

**ST MARY'S
OLD SWINFORD**
Parish Church Magazine

SEPTEMBER 2016
Online edition



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine



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SEPTEMBER 2016

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 (weekdays)
Daily:	5.00 pm - Evening Prayer (weekdays)
Wednesday:	1.30 pm - Toddlers' Group 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 noon - Open Church –refreshments available
Priest in Charge Day Off:	Friday
Curate's Day Off	Monday



OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Prayer Group:	Third Wednesday in month, 10 -11 am	393454
Mothers' Union:	Second Tuesday at 2.15 pm	392951
St Mary's Walking Group:	Last Saturday of the month. Depart 9.30 am	

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ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNS OF MARRIAGE, BAPTISMS.

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

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

Thursday 1	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 2	Stephen's day off
Saturday 3	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 4	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	3.00 pm Baptism
Tuesday 6	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Wednesday 7	Standing Committee
Thursday 8	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 9	Stephen's day off.
Saturday 10	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour National Church's Trust 'Ride and Stride' 3.00 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 11	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Monday 12	Open the Book Team visit to Oldswinford Primary School.
Tuesday 13	2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House
Thursday 15	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 16	Stephen's day off 1.00 pm Wedding
Saturday 17	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 1.00 pm Wedding
SUNDAY 18	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	3.00 pm Baptisms
Monday 19	7.30 pm PCC Meeting
Tuesday 20	2.30 pm Tea in the Coach House 7.30 pm PCC Meeting
Thursday 22	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 23	Stephen's Day Off
Saturday 24	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 2.00—4.00 pm Messy Church
SUNDAY 25	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	3.00 pm Baptism
Tuesday 27	2.15 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex 7.30 pm Bishop's Certificate course in the Coach House
Wednesday 28	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 29	10.30 am Mothers' Union Corporate Communion in Church 3.00 pm Wedding
Friday 30	Stephen's day off
Looking ahead to October.....	
Saturday 1	9.00 am Decorate Church for Harvest 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour. 7.00 pm Harvest Supper in the church hall
SUNDAY 2	Harvest services

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends

At the start of the Summer we were able to celebrate the arrival of new members of St Mary's church in the form of a new Director of Music and a new Curate. That was and is a cause for celebration, but at the same time that we celebrated arrivals we have also faced the loss of members of our congregation from recent or past times: Alex Hix, Robert James, Ray Milner, Paul Turner, May Roden, Janet Blaxland and Richard Tatler, who has battled so courageously with his illness.

Of course, for each of those well remembered people there are family and friends who are grieving for them, but the church community also grieves for them. These are people who we have known well, often meeting week by week in worship and other church events, and when they have departed this life we as a church community feel the loss deeply.

We express our sadness by supporting the families in their particular grief, and those families are always grateful for the support of the church community in particular at funeral services. In those services we hear of the lives of those people we are remembering and give wholehearted thanks to God for their lives and their contribution to our lives, but we also express sorrow, and we feel a very real sense of loss.

Both of those feelings of thanksgiving and sorrow are inevitable as we mark the end of a life, but I hope that for us there is something else which we can share as well as those two feelings. I hope that in the midst of our sadness we do not forget that at the centre of our faith is the resurrection of Jesus. We are the people of the resurrection, whose fundamental belief is that as Jesus broke through the power of death, so also those who follow Jesus can look forward to a future life with God. And so as we face the death of those people in our church family we face it not with a sense of despair, but with a very real hope that the story of those people is not yet complete, and that they live with God, where we believe that we can be reunited with them at some future time. So in our sadness let us rejoice in the hope that is ours through Jesus Christ.

Stephen Agnew

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2016

4 September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Deuteronomy 30: 15—end	Luke 14. 25-33
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah . 43.14-44. 5	John 5. 30-end
11 September Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	WORSHIP TOGETHER	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 60.	John 6. 51-69
18 September Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Timothy 2. 1-7	Luke 16. 1-13
	6.30 pm Evensong	Ezra 1.	John 7. 14-36
25 September Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Timothy 6. 6-19	Luke 16. 19-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Nehemiah 2.	John 8. 31-38, 48-end

TO STEPHEN AND THE ST MARY'S CONGREGATION

Thank you all so much for the beautiful flowers you gave me after Choral Evensong on Sunday 8th May.

I have very much enjoyed my time helping with the robes and refreshments for St Mary's Choir, and have many happy memories of Friday night fellowship in the Vestry.

Janet Peart

CHOIR MEMORIES - 1977—2015

Prior to 1977, by tradition, St Mary's Choir consisted of all male singers, men and boys. This changed that year, due to an unusual event. In the early part of the year the choir members 'walked out', in other words, they went on strike! The reason, I believe, was because of a disagreement with the Choir Master. The matter was never resolved.

Sadly, for Canon Davies, the incumbent, this was a difficult time. His daughter, Judith, was getting married later that year and no choir was available for this big event.

