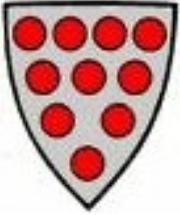


Online edition of St Mary's  
Parish Church  
Old Swinford May  
Magazine.



# 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)

**MAY 2011**

**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) 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 Coach House: - Bookings</b>	Parish Office	441003
<b>Parish Administrator and 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 MAY 2011

### **SUNDAY 1**

Monday 2

Tuesday 3

### **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

St George (transferred from 23<sup>rd</sup> April)

St Mark (transferred from 25<sup>th</sup> April)

9.30 am Standing Committee

7.30 pm First Tuesday Fellowship at the Rectory

Wednesday 4

St Philip & St James (transferred from 1<sup>st</sup> May)

Thursday 5

10.30 am Holy Communion

7.30 pm Coach House Committee

Saturday 7

10.00 Open Church and Vestry Hour

### **SUNDAY 8**

### **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

10.00 am Worship Together

6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 10

Copy date for June Magazine

11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft

Wednesday 11

7.30 pm Baptism Preparation

Thursday 12

10.30 am Holy Communion

Saturday 14

St Matthias the Apostle

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

Mission Committee Coffee Morning

### **SUNDAY 15**

### **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Start of Christian Aid Week

7.45 pm Admission of Wardens Service

Wednesday 18

10.30 am Holy Communion

Thursday 19

Saturday 21

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

### **SUNDAY 22**

### **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Wednesday 25

Holy Communion at Holly Lodge

7.30 pm PCC in Church

Thursday 26

10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Saturday 28

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

### **SUNDAY 29**

### **THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

## QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

*Great things are done when men and mountains meet,  
This is not done by jostling in the street.*

*William Blake  
Gnomic Verses*

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

“I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills:  
from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh even from the Lord:  
who hath made heaven and earth.”  
Psalm 121

Mountains feature prominently throughout scripture – Ararat, Sinai, Nebo, Hermon, Tabor to mention but a few. Since time immemorial high points have in many cultures been *the* place to worship, which explains why so often medieval churches are to be found on the high ground of an ancient community, built as they were upon earlier pagan shrines.

Mountains were the places to which Jesus retreated when he needed to be alone with God. Not only does the ‘lofty mountain grandeur’ speak so eloquently of the glory of the creator, it also provides a vantage point from which everyday life can be viewed in a different perspective. I was fortunate to be born and brought up in a house on the foothills of Plynlimon Fawr with stunning views over the Dovey estuary to where it met the waters of Cardigan Bay, and in the north the majestic hills of Meirionnydd cradling the craggy peak of Cader Idris. These views remain etched in my mind and, along with many others, I still find that a retreat to the mountains provides the opportunity not only to do some clear thinking but also to encounter the glory of God.

It is not without significance that Jesus, as he sets his face towards Jerusalem, takes his three closest disciples to a mountain top there to be transfigured before them. It is this that gives them all the courage to face what lies ahead. Again it is on a mountain top (in Galilee in Matthew, the Mount of Olives in Luke/Acts) that the Ascension, which we will soon be marking, takes place. Having observed the solemn forty penitential days of Lent, the glorious forty days of Easter now form a continuous mountain top experience. Allowed to do their work in us they will not only nourish our souls but also enable us to see our lives in a new perspective in the context of God’s unconditional love and to grasp the future with confidence in him.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Greville

## SUNDAY SERVICES IN MAY 2011

<b>1 May</b> 2nd Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Exodus 14. 10 - end	Acts 2. 14a, 22 - 32	John 20. 19 - end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 14. 30 - end	John 20. 19 - end	
<b>8 May</b> Third Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	Worship Together		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Haggai 1. 13 - 2. 9	John 2. 13 - 22	
<b>15 May</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 2. 42 - end	1 Peter 2. 19 - end	John 14. 1 - 10
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezra 3. 1 - 13	Ephesians 2. 11 - end	
<b>22 May</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 7. 55 - end	1 Peter 3. 13 - 22	John 14. 15 - 21
	6.30 pm Evensong	Zechariah 4. 1 - 10	Revelation 21. 1- 14	
<b>29 May</b> Rogation Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 17. 22 - 31	1 Peter 3. 13 - 22	John 14. 15 - 21
	6.30 pm Evensong	Genesis 8. 20 - 9. 17	Acts 17. 22 - 31	

