

A huge thank you to everybody who helped with and supported our Christmas market yesterday. Particular thanks to Katey who co-ordinated everything and ensured everything ran successfully.

The installation of the new boiler is now complete and the system is up and running. We are very grateful to RHF heating contractors for their efforts in progressing this work so quickly and ensuring we are warm again for the Christmas season. A big thank you also to everybody who has been involved with the planning and organisation to make this happen. It's wonderful to have the church warm again.



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.

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



The new prayer diaries have arrived. Please take a copy home with you to use and a second copy if you would like to give a copy to family, friends or a neighbour.



There are still some 2017 diaries available. These are generously donated to us at no cost. Please help yourself if you would like one.

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.



The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford

Sunday 4th December 2016

Advent 2



A warm welcome to any visitors who are worshipping with us today. 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 or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford.

Our services today are as follows:

8.00am - Holy Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Collect, Epistle and Gospel Page 91

Sides: Eve Evans

10.00am - Parish Communion.

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Preacher: Revd Alex French

Warden: Malcolm Frost

Sides: Toni Evans & Mike Blaxland

Reader: Peter Jones **Intercessions:** Mike Blaxland

Children Together: Russ & Helen Fowler

Communion Motet: The Angel Gabriel —*Basque trad*

6.30pm – Evensong

Officiant: Roger King

Preacher: Revd Stephen Agnew

Intercessions: Revd Alex French

Warden: Judy Hall **Sides:** Alec Beevers

Readers: Judy Hall & Angela Price

Anthem: Ave Maria—*Jacob Arcadelt*

Collect for this week:

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

Readings for our 10.00am service.

The New Testament Reading

Romans 15:4 –13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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



Got2Sing®
Proudly presents

'WINTER WONDERLAND' CONCERT

AN EVENING OF SONGS AND CAROLS

Saturday 10th December 2016 ~ 7.30pm : Doors Open 7pm
Christmas Jumpers Welcome!

St Mary's Church • Church Road • Old Swinford • Stourbridge • DY8 2HA

Admission by ticket only Adult : £8.00 ~ Under 16s : £5.00

Tickets available from
the Parish Office

FOR TICKETS CALL: 03330 146 164 or E-MAIL office@got2sing.co.uk

or from church

We have a collection of books for the season of Advent which are borrowed from the Robin Woods Library. If you would like to borrow one then please complete a lending slip.

Maggie Abbotts will be running a Fairtrade stall again next Sunday.



Help needed:

We have produced a Christmas Card which we would love every house in the parish to receive. It is our way of extending Christmas Greetings to everybody in the parish and to extend a christian welcome to our Christmas services at St Mary's. Please help us to deliver these by taking a bag and delivering the cards this week.



ST MARY'S, OLD SWINFORD

SERVICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2016

Sunday 4 December

4.00pm Christingle Service

Sunday 11 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 18 December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion

6.30pm Christmas Carol Service

A traditional Service of Readings and Carols

Saturday 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Crib Service for children

10.00pm Communion with Carols

The First Communion of Christmas

Sunday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00am Family Communion (Common Worship) with Carols

Monday 26 December ST STEPHEN'S DAY

10.30am Said service of Holy Communion

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 3: 1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Post Communion Prayer:

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese of Porvoo in Finland with Bishop Bjorn Vikstrom.
Also the Diocese of Kamataka North in India with Bishop Ravikumar J Niranjana.

Churches Together:

New Road Methodist Church

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

all those involved in the peace and friendship Christmas party at St Martin's

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

For all those people who will be visiting our church during the next few weeks as part of their Christmas celebrations.

Those living in:

Priory Road and Woodthorpe Drive

Local Community:

The What? Centre and all who use it.

Among those who are ill:

Angela Viner, Elizabeth Gale, Niamh McCormack, Betty Taylor, Emma Brown, Margaret Moulton and Enid Clarke.

We continue to pray for:

Rory Macintosh, Joe and Ros Yeates Elian Irvine-Boden, Anne May, Grace Jones, Angela Dixon, Sally Taylor, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan Bryan, Noah Cantius, and Michael Woodall, Finley Rogerson, Denis Noakes and Alexis Strong.

Those in nursing home care:

Sheila Westwood, June O'Brian, Richard Aldred, Hazel White and Anne Davies.

The departed:

Bill Freeston and Gerald Hale

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 11

Advent 3

8.00 am
Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Worship Together
(Toy Service)

6.30pm Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 5

Alex's day off.

Our Christmas tree arrives in church

Tuesday 6

11.30am Holy Communion at Holly Croft.

Wednesday 7

1.30pm Mums and Toddlers service in church

Thursday 8

10.30am Holy Communion

Friday 9

2.30pm OSH Carol Service

Saturday 10

10.00am Open Church and vestry hour.

7.30pm Got2sing concert in church

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hi Everyone

Thank you for all the Christmas food that has been donated over the past few weeks. The mince pies, Christmas Puddings and Christmas treats are being delivered to all our centres every day this week.

The last day for donating Christmas Food is this Friday (2nd December). We can accept Christmas food after this date we just can't guarantee it will go in any emergency food parcels in time for Christmas.

Please can you just check that everything donated is alcohol free. Thank you!

This week's shortages are:

UHT milk, fruit juice, coffee, hot chocolate, tinned custard, tinned rice pudding, packets of mash, tinned fruit, deodorants, shaving foam, baby shampoo, washing up liquid, can openers.

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.

