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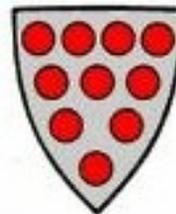
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# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

## Parish Church Magazine



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**March 2010**

**40p**

## SUNDAYS AT ST MARY'S

8.00 am	Holy Communion
10.00 am	Parish Communion (with OY Group)
11.30 am	Sunday School
6.30 pm	Evensong
10.00 am	(second Sunday) Worship Together

## WEEKDAYS AT ST MARY'S

Daily:	9.00 am - Morning Prayer (except Fridays and Saturdays) Morning Prayer on Thursdays will alternate between St Mary's and St Thomas'
Daily:	5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (except Fridays)
Wednesday:	1.30 pm - Noah's Ark at St Mary's (term time) parents & toddlers
Thursday:	10.30 am - Holy Communion in Lady Chapel
Thursday:	7.30 pm - Bell ringing Practice
Friday:	Choir Practice and Youth Groups (in term time)
Saturday:	10.00—12.00 am - Open Church –refreshments available
<b>Rector's and Curate's Day Off:</b>	Friday

## OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Bible Study Groups:	Tuesday, last in month at 2.30 pm	(Tel: 379972)
Mothers' Union:	Second Tuesday at 2.15 pm	(Tel: 422677)
Outreach Group:	Occasional meetings	(Tel: 01562 851491)
Music Group Practice:	Second Saturday at 10.00 am	(Tel: 441003)
St Mary's Walking Group:	Last Saturday of the month.	Depart 9.30 am

### Reader Emeritus and

<b>Parish Publicity Officer:</b>	Mr Roy Peacock	379972
<b>Reader:</b>	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
<b>Church Wardens:</b>	Mr Edward Haden	378104
	Mrs Marjorie Ferguson	393454
<b>Organist / Choirmaster:</b>	Mr Robin Walker	01905 353939
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr Richard Harris	395760
<b>PCC Secretary:</b>	Miss Katey Fletcher	378182
<b>Magazine Editor:</b>	Miss Gemma Sutton	825983
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
<b>Coach House: - Bookings</b>	Parish Office	441003
<b>- Enquiries</b>	Mrs Pamela Green	371415
<b>Parish Administrator:</b>	Mrs Helen Plaice	441003
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Open 9.00 am -1.00 pm, Tuesday to Thursday	441003
	9.00 am - 12.00 noon, Friday	Closed Mondays
<b>Church Website Address:</b>	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk	
	Email: st.mary.os@btinternet.com	

### ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

Please come to the Church on Saturday morning between 10.00 and 11.00 for Vestry Hour. You will be warmly welcomed. Tea and coffee will be available.

## TO KENYA WITH LOVE – AND THE MONEY FOR THE NEW BLOCK

Our hearts are full of gratitude to so many friends for their continuing support of our little school in Kenya, and we are delighted to be able to pass on such great news.

We would like to thank the wonderful members of our congregation who sponsored our little granddaughter Susie-Mae and her cousin Georgie as they walked to raise money to put a roof over the heads of their Kenyan brothers and sisters. Through them and many others we raised a magnificent £600.

The concert, 'Raise the Roof' on 2<sup>nd</sup> February raised another amazing £1,495. This will be used to put in the doors and windows of the new block of six classrooms which we are building to replace the ones which collapsed due to the voracious appetite of the local termites!

To add the real icing on the cake, we were overwhelmed to receive a donation of £150 from St Mary's Mission Committee. It was totally unexpected and very much appreciated and may even cover the cost of floors.

We are sending the money to arrive in the local bank as we arrive in Kenya, and we will break the news to them when we get to the school. It is our plan to try and get as much of the work done as possible while we are in Kenya so that we can report back fully, with lots of photos of course, when we return.

Thank you all so much!

**Jan and Brian Drew**

## *The Coach House*

*Arts and Crafts Centre*

### Coffee Morning

at The Coach House, Rectory Road, Oldswinford

Saturday 20 March 10.00-12.00 noon

Cakes, Jams and Marmalade

Bring and Buy, Raffle, Books

Coffee and Biscuits with Ticket £1.50

## PARISH REGISTER

### Weddings

30th January Helen Williams and Edward Shuttleworth

### Funerals

19th January Fred Grove aged 93

19th January Norah Field aged 90

2nd February Ray Willetts aged 79

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

Ice and snow forced us to cancel our January meeting but we were able to hold our AGM in addition to our planned talk of 'A round trip to Iceland' in February. Twenty-one members attended and we were joined by three visitors.

