

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine

**APRIL 2015
Online edition**



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Parish Church Magazine



PRIEST IN CHARGE:

The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2HA
Tel: 01384 395410
E-mail: st.mary.os.priest@btconnect.com

APRIL 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
Priest in Charge Day Off: 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		

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:	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
	Miss Gemma Sutton	07968 586285

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, BANNING 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 APRIL 2015

See page 15 for a programme of events and services for Holy Week

Wednesday 1 9.00 am Morning Prayers and Full Staff Meeting

Thursday 2 10.30 am Holy Communion
7.30 pm Agape Meal in the Church Hall

Friday 3 GOOD FRIDAY

Saturday 4 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
1.00 pm Wedding

SUNDAY 5 EASTER DAY

Thursday 9 10.30 am Holy Communion

Friday 10 Copy date for May magazine

Saturday 11 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 12 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Tuesday 14 2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House

Thursday 16 10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 18 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 19 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

7.30 pm Annual Parochial Church meeting

(for further details see page 14)

Monday 20 9.30 am Open the Book team visit Old Swinford Primary School

Tuesday 21 2.00-4.00 pm Tea in the Coach House

Thursday 23 10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 25 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 26 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Tuesday 28 2.30-4.00 pm Tuesday Tea

7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting

Thursday 30 10.30 am Holy Communion

FLOWER GUILD 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

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

Easter is the season when we celebrate new life. The growing season has really started, the birds are singing in readiness for nesting and raising a new brood, but most particularly for Christians it is the time when we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead. This amazing event, which is at the centre of our faith, demonstrates that the hope of life beyond the life that we all know is real. The new life is life with God, who Jesus called, Father, and we can call Father too.

Last year in our preparation for Easter we staged an activity which was new to us, we held our first 'Messy Church' event, on the Saturday before Easter. The event was well received by those who attended and so we ran another trial session in the Summer. These events were so successful that we are now planning to run them throughout the year, starting with another Easter celebration, 'Messy Church' style, on Saturday 4 April.

But what is 'Messy Church'? It is a Fresh Expression of how to be Church at a time when many traditional ways of being Church are not attracting people. But just because people are not attracted to the traditional ways of being Church it doesn't mean that they are not interested in the Church or its message. It's just that there are other things competing for their time and attention.

Messy Church is an opportunity for families and people of all ages to worship together at a time which is convenient for many of these families; we are holding it on Saturday afternoons. It comprises a series of activities, which maybe messy or not, but each of these activities is based on a theme such as Easter, or Family, or the Seaside or some other suitable theme. The activities are Bible based and the families that attend are invited to take part in them, children and adults alongside one another.

The activities lead on to an act of worship which will draw on many of the activities which have been undertaken by the participants. In the act of worship the Christian message is proclaimed in an accessible and relaxed way.

The final part of the session is always a meal of some sort which is shared by young and old alike, a demonstration of Christian hospitality, and it is through that hospitality and the friendship which it encourages that the mission of the Church is undertaken.

As we celebrate the message of newness at Easter we are going to be doing it in a new way. So please remember in your prayers all of those people who are helping to make this initiative possible. They are doing the work of the Church in a new way, a very suitable thing to be doing at Easter.

May God bless you at this time of resurrection and newness.

With every blessing.

Stephen Steward

SERVICES IN APRIL 2015

5 April Easter Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 10. 34-43	John 20. 1-18
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 37. 1-14	John 20. 1-18
12 April Easter 1	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 26. 1-9,19	Luke 24. 1-12
19 April Easter 2	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 3. 12-19	Luke 24. 36b-48
	6.30 pm Evensong	Deuteronomy 7. 7-13	Revelation 2. 1-11
26 April Easter 3	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 4. 5-12	John 10. 11-18
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 16. 4-15	Revelation 2. 12-17

CHRISTINGLE UPDATE

We would like to thank all donations made at the Christingle service in December. We raised a total of £217.77 for the Children's Society.

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

The sun shone brightly through the windows of the Coach House, flooding the room with light as twenty two MU members met to share in a Thanksgiving service and wave of prayer for our Worldwide organisation led by Sally Frost.

