

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

**APRIL 2017
Online edition**



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine



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APRIL 2017

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	

Reader:	Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj	395115
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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 APRIL 2017

Saturday 1	10.00 am Marriage Preparation Course
SUNDAY 2	FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
	3.00 pm Baptism
Monday 3	9.45 am Experience Easter
Tuesday 4	9.45 am Experience Easter
	7.30 pm Bishop's Certificate course in the Rectory
Wednesday 5	9.45 am Experience Easter
Thursday 6	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
	1.15 pm Experience Easter
Friday 7	Stephen's day off
	School term ends
Saturday 8	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 9	PALM SUNDAY
	The Fair Trade stall will be available after the 10.00 am service
Monday 10	Copy date for May magazine
	11.00 am Chrism Eucharist at Worcester Cathedral
Tuesday 11	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
	2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House
Wednesday 12	11.00 am-1.00 pm Messy Church
Thursday 13	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
	7.00 pm Maundy Thursday Passover Eucharist in church hall
Friday 14	GOOD FRIDAY
Saturday 15	9.00 am Decorate Church for Easter
	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 16	EASTER DAY
	3.00 pm Baptism
Monday 17	Bank Holiday. Parish Office closed this week.
Tuesday 18	2.15 pm Tea in the Coach house.
Wednesday 19	Prayer Group meeting
Thursday 20	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 21	Stephen's day off
Saturday 22	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 23	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
	7.30 pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Monday 24	Summer term begins
Tuesday 25	2.15 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex
	7.30 pm Bishop's Certificate course in the Coach House
Wednesday 26	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 27	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 28	Stephen's Day Off
Saturday 29	9.30 am Walking Group
	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 30	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends

What's new? That's a greeting I haven't heard for a while, but it used to be quite commonplace, and treated as slightly comical. I remember in the 1960's and 70's always looking forward to new things; 'new' meant exciting opportunities, a change in the routine, 'new' was filled with possibilities. Of course as we get a little older, 'new' becomes a little more of a threat, a destabilising influence.

A church can be a place, or a group of people, which frowns on newness. Churches are often perceived as places where things just don't change, and Christian congregations can often cite the idea of an unchanging God as support for an unchangeable church. And yet it would be equally valid to think about God as constantly changing, meeting the changing needs of people as the world changes. And that is what the church needs to do, constantly to rethink its ideas about itself as it seeks to bring God and the world closer together.

So what's new in the church at St Mary's? You only have to read this magazine to see some of the new things happening around St Mary's: heating, noticeboard, 'Friends of the Music', new choir members, hymn books – and then of course the people: Alex has become our curate, Graham has become our Director of Music and Roger is almost half way through his training as an LLM (Reader). There is newness all around us, and that newness gives rise to new possibilities.

Let me tell you about another new thing. Over the next three years we will be benefitting from the visit of a Mission Enabler, Anne Batchelor, who will be coming to work with us as well as St Thomas', St James' and St Michael's parishes. Anne will be coming to help us develop further our work with children, young people and young families. She will not be running schemes or projects, but helping us to run them so that when she moves to a new post her work may continue. Anne starts in post at the beginning of April, and will initially spend some time in St Thomas', but before the summer she will be making her presence felt in St Mary's. If you want to know more about this scheme try looking at this website:

<http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/news/2017/01/31/video-first-mission-enablers-appointed/>

or alternatively come to the Annual Church Meeting on 23 April when we can hear a little more about the work of Mission Enablers. This is a great gift to us, and guess what – it won't cost us anything.

What's new? Lots. Oh, and just in case it had slipped your mind, we will soon be entering the season which celebrates the greatest new act of God we have witnessed so far, the resurrection of Jesus, something which fills us all with hope.

LET'S CELEBRATE THE NEW.

May you claim the hope of Easter for yourselves and your loved ones at this time.

