

# ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



## Parish Church Magazine



**RECTOR:** The Revd Canon Greville Cross, The Rectory,  
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2HA Tel: 01384 395410  
E-mail: [canon.cross@btinternet.com](mailto:canon.cross@btinternet.com)

**CURATE:** The Revd Ruth Atkinson, 58 Arlington Court,  
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 1NN Tel: 01384 373286  
E-mail: [home@riatkinson.plus.com](mailto:home@riatkinson.plus.com)

**APRIL 2011**

**50p**

# Online version of St Mary's Parish Church Magazine.

## 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) 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

First Tuesday Fellowship	:First Tuesday in month at Rectory	(Tel :441003)
Bible Study Group	Monday, first 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: 375167)
St Mary's Walking Group:	Last Saturday of the month.	Depart 9.30 am

<b>Reader Emeritus:</b>	Mr Roy Peacock	379972
<b>Reader:</b>	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
<b>Church Wardens:</b>	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 Editors:</b>	Miss Gemma Sutton	07968 586285
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661

<b>Church Hall and</b>		
<b>Coach House: - Bookings</b>	Parish Office	441003
<b>Parish Administrator and</b>		
<b>Publicity Officer :</b>	Mr John Sutton	441003
<b>Parish Office:</b>	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
<b>Church website address:</b>	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk	
	E-mail: st.mary.os@btinternet.com	
<b>Magazine e-mail address:</b>	stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk	

## 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.

## DIARY FOR APRIL 2011

Saturday 2	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 3</b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT- Mothering Sunday</b>
	10.00 am Worship Together
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong
Tuesday 5	7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at the Rectory
Wednesday 6	3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House
	7.30 pm Lent Course at St Mary's
	Speaker : Fr Paul Nicholson on 'The Bible and imaginative prayer'
Thursday 7	10.30 am Holy Communion
	2.30 pm Old Swinford Hospital Easter Service
Saturday 9	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 10</b>	<b>THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT-Passion Sunday</b>
	Copy date for May Magazine
	7.30 pm Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 12	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Wednesday 13	7.30 pm Lent Course at Holy Trinity, Amblecote
	Speaker : Revd Ray Gaston on 'The Bible amongst other holy books'
Thursday 14	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 16	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

### HOLY WEEK

<b>SUNDAY 17</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
	10.00 am Parish Communion begins <b>in the Church Hall</b>
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	
	7.00 pm Compline and Meditation in the Lady Chapel
Wednesday 20	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 21	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>
	10.30 am Holy Communion
	11.00 am Chrism Service in the Cathedral
	2.00 pm Coach House Easter Service
	7.00 pm Eucharist of the Last Supper and Vigil
Friday 22	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
	10.00 am Walk of Witness from St John's
	11.00 am Children's Workshop
	2.00 pm At the foot of the Cross
	7.30 pm Choral Music and Readings
Saturday 23	9.00 am Church Decoration
	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 24</b>	<b>EASTER DAY ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!</b>
	7.45 am Holy Fire. The lighting of the Easter candle.
	8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.00 am Parish Communion
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong and Sermon

Thursday 28	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Saturday 30	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

As you may have heard, it was announced in Church at the end of March that I am to retire from full time parochial ministry this summer. This has been a very difficult decision for Pauline and me to reach as we are very happy here at St Mary's. We have enjoyed the last thirteen years enormously and were hoping to remain here for a little longer. However, it became increasingly clear during the course of last year that we needed to heed the advice of our doctor and close friends and, both for our sake and that of the ministry here, to step down from the demands of a large, active and busy parish. St Mary's is a fantastic parish in which to serve with wonderful people to minister alongside. We will be very sad to leave, but Christian pilgrimage inevitably involves moving on and, painful though parting may be, it is as always the way to new life.

We are enormously grateful to you all for your friendship and prayerful support over the years and for affording us the opportunity to minister among you. It has been a great privilege to be Rector of Old Swinford. We have made many good friends and there will always be rich and happy memories. But now we feel that God is calling us to something new and that the time has come not only for us to move on but also for a new ministry to lead this parish in the years ahead.

So, towards the end of July, we shall be moving to South Worcestershire and the village of Hanley Swan where I shall be a part-time assistant to the Vicar of a new benefice that consists of Upton-on-Severn with the Hook, Ripple, Earls Croome with Hill Croome and Strensham and Hanley Castle with Hanley Swan and Welland.

Meanwhile we look forward to sharing the greatest festival of the Christian year through the awesome drama of Holy Week and the glorious dawn of new life at Easter.