Anne May, the deanery leader, began with a short service entitled 'New Beginnings' and this was followed by our AGM. Janet Blaxland, our branch leader and coordinator, was retiring having completed six years in this post and members gave their appreciation and thanks for her faithful care and service. Mrs Pat Whalley is our new leader and coordinator.

During the service we had sung the hymn 'One more step along the road I go' but we made a giant leap as Mike Blaxland took us on a summer cruise tour of Iceland and then on to Norway. We were shown the volcanic country of Iceland part of which is in the Arctic Circle. It lies over unstable tectonic plates which frequently cause eruptions and dramatic changes to the landscape. The land of huge waterfalls, geysers, liquid mud pools, grassland and scrub was revealed. We were also introduced to the people who give a warm welcome to visitors with a re-enactment and explanation of their history and we saw inside their churches. Our journey ended in Norway's beautiful Fjord country.

The March meeting will be at the Coach House on Tuesday 9 March at 2.15 pm when Kanthi Ariaraj will lead a Lent Meditation. Visitors will be most welcome. Do join us as we step on this journey.

**Dawn Nex**

## DIARY FOR MARCH 2010

Tuesday 2	9.30 am Standing Committee at the Rectory 7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at the Rectory
Wednesday 3	3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House 7.30 pm Lent Course 'Mission in a Troubled Age' at St Mary's Church Hall : Roy Peacock 'Some parallels with the Church at the time of Reformation'
Thursday 4	10.30 am Holy Communion
<b>SUNDAY 7</b>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b>
Tuesday 9	11.30 am Holy Communion at HollyCroft Nursing Home
Wednesday 10	Copy Date for April Magazine 7.30 pm Lent Course 'Mission in a Troubled Age' at St Thomas' Church Hall. Dr Sarah Brush : 'Mission with the Young'.
Thursday 11	10.30 am Holy Communion
<b>SUNDAY 14</b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>
Tuesday 16	10.00am Worship Together 7.30 pm PCC at the Rectory
Wednesday 17	7.30 pm Lent Course 'Mission in a Troubled Age' at Holy Trinity, Amblecote. Canon Owain Bell ' Mission in a World of Faiths'.
Thursday 18	10.30 am Holy Communion
<b>SUNDAY 21</b>	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – PASSION SUNDAY</b>
Wednesday 24	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge Nursing Home 7.30 pm Lent Course ' Mission in a Troubled Age' at St Mary's Church Hall. Canon Robert Jones : 'The Way Ahead'.
Thursday 25	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion 7.30 pm Coach House Committee
<b>SUNDAY 28</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
Monday 29	7.00 pm Compline and Meditation
Tuesday 30	7.00 pm Compline and Meditation
Wednesday 31	7.00 pm Compline and Meditation

### QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

God did not create anything except love itself, and the means to love. He created love in all its forms. He created beings capable of love from all possible distances. Because no other could do it, he himself went to the greatest possible distance, the infinite distance. This infinite distance between God and God, this supreme tearing apart, this agony beyond all others, this marvel of love, is the Crucifixion.

**Simone Weil**



## FROM THE RECTORY

“I am come to calm your fears: I am come to console you in the absence of bright days, and to reassure you of their return”

The Snowdrop – Consolation by Bishop Keble 1792-1886

As I write this, the snowdrops are at least in bud if not fully in bloom. Yesterday two blackbirds were so intent on establishing territory that we nearly had a head on collision. I woke this morning to bird song and in the graveyard I saw my first daffodil in bud. These are each little things but like this quotation by Bishop Keble they bring hope in the midst of dark days when it seems like winter will never end.

