

# **ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD**

**Parish Church Magazine  
Online edition**

**SEPTEMBER 2015**



# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## 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](mailto:st.mary.os.priest@btconnect.com)

**SEPTEMBER 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
<b>Priest in Charge Day Off:</b>	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	

<b>Reader Emeritus:</b>	Mr Roy Peacock	379972
<b>Reader:</b>	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
<b>Church Wardens:</b>	Mrs Judy Hall	377349
	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

**Church website address:** [www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk)  
E-mail: [st.mary.os@btconnect.com](mailto:st.mary.os@btconnect.com)

**Magazine e-mail address:** [stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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 SEPTEMBER 2015

Tuesday 1	9.30 am–4.30 pm Albion Foundation working in churchyard
Thursday 3	10.30 am Holy Communion
Friday 4	Old Swinford Primary School Autumn term begins
Saturday 5	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 6</b>	<b>FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
Thursday 10	10.30 am Holy Communion
	Copy date for October magazine
Saturday 12	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	Dudley Historic Churches Open Day
	2.30 pm Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 13</b>	<b>FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
	6.30 pm ALM Service at Worcester Cathedral
	No 6.30 pm service at St Mary's
Monday 14	7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting
Tuesday 15	Holy Communion at Hollycroft
	2.00 pm Tea at the Coach House
Thursday 17	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 19	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	2.00 pm Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 20</b>	<b>SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
	3.00 pm Baptisms
Monday 21	Open the Book team visit Old Swinford Primary School
	7.30 pm PCC Meeting
Tuesday 22	7.30 pm Christmas Market Planning Meeting in the narthex
Wednesday 23	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 24	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 26	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 27</b>	<b>SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY</b>
	10.00 am Confirmation Service, Bishop John presiding
	4.00 pm Wedding
Tuesday 29	2.15 - 4.00 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex

### CELEBRATE AND WORSHIP WITH OUR NEW ALM's

On Sunday 13 September at Worcester Cathedral, just under 70 people will become Authorised Lay Ministers. They have all completed courses to work in their parishes as either Worship Leaders, Pastoral Assistants, Children & Youth Workers, Community Workers, Administrators or Evangelists. Five members of St Mary's congregations will be part of this group, Elaine Bradford, Marjorie Ferguson, Roger King, Sue Tatford, and Sophie Truelove. There will be no 6.30 pm service at St Mary's on this date. We will organise transport for those wishing to attend the service at the cathedral at 6.30 pm to celebrate and worship together.

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

September is for many people a time of beginnings, as 4 and 5 year olds attend school for the first time, and all the other pupils move up a year. For July's Year 6 pupils that means moving to a new school, whilst for those from Year 13 there is the prospect of college or university or perhaps the world of work. Newness is all around at this time of year.

And there is newness which affects the Church, even when we are not always keen to embrace newness whole-heartedly. This year that newness comes in the form of a new chaplain for Mary Stevens Hospice, as recorded elsewhere in the magazine. David Knight and myself have worked quite closely together in the past and will do so in the future, not only in the context of the hospice, but also in leading services at St Mary's. This is change that is most welcome as for a number of months it has not been possible to work collaboratively at a ministerial level.

The other large change recorded in the magazine is the coming of a new priest for St Thomas' in Stourbridge. We rejoice with the people of St Thomas' that they will have their own priest. The fact that St Thomas' will be welcoming Andrew Sillis as their priest has an implication for us at St Mary's. When the Deanery Plan was drawn up earlier in the year one of the goals of the plan was that once a new priest was at St Thomas' the churches of St Michael, Norton, St James, Wollaston and ourselves would work with St Thomas' to explore shared ministry, either in the form of an informal grouping or a more formal group ministry.

Over the next 12 months or so there will be a process of discernment between the parishes to explore what might be the most suitable way forward to undertake the mission of the church in this part of Stourbridge. What the outcome of that exploration may be we do not know, but it is an exciting time to be investigating mission within these parishes. Yet another example of where change is positive and something to which we can all look forward – I certainly do!

With every blessing.

*Stephen Agnew*

## SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2015

<b>6 September Fourteenth After Trinity</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	James 2. 1-10	Mark 7. 24-37
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 14. 5-31	Matthew 6. 1-18
<b>13 September Fifteenth After Trinity</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm	No service at St Mary's	
<b>20 September Sixteenth After Trinity</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a	Mark 9. 30-37
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 33. 13-17	Mark 6. 19-34
<b>27 September Seventeenth After Trinity</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	James 5. 13-20	Mark 9. 38-50
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 24.	Matthew 9. 1-8

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

The Bishop of Worcester has announced that the new Priest in Charge of St Thomas, Stourbridge is to be the Revd Andrew Sillis who is currently Chaplain of the Anglican Chaplaincy of St Boniface, Bonn and All Saints, Cologne. Andrew and his family will move to Stourbridge shortly and Andrew will be licensed on 13 September. We welcome Andrew and his family and look forward to many opportunities to share the work and celebrations of the church here in Stourbridge.