### JAPAN APPEAL

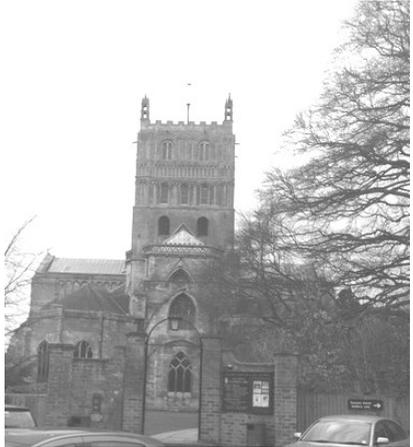
We are very grateful for all the donations towards the Japan Appeal. A total sum of £537.45 was raised and has been sent to the British Red Cross.

**Edward Haden**

## A SECOND CHANCE TO SHINE

On 12 March, St Mary's church choir raised the roof at Tewkesbury Abbey. Once again, we showed off our fabulous voices and left the congregation in awe. After such an outstanding concert just two weeks previously which raised over £450, we had a very high standard to maintain.

We were joined by Reverend Greville Cross who began the service by leading the choir in the responses and preces by John Reading in A sharp. We were also joined by a fifteen year old visiting tenor, Dominic, from the King's School in Worcester, to help boost our tenors. The twenty-seven verses of psalm 73 did not daunt us as the words and notes echoed beautifully around the ornate building.



Whilst the first reading was delivered, I couldn't help but admire the stonework and intricate stained glass windows around the abbey. It was truly an amazing place to sing in. The abbey was founded in 1087 by nobleman Robert FitzHamon but its construction did not begin until 1102. It was finally consecrated in 1121 and was built to house Benedictine monks. The glorious building lies at the southern edge of the old town and quietly dominates the land and skyline with its long nave.



Following the readings, we sang the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis set to the music in the key of D by Charles Wood and the anthem, 'Greater Love Hath No Man' by John Ireland. The service was then rounded off with prayers by the Reverend Paul Williams and the hymn 'Glorious things of thee are spoken' by John Newton.

If you weren't able to attend this service you truly missed out. It was such an honour to sing in such glorious surroundings and I look forward to our next opportunity. Many thanks go to Robin Walker, organist and choir-master, for arranging this wonderful afternoon.

**Gemma Sutton**

## YOUR VIEWS

The magazine committee welcomes comment and suggestions of items for inclusion in future editions and we appreciate the expression of opinion that helps to direct the magazine as an important means of information, entertainment and mission.

It has been suggested that a 'Letters Page' be included each month and we would be pleased to provide this in response to letters received for publication. We would also be keen to find someone green-fingered to contribute a short monthly 'gardening tips' section which we have been missing for several years now. Should you wish to avail yourself of this opportunity or if you have an article you would like to offer for inclusion in a future issue please send it to us via the email address, the tray in the Narthex or directly to a member of the magazine committee. Thank you.

**The Editor**

### MEMORIES OF A 90 YEAR OLD (GORDON ROSE)

*Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is a mystery, Today is a gift,  
That is why it is called "THE PRESENT"*

We were born before television, frozen foods, plastic and the pill... and we did things differently. We married first and then lived together. We thought fast food was something you ate in Lent, a "crumpet" was something you had for tea and a meaningful relationship meant getting on with your cousins. Time-sharing was about togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood, hardware was nuts and bolts and grass was mown. Coke was kept in the coal house, a pot was a cooking utensil, rock music was a lullaby and aids were helpers.

No wonder there is a generation gap...

