



ST MARY'S, OLD SWINFORD
We extend a warm invitation to our
SERVICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2017

Sunday 3 December

6.30pm Advent Carol Service

Sunday 10 December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Toy Service (*During which you are invited to donate an unwrapped gift of a toy or toiletries which will be donated to the Dudley Women's' refuge*)

6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 17 December

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion

4.00pm Christingle Service

6.30pm Christmas Carol Service

A traditional Service of Readings and Carols

Sunday 24 December CHRISTMAS EVE

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion

4.00pm Crib Service for children

10.00pm Communion with Carols *The First Communion of Christmas*


Monday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00am Family Communion (Common Worship) with Carols

Tuesday 26 December ST STEPHEN'S DAY

10.30am Said service of Holy Communion

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. This pewsheet is printed on recycled 

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

The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford
Sunday 12 November 2017



Trinity 22—Remembrance Sunday



A warm welcome to any visitors who are worshipping with us today.
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 or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford.

Collect: Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all; govern our hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Our services today are as follows:

8.00am - Holy Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Collect, Epistle and Gospel Page 241

Sides: Nick Harbach

10.00am - Worship Together including an act of remembrance

President: Revd Alex French

Warden: Tony Tatford **Sides:** Sue Tatford & Toni Evans

Reader: Jean Agnew

Organ Music: Chorale—L Vienne



6.30pm – Choral Evensong

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

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

Readers: Ian and Dawn Nex

Intercessions: Revd Stephen Agnew

Responses: West Psalm; 20

Setting: Sumsion in A

Anthem: So they gave their bodies—P Aston

Organ Music: Kyrie, Gott heiliger Geist—BWV 671—J S Bach



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

*"As we remember those who sacrificed their
lives in conflict we seek the ways of peace"*

*Before the service begins, you are invited to make a poppy which
you can then use during our act of Remembrance.*

The Gathering

Silence

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

*As we gather together we light a candle to symbolise the peace to
which we aspire.*

Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God.
As we remember those people who sacrificed their lives in
conflict we commit ourselves to seek peace in God's world.

Let us pray

Father of all mercies: grant that our remembrance this day may
be consecrated for practical service and the world made better
for our children's children. **Amen.**

Hymn: 635 For the Healing of the Nations



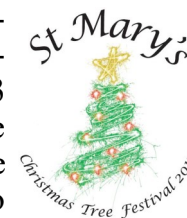
An Act of Penitence

Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world;
its pride, its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds.
Let us confess our share in what is wrong,
and our failures to seek and establish that peace
which God wills for his children.

Silence

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

Plans are now well advanced for the Christmas Tree Festival and we are looking for volunteers to help with stewarding the Church during the weekend. We will need 3 for each session. We will also be serving tea and coffee so will need 2 people each session to cover this. Please sign the lists at the back of Church if you are able to help. Thank you very much for your support. Sally Frost



St Mary's Mission Christmas Cards

These will be on sale in the narthex after our 10.00 am service today. Once again, thank you to Elaine Smith for her painting this year and for arranging printing.

Please make a date in your diary for our:-

Christmas Market

Saturday, 2nd December from 10.00am - Noon

in the Church Hall

This has always proved to be a great occasion and with your support this happy state of affairs should continue. As always any contributions to the Market are welcome and can be left at the back of church. Contributions of wine etc. to the bottle stall will encourage even more people to 'have a go'. Contributions to the cake stall: please bring to the Church Hall on Friday evening or early Saturday morning to enable the stall holders to have time to price them. Why not use this opportunity to DECLUTTER for Christmas by letting us have those bits and pieces which have been loved but are now looking for a good home.

We have stalls for books, bric-a-brac, cakes, jigsaws, craftwork, jewellery, gifts, Christmas Hamper Raffle, tombola and Treasure Island. If you have an idea for a stall, game or fundraiser and/or would like to be one of the band of helpers (get in free!) then I would love to hear from you on either phone (01384 378182 or by email at kateyfletcher@btinternet.com

Many thanks,

What's going on?

Please ask if you would like to know any more about the events listed on these pages.

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY November 19 Second Sunday before Advent

8.00 am Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Communion
Service in the church hall
including a presentation by
Anne Batchelor our Mission
Enabler.
3.00pm Baptism
6.30pm Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 13

Parish Office closed

Tuesday 14

10.00 Open The Book group
visit Oldswinford Primary.
11.30am holy Communion at
Holly Croft.
1.15pm Funeral in church
7.30pm PCC Meeting

Thursday 16

10.30am Holy Communion in
church

Friday 17

Stephen and Alex day off

Saturday 18

10.00am Open Church and
vestry hour with Tony

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.



Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you for all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The act of remembrance

Please stand as you are able

Let us remember before God, and commend to his sure keeping:
those who have died for their country in conflict; those whom we
know, and whose memory we treasure; and all who have lived and
died in the service of humanity.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not
weary them, nor the years condemn.

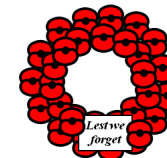
At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember
them.

We will remember them.

The Last post

We hold a minutes silence

The wreath is laid and we place our poppies at the foot of the
candle.



MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hi Everyone

We are excited to be part of the Express and Star 'Feed a Family at Christmas' appeal. This is the second year we have been chosen and its great news! Please have a read and see if you can support us this year at what can be a difficult time for many. Thank you for your support. Thank you everyone! :)

This week's shortages are:

UHT MILK, FRUIT JUICE, HOT CHOCOLATE, SMALL JARS OF COFFEE, PACKETS OF MASH (very low), TINNED FRUIT, ROLL ON DEODORANTS, SINGLE ADULT TOOTHBRUSHES, SANITARY TOWELS, SHAVING GEL, SHOWER GEL

Christmas items:

Tinned meat, Packets of gravy, Tinned veg, Tinned Potatoes, Packets of mash, Mince pies, Christmas puddings, Selection boxes.

