

## PARISH REGISTER

### BAPTISMS

11<sup>th</sup> January Lily-Mai Rogan-Carroll  
25<sup>th</sup> January Lukas Hammett-Kay

### FUNERALS

12<sup>th</sup> January Eirllys Lloyd Fox

The death has been announced of the Revd. Donald Hadley. Many of the congregation will remember him with affection and gratitude for his ministry to the people of this Parish.

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### EMAIL NEWS

We have introduced an electronic form of News for St Mary's Church, using the email system. This is an additional service for our Members & Supporters. Single messages are sent to those on our email address list (free of charge) whenever the need arises. Urgent or pertinent messages no longer have to wait for the weekly &/or monthly bulletins. Use of the system is open to **all** email users involved in the life of St. Mary's Church.

To start receiving email news simply contact Don Fripp on Tel: 0121 604 3843 or email to [dc.fripp@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:dc.fripp@blueyonder.co.uk) with your name, Tel. No. and email address

Alternatively you can go to the church's web page, [www.stmarysellyoak.org.uk](http://www.stmarysellyoak.org.uk) and select the 'Email List' option from the buttons on the left and follow the instructions.

## REGULAR SERVICES & EVENTS

### Sunday:

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

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

10.00 am Family Communion & Youth Service  
6.30 pm Choral Evensong

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

7.30 pm The Way at 2 Hemyock Road

### Every Wednesday

10.00 am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

### 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

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Feb. 4.30 pm Christingle Service

### Advance Notice.

This year the **Women's World Day of Prayer** service will take place at The Quaker Meeting House, Bristol Road, Selly Oak on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

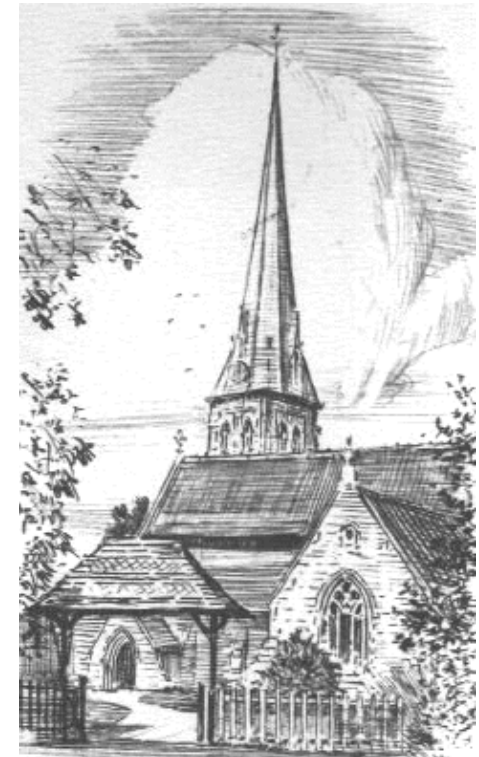


## ST MARY'S SELLY OAK

Bristol Road B29 6ND

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

*February 2009*



Vicar: Vacancy  
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 SUSSANAH

The New Year is no longer new; Christmas may seem a dim memory (apart from the credit card bills perhaps...); Spring still a long way in the future. February can be a difficult month – winter feels as if it is dragging on and there is little to look forward to. Perhaps even more so this year, with the ‘credit crunch’ and fears about the long term financial difficulties that beset our nation making all of us feel a little gloomier. It is hard to hear about businesses closing, people losing jobs, and it is hard not to feel afraid for ourselves – especially if someone close to us is out of work or struggling. How can we take heart in hard times? Maybe the answer is to hold two important things together. On the one hand we need to maintain compassion for our neighbour – for those who are in financial difficulties near to us and those who are poor and hungry on the other side of the world. It is good to continue to be generous to those in need even when times are tight. We may also need to take a hard look at our own lifestyles (this is never comfortable) and see where we can make changes to ensure that we are living simply and sustainably – not wastefully or in ways that damage our planet. After all, the Jesus whose Nativity we have recently celebrated was born and raised in simple, even impoverished surroundings – and never stopped opening his heart to all who came to him in need.

*Susannah*



## LENT GROUPS VENUES FOR 2008

You are invited to come and join the Selly Oak Ecumenical Lent Course which this year will start in week commencing Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009.

The course booklet has been written by Canon John Young and includes contributions from Bishop Tom Wright, Anne Atkins, The Abbot of Worth, Professor Frances Young and Dr. David Hope.

Tues 2.30 pm URC Small Hall  
Lorraine DaCosta  
244 6711

Tues 7.30 pm 29 Fox Hill  
Donald Knight  
472 4804

Tues 7.30 pm Methodist Church  
20-30s group  
Philip Morton

Weds 10.00 am 37 Tillyard Croft  
Sigvard von Siccard

Thurs 10.00 am Bridgewater Court  
Sheila Skeeles  
472 0744

Thurs 7.30 pm 3 Hole Farm Road  
Ann Izzard

These popular groups give us all a chance to meet our fellow Christians from local churches and get to know about our differences and similarities.

## LENT LUNCHESES

Here are details of the Ecumenical Lent Lunches which will be held between 12 noon and 1.30 pm as follows:-

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March St. Mary's  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March Langleys Road  
Methodist Church  
Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March Weoley Hill URC

## WATER BILLS

As a result of the 1999 Water Industry Act, the water companies have introduced new charging regimes for the three main elements of drainage: (1) foul water drainage: waste water from sinks, WCs etc

(2) surface water drainage: rainwater run off from roofs and car parks into main drains

(3) highways water drainage: a contribution towards the overall cost of drainage for public highways.

For surface water and highways water drainage, charges are being introduced by reference to the footprint of buildings and drained car parks or hard standings on a site on the basis that it more fairly reflects the relative use of the public drains.

A big concern to churches is that properties which were formerly exempted in their own right from business rates, such as places of worship or properties used for the disabled, or which enjoyed relief by virtue of being charities, such as village halls, Scout halls etc, will be subject to the same rates as business users, as they fall within the non-household category.

A petition has been started at the No 10 Downing Street web site, and all church members, who have access to the Internet and email, are being asked to add their names. The petition reads,

*'We the undersigned petition the Prime Minister to instruct water companies to return to charging churches as charities rather than as business premises.'*

The address for those who are able to sign is

[petitions.number10.gov.uk/ChurchWaterBills/](http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/ChurchWaterBills/)