

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine

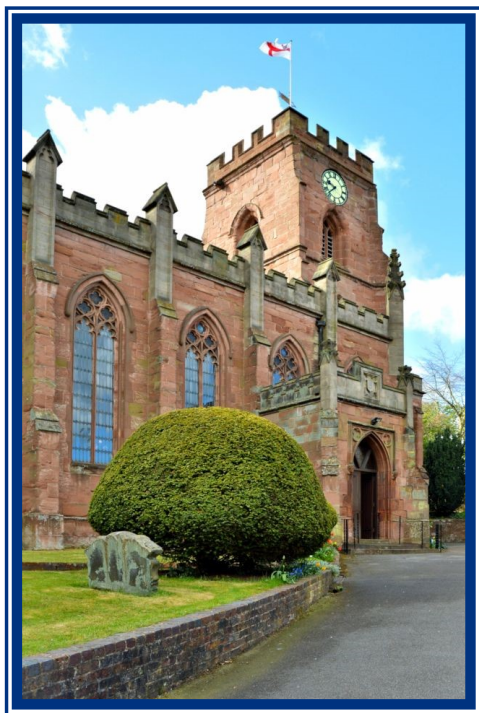
**JUNE 2015
Online edition**



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



PRIEST IN CHARGE: The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,
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JUNE 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)
Daily:	5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (except Fridays)
Wednesday:	1.30 pm - Toddlers' Group 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	01384 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 Judy Hall	377349
	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, 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.

Cover photograph courtesy of Bob Evans

DIARY FOR JUNE 2015

Thursday 4	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.30 pm Admission Service for Wardens at Dudley
Saturday 6	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 10.00 am-4.00 pm Wedding Preparation Day in the Coach House
SUNDAY 7	FIRST AFTER TRINITY Special presentation at all services 3.00 pm Baptism
Tuesday 9	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Wednesday 10	Copy date for July/August magazine
Thursday 11	10.30 am Holy Communion 7.30 pm Deanery Synod Meeting 7.00 pm Mary Stevens Hospice Mid Summer Service.
Saturday 13	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 2.00 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 14	SECOND AFTER TRINITY 2.00pm Tuesday tea in the Coach House
Tuesday 16	10.30 am Holy Communion
Thursday 18	7.00 pm King Edward VII College Charter Day Service
Saturday 20	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 9.30-10.30 am Visiting bell ringers
SUNDAY 21	THIRD AFTER TRINITY 3.00 pm Baptism
Tuesday 23	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 25	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 27	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour St Mary's Walking Group to Hampton Loade and Dudmaston 1.00 pm Wedding 2.30-4.30 pm Messy Church in the Narthex 7.30pm Concert in church by the Amicus Trio & Cello Quartet.
SUNDAY 28	FOURTH AFTER TRINITY Open the Book team visit Old Swinford Primary School
Monday 29	2.30-4.00pm Tuesday Tea
Tuesday 30	

TRINITY SUNDAY - 31 May 2015

Many Christian churches in the United Kingdom observe Trinity Sunday through various activities, including special church services that focus on the theme of the Trinity. Such services give the congregation a chance to learn about or revisit the concept of the Trinity, which refers to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit being one God. The Nicene Creed is often included in some church services on Trinity Sunday.

Often churches or Christian organizations that run Sunday schools or special groups for younger people may also have services or activities that teach children about the Trinity. Sunday school activities may include songs, poems, group discussions, and colouring tasks.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

After the round of activity from Easter through Annual Meetings to Christian Aid week and Archdeacons' Visitations, June seems a month which shows every possibility of quietening down a little. How many times have we said that, and actually when we come to it the workload is as burdensome as ever?

Of course we are in a culture where productivity is everything and everyone is expected to justify their existence by being busy, or in some cases pretending to be busy. The economic downturn we have experienced over the last few years has encouraged that sort of feeling. For a number of years jobs have been uncertain and we have all done our best to demonstrate that we are indispensable. And this approach pervades not only the world of work but other parts of our life, including people's approach to retirement, and the life of the church as well. But I think we need to ask ourselves the question whether we are using our time to the best advantage both for ourselves and for those for whom we are working. Do we always need to be busy? If we are always busy what happens to our inspiration and the judgement that this particular course of action is right whilst that course of action is not? If we are constantly rushing around where do we find time to reflect on what we are doing?

