

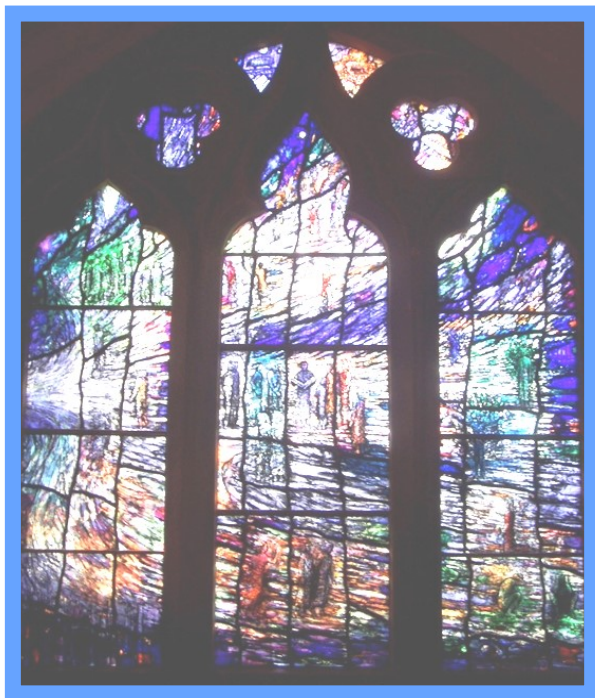
**ST MARY'S
OLD SWINFORD**
Parish Church Magazine

OCTOBER 2017
Online edition



ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD

Parish Church Magazine



PRIEST IN CHARGE: The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2HA
Tel: 01384 395410
E-mail: st.mary.os.priest@btconnect.com

CURATE: The Revd Alex French, 58 Arlington Court,
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 1NN
Tel 01384 622400
E-mail: st.mary.os.curate@btconnect.com

OCTOBER 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
	st.mary.os.dom@btconnect.com	
Treasurer:	Mr Russ Fowler	442684
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
Parish Office:	Open 9.00 am -12.00 noon Monday to Friday	441003
Church website address:	www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk	
	E-mail: st.mary.os@btconnect.com	
Facebook:	www.facebook.com/stmaryschurcholdswinford	

Magazine e-mail address: stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk

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 OCTOBER 2017

SUNDAY 1

HARVEST SUNDAY

- Monday 2 3.00 pm Baptisms
- Tuesday 3 Muddy Boots working in Churchyard. this week
- Wednesday 4 2.00 pm Funerals Meeting in the Narthex
- Thursday 5 3.00 pm Holy Communion at Oriel House
- 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church
- 7.30 pm Christmas Tree Festival meeting
- Friday 6 Stephen's day off
- Saturday 7 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 8

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

- The Fairtrade stall will be available after the 10.00 am service
- 4.00 pm Animal Service
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong with OSH Chamber Choir
- Monday 9 11.00 am Pastoral Care meeting
- Tuesday 10 Copy date for July/August magazine
- Open the Book Team to visit Oldswinford Primary School
- 11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft
- 2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House
- 7.30 pm Meeting with Bishop Graham for PCC reps.

Wednesday 11

10.00 am Prayer Group meeting

Thursday 12

10.30 am Holy Communion in Church

Friday 13

Stephen's day off

Saturday 14

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

SUNDAY 15

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Tuesday 17 2.00 pm Tea in the Coach House.

Wednesday 18

7.30 pm Magazine Meeting

Thursday 19

10.30 am Holy Communion in Church

Friday 20

Stephen's Day Off

Saturday 21

2.00 pm OSH Founder's Day Service

10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour

7.30 pm Barn dance in the Church Hall.

2.00 pm Ordination at Worcester Cathedral

SUNDAY 22

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Monday 23 Schools half term holiday week

