

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

**NOVEMBER 2017**  
Online edition



# **ST MARY'S OLD SWINFORD**

## **Parish Church Magazine**



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**NOVEMBER 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              |
| <b>Priest in Charge Day Off:</b> | Friday  |
| <b>Curate's Day Off:</b>         | 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 |        |

|  |  |              |
|--|--|--------------|
| <b>Reader:</b>                                     | Mrs Kanthi Ariaraj   | 395115       |
| <b>Church Wardens:</b>                             | Mrs Judy Hall  | 377349       |
|  | Mr Antony Tatford  | 822661       |
| <b>Director of Music:</b>                          | Mr Graham Davies   | 01905 353939 |
|  | st.mary.os.dom@btconnect.com   |              |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                                  | Mr Russ Fowler   | 442684       |
| <b>PCC Secretary:</b>                              | Miss Katey Fletcher  | 378182       |
| <b>Magazine Editor:</b>                            | Mr Antony Tatford  | 822661       |
| <b>Safeguarding Officer:</b>                       | Mrs Liz Fourness   | 394359       |
| <b>Church Hall and Coach House: - Bookings:</b>    | Parish Office  | 441003       |
| <b>Parish Administrator and Publicity Officer:</b> | Mr John Sutton   | 441003       |
| <b>Parish Office:</b>                              | Open 9.00 am -1.00 pm Tuesday to Thursday,<br>9.00 am to 12.00 noon Friday<br>Closed Saturday, Sunday and Monday | 441003       |
| <b>Church website address:</b>                     | www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk<br>E-mail: st.mary.os@btconnect.com  |              |
| <b>Facebook:</b>                                   | www.facebook.com/stmaryschurcholdswinford  |              |
| <b>Magazine e-mail address:</b>                    | stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk  |              |

## ENQUIRIES ABOUT WEDDINGS, BANNINGS 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 NOVEMBER 2017

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Wednesday 1              | All Saints Day   |
| Thursday 2               | 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church<br>7.30 pm Christmas Market meeting in the narthex   |
| Friday 3                 | Stephen's day off  |
| Saturday 4               | 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour   |
| <b>SUNDAY 5</b>          | <b>FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT</b><br>3.00 pm Baptism<br>11.00 am Pastoral Care meeting<br>7.30 pm Bishop's Certificate Presentation at Worcester Cathedral  |
| Monday 6                 |  |
| Tuesday 7                | Joint Parish Event with St Thomas'   |
| Wednesday 8              | 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church  |
| Thursday 9               | 2.00 pm Christmas Tree Festival meeting  |
| Friday 10                | Stephen's day off<br>Copy date for December magazine   |
| Saturday 11              | Fairtrade Breakfast at St Thomas'<br>10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour<br>3.30 pm St Mary's choir sings Choral Evensong at Birmingham Cathedral<br>7.30 pm Gig Caritas concert in aid of the Friends of the Music |
| <b>SUNDAY 12</b>         | <b>REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</b><br>The Fairtrade stall will be available after the 10.00 am service  |
| Tuesday 14               | Open the Book Team to visit Oldswinford Primary School<br>11.30 am Holy Communion at Hollycroft.<br>2.15 pm Mothers' Union Meeting in the Coach House<br>7.30 pm PCC Meeting   |
| Wednesday 15             | 10.00 am Prayer Group meeting  |
| Thursday 16              | 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church  |
| Friday 17                | Stephen's Day Off  |
| Saturday 18              | 10.00 am Open Church and Vestry Hour   |
| <b>SUNDAY 19</b>         | <b>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT</b><br>10.00 am service to be held in the Church Hall, followed by<br>Mission Enablers presentation with Anne Bachelor  |
| Wednesday 22             | 11.30 am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge<br>7.30 pm Churches Together in Stourbridge   |
| Thursday 23              | 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church  |
| Friday 24                | Stephen's day off  |
| Saturday 25              | 9.30 am Walking Group<br>10.00 am Vestry Hour and Open Church<br>RCSM Festival Service at Worcester Cathedral<br>4.00pm Mary Stevens Hospice Tree of Light Service   |
| <b>SUNDAY 26</b>         | <b>CHRIST THE KING</b>   |
| Monday 27 - Wednesday 29 | Experience Advent Programme in Church  |
| Tuesday 28               | Open the Book Team to visit Oldswinford Primary School<br>2.15 pm Tuesday Tea in the Church Hall   |
| Thursday 30              | 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church<br>2.00pm Set up Christmas Tree Festival   |

## FROM THE RECTORY



Dear Friends

You may remember that this time last year we were having to hold our services in the Church Hall each week because the church boiler needed to be replaced. This scenario is not uncommon within church communities, but it does come with a fair degree of inconvenience, as the hall has to be prepared each week for services after the weekday events which are held in the same building. Fortunately by Christmas of last year we were able to move back into church for our worship and enjoy a good degree of warmth.

