



We will be holding two All Age Worship services during March. The first will be on the normal second Sunday of the month 12th March and the second will be on the 26th March so that we can celebrate Mothering Sunday. We hope you'll be able to join us on these dates.

The funeral of Angela Dixon will take place on Monday 27th February at 11.15am in church.

EASTER LILIES



The Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 15 April from 9.00am. Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of the lilies in memory of loved ones can do so by putting donations in an envelope with the name of the person to be remembered and giving it to one of the Church Wardens or to Sally Frost. Donations can also be put in yellow gift aid envelopes. Please mark these "For Flower Guild". Thank you very much.



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.

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.



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 19th February 2017 The Second 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: Ian Nex

10.00am - Parish Communion *The choir are on holiday today*

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Preacher: Roger King

Warden: Tony Tatford

Sides: Sue Tatford & Jeremy Morgan

Reader: Judith Nex **Intercessions:** John Sutton

Setting: Archer

Voluntary: Prelude in f minor – J S Bach

Children Together: Les Timms and Pauline Pettet

6.30pm - Evensong

Officiant: Revd Alex French **Preacher:** Revd Alex French

Warden: Maggie Abbotts **Sides:** Alec Beevers

Readers: Angela Price and Alec Beevers

Intercessions: Roger King

Voluntary: Prelude in f minor – J S Bach

Collect for this week:

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image; teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

Readings for our 10.00am service.

The New Testament Reading

Romans 8: 18-25


I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.


This is the Word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD.

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

Our next Messy Church event is this Wednesday between 11.00am and 1.00pm in the church hall. Further dates for your diary for future Messy Church events are: Wednesday 12th April, Wednesday 31st May, and Wednesday 16th August. These are all in school holidays.

On Sunday, 26 February at our 10.00 am service, we shall welcome Mrs Mandy McIntosh of  **Tearfund** as our speaker. She is an accredited, volunteer speaker for Tearfund and has visited Tearfund's partners in Honduras, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, South Africa, Thailand and Nepal. Last year St Mary's Mission twinned two toilets through 'Toilet Twinning' which is supported by Tearfund. We hope that members of our 8.00 am and 6.30pm congregation may join us on this occasion. After the service there will be an opportunity to talk to Mandy personally when coffee, biscuits and cakes will be served in the narthex. Everyone is welcome - please come.

Lent begins on Wednesday 1st March. We will be marking this with a service of Holy Communion in church at 7.30pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes. 

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

St Mary's Church Oldswinford



Our next Messy Church event for children will be on
Wednesday 22nd February between 11.00am and 1.00pm in the church hall
Activities and fun for children, parents, grandparents and carers with an informal act of worship at the end of the session

The event includes a meal together so please let us know if you would like to come so that we can make sure that we have enough food.

E mail: st.mary.os@btconnect or phone 01384 441003 or text 07762250749



The Gospel Reading

Matthew 6: 25—34

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

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

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

Post Communion Prayer:

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your church; may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour’s cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Readings for our 6.30pm service.

The Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 8:1 22-31

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth—
when he had not yet made earth and fields,
or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
then I was beside him, like a master worker;
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the human race.

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. The deadline date for reserving a place is Sunday 26th February.

Lent Course - five remarkable biblical women

A sign up sheet is available at the back of church, for all members of our church family to join in. Find a group which offers a day and a time which suits you and add your name. The course offers a gentle exploration into what we can learn about God from the stories of five remarkable women which span both the first and second testaments (Hagar, Hannah, Elisabeth, The Syrophenician Woman and The Samaritan Woman). No prior knowledge is needed, just a willingness to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, have a chat and discover where the Holy spirit might blow you. Everyone will receive a pack of resource materials to help you on your lenten journey. The course will run once a week (for up to 90 minutes) during the five weeks of Lent. You don't need to attend all the sessions. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to speak to Stephen, Alex, Roger or Kanthi.

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 26 Sunday before Lent

8.00 am
Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Parish Communion

6.30pm
Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK Half term week

Monday 20

Alex's day off.

Tuesday 21

2.30pm Tea at the Coach House.

Wednesday 22

11.30am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge

Thursday 23

10.30am Holy Communion in church

Friday 24

Parish office closed today
Stephen's day off

Saturday 25

10.00am Open Church and vestry hour.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hi Everyone

Thank you for the continued support of donations of food and toiletries. We took a call last week asking if the caller could donate just one item. The answer is absolutely 'yes!', we are thankful for each and every item donated. We are just as delighted with one item as we are with bags full of donations. please be encouraged to keep donating and supporting your local community. Every item is vital. Thank you :)

This week's shortages are:

fruit juice, cordial, small jars of coffee, tinned fruit, tinned ham, tinned corned beef, hot chocolate, deodorants, children's toothpaste and children's toothbrushes.

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.



The New Testament Reading

Revelation 4

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

"Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come."

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things and by your will they existed and were created."

Malcolm Archer

All



Can you help?

In the run up to Easter we will be hosting a number of visits from Old Swinford Primary School, Ham Dingle Primary School and The Cherry Tree Learning Centre. During the visits the children will undertake a series of activities in church which will allow them to explore and experience Easter. We are looking for volunteers to run these activities in church. Resources, instructions and training will be given. The activities aren't complicated and the children will only spend about 8 minutes at each activity before they rotate around to the next one. If you can help please can you add your name against the date/s you are free on the A3 sheet at the back of church. Please don't hesitate to ask Stephen or Alex if you would like further information.

We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese of Mahajanga in the Indian Ocean with Bishop Jean Claude Andrianjafimanana

Churches Together:

Amblecote Methodist Church

Bishop John has asked us to pray

for Revd Alison Maddocks as she begins her new role as Diocesan Stewardship Officer.

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

Alice Riley-Clarke who is being baptised today. Those who will be organising and attending our Messy Church this week.

Those living in:

Lea Vale Road and Dale Road

Local Community:

Staff and residents of Holly Lodge care home.

Among those who are ill:

Angela Viner, Emma Brown, Margaret Moulton, Michael McCullagh, Jean Rolfe, Chris Rowley 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:

Frederick Rubery, Jack Richards and Angela Dixon

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.