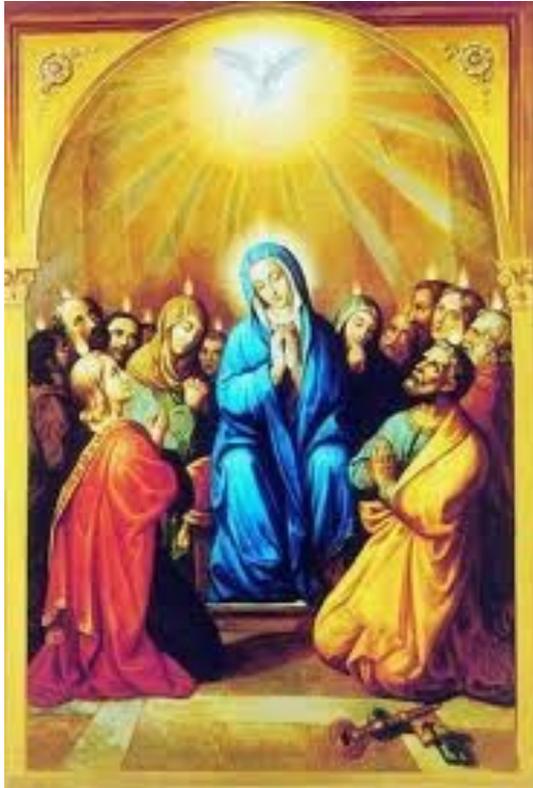


ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD



Parish Church Magazine



RECTOR: Interregnum in process
All enquiries to the Parish Office

CURATE: The Revd Ruth Atkinson, 58 Arlington Court,
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MAY 2012

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 Tuesdays will alternate between St Mary's, St Thomas' and Holy Trinity Amblecote
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
Curate's Day Off:	Friday

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

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

Reader Emeritus:	Mr Roy Peacock	379972
Reader:	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
Church Wardens:	Mr Edward Haden	378104
	Mrs Marjorie Ferguson	393454
Organist / Choirmaster:	Mr Robin Walker	01905 353939
Treasurer:	Mr Richard Harris	395760
PCC Secretary:	Miss Katey Fletcher	378182
Magazine Editors:	Miss Gemma Sutton	423021
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661

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

ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

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

DIARY FOR MAY 2012

Thursday 3	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 5	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 2.30 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 6	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 3.00pm Baptisms
Monday 7	Early Spring Bank Holiday
Tuesday 8	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft Nursing Home
Wednesday 9	7.30 pm PCC Meeting in the Narthex
Thursday 10	10.30. am Holy Communion
Saturday 12	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 13	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Rogationtide 10.00 am Worship Together with Oldswinford Church of England Primary School 6.30 pm Choral Evensong Start of Christian Aid Week
Monday 14	
Thursday 17	Ascension Day
Saturday 19	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 20	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 3.00pm Baptisms
Wednesday 23	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 24	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Saturday 26	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 27	PENTECOST
Thursday 31	10.30. am Holy Communion
	JUNE
Tuesday 12	6.30 pm Licensing Service of Revd Stephen Agnew

IN APPRECIATION

I am sure it is at times like these that some people can find themselves isolated and alone. Not me. I have received such warm and sincere wishes of love and support during my on-going battle with ill health – from all my friends at St Mary's – that I feel blessed indeed. To have so many people who think so much of me to feel moved to enquire with Rod on his many trips down to Stourbridge, send cards and emails of good wishes, posies of flowers and plants to help cheer me up has been so welcome. The personal visits and offers of general help Rod and I have received have all been very much appreciated.

Some of you may know that our daughter, Rowena, and her fiancé, Craig, are getting married on 11 April in Cornwall, having moved the ceremony forward from August. So by the time this letter goes to print I shall have clocked up some miles and hopefully have a few decent photos to share with you of the occasion and regained my strength after what I know is going to be a demanding but very happy event.