The Rector knew I belonged to a local ladies choir and asked if I would help. The ladies volunteered for the task and we were pleased to sing on this happy occasion. Afterwards, the Rector asked if I would form a choir to sing at Sunday services on a permanent basis. This I did, but, due to other commitments, most of the ladies declined, and just three of us went along to our first choir practice. Later, others followed, including children, and, as they say, the rest is history.

I was happy to be choir librarian for over 30 years. There were many visits to cathedrals and abbeys during this time. I reluctantly retired in 2015. Looking back to all those years ago when I was asked to form a choir, I would never have envisioned what a rewarding experience it would turn out to be.

It has been a privilege and a joy to sing praises to the God we all serve.

Wendy Tranter

THE CURATE AT WORK

By the time you are reading this, Alex French, the new Curate at St Mary's, will be a familiar face and personality to you all. It is nearly two months ago that many members of the congregation travelled to Worcester to share in the service of Ordination for Alex and his fellow deacons, to support him in his ordination promises, and to welcome Alex to Oldswinford in his new vocation. Alex has very quickly got to know many of the people who attend services at St Mary's and others who live and work in the parish and is already recognized as someone who is striving to be a valued member of the community. A Sunday Bring and Share lunch in the Church Hall provided the opportunity for us all to present our personal welcome and good wishes and was a much appreciated occasion of social fellowship. As always, the members of the Social Committee provided the back-up to the offerings shared for lunch and helped to ensure the success of the event through their goodwill and generous house-keeping. Thank you to all involved.



The following paragraphs were published on the Diocesan website as part of a report of the ordination and included several photographs taken at the service, one of which is included in this article..

I was born and brought up in Manchester and have spent 20 years working as a secondary school teacher, teaching maths and economics in different schools across the country. My final teaching post was at Nunnery Wood School in Worcester, which I combined with training for Ministry part-time at Queen's Theological College in Birmingham. Since leaving teaching last September I have been doing voluntary work at Magg's Day Centre and St. Paul's Hostel.

It was in my early 20s when worship became more than something you just do at the weekend and I first started to get a sense of being called to do something other than teaching. However, I buried my head in the sand and hoped it would go away! About 5 years ago I decided to prove that there was nothing in the feeling, but ended up being accepted for ordination training! God never lets go.

I'm looking forward to working in the parish of Oldswinford, being part of the community and developing relationships. I've always had a strong sense of pastoral care – nurturing people and seeing them grown and develop. It'll be great to shift from a school environment to something broader – being who God wants me to be. I have a real passion for helping people to discover and deepen their relationship with Jesus through every aspect of their lives, setting them free to live the life of love that God intended.

I have a thirteen year old son, George and outside of ministry enjoy being a rugby referee, fishing and walking – anything outdoors!

Alex has asked for the following to be shared with you all via this edition of the magazine.....

I have had an incredible introduction to life within St Mary's and the parish. Thank you all for the depth and warmth of your welcome. Already you have made me feel at home, relaxed and a part of your church family. I can't wait to spend the rest of my curacy journeying together through life's rich tapestry whilst worshipping the might and majesty of our Lord. I thank God that in such a short space of time, part of me already feels that it will always belong to St Mary's. God bless.

Alex French

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXHOLDERS

Once again it is time for the Children's Society box contents to be counted so if you do have a box could you please either:-

1. Wait for your usual collector to visit and count the contents or
2. Bring your box into church and leave it for counting (by the end of September at the latest please).

Your box will be returned to you after counting.

Thank you so much for being a box holder. Every penny you collect really does make a difference and the Society ensures that the money is invested in services which directly impact children's lives.

Maggie Abbotts

ST MARY'S YOUTH GROUP CAMP

In July the St Mary's Youth Group went to Far Forest to enjoy a weekend break with friends. As in previous years we stayed in the Worcester diocese residential centre which provides accommodation for groups like ours.

On the Saturday morning we went to West Midlands Safari Park and our leaders took us round the enclosures in their cars. We got really close to the animals and we were able to feed some of them such as the giraffes and camels. Afterwards we visited the theme park area with rides and entertainment. There was a new ride called 'Kong' which was great - exciting but not too scary.

Back at base Alex our new curate came to visit us for the evening as we enjoyed the annual 'St Mary's Got Talent Show'. The keyboard player and the comedy acts were all amazing and the winners deserved their prizes.



Next day we took a walk to some woods where we explored a brook and had lots of fun. I enjoyed water dipping and found lots of minute shrimps. Others were creating dams and had a game skimming stones. Finally we ended our trip with a pizza lunch before packing our bags to leave.

I would like to thank the church and the youth group leaders for making this very

enjoyable weekend happen.

Georgia Hawkins

The Far Forest Residential Centre featured in the Diocesan Prayer Diary on one of the days the St Mary's Group were staying there.

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

In July members enjoyed tea at the home of Sally and Malcolm Frost. Though the weather prevented us from exploring her beautiful garden we enjoyed the splendid refreshments and fellowship. Special thanks to our hosts for such a happy time.

