

ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine

NOVEMBER 2015
Online edition



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Parish Church Magazine



PRIEST IN CHARGE:

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NOVEMBER 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 NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY 1	TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY All Saints/All Souls 3.00 pm Baptisms Tuesday 3 7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting Wednesday 4 9.00 am Morning Prayers and Full Staff Meeting 3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House Thursday 5 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church Friday 6 Stephen's day off. Saturday 7 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 8	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY Monday 9 Our Open the Book Team visit Oldswinford Primary School Tuesday 10 Copy date for December magazine 11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft Wednesday 11 Armistice Day 7.30 pm Baptism preparation Thursday 12 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church Friday 13 Stephen's day off. Saturday 14 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 15	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 3.00 pm Baptisms Monday 16 7.30 pm PCC Meeting Tuesday 17 2.00 pm Tea at the Coach House Thursday 19 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church Friday 20 Stephen's day off Saturday 21 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 3.00 pm Annual Service for Eucharistic Assistants at Belbroughton
SUNDAY 22	CHRIST THE KING Tuesday 24 2.15 - 4.00 pm Tuesday tea in the Narthex Thursday 26 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church Friday 27 Stephen's day off Saturday 28 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 4.00 pm Mary Stevens Hospice Tree of Light Service
SUNDAY 29	ADVENT SUNDAY 6.30 pm Advent Carol Service

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

One of the most well known and best loved chapters of the Bible is the 'hymn to love' of 1 Corinthians 13. Because it focuses on the gift of love it is often read in the context of a marriage service. At the end of that chapter St Paul writes of three things which last for ever: faith, hope and love. In concluding his thoughts he declares that the greatest of these is love. As we take that saying to heart we might sidestep the importance of the other members of that trio.

For a Christian faith, hope and love are all vitally important gifts of the spirit, gifts which grow as our relationship with Christ grows and as the indwelling Spirit of God begins to work in our lives. A Christian is marked out by love, faith and hope. In our secular age we might consider that love is not specifically a Christian virtue, although being Christian without demonstrating love seems to me to be an impossibility. A Christian is also marked out by faith, that seems almost tautological as at the centre of Christian life is faith in Jesus Christ.

Of the three gifts of the Spirit which Paul extols, hope is probably the hardest for us to grasp. After all how can we express hope in a world where religious faith, in the form of ISIS or other extremist groups in any faith you care to mention, seems to pursue the total destruction of anything or anyone of which that group disapproves. A cursory glance at news headlines portrays the world as descending inevitably into chaos and total self-destruction. In the past the Christian Church has sometimes been described as the 'hope of the world', but how can that be seen to be true when that same Christian Church which is the hope of the world is itself descending into anonymity and total powerlessness.

The natural consequence of this loss of hope in the world and in the church is despair, a concept so totally destructive of the God-given Spirit inside each of us that we just cannot see a future either for the world or for the church. It is at this point that we need to remember something central to our faith – that the Bible testifies to a God who snatches victory from the jaws of defeat. Trace the stories of the Old Testament and find how often defeat and humiliation seem inevitable, and the resulting despair proclaims 'no hope', only for some timely divine intervention to bring about a positive outcome, and the impossible becomes possible. Of course for Christians the greatest example of this is the death and resurrection of Jesus, here the most unlikely of all outcomes is the one which happens through the action of God.

If that idea of the impossible becoming possible is central to our faith, then when we reach a point of despair and think that all is doomed, we have reached a spiritual crisis and are implicitly claiming that God cannot deal with the problems which face the world about us. It is at that point that our faith needs to be strengthened and we need once again to grasp the truth that God has conquered the world and all its preconceptions and assumptions, and that as God has snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in the past, so the same can happen in the future. If we are confident in our faith then we can always find hope, it is hope based on God in a world which is his creation of love.

With every blessing.