As we reflected on the time we held our services in the Church Hall there was a feeling that although we would have liked to hold those services in the church itself, there was something gained in the way of fellowship and closeness by having our services in the more intimate environment of the Church Hall. At that time a number of people suggested that we should occasionally hold our services in the Hall and seek to regain that sense of closeness in our worship.

It is with this in mind that on 19 November we intend to hold our 10am Communion Service in the Church Hall. The reason for choosing this particular date is that after the service on this day Anne Batchelor, our Mission Enabler, will be presenting to the congregation her analysis of where we are as a Church in our work with Children and Young People, and will be inviting us to look at how we could move forward in that work and further expand our work with children and young people.

Anne has been spending some time each week since the summer in conversation with a number of people from St Mary's who are working with children and young people. She has been forming an opinion of how we are 'helping young people to faith', as one of our priorities identifies, and will be feeding back her findings and challenging us to look at other ways in which we can meet and further our priorities. Anne will then work alongside us to help us to implement these initiatives within St Mary's.

In order to make this morning easier for everyone our service on that day will be slightly shorter than normal and we will then have a cup of coffee before we listen to Anne's presentation. I hope that you will want to hear what Anne has to tell us and engage with the process of thinking how we can plan for the future of St Mary's with children and young people. And just in case you can't make that day Anne will be making a similar presentation after the Thursday morning Communion service on 9 November. So do come along to one or the other of these presentations and help us to plan to expand our work for God's Kingdom and to continue the mission of Jesus Christ in Old Swinford.

Every blessing,

## SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2017

|  |   |                            |                       |
|--|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>5 November<br/>Fourth Sunday<br/>before Advent</b>  | 8.00 am<br>Holy Communion                                   |                            |                       |
|  | 10.00 am<br>Parish Communion                                | Micah 3.<br>5-end          | Matthew 24.<br>1-14   |
|  | 6.30 pm<br>Evensong   | Daniel 7.<br>1-18          | Luke 6.<br>17-31      |
| <b>12 November<br/>Third Sunday<br/>Before Advent</b>  | 8.00 am<br>Holy Communion                                   |                            |                       |
|  | 10.00 am  | Worship Together           |                       |
|  | <b>Remembrance<br/>Sunday</b><br>6.30 pm<br>Choral Evensong | Judges 7.<br>2-22          | John 15.<br>9-17      |
| <b>19 November<br/>Second Sunday<br/>before Advent</b> | 8.00 am<br>Holy Communion                                   |                            |                       |
|  | 10.00 am<br>Parish Communion                                | 1 Thessalonians 5.<br>1-11 | Matthew 25.<br>14-30  |
|  | 6.30 pm<br>Evensong   | 1 Kings 1.<br>15-40        | Revelation 1.<br>4-18 |
| <b>26 November<br/>Christ the King</b>                 | 8.00 am<br>Holy Communion                                   |                            |                       |
|  | 10.00 am<br>Parish Communion                                | Ephesians 1.<br>15-end     | Matthew 25.<br>31-end |
|  | 6.30 pm<br>Evensong   | 2 Samuel 23.<br>1 - 7      | Matthew 28.<br>16-end |

## ANIMAL SERVICE

Probably the first ever Pet Service at St Mary's was held on Sunday 8 October and it attracted a good congregation of adults, children and pets and proved a desire for the celebration of the joy and companionship that pets provide for their owners. With references to St Francis of Assisi and recognition of the many roles animals play in the lives of people who live, work and care for them, the service provided the opportunity to reflect on our stewardship of the world in which we live and our duty of care.

Thank you to all who contributed to the service, to Revd Alex French with Mahler and Moses and Revd Stephen Agnew with Islay for their leadership and to all who shared this special event.

Please make a date in your diary for our:-

## **Christmas Market**

**Saturday, 2nd December from 10.00am - Noon**

**in the Church Hall**

This has always proved to be a great occasion and with your support this happy state of affairs should continue. As always any contributions to the Market are welcome and can be left at the back of church. Contributions of wine etc. to the bottle stall will encourage even more people to 'have a go'. Contributions to the cake stall: please bring to the Church Hall on Friday evening or early Saturday morning to enable the stall holders to have time to price them. Why not use this opportunity to DECLUTTER for Christmas by letting us have those bits and pieces which have been loved but are now looking for a good home.