It was with sadness that we heard of the sudden death of our member Janet Blaxland and our sympathy goes to Mike and her family.

Next meeting: Tuesday 13 September at 2.15 pm in the Coach House.

My Road to Ordination – speaker The Revd Alma Organ

All are welcome to join us.

Dawn Nex



MOTHERS' UNION



As Mothers' Union celebrates 140 years of faith in action, branches have been asked to consider fund raising for a special cause.

Away From It All - or AFIA for short - is a Mothers' Union fund which helps anyone who has been through a difficult time to enjoy a break away. This may take the form of a day out to the Safari Park or Alton Towers, it might be a few days away in a specially adapted cottage for a disabled person or time away for a family.

Recently a young family in the parish, who have had a really difficult year due to illness, were given the opportunity to go away for a family holiday supported by AFIA. This has meant a great deal to that family.

Our Mothers' Union Branch has decided to support AFIA as part of the 140 year celebrations. We will be holding a coffee morning in September.

You are warmly invited to come along, to share good company, to enjoy refreshments and to contribute, through your purchases, to our fund-raising efforts in support of this very worthwhile scheme.

Mothers' Union Coffee Morning

on

Wednesday 14th September 2016

from

10.00 am till 12.00 pm

in

The Narthex, St Mary's Church, Oldswinford

Coffee and Cake, Cake Stall, Jams and Preserves, Books, Raffle

We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

CAN YOU HELP?

The magazine committee hopes to welcome new members. A group of about eight members, currently reduced to six, oversee the publication and administration of the magazine each month. Following time to proof-read a draft copy, the committee meets just once a month to edit and agree the final product for publication and to plan for future editions. A range of views and interests helps to provide for the diversity of our readers and the publication of a magazine with wide appeal. If you might be interested and wish to inquire further please speak to a member of the committee or contact the editor on 01384 822661.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DUDLEY HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Ride and Stride 2016

The annual fundraising event, Ride + Stride, will take place on Saturday 10 September when churches all over the region will be open to welcome visitors and encourage those taking part. Active involvement invites people to participate in a sponsored travel by whatever means, from church to church, to raise funds in support of the Trust. The Trust would like to thank all those who have contributed to this event in the past and welcomes participants for this year's event, both individuals and churches.

As in previous years, all the information you need is on the Trust website at: <http://www.worcesteranddudleyhistoricchurches.org.uk> and all the necessary documents and a poster can be downloaded from there.

St Mary's will participate as usual, with the church being open throughout the day, when visitors taking part may sign in and benefit from our welcome, refreshments, fellowship and facilities.

Diocesan News

NEWS FROM OLDSWINFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

The daily life of a modern Primary School is full and busy. The expectations of parents for their children to flourish is a constant focus for teachers and the judgements of Ofsted demand a level of attention towards academic achievement and school performance that some believe to be to the detriment of other aspects of a child's education. As those who contribute to the 'Open the Book' programme know, Oldswinford Church of England Primary School provides a wide-ranging, challenging education experience in which children may thrive and develop a healthy awareness of faiths and the values that will help to equip them for life.

In response to a request to share some of the work at the school, Jenny Birchall, the head teacher, has written to describe how an investigation of spirituality has been a focus for the children.

At Oldswinford C of E Primary school, the children have all created spirituality and reflection areas in their classes and in shared areas around the school. This has been the impact of an immersion week to develop Spirituality for staff and pupils to support the pupils' understanding and definition of Spirituality. One lunch-time, I watched a group of 4 children ranging in ages from 5-9. The older children were reading prayers and bible stories to the younger children, explaining and discussing the meanings of the texts. When the older children went for lunch, the younger children tidied up the area independently and set the prayer bears and teddies so the older bear could read to the younger bear. The text they chose was a prayer written by a group of pupils. How lucky we are to see the next generation sharing and caring for each other through Christianity and shared values such as respect, through imaginary and real play. Truly, this was an honour to witness.

MOTHERS' UNION

In March there was a ceremony at Lambeth Palace when the Archbishop of Canterbury reaffirmed the Worldwide President and Trustees of the Mothers' Union.

During the service Archbishop Justin Welby said: "The Mothers' Union in so many places is an organisation that listens to the voices of weeping. Whether it's in Burundi, the Congo or South Sudan; whether it's in homes in cities where, when the local football team loses, there is a 50 percent increase in domestic violence; whether it is in the loneliness of weeping by people who are not suffering physically but are spiritually empty and lost; it is the Mothers' Union that exists in the vision of Mary Sumner to speak of those things that God has provided that bring hope, help and a future.

Central to this vision," he said, is "an extraordinary movement to support the family.

"There has never been a time when the family was not a place that needed the light of Christ shining within it to become what God has called it to be. And you hold that treasure in your hands, and as we go to the reaffirmation that is part of the vision."

He added: "But there is also such a need for global women's groups. And you are among the most embedded, the most effective, the most widespread. There are few that can rival you – if any."

