

Quiet Day - Praying farewell

We will be running a quiet day at Holland House on Wednesday 15th March from 10am until 4pm. The day will be structured around a series of reflections on the spirituality of change; exploring re-orientation when we lose something which has given our lives meaning and value. The day will include morning and afternoon refreshment, lunch and Holy Communion and will cost £25 per person (excluding transport). The cost and location of the day shouldn't prevent anyone from attending. If you anticipate problems with either of these or would like further information then please don't hesitate to speak to either Stephen or Alex. Please add your name to the sign up sheet at the back of church to secure a place.

Lent Course - five remarkable biblical women

We will be offering a five week (one 90 minute session per week) Lent course which will focus on five different women in the Bible. We are planning to offer the course through home groups and are looking for people to offer their homes as a venue for the five sessions (which can be anytime during the week) and also people (either individually or in pairs) to lead the sessions (training will be given). Please add your name to the sign up sheet at the back of church if you could fulfil either of these roles.

All aged worship 12th February

This service will focus on personal preparation for Lent and is called 'From Carnival To Commitment'. You are invited to dress flamboyantly (but you don't have to) for the service in an attempt to create a carnival feel within church. We are also looking for someone who could offer us all some 'personal testimony' i.e. talk to those present for up to five minutes about what Lent means for you. There is no need for any theological reflection, rather it's a chance for us to hear and be part of your own experience and commitment to Lent. If you would like further details please don't hesitate to speak to Stephen, Alex or Roger.

The next meeting of the 'Friends of The Music' will be next Sunday following the morning service at 11.00am.

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 5th February 2017 The Fourth Sunday before 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

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Sides: Meriel Harris

10.00am - Parish Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Preacher: Kanthi Ariaraj

Warden: Malcolm Frost

Sides: Sally Frost and Betty Parsons

Reader: Janet Hampson **Intercessions:** Judith Nex

Communion Motet: Ave verum—E Elgar

Voluntary: Chorale – M Archer

Children Together: Peter and Kathryn Hancox

6.30pm - Evensong

Officiant: Roger King **Preacher:** Revd Stephen Agnew

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

Readers: Dawn and Ian Nex

Intercessions: Revd Stephen Agnew

Anthem: Be thou my vision —R Chilcott

Voluntary: Koraal from Suite Modale – F Peeters

Collect for this week:

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations: through Jesus Christ you 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 58: 1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

This is the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD.

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

February 12
Third before Lent

8.00 am
Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Worship Together

6.30pm
Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR **THIS WEEK**

Monday 6

Alex's day off.

2.00pm Funeral of Jack Richards

Tuesday 7

10.00am Open The Book Team
visit Oldswinford Primary School

2.00pm Mission committee
meeting in the narthex

Wednesday 8

7.30pm Lent Course Leaders
meeting in the narthex

Thursday 9

10.30am Holy Communion in
church

Friday 10

Stephen's day off

Saturday 11

10.00am Open Church and vestry
hour.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hi Everyone

In October last year we held a couple of 'Collection Days' at Tesco, Town Gate Retail Park, Dudley. We had a brilliant time and their lovely customers donated trolley loads of food. In addition they collected £320 in cash and last week we went over to spend some of the money on our shortages.

We came back with lots of items and we were so grateful to the two members of staff who helped us find everything we needed.

Thank you Tesco customers :)

This week's shortages are:

fruit juice, cordial, small jars of coffee, tinned fruit, tinned ham, tinned corned beef, hot chocolate, deodorants, shaving foam.

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

We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese of Lomea in Sudan with Bishop Paul Yugusuk

Churches Together:

Hanbury Hill Baptist Church

Bishop John has asked us to pray

for those travelling with Bishop John on his visit to Peru. For the people and projects they will be visiting and for the life and work of the Diocese of Peru

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

David Eeles and Amanda Skelding who were married at St Mary's yesterday. For Joseph Henry Douglas Clifton who is being baptized here today. We pray for his parents and his Godparents who will be supporting him. For members of our mission committee who are meeting this week.

Those living in:

Parkfield Road and Vauxhall Road

Local Community:

Staff and pupils of Ham Dingle School

Among those who are ill:

Angela Viner, Emma Brown, Margaret Moulton, Michael McCullagh, Jean Rolfe and Enid Clarke.

We continue to pray for:

Rory Macintosh, Joe and Ros Yeates Elian Irvine-Boden, Anne May, Grace Jones, Niamh McCormack, 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:

Geoff Payton, Frederick Rubery, Jack Richards and Angela Dixon

In memoriam:

Alison Audsley (8.2.16)

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

Matthew 5: 13—20

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven..

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

Post Communion Prayer:

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Readings for our 6.30pm service.


The Old Testament Reading

Amos 2: 4—16

Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they have rejected the law of the Lord, and have not kept his statutes, but they have been led astray by the same lies after which their ancestors walked. So I will send a fire on Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.

Thus says the Lord: For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals— they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way; father and son go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned; they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge; and in the house of their God they drink wine bought with fines they imposed.

Yet I destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of cedars, and who was as strong as oaks; I destroyed his fruit above, and his roots beneath. Also I brought you up out of the land of Egypt, and led you forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. And I raised up some of your children to be prophets and some of your youths to be nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel? says the Lord. But you made the nazirites drink wine and commanded the prophets, saying, “You shall not prophesy.” So, I will press you down in your place, just as a cart presses down when it is full of sheaves. Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain their strength, nor shall the mighty save their lives; those who handle the bow shall not stand, and those who are swift of foot shall not save themselves, nor shall those who ride horses save their lives; and those who are stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, says the Lord.

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

The New Testament Reading

Ephesians 4: 17 –32

Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

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