With love to you all

Jane Jukes

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

It hardly seems possible that when Stephen and Jean Agnew arrive in Stourbridge it will be 11 months since Greville and Pauline left. During the interregnum I have taken a greater responsibility for helping to lead the church in pastoral care and liturgy. This has been an enormous privilege and one which I have very much enjoyed. At times it has seemed daunting but I am grateful to all those who have provided a listening ear, guidance and encouragement and the willingness to lift the load where possible. They say that experiences like this are kill or cure; well this has by no means put me off and has strengthened my desire to lead my own parish in the future.

I know that the packing boxes have arrived in Claines and in a couple of weeks Stephen and Jean will be arriving in the rectory. From my conversations with them they are looking forward to the move and to getting to know you in the parish. What has become obvious to me in the past year is that no priest can do it all and nor should they. Jesus did not minister alone but continuously worked to encourage the disciples and to develop their talents. Some of our key players have had to lay down their roles in the past year and new people have shown a willingness to take on some tasks. There are however some roles which have not been filled. Perhaps most important is the role of Christian Aid coordinator. Christian Aid is part of a team which provides for those in need during major disasters but it also develops projects which enable people to be self sufficient. Our contribution this year will take a variety of forms and I hope that you will use one of them to make a donation; wherever possible please use one of the red gift aid envelopes.

1. There will be a bucket collection in church for 3 Sundays from 12 May.
2. During the equivalent 3 Saturdays you could make a donation during open church.
3. There will be envelopes and a list of streets at the back of church. If you normally act as a distributor during Christian Aid week and feel that you can do this again please do so but make sure that you tick off the area you are covering on the list so that people are not leafleted twice.
4. Oldswinford Primary School will also be distributing an envelope to every family.

With my prayers and best wishes,

SERVICES IN MAY 2012

6 May Fifth Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 8. 26-40	Genesis 22. 1-18	John 15. 1-8
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 60. 1-14	Revelations 3. 1-13	
13 May Sixth Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER		
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Song of Solomon 4.16-5.2, 8. 6-7	Revelations 3. 14-22	
20 May Seventh Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 1 15-17, 21-26	1John 5. 9-13	John 17. 6-19
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 61	Luke 4. 14-21	
27 May Pentecost	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 2. 1-21	Romans 8. 22-27	John 15. 26-27
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezekiel 36. 22-28	Acts 2. 22-38	

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

Think about the things that are true and honourable and right
and pure and beautiful and respected...And the God who gives peace
will be with you.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

EDWARD HADEN - CHURCH WARDEN

It was a concern when Norman Davies told me that he would not be seeking re-election as Churchwarden. He and Jane Jukes had done a superb job during the interregnum and as the new incumbent of only a couple of months I didn't know who to approach. "Don't worry," said Norman, "there's a very good man that you might like to speak to about it." He was, as usual, absolutely right. So I phoned Edward and arranged a meeting. It was to be the start of a working arrangement that proved to be most happy and productive and which over the years developed into a firm friendship.

Edward brought with him a life-long church membership, the experience of being a churchwarden at St John's, a good 'business' head and bags of common sense. He approached the task with energy, enthusiasm and total commitment. Indeed he put his heart and soul into the flourishing of St Mary's and worked tirelessly to that end. Many projects were undertaken in Church and Churchyard and all seen through to the highest standard. The contribution of others was welcomed, cherished and affirmed.

For me as incumbent it made an enormous difference to have the unfailing loyalty and support of Edward and his fellow wardens over the years, Jane, Cliff and Marjorie. Their advice and their care for me and my family enabled me to focus on my contribution to the ministry of the Church. I count myself immensely blessed to have worked with Edward as Churchwarden for all but three months of my ministry at St Mary's.

After fourteen years Edward has more than earned his retirement from this office that he has held with such distinction. His thoughtfulness, time and total dedication were offered with typical generosity and cheerfulness. I pray that he may enjoy his retirement in the knowledge both of a ministry well fulfilled and also that his successor will find everything in very sound order.

Greville Cross



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

13 - 19 May marks this year's Christian Aid Week. During this time of special efforts, house to house and other collections help to raise money that will transform the lives of many people living in poverty around the world.