Reflecting on United Nations research showing that no major civil conflict since 1945 has ended without the involvement of women's groups, the Archbishop said "The Mothers' Union holds in its hands two aspects of the most extraordinary treasure that God has brought together.

"You are one of the greatest of women's groups in the world, and you have the treasure of the gospel of reconciliation. What more could be needed to be transforming of the world in which we live?

"Nine-tenths of your work is hidden in the parishes and the dioceses, in the hills and the villages – doing the work of bringing hope and strengthening families, of supporting churches, of transforming communities.

"I pray that God will go on blessing you, and that your vision of the God who rises above all the fears, all the problems we face... will end with a vision of hope and confidence not in the Mother's Union and this great heritage, not even in this wonderful vision, but in the God who underpins and secures it all."

If you would like to know more about the work of Mothers' Union please look at the notice board at the back of church or speak to Anne May or Brenda Selby.

Sally Frost

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will take place in the Coach House at 2.15 pm on Tuesday, 13 September. The speaker will be The Revd Alma Organ.

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

HELPING OTHERS



September is the time we go back to school after the summer holidays.

For some children it will be their first time in school. Can you remember your first day at school? How did you feel? Did someone help you?

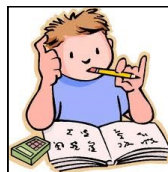
If you meet someone who is new in your school how might you help them?



HELPING HANDS



Lots of people do jobs that are about helping other people. Can you join up the pictures of the helpers and those they help?



A charity is an organisation that tries to help other people.

At church, one of the charities we support is the Food Bank Charity. Do you know how the Food Bank helps other people?

What could you do to help the Food Bank help other people?

Have you ever put money into a charity collecting tin? Do you know how this money is used?

We're Going Back To School



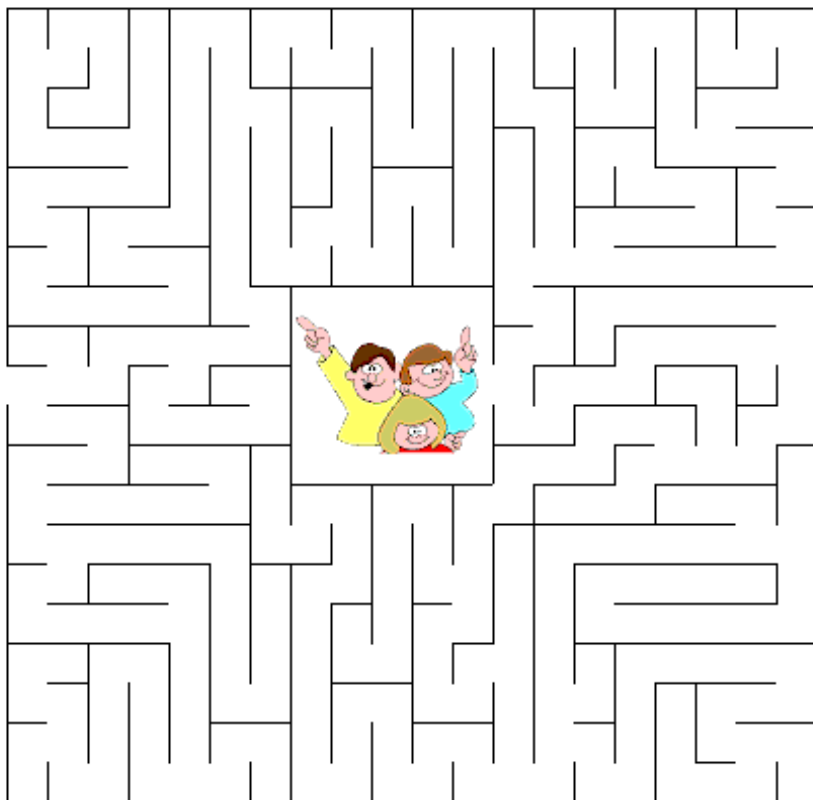
In the Bible many stories tell how people should help one another.

Who did Jesus tell, "Come, follow me." (Mark 1.17)?

Jesus chose 12 special helpers (Mark 3.14) as his apostles. Try to find out their names.

Jesus gave everyone some very good advice so everyone could help everyone else. He said, "Love one another." (John 15.17)

The friends in the middle of this maze are lost. Can you help them to find their way out?