As of 10 August, David Knight will begin his work as Chaplain to Mary Stevens Hospice. We were delighted to welcome David to St Mary's in early July when he presided at the 10.00 am service. We welcome David and his family to Stourbridge and hope to be able to worship and work with him in the future.

## **MESSY CHURCH**

The story of Joseph was the central theme for the Messy Church celebrations on Saturday 27 June. Those attending gathered in church to hear and see, acted out by the 'Open the Book' team, the story of Joseph and his coat of many colours.

Joseph was the favourite of Jacob's twelve sons but he made himself unpopular with his brothers and they sold him into slavery, telling Jacob that Joseph had been killed. In time, Joseph became a powerful man. Although they did not immediately realise it was Joseph, circumstances forced the brothers to ask him for help in times of hardship and food shortage. Joseph recognised his brothers and saw how they regretted their past action. He forgave them and helped them, probably realising that he was not without responsibility for some of their earlier disagreements.

The presentation served to casebook the work of the 'Open the Book' team and how the stories of the Bible are interpreted and presented in schools, with costumes and props, in a manner that children may access and understand them. With direction provided by Stephen Agnew and the costume wardrobe in the care of Jean, the team has been well-received and has enjoyed much success.

The many aspects of the Joseph story led on to a range of 'messy' activities as the children busied themselves with paints, paper, glue and scissors to create a range of artefacts from mobiles, to a life-size version of Joseph's colourful coat. This can be seen on display in the narthex.

Les Timms led a lively session of musical celebration and praise in which the children responded with their own vocal contributions and actions, along with much merriment and laughter before the session concluded with baked potatoes and drinks.

As always, a sincere thank you is due to all who contributed to the success of the event.

Next Messy Church is on Saturday 29 August, 2.00-4.00 pm in the Church Hall. Do try to come along and ensure we have a full and busy afternoon. Contact Stephen Agnew on 01384 395410 or text on 07762250749

### **MORE NEWS**

The task of identifying a new organist and choir leader continues with conversations taking place with various potential candidates. As you will realise this has been a challenging search and whilst we are hopeful as we pursue a new line of enquiry, the final outcome is far from defined. As more news becomes available this will be shared with you.

Several new honorary canons of Worcester Cathedral have been appointed by Bishop John. We congratulate all those so appointed and recognise the additional work within the diocese that is undertaken by many of our clergy.

## LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY NICKI GROARKE

I have been to many conferences where a flustered staff member from the venue interrupts the proceedings to give the necessary (but predictably boring!) housekeeping announcements about fire exits etc. A moment to be endured. So when I was doing some training in Sheffield a couple of years ago (just after the announcement of my appointment as Archdeacon), I was pleasantly surprised when that moment came. Instead of one of the housekeeping team who had drawn the short straw apologetically knocking on the door, the Chief Executive of the organisation whose premises we were using breezed in. And rather than telling us the things we could all work out from the printed info in our rooms, he shared the vision of the Church Army, their values and aspirations, and inspired us all for mission. In five minutes!



This was my first encounter with Mark Russell, who later introduced himself to me as a Canon of Worcester, and congratulated me on my appointment. He knew who I was from Twitter, even though he interacts with thousands of people on social media. I realised straight away that Mark is an exceptionally gifted communicator, who can enthuse and inspire from a platform speaking to a massive audience, yet relates individually with care and attention to everyone he meets. We are very blessed to have Mark as our main speaker at All Together on 10 October at Worcester Cathedral.



**All Together** is a day to inspire, encourage and resource parishes in our Kingdom People journey. The aim is to model different ways of being Kingdom People with practical ideas that can be used back in your own parish. There will be the opportunity to hear about and try out ways of engaging with your local area, including creative prayer ministry, fresh expressions, welcome courses, discipleship and bible study. There will be 'have-a-go' hands on sessions, creative opportunities, talks, a place of continuous prayer, and special areas full of activity for children and young people.

Mark will be the keynote speaker, and will help us think about mission, with manageable, yet utterly transformative, ideas on how to encourage our friends, neighbours and colleagues to explore faith and engage with the kingdom of God. Every time I have heard Mark speak, to whatever size of group, in whatever context, I have come away challenged and encouraged to do something new, and have seen others similarly affected.

Don't miss this opportunity! Book in now, and encourage as many folk as possible for your churches to come. I am really looking forward to the day, and hope to see you there.



## **WATER FROM THE RIVER JORDAN**

We are indebted to Barbara Smith for these two items instigated by the reports of Jordan water being used at the christening of the royal baby, Princess Charlotte.

Sir – An entry in the delightful Diary of the Rev Francis Kilvert in 1874 recounts a story of the Vicar of Fordington in Dorset who told us of the state of things in his parish when he moved there 50 years earlier. For his first christening there was no water in the font, and he was assured: "The last parson never used no water. He spat into his hand."

Keith Hill, Rochester, Kent.

Sir – Ian McMullen asks whether there is an increased benefit to being baptised with water from the river Jordan.