On a central table a world map marked the location and range of our group links of fellowship and prayer and were connected to a large candle representing the light of Christ as our central source.

From the Arctic to Australia, from the Pacific Islands to Peru, to Nigeria and Uganda and from Britain we lit lights and named the various dioceses to show our remembrance through the unity of love, peace and faith which we share.

Five new areas have now become linked with us and after the service we each constructed a four armed linked cross writing the new names on the arms and centre to remind each of us of the changes. It was quite a daunting task but with 'Blue Peter' style instructions and mutual help everyone succeeded in the task amid much hilarity and fumbling on our part.

Refreshments were served. It was the occasion of our coordinator Anne May's birthday which we celebrated with a gift and a card signed by everyone.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 April at 2.15pm in the Coach House entitled "Diocesan Projects at work". The speaker will be Margaret Penn. All are welcome.

Dawn Nex

MOTHERS' UNION

Do you remember this picture?

Rev'd Ruth Atkinson asked the Mothers' Union Knitting Ministry if we could produce a smaller version of our 'Teddies' to give to the babies who came to be baptised. Instead of the larger colourful version we use worldwide it was to be small enough for baby to hold, white in colour with either blue, pink or lemon coloured scarves. The response was wonderful and a great success with both babies and mums. We have been handing out these teddies to babies for the last twelve months. However, our stocks are depleting. May I send out a plea to all the knitters in our congregation PLEASE will you help us! I can supply patterns and knitting wool if required or perhaps if you are unable to knit you could help with a donation of white double knitting baby wool?



The Mothers' Union has many projects ongoing in the Diocese and here at St Mary's with St. John's branch we support the Women's Refuge and Women on Remand by supplying a small bag of toiletries. You have probably seen our box at the back of Church. We call them a small bag of 'self respect'. Often, when a woman who is in an abusive relationship takes that final step to leave, she just takes her children with her and nothing else. Women on remand often find themselves in much the same situation without as much as a toothbrush or a tablet of soap. We

are now also providing these bags for teenage mums who enter hospital for their confinement with nothing for themselves or baby so we provide for baby too.

The congregation has been immensely generous in the past. Please may I ask you once again, to help the Mothers' Union help others? We are very short of several items:- toothpaste, roll-on deodorants (aerosols are not permitted in prison) and flannels. In our Aims and Objectives we pledge to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves and help those whose lives have met with adversity. During this Lenten tide we would like to be practical Christians.

If you would like to know more about the projects of the modern Mothers' Union, you can contact me direct on 01384 392951 or through the Parish Office. Thank you.

Anne May

COACH HOUSE NEWS

The Coach House celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The Arts and Crafts Centre received its first students on 1 May 1995 and it was officially opened by the Archbishop of Canterbury, now Lord George Carey, on 20 October 1995. The committee are planning events to mark the 20th anniversary on Wednesday 14 October and Bishop Graham will be joining the celebrations.

The Coach House has maintained its original mission objective to provide teaching and leisure activities with an emphasis on people with special needs and The Centre is seen as an important element of St Mary's Church outreach to the Old Swinford community. The major provider of the special needs services is the Clover Leaf Group and their staff give much support to the Coach House. The Sounding Board Carers Support Group and No Limits Community Project for young adults with Able Autism / Asperger's Syndrome are also regular users.



Other weekly recreational activities for the wider community include pottery, needlecraft, art, writing, tai-chi and meditation. The Coach House has a special ambiance which is enjoyed for the monthly meetings of The Mothers' Union and St Mary's afternoon teas on the third Thursday of the month.

One of the recent developments in the Coach House has been the installation of a new lighting system. The white LED lights in modern fittings are much brighter and more efficient than the original lights and are proving popular with users.

If you are interested in using the Coach House for your events or in joining any of the existing group activities contact the Parish Administrator - John Sutton on 01384 441003. Further announcements relating to the 20th anniversary celebrations will be published nearer the date.

