

# **ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD**

**Parish Church Magazine**

**MAY 2015  
Online edition**



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



**Parish Church Magazine**



**PRIEST IN CHARGE:** The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,  
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**MAY 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>	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
	Miss Gemma Sutton	07968 586285

<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	
<b>Magazine e-mail address:</b>	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 MAY 2015

Saturday 2	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 3</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	3.00 pm Baptisms
Wednesday 6	3.00 pm Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Thursday 7	Church Hall in use for Elections 7.00 am-10.00 pm
	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 9	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 10</b>	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	10.00 am Worship Together
Thursday 14	Ascension Day
	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 16	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 17</b>	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
Tuesday 19	2.00 pm Tuesday Tea at the Coach House
	7.30 pm PCC Meeting at the Rectory
Wednesday 20	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 21	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 23	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	1.00 pm Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 24</b>	<b>DAY OF PENTECOST</b>
	1.30 pm Wedding
Thursday 28	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 30	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 31</b>	<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>

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## PENTECOST

Fifty days after Easter is the festival of Pentecost when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, the start of the church's mission to the world. It is also called Whitsun.



Pentecost is a happy festival. Ministers in church often wear robes with the symbols of breath, the wind and a dove in the design and the colour red as a symbol of the flames in which the Holy Spirit came to earth.

In Acts, Chapter 2, you can read the story of the first Pentecost, of how, whilst celebrating a feast, the disciples received the Holy Spirit which was to enable them to spread the news of Jesus' resurrection to the world. The passage goes on to tell how Peter helped to explain to the rest of the disciples and those around what was going on and how, on that day, three thousand people were baptised as believers.

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

Over the last month or so you may have noticed that I am planning to lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March of next year, and you may have wondered: 'Why?' 'Why would someone want to go on a pilgrimage?' 'Why would someone want to go to the Holy Land?'

Pilgrimage is all about journey. Usually it is about a group of people who want to travel somewhere together. In the process of that travelling they learn things about one another and about themselves. In a sense a pilgrimage is a small reflection of the journey of life on which we are all embarked. As we share that journey with one another our sense of interdependency grows, and we have the opportunity to draw closer to one another and question one another about our own journeys. In my own experience of pilgrimage over many years I look back and see them as times of growth in terms of personality and spirituality.

It is often said that in a pilgrimage the journey is at least as important as arriving at the destination; that would certainly seem to be the case in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, where the stories told have greater significance to the writer than the pilgrims' ultimate destination of Canterbury Cathedral.

Nevertheless, a pilgrimage is always to a particular place, and in this case we are travelling to the Holy Land, or perhaps a better description would be 'The land of the Holy One'. Here we spend time visiting sites which have significance for our faith, and as we visit these places we retell the stories which have made them significant for us. A pilgrimage to the land in which Jesus walked is often described as a fifth gospel, giving us insights into Jesus and other Biblical figures, but it can also be challenging and disturbing. Few people end a pilgrimage unmoved or unchanged. In my visits to the Holy Land over the past twenty two years I have always felt drawn back, I sometimes describe myself as being on a piece of elastic, the greater the distance from my last visit the greater the pull to go again.

If you would like to join me and the 2016 group of pilgrims have a word, you would be made very welcome.

With every blessing.

*Stephen Agnew*

## SERVICES IN MAY 2015

<b>3 May The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 8, 26-40	John 15, 1-8
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 60, 1-14	Revelation 3, 1-13
<b>10 May The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Song of Solomon, 4,16-5,2. 8,6-7	Revelation 3, 14-end
<b>17 May The Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 1, 15-17,21-26	John 17, 6-19
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 61	Luke 4, 14-21
<b>24 May Pentecost</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 2, 1-21	John 15,26-27. 16,4b-15
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 36, 22-28	Acts 2, 22-38
<b>31 May Trinity Sunday</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 6, 1-8	John 3, 1-17
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 1, 4-10,22-28a	Revelation 4

**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.**

## A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF....

Following the services of Palm Sunday, when the uncertain weather forced the decision to change our traditional processional entry into church, it was clear that the busy time of Holy Week had arrived.

