



# CONTACT MAGAZINE



**August - October 2025**  
**ST MARY'S KINGSWINFORD**  
**& CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION WALL HEATH**

There is no charge for the magazine but a donation to cover costs would be appreciated **Thank you.**

The views expressed in the article in this publication are not necessarily the views of the PCC of the parish of Kingswinford.



Welcome to the August- October edition of  
CONTACT

I am hoping that you enjoy reading the articles.  
If there is anything you would like to see included in the next edition,  
or any comments you like to make about this edition, just drop me an  
email. I can only make it **your** magazine if I know what you want to  
see in the magazine.

The copy date for the next edition is

**23 October 2025**

Please send your articles to Chris Knight  
[knightchristine2059@gmail.com](mailto:knightchristine2059@gmail.com)

THANK YOU



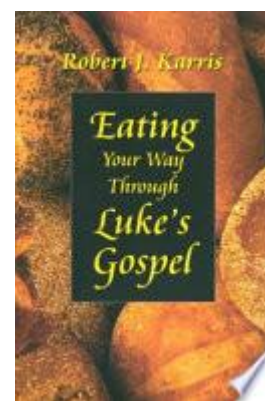


## Fr Adam writes...

Dear friends

One of my favourite little theology books is called *Eating your way through Luke*. It's a book which goes through each time we find Jesus eating and enjoying hospitality in St Luke's

Gospel. There are many occasions when this takes place – certainly enough for a book to be written on the subject. In essence the book reminds us that Jesus liked food, he liked hospitality, and he liked the process of being together, sharing food together and encouraging the relationships that eating together develops.



If we think about it, it is a meal around a table which went on to become the key liturgical and theological act of our faith. Each time we gather for communion bread is broken, wine is shared, and we enter into the fellowship of a meal at the Lord's table.

In so many ways food and hospitality is at the centre of the Christian faith. Because of this our two churches have begun to deepen our understanding of the Christian call to share in food with one another. We've begun to reimagine how sharing food allows us to get to know one another better, deepen our relationships with one another and how in turn this deepens our sense of community which then leads to a deepening of our discipleship and journey with God.

You'll have seen how at Soul Food we share breakfast at St Mary's and tea at Church of the Ascension. At our social events we have a meal together. For services during the year, we have bring and shares. We have MacMillan cream teas. And you may well have questions about why we do this and I want to assure you all that this isn't a gimmick but a theological response to the life of Jesus who understood the power of bringing people together to eat and drink and form communities of disciples.

Food is what keeps us alive. Food in the name of God is what feeds our faith and discipleship and so I encourage you all to see why we are increasingly offering food as part of our services and part of our study groups and discipleship groups. Jesus understood the importance of this and was often at a meal in doing the same we learn from him. Our faith is to be enjoyed, and food and hospitality is a key part of this.

With my love and prayers, Fr Adam



## Mother Sarah writes...

### Hearts on Fire

Some of you may remember how, in the last magazine I wrote about the time I spent at 'on fire mission' earlier in the year - a time spent worshipping in a new way and being attentive to the movement of the spirit. It was a really inspiring conference, uplifting and spirit-filled, and very much aligned with the hopes that have been held for some time now around a new sacramental worship gathering.

As you'll read elsewhere in this edition of contact, we are approaching a time when we will begin to offer extra Eucharistic services, and one of which will be very much inspired by 'on fire mission' as it blends traditional liturgy, in the mass, with contemporary worship music (some of which you'll have begun to be familiar with if you've come along to soul food). In addition, there will be a time for healing ministry, which some have begun to come forward for in our parish Eucharists.

So, many concepts and experiences that are already happening across our churches but brought together once a month at St Mary's.

**Sunday 14th of September at 4pm**, will see the launch of our charismatic mass, 'Hearts on fire' as it'll be known; taking its name from the 'burning heart' described in Luke 24, surrounding that transformative encounter on the way to Emmaus, with deeper faith and understanding and a profound sense of presence.

Curious? Come and see for yourself, come and encounter the Divine in a new way.

Mthr Sarah



## **New Service Structure in the parish**

As you're likely to be aware we are now richly blessed with three stipendiary priests and two priests with permission to officiate who have generously blessed us with help and support over many years. Given this, and after consultation with the ministry team, church wardens and both DCCs there will be a new Sunday service structure in place from September 2025 which will increase the number of Eucharists each month. In order to ensure that LLMs and ALMs continue to have a liturgical ministry in services you'll see many of them taking on the role of liturgical deacon in the Eucharist.

If you have any questions about this please speak to Fr Adam, Mthr Sarah or Fr Chris.

### **St Mary's:**

Week 1	8.45am	Soul Food with breakfast
	10am	Eucharist
Week 2	10am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	Baptisms
	4pm	Charismatic Mass
	6.30pm	Evensong
Week 3	8.45am	Soul Food
	10am	Eucharist
Week 4	10am	Eucharist
	12.30pm	Baptisms
	6.30pm	Memorial Service or Benediction with Taizé music

### **Church of the Ascension**

Week 1	10am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	Baptism
Week 2	10am	Eucharist
Week 3	10am	Eucharist
Week 4	10am	Eucharist





## **Fr Mel writes**

### **WHAT MIGHT THE FUTURE HAVE IN STORE FOR US?**

Hopefully the weekly notes on parish development on the notice sheet have encouraged a bit of thought about the future of our two churches?

Well, in September we can begin to put our heads together and actually share our thinking. Together, we'll open our hearts and minds to catch the wind of the Holy Spirit. Where and how does the wind of God seem to be guiding us? It's for each of us to have a say. No one need be left out.

On three occasions the house group from Lent will be invited to reconvene PLUS any others, maybe MANY others who would like to join.

The dates and topics will be:

Week beginning September 1 - Our Mission and Evangelism

Week beginning September 8 - Our Ways of Worship

Week beginning September 15 - Our Witness and Discipleship

Exciting times ahead in the parish of Kingswinford and Wall Heath.

