

St. Mary's Church, Edvin Loach

Newsletter

October 2015

Dear All

During September we celebrated St. Mary with a Patronal Service. This year it was held on September 6th. The service started in our old church with the first hymn lead by Liz Lane on her recorder – thank you Liz. The Parish Cross was handed over to St. Mary's for safe keeping by Kathleen Harris of Tedstone. After this part of the service Rebecca, James and Maisie carried the cross up to St. Mary's church so that we could continue the service. The reading was read by Jacob and the collection taken by Rebecca and Maisie. A big thank you to you all! We rounded off the service with sherry and biscuits. I was running late and was grateful to see that our 'team' had covered all the necessary jobs to start the service, my thanks to you all.

During this month we have 2 services and our second was held on Sunday 20th September and followed the Evening Prayer service format.

It was great to see so many from our parish at the Stoke Bliss and District ploughing match on Saturday September 26th. Held at Warren Farm, Bringsty the weather was amazing with views from the farm to match. Lis Morris and I appreciated the positive comments about the home craft section which we are both involved with and the range of craft stalls visitors could browse over. Next year the match is being held at Thornbury Court, Thornbury.

The Parish Cross doesn't stay with St. Mary's for long and on Sunday September 27th I took the Cross to Upper Sapey church where we celebrated St. Michael and All Angels.

St. Michael is portrayed as having many roles. His first role is as the leader of the Army of God and of heaven's forces in their triumph over the powers of hell. In the New Testament Michael leads God's armies against Satan's forces, where during the war in heaven he defeats Satan.

After the conflict, Satan is thrown to earth along with the fallen angels, where he ("that ancient serpent called the devil") still tries to "lead the whole world astray".

Michael is viewed as the angelic model for the virtues of the spiritual warrior, with the conflict against evil at times viewed as the battle within.

In his second role, Michael is the angel of death, carrying the souls of all the deceased to heaven. In this role, at the hour of death, Michael descends and gives each soul the chance to redeem itself before passing, thus consternating the devil and his minions.

In his third role, he weighs souls in his perfectly balanced scales (hence Michael is often depicted holding scales).

In his fourth role, St Michael, the special patron of the 'Chosen People' in the Old Testament, is also the guardian of the Church. It was not unusual for the angel to be revered by the military knights during the middle ages.

Michael is also mentioned in the Book of Daniel, as a "great prince who stands up for the children of your people".

The Patronal Festival for St. Michael was created by John Bland. John had put an image of St. Michael on the front of the service sheet which looked amazing. Delicious cake and coffee was enjoyed after the service – well done all.

Also on this day Judy Read was part of a team who arranged a picnic tea at Lower Norton Farm to raise money for St. Michaels Hospice. A perfect late summer's afternoon saw many of us gathering for a 'Bring your Own' style picnic tea. A raffle and promise auction helped to swell the amount raised on the day to a grand total of £2400. A big thank you to those who joined my table, Val, Susan, Kathleen, Doiren, Maureen, Ann, Sue, Heather, Henry and Maisie.

Our next Service is this Sunday to celebrate Harvest, 3pm with tea and cake after. We shall also be collecting tinned or packet foods for the Bromyard Food bank during the service.

Our traditional Stir-Up Sunday is on November 15th Evening Prayer at 3pm, and looking just a little further ahead our Christmas Carol Service is on Sunday December 20th at 3pm and the Christmas Eve Service is on December 24th at 7.30pm

And finally.....A Vicar went to the dentist for a set of false teeth. The first Sunday after he gets the new dentures he talks for 5 minutes; the second Sunday for 10 minutes. The following Sunday he speaks for two-and-a-half hours and the congregation had to mob him to get him down from the pulpit!

They asked him why he had talked for so long. He explained that on the first Sunday his gums had been so sore he could only talk for 5 minutes; the second Sunday his mouth was a little better and he could speak for 10 minutes. But that Sunday he had put his wife's teeth in by mistake and he couldn't shut up!!!

Best Regards

Helen Read