With our love and prayers,

*Greville*

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN APRIL 2011

<b>3 April</b> Mothering Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	Worship Together		
	6.30 pm Evensong		John 3. 14-21	
<b>10 April</b> Fifth Sunday of Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Ezekiel 37. 1-14	Romans 8. 6-11	John 11. 1-45
	6.30 pm Evensong	Lamentations 3. 19 - 33	Matthew 20. 17 - end.	
<b>17 April</b> Palm Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 50. 4 - 9a	Philemon 2. 5 - 11	
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 5. 1- 7	Matthew 21. 33-end	
<b>24 April</b> Easter Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Jeremiah 31. 1- 6	Acts 10. 34-43	John 20. 1 - 18
	6.30 pm Evensong	Song of Solomon 3. 2-5, 8. 6-7	John 20. 11-18	

### QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

#### Easter Monday

Out in the rain a world is growing green,  
 On half the trees quick buds are seen  
 Where glued-up buds have been.  
 Out in the rain God's Acre stretches green,  
 Its harvest quick tho' still unseen:  
 For there the Life hath been.

If Christ hath died His brethren well may die,  
 Sing in the gate of death, lay by  
 This life without a sigh:  
 For Christ hath died and good it is to die:  
 To sleep when so He lays us by,  
 Then wake without a sigh.

Yea, Christ hath died, yea, Christ is risen again:  
 Wherefore both life and death grow plain  
 To us who wax and wane;  
 For Christ Who rose shall die no more again:  
 Amen: till He makes all things plain  
 Let us wax on and wane.

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH HALL



Our coffee morning has now taken place with great success, raising over £425 for church hall improvements. The Church Hall Committee thank all who helped to make the morning a very pleasant occasion, with many cakes, preserves and raffle prizes donated and assistance in serving, washing up, door duty, raffle ticket selling, table and chair moving etc., etc. Without all this generosity and willing help these events would not be possible.

Work on the sound system has progressed with speakers and cabinet in position. Stuart is now sorting out the cables for the speakers and loop system.

The skittle evening arrangements are progressing so please keep Saturday 7 May free. Tickets will be £6.00 per person. Teams will be of 6 people. You can enter individually and we will make up the team or gather your friends for a team. Prizes for winners. Refreshments will be big filled baps, coffee and cake.

The Church Social Committee staged a 'murder mystery' on Saturday 5 March. It was a superb evening, with the usual very high standard of food and table service. The murderer and other likely suspects were of the quality of Midsomer Murders and were very entertaining.

The Church Hall Committee sincerely thanks the Social Committee for donating the majority of the proceeds to the Church Hall refurbishment fund.

**Ian Ferguson**

## THE 'ALTERNATIVE' ST MARY'S CHOIR CONCERT

There was an air of excitement and expectation as we took our seats for the concert to begin and after an initial explanation of the programme by Robin we were under way.

It began with the choir girls getting us into the mood with the 'Rhythm of Life' followed by some very capable singing by Jack Apperley who displayed real talent and I'm sure will go far in the singing world. Oscar Knowles entertained us on his cornet with a Shaker Melody and then a string quartet of senior girls and boys trained by Alice Timms performed Bach's Air on a G string. Next came Peter Thomson who proved his music ability on the organ with a performance of Gaudeamus.

It was good to hear the Aria "Lord God of Abraham" from Mendelssohn's Oratorio Elijah, bringing back many fond memories for the seniors in the congregation after which the first half concluded with junior members singing traditional Ghanaian songs with drum accompaniment and the adults bringing us up to date with Rutter's "Heavenly Aeroplane".

The interval was a time to chat with friends and be refreshed with wine, juice and snacks served by Janet and Jamie Peart.

The second half of the programme began with a very musical performance of Vivaldi's oboe concerto in A minor played by Beth Holman. Next

came the treble makers from Redhill School proving that boys really can sing!! Alice Timms demonstrated her considerable musical talent with a fine performance on the violin of Hungarian Dance and the Sutton sisters, Gemma and Becca sang a beautiful duet "Can you hear me?" which included sign language and was accompanied very sensitively by Will Peart on the piano.

Finally the choir came together to sing two well-known songs which delighted the audience and Will Peart rounded off the evening with Hornpipe Humoresque on the organ which was a most suitable end to a most enjoyable and varied programme. We are indeed very privileged to have such talent within our choir.

Thanks must go to Tina and Alice Timms for arranging this very special 'alternative' concert, and of course to everybody who took part. We look forward to another one soon.