SERVICES IN APRIL 2017

2 April Fifth Sunday in Lent	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Ezekiel 37. 1-14	John 11. 1-45
	6.30 pm Evensong	Lamentations 3. 19-33	Matthew 20. 17-end
9 April Palm Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Reading of the Passion narrative	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 5. 1-7	Matthew 21. 33-end
16 April Easter Day	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Colossians 3. 1-4	John 20. 1-18
	6.30 pm Evensong	Song of Solomon 3. 2-5, 8. 6-7	Revelation 1. 12-18
23 April First Sunday after Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 2. 14a, 22-32	John 2. 19-end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Daniel 6. 1-23	Mark 15.46 – 16.8
30 April Second Sunday after Easter	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 2. 14a, 36-41	Luke 24. 13-25
	6.30 pm Evensong	Haggai. 1.13-2.9	Corinthians 3. 10-17



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 9 April PALM SUNDAY

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Communion to include a reading of the Passion narrative.

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

6.30pm Evensong with sermon.

10,11,12 April

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

6.30 pm Meditation in church with Compline.

Wednesday 12 April

11.00 am - 1.00 pm Lent Messy Church for children.

Thursday 13 April MAUNDY THURSDAY

10.30 am Holy Communion.

7.00 pm Agape Meal in the Church Hall.

Friday 14 April GOOD FRIDAY

10.00 am Walk of witness from St John's.

2.00 pm Devotions at the foot of the cross.

7.30 pm Service of readings and music in church.

Saturday 15 April HOLY SATURDAY

9.00 am Church decoration.

10.00 am Open church and vestry hour.

Sunday 16 April EASTER DAY

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

8.00 am Holy Communion.

10.00 am Parish Communion.

6.30 pm Choral Evensong with 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

EASTER LILIES



Donations for Easter flowers may be passed to Sally Frost, another member of the Flower Guild or to one of the wardens. Please include the names of those in whose memory you wish to make the donation and use a Gift Aid envelope if you are able to reclaim the tax payable.

Sally Frost

NEW CHOIR MEMBERS

The congregation at the 10.00 am service on Sunday, 5 March was pleased to formally welcome Eleanor and Joaquim as new members of the treble line of St Mary's choir. They are the first pupils from our local Oldswinford Church of England Primary School to have taken up an invitation presented by our Director of Music, Graham Davies. We extend a very warm welcome to Eleanor and Joaquim and trust they will find much enjoyment and fulfilment in their roles as choristers and from the friendships they will develop. It is a pleasure to extend this welcome to St Mary's to all members of their families.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Welcome to Café Afloat, We are an independent, family owned business that has been operating for over 9 years.

A warm welcome awaits you on board our wide beam canal boat or relax outside on our canal side terrace.

Located in Diglis Basin where we are deemed to be at the heart of the community, it's the place to come, even if you just want a CUPPA and a CHAT.

Wherever possible our produce is sourced locally to endeavour to support local trade, fresh bread is delivered daily from Ma Bakers, there are always homemade cakes on sale too.

Our Bacon Butty & Sausage Sarnie are rated by many to be the BEST in WORCESTER.

CAFÉ AFLOAT
—DIGLIS BASIN—



Diglis Basin

Open: - Tuesday to Sunday

10.00am to 3.00pm

Bring this AD to get 10% discount

*Arrive as strangers leave as
friends*

THE ARCHDEACONS' VISITATIONS

During May, the Archdeacons will meet with churchwardens from each of our parishes, to find out how things are going in their parish, hear encouraging stories about local mission and ministry and identify areas where more support might be needed.

Archdeacon of Worcester, Robert Jones said: "In each deanery, we go to a central venue and spend time talking to the churchwardens from each of the churches. There's an element of accountability to the meeting, and the wardens should have discussed some of the questions with their PCC beforehand, but it also gives us a chance to show our care and appreciation of the work they do. Churchwardens do an amazing and often unsung job – the visitations give us the chance to understand what's going on at ground level and to ask 'how are you?'"

Whenever possible, the Rural Dean and Lay Chair of the deanery are also present at the venue, welcoming churchwardens and having their own conversations. This helps to build a network across the deanery and promote a sense of togetherness.

Nikki Groarke, Archdeacon of Dudley, said: "Visitations are a great opportunity to spend time with our wonderful churchwardens and find out what's happening in their churches. I love hearing their hopes and aspirations and helping them to connect into the Kingdom People vision. These days really help to build stronger relationships between us."

