

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

11th November Thomas Russell Emms
Morgan Sean Patrick
Corless

MEMORIAL SERVICE

16th November Grace Trenchard

FUNERALS

23 November Edith Alice Bright
Maureen Pearce



REGULAR SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday:

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Family Communion

1st Sunday:

6.30 pm Evensong (said) with hymns

2nd & 4th Sunday:

6.30 pm Evening Worship

3rd Sunday:

10.00 am Family Communion & Youth Service
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

5th Sunday:

6.30 pm Service of Wholeness and Reconciliation

4th Monday:

7.30 pm The Way at 2 Hemyock Road

Every Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion

1st Thursday:

10.00 am Holy Communion at Sellywood House

2nd Thursday:

7.45 pm Issues Group (*No meeting in December*)

4th Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion at Queen Mother Court

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

Listed overleaf

ST MARY'S SELLY OAK

Bristol Road B29 6ND

www.StMarySellyOak.org.uk

December 2007



Vicar: Revd. Martin Roberts
0121 472 0250

Asst. Priest: Revd. Susannah Izzard
0121 243 3745

Churchwardens:
Peter Washbourne
0121 476 2406
Anne Pycock
0121 476 3117

Hall Bookings 0121 604 0950

MESSAGE FROM THE VICARAGE

December – our thoughts turn to Christmas. So familiar that each year we need to ask ourselves again what it really means. The commercialism of it all goes on unabated and it is a bit amusing, but revealing, to sometimes hear people say ‘why do they have to bring religion into Christmas, what’s it got to do with it?’

Well, Christmas did start with religion and it celebrates what Christians call the incarnation. This is far more radical than people think; it means the sacred and the secular, the church and the world, the divine and the human are one. Two things follow: religion, God and all that now have a human face, they are not far off and irrelevant and somehow we need to get our head round the idea of the humanity of God. Secondly, all of our human interactions are no longer self-contained, we cannot manipulate and use each other as mere ‘things’, because in every human encounter we meet God, the human condition becomes sacred ground and the challenge is to treat each other as living expressions of God.

Put this into practice on a political and global scale and we would transform the world! But it must also happen in our hearts, attitudes and values.

Happy Christmas,

Martin.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sun 16th Dec 6.30pm Carol Service followed by Pies and Punch

Christmas Eve

Mon 24th Dec 5.00 pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

Tues 25th Dec 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Family Communion

Sun 3rd Feb '08 4.30pm Christingle Service



LUNCHTIME RECITAL AND ART EXHIBITION

The Autumn series of recitals concludes with a concert on **Saturday 8th December.**

It should be a fun packed day, starting with Children's Christmas Crafts at **11.00am.** Refreshments will be served from **12.00 noon** and the recital will start at **1.00pm.**

The Art Exhibition, by pupils from St Mary's School, on the theme of Angels, will be displayed all around the Church.

BE STILL AND KNOW

During this Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace, we need to think about the peace around us.

In the hustle and bustle of some 80+ people coming to the Family Communion service on a Sunday, including the wonderfully vibrant Junior Church, peace and quiet can seem a forlorn hope. Surely, some people will say, I come to church to escape all this. And indeed we all seek sanctuary on Sunday mornings, but sometimes we have to ask what that desire is all about. The reality is of course that it's not only babes in arms who squawk: it's adults too, and not only those looking after children!

For a church community it's no good pointing the finger at others for disturbing 'my peace'. The Eucharist is a vibrant service where we rub up against our neighbour in the common exercise of worshipping and praising God. The exchange of peace isn't just an exercise in greeting someone you haven't spoken to for half an hour since the service began, but an outward expression of the diversity and unity of the Body of Christ. Why not, next time you share the Peace look out for someone who may be a source of distraction to you and share the Peace with them: positively love them, pray for them and encourage them?

We can be absolutely in turmoil and not at peace in the quietest of places; the great gift is being a person of serenity and peace when all around is chaos.