Jesus, in his life spent time away from the crowds whenever he could, and there are stories in the New Testament of Jesus going off by himself to recharge his spiritual batteries, so that he could face the next set of challenges. I believe that Jesus' model of work, which included time for spiritual renewal, is a good model for us too. I know that many of you come to church to gain some spiritual uplift for the week ahead, and whilst that is enough most of the time, sometimes you are looking for more. Sometimes you need a little more space, a little more time to focus on what you are doing and where you are going in your life.

It is to meet such needs that people go on retreat, and there are many places where you can go for a few days to find refreshment. If you are interested in taking such a retreat have a word with me and I may be able to put you in touch with a place which might be suitable for you and meet your spiritual needs. Alternatively you might just like to spend a few hours in quietness and reflection, in some place not far away, with people who you know and with a small amount of guidance as to how to use the time and the quietness. If this sounds as though it might be of help to you then speak to me, and if there is a small group who would be interested in running a parish quiet day we will do that over the Summer just so that you have the time and the space to reflect and to be strengthened for the challenges ahead.

This is just one way of being kind to yourself, but whether you choose this way or other ways, I hope that you will find the time and the inclination to meet your own needs physically and spiritually.

With every blessing.

Stephen Agnew

SERVICES IN JUNE 2015

7 June First After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Corinthians 4,13-5,1	Mark 3. 20-25
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jeremiah 6. 16-21	Romans 9. 1-13
14 June Second After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Jeremiah 7. 1-16	Romans 9. 14-26
21 June Third After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Corinthians 6. 1-13	Mark 4. 35-41
	6.30 pm Evensong	Jeremiah 10. 1-16	Romans 11. 25-36
28 June Fourth After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Corinthians 8. 7-15	Mark 5. 21-43
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 3. 4-11	Galatians 1.13-2.8

COME AND SING

Saturday 6 June 10.00-11.30 am

in church

'SINGING IS FUN! SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!'

Come and sing old songs and new songs with the Music Group
in a fun singing session of music for us to sing at the monthly
family Worship Together services.

Coffee/tea + cake too!

All welcome,.....all ages.

PARISH SHARE

On 5 May, at a meeting of representatives of most churches in Dudley, Stourbridge, and Kingswinford, churchwardens were advised of the new process (for 2016) for determining how much each church will be asked to contribute in Parish Share. Parish Share is the amount St Mary's is asked to contribute to help meet the diocesan costs of mission and particularly costs such as priest salaries, pensions, NI contributions and housing. Traditionally, this sum has been calculated on the basis of attendances at services.

As from next year the amount of parish share each church will be asked to contribute will be assessed on the basis of a confidential and anonymous survey of the income levels of church members. In November 2014 the Diocesan Synod voted to follow this process and the details have now been shared with churchwardens who are charged with running the survey in their parish.

In the coming weeks you will be asked to complete two pieces of paper:-

One, on which you are asked to put a tick in one box only to indicate your assessment of your annual income after tax. You do not put your name on this sheet, nothing other than a single tick. This sheet goes into a securely sealed box which will be opened only by a churchwarden in another parish who can have no knowledge of who ticked which sheet.

The second sheet is where you are asked to record your name to confirm that you have completed an income survey form. This goes into another box which will be opened by your churchwardens. This is to enable them to oversee and encourage participation so we reach a critical 75% return. Anything less than this will mean that diocesan officers will estimate the outstanding data and hence the final calculation of Parish Share may not be as accurate as it could be.

In due course, the information collected will enable the diocese to assess the relative wealth of one parish against another and for the total sum of the annual Diocesan Parish Share to be divided according to this data. In this way, the more 'wealthy' parishes will be asked to contribute more than the 'less wealthy'.