I am having a planning meeting on 2 November at 7.30pm in the Narthex. So far we have stalls for books, bric-a-brac, cakes, jigsaws, craftwork, jewellery, gifts, Christmas Hamper Raffle, tombola and Treasure Island. If you have an idea for a stall, game or fundraiser and/or would like to be one of the band of helpers (get in free!) then I would love to hear from you on either phone (01384 378182 or by email at [kateyfletcher@btinternet.com](mailto:kateyfletcher@btinternet.com)

Many thanks,  
**Katey Fletcher**

### **CHRISTMAS COLLECTING FUN OPPORTUNITY**

Kingswinford-Stourbridge Lions Club have a Santa's Sleigh that tours the area during the five weekends before Christmas. Additional helpers are always welcome for door to door collections along the sleigh routes. The monies collected are shared out pro rata to the numbers of collectors for the various charities who join us. If you would like to collect for St Mary's Old Swinford, or any other charity that you support, please let Lion Steve have your details on 07949316029.

The routes this year, in our general area, are 2 December - Old Swinford, 3 December - Wollescote, 9 December - Norton, 17 December - Pedmore and 23 December - Penfields. All these routes start at 4pm and finish by 8.30pm, whatever the weather!

**Mike Blaxland**  
**President K-S Lions Club**



The plans for the Christmas Tree Festival are now well in hand. Thank you to everyone for showing such enthusiasm for the project. We will no longer be collecting the different size cardboard rolls, we have more than enough now. If anyone still has any French knitting please will you let me have it by Sunday 12 November.

Trees will be put in place on Thursday 30 November after 2.00pm.

The Festival will be open at the following times:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Friday 1 December   | 11.00am till 4.00pm                         |
| Saturday 2 December | 11.30 am till 4.00pm<br>6.00 pm till 8.00pm |
| Sunday 3 December   | 12 noon till 4.00pm                         |
| Monday 4 December   | 11.00am till 4.00pm                         |

During Saturday afternoon there will be events for children, entertainment, activities and demonstrations.

We plan to serve mulled wine while the Festival is open on Saturday evening, during this time the Church will be lit by tree lights and candles.

We will need stewards to help while the Festival is open, also people willing to serve light refreshments. There are rotas at the back of Church for you to sign if you feel able to help.

Thank you again for the support we have received.

**Sally Frost**



## MUSIC NOTES

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, at 7.30 pm, Gig Caritas present the Stourbridge Chamber Orchestra led by Keith Horsfall. Music by Beethoven, Elgar, Mozart and Mendelssohn will feature and should be well worth hearing in the fine acoustic at St. Mary's. Trumpet soloist Edward Roberts-Malpass will perform along with some well-known names from St Mary's, Alice Timms and Chloe Hancox. There will be no charge for admission. Refreshments will be available during the interval and there will be a retiring collection for the Friends of the Music at St Mary's.



## **IMPORTANT CHANGES TO OUR PARISH MAGAZINE**

Our Parish Magazine has been an important part of St Mary's outreach since its first publication in the latter part of the 19th century. It has undergone many changes during the last century but the current format has been running for over 30 years.

In addition to its production cost, the work in producing the monthly publication requires substantial voluntary effort in editing, printing and distribution, and we are approaching a situation where our current practices are unsustainable. Without the help of additional volunteers the future production of this magazine is uncertain.

In our September issue our current editor Tony Tatford announced his intention of retirement at the end of the year after nine years of excellent, dedicated service. As we have not received a voluntary offer of candidature for the post the magazine committee has reviewed possible future directions. Our aim has been to reduce the burden in each of the areas listed above and we are proposing the following changes from January 2018.

- Reducing the content of the magazine to 12 pages, restructuring the layout and calling it 'Monthly News'.
- Discontinuing the delivery service: instead copies will be available for collection in church.

About half of our current subscribers are regular worshippers at St Mary's and we feel that the availability of the magazine in church will provide an acceptable arrangement for their access. We hope that they may also be able to collect additional copies for friends and neighbours who are not regular churchgoers but who are interested in church news. It is also probable that some of our current distributors will also be able to collect extra magazines for readers on their current 'round' if they are unable to receive their copies from friends.

We acknowledge that these changes are quite radical but we hope the proposals will enable the church to continue its mission to extend news of events at St Mary's through the parish. We would appreciate any comments and feedback from readers, particularly those who may anticipate difficulty in receiving the magazine under the new distribution arrangements. We will try to accommodate all current subscribers. Please address comments either by email to [stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmary.parishmagazine@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone to Alec Beevers at 01384 444229.