Once all the visitations have been completed, there is a special service in each Archdeaconry, where the Churchwardens are admitted for the year.

Please pray for the Archdeacons during the visitation period and for all of our churchwardens.

Diocesan News

One element of the churchwardens' presentations at the visitation involves the completed Articles of Enquiry, responses to specific questions posed by the Archdeacons to the PCC's of each parish. This year the questions address matters that consider the challenges posed by our buildings, the work of clergy and volunteers with children and young people, challenges to active discipleship and the challenges faced in relation to stewardship. These are all matters that are currently under consideration by the members of St Mary's Parochial Church Council, matters which may impact on everyone who lives in Oldswinford. Do feel invited and welcome to present your ideas and opinions on these matters so they may form part of the responses. A copy of the questions is available on the noticeboard at the back of church.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

In the Church hall, on the evening of Sunday 23 April 2017, following Evensong, the annual meeting of our church community will take place. Strictly speaking, two meetings occur on this evening, the first which formally sees the election of churchwardens and Deputy Wardens, and the second at which the Priest-in-Charge, Parish Secretary, Treasurer and Master of Fabric present their reports for the past year.

Although there is some formality to the event, allowing for the presentation and acceptance of reports, the meeting is not especially structured and provides the opportunity for parishioners to ask questions and to become more aware of the issues being faced by the administrators of the parish church.

Please make a note of the date, tell others you know who may be interested and come along on the evening to show your support and concern for the life and work of your parish. You will be very welcome.

The past year has seen some important matters addressed. A few examples include a new boiler for the church heating system, a new notice board, the start of plans to improve the north and west porches, the establishment of a new approach to the encouragement of support and involvement in church music, and many instances when the church has been able to provide assistance and support to individuals, families and organisations.

The church building is open every day for many hours and is available for anyone to enter to investigate the history and architecture, to enjoy the opportunity, in peaceful surroundings, to sit a while in quiet reflection and to pray, alone or perhaps with the support of one of the members of the clergy. In the past year much has happened, often as a consequence of the generosity and consideration shown by members of the congregations and others and we are extremely grateful for all of the support provided.

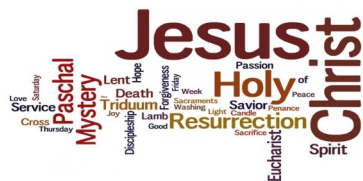
There are challenges ahead that will tax the ingenuity and patience of many of us but plans will be needed for ideas to be developed and solutions will have to be found. There is always opportunity for others to become involved, to share ideas, promote a point of view, indicate alternatives or to offer advice. More formal involvement is available should you wish to seek such. Please, if you are interested in being more involved, do ask someone or perhaps speak to one of the wardens. Contact details are on page two.

REMEMBERING

It was with much sadness that we heard of the passing of Angela Dixon, a long-serving and much loved member of this church community. At her funeral service in St Mary's on 27 February, when so many attended, voices were raised in worship and in testament of a lady who had led her life for the good of others, had fought her illness with great determination and with the reassurance provided by her faith. Angela will be missed a very great deal, not least by her family and friends to whom we send our condolences.

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

HOLY WEEK



There are a series of key events involving Jesus which occurred during Holy Week.

Palm Sunday.

People in Jesus' land were dreaming of a time when they would be free from the Roman soldiers who rules their lives. They were hoping for a leader who could help them overthrow their enemies. Holy week begins on Palm Sunday which remembers the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The crowds of people who had gathered to welcome him as their saviour lay palm branches on the road as Jesus rode on a donkey. All the people who had gathered were filled with hopes and dreams that this would be the end of the Roman rule. What hopes and dreams do you have?



Jesus washes the disciples feet.

Jesus lived in a hot and arid land. Most people travelled from place to place on foot. It was the custom to welcome visitors by washing their feet in cool, clean water. Normally a household servant did this. When Jesus invited his friends for supper in the upper room, they were very surprised that he washed their feet, acting as a person who serves others. What could you do to serve others this Easter?



The Last Supper.

Jesus had his last meal with his friends before he died. He asked them to remember him after his death by sharing bread and wine together in a meal. The bread he said would represent his body and the wine would stand for his blood. What could you do to remember Jesus?



The Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus knew that soon the soldiers would come to arrest him and he would be sentenced to death. He went to a garden, called Gethsemane, with his friends and asked them to keep watch for him while he prayed to God to help him. But his friends were tired and they fell asleep. In the darkness of the night Jesus felt very alone. Even so, he trusted himself to God's care. What could you trust God to do for you?

Good Friday.

On this day, the church commemorates Jesus' arrest, his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death and burial. This is a sombre day, a day of mourning for the death of Jesus and for the sins of the world that his death represents. Good Friday is also a day of hope for the future, a hope based on the knowledge of the Resurrection.



Easter Day.

Each year at Easter, many Christians build an empty tomb in their churches to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Often churches use a special Paschal candle as a focal point for their Easter service. Worshippers may light individual candles from the Paschal candle as they sing a song of praise. The presence of light symbolises the resurrection of Jesus from the grave and the light of salvation and hope that God brought into the world.



After the absence of church flowers throughout Lent, Easter Day is often celebrated with a display of Easter Lilies, a large white flower, symbolic of purity, resurrection and new hope for everlasting life. And, of course, children of all ages receive chocolate Easter Eggs.



H	E	R	U	O	I	V	A	S	Y
T	O	M	B	C	R	O	S	S	A
Q	U	L	S	Y	E	K	N	O	D
R	T	I	Y	X	M	A	R	Y	I
E	Z	L	W	W	V	L	F	F	R
T	I	I	C	V	E	D	A	W	F
S	C	E	N	G	P	E	B	P	D
A	S	S	G	O	G	L	K	M	O
E	G	S	C	Q	G	W	H	R	O
N	O	I	R	U	T	N	E	C	G

WORDSEARCH 5

CAN YOU FIND THE
FOLLOWING
WORDS?.....

HOLYWEEK, GOOD FRIDAY,
SAVIOUR, EASTER, TOMB,
CROSS, CENTURION,
DONKEY, EGGS, PALM,
LILIES, MARY

FAREWELL TO A FRIEND

WILLIAM FREESTON, 19.3.1919 to 3.11.2016

When we joined St Mary's in 2009, we first met Bill and Barbara Freeston at Evensong. Bill and Barbara married after their first spouses had died. Throughout their 27 year marriage Bill and Barbara travelled all over the world. By the time we came to know the couple Barbara's health had begun to deteriorate and she died at home on 11 November, 2013.

Bill grew more and more lonely. He had led a busy life. As an only child he had experienced a very happy childhood. His father ran his own industrial business while his mother took care of the books. Bill's father bought some land in Tivdale and he and Bill set about building a factory on the site which still exists today. On his father's death Bill took over the running of the business until he retired.



Bill and Frank, both engineers shared a common interest. Frank knew many of the businesses that Bill knew well as Frank used to inspect the lifts, cranes and mechanical machinery as part of his job as an engineer surveyor for Allianz Insurance. Bill was a craftsman and his hobby was working in copper and later silver. He produced many lovely pieces, His pride and joy was a beautiful silver teapot, milk jug and sugar basin on an oval silver tray.

Bill was a firm believer in old-fashioned values. He was scornful of men failing to walk on the kerbside of the pavement when walking with a lady. He was unamused when I reminded him that Queen Victoria had died and such customs were no longer necessary, he would have none of it.

At 92 Bill asked Frank if he would help him buy a laptop and teach him how to use email so he could keep in touch with his daughter and son-in-law in South Milton, Devon and his 2 grand-daughters and great grand children, one family in Bristol and the other in Minneapolis, USA. Frank also introduced him to a tablet that he didn't have to take with water!

As Bill's health declined Frank took over many tasks, one being the lawn mowing which Bill took very seriously requiring straight lines if it was to be done properly. Frank never quite made the grade, however hard he tried.

We hope that we were good friends to him, helping and supporting him over the years and together with neighbours we managed to honour his dearest wish to remain at home until the last day, when he was admitted to Mary Stevens Hospice where he died peacefully on 3 November 2016 at 10.05 am.

We miss you Bill.