**Janice Sutton**

.....  
**NEWS FROM THE BELFRY**

Congratulations to all involved in this quarter peal  
**Oldswinford**, West Midlands  
St Mary

Saturday, 26 February 2011 in 44 minutes (10-3-12)

**1260 Grandsire Triples**

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Richard Lewis-Skeath        | 2 Robin J Walker   |
| 3 Richard J Hurst             | 4 Mark A Wilson    |
| 5 Stephen J Bedford (Captain) | 6 Christopher Lees |
| 7 John C Sutton               | 8 Peter Elliot     |

A belated 50th birthday compliment to John Sutton

.....  
**EASTER NEWS OF SASI**

The house our church is helping to build will be completed by June. What wonderful news! I am sure you will be delighted for her! It has living space, two bedrooms, a kitchen and a toilet - a few yards away. This will be a comfortable home for Sasi and Mark - their own. They want to invite their Pastor, a few friends and Mark's best friend to bless their new home.

It is a wonderful Easter story. A 'Resurrection' story for a poor widow and her son. They have written to me in Tamil, thanking all at St Mary's for your wonderful generosity, support and love. Sasi writes she can never cease to thank you for giving them a home for life. It means so much to her. She has no more worries of where to sleep at night. Mark has also written, this time in beautiful hand. He says he won a prize at sports day.

My humble and grateful thanks to all at St Mary's and to the Mission Committee for their unfailing support to Sasi. Without you it would never have been possible. Thank you again.

## MEMORIAL DEDICATION

A large congregation assembled in St Mary's on Sunday 27 February to witness the dedication of the new memorial plaque in the Lady Chapel. Twenty years and two days after his death in the first Gulf War the parents of Private Shaun Taylor, whose grave is in St Mary's churchyard, laid a wreath on the new memorial that carries his name in recognition of a life laid down in the service of his country.



Shaun's parents were accompanied by many members of his wider family and, in the presence of the Mayor of Dudley and with the support of friends, former colleagues, ex-service personnel and British Legion representatives due homage was paid to his ultimate sacrifice.

In his address at the beginning of the service Roy Peacock reminded the congregation of the words on the memorial in the North Porch of the church, 'Remember the dead of Old Swinford'. The service, conducted by the Rector, included the blessing of the plaques and a pledge by all present to keep alive the memory of those who gave their lives in time of war in the cause of peace.

The congregation then moved to the Stourbridge War Memorial in Mary Steven's Park. Here the assembled parade, which approached 200 in number, witnessed the dedication of a permanent memorial which carries the name of Private Shaun Taylor

The Service of Dedication was the appropriate culmination of an extended campaign to fund and locate the memorials and to ensure the right and proper recognition of the sacrifices made by our soldiers.



Photographs ©Graham Beckley

**The Editor**



### **Good Friday Workshop**

Children it is time for you to bring your Mums and Dads or Grandmas and Granddads for a morning of fun.

**11.00 - 12.30, Friday, 22 April**

in the Narthex at St Mary's.

Hear the Easter Story and sing, make an Easter garden and craft activities.



All children must be accompanied by an adult.

## GIVING FOR LIFE

The Giving for Life report (2009) of the General Synod of the Church of England encourages Christians to take a holistic view of the way we live our lives, to be Christian stewards in the complete meaning of stewardship and to recognise that our actions, or non-actions, will affect future generations.

Jesus told us that the two most important laws are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Giving is at the very heart of the Christian good news and giving is what enables us to carry out God's mission.

In the Church, Church Hall, Coach House, prison, refuge or elsewhere; at services, celebrations and special events; in collaboration with other community groups; to assist the sick, the young, the needy, individuals, families and groups; it is not difficult to identify many ways in which St Mary's provides for its members and others in the local community and beyond and that it does make a difference. To attract new members our church must be open to new directions and demonstrate that it is going somewhere positive.

Just as we need a sense of purpose in our personal lives, in our church lives we need a vision to follow in order to gain satisfaction from belonging to it. This is entirely consistent with the God of Mission, who from the beginning of time has had a purpose for His creation, and that includes our church, as well as ourselves.

Giving for Life is a way for us to progress as Christians:-

To enable the Church to move outward into our community and beyond.

To help us see that progress will come by giving generously of ourselves.

To help us see that the more resources we have, whether in time, talents or money the better will our mission be accomplished.

Our generosity will show us to be true followers of Christ.

