

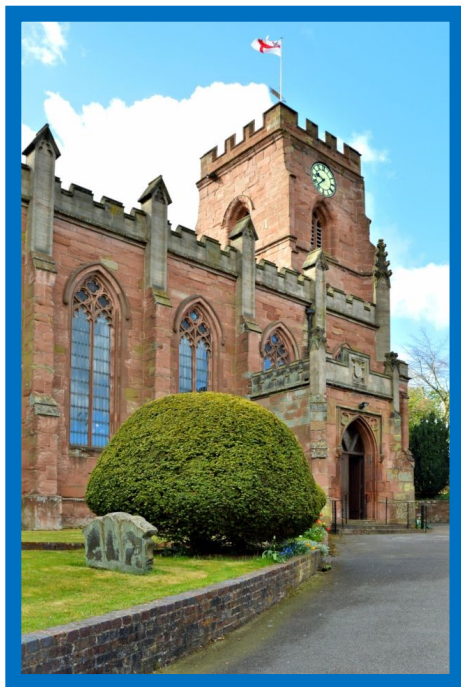
**ST MARY'S
OLD SWINFORD**
Parish Church Magazine

JUNE 2017
Online edition



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine



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JUNE 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
Church Wardens:	Mrs Judy Hall	377349
	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
Director of Music:	Mr Graham Davies	01905 353939
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PCC Secretary:	Miss Katey Fletcher	378182
Magazine Editor:	Mr Antony Tatford	822661
Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Liz Fourness	394359
Church Hall and		
Coach House: - Bookings:	Parish Office	441003
Parish Administrator and		
Publicity Officer:	Mr John Sutton	441003
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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 JUNE 2017

Thursday 1	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church 6.00 pm St Mary's to welcome Bishop Graham
Friday 2	Stephen's day off
Saturday 3	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 4	PENTECOST 3.00 pm Baptisms
Monday 5	School half-term holiday week
Tuesday 6	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft 7.30 pm Warden's Admission Service at St Thomas' 7.30 pm Bishop's Certificate course
Thursday 8	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church Church Hall in use all day as Polling Station for the GENERAL ELECTION
Friday 9	Stephen's day off
Saturday 10	Copy date for July/August magazine 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 11	TRINITY SUNDAY The Fairtrade stall will be available after the 10.00 am service
Monday 12	Pastoral Care meeting
Tuesday 13	Open the Book Team to visit Oldswinford Primary School 2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House 7.30 pm Bishop's Certificate course 7.30 pm Meeting with Bishop Graham for PCC reps.
Wednesday 14	9.00 am Morning Prayers and Full Staff Meeting 10.00 am Prayer Group meeting
Thursday 15	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 16	Stephen's day off
Saturday 17	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 7.30 pm Friends of the Music inaugural event - A CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR VOICES AND STRINGS
SUNDAY 18	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 3.00 pm Baptisms 6.30 pm FESTIVAL EVENSONG
Tuesday 20	2.15 pm Tea in the Coach House. 7.30 pm Magazine Meeting
Wednesday 21	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 22	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 23	Stephen's Day Off
Saturday 24	9.30 am Walking Group 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour 2.00 pm Ordination at Worcester Cathedral
SUNDAY 25	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 12.00 noon Bring and Share Luncheon in the Church Hall
Monday 26	Parish visit to Scotland
Tuesday 27	2.15 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex
Thursday 29	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 30	Stephen's day off

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends

A few weeks ago, Saturday night television viewing took a turn for the better with the return of Britain's Got Talent. I have to admit to finding this particular programme compelling viewing on many different levels. Will the contestant/s actually have any talent, will their act be interrupted by one or more red crosses of rejection, how dangerous or bizarre will the act be, how scathing will the comments spoken by Simon Cowell be or how many witticisms will David Walliams utter?

A couple of years ago the format of the series changed so that each of the four judges was given the opportunity to press a 'golden buzzer', which added a 'super' level of judgement into the programme. If you were judged to have an extraordinary talent then this buzzer would fast track you into the live semi-finals, by-passing the boot-camp round where most acts are sent home. The golden ticker tape which drenched the act on the stage, was a visible sign for the world to see that your talent or gift had been labelled as exceptional, sensational and astounding.

