



ST MARY'S, OLD SWINFORD
 We extend a warm invitation to our
SERVICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2015

Sunday 29 November

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 13 December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Toy Service (*During which you are invited to donate an unwrapped gift of a toy or toiletries which will be donated to the Dudley Women's refuge*)

6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 20 December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion

6.30pm Christmas Carol Service

A traditional Service of Readings and Carols

Thursday 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE

10.30am Service of Holy Communion

4.00pm Crib Service for children

10.00pm Communion with Carols

The First Communion of Christmas

Friday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Family Communion (Common Worship) with Carols

Saturday 26 December ST STEPHEN'S DAY

10.30am Said service of Holy Communion

Sunday 27 December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion

6.30pm Service of seasonal carols and readings.

Thursday 31 December

10.30am Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 3 January 2016

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion

4.00pm Christingle Service

6.30pm Evensong

The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford
Sunday 29th November 2015
Advent Sunday



A warm welcome to Revd Jonathan Kimber, the Diocesan Director of Discipleship and any other visitors who are worshipping with us today. Please join us for coffee in the Narthex after our 10.00am service. We have a loop system installed in church. If you wear a hearing aid please turn it to the T position. If you would like to find out about any of the activities associated with church please speak to a warden or sides person or visit our website at www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk

Our services today are as follows:

8.00am - Holy Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Collect, Epistle and Gospel P89 **Sides:** Paul Turner

10.00am - Parish Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Preacher: Revd Jonathan Kimber — Director of Ministry & Discipleship.

Warden: Malcolm Frost

Sides: Sally Frost and Marilyn Thomson

Reader: Jean Agnew **Intercessions:** Mike & Janet Blaxland

Anthem: Let all mortal flesh keep silence—*arr. Cleobury*

Children Together: Peter and Kathryn Hancox

Voluntary: Tuba tune—*Lang*

6.30pm - Advent Carol Service

Officiant: Revd Stephen Agnew

Warden: Marjorie Ferguson **Sides:** Gill Davies

Voluntary: Prelude in C - *Bach*

Collect for this week:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings for our 10.00am service.

The New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 3: 9—13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the Word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD.

During the next two weeks we would like to be able to deliver a Christmas card from St Mary's to every home in the parish. Could you please help with this task? The cards are bundled into streets and are at the back of church. Please help us by taking at least one street and distributing them at some time within the next two weeks as our way of reaching out to all members of the parish to wish them a happy Christmas and to invite them to one of our Christmas services. Thank you.



There is a selection of books at the back of church from the Robin Woods Library which provide some reading for the season of Advent. If you would like to borrow a book please complete a borrowing slip and place it in the folder.



The new prayer diaries are available today. Please take a copy home to use and also an extra copy to give to a friend or neighbour if you would like to.

Get in the Picture
helping us think about
Christmas and its meaning

download your
photo from
www.getinthepicture.org.uk



Location: Tesco, Stourbridge, DY8 1YD
(opposite the main exit)
Saturday 5th December 2015
at 10.00am to 2.00pm

Come along, dress up and have your photograph taken for **FREE** in a traditional Nativity Scene provided by Churches Together in Stourbridge.

Download the photo and then share with your friends and family.

Christmas Market

Saturday, 5 December
10.00 am - 12.00 noon

Do come and join us – we have many lovely things to sell, such as:- Cakes, Books, Jigsaws, Jewellery, Books, Gifts and not forgetting our very popular White Elephant Stall.

Also, there will be games, the fantastic Christmas Hamper Raffle and a big Tombola with many prizes; the Bottle Stall where luck may be with you! Also Treasure Island and much, much more. Father Christmas will be visiting his Oldswinford Grotto.

When you need to catch your breath, there is Coffee and a Homemade Mince Pie.

As always, all help and contributions towards making this a successful Market are very welcome.

Cakes and mince pies can be brought in on Friday evening or on the morning itself.



**ST MARY'S
OLD SWINFORD**
Parish Church Magazine



*A very warm welcome awaits you at
St Mary's services and Christmas events.*

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DECEMBER 2015

50p

The December issue of our Parish Magazine is on sale in church today. It includes details of all our Christmas Services as well as the diary for the month, details of the each Sunday's readings, children's pages and a range of interesting articles. Why not take a copy for somebody that you know, a friend, somebody who's moved into a house in your street or a next door neighbour.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 21: 25-36

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord
PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

Post Communion Prayer:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This pew sheet is also available at www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk

Please feel free to take this pew sheet away and recycle.

We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese of West Malaysia with Bishop Ng Moon Hing with Assistant Bishops Charles Samuel and Jason Selvaraj.

Churches Together:

Members of Amblecote Methodist Church

Bishop John has asked us to pray for.....

that those involved in making the big decisions at the UN Climate Change Conference would be filled with wisdom and compassion, that they would not be motivated by economic or financial gain but by our collective duty of care towards the planet. Pray that an agreement can be reached swiftly and efficiently without compromising important issues.

The work of St Mary's.....

God of hope and promise, be with us throughout this Advent season and draw us ever closer as we journey together toward the stable and the birth of your Son, our Saviour. Pray for Revd David Knight who will be licensed as Chaplain to Mary Stevens Hospice next Saturday.

Those living in:

Pebble Close and Rufford Road

Local Community:

The staff and residents of Holly Croft Care Home.

Among those who are ill:

William Bates, Lauren Simpson, Rory Macintosh, Brian Norgrove, Sally Taylor, Angela Dixon, Alan Lowe, Elian Irvine-Boden, Robert James, Dianne Smith, Anne May, Anne Davies, Grace Jones, Patrick Wilkinson and Ivan Partridge.

We continue to pray for:

Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan Bryan, Ros Bickel, Noah Cantius, Richard Tatler and Michael Woodall.

Those in nursing home care:

Sheila Westwood, Richard Ryan, Ray Tolley and June O'Brian

The departed:

Theo Luxton, Fred Wellings, Granville Rushton and Josie Capewell

In memoriam:

Agnes Mead (30.11.14)

May they know the peace and joy of God's Kingdom

Please pray for all who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Please inform the clergy or a member of the pastoral care team as soon as possible if you know of any illness or particular need within the congregation.

What's going on?

Please ask if you would like to know any more about the events listed on these pages.

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY December 6

Advent 2

- 8.00am Communion(BCP)
- 10.00am Parish Communion
- 3.00pm Baptisms
- 6.30pm Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Wednesday 2

3.00pm Holy Communion
at Oriel House

Thursday 3

10.30am Holy Communion

Friday 4

Stephen's day off.

Saturday 5

10.00am—12 noon
Christmas Market.

No vestry hour or open church today.

Bible Reading Notes

On Bible Sunday we thought about how we read the Bible as individuals. At the back of church you will find some different styles of Bible Reading notes. Have a look at them and see if they might help you on your spiritual journey.

1. Bible Reading Fellowship: 4 different styles of notes for you to look at.
2. Scripture Union: 2 different styles of notes in a sampler for you to take away.

If after looking at these you would like to order any copies starting from the beginning of January please enter your details on the list at the back of church.

Please send any notices or information for the pewsheets to the Parish Office by 12 noon on a Wednesday. Send to st.mary.os@btconnect.com or text to 07956675990 or phone 01384 441003.

This pew sheet is also available at www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk

Please feel free to take this pew sheet away and recycle. 