

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.

The March edition of our Parish Magazine is on sale at the back of church today.

Lent Course - five remarkable biblical women

Please sign up if you would like to join one of the groups for our Lent Course.

Quiet Day - Praying farewell

Today is the last day to sign up for our Quiet Day at Holland House. Please sign the sheet if you would like to join us.

Lent begins this 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.



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 26th February 2017

The Sunday before lent



A warm welcome to our visiting speaker and any other 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: Eve Evans

10.00am - Parish Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Speaker: Mandy McIntosh from Tear Fund

Warden: Judy Hall

Sides: John Evans and Toni Evans

Reader: Christine Day **Intercessions:** Dawn Nex

Setting: Lecot/Archer

Communion Motet: If ye love me—T Tallis

Voluntary: Allegro Maestoso in C—F Mendelssohn

Children Together: Emma White and Alison Jones

6.30pm - Evensong

Officiant: Revd Stephen Agnew **Preacher:** Kanthi Ariaraj

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

Readers: Dawn & Ian Nex

Intercessions: Kanthi Ariaraj

Anthem: Loving Shepherd of thy sheep—P Leighton

Voluntary: Piece d'orgue – J S Bach

Collect for this week:

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross; give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; 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 New Testament Reading

2 Peter 1: 16—21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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 **March 5** **Lent 1**

8.00 am
Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Parish Communion

6.30pm
Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 27

Alex's day off.

11.15am Funeral of Angela Dixon

Tuesday 28

10.00am The Open The Book Team visit Oldswinford Primary School.

6.15pm Stourbridge Beavers visiting church

7.30pm Bishop's Certificate group meeting in the Coach House.

Ash Wednesday March 1

11.30am Holy Communion at Holly Lodge

7.30pm Holy Communion in church

Thursday 2

10.30am Holy Communion in church

Friday 3

Stephen's day off


Saturday 4

10.00am Open Church and vestry hour.

Fairtrade fortnight begins this Monday. For further details and an online shop visit <http://shop.fairtrade.org.uk/>



This Friday is Women's World Day of Prayer. There will be a service at St Thomas' Church Stourbridge at 10.30am

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. 

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

We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese of Malek in Sudan with Bishop Peter Mayom.

Churches Together:

Chawn Hill Christian Centre

Bishop John has asked us to pray

for all in poverty in our communities and for the churches considering how they can best reach out to them .

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

for our open The Book Group who share the messages of the Bible with the children at Oldswinford Primary School. Also for our mission committee and all they do to support others.

Those living in:

Greenfinch Rod and Goldfinch Road

Local Community:

Staff and residents of Holly Croft 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:

Jack Richards, Angela Dixon and Elizabeth Wassell

In memoriam:

Elizabeth Shepherd (25.2.16)

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 17 : 1-9

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

Post Communion Prayer:

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ; may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

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

Readings for our 6.30pm service.

The Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 2: 1—12

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

The New Testament Reading

Matthew 17: 9—23

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.” And the disciples asked him, “Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?” He replied, “Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands.” Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, and said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.” Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.” And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.” And they were greatly distressed.