On Monday morning, at 9.45 am, following a session liaising with the Parish Administrator over service orders for the coming two weeks, Stephen set off for Worcester Cathedral in the company of Kanthi Ariaraj, John Sutton and the two Church Wardens for the Annual Chrism Service (see page 7). It was nearly five hours later that we arrived back at the Rectory.

At 6.30pm Stephen was due to lead the first of three evening services that week, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Meditations on the Passion with Compline. It was clear that much preparation had already been undertaken to ensure the focus and examination of the issues under consideration. The re-arrangement of chairs in the Lady Chapel to create a special setting for these meditations and for a service which is not the most familiar of formats for many identified much preparatory work. Tuesday's meditation was led by Kanthi, who clearly had given much thought and care to her presentation and whose presence indicated the organisation of a rota somewhere behind the scenes.

Thursday morning brought the regular 10.30 am service of Holy Communion, a service increasingly popular with many, more senior members of our congregation, and a time for important spiritual and social reinforcement.

At 7.00 pm that evening thirty people sat down to an Agape Supper in the Church Hall, a shared meal that symbolises through its concurrent act of worship, the Last Supper. The evening deliberately moves from an atmosphere of joy and celebration to one of sombre reflection of the events of the first Good Friday. Alongside the much appreciated work of those who cooked and served the meal, the presentation of the Eucharist service further illustrated time spent in meaningful preparation.

Good Friday saw Stephen in Stourbridge for the walk of witness from St John's URC at 10.00am. At 2.00pm Stephen was in church for an hour long service of 'Devotions at the foot of the cross', another occasion when a collection of thoughts, readings, prayers, and reflections needed to be compiled to create a meaningful whole for presentation in a manner suiting the occasion. And again, at 7.30 pm, Stephen was back in church to lead a service of carefully selected readings and music for Good Friday.

On Saturday morning some members of the Flower Guild were in church a little before Stephen, beginning the decoration of the church for the celebrations of Easter Day and the wedding to be held at 1.00pm. But it was not long before Stephen arrived to share in and support the preparations and to add his encouragement to this busy session. Then, time for a quick bite of lunch before a return to church for the wedding.

Whilst the wedding party were busily involved in the process of capturing those all-important photographs, Stephen was on his way to the Church Hall to

join in with Messy Church (see page 8) before setting off for Worcester for an evening service which, on this occasion, also included some special family significance. After a late evening return from Worcester, those arriving for the 7.45 am service of Holy Fire at St Mary's found Stephen had long been present and all preparations were in place for this special introduction to the celebrations of Easter Day and the Resurrection. 8.00 am Holy Communion, 10.00 am Easter Day Parish Communion, 3.00 pm Baptism of two children and 6.30 pm Choral Evensong saw the day's services completed and Holy Week over for another year.

The diary shows there were several other matters to be attended to during the week so where was the 'spare time'?

Thank you Stephen for all you do for us all.

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## CHRISM SERVICE

The annual Chrism Eucharist took place at Worcester Cathedral on Monday 30 March. This important annual service is traditionally attended by clergy, lay ministers and church wardens from throughout the Diocese as well as any members of the public that might wish to do so.

In his introduction to the service Bishop John wrote:-

"At the heart of the service lie two special elements. First, the rededication of all those in ministry to their calling, and the reaffirmation of their ordination vows by the three orders of clergy – deacons, priests and bishops. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus offered what we often call his 'high priestly prayer' and, like a deacon, washed his disciples' feet. As we prepare for Maundy Thursday, we renew our commitment to ministry. Second, we bless holy oils. We do this so that their first use may be with candidates for baptism and confirmation at Easter."

At the renewal of Commitment to Ministry, members of the laity, Readers and Assistant Lay Ministers are also invited to reaffirm their vows.

Three oils are blessed - oil for use at baptism, sometimes called the oil of catechumens, oil of healing for anointing at a key moment in illness or in a process of restoring wholeness and the oil of chrism, which, being oil mixed with fragrant spices is used to accompany the prayer after baptism or with the laying on of hands at confirmation, in ordination and in commissioning for new ministry.