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2015

1 November Eighteenth After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Revelation 21. 1-6a	John 11. 32-44
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 65. 17-end	Hebrews 11.32-12.2
8 November Nineteenth After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
	6.30 pm	Isaiah 10.33-11.9	John 14. 1-29
15 November Twentieth After Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Hebrews 10. 11-14,19-25	Mark 13. 1-8
	6.30 pm Evensong	Daniel 3.	Matthew 13. 24-30,36-43
22 November Christ the King	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Daniel 7. 9-10,13-14	John 18. 33-37
	6.30 pm Evensong	Daniel 5.	John 6. 1-15
29 November Advent Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Thessalonians 3. 9-end	Luke 21. 25-36
	6.30 pm Evensong	Advent Carol Service	

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell, alone and frightened and everyone who cares for these people in practical ways.

A REGULAR OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

Over time various groups have convened for the purpose of joining together in prayerful reflection. Often these have been held in the homes of those who take part, sometimes using just one location, sometimes visiting different homes on a rotation basis. Until her recent death such a group was led by our dear friend, Jan Sutton, who was hopeful that such a group might continue and flourish.

Marjorie Ferguson, as one of the recently licensed Authorised Lay Ministers (Pastoral Care) is keen to offer her home as a potential location for those who may wish to join such a prayer group on a regular or occasional basis. Dawn Nex has offered to help lead the prayers. Details of how this might operate would need to be discussed and agreed by those interested in being part of this group. At this stage there are no pre-conditions other than a wish to share in mutual prayer.



If you might be interested you are invited to contact Marjorie on 01384 393454. In due course an opportunity for those interested to get together to discuss how the group might operate will be arranged. Initial thoughts might be for a monthly meeting at an agreed time and duration. All ideas are welcome.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2015

A full diary of all St Mary's Christmas services and events will be published in the next edition of this magazine. These will be advertised widely and will be included in the Christmas card that will be delivered to every house in the parish.

If you are able to help with the delivery of these cards, need details of any of the parish Christmas events or would like to help with any of the Christmas activities please contact John in the parish office on 01384 441003 or by email at st.mary.os@btconnect.com.

St Mary's Advent Carol Service is at 6.30 pm on the 29 November. Everyone is welcome to take part.

NEWS FROM WILLIAM PEART

Will has sent details of a celebrity Organ recital programme at Gloucester Cathedral for 2016. Full details will be displayed on the church noticeboard but one date you may wish to reserve now is Wednesday 22 June, 7:30pm when William Peart, Organ Scholar at Gloucester Cathedral, will play Reger Chorale-Fantasia: *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, op. 40 no. 1.

Fancy that! Our Will a celebrity already!

The full programme of five recitals will feature Gloucester Cathedral organists past and present who will play, in the centenary year of Reger's death, the *chorale-fantasias* of Max Reger (1873-1916) to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the building of the cathedral organ's case.



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday, 5 December from 10am - Noon

This has always proved to be a great occasion and with your support this happy state of affairs should continue! Any help with the Market will be very welcome. Contributions can be left at the back of church in the run up to the Market. Any wine or donations to the bottle stall will encourage even more people to 'have a go' on the day. Produce such as homemade cakes – please bring to the Church Hall on Friday evening or early Saturday morning to enable the stall holders to have time to price them.

We hope to extend our range of craft work items this year – if you have any thoughts of something you would like to produce, please give me a ring or drop me an email.

I am having a planning meeting on Tuesday evening, 17 November at 7.30pm in the Narthex. So far we have stalls for books, bric-a-brac, cakes, jigsaws, craftwork, gifts, Christmas Hamper Raffle, Tombola and other games. If you have an idea for a stall, game or fundraiser and/or would like to be one of the band of helpers (get in free!) then I look forward to hearing from you.

Katey Fletcher
01384 378182 or
kateyfletcher@btinternet.com

HARVEST FESTIVAL

A very big thank you is due to the ladies of the Flower Guild, to Revd Stephen Agnew and to all who helped to contribute to St Mary's Harvest Festival celebrations in October.

The floral decorations were outstanding, making a dramatic and meaningful statement of the glory of this time of the year, reminding us of the great wonders and bounty of God's world.