For many years Stan Williams has served as coordinator of Christian Aid collections at St Mary's but has now had to step aside from this responsibility. He is currently recuperating well after surgery so we send our very best wishes to him and Avril with our thanks for the great job he has done in past years.

Please consider how you may be able to support this event this year through giving what you can or by delivering and collecting envelopes to houses in a street or streets near you. Without a team organiser to lead the initiative this year St Mary's will be relying on the generosity of each to do what he or she can in support of this charity.

THANK YOU EDWARD

The thanks of the whole parish are extended to Edward Haden for his immense contributions during his time as churchwarden at St Mary's. During the past fourteen years Edward has overseen, with others, the day to day administration of the church and the wellbeing of our parish. Edward's leadership skills and his commitment to the task have encouraged many to fill roles that have ensured an active parish in which a vibrant cultural, social and religious ethos has been evident. Everyone who knows Edward as churchwarden will understand the affection in which he holds the building and the people of this parish church and of the importance with which he has promoted the activities of the church to be 'there', reaching out and available to all in the community.

During his tenure Edward has supervised a considerable amount of work which has seen immensely important maintenance and repair work undertaken in the building such that, with continued care, it is assured of a long and secure future. Equally, his concern for the churchyard has brought enormous improvements in terms of appearance, accessibility and care. That this has been achieved through the creation of very successful working links with the Probation Service and Beacon Employment illustrates the wider beneficial implications of his actions that are always a key feature of his concern. Edward has always been keen to ensure that all those associated with St Mary's in whatever way, through the Coach House, groups that use the church hall, worshippers young and old, local schools, care homes and the hospice, are welcomed and provided for.

A very loud and resounding '**Thank you Edward**' is the message from us all. With our thanks we send our very best wishes to you and to Norma who has cared for you with such love and determination. Our prayers for the well-being of you both in the future will be foremost in our hearts.

From the PCC on behalf of the Parish

"Come, see the place....."

Greville & Pauline Cross will be leading a Pilgrimage to the
Holy Land
immediately after Easter 2013
(2 – 11 April)

For more details and a brochure please contact us on
01684 310102

SHARING THE SEDER MEAL

Our traditional Maundy Thursday supper took on a different format this year. Instead of the usual Agape supper Ruth introduced us to a Seder dinner which is based on the traditional Jewish Passover meal.

About forty participants enjoyed an enactment of the Seder as Ruth led us through the various stages of the celebration and explained the symbolism of the food and practices of a Passover meal. A major element of the festival is the remembrance of the suffering and exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Unleavened bread recalled the haste of the withdrawal and green vegetables were evocative of spring, hope and new beginnings. The interwoven liturgy provided an opportunity for questions and responses which told the story of the exodus and thanksgiving for deliverance.

The culmination of the meal was the 'Passover' lamb which, for our service, had been beautifully cooked by our Social Committee and served with unleavened bread. The sweet course was a bread and butter pudding (which we thought might have been made with leavened bread!).

At various stages Ruth paused to reflect how some of the traditions and symbolism had been carried into our own Communion service with slightly different meanings and interpretations. Although the enactment was carried out in an informal style these thoughts gave a continuing reminder of the spiritual context and solemnity of the Seder meal.

The evening was a most enjoyable occasion. Thank you to Ruth for the initiative and preparation of the event and to the Social Committee for their provision of the meal.



Traditional Seder plate

Alec Beevers

The term '**Passover**' comes from the tenth of the plagues sent by God to encourage the King of Egypt to give the Israelites their freedom. The tenth plague was the death of the first-born son in every Egyptian household. The Israelites were instructed to kill and cook a sheep or a goat and to put some of the blood on the door posts and above each door as a sign to God to show where they lived. And so the plague 'passed over' the houses of the Children of Israel.

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP MARCH WALK – FROM ROMSLEY

Having had two weeks of dry, sunny and warm weather the start of the school holidays brought forth a change to misty, drizzly weather for our walk. Eleven walkers braved the conditions, for a six mile walk; five more braved the elements to cross the car park to join us for the pub lunch at “The Swallow’s Nest”!