**If you have ideas or can offer help that may enable us to resolve the challenges we currently face with regard to the future presentation of this magazine please do get in touch.**

**The Magazine Committee**

## EXPERIENCE ADVENT

Following on from our successful Experience Easter initiative earlier in the year, we have put together an Experience Advent project. During the last week in November approximately 100 primary school children from Old Swinford and Ham Dingle Primary Schools will come into church to take part and 'experience Advent'.

Advent is that special period of time before Christmas when we prepare and get ourselves ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Because we have yet to see Jesus, Advent is a time filled with hope and expectation; a time when we compose our thoughts and order ourselves in anticipation of His arrival. To arrive both in our hearts afresh at Christmas and also in the assurance of His coming again at the end of the age to bring justice and peace to the world.

When they come into church the children will move around six different stations. As these stations focus on key aspects of the Christmas story, we hope that as the children hear the story of Jesus' birth unfold, their hearts will be filled with the excitement, hope and expectation that only the Prince of Peace can bring.

The children will move around stations (and complete an activity at each one) which will focus on:

| Story                   | Theme                               | Bible passage    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| The Jesse tree.         | Who are our ancestors?              | Matthew 1: 1-17  |
| Joseph meets an angel.  | Receiving unexpected news.          | Matthew 1: 18-24 |
| Mary meets an angel.    | Saying yes to God.                  | Luke 1: 26-38    |
| The visit of the Magi.  | Finding your star to follow.        | Matthew 2: 1-12  |
| Herod commits genocide. | Signs of hope for those who suffer. | Matthew 2: 13-20 |
| The Word became flesh.  | Meaning what you say.               | John 1: 1-13     |

Please support this project by holding it and all those who will take part in your prayers. Pray that we may all be filled this Advent with the hope and expectation that comes from the anticipation of seeing and meeting with our Lord and Saviour once again.

**Revd Alex French**

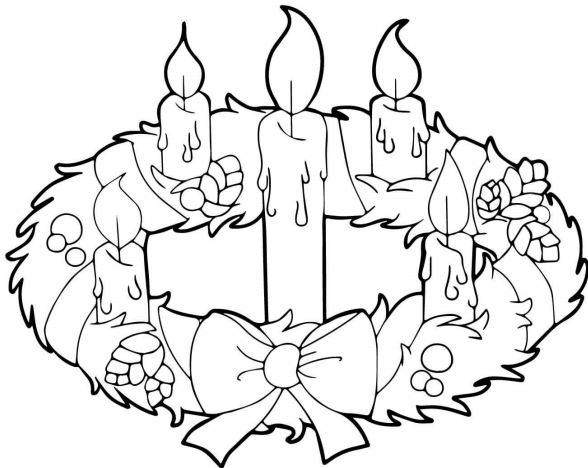
There are many exciting events planned at St Mary's during the coming months and several important issues being considered by the PCC. Please do your best to support these as far as you are able, by taking part, offering help, by reading the details that are published and by sharing your point of view. In this way St Mary's will be better enabled to follow God's direction and to provide for this community.

## FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

# ADVENT ..... A TIME OF HOPE

### CROSS WORD 12

D  
D E N E L  
P  
R  
U



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

Advent is the beginning of the church year. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In church an advent wreath is displayed, which has five candles. The central, white candle is lit on Christmas Day and represents the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.

Three of the other candles are usually purple, the fourth is pink. Can you find out what they represent and when they are lit?

### ADVENT CALENDARS



Children, and some adults, enjoy opening a window of an Advent Calendar each day during Advent. Often the window reveals a picture, or a surprise like a small chocolate.

Advent Calendars can be fun to make too.



# A CHILD IS BORN

Can you choose the correct answer and get 10 out of 10 in this Christmas Quiz?

1. The name of the mother of Jesus was?  
Martha/Mary/ Eve/Deborah
2. Jesus was born in what town?  
Jerusalem/Nazareth/Bethlehem/New York?
3. Joseph was a?  
Doctor/Carpenter/Engineer/ Fisherman
4. Why didn't Joseph and Mary stay at the inn?  
It was too expensive/There was no room/ It only had one bed
5. How did Joseph and Mary get to Bethlehem?  
On the bus/Mary rode a donkey and Joseph walked/ By boat
6. After he was born, Jesus was placed in a?  
Basket/Manger/Pile of hay/pram
7. Who did an angel tell that Jesus would be born?  
Camel drovers/Shepherds/ Olive farmers/ Wise men
8. How many wise men came to see Jesus?  
One/Two/Three/The bible doesn't say
9. Who told Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem?  
An angel/Caesar Augustus/ Herod/Joseph was told in a dream
10. In which books in the Bible do we find the story of Jesus' birth?  
Matthew/Mark/Luke/John



Hand in your answers in church with your name, age and Mum or Dad's telephone number and address so we can give you your prize.