Thank you to all who donated gifts of food at services that day, and a timely opportunity to say thank you to all who regularly support our giving to the Food Bank. The produce donated during this weekend was shared into two good-sized piles, one going to the Food Bank and the other to the St Basil's Shelter for the Homeless in Kidderminster. Your gifts were very well received and will make a real difference to those who, in this world of plenty, seem to have less than their fair share.

And a special thank you to Ray and Jean Drew who regularly undertake the delivery of your contributions to the Food Bank.

THE COMMISSIONING OF AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS WORCESTER CATHEDRAL SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

The great west window of the cathedral was a kaleidoscope of colour as we were taken through the final preparations for the service. Bishop John would commission the 68 people from Worcester and Dudley who had been training as Authorised Lay Ministers (ALMs). We had all completed a year-long course to work as volunteers in our parishes as pastoral workers, community workers, in helping to lead acts of worship, in sharing our faith with others, as children's and youth workers or as parish administrators.

The cathedral was full of friends and families who had come to share this celebration with us. I could see Marjorie Ferguson, Sue Tatford and Sophie Truelove with the group who had trained as Pastoral Assistants and Community Workers and Elaine Bradford with those who had trained as Children and Youth Workers. Further back were some of the familiar faces from St Mary's who had prayed for us and supported us through the year.



Then it was time to begin the service. As the Bishop and his procession made their way through the nave they were accompanied by the wonderful sound of a full cathedral singing the opening hymn, 'O praise ye the Lord'. Each group of ALMs was then presented to the Bishop by their tutors, with a suitable reading from scripture. The Bishop gave his permission for each of us:

"to minister under the authority of your incumbent in the ministry team within your parish"

The Director of Ministry and Discipleship for the Diocese, Canon Dr. Jonathan Kimber, preached in the service on the subject of God's freedom. He said:

"As newly authorised lay ministers I hope that you will keep growing in the freedom that God wants for you and that you'll share that freedom abundantly with others. You have the freedom to become the person that God is calling you to be – I hope that you will offer that same freedom in joyful service to God and to others."

The service closed with the joyous sound of the congregation singing the great old hymn 'Guide me, O thou great Redeemer'.

With the formalities over, Bishop John returned to greet and to be photographed patiently, over and over again, with the ALMs and their supporters. You can see some of the pictures on the diocesan web-page, along with a recording of Jonathan Kimber's sermon.

The new ALMs can now begin to apply their training in the parish. Marjorie, Sue and Sophie aim to create a pastoral team responding to pastoral needs.

Elaine will take on the responsibility of bringing together all activities which involve children, such as St Mary's Toddlers Group, Messy Church, 10am and Youth Club. I now act as Deacon in some morning services and I also officiate at some evening services.

With fewer ordained clergy than there used to be, authorised ministry is one way in which the Diocese is encouraging us to play our part as Kingdom People.

Roger King

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

As Anne May our branch leader was in hospital Sally Frost led the October meeting and Brenda Selby conducted the service on the theme of sharing and caring. Sally welcomed members of St Mary's Church Mission Committee who joined us to hear Karen Fielder from Top Church Training (T.C.T.) explain the history and current work of this charity organisation with local young people.

In 1997 the parish church council of 'Top Church', St Thomas and St Luke, Dudley, raised money and also applied for and received a lottery grant to help Youth Services provide some care for people aged 16-25 who were outside the scope of other official help or training. Housing needs were not met as many were homeless. Few had been taught basic skills or given routine lifestyles and many were exploited or abused. T.C.T. stepped in to undertake to help and with voluntary contributions as well, now try to help people up to the age of 60.

The T.C.T. group felt many people needed practical work experience and care as well as counselling so they now run a café based next to the Baptist Church in South Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 2RR. It is open to the public on Wednesdays, 11.30 am to 13.30 pm providing both 'eat in' or 'take away' service for main meals for £1.00. Young people of all abilities are trained there for five hours, once a week, on a three month contract to gain regular work experience. They learn how to prepare and cook healthy meals from donated food. All staff have Food and Hygiene certificates.

