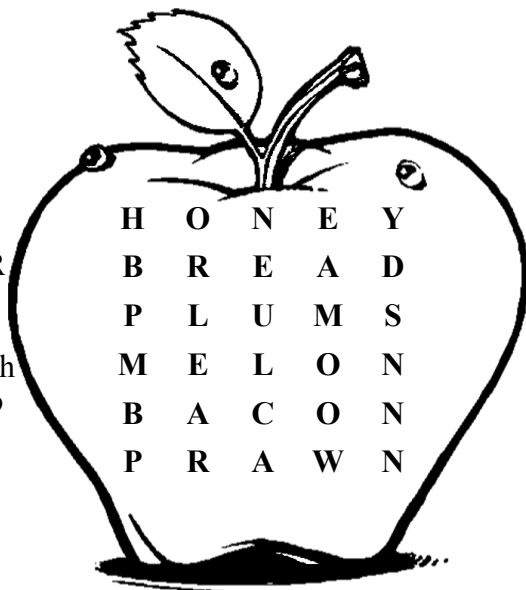
Have fun using all your  
brightest colours.



### SPOT THE COLOUR

Take one letter from each of these foods in turn to spell a colour.

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### CHURCH COLOURS

The church uses colours to show the different seasons and special festivals in the year. The colours are **GREEN**, **VIOLET**, **WHITE**, and **RED**. Can you fit the colour to the season?

- |              |       |               |       |
|--------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| 1. Christmas | _____ | 5. Trinity    | _____ |
| 2. Lent      | _____ | 6. Saints Day | _____ |
| 3. Whitsun   | _____ | 7. Easter     | _____ |
| 4. Advent    | _____ | 8. Epiphany   | _____ |

### DO YOU KNOW?

- God set a rainbow in the sky to show His promise. Do you know its seven colours in order?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who wore a 'coat of many colours'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What colour gown did the Roman soldiers put on Jesus? (Mark 15: 17)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- What colour was the Easter Angel dressed in? (Mark 16: 5)  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **ST MARY'S FAVERSHAM**

Several miles up the Kent coast from where our daughter lives is the market town of Faversham. It is famous for being the home of the oldest brewery in Britain, Bob Geldof has a home there, and in the past a gunpowder works supplied the Navy from 1558 to 1934.

The Parish Church of St Mary of Charity had reached its present size by the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although the first mention of a church on this site was written in 1070. The name is a surviving link to Faversham Abbey which was originally a Cluniac Monastery whose mother church in France was dedicated to St. Mary of Charity. The beautiful 'crown' spire was built in 1794-7 and the architect drew inspiration for it from Wren's design at St. Dunstan-in-the-East in London. It is rumoured that the open construction was chosen because it was thought more likely to withstand a possible explosion from the nearby gunpowder factory than a solid form. Fortunately however this was not put to the test. The day we visited, 30 or so lively parishioners were enjoying lunch at the back of the church.



**Maureen Baker**

## **ST MARY'S WITH SAINT JOHN'S MOTHERS' UNION**

We welcomed Stephen Agnew as our October speaker. His topic was his Pilgrimage to Assisi earlier this year. Three of our members were fellow pilgrims.

After briefly telling us of the places they had visited, he concentrated on the life of St Francis of Assisi through the work of the 13th/14th century artist Giotto. However, my report cannot do justice to the visual splendour of his work.

Francis of Assisi was born in 1181 to wealthy parents, his father being a silk merchant. Francis lived the high life until having served as a soldier he had a vision to return to Assisi where he renounced his wealth in favour of a life of poverty. Francis, although he was never priested, formed the three Franciscan Orders; The 'Lesser Brothers' (Order of Friars Minor), the Order of the Poor Clares, which became an enclosed order for women and the Order of Brothers and Sisters of Penance. He also arranged the first Nativity scene. In 1224 he received the stigmata making him the first recorded person to bear the wounds of Christ's passion. He died in October 1226 aged 45 and two years later in 1228 he was canonised by Pope Gregory 1X.

If you have ever visited the Gilbert White Museum in Selborne, Hampshire, you may have visited the Saxon Church of St Mary, which has the most glorious stained glass window of St Francis, surrounded by birds, animals and all living things for which he is the Patron Saint.

Stephen injected light and beauty into what was a very grey October afternoon.

