

The new service rota which runs from January through to the end of April is currently being prepared. Please let John know of any dates during this period when you will not be available by Tuesday 13th December so that the rota can be completed and ready for distribution on Sunday 18th. Thanks

Stephen and Jean invite you to join them between 7.00pm and 9.00pm on Monday 19th December for mince pies and mulled wine in the rectory accompanied by carols sung by our choir.

Maggie Abbotts will be running a Fairtrade stall again today.



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.

ST MARY'S, OLD SWINFORD SERVICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2016

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

We invite children to dress as characters from the nativity story and bring percussion instruments to play along with the songs we sing.

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

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 11th December 2016 Advent 3



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

Collect: *O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*

Our services today are as follows:

8.00am - Holy Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Collect, Epistle and Gospel Page 93

Sides: Nick Harbach

10.00am - Worship Together—Toy service

President: Revd Stephen Agnew & Revd Alex French

Warden: Tony Tatford **Sides:** Jeremy Morgan & Sue Tatford

Readers: Jean Agnew & Jeremy Morgan

Music led by our music group.



6.30pm – Evensong

Officiant: Kanthi Ariaraj

Preacher: Revd Stephen Agnew

Warden: Marjorie Ferguson **Sides:** Gill Davies

Readers: Tina Timms and Judith Nex

Intercessions: Kanthi Ariaraj

Anthem: I sing of a maiden—L Berkeley



Waiting for Jesus!



Welcome, Notices and Lighting of the Advent Candle.

The Gathering



People of God: be glad!
Your God delights in you,
giving you joy for sadness
and turning the dark to light.
Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save.
You are God's children.



Lord make us one in the love of Christ, today and for ever. Amen

HYMN: - NHWS 221 Make way, make way for Christ the King.

Thanksgiving Prayer

*To each prayer please respond: We worship and adore you
We say together the collect (see front page)*

The Proclamation

Old Testament Reading Micah 4: 1—4

What does this all mean?

HYMN — Christ be our light

Gospel Reading Matthew 11: 2—10

What does this all mean to us?

Confession

Heavenly Father, you call us to repent of our sins:
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you declared the forgiveness of God:
teach us to forgive one another.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you search our hearts and show us the truth:
direct us in your way of righteousness.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God, who sent his son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever. **Amen**

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



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 18 Advent 4

8.00 am
Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Parish Communion

6.30pm Carol Service

*We will be holding a bucket collection
at all of our Christmas services for the
Christian Aid Christmas Appeal.*

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 12

Alex's day off.
The Parish Office is closed today

Tuesday 13

2.30pm Tuesday Tea in the narthex.
2.15pm Mothers' Union meeting in the
Coach House

Wednesday 14

7.00pm Oldswinford Primary School
Carol Service.

Thursday 15

10.30am Holy Communion
7.30pm Dudley Civic Carol Service

Friday 16

Stephen's day off

Saturday 17

Church being decorated for Christmas
10.00am Open Church and vestry
hour.
Weddings in church at 12.30pm and
2.30pm

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hi Everyone

Thank you for all the Christmas Food donations that have been arriving over the last few weeks. The volunteers are being kept very busy in our chilly warehouse and our vans are touring the Black Country dropping off mince pies and Christmas puddings! Please keep encouraging the donations of breakfast cereal, UHT milk, fruit juice, cooking sauces, tinned veg and tinned fruit so we can provide a nutritionally balanced food parcel. Please also consider donating financially as our vans are covering a lot of miles at the moment and needing diesel to get them from a to b. You can donate via our just giving page www.justgiving.com/blackcountryfoodbank or our bank details are available on our website www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk

This week's shortages are:

UHT milk, fruit juice, coffee, hot chocolate, tinned sponge pudding, tinned rice pudding, tinned veg ready meals, packets of mash, tinned fruit, deodorants, shaving foam, baby shampoo.

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.

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



The
Word
of God

We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese of Kuopio in Finland with Bishop Jari Jolkkonen.
Also the Diocese of Kericho in Kenya.

Churches Together:

Our Lady and All Saints Catholic Church

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

the Calling Young Disciples project as more team members are recruited and it begins to take shape.

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:

Heath Lane and Crofters Close

Local Community:

The Ark Centre in Stourbridge and all who use it.

Among those who are ill:

Angela Viner, Elizabeth Gale, Niamh McCormack, Betty Taylor, Emma Brown, Margaret Moulton, Jack Richards, Michael McCullagh 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:

Gerald Hale, William Smith, Harry Molineux and as their ashes are interred Joan Willetts and John Bayley

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.

HYMN — NHWS 288 See him lying on a bed of straw.
Presentation of our gifts for Dudley Women's refuge.

Intercessions

Prayers of hope.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us....

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**



Welcome the newly baptised

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these children and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God we will.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; by the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.

We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

Peace

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you. Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN— Come and join the celebration
(during which the collection will be taken)

The Blessing.

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to come among us in great humility, open your eyes to look for his coming again. **Amen.**

May God the Son give you grace to live in the light of his coming as redeemer and judge. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit free you from sin, make you holy, and bring you to eternal life. **Amen.** And the blessing.....

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Christ, Be Our Light

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.

Chorus:

*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.

5. Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.

Come and join the celebration

*Come and Join the celebration
It's a very special day
Come and Join the celebration
There's a new King born today*

See the shepherds
Hurry down to Bethlehem
Gaze in wonder
At the son of God who lay before them

Chorus

Wise men journey
Led to worship by a star
Kneel in homage
Bringing precious gifts from lands afar, So

Chorus

God is with us
Round the world the message bring
He is with us
Welcome all the bells on earth are pealing

Chorus