

# **ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD**

**Parish Church Magazine**

**MARCH 2015  
ONLINE VERSION**



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



**Parish Church Magazine**



**MOTHERING SUNDAY 15 MARCH**

**PRIEST IN CHARGE:** The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,  
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**MARCH 2015**

**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
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	E-mail: st.mary.os@btconnect.com	
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## 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 MARCH 2015

### SUNDAY 1

Monday 2

Tuesday 3

Wednesday 4

Thursday 5

Saturday 7

### SUNDAY 8

Tuesday 10

Wednesday 11

Thursday 12

Saturday 14

### SUNDAY 15

Monday 16

Tuesday 17

Thursday 19

Saturday 21

### SUNDAY 22

Tuesday 24

Thursday 26

Friday 27

Saturday 28

### SUNDAY 29

Monday 30

Tuesday 31

### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

3.00 pm Baptism

9.30 am Open the Book team visit Old Swinford Primary School

2.00 pm Flower Guild AGM in the Narthex

7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting

7.30 pm Lent Course - A Good Society?

9.00 am Morning Prayers and Full Staff Meeting

10.30 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

10.00 am– 4.00 pm Marriage Preparation Day in the Coach House

### THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Copy date for April magazine

2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House

7.30 pm Lent Course - A Good Nation?

Primary Schools Unity Day. Service at St James's, Wollaston

10.30 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

### MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.30 am Open the Book team visit Old Swinford Primary School

2.00-4.00 pm Tea in the Coach House

7.30 pm Lent Course - A Good Creation?

10.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Resources Committee Meeting

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

### THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

7.30 pm Lent Course - A Good Citizen?

10.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm PCC Meeting

2.30 pm Old Swinford Hospital Easter Service

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

### PALM SUNDAY

Dudley Schools Easter Holiday begins

2.30-4.00 pm Tuesday Tea

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March 22 is World Water Day. Designated as such by the United Nations in 1993, the aim of this campaign of awareness and action is to ensure that everyone throughout the world has access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene by 2030. Is there something you can do this March 22 to help this to become a reality?



## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

When I first arrived at St Mary's I was told of the 'Stourbridge Deanery Plan' which had been agreed some years earlier. This was a response by the Anglican churches within Stourbridge to the challenge of a reduction in future clergy numbers. Although the plan had been agreed some years earlier it would not be implemented in full until 2016 or such time as those clergy with 'freehold' retired or moved to new parishes. Each Deanery within the Diocese of Worcester had developed its own Deanery Plan from 2008 onwards, some were accepted by deaneries and parishes more readily than others. It became very obvious from soon after the time that I arrived in Stourbridge that the plan for this deanery did not gain full support from all of the parishes involved.

When Archdeacon Nikki came to the Diocese 18 months ago she started to look at possible ways forward for Stourbridge Deanery, and as part of that process called a day conference in November 2014 of Clergy, Readers and Wardens from each parish within the deanery. During the day we were encouraged to look at what we were already gifted within our parishes by way of personnel, skills and buildings, and with that in mind were invited to look at who were the people to whom we were called to reach out. We considered our mission within our parishes in the context of us recognising our calling as 'Kingdom People', and using that Diocesan Vision as the basis of our Deanery strategy for the future deployment of clergy.

After the day conference Archdeacon Nikki drew up a plan which was presented to a gathering of representatives from all parishes within the deanery, at an open meeting of Deanery Synod, on 11 February. The meeting heard that the proposed plan envisaged three groups of parishes being formed: firstly a formal group of two clergy to service the parishes of Blakedown, Churchill, Broom, Belbroughton and Fairfield with St John and St Saviour, Hagley and Clent. The second group would consist of Lye, Pedmore and Wollescote, which would also be served by two priests, whilst Old Swinford would be grouped with St Thomas, Stourbridge, Wollaston and Norton, this would be serviced by three priests. The parish of Amblecote would remain independent of these groupings and retain a single priest who would take on other responsibilities within the diocese.