The sacrament of Christian Baptism is an "outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual reality". I have baptised soldiers from mess tins using pond water cleaned by sterilising tablets. However, my experience with Jordan water ended in disaster.

A fellow pilgrim with my wife and me to the Holy Land, Roma Bonar, granddaughter of the hymn writer Horatius Bonar, brought some Jordan water home in a vacuum flask. I offered to baptise a member of the congregation with it. Come the day, my verger poured the contents into the font and out came murky brown water. Roma had forgotten to remove her two teabags.

Rev Alan Hughes, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Northumberland.

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

Ten people turned up for a lovely walk in the sunshine. We started from Hampton Loade and walked along the edge of the river through 3 fields and then crossed a bridge and turned right to emerge onto a field. We shortly passed Rookery Cottage, to continue along high open ground. We caught a glimpse of Dudmaston Hall in the distance with a huge lake in the grounds. Following the path we joined the main road and had to cross into the woods on the opposite side - a lovely area of different trees and lots of rhododendrons, but most of the flowers had now gone. We stopped by the second of three lakes for our break and enjoyed the tranquillity and beauty of it all. Continuing on around the lakes we entered an open field and climbed up to the top - again stunning views. We continued around the field and crossed the main road again to enter into Dudmaston Drive. The house and grounds were not open but one path was available as a walk way. We turned away from the house and headed back down into woodland with a wide open path to walk through. We re-joined the fields again to head back towards our car park for a lovely lunch at the restored River & Rail.

**Toni Evans**

## CHOIR ALUMNI

Junior members of the choir have gone on to many and varied occupations but I can't help being particularly pleased to note the few who have chosen to go on to direct choirs themselves.

As I write this, **Will Peart** has not quite left us yet, but many of you will now know that he has been appointed Organ Scholar of Gloucester Cathedral from September for a year before he begins his undergraduate studies.

We have been privileged to observe Will gaining confidence and accomplishment as an organist, and showing a natural ability in choir training and direction. As well as his work at St Mary's he has directed the Chamber Choir of Old Swinford Hospital during his sixth form tenure. He is blessed with a lovely voice, singing with Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir and singing many solo roles in company with professional soloists.

I was able recently to meet up again with **Thomas Allery** who was giving a solo recital on the historic organ in St Swithun's Worcester. Tom left St Mary's to take up an Organ Scholarship at Worcester College, Oxford gaining a 'first' in his music degree. A year as Organ Scholar of Canterbury Cathedral followed, and after further study at the Royal College of Music he returned to Oxford as Assistant Director of Music at Magdalen College and then as Director of Chapel Music at Worcester College. He combines this with the post of Assistant Director of Music at Marylebone Parish Church and for the past year has held the Junior Fellowship in Harpsichord at the Royal College of Music.

I have been able to watch him in action at Worcester College and his natural and musical direction of the choirs there clearly inspires respect and enjoyment in the choristers. Church choir directors have to be efficient, and the musical results were superb.

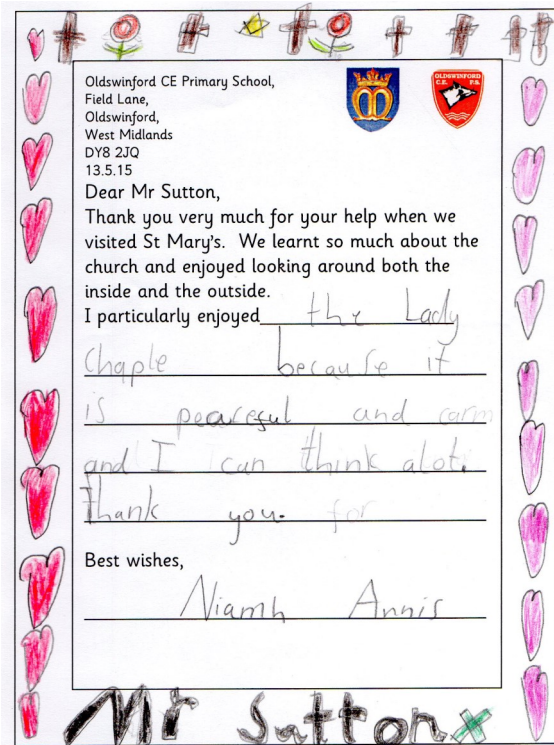
A slightly different direction is being taken by **Jack Apperley** who is now about to start his third year in the Music Department of Birmingham University, where he plays viola, sings, and most importantly to him, conducts. Like Will he gained valuable experience at Old Swinford Hospital. I have been fascinated to see how his on-stage presence commands the instant attention of both choir and audience, and as with Tom, choir members obviously want to sing for him, knowing that great music will be made.

I have only heard him conducting choirs, but he also conducts instrumental groups so it will be interesting to see how his career develops.

We tend to think of our music tradition at St Mary's in terms of the weekly contribution to our services, but it is rewarding to see the ripple effect. We wish them all well.

