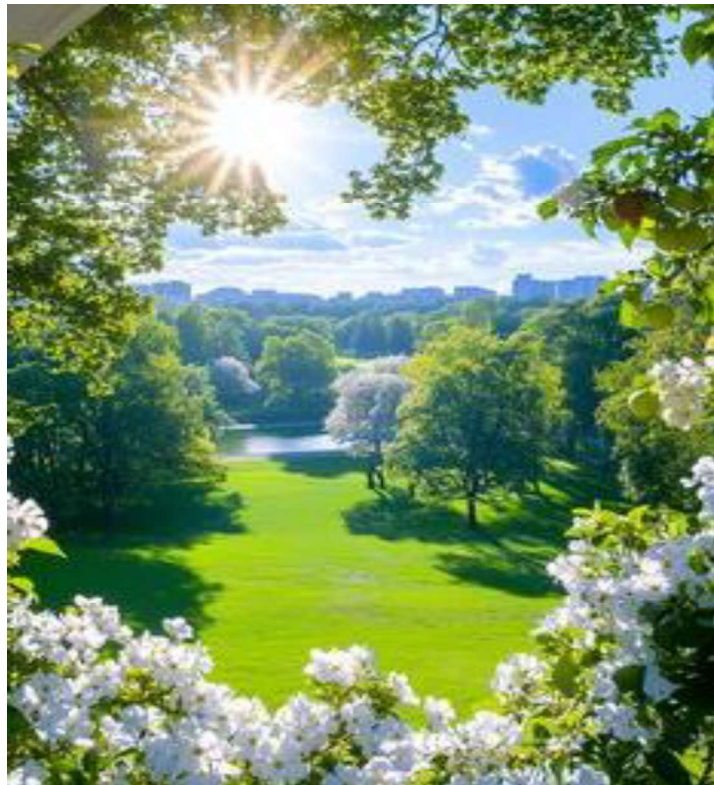




CONTACT MAGAZINE



August -October 2026

**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 greatly 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 to October edition of
CONTACT

I hope you enjoy reading the articles.

If there is anything you would like to see in the next edition or any comments you would like to make about this edition, just drop me an email or speak to me when you see me.

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 2026

Please send your articles to Chris Knight
knightchristine2059@gmail.com





Fr Adam writes....

Dear friends

This edition of the magazine gives a flavour of how much is going on across our parish and this is testament to the hard work of so many people without whom the work of the Kingdom in this part of God's vineyard would not be as robust as it is now. So thank you for all that you give but over the summer do make time for sabbath and make sure you rest well.

I've now been with you all for five years. I can't believe where the time has gone and we've seen changes over these five years. At my licensing service last week I reflected on how our two churches work much more strongly together than before and I'm very pleased about this. Pleased because Christians are called to work together and not apart but because in a broken and divided world, we are going to need each other and so I encourage us all to continue building good and healthy relationships with one another and to be a people who strive for holiness in a world which all too often strives for division, anger and hatred. Be holy as our God is holy.

Having mentioned my licensing service as Rector I want to thank each and every one of you for walking alongside me over the last five years and daring to dream dreams, try things out and take some risks. The service itself was amazing and thank you to all those who made it happen. I was especially moved by Archdeacon Nikki's sermon including the following:

"Today is a wonderful celebration of singing and the Catholic tradition within the Church of England. Adam is moving from Priest-in-Charge to be Rector of the same benefice, which has seen growth in both numbers and spiritual depth of discipleship during his pioneering leadership. It is wonderful to see these two churches doing Kingdom work and fulfilling their great commission to be witnesses in their area and wider. I rejoice that we can celebrate Adam's calling in this place where he is loved for who he is, and I want to encourage his congregations to continue to cherish him as Rector, praying for him as well as the community you seek to bless."

One final thank you is for the gifts. It was kind of you to do this I shall cherish the white stole throughout my ministry.

May God bless you all. With love and prayers.