**Barbara Freeston (Nee Rose)**



### VISIT TO LICHFIELD AND THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Pauline Cross is organising a day visit to Lichfield and the National Memorial Arboretum. The visit will be by coach departing at 8.30 am from St Mary's on Saturday, 11 June 2011. Return from Lichfield at 3.30 pm.

Cost will be £8.50 per person. Please sign the list at the back of church if you wish to reserve a place.

## A SEVERN CRUISE

In the summer of 2000 I decide to go for a cruise on my narrow boat "Waverley" south from Birmingham with the idea of visiting the port of Sharpness which lies between Gloucester and Bristol on the Severn estuary, a journey of about 75 miles.

Making an early start from Birmingham we were soon heading out of England's second city, passing through several canal tunnels that lie on the summit of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. The largest of these, Wast Hill, is over a mile and a half long, and takes the canal from suburban Kings Norton to rural Hopwood. After passing through two more tunnels we arrived at Tardebigge where we stopped for a break amongst pleasant surroundings.

With three of us as crew, brother David and friend Nigel, we started the big descent from the Birmingham plateau into the Severn Valley via the Tardebigge flight of thirty locks, the biggest in the country. With one of us steering, one working the locks and the other going ahead to prepare the next lock we cleared the flight in under three hours. Then we went to enjoy our evening meal and a well deserved drink at the "Queens Head" which overlooks the canal just beyond the bottom lock.

Next day we carried on with the descent through a further dozen locks, before Sunday lunch at the "Eagle and Star" at Hanbury Wharf, near Droitwich. (The meals here are very good and advance booking is advisable.) After lunch we cruised on down a narrowing canal with invading weeds on both banks. At the pleasant village of Tibberton we moored for the night and to change the crew. David and Nigel had to depart whilst my mother, Jean came on board.

The following morning, we passed through another fourteen locks before reaching the Royal City of Worcester, where we moored in Diglis Basin for some shopping. A short time later we descended two large barge locks which took "Waverley" onto the River Severn, Britain's longest river. Now, with plenty of water beneath our keel, speed increased as we cruised down-river, through Upton, with views of the Malvern Hills to our right.

Tewkesbury is the meeting place of the Rivers Severn and Avon, and it was here we moored for the night, taking an evening meal at the "Black Bear", said to be the oldest inn in Gloucestershire. The Abbey at Tewkesbury is well worth a visit.

Leaving Tewkesbury the next morning, we soon arrived at Upper Lode Lock, one of the big river locks on the River Severn, manned by a friendly lock-keeper who is always ready to give advice when necessary. He told us to contact Gloucester Lock before we arrived there, which we did by mobile phone. The approach to Gloucester can be a little tricky as the river sweeps past the tail of Gloucester Lock and over a weir, especially so when there is plenty of water coming down the Severn. But the lock-keeper was expecting us, the gates were already open, so we could cruise straight in and on to the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal.

The most interesting part of Gloucester, apart from the cathedral, is the city's docks, where we moored for lunch. Many restored warehouses surround the docks, one of them now containing a fine Waterways Museum, complete with huge floating dredger and several old narrow boats tied up outside. We had lunch in "Dr Foster's" a

new pub built on the dockside. We enjoyed weather that was warm and dry, unlike the day on which Dr Foster himself made his last visit to this city.

Setting off after lunch, we passed under the large lift bridge, which like all subsequent bridges on the canal, is operated by bridge-keepers, and controlled by traffic lights, although later ones swing rather than lift. Many of these bridges have delightful cottages beside them, single storey with pillars supporting the roof at the front.

This canal was built as a ship canal, so it is wide and deep. It was constructed to avoid a treacherous section of the Severn and is about sixteen miles long, rejoining the river at Sharpness.

About half way along the canal Saul Junction is reached. This is where the long-closed Stroudwater Canal departs, which in turn joins the derelict Thames and Severn Canal at Stroud. This canal runs through the Golden Valley of the Cotswolds and Sapperton Tunnel (over two miles long) to meet the upper Thames near Lechlade, a wonderful waterway that may one day be restored to use.