Chris and Frank

THINKING OF YOU

To be a Christian and to lead a Christian life is to love one's neighbour. And as we all know, 'our neighbour' is anyone who may need our love, thoughts, care, support and time'.

We also know how busy life can be and, at whatever age we may be, various issues impact on our ability to put into practice our care and concern for those we know.

Throughout the season of Lent we have been encouraged to reflect on ourselves with a greater than normal concern. Especially, we have been invited to review the practice of our faith, to reflect on our own relationship with God and how we learn and come to understand the books of our Bible.

Many of us will be thinking of sending a greetings card this Easter to a friend or a family member we may not see so often. Certainly, the practice of sending greetings cards at Easter is nowhere near as widely observed as the sending of Christmas or Birthday cards and maybe there are some good reasons why this is the case. But, for a moment, stop and consider, not the impact the sending of a card has on you, but the impact it has on the person who receives that card.

Our walks in life bring us into contact with many people who we recognise and acknowledge and accept as part of our community of friends and acquaintances. We see them because they are there, where we expect to see them, in church each Sunday, walking the dog in the park, or at the local shop each Tuesday. When all goes according to expectation our contact and mutual support is maintained. Sometimes, events happen that mean a change of routine, an inability to carry on in the same way and people who were where we expected to find them are no longer there. Their absence may be noted. We may chat with others and wonder how 'so and so' are getting on. Often we intend to do a little more, but our hours are filled and our lives are busy, there never seems to be enough hours in the day.

Our weekly pew sheet serves to remind each of us of others in our local and church community who may be unable to get to church or to get out at all; of those who are unwell, maybe lonely and isolated. How welcome would it be for that person to receive a greeting from you?

May you be encouraged this Easter, to send a card, write a letter, make a phone call or to visit that someone you have been meaning to see for some time. It may be someone you know well, it could equally be someone you know of but have rarely spoken to. Put Christianity into practice, make someone smile by letting them know you care.



MUSIC NOTES

This month I thought I would provide you with an update about the progress made so far concerning The Friends of the Music at St Mary's.

A number of meetings have been held to consider the way forward and here are the key points. But first I can confirm the dates for your diaries are:-

Saturday 17th June

Sunday 18th June.

On Saturday evening there will be a concert given by musicians who were previously members of the choir or organists. In the evening on Sunday there will be a special service with special music when we will celebrate the launch of the Friends. These two days will be treated as a Festival Weekend and I am hopeful St Mary's choir photographic memorabilia will be displayed.

Progress is being made to produce a publicity brochure which will detail the Friends Mission Statement and invite individuals to become Friends and make a financial contribution. Our Chairman Peter Jones is seeking a Patron and will be arranging widespread publicity for the launch weekend.

A small sub-committee is considering all the financial arrangements covering donations/subscriptions as well as exploring ways the Friends can contribute to the cost of musical tuition for the choristers.

I hope you will not only attend these events, but also become a Friend and encourage others to do so.

**Graham Davies,
Director of Music**

COLOURS IN OUR WORSHIP

During a recent session in the Bishop's Certificate Course we discussed the impact of colour in our worship. The question asked was "Imagine your church is planning a new banner or stained glass window representing Jesus - what do you think the dominant colours would be and why?"

There were many different responses ranging from bright colours for images of Jesus' life and resurrection to darker shades for the Crucifixion. Reference was made to various stained glass windows, both in our local parish churches and also in well-known cathedrals such as Coventry where the brightness of the stained glass was contrasted with Graham Sutherland's tapestry of Christ in Majesty.

We also often associate different colours with mood and emotion

and in some stained glass windows colours are used to reflect different seasons.

In the liturgical calendar different colours are used for the seasons of the church's year. Although these are not mandatory the general sequence is as follows.

Advent	Christmas	Ordinary time	Lent	Holy Week	Easter to Pentecost	Ordinary time
Purple	White	Green	Purple	Red	White	Green

Our worship in St Mary's is enhanced by many different coloured features, particularly the east window which contains the whole spectrum of light, but also fabrics, banners and flower arrangements which apart from Lent add to our contemplation.

Alec Beevers

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

Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian movement with over 4 million members in 83 countries who put their faith into action in their communities.