Our next meeting is on Armistice Day, 11 November, in the Coach House when we will be welcoming Roy Peacock as our guest speaker. Other dates in our diary are Diocesan Council on 8 November at All Saints, Bromsgrove and the Christmas Market on 6 December in the Church Hall where we will be manning the Tombola.

**Anne May**

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### **HAPPY FAMILIES AND HOW TO MAKE THEM.**

1. BE GIVING of yourself to others. Generosity is one of the greatest blessings parents and grand parents bestow.

2. PROCEED CALMLY. One of the great pressures of family life is stress. We are pressured to do better in every aspect of life from our first day at school. We need to develop calmness of life that includes prayer and reflection to remind us regularly who we are and what our destiny is.

3. DEVELOP A HEALTHY SENSE OF LEISURE. 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy' is truth at its highest level.

4. SUNDAYS SHOULD BE HOLIDAYS. God gave us Sabbath for rest and for honouring his blessings.

5. FIND NEW WAYS to create dignified jobs for young people. The necessity of having meaning and dignity in a person's job goes without saying, but sadly it rarely happens. Pray for young people every Sunday.

6. RESPECT AND CARE FOR NATURE. Garden centres provide an outing for families exploring nature together. Families gardening together each with their own task for their age and strength reap a bounty of harvest in many ways.

7. DON'T BE NEGATIVE. There is sometimes a serious shortage of praise in the family. Self esteem can be at a low ebb. Parents need to stand beside their children regardless of what career they have chosen or whom they are married to or live with. When did you last praise your children for just being wonderful? They are wonderful because they are made in the image and likeness of God - and in your image and likeness too.

8. RESPECT OTHERS' BELIEFS. We need to go the extra mile to respect other Christians and those of other faiths.

9. WORK FOR PEACE. Real peace is in the hearts of people. Draw on it.

10. FORGIVENESS. This brings us full circle. It gives inner tranquillity.

**With thanks to Kanthi Ariaraj**

## MESSY CHURCH

Ever since the successful launch of Messy Church during the Easter period, we have frequently speculated as to when there would be a follow up. The question was answered on a Saturday afternoon during August when we spent an enjoyable couple of hours in the Church Hall.



On this occasion the theme was 'The Seaside' and was reflected in a wide range of activities evoking seaside memories, both recent and from times past. Connie began by creating and writing a postcard home before moving on to decorate a cake with miniature versions of what you might expect to see on the beach. Constructing a windmill, making a paper boat (which was tested to ensure that it floated in order to qualify for a prize) and putting together a picture for framing all soon followed.



A more testing activity entailed creating a key ring which featured a fish mosaic, but the end product was well worth the effort. Finally, and in true seaside tradition, there were shells and sand to investigate. The idea here was to delve into the sand to find a specially marked shell. Sweets awaited those lucky enough to succeed.

A short session of music and prayers then followed which encouraged the active participation of the children. Particularly enjoyable was the singing and actions to accompany the story of the men who built their houses on rock and sand and what became of them when the rains came!

Proceedings were eventually brought to a close when food was served, all the children tucking into Fish Fingers, chips bearing smiley faces and a drink. A suitable conclusion to what had been a busy session. An awful lot of effort and planning had gone into arranging and producing what turned out to be an engaging, well attended afternoon. Our thanks are due to everyone concerned.



**Rod Jukes and Connie Pittaway**

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## ACTION ON POVERTY

The film 'The UK Gold' was screened at St Thomas's Church Hall, Stourbridge on 7 October. as part of the year of partnership between the Diocese of Worcester and Christian Aid, supported by Church Action on Poverty. The film was followed by a discussion/reflection session chaired by the Rt Revd Graham Usher, Bishop of Dudley, with spokespersons from each of the above organisations.

The film highlights the efforts of Hackney vicar, Father William Taylor, to speak out about tax dodging and how tax havens are complicit in denying poor countries the potential benefit of \$160 billion each year. Information from the event is available in the Narthex.

You might be interested in the next event in the programme, The Living Wage – How and Why, at the Old Palace, Deansway, Worcester at 7.00 for 7.30 pm on Wednesday 5 November.

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## **ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP**

Fifteen walkers set off from the Pembroke House in Tenbury Wells on a short road and lane section before climbing the first of fifteen stiles into fields, opposite a bungalow called "Somfield".

Walking up and over the field brow, we walked on level ground then following the line of electricity poles, eventually crossed a ditch over two rickety planks to the top of the next field.

Turning left, then right, we crossed more fields before joining the driveway to Manor Farm where we had previously seen and heard, two buzzards overhead, but unfortunately, not today.