APRIL SHOWERS

This month we can wave goodbye to winter and look forward with confidence to spring and summer. The main theme in traditional weather lore for April relates to the showery nature of the month as expressed in the song:

“When April showers may come your way,
They bring the flowers that bloom in May”

which was made popular by many vocalists including Judy Garland, Bing Crosby and Al Jolson. In more rural versions it is said that “If it thunders on All-fools’ day, it brings good crops of corn and hay” and “A cold April the barns will fill”.

The joy of April is most eloquently expressed in Robert Browning’s poem, “Home thoughts from abroad” which he wrote while on a visit to Italy in 1845.

Oh, to be in England now that April 's there,
And whoever wakes in England sees, some morning, unaware,
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough
In England—now!
And after April, when May follows,
And the whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!
Hark, where my blossom'd pear-tree in the hedge
Leans to the field and scatters on the clover
Blossoms and dewdrops - at the bent spray's edge -
That 's the wise thrush; he sings each song twice over,
Lest you should think he never could recapture
The first fine careless rapture!
And though the fields look rough with hoary dew,
All will be gay when noontide wakes anew
The buttercups, the little children's dower
- Far brighter than this gaudy melon-flower.



Most of us experience the pleasure of the re-awakening of nature after winter hibernation as it reflects the Easter story of death and resurrection. Eastertide falls in April this year and we look forward to the spiritual experience as well as the traditions and customs of this church festival. After the bareness of Lent the church will be decorated for Easter Sunday with floral displays, particularly Easter lilies, as a symbol of the resurrection.

The major Saint's Day of the month is St George's Day on 23 April. St George is the patron saint of England: his flag of a red cross on a white

background is flown on St George's Day and as a patriotic symbol at international events. The traditional legends of St George slaying the dragon are extensively told and depicted in children's books but his sainthood is attributed to his martyrdom as a Christian soldier in the Roman army. His rejection of the Emperor's edict to worship Roman gods



and declaration of his faith in Jesus Christ led to his execution on 23 April AD303. Although St George's Day does not enjoy the same recognition as the saints days of our other 'home nations' there are several initiatives to raise its status and establish it as a national public holiday. The date coincides with the death of William Shakespeare and it is argued that this special annual occasion could encompass the essence of Englishness.

A lesser-known natural occurrence at this time of year is the growth of St George's mushrooms. Rather like the more common field mushrooms which appear in the autumn, they grow in local fields and I was introduced to them about ten years ago by a gentleman who was picking them on the bank in the field by Chawn Hill. More recently they appeared as a patriotic element on the dinner menu for a special G7 summit meeting which was prepared by Jamie Oliver. No—it's not an April fool hoax!

The origins of April Fool's Day on 1 April are not known but the custom of setting aside a day for playing tricks is widely observed in many countries. Traditionally these were harmless personal pranks in which the victim was made to appear foolish. However in 1957 the BBC Panorama programme extended the concept to fool the national TV audience by running a feature on the harvesting of spaghetti from trees in Switzerland. Since then media stunts and hoaxes have become a common feature on 1 April: most notable perhaps are the series of BMW advertisements for new car developments.

The origin of the name of the month is also uncertain. The Romans gave it the name Aprilis which may have been derived from the verb *aperire* - 'to open' in allusion to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to open.

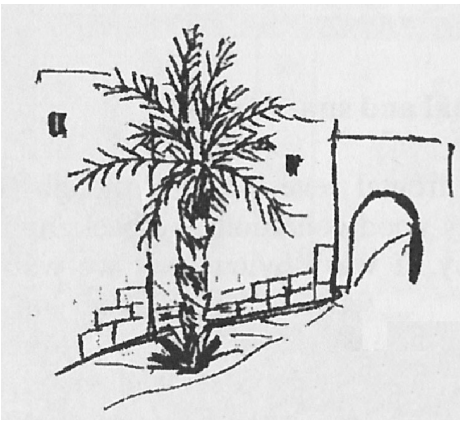
Alec Beevers

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

THE LAST WEEK WITH JESUS

PALM SUNDAY

When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem they took palm branches and went out to meet him. They laid out their cloaks on the ground and shouted:



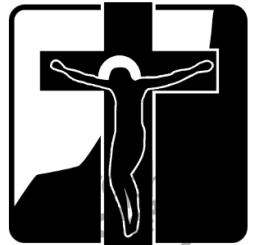
**“AHNOSHAN! SLEDBES
SI EH OWH SMOCE NI
HET MANE FO ETH
ROLD”**

Unscramble the words to find out what they said.