In many ways this television programme (and many others like it) reflect just how far our society has pushed itself away from the grace and love shown unconditionally by God to all of us. The premise behind Britain's Got Talent is that human can judge human, that celebrities in earthly positions of temporary authority can provide 'entertainment' by speaking words that build up, pull down or are ambivalent towards the efforts of another. The programme is also based on the hypothesis that talent is something that you either have or haven't got. Like a magical ingredient, some are lauded (in order to build a television programme that has a high number of viewers) for the talents that they have, whilst many others encounter the negativity of a judgement which labels them as talentless, without gift.

Friends, let me tell you that this is not the case in the Kingdom of God. In the world that God will recreate all are equal, none are subject to the judgements of other people which close down or open up opportunities. In God's kingdom there is no distinction between those who have talents or gifts and those who don't. God has given us all, young and old, those with little and those with much faith, gifts which we can use to help build his kingdom here in Oldswinford, in Stourbridge, in the United Kingdom and in the wider world. Don't be fooled by the messages that the world give us that you either have talent or your don't, that some talents are more important than others.

Paul writing to the flourishing church in Rome (Romans 12: 4-8) reminds them that together they form the body of Christ and that they all posses different and equally important gifts in order to allow this body to function properly. He then lists a number of different gifts that those in Roman church have, all of which he says should be used to give life, one to one another. You see that using our gifts enables life.

Nearly two thousand years later this passage speaks truth to us. We have all, each and every one of us, been given gifts through the grace (the unmerited favour) of God. None of these gifts is more important than any other, no one possesses a gift

that should receive a 'golden buzzer', for we can all contribute in our own unique God given way to building Christ's body on earth. Whether it's leading worship, singing, playing a musical instrument, praying, looking after part of the church building, conveying happiness, showing care and concern for another or one of the other hundreds of gifts that God has given us, we can all play our part in building the body of Christ.

If you get chance to watch any of Britain's Got Talent before the series finishes this year, ask yourself just what talent has God given you and how am I exposing the world to it. For without doubt we have all, each and everyone of us been blessed with gifts from God, what I wonder are yours and how might you be called to use them?

Alex

SERVICES IN JUNE 2017

4 June Pentecost	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Acts 2. 1-21	John 20. 19-23
	6.30 pm Evensong	Joel 2. 21-end	Acts 2. 14-21 (22-38)
11 June Trinity Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	Worship Together	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Isaiah 6. 1-8	John 16. 5-15
18 June First Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 5. 1-8	Matthew 9.35-10.8 (9.23)
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Samuel 21. 1-15	Luke 11. 14-28
25 June Second Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 6. 1b-11	Matthew 10. 24-39
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Samuel 24. 1-17	Luke 14. 12-24

THY KINGDOM COME

As reported in the May edition of this magazine, from Ascension Day on 25 May to Pentecost on 4 June, parishes across the Diocese will be joining with Christians worldwide and will be sharing in the initiative promoted by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, in a ten-day wave of prayer for the coming of God's Kingdom. The following guidance is offered for our St Mary's community to show how you might wish to put into practice, from your own home, your commitment to this wave of prayer.

Praying for five friends

One of the activities that we will be involving ourselves in as a church community will be to pray daily for five of our friends or family members that they may come to know Jesus more fully.

Although consistently praying for others takes discipline, praying persistently without doubt brings transformation to the lives of those who we pray for. To help structure our prayer we will be producing a simple set of resources which can be used to build up those habits that will help us all to pray daily for our friends and family.

In the meantime if you can't wait, use the following prayer adding in the names of those who you are praying for (if you're not sure who to pray for, ask God to guide you as you choose).

**Loving Father,
in the face of Jesus Christ
your light and glory have blazed forth.
Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with [here, name your
friends and/or family members]
the life of your Son and your love for all.
Strengthen me as a witness to that love
as I pledge to pray for them,
for your name's sake. Amen.**

Alex French

THE ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION

On Tuesday 2 May St Mary's hosted the Rural Dean, Revd Andrew Sillis and Archdeacon Nikki Groarke as Nikki met with church wardens from all churches in the Stourbridge Deanery.

At this meeting the responses to the Archdeacon's Articles of Enquiry are handed over and a general discussion of the life of the church in each location is shared. It is a very encouraging occasion when the support and appreciation of all who contribute to the life and work of the church in our communities is celebrated.

A copy of the Articles is available at the back of church.



**THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC
AT ST MARY'S**



INAUGURAL FESTIVAL WEEKEND

Please make a note of these dates and the welcome extended to all
to these events to be held in St Mary's Church, Oldswinford

SATURDAY 17th JUNE

at 7.30pm

A CONCERT OF MUSIC FOR VOICES AND STRINGS

Featuring the Choir of St Mary's,
plus a special choral group and a String Trio led by Will Croft
with conductor Jack Apperley
and organist Graham Davies.

Admission Free Retiring Collection for The Friends

SUNDAY - 18th June

at 6.30 p.m.

FESTIVAL EVENSONG

In church there will be special displays
of choir memorabilia and flowers.

**Graham Davies,
Director of Music**

The Festival Weekend of 17-18 June to launch The Friends of the Music at St. Mary's could well be the most significant musical event in our history as it marks the beginning of a move to ensure our fine musical tradition continues well into the future. As well as aiding recruitment, the Friends will aim to provide important financial support for our young singers' musical education.

I am reaching out not only to our own church congregation, but also to the wider community of Old Swinford within our Parish boundary and I would ask you to encourage your family, friends and neighbours to support the events detailed above.

By becoming a Friend, you will enable a difference to be made not just to the music making in our church, but to the musical education of young people who sing in our choir.

Graham Davies

DO YOU VISIT ASHWOOD NURSERY?



There is more to see than just the plants! This little fellow knows that when you place an order at the café they give you a number. So, here he is, waiting for the food to arrive.

He has experience.

He also knows that the person ordering the food is a real softie when it comes to hungry robins.

His wait is rewarded. Nothing like a freshly baked juicy curranty scone.

He's not fussy. He will eat it off your

plate, or from your hand,.....but he was too quick to allow us to get that photograph.

Isn't he beautiful? What a privilege to be so trusted so to enable us to admire his perfection.

There are many other birds there to pick up the crumbs, so when you are there to choose your plants do look out for them.

Chris and Frank



YOUTH EVANGELISM EVENT A WELCOME TO YOUTH

'One' is an evangelistic youth event at Great Malvern Priory at 7.00 pm on Saturday 10 June. It is supported by 'Malvern Youth Link' – an ecumenical gathering of local youth groups and youth ministers.

The evening follows a week of 'Spring into Life' mission at local secondary schools and aims to be a great celebration of 'life in all its fullness' that only Jesus can truly bring.

During the afternoon, leading up to 'One', a 'Family Fun Day' in the Priory grounds will also showcase some great community groups as well as offering a whole host of activities such as a bouncy castle, skate ramps and archery.

'One' begins at 7.00 pm with games, a DJ, worship and our guest speaker, Phil Knox' from Youth for Christ.

This event is open to youth groups across the Diocese. Contact Diocesan Youth Officer Simon Hill (shill@cofe-worcester.org.uk) for more information.

Diocesan News

THE GREAT GET TOGETHER 17-18 JUNE

Across the UK events are being organised for The Great Get Together in memory of Jo Cox, British Labour Party politician who was the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Batley and Spen constituency from her election in May 2015 until her murder in June 2016. The Church Urban Fund and Near Neighbours is supporting the Jo Cox Foundation and encouraging faith and community groups to work together with their neighbours to organise a Great Get Together event.

At the time of writing we are not aware of any specific event being organised in Stourbridge but, as details arise these will be published in church and in the pew sheet.

Diocesan News

ALEX'S ORDINATION

**WORCESTER CATHEDRAL
2.00 pm SATURDAY, 24 JUNE**

Many people have already indicated their intention to join a group from St Mary's to travel by coach to Worcester for this Service of Ordination. If you wish to join the group please sign the sheet available at the back of church or speak to John Sutton or Stephen Agnew. Final transport arrangements will have to be made in advance of the date but we will endeavour to support all requests for assistance.

A fund to be used to purchase an ordination gift for Alex is growing steadily. If you wish to contribute to this fund envelopes are available in church. Please pass these to one of the wardens or to a sidesperson on duty.

Please include Alex and all our ministers and lay ministers in your prayers in the weeks leading up to this ordination service.

On Sunday 25 June, Alex will preside at his first Eucharist Service at 10.00 am at St Mary's. You will be very welcome at this service and at a Bring and Share luncheon in the Church Hall afterwards, starting at 12.00 noon.

As part of his programme of training, Roger King is currently undertaking a placement at Ipsley, Redditch where he will contribute to services and gain experience of working in an alternative parish environment. We wish Roger well during these next few months and for the completion of his training as a Reader in the Diocese of Worcester. Please remember Roger in your prayers.

