

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

14th Feb Harrison Allen Thomas-Witter
28th Feb Laura Beth Barrett Lord

FUNERALS

In Church or at the Crematorium

1st Feb Peggy Hart
1st Feb Sheila Davis
2nd Feb Fred Hill
3rd Feb Olive Willes
9th Feb Christine Gibson
11th Feb Keith Suckling
12th Feb Truda Lashmar
16th Feb Jim Barnish
16th Feb Kathleen Robinson
17th Feb Eric Humphries



REGULAR SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday:

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

3rd Sunday:

10.00 am Youth Service with Communion
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 (various locations please
phone 476 0149 for details)

4th Thursday:

11.00 am Holy Communion at Queen Mother Court

SPECIAL SERVICES & EVENTS

Fri 5th March Women's World Day of
10.30 am Prayer Service

Details of Easter Services are over the page



ST MARY'S SELLY OAK

Bristol Road B29 6ND

www.StMarySellyOak.org.uk

March 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

After the death and resurrection of Jesus the first disciples and friends struggled to make sense of events. They poured over the scriptures to try to discern God's hand in what had happened. There was an explosion of theories and explanations as people found meaning and hope in the dramatic and devastating death of God's chosen one. These ideas continued to abound and flourish for many centuries; but there came a point when these theories contracted into two. There was **atonement**, which crudely means that God's justice demands punishment for our sin, but Jesus, as the only perfect person, paid the price. And there is **redemption** in which God has to purchase our souls from the devil by sacrificing his Son. These are vast oversimplifications but they cover the general popular sense of the "meaning of the cross".

The sad thing about the success of these two theories is that it encouraged people to stop contemplating the cross and resurrection of Jesus. Someone had found "the answer" and all we have to do is learn it and assent to it. This is not really what feeds us in our faith, though. The cross does not have a single irrefutable meaning; some of the traditional language of salvation is no longer a valid currency for us and can present an image of a repugnant and manipulative sort of God. Some have seen the cross as a disaster; if not unforeseen then certainly unintended by God; and the resurrection as God's response to the calamity. Nothing, it seems, can prevent God from achieving his purpose of love. And this is as valid a view as any other.

The point is, it is stifling to come to the Easter story with a learnt response in mind. We don't burn heretics these days, so please look again at the cross and at the resurrection with an open mind and allow the cloud of ignorance and

unknowing to descend; and in your blindness listen to the faint whispers on the breeze which drop half-heard suggestions into the darkness because it might be these that actually enrich and sustain you for the next step of the journey.

JIM

PHOENIX SINGERS

The Phoenix Singers are a mixed choir of up to 100 voices singing for sheer enjoyment and discovery of music whilst aiming to help others. Formed in 1996 their music ranges from the sacred to songs from the shows, classical and gospel. They perform three formal concerts a year, all for local charities, and have donated over £30,000 to date. They have also enjoyed concert tours overseas performing in Holland, Poland, Switzerland, Germany, Spain and Hungary.

On Saturday 27th March at 7.00 pm. the Choir will be performing at St. Mary's. They will be singing an interesting selection of choral favourites including Haydn, Mozart & Faure. Tickets, priced at £6, will be on sale on every Sundays in church or they can be obtained from Pat Finney on 475 7556. All profits from the concert will be for the improvement of the sound system within St. Mary's. Please try to come along!

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March each year.

This year a service will be held at St Mary's on Friday 5th March, starting at 10.30 am. The service has been prepared by Christian women in Cameroon and is entitled 'Let everything that has breath praise God' Everyone is very welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service.

EASTER SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

28 th Mar		Palm Sunday
	8.00 am	Holy communion
	9.45 am	Procession of the Palms with Family Communion
29 th Mar	9:00 pm	Compline
30 th Mar	9:00 pm	Compline
31 st Mar	9:00 pm	Compline
1 st Apr	7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Communion & Vigil
2 nd Apr		Good Friday
	12 noon	Stations of the Cross
	1 – 3 pm	Devotions before the Cross
	7.30 pm	United Ecumenical Service at Weoley Hill URC
3 rd Apr	10:00 am	Children's Activities in Church
4 th Apr		Easter Sunday
	8:00 am	Holy Communion
	10:00 am	Family Communion
	6:30 pm	Evensong