The text of Bishop Graham's sermon is available at <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news>



## MESSY CHURCH

Many parents and grandparents were brought along to the Church Hall during the afternoon of Easter Saturday for yet another event in our developing programme of Messy Church. This increasingly popular form of involvement in the life of the church is aimed at creating opportunities for children to learn about Bible stories, worship and the life of Jesus whilst working and playing together in a more relaxed and less formal situation than can be offered at most traditional services.



This Saturday Messy Church offered the children a range of activities that included the making of a stained-glass window using card and tissue, the decoration of a 'Prayer Box', the construction of an Easter Egg using foam templates and woven decorative tapes and the making of an Easter Card. For several minutes at a time children busily concentrated on the task at hand, sometimes seeking help from adults but often showing the determination and creativity necessary to complete what they could truly call their own work. Throughout each activity helpers sat with the children, discussing what they were doing and helping to provide and develop a



significance to their activity in terms of the Easter story. The satisfaction of a job well done was clearly evident in a gentle pride and sense of achievement with each of their finished products before the children moved on from one activity to the next.

One collective task, central to the theme of the afternoon, involved children drawing around their hands and cutting out the resulting template. These were then stuck onto a large sheet of paper to form a collage which enhanced the praise of 'Alleluia'.

The short service was led by Les and Tina Timms, ably supported by Jo King, who utilised their musical and interactional skills to enthral the children and involve them in songs and actions that had everyone contributing to the telling of the Easter story.



Towards the end of the afternoon, with everyone over the age of twenty nearing a state of exhaustion, the children settled at a large table to share some food and drink. Jean Agnew had carefully chosen a range of pancakes and toppings which proved to be very popular and soon disappeared with welcome eyes greeting the offer of second helpings.

Shortly after four o'clock the children collected the products of their afternoon's work and headed for home displaying levels of energy that far exceeded those felt by their parents.

Future Messy Church events are scheduled for:

Saturday, June 27            2 – 4pm in Church

Saturday, Aug 29            2 – 4pm in the Church Hall

Saturday, October 17    3 – 5pm in Church (Wedding in Church at 1.30pm)

Saturday, Jan 23            2 – 4pm in Church

If you enjoyed the Easter celebration or would like to find out more about Messy Church do come along... You will be warmly welcomed.

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

Anne May opened our April meeting with special thanks to members who had provided twenty filled toiletry bags, also a large collection of baby products and knitting ready for distribution by the Mothers' Union.

The service was based on the nature or possibility of living in a 'normal' family in an age when there are so many varieties of marriage arrangements and parenthood. Whatever happens, Mothers' Union is called upon to support family life with all its joys or sorrows.

Margaret Penn, our speaker, has served the Mothers' Union in the Worcester Diocese in many capacities. She outlined some of the changes which may come worldwide and at home in our Diocese.

In the past, leadership was centred in London but now, with four million members in eighty countries, trustees are working to have worldwide representatives in office to lead the organisation. Changes in lifestyle have resulted in a reduced membership and less activity in Britain but we still have a priority to pray for the new programme of one hundred new group links worldwide.

Locally, links with hospital chaplaincies have changed. Now the Mothers' Union supports nurse practitioners who care for new mothers, helping 250 teenagers in two years. At Alexandra Hospital, Redditch, bereavement support is provided and gowns for still-born babies are made available.

Women's refuges receive baby clothes and practical help whilst two flats have been made available for single fathers who care for their children.

Work in prisons and support for wedding fairs still continue as a focus for our mission. Most important of all, our care and support of our own families must be our priority and test our love, faith and witness to others.

Margaret was thanked for her informative and challenging talk which had defined the task ahead for us all.

Next meeting – Tuesday, 12 May: Deanery festival at St Peter's, Pedmore at 2.30 pm.

**Dawn Nex**

# CHILDREN'S PAGES

Jesus enjoyed sharing meals with others. Sometimes he was a guest at a party. Sometimes he was the organiser. Many of his stories feature a meal.

Imagine that Jesus is a guest at a party your family has planned. In the space below, or on another sheet of paper, draw a picture of this party. Include a 'speech bubble' to show what Jesus is saying.