Wednesday 25

11.00 am - 1.00 pm Messy Church

11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge

Thursday 26

10.30 am Holy Communion in Church

Friday 27

Stephen's day off

Saturday 28

9.30 am Walking Group

10.00 am Vestry Hour

10.00 am - 12.00 noon Mission Coffee Morning

SUNDAY 29

ALL SAINTS and ALL SOULS

British Summer time ends

Tuesday 31

Open the Book Team to visit Oldswinford Primary School

2.15 pm Tuesday Tea in the Narthex

FROM THE CURATE



Dear Friends

After much prayerful deliberation and careful selection (I have to admit that they did all look the same to me), I took delivery at the beginning of the summer holidays of a new pet, a beautiful Labrador puppy. Whilst he has appreciably altered, in a few short weeks, the dynamics in the house, I find it fascinating to watch him as he explores and interacts with the world around him. Whether I observe him from the sofa, a garden chair or a protective gaze on a walk, how he interacts with the world by being simply a bundle of inquisitive energy and fun has really caught my imagination. For him each day brings with it a multitude of experiences to be investigated. Nothing elaborate, complicated or expensive in construction, but just simple and natural. The pebble to be picked up and chewed, the leaf to chase, a flower to sniff, a bending stem of grass to chew, a stranger to excitedly bound up to and lick. Each in its own way makes up an environment to be enthusiastically explored, interacted with and learnt from. There are no self-imposed barriers restricting his enthusiasm, no list of jobs to get done which get in the way of seeing the beauty of the world around him. Rather his daily disposition is just to be himself, to live with liveliness, innocence and a willingness to explore, to taste, to sniff, to see and enjoy everything that is around him.

Shortly after bringing him home I happened to be in a local shop standing in a queue behind a gentleman engaged in conversation with the cashier. He was an extremely jolly chap and very quickly his exuberance and energy drew me into the conversation and I found myself laughing as he made numerous jokes about what his plans were for that day. As he finished paying he said to the cashier 'This world would be a totally different place if people learnt to laugh, to live each day having fun'. Without wanting to put words in his mouth, what he was essentially saying was that life could be so different if we were only willing to experience it, to live each day from a perspective of joy, excitement and fun.

Jesus describes his mission in the gospel of Saint John as 'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly'. In order to have life we need to embrace each day as a new opportunity to explore and to make the most out of the situations that we find ourselves in. It is no more complicated than learning to live with Jesus because he will free us to find life in abundance.

Very soon the nights will start to draw in, the leaves will turn brown on the trees and autumn will quickly give way to winter. When the world around us seems to disappear and die, it is easy to become despondent, jammed in a rut of waiting for spring to return once again. But Jesus says that we are to have life abundantly and in profusion irrespective of the season we are in. This can be ours if only we are willing to bind our lives to his. Binding isn't a difficult or complicated process, close your eyes, settle yourself and then tell Jesus that you love him. Try it and see the daily riches that he will pour into your life. See how he will release you to enjoy life with exuberance, innocence and enthusiasm.

Grace and Peace

Alex

SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2017

1 October Harvest Sunday	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	2 Corinthians 9 6 - 15	Luke 12 16 - 30
	6.30 pm Evensong	Deuteronomy 8 7 - 18	Luke 17 11—19
8 October Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am	Worship Together	
	6.30 pm Choral Evensong	Proverbs 2 1 - 11	1 John 2 1 - 17
15 October Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Philippians 4 1 - 9	Matthew 22 15 - 22
	6.30 pm Evensong	Proverbs 3 1 - 18	1 John 3 1 - 15
22 October Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	1 Thessalonians 1 1 - 16	Matthew 22 15 - 22
	6.30 pm Evensong	Proverbs 4 1 - 18	1 John 3 3.6 - 4.6
29 October All Saints and All Souls	8.00 am Holy Communion		
	10.00 am Parish Communion	Revelation 7 9 - 17	Matthew 5 1 - 13
	6.30 pm Evensong	Wisdom 3 1 - 9	John 6 37 - 40

The front cover photograph is the stained glass window in St Peter's, Ipsley church and is discussed in an article on page 8

ANIMAL SERVICE - 8 OCTOBER, 4.00 pm - 4.45pm

Following closely on the heels of the commemoration of Saint Francis of Assisi (4th October) we will be holding our first ever animal service. During the service we will be celebrating the richness and diversity of the animal world, giving thanks for all the joy and love that animals bring into our lives and showing our appreciation to God for the beauty of the natural world. There will also be an opportunity during the service to get your animal blessed.



All pets are welcome along with any creature that you can lay your hands on. We are trying to see just how broad a representation of animal life we can get at the service, so no animal is either too small nor too large to come with you. Encourage friends and neighbours to attend what promises to be a blessed service.

