

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

JULY-AUGUST 2017
Online edition



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine



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JULY-AUGUST 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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Safeguarding Officer:	Mrs Liz Fourness	394359
Church Hall and		
Coach House: - Bookings:	Parish Office	441003
Parish Administrator and		
Publicity Officer:	Mr John Sutton	441003
Parish Office:	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
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Facebook:	www.facebook.com/stmaryschurcholdswinford	

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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 JULY 2017

Saturday 1	7.30 pm Stagecoach Concert in Church
SUNDAY 2	THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	3.00 pm Baptisms
Monday 3	3.00 pm Guidelines Meeting
	7.30 pm Standing Committee Meeting
Tuesday 4	Open the Book Team to visit Oldswinford Primary School
	9.45 am Year 2 OCEPS visit to Church
Thursday 6	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
	'Muddyboots' working in churchyard
Friday 7	Stephen's day off
Saturday 8	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 9	FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 11	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
	12.00 noon Mothers' Union meeting in the Narthex
Thursday 13	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 14	Stephen's day off
Saturday 15	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 16	FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	12.00 noon and 3.00 pm Baptisms
Tuesday 18	Open the Book Team to visit Oldswinford Primary School
	2.15 pm Tea in the Coach House.
	7.00 pm Bishop's Certificate course BBQ
Wednesday 19	9.00 am Morning Prayers and Full Staff Meeting
	10.00 am Prayer Group meeting
	7.00 pm Year 6 OCEPS Leavers Service in Church
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
	2.00 pm Wedding
	LOVE STOURBRIDGE EVENTS
SUNDAY 23	SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Tuesday 25	2.15 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex
Wednesday 26	9.00 Morning Prayers and Full Staff Meeting
	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
	7.30 pm PCC Meeting
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	SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

This year the Love Stourbridge week kicks off with a large community event in Mary Stevens park on Saturday 22 July. All the varied activities have been put together by Churches Together in Stourbridge with the Park Rangers. The purpose of the week revolves around deepening the sense of community spirit which Stourbridge feels and in binding people together. Put the date in your diary, come along and recharge your love for Stourbridge.

DIARY AUGUST 2017

Thursday 3	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 4	Stephen's day off
Saturday 5	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 6	EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	3.00 pm Baptisms
Monday 7	Alex's day off
	11.00 am Pastoral Group Meeting
Tuesday 8	11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
Thursday 10	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
	Copy date for September magazine
Friday 11	Stephen's day off
Saturday 12	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 13	NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
	The Fairtrade stall will be available after the 10.00 am service
Monday 14	Alex's day off
Tuesday 15	2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House
Wednesday 16	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Messy Church in the Church Hall
Thursday 17	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 18	Stephen's day off
Saturday 19	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 20	TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Monday 21	Alex's day off
Tuesday 22	2.15 pm Tea in the Coach House.
Wednesday 23	Parish Office Closed until 11 September
	11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge
Thursday 24	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
Friday 25	Stephen's Day Off
Saturday 26	9.30 am Walking Group
	10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour
SUNDAY 27	ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
Monday 28	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 29	2.15 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex
Thursday 31	10.30 am Holy Communion in Church

CHANGES AT MARY STEVENS HOSPICE

Revd David Knight is moving on from his role as Chaplain at Mary Stevens Hospice to a similar post nearer to his home in East Grinstead. We wish David and his family every happiness in the future and extend our thanks to him for support he has given to St Mary's and the Old Swinford community during recent years.

FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends

The last few months have been very difficult for many people. On numerous occasions we have woken up to news which has shaken our belief in the essential goodness of human beings. We have been confronted by the destructive nature of human hatred, and as is so often the case when we are confronted by such hatred we have asked the question: 'Why?'

'Why?' is not an unusual question for us to pose, because we tend to ask it whenever something goes wrong in our lives, whether that is to do with health, security, relationships or anything else. On this occasion though there is no sense of accident about the bad things which have happened, they have happened as the direct result of human decisions, so we are less inclined to ask why God allows such things to happen. It is clearly a series of human decisions which have led us to the horrific outcomes in Manchester, London and elsewhere.

Of course we might ask why God would allow such things to happen. But in response to that sort of question we must outline the whole idea of human freedom of choice, a God-given gift, but one which has two sides. We are free to make choices which may be good choices or bad ones, choices which affirm the lives of those around us or choices which damage the lives of others. Essentially freedom of choice gives us the possibility of doing great good, and by doing so copying God himself, becoming like God (which is what we are called to be). However there is the downside; we have the opportunity to do great harm and in doing so to turn our backs on the ways of God, something which we promise not to do at our Baptism.