Make sure your part of setting our sails and direction of travel.

Write your name on a signup sheet ASAP!

Venues:

Monday evenings at Fr Mel's beginning at 7.30pm

Monday evenings at Mthr Sarah's beginning at 7.30pm

Tuesday afternoons at Sheila Gregg's beginning at 2.30pm

Thursday afternoons at Jane Freeman's beginning at 2.30pm

Thursday evenings at Sue Brown's beginning at 7.30pm

The various addresses are on the sign-up sheets.

Father Mel

## Special Services for your diary

It's that time of the year again where we have a few special services coming up so please make a note in your diary!

17 August	Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 10am Eucharist at St Mary's (there <i>is</i> still a service at Church of the Ascension this day)
17 August	Baptism of Penny Jones at Church of the Ascension at 12.30pm All Welcome
31 August	Blessing of the Bags – at the start of the new school year bring your bags to be blessed. 2pm St Mary's 4pm Church of the Ascension
7 September	Team Eucharist at St Mary's for our Patronal Festival 11am followed by lunch. (no service at Church of the Ascension this day)
14 September	Launch of Hearts on Fire Charismatic Mass at St Mary's – 4pm
28 September	Café Eucharist at Church of the Ascension for Harvest Festival – 10am
5 October	Harvest Festival Eucharist at St Mary's – 10am
5 October	Pet Blessing Service at Church of the Ascension – 10am
2 November	All Souls Memorial Service at St Mary's – 6.30pm
9 November	Remembrance Sunday
23 November	10am Team Eucharist at Church of the Ascension
30 November	Advent Sunday (10am services in both churches)



## The Churchyard (Bob's Boys)

Well, we have gone from Wet, Wet, Wet to dry, dry, dry which means we have not mowed any grass for a month. Our focus over this period has been to attack the brambles which are prolific in some parts of the churchyard. We started removing the brambles from the open area and uncovered 17 graves, but two areas remain to be cleared. The big job was to the right of the path going down the churchyard and after three Mondays with all five of us cutting away it has now been cleared. This work uncovered about 30 graves. We are now thinking of contacting the Ordnance Survey notifying them of the new mountain which is our pile of brambles waiting to be burnt. The other area that has been cleared is to the left of the path and many more graves have been uncovered so that families can get to them if they so wish. May I thank the team for all their hard work. during the recent hot conditions.

Bob Green





## Notes from the Vicarage Garden, July 2025

As in 2022, we recently returned home from holiday to find much of our garden brown and shrivelled, despite the best efforts of our wonderful neighbours to keep it watered. Gardening can feel like a struggle; slugs might eat your phlox or sweet peas, aphids infest your roses or dahlias, lily beetles decimate your lilies or fritillaries, badgers might dig up your potatoes, your tomatoes might suffer from blight, but for me all these are minor irritants compared to climate change and the increasing frequency of drought and heatwaves, which means that many of the plants I love most are becoming harder and harder to grow in our very light Kingswinford soil, which dries out so quickly. I am struggling to provide astrantias, rudbeckias, echinaceas and hydrangeas with the conditions they need to thrive and just keeping them alive until next year's drought is hard work and is beginning to seem pointless.

The way I am feeling seems akin to the crisis of faith that many Christians experience at one time or another, and I am reminded that the language of water is frequently found in the Bible because it is life-giving, and for people living in the Holy land in Jesus's time, as today, it was even scarcer and more precious than it is for us. This is why Jesus says to his disciples, "Whoever believes in me, as scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (John, Ch7 v38)

Through prayer and regular attendance at church and by becoming part of the kind of Christian community we have in our parish, our faith can develop deep roots which will withstand periods of doubt. My love of gardening and plants is also deep-rooted and so much a part of me that I know it will remain with me until the day I die. Even so, when I am feeling disheartened, I have to try to look at things in a different way just as we sometimes have to reassess our faith.

I will have to adapt. After the drought of 2022, I replanted some of our sunniest borders with lavender, salvias, verbena bonariensis, kniphofias (red hot pokers), dianthus, sedums (which we are now supposed to call hylotelephium) and other plants that will tolerate hot dry conditions. This has been reasonably successful, though even these plants need a fair amount of water until established. I intend to plant more of these, together with globe thistles, achilleas, some hardy geraniums and eryngiums which will also cope without much extra irrigation.

And I must remember that joy can be found in many different, perhaps unexpected, places and if summer is a struggle or a disappointment, there is always spring, autumn and winter which all have their own beauty. Every year in the garden there are failures, but every year, even this year, there are successes too, and there is always hope, because there is always next year, and the snowdrops and primroses will reappear and, who knows, perhaps the weather will be perfect.



Echinops



Achillea and Eryngium

Simon Daniel, July 2025

## **“Goodbye Jonathan and God Speed for your future ministry.”**

Now that's what you call a placement!

I can't say thank you enough for the all the encouragement and support over the last month from you all at St Mary's and COA. It was a pleasure to get to know some of you, and to be able to witness God at work through you in the community. It was really hard to say goodbye- as I'd been made so welcome- and I wish the parish all the best as you go forward with your renewal project. Be blessed, Jonathan.



## Stop Press..... We have a new Bishop



**Downing Street has announced that His Majesty the King has approved the appointment of Hugh Nelson as the 114th Bishop of Worcester.**

Bishop Hugh is currently the Bishop of St Germans in the Diocese of Truro, a position he has held since 2020, serving as the Acting Bishop of Truro from Sept 2023 until May this year. He is also Bishop to the Armed Forces, providing spiritual and pastoral leadership to Anglican Chaplains serving in the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Air Force, a role which he will continue to hold as Bishop of Worcester.