Between March 12 - 14, branches held a worldwide wave of prayer service and our branch was led in this by Kanthi Ariaraj.

We especially highlighted our prayer links in our Diocese with those in Uganda, South Africa, Nigeria and the Episcopal Church of the Philippines .

Justin Welby the Archbishop of Canterbury has said; "Mothers' Union is amongst one of the greatest, most embedded, most effective and most widespread women's groups in the world upholding through its work the gospel of reconciliation so needed to transform the world." Do visit or join us at any meeting. You will be most welcome.

Next meeting: 2.15 pm Tuesday 11 April in the Coach House. Lent meditation led by Revd Alex French

Date for your diary: Diocesan Council at St Saviour's Church, Hagley 9.30 am - 4.00pm on 26 April.

Dawn Nex

Prayer is not an old woman's idle amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most potent instrument of action.

Mahatma Gandhi

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

CHICKEN WITH CHICKPEAS

With chickpeas and sweet potato included, all this dish needs is a green vegetable to complete the meal. Remember that unlike regular potatoes, sweet potato counts as one of your '5 A Day'. Chickpeas also count as one of your '5 A Day' so this makes a really healthy meal. Like all casseroles it tastes better the next day. If you are making it in advance chill it down quickly. A great One Pot dish!

1 heaped tablespoon plain flour
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1 teaspoon ground cumin
½ teaspoon turmeric
½ teaspoon paprika or chilli powder
6 large chicken thighs, skinless and boneless cut into chunks
1 tablespoon oil
1 large onion peeled and chopped
1 large sweet potato peeled and chopped into small chunks
500 ml hot stock
1 400g tin of chickpeas drained
Chopped coriander or parsley to garnish

Measure the flour and spices; use them to coat the chicken. This can be done by tipping it all into a freezer bag and shaking it.

Heat the oil in a wide frying pan and fry the onion until soft.

Add the chicken and brown, then add the sweet potato and stir again.

Pour in the hot stock (you may not need all this, just enough to cover) add chickpeas, stir, put a lid on the pan and simmer for 25 minutes. Leave to stand for 10 minutes.

Garnish with coriander or parsley just before you serve.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE...

Chicken with a range of herbs and spices should open up a few wine options shouldn't it? The beauty of this dish is that it is in casserole form, which should take the edge off one or two tricky ingredients. Let us consider further: chilli's heat can numb the palate, so avoid any delicate, lightly-fruited wines. Take care with earthy (but wonderful) cumin; and as I have noted before, I personally only like a touch of coriander, which can overpower in the wrong hands.

However, let us assume our chef produces a balanced dish of which Ann would approve. Chicken can of course take us along either a red or white

route, but I think the latter works better here. Generally, we are picking up some earthy flavours and should look to our wine to contribute aroma alongside the fragrance of the coriander. Gewurztraminer, with its rose and lychee notes probably isn't quite right. Torrontes though would be a better option: never dry, it would pair well with the sweet potato. Riesling has its advocates with these type of flavours, but take care: it can come up short if it is too light.

We are on firmer ground with a dry Muscat, which has sufficient weight and definition of fruit. Not as easy to find as it should be as it is very food-friendly. The spicy notes of Furmint merit a mention too ...but even more difficult to track down. I did once enjoy guinea fowl with similar spicy/earthy flavours and selected a South African Chenin Blanc with good bottle age. It would probably work well here too - but do avoid a young brisk example.

Enjoy your wine-sipping.....

Richard W. B. Ryan

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Once again the walk was to start with a train journey from Stourbridge Junction station. Sixteen walkers altogether got off the train at Dorridge for a walk across fields and canal towpaths. From Dorridge station we walked along Arden Road across the park; then crossing a marshy area via a boardwalk we traversed several fields before arriving at Hockley Heath.

Then crossing the main Birmingham road through the village there were more fields until we reached the Stratford canal. Most paths were quite muddy but nothing to deter any walkers. After twenty minutes along the canal we turned off to the village of Ilsham Heath to Wedges Bakery and Delicatessen.

Our route along the canal was not without incident as one of the group, trying to avoid the muddiest part of the path, slipped and fell in the canal! Fortunately she went in feet first and was quickly hauled out by two gallant members of the group. Full credit to the individual concerned for the manner in which she reacted to her dilemma – with good grace and humour.