The full picture of St Mary's income and expenditure for the past year is on display in the Narthex. To put the situation in perspective, it is worth reflecting on how we, in Old Swinford, compare with the wider world. If we keep our food in a refrigerator, our clothes in a wardrobe, sleep in a bed and have a roof over our heads, we are richer than 75% of the world's population. To put it another way, 71% of the world's population live on the equivalent of £1.50, or less, per day.

As Christians we are challenged to be generous in every aspect of our lives by giving of our resources, hospitality, time and skills in church, our homes, at work and in the community. By each of us giving more, we as a parish, will be able to improve the outworking of our mission. By giving more, you will be improving life for others.

There will be an opportunity this Spring and Summer for many of you to be involved in the Deanery-wide, though Parish-based, mission. We are seeking to extend the outworking of faith at St Mary's. Please pray for our success.

**Mike Blaxland  
Resources Committee**

# EASTER JOY

Easter is the most important festival in our Christian Year. After the darkness and sorrow of Good Friday when Jesus died, we celebrate the great burst of **JOY** when Jesus rose from the dead. For then God showed us that He loves us too much to let us just die. If we trust Jesus we too can continue our life and be near to God. Jesus' death and rising again has given us the Keys of Heaven. That is why we feel so happy at Easter.



## HYMN PUZZLE

Put these bits of words together to make the first line of a popular Easter hymn.

TO IS RI JES RI DA  
S ST US Y EN CH



---

---



## THE FLOWER OF HAPPINESS

Everything springs into new life at Easter. Flower buds open. Trace this flower onto writing paper. Fill in the petals with things that make you happy and then colour the flower with pencil crayons or felt tip pens. Cut it out and fold the petals inwards along the dotted lines. Float your flower in a dish of water and watch what happens!



Why not colour in this flower?

It is a wild flower called a Cowslip. It has bright green leaves and yellow flowers with orange centres. Children call them the Keys of Heaven.



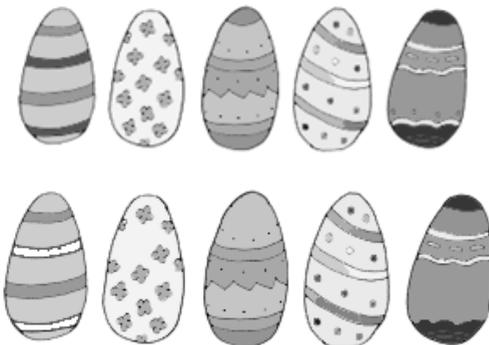
## OUR JOY

We will never be happy if we think only of ourselves. Our greatest joy will be found in serving Jesus by helping others.

J O Y  
E T O  
S H U  
U E  
S R  
S

## EASTER EGG

Can you spot the 5 differences between the Easter eggs on the top row with the Easter eggs on the bottom row?



Then see how many words you can make out of the words EASTER EGG. No proper names, no plurals or abbreviations.

## CONFERENCE OF COINS

In vision I saw, dispute it who will,  
A gathering of coins took place in the till:  
A singular sort of meeting was this,  
But the point of the discussion, I think, not amiss;  
Pounds, Shillings and Pence in committee were there.  
And I scarcely need say the Pound took the chair.  
“We have met,” said the Chairman, “a point to discuss”  
“On a matter of business connected with us:  
“Are we properly spent when we come to this shop?  
“Speak out,” said the Pound, “its nothing but proper,  
Whatever your value - gold, silver or copper.”  
“I beg,” said the Farthing, just fresh from the mint,  
“Though the lowest among you, to offer a hint.  
“From my own little knowledge, I think it quite clear  
“We cannot be better expended than here.”  
“Well done,” cried the Half-penny, backing his friend,  
“Your remark, brother Farthing, I highly commend,  
“We are all of us rightly expended,” said he,  
“In purchasing here both Coffee and Tea.”  
“Your opinion is perfectly right,” said the Penny,  
“While the Sugars and Spices are cheaper than any;  
“And better than any, I also may add,  
“For many sell dear, such as prove to be bad.”  
The Threepenny-piece in rotation then said:  
“A monopoly here has been knocked on the head.  
“We’re never spent better, assert what you please,  
“Than in purchasing only best Coffee and Teas.”  
“Most certainly not,” said the Fourpenny-bit,  
“The truth of my cousin’s remarks I admit,”  
“I’m glad,” said the Sixpence, “That’s right,” said the Shilling.  
“I could not say less were I ever so willing.  
“We can’t be misspent in the till where we lie  
“While cheapness and quality mark the supply.”  
The Florin approved of the Shilling’s address,  
And wished the establishment future success;  
At which the Half-crown and the Five Shilling-piece  
Declared it high time for the meeting to cease.  
The Chairman concurring with each of their say,  
Confess’d himself pleased with their conference day;  
Half-sovereign proposed best thanks to the Chair,  
And the meeting dispersed, while “hurrahs” filled the air.