*Further details of this plan are available to read on the notice board in the Narthex, and I urge you to read them as I have only been able to give an outline of the plan in the space I have.*

When the Archdeacon had given her presentation and taken questions, the meeting received the plan with acclaim, a sentiment which was reflected in the formal acceptance of the plan by Deanery Synod. We can therefore look forward with hope to this plan being implemented in the near future and God's Kingdom being proclaimed in Stourbridge Deanery.

With every blessing.

*Stephen Agnew*

## SERVICES IN MARCH 2015

<b>1 March The Second Sunday of Lent</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 4. 13-25	Mark 8. 31-38
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 12. 1-9	Hebrews 11. 1-3,8-16
<b>8 March The Third Sunday of Lent</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Corinthians 1. 18 – 25	John 2. 13 – 22
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 5.1-6.1	Matthew 10. 16-22
<b>15 March Mothering Sunday</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Exodus 6. 2-13	Romans 5. 1-11
<b>22 March The Fifth Sunday of Lent.</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Hebrews 5. 1-10	John 12. 20-33
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 7. 8-24	Romans 5. 12-21
<b>29 March Palm Sunday</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Mark 14. 1-15	Special Readings
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 5. 1-7	Mark 12. 1-12

**We remember in our prayers and send best wishes to all members of our worship groups and the wider community who are unwell or troubled at this time.**

## BISHOP JOHN'S LENT MESSAGE 2015

As I travel around the Diocese I am delighted to find that our 'Kingdom Vision' is gradually but firmly taking root. As we prayerfully seek to become the 'Kingdom people' that God intends us to be, we are more confident in our calling, empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak and live out Kingdom values of love, compassion, justice and freedom.

These values have a long history in the Diocese of Worcester. I am recording this message on the Feast of St Wulfstan (d.1095) who lived them out in quite a remarkable fashion.

Kingdom values reflect the character of the God who is revealed to us in Christ. The nature of the God in whom we believe is crucial, because if we are not committed to the living God of self-sacrificing love revealed in Jesus it's very likely that we shall be subject to some projection of our pride, our fear and our lust for power. As human beings we are made to worship, to seek some worth beyond ourselves, and if we don't believe in the true God we're likely to worship some idol made in the image of our own deficiencies and sin.

We've all been shocked by recent atrocities in France and around the globe. Imagine how our world would be transformed if the hatred, fear, oppression and violence that characterise them were to be replaced by Kingdom values of love, compassion, justice and freedom. That's what God wants – not just for us but for all people. In fact, Kingdom values are the only hope for our weary, war torn world.

More locally, we need to be proclaiming them in the upcoming general election this May. It is worrying to see how the main political parties struggle to communicate a convincing vision as they prepare for that election. In the light of that, it is vital that, as Christians, we should be able to communicate and live out a Kingdom vision by everything that we say, everything that we do and everything that we are.

I hope you will use the excellent Diocesan Lent Course, which is a biblical 'engagement with politics', to help you reflect on how your faith and the Kingdom values we promote relate to politics. Many people outside the church may not understand what a 'Kingdom vision' is even though most of the values which underpin all that is best in our Society derive from it. The course uses the notion of the common good, which is perhaps more accessible though it is an integral part of our Kingdom vision, as we seek to engage with and serve our community, and the course helps us to see how the two are related.

At the end of St Matthew's gospel Jesus sends his disciples out to make disciples of all the nations. It's important that we hear that call in conjunction with his prior call to come to him. 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.' (Matthew 11.28-30).

If we are wearied by the burdens laid upon us by this world we should come to him afresh this Lent. He will give us the grace, and the energy and courage we need to go out and be Kingdom people of love, compassion, justice and freedom seeking to make disciples of all those whom we meet.

**+John**

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

Our world appears to be full of noise and activities at all times. We rarely take time to be quiet in body, mind or spirit. Tweeteers tweeting, phones in perpetual contact, background noises in shops, doctors, hotels and bars seem to fill every nook and cranny of our atmosphere. Consequently, it was an unusual and exceptional experience to have a meeting led by Stephen Agnew of an interspersed meditation on the wisdom and foolishness of God. This incorporated long silences and lighting candles as we traced God's plan and action of salvation as Lent leads us on to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ.

