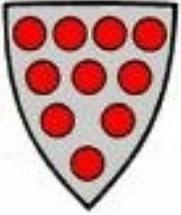


April 2012 edition of the  
St Mary's Old Swinford  
Parish Church Magazine.



# 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,  
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 1NN Tel: 01384 373286  
E-mail: [home@riatkinson.plus.com](mailto:home@riatkinson.plus.com)

**APRIL 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
<b>Curate's Day Off:</b>	Friday

## OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

First Tuesday Fellowship:	First Tuesday in month	(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	423021
	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@btconnect.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 2012

<b>SUNDAY 1</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
	3.00 pm Baptism
Monday 2	7.00 pm Meditation and Compline in church
Tuesday 3	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft Nursing Home
	7.00 pm Meditation and Compline in church
Wednesday 4	7.00 pm Meditation and Compline in church
Thursday 5	7.00 pm Seder Service and meal in church hall
<b>Friday 6</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
	11.00 am Children's workshop in church
	2.00 pm Devotions at the foot of the cross
	7.30pm The Passion: Choral music and readings
Saturday 7	9.00 am Decoration of Church for Easter
	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
<b>SUNDAY 8</b>	<b>EASTER DAY</b>
Tuesday 10	11.00 am-12.00 noon Visiting Bellringers
Thursday 12	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 14	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	1.00 pm Wedding
	Copy date for May Magazine
<b>SUNDAY 15</b>	<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	<b>Worship Together service am</b>
Tuesday 17	2.00-2.45 pm Visiting Bellringers
Wednesday 18	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 19	10.30 am Holy Communion
Saturday 21	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	1.00 pm Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 22</b>	<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>
	3.00 pm Baptism
	7.45 pm, after Evensong PCC Annual Meeting
Thursday 26	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Saturday 28	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
	1.00 pm Wedding
<b>SUNDAY 29</b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b>

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The Seder is derived from a Jewish ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish Holiday of Passover. Traditional Seder customs include the partaking of symbolic foods and the telling of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends,

2011/2012 has been a dramatic and eventful year for St Mary's. We shall be having our new Priest in charge Stephen Agnew joining us with his wife and family and we offer them the warmest of welcomes.

The induction service will be held on Tuesday 12 June at 6.30pm which will be followed by a celebration supper in the church hall. We look forward very much to Stephen taking over the parish.

Due to continuing ill health I have decided to retire immediately as one of your church wardens. It has been a great privilege to serve. I personally, and the Parish, owe Marjorie a great deal for all the extra work she has done during my absence, a big thank you to her.

Let us look forward to Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee year and the forthcoming St Mary's year with equal enthusiasm; may each be an inspiration to the other. The monarchy and St Mary's Church are both in good fettle, long may it remain so!

God bless you all and inspire us to help each other as we have many in need.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Edward

## SERVICES IN APRIL 2012

<b>1 April</b> Palm Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 50. 4-9a	Philippians 2. 5-11	
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 5. 1-7	Mark 12. 1-12	
<b>8 April</b> Easter Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Isaiah 25. 6-9	Acts 10. 34-43	John 20. 1-18
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Ezekiel 37. 1-14	Luke 24. 13-35	
<b>15 April</b> Second Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am	Worship Together		
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 26. 1-9, 19	Luke 24. 1-12	
<b>22 April</b> Third Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 3. 12-19	Zephaniah 3. 4-end	Luke 24 36b-48
	6.30 pm Evensong	Deuteronomy 7. 7-13	Revelations 2. 1-11	
<b>29 April</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion			
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 4. 5-12	Genesis 7.1-5,11- 18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13	John 10.11-18
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 16.4-15	Revelation 2.12-17	

### QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

"We cannot do great things on this Earth, only small things with great love."

**Mother Teresa**



# HOLY WEEK AT ST MARY'S

*Father in heaven, as your people prepare once more to follow the events of this Holy Week, may we be led by your spirit to deeper insights into your love and saving grace; that we may love you more and serve you better, for the sake of him who died for us and rose again, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen*

## **Sunday 1st April PALM SUNDAY**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Communion with reading of the Passion narrative.