Anon

## ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

26 February 2011

The group boarded the train from Stourbridge to Galton Bridge where we alighted to begin our walk to Birmingham via the canal and Edgbaston Reservoir.

After crossing Galton Bridge we picked up the towpath towards Birmingham which we followed for some distance passing, en route, the Pump House Museum and going under several beautiful bridges and one aqueduct. The bridges were all manufactured at Horseley Iron Works in 1828.

Continuing, we eventually came to a brick wall in the middle of the canal which is a remnant of a bridge support for the railway line which once passed overhead, close by the bricked-up entrance of an old tunnel. Crossing over the canal at this point we left the towpath and made our way to Icknield Port Road and into the grounds of Edgbaston Reservoir.

The reservoir was enlarged from a fish stock pool, called Roach Pool, by Thomas Telford between 1824-1829 in order to supply the Birmingham and Wolverhampton levels of the Birmingham Navigation system. It is a well-used area of 80 acres and allows runners, walkers and cyclists to do a complete circumnavigation of the reservoir. Here we took the opportunity to have a short break whilst watching other activities on the water, then leaving the area via the gate by the Tower Ballroom.

Making our way through Ladywood, we passed a splendid tower which Tolkein used as a basis for one of the 'Two Towers' in his 'Lord of the Rings' and also a statue of Charles Blondin who, in 1873, crossed the reservoir on a tightrope (he also crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope).

Crossing over Ladywood Middleway and continuing through Ladywood we picked up the towpath again, stopping off at the Malt Shovel where we enjoyed lunch.

We then walked on to Snow Hill Station where we caught the train home.

**Sylvia Cooper**

### EASTER LILIES



Please send your donations for Easter flowers to  
Pauline Cross at the Rectory.  
Please include the names of those in whose memory you  
are making the donation.



**Pauline Cross**

---

### CHURCH DECORATION

Any help you can offer with the preparation of church and floral decorations for  
Easter will be welcomed on Saturday 23 April from 9.00 am.

Please sign the list at the back of church.

**Sally Frost**

## A WORKMATE, A CASTLE AND A LOTUS

There can be few readers who have not owned or used a portable workbench known worldwide as the Workmate. Perhaps few would anticipate any link this useful item might have with Old Swinford.

The Times (and many other newspapers) of Saturday 19 February 2011 carried an extensive obituary for Ron Hickman, a man born in Natal, South Africa in 1932. Following his high school education and after some initial training and experience in law, Ron moved to London in the hope of pursuing his interest, ability and desire to be involved with the design of cars. After a brief interlude when he utilised his talent as an accomplished pianist with Boosey and Hawkes, Ron obtained a job in the styling department of Ford at Dagenham. This soon led to contacts with Colin Chapman of Lotus which resulted in the move to Lotus as design and development engineer in 1958. Ron was a very talented man and, whilst working with others, he was largely responsible for the evolution of the Lotus Elan, the Elan Plus Two and the Lotus Europa.

Ron left Lotus in 1967 when, according to various interpretations of the actual event, whilst sawing wood in a DIY task he accidentally cut into a rather expensive chair he was using as a workbench. From the germ of an idea and necessity demanded by his wife, after considerable development the Workmate was born. Tool manufacturers initially rejected the product so Ron Hickman promoted the idea himself, shifting fourteen thousand Workmates a year by 1971. In 1973 Black and Decker reviewed its potential and began production of the Workmate under licence since when nearly seventy million have been manufactured.

Ron moved to Jersey and lived the life of a tax exile on his proceeds of a three per cent Royalty. He built a modernist villa that he filled with labour-saving devices but none of these achieved the success of the Workmate.

The Hickmans flourished in the seventeenth century in the wool business and their successors turned to the law, the Church, land ownership and industry - mines and quarries. The Oldswinford part of the family is recorded on the Hickman Memorial - south side under the balcony and in three parts. They lived in The Castle, virtually next door to the church, from the eighteenth century and were quite influential. The last was Richard Hickman - died 1855 - who is buried in the family vault at the foot of steps outside the west door. He had six joint heirs and so the house and gardens had to be sold. One was the daughter of Charles Craufurd, the Rector. Ron Hickman was descended from one of the lines and certainly possessed some early portraits of his forebears.