We found that many of the stiles are in need of a lot of maintenance, to make them safe to use. At one, a walker found that sloping wet wood is extremely slippery and that the ground beneath was very hard. A second walker solved this problem by crawling under the fence next to the stile. At our coffee break it was frankly too misty to see the Beeches clearly, but the conditions did hide the M5 from view across the valley. We found bluebells already in flower and also wood anemones; both very early this year. Plenty of young lambs were gambolling in the fields and found our group more than just a passing interest.

At lunch we were regaled with amusing tales of the things that go wrong at amateur opera performances. Our next walk is on Saturday 28 April, you will be very welcome to join us.

Mike Blaxland

AN EASTER STORY

Years ago on Princes Street, Edinburgh, with its majestic setting, one of the many shops windows displaying beautiful paintings attracted the eye of a passing gentleman. He was gazing intently at a painting of the ‘Crucifixion’. It had been a long time since this man had allowed any thoughts like these suggested by the canvas to enter his mind, but the artist’s portrayal brought back the memory of long forgotten truths, and he was impressed and troubled.

Suddenly he became aware of a little ragged boy who was also looking intently at the painting. “That’s Jesus, sir, on the cross,” said the boy. “They nailed him there with that crown of thorns on his head and killed him, sir. He was a good man. He died for us, and that’s his mother standing there, sir, looking at what they did to him.” The man felt a lump rise in his throat as the boy continued- “And he died, sir, for our sins and they buried him yonder, sir.”

It was too real and the man turned away to continue his walk in Princes Street. Then he felt a tugging on his coat and turning round he saw the boy who had been telling the story. The boy blurted out breathlessly, “I forgot to tell you, sir, I forgot to tell you. He rose again.”

Stephen Buckley

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

WEEDING YOUR GARDEN

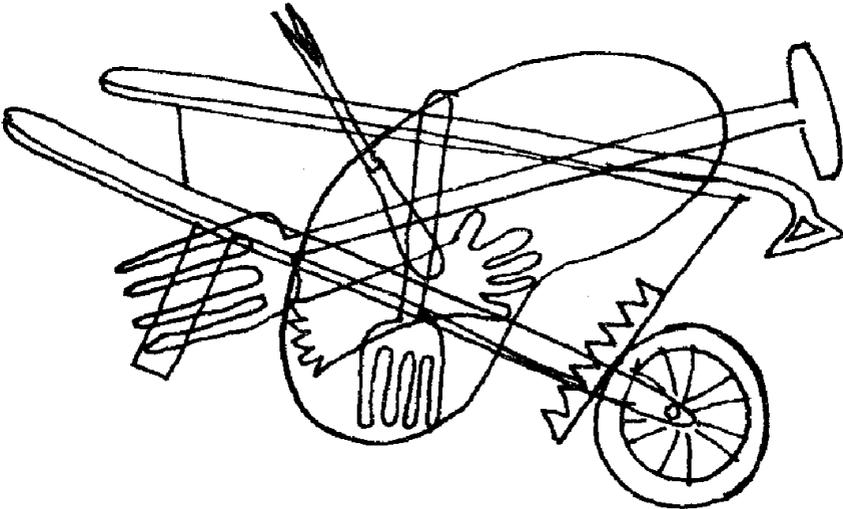
Do you help to weed the garden? You can pull out all the weeds and leave the garden looking clean and neat, but the next day the weeds are growing again. Where do they come from? Has an enemy come in the night and sown them? No, the seeds are always there although we cannot see them, ready to grow as soon as there is space.

The seeds of sin are in our hearts and they keep coming up! Saint Paul said "I do not want to sin, but I do sin!". It was very hard to be good.

WEEDING TOOLS

Here are some tools we can use to help us weed the garden. Can you work out what they are?

How many tools can you see?