Alex French

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Plans for the Christmas Tree Festival are now well under way. Letters have gone out to all the groups attached to Church, the Church Hall and Coach House inviting them to decorate a tree to represent their group. The Festival will take place from Friday 1 December until Monday 4 December from 11.00 am until 4.00 pm. In addition the Festival will be open on Saturday 2 December from 6.00 pm until 8.00pm to allow the trees to be seen lit up in the dark. Mulled wine will be served during this time. During the other opening times we will need volunteers to steward the event and to provide tea, coffee and biscuits to visitors.

We really want to publicise this event widely and would appreciate it if anyone felt able to help with this. Do please let me know if you feel able to help in anyway with this exciting project.

Sally Frost Tel: 01384 377146

"I, DANIEL BLAKE" - FILM SCREENING

On THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER we will be showing Ken Loach's film **"I Daniel Blake"** at 7.30 pm in St Thomas's Church Hall, Market Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1AQ.

A few months ago some of us saw this film at the Friends Meeting House in Stourbridge and found it very powerful; it is an informative and moving film. We felt it would be good to show it again in Stourbridge.

For those who would like to consider the issues raised in the film further there will be a follow-up discussion "Taking thought; taking Action" on THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER at 7.30 pm at the Friends Meeting House, 37 Scotts Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1UR.

You would be very welcome at either of these events.

Hugh Williams

ST MARY'S OLDSWINFORD TENOR BELL



As you may have noticed, like Big Ben, the Tenor bell in the tower has been silenced, not intentionally, but by the Tenor clapper breaking during service ringing in July.

The clappers in all of the bells were made in 1902 by John Taylors, bell founders, to a design known as “fork topped clappers” Taylors used this design for a short period 1898 until 1905.

In the case of the tenor the fork broke in two which rendered the bell unringable. Inspection of the damage showed that the fork had broken before and had been repaired but when it was done, is anybody's guess.

The damage was far too great for a “repair in the garden shed” so John Taylors were given the work to either repair or replace the clapper. The final decision was to repair the clapper, in so doing this would keep all the bells “as built” in 1902. If we had gone down the route of a new clapper, the design is different and we could have finished with an odd sounding bell.

The repair has been carried out with the remains of the fork top being removed and replaced with a new fork. As the connection of the fork end to shaft was being made the clapper was rotated “one quarter turn”, this meant that the point of impact on the ball is now in a new position. Finally the ball was reshaped to its original unworn profile, and the whole annealed in a furnace.

Additional bits and pieces have been supplied by John Taylors to complete the package including a coat of paint.

See on the pictures the complete clapper with its

crown staple and, by the side, the removed top fork. Also an enlarged view of the old and new fork top, and finally the clapper in its rightful place inside the tenor bell, raised ready to ring out to the glory of God.



Ray Drew
Tower Keeper

READER TRAINING – PLACEMENT AT ST PETER'S, IPSLEY

As part of my Reader training I have been on a 3-month placement at St Peter's, Ipsley, near Redditch. Before I began my placement I was given a list of what is known in academic jargon as 'learning outcomes'. This is a list of all of the skills and knowledge that I should acquire during my placement. I'm still puzzling over what some of these 'learning outcomes' mean. For example, the placement should provide me with:

'opportunities for creative conversation with key themes from biblical and doctrinal studies, missiology, ecclesiology, sociology and anthropology (amongst others).'

I'm not sure whether I've achieved that or not. But there was one learning outcome that was clear to me from the start, which was that the placement should:

'enable the student to become increasingly open to the work of the Holy Spirit.'

I confess that my head was spinning after I first met the Rector, Garth, in his office. Garth's description of Ipsley parish sounded like organised chaos to me. Three churches, each with different combinations of services; 11 Readers; various church wardens and parish wardens; a group of leaders and speakers; house group leaders; the pastoral care team; the music groups; and various other volunteers who run the lunch club and coffee mornings. At this point the manager in me was desperate to see an organisation chart to help me understand who was who. But then Garth brought me down from his office into the church.

The first thing that I noticed as I entered the church was the modern stained-glass window (see front page). (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tudorbarlow/28920379920>)

There on the window were clusters of figures teaching, worshipping, and caring for others, with the Holy Spirit blowing through them in bursts of colour and light. As I looked I began to understand what Garth had been trying to explain to me in his office. The Church isn't represented by a particular building or by a particular person called the Rector, or the vicar. The Church is a community of people who make things happen through their own particular gifts and talents. And each of these people is equally important to the mission of the Kingdom.