Ordained in 2008, Hugh served his curacy in six rural parishes in East Kent before serving for eight years as the parish priest of Goudhurst with Kilndown, two village churches in the Diocese of Canterbury. Before ordination, Hugh spent 13 years living and leading the community of L'Arche London, part of an international network of ecumenical Christian communities where people with and without learning disabilities share life together.

### **Bishop Hugh said:**

*"It is an enormous privilege to be appointed as the next Bishop of Worcester. I am so looking forward to joining you in Worcestershire and Dudley on your journey as Kingdom People; getting to know the different communities across the Diocese and finding out what God is up to in its villages, towns and cities."*

*"The Diocese of Worcester is full of so much that is good and holy, with plans to double the number of young disciples, to create 100 new worshipping communities, to renew churches right across the area and to underpin all this by resourcing clergy and lay leaders. And all of that building on the faithful, generous service of people in churches of every size, tradition and place from Dudley to Bredon, and from Malvern to Redditch."*

*"In a changing world, our first call is to be faithful; to be confident that God has given us everything we need to be the Church that he is calling us to be. From that foundation we're invited to be constantly curious about what is God doing, and to respond boldly, in both traditional and new ways. And it will be a key part of my role to lead us in doing all of that together here in Worcester, with the unity that Jesus prayed for."*

Bishop Hugh is married to Lizzie, who is UK Director of Search for Common Ground, an international NGO which works to transform conflicts and build peace. Hugh and Lizzie have four children in their teens and 20s. Hugh loves hanging out with his family, gardening and playing and watching football, rugby and cricket. He is delighted that he will be living opposite New Road Cricket Ground!

## Well Done, Sian!

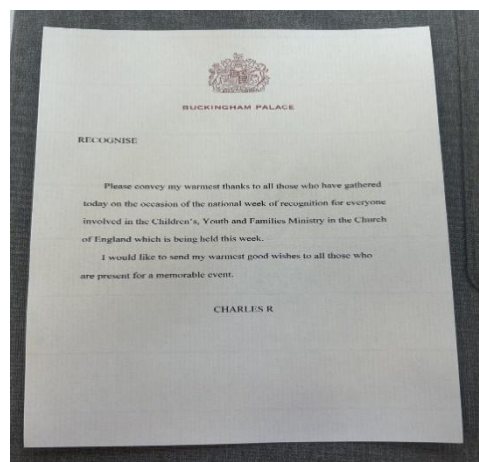
Sian Morgan, our Children, Youth and Families Minister, went to represent the Diocese at an afternoon tea at Lambeth Palace.

The afternoon tea was part of *Recognise Week*, created by the Church of England to celebrate all those involved in Children and Youth Ministry in Churches across the country.



Sian commented: "It was such a lovely experience, and I feel honoured to have been chosen to go. Entering the Great Hall at Lambeth Palace and joining others to celebrate the work of all those working with children and youth across the Church of England was a truly fabulous feeling."

Those chosen to attend even received a note of recognition from HRH King Charles III on behalf of all those working with children and young people.







## Hearts – Karen Whitehouse writes

In life, hearts represent a numerous number of interconnected concepts, primarily revolving around emotions, love, and the core of one's being. They symbolize affection, compassion, and empathy, and are often associated with romantic love. We use hearts in text messages which send affection to a friend, partner or family member. They come in all shapes and sizes and is a well-used shape in home decoration. However, hearts also represent courage, resilience, and the human spirit's capacity to overcome challenges. Furthermore, they can symbolize authenticity, sincerity, and the importance of following one's passions and values.

Then there is the human heart, one of the main organs of our body. It pumps blood throughout the body, delivering oxygen and nutrients. It is the essential organ that keeps us alive. The heart plays a very important part in our lives in which ever we look.

Over the years I have witnessed the faith of others while walking the path of my own. And yet, sometimes it is the simplest form of heart felt faith that enhances and allows our faith to be moved. While attending the ordination of Chris Smith at Worcester cathedral, an elderly lady entered the cathedral, being supported either side by two adults and walking with a stick, she slowly moved to a chair that was provided for her close to where I was sitting. As this was happening, she sang the final hymn. From the time she entered the cathedral to the last word of the hymn, she sang with the utmost faith and commitment to the Lord. The love that she had for him shone on her face and I knew her heart was strong in faith. The power of her singing moved me to tears, as she had just witnessed to me the love that our Lord had for me and for each one of us. She was quite unaware that the Lord was working through her and had made a massive impact on my life. A quote I found below states.

*The concept of "others' faith moving our hearts" suggests that the faith of others can inspire, encourage, and ultimately transform our own hearts and beliefs. This can happen through various means, such as witnessing their unwavering belief, hearing their testimonies, or experiencing their acts of faith.*



Seeing the strength and conviction in her faith was incredibly inspiring. It ignited a desire to deepen my faith further. Observing the impact of her faith in her life, her simple actions, her peace, was a powerful testament to its power. Dear all.

The faith of others can be a powerful catalyst for spiritual growth, inspiring us to live more intentionally and to deepen our relationship with God. In Romans it speaks of the mutual importance in faith. It expresses the desire for mutual strengthening through faith where in Hebrews it calls believers to think how to encourage each other towards love and faith. The stranger in the cathedral unbeknown to her had done God's work, simply, beautifully, sincerely without any pomp and circumstance and yet with the power and spirit of her Lord. It left such an impact on me that inspired me to share this experience with you. We can all witness in whatever place our Lord puts us in, in its simplest forms. Let love God with all our heart and allow Him to work through us in whatever way he chooses.

God Bless, Karen Whitehouse





## Operations Update

Proverbs 24 teaches us 'By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches'. Our house is built, our understanding of our purpose is strong, and we continue to fill it through our own knowledge, growth and devotion. In my role as Operations Manager, I aim to support the ministry team, and our church family, in continuing to fill our house and growing those which are seen as most precious – God's kingdom. I've been in the role of Operations Manager for 9 months now and can honestly say it has been truly fantastic! I have loved getting to know all of you, as well as our beautiful buildings. In 9 months, I'd say we've made some pretty big steps – our team has grown, our worshipping communities have expanded, and our buildings are evolving to accommodate this.

