

## PARISH REGISTER

### FUNERALS

In Church or at the Crematorium

12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mike Bayliss
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Daisy White
14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tony Watson
22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	June Freeman
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Andrew Simo



Teach us, good lord, to serve you as you deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost;  
to fight and not to heed the wounds;  
to toil and not to seek for rest;  
to labour and not to seek for any reward,  
save that of knowing that we do your will.  
**Amen**

*Ignatius of Loyola (1556)*

## 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 Youth Service with Communion  
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

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

10.00 am Holy Communion at Sellywood House

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

7.45 pm Issues Group (various locations please  
phone 476 0149 for details)

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

11.00 am Holy Communion at Queen Mother Court

## SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

Sun 14<sup>th</sup>

10.00am Renewal of Wedding Vows  
6.30 pm Youth Evening Service

Weds 17<sup>th</sup>

10.00 am **Ash Wednesday**  
7.30 pm Holy Communion with  
Imposition of Ashes



## ST MARY'S SELLY OAK

Bristol Road B29 6ND

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

*February 2010*



Vicar: Revd. Jim Cox  
0121 472 0250

Asst. Priest: Revd. Susannah Izzard  
0121 243 3745

Churchwardens:  
Donald Knight  
0121 472 4804  
Anne Pycock  
0121 476 3117

Hall Bookings 0121 604 0950

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICARAGE

February marks the start of Lent and in the church thoughts begin to turn to acts of self-denial and devotion. Despite the recent financial crisis, the norm for us today is still a somewhat irresponsible credit culture and self-denial seems a quaintly old-fashioned idea.

In fact, however, it is a classic discipline of Christian life which finds its contemporary expression in the Christian Aid strap-line "Live simply that others may simply live".

For many of us living simply is not always fully sustainable for the whole of our lives, we enjoy times of celebration and extravagance; but Lent is offered to us as a short period of six weeks when we might find the grace to embrace this counter-cultural invitation and see what it has to offer.

A few years ago Bishop Sentamu encouraged us to cancel all church business meetings during Lent to enable us all to focus on our prayers. It would be nice to think that this might be a time not only to eat less and drink less but to do less, to give God a bit of space and a bit of silence and a bit of stillness; and we might find that this Lent we develop habits which do, in fact, inform and enrich the rest of our ordinary lives.

JIM



## ECUMENICAL LENT GROUPS

This year the Lent groups start during the week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. The course of five weekly sessions is entitled 'When I survey ... Christ's cross and ours'. This is an opportunity to join study and discussion groups with members of other churches in Selly Oak.

**Mon** Helen & Barnaby Waters  
**8.00 pm** 1083 Bristol Road  
(near Witherford Way)

**Tues** Lorraine Dacosta  
**2.30 pm** Weoley Hill URC  
Small Hall

**Tues** Donald Knight  
**7.30 pm** 29 Fox Hill

**Thurs** Sheila Skeeles  
**10.00 am** Bridgewater Court

**Thurs** Pat Weaver  
**10.00 am** 24 Swarthmore Road

If you would like to join one of these groups please sign the sheet in church or if you can't come to church please contact Morfudd Knight 472 4804 (and also phone her if you would like more information.)

## TRANSFORMING CHURCH - AWAY DAY

Under Bishop David's "Transforming Church" initiative parishes have been asked to hold an Away Day to discuss some of the issues presented. We were told that it would be ideal if the day could be between Christmas and Easter which has left us with quite short notice to make plans.

Due to this constraint it was felt right to

have 3 Away Days, the first of which will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 10am-2pm. (Please bring your own sandwiches, we will provide drinks.) The purpose of this initial day will be to do a sort of parish audit; we will look at all the things that take place within the life of the parish, firstly just to see what we do but at the same time to ask if these activities still have value and energy for its participants.

We will also look at the 7 areas of church life identified in the literature and perhaps focus on 2 or 3 of these. It will be an opportunity to think broadly about the life of the church for the year ahead and try to get a sense of what we need to do.

The other two days, arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> June and 25<sup>th</sup> September, will carry forward some of the themes raised.

## RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

This year it so happens that Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday. We thought it might be good to mark this by offering us all the opportunity to renew our wedding vows at the 10 o'clock service. To this end, invitations have been sent out to those recently married here to see if this is something they would like to share in. There will be wedding cake to go with the coffee after the service to help make it something of an occasion.

Inevitably, an act such as this will not be easy for those who, for many different reasons, are not married, but it is hoped that it will not prevent the event from being one which we can celebrate together as a Christian family.