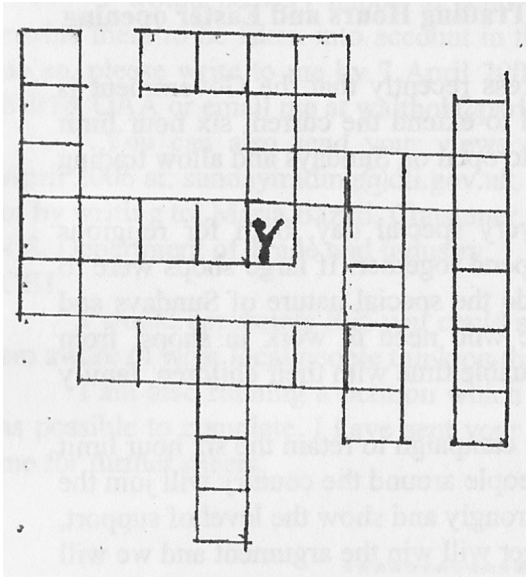
GOOD FRIDAY

Do you know who:

1. Denied that he knew Jesus?
2. Deserted Jesus on the Mount of Olives?
3. Asked to see Jesus perform a miracle?
4. Was judge at his trial?
5. Carried his cross when he fell?
6. Was crucified with him?
7. Stood at the foot of the cross?
8. Asked for Jesus' body?



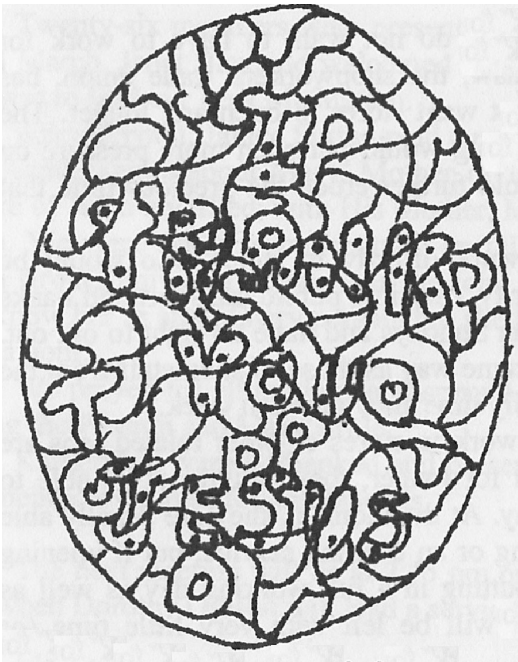
EASTER SUNDAY



Can you fit these words into the grid? One letter has been given to get you started.

- GARDEN
- PETER
- MARY
- EMPTY
- TOMB
- STONE
- ROLL
- ANGELS
- RISEN

EGG SPECIAL



Colour in the dotted sections of this Easter Egg to find the message.



Why not decorate your own egg with a personal message to Jesus?

LENT COURSE - SEEKING THE COMMON GOOD

This year's Lent course started on Tuesday 24 February and is following a weekly programme developed by the Diocese on the theme "The Common Good". The first two sessions, led by Stephen addressed "A Good Life?" and "A Good Society?"

The meetings opened with a short service of prayers and readings and then we embarked on a series of discussions relating to the topic for the week. Our interpretations of happiness, a good life and good society were based on guide notes prepared by the Diocesan team. These notes provided topical Bible readings and posed searching questions on which we were invited to share our views. For example in respect of a good life:

How important are material things for our comfort?

What level of possessions or wealth might be seen as enough?

How do the things we own contribute to, or detract from our ideas of 'A good life'?