Ultimately much responsibility for the way of the world lies with us human beings. We are the ones who choose good or ill, who follow the ways of God or turn our backs on them. It is an awesome responsibility, and although we may think that our sphere of influence is limited, the experiences of the last months have demonstrated that we all have the capacity for great harm or for great good.

In response to the evil that we see in the world about us we are invited to make a choice every day. We can choose the ways of negativity and destruction which deny the value of human life and well-being or we can choose the ways of love and affirmation, the ways portrayed in the life and teaching of Jesus. As Christians we are well aware that ultimately the ways of love triumph, because for us the cross and resurrection of Jesus demonstrate the power of love.

"Let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

1 John 4: 7

Stephen Agnew

SERVICES IN JULY 2017

2 July 3rd Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 6. 22 - end	Matthew 10. 40 - end
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 35.	Hebrews 10. 35 - 11:1
9 July 4th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	Worship Together	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	2 Samuel 2. 1-11, 3:1	Luke 18. 31 - 19:10
16 July 5th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 8. 12 - 25	Matthew 13. 1 - 9, 18 - 23
	6.30 pm Evensong	2 Samuel 7. 18 - end	Luke 19. 41 - 20:8
23 July 6th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 8. 12 - 25	Matthew 13. 24 - 30, 36 - 43
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Kings 2. 10 - 12, 3:16 - end	Acts 4. 1 - 22
30 July 7th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 6. 26 - end	Matthew 13. 31 - 33, 44 - 52
	6.30 pm Evensong	1 Kings 3. 5—12	Matthew 13. 31 - 33, 44 - 52

SERVICES IN AUGUST 2017

6 August 8th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Peter 1. 16 – 19	Luke 19. 28 - 36
	6.30 pm Evensong	Exodus 34. 29 - end	2 Corinthians 3
13 August 9th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	Worship Together	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	1 Kings 11. 41 - 12:20	Acts 14. 8 - 20
20 August 10th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 11. 1 - 2a, 29 - 32	Matthew 15. 10 - 20
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 56. 1, 6 - 8	Matthew 15. 10 - 20
27 August 11th Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Romans 12. 1 - 8	Matthew 16. 13 - 20
	6.30 pm Evensong	Isaiah 51 1 - 6	Matthew 16. 13 - 20

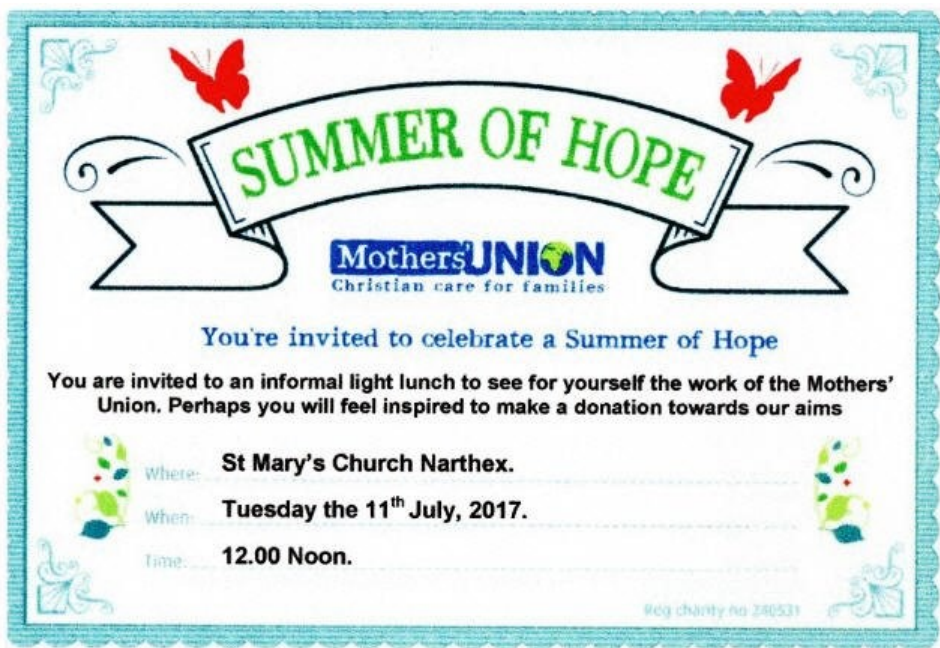
PRAYER STONES

How did you use your prayer stones?