T.C.T. has forged links with Age UK, CAB, Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, Barnardo's and health experts to help any in need who come. However, T.C.T. still primarily support young people outside the welfare system and all, led by Karen, serve with love.

Karen was thanked and received a donation from St Mary's Mission Committee and boxes of food from our MU branch.

Dates for your diary:

Next Meeting - Tuesday, 10 November at 2.15 pm in the Coach House – 'Stories from Around Europe', Speaker- Dorothy Knights.

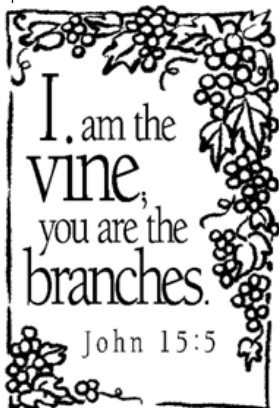
MU Coffee Morning – Saturday, 14 November at St Michael's Church, Norton.

St Mary's Christmas Market – Saturday, 5 December in the Church Hall. Tombola prizes welcome.

Dawn Nex

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

I AM THE VINE, you are the branches. Those who remain in me and I in them, will bear much fruit.

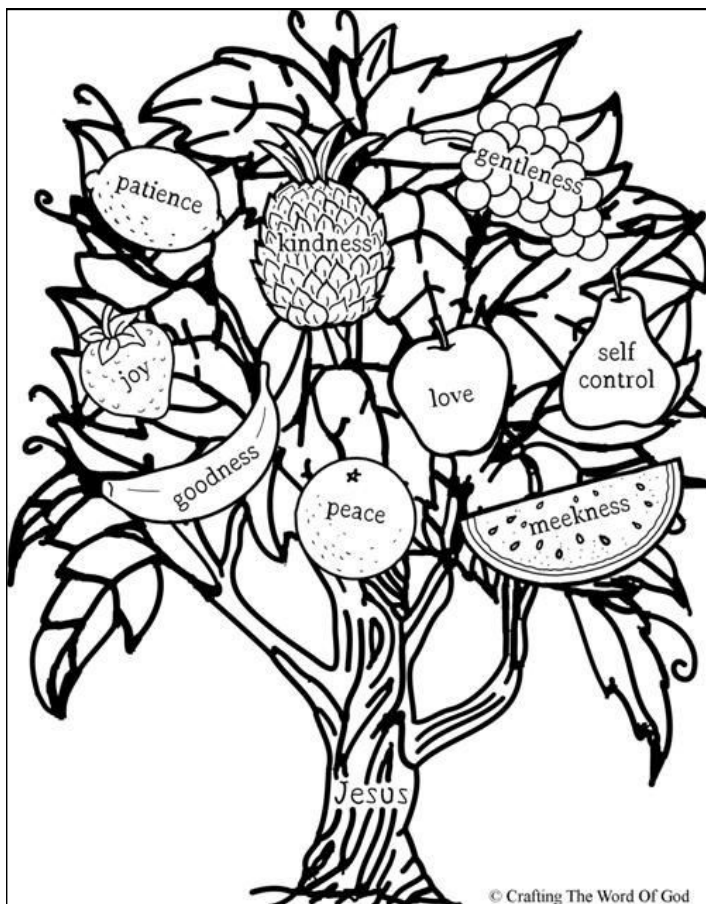


Jesus compared himself to a vine on which can grow strong, beautiful fruit. He said that we should be the branches on that vine. Only with the branches staying firmly attached to the vine can the fruit grow well. **Ask an adult to tell you about this.**

To help us to grow like strong and healthy branches on the vine we need to try to be good, gentle, kind and patient. Are you?

Look at the tree in the picture. Can you name the nine fruits growing on the tree?

Colour the picture as well as you can.





Trace around the outline shape of the vine leaf.
Use it to cut out seven different leaves. You could use different colour papers.

For each day of the week, on one leaf write about something good you did that day.

You could stick them on your window or hang them on a twig.