Fr Adam

Fr Jonathan writes ‘Coming Up for Air...’

Hello! My name is Jonathan, the new Curate at St Mary’s, Kingswinford and Church of the Ascension, Wall Heath. My family and I have finally moved into the parish curate house, and as the boxes of books slowly find their way onto shelves (and my memory remembers where the knives and forks live), I feel as though I’m just coming up for air. What a few weeks it has been. Alongside the epic task of moving a mile and a half down the road, and eating cake every day of my first week, I’ve also been ordained a deacon in God’s Church. (I’m still deciding which was the greater challenge).

Jokes aside, I’ve been completely blown away by the support and friendship already shown by so many in this parish. Some of you may remember me from my summer placement last year, and it has been a joy to see familiar faces again. If we haven’t caught up yet, please do come and say hello as I make my way round all the parish activities and services this summer. I’ve also been given two beautiful gifts for ministry by the parish, a baptismal shell and an oil container, which I shall treasure. Thank you.

After the slightly daunting four-day silent retreat with the Bishop, and an ordination service that feels a little like getting married to the Church, I’ve felt as if I’ve come home. Yes, part of that is returning to a familiar physical place, but it’s also about being at home in God. I’m passionate about the idea that when we find ourselves in the place God is calling us to be, it feels like home. In Scripture, “place” and “home” mean far more than geography, and Paul often uses physical images to express profound spiritual truths- especially when speaking of our life in God.

For the last eight years, before coming here, I was part of the lay ministry at Top Church, Dudley. That was naturally home for that season. So, you might imagine that stepping into new buildings, new music, new traditions (and more cake) would leave me feeling far from home. But I’ve been reminded again and again that in relationship with Jesus, the physical changes around us don’t change who he is. It reminded me of a worship song from the 90s with the line “make your home in me,” spoken from the worshipper to Jesus. While that’s solid theology, I also hear Jesus saying it back: not “make your home in Dudley” or “make your home in Kingswinford,” nor in familiar traditions or music, but “make your home in me.” And to push this reflection further: that I should make my home where Jesus is, that is out in

our communities, among those people on the margins, those who are sick or struggling. As a deacon, Jesus is beckoning me to join in with his work there.

So, as I come up for air after the celebrations, the house move, and the cake, I'm holding onto that phrase in this first year of curacy. When I'm figuring out which key opens which door or learning a service shape, I'm not used to... Jesus is familiar. Please do pray for me and my family as we trust in that familiarity and make this new beginning here in the parish. And I'll be praying for you, and for our time together in the years ahead. I look forward to meeting you and ministering alongside you.

Blessings, Father Jonathan

(P.S. In the photo, I'm the one without the pointy hat)



Notes from the Vicarage Garden, July 2026

The Parable of the Weeds

One August, a few years ago, I was cutting back some Lady's Mantle (*Alchemilla Mollis*) for one of my clients, when their Estonian cleaner came out, saw what I was doing, and said, "That plant grows wild in Estonia. I don't understand why the English like it so much!" I replied that perhaps we can be guilty of taking familiar things for granted and that we don't always appreciate the beauty of everyday things. The conversation brought to mind what Jesus says to his disciples in Matthew 13:57:

"A prophet is not without honour except in his own town and in his own home."