Put your name, address and age (if under 18) on the back and get it back to 'The Editors' by June 10th. leaving it in the tray at the back of church. We hope to print one or two in the next issue

During the 40 days after Jesus' resurrection, (being raised from the dead), he appeared to his disciples from time to time. He spoke to them about the kingdom of God. Once he told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift he would send them. That gift would be the Holy Spirit. He would live in them and guide them. He would be a Comforter to them. Jesus wanted them to tell everyone on earth that he had died for them. He told them to teach and to baptize those who believed. After Jesus said this, he was taken up to heaven right in front of their eyes. A cloud hid him



from their sight and two angels, who looked like men dressed in white, came and stood beside them. The angels said, "Why are you looking up in the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up into heaven will come back some day in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." We also believe that he will come again.

**Can you unscramble the words below relating to the resurrection?**

aeppader \_\_\_\_\_

esecuinrorrt \_\_\_\_\_

ebidvele \_\_\_\_\_

eslicsipd \_\_\_\_\_

trrCmeoof \_\_\_\_\_

ocdul \_\_\_\_\_

ndmikgo \_\_\_\_\_

digue \_\_\_\_\_

usalmereJ \_\_\_\_\_

gansel \_\_\_\_\_

Achet \_\_\_\_\_

evaehn \_\_\_\_\_

fgti \_\_\_\_\_

ebzaitp \_\_\_\_\_

lignkoo \_\_\_\_\_

ipiStr \_\_\_\_\_

ssJue \_\_\_\_\_

ysk \_\_\_\_\_

## IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GREAT SERVICE

Having reached a particularly significant birthday, Roy Peacock's decision to step back from his long-held role as Reader Emeritus at St Mary's is a step that all who know Roy will receive with respect and acknowledgement of a ministry well fulfilled over nearly fifty years.

Roy and Pamela moved to the West Midlands in 1965, initially worshipping at St Peter's, Pedmore then, more contentedly at St Andrew's, Wollescote. There, the incumbent, Revd Alan Hayward soon recognised a potential for the evolution of the church which involved Roy. Alongside a reorganisation of services, Revd Hayward encouraged Roy to become a Licensed Reader, something that he achieved following a one year study period and the sitting of four examinations. Roy was licensed in a low-key ceremony following Evening Service at Worcester Cathedral in 1968, the year women were first admitted to Readership.

Roy's reflections on the years since are substantially those of satisfaction and enjoyment in fulfilling a ministry that he has found enormously rewarding. Never to be one to just do his bit, Roy played his part fully as a member of the team of Readers in the Worcester Diocese, often doing his best to promote the interests of what he saw as the forgotten parishes of the Black Country.

Roy served on the Deanery Synod and as its Treasurer for nineteen years from 1972. He also served on the Committee of the Diocesan Association of Readers, later as Registrar, then Secretary. He well remembers contributing to the organisation of the annual residential weekend for Readers at Crophorne and the opportunity this provided to spend time with like minded people from whom he learnt much. Service for three years as a member of the Bishop's Council and for seven years as a member of the Cathedral Council, representing Readers generally, brought further worthwhile experience and reward.

Roy looks back on years when Readership provided him with the opportunity to meet many interesting and supportive people, the opportunity to preach on subjects and with references to matters he found intensely interesting and worthy of study and times when he was privileged to enjoy the many associations the role presented to him.

Since 1999, Roy has been a very loyal and hard-working member of the St Mary's community at Old Swinford. Here, his sermons, often enhanced with a few morsels of local history to add greater significance to his theme, have been enjoyed by thousands and his varied gifts to the congregation and community at large have been immense and widely appreciated.

Of special significance to many will be the knowledge Roy has of local and world military history, founded on the enormous amount of research he has undertaken in relation to local war memorials and the stories of the men and women they commemorate. He has often used this knowledge in illustration of the full meaning of Remembrance at services each November, events that have helped both young and old to relate to and honour the memory of the fallen.

Without doubt the decision to invite Roy to receive the Maundy money as the delegate from the Worcester Diocese, at the Jubilee event in 2012, at York Minster, was an appropriate way of honouring his work and contributions, a much valued climax to Roy's service as a Reader and a well-deserved reward for the good he has brought to many.