I helped my brother



WORDSEARCH-CAN YOU FIND

BURNED, FIRE,
WITHERS,
FRUIT,
THROWN,
REMAIN
TRUE,
GARDENER
WORDS, GLORY
PRUNES, VINE
BRANCH, BEAR
CLEAN.

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



REMEMBRANCE



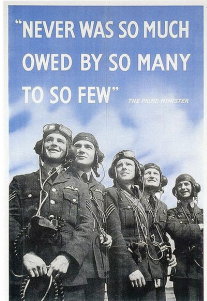
The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month marks the signing of the Armistice, on 11 November 1918, to signal the end of World War One. At 11 am on 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. Remembrance Day is on 11 November. It is a special day set aside to remember all those men and women who were killed during the two World Wars and during more recent wars and conflicts. Remembrance Sunday is held on the second Sunday in November: this year it's on Sunday 8 November.

2015 has seen the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain with reflections and events that honour the memory of all those who contributed to this significant event. November Remembrance services throughout the country will no doubt focus on the achievements of 'The Few' alongside the generous contributions and sacrifices made by so many in conflicts throughout the years since 1914.

On 10 May 1940 German forces attacked Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and France with a ferocity that soon led to considerable German advances. Fighter squadrons of the Royal Air Force supported bombers engaged in battles with the German forces but it soon became apparent this would not be enough. The Allied armies were pushed back to the Channel coast by the German advance and by 18 June British fighter squadrons had been withdrawn alongside the great evacuation of troops from Dunkirk.

For a few short weeks there was a lull in the fighting as both British and German forces consolidated their position and rebuilt the strength of their fighter squadrons. By the beginning of July 1940, the RAF had built up its strength to 640 fighters, but the Luftwaffe had 2600 bombers and fighters. In the skies above South East England, the future of Britain was about to be decided. As the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill put it; "What General Weygrand called the Battle of France is over, the Battle of Britain is about to begin".

The absence of a British surrender following Dunkirk led the German forces to prepare to invade Britain. Initially the German Luftwaffe concentrated on the destruction of coastal defences and shipping, then on airfields and communications. As the weeks passed both air forces lost considerable numbers of planes and pilots in ferocious air battles over the fields and towns of Britain. The Luftwaffe believed they had established overall control and turned their attention to the bombing of London. Although this caused immensely devastating effects on London residents it enabled an element of recovery among the air defences. In mid September the RAF repelled a massive Luftwaffe assault that caused huge German plane losses, Although the battle



continued for several weeks the damage ensured the withdrawal of the invasion plans and the ultimate superiority of the British air forces in the defence of the homeland.

Five men from Stourbridge served in the RAF and are commemorated on the Stourbridge War Memorial. Their stories have been researched by Roy Peacock

Flight Sergeant GEORGE CROYDON lived in Oldswinford with his parents Farley and Edith Croydon. He volunteered for the Royal Air Force and by 1944 he was based in Tortorella, Italy, where he was flying Wellingtons in 37 Squadron. During a raid on industrial areas in Nazi Germany, in preparation for D-Day, on 7 May 1944 his plane crashed near Klagenfurt where the crew are buried together. George was 22 years old. He is remembered with honour.

Sergeant DENNIS CLAUDE HAYWARD and his family lived in Oldswinford. He enlisted in the Royal Air Force and in 1941 he was stationed with 104 Squadron at Driffield, Yorkshire, flying Wellington Bombers. On 29 August, during a bombing raid over Germany his plane was brought down by enemy fire and he was killed. His body lies at rest in Rheinberg War Cemetery. He is remembered with honour.

Aircraftman 1st Class JOHN LESLIE LEACH was the son of John (DCM) and Olive Leach of the Furlongs, Oldswinford. He was educated at Oldswinford C of E School and won a scholarship to King Edward's School, later working at E.J & J Pearson, brick manufacturers. In 1939 he volunteered for the 'Doctor's Hill Platoon' of the Home Guard and then enlisted in the Royal Air Force in May 1940. While on training he became ill, was taken to Middlesex Hospital and died on 18 July 1940, aged 24. Following the funeral service in St Mary's Church he was buried in the cemetery, in his father's grave. He is remembered with honour.

