

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine

**OCTOBER 2015
Online edition**



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Parish Church Magazine



PRIEST IN CHARGE: The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,
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OCTOBER 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	0121 360 0933

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmaryschurcholdswinford

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.

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2015

Thursday 1	10.30 am Holy Communion in church
Friday 2	Stephen's day off.
Saturday 3	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour Harvest supper in the Church Hall

SUNDAY 4 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY **Harvest Festival Sunday.**

	3.00 pm Baptisms
Monday 5	Our Open the Book Team visit Oldswinford Primary School.
Wednesday 7	3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House
Thursday 8	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 9	Stephen's day off.
Saturday 10	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour Copy date for November magazine All Together event at Worcester Cathedral.

SUNDAY 11 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Tuesday 13	Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Wednesday 14	Re dedication of the Coach House by Bishop Graham 7.30 pm Baptism preparation
Thursday 15	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 16	Stephen's day off.
Saturday 17	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 1.30 pm Wedding 3.00 pm—5.00 pm Messy church.

SUNDAY 18 TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

	3.00 pm Baptisms
Monday 19	Our open the Book team visit Old Swinford Primary School
Tuesday 20	2.00 pm Tea at the Coach House 3.30pm Visiting bellringers.
Wednesday 21	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 22	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 23	Stephen's day off
Saturday 24	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 25 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY—Bible Sunday **Schools half term week**

Tuesday 27	2.15 - 4.00 pm Tuesday tea in the Narthex
Thursday 29	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 30	Stephen's day off
Saturday 31	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

Do you find the news rather depressing? Wherever we look things seem to be going wrong in the world. The issues which face the world are very serious, they should never be underestimated. Wherever people's lives and well-being are threatened, whenever people get to a situation where there seems to be no way out and they are trapped then despair can take hold. These are serious issues, issues which need to be addressed, and I believe that the understanding of the world which comes through the Christian faith does address these things; dealing, as it does, with failure and success, despair and hope, hatred and love, death and resurrection.

But all the time that our focus is on the negative or dark side of life there is a part of me which wants to shout out: 'But life is essentially good'. At the centre of so many faiths is the claim that life is God-given, it is a gift of God, and at its very core it is good. To be anything other than that would seem to indicate that God is not good, and that goes against all my instincts and beliefs.

The book Genesis states that the world is made 'good' and that humans are made in God's image and likeness, and if the nature of God is goodness then humans are also of a similar nature. However, Genesis tells us that human beings turned their backs on that goodness in pursuit of their own ends. So the world became spoiled, and it is that spoiled nature which is clearest and cries out to be noticed most of the time.

As we think of the constantly depressing news we are focussing on the spoiled nature of the world, which is very real. As that outlook dominates our lives we need to be reminded that there is another side or view of life. Life is good and should be celebrated in its natural form, in its relationships, in the possibilities of its every-changing newness and the unveiling of endless possibilities. If we cannot celebrate life then we do a great disservice to our Creator.

I sometimes wonder whether we in the Church champion that cause of the goodness of life sufficiently, or whether we tend to focus too much on the negative and the 'Thou shalt not' approach to life. Jesus in his ministry seemed to shock the authorities of his time by living things up, going to parties, celebrating with people (and not always the right people). Do we celebrate life enough?

Perhaps we need to remind ourselves to enjoy this experience of life, even with its considerable 'down-sides', because life is good, it is from God. The Jewish toast 'to life' captures that idea well. Let us raise our glasses, or our cups of tea and in our minds or through our speech toast 'the goodness of life'. 'L'chaim'.

With every blessing.

Stephen Agnew

SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2015

4 October Eighteenth After Trinity Harvest	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Joel 2 21-27	Matthew 6 25-33
	6.30 pm Evensong	Deut 26 1—11	Phil 4 4—9
11 October Nineteenth After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm	Joel 2 21-27	Revelation 14 14-18
18 October Twentieth After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Timothy 4 5-17	Luke 10 1-9
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 61 1-6	Colossians 4 7-end
25 October Twenty-first After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Timothy 3,14-4,5	John 5 36b-47
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Kings. 22	Colossians 3 12-17

HARVEST 2015

Harvest Festival events at St Mary's will take place during the weekend of 2-4 October. This will be a change from our usual Harvest Service at Worship Together on the second Sunday of the month. Please support our appeal to help the Food Bank and Dudley Women's Refuge.