**Richard Hall**

## SCHOOL VISITS.



Oldswinford CE Primary School,  
Field Lane,  
Oldswinford,  
West Midlands  
DY8 2JQ  
13.5.15

Dear Mr Sutton,

Thank you very much for your help when we visited St Mary's. We learnt so much about the church and enjoyed looking around both the inside and the outside.

I particularly enjoyed the Lady Chaple because it is peaceful and calm and I can think alot.

Thank you for

Best wishes,

Niamh Annis

Mr Sutton

It has been a great pleasure during the summer term to welcome several groups of children from local primary schools who have visited church as part of their studies in Religious Education. The church building and its surroundings provides a rich source of material to interest children. In the church the children look at the most obvious features such as the font, pulpit, choir stalls and stained glass windows as well as the many signs and symbols in their various forms around the church. Outside there is the tower including clock and bell chamber as well as interesting graves to investigate in the church yard the most of interesting of which of course is the Stevens grave and the link to the park.

Children sometimes see things in a completely different way to adults and so when I was asked the question: 'what are all the cupboards for?' I was a little confused at first but after some further questioning it appeared it was the pews that were being asked about!

As well as looking at the main features I also try to incorporate some kind of spiritual element to the visit which sometimes means just taking time to look around in silence and then share thoughts and feelings about what we can see, how we feel and

Dear Mr Sutton,

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015

I loved my visit.  
I found out that the  
the cross is a special  
sign for christians.

I was amazed  
how good it was  
thank you for showing  
us around your church

From

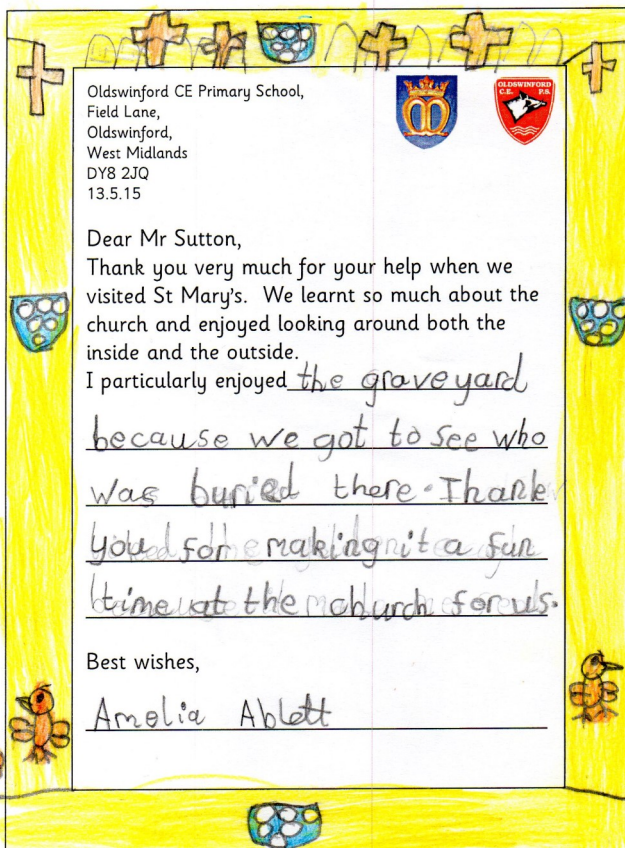
millie

what impression the church has had. When asked what they thought the church was here for one child replied; 'it's a place where people come to find peace'.

If appropriate, some visits end with the children sharing their thoughts together and we end the visit with a prayer.

It's always difficult to tell exactly what impact the visit has made on every child but the children kindly sent me some of the follow up work that they did back in school which is lovely to read and gives some idea of what really impressed them. I have reproduced just three of these letters here to give you an idea of their thoughts.

We are fortunate to have strong links with two of our local primary schools and at the end of the summer term the year six children from Oldswinford CE Primary School, who were leaving came into church for their leavers' service. They recalled special memories of their time at school and showed off some of their many talents. We wish all of those children well as they begin the next stage of their education in September at whichever secondary school they will be attending.



As the new academic year begins in September and exam results have been published we think about all young people who will be moving on to either a new school, university, college or first job.

**JOHN SUTTON**

Congratulations to Oldswinford C E Primary School on being judged as outstanding during their recent Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) This is a separate inspection to Ofsted which evaluates the extent to which church schools are 'distinctively and recognisably Christian institutions'.

# CARING FOR OTHERS

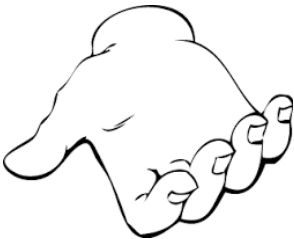


Ask an adult to read the story of the Good Samaritan - Luke 10.25-37 with you.

The story of the Good Samaritan teaches us to treat all people as our neighbours.

**Who are our neighbours?**

**Colour the picture as carefully as you can.**



Draw a table like the one below for every day of the week. Try to keep a record of how you helped someone each day.