Aircraftman 2nd Class WILLIAM GEOFFREY RICHARDS, the son of William and Gertrude Richards of Stourbridge was educated at King Edward's School from 1934 to 1940. After joining the staff of Barclay's Bank he enlisted in the Royal Air Force and trained as a pilot at the Empire Air Training scheme in Rhodesia. He died, probably in an accident, on 1 November 1943, aged 19 and was buried at Harare Pioneer Cemetery. He is remembered with honour.

Sergeant THOMAS BERTRAM YOUNG, was the son of Bert and Elsie Young of Oldswinford and the wife of Marjorie Young. By 1943 he had trained as a Flight Engineer with the Special Duty Squadron engaged in special operations. On 21 October, on an operation targeted to support the French Resistance in connection with Operation Archdeacon, his aircraft crashed near Valenciennes and all seven crew were killed. William was 22 years old. The operation had been infiltrated by German counter espionage. He is remembered with honour.

REMEMBER THE MEN OF OLDSWINFORD



ALL TOGETHER – Sharing Ways to Live the Kingdom

Worcester Cathedral, Saturday, 10 October 2015

This was a day when people from across the Diocese came together to be inspired, encouraged and guided in our mission to be Kingdom People who seek to live lives of love and compassion.

After we had shared breakfast together, Bishop John - dressed informally in the red polo-shirt of the organisers - led a short opening service. He reminded us that the Church exists to serve those who are not – or not yet – its members. 4Front Theatre Group then performed a drama reflecting upon Jesus' summary of the Law (Luke 10. 25-28) to demonstrate how different approaches to the liturgy might help us share our faith with those who are no longer familiar with the traditional elements of worship. This was followed by a rousing address from Mark Russell, the Chief Executive of the Church Army, who encouraged us to see ourselves as the fifth Gospel - because for many people their only knowledge of the Bible comes from what we say and do as Christians.

During the rest of the day we divided up to take part in a series of workshops which offered resources and expertise in a range of topics that reflected the Kingdom values:

- Simple ways to pray

- Ways to transform our worship

- Ways to better serve our community

- Ways to help children and young people to be nurtured in faith

- Offering our time and talents to God

- Ministering to others

- Making the most of our building

In addition to the workshops, we were invited to look around an exhibition from external organisations which share the Kingdom vision; contribute to a collaborative art installation; and have a go at bellringing. There was also a range of activities for young people, including a climbing wall, a drumming workshop and skate ramps.

The day ended back together in the Cathedral to hear Mark Russell encourage us to find ways to share the Good News with those around us. He asked us to think about the many people, just on our church doorstep, who have never really known the meaning of true love. How many people are desperately searching for hope? As Christians, he said:

"We know that we are loved by God and that we have a hope that anchors the soul through every trial and hardship."

At St Mary's we are committed to making our church more welcoming and to helping people grow in their discipleship. We will share with the PCC the information and ideas that we obtained from the All Together day in order to help with our mission.

Roger King

CROWDS! WHAT CROWDS?

Our September walk was to be along the towing paths of inner Birmingham canals that we had not previously walked. We planned to catch the train to Moor Street and return from Snow Hill. The local TV news the night before our walk was warning of two million extra people in Birmingham due to World Cup Rugby, an arts festival and the newly opened Grand Central shopping centre. It was with some trepidation that we set off but in glorious sunshine.

A short walk from Moor Street took us down to the Digbeth Canal Basin. Whilst some roads were closed to traffic due to the outdoor viewing area for the rugby on giant screen TV, as pedestrians we had an unhindered walk to reach the canal network.