After pausing here for a look around the junction, we cruised on to the end of the canal at Sharpness, where we found a lovely mooring overlooking the Severn estuary. We had tea here before taking a walk around the docks and old tidal lock, where many pleasure craft are now kept. Looking down the estuary, the Severn road bridges could be seen, and across the river, we saw trains running along the Gloucester to Cardiff railway line.

The tides on the Severn are the second highest in the world, and gazing over the estuary, we saw the incoming tide race over the mud flats at amazing speed. Sharpness is certainly an interesting place to have finished our outward journey. The following day we turned around to begin the cruise back to Birmingham.

**Michael Rolfe**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **NEWS FROM THE CHURCH HALL**

Tickets for the 'Fun Night, Skittles and Quiz' evening with refreshments on Saturday 7 May have sold well with most people attempting to skittle and a few coming as 'watchers'. It should be a good evening!

When the Church Hall committee met in April, events for further fundraising were discussed. If any of our magazine readers can suggest events they would like us to hold, please contact Ian or Marjorie Ferguson.

The sound speakers have been connected and a cable has been obtained for the loop system which we hope to have finished by the end of April.

**Ian Ferguson**

# SHARING OUR FAITH

## JESUS' MESSAGE

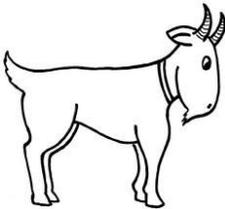
Jesus returned to God the Father on

A \_ C \_ N \_ I \_ N                      \_ \_ A \_ \_

Fill in the missing letters.

## HE LEFT A MESSAGE FOR US

Can you work it out?

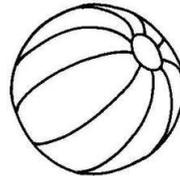


—AT

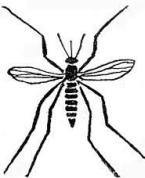


—H

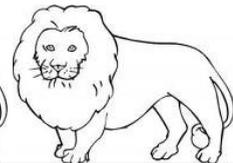
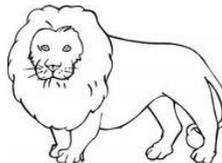
—CUP + —AIR



—B

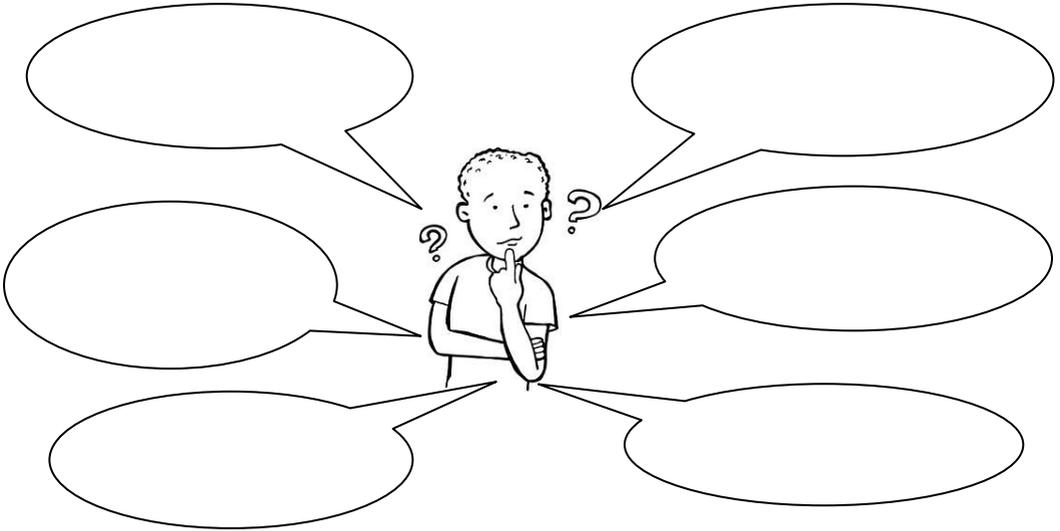


—G + —L



## WHAT CAN WE DO?

We do not need to go overseas to be a missionary. God wants us to share our Christianity with our friends. How can we do it?