We hope you were able to join in the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative and found the five stones helpful as a means of focussing your prayers.

You may wish to continue to use these stones in a similar way, to help with an alternative focus for your future prayers or to serve as a reminder of those whom you hold in your prayers.

Whilst the idea was directed to a specific period of time there is every good reason for you to continue to use these as you find most helpful.





CHRISTIAN AID SUPPORTED IN OLDSWINFORD

Helen Fowler has asked for thanks to be shared with everyone in the Oldswinford community for their response in support of the Christian Aid Appeal for 2017. As usual, several people undertook the door to door delivery and later collection of envelopes in order to help St Mary's to meet its willing obligation to this important annual appeal for financial support. Over 500 envelopes were delivered and those who took part reported a more positive response this year from householders.

The children, teaching staff and families of Oldswinford Church of England Primary School played their part too, taking part in a specially organised school sponsored walk event on Friday 19 May when, with the envelope collection £2915.44 was raised.

The outcome has been a grand total of £4434.93 raised for Christian Aid from the support provided through St Mary's Church. This really is a splendid sum, a further reflection of the generosity and compassion of the local community. Thank you to all who contributed to this event in whatever way you were able and a special thank you to Helen for all of the work she undertook in coordinating our local efforts.

WELL DONE EVERYONE

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 11

rock	clock	front	lift	
weapon	fire	branch	member	
sweet	centre	core	felt	
under	ball	fall		



CORNISH



DEVONISH

Whichever you choose,
 July's **TUESDAY TEA** will be a **CREAM TEA**.
 Do come along to join us and bring a friend. We shall look
 forward to welcoming you in the narthex on
 Tuesday, 25 July, 2.30 - 4.00 pm.

Pam Scudamore
 St Mary's Mission and Pastoral Committee

NEW COMMEMORATIVE HANGING

Please look at and enjoy the tribute to Jane and Richard Harris and
 the skill exercised in the production of the recently displayed textile
 hanging worked by Dawn Nex which you will see on the balcony in church.
 Thank you Dawn.

WRITING TIPS

This is the second of a short series of five articles by Jenny T Scott which will feature in coming months and offers tips and advice on how to create a story. Part 2 covers how to come up with ideas for creating a memorable plot.

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.

Part 2 – What will happen in your story?

Last month, we covered how to create characters for your story and now it's time for them to do something. The term plot is used to describe the events and actions in your story which set the scene and progress the story to its conclusion.

Maybe there is a problem that needs to be solved? Maybe something is lost and needs finding? Perhaps a crime has been committed? Is there a romance blossoming? Or a monster to be defeated?

These are common themes in stories which enable your characters to interact with each other.

Journey stories, where the characters grow or learn something, also known as Coming of Age.

Losing something, perhaps a cat, a house, or a friend. Is there a consequence of the loss?

Finding something, by accident or on a quest. Is it treasure, does anyone know about it?

Love, romance, erotica, typically people meet, fall in love or lust. Do they act on their feelings?

Crime themes include 'whodunit', murders, thefts and the legal or vigilante fight for justice.

Horror stories tap into our innermost fears. Monsters, ghosts, zombies, blood and gore.

Fear of something, maybe spiders, strange noises, getting lost, suffocating, drowning or dying.

Most writers are drawn to one type of plot or another although many times the themes will overlap and jigsaw together. Imagine a young ghost that falls in love with someone who is afraid of dying. The ghost can never be human and the human doesn't want to die. Can they ever be together?

Mapping out your plot and planning your story is crucially important, either right at the beginning, or when you edit along the way. When writing the Sammy Rambles books, I started writing with only an idea about having a boy and a dragon in my story. It was when I started thinking and asking myself questions, such as where did Sammy get his dragon from? An egg? Who gave him the egg? Why?

As I answered my own questions, I found it was obvious that Sammy would receive a dragon egg on his first day at the dragon school and then for him to find out there was an enemy who wanted to kill the dragons which Sammy and his friends need to defeat. That, in essence, is my plot.

Having a timeline of the events in your story, written on paper or computer can be helpful. You can map out what happens, when, to whom and why. If you have read part one of this series, you will have one or more characters ready to slot into your plot.

