

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

13th May Lilac Pheonix Pugh

WEDDINGS

26th May Neil Christopher Walsh
Santia Ann Reilly

FUNERALS

31st May Olive Finch
Joan Rodgers



REGULAR SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday:

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Family Communion
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 at 2 Middle Park Close

4th Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion at Queen Mother Court

NOTES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Sun 10th June Susannah Izzard will be serving Afternoon Tea at her home, 2 Hemyock Road, at 3 pm. Everyone is most welcome.

Mon 25th June Student Lunchtime Concert in Church – 1.10 pm

Sun 15th July Church Garden Party followed by Songs of Praise

Sat 21st July Ann Ellis and the Bournville Children's Choir concert

Sat 1st Sept Car Boot Sale

Sat 20th Oct Warley Male Voice Choir concert

On the second Saturday of each month, from September to December, John Stormont, our organist, is arranging a series of lunchtime organ recitals.

ST MARY'S SELLY OAK

Bristol Road B29 6ND

www.StMarySellyOak.org.uk

June 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

As we move into June so the church's year starts to calm down, after Advent, Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. Times of celebration, like these, coincide with celebrations in the rest of society, like Christmas and Easter, and inevitably get very busy. In the church's year these celebrations come almost on top of each other and then, with the arrival of Trinity Sunday, in June, everything stops and we have endless ordinary Sundays.

The rhythm between special time and ordinary time is very important and it reminds us that we need all sorts of times, seasons and celebrations in our lives if they are to be balanced. After too much rich food it is a relief to get back to something plain and a certain ordinariness, with not much going on, is essential for us to tune into other levels and experiences. It is often in the everyday and ordinary that flashes of importance or illumination shine out. It is the extra-ordinariness of the ordinary and there is a whole spirituality here. Perhaps the festivals and celebrations teach us to look at the ordinary in new ways and the ordinary, properly appreciated, makes us look more closely at what is real in the special, underneath the outward show of things.

Love and prayers,

Martin.



3D COURSE.

A new 30 week course, run by the Diocese, will be starting in September. It is a Bible-based study course for established Christians designed to help and develop disciples.

The course could be just right for you so for further information please get in touch with the Vicar

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

What does your front door say about you? If some television programmes are to be believed, quite a lot! However, after over 30 years of collecting door to door for Christian Aid, I don't think I agree. A seemingly neglected house front can produce a really nice, generous person and a very grand portico can produce a very negative response. You never can tell! In the interval between ringing the door bell or knocking on the door (or anything available) and the door being opened many things go through my mind – what sort of response will I get? - will I get the envelope back? will I get shouted at? – is there a dog? - will they even answer the door?

Most people are kind and usually give something or say no quite politely. It is heart warming to be given an envelope with money already in and sealed. I have had some really interesting conversations on the doorstep and once even been offered a curry (it was difficult to say no.) Last year, a lady who had just come home from hospital showed me a large jam jar full of five pound notes and told me to help myself. I did manage to persuade her that it wasn't a good idea to show just anybody how much money she had. One young man said 'They're not in!' My usual response to that kind of situation is to offer to call again but this time

I asked if he was a burglar. Fortunately, he did see the joke.

It can be quite discouraging to get no answer or refusals but I try to remind myself of what the money is used for. During the time I spent teaching English at Selly Oak Colleges I met quite a lot of people who were on Christian Aid Scholarships or involved in projects that had Christian Aid sponsorship and that keeps me going.

This year there were twenty collectors, who worked very hard and collected £1115. This will be supplemented by the money Christian Aid can claim back from Gift Aided donations. The donations were about £400 less than last year and that was less than the previous year. In some streets, there has been an increase in the number of people who were quite rude and even aggressive. There were a lot of households where we didn't get answers. I think next year we shall have to decide in which roads not to collect. Lifestyles change and maybe door to door collecting needs to change to reflect that.

I should like to thank the collectors and counters most warmly for this work which they do for Christ. They do it with courage and cheerfulness. Many, many thanks!

Morfudd Knight