We may not have bags of gold to help people but we might have other things we can share. Perhaps we are never ill; perhaps we have lots of friends or perhaps we are good at doing something that will help others. Fill in your ideas.

## SHARING AT CHURCH

Unscramble the letters of these words to find out five things that we share in church.

1. SAYPERR
2. GNIGNSI
3. SHOWRIP

4. GILENTINS
5. NEBGLISS

We are the family of God.

## HATS AND THE MEN WHO WEAR THEM

My father invariably wore a hat. Usually it was a trilby which he raised to women he knew and tipped to any acquaintance he met in the street. Some men favoured bowlers or caps though these often indicated a work role or “class” status. There were few men who never wore hats.

Nowadays far fewer men adopt headgear, unless it is work designed. Hard hats on building sites - or other places of potential danger to the head - are almost status symbols. Sportsmen may be “capped” for their county or country but few actually wear the honour on or off the field of play. And the cap or hat is no longer part of a symbol of greeting or mark of respect which means no-one understands the clergyman’s response to the woman who accused him of idolatry as he inclined his head when passing the altar. “It’s only a lump of wood – why bow to it?” “Madam, I raise my hat to you because you are a woman, not because you are a lump of meat.”

How about the baseball cap? Lots of people of both sexes wear them and the long peak provides shade from the sun for eyes or neck depending on which way it is worn. When forwards for those with long hair, it provides a useful parking slot for the ponytail. However, I am increasingly puzzled by the devotion of some men who don baseball caps and seem never to remove them. Do they wear them in bed?

A fellow-member of the Mothers’ Union and I were representing the congregation at a baptism where two male members from one family party came into church wearing baseball caps which they made no attempt to remove. At one time no man would have entered any building without removing his hat – certainly not a church. (But no woman would have gone into a church without her head covered). We conferred as to whether we should ask these guests to uncover their heads. We decided, perhaps in a cowardly way, that we would “Leave it to the Rector.”

Recently I spent two weeks in a Care Centre where one resident always wore a baseball cap. As a temporary member of the household I felt it would be inappropriate to comment or query. (He was something of an odd-ball anyway).

Can anyone out there tell me the significance – if any – of the permanent adoption of the baseball cap? (and do devotees sleep in them?)

**Granny**

### ***Coffee Morning***

In St Mary’s Church Narthex

14 May 2011

Coffee, Cakes and Raffle

10.00—12.00 noon

Tickets £1.50

In aid of our Church Mission at home and overseas



## **SIDE BY SIDE THEATRE COMPANY**

This year the group is performing a play entitled "Who is Pilgrim?". This is very much about questioning who a person is. Sounds a bit deep, but the members are certainly throwing themselves into the play with some very funny pieces included too.

Side by Side performed at Dudley and Worcester Festivals in March and received a lot of praise and encouragement from the adjudicators. They were also invited to perform at Netherton Arts Centre at their Spring Drama Festival. (Different venues give the group a wealth of new experiences). Having said that, they are very excited at the moment because they are off to Prague in May to perform at the English - speaking festival there and then they come back and on the 22, 23 and 24 June they will once again be at Stourbridge Town Hall to perform "Who is Pilgrim?" for all their local supporters. Please put this date in your diary and come and see them. Nearer the time we will put some flyers at the back of the church.

The people who belong to Side by Side have so much enthusiasm and energy even though they all have a disability of some kind. They are helped by willing volunteers who give their time to encourage students to their very best performance.

**Jane, John and Amanda Hill**

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

At this our Lenten meeting Kanthi reminded us, in our service, of the power of love which can overcome any obstacles and doubts; and the importance of using Lent as a time of meditation

‘Take the time to dream. It will carry you to the stars’.