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

www.sammyrambles.com



THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC AT ST MARY'S



SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER
at 7.30pm
In
ST MARY'S CHURCH

FOR YOUR DIARY

A CONCERT
by
ENSEMBLE ESPIRI
Featuring
Mary-Jannet Heath Recorder
and
Thomas Allery Harpsichord

Refreshments will be served

All proceeds will go to the Friends of the Music at St Mary's
Graham Davies,
Director of Music

Answers to Cross Words 8

ACNE, ANTE, ATTUNE, AUNT, CANE, CANT, CENT, ENACT, NAPE, NEAP, NEAT, NETT, PANE, PANT, PATEN, PATENT, PATTEN, PEAN, PEANUT, PECAN, PENT, **PUNCTUATE**, PUNT, TAUNT, TAUTEN, TENT, TUNA, TUNE, UNAPT, UNCAP, UNCUT **CONGRATULATIONS IF YOU FOUND MORE**

Answers to CROSS LINKED puzzle.

Connecting words across.

Word in fourth row

Column 5 down. Final link

Face, arm, heart, foot

e.g. 30cm

body parts

INAUGURAL WEEKEND - THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSIC AT ST MARY'S

After many months of anticipation the Friends of The Music at St Mary's was formally launched during the weekend of 17/18 June with a wonderful evening concert and a specially structured Choral Evensong, both much enjoyed and representative of the long history of quality musical tradition associated with St Mary's.

The aim of 'The Friends' is to enable a fund to be established which may be applied to support the musical education of young people. With this support they are to be encouraged to share in and contribute to the choral tradition of St Mary's and assisted to pursue opportunities to further the development of their musical talents.

'Friends' are invited to contribute gifts on a one-off or regular basis which will then be applied by the governing group as need and opportunity arises.

A further aim of The Friends is to present regular concerts and events that feature the musical interests and experiences of the St Mary's music groups, to showcase their talents and growing skills and to entertain. Income from these events will provide a means of growing the financial resources of The Friends.

Saturday evening's concert featured St Mary's Choir, the Chamberlain Singers and the Amicus Trio and illustrated the heights to which the music makers can aspire. Former members of St Mary's choir, with the support of friends, presented items that displayed their musical prowess and growth from the days of their apprenticeships at St Mary's. Amicus Trio, of Will Croft, Chloe Baker and Alastair Smith presented a programme of five pieces written for violin, viola and cello which delighted the audience during the first half of the evening. Their final piece, 'Partia' in C minor - 'Mr Grobe', included music played by Will on a fourteen-stringed viola d'amore built in 1736, and on loan from the Bate Collection, Oxford. In all, a stunningly evocative and much enjoyed programme.

The interval brought a buzz of conversation in appreciation of what had been presented and of what might yet be to come. No one was disappointed as the talented and competent Chamberlain Singers, conducted by Jack Apperley, presented six items that illustrated the range of their talent to the very obvious enjoyment of the audience.

For the final two pieces, St Mary's Choir joined with the Chamberlain Singers to present a fitting finale to an evening that was very much enjoyed and served to underline the importance and potential of the concept that gave rise to what all hope was the first of many delightful events to come.

For Sunday evening, Revd Stephen Agnew had composed a specially arranged Festival Evensong. With carefully selected music and language this service presented a setting for choral worship which remains largely unchanged from the days of Thomas Cranmer but which is still highly relevant today. The music and songs of praise served to showcase the musical



skills that are exactly what is sought to preserve and promote by the establishment of The Friends.

Thank you for your support.

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

On a beautiful June day 17 members enjoyed an illustrated talk on the history and a recent visit to Iran (Persia) by Dr Jane Flint.

Until 1935 Iran was named Persia. Its history began in the late Bronze and early Iron Ages when settlers established a vital part of the Silk Route and developed a wealthy, efficient empire which eventually stretched from Egypt to Western India.

Faith influences began with Zoroaster, (Zarathustra) a prophet who believed in the battle between good and evil by divine forces. A few believers remain in Iran and India (now called Parsees). Persian King Cyrus II defeated Babylon about 538-7 BC and released Jewish exiles who were encouraged to return home and, as told in the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah, began to rebuild Jerusalem's city walls and temple. There is a legend that one of the magi came from Persia and visited Christ in Bethlehem. Christianity spread through a Nestorian mission in 463 AD. A small minority remain in Iraq but are persecuted.

Islam conquered the Empire in 643 AD and was strictly imposed after Mongol Moslems invaded in the 13th century. Most Iranians are Shia, only one in ten being Sunni.

Persia became Iran in 1935. Previously its oil deposits were exploited by British, Russian and later, U.S. traders. Following a corrupt regime a popular uprising in 1979 overthrew the Shah and an Islamic Republic was established. From 1980 – 88 war with Iraq brought great hardship and loss of life. Later, they fought against the Taliban.