VISIT BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

There's a good deal of excitement throughout the area at the news that Archbishop Justin Welby is visiting the Diocese from 7 - 9 October. There are lots of events planned, but three in particular that all who are able to attend are invited to take part. These three major events are:-

- ♦ **Archbishop Justin in conversation with the BBC's Jeremy Vine,**
Worcester Arena, Friday 7 October, 7pm
- ♦ **Craft, stories & refreshments for families,** St. Stephen's Church in
Redditch, Saturday 8 October, 1.30pm
- ♦ **Prayer walk and Songs of Praise at Merry Hill Shopping Centre,**
Dudley on Sunday 9 October, 2.30pm

Full details of all events planned for the Archbishop's visit can be found on the website, <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/archbishops-visit>

LOOKING FORWARD TO ARCHBISHOP JUSTIN'S VISIT

I know that lots of people across the Diocese are looking forward to meeting Archbishop Justin when he visits us over three days, 7- 9 October. I am praying that the visit will be a time of great blessing, affirming the incredible life, ministry and outreach of our churches, as well as bringing encouragement to others who seek to find life in all its fullness in Jesus.

Over the course of the three days there will be a whole range of different events, from the low-key visit to a group that works each week with refugees, to a large scale invite-a-friend event in Worcester arena.

All events are planned around the Archbishop's three priorities.

About prayer and the renewal of religious life Archbishop Justin has said, "If we want to see things changed, it starts with prayer. It starts with a new spirit of prayer, using all the traditions, ancient and modern." Prayer matters, our lives are enriched, and prayer changes things. So during the Archbishop's visit he will be encouraging us to deepen our relationship with Jesus through prayer, explore different ways of praying, and he will champion the great privilege it is to have the communities of Glasshampton and Mucknell Abbey within the diocese.

About reconciliation Archbishop Justin has said that it "doesn't mean we all agree. It means we find ways of disagreeing – perhaps very passionately – but loving each other deeply at the same time, and being deeply committed to each other. That's the challenge for the church if we are actually going to speak to our society, which is increasingly divided in many different ways." So during the visit the Archbishop will take us to the heart of the Gospel and help us to think about how being reconciled in Christ Jesus demands of us to be agents of reconciliation in our nation, in our communities, in our churches, and our families.

The third priority is evangelism. Archbishop Justin frequently says, "The best decision that anyone can ever make, at any time, in any place, is to follow Jesus Christ." We are called at the end of Matthew's Gospel to go and make disciples. Having discovered something incredible in our lives, something that

transforms us with love and grace, forgiveness and mercy, surely we will want others to experience that something, which is God in Jesus, as well? Evangelism is about sharing that wonderfully good news by our words, by our living, by how we are.

It is sometimes said that other people remember how we make them feel far more than what they hear us say. Archbishop Justin’s visit will, I pray, enable more people to feel what our life together as the Diocese of Worcester is all about so that they will be receptive to hear about what God has done for us in the birth and life, the passion, death and resurrection, of Jesus. Please pray earnestly that the visit will be good news for the sake of the Good News.

Bishop Graham

OUR VERY ‘OPEN’ CHURCH

Following the July meeting of the Parochial Church Council, the church building has been unlocked and open during the day, extending a welcome to all who may wish to spend some time enjoying the peace and tranquillity of this wonderful building. This has been a move that has been under consideration for a little while, something that Revd Stephen Agnew has been particularly keen to see happen as a symbol of the welcome the Church offers to all who seek the opportunity to spend some time in quiet, personal reflection. Our open doors serve to indicate that the church building is there for all who live or work or pass through the area, a real community space into which all who will care for it are welcome.

Inevitably, certain safeguards have been put in place to ensure the well-being of all who visit the church and to date this has proved to be a worthwhile and appreciated change of practice. The doors will remain open during the day as a trial until the next PCC meeting when a decision will be taken with regards to what will happen in the future.

Please take the opportunity to visit the church at times other than usual service times, perhaps to enjoy the building, its history, its glass windows, its memorials, for private prayer or for the peace that may be found there.

If you visit, you may see people keenly studying their mobile phones in the vicinity of the church grounds. They may be those who are seeking a Pokémon character, following a sort of mobile phone Hide and Seek game that has become immensely popular in many parts of the world. Apparently there is a Pokémon ‘hotspot’ close to the church. Anyone under twenty will be able to explain much more about this game which would be a novel and modern way of encouraging more people to experience St Mary’s and all it offers.

MUSIC NOTES

This month chorister Molly Butcher tells us what it means to be a member of St. Mary's Choir.

"Where do I start? I have been in the choir for nearly 7 years and that's probably a short time compared to some of my other choristers but let's not forget I am only 15. I have enjoyed every minute right from the time Robin came in to my primary school to 'audition us' where me and lots of my friends went and had fun. Due to other commitments I am the only one from that time still going. But that does not stop me. I enjoy every aspect of choir especially meeting lots of new people who are so talented and are such an inspiration to all the young members of our choir. We are all one big family and enjoy leading the worship with music. I also enjoy singing at weddings. We are eager to help encourage new members young and old because it is such an amazing environment to be around - A creative way to develop your faith. Even if you can't read music don't let that get in your way, at the end of the day little year 4 Molly couldn't either."

I hope that in next issue of Music Notes, I'll be able to tell about some new members of the choir.

Graham Davies, Director of Music

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

The June Walk

On Saturday 25 June, eight walkers set off from St Peter's Church, Martley for what was billed as a 6.25 mile walk - The Martley Circular Walk, as indicated by the wheeling "buzzard" way-marker.