So, my first lesson was that the Holy Spirit doesn't need a neat organisational structure, or specially ordained leaders to make things happen. The Holy Spirit will find a way to use the gifts of anyone who has faith in Jesus Christ.

In the central light of the window there is a group of people listening to someone reading from the Bible. At the first service that I attended at St. Peter's I noticed that people were obviously following the readings and the preacher's biblical references from the Bibles in their hands.

I confess that my first thoughts were not very Christian. I was afraid that everyone would know the Bible better than me and I assumed that because St Peter's is an evangelical church, they would not be keen on some of the methods of biblical scholarship that I had been taught at Queens, my training college.

As I got to know the congregation it became clear that many of them did know their Bible better than me but they wore their learning lightly. I was wrong to assume that there would be a sort of straight-jacket on how the Bible could be discussed or interpreted. The community at St. Peter's clearly trust the Bible as the Word of God but also understand that experience, reason and tradition are also important in discerning its message for the modern world.

So the second thing that I learned from my placement is to see the Bible as one of the main ways in which the Holy Spirit speaks to believers. It is a treasury of spiritual experience that can still enthuse and comfort people as they face the challenges of modern life.

Coming back to the window again, the right-hand light shows people who gradually open to the power of the Spirit through prayer, to become what Isaiah calls *'trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord'* (Isa 61). Perhaps the most significant lesson that I will take away from my time at Ipsley is the use of spontaneous prayer by all sorts of people in all sorts of settings, not just in the church services.

Again my initial reaction was not something that I am proud of. I felt uncomfortable about the idea of praying out loud in a group. It made me feel vulnerable. All sorts of thoughts came into my mind: I wouldn't know what to say; if I did say anything it would be clumsy and hesitant; other people did it much better than I did; what would people think of me? What's more, didn't Jesus say 'whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray ... in secret' (Matt.6.6)?

Then I remembered that although Jesus often prayed alone, he also prayed with his disciples - either all together or in small groups. As I listened to the extempore prayers of other people I realised that it was helping me grow in my own faith. The prayers that I heard from people were not great speeches in perfect prose about cosmic events. They were simple requests to God about people or events that were in someone's heart at that moment. I saw that praying out loud with a group can help someone share the load that they are carrying or provide others with the opportunity to offer insights that may not come from praying alone.

So, the third lesson that I will take away from my time at Ipsley is not to be afraid of spontaneous prayer. The Holy Spirit is free and unpredictable and we may find unexpected spiritual meaning through sharing our prayers with others, and by listening to the prayers that they offer in return.

In conclusion, I believe that I have achieved at least one of the learning outcomes that were set for my placement. My time at Ipsley has made me more open to the work of the Holy Spirit. I have learnt that the Holy Spirit doesn't need a hierarchy of command and control to make things happen. I have learnt to see the Bible as the spiritual handbook for my discipleship and ministry. Finally, I have grown in my practice of prayer, through which the Spirit strengthens our relationship with God.

Roger King

FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

THANKS FOR HARVEST

CROSS WORD 10

A
D E Y E H
O
S
W

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

Answers on page 18

Traditionally, as the summer harvest is completed people would gather to thank God for the food provided that would help them to live through the hard days of winter.

Join our Harvest Service of Thanksgiving

At 10 .00 am on Sunday 1 October

In these more modern times we still need to thank God for all he provides for us and to remember that whilst the world is full of food, enough for everyone, it is often not shared out equally. This is why we support the Food Bank. It is a way of helping others and showing that we care.



Harvest Festival



SUNDAY 31st AUGUST 1997

Do you remember what you were doing on that day? 32 St Mary's choristers do.

St Mary's vestry; 6 am and the first choristers are arriving to collect their robes and music in readiness for the coach departure at 6.30 am.

We have to be at Liverpool by 8.30 am as we are deputising for the Cathedral Choir, which is on holiday.

The normal excited buzz (even at that hour) from the choristers and about 20 spouses and supporters is absent and there is near silence.

The shocking news of Princess Diana's death in a road crash has just come in and it feels somewhat surreal to be in possession of this knowledge as we leave a sleeping and ignorant Stourbridge.