At the beginning of March I will have been with you for 8 months; it has been a precious time, rich in experience and at times deeply challenging. I am grateful to you for your welcome and friendship and to those of you who support me in prayer. Over this time I have become increasingly aware of the deacon's call to look out and to serve the community. On rereading the words of the ordination service I am reminded that this is not only my call but yours too for together we are called to seek out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless in order that we might make the love of God visible. I do not think that this is necessarily always about grand projects but consider the delicate snowdrop, the brightness of a daffodil trumpet, and the beauty of simple bird song as a model for mission. It is often the small things that speak of the love of God to people. The Church of England's Love Life, Live Lent programme is built on this principal and you can find information about it on the 'Love Life, Live Lent' web site.

Over the Lenten period we have the opportunity to consider how we might show God's love through the programme 'Mission in a troubled age' we are running with ourselves and St Thomas's and Holy Trinity churches. Come along and reflect with me how we can be part of making God's love visible in our world.

With my prayers and best wishes

**Reverend Ruth Atkinson**

## AND FOR THE WINE.....

I know it is the period of Lent, but who could say no to a slice of trifle cake?! Perhaps omit the wine then? -no? Well if you are still minded to have a sip of something, let's examine the options. For baked cakes I rarely look further than Italy [as regular readers of these notes will know!] Think Panettone and a glass of Vin Santo: perfect. For creamy desserts I favour the northern Italian wine called Torcolato. However, add in some red fruits - and what a tremendous idea that is - and the picture changes. Suddenly the whole trifle concept comes alive: cake, custard, red fruits .....except the wine-match is now not so easy! 'Noble' rot botrytised wines with their intense fruits, concentrated sugars and marmaladey overtones are not what we have here. Indeed the dessert is not overtly sweet. Medium-sweet red wines can be a tricky area to stray into.....unless you can find a Moscato Rosa perhaps. A cream sherry would make a traditional touch. Or some bubbles? But does anybody drink demi-sec Champagne these days? It may be a far cry from its Lancashire origins but what about a Kir Royale? - Champagne with a dash of crème de cassis adding just the right degree of sweetness. Better still if you substitute with the raspberry-flavoured Chambord. It sounds a real indulgence doesn't it?! Take up the suggestion and save it for Easter! Enjoy your wine-sipping.

**Richard W.B. Ryan**

## CHOIR NEWS AT ST MARY'S

The Choir is pleased to report that six probationers have just been enrolled as full members of the choir at St Mary's. Those just having received their cassock and surplice are Charlotte Bannister, Molly Butcher, Casey Kirkham, Jack Kirton, Oscar Knowles and Alice Moore. Congratulations to them all and I hope they enjoy their membership of the choir. Also, Alice Fowler has just reached the required standard to receive her light blue ribbon and medal and this was presented to her in January.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate my appeal for tenor voices to join the choir. The choir needs more tenors now so if there are any members of the congregation who would like to find out more about singing in the choir, please contact me. I would be happy to give a simple audition and heaps of encouragement and coaching.

My contact details may be found at the front of this magazine.

**Robin Walker – Organist and Director of Music**

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

### MUM'S TRIFLE CAKE

My mum was not a keen cook but when she did cook what a treat it was. She introduced us to lots of exotic tastes and dishes when the ingredients were hard to find in a small Lancashire town. These occasional treats remain in my food memory though sadly my mum died when I was a teenager. I continued to make this cake for my daughters and my daughter makes it for her daughter. The cake has a thick layer of custard in the middle that reminds me of another favourite cake, Custard Slices. All this reminiscing puts me in a baking mood. I thought this would make a good Easter treat. I entered this recipe in a Good Housekeeping cake competition and it was chosen as one of the winners.

Make the custard the night before.

3 level tbsp custard powder  
250ml (9fl oz.) milk  
1½ level tbsp sugar  
15g (½ oz) butter  
2 tsp vanilla essence

Make the custard in the usual way and beat in the butter and vanilla essence. Leave to cool.

For the cake

100g (4 oz) butter, softened  
100g (4 oz) caster sugar  
2 large eggs, beaten  
100g (4 oz) S.R.flour, sieved  
25g (1oz) custard powder, sieved  
50g (2 oz) flaked almonds

A 7in. lined, loose-bottomed cake tin

Make the cake using the creaming method. (I now use the food processor).

Spread half the mixture into the cake tin. Carefully top with the custard mixture, you may have to beat it first to slacken it. Add the remaining cake mixture and sprinkle the flaked almonds on the top.

