



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.

There is a collection of books at the back of church which have been borrowed from the Robin Woods Library for Lent. Please complete a lending slip if you would like to borrow a book.

Please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to volunteer to help in the reading of the Passion Story on Palm Sunday, 9th April.

John is beginning to prepare the next service rota which will run from 7th May through to 3rd September. If you volunteer for any of the roles on the service rota please let John know of any dates you will not be available during this time by Monday 3rd April. The new rota should then be available on Sunday 9th April. If you would like to volunteer for any of the roles then please speak to Stephen or Alex. It would be particularly helpful to have more volunteers to make and serve coffee at our 10.00am Sunday morning service.

Please sign the list at the back of church if you would like to join us for an Agape Supper in the church hall at 7.00pm on Maundy Thursday.

Experience Easter

If you have a spare five minutes pick up a Experience Easter leaflet from the Narthex and visit each of our activity stations. Each station offers you a short passage of scripture and interlinked display to reflect on and a prayer to be offered.

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 2nd April 2017 The Fifth Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday



*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 137
Sides: Nick Harbach

10.00am - Parish Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew
Preacher: Revd Alex French
Warden: Judy Hall
Sides: Pauline Pettet & Betty Parsons
Reader: Peter Jones **Intercessions:** Mike Blaxland
Setting: Archer
Communion Motet: Sing my tongue the glorious battle- *Plainsong*
Voluntary: Christus, der uns selig macht —J S Bach
Children Together: Pauline Pettet & Alison Jones

6.30pm - Evensong

Officiant: Kanthi Ariaraj **Preacher:** Revd Stephen Agnew
Warden: Judy Hall **Sides:** Richard Hall
Readers: Angela Price and Judy Hall
Intercessions: Kanthi Ariaraj
Anthem: God so loved the world—J Stainer
Voluntary: Passacaglia in d minor – D Buxtehude

Collect for this week:

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ you r Son our Lord, 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

Ezekiel 37: 1—14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

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

April 9
Palm Sunday

8.00 am
Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Parish Communion
Our service begins in the church hall.

6.30pm
Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 3

9.45am School visit to Easter Experience

Tuesday 4

9.45am School visit to Easter Experience

7.30pm Bishop's Certificate group meeting in the Rectory

Wednesday 5

9.45am and 1.30pm School visits to Easter Experience

Thursday 6

Parish Office closed today
10.30am Holy Communion in church
1.30pm—School visit to Experience Easter

Friday 7

Stephen's day off
3.30pm Experience Easter conclusion

Saturday 8

10.00am Open Church and vestry hour.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hi Everyone

Thank you for the continued support over the last few weeks. In light of Mother's Day we have been remembering all the calls we have had from Moms who have run out of food for their children. The donations help so many we can't stress enough how important they are. Thank you :)

This week's shortages are:

FRUIT JUICE, CORDIAL/SQUASH, BREAKFAST CEREAL (LOW SUGAR/SMALL BOXES), COOKING SAUCE, MEAT READY MEALS (MEATBALLS), CUSTARD, SAVOURY RICE, PLAIN RICE (SMALL BAGS), SANITARY TOWELS, WASHING POWDER (SMALL BOXES), WASHING UP LIQUID, ADULT SINGLE TOOTHBRUSHES, TOILET ROLL

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. Any donations of bags to help carry the donations from the large boxes at the back of church to the collection station would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.



We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese of Mityana in Uganda with Bishop Stephen Kaziimba. Also the Diocese of Funen in Denmark with Bishop Tine Lindhardt.

Churches Together:

Riverside Christian Fellowship

Bishop John has asked us to pray

for Workplace Chaplains across the diocese—working with Faith at Work in Worcestershire and also the Black Country Urban Industrial Mission (BCUIM) and for those they visit in workplaces.

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

for all those who will be leading or taking part in our Experience Easter event. Teagan Jayne Louise Green and Finley Philip Aries who are being baptised at St Mary's today. We pray for their parents and Godparents who will support them.

Those living in:

Arlington Court and Redhill Drive

Local Community:

The What? Centre

Among those who are ill:

Angela Viner, Emma Brown, Margaret Moulton, Michael McCullagh, Jean Rolfe, Bosilka Lazic, Grace Jones, Muriel Watson and Enid Clarke.

We continue to pray for:

Rory Macintosh, Joe and Ros Yeates, Elian Irvine-Boden, Anne May, Niamh McCormack, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan Bryan, Noah Cantius, Michael Woodall, Finley Rogerson, Andrew and Lesley Mullen, Justin and Kevin and Denis Noakes.

Those in nursing home care:

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

The departed:

Vera Derby.

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

John 11: 1—45

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.



HOLY WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Father in heaven, as your people prepare once more to follow the events of this Holy Week, may we be led by your spirit to deeper insights into your love and saving grace; that we may love you more and serve you better, for the sake of him who died for us and rose again, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Sunday 9 April PALM SUNDAY

8.00am Holy Communion
 10.00am Parish Communion to include a reading of the Passion narrative.
 This service begins in the Church Hall with palm procession into Church.
 6.30pm Evensong with sermon

10,11,12 April

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
 6.30pm Meditation in church with Compline.

Wednesday 12

11.00am—1.00pm Lent Messy Church for children.

Thursday 13 MAUNDY THURSDAY

10.30am Holy Communion.
 7.00pm Agape Meal in the Church Hall

Friday 14 GOOD FRIDAY

10.00am Walk of witness from St John's.
 2.00pm Devotions at the foot of the cross.
 7.30pm Service of readings and music in church.

Saturday 15 HOLY SATURDAY

9.00am Church decoration.
 10.00am Open church and vestry hour.

Sunday 16 EASTER DAY

7.45am Holy Fire. The lighting of the Easter Candle.
 8.00am Holy Communion.
 10.00am Parish Communion.
 6.30pm Choral Evensong with sermon.



O Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, who on a Cross with wood and nails has wrought our salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we, who come to you rough-hewn, may by you be fashioned according to your will; for the sake of your tender mercy. Amen