After a reading of a modern translation of the beatitudes we discussed the Good Life in the context of causes of happiness, and observed that interpretations changed between generations resulting in different expectations. There are many 'Good' things which contribute to happiness other than material possessions and these were reflected in the generational changes. We also considered whether our desire to work was driven by a wish to provide happiness from earned goods or through intrinsic satisfaction in delivering a service.

These questions were perceived to have direct implications in today's politics as a measure of a nation's success is based on employment, growth and a strong economy. The final section of our discussion note invited us to review a list of basic 'Goods' that are necessary for the Good Life and to reflect on whether they conflict with other economic pressures for growth and wealth creation.

The "Good Society" meeting took as an introduction the Israelite laws set out in Leviticus 19 as a vision for a good society in 1000BC. We discussed the relevance of those laws to our society today and soon homed in on those who are at the edges of society and often alienated, who need support and assistance for their very survival. Churches were noted to have been at the forefront of providing "welfare" through hospitals, schools, almshouses, soup kitchens and poor houses. In the present day the "Welfare State" has taken on much of these provisions and has moved support for the needy, from the voluntary to public sector. Notwithstanding this, churches are still making considerable provision for the needy via food banks, debt relief agencies, samaritans and street pastors and the like. It was acknowledged that we are all beneficiaries of the welfare state, through education, health services, welfare and pensions. The point was made that as people retire later in life the less energy they will have to provide voluntary help.

Food banks may present an apparent "win-win" structure but may also conceal the realities of poverty and hunger. They let the state off the hook in offering political leadership to grapple creatively with poverty. We need sustainable livelihoods rather than insecure poorly paid work also social

benefits that offer dignity and sufficiency rather than penalties and indebtedness. It was thought that the quality of employment is little recognised by governments who concentrate on how many jobs there are. Since the creation of the welfare state the system has become so complex that it cannot cope with changes in an individual's circumstances; it is hoped that "Universal Credits" will go some way to addressing this issue. Often broad brush policies solve problems for some but have unexpected downsides for others.

These were very interesting and thought-provoking evenings – no doubt the following sessions will be equally enjoyable. If you are unable to attend but would like to read the discussion notes they are available through the Diocesan website at

<http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/search/?q=lent+course>.

Alec Beevers
Mike Blaxland

SOUNDING BOARD

CARERS SUPPORT GROUP AT THE COACH HOUSE

As you are all aware, we are a small group of carers who meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the Coach House from 1pm to 3pm.

Our members are all people who car for a family member or close friend with a long term illness or disability. We generally meet for a cup of tea, cakes and a chat. Occasionally we invite a speaker to bring information of interest to the group, e.g. benefits, health issues and the police for personal safety.

Twice a year everyone meets for a pub lunch along with, wherever possible, the person they care for.

Friendships have developed and members support each other in a variety of ways, from the telephone call (is everything ok?) to helping out with information when carers find no one to turn to.

Through the Care Co-ordinator at the Russell's Hall Hospital we realise the need of bereaved carers for support. We now welcome anyone who feels they would benefit from a general chat and perhaps lunch or an evening out. Under the umbrella of Dudley Carers Forum, members can access trips to the theatre, days out and other activities.

Everyone is welcome so please drop in and meet us or ring Di and Basil de Souza on 01384 374752.

We are holding a coffee morning at the Coach House on 25 April from 10am to 12 noon. There will be a tombola, raffle, cake, jams and books for sale. Tickets are £1.00, including coffee and biscuits.

Please come and support us.

Diana de Souza

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP - 28 FEBRUARY 2015

BLAKEDOWN TO YIELDING TREE

A cloudy but mild day saw nineteen of St Mary's walkers gather at the car park of the Old House at Home in Blakedown. From the front of the pub we walked down the unadopted lane to the Millennium field where we picked up the path running parallel with the field to the Lady Pool Dam.

Crossing the dam we walked up the bridleway to New Wood Lane, turning right at the top to follow the lane to a bridleway on the left just before rejoining the main road. This bridleway leads down to Deansford Lane but before reaching the Lane we turned off to follow another bridleway running parallel with the lane.