Let us all try to take time during our over-busy lives to think and pray on these things through Scripture reading, our quiet times, perhaps even aided by a candle.

May the time of Lent be precious to us all as we worship God and serve His world. See 1 Corinthians 1. 18-25.

Dates for your Diary: Tuesday 10 March, 2.15 pm at the Coach House, Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer—led by Sally Frost.

Tuesday 14 April, 2.15 pm at the Coach House, Diocesan projects at work - Margaret Penn

**Dawn Nex**

### **NEWS FROM THE PARISH**

After over fifty years of service Roy Peacock has indicated his intention to stand down as Reader Emeritus with full effect after Easter. I am sure we shall all find disappointment in this news but, equally, we shall be keen to celebrate the rich, unique, narrative style Roy has brought to his ministry and the wealth of enjoyment, guidance and support he has provided to all who have had the pleasure of hearing him preach. In due course we shall announce details of a service of celebration for the ministry Roy has brought to this parish and to a wider Christian community.

We are fortunate to be able to announce that Roger King, who is currently undertaking training as an ALM Worship Leader, has accepted an invitation to develop his active contributions to our services of worship and will increasingly undertake the duties of deacon at some morning services. We thank Roger for his commitment and this extension to his ministry and, with our promise of support, wish him every joy in this new venture.

### **ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the church hall at 7.15 pm on Sunday 19 April. At this important meeting the financial statements for the past year will be received, reports will be presented and elections will be held for representatives to the Parochial Church Council and to the Deanery Synod.

At the same assembly, the Annual Meeting of Parishioners will hold elections for Church Wardens and Deputy Church Wardens.

Please make a note of this date in your diary and make every effort to attend in order to be informed, to take part in the democratic process and to support those who have worked hard on behalf of the parish throughout the past year.



## PROGRAMME FOR REFORM AND RENEWAL

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have written to members of the Church of England's General Synod proposing a "programme for reform and renewal" for the church.

The statement came ahead of the publication of a series of reports and papers proposing reforms that were published on the Church of England website ahead of the February meeting of the General Synod

The first paper, Developing Discipleship, was published alongside a video interview with the Bishop of Sheffield, Steven Croft, reflecting on the vision for the Church in discipleship.

Bishop Steven said: "The Church is called to be and to become a community of missionary disciples. Discipleship is not just about learning, it's also about service and being equipped for God's service in the world as Christ sends us out. And growing the Church is about making disciples in obedience to Jesus's commission in Matthew 28.

Serving the common good, which is reflected in the format of the Lent Course set out below, is about equipping every Christian disciple to make a difference in the wider world, in their workplace, in their family, in their community, so that the Church as a whole is a blessing to God's world and a channel of his grace and love."

The second paper published was entitled 'Simplification' and is an attempt to identify hindrances to mission. The third paper, 'Resourcing Ministerial Education', focuses on the critical issue of how the Church encourages, trains and equips lay and ordained ministers to properly address the future.

Finally, two papers were published together on 'Resourcing the Future' aimed at helping every parish, deanery and diocese achieve its goals.

### In Focus

### LENT COURSE 2015

Our Lent Course this year will follow a short course developed by the Mission Development Officers for Worcester Diocese. The course reflects on the Church's engagement with society and how our Christian faith might inform our citizenship. The course has been designed to challenge our thinking prior to the General Election in May.

We are partnering with the congregation of St Thomas' Church, as we did last year, to share resources and fellowship. Hilary Savage, the LLM attached to St Thomas' and Revd Stephen Agnew will lead the sessions, all to be in the Narthex at St Mary's on Tuesday evenings, starting at 7.30 pm.