Much debate and consideration has been given to this process. No process is perfect but this is considered to be an improvement on the previous process. It has been trialled in Malvern Deanery and has been found to be more accurate, fair and has been accepted by parishioners. Many churchwardens questioned the process closely and sought to ensure that confidentiality and anonymity would be 100%. Convinced of this, churchwardens will undertake this duty on behalf of parishes to provide a response by the end of July.

Full details will be made available to parishioners in written form, in presentations in church and in one-to-one conversations where you may wish to question your churchwardens. Information is also available on the Diocesan website www.cofe-worcester.org.uk

Please do ask if you need further help.

The Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of Parishioners Tony Tatford and Judy Hall were elected as churchwardens for the year 2015-16. In recognition of ten years service as a churchwarden Marjorie Ferguson was thanked for her valued contributions and was presented with a gift and flowers to commemorate her work.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which began shortly after Evensong on 19 April, was well attended with over thirty five people present and other apologies received.

Revd Stephen Agnew presented his report of the past year in which he reflected on the several challenges and achievements, and highlighted some of the issues we have to face as we move into the coming year.

Central to our deliberations and actions have been the eight elements of the Kingdom Values agenda, especially as they were perceived to relate to St Mary's at our Parish Conference. These have become central to PCC agendas so that our considerations in all other matters are always directed with regard to these essential values.

Annual reports provide the ideal medium through which to record and express appreciation of the efforts of others. This Stephen did in no small measure, illustrating the range of contribution and the value of those who contribute. The positive involvement of those in ALM training was encouraged as one option for others to consider. Staffing changes to take place in the Deanery will, almost certainly, bring pressure on the ability to offer services with the frequency that has come to be expected, especially at times of holiday. In various ways, these challenges provide the opportunity for others to volunteer and to serve in new ways.

Stephen paid special tribute to Roy Peacock who, having attained the age of 80, had declared his intention to step aside from his full-time role as Reader Emeritus. As referred to in last month's magazine, Roy's many and substantial contributions were recognised in the thanks of all those present.

Reports were received from the Secretary, Katey Fletcher, the Master of Fabric, Tony Lloyd and from the Treasurer, Russ Fowler. Each was able to report on some significant achievements during the past year whilst indicating the various challenges and tasks that lie ahead for our church community. Votes of thanks to all officers were proposed and supported in full by those present. Copies of these reports are available in the PCC file at the back of church.

Reports of the many committees and groups that contribute to the life of St Mary's were received. These serve to illustrate the vibrant involvement of so many elements of parish activity and the wide range of people and interests served through such groups.

A list of those designated Deputy churchwardens and sides persons was approved and their important work was recognised with thanks.

The Editors

ST MARYS' TODDLER'S GROUP A SUCCESS STORY

Each Wednesday afternoon, around half past one, often ahead of their Mum, Dad, Grandparent, or whoever has brought them, young and enthusiastic children run in through the doors of the church hall in anticipation of a fun-filled time at St Mary's Toddler's Group.

In various forms this group has been meeting for many years to provide an opportunity for the very young to meet and play with others of similar ages as they are supervised by their parents or grandparents. Overall guidance is provided by a group of registered and trained carers who volunteer their time and experience to ensure that games and toys are available and that the environment is managed in a safe and secure manner.

For just £2 per week during term time, these sessions provide a much-needed facility for parents, grandparents and children to get out of the home and to meet others sharing similar tasks. Such has been the growth in popularity of this provision that there have been times when the church hall has been full to capacity. However, anyone considering joining the group will always be welcomed. As children move on to other activities as they grow older, so new opportunities arise which help to provide a steady presence of familiar and new faces.

For the adults, the group provides an appropriate environment in which to introduce their young charges to play with others, an important opportunity to interact with other children and to support the social development of these growing individuals. Parents and grandparents have the opportunity to talk and socialise with others facing similar daily experiences, to get to know others and develop friendships and to share the delights and challenges of childcare over a cup of tea.

Although there is no formal programme of learning the opportunities for play enable the children to investigate and to learn through experience and interaction. Individuals are free to explore according to their interests, carer guidance and supervision, and to learn at a rate appropriate to their needs.