This service begins in the Church Hall with palm procession into Church.

6.30pm Evensong and sermon.

## **2nd, 3rd and 4th April**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

7.00pm Meditation on the Passion in images with Compline.

## **Thursday 5th April MAUNDY THURSDAY**

10.30am Holy Communion.

11.00am Chrism Eucharist in the Cathedral.

7.00pm Seder meal and Vigil.

## **Friday 6th April GOOD FRIDAY**

10.00am Walk of witness from St John's.

11.00am Children's workshop in church.

2.00pm Devotions at the foot of the cross.

7.30pm The Passion: Choral music and readings.

## **Saturday 7th April**

9.00am Church decoration.

10.00am Open church and vestry hour.

## **Sunday 8th April EASTER DAY**

7.45am Holy Fire. The lighting of the Easter Candle.

8.00am Holy Communion.

10.00am Parish Communion.

6.30pm Choral Evensong and sermon.



*O Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, who on a Cross with wood and nails has wrought our salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come to you rough-hewn, may by you be fashioned according to your will; for the sake of your tender mercy. Amen*

## FROM YOUR NEW PRIEST

I know it has been a long time coming, but we finally have a date for my licensing as priest in charge of St Mary's, Oldswinford (in case you haven't heard, it is 12 June). So it does seem a most suitable time to introduce myself and tell you a little about myself.

My name is Stephen and I am married to Jean and we have four children and two grandchildren. Both Jean and I originate from the North, I come from North Wales and Jean from Yorkshire. My background is as a chorister in Chester Cathedral (many years ago) and since then I have carried on indulging my love of music, especially choral music. Jean and I met at University in Bangor where she studied Modern Languages and I studied Zoology. Jean then trained as a teacher and I went to theological college in Salisbury.

When I was ordained my first parish was on the outskirts of Manchester, in the Chester Diocese and then I moved to Crewe as Incumbent. My experiences of ministry in those places have been invaluable and I enjoyed the challenges of prison and army chaplaincy to name but two. I was also heavily involved in youth clubs and youth holidays in those days. In my spare time there I enjoyed playing cricket and hockey for local clubs and singing in a folk group.

From there I moved to Bromsgrove School where I spent 10 years as Chaplain, leading worship, teaching, coaching sport and indulging in my love of mountains and camping. I moved to my current parish at the end of 1999, and have been here ever since enjoying Worcester, the local church and community.

Jean and I enjoy parish life and ministry, we both like music and amateur dramatics. We enjoy the countryside, and for a number of years owned a narrowboat. We enjoy visiting the Celtic fringes of the UK and also travelling to the Middle East, where I have led a number of pilgrimages. We enjoy reading, different cuisines, good wine and good company. And we look forward to getting to know you over the coming years and with you seeking for where God wants us to be helping to build his kingdom.

Wishing you every blessing.

**Stephen Agnew**

## **SIDE BY SIDE THEATRE GROUP**

The actors at Side by Side are having a very exciting year and they thought our friends at St Mary's would like to hear all about it.

They are off to Edinburgh Fringe Festival to perform in August with a new show entitled "Dream On" - a modern-day take on Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Of course, this is after they have performed to their own Stourbridge audience at the Town Hall in June.

Side by Side have been selected to be part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stages Project for 2012, giving them the wonderful opportunity to work with the a RSC professionals in skills workshops and to be considered for a showcase performance this summer. Sue Wallin, their Artistic Director, has been invited to take the actors to Stratford for the workshops at the end of March and they are all so thrilled to have been chosen! Everyone is busy making costumes and props, and the actors are practising their parts over and over again - everything has to be perfect!!!

**Jane, John and Amanda Hill**

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### **A PRAYER FOR WORSHIP**

Let us come into the presence of God – to meet the Spirit of God

Not to give religion an hour – but live in the eternal

Not to maintain a respectable habit – but to bow in the presence of the Lord our God

Not to judge the words of the preacher – but to draw Hope from the Word and Truth everlasting

Not just to be moved or soothed by music – but to sing with joy our praise and thanksgiving

Not that our eyes may roam over architecture or congregation but that our souls may look up to the King and our hearts plead the needs of his family

Not that our thoughts may escape out into the world – but that we may be still and know that Thou art God.