Liverpool at 8.30 am and the normally empty cathedral is already active with members of the public starting to arrive, mostly looking for some direction and purpose. We descend to our room near the crypt and I go back up to make contact with the duty organist etc. As soon as I appear in my cassock I am accosted for information which I don't have and so I escape back downstairs as soon as I can.

When we are all ready we practise the long procession to the choir stalls and begin our rehearsal. The choir then returns downstairs while I am briefed about the short act of commemoration which will take place at the start of the service. With not much time left I return downstairs to robe and bring the choir back up for the service, only to find that all the junior choristers (those of primary school age) look blankly at me when I mention the National Anthem. As I have just seen local TV cameras setting up this could be embarrassing! Quickly their music books are passed back a row for the words to be written on so that they can at least mime.

There is by now a much larger congregation than we would normally see for the main 10.30 am Sung Eucharist but after lunch when we return for our evensong rehearsal it is daunting to see the vast nave of the cathedral now full of people moving about and talking quietly. There must be at least 1000 of them which creates a significant background hum. As we finish the first piece I realise that the noise has ceased and on turning round see that everyone has found a seat and is quietly listening to us. In the circumstances a normal rehearsal doesn't seem appropriate and in any case the choir has responded to the occasion and is singing at a level that requires no intervention from me. We sing through our chosen music and when we return for the service our large audience is waiting patiently and has now become the congregation.

Both services have been full of feeling and we all feel very privileged to have been able to make our contribution on such a day.

I reflect on what led me months before to choose the particular music for the day; an unaccompanied mass setting by Palestrina, rather more solemn than our normal choices of Haydn and Mozart, and powerful anthems for evensong (Parry's My Soul, There is a Country Far Beyond the Stars, and Balfour Gardiner's Evening Hymn) which in the event could not have been more appropriate to the occasion. Most striking of all was the morning psalm, chosen long ago for the liturgical calendar and opening with the words 'The Lord help me in the time of my trouble'.

Richard Hall. Organist and Choirmaster 1988 - 2007

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

The branch would like to thank everyone who supported the "Summer of Hope" event in church on 11 July. It raised £200 and an extra contribution of £200 from the worldwide MU appeal. The money will be targeted for MU work in Sudan, Africa.

Our service on 12 September was led by Audrey Tranter. She reminded us that we were all under pressure today with the pace and expectation of modern life and we should all need peace, quiet and rest to keep us balanced. "Take from our lives the strain and stress and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of Thy peace" O, Lord.

Two new members were then enrolled into our branch - Wendy Dutton and Alison Taylor - by Liz Green, President of MU for Worcester diocese.

Lynne Jankowska B.E.M. was our speaker on the subject of "Good Mental Health". She explained that she was an expert by experience having had a bi-polar disorder and uses medication and psychiatric care. 1 in 4 people experience mental health problems and are affected by stress. The ability to overcome these problems is like being involved in a game of snakes and ladders – up and down to different degrees. Care is given – primary by doctors and counselling, or secondary through psychiatry, with alternative or supplementary help through yoga, acupuncture or mindfulness groups. Special care hospitals and houses are available in Walsall and Dudley MBC. Many have phased discharges; arts, crafts and cookery classes are available especially at Woodside recovery unit which includes exercises and computer classes.

Anyone who has these problems - or their families - should consult their GP and Dudley's policy is to have a consultant appointment within two weeks. So many of us are affected by these matters so do not delay to get help. Lynne was thanked for her comprehensive talk.

The president, Liz Green was then given a cheque and goods for the needs of 'Teenage Mums in Dudley' and Margaret Ager also brought several quilts and covers from the Worcester Linus group for them.

Dates for your diary:-

Next meeting – Tuesday 10 October – Coach House Writers – David Craig

Deanery Festival Tuesday 17 October 2.30 pm At Holy Trinity Church, Amblecote – all are welcome.

Dawn Nex

HAROLD WHITE

It is with sadness we report that Harold White passed away on Sunday 10 September. We extend our sympathy and prayers to his wife Hazel and their family. The funeral will take place on Thursday 12 October at 2.15pm at St Mary's. We hope to include an extended obituary in next month's magazine.