Bake at 180 C, Gas 4 for 45 mins. approximately. Cool slightly in the tin then remove.

Cool on a wire rack. Serve as a tea time treat or as a dessert with raspberries and crème fraiche. (At home we had it with tinned cream - definitely something left in the past!)

**Ann Jennings**

## SERVICES IN MARCH

Date	Service	Readings		
7 March	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 55. 1-9	1 Corinthian 10. 1-13	Luke 13. 1-9
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 28. 10-19a	John 1. 35-end	
14 March	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Worship Together—MOTHERING SUNDAY			
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 40. 27- 41.13	2 Timothy 4. 1-18	
21 March	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 43. 16-21	Philippians 3. 4b -14	John 12. 1-8
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Chronicles 35. 1-6, 10-16	Luke 22. 1-13	
28 March <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 50. 4-9a	Philippians 2. 5-11	
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 5. 1-7	Luke 20. 9-19	

## FROM THE EDITORS

As we've not had any replies to previous requests on the improvements to the magazine, we presume that the new format has been well received by all. We also have appreciated the various feedback that has been received about various articles from previous editions of the magazine.

We'd now like to hear from anyone who has any interesting photographs that could be of use for us to use on the front cover. Also, if you have any photographs that you feel would look nice as front covers then please pass them on to us either via email or hard copy.

## NEWS AND NOTES

Quite a few folk were away from their homes on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> February. Why you might well ask; the reason was the Mission Committee's coffee morning to raise money for the benefit to people less fortunate than ourselves. The Narthex was packed with people enjoying themselves, chatting with friends, eating scrumptious cake and enjoying a warming cup of coffee or more. It was a lovely morning. Behind the scenes a lot of work went into it being such a success in every way. It seemed to me that there were more people there this year than there were at the last happy meeting together, well done! It was a lovely morning.

I wonder if any readers were watching television on February 7<sup>th</sup>. A programme I watched had been filmed in Canterbury Cathedral and was part of David Dimbleby's "Seven Ages of Britain" and two members of our congregation were there. Did you spot them I wonder? They were most certainly away from home.

I too have been a long way from home in the recent past. In fact I was in Canada staying with my much loved younger brother John and Katherine his lovely wife. In actual fact, looking back, I think there was a conspiracy. The outcome being that I was booked on to a flight to Edmonton, Canada; in fact a direct flight. I travelled up to London where Jane and Mark met me and took me to an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum which was displaying some wonderful art work, stone work, and needlework; it was a treat.

The next day was "The Big Day". Jane and Mark took me to Heathrow to board the plane. We had a little turbulence as we approached Edmonton!! Then we were met with snow everywhere. A young gentleman helped me with my trolley all the way through Arrivals and Customs, and then I spied John and Jonathon at the door. An icy blast came through the door as John handed me a hat, gloves and scarf. My family looked after me and took me hither and thither. Little Sacha was singing in her school choir at City Hall. One evening we attended a concert given by the Orchestra and Choirs of the above city. We visited the National History Museum again, which is first rate. We shopped for books, gifts and boots; we dived in and out of shops and had a wonderful time. We saw white horses dancing in the snow and fairy lights everywhere. Contributions raised were to go to Edmonton's World Food Bank; a touch of home. Norman loved Canada so much. You can guess how much he was missed.

With love

**Anne Davies**

## NOT A DROP TO DRINK

The disaster in Haiti has highlighted the basic human need of water. Aid workers have struggled to get water to the thousands of homeless people in the make shift camps. These camps have also shown the essential need for sanitation, a place to go to the toilet, to prevent the spread of disease and squalor. Clean water and sanitation are things we take for granted, yet they are luxuries for many people.

The Financial Times has been supporting Water Aid's efforts to bring these commodities to those parts of the world most in need. It states that 884 million people have no access to safe, clean water. Women and girls have to carry a limited supply back home from ponds contaminated by animals and pond life. Think what life would be like if all Stourbridge had to draw water from Mary Stevens Park!

Even worse, 2.5 billion people do not have a place to go to the toilet. What would you and your family do if you had no toilet? Water Aid works with local governments and people to drill for water and dig latrines for the community. Pumps and latrines may sound like Victorian remedies but they bring new life to villages, supplying safe, clean water for washing, drinking, increasing food growth and enabling women and girls to be free of the drudgery of collecting water daily.