Dr Flint was welcomed by hardworking people wanting to improve trade. She experienced wonderful cities, archaeological sites, mosques, palaces, museums carpet and glassmaking there.

Poetic Literature is famous in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. Science, astronomy and mathematics were developed. Jews and Christians still have a small presence.

Now the economy is struggling, but visitors are able to enjoy a more open society especially since the regime is more cohesive following recent elections.

All this opened our eyes and minds to the possibilities that life in Iran may be quite different from the political view presented in the news. Let us pray this continues.

Dates for your diaries:-

Diocesan AGM, Wednesday 5 July, 7.30 pm, St Saviour's Church, West Hagley.

Tuesday 11 July in the Narthex from 12.00 noon, you are invited to an informal light lunch to celebrate "A Summer of Hope". All are welcome.

Tuesday 12 September, 2.15 pm in the Coach House, "Good Mental Health" – Speaker Lynne Jankowska BEM.

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

SUMMER TIME



CROSS WORD 8

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.

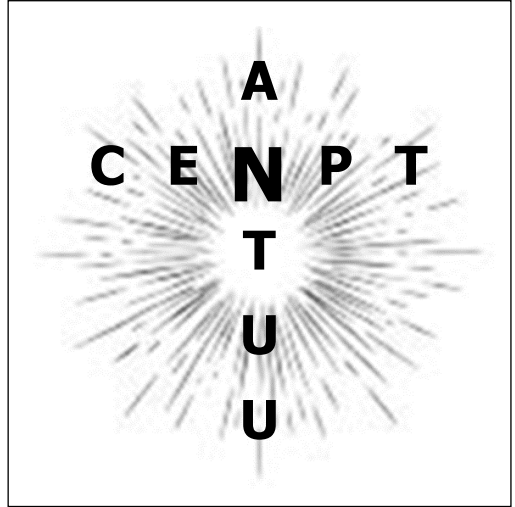
You must use the centre letter in every word.

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



During July and August Christians will celebrate the feast days of three of the Apostles, St Thomas, St James and St Bartholomew on 3 July, 25 July and 24 August. Who do we celebrate on what day? Can you find an interesting fact about each of these men of the Bible?

The word **holiday** probably comes from **Holy Day**, a day when people did not work but concentrated on saying their prayers.



What might you do on your holiday?

Could you write a story for the magazine?

William Wilberforce (1759-1833) is also celebrated, on 30 July. He was a great Politician who worked for the abolition of slavery.

Try to find out all about him and what he did to encourage people to treat other people with more respect.

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

CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS?

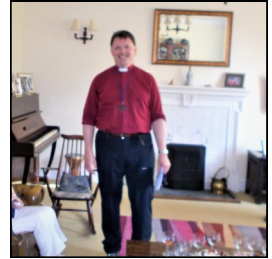
August, Barbeque, Beach, Bikes, Camping, Carnival, Flipflops, Fun, Holiday, Ice cream, July, Joy, Parade, Parties, Picnics, Pool, Sandals, Sunglasses, Swimming,



WORCESTER DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

Between Ascension Day and Pentecost the Diocese engaged on various events as part of “Thy Kingdom Come” global wave of prayer. The Diocesan “Walk the Cross” initiative was a cross-shaped pilgrimage consisting of four routes from the edges of the Diocese converging on Worcester cathedral. Led by bishops and clergy, the walks visited many parishes along the way and people were invited to join the travellers at any point.

Bishop Graham had the longest stretch taking three days to walk from Wall Heath using footpaths, cycle ways, canal tow-paths and minor roads. He arrived



The Bishop came to tea.

at St Mary's, Old Swinford on the evening of Thursday 1 June to a group welcome and reception at the rectory. After greetings and prayers he enjoyed sustenance before the last part of his first day's walk to St John the Baptist at Hagley Hall. The route through Old Swinford and beyond was via the Monarch's Way long distance path - through the Dingle and over Wychbury Hill - both quite challenging, but other parts were rather more relaxing and Bishop Graham was able to enjoy a brief break on a canal boat.

On Saturday evening all the pilgrims arrived in Worcester and the pilgrimage culminated with a celebration on College Green followed by a service in the cathedral.

The following day Bishop Graham was back in Dudley to lead a “Praying for Dudley” event in Priory Park.

Alec Beevers



Thy Kingdom Come . Pentecost 2017 Event at Dudley Priory ruins - Bishop Graham's Address

This is an incredible place. We stand on holy ground. From its founding in the twelfth century, this was the place in Dudley of education and scholarship, the place where travellers, the ill and elderly were cared for, the place of justice and civic administration. But above all this was the powerhouse of prayer.