A key part of my role is searching for funding to support the changes that are both necessary and desirable, to ensure our buildings are suitable for the wide ranging and ever-growing use in 2025 and looking ahead to the future. We want to ensure that we future proof our churches to be efficient, accessible and welcoming, as well as working towards National Church's Net Zero goals. We have started to make a number of these changes, which have hopefully positively impacted you – and will continue to have a positive impact well into the future.

Across the Parish we have refurbished both bathrooms (COA still ongoing!), installed under pew heaters at St Mary's, had new hall windows fitted at COA, vital roof repairs have been completed at St Mary's and we have been gifted all paint for the upcoming kitchen renovation at COA. In total, funding we have applied and been successful for has totalled over £50,000. This has allowed us to complete projects we would never have been able to and are hopefully going to make a difference to how we meet, worship and use our spaces within the future.

Looking ahead I am researching funding for an update to the kitchen at St Mary's, a screen being installed in the hall at COA and further roof repairs across both churches. If you have any ideas or fundraising opportunities you think we should be doing or getting involved with, please reach out to me! I'm eager to hear from you, build my own knowledge and continue to fill our churches with God's precious and pleasant riches.

Email – [operations@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk](mailto:operations@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk)

Phone - 07562955888



## Eco Church

Eco Church is a learning community of churches of all shapes and sizes. It provides a framework to support your church and its leadership to take practical action in caring for God's earth. Through various resources including quarterly email updates, online events, prayer forums and occasional conferences it aims to support and guide all churches through the process of caring for God's creation and working towards successfully completing the online survey. There is no expectation on achieving a certain status within the award, however National Church aim to have all churches signed up to the online platform.

We are therefore thrilled to announce both of our churches have been successful in achieving their Bronze Eco Church Award! This is a huge step forward in our Parish ambitions alongside recognising the vital work we need to do to ensure God's creation continues to flourish.

As part of Eco Church's work they have created an online survey with five topics for churches to work through and evaluate existing strengths and opportunities. The five focus topics are:

- Worship & Teaching
- Community & Global Engagement
- Buildings & Energy
- Lifestyle
- Land & Nature

A lot of the work towards our bronze award we were already doing, which is a true testament to the way we worship, but also manage and care for the land and those around us. However, the work doesn't stop here! We have big ambitions for our silver award, and there is always much more we can work towards.

Some key objectives moving forward are participating in the Toilet Twinning project, continuing our work with Wall Heath in Bloom and looking at the courses we run and how these can be integrated into our Eco Church work. These are not quick wins or a tick box exercise, rather they are sustainable changes we make in both church and our personal lives. For these to come to fruition, we seek guidance from God and trust he will show us the way ahead.

As part of our work, there will be thought provoking Eco Church questions, or even handy tips and tricks routinely in the pew sheets and on our website, and we will be running small groups across both churches for people to get involved with.

A huge thank you to all those who have already worked towards this milestone and we look forward to achieving our next. We encourage you to take a look at the Eco Church website or if you are keen to get involved or have any questions on our Eco Church projects, please contact Grace, Operations Manager.

## **Tribute to Pauline**

My dad (Cyril) and I wanted to say a massive thank you for the kind donations received in memory of my late mom Pauline Heathcock. Over £1,600 was raised in total through the Just Giving page and from donations at the funeral. The Church of the Ascension was a huge part of my mom's life for many many years and was a second family to her and I know that many of the church community would have donated in her memory. We also wanted to thank you for all of your kind support over the last few months which has meant a lot during a very difficult period in our lives.



The photo was taken two years ago when my mom was serving refreshments at a 'Singing for Pleasure' event. My mom absolutely loved music and getting involved and I think this photo summarises that really well!

I also wanted to share the poem that I wrote for my mom's funeral, and I hope that it might give you a little smile



Thanks again.

Catherine Quane & Cyril Heathcock

## The Sun, the Stars and the Sea

How do I explain what you were to me  
When you were the sun, the stars and the sea.  
A lifetime of memories in our wonderful past  
50 years together but they flew so fast.  
So many trips and days by the sea  
I'd be on the wine, and you'd be sipping tea.  
I'd say, "mom I'll get tickets, will you go there?"  
Wherever it was you'd say "yes anywhere"  
And as I look back, I realise what's true.  
The place didn't matter, as I was with you.  
You worried for others more than for you.  
You put yourself at the back of the queue.  
You'd search out those who'd lost their way.  
Gave a smile or a hug to brighten their day.  
100s of letters and cards you wrote.  
In times of sadness, a plant with a note  
A trip down the Co-op could last all day.  
You'd be chatting to so many you met on the way.  
Many dogs you saved that needed a home.  
Your kindness and touch was the best they'd known.  
A real chatterbox, never stuck what to say.  
Whatever had happened you brightened my day?  
We could chat about nothing for hours on end.  
The small stuff, the big stuff like a best friend  
You'd cheer in the cold watching Park Run  
My biggest supporter and always such fun  
You were there for me when I felt low.  
My strength, my comfort you helped me grow.  
Through the light and the dark, you showed me the way.  
To focus on others, and be my best every day  
But on the 1st of March, God whispered your name.  
Pauline my child, things can't stay the same.  
God called you to his heavenly home.  
Part of me went too, you weren't alone.  
I know grief is the price I'll pay for our love.  
Time ran out mom, it was never enough.  
The wildflowers you planted have started to grow.  
Spring has sprung as nature can't know.  
That for me it's still winter, deep down in my heart.  
I can't bear to lose you mom, can't bear to part.