WEEDING

Pick out the 'good' from these 'weeds' and put a ring round it:

1. WITCH, WIZARD, FAIRY, OGRE, GOBLIN
2. FROST, ICE, SNOW, HAIL, SUNSHINE, THUNDER
3. CHICKEN, ROOK, SPARROW, MAGPIE, CROW
4. SATAN, DEVIL, DEMON, IMP, ANGEL
5. DISLIKE, FEAR, LOATHE, LOVE, HATE

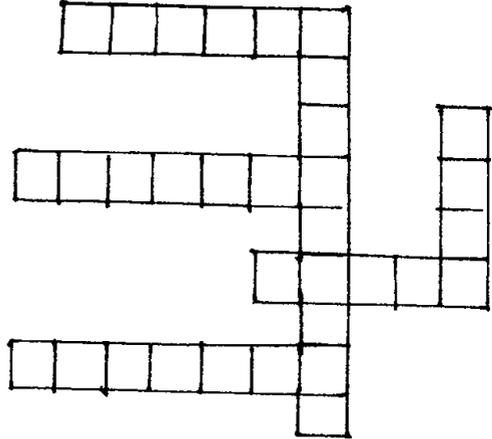
FIND THE FLOWER

Take one letter from each 'weed' in turn to find the name of a flower:

PLANTAIN
SPURGE
BINDWEED
MUSTARD
GROUNDSEL
DOCK
THISTLE
CHICKWEED

KNOW YOUR WEEDS

Here are 6 weeds of our hearts that we often let grow. We are often jealous, selfish, lazy, angry, dishonest and unkind. Can you fit these into the grid?



PICK OUT THE NAMES

Pick out the names from these sentences. All the names are in the Bible. E.g. He has a pet ermine. Put a ring round them.

1. My savings had amounted to ten pounds.
2. She had to change her odd socks.
3. I did 'is' and 'are' in grammar yesterday.
4. I like jam especially scones.
5. She sat down to rest her aching feet.
6. The chapel is having a new bell.

We all know when we have done wrong. It makes us unhappy when we have to be punished. Mummy and Daddy do that to help us know right from wrong and show us the weeds that can grow in our hearts. But when we say "sorry" they show us that they still love us. It is the same with God, our Father. Nothing can separate us from God's love.

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

The April meeting opened with a service led by Judith Dickens and Margaret Moulton in a reflection on the reality of Christ's resurrection as recorded by St John.

Members then shared their Easter thoughts through readings and poems on the joys of new life in creation in the flowers of spring.

In a poem by Longfellow we were reminded of the spirit behind the care for others especially those who are poor and needy. In reality in this way we serve Christ himself.

Following her recent stay in hospital Betty Foulkes was able to attend the meeting. She shared how she was conscious of our prayers. She was also befriended by a fellow Christian patient whose life experience was very similar to hers and through this encouragement was deeply aware of the hope we share in Christ.

The celebration concluded by singing the hymn "To God be the Glory" and with the Mothers' Union prayer. Tea and hot cross buns were then shared.

The next meeting will be on May 8 at 2.15pm in the Coach House. The speaker will be Susan Price on the subject "Your gift? Discover and Celebrate". All are welcome.

Dawn Nex

GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

It was a delight to see the church busy with inquisitive children keen to be involved with the activities designed for them for this event.

A warm welcome to the children and the adults who accompanied them led quickly into some enthusiastic and energetic singing kindly led by Alice and Les Timms. Ruth then read an Easter Story as the children sat to listen, soon willingly voicing their opinions in response to Ruth's questions.

A range of creative activities had been designed which soon saw the children busy and immersed in tasks of finding and making, cutting and drawing, sticking and colouring, some keen to be on to the next task, others more content to see the task concluded with care and accuracy. The inclusion of a chocolate egg in the baskets they made was an obvious priority for all.

All this hard work clearly created an appetite as hot cross buns and biscuits were consumed eagerly, with drinks, prior to a concluding session of more energetic singing.

It was a wonderful occasion enjoyed by all and made possible by the generosity of all those who helped. Special thanks to Janet and Jaimie Peart and to Jane Knowles.