It's a place where the Rule of St Benedict was lived out. A way of living that balanced prayer and work and study. A gentle and humane rule of life that has been a great influence on the Christian life of our nation.

The first word in St Benedict's long rule is the word LISTEN. And that's

what we do today as we come together, as Christians from across this borough. We come to listen as we pray together Thy Kingdom Come.

We listen on this Day of Pentecost to the prompting of God's Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit that was sent to equip the first disciples and unlocked them from fear.

As we listen to what the voice of God is saying through his Holy Spirit to us in this generation so we discover that the Holy Spirit also unlocks our fears. And down the generations it's had a fairly constant message. A constant message to the community of monks that prayed in this place, as well as generations of Black Country folk. That message is simple really.

To those who want to fill our world with hate, the Spirit says "love wins".

To those who want to fill our world with tears, the Spirit says "joy wins".

To those who want to fill our world with violence, the Spirit says "peace wins".

To those who want to fill our world with horror, the Spirit says "goodness wins".

To those who want to fill our world with division, the Spirit says "kindness wins".

The Kingdom that we pray will come is one marked out by love and joy and peace and goodness and kindness.

And it's God's Spirit living in us that inspires us to go into the world inviting people to join in that vision of his Kingdom. So be bold. Be extravagant with this invitation, not holding it back from anyone, judging no one, inviting all.

Sometimes we invite people with words. At other times it's through the way we are. Or through an act of kindness. Or by our regular prayer that they will discover the God who already loves them and is with them.

What we find is that this invitation simply happens with immense generosity when we ourselves live and move and have our being in Jesus. Because the invitation is to a foretaste of the joy of heaven.

Sisters and brothers, have that infectious joy to invite countless others across our borough to pray with us, Thy Kingdom Come. Invite all to join in being today's powerhouse of prayer LISTENING to the call of the Spirit in this place.

Bishop Graham

NEWS OF ANNE DAVIES

As promised here's a little news update on Mum and a few photos. You will see from the photo's we try to take her out and about as much as possible. I think we now know which tea shops in Surrey have the very best lemon drizzle cake (her favourite). I visit her every week and my sister comes over once a month or so.

She seems very happy where she is at Knowle Park. The home itself is a beautiful old cream coloured house, set in lovely grounds, with wonderful views across the Surrey Hills. Doors are always open and there is



plenty of space to wander around. As you will know with dementia there is a need to always be getting somewhere/being on the move, so I think it's great that the home doesn't trap the residents in. They hold a garden party annually on the lawn in a big marquee and last year the Lord and Lady Mayor attended. They make lovely cakes and we all enjoyed it enormously. You may have realised it's all about the cakes these days.

They provide a full list of activities on a weekly basis for the residents which Mum loves to take part in. She does flower arranging, painting, crafts, has her nails painted etc etc and people come in to entertain them, usually singing. Her favourite is Yoga/keep fit. She has won medals for being the best pupil and really gets a lot out of it. Those who are able also go out on trips to garden centres or gardens, Mum of course is always up for a trip out and about.

Cranleigh School regularly visit the home. These are of course special days for Mum, she loves to interact with the children and often still thinks she is teaching. When we take her out and about she is always drawn to the little children.

They take communion weekly, apparently Mum is always on the front row but she wanted to be more Churchy, so now has regular visits from the local church - some times the vicar, sometimes a volunteer.

She tells us all sorts of weird and wonderful stories that go on in her world most of which, sadly, are very confused, and slightly fanciful, and clearly come from the world of dementia. She confuses various times in her life and often can't get the right words out. She also gets very muddled and a little frustrated.

She often talks about getting back to teaching or doing some fund-raising; we try to explain she doesn't need to do this anymore and should enjoy her retirement. When we sold the flat in Westley Court I brought many of her pictures



down and hung them in her room (you will see them behind her in one of the photos). She suggested she could charge a small fee for folks to come in to view her gallery, which she thought she could donate to the Children's Society.

She is now off most of the medication she was on for depression/anxiety but has been struggling with some problems with her skin and we have had to have several new hearing aids as they keep going 'missing'. She can't hear anything without them so it makes communication very difficult. Mostly though she is in better health than she has been for years. She has recently also lost some weight.

She regularly talks about Dad and how much she misses him. But she says she talks to him all the time and it gives her great comfort.

She does miss all her friends at St Mary's and in Worcestershire. She will be thrilled that you have been in touch and are interested to know how she is doing.