<b>24 February</b>	<b>A Good Life?</b>	<b>Led by Revd Stephen Agnew</b>
<b>3 March</b>	<b>A Good Society?</b>	<b>Led by Revd Stephen Agnew</b>
<b>10 March</b>	<b>A good Nation ?</b>	<b>Led by Hilary Savage</b>
<b>17 March</b>	<b>A Good Creation?</b>	<b>Led by Hilary Savage</b>
<b>24 March</b>	<b>A Good Citizen?</b>	<b>Led by Revd Stephen Agnew</b>

Further details of this course are available on the Diocesan website [www.cofe-worcester.org.uk](http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk)

## SERVICE OF RECOLLECTION FOR HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



Bethel Chapel in Wollescote held a very moving Service of Recollection on Tuesday, 27 January which was led by Pastor Jill Berry. In place of a homily they had invited two people to share their personal experiences of the holocaust. Unfortunately, Mrs Mindu Hornick, a survivor of Auschwitz, was unable to come due to family reasons but Mr Fred Austin (formerly Stiller) gave us a very graphic account of some of the changes that followed Germany's annexation of Czechoslovakia. His father having died when Mr Austin was four, his mother was sole supporter of his two sisters and himself and owned a drapers/haberdashery shop in a small town. When the German army first arrived the soldiers were very polite when they visited to buy things like gloves to send home (in 1938-39 all Germany monies went to building up armaments). Then things began to change.

Firstly, windows of shops owned by Jews had the word Jude scrawled over them to indicate that these were places where only Jews were permitted to trade, so income was down. Next the proprietors were told that the law now stated Jews may no longer own commercial premises and the businesses were confiscated, so there was no longer a means of supporting the family. Then their homes were confiscated and the residents moved to buildings on the edge of town where the most they could hope for was not to have to share their room with another family. They were then moved to a ghetto and in 1942 his mother and two sisters were transported to Treblinka where they were killed.

In Spring 1939, aged ten, Mr Austin had left Czechoslovakia by taking the place of his fifteen year old cousin. His aunt had obtained the necessary paperwork for her son to travel to England in the company of an Englishman, a Mr Austin. However the authorities said that at fifteen her son was now too old so she offered the chance to her sister's son.

Mr Austin had received only three letters from his mother but nothing after late 1939. He discovered details of what had happened to his mother and elder sisters from other family members and friends many years afterwards.

**Katey Fletcher**

*Each year, 27 January is a day for everyone to remember the millions murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. On Holocaust Memorial Day we honour the survivors of these atrocities and learn the lessons of their experiences to challenge hatred and discrimination in the UK today. Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 20th anniversary of the Genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia.*

***hmd.org.uk***

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

# THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

## WE NEED LIGHT

Without light we would not see anything. Our eyes are made to receive light. When this happens we say we can see. When it does not happen we say we are blind. We would not know what was in a room, in the garden, on the television or what our family looked like without light.



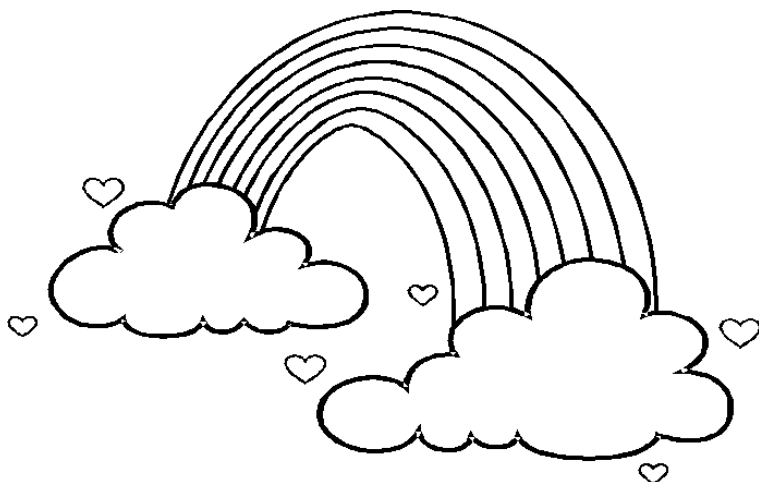
## WE GET OUR LIGHT FROM THE SUN

White sunlight is really made up of seven colours. We see them best in a rainbow.

Can you work out the seven colours and then colour in this beautiful rainbow?