## **ST MARY'S WALKING GROUP**

Our first walk of the new season at the end of September was somewhat ill attended. Several of our usual walkers were involved in decorating the church for harvest and several more were away for various reasons. Not to be put off seven of us set off from "The Dog" at Harvington for a five mile walk, taking in Dunclent, Mount Segg, Deansford, and skirting the back of Harvington Hall. There was a long enough gap between rain for us to walk in the dry, have lunch, and get back into our cars. We were joined for lunch by some of our missing walkers, who by then had finished decorating the church, plus one walking wounded. Unusually, we only had one lady walker out on this occasion.

The walk was fairly uneventful, we passed a herd of long horned highland cattle peacefully grazing, walked above mole tunnels as evidenced by heaps of their diggings. We caused great interest to a group of horses in a field we walked through, they came to investigate but were not troublesome. Several walkers recognised parts of our route, as they had encountered it before, but others experienced paths that they had never walked before. Although now in both the astronomical and meteorological Autumn quarter there was not a great deal of colour on the trees.

Our walks are always on the last Saturday of the month. More walkers would be very welcome to join us, we meet at 09.30 outside church.

**Mike Blaxland**

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## **NEW HONORARY CANONS AT WORCESTER CATHEDRAL**

Six new honorary Canons have been appointed at Worcester Cathedral in recognition of their work in both the Diocese and the wider Church. Appointments are made by the Bishop of Worcester in consultation with the Chapter of the Cathedral. Honorary canons form a bridge between the diocese and the Cathedral and meet to reflect and advise on the life of the Cathedral. There are a limited number of posts – Lay Canons and clergy outside the diocese hold the position for a five-year period, while clergy from the diocese remain Canons while they serve in the diocese.

The Honorary Canons installed in a service in the cathedral on 23 September were:

Jan Humphries, Lay Minister in Gornal and Sedgley  
The Revd Sue Oliver, Vicar of St Mark's Church in Pensnett  
The Revd Alex Vaccaro, Associate Priest in the Kidderminster Ismere team.  
The Revd Rob Hall, Rector of the Halas Team in Halesowen  
The Revd David Nichol, Vicar of Holy Trinity & St James in Malvern and Rural Dean of Malvern  
The Revd Richard Thorniley, Rector of Church Lench with Rous Lench, Abbots Morton & Harvington and Rural Dean of Evesham

Bishop John commented: "It is a great delight to be able to appoint these six people who have given and continue to give outstanding service to the church in the Diocese of Worcester. They will be great ambassadors for the cathedral in the diocese and vice versa."

Congratulations to them all from St Mary's and especially to Rob Hall, who is the son of Marjorie Ferguson and to Sue Oliver who is the daughter of Joan Barwick. We are so pleased for you all.

## **HARVEST - 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

I would like to say that the day dawned bright and clear, but it was raining – again. Several of the Social Committee were involved in arranging flowers for Harvest so that took priority over joining Mike and the others for the monthly Church Walk.

After completing flower duty three of the committee joined the walkers for a pub lunch, remembering not to eat too much as there was the Harvest Supper to come.

Next it was home to our respective ovens, slow cookers, fridges etc. Around 6.15 pm the committee started their tasks in the Church Hall. I think it was Peter who came up with the arrangement of tables to enable sixty people to have a seat for the Harvest Supper. A small army of helpers along with committee members helped to cover the tables, then put out cutlery, serviettes, condiments, butter, salad dressing, tea lights, flowers and a menu!

In the kitchen the slow cookers were already plugged in and the cooker on to make sure the jacket potatoes were piping hot. Vegetables were ready in the pans.

People were sent into church to bring across the coffee flasks and all that goes with them. I think Tony T spent a lot of the evening making coffee. Three flasks ready for after the meal and more as people had refills.

Our next food task was the starter. Plates were laid out on spare tables near the kitchen as different helpers dispensed individual items. In fact Roger H came up and asked if he could help – and I said yes! So he was on salad duty too. Meanwhile Katey had volunteered to take the money on the door and was doing a wonderful job. She organised the list alphabetically to help find names more easily and did an amazing meet and greet job.