As our own Harvest Celebrations and services approach suggestions of charities you might wish to support have been presented on the diocesan website. Water Aid, Self Help Africa, Christian Aid, Church Urban Fund, Transform Burkina (computers for schools in Burkina Faso) and *us* (supporting vulnerable women in Delhi) are all charities recommended for support. More details are available at <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/faith-and-life/growing-in-faith/harvest-resources>.

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church on Saturday 29 August was well attended with seventeen young people arriving in anticipation of an afternoon of fun and creativity. With the adults who accompanied them and the many helpers who provided guidance in the various craft activities the hall was a busy and exciting place.

The parable of the Good Shepherd formed the theme for this Messy Church, which was introduced to the children in a story read by Jean Agnew. The children listened attentively and were clearly enthralled by thoughts of sheep getting lost and being found again by their caring shepherd. Certainly, as they dispersed to the activity tables arranged in the church hall, it was clear that their imaginations were full of ideas and they were keen to get into what Messy Church is all about, getting messy!

Activities included making a sheep-shaped name badge, decorating a biscuit to look like a sheep, making a wool pompom sheep, assembling a sheep cut-out in the form of a stain glass window and decorating a box to contain their own chosen lines from the 23rd Psalm. The gentle hum of enquiring conversations proved the extent of the children's concentration as they worked through one task before moving on to the next. There is little doubt that some sound learning was taking place and the children were enjoying and were motivated by the challenges in front of them.



All too soon it was time to get back together for a lively child-centred worship activity led by Revd Stephen Agnew. With his shepherd's crook as a prop, Stephen soon had all the children actively involved, each adding their own interpretation of what sheep say to each other. Some might have thought it all a little baaaarmy but most agreed it was not something to bleat over. The sheep flocked after their shepherd around the hall before being penned for the shepherd to take a rest. Jolly music and song with guitar accompaniment led the children into some lively actions before thoughts were quietened into prayer.

Finally, seventeen well-mannered young people sat at table to enjoy together a meal of cheese sandwiches, cakes and drinks before setting off for home clutching the products of the afternoon's labours.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthwhile event.

FRANK'S NEXT NO LIMITS CHALLENGE!



Many of you have been asking what and when Frank's next challenge is going to be. This time it is a bit different. As many of you know Frank leads the NO LIMITS walking/climbing group and members have been asking if they can get involved in the next challenge. The route is a canal path walk from Lyneal Wharf in Shropshire to Llangollen a distance of 44 miles. As some of the groups cannot undertake the full distance Frank and fellow Trustee Pete have devised a way that members can walk whatever distance they are comfortable with. They can do this alongside Frank and another member Adam then when they need a break someone else will take over in a form of relay. This will be accomplished by the hiring of a narrowboat from Lyneal and skippered by Pete which will cruise down the canal to serve as a refreshment and resting place. The event begins on Friday 2 October until Sunday 4 October.

This is a major fundraising effort and we are joined by a sponsor, Jack Ford, Manager of One Stop store by Mary Stevens Park. It is part of One Stop's initiative to support a local charity.

Once again Frank will be seeking our church family's support and sponsorship.

We are certain you will, as ever, enjoy following NO LIMITS exploits.

Thank you in advance for your continued interest and support in our project.

None of our staff are paid so all the money raised goes directly to benefit our members.

LOOK OUT for Frank's SPONSORSHIP FORMS at the back of church.

Thanks a lot.



Chris Morgan
NO LIMITS Community Project Manager.



ANOTHER EVENING OF MUSIC

In realisation of hopes expressed earlier in the year, the second concert to be performed in St Mary's Church by local young musicians took place on the evening of Friday, 28 August. 'The Amicus Trio' and 'Cello Fellows' presented a two-part joint programme of challenging items by composers that included Romberg, Beriot, Offenbach and Corelli. Also part of the programme was an item with the title Trio, a piece that had been composed by Will Croft and was listened to attentively as it enjoyed its world première public performance.