R \_ \_  
\_ \_ A \_ G \_  
\_ \_ L \_  
\_ \_ E \_ N \_  
\_ \_ L \_ \_

I \_ D \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ O \_ L \_ \_



## DIFFERENT LIGHTS

Fill in the names of these sources of light:



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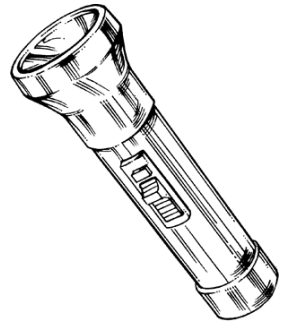
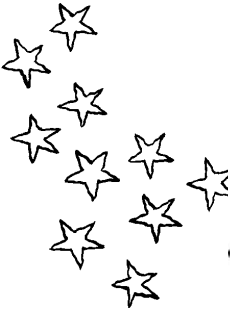
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## LIGHT IN THE BIBLE

1. What was the first thing God created?
2. On which day did God create the moon and the stars?
3. When did God make a rainbow appear?
4. What led the wise men to baby Jesus?
5. Where, did Jesus say, people do not hide their lighted lamp?

## LIGHT SQUARE

How many words of three letters or more can you make? Do not jump a square or use the same square twice in a word.

There are 40 to find altogether.

Find the 9 lettered word.

D	L	T
N	E	I
C	A	L

## THE JANUARY BARN DANCE

The mention in pre-event advertising of an evening of fun with lead entertainers Eve and John Evans brought 70 people to the church hall on Saturday, 31 January. Or was it the promise of a supper prepared and served by the generous members of our Social Committee and the enticement of an evening free of the kitchen sink? More than likely it was a combination of the two and the prospect of good company, and some light activity which always seems to be made all the more amusing by the mistakes each of us brings to our attempts to follow the directions provided by Eve.



As always, this was a really enjoyable evening much appreciated by all those who echoed the words of thanks presented by Stephen Agnew in rich applause for those whose talents, skills and hard work had ensured the fulfilment of the evening's promise .

Eve and John provided the enthusiasm, music, encouragement, songs, directions, and words to fill the evening with much merriment and the opportunity for everyone to spend time getting to know each other as we hot-footed it around the room. What a wonderful gift they have and how generously it is shared.

Thank you once again.

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## FLOWER GUILD

The AGM of St Mary's Flower Guild will be held in the Narthex on Monday, 2 March 2015 at 2.00 pm. During the meeting there will be an opportunity to sign up to be responsible for the flowers on the High Altar and Lady Chapel on a particular date in the coming year. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting or if you would like to contribute to the flowers at any time please contact me beforehand.

## EASTER FLOWERS

In keeping with our usual practice the names of loved ones will be placed on the altar for the Easter period.

If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers in memory of loved ones please place your donation in an envelope with the names of the person(s) being remembered and give it to Sally Frost or post it through the Rectory letter box.



These donations may be 'Gift Aided' if you are a UK tax payer. Should you wish to Gift Aid your donation please use one of the yellow Gift Aid envelopes found in the church pews and mark it clearly "For Easter Flowers."

**Sally Frost**  
**377146**

## ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

### Learning from Experience

Several times in recent years we have had to modify our planned January walk due to adverse weather conditions. To avoid the use of narrow country lanes a start point for our January walk was selected to be accessible from a main road. At two o'clock, on the morning of the walk, our decision seemed well justified as it was snowing hard, but this turned to rain, and even that had stopped by the time we met up for the walk. Surprisingly, given the recent bad weather we had 19 intrepid walkers join us for the walk and a further 4 joined us for lunch at the Hop Pole Inn in Bewdley.

We started our walk from the Blackstone Picnic Site car park near A456 Bewdley by-pass bridge; to walk around Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Devil's Spittleful and Rifle range nature reserve. We crossed the main road and headed up the lane past "Toll House Cottage"; passing under an abandoned railway line, and then the Severn Valley Railway, before entering the reserve proper. We soon passed the Devil's Spittleful, a large tree clad hump of rock (see photograph). The story goes that the devil was most displeased with the piety of the people of Bewdley, and was determined to do something about it. The devil was a real giant of a person, and before setting off he loaded his spittle (spade) with rock, and set off to block the River Severn, and flood Bewdley, as a punishment for the piety of the residents. On the way he met a cobbler who had dozens of worn out shoes on his back. The devil stopped and asked the cobbler how far it was to Bewdley. The cobbler replied that he had worn out all the shoes he was carrying in coming from there. At this the devil dropped his spittleful of rock and went back home.



