

The new service rota which runs from January through to the end of April is available today. Most have been sent on e mail but there are some hard copies available at the back of church.

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.



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.



Maggie Abbotts will be running a Fairtrade stall again today.



Our bucket collection in church this year will be for the Christian Aid Refugee Crisis Appeal.

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.

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 18th December 2016 Advent 4



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 Page 95

Sides: Meriel Harris

10.00am - Parish Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Preacher: Revd Alex French

Warden: Maggie Abbotts

Sides: Stan and Avril Williams

Reader: Joan Ram **Intercessions:** Kanthi Ariaraj

Anthem: Virgin born, we bow before thee—French

Children Together: Les Timms and Pauline Pettet

6.30pm – Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Officiant: Revd Stephen Agnew

Warden: Judy Hall **Sides:** Stan Williams

Collect for this week:

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings for our 10.00am service.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7: 10—16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

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 December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am
Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Parish Communion

No evening 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 19

Alex's day off
7.00pm—9.00pm Open House at
the Rectory

Wednesday 21

10.00am Prayer group meeting at
the home of Marjorie Ferguson
11.30am Holy Communion at Holly
Lodge

Thursday 22

10.30am Holy Communion
3.00pm Funeral in church of Annie
Harris

Friday 23

Stephen's day off

Saturday 24

10.00am Open Church and vestry
hour.
Crib service at 4.00pm.
Communion service at 10.00pm

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hi Everyone

This a wonderful time of year for many reasons but can be a very difficult time of year for lots of families in our community. The donations of mince pies, chocolates and other Christmas items will be going out to many across the Black Country and giving families some hope at what can be a very bleak time.

Again this year a few lovely individuals are spending their supermarket points on a donation for BCFB and having it delivered directly to the warehouse in Albion Street. Amazing!

We can still accept Christmas food items but we can't guarantee that they will go out in emergency food parcels before Christmas.

Thank you :)

This week's shortages are:

UHT milk, fruit juice, coffee, hot chocolate, tinned sponge pudding, tinned veg ready meals, packets of mash, packets of dried noodles, 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.



We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese of Borg in Norway with Bishop Atle Sommerfeldt.

Churches Together:

Riverside Christian Fellowship

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

the cathedral crib service and all crib services across the Diocese, that they might enable the Christmas story to come alive in new ways, especially for families who have not been to a crib service before.

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

For all those people who will be visiting our church during the next week as part of their Christmas celebrations and all those who will be leading services in church. For Thomas and Leanne, Larry and Sarah who were married here yesterday, we pray for their future happiness in marriage.

Those living in:

Melrose Avenue and Pear Tree Drive

Local Community:

Russells Hall Hospital

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, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan Bryan, Noah Cantius, Michael Woodall, Finley Rogerson and Denis Noakes.

Those in nursing home care:

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

The departed:

Gerald Hale, Geoff Smith, Annie Harris, Harry Molineux, Sally Taylor and as his ashes are interred 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.

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

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 1: 18—25

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

The birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Post Communion Prayer:

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

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

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 that 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

Monday 26 December

10.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Our evening service at 6.30pm today will be the traditional service of nine



Refreshments will be served following the service.