I know she is enjoying seeing much more of Jane and I, and her grandchildren. She came to my house last Saturday and sat in the garden chatting with my son, Henry - she just loved it. Her brother, John, was over from Canada last November for her birthday. We all went out for a

family lunch and Mum surprised us by standing up and making a little speech. See picture attached.

Will try to keep in more regular touch and thank you so much for your texts.

Much love, Claire

(Sue Tatford is maintaining contact with Anne's daughters.)

MISSION COFFEE MORNING

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and who came to our Mission Coffee Morning on Saturday, 13 May. It was well-attended with a very happy atmosphere all morning as friends chatted and enjoyed the delicious selection of cakes. Thank you to the Mission Committee members who had been busy baking! The raffle was well-supported too in helping to raise a total of £400 for St Mary's Mission Giving. This will be donated to those who really need our help and will make a difference to their lives. Thank you for your support - it is appreciated and valued.



Pam Scudamore

JAN BURBIE did it for NO LIMITS Community Project.

Jan Burbie completed the London Marathon on Sunday, 23 May, sponsored in support of the NO LIMITS Community Project. We don't yet have an overall figure of the amount raised but it is envisaged that it will be around £2500. Of this our church family donated £250 and there is gift aid to

add to this figure. We thank all of you who support our charity which helps us to maintain the services and resources we can provide to adolescents and young adults with autism/Asperger syndrome.

Our great thanks to Jan who achieved this for us.



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THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

SWEDISH CHOCOLATE CAKE

We already have a word for hygge (pronounced hue-gah) that's cosy. All things Nordic are in at the moment, not just food but interiors and gritty crime dramas with subtitles. It's an inexpensive cake to make and a dollop of Crème Fraiche is all that's needed. There are lots of recipes for this very moreish Swedish classic. I like this recipe as it has a sticky moist centre. Expect it to sink after cooling-that is the nature of it. I make it in my food processor. When using this method take care not to over-mix once you have added the flour or it will become tough. This applies to all cake making.

50g unsalted butter
50ml vegetable oil
2 eggs
180g caster sugar
75g brown sugar
150g plain flour
4 tablespoons cocoa
2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla essence
50g good quality dark chocolate or white chocolate (I use the chips)

Pre-heat oven to 150 C

Melt the butter and add the oil

Beat together the eggs, vanilla, caster and brown sugar until pale and fluffy.

Stir in the hot butter

Sieve together all the dry ingredients and blend into the mixture.

Line an 8 inch spring form tin. Pour the mixture into the tin. Break up the chocolate into pieces and sprinkle over the mixture.

Bake in the centre of the oven for 30 to 40 minutes..... a skewer should come out slightly sticky.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE...

I recently purchased a book about Fika - the Swedish concept of coffee break; not surprisingly it contains a recipe for a sticky-centred chocolate cake such as this.

You will know that with slices of cake I often head to Italy for a Vin Santo. But this is more especially with those twice-baked cantucci cake and nut bars. The soft chocolaty centre here calls for something different. Sweden produces some lovely intensely-flavoured ice-cider dessert 'wines' - stunning with a green/yellow-fruited dish.....but wide of the mark here.

I am never entirely convinced by sweet red wines : Mavrodaphne,

Rasteau Vin Doux Naturel, or even an LBV Port are all wonderful sippers, but they rarely strike me as what chocolate is made for. I have previously lauded the idea of a good quality dark or golden rum. This has considerable merit and would certainly work here.

However, earlier this year I met a sweet Tannat wine. Tannat is a deeply-coloured red grape grown in Uruguay and appears also in south-west France in the wines of Madiran and Irouleguy. Rarely exceptional, I had not encountered it in a sweet format before - but wow! The best dessert wine I've drunk for several years and along with the 50 year old Banyuls I remember from my last 'big' birthday), the finest sweet red wine I've tasted. It accompanied a chocolate log and finally persuaded me that chocolate with a sweet red wine CAN hit the heights. It would be perfect here.....it's just a matter of finding one !

Enjoy your winesipping.

Richard W. B. Ryan

ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP

Nine people bravely started the walk on a very sunny morning. We began at Himley Hall and walked our way up into Baggeridge Country Park. We headed gently up hill, passing three huge water pools 'Island Pool', 'Spring Pool' and 'Lower Wishing Pool' – lovely scenery. We continued along paths, to arrive at the café and play area. There is also a mini railway track, but it was not open.