Just beyond the bridge, we turned right at a triple way marker, over another stile before crossing several more fields to arrive at The Greens. Here we were greeted by some very noisy dogs that were fortunately penned in, to their obvious annoyance.

The walk we were following was an AA walk and it was supposed to take us down an unsigned driveway to Upper Green. However when we were planning the walk on two previous occasions, we were told by two separate people that we could not go down that track, despite the OS map saying otherwise.

We therefore diverted from the route as published, taking a footpath, beside the small cemetery and eventually arriving at Cadmore Golf Course now part of a retirement complex currently looking as being in process of refurbishment.

Walking around the course, we passed the main building, then down a farm track passed two very impressive log cabins before joining a minor road leading to the main road leading back to Tenbury.

However we turned left along the road for 100 yards then up some steps and over yet another stile, crossed the field then followed a path to Berrington Mill, currently being renovated. Turning right and up the lane took us to Frank P Mathews nurseries. Entering the nursery, we took the track behind the cottage passed rows and rows of greenhouses and trees. Leaving the track, we cut down through woodland eventually arriving at the road at Bednal Bridge.

Almost immediately we left the road again, crossing fields, passing stands of coppiced willow trees.

Crossing another field, we then followed a path behind a row of houses (nice gardens!), before exiting onto the main road that we followed back into Tenbury. We were joined by two more friends and all enjoyed a very pleasant lunch.

Once again, the weather was very kind to us and a good day was had by all.

**Malcolm Frost**

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

### SIMPLE PLEASURES

Good quality ice cream is always a great standby to have in the freezer this time of year. Here are some ideas to get you started,

**Affogato**, this translates to 'pick me up' and is my favourite. Pour a shot of hot espresso over vanilla ice cream. The warm, cold, bitter and sweet taste is just perfect.

**Sweet Sherry**, I am sure Richard can suggest a syrupy sweet sherry; you could soak a few raisins in the sherry before pouring over the ice cream.

**Hot Chocolate Sauce**, this was a family favourite when my family were growing up and now I get to make it for my grandchildren. Heat up 100ml double cream in a small pan; take off the heat, break up 75g of dark chocolate and allow to melt. Whisk until smooth and shiny.

**Christmas Pudding Ice Cream**, break up small pieces of leftover Christmas pudding, it helps to dry them out slightly if you have time. Allow the ice cream to soften but not melt. Fold the pudding pieces into the ice cream and put back in the freezer for at least two hours.

### A THOUGHT FOR THE SEASON

Sometimes we resist help even when it would make life easier.

**It'll be quicker if I do it myself...** Well it may be this time but it will be faster in the long run if someone else learns how to do it and can then take over.

**I can do it better myself...** you don't have time to do everything; getting it 80% right is good enough at this hectic time.

**I am frightened it will go wrong...** I have learnt with my grandchildren who love to help to let them have a go. You can always help out if a problem arises and you are giving them an opportunity to learn.

**Ann Jennings**

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### AND FOR THE WINE.....

Ann's initial selections would be amongst my personal favourites and we should be able to find some delightful combinations - intense tipples step forward. The range of ice cream flavours available seems limitless - even without the bizarre restaurant offerings such as black pudding or parsnip! This breadth of flavours is echoed in the selection of liqueurs on the market. Thus we may match red fruits with fraise, framboise or cassis, yellow fruits with creme de peche or Mirabelle, citrus flavours with Limoncello and nutty flavours



with amaretto or Frangelico. Inevitably there are various cheap imitations around - often with added colourings and, most significantly, lower in alcohol. Avoid as an after dinner liqueur, although they may be perfectly acceptable if you don't want a big hit of alcohol with your ice cream.

The wine world can shine too. Ice creams with precise fruit flavours can find excellent matches : an intense Riesling Beerenauslese for citrus fruits or a Tokaji Aszu for apricot and tropical fruits. Take care with red-fruited ice cream : sweet red wines can pick up spicy and earthy flavours which aren't quite right. Try a black Muscat.

Returning to Ann's suggestions, the wine-lover's Affogato equivalent is vanilla ice cream with PX (Pedro Ximenez) .....it's what they would do in Spain ! Sweet aged raisined PX is also the perfect match for Christmas Pudding in any shape or form. Indeed I regard it as 'liquid Christmas Pudding' : wonderful !