The Magazine Committee

CALLING YOUNG DISCIPLES

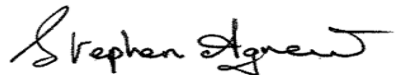
Over the Summer Anne Batchelor, the Mission Enabler who will be working with St Thomas', Stourbridge and ourselves over the next 12 months, has been talking to a number of members of St Mary's congregation in order to formulate a Baseline Report on our Children's and Youth Work.

As part of the 'Calling Young Disciples' project a small group of us have committed ourselves to becoming part of a Learning Community over the coming 3 years. This will look at how we work with children and young people. Our first meeting was held over a Friday evening and Saturday in September, when we met with representatives from St Thomas' Church, and also representatives from three other teams of churches in Worcester Diocese and their Mission Enablers in order to discuss the shape of our future work. The meeting was facilitated by a member of the Church Pastoral Aid Society and a Youth Leader of many years standing.

We enjoyed a challenging and exciting time which has led to some plans for the future, not only about what work Anne might encourage with young people over the coming year, but also about our relationship with St Thomas', and how we might try to work together in the future.

This group will meet six times over the coming three years not only to plan, but also to evaluate progress which has been made.

It was a tiring but very worthwhile weekend. And you will be invited over the coming weeks to see some of the detail of the sorts of things that are being proposed, to make your comments and to join in the plans for a very exciting future for St Mary's and St Thomas'.



Please join us for a
Mission Coffee Morning
on
Saturday, 28 October 2017
10.00 am – 12.00 noon
in the Narthex

Mission within St Mary's

GLOBALISATION

Food Production

The bishop's letter on 'Harvest' in last month's magazine drew our attention to globalisation of food production and observed that 'every sniff, chomp and swallow connects us to vast global networks'. We are reminded of this international trade when we visit markets and supermarkets and find more exotic foods, tropical fruit and vegetables, and many of our native grown products out of their usual season. Concern is often rightly expressed about the working conditions and poor rewards of the labourers in some of these developing areas and Fairtrade aims to address such problems in the production of our imported foods. It might be argued that our consumer demands are improving native agriculture and economics but the bishop's letter also highlights the risk of drought and crop failure which have plunged many African nations into malnutrition and starvation.

Demands for global foods are not new. The consumption of tea, coffee and cocoa goes back to the 17th century and refrigerated shipping introduced in the 19th century enabled meat, fruit and vegetables to be transported to Europe and UK from Australia, New Zealand and South America. But it was perhaps our taste for sweetness and the import of sugar in the 18th century which led to the worst labour conditions and the development of the slave trade. That inglorious part of our history resonates today with international politics, criticism of some supermarket practices and our own UK fruit and vegetable production.



Materials and Products

The bishop's letter also referred to 'much else' in continuing globalisation. Most of the everyday products in our homes are either imported or made from imported materials through the same 'vast global networks' – cars from the far-east and Europe, textiles from the Indian sub-continent, electrical and electronic items including the proliferation of technology products, tablets and mobile phones from China. While these finished products themselves demand huge international trade links, the supply of materials to make the products require much more extensive globalisation and raises major political, economic and sustainability issues.

For example a modern mobile phone contains about half of the known naturally occurring elements in various forms and quantities. Some of these are expensive and are extracted from minerals with very limited known resources. There is more gold in a kilo of mobile devices than in a kilo of gold ore. The touch-screen uses indium and although this metal is more abundant than silver in the earth's crust, its distribution and extraction make its long-term future availability uncertain. Plastic parts may have been made from oil from the middle-east and processed in refineries anywhere in the world. The mobile in

your pocket or handbag contains materials from all over the planet – your car is even more global.

While our consumerism and thirst for new products and technologies may be seen as an essential part of growth in international trade and economies, a trace back to the source of all the components may give cause for concern. Sustainability of materials may be partially helped by recycling but current methods are environmentally poor and rely on cheap labour. Similarly the mining of minerals and extraction of metals, carried out in under-developed countries, are very damaging. Most of the production and assembly of components are carried out in the cheap labour areas of China, India and Indonesia.



So when we engage with the many functions, facilities and services that the ubiquitous mobile phone provides, often at the lunch table, let us remember the many nations, peoples and research that have delivered the precious device in your hand and the food on your plate, and pray that the labour and resources used in their production have not been unfairly exploited.

Alec Beevers



MUSIC NOTES

Some events to note in your diary!