We departed from the church car park, and proceeded to cross the B4204 and head into the grounds of the Chantry School, crossing a field before exiting onto a lane towards Lingen Farm and then on to Alden's Farm, passing through farm buildings.

Continuing ahead across several fields and through a number of bridle gates, we reached Prickley Green Farm, apple growers. Following the edge of the farmyard, we turned diagonally to follow the path through the rows of apple trees. After crossing several more fields of oilseed rape, we reached the main road, the B4197. As we crossed over, the rain started but we were able to shelter under some trees whilst the worst of it passed over. We then continued up the track where we passed Rodge Hill Farm, complete with its helicopter parked nearby.

As we reached the top of Rodge Hill it was coffee time and here we stopped to enjoy the stunning views over the surrounding countryside.

We followed the Worcestershire Way along the ridge of the hill but missed the turning off, thereby adding almost another mile to the "billed" 6.25 miles as we had to back-track to recover our route.

Back on course, we descended the hill to the busy road before crossing over and heading down to the River Teme, which we followed downstream for a short while.

By now it was lunchtime and we sat and ate our picnics on the river bank. When we left the river, we climbed a steep hill, into the woodland of Kingswood Common where we followed the path through to exit via a kissing gate. We then had another steep uphill climb before turning into a field and continuing downhill. Leaving the Worcestershire Way, we returned to the car park.

'On our way home some of us stopped at Witley Church tea rooms for a well earned cuppa and piece of cake.

Sue Solley

The July Walk

The programme of walks described our walk location for July as '**TBA MGL**', i.e. to be advised, might get lost, so we were highly delighted that 14 people were brave enough to come on our first planned walk around Wassell Wood.

The walk took us from Bewdley town, over the River Severn, rising up to the ancient hill fort site of Wassell Wood and then back down again through lovely countryside, returning to Bewdley. Having crossed the bridge, we stopped briefly to look at the large plaque on the pavement identifying the location of the old toll house. We then headed off on the public footpath through a caravan site, onto Northwood Lane and then under the Severn Valley railway line. Our walk took us through several fields, a bridleway and out onto farmland. It was such a beautiful clear day that we could see the Malvern and Abberley Hills as well as Titterstone Clee and the Brown Clee Hill.

Having passed through Trimpey village we eventually arrived at an entrance to Wassell Wood and made our way to an area called the Wassell Wood camp which is believed to be late prehistoric and where we stopped for coffee and to admire views across the valley. Leaving the wood we began our descent towards the town where we sat by the river and enjoyed some well-deserved fish and chips.

Our day wasn't at an end, however, as we hosted a barbeque for all the walkers, with contributions from everyone, and had a great evening planning the programme to take us through to July 2017! Thank you Sally and Malcolm for coming on a practice walk earlier in the year so that the day could go as smoothly as it did.

Avril and Stan Williams



ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

PROGRAMME OF WALKS, September 2016—July 2017

Date	Location	Miles	Leaders	Tel. No.	Lunch
26 Sept 16	Baddesley Clinton	5	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146 07768 255827	Pub
31 Oct 16	Canals at Barnt Green	5	Mike	01384 390357 07779 873892	Pub
28 Nov 16	LINEAR WALK, Dudley Port to Cradley Bring your bus pass and a torch	6	Sue & Tony Wakeley	01384 838635	Pub
Dec 16	No Walk				
30 Jan 17	Alcester	5	Sally and Malcolm	01384 377146 07779 255827	Pub
27 Feb 17	TBA	TBA	Linda and Keith Ashman	01384 825177 07779 873892	TBA
26 Mch 17	Kinver Circular	6	Sue & Tony Wakeley	01384 838635	Pub
30 Apr 17	Bobbington	5	Jean & Ray	01384 836924	Pub
28 May 17	Himley	5.5	Toni & Bob	01384 377096	Pub
25 June 17	Colne Valley Bring your bus pass	5.5	Sue Solley	01384 829221	Picnic
30 July 17	TBA	?	Stan and Avril	01384 392990	TBA
Aug 17	No Walk				

NOTES

1. Unless otherwise stated all walks leave from St Mary's at 9.30 am
2. There are no walks in December 2015 or August 2017
3. All walks are on the last Saturday of the month
4. For picnic lunches please bring your own food. For pub lunches there is usually a good selection of meals for purchase.
5. Country walking is not risk free, all persons joining our walks do so in the knowledge of this fact.
6. For further information on the walks please telephone the leaders.

CHILDRENS' PAGE ANSWERS

Jesus told **Simon** and **Andrew** to follow Him.

Jesus' special helpers were **Simon Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James, Thaddaeus, Simon** and **Judas**

REMEMBERING GOOD FRIENDS

During the past few weeks we have shared the sadness of the passing of several of our friends. Paul Turner who regularly attended the Sunday, eight o'clock service passed away in July and May Roden, died on 19 July. Richard Tatler, who for so long had battled his illness died on 29 July and, suddenly, on 30 July Janet Blaxland passed away.