We at St. Mary's have supported Water Aid over many years; we even have a certificate for "outstanding contribution". The wooden well at the back of church is always there for your gifts. Many people save up pennies, two pence or five pence pieces and then bag them up and drop them in the well. With your help drought could be a thing of the past for many villagers when a pump is installed.

Worcester Cathedral has a scheme to help the 40% of people without a toilet and the 5000 children under 5 who die every day from diarrhoeal diseases. While putting in new toilets at the cathedral, it is funding the building of three toilets in the African bush of Rutana Province. This novel campaign of twinning toilets is organised by the charity CORD, working for refugees from violent conflict. You can twin your toilet at home, or at work, with a toilet in Burundi for only £60.

If you feel motivated to do this call 01926 315301 or visit [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org) for more information. Who would think that safe water and a toilet could bring such life changing joy to so many people?

**Doreen Ryan**  
**Missions Secretary**

**‘WEDDINGS ARE SO EXPENSIVE NOWADAYS’**

How often does one hear or read that sentence, especially since the credit crunch made it more difficult to borrow money? Looking on the internet for ‘historic wedding costs’ produced over 35,000,000 sites, all seemingly intent on persuading that their venue, their organisational skills, their must haves for that perfect day were the only ones through which a couple could ensure lasting happiness. It must be very hard to resist all these blandishments especially when allied to expectations of friends and family. No wonder the ‘how to budget’ sites quoted average wedding costs of £16,000.

Yet it has always been expensive if one wished to do the fashionable thing. In 1950 when the cost of the average wedding was today’s equivalent of £600, most people were struggling financially and the chance of a loan for that special day nigh on impossible. The modest sum was only achieved because usually the service was held near home and the ‘wedding breakfast’ consisted of home-made sandwiches and the cake, eaten at the home or a local pub with no full blown evening’s entertainment. The bride and bridesmaids’ dresses were hand made either by family or friends or a local seamstress. However magazines and Hollywood were beginning to raise expectations and big business was stirring. For example, De Beers had started their advertising campaign whereby only through the giving of a diamond engagement ring could the groom-to-be prove his true love as ‘A Diamond is Forever’ together with the convention that he spend at least two month’s salary on the ring. (De Beers website actually gives you a breakdown detailing annual salary divided by 6 = 2 month’s salary, in case you find the sums too difficult!)

But does a wedding really have to cost £16,000? We should not like to deter anyone from getting married in our lovely church because of financial constraints. A simple but still moving service can easily be arranged without incurring the cost of extras such as organist, choir and bells. Such a celebration where one can enjoy the day without the stresses that invariably come with trying to run a big event could be part of the answer. If you or anyone you know would like to find out more, come to St. Mary’s church and talk to one of our clergy at Vestry Hour which is held at 10.00 am every Saturday morning.

**Katey Fletcher**

Having viewed the 1880 photograph in the February edition, the people below are who I would include in 2010:

- 1. Richard Harris (Treasurer)** - why?... because of the care and devotion given to looking after the finances of St Mary's Church over many years. The knowledge Richard holds in his head is amazing! He is an inspiration.
- 2. Wendy Tranter (Sunday School Leader)** - why?... because of her long service to the children of the Church since she was just in her teens herself. Wendy has a sincere interest in all the children she teaches (I include past and present here) and a strong desire to pass on the message of Jesus Christ to a 'new generation'.
- 3. Mike Woodall (Master of Fabric)** - why?... because Mike has given of his time and expertise to St Mary's, first as PCC member, then Churchwarden and finally Master of Fabric totally selflessly over the years. Another lifetime of devotion to duty! He could write a book, I'm sure, on his experiences and exploits!
- 4. Richard Ryan (Verger)** - why?... because he devotes so much time and care to his role of Verger, and has done over many years, in such a calm and serene manner. How many people would get up very early in the morning to ensure that the carpark is cordoned off in preparation for funerals - whatever the weather! You would probably be very surprised at the number of times I have come across him, carrying out various Verger tasks, in church at odd times during the week!
- 5. Gemma Sutton (Co-editor of the Magazine)** - why? .... yes 'Why' I hear you ask.... and I will tell you why I have included Gemma amongst the such loyal and longstanding of St Mary's servants. Here is a young lady of **so** few years compared with others, who was a loyal member of the choir for quite a few years and is now serving St Mary's as a valued member of the Magazine Committee as Co-editor. The Church needs Gemmas. She is young (and therefore quite inexperienced in the 'ways' of the Church - you *may* say.... but hopefully she will enjoy serving St Mary's for many more years to come), she is enthusiastic (a trait that is always welcome as it very often rubs off on so many other people), she gives her 'time' (a commodity that many young people do not seem prepared to give to Church these days).In short, she is an example to those of her generation who 'do' things for church... and enjoy the giving.