Earlier this year, the voluntary team of leaders was presented with a certificate by Dudley Council for Voluntary Service, a commendation of their work following nomination by a parent who regularly attended with her children. Such external moderation and approval is a valuable support to the venture.

St Mary's and the life experience of the church is always at hand through the support provided by regular members of the congregation and opportunities made available to experience church-related activities at key times of the year such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest. Revd Stephen Agnew and Jean, his wife, are very keen supporters of the group and attend as often as this proves possible.



Looking ahead, there will be no meeting of Toddlers on 24 June as children will be attending the special 'Princess and Pirates' event at Dudley Zoo. You are welcome to make your own way to the zoo and to join the group on this occasion. Details are available from Elaine Pritchard on 07900 104490

The Editors

VE DAY 70 YEARS ON



Friday 8 May 2015 was the day after the general election and my abiding image of that afternoon is of three party leaders standing at the Cenotaph and laying their wreaths together. That was the spirit of democracy; VE Day 1945 might be 70 years ago but war and victory shaped the nature of the world we live in today.

We have 17 names on our church War Memorial out of the 395,000 British casualties. Two are buried in the churchyard and another is named on a family memorial. Here are some of the others who died in far away places in defence of our values

Albert Partridge and **Donald Lunt** in the Worcestershire Territorials died In May 1940 in the retreat to Dunkirk, protecting the third of a million being evacuated from the beaches. From 1940 to 1941 Britain was alone and relied on vital supplies like food from America. Submarines threatened merchant ships every day and **Bryan Mobberley** was one of many flying out from Northern Ireland but failing to return. **John Jewes** in the Royal Navy also died in this struggle when HMS Charybdis was sunk off Brittany.

1943 witnessed the beginning of the fight back. Victory in North Africa was the start but **John Brewer** was killed in the follow-up to Alamein. The bombing offensive over Germany was essential to weaken the enemy war effort but **Denniss Hayward** died over Germany in 1942 and **George Croydon** in 1944. Successful D Day landings in June 1944 were costly, too, and **Reginald Wall** of Hall Street died at the age of only 18 during the follow-up in Normandy. The dangerous work of the SOE was shown when **Thomas Young** died in a crash in France when German double agents penetrated a plan to assist the Free French.

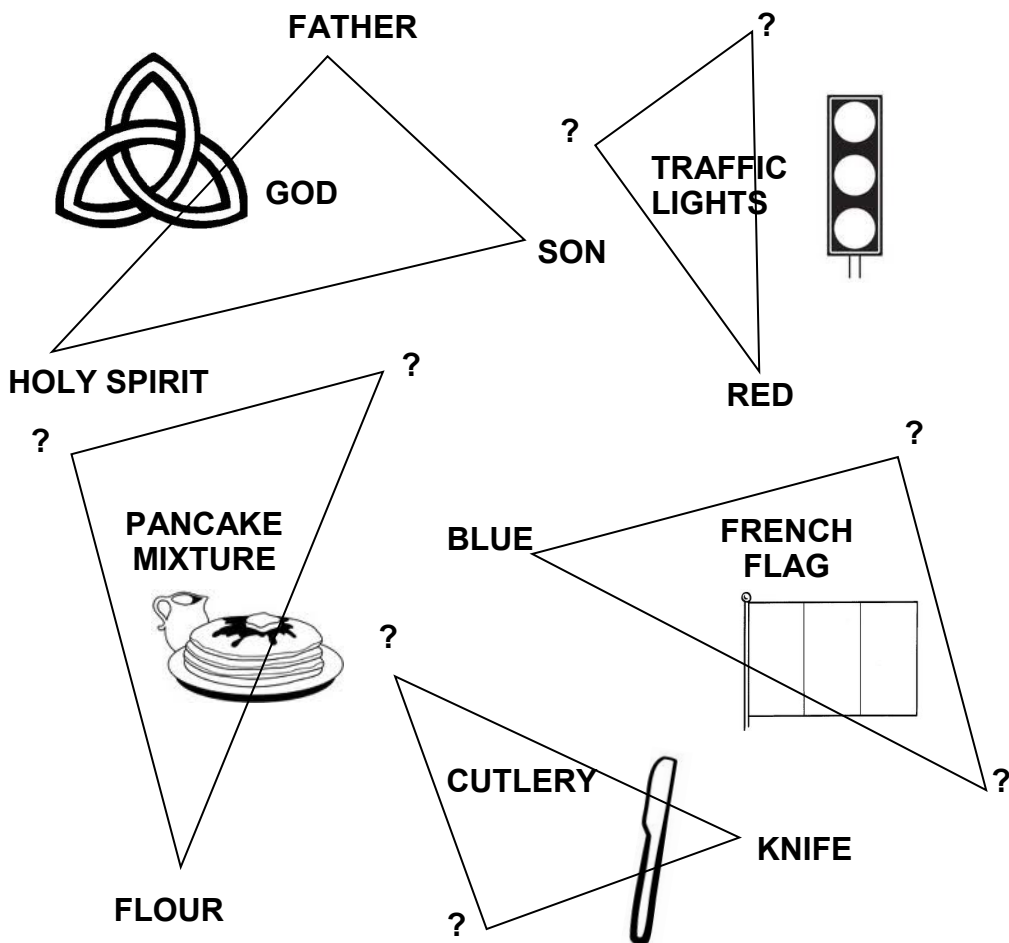
In the final phase the last Oldswinford man to be killed was Trooper **Michael Turner** of the Life Guards. He was killed in action near Hanover on the 1st May 1945, just a week from VE day.