But I can almost hear you whisper to me.  
Catherine, you have to let go, let me be.  
So, I'll search for you amongst the trees.  
In the warm spring sun and the gentle breeze  
I'll always remember that you're here with me.  
When I gaze at the sun and the beautiful sea  
And in the sadness and darkness of the longest night  
I'll always be searching for your gentle light.  
And in the future when God calls my name  
Look out for me mom and I'll do the same.  
I'll have the wine, and you can sip tea.  
And we can chat about the sun, the stars and the sea.

## Confirmation 11 May

Our dear friends Barbara Brooks and Sonia Bell were confirmed on Sunday 11 May at St Michael's, Brierley Hill, By Bishop Martin. Friends and supporters were there for a lovely service. Bishop Martin summarised his sermon: "God is real; God loves you; God needs you!"



## Off to the Races!

On Saturday 7 June, St Mary's held its first social event of 2025, hosting our second Race Night. We had the added bonus this year of being able to use our new big screen to show the races, which added to the excitement. We all enjoyed a fish and chip supper whilst having fun choosing which horse we thought would win the races. No money betting took place, but we kept a tally of who had chosen the top 3 horses for each race, scoring 3 points for the winner, 2 points for 2nd and 1 point for 3rd. At the end of the evening, we added up everyone's scores to work out our winner for the evening. This year's winner was Maureen Oliver. Well done, Maureen!

Here is Jill, carefully placing her bet!



But Liz is worried about her choice!



Meanwhile, the rest just tuck in to supper!

Our next social evening will be the Harvest Supper on Saturday 4th October 2025  
See you there?





## What a Day!! The Ordination of Fr Chris as a Priest



Our parish turned up in force to celebrate Fr Chris's ordination as priest at Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 28 June. Travelling by coach, car and train, about 70 of us enjoyed a beautiful service led by Bishop Martin, and some quality time together in the sunshine.







## Fr Chris writes

What a truly wonderful occasion it was! A full coach of support from our Parish — the largest contingent from any church in the Diocese — travelled to Worcester Cathedral to witness and celebrate my ordination to the priesthood. I'm so deeply grateful to everyone who came, and to all who held me in prayer even if they couldn't be there in person.

The most moving moment of the service was when the Bishop laid hands on me, joined by dozens of clergy gathered around. It was a powerful symbol of the Church, across generations, laying hands in turn to affirm each new priest's calling. It wasn't just a moment of clerical affirmation — it felt like the whole Church, past and present, was surrounding me in encouragement and prayer. In that moment, I felt profoundly connected to the heroes of our faith who have gone before us, and equally affirmed that God has called me to be one of the next links in that long, unbroken chain. Alongside the joy came a deep sense of responsibility — a reminder of how vital it is to be guided and sustained by the Holy Spirit in all that lies ahead.

The celebration continued the following day, when I presided at my first Eucharist at St Mary's Church. Once again, the whole Parish came together, joined by family and friends who had travelled to be with us. For those who couldn't attend in person, your prayers were very much felt and appreciated.

The service itself, blending traditional elements with more contemporary touches, seemed to resonate with many. That combination reflects the vision I have for my ministry: holding fast to the treasures of our heritage while seeking fresh, meaningful ways to share them with each new generation.

I was especially moved by the generous ordination gift from the Parish — a beautiful home communion set. It has already been put to use, and I know it will be an invaluable part of my ministry in homes and hospitals for years to come. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, to everyone who contributed.



## Stay Connected with Our Children & Youth Ministry!

Looking for ways to stay updated on what God is doing in the lives of our children and youth? Would you like to hear more regularly about what's happening in our Parish? ☀️

Sign up for our **Children & Youth Ministry Newsletter** and never miss an event, resource, or opportunity to get involved.

- ✓ Upcoming events and activities
- ✓ Faith resources for equipping faith at home.
- ✓ Volunteer opportunities and prayer requests

Whether you're a parent, volunteer, or simply passionate about the next generation, this is the best way to stay informed.



## Hymns and Pimms!

Almost 50 people raised the hall rafters with our favourite hymns as the weather was too uncertain for the church garden!

Well done to Jean for her excellent 'Pimms' provision, and to Debbie for playing "on demand".





## Young People achieve Archbishop's Young Leaders Award

10 children from the Church of the Ascension CE Primary School in Wall Heath have achieved the Archbishops' Young Leaders Award. The children were presented with their certificates by Bishop Martin at a special collective worship in school.

The Archbishop's Young Leaders Award exists to see a generation of young people empowered to transform society. The award uses partnerships between schools, churches and the local community to offer opportunities for young people to grow in leadership, faith and character.



The children receiving the award are all part of the school's Worship Leaders' group. They completed different team building and volunteering challenges and spent time thinking about leaders and the qualities they possess, particularly looking at Jesus. The worship leaders also led reception children in an Easter experience event, planning and delivering the activities, sharing their knowledge and demonstrating leadership qualities.

On giving out the awards, Bishop Martin said: “These are the first Archbishop Young Leaders Awards presented in the Diocese and it is very exciting that I am able to award them in one of our Dudley schools.”

Charlotte in year 6 said: “I particularly enjoyed the teamwork activities which we could only complete by working together and not leaving everyone out. Doing the award has really rounded off my experience as a worship leader, which I’ve been doing since year 4.”

Liv, also in year 6 said: “Going over to the church to run activities for the reception children really gave us the chance to be leaders. It was also great to work with Sian and Mrs Moore who were supportive but also gave us the chance to work independently.”

Caiden in year 5 said: “I also enjoyed working with the reception classes and running activities for them. We had a lot of fun, and it developed our leadership skills.”



The Worship Leaders’ group is supported by Sian Morgan, Children and Families’ Minister in Kingswinford and Wall Heath and Helen Moore, a teacher at the school. The group meets at least weekly with children choosing to come along. Some of the group then decided they’d like to take up the Award and parents gave permission for them to be involved.