I know there are a large number of other people, of all ages, who serve St Mary's in many ways and give of their time joyfully. My choice doesn't, in any way, mean that *their* efforts and input are of lesser importance. Keeping to just five people is very difficult!

**Jane Jukes**

## LODVICK VERELST

During the seventeen years I have been at St Mary's, I have been intrigued by the diamond-shaped memorial to Lodvick Verelst in the north side of the nave, It stands out, not only for its unusual shape and decoration but also because the name is Dutch. Locally, some people believe that Lodvick was a painter "of great repute" but I have not been able to find evidence of this. It is true that he was a member of an extended family of Dutch painters, some famous, The only standard reference in which he appears is in Dr Paul Taylor's article in the *Dictionary of National Biography* and he appears there because his will provides some information about his more famous father, Harman.

It is possible to piece together a little of Lodvick's life partly through records in archives in the UK and Amsterdam but also because two art-obsessed contemporaries, one Dutch and the other English, wrote about Harman's life and work.

Harman Verelst was, in his time, a well known portrait painter supporting his family by taking commissions from the wealthy. A number of his paintings are in public collections, the most famous being that of John Locke in the National Portrait Gallery. Born about 1641, Harman trained and began his career in The Hague and Amsterdam where, in 1667, he married Cicilia Fene from Venice. They had five children who survived until 1704 and it seems that Lodvick was the eldest. His baptism into the reformed ("Hervormd") faith is recorded in the Amsterdam city archives as taking place at the Wester Kerk on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1668. His brother, Peter Emmanuel, was baptised on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1669 but there is no record of other baptisms. We know from Lodvick's will that he had a sister, Adriana, and two other brothers, Richard and John (who was to become a very prosperous portrait painter).

The remainder of what we know of Lodvick's childhood comes from the accounts of Harman's life. When Lodvick was about 10 years old, Harman (and probably the family) travelled to Rome via Ljubljana and then spent three years in Vienna. It was perhaps the Turkish siege of Vienna in 1683 that made the family leave and make its way to London where Lodvick's uncle, Simon Verelst, was already famous as a portrait painter.

We know almost nothing about Lodvick from the age of 17 until his death. He married Elizabeth, but the record of their marriage hasn't yet come to light. His home was in Hatton Garden, near the Globe Tavern. By September 1704, he (and probably his wife) were in the Stourbridge area. Lodvick made his will on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1704 and a copy is in the UK National Archives. It is very brief, leaving one guinea to each of his brothers, his sister and his mother (his father having died by 1702). All his remaining property and money he left to Elizabeth. Lodvick's life came to an end on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 1704, a few days after his 36<sup>th</sup> birthday, and he was buried on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> October. His name is recorded in St Mary's

Jesus, at the Last Supper, commanded: "My commandment is this: love one another, just as I love you." (*John 15.12.*) During the Last Supper Jesus washed the feet of His disciples as a lesson in humility and respect for others.

In Britain today, the Queen maintains the tradition, begun by Edward I, of presenting Maundy Money to a group of pensioners during a service at one of the great cathedrals around the country. This ceremony has become a modern day representation of the example of service set by Jesus to His disciples and for us.

After the supper, Jesus took bread and shared it with His disciples saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me." In the same way, he gave them the cup, saying, "This cup is God's covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you." This was the first Eucharist, the first example of how consecrated bread and wine become the body and blood of God's Son, celebrated in Communion services throughout the World.