We left the area to join a main track, but were then able to walk on a side path which gave us the opportunity to avoid any cars going to the play area. At the end of this path, we turned into Gospel End Common. We then worked our way through a mixture of open paths and woodland sections where we were high up and had wonderful views either side. Lots of horses grazed around. We had to stop for a couple of minutes because we were all so hot, but then it started to get cooler.....sun still out but getting a bit breezy. Walking through one section, we came to a ruined cottage, though not much left of it at all. We headed up and over a crest and stopped for our break.

Continued on to pass a farm house and then a straight path leading us to the A449. Not easy to cross the dual carriageway, but there was a stile over the barrier. We just waited in turn and all did it safely.

We then went down Battlefield Lane which led us to the Pool Dam. A pleasant flat walk that took us to the Railway Walk. Before Bridge No.23 we went down steep steps to the road and immediately turned under the bridge to head back towards the road. We turned right to the traffic lights leading to Himley Hall and continued alongside the entrance gates and back to our cars. We then enjoyed our picnic lunch by the lake - a lovely end to the day.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

21 May Louie James Fellows
 Oliver Jay Banks

Weddings

20 May Darren Cope and Louise Golby

Funerals

16 May	Lilian Edith Rosaline Cartwright	Aged 84
26 May	June Margaret Allen	Aged 81
2 June	John Jeavons-Fellows	Aged 78
7 June	Tracey and Pierce Wilkinson	Aged 50 and 13

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.

A BELLRINGING TRIBUTE

St Mary's bellringers, with the help of some visitors, and despite the challenges created by the hot weather, rang a quarter peal on Sunday 18 June, beginning at 5.15pm. The ringing lasted for about 55 minutes, sounding out a method known as Grandsire Triples. The quarter peal was being rung to mark three notable events to which the bellringers, in their own inimitable style, wished to pay tribute and acknowledge :-

1. The 100th anniversary of the death of Private Hugh Chapman Nash who died in service and was a bellringer at St Mary's.
2. To mark the launch of the Friends of the Music
3. To congratulate Revd Alex French on being ordained Priest on Saturday 24 June.

We hope you enjoyed this tribute.

Thank you to all who helped to make this a special event for the bellringers and those commemorated, celebrated and congratulated.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF DUDLEY

For the past year I have been serving on the board of the Human Tissue Authority, the body that regulates organisations that remove, store and use human tissue for research, medical treatment, post-mortem examination, education and training, and display in public. They also give approval for organ and bone marrow donation from living people. I have become increasingly fascinated by its work and the many ethical questions that arise as medical science advances what is possible.



Part of my role, along with other board members, is to give the final approval for living organ donations, having ascertained that the donation is being given without reward, coercion or duress - all of which are illegal in the UK. The donor also needs to be capable of giving informed consent, having understood what the procedure involves and its consequences.

There are often incredibly inspiring stories such as a husband giving a kidney to his wife, or a work colleague donating to someone across the office. There are also people who choose to donate a kidney or liver lobe altruistically to someone who they do not know, and will likely never meet or know anything about.

Recently I read a report submitted to the HTA for such a donation. It was an older person who decided that she would mark a significant birthday, not by receiving presents but by giving to someone else. Her Christian faith had inspired her, in thankfulness to God for good health and so many opportunities, to offer to donate one of her kidneys to a complete stranger.

This would not be the choice of everyone, and many people might not be physically or psychologically fit to proceed, but it made me reflect upon how important it is to be people of gift.

If we believe that everything we have, including our bodies, comes from God, then offering to donate in life and in death is part of our good stewardship. Donation then becomes an incredible gift of love as 'freely you have received, freely give' (Matthew 10.8) and it furthers our Christian calling to bring healing, motivated by compassion, mercy and prioritising the needs of others.

Some people choose to be blood donors, thus contributing to the 7000 units of blood that are needed each day by the NHS; red blood cells, platelets and plasma are all needed to save lives. Others choose to donate bone marrow. Others register to be an organ donor when they die so that the 6,900 or so people who at any one time are waiting for a transplant might be given an incredible gift. The sad reality is that there aren't enough donors; in 2015, 429 patients died while on the active waiting list for a transplant and a further 807 were removed because they became too ill.

It can take some bravery to have that difficult conversation with family members to explain that when you die you would like to be an organ donor. That conversation is, however, really crucial. If this is your preference, do register - by signing up to the Organ Donation Register - and carry an organ donation card, but also have that conversation today so that your family understand your wishes to bring life and health to others if something were to happen to you.

Life is an incredible gift. Donation in life, and in death, gifts to others lots more life in all its fullness.

Bishop Graham

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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.