Amen

**From the Commonplace Book of Evelyn Wayne,  
Reader in the diocese of Norwich**

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Home and away

Reflecting on the article in last month's magazine regarding Wendy Tanter's work with the Childrens' Society, we listened with interest to Susan Price's sermon/talk on the above good cause which is most generously supported by many in our community. Thank you.

I pondered and wondered as to how many other members of our congregation are involved in differing projects in support of their favourite charity.

Jan and Brian Drew come to mind with all their support for their little school in Kenya. Apparently it all began with a cheap flight to Kenya.

In 2007-2008 they managed to finance the digging of a 75 foot deep well. Then, through a sponsored walk by Brian they raised enough money to instal electricity and water storage facilities at Hill Wheever Prep School.

In ensuing years nine classrooms have been replaced, solid floors laid, doors and windows installed and a covered walkway constructed to link classrooms. Oh, and a kitchen was built and equipped.

Jan and Brian were in Kenya in January and saw the work carried out on a security gate and walls. Brian acknowledges the help they have received from our Mission group and other members of the congregation. More wonderful work is yet to come.

Talking of the Mission group one must acknowledge their work and fund-raising led by Margaret Woodall. I hope she won't mind but I have christened her 'Queen of the Coffee Morning.' It must be said that monies raised by both Margaret and Michael have helped St Mary's in so many ways over a long period of time.

Philip Bartram walked for many miles to support the work of Macmillan Cancer Care and now he is going to join Frank McGain-Harding in another sponsored walk—up steep hills and down deep dales.

Anne and Howard May recently organised another Quiz and raised welcome funds to support different aspects of our church work.

I know there are many more examples that could be presented, of worthwhile charities supported by the generous and caring involvement of so many. To each and everyone of you. Thank you.

**Anne Davies**

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

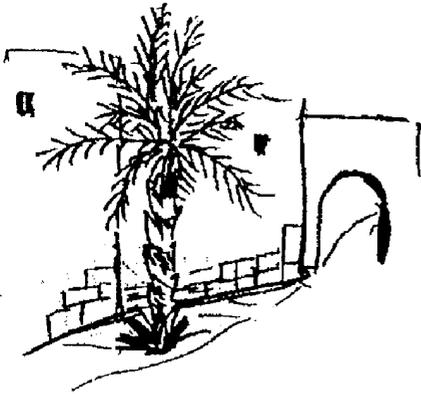
**John Wesley**

## FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

# THE LAST WEEK WITH JESUS

### **PALM SUNDAY**

When they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem they took palm branches and went out to meet him. They laid out their cloaks on the ground and shouted:



**“AHNOSHAN! SLEDBES  
SI EH OWH SMOCE NI  
HET MANE FO ETH  
ROLD”**

Unscramble the words to find out what they said.

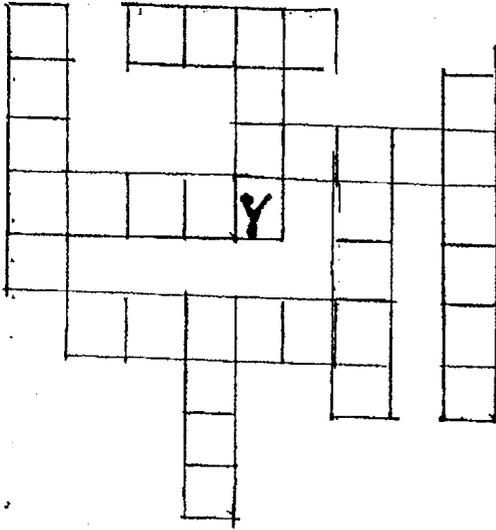
### **GOOD FRIDAY**

Do you know who:

1. Denied that he knew Jesus?
2. Deserted Jesus on the Mount of Olives?
3. Asked to see Jesus perform a miracle?
4. Was judge at his trial?
5. Carried his cross when he fell?
6. Was crucified with him?
7. Stood at the foot of the cross?
8. Asked for Jesus' body?