Let us remember them all

Roy Peacock

THREE - BUT ONE

There are three forms of God. They are known as **THE TRINITY**. We could draw it like this:



Can you label the other triangles using the same pattern?

HOW HAS GOD SHOWN HIMSELF TO US?

God the Father; who makes us and loves us.



Jesus God the Son; who came as a man but God was in him and he was God,



God the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit came after Jesus went back to God the Father.

He helps us grow more like Jesus.

ONE FOR THREE

Find one word that you can put with each of these three words to make new ones:

1. FLY, SHOE, RADISH
2. BAG, COFFEE, STALK
3. KEY, WALL, COLD
4. CAKE, BLUE, COTTAGE
5. END, SHELF, MARK
6. COAT, PORT, CABLE



WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Thanks to everyone who attended our world autism awareness open day at The Coach House on 1 April.

It was a very successful day attracting many visitors including our MP Margot James and several Local Authority Councillors.

Across the world the day was celebrated by lighting up landmarks in blue light. Los Angeles held a Light Up Blue Concert with many singers and musicians with Autism showing their amazing musical talents. They held a fundraising auction at the end of the concert.



Brad Pitt appeared on stage at the concert with a grazed and bruised face having fallen up some steps whilst carrying equipment in his arms and wearing flip flops! He spent \$15,000 at the auction on a guitar signed by all the performers



Thanks for all your support. We really do appreciate it.

Chris Morgan
NO LIMITS Community Project Manager

CHURCH URBAN FUND

The Church Urban Fund (CUF) is encouraging parishes to take part in activities for Poverty Sunday. Local churches are being invited to hold a Poverty Sunday Service followed by a “frugal lunch” on June 21, or on another date that suits, to raise funds for CUF. Church Urban Fund, a charity within the Church of England, helps churches respond to poverty and supports local initiatives to transform deprived communities. Poverty Sunday is being marked after a report published earlier this year showed the overwhelming commitment of Church of England parishes to social action. The vast majority of churches, more than 90%, address at least one social issue in their community, either through organised activities, or informal support, according to the online study by CUF and the Church of England. On average, churches are addressing seven social issues in their area and a third are tackling nine or more, the study found.