This quotation was used by the speaker, Jean Swift, who is our Action and Outreach coordinator for the Worcester Diocese, She spoke with great enthusiasm about her role and her involvement in so many areas of MU work, especially her interest in helping couples and their families who attend Wedding Fairs. The information packs which she helped to produce have proved to be very popular. She also spoke of the important work carried out in Nigeria, Uganda, Western Australia and Alaska by the MU. There are currently four million MU members in 81 different countries.

Reminders:

Members are invited to attend the Deanery Festival Service at Norton on Tuesday 17 May at 2.30pm

The May meeting will be at **The Coach House** on Tuesday 10 at 2.15 pm when Pat Smart will talk about ‘What is a Family?’

**Pat Whalley**

## THE KING'S EVIL (Scrofula)

One of the lesser known diseases of The Middle Ages and beyond was scrofula, a form of tuberculosis of the neck, which could also affect the eye, known at the time as the King's Evil. Both physicians and the public in general believed a cure could only be procured if the sufferer was touched by someone who had divine powers and that was a person who was appointed to his exalted position by God. Another belief was that the reigning monarch's healing powers were derived from the holy oil with which he was anointed during the Coronation service.



At first, the touch of the monarch's hand upon the diseased neck was considered sufficient, but by the late 15<sup>th</sup> Century a gold coin called an angel, (depicting on the reverse St Michael slaying a dragon) was introduced. The coin was pierced at the top and suspended from a white ribbon and placed around the neck of the sufferer. To keep the disease at bay the talisman had to be worn at all times. The coin's name was derived from St. Michael upon the obverse thrusting his lance into the gaping mouth of the dragon representing evil.

By the reign of Henry VII the ceremony had been turned into a religious service with the court chaplain saying prayers for the person receiving the healing touch.

The Tudors and Stuarts placed great importance upon the compassionate ceremony. Henry was a most reluctant toucher because of his great fear of disease and pestilence. Mary however was devoted to this act of mercy even going to the extent of kissing the affected part, much to the consternation of her ladies in waiting.

During Charles I's captivity in Carisbrooke Castle, the Parliamentary Governor, Col Hammond allowed sufferers to approach the King for his healing touch.

The most prolific toucher was Charles II who between 1660 and 1664 bestowed the Royal touch upon almost 90,000 people. A comment from Pepys's diary Page 56 refers to the King's Evil - *"To my lord's lodgings and there stayed to see the King touch people of the King's evil, but he did not come at all, it rayned so. The poor people were forced to stand in the rayn in the garden all morning. Afterwards he touched them in the Banqueting Hall."*

The last monarch to touch was Queen Anne, the recipient being Master Samuel Johnson who was showing definite signs of scrofula. His mother took him down to Whitehall to meet the Queen but the precocious child was sceptical and when no result was forthcoming he upbraided his mother for wasting their time. For the rest of his life Johnson bore signs of the scrofula which did nothing to improve his forbidding appearance.

By now the amount of angel coins had run out and there was no desire to continue with this religious ceremony. The Hanoverian kings were too sceptical to revive these acts of charity. However, wonderful tablets and powders could be purchased from the local apothecary, but some of the afflicted would have preferred to have knelt at the sovereign's feet and feel that they had been touched by the hand of God. In future years the gold angel coin would become a memento to cherish.

**Peter Selby**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The evening of Sunday 10 April was busy for those able to attend the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, immediately followed by the 91st Annual Parochial Meeting. The many aspects of our Church business were duly addressed through reports presented during the course of these meetings, full details of which are available for easy reference in a file at the back of church. Church Wardens and Deputy Wardens were elected to their roles. The Church Electoral Roll was validated, and Officers, Sidespersons and PCC Members were elected.

In the course of the Rector's Review, Greville Cross presented his fourteenth and final report in which he referred to several specific events that served as insight to the vibrant life of our church community. The music, in all its forms, the support of those in need and the work of those that ensure the smooth running of St Mary's from one week to the next deserved special regard. Greville paid tribute to many church members who have served our church and the locality to the Glory of God and the benefit of us all and outlined ways in which their mission may develop in the future.