	WHO I HELPED	HOW I HELPED	WHEN I HELPED
MONDAY			
TUESDAY			
WEDNESDAY			

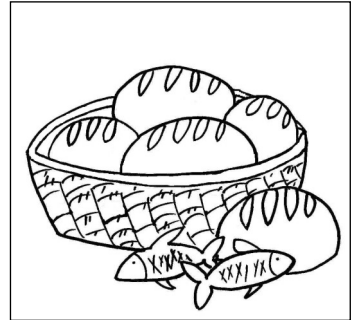


## WHO?

How many people can you think of that help us?  
Unscramble the letters to find out who.....

SRENU ETACHER NAMIREF ROOTDC  
FNIRE RENTAP THERBRO TSISER

Another story in the Bible that tells us how a young boy helped feed five thousand people can be found in John 6. 1-15



**MAGIC WORD**  
What should we  
always say  
after someone  
has helped us?

T \_ A \_ K \_ O \_



Can you find these words in the  
wordsearch?

Brother, considerate,  
generous, give, good,  
help, kindness, neighbour,  
nurse, parent, Samaritan,  
sister, support, teacher.

H T G N H S Z W R A O R A K J  
V C A E E M H P N T H E Z Q F  
A I Z R N R I L D I R T C V H  
R A R Z E E A Z G R R S D G G  
N K K P M D R P V A N I G U L  
E U P Q V H I O B M Y S S R N  
K I N D N E S S U A Y L U Z T  
H E L P I C T G N S G O P V X  
V Y O M G E P I W O B O P V E  
R Y D H A R K V W H C C O S O  
Y X D C E D M E G L T K R D Z  
R E H T O R B I E Y S U T L X  
L E H Y C I E U I O N E O I U  
R C H U U N F T D U G X G V H



## A NEW CURATE AT ST MARY'S

If all goes well, St Mary's will welcome a new Curate in June of 2016. In sharing the news with the PCC in July Stephen Agnew said, "I can say that Alex is currently teaching in a Secondary School in Worcester and holds a Senior post in that school, so he will be bringing with him considerable experience of working with teenagers. I am sure that you, like me will look forward to welcoming him into our parish and worshipping community, and that together we will make him feel very welcome."

Alex was invited to write a short introduction to himself and this is printed below.

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I think of myself as a bit of an oddity. This isn't because I am a fan of Manchester United but rather that in this day and age it's fairly unusual to find many fans that were born within a twenty mile radius of Old Trafford. Having been born in the 1970's on the outskirts of Manchester, my teenage years were shaped in part by the richness of musical sounds which emanated from Manchester in the 1980's along with attendance at the local United Reformed Church's Youth club. At the time it definitely felt that music had the greatest influence on my life, but looking back I can now see the extent of the steady and calming influence that God and the Youth Club were playing in my life.

Although I continued to attend church when I went to University and later worked as a teacher, worship was really confined to a Sunday and very occasionally a midweek service. God mattered on one day each week but what I did and said in church played little influence on how I led the rest of my life. Worship, rather than embracing everything that I was, a putting of the whole of my life before God became restricted to a mechanical weekly activity.

Approximately twelve years ago whilst going through a tough period Christ brought immense healing into my life, one which brought home the transformational power of God's unconditional love. It was at this point that worship moved from a weekly event to embrace everything that I am; a placement of my whole life before God. I began to discover who I am before God alongside the freedom which we are given to embrace in our hearts, souls and minds who God creates us to be. This continues to be a powerful force in my journey.

During this time a couple of friends, none of whom knew each other asked whether I had thought about training to be a Priest. This came as somewhat of a shock because it reinforced stirrings which I had been having, but hadn't shared with anyone. I spent many hours in prayer trying to convince God that he had made a mistake. The more I buried my head in the sand hoping that this growing sense of calling would disappear it just started to burn with greater intensity. Once again I began to realise that God is in everything and doesn't let go of any of us.

Currently I am combining working as a secondary school teacher with training as a part time student at the Queens Foundation in Birmingham. Queens is a very diverse ecumenical community, one in which the creativity and diversity



with which God made the world is evident within the student community.

I have a thirteen year old son, George who lives in Kidderminster with his mum. When not spending time with him I like to spend time outdoors. I enjoy gardening, particularly vegetable growing and walking. Hopefully by the time that you have read this I would have finished walking Offa's Dyke footpath which is my summer holiday this year. Recently I have taken up rugby referring which at times can be a challenge to remember all of the laws, not to mention finding something to say when everyone stops and looks at you when the whistle is blown.

I am incredibly excited and also humbled by the privilege of spending the next four years training amongst you. There are many occasions when I have found myself pinching my leg to check that this is really happening.

**Alex French**

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

The summer school holidays are not yet over so there is still time for you to share some of your holiday experiences in next month's magazine.

For me, one experience worthy of sharing was a certain birthday treat I shared with my son. The picture shows Simon and I, suitably equipped with protective clothing, footwear and safety harness, during a walk over the top of London.....or at least, over the roof of the O2. This was a fun experience that provided the thrill of the climb with outstanding views across London from an unusual location and perspective. A walk to be recommended and one that is genuinely accessible to anyone who is moderately fit.