All these people were significant members of our Christian community whose faith helped to direct their lives and the way in which they cared for those around them. We give thanks for the joy and fellowship, the love and caring they brought to our experiences with them and record our deepest condolences to all their families and friends.

Janet was a committed Christian and long-time member of Mothers' Union. With Mike, she was a much valued member of the church service rota serving as a Eucharistic Assistant and in the leading of intercessions. We give thanks for her guiding light and for all she gave to others.

For many years Richard was a St Mary's chorister who brought great joy to all with his singing and in the loyal friendships that developed and endured over time. The illness that so challenged his plans for the future gave prominence to the caring man that he was and the importance of loving and of living life to the full.

Ben Frost, one of Richard's long-standing friends has written:-

On Friday 29 July, Richard Tattler passed away peacefully. His loving wife, Shama and his parents were by his side. Richard had been battling cancer for eight years. He fought courageously and determinedly; through chemotherapy, radiotherapy and countless operations. He was on a bucket load of medication that would have floored the strongest man yet he still functioned as a fantastic husband to Shama and magnificent father to his daughter, Emily. Without Shama and Emily in his life, I think I would have been writing this tribute years ago. I'm eternally grateful to the two of them for giving Richard the best years of his life.

I had known Richard for the best part of 30 years. We were part of a group of young choristers, initially thrown together by our love of music, but later becoming firm friends and enjoying each other's company socially, usually with a pint of Bathams.

Richard was sociable, intelligent and fun loving. He was always in the 'cool' group at school, but confident and strong enough to be proud of his church commitments and the friendships that gave him .

Richard was passionate about music, and in particular, singing. He had a great voice. It was particularly cruel then that part of his treatment involved a laryngectomy, and he was no longer able to sing or to speak properly.

Traditionally, I should probably end this tribute with 'Rest In Peace', but to be honest, Richard you've been quiet for too long. Wherever you are now, I hope you have your voice back, the acoustics are second to none, and you're singing your heart out.

Richard Hall has written.....

When I was appointed in 1988 to re-establish a full choir at St Mary's, Richard was one of my first intake of young trebles. They quickly gelled into a close-knit group and Richard's lively personality contributed much to that process.

Richard was clearly musical and a good treble voice eventually matured into a promising tenor under the individual coaching of Charles Renshaw. He took a full part in the life of the choir, and gained his Dean's and Bishop's awards in due course.

It therefore seemed to the rest of us to be particularly cruel that cancer came to attack his vocal chords in his early twenties but I never heard him complain about his lot.

Practical considerations did not always curtail Richard's ambitions and this remained the case right to the end. It drove him to live his remaining life to the full with great enjoyment. It was always uplifting to find the ebullience of his teenage years undimmed.

His wife, Shama, has amazed us all with her strength during all the years of his treatment, and together they have carefully planned for daughter Emily's future life.

Shama and Emily came to Alex's wedding last Friday and on being complimented on her pretty dress, Emily replied with a shy smile 'my daddy chose it for me'. Richard can rest in peace.

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

PARMESAN ROASTED POTATOES

I sometimes add finely crushed garlic to the parmesan mix. A non-stick roasting tin is needed for this method of cooking. Serves 8

1.5 kg floury potatoes, cut in small pieces

5 tablespoons olive oil

2 teaspoons plain flour

100g parmesan, finely grated

handful parsley, finely chopped

4 rosemary sprigs, leaves finely chopped

pinch of grated nutmeg

Heat oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Place the potatoes into a pan of salted water, bring to the boil and simmer for 5 mins. Drain well and toss in a little of the oil to coat.

Stir the flour, Parmesan, herbs and nutmeg together in a dish with a small pinch of salt and toss the potatoes in the mix until evenly coated. Heat a good layer of oil in a shallow, non-stick roasting tray on a hob or in the oven,

carefully add the potatoes to the tray. Turn the potatoes to coat them in the oil and roast for 40 minutes, turning once. If they feel like they are sticking to the pan, don't move them, just leave them for the full time. Roast until golden brown and crisp, and serve straight away.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE...

We often go in search of a wine to match some imagined meat ingredient when we consider a roast potato recipe. So, instead let us focus on what we have before us and see where some of these flavours steer us. Both rosemary and thyme take a red wine better than a white : good news for lamb in a rosemary jus, a herby/thyme coq au vin or indeed as here - rosemary roasted potatoes. Incidentally, parmesan cheese likes many wines : from rich Chardonnays to a host of reds - a Chianti or a Valpolicella perhaps. Parsley on its own steers us to a white : think the Burgundian 'jambon persille' dish and of course snails in parsley butter and garlic, for which the white Aligote wine or a clean Chablis are classic matches.