Sian said: “We came across the award when we were looking for something more to do with the Worship Leaders’ group and have worked on it since January. The resources are great and there is lots of support. The delivery has also been a joy – the children have grown in confidence. It’s given them a chance to go out and make a difference rather than waiting until they are adults.”

As part of the award the children noticed the Wall Heath in Bloom group who care for the plants in their community and decided to make cards and thank you gifts for them. "We had lovely feedback about how appreciated people felt," said Sian.

Year 5/6 teacher, Helen said: "The award has provided the children with a sense of purpose. They have enjoyed the different tasks and developed their independence. It's also given them a much better understanding of community."

Headteacher, Lindsay Mason said: "Doing the award has been absolutely fabulous for the children involved. They have led lots of takeover assemblies and acts of worship which have been very creative and often are the rest of the school's favourite assemblies! It's been an excellent way to exhibit their own faith and has given them a strong foundation to develop their leadership skills".

There is a close relationship between the school and the church with the church community regularly visiting the school and the children going into church for different things.

Lindsay continued: "The school and the church are part of the same community; there are no boundaries between us. The relationship provides valuable connections and sense of belonging."

Sian said: "It means everything to the church to have such a close relationship with the school. The children are comfortable in both places and are used to seeing school staff in church and church staff in school. Working together with the head has means we've been able to do so much more with the children."



## Thank You!

We invited Wall Heath in Bloom, and Simon and Sarah Daniels to a summer lunch on the lawn to thank them for making our garden and village so beautiful, for faithfully mowing the lawn and playing the organ. A great time was had by all! Thanks to all the team who helped.





TO: [God.Com](http://God.Com)

Dear Lord,  
Every single evening  
As I'm lying here in bed,  
This tiny little Prayer  
Keeps running through my head:

God bless all my family  
Wherever they may be,  
Keep them warm  
And safe from harm  
For they're so close to me.

And God, there is one more thing  
I wish that you could do;  
Hope you don't mind me asking,  
Please bless my computer too.

Now I know that it's unusual  
To Bless a motherboard,  
But listen just a second  
While I explain it to you, Lord.

You see that little metal box  
Holds more than odds and ends;  
Inside those small compartments  
Rest so many of my friends.

I know so much about them  
By the kindness that they give,  
And this little scrap of metal  
Takes me in to where they live.

By faith is how I know them  
Much the same as you.  
We share in what life brings us  
And from that our friendships grew.



Please take an extra minute  
From your duties up above,  
To bless those in my address book  
That's filled with so much love.

Wherever else this prayer may reach  
To each and every friend,  
Bless each e-mail inbox  
And each person who hits 'send'.

When you update your Heavenly list  
On your own Great CD-ROM,  
Bless everyone who says this prayer  
Sent up to [GOD.Com](http://GOD.Com)  
Amen

Thank you Mary Green for this poem.



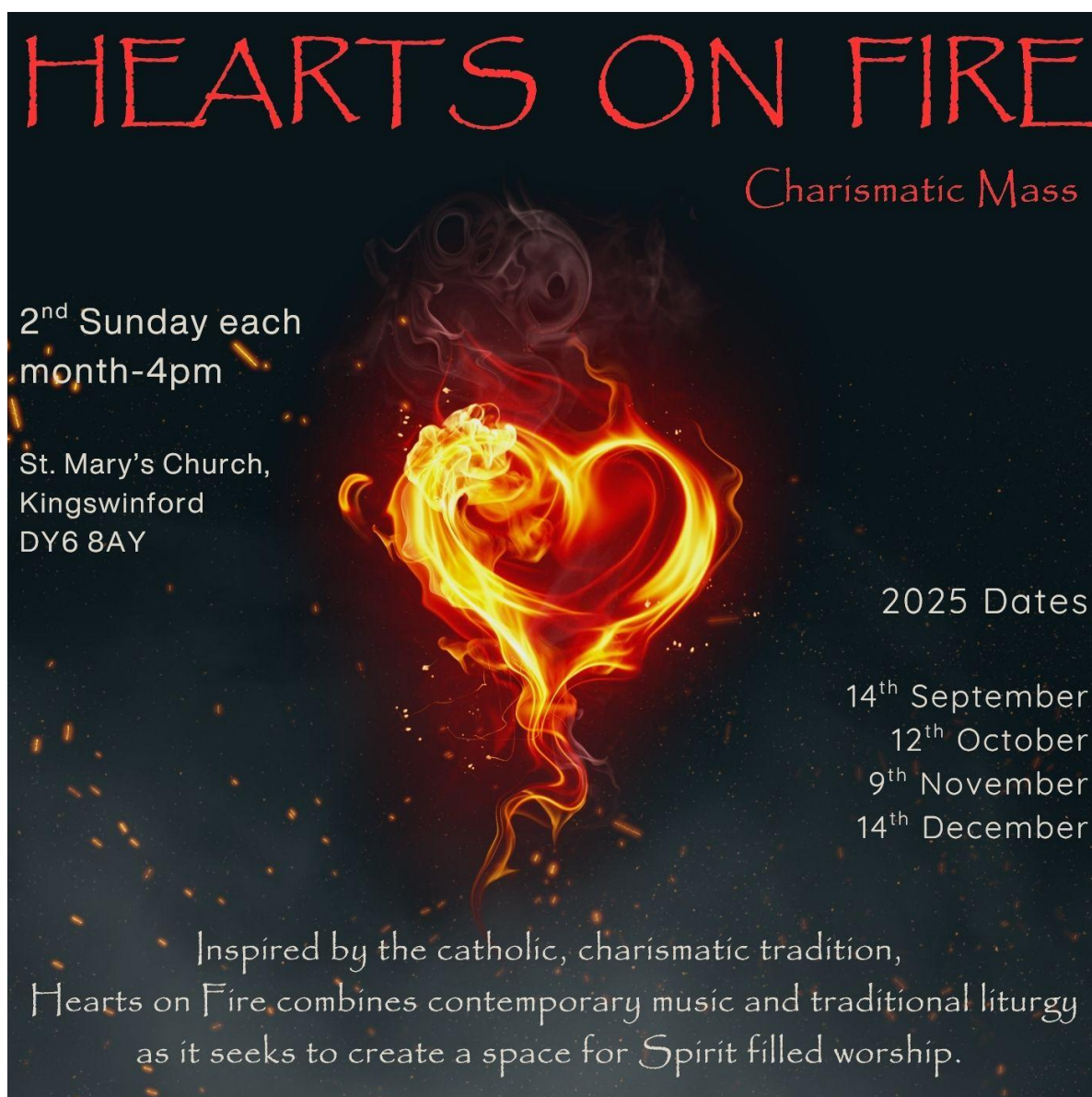
I would like to give a very big thank you to you all. You made Brian Genner so welcome and feel so much part of the church family when he worshipped with us during the final years of his life. He so enjoyed attending the services and helping where he could. Chatting over refreshments after the services were real highlights in his week.