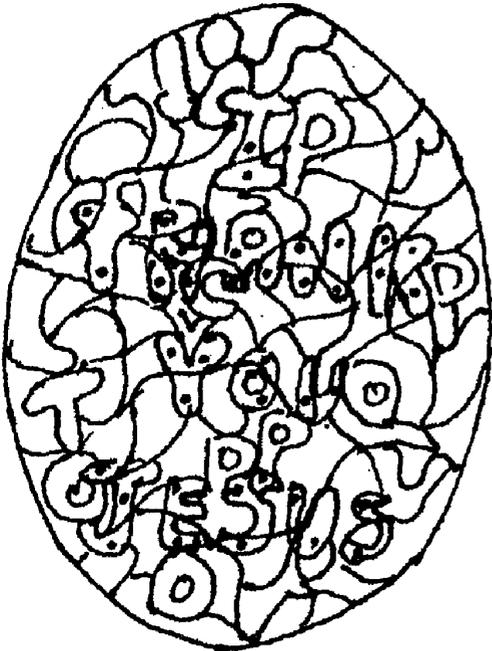
# EASTER SUNDAY



Can you fit these words into the grid? One letter has been given to get you started.

- GARDEN
- PETER
- MARY
- EMPTY
- TOMB
- STONE
- ROLL
- ANGELS
- RISEN

# EGG SPECIAL



Colour in the dotted sections of this Easter Egg to find the message.



Why not decorate your own egg with a personal message to Jesus?

## ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

### WALKING TO ALVELEY

Yesterday I had the deep joy of scampering back into my childhood as John and I joined the Walking Group on an adventurous journey round the village where I was born: Alveley. From ploughed field to “spoil tips” and meandering brooks to woodland, I lived again the excitement of the history and nature of this special place.

Malcolm and Sally Frost had walked the route for us on the previous Saturday in the rain and cold but on the day of the walk the sun shone and there was a slight breeze, in fact perfect conditions for the fifteen of us to venture forth.

The walk started in Hampton Loade by the fast flowing River Severn and my first memory was evoked as my best friend at Junior School had lived in Hampton Loade and so had to walk the three miles to Alveley every day – her Mother walking up and back – twice a day to take and collect her. No cars impeding traffic by School gates in those days.

Snowdrops beguiled our paths as we came up to the old Gamekeepers Cottage - the reservoir in front of it always used to be well stocked with fish - and then on up the pathway to the tarmac road. Nearby stands the Buttercross, a mile or so from the village, where in the time of the Plague, villagers used to take their butter and other products to sell. A bowl of vinegar was kept there for the people to drop their coins in as a deterrent against the Plague.

A few yards later we left the tarmac again and wandered on towards the Lakehouse Farm where we used to go strawberry picking, then on up to St. Mary's Church where I taught at Sunday School for years and sang in the Choir. John and I got married there and my beloved Mom and Dad now rest in the peaceful Churchyard together. At the back of the churchyard was the “Dog Pound” where any stray dogs would be tied up until their owners collected them! In my childhood there were three standing taps in the village as there was no water laid on in the houses. Hearing the Bible story about Jesus having been given water to drink by a well seemed very normal to us children. Water was precious. It took three trips to the tap with a bucket in each hand to fill the boiler for washing and baths and there were always two buckets of clean covered water in the pantry for drinking and cooking. The toilet was at the bottom of the garden and we did not have electricity until I was twelve! We were fed up with candles ‘wick in and wick out’!

We then rambled on down to “Banky Whittle” and on through the field where Jim Lukin used to have his piggery. He also had to fetch his water from the village tap and had an old cart with no brakes to which he had attached a lump of steel to stand on when going down the hill fully laden. Sometimes he would let us children have a go standing on the steel slipper. The sparks would fly as we whizzed down the hill.