Dorothy Hickman, who died in 1693 donated to St Mary's a silver chalice inscribed 'IHS 1693 DH'. It is still in use today.

Readers might be interested in the sale particulars for Old Swinford Castle in 1855, as they were presented at the time, which provide an intriguing insight to the previous extent of this still familiar property.

The delightfully situated and elegant Mansion called “THE CASTLE”, with the beautiful and tastefully laid out Pleasure Grounds, Pools of ornamental Water (fed by a never-failing Stream and well stocked with Fish), Shrubberies, Lawns, young and thriving Orchards planted with the choicest Fruit Trees, Kitchen Gardens, Vinery, Hot Beds, and seven Acres of capital Meadow and Pasture Land surrounding the same.

The house consists of Entrance Hall, Dining Room, Drawing Room, Library, Butler’s Pantry, Servants’ Hall, Kitchen, and Cooking Kitchen, Dairy and Yard: on first Landing – 4 Chambers, 3 Dressing Rooms, Water Closet, and Bath Room; on second landing – 4 Chambers, and 2 Store Rooms.

The Outbuildings comprise Boot House, Saddle and Harness Room, Corn House, double Coach House for 5 Carriages, 2 Loose Boxes, 3-Stall Stable with Loft over, 2 large Yards, Piggeries, Pig Furnace, Pine and Forcing Pits, Dog Kennels, Poultry Pen, Potting Shed, Cow House for 4 Cows in Meadow, with Partition for Hay and Straw, Loose Box with enclosed Fold adjoining.

**The Editor**

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

Twenty five members attended the meeting at St Mary’s on 8 March. Our member, Elaine Pickergill, has a daughter living in Christchurch, New Zealand and we heard that her husband escaped injury but the whole infrastructure of the city was destroyed and they were still experiencing aftershocks from the earthquake. Our prayers are with them all.

### **How Long?**

Ruth Atkinson led the activity by asking members to record their links with St Mary’s, their own association with Mothers’ Union and special significant moments in their lives.

One member has belonged to M.U. for over sixty years, but having had to travel with her husband’s work had experienced membership of six different groups. Some members had been in St John’s Stourbridge group for many years and transferred with the amalgamation with St Mary’s.

Some members had a lifetime association with St Mary’s Church while others had come recently, but we all remembered turning points and events in the group and our lives here set against recent history. So we can always thank God for the past, experience the present in His love and trust the future to His providence.

### **What Next?**

2.15 pm, 12 April 2011, we meet in the Coach House – “A finger in every pie”, with Jean Swift.

**Dawn Nex**

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

### POTATOES FOR EASTER SUNDAY LUNCH

Easter is an opportunity to spend time with family and friends. Good food needn't cost a fortune, try to make the most of seasonal vegetables to make more expensive cuts of meat go further. I have been making this potato dish for many years, it is very good natured, and can be baked in the oven while the meat is cooking. I think the garlicky potatoes go well with lamb.

3 tbsp olive oil  
2 crushed cloves garlic  
Good pinch of sweet smoked paprika  
1 medium Spanish onion sliced  
1 kg (2 ¼ lb) waxy potatoes, skin on, sliced thinly  
4 tbsp white wine (optional) could use more stock  
450ml hot vegetable stock  
Sprig of thyme (optional)  
Generous knob of butter  
Salt and pepper

Pre-heat the oven to 180 c/160 c fan/Gas 4. Heat the oil, gently fry the onion for 10-15 minutes, stirring until soft but not brown. Add the garlic and paprika and cook for another minute.

Add the potato slices in batches, stirring as you go to coat them in the onion mixture. Season with salt and black pepper.

Add the wine, stock and thyme, bring to the boil then tip it into a large ovenproof dish, arranging the top layer of the potatoes neatly. Dot with the butter and cook uncovered for 1-1 ½ hrs until tender and golden.

**Ann Jennings**

.....

### AND FOR THE WINE.....

Garlicky potatoes without the creamy treatment are a red wine-drinker's dream. Moreover, thyme and rosemary love red wine nearly as much as they love lamb. So as we look ahead to celebrate Easter Sunday and Jesus Christ risen, then a fine cut of lamb seems appropriate. I am a big fan of the cannon of lamb - that cylindrical piece of meat running through the rack. Succulent and tender, it does not need a powerful tannic wine such as Chianti or Chateauneuf du Pape. We offer a similar dish at the restaurant where I work and my wine-matching leads us to Spain and Italy.