And there is a link, too, with the parable of the weeds, which is found earlier in the same chapter of Matthew's Gospel, and about which Mother Sarah recently preached in church. Jesus explains that if there are weeds in a field of wheat, it is better to remove them when the wheat is harvested rather than to pull them up earlier and risk uprooting the wheat as well. It is also true that it can be hard to identify weeds when they are small, and I think that one of the lessons the parable teaches us is the importance of patience and of not jumping to conclusions. Sometimes what we think is a weed turns out to be a very desirable plant. And sometimes we can look at a so-called weed with fresh eyes and see its beauty for the first time. After all, one definition of a weed is a plant in the wrong place. There are some garden plants I don't grow, either because I don't like them (*Photinia* or *Astilbe* for example), or they don't like our soil (*Himalayan poppies*, *Filipendula*, *candelabra primulas*) or because they are too invasive (*Hypericum calycinum*, *Alstroemeria*, *lily-of-the-valley*, *golden rod*, *soapwort*). But equally, there are plants generally despised as weeds that I allow into the borders: *cat's ear*, a taller, more elegant and longer-flowering relative of the dandelion; *red campion*; *wild carrot*, one of my favourite wildflowers, which can grow tall and statuesque, with large umbels of white flowers, often with a tiny purple flower in the centre; and another umbellifer, or member of the carrot family, *fool's parsley*, which is an annual and looks like a more delicate version of *cow parsley*. All of these seed themselves freely, so dead head them when they have finished flowering, just leaving a few seed heads for next year and remove those seedlings you don't want in the winter, when they are small, otherwise they will tend to take over. But they all share the virtues of flowering for a long

time, attracting pollinating insects and tolerating the hot, dry conditions which are becoming increasingly prevalent in summer. In my opinion, they are definitely worthy of a place in the border.

So, I urge you to look with fresh eyes at the familiar plants which are often dismissed as weeds, and this ties in with what I think is part of Jesus's message in the parable: that we shouldn't rush to judgement of other people, or condemn them because of their reputation, which may or may not be deserved, but give them the benefit of the doubt and form our own opinion based on how they behave towards us.

Simon Daniel, July 2026



Wild Carrot

Red Campion in the border



Bob's Boys

Well, what can we say about the weather? Hot, I think, is an understatement. The team have still gathered on a Monday morning but have had to stop mowing the grass as it has the appearance of straw. The only area we have strimmed and mowed recently is the area at the bottom of the churchyard and to the right which contains three war graves. This is the only area where the grass is growing. The strimming and mowing here has covered two thirds of this area with us leaving the rest as part of the eco garden. The remaining foliage and grass in this area has grown to between 6 and 8 feet where wildlife can roam freely. We have accumulated a large amount of green rubbish which we cannot burn in dry conditions, so our green bins are getting filled.

Some visitors to our churchyard are ignoring our notices which asks them to take their grave rubbish home to dispose of and they leave sacks full of rubbish under our notices. The worst rubbish left is mother and father tributes mounted on heavy plastic frames, and some are thrown on our green waste piles but these cannot be burnt. The wood chippings from tree pruning have been laid as pathways over muddy areas 'when it rains' which we wish for to help our grass to grow again.

Bob Green



Ice cream

Why do so many of us love it? Have you ever thought about this question? Is it because it makes us feel like children again when we are eating them? They can remind us of many wonderful memories when we were young. Is it because there is such a variety of flavours? With the nation currently experiencing a heatwave, there's no better time to grab scoop or two to cool us down, or are you an ice lolly sort of person?



Ice cream, what a subject, so let us pause, what has that got to do with humans except for us eating it of course. Did you know that humans and ice cream share similarities, both are complex, multi layered creations that can melt when under pressure, whose cores are sensitive but thrive when well-balanced. Both come in an endless variety of flavours, colours, and textures, like ice cream, there are no two people the same, all individual with different personalities. This just how God intended us to be, individual and unique, not that he would know much about ice cream, but he does know a bit or two about us. In today's world we can often be influenced to become part of the crowd, become one flavour, follow the flock and be pressured to go with the trends. Our uniqueness can quite often be squashed or downtrodden if we don't keep up. Just imagine if we put different flavours of ice cream in one dish and allowed them to melt, they would lose their uniqueness. But God did not make us to be the same, he made us to be ourselves, to be enough as we are. Being unique in God's eyes means you are a deliberate, one-of-a-kind masterpiece. The Bible tells us that 'every individual is fearfully and wonderfully made, possessing an original design, distinct personality, and a specific purpose woven together before birth.'

