

The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford

Sunday December 26th 2021

First Sunday of Christmas



Our services this week are as follows:

10.00am - A Service of Holy Communion

This will be a said service without music

Lead: Rev'd John Flitcroft **Preacher:** Rev'd John Flitcroft

Warden: Chris McCullagh

Stewards: Adam McCullagh

Reader: Chris McCullagh

Intercessions: Clergy

Rev'd John and Roger will be having a rest between Christmas and New Year, so there will be no Thursday Communion service on 30th December

Christmas Message

John and Mary, Roger and Judy would like to thank you for your kind Christmas messages and good wishes. We wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year



Christmas Message

Rev'd Stephen and Jean would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year



St Mary's Christmas Services – COVID Precautions

If you are planning to attend St Mary's Christmas services, then please be aware that the following precautions will be in place to keep people safe:

- In order to maintain social distancing, the capacity of the church will be limited. Places will be allocated by first-come, first-served.
- Please wear a face-covering for the duration of the service, including singing.
- Please consider taking a lateral flow test before attending.
- Do not attend if you feel unwell.

Thank you.

St Mary's PCC

Collect for this week:

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

New Testament Reading: Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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



The Gospel Reading: Luke 2.41-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

Post Communion Prayer:

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We invite you to offer prayers for

Worldwide Church: Anglican Church in Central America: Bishop Julio Murray Thompson. Mikkeli (Finland): Bishop Seppo Häkkinen.

Churches Together: Riverside Christian Fellowship.

From our Diocesan Prayer Diary.....

Churches with 20 or fewer active members make up 45% of the churches in our diocese. Smaller churches are often at the heart of their communities and have the story of that community literally written in their stones. However, they face very specific challenges to remain or become healthy and sustainable. The Revd Alison Maddocks was appointed to the new role of Dean of Smaller Churches to work with these churches, providing practical support and helping them to connect with each other to share wisdom. She said: "Our 120 smaller churches are 95% rural and the majority are listed buildings, with two-thirds being grade 1 or 2* listed. Many are struggling with both financial and people resources. One response could just be to close many of these churches, but that is definitely not the strategy. All our churches are important to many who visit to find solace or discover their history." Alison's post is funded by the Church Commissioners. She can help churches to work together effectively and find ways to creatively be church in their communities. Visit the diocesan website to find out how she can help your church.

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

For those who will visit St Mary's this week to find sanctuary and peace.

For those who have left prayers on our prayer board.

Those Living in: Margaret Drive / The Furlongs.

Local Community: St Basil's Home for the Homeless.

Among those who are ill: Bob Bowen, Dorothy Gibson, Margaret Shepherd, Alan Roden, Margaret Wright, Paul Chard and June Turly.

We continue to pray for: Stephen Webb, Gill Franks, Harold Swithenbank, Peter & Angela Viner, Helen Hunt, Susan Haskew, Natalie Jones, Audrey Tranter, David Johnson, Colin Millward, Pamela & Roy Peacock, Josh Raffan, Ian Moore, Judy Taylor, Joe and Ros Yeates, Rory Macintosh, Elian Irvine-Boden, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan, Noah, Cantius, the May family and the Rogerson family.

Those in nursing home care:

Norma Wren, Melitta Ling, Meriel Harris, Betty Shore and Betty Taylor

The departed: Pauline Morris and Barbara Finney