We followed the perimeter of the Safari Park to the Scout activity site, where we found there were actually tent campers in residence. We followed the public footpath through the Scouts' admin area before gaining height through the woods, made a detour around a large, recently fallen, tree before dropping down to cross open heath land. Another climb brought us to the ridge at Burlish Top. Whilst still in the shelter of the trees we enjoyed the now traditional January mulled wine thanks to Sally and Malcolm. The air was clear and from the ridge we could see the snow capped Cleve Hills in sunshine further west. We passed the TV repeater mast before a gentle descent along an ancient trackway brought us back to the lane at the abandoned railway, which we had used on the way out.

**Mike Blaxland**

## **TO KENYA WITH LOVE ..... THE STORY GOES ON !**

Those of you with better memories than our own, MAY remember where we left you at the end of our last update on our lovely little school in Kenya ! So much has happened over the last year or so, that it will hopefully prove interesting to give a quick update on events

### **BRIEF BACKGROUND TO OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CHILDREN AT HILL WHEELER PREPARATORY SCHOOL, MTWAPA KENYA**

In 2007, we went on a last minute CHEAP holiday to Kenya .... Little did we know just how much this was going to cost us in love and commitment to a very tiny, dilapidated school which we found on the last day of our stay there!

When found it was just a collection of almost derelict shacks , with no resources, but filled with smiling faces! There was no water, no electricity .... teachers who seldom were paid as, with no government funding, any money to run the school had to come in the form of fees from parents who have very little paid income.

In the course of the next few years, with the help of family and friends, and from the Mission Group and congregation of St Mary's, we managed to fund the digging of a well, the installation of pumps and water tanks, helped replaced nine of the classrooms and built them a kitchen. Then we built them a security wall with gates around the campus to keep the children safe.

This was helped enormously by managing to make the school a Registered Charity.

SADLY, CONDITIONS IN KENYA HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY ...

### **CURRENT PROJECTS**

#### **1. Raising money for educating the poorest children**

Advice against travel to Kenya has been put in place by the British, Australian and the U S. governments, due to the dangers of terrorist attacks from the Al Shabab group. This has resulted in the closure of most of the hotels where our parents found menial jobs which enabled them to feed their families and pay the small school fees. .... Sadly, the school has been unable to pay the poor teachers!

So .... over the last year we have raised the money to pay the school fees for eight orphans or poorest children costing just £125 per child for a whole year of life changing free education!

The £1,000 per month generated in this way has had the knock-on effect that all twelve teachers could be paid a whole month's salary !!! Unbelievable but true!

Cont'd....



## 2. Replacing the derelict wooden kindergarten classrooms

**Classrooms before .....**



**Classrooms after .....**



**Children still learn in them**



**Every picture tells story .....**

We now have the plans drawn up and are hoping to start a permanent building in the next few weeks ..... but we are still desperately raising funds to do so!

### **OUR ANNUAL "RAISE THE ROOF FOR KENYA" CABARET**

This will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm, at Chadsgrove Special School, Meadow Rd, Catshill, Bromsgrove Tickets £10 each including refreshments, available from Jan and Brian Drew or by phoning Jan on 07860 690771



### **A SPONSORED WALK ACROSS THE INFAMOUS MORECAMBE BAY ESTUARY**

**LED BY QUEEN'S GUIDE,  
CEDRIC ROBINSON M.B.E.**

Date - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
Entry fee Adults £12  
Children £5 Dogs £2

It would be even better if entrants were happy to collect sponsors for themselves in aid of the Charity! There will be certificates available at the end of the walk if required!

All proceeds to Hill Wheeler School  
For details please contact Jan Drew on 07860 690771

As with all our projects, we insist on a complete "audit trail" which consists of copies of the school bank account showing the money transferred by us, receipts for all work done, and photographs of the completed project. Our charity account is audited each year in accordance with the rules of The Charity Commission so that people know that every penny of their money is used for the benefit of the children and their school.