The proportion of churches involved in running food banks has doubled

over the last three years from 33% to 66%. Paul Hackwood, CUF Executive Chair, said: "We believe this is an important time for churches to get involved. Great work is already being done but the need is immense. The more we can raise money, the more lives are going to be transformed." The Rt Revd David Walker, Bishop of Manchester, and a trustee of CUF, urged churches to take part in Poverty Sunday. "Poverty Sunday is an opportunity for you and me to support church-backed responses in places like my former parishes. Please join in." Find out more at: www.povertysunday.org.uk

Church of England. /NREVIEW

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP– 25 APRIL

On what was, according to the weather forecast, not going to be a good day weather-wise, a much depleted group (due to holidays etc) of four ladies set off for a five mile walk from Pershore Bridges. As we started out from Stourbridge the cloud was low and it was dull with some drizzle. However, by the time we arrived in Pershore the sky had lightened and the sun was coming through.

Our walk began from the old bridges where we crossed the road to walk alongside the River Avon. On the way we passed a mallard with eight very new chicks scuttling along behind her. We also had a superb view of Bredon Hill. The day was becoming more promising.

After traversing several meadows we turned right, away from the river towards the Defford Road which we crossed and entered Tyddesley Woods. Here the track runs straight up the slope through the trees where we were delighted to see lots of beautiful bluebells and also many primroses. At the top of the wood we took a refreshment stop, making full use of some felled tree trunks as our seats.

When we set off again we walked up a small rise from where we had our first glimpse of Pershore Abbey and, once again, Bredon Hill enhanced even further by the glorious sunshine that had replaced the earlier grey. We continued along the track, making a small diversion (clearly marked) due to some house building, which brought us back onto the Defford Road and soon to the cemetery with its poignant war graves. Our route led us to the right, down Cornmore for a while, then along a track that led back towards the river from where we retraced our steps to return to our starting point.

We then strolled the short distance into Pershore where we had a delightful ladies lunch at 'The Angel', reflecting as we rested on what had, contrary to expectations, turned out to be a sunny and beautiful day.

Sylvia Cooper

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP -
28 March 2015 4.8 miles Stottesdon, Shropshire

Twenty people left from St Mary's to make their way to the start of the walk which was from the Fighting Cocks car park in Stottesdon. We were a little apprehensive as, whilst doing the walk twice beforehand in different directions, it appeared to be very muddy whichever way we went. We did warn everyone but, stalwart walkers as they are, they seemed unperturbed by the prospect.

Leaving the village over the first stile onto farm land we walked down a long field to the next stile at the bottom and a bridge over a stream. It was already quite muddy.

Most of the walk was in view of the Clee Hills as we remained on high ground for most of the way.

After stopping for our coffee break we changed direction and headed for Wall Furlong Farm, where we encountered some rather lively farm dogs which could have done with a good scrub and brush. Not surprising at this point there was a lot more mud.

As we continued, the views opened up to the east and we could clearly see Turners Hill at Rowley Regis which is 19 miles away from where we were. We eventually came to a road (very quiet) for a few hundred yards. Then we headed to Blundel Farm where some very friendly dogs came to be petted. We walked around the edge of a field passing some very impressive buildings on to a track lined with daffodils (very pretty). Crossing over a lane we encountered some illegal barbed wire. Luckily we were aware of this so Ray had bought a thick towel with him so it could be easily lifted up to enable our progress (a little bending required here).

Soon we crossed over another lane with the view of Stottesdon Church in front of us. Then it was just a short walk up a very muddy field, through the churchyard and back to the pub for a lovely relaxing lunch.

We did tell everyone at the end how many stiles we had gone over (36)-oops its all in the mind.

Just out of interest, the name Stottesdon means (The Stud on the Hill). The village Church of St Mary's is very old, for example its' Saxon tympanum arch under the tower & its' Norman font just to name two items.



Ray & Jean Drew

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Graham will license the Revd Phil Bradford as Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Worcester Dines Green St Michael & Crown East, Rushwick at 7.00pm on Monday 29 June 2015 at St Michael's, Dines Green. Phil is currently Associate Priest for St John in Bedwardine, Worcester. Congratulations to Phil.



Also, at the end of June, the following ordinations will take place.