Realizing your God given identity means that God knows you intimately. Instead of us continually comparing ourselves to others, we can embrace our individual temperament, talents, and even our quirks. Seeing ourselves through God's eyes frees us from the pressures of conforming to what the world wants us to become. Let us continually focus on God and be happy to be who we are, particularly as many young people move on and begin a new chapter in their lives. Let us hope that, like ice cream they stay true to their uniqueness, allowing themselves to grow by being themselves, making their own choices, rather than what the world wants them to be or do.

God Bless, Karen Whitehouse (Ice cream time, yum!!)

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. **Psalm 139 13-14***

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10:***



Bishop's Certificate

It was about a year ago that a flyer was handed out one Sunday morning advertising the Bishop's Certificate course that was starting in September 2025. The timing was right for me and so I decided to complete the application form. And so it was that, over the past year I have been part of a group, together with Lance, who have been attending Christ Church, Quarry Bank, each week. Our course was led by Rev David Hoskin and Rev Val Houghton. From St Mary's, Carol has also studied the course but has attended the one run at the Community Link in Cradley Heath High Street. The course lasts for 30 sessions and covers the Old and New Testaments, Christian faith and discipleship today. The aims are to deepen faith, understanding of the Bible and discipleship. A course handbook is provided, and this sets out all you need for each of the weekly sessions including a short passage to read in preparation for the next session. There are plenty of opportunities not only to study the Bible but to discuss its relevance to us today. No prior knowledge or qualifications are needed to join the course, just enthusiasm and a willingness to commit to going along each week. Be prepared to grow in confidence as well as knowledge of our faith!

It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow Christians and share with one another. It is not an academic course as such. You are supported all the way it. An enjoyable, thoughtful experience. As part of the course, you are encouraged to complete a project of your choice. This could be a piece of writing or a creative object. For example, some in my group chose to create paintings (including one that lit up when motion was detected in front of it), embroidery, carry out research, write their own Psalm and even their own short service which was shared at the end of the course. One of our sessions was spent on a visit to Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham. It was fascinating to learn about the Jewish faith, and we were made to feel very welcome there.

The course will run again later this year and if this is something that you are interested in and you want to learn more about the Bishop's Certificate, please speak to Lance, Carol or myself. Alternatively, further information can be found on Worcester Diocese's website (www.cofe-worcester.org.uk). Who knows where it might lead you?

Jane Price and Lance Wiseman



The Bishop's Certificate group at Christ Church, Quarry Bank

Carol Cowdell's Reflections on Bishop's Certificate

I am improving my knowledge of the Christian faith more than I ever knew I could. I am enjoying the learning with a group of people who were initially strangers but are now friends.

I did not attend church for a long time but now I am so happy in my faith and church. I have learnt so much already by doing this course and I am thinking about taking a more active part in church life by maybe becoming a server. I am so glad that I decided to do the Bishop's course and the other courses I am doing alongside, one of which is Faith Foundations.

The Bishop's Certificate will be starting again in our deanery later in the year. Please speak to Fr Adam, Mthr Sarah or Fr Jonathan if you want to take part in it.

BLESSING YOUR SCHOOL OR WORK BAG

**COME AND HAVE YOUR SCHOOL OR WORK BAG
BLESSED READY FOR THE NEW TERM**

**WHETHER YOU'RE A CHILD OR AN ADULT
BRING YOUR BAGS ALONG,
TO THIS SPECIAL SERVICE**

**ST MARY'S CHURCH
KINGSWINFORD
SUNDAY 30 AUGUST @ 2PM**



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**WHETHER YOU'RE A CHILD OR AN ADULT
BRING YOUR BAGS ALONG,
TO THIS SPECIAL SERVICE**

**CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
WALL HEATH
SUNDAY 30 AUGUST @ 4PM**



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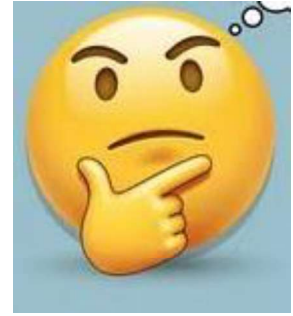
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KINGSWINFORD**

**MONDAY 10TH AUGUST
10AM-3PM**

**A FREE DAY OF CRAFT, SONGS, STORIES
AND FUN FOR 4-11 YEAR OLDS
CONTACT MTHR SARAH FOR MORE DETAILS
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Mthr.sarah@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

**There are 30 books of the Bible hidden in the following passage.
Can you find them?**



This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his John-boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.

Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the books are not necessarily capitalised.

Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in these paragraphs.

During a recent fundraising event, which features this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi-Lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, the Chronicle, surveyed over 50 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view, hidden from sight."

Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books Timothy and Samuel appear without their numbers.

Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mass exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in these paragraphs waiting to be found.

(Answers in the next edition of the magazine -good hunting!)

P.S. There is a small prize for the first person from each church who gives me the right answers...! Chris K.)

Answers to The Drinks in the Bible Quiz

1. Gen 14v18- Wine
2. Gen 40 v11 – Juice from pressed grapes
3. Num28 v7 – A strong drink or fermented drink
4. 2 Sam 23 v15-17 – Water from the Well of Bethlehem
5. Ruth 2 v14 – Sour wine, vinegar, wine vinegar
6. 1 Sam 1 v 12-15 -Wine or strong drink
7. Prov 23 v 31-32- Wine or fermented drink
8. Song of Solomon 4 v 11 -Milk
9. John 19 v29- Sour wine, vinegar, wine vinegar
10. Rev 14 v 10- The wine of God's wrath

Church of the Ascension Patronal Festival

On Thursday 14 May, the Church of the Ascension were pleased to welcome Canon David Hoskin to lead and preach at their Patronal Service. David had been Priest in Charge at the church before moving to Christ Church Quarry Bank.

The church members enjoyed catching up with David and his family while sharing memories of his time with them. After the service there were refreshments in the Church Hall during which the members presented David with a special cake. David will be retiring from full time ministry in September to enjoy time with his wife and family. May God bless the next phase in his life.



Farewell to Father Chris

We bid a fond farewell to Father Chris on 14 June after two years as curate in our parish, presenting him with the promise of a stole, some whisky and some cash. He is moving on to be curate- then Priest-in-Charge of St Mark's, Pensnett. We look forward to hearing about his mission there.



Cowboy Hats and Fancy Boots!

Our Country Night in June was a rip-roaring success! 40+ people of all ages enjoyed a session of lime dancing, led by Tracy, in our school hall: thanks to Lindsay the head for opening and closing for us.

Sara won the splendid raffle hamper, Carol the best-dressed adult, and Felicity the best -dressed child, and everyone had such fun! Thanks to Tim and Lily for the wonderful decorations too.

The last two social events have raised a total of £ 888.50!



Sustainability Evening June 2026

After sharing a meal of vegan chilli, 24 people from the parish watched “The People’s Emergency Briefing”, a film in which 8 experts in weather, climate, health, national security, tipping points, food security, energy and economics presented their thoughts on where we are and what is needed to keep our earth sustainable and comfortable. We shared reactions and suggested actions for ourselves and the church over delicious vegan cake, and Sarah and Adam prayed with us. Thanks to Grace for organising!



Jonathan is made a Deacon at Worcester

On Sunday 28th June 20 members of the parish travelled to Worcester Cathedral to celebrate the ordination of our new curate, Jonathan Pincher as deacon, what a glorious day!



Thank you to Wall Heath in Bloom!

We enjoyed lunch with the Wall Heath in Bloom team in July as thanks for their wonderful efforts in our grounds and in the village. As always, the congregation supplied a great spread, and the team worked hard to set up outside, thanks to all!



Jonathan's first social event
at Church of the Ascension!
Here in his cap.

Hymns and Pimms

We had a lovely afternoon in the shade for Hymns and Pimms! Deb played her socks off, and most people enjoyed the children's tambourines! Well done to all who helped.