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 return to our seats and stand as we are able for:
The Reveille*

Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Word

Hymn 557 Beauty for Brokenness

Reading: Matthew 25: 1—13

Address

Hymn 715 Lord for the years

Prayers

Response to the words 'may God give peace' is '**God give peace**'

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us....

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for
ever and ever. Amen.**

Welcome to the newly baptised

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these children and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God we will.



We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese of Ughelli in Nigeria with Bishop Cyril Odutemu. Also the Diocese of Lulea in Sweden with Bishop Hans Stiglund.

Churches Together:

St Michael and All Angels Norton

Bishop John has asked us to pray

For all suffering and conflict going on in the world right now, that those affected may know God's love and peace during these horrific times, particularly those who have lost loved ones. Pray for a quick resolution to the many conflicts raging across the globe, that peace may be swift and certain.

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

Freddie Moss who is preparing for baptism. We pray for his parents and Godparents who will be supporting him. For our PCC who will be meeting this week. For the family and friends of Brian Pickersgill whose funeral will take place at St Mary's this week.

Those living in:

Shaftesbury Avenue and Halfcot Avenue

Local Community:

Students and Staff of Red Hill School

Among those who are ill:

Joni Stainburn, Betty and Joe Chiswell, The Palmer family, Julie Read, Judy Taylor, Tim Bradley, Geoff Skelding, Lilian Bunny and Ian Moore.

We continue to pray for:

Rory Macintosh, Joe and Ros Yeates, Elian Irvine-Boden, Maureen Parmee, Anne May, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan Bryan, Noah Cantius, Michael Woodall, Finley Rogerson, Andrew and Lesley Mullen, Justin and Kevin, Peter and Lydia Wilkinson, Grace Jones, Enid Clarke, Angela Viner, Rosie and Denis Noakes.

Those in nursing home care:

Sheila Westwood, June O'Brian, Richard Aldred, Margaret Moulton, Hazel White, Betty Shore and Anne Davies.

The departed:

Kathleen Richards, Bosilka Lazic, Olive Eley, Vyvyan Hobby and Brian Pickersgill.

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 New Testament Reading

John 15: 9—17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.



There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; by the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.

We welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you.

Peace

Blessed be Christ, the Prince of Peace. He breaks down the walls that divide us: praise Christ who is our peace! The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn 678 : In Christ Alone



A dedication prayer

Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love: may we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people, and live lives of justice, courage and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen redeemer. **Amen.**

Hymn 578: The National Anthem -
we sing the first verse together

The blessing

God grant to the living grace,
to the departed rest,
to the Church, the Queen, the commonwealth and all people,
unity, peace and concord,
and to us and all God's servants,
life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.



Readings for our 6.30pm service.

The Old Testament Reading

Judges 7: 2—22

The Lord said to Gideon, “The troops with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand. Israel would only take the credit away from me, saying, ‘My own hand has delivered me.’ Now therefore proclaim this in the hearing of the troops, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home.’” Thus Gideon sifted them out; twenty-two thousand returned, and ten thousand remained.

Then the Lord said to Gideon, “The troops are still too many; take them down to the water and I will sift them out for you there. When I say, ‘This one shall go with you,’ he shall go with you; and when I say, ‘This one shall not go with you,’ he shall not go.” So he brought the troops down to the water; and the Lord said to Gideon, “All those who lap the water with their tongues, as a dog laps, you shall put to one side; all those who kneel down to drink, putting their hands to their mouths, you shall put to the other side.” The number of those that lapped was three hundred; but all the rest of the troops knelt down to drink water. Then the Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred that lapped I will deliver you, and give the Midianites into your hand. Let all the others go to their homes.” So he took the jars of the troops from their hands, and their trumpets; and he sent all the rest of Israel back to their own tents, but retained the three hundred. The camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

That same night the Lord said to him, “Get up, attack the camp; for I have given it into your hand. But if you fear to attack, go down to the camp with your servant Purah; and you shall hear what they say, and afterward your hands shall be strengthened to attack the camp.” Then he went down with his servant Purah to the outposts of the armed men that were in the camp. The Midianites and the Amalekites and all the people of the east lay along the valley as thick as locusts; and their camels were without number, countless as the sand on the seashore. When Gideon arrived, there was a man telling a dream to his comrade; and he said, “I had a dream, and in it a cake of barley

bread tumbled into the camp of Midian, and came to the tent, and struck it so that it fell; it turned upside down, and the tent collapsed.” And his comrade answered, “This is no other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, a man of Israel; into his hand God has given Midian and all the army.”

When Gideon heard the telling of the dream and its interpretation, he worshiped; and he returned to the camp of Israel, and said, “Get up; for the Lord has given the army of Midian into your hand.” After he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and put trumpets into the hands of all of them, and empty jars, with torches inside the jars, he said to them, “Look at me, and do the same; when I come to the outskirts of the camp, do as I do. When I blow the trumpet, I and all who are with me, then you also blow the trumpets around the whole camp, and shout, ‘For the Lord and for Gideon!’”

So Gideon and the hundred who were with him came to the outskirts of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, when they had just set the watch; and they blew the trumpets and smashed the jars that were in their hands. So the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars, holding in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow; and they cried, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!” Every man stood in his place all around the camp, and all the men in camp ran; they cried out and fled. When they blew the three hundred trumpets, the Lord set every man’s sword against his fellow and against all the army; and the army fled as far as Beth-shittah toward Zererah, as far as the border of Abel-meholah, by Tabbath.