Edward Haden responded on behalf of all to thank Greville for his report and full commitment to the St Mary's Parish. Edward presented the thanks of all to Greville and Pauline as he observed how dust and associated problems in the Rectory had aggravated difficulties for them in the past year. By recognising these and other challenges it was much easier to accept and support their decision to move on into partial retirement. Edward sought the support of all throughout the coming months for Greville and Pauline and for the burden of responsibility to be shared during a period of inter-regnum.

The Financial Report, Secretary's Report and the Report of The Master of Fabric were received with thanks and recognised for the picture of good health they present of St Mary's well-being and the hard work of all those involved.

## LITTLE LEMON DRIZZLE CAKES

A great recipe for cake stalls or individual Birthday cakes. Fills 8-9 muffin cases or makes one large loaf tin.

4oz/110g soft butter  
6oz/170g self raising flour  
6oz/170g caster sugar  
4 tbsp milk  
grated rind of a large lemon  
2 large eggs

For the syrup  
3 tbsp icing sugar  
juice of 2 lemons

Pre-heat the oven to 180 fan/200°C/gas 6.

Using a food processor cream together the caster sugar and butter. Add the flour, milk, rind of lemon and eggs, process briefly until just smooth - over mixing the flour makes cakes tough.

Put the muffin cases into a muffin tin and divide up the mixture. Bake for 15-20 minutes.

Mix together the syrup ingredients. While the cakes are still hot, prick with a skewer and pour the glaze over each cake. Put onto a cooling rack.

If making a large cake bake at 140 fan/160°C/gas 4 for 40 minutes approximately.

**Ann Jennings**

## AND FOR THE WINE.....

A few months ago in the depths of winter we were matching wines to a lemon and amaretti cake. I suggested then that if it were a sunny summer's day, we might opt for the intense flavours of a chilled Limoncello. The cold snowy conditions which we endured are now fading from the memory and here we are with summer just around the corner .....and that glass of Limoncello sounds very appealing - rich with lemon zest and thoughts of the Amalfi coast! Admittedly this is a liqueur so for a more conventional wine-match what are our alternatives? Riesling and Semillon grape varieties provide the most promising citrus-flavoured dessert wines. Both commonly appear in their botrytized form with nobly-rotted grapes adding a rich marmaladey texture. However we may not wish to shell out for an expensive Sauternes or a fine Trockenbeerenauslese for our lemon drizzle cakes. Best bet then is to go for a sweet Semillon from Australia. De Bortoli's Noble One is a celebrated wine made from Semillon grapes. It is widely stocked, though not cheap!

However, if the joy of Easter, early summer sun or Bank Holidays have put you in a good frame of mind, treat yourself to a bottle of Noble One and drizzle yourself a drop! Enjoy your wine-sipping!

**Richard W.B. Ryan**

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

### **Wychbury and Clent - 26 March 2011**

Having reconnoitered the walk a week before on a wonderfully clear, warm day it was quite disappointing to arrive at the Badgers' Sett and not be able to see the Clent Hills for the heavy blanket of mist and cloud. However, our hardy band of walkers set off, undaunted, towards Wychbury and the recently restored obelisk, locally known as Hagley Monument, although I do not think it is a monument.

The obelisk has been beautifully restored and capped and should continue to be a landmark for many years to come. Even the reference to Bella in the Wych Elm has been retained - as one of our group remarked, "A bit of twentieth century graffiti."

We continued down the hill, over a stile and through another field to the top of Monument Lane and on down to cross the A456 into School Lane and the area of lovely properties known as Top Hagley - this I learned from a local man the week before, when he corrected my thought that I was in West Hagley!

We took the footpath immediately next to the entrance to Hagley Hall giving us views of the Hall (under scaffolding for roof repairs) to our left, eventually reaching a lightly wooded area where, the week before, I had seen a Kestrel - but he did not appear for the group. At a T-junction we turned left and after a short distance arrived at the gateway to Sunfield where we again turned left before going right, through more light woodland, to reach a gate on the boundary of the Clent Hills.

Taking the lower path to our left and getting a glimpse of a pool also on our left, we proceeded along the boundary until we reached the vicinity of Clent Castle where we paused for refreshment.

