



Our Lent Course continues this week on Tuesday at St Thomas' Church—Disciples as friends. Meet at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Join our free breakfast event

'Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'

Martin Luther King Jnr.

How often do we think about how food got to our table or the people involved in the production?



Each year during Fairtrade Fortnight, Feb 29th – March 13th the Fairtrade Foundation runs a national campaign. This year you are invited to 'sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers'.

There are approximately 2 billion people in the world who depend on smallholder farming and half of the world's hungriest people are estimated to live on small farms.



Stourbridge Fairtrade invites you to 'drop-in' for breakfast

Friday 11th March
10.00hrs – 13.30hrs
St. Thomas's Church Hall,
Market Street,
Stourbridge

We would love to see you there so put the date in your diary!

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 28th February 2016 The Third Sunday of Lent



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 P133 **Sides:** Paul Turner

10.00am - Parish Communion

President: The Revd Stephen Agnew

Preacher: Kanthi Ariaraj

Warden: Malcolm Frost **Sides:** Marilyn Thomson & Toni Evans

Reader: Liz Fourness **Intercessions:** Dawn & Ian Nex

Anthem: Go forth into the world in peace—*Rutter*

Children Together: Peter and Kathryn Hancox

Voluntary: Wedding day at Trolldhaugen—*Grieg*

6.30pm – Evensong

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

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

Readers: Dawn Nex *Genesis 28: 10—19 & Ian Nex John 1: 35—*

Intercessions: Kanthi Ariaraj

Anthem: If ye love me—*Tallis*

Voluntary: Tuba tune - *Lang*

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

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

Collect for this week:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55: 1-9

The LORD says this:

Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

March 6

Lent 4

Mothering Sunday

8.00am
Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Special Service for Mothering
Sunday with Communion.

6.30pm Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 29

Fairtrade fortnight begins
10.00am Open The Book Team
visit Oldswinford Primary School
7.30pm Standing Committee
meeting.

Tuesday 1 March

11.30am Holy Communion at Holly
Croft

7.00pm Third Lent Course at
St Thomas' Stourbridge

Thursday 3

10.30am Holy Communion

Friday 4

Stephen's day off.

Saturday 5

10.00am Open Church and vestry
hour.

2.00pm Messy Church



In keeping with our usual practice the names of loved ones will be placed on the altar for the Easter period.

If you wish to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers in memory of loved ones please place your donation in an envelope with the names of the person(s) being remembered and give it to Sally Frost.

These donations may be 'Gift Aided' if you are a UK tax payer. Should you wish to Gift Aid your donation please use one of the yellow Gift Aid envelopes found in the church pews and mark it clearly "For Easter Flowers."

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hi All

We are back and busy after half term holidays. All the vans are out delivering to our centres across the Black Country. We are grateful that we have food to deliver to the centres and we are thankful to all of you who have donated over the past few weeks. Keep going!

Fruit juice, UHT milk, hot chocolate, small jars of coffee, shaving foam/gel, toilet rolls

Please leave any donations in the boxes at the back of church and we will ensure that they are taken to the warehouse for distribution each week. Thank you for your support.



We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Anglican Church of the Congo with Archbishop Kahwa Henri Isingoma

Churches Together:

For our Lent course this week at St Thomas'. For their congregations and Priest in Charge Andrew Sillis

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

Rachel Burton as she travels to Bolivia for an initial two years and for all those amongst whom she will minister.

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

For our Open The Book team and all those who work alongside children introducing them to our faith and encouraging them in their learning.

Those living in:

Greenfinch Road and Goldfinch Road

Local Community:

For the patients and staff of Oriel House Care Home

Among those who are ill:

William Bates, Lauren Simpson, Rory Macintosh, Elian Irvine-Boden, Robert James, Anne May, Sally Nelson, Niamh McCormack, Finley Rogerson and Patrick Wilkinson.

We continue to pray for:

Ivan Partridge, Grace Jones, Anne Davies, Dianne Smith, 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:

Tim Hayward, Sylvia Lloyd, Alison Audsley, John Duncan, June Macleod Marjorie Walters, David Allen and Alan Lowe.

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

Luke 13: 1—9

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

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?

No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

Post Communion Prayer:

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Readings for our 6.30pm service.

The Old Testament Reading

Genesis 28: 10—19

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying.

Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

The New Testament Reading

John 1 : 35—51

John's Disciples Follow Jesus

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

"Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him.

It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee.

Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked.

"Come and see," said Philip.

When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."

Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." I He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."