THE **BIG** JUBILEE *Thank you*



Printed below is the text of a letter to be sent from the Bishop of Worcester, on behalf of all members of the Worcester Diocese, to send greetings and thanks on the occasion of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee.

A copy of the letter has been printed and is available in a folder at the back of church together with sheets on which you are invited to add your own greeting and signature.

Later this year the letter will be sent to Buckingham Palace along with all the additional sheets carrying the greetings of the people of the Diocese.

If you wish to include a message to be sent as a greeting from St Mary's, Oldswinford, please add your greetings to one of the sheets appended to the letter in the folder.

Madam,

With my humble duty and on behalf of the people of the Diocese of Worcester may I take the opportunity afforded by your Diamond Jubilee to say;

Thank you for your Majesty's faithful witness to the Christian faith.

Thank you for your Majesty's gracious leadership as Supreme Governor of our Church.

Thank you for your Majesty's devoted service to our nation over the past 60 years.

We pray for God's continued blessing on your Majesty, your Majesty's family and our nation as we celebrate your Diamond Jubilee.

I have the honour to remain, Madam, your Majesty's most humble and obedient servant,

The Rt Revd Dr. John Inge
Bishop of Worcester



WALK OF WITNESS

The first Via Dolorosa would have been a noisy, malodorous and heated route to follow even with the entertainment of executions at its end. Two thousand years on Christians find it fairly challenging to mark the way of the cross. The conclusion, gathered with fellow-believers, for a brief enactment of Christ's trials, execution and death interspersed with hymns, is invariably moving.

Churches Together in Stourbridge organise the occasion each year for Good Friday. It is led by a priest or minister from one of the worshipping groups in the area. We gather at St John's – home-base of the United Reform Church – and volunteers are asked to act as stewards or to take a turn in carrying the cross. Each year there seem to be more of us; about eighty this time. We walk in silence down the High Street. This holds up traffic for about ten minutes but I have never heard impatient hooting – either vehicular or human.

Sometimes we have gathered for the service by the clock; sometimes we have made our way back to The Ryemarket where a group of musicians has set up; this year we went along to the paved area in front of St Thomas's church hall. Passers-by occasionally join in for some or all of the time. Afterwards I heard a woman saying on a mobile phone, ".....just along at St Thomas's.....they have it somewhere in the town every year."

If you haven't been involved before do consider going along next year. Age and gender are immaterial: the youngest are usually in buggies and the oldest in wheel-chairs. Perhaps you worry that you will feel embarrassed at being in the public eye. However awkward you think you may feel you can be assured you will not be crucified at the end!

Dorothy Gibson

The Via Dolorosa is the route Jesus took from where he was condemned by Pilate to where he was crucified and buried, a pilgrimage walk undertaken by most Christians who visit Jerusalem. The exact route cannot be identified with certainty and has changed somewhat over the years with some variations according to the beliefs of each particular faith group. This does not seem to matter to those who are only too grateful to be so close to the locations of such important events in history and their faith.

The real-life experience is, at first, surreal as the walk leads one through narrow, busy and noisy streets lined with snack bars and tourist shops. On reflection, one realises that these streets would have held similar noises, smells and activities two thousand years ago.

Each of the key locations along the route in Jerusalem equate with the fourteen stations of the cross that are sometimes identified at points around the inner walls of a church and feature in services particularly on Good Friday.

THE QUEEN'S MAUNDY DIAMOND JUBILEE YEAR 2012

The nave of York Minster at 11 o'clock on Maundy Thursday. It is packed with nearly two thousand people who are waiting – very expectantly. The organist has reached the end of his beautifully played programme and a complete hush has descended. We have just stood up to face the west door and from outside we can hear the pealing of the bells and the distant cheers of the crowds in the streets. Although we cannot see her yet, Queen Elizabeth is outside the great doors being presented with baskets of Spring flowers and being welcomed by the Archbishop of York. Then the music bursts out and the processions enter – all four of them.