Murder Mystery Evening

We held our first ever Murder Mystery evening on Saturday 4 July at St Mary's – the theme was Murder at Merivale Manor. It was a cold case file, where we were presented with all the old case file notes made by the detective at the time of the murder just about 100 years ago. We had 34 detectives on the night, reviewing the evidence. Wow, was it a challenge! But with the help of extra clues supplied by accessing an 'email' account, two teams were successful in working out who the murderer was – 'it was Clarence 3rd what did it!' Well done to our 2 winning teams.

We had a lot of fun whilst enjoying homemade lasagne served with salad and garlic bread, followed by scones with jam, cream and fresh strawberries – thank you to all the chefs who contributed. Another enjoyable social evening and we will definitely do it again (different case of course! Ha ha)

Join us for the next social evening – our Harvest Supper on Saturday 3rd October at 7pm – see poster for details. We are also hoping to hold a film night/afternoon in the Autumn too, details to follow soon



A Plastic bottle's Plea

I'm a plastic bottle, don't mean to cause much trouble
But when you've drunk my water, recycle me at the double.
Don't throw me on the floor, it's not the best place for me,
Think about the surroundings and keep them nice to see.
Paper bags, cans, wrappers, fag ends, all on the floor.
What are people thinking?
I'm a plastic bottle, happy to recycle, so please, don't litter,
Let's have no more!

Bin Day

Time to put the bin out
Collection day is here
Any rubbish you have, bin it now
Is that clear!
I hate rubbish lying about, there is no need for it
Collect it up from here and there, job done.
Now we can sit and relax.

Thank you to Carol Cowdell for writing these poems for us.





Moving On

As Year 6 have been looking forward to the next stage of their school journey in secondary school, they have also been reflecting on their time as part of the Church of the Ascension family, both in church and at school.

Dear God,

Thank you for helping us through our journey in primary school.

Thank you for all our friends and the memories we have shared.

Please forgive us for all the bad things we have done and help us through our everlasting journey. Please help us through secondary school like you did in primary school.

Please give us courage and confidence in our next school. We will leave with thankful hearts ready for a new journey.

Amen.

(Ivor, Oliver, Ben, Ethan and Jesse)

Dear Lord,

As we move onto secondary school, we thank you for all the teachers and students, school activities, clubs, trips and memories that we have shared.

Please help us to make new friends, aspire for higher and become better people.

As we prepare to move on to high school, help us to gain confidence, do well in all subjects and pass our exams.

Please help us enjoy these last two weeks.

May we leave thankful, kind and happy.

Amen.

(Anya, Libby and Niamh)

We wish all our children in Year 6 all the best in the next stage of their school journey and look forward to hearing about their successes, remembering that will always be Ascension children.

St Mary's Year Six Leavers Service

On the evening of Thursday 16 July, St Mary's hosted the year six leavers service. It began with refreshments and photographs in the church centre before a service in church where the pupils presented a PowerPoint on their time at St Mary's school sharing with us memories on special days they had spent there. Each pupil were then given a personal tribute read out by a member of staff who had worked closely with that pupil. The pupils also sang songs that they had learnt with Mother Sarah. The service ended with a tribute to the children by Mrs Wainwright the headteacher. By the end of the service there were more than a few damp faces!

The prayers and best wishes of all at St Mary's Church go with the children as they enter this next important phase in their lives.



Father Chris's moves on!

Chris Smith's licensing as Curate-in-charge at St Mark's Pensnett took place on 19 July with Bishop Martin and Archdeacon Nikki: it was a beautiful service, lots of people from the parish went along to wish him well.



Singing for Pleasure Summer Concert



Singing for Pleasure's Summer Serenade concert was very well received by a large audience, almost filling the church. We enjoyed a super range of songs and readings. The raffle was amazing, and most people stayed for the fine range of cakes with their tea or coffee.