The event showcased the talents of four accomplished young musicians who are on the threshold of significant further musical study. Will Croft, a tenor chorister in St Mary's Choir and accomplished viola player begins his studies at St Hugh's College, Oxford in September. We send Will our best wishes for his future along with our thanks for all his past contributions to musical worship at St Mary's. Chloe Baker who plays violin and is the current leader of Sandwell Youth Orchestra is to study at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama whilst Harry Broom, cello player with the CBSO Youth Orchestra and Central England Ensemble has won a scholarship to the Birmingham Conservatoire. We trust they will enjoy and find great success in their studies.

William Cheung, a pianist by profession, also enjoys playing the cello and currently works in several schools providing specialist music teaching. Together, these young musicians presented an evening of entertainment much enjoyed and appreciated by all those who attended.

The concert provided an opportunity for them all to display their musical prowess with cello, violin and viola in a wonderful setting with good acoustics and for the audience to enjoy the products of their enthusiasm, commitment and obvious delight in making music. It was quite humbling to reflect on the many years of hard work and practice that have clearly been committed to the achievement of the standards presented and enjoyed on this occasion.

Thank you to all who made the evening possible.

The Editors

BIG BIBLE STUDY 2015 ***Saturday 17 October, 10am - 1pm***

This year's Big Bible Study will be led by the Bishop John, Archbishop Bernard Longley of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Birmingham and Alison Mackay, Regional Minister for the Heart of England Baptist Association.

It is an ecumenical event for churches in Worcestershire and Dudley. Come and learn how studying the bible involves us in listening and learning from one another, that we may discover new nuances about the Word of God and his Kingdom.

Booking in advance is available by calling 01905 732900 or emailing bbs@worcestercathedral.org.uk with payment received on the day at registration. £3 to include a light lunch. Booking opens 9.30 am. Warm clothing advised.

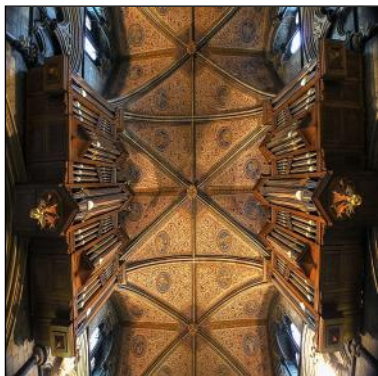
ST MARY'S CHOIR AT WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

It was a matter of home from home for many members of the congregation in Worcester Cathedral on Monday, 17 August, as St Mary's Choir sang at the Evensong service. Many worshippers from St Mary's had made the journey from Oldswinford to Worcester to support our choir and to worship with them in this glorious cathedral. Joined by others from near and far, the service provided an opportunity for those present, whether in body or spirit, to share an occasion that showcased our choir.

In many ways the cathedral was at its best. The nave was empty of chairs which provided a rarely enjoyed opportunity to view in its glory the often obscured decorative floor; the emptiness somehow giving emphasis

to the towering pillars that lead one's eyes upward to the magnificent ceiling.

The almost cavernous magnificence of the nave, brightly illuminated by the late afternoon sun streaming through the huge, open west doors, added to the sense of anticipation of the solemn yet celebratory worship to come as the choir processed through this large area to their stalls.



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

Services in August

Monday 17th

5.30 pm Evensong (St Mary's, Old Swinford)

Sung in A Responses: Ingley

Wood - O thou, the central orb Pss. 85, 86

The service was led by the Dean of Worcester, The Very Reverend Peter Atkinson and Canon Paul Tongue, formerly of Holy Trinity, Amblecote.

