

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Sun 11th May Paul Rackham
Anette McDonagh

WEDDINGS

Sat 10TH May Matthew Parkinson Dixon
Kirsty Louise Henderson

FUNERALS

Thurs 8th May Margaret Kelly
Mon 12th May Ivy Adams



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

2nd 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



ST MARY'S SELLY OAK

Bristol Road B29 6ND

www.StMarySellyOak.org.uk

June 2008



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

This time of the year the Church carries out ordinations to the Priesthood. Not exclusively, since there are other types of ministry and some are licensed to lay forms of ministry. Also, the balance has shifted so that the majority of priests are now financially self-supporting, having their own careers or jobs as well. Also, the starting age for this kind of ministry is higher than it used to be. I was ordained at 25, which was typical then, but unusual now. So patterns change and the church over recent years has moved to a spectrum of lay and ordained ministries, away from the older idea that the priest 'was' the ministry and every one else could sit back and watch!

But what of vocation which lies behind priesthood, ordination and licensing of various kinds? Well, that changes too. Having done the job for 30 years and spent years selecting people for ministry, as well as being involved in training, I can tell you that it is anything but clear. Most candidates have difficulty focusing just what it is they feel called to (but they feel called to something) and if they are clear they often wish they could run away from it or do something else. Strange, but it does not get any easier with experience. The years go by, different jobs come and go, pastoral experience builds up and just what it is all about is not clear. Hopefully technical competence and various skills are developed and people will tell you how helpful they find this or that as well what they don't like. But you will still be left wondering what it is all about. Often, ministers have to re-learn their ministry quite radically, and I have found this to be true each time I have made a major move. But the more I reflect on it, it

seems to me that vocation and ministries are really all about becoming more fully human, open, vulnerable, able to change, re-think, question, doubt and marvel with a renewed sense of wonder. Perhaps if this process really begins to happen then ministry will be useful and fruitful; but it will be the by-product of a continuous struggle to become human. This applies to us all and maybe it is the real vocation 'behind' all the outward forms.

Martin.

KOL KINOR CHOIR

On Sunday 18th May, instead of the 6.30 evening service there was a concert given by the Kol Kinor Choir exploring Jewish Music. The choir's name means "Voice of the Lyre" in Hebrew.

The concert was divided into two halves. The first half was an illustrated talk about Jewish Music and its development and how it differs from Christian Church Music with which we are familiar. The second half was a more conventional concert with pieces of Jewish music from around the world. We were told the origin of the lyrics and the name of the composer of the music, which in one case was Beethoven who is not usually associated with Jewish music. Most of the songs were sung in Hebrew with one being sung in Yiddish. The singing was excellent and very much appreciated and afterwards there was an opportunity to speak with members of the Choir whilst enjoying some refreshments.

CONFIRMATION

This year's Confirmation Service, for the Cluster of St. Mary's Selly Oak, St. Gabriel's Weoley Castle and St. Michael's Bartley Green, took place on Sunday 11th May at St Mary's.

Bishop Tony Dumper officiated at the service. There were six candidates from St. Mary's – Lauren Early, Joseph Piercy, Paul Rackham, Joseph Goldbourn, Natalia Burke and Anette McDonagh, and two candidates from St. Michael's – Eleanor Morgan and Margaret Day.

Prior to being confirmed Paul Rackham and Anette McDonagh were Baptised.

After the service the candidates were presented with either a copy of the New Testament or a book based on the Psalms, to commemorate the event, suitably inscribed by the Bishop.

The service was very well attended and everyone enjoyed the excellent refreshments which concluded the evening.



CHURCH GARDEN PARTY

Make sure that you've got **Sunday 20th July** marked in your diary because that's the day of the Annual Church Garden Party. After last years wash-out we're hoping for a really fine day. So come along for some fun and tea and cakes from 3.00pm and then why not stay for Choral Evensong at 5.30pm?