

**The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford**  
**Sunday 3rd January 2016**  
**Epiphany**



*A warm welcome to any 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](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk)*

**Our services today are as follows:**

**8.00am - Holy Communion**

**President:** Revd Stephen Agnew

**Collect, Epistle and Gospel P107 Sides:** Eve Evans

**10.00am - Parish Communion**

**President:** Revd Stephen Agnew

**Preacher:** Revd Stephen Agnew

**Warden:** Maggie Abbotts **Sides:** Toni Evans & Marilyn Thomson

**Reader:** Jean Rolfe **Intercessions:** Maggie Abbotts

**Children Together:** Peter and Kathryn Hancox

**Voluntary:** Sortie in Eb—Lefébure-Wély

**6.30pm – Evensong**

**Officiant:** Revd Stephen Agnew

**Preacher:** Revd Stephen Agnew

**Warden:** Joan Barwick **Sides:** Alec Beevers

**Readers:** Alec Beevers | *Samuel 1: 20-28* & Angela Price | John 4: 7-16

**Intercessions:** Kanthi Ariaraj

**Voluntary:** Allein Gott in der Hoh sei Her– Bach

Please send any notices or information for the pewsheet to the Parish Office by 12 noon on a Wednesday. Send to [st.mary.os@btconnect.com](mailto:st.mary.os@btconnect.com) or text to 07956675990 or phone 01384 441003.

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

This pew sheet is also available at [www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk)

## Collect for this week:

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60: 1—6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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

## What's going on?

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

### SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY January 10

#### Epiphany 1

- 8.00am Communion(BCP)
- 10.00am Worship Together
- 6.30pm Evensong

### CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

#### Monday 4

10.00am Open The Book planning meeting  
2.00pm Funeral of Ray Tolley  
7.30pm Standing Committee Meeting

#### Tuesday 5

11.30am Holy Communion at Holly Croft

#### Thursday 7

10.30am Holy Communion

#### Friday 8

Stephen's day off

#### Saturday 9

10.00am Open Church and vestry hour.

Please sign the rota in the Narthex if you feel you are able to help out with our Open Church on a Saturday. This is a very important aspect of our outreach as we welcome people into the church.

**OPEN THE BOOK** The Open the Book Team are invited to the Rectory on Monday at 10am to plan the next term's productions!

We are still collecting used postage stamps for the RNLI. Please place any stamps in the box at the back of church.



We have a Facebook page. If you're a Facebook user and want to keep up to speed with events at St Mary's visit [www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford](http://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford).

**We invite you to offer prayers for .....**

**The World Church:**

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia with Archbishop William Brown Turel.

**Churches Together:**

Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church

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

Matthew, Bryony and their family. Pray for all those currently awaiting an organ donor.

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

As we celebrate the turning of the year this week we give thanks for all the blessings the past year has brought us but we pray for those who can see no hope in the future. Pray that they will feel God's love and presence alongside them.

**Those living in:**

The Heathlands and Cranbourne Road.

**Local Community:**

Staff and patients at Russells Hall Hospital.

**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, Sally Nelson, 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 and June O'Brian

**The departed:**

Ray Tolley.

*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.*

**The Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2: 1—12

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew*

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This pew sheet is also available at [www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk)

## Readings for our 6.30pm service.

### **The Old Testament Reading**

I Samuel 1: 20—28

So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, “Because I asked the Lord for him.”

When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfill his vow, Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, “After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always.”

“Do what seems best to you,” her husband Elkanah told her. “Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his word.” So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him. After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, and she said to him, “Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.” And he worshiped the Lord there.

### **The New Testament Reading**

I John 4: 7—16

#### **God’s Love and Ours**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.