To the accompaniment of the organ played by assistant organist of the cathedral, Christopher Allsop, the choir, directed by Robin Walker, performed with considerable accomplishment and a dignity that was fitting for both the occasion and

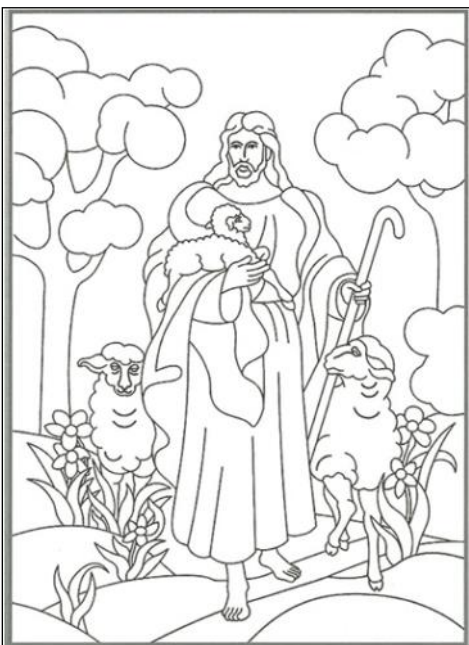
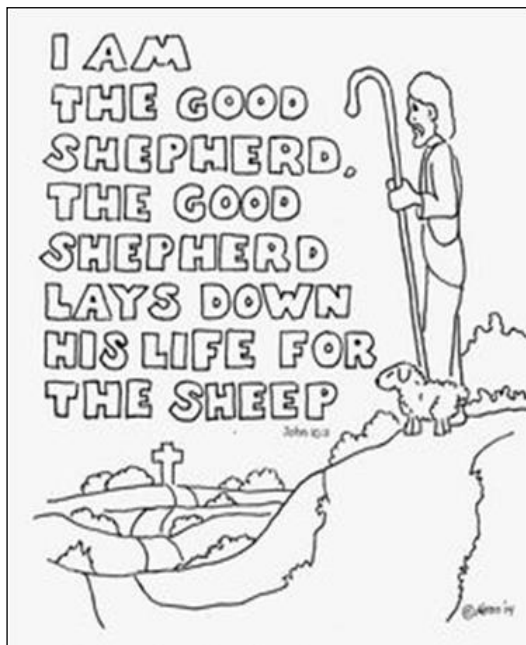
the setting. The appreciation and admiration of the talents of all those involved was clearly evident and widely expressed at the conclusion of the service.

Visitors from St Mary's were treated to a special opportunity after the service with a visit to the Song School where the choir was disrobing. Following words of thanks for the evening service, the thanks and good wishes of all at St Mary's were expressed in a small presentation to Will Peart on what was (almost) his last appearance with the choir before the commencement of his year as Organ Scholar at Gloucester Cathedral. We shall watch with pleasure as this young man's career develops and will delight in the pleasure his music-making brings to all around him. Will; you will always be welcome at St Mary's.

Tony Tatford

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

THE GOOD SHEPHERD



THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

The other religious leaders did not like the way Jesus welcomed people they knew to be bad, thieves and wrongdoers and cheats. When they grumbled about this Jesus told them a story.....

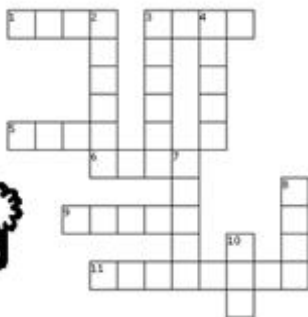
If a man had a hundred sheep and one of those sheep went missing, wouldn't he go looking for that lost sheep? Everyone agreed that the man should search for his lost sheep.

Jesus went on, "A shepherd would leave his other ninety nine sheep on the hillside and search everywhere for the lost sheep." When the sheep was found the shepherd would lift it onto his shoulders and carry it back to the flock and celebrate with his friends saying, "Look I have found my lost sheep."

Jesus said to the leaders, "In the same way, there will be more happiness in Heaven for the one person who is sorry for what he has done wrong than for all those who think they never have to say sorry."

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
3. The period from birth to death
5. A strong feeling of affection
6. Goes faster than walking
9. What we use to speak
11. One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

2. The male parent
3. To hear or pay attention to something
4. A group of sheep herded together
7. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
8. The opposite of bad
10. A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

good	sheep	runs	listen
shepherd	wolf	father	pen
life	flock	voice	love

How many sheep does it take to knit a sweater?

Don't be silly, sheep can't knit

Where does a sheep have a hair cut?

At the baa-baa shop!



How many sheep can you find in this picture?