Lunch for the Children and Youth Workers



Eighteen of the fabulous folk who volunteer with our children & young people's ministry in our parish joined Mother Sarah for a thank you lunch, which she provided for them. Our teams support and lead Mainly Music, Open the Book, iSingpop, Church Club, school Experiences and lots more, and we couldn't offer half of what we do without them. We are so grateful to have such an incredible team.

At the end of July, the Diocese held an Eco Church Celebration in the gardens of The Old Palace for all churches who were actively enrolled into the Eco Church Programme. Most attending had achieved either their Bronze or Silver Award (both churches in our Parish are Silver), whilst some were just starting their Eco Journey!

Grace, our Operations Manager, and Chris Knight attended from our Parish and had a fantastic, inspiring day – learning more about why eco church is so important, networking with other churches and spending time worshipping in the historic grounds. The event started with prosecco on arrival, as any celebration should, and a short talk from the Diocese Eco Lead Sue Adeney on the history of Eco Church, how the programme works and the Diocese's plans for the programme moving forward. We were then treated to a fantastic floral display workshop from members of the Cathedral Flower Guild who talked as they demonstrated, explaining the importance of using sustainable materials in our displays and her own experience in the Flower Guild. Within this display there was an opportunity for some Q&A's with one key question being why the guild use real instead of fake flowers. Chris and I took particular interest in this as we obviously use a mixture of fake and real flowers within our displays and a key reason is that the guild use sustainable flowers, which are far more accessible in the Malvern/Worcester area than they are around Kingswinford, so we were encouraged we are making the suitable choice for our Parish!



We then moved into The Old Palace for cake and tea which allowed us the opportunity to network with other, likeminded churches and gave us the opportunity to reflect on what we do in our own church and lives. As I am now the Eco rep for Dudley deanery, I had a number of churches reach out during this time to talk about opportunities for support or guidance in particular topics of their Eco Church work, as well as speaking with the first Church in Dudley Deanery to achieve their Gold Award! It was encouraging to see the work put into achieving their gold status and that, both as a parish and individual churches, we are probably nearer to achieving this than we realise! The team at Hasbury have invited me to their Gold Award

Celebration event and I'm really excited to attend this event with them, as well as continue to learn and take inspiration to bring back to Kingswinford! Before the event finished, we were lead in worship by Sue and Bishop Hugh, singing hymns together in the sunshine and being encouraged to identify objects in the garden which encouraged us to continue our eco journey. It was a truly fantastic event and both Chris and I left feeling inspired on taking our next steps. If you would like to join our Eco Groups, please reach out to Grace as we'd love to welcome you!



A Day of Celebration!

Our dear Father Adam was licensed as Rector to the parish on 26 July in a glorious service of Choral Evensong. Choristers came from miles around to celebrate this occasion, and the church was packed with parishioners and friends. Archdeacon Nikki licensed Adam, and Sub-Dean Lyn installed him, Nikki gave a splendid affirming sermon. The choir led the Choral Evensong in an excellent manner, Emily led and conducted them so well, you would have thought they sang together every week! When they sang "I was glad" by H. Parry, a personal request by Adam, it was wonderful!

Food, drink and fellowship were enjoyed afterwards in the church centre. There was a special cake made to celebrate the occasion, and Adam was presented with gifts from the congregation to show just how much he means to us all





A M.U. Prayer

Dearest Lord

As the tides of time wash over the shores of my life.

Bless me with the joy of living.

As I sift through the shifting sands of my years, bless me with understanding.

As the seasons of budding and fruiting come and go.

Bless me with a thankful Spirit.

Amen *Thank you Audrey for this lovely prayer.*



The Master's Weaver's Plan

My life is but a weaving
Between the Lord and me
I may not choose the colours
He knows what they should be.

For He can view the pattern,
Upon the upper side.
While I can see it only,
On this, the underside

Sometimes He weaves in sorrow,
Which seems so strange to me.
But I will trust His judgement,
And work on faithfully.