From Spain I recommend La Cantera from the Carinena region. This is a grenache-based wine full of herby berries and with a pleasing layer of oak. A bottle from the more celebrated Rioja region would work nicely too - mature with well-integrated oak would be best.

A different option would be a Cannonau from Sardinia. It is again made from the grenache grape but with old oak. This produces a wine with no sweet vanilla notes and gives greater rein to the herby flavours in the dish. My other Italian recommendation is Castel del Monte : a blend of the local Puglian grape uva di Troia and aglianico which is one of the star performers in southern Italy. It adds an earthier, spicy note, perfect if you opt to add an extra pinch of paprika. You'll not find a finer lamb experience! .....enjoy your wine-sipping.

**Richard W.B. Ryan**

.....

### **CHANGING LANGUAGE**

Once upon a time youngsters looked forward to being twenty-one. They would be adults with all the privileges and responsibilities that maturity provided. They were men and women! Now adulthood is gained at eighteen with the right to vote but few responsibilities - apparently - and no change in address; the terms man and woman have gone.

“My boyfriend’s been promoted.” It turns out that both partners in this relationship are in their forties. And partner now implies a sort of committed arrangement - usually including shared accommodation and sexual activity. This bonding may last for weeks or years but has developed no language to include other family members such as the “in-law” additions following on marriage. (Curiously enough, although determined on their own independence, many mothers in such circumstances register their children in their father’s name).

“Guys” is another term that has changed in its usage. Once it was an American alternative for “men”. Generally now it refers to any group of mixed sex replacing “folks” or “people.” “Dole”, with its overtones of charitable hand-out, went ages ago and many unemployed used the post office to collect their “wages.” I think one now receives “benefit.”

The increase in the use of acronyms is another, often baffling, development. (Takes me back to my secondary school years when we had a competition to see who could interpret such abbreviations and one girl became a source of mockery - especially among devotees of cricket - for suggesting that lbw stood for lemon barley water).

Sending messages by TEXT deplores the use of capital letters - the equivalent of an oral shout. Most acronyms, however, are upper case and minus stops. (I expect their demise is attributable to the use of “dots” in computer communication).

I’m going to set a challenge! How clear a message can you devise in which acronyms exceed words? Herewith my effort:- GCE and GCSE replaced MATRIC but JD demands CV,MA,BA or NVQ.

**Granny**

# PARISH REGISTER

## Baptisms

6 March Emma Clare Macklin  
Cotton Freda Cox  
Penny Grace Thomas

## Funerals

10 February	Raymond Hill	aged 78
17 February	Mike Millward	aged 79
25 February	Phyllis Hollingsworth	aged 85
29 February	Wilf Tibbetts	aged 85
10 March	Bill Foster	aged 71

## NEWS AND NOTES

It has been a busy month with the very enjoyable Choir Concert and a Coffee Morning for the Children's Society at St Peter's Church.

On Saturday last Sue Wakeley rang to ask if I would like to join those people who were to attend the Murder Mystery Evening. What a fun evening it turned out to be.

My grand-daughter, Lorna, rang as I was about to leave home. I explained where I was going and said to her I didn't know what was to happen. Her reply was, "Just listen Nanny Anne," and added, "I wish I was coming with you. (She studies criminology at university).

It proved to be a quite fascinating evening although I hasten to add some people grasped the plot earlier than others!! However, 'Mrs Nasty's' machinations were soon disentangled.

In between acts we were served firstly with pâté and garlic bread and at the next interval chilli and rice. As the plot continued to unfold scrumptious desserts, then coffee and chocolates appeared before the 'exposure' of Jane Jukes as the 'criminal', Yuki Sakamoto. I have to confess I did not recognise this lady with her black hair in Japanese style and highly powdered features - she was a mystery to me.

Keep well.  
**Anne Davies**

.....

## Children's Page Answers

### SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

**1st Egg:** The stripe colours are jumbled.

**2nd Egg:** Missing one flower.

**3rd Egg:** There are is colour missing from the top of the egg.

**4th Egg:** The last stripe has a smaller light green patch.

**5th Egg:** The wave on the bottom is missing.

### HYMN PUZZLE

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

## THE BISHOP'S LETTER

In my days as a young vicar, a senior colleague asked me a direct and tricky question. "Suppose", he said, "that the pub on the High Street were to be turned into a lap-dancing establishment, would you want to protest outside with a placard, or go in and offer yourself as Chaplain?" Fortunately it was a purely hypothetical question, but it came back to me recently as I listened to a presentation on ethical investment.