As we journey further through the range of herbs and spices, I am reminded of the delightful flavour of saffron potatoes - a glass of Lugana from the vineyards fringing the southern waters of Lake Garda enhances this flavour wonderfully. Lugana is the finest offering from the otherwise mediocre Trebbiano grape - try a bottle to discover how good Italy's ubiquitous white grape can (occasionally) be. You wouldn't want anything too peachy/floral but the honeysuckle of Santorini's Assyrtiko grape would work wonderfully too. There - we are wrong to dismiss the herb accompaniments and jump onto the main meat/fish always. There are some lovely herb match wines out there and it is to our detriment that we ignore them. Enjoy your wine-sipping....

Richard W. B. Ryan

MONARCHS AND SAINTS OF SCOTLAND A Gentle Pilgrimage

Revd Stephen Agnew is offering to lead a group from St Mary's on a short break pilgrimage to Scotland, to visit the Border Abbeys of Jedburgh, Dryburgh and Melrose, together with visits to Rosslyn Chapel, Inchcolm Island and Dumfermline Abbey.

The visit will be organised with McCabe Travel for the period 26 –30 June 2017. Accommodation will be at Pollock University Halls near the centre of Edinburgh, and meals, fees, gratuities, guiding, coach and ferry transport are included for a cost of £525. Transport to Edinburgh is proposed by train (at additional cost) although it would be possible for group members to drive.

Details are provided in a publication available at the back of church or get in touch with Stephen Agnew on 01384 395410 or st.mary.os.priest@btconnect.com

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

17 July	Rowan Jack Greenfield Sebastian Charles Kimberley Smith AJ David Jones
7 August	Evie Rose Pickering Isobel Lily Booth

Weddings

2 July	Joseph Gaytten and Ana Formusatii
9 July	Roy Evans and Louise Clift
16 July	Andrew Gittins and Jemma Wolstenholme
16 July	Craig Skidmore and Sarah Fletcher
28 July	Joseph Hardy and Jessica Venmore

Funerals

6 July	Raymond Milner	Aged 87
1 August	John Paul William Turner	Aged 80
8 August	Derek Johnson	Aged 80
9 August	May Ethel Roden	Aged 89

BISHOP'S CERTIFICATE COURSE

The Bishop's Certificate is awarded to those who have followed a course of study designed to help you learn more about the bible and the great themes of Christian faith and life, and to relate these to your own experience and locality. No qualifications to take part are required other than enthusiasm, interest, an open mind and a willingness to learn.

Stephen Agnew, Alex French and Mary German are offering to lead such a course at the Coach House in Oldswinford, on Tuesday evenings, starting 27 September. The commitment involves 30 evening sessions of 1½ to 2 hours spread over three terms, with a willingness to prepare by reading in preparation for the sessions. There is a single fee of £25 to cover materials and admin.

The course includes a mix of input from the course materials and from the tutor (everyone has their own copy of the full notes for every session), as well as discussion, personal reflection and looking at passages from the bible together. This is a course that invites everyone to get involved in sharing their ideas and experiences, but only as much as they wish to. Listening to, and learning from, each other is a significant ingredient of the whole experience..

Further details are available at the back of church, from Stephen or Alex or on the diocesan website (other locations with other tutors are available).

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY

My social media feed has been filled over the summer with pictures from Christian conferences and youth camps. People meeting together for worship, pilgrimage, inspirational teaching and community building. Simon Hill, our Youth Officer, spoke on the radio about *Spree*, where many of our young people had a lot of fun, and I was moved by a picture of Justin Welby at Soul Survivor in the midst of thousands of teenagers praying fervently for him.



I had the privilege of a week in a tent on the Bath and West Showground at New Wine, where I was delivering a seminar, but mainly receiving input from others and mingling with wonderful Christian people with whom I shared coffee and wine, and learned much from as we chatted in queues and over barbeques. I came back refreshed and re-envisioned.

There is something powerful about gathering with many others for celebration, worshipping our God in a way which is different from our weekly rhythm. God's people have always done it. Festivals of different kinds are woven through the Old Testament, and we see patterns emerging of annual pilgrimage, high days and holy days, significant seasons marked out as special in the Church through the ages.

It is healthy to have annual rhythms in our spiritual life which sustain and feed us. Autumn is always a busy time – a new term, perhaps new Alpha or Pilgrim courses beginning – the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury this year for us being a particular focus. I have tried to prepare myself for this by spending time in August in retreat and refreshment, 'abiding' with Jesus, reading and allowing some space to grow. It's important to continue a sustainable routine into the busyness of autumn – short, regular periods of prayer and reflection perhaps or meeting with smaller groups of kingdom people week by week, to learn and pray together and encourage one another.

What are your spiritual refreshment patterns – annually, monthly, weekly? How, at the start of this new season, can you ensure they don't get crowded out?

In Matthew 11:28-30, The Message translation, Jesus says:
"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace."

I pray we all, as kingdom people, will learn the unforced rhythms of grace in ways which sustain us, and enable us to flourish.

Archdeacon Nikki

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