When he could no longer drive the fact that you rallied round and drew up a rota so that he could still attend Sunday worship really touched him and made him feel valued.

I personally want to thank those of the parish who attended his funeral on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July I know how moved he would have been to see so many there to say a final goodbye.

I must give a special thank you to Father Adam who led the service brilliantly and gave an address that summoned Brian up so well. Brian was a very good friend and support to me during the nine years I had to be my Mother's carer. He helped in so many ways to make a very difficult and at times bewildering situation easier to cope with. I am thankful that I was able to say a final goodbye to him on the night proceeding his death and although his passing so soon after Mother has been a bitter pill to swallow, I am also so happy for him that he is reunited once more with June his beloved wife, whose presence he both missed and mourned each day that has passed, since her death in 2016. Thank you all again for the many kindnesses you showed to Brian and God bless you all.

Much love Chris Knight

The poster features a dark, starry background with a central, vibrant heart shape formed by flames and smoke. The heart is bright orange and yellow, with wisps of grey smoke rising from it. The overall theme is spiritual and fiery.

# HEARTS ON FIRE

Charismatic Mass

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month-4pm

St. Mary's Church,  
Kingswinford  
DY6 8AY

2025 Dates

14<sup>th</sup> September  
12<sup>th</sup> October  
9<sup>th</sup> November  
14<sup>th</sup> December

Inspired by the catholic, charismatic tradition,  
Hearts on Fire combines contemporary music and traditional liturgy  
as it seeks to create a space for Spirit filled worship.

## From the Registers of St Mary's



### Baptisms

11 May	Arthur Robert Jones	Son of Luke and Anna
25 May	Ava Grace Thomas	Daughter of Michael and Donna
	Grace Anna Mills	Daughter of Joseph and Anna
1 June	James David Priestly	
	Munachi Kenzai Lee Bascombe	Son of Kenisha
8 June	Oliver David John Tonks	Son of David and Aimee
15 June	Margot Elizabeth Vivash	Daughter of Christian and Emily
13 July	Charlie Matthew Taylor Bellerson	Son of Matthew and Megan
	Arnie Alloway-Klein	Son of Artus and Faye
	Vinnie Alloway-Klein	Son of Artus and Faye
	Christopher Matthew John Motteram	

### Marriages

12 July	Emma Louise George and Connor Ferguson
19 July	Tami Leigh Ann Morgan and Jack Kieran Stokes

### Funerals

11 April	Jill Centilass
7 May	John Thompson
13 May	Jean Bengree
17 June	Margaret O'Sullivan

## From the Registers of Church of the Ascension

### Baptisms

18 May	Loxley George Adams	Son of Samantha and Mascall
6 July	Scarlett Thea Rose Mann	Daughter of Rachel and Thomas

### Memorial service

2 January	Joyce Withers
-----------	---------------

### Funerals

28 January	Margaret Collins
27 March	Eileen Knight
1 April	Pauline Heathcock
28 April	Roger Bakewell
5 June	Edgar Green



# SOUL FOOD

**Breakfast / T-Time**

Eating food,  
making friends,  
exploring the bible,  
and worshipping  
—all ages, all together

**TUESDAYS**

5:00pm @Church of the Ascension

SEPT 2nd, 16th, 30th  
OCT 14th, 28th  
NOV 11th, 25th

**SUNDAYS**

8:45am @St Mary's Church

SEPT 7th, 21st  
OCT 5th, 19th  
NOV 2nd, 16th



For more information contact:  
Fr. Chris Smith 07562 949395  
Fr.chris@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

Sian Morgan 07729 092972  
Sian@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk





# Blessing of School Bags.

Come and have your school bag blessed,  
ready for the new school year.  
All bags welcome, adults, children, old and new.

**St Marys Church**  
**Kingswinford**  
**31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**  
**2pm**  
Please contact Sian  
07729092972



**BACK TO SCHOOL**



**Bring your school bag.**



# Blessing of School Bags.

Come and have your school bag blessed,  
ready for the new school year.  
All bags welcome, adults, children, old and new.

**Church of the Ascension**  
**31<sup>st</sup> August 2025**  
**4pm**  
Please contact Sian  
07729092972



**BACK TO SCHOOL**



**Bring your school bag.**

Try your best to attend one of the services to give thanks to God for the long summer holiday and ask for His help and guidance for the school year to come with all the challenges and blessings it will bring. The new things you will learn, the new experiences you will encounter and the fun you will have with friends old and new.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

# HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 4TH  
OCTOBER 2025  
7PM

**Tickets: £10**

Includes a Ploughman's, Apple Pie and a glass of wine/juice.

All are welcome to come along to our harvest supper. An evening of fellowship and friendship.