With chocolate dishes, some say drink red wine (although surely not with ice cream) - go for a Madeira. Alternatives to sweet Oloroso with the sherry ice cream ? Malaga and Moscatel de Setubal are both suitably rich and intense..... I'm beginning to like the idea of ice cream as a dessert ! Enjoy your wine-sipping .



**Richard W.B. Ryan**

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## **HARVEST FLOWERS**

The church was a hive of activity from early on the morning of Saturday, 11 October as ladies of the Flower Guild arrived laden with flowers and foliage to decorate the church for our Harvest Services. The outcome was a series of arrangements which served to celebrate the richness and proliferation of God's bounty and the recognition of all those who contribute to the harvest of our modern world. Thank you to all who worked so hard.

On Sunday morning our usual congregation numbers were swollen by many who had come to church for the annual Harvest Service. It was a very special opportunity to welcome a large contingent of students and staff from Old Swinford Hospital, children and leaders from Scouts and Beavers, and several families who were there, following recent Baptism, to complete the welcome of their children into this family of God. The congregation had responded to the unannounced theme of Stephen's address in their generous giving of produce in recognition of God's generosity and in support of the Food Bank and St Basil's.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

21 September	Harriet Elsie May Cutler Frederick James Spencer Cutler
28 September	Zoe Elizabeth Wheeler
5 October	Jenson David Ray Sisley Esther Carys John Zane Samuel Sibley Deakin Beau Thomas Sibley Deakin

### Weddings

20 September	Jonathan Wright and Sallyann Keeling
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### Funerals

6 October	Olive May Probert    Aged 89
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## TEAS IN THE COACH HOUSE

St Mary's invite you to join us for tea and a chat amongst friends.  
Drop in any time between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Everybody welcome.

Dates for 2014:  
18 November, 16 December.



### CHILDRENS PAGE ANSWERS

**SPOT THE COLOUR:**  
YELLOW

### CHURCH COLOURS:

1 - White    2 - Violet    3 - Red    4 - Violet    5 - Green    6 - Red    7 - White    8 - Green

### DO YOU KNOW?

1 - Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet  
2. Joseph    3. Purple    4. White

## LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN

As I write this article we are entering into the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', to quote John Keats' wonderful Ode to Autumn. Unfortunately, it is not just fruitfulness that is brought to mind this month but destruction: public consciousness is dominated by remembrance, particularly this year when we mourn the loss of a whole generation of young men one hundred years ago in the First World War. This year remembrance - especially on All Saints Day and All Souls Day - will be particularly poignant for me as I grieve for Denise. These last few months have been very painful for me and my daughters but, I want to add, they have been rendered bearable by the care we have been shown. I'm immensely grateful for all the love and prayers that has been shown to me by people in the Diocese in these difficult months following Denise's death. It has been manna in the wilderness.



Hard questions remain, though, in the wake of personal pain and loss, and the tragedy of war, both of which blight our world. As the Archbishop of Canterbury remarked recently, he sometimes asks God what He is up to. That's a reasonable question to ask - the psalmist does it after all, as does Job. Maybe it's just that we don't know the whole picture for now, as St Paul puts it, we see through a glass darkly.

One of the most painful experiences that any of us ever have is that of being born. We have to sacrifice the warmth and security of the womb for a dreadfully painful emergence into the noisy, cold and What's New Items dazzling world. None of us would choose to do it had we been given the choice (and been sufficiently developed to make that choice!) But the alternative, of staying in the womb, would be untenable and, ultimately, death dealing.

Maybe that's a good lens for us to have as we ask our questions to help us have faith that, though terrible things happen, we can trust in God and his love for us in Christ, that it will triumph. We can have hope that 'all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well' as Mother Julian put it. That way we shall be able to go forward into Advent with a Kingdom vision of hope on our hearts and in our minds, a Kingdom people whose song is Alleluia.

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### NEW ROLE FOR BISHOP JOHN

Bishop John Inge is to become the lead bishop for cathedrals and church buildings, a role which requires his support for all who help to maintain the Church of England's 16,000 parish churches and 42 cathedrals.

It's been announced that Canon Georgina Byrne will be standing down as Diocesan Director of Ordinands at the end of June 2015, having served six years in the post. She will continue to minister in the diocese, part time, as a Residentiary Canon of the Cathedral, where she will have particular responsibility for the welcome of visitors.

A new part-time Digital Media Adviser, James Atkinson, has been appointed to replace Dan Kemp who left at the end of September.

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