

REFUGEES—NEEDS AND FEARS

**A Discussion Evening arranged by
Churches Together in Stourbridge**

**Thursday 14 April at 7.30 pm
in the Quaker Meeting House, Scotts Road DY8 1UR**

This evening will explore the issues surrounding refugees and asylum seekers, using up-to-date information and giving everyone the chance to have their say.

The discussion will be opened by David and Barbara Forbes who have been closely associated with Quaker social action for many years, both at the Quaker Council for European Affairs (Brussels) and in the West Midlands. In addition David has been professionally active in refugee work since 1999. Their small not-for-profit company, "Lifeline Options", took up the asylum client files after the Midlands Refugee Council was liquidated in September 2005. The work covers immigration advice, welfare intervention, employability and business advice plus special education projects for asylum seekers, refugees and failed asylum seekers. But progressively restrictive measures have led to an increased concentration on the immigration and welfare advice and delivery issues over the last five years at the expense of educational and developmental activities.

ADMISSION FREE • REFRESHMENTS • EVERYONE WELCOME



Don't forget our Barn Dance organised by our social committee on 6th February 2016. Eve and John will be providing us with entertainment. Food provided—bring your own drink and glasses. There is a list at the back of church to sign if you would like to join us.



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 or text to 07956675990 or phone 01384 441003.

The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford Sunday 24th January 2016 Epiphany 3—Education Sunday



*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*

Our services today are as follows:

8.00am - Holy Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Collect, Epistle and Gospel P113 **Sides:** Paul Turner

10.00am - Parish Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew **Preacher:** Revd Stephen Agnew

Warden: Malcolm Frost **Sides:** Sally Frost & Andrew Scudamore

Reader: John Sutton **Intercessions:** Judith Nex

Anthem: A Clare Benediction—Rutter

Children Together: Russ & Helen Fowler

Voluntary: Trumpet Tune—Stanley

6.30pm – Evensong

Officiant: Kanthi Ariaraj **Preacher:** Revd Stephen Agnew

Warden: Ian Nex **Sides:** Dawn Nex

Readers: Dawn Nex *Isaiah 49: 1—13 & Ian Nex Acts 22: 3—16*

Intercessions: Kanthi Ariaraj

Anthem: Star of the east—Bullard

Voluntary: Prelude in G - Bach

Collect for this week:

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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.

Readings for our 10.00am service.

The New Testament Reading

I Corinthians 12: 12-31

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?

As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers;

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 31

Epiphany 4

8.00am Communion(BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion

6.30pm Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 25

10.00am Open The Book Team visiting Oldswinford Primary School.
2.00pm Pastoral care team meeting
7.30pm Youth leaders meeting.

Tuesday 26

2.15pm Tuesday tea in the narthex

Wednesday 27

11.30am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge

Thursday 28

10.30am Holy Communion

Friday 29

Stephen's day off.

Saturday 30

9.30am Walking group meet for a walk—Churchill and Blakedown.
10.00am Open Church and vestry hour.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hi Everyone



January can be a difficult financial month for many. Even if you buy one item in your weekly shop and donate it to BCFB, we will be so grateful. Thank you for all the donations so far this year! Shortages this week are.....

Fruit juice, UHT milk, hot chocolate, packets of mash, jam, marmalade deodorant (male and female)

This year we are holding a service to celebrate marriage on Valentines Day at 3.00pm. During the service, as well as giving thanks for marriage, couples who wish to renew



their vows will be invited to do so. Please let us know if you would like to come so that we can ensure we have enough fizz and cake!

E mail: st.mary.os@btconnect or phone 01384 441003 or text 07956675990



We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Anglican Church in Brazil with Archbishop Francisco Da Silva.

Churches Together:

St James' Church Wollaston.

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

On Education Sunday please pray for all our schools and for those working to ensure people pay a fair amount of tax.

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

On Education Sunday we pray for our local schools and particularly our C of E Primary School that we are linked with. We pray for the pupils and all the staff who work there to support the children.

Those living in:

Thicknall Drive and Iverley Walk

Local Community:

The work of St Basil's home for the homeless.

Among those who are ill:

William Bates, Lauren Simpson, Rory Macintosh, Elian Irvine-Boden, Robert James, Anne May, Sally Nelson, Richard Bartram and Patrick Wilkinson.

We continue to pray for:

Ivan Partridge, Grace Jones, Anne Davies, Dianne Smith, Alan Lowe, Brian Norgrove, Angela Dixon, Sally Taylor, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan Bryan, Ros Bickel, Noah Cantius, Richard Tatler and Michael Woodall.

Those in nursing home care:

Sheila Westwood, and June O'Brian

The departed:

Richard Ryan, Richard Davies and Elizabeth Faulkner.

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.

then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

This is the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 4: 14-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

Post Communion Prayer:

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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

Readings for our 6.30pm service.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 49: 1—13

The Servant of the Lord

Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name. He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all.

Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God."

And now the Lord says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—he says:

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept.

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

This is what the Lord says—the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: "Kings will see you and stand up, princes will see and bow down, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

This is what the Lord says:

"In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances, to say to the captives, 'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'

"They will feed beside the roads and find pasture on every barren hill. They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water. I will turn all my mountains into roads, and my highways will be raised up. See, they will come from afar— some from the north, some from the west, some from the region of Aswan."

Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.

The New Testament Reading

Acts 22: 3-16

"I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

"About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

"Who are you, Lord?' I asked.

"I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

"What shall I do, Lord?' I asked.

"Get up,' the Lord said, 'and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.' My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

"A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him.

"Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'