'We' were the 'recipients' of the Royal Maundy, and each of us was sitting with our 'companion' and our 'guest' I was wonderfully pleased to be the representative of Worcester diocese in this the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year. We had driven up to York the day before in the snow that hit the Peak District and the Yorkshire Moors. Thursday required an early start because of the complex car parking and security arrangements but we were in the York Assembly Rooms by 9.30 for our instructions and checking. The Bishop of Manchester as Lord High Almoner was responsible for all the advance preparations and told us 'to enjoy' the whole ceremony. We were taken to the Minster at 10 o'clock, and we certainly did!

The Queen had wanted special arrangements for this year's Jubilee service and so every diocese was represented and York diocese provided another forty or so. I was sitting next to a farmer from the Wolds near Beverley. Farmers never really retire and he was breeding a small number of donkeys. One had given birth the previous day in the awful weather but both were doing well inside his farmhouse!

And so Her Majesty the Queen entered the Minster! After a fanfare came the splendid singing of 'Praise to the holiest in the height' and the entry of the processions. The Minster procession with its own fine choir and the Chapel Royal choir came first, followed by the Ecumenical and the Queen's Procession which included Prince Philip as well as Her Majesty. The last was the Royal Almonry procession with the Yeomen of the Guard, the royal bodyguard, with six of them carrying the huge seventeenth century alms dishes. After the Choirs had sung Psalm 138 we all sang 'When I survey the wondrous Cross' and listened to the First Lesson on Christ's washing of the Apostles' feet. The Second Lesson was read by Archbishop John Sentamu with considerable emphasis on 'When I was hungry, you gave me food.'

How appropriate these readings were for the Queen's distribution of the Maundy Gifts. She walked along our lines after the First Lesson to present half of the gifts and returned after the Second Lesson to complete the donations. She combined great devotion with a real sense of joy and no one will forget her beaming smile for each of one of us.

The gifts were in two small leather pouches. The white pouch contained thirty four newly minted silver coins to the value of 86p, this figure being the age of the Queen this year. The red pouch contained five guineas as a clothing allowance and consisted of a fine £5 silver coin and a 50p coin of the current design. Then the choirs sang Handel's inspirational Coronation anthem, 'Zadok the Priest', and after short prayers we all sang, 'My song is love unknown'. The service ended with the National Anthem, the Blessing given by the Archbishop and the departure of the processions.

We moved out slowly with gratitude that we had been part of history in this notable year. But above all we left the Minster with a deep feeling of exhilaration and pride: exhilaration because we had been present at an uplifting spectacle of pageantry, praise and glory and pride at the Church's continuing mission to serve the community and the whole of society.

Roy Peacock

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

DUCK BREASTS WITH PINK GRAPEFRUIT

Duck breasts served with caramelised pink grapefruit is a great combination. The grapefruit cuts through the richness of the duck. Gressingham duck breasts are very good. I use a blow torch to caramelise the grapefruit, if you don't have one simply grill the sugared grapefruit until lightly caramelised.

4 large duck breasts, skin on
2 pink grapefruits, peeled and segmented
30g/1oz caster sugar
Salt and pepper

Pre-heat oven to 220c/gas7. With a sharp knife, make a lattice pattern on the duck skin and sprinkle with salt.

Get a non-stick frying pan hot and fry the duck breasts skin side down until an even brown colour. Flip them over and fry the other side briefly just to seal. Put them on a wire rack over a roasting tin and roast for 8-10 minutes. - they will be still pink, cook longer if you like less pink. Rest in a warm place for 5 minutes.

Place the segments of grapefruit on a baking sheet, sprinkle with sugar and blow torch them until caramelised.

Slice the duck on the diagonal and serve with the grapefruit.

Watercress and rocket salad with tiny roast potatoes make a good accompaniment.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE.....

The combination of meat and fruits on the plate together is much loved in Germany, where they might enhance the effect with a glass of fruited brandy: himbeer (raspberry) or kirsch (cherry) perhaps. We will be looking for a wine where the purity of fruit shines through. However let us first consider the issues of sweetness. If the sugar/caramelizing is substantial, we could opt for a rich and honeyed Auslese. Riesling of course the prized grape of Germany, where selecting a Riesling Auslese to partner the main course comes rather more naturally than on these shores. It is not just in Germany that duck finds itself paired with fruits and if the grapefruit is only lightly caramelized several options are suggested.