On Saturday November 11 St. Mary's Choir will be singing Choral Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral. The service begins at 3.30 pm and you are warmly invited to support the Choir for this splendid opportunity to sing in a cathedral setting.

Later in the day on November 11 at 7.30 pm Stourbridge Chamber Orchestra will be giving a concert of music by Haydn and Elgar. There will be no charge for admission, but there will be a retiring collection for the Friends and refreshments will be served during the interval.

On Sunday 1 October, which is Harvest Sunday there will be a meeting of the Friends Support Group after the morning service. There will be much to discuss and I will be emailing those who have attended in the past. If you have not attended one of these meetings before and would like to be involved more in the Friends, do please come. We meet over coffee in the Lady Chapel.

Graham Davies
Director of Music

THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

GRIDDLED HALLOUMI WITH POMEGRANATE SALSA

Serves 6 as a light lunch or a makes a good vegetarian buffet dish.

This is very similar to a dish served in Nando's. My daughter who is a vegetarian gave it a thumbs up and I thought it would make a good buffet dish with Christmas round the corner.

½ red onion, chopped	2 tablespoon pomegranate molasses
150g cherry tomatoes roughly chopped	½ teaspoon chilli flakes
2 tablespoon chopped flat-leaf parsley	500g Halloumi cut into ½ cm slices
1 tablespoon chopped mint leaves	Seeds from ½ a pomegranate
2-4 tablespoon olive oil	seasoning

Put chopped onion and tomatoes in a mixing bowl. Add the herbs, 2 tablespoons of olive oil, pomegranate molasses, the chilli flakes, salt and pepper. Set aside.

Heat 1-2 tablespoons of oil in a non-stick pan or a griddle pan. If using a griddle pan you can oil the halloumi with some of the oil to stop it sticking. Fry for 2 minutes on each side until golden.

Arrange the halloumi on a serving dish with the salsa. Finish with a sprinkling of pomegranate seeds.

Ann Jennings

AND FOR THE WINE...

Time for a late season trip to the Med?.....At least for your taste-buds anyway! There are several wine options available, but stay white I would recommend. With flavours of chilli, mint and pomegranate molasses, the wine should be expressive enough in its own right. All this and a tomato salsa and a delicate almondy white will be completely overpowered.

It may be a long way from halloumi's home in Cyprus to the north-west region of Spain to trail in search of a wine, but a glass of Albarino from Galicia will take some beating here; distinctly fruited with good weight and acidity, it has it all. On similar grounds, good arguments can be made for a dry Muscat or a white Port. Grillo from Sicily has that 'island in the Mediterranean' appeal as well as strength and definition of fruit.

If this dish is enjoyed as a starter and your main dish to follow is not a sturdy red meat, then you might care to treat yourself to a top Alsace Pinot Gris. I had the good fortune to do so recently and at Grand Cru level it was a reminder of how good this grape (commonly encountered in its Pinot Grigio guise) can on occasions be. Richly fruited with citrus blossom and peach, it is not cheap but a very pleasing wine which will not disappoint and will nearly convince you that it is worth the price tag !

Enjoy your wine-sipping

Richard W. B. Ryan

Writing Tips by JT Scott

Jenny Scott is author of the Sammy Rambles series about a boy and his dragon. (www.sammyrambles.com)

This is a short series of writing tips which we have featured in recent months and which offers tips and advice on how to create a story. Part 4 covers how to keep track of when things are occurring in your story and why this is important.



Part 4 – When will it happen?

Last month, we covered how to create memorable locations for where your characters will meet and where elements of your plot will take place. This month, it's time to find out when things will happen and it might not be quite as you expect!

When writing the Sammy Rambles books, I thought the events would take place during five years of Sammy's life while he attended Dragamas (the dragon school). However, as I introduced more characters, they also had their own past, present and future, some of which intertwined with Sammy and influenced his choices and decisions within the books. To add depth and credibility to the story, I needed to create layers of fictional history, spanning hundreds of fictional years.

These are some ideas for choosing when things might happen in your story:

Is your story set in the present, the past or the future?

If it is set in the past, how far back? Pre-Internet, pre-TV, pre-Cars, pre-electricity?

If it is set in the future, what has changed since the present? How are things different?

In your story, does something have to happen at a certain time, e.g. at midnight or full moon?

Do the events in your story take place in minutes, an hour, a day or longer?

Is your story happening on a linear or chronological basis?