When people had arrived and found a seat they saw several sheets of paper on the table with a variety of quizzes to entertain them before the meal started. One involved moving around the hall to identify outlines of countries and others were food related. Thanks to Mike for all of those. I have sharpened all the pencils for next time!

At last we were ready to start our Harvest Supper. Stephen conducted us in a three part grace. Talk about having to sing for your supper. Serving so many people at once is always a hectic task, but everyone was very appreciative.

Washing up was an ongoing job between courses and when Mike was giving the answers to the quizzes. So many who were there helped to clear the tables and put them and the chairs away. Thank you so much for that. I would also like to thank the members of the Social Committee and their other halves and friends who worked so hard that evening to make it a great Harvest Supper with a fantastic atmosphere.

Thanks to so many of you supporting us we made £268 to add to the Church funds.

**Sue Wakeley**

## WRITING TIPS BY JT SCOTT

This is the final part of a short series of writing tips which offer tips and advice on how to create a story. Part 5 covers why things happen in your story, how you can create reasons for events and how to create situations which motivate your characters to say what they say and to do what they do.

### Part 5 – Why does it happen?

Last month, we covered how to choose when things will happen in your story, whether it is set in the present day or built up in layers spanning centuries. Now we delve into the motivations of your characters and why it is important to create a backstory of events which influence your characters, their actions and their choices, in the present and the future.

As the author of your story, you have the power to create any number of obstacles for your characters to face. You can create situations for your characters to experience and endure. Your characters can use the skills you give them to attempt to free themselves of the situation or overcome the problem. Whether they succeed or not is up to you, depending on how you want your story to end.

In the Sammy Rambles books, one of Sammy's problems is that he is being bullied at school. The bullies are hurting Sammy and stealing his lunch money. This is outside of Sammy's control and it's Sammy's parents who make the decision to send Sammy to his new school. Later in the book, Sammy intervenes when one of his classmates is picked on due to the colour of their hair. Having been bullied himself, Sammy has learned from his experience. He knows how awful it can be so when Sammy has the chance to stand up for his friends, he does.

These are examples of problems or situations you could create:

Is your character afraid of water? Maybe they nearly drowned when they were younger?

Are they afraid of being in crowds, or being alone? What might have caused this?

Perhaps they have won money or inherited property. How do their friends and family react?

If they have an injury, how did this happen? What is the effect on their everyday life?

Do fireworks or loud noises bring back memories? What do they do when they hear them?

Have they moved to a new house? New school? New job? What are the consequences?

Through the experiences I have given Sammy in the books, he learns different skills to help himself and help others. When Sammy discovers he could lose everything, he chooses to fight the enemy and solve the problems I have given him. His motivation is simple. He doesn't want to go back to his old school and the bullies. Along his journey, Sammy realises there are bigger things at stake and people are relying on him to save the dragons. He could have given

up, but it's not in the personality I have given Sammy. In the Sammy Rambles books, Sammy grows stronger each time he faces the enemy.

In your story, you may find different characters react differently to different situations. To create depth to your story, ask yourself questions about how you might react in the situation you have created. Would you be brave? Would you run away? Or, like Sammy, would you confront the problem?

Thank you for reading the Sammy Rambles Writing Tips. Copies of the previous writing tips are available on the website - [www.sammyrambles.com](http://www.sammyrambles.com).



**A few pictures  
from the Pet  
Service**

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

Anne May welcomed members and Dawn Nex led the service on the theme of how we can find peace at the heart of a chaotic and hectic world.

Due to a back injury our scheduled speaker was unable to come and Judith Nex came and spoke on "A peep into the Old Palace." This building near the cathedral is the administrative centre of the diocese. The Parish Share we pay contributes to the running of the diocese and she explained how, with other finances this is used.

She then introduced the departments and colleagues there and gave us illustrated photo leaflets of her colleagues.

The diocesan bishops, chaplain and archdeacons have their offices there.

Robert Higham is the Diocesan Secretary and Judith is his P.A. He is the chief officer and also links with Lambeth Palace, London.

Other departments and teams are: Finance, Communications, Church buildings, Parsonages, Ministry, Discipleship, Human Resources, Education and the main office manager, restaurant manager, receptionists and caretakers. A busy and vital place and we were amazed by the scope of responsibilities they undertook. The restaurant is open to the general public, so you could go and be most welcome.

Judith was thanked for her informative talk and refreshments were served.