### Good Friday

Good Friday is the most solemn day in the church year. On this day, the church commemorates Jesus' arrest, his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial. In most churches, pictures, statues and the cross are covered in mourning black and candles are left unlit. A variety of services for Good Friday are aimed at encouraging the congregation to reflect on the pain, humiliation, and ending of the journey to the cross: to understand how Jesus' suffering and death was an acceptance of our sins and God's forgiveness. Often, 'The Stations of the Cross' form a central part of Good Friday services, when the congregation moves around the church to fourteen stations of pictures or symbols that represent the essential elements of the Good Friday story.

*To be continued....*

### ST MARY'S MISSION GIVING

On page 9 of the February magazine Doreen Ryan detailed the amounts given by "Mission Committee" during 2009. St. Marys also gives very generously via the bucket and well collections. Recent donations are detailed below:

St Basil's Christmas collection	£633.33
Water Aid (from the well)	£130.87
Water Aid (from the Christmas tree and Cards)	£146.90
Haiti Disaster Fund	£945.00

Thank you all for contributing so generously to these so needy causes.

**Edward Haden, Church Warden**

## THE CHRISTIAN YEAR PART FOUR

How well have you done so far in keeping the challenges you set yourself for Lent? There are still nearly five weeks to go.

### **Mothering Sunday**

The middle Sunday in Lent, 14th March in 2010, is Mothering Sunday. Today, it has associations with much commercial activity and 'Mothers Day' but it is still a day on which we remember and respect our mothers for all that they do for us. Most children will buy their mother a greetings card and perhaps a gift. In our service at St Mary's children of all ages are presented with a small posy of flowers to give to their mothers and prayers focus on the special mother/child relationship.

The origin of this special day is not clear, although it seems to have been first observed some 400 years ago. In some quarters it is linked with the habit of church-goers visiting the area 'Mother Church' once a year. Others link it to the once a year opportunity afforded to young people in service to visit their families. On such occasions children might have collected flowers from the meadows and road sides as they walked to the family home or they may have been fortunate enough to have taken a cake that cook allowed them to make as a gift.

### **Holy Week**

This is the week before Easter. It begins on Palm Sunday which is on 28th March this year. Holy week commemorates the events of the last week of Jesus' life on Earth.

### **Palm Sunday**

In the days of Jesus, the Jewish people celebrated an important festival called the Passover. On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem for the Jewish Feast of Passover, the celebration of when God delivered Moses and his people from slavery in Egypt. People had heard of Jesus and His teaching and welcomed His arrival by waving Palm leaves and strewing them on the ground in front of Him. These events are commemorated by a procession into church and by the giving of a Palm Cross. Sometimes called **Passion Sunday** this day commemorates the beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' final agonizing journey to the cross.

### **Maundy Thursday**

There are several events that are remembered on this, the last day before Jesus was arrested. These include the last meal Jesus and his disciples shared together, the institution of Eucharist or Communion, the betrayal by Judas, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep.

The name Maundy comes from a latin word meaning a commandment.

register as "Loddy Verelse".

What was Lodvick Verelst doing in the parish of Oldswinford in late summer 1704? Unless new evidence turns up, we will never know. His will was witnessed by Mary Wheeler (whose own memorial is next to his in the church), Susanna Child and Edward Kendall. Mary's husband, John Wheeler, and Edward Kendall were both prominent in the local iron industry. In 1704, the Wheelers seem to have had the leasehold of Wollaston Hall and, given that there were no other substantial houses nearby, it seems probable that the Verelsts were staying there.

We know nothing more of Elizabeth Verelst, Cicilia or most of his siblings. On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1705, a notice was posted in the London newspaper *Post Man and Historical Account*: the house in Hatton Garden was to be "let or sold; likewise the Household Goods and a Collection of fine original Pictures." The sale was supposed to last seven days but seemed to go badly as the advertisement was reprinted on 17<sup>th</sup> July and pictures were offered for sale again on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1706.

Lodvick's will gives one more tantalizing detail about his life. He describes himself as a "limner", that being some kind of painter but what he intended by the word is no longer recoverable; it could have been a portrait painter, book illustrator, water colourist, topographical painter or one of several other things. Searches in the UK and The Netherlands have failed to find any work attributed to him and we have to conclude that he wasn't a well known artist in his day. (It's sometimes stated that he painted a portrait of Jane Hickman (later Jane Ford) of Stourbridge, but this is reading too much into the 1721 will of Jane's second husband, Joseph.)