To be ordained deacon:

Rachel Akers to serve in Kidderminster East
Josie Calam to serve in Areley Kings
Allison Davies to serve at Holy Trinity, Redditch
Ian Evans to serve in the Ipsley Team, Redditch
Laura Handy to serve in the Droitwich team
Philippa Sargent to serve in Kempsey
Andrew Todd to serve at St Stephen's Church, Barbourne



To be ordained priest:

Sarah Cottrill, who serves at St John in Bedwardine, Worcester
Gary Crellin, who serves in Stoke Prior, Wychbold and Upton Warren
Sarah Brush, who serves in the Halas Team in Halesowen
Owen Gallacher, who serves at All Saints in Worcester
Emma Goldby, who serves at Holy Trinity, Malvern and St James, West Malvern.

Please remember all these members of God's family in your prayers.

SOUNDING BOARD

The members of 'Sounding Board' Carers' Support Group at the Coach House would like to thank everyone at St Mary's for their kindness and support of the Coffee Morning on 25 April. Your generosity and donations of tombola prizes and cakes, and your attendance on the day, made the event very successful and we are most grateful to you all.

**Chris Morgan
Diana De Souza**

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

FORGOTTEN COOKIES

I found this recipe on an American website. Their measures can put you off but I have done the conversion for you. The name is explained by the cooking method – the cookies are left in the switched off oven overnight. They are a perfect little sweet treat to serve with coffee or tea.

Makes about 35-40

2 large egg whites	120g toasted walnuts, roughly chopped
120g of golden caster sugar	150g dark chocolate roughly chopped
1 teaspoon vanilla extract	

No need to toast the walnuts but I do. Toast the walnuts for 10-15 minutes at 150C/140 fan/Gas 2-3 roughly chop and allow to cool.

Thoroughly pre-heat oven to 180C, (same for fan) Gas 4, it must be completely hot, not just at temperature.

Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Whisk egg whites with a pinch of salt until stiff and dry. Gradually whisk in the sugar a little at a time to make a thick glossy meringue. Tip in the nuts, chocolate, and vanilla and gently fold in.

Spoon heaped teaspoonsful of the mixture (not larger) spaced apart, onto the baking tins. Put the sheet in the oven and immediately turn the oven off.

Leave overnight.

Store in an airtight tin, they will keep for up to a week. I have often truly forgotten them and they have been left in the oven for days and have been perfectly fine.

Occasionally, especially if it's humid, they may go sticky in the centre. If this happens go back to the beginning, heat the oven, put the cookies back in, turn the oven off. Check after 3-4 hours or leave again overnight.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE...

It is easy to understand the appeal of 'forgotten' cookies isn't it?! There may be differences in technique and texture from Italy's cantucci biscuits, but in both cases the sweet nutty character calls for a 'sipper' with similar flavour sensations.

The classic match is our trusty friend Vin Santo - and indeed the finger-sized cantucci(ni) are perfect for dippers and dunkers! However the liqueur world offers some real delights in the nut range which we will explore this month.

Almond is the base in many Italian biscuit/cake creations and of course finds a soul-mate in Amaretto. I have noted before that cheaper versions frequently contain added colourings and lower levels of alcohol: take care!

Frangelico is the star turn for hazelnuts, although Spain too produces some lovely hazelnut liqueurs, perhaps crisper and less sticky than

Frangelico. "Servir muy frio" is the exhortation on the bottle and I'm sure that contributes to the clean cut on the palate.

Walnuts find their finest liquid expression in the Italian liqueur Nocino: the rich and nutty speciality of Emilia-Romagna - a perfect choice though not easy to find!

Alternatives back in the wine world? Opening a bottle of Malaga or Rivesaltes always sounds a wonderful idea, but even I would acknowledge this is probably a step or two beyond our forgotten cookies. More readily available is an aged oloroso sherry where walnut flavours shine through. The chocolate dimension here would suggest a sweet version but don't overlook the many high quality dry olorosos on the market. Truly this month : 'enjoy your wine-sipping!'

Richard W. B. Ryan

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

Our May meeting coincided with the Annual Deanery Festival, which was held at St Peter's Church, Pedmore.