Next Meeting 2.15 pm, October 10 in the Coach House. 'A Sabbatical in Australia' - Revd Susan Oliver. All are welcome.

**Dawn Nex**



## **THIS MONTH'S RECIPE**

### **BALSAMIC POTATOES**

This is a recipe idea I've had from Jamie Oliver's Christmas Cookbook. I have made some changes as he uses lots more balsamic vinegar and fat. I have cut down on the amounts to fit in with the varieties of ages you may be feeding at Christmas. I have also substituted carrots in place of red onions but feel free to do both or either.

Serves 6

1 kg. Potatoes peeled and cut into chunky wedges

2 Tablespoon olive oil

3 carrots, scrubbed and cut into thick wedges

2 cloves garlic, crushed

Balsamic vinegar (nothing expensive), I use 2 tablespoons

Fresh thyme

Small handful of rocket to garnish (optional)

Parboil the potatoes and carrots for 6 minutes. Drain really well allowing them to dry completely.

Toss the vegetables in the oil, spread out in a single layer and bake for 30-40 minutes at 180/fan Gas 4/5 until gently golden. Remove from the oven.

Add the crushed garlic to the balsamic vinegar, and pour over the vegetables, mixing well and continue cooking until roasted, dark brown and sticky. Jamie adds butter at this point. Cook for a further 20-30 mins

Remove to a warm serving plate and sprinkle over the rocket to garnish.

This makes a great accompaniment to cold turkey or as part of a Christmas buffet. It would go well with last month's recipe for Griddled Halloumi

**Ann Jennings**

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### **AND FOR THE WINE...**

Following Ann's cue, let us assume we are sitting down to some hearty winter's fare - with our balsamic potatoes accompanying a roast meat. These ingredients suggest a rustic farmhouse red, but as this may be a Sunday lunch - or the first Christmas meal of the season, we will not restrict ourselves to the 'rustic' end of the market.

The late Richard senior received a communication, with discount voucher, from Majestic Wines this autumn inviting him to step through their door again after a lengthy absence! Having established that it would still be valid for me to use, I duly tracked to my nearest store and purchased a few bottles in his memory. Some would be good candidates here.

With many blends of Grenache, Syrah and Mourvedre bottled across southern France, reliable wines can be found in good supply, but for greater depth of fruit and appealing herby character, it was the Minervois La Liviniere wine which caught my eye. La Liviniere is a sub-region of Minervois where producers have focused particularly on quality and have now achieved full

appellation status. This wine also contains some Carignan, a grape which never used to excite, but if you see the words "old vine Carignan" you should be on a winner.

Spain provided some very promising options : the wines of Bierzo, featuring the Mencia grape have also come to the fore in recent years and again offer the power and intensity we might want for our roast dinner. The Bobal grape from Utiel-Requena is not known as a noble grape, but should not disappoint here. And back to France for a more classc red which can pack a punch : Cahors and the Malbec grape is a good bet.

Would Richard senior have enjoyed?.....I'm sure he would ! Enjoy your wine-sipping.....

**Richard W. B. Ryan**

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**HAROLD WHITE**

The bells of St Mary's rang out in tribute and farewell to Harold White on Thursday 12 October, at his funeral service and the celebration of his life. Only in the most recent of years had Harold himself been unable to climb into the tower to share in the joy he found in the bell ringers art, for him, one important aspect of declaring and sharing his faith.

And what a faithful man he was, a truly committed Christian who found much satisfaction and peace of mind from his regular attendance in church and a man who held such regard for his family and friends. He was immensely proud of his daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. No one could have displayed greater love, loyalty and dedication to the care and support of his wife Hazel, and for those who were able to assist him in some little way during the past few years, that opportunity was a privilege..

Harold was introduced to bell ringing from his days in Youth Club at Cradley Church. It became one of his life's passion. At the age of 17 he was elected a member of Worcestershire and Districts Change Ringing Association and remained a member for the next 73 years. Harold's skill, knowledge and proficiency was unquestioned and his commitment unbounded.

As a metallurgist specialising working with aluminium, Harold enjoyed a successful career, working on several prestigious projects that included Range Rover, Concorde, Rolls Royce and Olympic bobsleighs. His holidays often became significant adventures serving family reminiscences for years.