**IF ANYONE HAS A BRILLIANT IDEA TO HELP US TO ACHIEVE OUR TARGETS, WE  
WOULD BE SO GRATEFUL TO HEAR IT !**

**Jan and Brian Drew Hill Wheeler Preparatory School , Kenya  
Registered Charity No: 1139536**



## **THIS MONTH'S RECIPE**

### **LEEK AND POTATO SOUP WITH SMOKED HADDOCK & ROSEMARY LOLLIPOPS**

Easter holds lots of different food traditions around the world. One that I find interesting is in Germany where they refer to Maundy Thursday as 'Green Thursday', traditionally eating green foods that day. With this in mind I decided on leek and potato soup and have included a rosemary biscuit to serve with it. I use my food processor to chop and grate the vegetables.

- 1 pint of full cream milk (extra milk/stock or cream)
- 2 finely chopped shallots
- 4 finely chopped celery sticks
- 2 sliced leeks
- 3-4 medium potatoes grated
- 2 garlic cloves crushed
- Salt and pepper
- Olive oil
- Chopped chives

- 500g smoked haddock
- Milk for poaching

Boil the milk and add the grated potatoes.

In a separate pan fry the leeks, shallots, celery and lastly the garlic until translucent.

Once the potatoes are cooked add to the vegetables, combine, and cook together briefly so the ingredients can get to know one another. Adjust the consistency with the extra milk/stock or cream.

Blend until smooth. Meanwhile cut the smoked haddock into 5cm cubes and poach until just cooked (no more than 5 minutes) and flake into the soup.

Garnish with chopped chives.

### **PARMESAN AND ROSEMARY LOLLIPOPS**

5oz plain flour,	4oz butter,	2oz grated parmesan,
1teaspoon finely chopped rosemary,		1egg yolk

Rub the butter into the flour and add the cheese and rosemary. Bind together with the yolk to make a soft dough. Roll out on to a floured surface to 1.5cm thickness and cut into rounds. Press a lollipop stick into the dough. Chill for 10 minutes then bake at Gas 3, 160°C for 15 minutes. Leave to cool for a few minutes on the tray then remove to a wire rack.

I often halve the mixture to make 12 biscuits.

**Ann Jennings**

## AND FOR THE WINE.....

Don't these rosemary and parmesan lollipops sound wonderful! They really should find their way onto any party spread you are preparing this year. Their role here however is to add a further herby green note in concert with Green Thursday's leek and potato soup. Nothing too overtly fruited for our wine methinks. The smoked haddock will be the more prominent flavour, which will lead us in a similar wine direction. A Verdelho would work nicely with the leek/potato/rosemary. Vernaccia di San Gimignano is a favourite of mine with seafood with its dry steely finish. Something then that can combine the two elements ? ..... A grassy Sauvignon is in the right realm; cooler climate please : avoid the bold tropical fruits of Marlborough, New Zealand. Sancerre too has that extra grip of fruit, which leads me to suggest its Loire Valley companion Pouilly Fumé. I recall asking a group of assembled wine lovers how many people had 'uncorked' a bottle of Sauvignon Blanc that year - a whole forest of hands rose (not surprisingly). I then asked how many had opened up a bottle of Pouilly Fumé.....five hands only were raised. And yet, pitched against good quality Sauvignons from South Africa and New Zealand, the Pouilly Fumé won the most votes at the end of the night !