Instead of taking the very steep path ahead, we turned right after a few yards and, at the cross paths, left, up the less steep route to the Topograph and on up to the Four Stones and the Toposcope. The blanket of mist and cloud had not lifted and we were unable to see even the nearest of the places mentioned.

We descended via the bridleway, along the wood known as Horse's Mane, to the car park at Nimmings, resisting the aroma of bacon cooking at the café there, to cross fields and two or three stiles on to a track towards the barn conversions near the island at the top of Hagley Hill. Just before the barns we turned right over a stile to cross a field and reach the A456 and, across the road, our lunch venue, the Badgers' Sett where I noticed they still have stained glass illustrating the former name of the establishment "The Gypsy's Tent".

An interesting, undulating walk of almost five miles.

# PARISH REGISTER

## Baptisms

20 March Daniel Stephen Rushton  
Benjamin David Rushton  
3 April Jolene Handy  
Jaydene Sisley  
Jane Lewis

## Weddings

30 March Lee Herrington and Joanne Prince  
9 April Matthew Belwood and Vivienne Prentice

## Funerals

14 March Bert Thatcher aged 97

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Thoughts on Times Past

Visiting Josie Capewell is always an interesting time for me; talking about times past, when Stan was an Engine Driver. I remember hearing of his travels to and fro to Birmingham and how, at times, he and Josie enjoyed some lovely holidays as they travelled by train to different parts of our beautiful country.

On my last visit I heard about Old Swinford in days gone by when fields abounded. Her phenomenal memory leads to fascinating conversations and her 'cuppa' is much enjoyed too.

On Thursday last, 7 April, two couples celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversaries. Howard and Anne May were married by Canon Hurley all those years ago. An added touch to the joyous occasion was the presence of Susan Hurley, the daughter of the aforementioned Canon. Susan and Anne have been involved in many aspects of Church Life at St Mary's.

On the same day Jan and Brian Drew recalled their Golden Wedding as they had been in Kenya on the actual day.

With love.

**Anne Davies**

## CHILDRENS PAGE ANSWERS

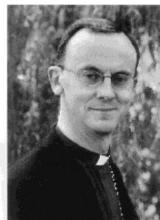
Jesus returned to God the Father on: **ASCENSION DAY**

Message: **GO AND TEACH ALL NATIONS**

Unscramble: **PRAYERS, SINGING, WORSHIP, LISTENING, BLESSING.**

## THE BISHOP'S LETTER

During the month of May we celebrate Easter. Maybe you find that statement a puzzling one since Easter Day, though it was exceptionally late this year, fell at the end of April. The season of Easter, though, lasts fifty days - forty between Easter Day and Ascension Day and then another ten between Ascension Day and Pentecost. That's something which is largely forgotten in our society and even in our churches. Easter for most people is Easter Day and that's it. But this act of God in history is so momentous that the church asks us to celebrate it for all of fifty days.



We're not very good at sustained periods of celebration. Perhaps we would be better at it if we managed to enter more fully into the abstinence with which Lent should be characterised. I think there's more to it than that, though. In most of the places in which I have ministered people have found it easier to enter into the desolation of Holy Week than the joy of Easter and I've often wondered why that is.

Maybe it's because we have a mistaken idea about how the feast should be celebrated. The real mark of its celebration is a deep peace in our lives which comes from knowing that, because of the resurrection, nothing can come between us and God's love for us in Christ. This peace comes from being convinced, as St Paul puts it in Romans 8, that neither death, nor life, nor 'angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' That peace leads not to a prolonged party or forced smile but to a deep down joy, that joy which characterises the spirit of Easter in the gospel - particularly in St Luke's gospel.

So, I hope that your celebration of Easter will last all of fifty days and that it will be characterised by such deep down peace and joy. If it is you will be well placed to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and, in its power, show forth the other gifts of the Spirit in your life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

I wish you not a happy Easter but one which brings you deep down peace and joy.

**BISHOP JOHN**

**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.



**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**