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

THE RIGHT WAY

CROSS WORD 7

A
D D O E N
N
R
U

How many words can you find having at least 4 letters and using each letter only once. No plurals, No foreign words, no proper nouns/names but verbs ending in 's' are allowed.

You must use the centre letter in every word.

There is 1 nine letter word.

**15 is average, 20 is good, 25 very good
30 or more is brilliant!**

See page 18 for answers



In John 8:12, Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'

At night time, when it gets dark, what do you do so you can see what you are doing?

Here are some other things that help you to see the way?

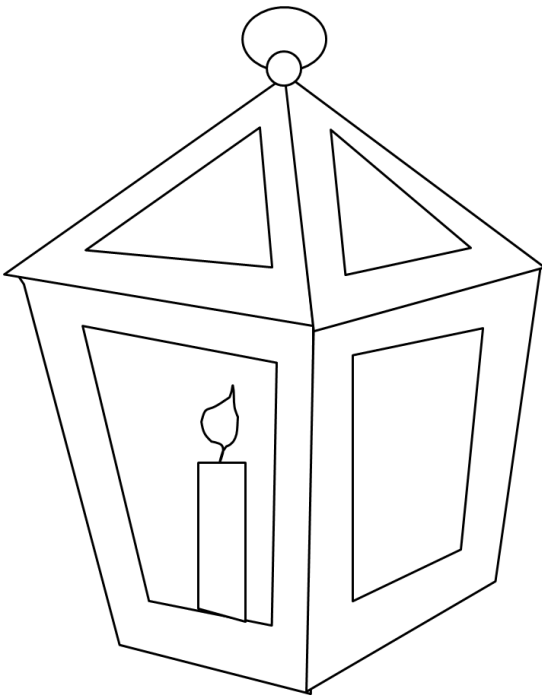


Can you name them?

Just as a light shows us the way in the dark, so Jesus shows us the way we should behave with other people and how we should live our lives.....

Jesus is the light of our lives!

Jesus shows us the way to go.



If we learn about how Jesus tells us we should behave we will have a good example to follow.

Find out about these stories from the Bible.....

The Good Samaritan— Luke Chapter 10

Forgiveness— Matthew Chapter 18

The Lost Son— Luke Chapter 15

Jesus and the children— Mark Chapter 10

Can you write down five things you can do each day to help other people?

Colour the lantern so the light shines brightly

CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?

PENTECOST
TRINITY
PASSOVER
WHITSUN
PEACE
SPIRIT
UNITY
HOLY
BREATH
DIVINE
DOVE
FATHER

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

CROSS LINKED

This puzzle is a variant of the popular “Only Connect” TV quiz.

The clues in the rows across are connected by a common word or phrase. Enter this link in the fifth column. The new words also have a link down which should enable you to complete the grid and find a final word or phrase.

Answers on Page 17

stone	stud	cavity	brick	
golf shot	energy	control	scenic	
bay	Computer OS	french	cleaner	
flower	kitchen	vegetable		

WRITING TIPS

Jenny T Scott is a Devon-based author who has written the acclaimed Sammy Rambles books, (<http://www.sammyrambles.co.uk>), stories of a young boy, his challenges at school and his adventures having moved school to one where he is charged with raising his own dragon.

Jenny has prepared a short series of writing tips which will feature each month and offer tips and advice on how to create a story. Part 1 covers how to come up with ideas for creating memorable characters.

We thought this to be a worthy inclusion for all potential writers of all ages, guidance that may bring much enjoyment and hours of amusement regardless of whether the final outcome is published or not.

Perhaps, in future editions of this magazine we may be able to present some stories written in response to this guide.



Part 1 – Who is going to be in your story?

It's said the best stories are the ones with believable and memorable characters. The characters may become your friends within the story and you root for them, willing them to complete their goal. You might laugh with them, cry with them, but above all, you remember them.

If you're writing your own story but don't know where to start, don't worry!

There are plenty of ways to begin thinking about who might appear in your story and other characters are sure to appear along the way. These are some of the questions I asked myself when creating the Sammy Rambles books:

Is the main character going to be male or female?

Are they a man? A woman? A boy? A girl? An animal? A mythological or fantasy character?

What is their name? Is their name significant? Is their name based on something?

Are they old, young or middle aged?

What do they look like physically? What clothes do they wear?