Where this bridleway crossed a public footpath we took the right footpath down through woodland and over a footbridge onto a field path running next to the river. It was lovely seeing the snowdrops in large clumps. The path passed through some more woods, with a tale of murder with a cleaver, and crossed over New Wood Lane into a field ascending to Segg Hill. Having safely navigated three horses that were very interested in our group we climbed over a stile onto a bridle way to have a coffee break.

We then followed the footpath up the hill through a blackberry patch and along the back of Barnett Hill Nursery turning right on another bridleway to meet up with the main road. By this point the clouds were beginning to lift, the sun was trying to come out and we enjoyed views across the countryside.

Unfortunately the public footpath on the opposite side of the road was overgrown with bramble so we took a short diversion into Egg Lane which we followed to Sion Fisheries and then down a bridleway to Sion House. Crossing the main road once more the bridleway led us back to the coffee spot. We continued to follow the path down to New Wood Lane turning right to return to Lady Pool via the lane and the public footpath and thence across the Millennium Field.

Lunch had been pre-booked, fortunately, as the pub was very busy: twenty-three were there for the meal.

Susan Solly

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.



HOLY WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Father in heaven, as your people prepare once more to follow the events of this Holy Week, may we be led by your spirit to deeper insights into your love and saving grace; that we may love you more and serve you better, for the sake of him who died for us and rose again, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Sunday 29 March PALM SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Communion to include a reading of the Passion narrative.

This service begins in the Church Hall with palm procession into Church.

6.30pm Evensong with sermon

30,31, April 1

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

6.30pm Meditation on the Passion with Compline

Thursday 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY

10.30am Holy Communion

7.30pm Agape supper in the Church Hall

Friday 3 GOOD FRIDAY

10.00am Walk of witness from St John's

2.00pm Devotions at the foot of the cross

7.30pm Choral Concert in church

Saturday 4 HOLY SATURDAY

9.00am Church decoration

10.00am Open church and vestry hour

1.00pm Wedding service in church

2.00pm Messy Church event for children in the Church Hall

Sunday 5 EASTER DAY

7.45am Holy Fire. The lighting of the Easter Candle

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Communion

3.00pm Baptisms

6.30pm Choral Evensong with sermon



O Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, who on a Cross with wood and nails has wrought our salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come to you rough-hewn, may by you be fashioned according to your will; for the sake of your tender mercy. Amen

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

MARMITE ROASTIES

The world is split into two over Marmite: you either love it or you hate it. If you already love it, you will need no encouragement to try this recipe. Be warned a little goes a long way. This is a great way of adding flavour to your Sunday lunch for little effort.

Serves 4-6

800g Maris Piper potatoes or a floury variety, peeled

2 teaspoons of marmite (I use heaped teaspoons as we have a Marmite lover in the house)

Rape seed oil

Pre-heat the oven to 180c/Gas4-5

Boil the potatoes for 10 minutes until just starting to soften. Drain

Spoon the marmite into the roasting tin and toss the hot potatoes in it until lightly coloured all over.

Heat the oil in a small pan until very hot. Carefully pour over the potatoes, give the roasting tin a good shake. Roast for 45-50 minutes turning them several times until crispy and golden.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

At a Champagne tasting event, we were all busy trying to identify the flavours in our glass when someone shouted out "marmite"! It seemed odd at first, but I was inclined to agree: such a flavour can be detected not just as a yeasty aroma, but in developed Champagnes where the process of autolysis (breaking down of the yeast cells) can produce something resembling marmite. Not a prominent characteristic - marmite addicts shouldn't contemplate opening a bottle of champagne looking for a liquid hit! Equally, we probably wouldn't select Champagne to accompany marmite flavoured roast potatoes!

Instead, let us treat these roasties as good reason to find a powerful robust red to drink alongside our roast dinner. These two descriptors often point to a Pinotage - yes, there are thin jammy examples too (best avoided) but a decent Pinotage would suit well. Leave your finest wines for a roast on a special occasion. Whether it is ox-tongue or whatever, there's generally a meaty flavour to be found in a Pinotage. We really are featuring some "acquired" tastes this month aren't we?!