Pink grapefruit (along with lychees and rose petals) is a flavour associated with Gewürztraminer – one of the stars of Alsace. Rarely dry, it is a clear contender here. A little too floral for you? Grapefruit without the floral overtones features in the Italian wine Gavi; but is rather too light and subtle. A Pinot Gris/Grigio might be the solution. I enjoy a grapefruit flavoured Pinot Grigio from Friuli in north east Italy and here is the key. Avoid the mass of light Pinot Grigios pumped out of the Veneto region of Italy. Instead track down an example with that extra body and weight of fruit. It is not often that you will sit down to a dish of Gressingham duck with caramelized grapefruit, so find a good Alsace, Friuli or Austrian Pinot Gris and savour the moment!enjoy your wine sipping.

Richard W.B. Ryan

CHILDRENS PAGE ANSWERS

WEEDING TOOLS

There are eight: kneeler, glove, hoe, fork, hand fork, rake, wheel barrow, dandelion weeder

WEEDING

The good ones are (1) FAIRY, (2) SUNSHINE, (3) CHICKEN, (4) ANGEL and (5) LOVE.

FIND THE FLOWER

PRIMROSE

KNOW YOUR WEEDS

UNKIND

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SELFISH A

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ANGRY

E

JEALOUS

T

PICK OUT NAMES

1. Adam

2. Herod

3. Mary

4. James

5. Esther

6. Elisha

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

1 April

Erin Olivia Lee

Funerals

15 March

Ivy Rebman

Aged 89

16 March

Joseph Jones

Aged 83

28 March

Christine Parker

Aged 82

THANK YOU

to the ladies of the Flower Guild and all who contributed to the preparation of the church for Easter.

It was a wonderful display that made a special contribution to the celebrations of this special time.



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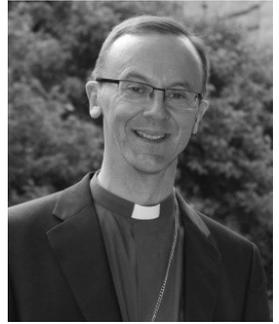
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A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

This piece is rather late for an Easter message but I want it to be one, just the same. One of the things that struck me at Easter this year is the way in which people are prepared to wish each other a happy Easter on Easter Day itself but thereafter assume that it is too late. Even on Easter Monday the only greeting which makes reference to Easter seems to be 'I hope you had a good Easter'. The great season of Easter lasts fifty days - until Pentecost - and it would be good if we were able to go on wishing each other a happy Easter during all that time. It is intended to be fifty days of celebration.



More than that, it would be good if we could go on celebrating Easter beyond then. I try to remind people on Sundays that we celebrate the resurrection every Sunday. It was Sunday, the first day of the week (not the Sabbath, which is Saturday, the seventh day of the week), when Jesus was raised from the dead. From the earliest times Sunday became the 'special day' for Christians for that reason. On that day they gathered, as has happened ever since, to meet the risen Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread as did the disciples on the Road to Emmaus.

In fact, it would be good if we could celebrate the resurrection not just at Easter, not just on Sunday, but on every day of our lives. That would help to demonstrate that the resurrection is not just about hope for the future - though it certainly is that - it is about the offer of new and abundant life in the present. Too often resurrection is associated with a vague hope of life after death - but it wasn't that which transformed the disciples when they encountered the risen Lord. They didn't think to themselves, 'Oh good, that means I shall have life after death', though they would. No, they were brought alive as they were given new life there and then. Thereafter they went out with joy to spread the good news all over the world.

As Christians we are called to be an Easter people whose song is 'Alleluia', not just on Easter Day, not just on Sundays but at every minute of every day. That way we can bring hope and new life in Christ to all those with whom we have to do. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Bishop John

Online May edition of
the parish magazine of
St Mary's Church
Old Swinford

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