**Harvest Festival**

**10am**

**Sunday 5th October**

If you are able, please bring a small donation of food. All donations will be sent to the local Foodbank.







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

<https://www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchkingswinford>

**For Baptisms, Weddings and General Enquiries:**

Please contact the Parish Office

Every Saturday 10am-11am (in the church centre next to church) or

[admin@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk)

**For end of life ministry or pastoral care please contact one of the clergy  
in the first instance**

*Children are fully welcomed at all our services.*

**SUNDAY 10am WORSHIP**

10am                      Every first, third and fourth Sunday of the month - Sung Eucharist  
Every second Sunday of the month - Morning Prayer

**SUNDAY 6.30PM WORSHIP**

6.30pm                      Every second Sunday of the month – Evensong  
Every fourth Sunday of the month – Either Benediction with  
Taizé music or a Memorial Service for those who have died  
(to find out which, see our website)

**MAINLY MUSIC**

10am                      Every Monday during term time.  
Pre school worship with music, dancing, bubbles, play time and cake!  
Contact Sian Morgan for more information.

**SOUL FOOD**

8.45am                      Eat food, make friends, explore the Bible and worship.  
All ages, all together.  
7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> September  
5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> October  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 16 November  
Contact Fr Chris or Sian Morgan for further information.



- HEARTS ON FIRE**  
4pm  
Every second Sunday of the month.  
A Charismatic Mass with modern worship songs, healing ministry and traditional liturgy. Incense is used at this service.
- COFFEE MORNING**  
Every second and fourth Thursday of the month between 10am and 12noon. Everyone is welcome to drop in for a cuppa.
- BELL RINGERS**  
Our bells date from 1687 and are rung for Sunday Services and on Tuesday evenings for practice.  
Anyone can learn – no special skills or strength needed!  
For information, email our Tower Captain Daniel Clewes [danielclewes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:danielclewes@yahoo.co.uk)  
Ringing takes place on Tuesdays 7.15pm-8.45pm and Sundays 9.30am – 10am.
- SERVERS**  
The team of Servers play a key roll in the smooth running of most services at St Mary's. For more details contact Fr Adam.
- MOTHERS' UNION**  
Afternoon group meets on 1st Wednesday of the month in the Church Centre at 2.00pm.  
For more details contact Mary Thompson, Liz Green or Eve Hamblett.  
Evening Group for the working women or those unable to get to daytime meetings, contact Helen Moren or Adele Hurst.
- CHOIR**  
The choir is a vital aid to the worship of our church.  
If you are interested in church music, you will enjoy all the choir has to offer.  
For more information ring Emily Vivash on 07814 284725.
- CHURCH CENTRE**  
To hire the Church Centre please contact Lindsey Poulding on 07729 092973 who will provide you with all the details.
- CHURCHYARD TEAM**  
We have a dedicated, friendly group of volunteers who meet each Monday between 9am and 12.30pm to maintain our beautiful churchyard. We are always after new people to come and join in with this important work.  
For more information contact Bob Green on 01384 270228.

**WHO'S WHO  
ST MARY'S KINGSWINFORD  
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION WALL HEATH**

**PRIEST IN CHARGE**

Fr Adam Hadley      [fr.adam@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk](mailto:fr.adam@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk) 07759 900947

**MISSION PRIEST**

Mthr Sarah Roberts-Malpass

[mthr.sarah@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk](mailto:mthr.sarah@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk)

07976 965275

**CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTER**

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

Sian Morgan      [sian@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk](mailto:sian@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk)      07729 092972

**CURATE**

Fr Chris Smith      [fr.chris@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk](mailto:fr.chris@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk) 07562 949395

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS**

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Debbie Filgate      01384 287711

Chris Knight      07546 159813

Jill Nicholls      01384 273814

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Bill Hazelton      Worship Leader      01384 250366

Helen Moren      Worship Leader      01384 270757

Neil Oliver      Worship Leader      07720 783330

Jenny Stewart      Pastoral      07723 535740

Karen Whitehouse      Worship Leader      01384 864709

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Neil Oliver	St Mary's Church	07720 783330
Jean Blakemore	Church of the Ascension	01384 270828
Jenny Stewart	Church of the Ascension	07723 535740

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Emily Vivash	St Mary's	07814 284725



[www.churchoftheascensionwallheath.org.uk/](http://www.churchoftheascensionwallheath.org.uk/)  
<https://www.facebook.com/CofAWallHeath>

**For end of life ministry or pastoral care please contact one of the clergy  
in the first instance**

**SUNDAY 10am WORSHIP** 10am each Sunday. The first Sunday is Morning Prayer and the second, third and fourth Sundays are Eucharist services. Children are fully welcomed at all our services.

**MAINLY MUSIC** 10am-11.30am each Thursday. Pre school worship with music, dancing, bubbles, play time and cake! Please contact Sian Morgan for more information.

**SOUL FOOD** Eat food, make friends, explore the Bible and worship. All ages, all together. Meets at 5pm on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> November. Contact Fr Chris or Sian Morgan for further information.

**CHURCH CLUB** Primary age children's worship with craft/games/Bible stories alternate Tuesdays after school, in term-time, contact Sheila Freeman on 01384 357921. Permission slips in the school office.

**MOTHERS' UNION** First Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm in the Church Hall. Any changes will be announced on the news sheet. Contact Jane Lamb on 01384 274604

**WORSHIP BAND** Contact Debbie Filgate on 01384 287711

**HALL BOOKING** Available for private parties or regular bookings contact Lindsey Poulding on [office@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk) 07729 092973

**FLOWER ARRANGING** For festivals and special events. If you would like to join the team contact Jane Lamb on 01384 274604.

**SOCIAL EVENTS** We aim to offer social events throughout the year. Contact Becky Jones on 07521 739404 for forthcoming events.

**Church of the Ascension is a member of the Inclusive Church Network**  
<https://www.inclusive-church.org/>



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