Roy will continue to help out when others are on holiday and will, we trust, enjoy many years of quieter days in retirement with Pamela.

Thank you Roy.

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## **CHRISTIAN AID 2015**

### **10 - 16 May**

Please make a note in your diary of this year's Christian Aid Week 10-16 May. Already much is being planned and the help of all those who are able to support in whatever way they can will be sought and much appreciated.

At the start of the week, on Saturday, 9 May from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm at St Thomas's garden/church hall in Stourbridge Town Centre, Christian Aid is organising a Coffee and Craft event.

Of course, we hope you will be able to come along with family and friends to enjoy refreshments and for children to take part in the activities being planned. There is no charge for entry, just an invitation to make a donation of your choice.

For both the refreshments and for a stall from which we intend to sell cakes, donations of bought or home-made cakes are invited, so please try to spend a little time in the kitchen baking or add a cake to your shopping list.

If you are able to help run a stall or assist with refreshments please let me, Helen Fowler, know on 07967 916194 or by contacting John at the Parish Office.

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## **FLOWER GUILD**



A really big thank you to all the members of the Flower Guild and helpers who worked so hard to decorate the Church for Easter and for completing the task in record time so that everywhere was clear for the wedding at lunchtime. The Church looked beautiful after the starkness of Lent. The florist working on the wedding flowers was impressed with the way everyone worked together and did suggest that he use the Guild to help him when he was busy! Thank you again for your support.

**Sally Frost**

## **THANK YOU FOR OUR EASTER MUSIC**

On the evening of Good Friday the choir and a considerable congregation were present in church to share in a service of Readings and Musical items.

Clearly a good deal of preparation had gone into the selection of the content of the programme and there had obviously been much commitment on behalf of the choir to ensure that parts were well-learned to ensure the highest possible standard of musical presentation in our worship.

Whilst Good Friday calls for a considerable degree of solemnity, the singing and musical accompaniment provided a much appreciated presentation which served to capture the importance and significance of the day.

Such services traditionally conclude in a reflective silence which inhibits any display of appreciation by the congregation for the skills, talent and commitment made by the choir members to ensuring the most wonderful observation of this display of God's love.

Let this item serve to express to all involved in the compilation and presentation of the service the immense thanks of all those who were able to be present on this occasion, and at other Easter services, and for all the musical support provided throughout the past Easter season.

Our Musical Director, Robin Walker, has, as you will know, given indication of his desire to terminate his contract with St Mary's in favour of retirement. We record with very considerable appreciation Robin's patience during what is proving to be a difficult time of seeking a replacement and his sustained intention to see the quality of music at St Mary's maintained. The search goes on with real determination and we hope to be able to provide news of real progress in the not too distant future.

**The Church Wardens**

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## **ALL TOGETHER: SHARING WAYS TO LIVE THE KINGDOM**

**10.00 am – 3.30 pm, Saturday 10 October, Worcester Cathedral**

For Saturday 10 October, a day is being planned in Worcester for the whole Diocese to inspire, encourage and resource parishes in our Kingdom People journey. We're hoping as many people as possible from across the Diocese will come and join us to worship, share and eat together.

The aim is to model different ways of being Kingdom People with practical ideas that can be used back in your own parish. This will include a ministry of hospitality with breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea available free of charge courtesy of a gift from a charitable trust.

We will be inspired by the Church Army's Mark Russell and there will be lots of activities for families of all ages.

More information will be circulated shortly, but please put the date in your diary so that you don't miss out on the fun and inspirational ideas!

**Diocesan News**

## PARISH SHARE

The biggest single regular expense of any church community is the payment of Parish Share. Parish Share is a sum of money determined by negotiations involving the Diocese and each Deanery, with each parish being advised each year how much it must contribute. Parish share pays for the provision, salaries, pensions and housing of priests throughout the diocese and has been calculated using a formula which is largely dependant on the numbers attending services at a particular church. For 2015 St Mary's has to find £71,000.