Formerly known as the Millennium Dome, this London skyline structure lacked something to ignite the excitement of the visitor and its future looked bleak at the end of 2000. Today, it is a thriving centre for the arts, a venue for big musical, theatrical and sporting events. The O2 Arena, the central element, has become the world's busiest music venue hosting all the biggest names in the modern music industry. With its bars, cafes, restaurants, exhibitions and a cinema it attracts up to 20,000 people to an event. Go on, treat yourself.



**Tony Tatford**



## BAPTISM TEDDIES



At a recent Thursday morning Communion service 21 teddies were blessed ready for distribution at baptism services throughout the rest of the year. The teddies are knitted by members of the congregation. Some ladies like to create the teddies but not put the features on, others enjoy adding the features, yet others are happy to knit the bodies but not do the sewing up. These teddies are passed on to someone else who is happy to complete the teddies. The production of teddies is a real shared act done with much love.

Members of the Mothers Union represent the wider congregation by supporting Stephen at baptisms welcoming families and presenting the newly baptized with a card and a teddy at the end of the service.

We always need willing hands to create the teddies, if you feel you would like to help please use the pattern below using white wool and making the scarf from a pastel colour (blue, pink, lemon etc). With the winter evenings fast approaching this might be something you feel you can help with.

### KNITTING PATTERN FOR BAPTISM TEDDIES

Double knitting wool in white (blue/pink/lemon for scarf)  
No. 10 needles                      Finished teddy 6½ inches high

1<sup>st</sup> leg Cast on 6 stitches. Garter stitch for 2". Put stitches onto safety pin.  
2<sup>nd</sup> leg Same as 1<sup>st</sup> leg.

Pick up 12 stitches from legs and knit 1 row (to join legs).

Increase 1 stitch at each end of next row (14sts)

Garter stitch straight for 9" (Total 11"). Decrease 1 stitch at each end of last row. (12sts)

Divide for legs. Knit in garter stitch on 6 stitches for 2" and cast off. Repeat for second leg.

Arms (Make 2) Cast on 12 stitches. Garter stitch 14 rows.  
Cast off.

Scarf Cast on 38 stitches. Knit 1 row. Cast off.



To Make up.....  
Fold body in half, add arms, sew up leaving gap in side.  
Make ears by diagonal stitch on corners of head. Stuff. Sew up.  
Pull scarf tightly around neck and stitch to body at front.  
Embroider a smiling face

**Sally Frost**

## COACH HOUSE SEWING GROUP



We are a small group of ladies who meet in the Coach House on Monday afternoons during term-time. Our meetings are very informal; we bring either knitting or sewing with us and some come just for a chat which is fine! We meet from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm and attendance is on a flexible "come whenever you please" basis. There is a nominal charge of £2.00 per session to cover costs of room hire, tea and biscuits (cakes if we are lucky!) New members are invited to join us at any time and we are always happy to welcome guests and visitors so pop in to see us one Monday afternoon.



The new term starts on Monday 7 September - we look forward to seeing you.

**Janet Beevers**

## RIDE AND STRIDE AROUND OUR CHURCHES

This year's Worcestershire and Dudley's Historic Churches Trust Annual sponsored Ride and Stride will take place on Saturday 12 September.

This national event is held each year and the income raised locally is used by the Trust to provide grants toward building repairs and fabric improvement of Christian churches and chapels (whatever age they may be) in the Worcestershire and Dudley areas.

Although the event was once limited to cyclists and walkers, people are now encouraged to take part using any convenient form of transport. Most participants are sponsored on the basis of the number of churches they visit with half the sponsorship money going to the church or chapel nominated by the participant and the other half to the Trust to assist with its grant awards.

Details about the event, how to take part and which churches will be open on the day can be found on the Trust's website:

[www.worcesteranddudleyhistoricchurches.org.uk](http://www.worcesteranddudleyhistoricchurches.org.uk)

All those taking part in the day are also invited to Evensong in the Cathedral on Monday 5 October for a special service to celebrate and give thanks for the work of the Trust.

St Mary's will be open for much of the day and Roy Peacock has offered to provide some historical guidance for visitors.

**The Editors**

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

On July 14 members met in the Coach House for a time of fellowship and afternoon tea. Anne May opened the meeting with our founder, Mary Sumner's prayer.

'All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee.  
And every life I touch do Thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through  
the words I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live.        Amen."

Anne led a tribute to our former branch leader, Janice Sutton, who had died but whose life had been summed up in this prayer, especially in her membership of St Mary's and our M.U. branch. Members joined in a minute's silence in remembrance of Jan.

We thank members of the committee for providing a splendid tea and had fun trying to complete a quiz based on clues to identify flower names.

The group will now have a summer break during August.

Next meeting:

2.15 pm, Tuesday 8 September, at the Coach House ...

'Saris on Show,' Kanthi Ariaraj. All are welcome.

**Dawn Nex**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **WET, WET, WET Youth Club Camp - 19 June 2015**

On Friday 19 June we assembled at the church car park and our Youth Club leaders drove us to Far Forest for our annual Youth Club Camp.