Our route took us into the Severn Valley Country Park, built on the “spoil” tips. I still have one or two fossils that Dad brought home from working at the “pit.” Then on down to the River where we used to play. There was no health and safety then although the children did seem a lot healthier in those days! On we went through the green meadows back to Hampton Loade climbing over rickety stiles until the local hostelry came into view: we were soon breaking bread and chips and faggots and goat’s cheese together! What a wonderful walk, thank you to all our companions for their sparkling chatter, the only “twittering” came from the birds, and thanks once again to Sally and Malcolm.

**Eve Evans**

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## **NEWS FROM THE CHURCH HALL**

The ‘Posers and Puddings’ quiz was very well supported and enjoyed by all. There were 110 ‘quizzers’ in 19 teams. We made £466 on the night towards church hall improvements. Many thanks to our quizmaster and mistress who gave their services free of charge. Thanks to all the helpers who collected, arranged and put away the tables and chairs. A big thank you also to the ladies for the superb puddings and for serving and clearing up. Without all this generous help we could not run these events. The sound system worked well on its maiden outing but we are still having problems with the loop.

We are now thinking about future events. Any suggestions from our readers would be appreciated.

**Ian Ferguson**

To echo the words that were most aptly presented on the evening at the conclusion of this event, thank you Ian and Marjorie Ferguson. This was an evening that appealed to many and was obviously enjoyed by all who attended, a family evening of shared fun, generosity, fellowship and appreciation. More of the same sometime could well be the answer to Ian’s request for suggestions for the future.

**The Editor**

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## **THE LENT COURSE**

By the time of writing the first two evening talks of the Lent Course have taken place. They have both been of a very high standard of presentation, thought provoking considerations surrounding our theme of Jubilee. The presentations have been well-supported but there is always room for more people to come along for what is a worthwhile hour or so of listening and reflection followed by the opportunity to share ideas over a cup of tea. Thank you to all our speakers and those who have contributed to the organisation and hosting of these events.

## TEDDIES WITH LOVE

A few months ago Ann May asked me if I knew of any homes for teddy bears as she felt that they were in danger of spilling out of one room and taking over the rest of her house. We talked about a few ideas and I suggested that perhaps some might be welcome in Mary Stevens Hospice. There is now a basket of teddies in one of the rooms used for discussions with relatives and a notice says words to the effect of, 'Please take me home and give me a hug.' We have had to replenish them several times as they have been taken off to be loved by small relatives of patients but they have also proved a help to anxious patients. As one member of staff said, 'They are like a hug in your hand.'

We have also given away teddies to visiting families to church, perhaps coming to book baptisms. Two teddies, with smart red jumpers so that they would feel at home, were donated to Year 1 at Old Swinford Primary School. Year 1 were asked to tell me about their teddy bears in relation to the 'Value' which they were studying last month of 'Love' and you can see some of the work which they completed. When I gave the bears to two girls for their class I asked them, 'What do you do with a teddy bear?' to which the response was, 'Love it'. They then sat on the children's knees facing the front so that they could watch the rest of assembly.

The Mothers' Union have now begun a project to knit small bears in baby wool to present to our baptism families. If you could donate some baby wool towards that please place it in the Mothers' Union box at the back of church.

**Ruth Atkinson**

My teddy bear is called snoweey. He is special because I got him from my birthday party. I love him.

**Hattie**

My teddy bear is called bedtime bear. I called him that because he used to go to bed with him. I got him from my auntie a long time ago. She wears pink piggy ears and a bedtime hat on. He is cream color. He is having a sleep over under my bed. He is under a old blanket. He has a all in one top it ses bedtime bear. He has nited eyes.

**Ruby**

My teddy was called Tom and ceeps me asleep and sometimes he is naughty.

**James**

My teddy bear is called Popeey. She has long ears that are fereey. It is speshull because I got her for my birthday.

**Eva**

My teddy bear is called sparcl. I like because she is sparklee.

**Scarlet**



I love my teddy bear because he reeds me a storey and he cepts me safe and quiet. And Mummy and Daddy giv him super and he cics me out of my bed.

**Jack**

My teddy is called flopsy. I had flopsy sinse I was a babby. He is special because he look after me when I am not well. Flopsy is blue and cuddly. It was a presaeent for when I was born.

**Peter**

My teddy bear is called Benny. He is special because he is owd and snugleey.