For some time this has been a source of contention. Variations in church income and attendance and the need to spend money on other priorities causes challenges in the payment of parish share. Often one church community believes it is being asked to pay too much when compared to another.

The November meeting of the Diocesan Synod agreed that a new way of apportioning parish share should be tried.

Malvern Deanery, reflecting the views of many in the Diocese, proposed a change to the way the Parish Share is worked out. After a lengthy debate, the Diocesan Synod agreed their pattern offered a fairer way of splitting the cost of running the church across the Diocese.

Parishes will be asked to survey the income of their active members. This is a completely anonymous process - individuals will tick a band for their annual income, then record their name on a completely separate form (so people who haven't filled in the form can be encouraged to do so). The income forms will be put in a sealed box and totalled up by a different parish.

The process is based on a system already in use in Malvern Deanery. David Nichol, Vicar of Holy Trinity & St. James in Malvern said: "We've been running this formula since 2012 and it's perceived to be understandable and not intrusive into people's circumstances. In fact, when people realised how anonymous the process was, it changed their initial perceptions and after the first year we've had no issues collecting the data. Only those who are regularly engaged with the church are surveyed and we've found that it's a healthy thing to recognise our key supporters and acknowledge what they're doing. It's not about individual giving, but simply a way of working out who proportionately could pay more or less share."

Your Church Wardens and Treasurer will be attending meetings at which the details of the scheme will be explained and the views of parishes may be presented. When we have more detail we shall share it with you immediately. If you have views you may wish to have presented at the discussions please speak to a warden or pass details via the church office.

Look out for more information as the new parish share formula is rolled out across the diocese.

**The Church Wardens**



## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE MEATBALLS WITH RICOTTA CHEESE

All of a sudden meatballs are popular again. They are easier than burgers as these are baked in the oven. Please use good quality butcher's mince as I think supermarket mince is horrid. I serve them with a tomato sauce.

### INGREDIENTS

SERVES 4-6

1-2 tablespoons olive oil  
500g minced beef  
125g ricotta  
1 egg, beaten  
50g breadcrumbs  
1 large onion, finely chopped  
1 small bunch flat-leaf parsley, chopped  
½ teaspoon cayenne pepper



Preheat the oven to 230C/gas mark 8. Grease a baking sheet with olive oil and set aside. Mix the remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Form the mixture into balls about 4cm in diameter and arrange on the baking sheet. Cook in the oven for 18 to 20 minutes, until cooked through.

**Ann Jennings**

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

A wine trip to Italy to find a bottle to accompany our meatballs offers up so many options doesn't it? Our final selection will probably reflect where we place the emphasis: more spicy? more herby? more intensely tomato sauced? Howsoever the chef adjusts the final dashes of flavour, we can be assured that there will be a suitable bottle somewhere in Italy and her islands.

The ricotta element directs us to something a little softer and fleshier; avoid the tannins of Sicily's Nero d'Avola or the bite of Puglia's Negroamaro, although the Negroamaro based wines of Copertino show nice balance. Please save Piedmont's Nebbiolo wines (Barolo/Barbaresco) for game dishes. Take care with Valpolicella: Corvina is a worthy grape but its blending partners here - Molinara and Rondinella - should play only a minor role (indeed some say none at all!

In central Italy, Sangiovese and Montepulciano abound. You may not want the great Tuscan wines Brunello or Chianti Classico for an everyday plate of meatballs, but further south blends of Montepulciano and Aglianico make for some very attractive wines. Here we can highlight the wines of the Biferno area of Molise region, just to the north of Puglia.





Wines from the Aglianico grape are favoured if we add an extra pinch of spice/cayenne pepper. Meanwhile, Cannonau (aka Grenache) from Sardinia and Uva di Troia from Puglia are best for herbier creations.