What do they sound like – do they have an accent or a catchphrase?

Do they have any family? Brothers or sisters? What do their parents do?

Are they based on a real person? Or someone imaginary? Or a mixture of both?

In most stories, you will have one or more main characters who interact with background characters. In Sammy Rambles, Sammy is the protagonist or main character and he has both friends and enemies in the books which both help and hinder him throughout the series.

If you are creating multiple characters for your story, it can help to make notes, maybe even use a spreadsheet, to record the names, ages and physical attributes. This can be helpful to refer to when you need to recall a detail, perhaps about someone's eye colour or where they live.

Next month, the writing tips will cover what will happen in your story and how to create a believable and memorable plot for your characters to interact.

J T Scott

THE QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW

On Monday, 8 May our Master of Fabric, Tony Lloyd, was busy in church assisting our church architect with the quinquennial inspection and review. Every five years, under rules laid down by The Inspection of Churches Measure 1955, the building, trees in the churchyard and some other elements as determined by the local Diocesan Advisors have to be inspected. In the report, the architect will advise on the condition of the items inspected and may identify work to be undertaken according to the needs of the building or the safety of its users.

We are hopeful that there will be no shocks that will require urgent and expensive works. The careful supervision provided by our Master of Fabric and the team of people who attend to the various matters of regular maintenance and care of St Mary's ensure, as far as is possible, that we have advance warning of any serious issues. Unfortunately, there are some elements of the building that are not easily inspected due to the challenges of access so we shall await the report in hope and let you know the outcome in due course.

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

Our meeting in May was led by Brenda Selby and the service was conducted by Kanthi Ariaraj. The theme was to remember the generosity of God who gives us all that we have and to show our gratitude for all His gifts. Many of us recalled our childhood which was very different. We experienced war, rationing and a basic standard of living so different from our lives today. However, many people are still in great need so we care and share what we have.

Our speaker was Amanda, a worker for "Loaves 'N Fishes" based in Blackheath. This is a Christian charity begun 11 years ago from a garage and now provides furniture, household essentials, clothing and emergency provision services from a resource centre. There is a pastoral team for visitors needing prayer, counselling, hot meals or a shower. They run a store, "Twelve Baskets", where donated furniture and household items can be recycled or sold. A "Beauty for Ashes" room provides clothing, shoes, bags, jewellery and referred people are given a £50.00 voucher to select their own choice of clothing items. Finally an "Out of the Dust" shop room focuses on lace, crochet, patchwork and vintage clothing.

Any donations can be made on www.loavesnfishes.co.uk by phone 0121 559 7443 or at 1, Halesowen Street, Blackheath. Amanda was thanked for her inspiring and informative talk.

Dates for your diary

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

Travels in Iran – Dr Jane Flint, Bridgnorth

Wednesday 21 June at 2.30 pm at St James' Church,

Wollaston Diocesan Festival - All are welcome

COMMUNITY LINKS

THE ROTARY CLUB OF STOURBRIDGE RECOGNIZES A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

H E Palfrey was a notable Stourbridge sheepskin rug maker who, as a young boy, attended King Edward VII Grammar School and later, in 1920-21, became President of the Old Edwardian Club. Research indicates his interests in local history, architecture and art, particularly the work of Sir Francis Job (Frank) Short (1857 –1945) (who was born in Wollaston and studied at Stourbridge Art College) and his ultimate associations with the Royal College of Art as Professor of Engraving. Palfrey wrote a number of articles about, amongst others, the Foley's and one, in 1945, entitled 'A Parish Chest in Oldswinford Church, Stourbridge.' Efforts are being made to find a copy of this text.

Harry Palfrey became Mayor of Stourbridge, was a founder member of the Rotary Club of Stourbridge and its President in 1928-29. In 1984, through a bequest from Keith, Harry's nephew, the club instituted an annual award in the name of the Palfrey family in recognition of local people who have made an

outstanding contribution for the benefit of the people of Stourbridge. The award has recognized many local people who have quietly contributed through their interests, skills, professions and beliefs to the betterment of the people of Stourbridge and the lives of those for whom challenges provide the need for additional support understanding and direction.

On 17 May 2017 The Rotary Club of Stourbridge will acknowledge Roy Peacock for his contributions as an historian, researcher, activist, author, educator, and faith leader when he will be presented with the Palfrey Award. The citation is illustrated below.