From Digbeth to Snow Hill we followed the canals. We saw few other walkers, cyclists and fisherman. At the end of the short Digbeth Basin we turned right along the Grand Union Canal to Bordesley Junction where we turned north down the Birmingham Warwick Junction Canal, to pass Star City before reaching the Birmingham Fazeley Canal in the shadow of Spaghetti Junction. We immediately turned south, still on the Birmingham Fazeley Canal, to go back up to Birmingham and soon saw the BT Tower on the skyline ahead. The towing paths throughout were paved with brick, tarmac or gravel and were free of mud. The verges on the way back to Birmingham had been seeded with wild and garden flowers, which was a big improvement on the many areas of graffiti that we passed. We eventually reached Turnover Bridge at Aston Junction where we kept right to arrive back at Snow Hill.



The intention was to have a pub lunch at the finish but pubs in the Snow Hill / St Paul's area do not do food on Saturday lunchtime, this being the business quarter. Some of the nineteen walkers bravely ventured into the city centre in search of sustenance, the others caught the train back out of city, and three left us at Cradley Heath. Most of the remainder reconvened at the Crabmill for lunch.

We proved that even on a very overcrowded Saturday a peaceful walk is possible in Birmingham city centre.

Mike Blaxland

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

TORTA TARTUFATA

This is a very rich flat chocolate cake, an ideal cake to serve as a dessert. I think coffee ice cream makes a good accompaniment. It makes a large cake but I often scale it down for smaller occasions.

40g hazelnuts, skinned, lightly toasted and coarsely chopped
100g butter
120g dark chocolate chopped
2 tbs. cocoa powder sieved
3 eggs separated
100g caster sugar
½ tsp vanilla extract
20g plain flour
pinch baking powder
Icing sugar for dusting



Heat oven to 180C/Gas4. Butter and
base line a 28cm cake tin.

Melt the butter in a pan and add the chocolate and cocoa. Stir until chocolate has melted, cool.

Whisk the egg yolks, sugar and vanilla in a large bowl. (I use my "Kenwood" for this) until light and creamy.

Using an electric whisk, whip the egg whites in a bowl to soft peaks.

Fold in the flour, baking powder, nuts and finally the egg whites into the egg yolk mixture.

Turn into the prepared tin and bake for 20 mins so the middle is still moist.

Cool, just before serving, lightly dust with icing sugar. Serve with ice cream or crème fraiche.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE...

We have visited chocolate dishes before and encountered the same problem: a wine which tastes of chocolate?! True enough a creamy, oaked wine can sometimes produce a lingering after-taste of white chocolate and vanilla; and certainly 'mocha' appears in tasting notes from time to time, but it requires more than a little imagination to say a wine carries a chocolate flavour. Accordingly, the convention is to match the richness of the food with the richness of the wine (normally an intense red). This is a familiar theme, but let's stray briefly into technicalities and examine how we obtain this richness in a wine. Certainly an aged vine produces greater depth of flavour and a low-yielding vine generates more concentrated fruit. Vineyard site, exposure, pruning all play their part too.

In the wine-making phase, the degree of extraction will affect the richness and intensity of the juice: pumping the juice back over the grape skins will increase extraction. Oak contact too will add another layer of richness. Crank up the heat and sunlight and Mediterranean vineyards can create some really rich intense wines; and when fortified too, we are reaching the sort of level we want for our rich chocolate cake.

What then are our options? Top of the pile come the sweet Grenache wines of Roussillon in the south of France : Rivesaltes and Banyuls, with Collioure not far behind. Sweet white wines are mostly made from the Muscat grape and suit fruited desserts best. The Australian liqueur Muscats come somewhere near though. Add an intense red berry coulis and the Roussillon wines are a clear winner. With nutty and coffee flavours, Commandaria or Malaga will work wonderfully alongside our rich chocolate cake - what a treat!

Enjoy your wine-sipping

Richard W. B. Ryan

CHOIR NEWS

There have been a few changes in membership in the choir since the return following the summer break.