Having tasted our way up and down the country, it would be in central Puglia at Castel del Monte where I would pause my tour of Italy, open a bottle and rest awhile. Here the blend of Uva di Troia, Aglianico and Montepulciano creates a delicious wine at a modest price befitting our humble meatballs.....Enjoy your wine-sipping,



**Richard W. B. Ryan**

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### **IN APPRECIATION OF A DUTY WELL SERVED**

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Sunday 19 April Marjorie Ferguson retired from the role of church warden at St Mary's, a role she has filled with distinction for the past ten years. With Revd Ruth Atkinson, our curate at the time, Marjorie led the parish during the most recent interregnum and has been a tower of strength, often in the face of additional challenges, in ensuring our church community has continued to flourish. With Ian, her late husband, Marjorie helped to establish a more secure footing for the operations of the church hall. Although Marjorie will continue to contribute in many ways it is apt, at this time, to acknowledge with warm appreciation Marjorie's commitment and generous gift of time. Thank you from us all.

**Tony Tatford**

### **Childrens Page Answers**

appeared, resurrection, believed, disciples, comforter, cloud, kingdom, guide, angels, Jerusalem, teach, heaven, gift, baptize, looking, spirit, Jesus, sky

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

5 April                      Hollie Jane Priest  
Martha Thomas

### Weddings

4 April                      Abigail Taylor and Joseph Clifton

### Funerals

18 March	Jill Rose	Aged 74
9 April	Marion Rutter (interment of ashes)	Aged 64
10 April	Clive Brittain	Aged 84
10 April	Reuben Billingham	Aged 89
11 April	Doreen Ryan (interment of ashes)	Aged 85

### Letter continues.....

- ♦ Take measures to conserve, recycle and collect water around church buildings and properties.
- ♦ Nurture biodiversity on church land by creating safe habitats for indigenous species.
- ♦ Support local communities by sharing water, energy and arable land resources for local food production.
- ♦ Support sustainable land use initiatives, including a halt to the clearing of native forests.

Advocate for sustainable water, food and agricultural practices in our communities. It is imperative to take into account the interwoven relationship of food, water and energy systems.

**+Graham**

## LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF DUDLEY

Who gives a monkey's about climate change? Not many of us it seems. But please wait if you're about to turn to the next page. This is crucial stuff and is the biggest moral question in front of us.

Perhaps we feel the topic is just too big. Perhaps the sceptics have done such a good job at saying the science is all wrong. Perhaps we quite like our lifestyle and creature comforts and don't want to lose out.

Yet, there are ways for each of us to make our own contribution and make a difference; the scientific consensus is that we are seeing major effects from increased carbon in the atmosphere and these effects will increase unless something major is done; and Christians need to keep asking how do we live in a Jesus centred way where having sufficient and caring for our world neighbour are priorities.

When we see so many devastating effects of climate change in terms of increased sea levels, major weather events, flooding and drought, we need to wake up. In the Solomon Islands, for example, the rising sea level has made the soil of some of the low lying atolls so salty that people have had to leave their homes and move to other islands resulting in community tensions.

Across the globe climate change is having a disproportionate impact on the world's poorest people, who are not the major polluters of the atmosphere with carbon. Climate change knows no international borders. It will come back to bite us and make life more precarious. We should not tolerate that the suffering and death of others is inevitable and acceptable.

On Good Friday, Bishops from across the Anglican Communion issued an urgent call for action for climate justice. Called 'The World is our Host', [http://issuu.com/anglicancommunion/docs/the\\_world\\_is\\_our\\_host](http://issuu.com/anglicancommunion/docs/the_world_is_our_host)

I commend this pastoral statement to you. Please read it, reflect upon it, and then make a personal transformational response. Be drawn into its message of a loving, creative God who shares his creation so that it might be enjoyed but not exploited for greedy short-term and selfish motives.

We need also to be putting pressure on our new government to take the impact of climate change seriously. Churches have an admirable history in campaigning and this is our new moral challenge. The voice of the poorest and all of us who want to protect our planet for our children's children to flourish, need to be heard by the leaders of the world so that they will make the prophetic step change that is needed at the Paris Climate Talks in December. Many say this is our last chance. Pray and act now.

**As part of the statement, all Anglicans are encouraged to:**


- ◆ Join in prayer and fasting for climate justice on the first day of each month as an integral part of life and worship
- ◆ Implement energy conservation measures in church buildings and move towards renewable energy sources as quickly as possible

***(Bishop Graham's letter continues on page 18)***

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