**Evie**

My teddy bear is called James. He is sepeshull to me beces he is blac and I like him.

**George**

My teddy bear is culd tommy. It is speshul bcus it is camoflauge and it has blac eyes.

**Isaac**

My teddy bear is called Poago. She is special because she is owd and is soft. I like her because she is priteey. Paogo is from my Mummy. Paogo is nis because she is owd.

**Isabel**

My teddyber is cud flemming. He is scrufe, he is bran and wit but mainle bran. I slep with him all night and I play with him all day. In the inside of his eyes he has brwn but on top of his yesye he has fur.

**Alice**

My elephant is reelly cuddleey and I had him wen I was a baby.

**George P**

My teda bear is speshall to me becace it is my faivrut culed becace it is blac and it wears my jumper and it fits him and the pcher is a roala scait picher.

**Ashlee**

I lick my tedi byycus I lic his label. I lick to cuddul him.

**Gillis**

My teddy bear is called rose. She is special because hshe has a dres wiv flows and she has shoos wiv sparcus. Rose from bild a bear werk shop.

**Joely**

My teddy bear is called Tom. It is special because I got it wen I was a bayby and it was a elefant. My mum and dad bye it for me.

**Jacob P**

My teddy bear is called James. He is sepeshull to me becos he is blac and I lice him.

**George F**

My teddy bear is called Fluffy. He is special to me. He is brown. He has bows on him.

**Joshua H**

## THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

### Mackerel Teriyaki Style

This simple, quick and tasty dish could be served on Good Friday. Mackerel is one of the most underrated British fish. It holds its own or other flavours brilliantly. If you can't buy it fresh then buy frozen fillets and thaw before cooking. I am a chilli fan so I also add a little chopped chilli or a few chilli flakes to the sauce.

Serves 4

4 mackerel fillets

2 tbsp soy sauce

2 tbsp rice wine or dry sherry

½ tsp of caster sugar

2 cm piece root ginger grated (optional)

Fresh mint leaves and lime wedges to garnish

To make the teriyaki sauce. Mix together the soy sauce, rice wine, ginger and sugar. Lay the fish in the sauce and marinade for about 15 mins. Preheat the grill and grill skin side up for 4-5 mins basting halfway through, the skin should be crispy. Turn them over and cook for just 1-2mins. Serve with chopped mint leaves and lime wedges.

**Ann Jennings**

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

Hear, hear! Praise for mackerel: very appealing both hot (as here) or cold. There is a bizarre brain-teaser at large: which is the only football league club/underground station which shares no letters in common with the word mackerel?! It may take a while to work out so why not pour a nice glass of wine and assault some other senses! There are many fish-friendly whites available: Soave, Picpoul, Albarino etc. However, the weight and texture of mackerel invites a similarly proportioned wine. White Graves is a winner for me - the fresh Sauvignon Blanc combining perfectly with the weightier Simillon. But then add the teriyaki sauce and we have a new dimension - a challenging one!

We still need a wine with crisp acidity but must contend with some quite forceful and well-defined tastes. Loire reds are sometimes matched with teriyaki sauce but with our mackerel, we will stay white. It is often said that some wines bring their flavours in a cloud whilst others do so as a pointed arrow. It is the latter style we want here and none better than Riesling with its more limey

'spitfire' fruits. Take care not to select anything too light and floral which would be overwhelmed by the sauce. Whether dry from the Pfalz region of Germany, off-dry or sweeter, the characteristic acidity and intense Riesling fruits will be just right. Now back to that word conundrum.....!  
Enjoy your wine sipping.

**Richard W.B. Ryan**

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## **CHOIR NEWS AT ST MARY'S**

The Choir is pleased to report the progress of some of our choristers in recent weeks. Tom Fowler has recently completed his probationary period and was admitted as a full member, receiving his surplice in March. Also, Molly Butcher, Jack Kirton and Alice Fowler were awarded their Dark Blue ribbons. Congratulations to each of them. The choir is now preparing music for Holy Week and Easter.