Do your characters have visions of the future, or flashbacks to the past?

Does your story start at the end and work backwards?

How will the timing affect your characters and their way of life?

Whether your story happens over a short period of time or over many years, it can be helpful to draw a timeline and add marker points for characters and key events that you can refer to, as your story grows. In the Sammy Rambles books, there are over 100 characters to keep track of, plus all the dragons and multiple locations! I have kept some notes but many of the details are stored in my head.

Next month, the writing tips will cover why things happen in your story. What are the underlying reasons for events? What motivates your characters to say what they say and do what they do?

J T Scott

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

20.8.17 Violet-Rose Louise White
27.8.17 Ryan James Sheppard
03.09.17 Jak Harris

Weddings

2.9.17 James Cowsill and Alice Mansell
2.9.17 Timothy Collier and Nicola Semmens

Funerals

25.8.17	Raymond Perry	Aged 89
29.8.17	Margaret Alice Minnie Savage	Aged 93
4.9.17	John Lewis Wootten	Aged 86
7.9.17	Geoffrey Bishop	Aged 76
8.9.17	Michael John McCullagh	Aged 73

GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Ray and Jean Drew were married at St Thomas' Church, Stourbridge, on 7 October 1967 and celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary this year.

To our wonderful parents, Ray and Jean Drew.

This is the year you celebrate your Golden Wedding.

50 amazing years with so many memorable moments; getting married to having your two girls. All of those fantastic holidays and welcoming sons-in-law and grandchildren. Your friendships through all the activities you do and now embarking on the next phase of your lives and continuing married life.

We love you from the bottom of our hearts.

Your girls, Sarah and Rachel. Xx

Congratulations from all at St Mary's too.

Answers to Cross Words 10

AHOY, ASHY, DEWY, DYES, EASY, EYED, EYES, EYESHADOW, EYEWASH, HAYED, HAYS, HAYSEED, HEADY, HOWDY, HOYA, SEEDY, SHADOWY, SHADY, SHAY, SHOWY, SOYA, SWAY, SWAYED, WASHY, WEEDY, WHEY, YAWED, YAWS, YEAH.
CONGRATULATIONS IF YOU FOUND MORE

LETTER FROM THE ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY

Have you ever had a moment when something from the Bible you know to be true, takes on a much deeper meaning, or impacts you at a deeper level?

This happened to me when I was privileged to attend a service in St Stephen's, Redditch celebrating the lives of transplant recipients, organ donors and their families. ***'Gifts Beyond Price'*** was the brainchild of Elaine Whitfield, a relatively new member of the church, and she planned the most beautiful and moving event, attended, to her surprise, by people from all over the country. Elaine's father, Arthur, died in 2016. For the last twenty five years of his life, his blood was pumped around his body by a donor heart – he had benefitted from a transplant which had saved his life, and given him many more years than anticipated. It was this that Elaine wanted to express her thankfulness for, both to donor families, and to God.



In a profound symbolic act as part of the service, Natasha, recipient sixteen years ago of a donated heart and lungs when in her early twenties and close to death, lit eight candles, representing the lives one donor can save. Wendy, the mother of Jack, who died in a tragic accident last year, and whose organs were donated, then extinguished a large central candle, amidst hugs and tears, after speaking movingly to each other as representatives of each group, giving thanks for the lives involved. The Lead Retrieval Surgeon and Transplant Specialist from the QE hospital articulated some of the challenging dilemmas involved for his team, and both the joys, sorrows and weighty responsibility he experiences in making time sensitive decisions about life and death amidst tragedy. As a Muslim, he spoke powerfully about our shared humanity. The Reverend Paul Lawlor picked this up in his address too. Never have Jesus' words in John 15 had such resonance: "There is no greater love than this, that someone should lay down their life for their friends."

Jesus, in a sense, donated his life, that we might live life in all its fullness forever. Talking with many after the service who had received the gift of new life through the gift of a friend, or the death of a stranger, the love of God for each person he has made impacted me afresh. God so loved the world, that he gave his Son

I resolved that day to live my life more fully, more gratefully, more aware of what it cost. I also spoke to my family making clear that should they ever be put in that awful place of decision, my bodily organs should, if possible, be used to bring life to others, as my life with God will continue into eternity, because Jesus laid down his life and lives in me.

Nikki Groarke

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