We were delighted to welcome friends from other Deaneries and our Diocesan President Liz Green, who had just returned from a visit to Uganda, where she addressed a conference of 5,000 Mothers' Union members. The President also handed out Long Service Awards to members of the Deanery, including four members of our branch. Brenda Selby, June Sidaway, Audrey Tranter and Anne May. The Rural Dean wrote and led the service.

Our guest preacher was Pastor Peter Jenkins who gave a moving insight into his work in the Philippines, especially after the devastating typhoon in 2013. The Philippines is one of our new special overseas links. Pastor Jenkins is returning to the Philippines later this month.

Branch members were devastated to learn of the death of fellow member Judith Dickens. Judith was a dedicated, loyal member of Mothers' Union, a gentle mannered lady with a strong faith. We will miss her very much and our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this sad time.

Next months meeting is on June 9th, in the Coach House, at the usual time of 2.15 p.m. when our guest speaker will be a good friend of St Mary's, Susan Price. The Diocesan Festival is on Tuesday 16 of June at St Mark's Pensnett.



Pastor Peter Jenkins with young typhoon survivors.

Anne May

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

19 April Noah Charles William Belwood
Curtis Lee Dandy
Aurora Rose Cartwright

Funerals

14 April	Edward Anthony Waldron	Aged 94
20 April	Mary Cooper	Aged 90
1 May	Harry Reginald Yates and Mary Yates	Interment of ashes
11 May	Lilian Joan Waldron	Aged 86



NO LIMITS MUSICAL EVENING

on Saturday 20 June in St. Mary's Church Hall

7.15 p.m. Tickets £4 from Chris or Frank, 01384 376796 or
chris-nolimits@hotmail.com

This is a fundraising event and the first time we have had members of our music group performing with guests. There will be tea/coffee & nibbles or, if you prefer, bring your own drinks (don't forget the glasses). Also a Raffle.

It promises to be a night to remember!!!

CHILDRENS' PAGE ANSWERS

Traffic Lights— Red, amber, green.
Pancake Mixture—Flour, egg, milk.
French Flag—Blue, red, white.
Cutlery—Knife, fork, spoon.

One for three:

1-horse	2-bean
3-stone	4-cheese
5-book	6-car

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER

A Christian presence in every community

There seems to have a lot of news lately, if you know what I mean. We've had a whole load of electioneering and politics, in the midst of which it's sometimes difficult to remember that politics is a noble calling. We've seen the most abject suffering brought about by natural disaster in Nepal, as well as the disturbing scenes of migrants, men and women like you and me, desperately seeking refuge in Italy. Mass migration across the Middle East is a daily reality for many, but it easily drops off our news agenda. In the thick of the immigration debate Cardinal Vincent Nichols rightly reminded us not to forget that we are talking about actual people. It's very easy to become de-sensitized to news when we see the same images every day and no longer take it in. We may even lose hold of our own values.



We're talking about Christian values – sending people to be part of relief missions across the world; inspiring men and women to stand for Parliament or local council; and standing up for nothing less than the image and likeness of God in each and every human person. Although it might sometimes seem that all the action is elsewhere, when it comes to nurturing Christian values, the action is right under our noses where we are. Because the bold claim made about our Church is this: we are a Christian presence in every community.

That's what it says on the Church of England website and a Christian presence in every community is what I've been experiencing in my first few months as archdeacon, not least during the month of May, when archdeacons meet the churchwardens from all the churches across the Diocese. It has been a humbling experience to hear stories of commitment and hard work, new ideas and well-trying events. It struck me that the visible Christian presence is no longer the vicar, but the people of God going about their Christian business.


To be the Christian presence in every community relies on living stones, like you and me, playing our part and living out our Christian values. Our churches are communities which nurture those values, places which encourage us all to live out God's call and his hand on our own lives, whether it makes the news or not. In our diocese we've been calling these living stones Kingdom People, a reminder of the teaching at the heart of Jesus' message and the heart of the prayer he gave us: 'your kingdom come, here on earth as in heaven'. I wonder what that kingdom might look like on the news.

Robert Jones

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