Alternatively we can head to southern Italy, where the tannins and earthy notes of Sicily's Nero d'Avola or perhaps an Aglianico from the mainland would hit the mark.

Portugal offers Bairrada from the Baga grape (and other local varieties) as a worthy beast. And Spain has a curio: Rioja is mostly made from Tempranillo and to a lesser extent Garnacha. However, it can also contain Mazuelo (aka Carignan) and a variety called Graciano, which normally plays a minor supporting role to aid longevity (in the wine!), but it can constitute 100% - and indeed I have drunk such. Now there's a weightlifter of a wine: would tackle a whole plateful of marmite roasties! Enjoy your wine-sipping.

Richard W. B. Ryan

NEWS FROM MICHAEL WOODALL

Michael and Margaret send their best wishes to all friends and well-wishers at St Mary's. The attached photograph is of Mike on one of his activity sessions that take place on several mornings a week with the generous help and support of friends.

As you can see, Mike's walking has improved tremendously over the months as his strength has developed and he now walks confidently with the support of friends or a frame.

Mike and Margaret hope you appreciate the update, just as they appreciate your enquiries and good wishes. Here's hoping to see many of you in church some day soon.



Margaret and Michael Woodall

CHILDREN'S PAGE ANSWERS

PALM SUNDAY

HOSANNAH! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

GOOD FRIDAY

1. Peter 2. The Disciples 3. King Herod 4. Pontius Pilate 5. Simon of Cyrene 6. Two thieves 7. Mother Mary and John 8. Joseph of Arimathea

EasterSunday

P TOMB
E A A
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EASTER SPECIAL reads I thank you Jesus

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

15 February Ruby Rose Hickman

Funerals

19 February	Patricia Harper	Aged 78
20 February	Mary Mills	(Interment of ashes)
23 February	Patricia Harris	(Interment of ashes)
2 March	Muriel Hallmark	Aged 93

THE HOSTAGE DEAL

Between the rolling of the stone and the crying of the name came the agonising.

Shuddering Jesus stares into the tomb.
Making a deal with death in the depths.
A greedy exchange is strangely agreed-
Lazarus comes out and he will go in-
The prize of life for the price of death.

The hour of starkness fully come
The Dealer is struck and laid in the tomb.
Then is the end; - but the end is of death
Through terrifying life in the depths
Death is destroyed exploded inside.

Before the rolling of the stone
And the coming of the women
Came the rising.

Gordon King

PRAYER

Lord as we survey your wondrous cross
Help us to be aware of the part we play in extending its tragedy.
And as we contemplate, love - so amazing, so divine,
Open our eyes to the part you play in extending your power to transform.

Amen

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY

"Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire." St Catherine of Sienna said this, and it is probably my very favourite quote – other than Biblical ones of course! So often we try to be someone else, to fit in, or because we think that's how we will get on in life. In fact, the only way to be fully alive is to be fully ourselves.



God formed each of us uniquely. David praised God for this incredible personal attention to detail: "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous." (Psalm 139 *The Message*) We are God's hand-crafted works of art, not assembly-line products, mass-produced without thought, rather custom designed, one-of-a kind, original masterpieces.

George Barna, in a book called *Growing True Disciples*, says "Discipleship is about passion to reach our full potential in Jesus Christ."

As Kingdom People, followers of Jesus, we're not here just to survive, we're here to make a difference, to live impactful lives. We're all wired up differently, we're all at different ages and stages, but we all have gifts, and we all have a part to play in our churches, in our homes, our workplaces and the wider community, which only we can play. Growing as disciples is about discovering together how we can use the gifts God gives us as we serve together and engage in his mission.

I pray we will set this part of the world on fire as we do this!

Nikki Groarke



NO LIMITS celebrates World Autism Awareness Day on Wednesday 1 April with an Open Day at The Coach House, 10.30am to 3.30pm.


Come and enjoy free coffee and cake and learn more About Autism & NO LIMITS Community Project; [working4autism](http://working4autism.com).



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