Roy Peacock's leaflet *The Church and its Memorials* correctly sums up Lodvick as "a member of the family of Dutch painters resident in England at this time." Lodvick's grandfather, Pieter Harmenszoon, was well known in The Netherlands for mainly peasant scenes. Lodvick's father was a portrait painter. Lodvick's uncle, Simon Verelst, came to London before Harman and became portraitist of choice to monarchy and nobility. His subjects included Charles II, James II and Nell Gwyn but he is more remembered now for extravagant flower paintings, the nearest example hanging at Dudmaston. Lodvick's brother, John, made a good living out of portrait painting, seemingly travelling around country houses to paint husband and wife pairs, many of which still hang in National Trust properties.

A romantic interpretation would see Lodvick as a gifted young painter freshly arrived to paint portraits of the local worthies when struck down at the height of his powers. Realistically, the evidence doesn't support this and we are left with the rather sad account of a life cut short, probably away from home and family.

I am very grateful to Dr Paul Taylor of the Warburg Institute and Roy Peacock for their contributions and discussions.

# CHILDREN'S PAGES

Holy Week, the week preceding Easter, begins on Palm Sunday of the liturgical church year. Holy Week is the culmination of Lent. The Easter Triduum, consisting of Maundy or Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday bring Christians to the highest point in the church year, Easter. Holy Week is also referred to as the Passion or Paschal celebration.

## Word Search Puzzle

Words are in a straight line left to right or top to bottom

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

### Word List

STEADFAST PUNISHING ABOUNDING MOURNING MERCIFUL GRACIOUS  
 CLOTHING WEeping RELENTS FASTING RETURN HEARTS ANGER YOUR  
 WITH SLOW SAYS REND LOVE LORD JOEL FROM EVEN YET THE NOW  
 NOT GOD FOR AND ALL

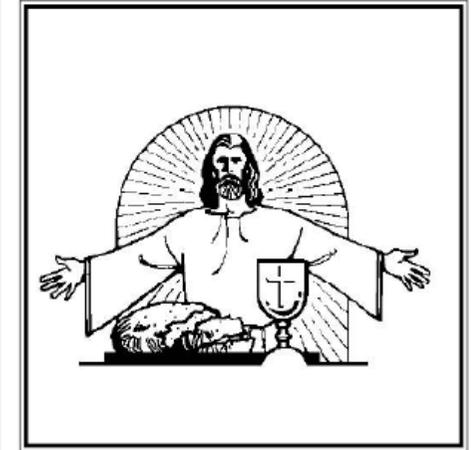
(Joel 2:12-13) Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; {13} rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HOLY WEEK?

Colour the pictures and learn about the last week before the first Easter. Ask your parents to help tell the story to you this week.



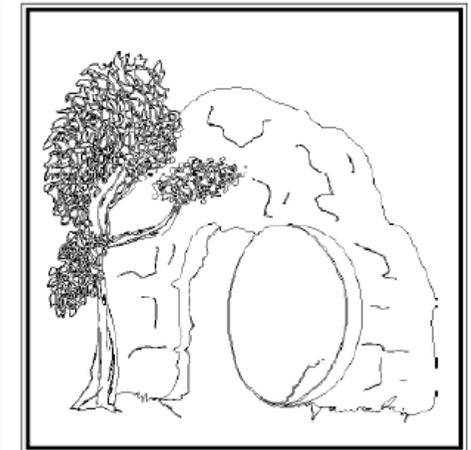
(HINT: Palm Sunday)



(HINT: Maundy Thursday)



(Hint: Good Friday)



(Hint: Easter Sunday)

### ??? DID YOU KNOW ???

Maundy Thursday has lots of different names: CLEAN THURSDAY, GREAT THURSDAY, GREEN THURSDAY, HOLY AND GREAT THURSDAY, HOLY THURSDAY, RED THURSDAY, SHARP THURSDAY SHEER THURSDAY, SHRIFT THURSDAY, THURSDAY OF THE MYSTICAL SUPPER

Traditionally, Maundy Thursday was the customary day for Christians to clean both themselves and their homes. Can you find any more in-depth histories behind some of the other names associated with Maundy Thursday?