

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

20th April Alasdair Isaac James Langley
Poppy Louise Rollins

FUNERALS

19th March Mark James McEvoy
3rd April Sharon Jane Embley
4th April William Alan Marshall
21st April Bernard Izzard



In February, Mr Norman Vallender celebrated his 100th Birthday. It is with great pleasure that we send him our congratulations and very best wishes. Mr Vallender has been associated with St Mary's for many years

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

SPECIAL SERVICES

Thurs 1st May 7.30 pm Ascension Day Communion
at St Gabriel's Weoley Castle.

Sun 11th May 6.30 pm Confirmation Service with
Bishop Tony Dumper



ST MARY'S SELLY OAK

Bristol Road B29 6ND

www.StMarySellyOak.org.uk

May 2008



Vicar: Revd. Dr. 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

Dear Friends,

During May the church celebrates Pentecost, the feast of the Holy Spirit. Over the last few years there has been a renewed discovery of the Spirit and a sense of the 'God within', which chimes well with much contemporary spirituality outside of the church. It is easy to see why this is so. For Pentecost speaks of an imminent, intimate God, rather than a remote, transcendent God, and it values things like feelings and subjectivity, imagination and experience in general. The images of the Spirit at Pentecost also speak of surprise, the unpredictable, and this again resonates with the uncertain, transitory world we all now live in. Then again, non-personal images are often used about the Spirit, such as the dove, which is found in the psalms and at the baptism of Jesus, as well as fire and wind, and others.

The Spirit searches the depths of who we are, sometimes descending in peace and silence, at other times, blowing off the roof, shaking the foundations or destroying things, so that new life may emerge. All of which hints at a dark side of the divine, which Christians usually try to ignore. Yet God is the destroyer and bringer of havoc as well as the bringer of peace and reconciliation.

So this Pentecost be prepared for surprises, reversals, new life and the clearing out of the old. This is the work of the Spirit, the God of surprises, the joker in the pack!

Martin

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

On Sunday, 30th March, it was announced, with great regret, that the Vicar, Revd. Martin Roberts, on the advice of his doctor, is to seek early retirement on health grounds. The exact timescale for his departure is still to be arranged but it is likely to be the end of July. Until that time Martin will be doing some background office work in the Parish but will no longer take Services.

ST MARY'S NEWS – ROUND-ROBINS

Over the last year, trials using e-mail 'Round-Robins' to communicate news items about our church community have proved workable and acceptable. The aim now is to make the procedure as comprehensive as is expedient.

To this end, in about two weeks time, it will be possible to subscribe (and unsubscribe) to the Round Robin via the church web site. Those currently on the email circulation list will need to re-subscribe.

The plan is to keep the content of the 'Round-Robin' e-mails as brief as possible and not to divulge personal contact data, so if you have an item of news which you would like to be shared quickly within the church fellowship, please contact Don Fripp at DC.fripp@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone him on 0121 604 3843.

KOL KINOR CHOIR

Don't forget that on Sunday 18th May at 6.30pm, in place of the evening service the Kol Kinor Choir will be giving a concert exploring the traditions of Jewish and Christian music. All are very welcome at what promises to be a most enjoyable evening.

ANNUAL PAROCIAL MEETING

At the APM, held on Sunday 27th April, Peter Washbourne and Anne Pycock were re-elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

The following people were elected as members of the PCC for three years:-

Pam Chiswell Morfudd ;Knight

Richard Edmonds Ben Reeves

Pat Finney John Stormont

and to fill casual vacancies for one year:-

Gerald Fage

Don Fripp

Sheila Skeeles

CONFIRMATION SERVICE



On Pentecost Sunday, 11th May at 6.30pm, St Mary's will be hosting the Cluster Confirmation Service. Bishop Tony Dumper will officiate.

Please come along to support the candidates. Refreshments will be provided afterwards

LEADING INTERCESSIONS

Plans are in hand to hold a training evening for anyone involved in leading intercessions, or anyone who might like to become involved. It will be held on Wednesday 9th July at St George's, Edgbaston (near the Botanical Gardens). Further details will follow but please make a note in your diaries now!