At the bakery we joined a long queue to place our orders by which time the group of cyclists in the cafe had finished and were moving out allowing us to find enough tables and chairs. Exceptionally well filled sandwiches were enjoyed by all.

After a leisurely lunch break we continued along the canal tow path for a further four miles encountering several trees across the path thanks to Storm Doris. The largest tree we saw that had come down was, fortunately for us, on the other side of the canal and had completely blocked the canal itself.

Leaving the canal at Dickens Heath we walked towards Whitlocks End railway station where a train was waiting to take us back to Stourbridge.

Sue and Tony Wakeley

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

19 February Alice Louise Riley-Clarke

Weddings

No weddings this month

Funerals

28. February	Angela Dixon	Aged 73
8 March	Elizabeth Wassell	Aged 89
13 March	Dean Shakespeare	Aged 44
16 March	Jason Pearson	Aged 32

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT.....

On page 7 we have included an advertising feature, a café facility that has been promoted on the Diocesan website. Traditionally, St Mary's Parish Church Magazine has restricted advertising to the back page and we have been grateful to those who advertise and help to sponsor the magazine.

Currently we are looking at various ways of ensuring the continuation of this important publication, including ways of reducing the ever-growing costs imposed on our limited resources. One possible way forward would be to place the printing in the hands of a printing agent who would, in return for the inclusion of advertisements for local and relevant services and goods, print the magazine free of charge to St Mary's.

There is much to be considered, not least the views of our readers. Would a bigger (more pages) publication with more advertisements detract from your enjoyment? Might this enhance the reader's experience by offering further information? What do you want in a Parish magazine? How might we increase the circulation to make the project more viable? Would you consider paying more for the magazine?

These and many other questions need to be considered and an appropriate way forward found. Please do let us know your thoughts....You may use any of the contact details provided on pages one and two. We must ensure that we are able to take decisions that serve our readers, promote the magazine and ensure it continues to serve as an important vehicle of the mission of St Mary's Church.

The Magazine Committee

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF WORCESTER

I recently attended one of the so-called Way Stations of the Reformation. This is a roving exhibition commemorating the Reformation, surprisingly on a bus, which is being sent from Germany around over sixty different significant cities in Europe, returning there for the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther in October later this year. The theme of the Way Station was **Reformation: Then and Now.**



The question being asked was what needed reforming back then in the sixteenth century, and was that, in a sense, 'job done' for ever. If not, what needs reforming today if the Church is to be *semper reformanda*, always reforming. In others words, did enough change already happen back then, or is it something we live with constantly? Thinking back to the recent General Synod it is clear that this debate is still alive and well.

Martin Luther was a German monk. When he decided to challenge what he saw as shortcomings, even betrayals, of the gospel in the church, he never intended to create a new church. He wanted to heal it and take it back to its roots. With the sale of indulgences he saw the danger of clergy become merchants of grace, grace itself becoming some sort of commodity which could be acquired. So his conclusion was that it's all about grace, God's free gift, because that is what God is like.

He soon discovered all sorts of unintended consequences in his Reformation. It is easier to set off events, rather than stop or control them. His Reformation reminded the church of the primacy of God's grace revealed in Scripture, but it marked years of division and even war, and the raising of destructive human passions where Christians could not even see each other as belonging to the same Church.

It is easy to divide, but it is harder to reconcile. So we may, like Luther, get the basic message right, but we need to return constantly to what that message means as it works out in practice. You could say that it has taken the churches 500 years to get back to the position of recognising that they belong in the same church. This is why the Archbishop of Canterbury keeps going on about learning the art of good disagreement – church history contains too many examples of the bad.

We are firmly placed in this world but are fired by a vision of another world. We live on earth, but seek the kingdom of heaven. This other-worldliness must not lead us astray into ways of behaviour which actually deny the nature of Christ we are called to imitate. In that sense we are always in need of reform, *semper reformanda*, the good news being that our God is always the same: He loves us anyway.

Robert Jones

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**For more information please contact
the editor-see page 3**



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Items will also be available at the
Thursday morning service.
Look out for details.