We have bid farewell to three members from the back rows: William Peart was the first to depart - Will has chosen to complete a gap year, before further education, at Gloucester Cathedral where he is organ scholar. Will has served in the choir at St Mary's for about ten years. His life at Gloucester over the next twelve months will be exciting and includes a trip to Canada! Next to depart was Freddie Apperley. He finished his A levels in the summer and earns himself a place at Aberystwyth University. Like William Peart, Freddie has served in the choir for about ten years and we wish him well. Finally, at the beginning of October, we said a farewell to William Croft. William has not sung in the choir for as long but his contribution to the life at St Mary's with his fellow sting instrument players has been immense. We wish all of them every success for the future and encourage them to visit and sing with us whenever they feel so inclined.

On the plus side, we are pleased to welcome George Nicholls to the tenor line. George is a student at Old Swinford Hospital School and uses the organ at St Mary's for his lessons with Paul Carr.

I recently made another visit to the junior school and heard all the Year 4 children sing. I talked to them about the life as a chorister and look forward to positive responses of membership.

Robin Walker
Director of Music

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

20 September	Harvey James Kerfoot Charlotte Elizabeth Hazlehurst Esme Jane Millership
4 October	Joel Harry Johnson Joseph Alexander Claridge

Weddings

19 September	William Downing and Caroline Whitehouse
27 September	Jason Gonzales and Carol Harding

Funerals

17 September	Andrew Chamberlain	Aged 57
21 September	Neil Hunt	Aged 54
12 October	Brenda Cadwallader	Aged 75

SUPPORTING REFUGEES

Worcester Cathedral is demonstrating its support of refugees with a banner which was unfurled in the Nave during the Dean's sermon on 13 September.

Both Bishops have also been working with the local authorities in Worcestershire and Dudley to encourage support and as soon as churches can be of practical help, we'll be letting you know.

Part of the Dean's sermon included:-

"And so, my friends, to practicalities. In this, one of the gravest humanitarian crises of modern times, there is an urgency to give refuge to those who need it. The hearts of many people have been moved and provoked by what we have seen in recent weeks; public opinion has shifted, and political leadership has wisely begun to shift with it. The question to us as a local Christian community is a simple one. Will we play our part? Will this, the most iconic religious building in Worcestershire, be a beacon of hope to the homeless? "

And with this statement comes an invitation to all churches in the diocese to respond to the challenge and to put into practice the Christian ethic of giving, sharing and caring. How can we help?



Diocesan News

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER

It was wonderful to see the Cathedral filled with over 800 people for our All Together event last month. And not just the Cathedral itself: there were people from parishes doing all sorts of surprising things in and around both the Cathedral and the Diocesan Office. Perhaps some of you even tried the climbing wall, bouncy castle or skate park. I definitely spotted the Bishop of Dudley enjoying a bit of climbing!



I'm sure that those of you who were there would agree that the worship was inspirational. Mark Russell, the Chief Executive of the Church Army and Canon of Worcester preached very powerfully and the roof seemed to lift from the cathedral with the power of the singing. All of us were fed with lunch which had been produced by the Cathedral Café in what appeared to be a miracle.

The whole day was a celebration: a celebration of the call of the people of all the 280 churches of the Diocese of Worcester to be a 'Kingdom people'.

Jesus preached about the Kingdom of God and as Christians we believe that this is what he came to establish: the reign of God. We believe that it is our task to work for that reign, one in which values love, compassion, justice and freedom prevail.

You might think the idea of the Kingdom of God a bit 'churchy' and perhaps it is. But there's nothing churchy about a society which is characterised by love, compassion, justice and freedom. If those values were to prevail the world would certainly be a better place. In fact, if they were completely to prevail things would be perfect and that's what they will be like in God's Kingdom. That's what we pray for in the Lord's Prayer: 'Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.'

We try not just to pray for that kingdom but to work for it and all those people on who gathered on Saturday spent the day learning about how the better to do so. It's great to see God's people on the move, seeking to be a blessing in every community by promoting and embodying our kingdom values. I hope that everyone in our churches will want to join in and whether through bouncy castles and skate parks or through other less energetic means, work to bring about God's Kingdom here on earth.

Children's Page answers

The fruits on the tree include - Lemon, pineapple, grapes, strawberry, banana, orange, apple, pear and melon

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