NO WONDER HE WAGS HIS TAIL

When God had made the earth and sky
The flowers and the trees
He then made all the animals
And all the birds and bees.
And when his work was finished
Not one was quite the same.
He said "I'll walk the earth of mine
And give each one a name".
And so He travelled land and sea
And everywhere He went
A little creature followed Him
Until his strength was spent.
When all were named upon the earth
And in the sky and sea,
The little creature said "Dear Lord,
There's not one left for me".
The Father smiled and softly said
"I've left you to the end.
I've turned my own name back to front
And called you Dog, my friend.

Author unknown

The above poem was sent by Pat Cowan from Vancouver, Canada who is a regular reader of the magazine. Pat wishes to be remembered by all her friends in Old Swinford.

THE ALBION HELPS OUT AT ST MARYS

A team of four volunteer workers from the Albion Foundation spent the day of 1 September helping to clear an area of the churchyard beside Mary Stevens Hospice that had become particularly overgrown. The Albion Foundation is a registered charity that works in partnership with West Bromwich Albion Football Club. Its strategic principles are:

To make a difference and raise aspirations in our local community
To add value to West Bromwich Albion Football Club and our community partners
To grow our own staff and create an inspiring working environment.

The major focus of the foundation's work is directed towards using football and other sports as a medium to support educational, inclusive activities for able and disabled individuals; using sport as the medium for access and progress.

On this occasion Albion Foundation members Hayley James, Adam Crowle, Tom Turton and Dave Moore left their desks to support a request from Mary Stevens Hospice and to help St Mary's with the on-going task of maintaining the churchyard. A great deal was achieved as a consequence of their application and initiative-led work which will make a huge difference to all those who use the Hospice facilities and to our churchyard care programme.

Thank you seems an inadequate appreciation of the contributions of these volunteers but it is expressed with sincerity for a job well done. It might even encourage a supporter of another team to shout "Up the Baggies".

A NOTE OF THANKS

I would like to thank everyone at St. Mary's for the extremely generous gift and warm wishes that you gave to me on my departure to Gloucester Cathedral.

I was most fortunate to begin my musical education with Richard Hall when I joined the choir and later to study the organ with Robin Walker. I shall always be indebted to them both and I am very grateful for their continued support and guidance. The choir has always been a source not only of disciplined musical instruction, but of fun and fellowship, too.

Thank you to the Sunday and Thursday congregations for all your support over the years. The St. Mary's Church community has always nurtured and encouraged me. I have the happiest memories of Sunday School with my sister and brother; the Music Group; 'OY' Group; Coach House coffee mornings; Christmas markets, as well as the participation in many activities within the choir.

I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

William Peart

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

Sally Frost chaired our September meeting as our branch leader Anne May was unwell. Ruth Hardy is now recovering from injuries following a fall. We prayed for a speedy recovery for them.

The theme for our service was 'on the move' and we reflected on the plight of so many people of many faiths and none, fleeing from war, poverty or persecution from many countries.

In the Bible so many obeyed a divine instruction and were sent on journeys into the unknown including Abram and Moses leading the Exodus. Even the holy family fled from Herod's persecution to go to Egypt and become refugees.

During her missionary work in China Gladys Aylward had to lead a trek with 100 children from Yangcheng to reach safety in Southern China ahead of Japanese army invasion in 1938. All were saved.

The pilgrim Christian was on a trek and even after his experience of Salvation at the cross had to continue his life's journey encountering many difficulties. Like him we travel into the unknown but can be supported by faith and friends trusting we are in the hands of God.

Our speaker Kanthi Ariaraj left Sri Lanka coming through Africa to Stourbridge. She told us about her saris and how to wear them. The fabrics were long, rectangular embroidered panels of jewel coloured silk embroidered with exquisite gold and silver patterns. Kanthi included those worn for her engagement and wedding. A fitted silk blouse top and straight skirt were covered by the pleated panel. It was folded and pinned to the underskirt then folded over the top and shoulder and the end panel flowing over the arm. Janet Shaw elegantly modelled for Kanthi and we appreciated the beauty of these saris. Kanthi was thanked for sharing so generously her beautiful traditional costume.