The highlight of the week-end was our trip to the West Midlands Safari Park on Saturday morning. We went round the park in the leaders' cars to see the animals and stroked the friendly ones like the zebras. After our picnic lunch we made our way to the theme park area and despite the rain we all enjoyed the rides. My favourites were the pirate ship and the twister. I was too scared to go on the tower drop but I wish I'd gone on it now. We didn't mind being wet as we had such a good time.

On Saturday evening we had a 'Youth Club's Got Talent' show. Stephen was there to judge the performances and Evie and Talia won with their Harry Potter card tricks. When it was dark we went to the graveyard across the road to watch bats flying between the trees.

We had a long walk on Sunday morning and played by the river where we all got wet again. We returned to camp for lunch – lovely pizzas and cornettos – before coming home. Thank you to all the leaders and helpers for a great week-end camp.

**Georgia Hawkins**

**ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP**  
**PROGRAMME OF WALKS, September 2015—July 2016**

Date	Location	Miles	Leaders	Tel. No.	Lunch
26 Sept 15	<b>Some More Birmingham Canals</b> Centro Card or return ticket to Moor Street needed	6.25	Mike and Janet	01384 390537 07779 873892	TBC
31 Oct 15	<b>Himley</b>	5	Toni & Bob	01384 377096	Pub
28 Nov 15	<b>LINEAR WALK, Penn to Wall Heath</b>	5.5	Chris	01384 396883	Pub
<b>Dec 15</b>	<b>No Walk</b>				
30 Jan 16	<b>Churchill and Blakedown</b>	6	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146 07779 255827	Pub
27 Feb 16	<b>Harvington</b>	6	Mike and Janet	01384 390537 07779 873892	Pub
26 Mch 16	<b>Bewdley/Stourport</b>	6	Sue and Tony	01384 838635	Pub
30 Apr 16	<b>Henley-in-Arden</b>	5.5	Sue	01384 829211	Pub
28 May 16	<b>Studley</b>	5.5	Sylvia	01384 392244	Pub
25 June 16	<b>Martley</b>	6.25	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146 07779 255827	Picnic
30 July 16	TBA/MGL		Stan and Avril	01384 392990	TBA
<b>Aug 16</b>	<b>No Walk</b>				

**NOTES**

1. Unless otherwise stated all walks leave from St Mary's at 9.30 am
2. There are no walks in December 2015 or August 2016
3. All walks are on the last Saturday of the month
4. For picnic lunches please bring your own food. For pub lunches there is usually a good selection of meals for purchase.
5. Country walking is not risk free, all persons joining our walks do so in the knowledge of this fact.
6. For further information on the walks please telephone the leaders.

Thank you to everyone for the help provided to complete the recent parish income survey for parish share purposes. St Mary's completed the task well within the time scale and the forms were passed on to the Deanery Treasurer for collating. Your churchwardens completed the collation task for another church and this information has been returned to the Deanery Treasurer. As soon as we know the outcome of this exercise we will publish details in this magazine.

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE



### AMERICAN PANCAKES

135grams SR flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
Pinch of salt  
2 tablespoons caster sugar  
130ml milk  
1 large egg  
2 tablespoons melted butter or olive oil, plus extra for cooking



1. Sift the flour, baking powder, salt and caster sugar into a large bowl. In a separate bowl or jug, lightly whisk together the milk and egg, then whisk in the melted butter or olive oil.
2. Pour the milk mixture into the flour mixture and, using a whisk, beat until you have a smooth batter. Let the batter stand for a few minutes.
3. Heat a non-stick frying pan over a medium heat and add a knob of butter. When it's melted add a ladle of batter or two if your frying pan is big enough to cook two pancakes at the same time. It will seem very thick but this is how it should be. Wait until the top of the pancake begin to bubble, then turn over and cook until both sides are golden brown and the pancake has risen to about 1cm thick.
4. Repeat until all the batter is used up. You can keep the pancakes warm in a low oven, but they taste best fresh out of the pan.

**Ann Jennings**

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### AND FOR THE WINE...

In September we find ourselves mid-way between Independence Day and Thanksgiving Day in USA. As we create our American style pancakes, perhaps this is a good opportunity to examine the wines scene across the Atlantic.

Most export-quality wines emanate from California and the west coast. Indeed it was from here that Stag's Leap and Chateau Montelena shook the wine world in 1976 by eclipsing the leading Bordeaux and Burgundy in the famous 'Judgement of Paris' blind tasting. Since then we have seen rather more of the cheaper end, where big brand names (Blossom Hill, Echo Falls etc.) dominate.

International grape varieties are the name of the game for American producers. If USA has a grape to call its own it is the berry and plum flavoured

Zinfandel– although modern genetics have now established its family links to Italy's Primitivo grape and Croatia's Crljenak Kastelanski. Wines cluttered with oak and high alcohol levels have not helped the Americans claim a reliable mid-range status in the market. Try the wines from Wente winery for a better balanced wine in this respect.

Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons set high standards (and prices), whilst the ocean-influenced, fog-affected vineyards of the north coast regions benefit from slower and more evenly ripened fruit and score well. Russian River Valley has emerged as excellent for 'cool climate' Burgundian grapes (Chardonnay, Pinot Noir) - but again never cheap. Even further north in Washington state, the Rieslings from Chateau Ste Michelle deserve particular mention.

Anything to go with pancakes? Certainly - Andrew Quady dessert wines have a world-wide reputation. If you are thinking of adding some fruit flavour to your plate, try 'Essenia' for yellow-fruits and the Black Muscat 'Elysium' for red fruits. Enjoy your wine-sipping .....

**Richard W. B. Ryan**

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## **CHILDRENS' SOCIETY BOXHOLDERS**



It's that time of year again! If you have a collecting box will you please let us have it so we can count the contents and return the empty box to you.

There are a few ways to do this-

1. Wait for your usual collector to contact you and visit at home.
2. Bring the box into church on Saturday, 19 September or 26 September between 10.00 am and 12.00 midday. I will be available to count and return the box while you have a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake. Also there will be someone available at the Thursday services on 17 and 24 September and 1 October.
3. Just bring your box to a Sunday service in church after 19 September.

We had a wonderful response last year which I hope we can repeat.  
Thank you for all your support.

**Maggie Abbotts**

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

21 June	Joe Oliver Cox Albert Daniel Cox Thea Elizabeth Lutwyche-Smith
19 July	Willow May Jones Mia Hickman Tyler Cartwright

### Weddings

13 June	Peter Lumby and Cherie O'Sullivan
27 June	Adam Wyatt and Gemma Luscott
11 July	Stuart Gray and Amy Johnson
18 July	David Carter and Emma Watkins Jordan Lunn and Lorna Bryant
25 July	Sam Taylor and Laura Guider
31 July	Matthew Maynes and Laura Haden
1 August	Simon Wells and Louise Smith
8 August	Richard Homer and Victoria Grove Andrew Perry and Kelly Lewis

### Funerals

24 June	Janice Sutton	Aged 85
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## BISHOP JOHN TO PRESIDE AT ST MARY'S

On Sunday, 27 September, at the 10.00 am service of Parish Communion, Bishop John will preside and will confirm candidates who have been preparing for confirmation during the past months..

We look forward to welcoming Bishop John on this special occasion for all confirmation candidates and extend our warm welcome to their families and friends and all who wish to support them on the day.

## LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF DUDLEY

### First see the human being.

Near the ring road, on some thorny and windswept scrubland, a new church has been built. It's big enough for a handful of worshippers and large crosses stand tall at either end of the roof. Nearby is a mosque. They have been made by and serve a transient population. And they are used. Both are daily filled with young men praying; bringing their hopes and their fears to God and Allah.

Welcome to Calais and the place they call the Jungle.

I know that already I'll be getting some hackles up. Swarms and plagues and other harsh words will be forming on the lips of some who are reading this.

If only we could hear ourselves. This plastic covered pallet church, set amidst open latrines and shelters, is where more than two or three are gathered together and Jesus is present too. He walks that place too, with memories of when he was a refugee, fleeing with his parent to a foreign land in fear of his life.

Come with me now to a church in Dudley where more than two or three are also gathered together. Like many churches in some of the poorest parts of our diocese this community welcomes people each week who are seeking asylum. Many come with horrific stories.

I know that some reading this will be thinking, "they'll be made up stories". Okay, fine, but come with me and look into the eyes of those telling these stories of war and rape and violence and then tell me you don't believe them all.

People like Ephraim, who I met recently, shaking as he told me how had to leave Eritrea, cross the Sudan and Libya, pay over all that he had to cross the Mediterranean in a boat he described as dangerous and overcrowded, wait to be rescued by the Italians, walk to Calais, and after a month of attempts manage to get into a lorry and claimed asylum in Dover.

Somewhere in this story I met the human being who is Ephraim. He had prayed in the tent church in the Jungle in Calais and was now gathered with others around an altar with bread and wine in Dudley. He comes into that gathering not as an asylum seeker, refugee, or migrant, but as a human being, loved and cherished by God; a brother in Christ. He holds out his hands at Communion in hunger for daily bread and thirsting for the water of life.

Ephraim is not part of a swarm. He's part of a flock; the flock of Jesus Christ. We must never shut our hearts to the desperation of people like him. Please pray for him, for the rhetoric that is used about him and those like him, and for just and humane solutions to the challenges that the global movement of people seeking safe refuge poses on communities and governments.

*If you or your parish would like to support the work of The Welcome Group in Halesowen, which provides a weekly drop in centre, advice, food and clothing for people seeking asylum in the Dudley area, then please send a cheque payable to 'CTH Welcome GroupS' to Bishop Graham's office.*

Children's Page answers

**WHO?** NURSE, TEACHER, FIREMAN, DOCTOR, FRIEND, PARENT, BROTHER, SISTER. **MAGIC WORD** THANK YOU



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