The Church of England, through the Church Commissioners and the Pensions Board, invests money in a range of shares and assets. Like any other shareholder both bodies want the best return for their investment. But they do want that investment to aid and support the mission of the Church, not to undermine it. The church institutions have long refused to invest in companies producing certain types of armaments, and in those that derive significant incomes from tobacco, alcohol, doorstep lending, or "adult" entertainment.

Refusing to hold stocks in certain parts of the market is a vital part of being an ethical investor. But on its own it's a pretty blunt weapon. It can feel a bit like Pontius Pilate - washing our hands of the evil going on, but doing nothing to stop it.

So alongside disinvestment an even more important aspect of how the church institutions use their capital wisely is the practice of constructive and active engagement with companies. A big shareholder can ask awkward questions, and can challenge directors over their policies and practices. Does this company take its environmental responsibilities seriously? Does that one treat its workforce with dignity? Whilst disinvestment allows us to feel morally superior, constructive engagement gives us a chance of actually making a difference or persuading someone to change.

And that takes us back to the heart of what living a Christian life is all about. All too often we set ourselves up as people who don't do certain things - usually things that wider society considers not to be a problem. All too rarely are we seen as people constructively engaged in making the world around us a better place. The irony is that we claim to follow a man who was never criticised for staying aloof and apart but was regularly challenged for spending time with disreputable company, challenging them through his constructive engagement to become what God had created them to be.

Twenty five years ago I ducked the question my colleague asked me, but maybe a better response, then and now, would be to say "I'd be with Jesus".

Heavenly Father,  
Whose son was held to the cross not by nails but by love,  
Grant that we may know in our hearts your love for us;  
And, knowing that love, may persevere in time of trial,  
That, for love's sake  
our lives and our communities  
may grow into the likeness of your Kingdom,  
And your name may be glorified throughout the earth.

**We are grateful for the sponsorship of the following businesses.**

**Matthew Hackett**

Local Independent Financial Adviser

**Abacus Associates**

Advice on investments, pensions,  
savings, life insurances  
and estate planning.

**Tel 01384 824397 07527892469**

matthewhackett@abacusadvisers.co.uk



**Mobile home** available to rent sited at Camping Le Dauphin near Argeles, South of France. Sleeps up to 6 people and is available from April onwards. References available from Stourbridge people who have visited. Phone John Henley **01384 833108** for more info.

**Chiroprapist**

**Rachel Clark** MSSCH MBCHA

Visiting Practice

Qualified and Insured.

Registered with Health Professions Council

**Tel: 01384 873938 or 07860 771442**

**H Porter & Sons**

Old Church House, 60 South Road,  
Stourbridge. **Tel: 01384 395048.**  
Funeral Directors for over 160 years.

**Chris Genner**

*Forever Living Products. Natural Aloe Vera health tonics, beauty and nutritional products.* Free advice, talks and demonstrations. For a more fulfilling and rewarding career see our website at **www.genner.net** or call Chris Genner **Tel: 01384 371336**

**J Vernon Kendrick**

Vernon House, Cemetery Road, Lye.  
DY9 8DB **Tel: 01384 422123.**  
Funeral Directors.  
Golden Charter Pre-payment Plans.

**R B Porter Heating Ltd**

*For all Central Heating and Plumbing needs.*  
*Servicing , Repairs and New Systems*  
**CORGI Approved**  
191 Hagley Road, Old Swinford  
**Tel : 01384 396719**

**Davis Memorials Ltd**

Monumental and Masonry Contractors  
Established 1841 Suppliers of all forms of memorials. 56A Station Road, Old Hill, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64 6NU **Tel: 01384 566958**  
**Fax: 01384 569708 Website: www.davismemorials.co.uk**

**Swinford Pharmacy**

90 Hagley Road, Old Swinford.  
**Tel: 01384 440030.** We offer a free collection and delivery service for elderly and housebound patients.

**Top Team Tutoring**

Maths & English One-to-One Tuition  
David and Joanna Evans - a family business providing a personal service.  
All Key Stages, GCSE, 'A' Level, 11+ & 13+ Selection. Free advice.  
Visit **www.topteamtutoring.co.uk** or **Tel: 01384 392553**

**J & J Upperdine**

*High Class Private and Commercial Painting and Decorating*  
82 Birmingham St. Stourbridge DY8 1JH  
**Tel: Day 07969 864131**  
**Evening 01384 827281**