Sadly set in the shade alongside the bright star of its neighbour Sancerre, a Pouilly Fumé brings its dry smoky notes to great effect and it would be my first choice here. Do buy a bottle anyway to remind yourself how good this style of Sauvignon still is.....Enjoy your wine-sipping,

**Richard W. B. Ryan**

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### Children's Page Answers

#### Rainbow

Red  
Orange  
Yellow  
Green  
Blue  
Indigo  
Violet

#### Different lights

Oil Lamp  
Star  
Sun  
Candle  
Torch  
Moon

1. Light
2. The 4th Day
3. After the flood
4. A bright star
5. Under a bushel

#### Light Square

The 9-lettered word is  
candlelit

### Light in the bible

## **PARISH REGISTER**

### **Baptisms**

1 February      Alfie Ross Martin Healey

### **Funerals**

6 January	Wilfred Lewis	Aged 95
16 January	David Ian West	Aged 81
20 January	Patricia Dorothy Folkes	Aged 85
20 January	Gwyneth Ada Simpkins	Aged 91
21 January	Roy Edward Green	Aged 89
22 January	Beatrice Rose Martin-Gazzard	Child
22 January	Barbara May Lucas	Aged 97
26 January	Renie Carradine	Aged 86

## **BEQUESTS—ACKNOWLEDGED WITH THANKS**

From time to time The Parochial Church Council is graciously pleased to accept bequests, often from former worshippers at St Mary's or perhaps from people who have had held close association with this church. Inevitably, such gifts are associated with sadness, but it also has to be recognised that they are made by or on behalf of people for whom St Mary's held a special meaning. Often, the gift could not have been made before death as the sums involved formed part of an estate essential to that person's on-going lifestyle and well-being. Therefore, as a gift given as an act of faith, the application of that gift deserves to be considered and determined with regard to the individual who has died, the wishes of their family and needs identified as being in line with the furtherance of the work of the church.

Occasionally a bequest is made with a specific purpose identified. Often the purpose is determined in discussion with family or representatives of the deceased. Sometimes the decision is for the PCC to determine or it may be that the gift is given into the care of the incumbent to apply as he or she thinks fit in pursuance of the mission of the church.

Bequests are generally private matters and it is not appropriate for details to be published. The PCC is very grateful for bequests made in the past year. These have been applied in furtherance of work with young people, in support of church music and musicians, unrestricted and specific expenditure on the fabric of the building and churchyard, and on the future provision of improved noticeboard facilities.

**The Church Wardens**

## LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER

Holy Week and Easter are fast disappearing from public consciousness in our society: very many shops open on Good Friday and the Easter weekend tends to be treated like any other Bank Holiday. It's a contrast to Christmas which, as we all know, still receives lots of attention – months in advance! I suppose the Christmas story is more appealing than the Easter one, which has death at its heart: our society does not like confronting death. The disappearance is a great sadness, though: the events we commemorate during Holy Week and Easter lie at the heart of any genuine expression of the Christian faith. They also have more significance for the world than any other event in human history.

It is because of the death and resurrection of Christ that we are able to come into God's presence and be assured of His great love for us, which is stronger than death. It is through the death and resurrection that we learn of the triumph of God's love over all that is evil, all that is ugly, all that is painful, and over death itself. That is why many Christians make the sign of the cross when they begin to pray, to recall that we approach the true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as God's adopted children through the cross of Christ. The cross brings together heaven and earth.

Sometimes the Christian faith is presented in terms of 'pie in the sky when you die.' It's certainly true that in the light of faith, our lives have an eternal significance. However, that propels us not to ignore the here and now but to be more concerned about it than we would otherwise be. Bringing heaven and earth together means not simply worrying about heaven, but praying and acting so that, as Jesus taught us, God's Kingdom may come on earth as it is in heaven. With that in mind, in the Diocese of Worcester we are committed to a 'Kingdom Vision.' We seek to become 'Kingdom people' who live out values of love, compassion, justice and freedom, the values of God's eternal reign.

I hope and pray that we shall have that vision and those values in the forefront of our minds not only as we approach Holy Week and Easter but as we approach the General Election which follows shortly after. None of the major political parties seems able to communicate a convincing vision. As Christians, we have one: a vision of God's Kingdom here on earth, of a society characterised by love, compassion, justice and freedom.

We need to pray and reflect deeply before we cast our vote. We also need to pray to be given grace and strength to act. The world is still racked with the marks of Christ's passion. Through us, resurrection light can break into a dark world and God's great love for all his children prevail. Through us, in God's strength, His Kingdom will come and love, compassion, justice and freedom will be seen the world over.


God bless you this Holy Week and Easter.

**+John**

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