Make I take this opportunity to remind you of recruitment to the choir. I would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to find out more about singing in the choir at St Mary's, the fun and the commitment involved. Normally, I would conduct a short audition to assess ability and be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

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

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

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### **CHILDRENS PAGE ANSWERS**

#### **PALM SUNDAY**

HOSSANAH! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

#### **GOOD FRIDAY**

1. Peter 2. The Disciples 3. King Herod 4. Pontius Pilate 5. Simon of Cyrene 6. Two thieves 7. Mother Mary and John 8. Joseph of Arimathea

#### **EasterSunday**

P TOMB

E A A

T RISEN

EMPTY T G

R O E

GARDEN L

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**EASTER SPECIAL** reads I thank you Jesus

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

19 February	Jude Samuel David Wright Thomas George Floud
4 March	Henry Lawrence Kirton Louis Michael Kirton

### Funerals

29 February	Joan Millward	Aged 92
2 March	Brian Skinner	Aged 77

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

On Tuesday 13 March Reverend Ruth Atkinson led members through a Lent meditation. The opening hymn, "The King of Love my shepherd is," based on Psalm 23 reminded us of different experiences in our lives and the constant presence of God.

We were reminded that we also enter a journey of Faith during Lent. The meditation was based on six paintings by Seiger Koder, a German priest. (These are available on the Pauline media website.) Each illustration enabled us to reflect how we could respond to different experiences of life.

We may feel unworthy or an outsider like the Samaritan woman by the well but Christ is present and used a simple request of water from her to show that His gift of eternal life is for all, whatever their background.

Family circumstances of the prodigal son's reunion can bring joy but also tension as shown by the older brother, but the lost sheep's return shows celebrations all can share.

A picture of an unmasked harlequin and one of a single room with the discarded costume shows how we can be many-faceted to others but in our own space we can fully reveal who we are.

Finally, from the sycamore tree Zacchaeus is embraced by Christ. No outsider or hiding place can exclude the presence of Christ.

Following a final prayer, Ruth was thanked for this stimulating Lent experience.

Members were asked to pray for Betty Foulkes awaiting heart investigations in hospital and for Rory Mackintosh, aged three, suffering from a recurrence of Leukaemia.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 10 April at 2.15pm in The Coach House and will be on "Easter Celebrations" - all are welcome!

**Dawn Nex**

## LIVING OUT OUR FAITH PUBLICALLY

With the speed of modern communications the truth sometimes takes a while to catch up with a good story. Thus it was that, a few weeks ago, a mobile phone video shot across the world, apparently showing sinister white robed figures carrying flaming torches through an urban English landscape at night.

To the person who first posted this on the internet it was clear evidence of extreme racists taking to the streets of Britain; to the vicar of the parish, when it reached his attention, it was a rather poor film of his outdoor Candlemas procession.

He, and his people, were doing their religion in public. They were taking the symbols of the Light of Christ into their streets as a demonstration of the truth that the Light of Christ is already shining into every dark place, including the public realm. We are Christians and we live out our faith publically.

The belief that religion is public as well as private does not go unchallenged today - the court case about prayers before local council meetings was just one example of the lengths that a small minority will go to in order to confine faith to the private realm. But when we commemorate Holy Week and Easter this month we are placing at the heart of our celebrations the very public execution of Jesus Christ by the authority of the Roman governor.

In many of our parishes we symbolise the public dimensions of our faith at Easter by holding a procession, behind the cross, through the centre of our community. We sing, pray and proclaim the Easter story amid shops and businesses and bus stations.

I am always impressed by the sheer number of men and women, from all Christian denominations, who take part in these events. And increasingly, as I talk to those alongside whom I am walking, I hear of how they are taking their practical Christian ministry into the heart of public life as well.

For we are the people providing Street Pastors to town centres each weekend. We are the people running Food Banks for those who are so poor that they cannot afford enough to eat healthily. We are the people, as I learned in a church hall recently, helping refugees to find somewhere to live.

So please do, whatever the weather, try to join in a Holy Week procession this year. And, as you show your faith in Christ through the public act of witness, reflect on how you can also show your faith through some public act of service.

**David Walker, Bishop of Dudley**

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