NEXT MEETING:

2.15pm on Tuesday 13 October at the Coach House—Dudley Top Church Training.

All are welcome to join us.

Dawn Nex

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Big Hoot

Reports on family holidays are usually of extended trips to distant, often exotic, destinations. Birmingham cannot be, in any way, considered in this category. However with grandchildren to entertain during the school holidays our 'second city' has provided two most enjoyable days out.

The major attraction this summer has been the 'Big Hoot' – a 'trail' of about ninety large owl statues located at various points about the city. Each owl has been sponsored by a Birmingham business or organisation, and decorated by an invited artist. Guide maps are available so that families or groups can follow a trail and engage in an exciting owl hunt. We completed about half of the city centre trail on Thursday 28 August and found many groups with children following the same adventure. Apart from the thrill of the finds, we admired the novelty and variety of the designs, the skill in the artwork and the puns in the titles. A special exhibition in the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) on Chamberlain Square featured a 'parliament' of owlets which had been derived from school projects around the city. The BMAG also provided a welcome lunch stop in the popular, recently refurbished Edwardian Tea Room.

We returned a few days later to explore the rest of the city centre around the New Street and Bull Ring areas and were rewarded with new finds including one sponsored by our grandson's school outside St Martin's church. The church itself also provided the home for a second parliament of owlets designed by Birmingham schools.

The event ends on 27 September and in October the owls will be auctioned off to raise money for the Birmingham Children's Hospital, a fitting conclusion to a most imaginative project which will have been enjoyed by thousands of children.

Alec Beevers



THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

BABY TOADS IN BABY HOLES

This makes an ideal and fun weekend breakfast. Baby toads can be served with green beans (frog's legs). I tell my grandchildren that the parsley is toad's skin It doesn't stop them eating it all! They can be frozen and quickly re-heated for convenience. They are more like popovers than Yorkshire puddings. Like all these batter recipes it's best to make up the batter in advance and store in the fridge, ideally overnight.

Makes 24 mini or 12 muffin size

110g Plain flour

2 large eggs

300 ml milk plus a little extra if needed - the batter should be like cream in consistency.

Chopped parsley (optional)

Little salt

24 cooked mini sausages

Light olive oil

Pre-heat the oven 240C /gas mark 9.

Using a processor or whisk combine the flour, eggs, salt and milk to form a batter. Add a little more milk if needed and the parsley.

Pour a teaspoon of oil into each section of a twelve section patty tin; don't worry about the amount of oil as long as you get the tin hot enough some will be left in the tin. Put the tin in the oven and heat the oil until it is smoking hot. Remove carefully and pour in the batter adding one or two sausages depending on the size of tins.

Put them in the hot oven turn the oven temperature down to 220C /Gas7 and cook for 15-20 minutes until golden and crispy.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE...

Our baby toads sound good party food and will be quite at home if you are cajoled into marking Halloween with a spread. Some fizz for a party? - may be a fair option. Certainly we want something with acidity to cut through the batter. People will argue that pork meat is happy with a white wine: this is quite true, although a light refreshing style of white wine would be completely overpowered. A good, aged Chenin Blanc would have sufficient depth and complexitybut it may be too expensive for a toad-in-the-hole/ party wine. Those of us brought up on sausages from Boston, Lincolnshire will

argue differently. Herby with some powerful sage, a red would be a better option: a rustic Montepulciano, a Carignan from the Languedoc or a Mourvedre blend from southern France or Spain (here called Monastrell) would be perfect and would probably be my preference. However would you use finest Boston sausages for toad-in-the-hole?!

A cheap fizz would be a reasonable alternative if our toads feature in a party spread. Prosecco is always my last recommendation: vaguely fruited and often lacking persistent sparkle, sadly much on the market is plain ordinary. A Cava or a French Cremant would be better.....and I dare say you can find a non-alcoholic apple sparkler if you are arranging a children's Halloween Party.....just put aside a glass of red and a Boston sausage for me!

