

## PARISH REGISTER

### BAPTISMS

14<sup>th</sup> Jan Bethan Mary Horton  
Matthew Paul Horton  
Megan Denise Withey

### FUNERALS

15<sup>th</sup> January Edith Sutcliffe  
26<sup>th</sup> January Evelyn Elizabeth Boulton



## REGULAR SERVICES & EVENTS

### Sunday:

8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.00 am Family Communion  
6.30 pm Evening Worship

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday:

10.00 am Family Communion & Youth Service  
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday:

6.30 pm Service of Wholeness and Reconciliation

### 4<sup>th</sup> Monday:

7.30 pm The Way at 2 Hemyock Road

### Every Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion

### 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday:

10.00 am Holy Communion at Sellywood House

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday:

7.45 pm Issues Group at 2 Middle Park Close

### 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion at Queen Mother Court

## SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

4 <sup>th</sup> Sun	4.30 pm	Christingle Service
9 <sup>th</sup> Fri	9.30 am	St Mary's School Community Service
11 <sup>th</sup> Sun	12 noon	Baptism
17 <sup>th</sup> Sat	9.30 am	Quiet Day at St John's Ladywood
21 <sup>st</sup> Wed		Ash Wednesday
	10.00am	Imposition of Ashes
	7.30 pm	Imposition of Ashes
24 <sup>th</sup> Sat	12 noon	Lent Lunch at St Mary's



## ST MARY'S SELLY OAK

Bristol Road B29 6ND

[www.StMarySellyOak.org.uk](http://www.StMarySellyOak.org.uk)

*February 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

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICARAGE

We are hardly out of Christmas and New Year before we start the season of Lent and Easter. Ash Wednesday falls in February and is a timely reminder of our mortality and the need to amend our lives and values. Yet the other side of this is that we come to appreciate the fact that life is a gift at every turn, always new and renewed each day. And that has to be enough. One of the challenges of Lent, therefore, is to live more focused, less cluttered, more simply, in the providence of the present moment.

*Martin.*

## FUND RAISING FOR 2007

If you are able to hold an event, such as a coffee morning, or if you have any ideas for any other kind of fund raising event, please have a word with Vicar Martin or the church wardens

## CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Now, when you read this in February, the Christingle service will have already taken place, but as I'm writing in January, I can't really give an account of how it went! Just to say then, that the theme for this year's service is *Candlemas* – the whole reason why we, at St Mary's, have our Christingle service at the start of February, and not, as most churches choose to, in the run up to Christmas. *Candlemas* celebrates the occasion, detailed in Luke 2 vv.22-38, when the young Jesus was presented at the temple by his parents in accordance with Jewish traditions. It was there that he was received by the extremely old Simeon, who, in his joy at having lived long enough to meet the

Messiah, uttered the well-known words of the Nunc Dimittis (to be heard at every Evensong):

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace  
According to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
Which thou has prepared before the face of all people.  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
And to be the glory of thy people, Israel.*

Traditionally, *Candlemas* is a time of year when candles are given out, symbolising Christ as the light of the world, and this fits in very well with the Christingle service, where the candle in the orange is a very clear reminder of Christ lighting the darkness. In this gloomy month of February, when there hardly seems to be any daylight and when it's common to suffer from depression, what better way to cheer up a winter's evening than a hundred candles flickering in the darkness held by a hundred children trying not to set fire to themselves or the church?

I would like to say a big thank-you to the children and teachers of St Mary's School for the part they play in our service.

Kate Cheyney

## LENT GROUPS VENUES FOR 2007

The Selly Oak Ecumenical Lent groups are being set up for 2007. The material that will be studied this year is 'Set All Free' about the abolition of slavery as this year sees the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the abolition.

The groups will take place at the times and venues listed. The participant's material will cost £1 each this year which is a considerable saving on the last few years' costs. The groups will all start the week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2007. An attendance list is available in church so you can sign up for your choice of venue.

Monday:	SellyWood House	10.45 am
	62 St Denis Road	7.30 pm
Tuesday	Weoley Hill URC	2.30 pm
	29 Fox Hill	7.30 pm
Wednesday	3 Hole Farm Rd	7.30 pm
Thursday	54 Middle Park Rd	10.00 am

These groups are popular and give us all a chance to meet fellow our Christians from local churches.

More information from Ann Evans (628 4558) or Anne Pycock (476 3117)

## CLUSTER QUIET TIME

The pre-Lent quiet morning, when we join with St Gabriel's and St Michael's, will take place at St John & St Peter, Ladywood on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February** from 9.30 am. The session finishes at 1 pm with a shared lunch. In the past participants have derived great benefit not only from the leader's input, but also from the tranquil atmosphere of the building. If you've never been inside the church you should go just to see the amazing renovations that have taken place which have made the church such wonderful place to be. Please let the Vicar know if you would like to go.