2017

Roy Peacock

The Palfrey Award has been presented to you by the Rotary Club of Stourbridge in recognition of your valuable voluntary contributions to the historical records of Stourbridge & district and local culture and amenities, together with your long-standing pastoral work as a Licensed Lay Minister for the benefit of the parish of St. Mary, Oldswinford in particular.

Over more than thirty years as a Stourbridge resident you have ensured that local people are aware of and appreciate the generosity of benefactors Ernest and Mary Stevens in providing the town with its much-loved Mary Stevens Park and other amenities. You have contributed to the improvements made to the park in recent years, plus the refurbishment and updating of the town's War Memorial in the park - researching and recording the history of those whose names appear on the Roll of Honour.

You have also carried out similar work in relation to the First and Second World War records of Oldswinford parish, as well as being active as a Black Country Society volunteer and joining the fund-raising effort towards the establishment of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice, another most worthwhile local institution. Further, over many years you have researched and published many books and papers about the history of the area's inhabitants, industries and local life generally, adding much to local cultural life.

You continue to be of immense value to your community and we congratulate you on all of your achievements to date.

R. M. Franks President 2016/17

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

SALMON WITH RED PEPPER AND BASIL CHIFFONNADE

Serves 1

½ red pepper roasted and sliced into thin strips (You can use the roasted peppers in a jar)

1 salmon fillet (5oz/150g in weight)

1 teaspoon full fat cream cheese

1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar

Shredded basil leaves

Arrange the salmon on baking parchment or a greased tray. Season the cream cheese and spread the cheese over the salmon. Top with the strips of pepper. This can be prepared ahead at this stage, covered and put in the fridge.

Bake in a preheated oven 180c fan/ 200c/Gas 6 for about 15 minutes. Do not be tempted to overcook as the fish will become dry. I usually take it out of the oven after 15 minutes and leave it to stand and finish cooking.

Lift onto a plate and drizzle over the balsamic vinegar and sprinkle the basil over the red pepper.

Serve with tiny new potatoes and spiralized vegetables.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE...

Summer days : salmon and cream cheese - not here as canapes or on the lawn at a garden party/fete, but baked (carefully, Anne reminds us !) with strips of roasted pepper.

We will be tempted to go white. Add in some basil and none of the flavours are inconsequential, so select a wine with decent body and weight of flavour. A Chardonnay springs to mind first - probably not an oaky (and expensive) Burgundy - a Pouilly Fuisse, a good Macon or a Chablis would be about right. Malvasia has good character and having recently visited Ramsbottom in Lancashire - home base for a wine shop specializing in wines from Portugal - the blends of native Portuguese varieties score well and always please.

By all means try a rosé but the same rules apply: not too light, pretty and strawberry-scented. Sancerre rosé, fashioned from Pinot Noir grapes - which is relatively rare in the world of rosés - would be a sound selection. I'm still not a fan of alcoholic 14% rosés appearing these days; but I am increasingly an advocate of rosés made from Spain's Bobal grape.

The cream cheese may still steer us to a white wine, but the case is often made for a red to accompany salmon. Again, we want something not too weighty or tannic. A Loire red featuring the Cabernet Franc grape is frequently suggested. A good alternative (if you can find it) would be Bonarda. It appears in blends in Argentina, and as Italy's Bonarda Piemontese, it might just work as well as any.

Enjoy your wine-sipping.....

Richard W. B. Ryan

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

5.5 miles, Bobbington, 28 April.

On this occasion eleven people left St Mary's to make their way to the start of the walk at the Six Ashes Public House.

The weather was dry and lightly overcast as we started the walk along the lane in the direction of Bobbington. We turned off the lane to join a track which led to Hay Farm.

We went diagonally across a field. Ray and I had found the entrance with great difficulty when we tried the walk out two weeks earlier. (No problem this time though).

Walking through fields and along hedgerows we eventually came to a lane which we crossed. Through a wood by the side of a farm we saw lots of bluebells and other wild flowers. Also, there were a few very dodgy stiles which we crossed with trepidation.

A nice path then led us towards Halfpenny Green Airport where, reaching another lane we crossed into a field and rested whilst we enjoyed break.

We continued on through the fields until we arrived in Bobbington where we walked through the village passing the church on the way.

The next part of the walk was nearly all through fields of oilseed rape, which was almost shoulder height and in full bright yellow bloom - quite a beautiful sight.