Enjoy your wine-sipping

Richard W. B. Ryan

**FROM THE DIOCESAN NEWS:
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DIOCESE OF MOROGORO**

Christian Mission in the Anglican tradition began in the Morogoro area through the dedicated work of the Christian Missionary Society at the end of the nineteenth century. Over the following decades, the hard work of sowing the seeds of a living faith in Christ led slowly to the creation of an Anglican Province of Tanzania. In 1965, the Diocese of Morogoro was born and is now one of 27 dioceses which form the Anglican Church in Tanzania.

The Diocese of Morogoro covers an area of 80,339 square kilometres and includes the Ukaguru and the Uluguru mountain ranges. Most of the inhabitants of the Diocese live in rural areas which are often remote with a smaller number living in small towns and in the 'hub' town of Morogoro, where the Bishop, Cathedral and staff team are based. The Diocesan Bishop is the Rt Revd Godfrey Sehaba, who was elected and ordained Bishop in 2008.

We have had a friendship link with the Diocese of Morogoro since 2011, through which we have pledged to learn from one another, pray for one another and to share our common faith in Jesus Christ. Bishop John along with a small group from our Diocese will be part of the anniversary celebrations.

Please pray for all those who are part of the planning for this special occasion; that it will be a time of joy and of thanksgiving for all that has been achieved over the past fifty years and a time of renewal in the faith of Christ and of hope for the future.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

16 August	Junior-Joel Gorton
30 August	Molly Jayne Proudman
	Ellie-Mae Pickering
	Oliver John Boden

Weddings

29 August	John Walters and Claire Langford
12 September	Carl Winsper and Sarah Skelding

Funerals

26 August	Kenneth Willocks	Aged 87
28 August	David Robertson	Aged 73

DISTANT READERS

We were pleased to hear from Pat Cowan in Canada who will be known to many readers. It is rewarding to know that our magazine reaches such distant places. We are aware that copies are sent to other places outside the parish and we would like to hear from other readers further afield. (see page 12)

Since the Magazine is now published online it has the potential for global readership and it would be interesting to hear from other distant readers. Perhaps we could establish a twinning arrangement with an overseas magazine.

We also know that single copies of the magazine have multiple readership. Apart from within families and households, complimentary copies are placed in public waiting rooms, schools, libraries and nursing homes etc. We recently received a letter from one reader who thanks us for "The excellent St Mary's Church Magazine" and adds "You may be surprised as to how it travels, going to Shatterford, followed by Bewdley, Bridgnorth, Menith Wood and Tenbury".

The Editors

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER

Shining like the sun

It is rare for people to comment to me about *Thought for the Day* on the radio. But one broadcast obviously hit the spot in the sense that several people mentioned it to me, and indeed I'd heard it myself. The presenter was speaking about prayer and he quoted two former archbishops of Canterbury. The one, Rowan Williams, likened prayer to sunbathing - the sense that you just put yourself in the place where you let the sun do its work on you. The other was Michael Ramsay, who, when asked about praying, simply said, 'I get down on my knees, and wait to see what happens.' It is this same Michael Ramsay, when asked how long he prayed for each day replied, 'About a minute, but it takes me an hour to get there.'



These are striking images of prayer, because they are almost passive, certainly receptive. My praying has often seemed like a long shopping list or worse still a 'to do' list (and I'm never quite sure whether mine or God's!). They are striking because although you have to put yourself in the place of prayer, when you are there you leave it up to God. You see, prayer is a gift, not a work. It is all about God's grace and not at all about my achievement. 'My grace is sufficient for you.' So Cardinal Hume used to say that even wanting to pray was already prayer.

God wants to bless us. I believe that God wants the Church to be a community of blessing too, a sign of delight on the side of humanity. That is a calling stretching right back to Abraham in the Old Testament: 'I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.' No wonder we end every act of worship with a blessing, and are then sent out to be that blessing.


The contemplative monk Thomas Merton was, unusually, out of his monastery in a neighbouring town. Seeing the people about their business he said to his companion, 'who is going to tell these people they are shining like the sun?' 'Shining like the sun' - a powerful image of people reflecting the love of God because they know they are loved by God and made in God's image and likeness. If prayer is a long, loving look at what is real, then let's get down on our knees and wait to see what happens when we bask in the warmth of God's love.

Robert Jones

Children's Page answers

How many sheep? We made it forty. There may be more.

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