Tis he who fills the shuttle,
And He knows what is best.
So, I shall weave in earnest,
And leave to Him the rest.

Not 'til the loom is silent,
And the shuttles cease to fly.
Shall God unroll the canvas,
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads as needed,
In the Weaver's skilful hand.
As the threads of gold and silver,
In the pattern He has planned.
Author Unknown



From the registers of St Mary's



Baptisms

10 May	Kimberley Sophia Wilmore-Smith	daughter of Bradley and Jenna
24 May	Theo James Price	son of Ricky and Megan
14 June	Amelia Rose Harper	daughter of Samuel and Shannon
21 June	Victoria Llewelyn	adult
21 June	Grace Biddlestone	daughter of Matthew and Sarah
21 June	Elodie Ada Iris Elemuo	daughter of Justice and Laura
12 July	Elaine Rebecca Anne Flavell	daughter of Sean and Charlotte
12 July	Lily Amelia Rowley	daughter of Luke and Hannah
26 July	Mya Mary Louise Underhill	daughter of Matthew and Tammie

Marriages

6 June	Tom Andrew Mullender and Natascha Ana Evans
20 June	Anthony Joseph Matthews and Natalie Jayne Moore
18 July	Justin Craig Tomlinson and Jennifer Anne Powers

Funerals

24 July	Rhys Morgan
27 July	Laurence Hubbard

From the registers of Church of the Ascension

Baptism

5 July	Olive Rue Wharton	daughter of Isabel and York
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PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

HARVEST SUPPER

SATURDAY 3RD
OCTOBER 2026
7PM

Tickets: £12

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 4th October**

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





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 MORNING 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.

WEDNESDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10am each Wednesday is a Eucharist with songs followed by a cuppa in the hall.

MAINLY MUSIC 10am-11.30am each Thursday. Pre school worship with music, dancing, bubbles, play time and cake! Contact Mthr Sarah for more information.

SOUL FOOD Eat food, make friends, explore the Bible and worship. All ages, all together. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday each month at 5pm.

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 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.

PAUSE, PRAY, PONDER, PRAISE 4pm on the third Sunday of each month. A reflective service with space to gently enter the presence of God. Contact Chris Knight on 07546 159813 for more information.

iSingPOP pop up church 10am – 12noon on the second Sunday of each month. Preparation in the hall, followed by refreshments and then the service in church. Lots of singing and dancing for God! Contact Mthr Sarah for more information.

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



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

**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 MORNING WORSHIP

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

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

4pm (October – March)

6.30pm (April – September)

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 Fr Adam for more information

SOUL FOOD

8.45am

Eat food, make friends, explore the Bible and worship
All ages, all together
Every first and third Sunday of the month

TUESDAY MIDWEEK WORSHIP

10AM

Eucharist every week

- 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
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 one of the clergy.
- 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
- 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**

RECTOR

Fr Adam Hadley fr.adam@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk 07759 900947

MISSION PRIEST

Mthr Sarah Roberts-Malpass

mthr.sarah@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

07976 965275

CURATE

Fr Jonathan Pincher fr.jonathan@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

07562 949395

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Fr Adam &

psa@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

Mthr Sarah

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR & CHURCH HALL BOOKINGS

Lindsey Poulding office@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk 07729 092973

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Grace Wrigglesworth operations@stmaryskingswinford.org.uk

07562 955888

READERS (LICENSED LAY MINISTERS)

David Cousins 01384 270045

Debbie Filgate 01384 287711

Chris Knight 07546 159813

AUTHORISED LAY MINISTERS

Sheila Freeman	Children and Young People	07790 436068
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Bill Hazelton	Worship Leader	01384 250366
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Helen Moren	Worship Leader	01384 270757
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Neil Oliver	Worship Leader	07720 783330
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Jenny Stewart	Pastoral	07723 535740
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Karen Whitehouse	Worship Leader	01384 864709
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CHURCHWARDENS

Helen Moren	St Mary's Church	01384 270757
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

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