Harold and Hazel have, for years, been highly respected and much loved members of the local and church community. They have shared in and contributed to so much that has given real life and meaning to those who have benefited from knowing them. In the recent past we have missed seeing Hazel in church as her health has deteriorated, and now, we will miss Harold, but remember all that he gave us in companionship and good example.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 17 September | Amelie Florence Smith<br>Carter James Oakley<br>Cooper Hudson Oakley |
| 1 October    | Olivia Beverley Rose Sheppard  |
| 7 October    | Thomas Ward Agnew  |

### Weddings

|              |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| 16 September | Colin Millward & Jennifer Morgan |
|--------------|----------------------------------|

### Wedding Blessing

|              |                         |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| 30 September | Simon and XinXin Tatler |
|--------------|-------------------------|

### Funerals

|            |                         |         |
|------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 2 October  | Beryl Margaret Lawrence | Aged 86 |
| 5 October  | Anthony John Cooper     | Aged 74 |
| 9 October  | Joan Chamberlain        | Aged 92 |
| 12 October | John Harold White       | Aged 88 |

## SERIOUSLY.....WORLD TOILET DAY

### Information for other's convenience....

World Toilet Day, a UN Day of Observance, is held each year on 19 November.

More people in the world have a mobile phone (6 billion) than have access to a toilet (4.5 billion). One initiative linked with World Toilet Day is Toilet Twinning, begun by CORD (Christian Outreach for Relief & Development) and now run by Tearfund.

This promotes projects for improving sanitation in some of the poorest communities in the world, raising funds and awareness through twinning toilets. For £60, a home, church or school can be linked to somewhere where facilities are very different. The funds raised help Tearfund deliver water and sanitation projects in more than 25 countries. Those twinned receive a certificate and photo, with coordinates of the toilet twinned.

For more information see [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)

The toilets at St Mary's are twinned....is yours?



Answers to Cross Words 12

DENUDE, DEPEND, DUNE, ENDED, ENDUE, ENDUED, ENDURE, ENDURED, ENURE, ENURED, ERNE, LEND, LENDER, LUNE, NEED, NEEP, NERD, NUDE, PEND, PENDED, PLUNDER, **PLUNDERED**, PREEN, PRUNE, PRUNED, REDDEN, REND, RUNDLE, RUNE, UNDER, UNREEL, UPEND, UPENDED.

**CONGRATULATIONS IF YOU FOUND MORE**

## LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF DUDLEY

Recently I made my first visit to the National Memorial Arboretum near Lichfield. It's a place of memory and hope, and I was particularly struck by the main memorial to those members of the armed forces who have died since 1945. Names are carved on about two thirds of the stone walls; sons and daughters, husbands and wives, mums and dads, who never came home. I found myself running a hand along the smooth wall for future years and wondered whose names would be there. I pondered to myself what pain was still to come, what tears and bloodshed, bullets and bombs? Oh, if only we could learn to make plough shares and pruning hooks. How, I wondered, could I make a difference towards building a little part of more peaceable world?



In 1940 a young twenty-five year old left his native Switzerland and moved to France wanting to make a difference. For years he had been ill with tuberculosis, and during that long convalescence the call to create a community had matured within him. At the height of the Second World War, Brother Roger, as he became known, realised that he could build a little part of a more peaceable world by assisting refugees.

He settled in the small Burgundy village of Taizé, close to the demarcation line dividing France in two, and it was there that he, together with one of his sisters, began sheltering refugees, including Jewish people. There was no running water, just the village well, and food was scarce.

Brother Roger's parents, knowing that their son and daughter were in danger, asked a retired French officer who was a friend of the family to watch over them. In the autumn of 1942, he warned them that their activities had been found out and that everyone should leave at once. So until the end of the war, it was in Geneva that Brother Roger lived and it was there that he began a common life with his first brothers. They were able to return to Taizé in 1944.

Since then Brother Roger's ecumenical community has grown to around 100 brothers. Each summer they are joined by thousands of young adults to spend a week seeking communion with God in prayer, singing, silence and reflection. Young people who spend time there often rediscover an inner peace, a meaning to life and a new impetus. Experiencing a simple life shared with others reminds us that daily life is the place where Christ is waiting for us.

Next July I am going to be leading a pilgrimage, together with the Bishop of Southampton in the Diocese of Winchester, to Taizé. I warmly invite 18 to 25 year olds to join me, but all of us can play a part in this pilgrimage. Please share this page with young people who you know, pray that they might respond to this invitation and please consider whether you or your PCC might sponsor one or more young people to go (it will cost around £200 per person). Do please let me know and I would be happy to send a personal invitation. My prayer is that this pilgrimage will encourage a generation of young people in their Christian life and witness as together we sing a song for peace.

**Graham**

Is there anyone in our community we might nominate and support? If you know of someone or would like to suggest a possible line of enquiry please contact the Editor.

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