We passed a giant Redwood tree on route to another lane which took us past Bobbington Hall, a very old building, part being early 17 century. From this point it was only about half a mile back to the pub, where we had already ordered our meals. Here we were joined by Sue, Katey and Ann who were having a drink sitting by a roaring fire.

I think everyone would agree that we had a very pleasant lunch.



Jean and Ray Drew

Answers to CROSS LINKED puzzle.

Connecting words across.

Word in fourth row

Column 5 down. Final link

Wall, drive, window, garden

e.g. Rose, walled

House features

Does anyone have a Digital Piano at home which they would be prepared to loan the church, for use as a choir rehearsal instrument?

For more details please see or contact Graham Davies - Director of Music.



PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

16 April	Elliot William John Haden Noah James Boughton
17 April	Olive Beth Cokaj Rupert George Cokaj
23 April	Jonathan Mark Phillips Samantha Jane Phillips Emily Ruth Graham
7 May	Pippa Harriet Doman Jesse Thomas Whetton
14 May	Lewis Thomas Moore

BISHOP OF WORCESTER'S APPEAL FOR PERU

A very generous response was made at St Mary's to Bishop John's Appeal in support of the work to be undertaken by the Bishop of Peru to address the hardship created as a consequence of recent disastrous weather.

A bucket collection undertaken during the last three weeks of April raised the wonderful total of £486.33 which has been forwarded to the Old Palace, Worcester for onward transmission to Peru.

The response underlines the Christian generosity and consideration so clearly displayed by all those who contributed. Thank you.

FAIR TRADE

A Fair Trade stall will usually be available at the 10.00 am service on the second Sunday of each month and, possibly, at a Thursday morning service. If you might be available to help with the stall at either service please contact Maggie Abbotts.

Answers to Cross Words 7

ADORE, ADORED, ADORN, ADORNED, AEON, ANODE, ANON, AROUND, DADO, DEODAR, DOER, DONE, DONNED, DOUR, DRONE, DRONED, EURO, NEON, NEURON, NODE, NONE, NOUN, OARED, ODDER, RADON, REDO, REDOUND, ROAD, ROAN, RODE, RONDEAU, ROUND, ROUNDED, **UNADORNED**, UNDO, UNDO, ,UNDONE

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY

On Sunday 11 June I will have the privilege of preaching at a Service of Thanksgiving for Women's Ministry in the Cathedral. 2017 is a significant year of anniversaries, an opportunity to remember and celebrate some key moments in the gradual acceptance in the Church of England of the ministry of women in leadership roles:



50 years since female lay readers were appointed;

30 years since women deacons were ordained;

25 years since the vote was taken for women's ordination to the priesthood in 1992.

In this diocese, of course, the ministry of women has long been welcomed and appreciated wholeheartedly by the vast majority of church members. It is an encouraging environment in which women can flourish and realise their potential, serving in roles which suit their varied gifts, personalities and skills, being who God made them to be, in the same way that men can. Hopefully, as the impact of our Kingdom People: Calling Young Disciples project grows, we will similarly see young people and children increasingly playing their part, growing in confidence that what they bring is valued and vital to our shared life as God's people.

I am acutely aware that I am in a senior role in God's church, as one of a steadily growing number of women, because wise people invested in me, saw my leadership potential, gave me opportunities and trained and mentored me. They picked me up when I stumbled, let me make mistakes and learn from them, and stretched me to do more than I thought I could, trusting that God equips the called, rather than calls the equipped. I am especially grateful to those who did that when the church still had questions about the role of women. I think they were following in the footsteps of Jesus!

When Jesus walked on earth, women were uneducated, not given a legally valid voice, and treated like property. He refused to bow to those cultural stigmas, instead modelling a way of relating to women which was totally different – radically inclusive, no limits on their God given destiny or restrictions on how their gifts could be exercised. It is when women and men, and young people and children work together that the church is enabled to be what it is created to be, the hope of the world, fully representative of the body of Christ as we seek together to be Kingdom People

I hope many from across the Diocese will be in the Cathedral at 4pm on 11 June to celebrate the ministry of women. I pray too, that each of us will think of young people in whom we can invest –especially girls, and invite them to join us, so that we are a truly multi-generational church encouraging the gifts and contributions of everyone.

Nikki Groarke

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

FAIR TRADE
St Mary's fair trade stall will be
available at the 10.00.am service each
month on the second Sunday.
Items will also be available at the
Thursday morning service.
Look out for details.