



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

The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford
Sunday 3 December 2017
Advent Sunday



A warm welcome to any visitors who are worshipping with us today. Please join us for a chat over a cup of coffee after our 10.00am service. 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.

Our services today are as follows:

8.00am - Holy Communion

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Collect, Epistle and Gospel reading on page 89

Sides: Nick Harbach

10.00am - Parish Communion

President: Revd Alex French

Preacher: Revd Stephen Agnew

Warden: Tony Tatford

Sides: Jeremy Morgan & Mike Blaxland

Reader: Tina Timms **Intercessions:** Mike Blaxland

Communion Motet: The Angel Gabriel – *Basque trad*

Organ Music: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme – *J S Bach*

Children Together: Helen and Russ Fowler

6.30pm – Advent Carol Service

Officiant: Revd Stephen Agnew

Warden: Marjorie Ferguson **Sides:** Alec Beevers

Voluntary: Nun Kann Der Heiden Heiland BWV 661 - *Bach*

Collect for this week:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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

Isaiah 64: 1—9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD.

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

SAVE THE DATE

We shall be hosting a performance of '**Jesus My Boy**' on Saturday 24 March 2018.

This is a stunning one-man play, the story of Jesus seen through the eyes of Joseph, an ordinary and down-to-earth man, dismayed about how his image is later portrayed in Christian artwork! Jesus My Boy is extremely humorous, incredibly moving, and beautifully and cleverly written by John Dowie.



JINGLE ALL THE WAY...

AN EVENING OF SONG & CAROLS

Sat 9th December, 7.30pm

(Doors open 7.00pm)

St Mary's Church, Church Road
Oldswinford, Stourbridge DY8 2HA

Christmas Jumpers Welcome!

Adults £8.00 Under 16s £5.00

Available at choir or...

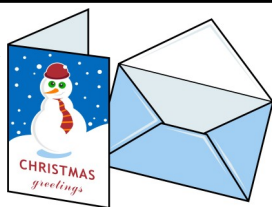
Tel: 03330 146164 / e-mail sing@got2sing.co.uk


Tickets available in the Parish Office

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 paper.

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

During the next week we would like to be able to deliver a Christmas card from St Mary's to every home in the parish. Could you please help with this task? The cards are bundled into streets and are at the back of church. Please help us by taking at least one street and distributing them at some time within the week as our way of reaching out to all members of the parish to wish them a happy Christmas and to invite them to one of our Christmas services. Thank you.



There is a selection of books at the back of church from the Robin Woods Library which provide some reading for the season of Advent. If you would like to borrow a book please complete a borrowing slip and place it in the folder.

The new prayer diaries are available today. Please take a copy home to use and also an extra copy to give to a friend or neighbour if you would like to.



**ST MARY'S
OLD SWINFORD**
Parish Church Magazine



PRIEST IN CHARGE: The Revd Stephen Agnew, The Rectory,
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 2HA
Tel: 01384 395410
E-mail: st.mary.os.priest@btconnect.com

CURATE: The Revd Alex French, 58 Arlington Court,
Old Swinford, Stourbridge, DY8 1NN
Tel 01384 622400
E-mail: st.mary.os.curate@btconnect.com

DECEMBER 2017

50p

The December issue of our Parish Magazine is on sale in church today. It includes details of all our Christmas Services as well as the diary for the month, details of the each Sunday's readings, children's pages and a range of interesting articles. Why not take a copy for somebody that you know, a friend, somebody who's moved into a house in your street or a next door neighbour. This is the final edition of the magazine in its present format. A revised format will begin in January and copies will only be available from church or online. No further copies are being delivered.

The Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24—37

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

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

Post Communion Prayer:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

We invite you to offer prayers for

The World Church:

The Diocese Porvoo in Finland with Bishop Bjorn Vlkstrom. Also the Diocese of West Buganda in Uganda with Bishop Henry Katumba-Tamale

Churches Together:

Hanbury Hill Baptist Church

Bishop John has asked us to pray

for the Church of England's Christmas campaign #GodWithUs and that more people will come to know the love of Jesus this Christmas-time.

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

For the opportunity that we have through our Christmas Tree Festival to welcome our community to church. As we continue to welcome different groups of people to church this week through visits and concerts that they may see something of the light of Christ within our church.

Those living in:

Stanley Road and Bramber Way

Local Community:

Students and Staff of Oldswinford Hospital School

Among those who are ill:

Betty and Joe Chiswell, The Palmer family, Judy Taylor, Tim Bradley, Geoff Skelding, Rosie, 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, Enid Clarke, Julie Read, Angela Viner, and Denis Noakes.

Those in nursing home care:

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

The departed:

Brenda Wootton

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.

What's going on?

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

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

December 10

Advent 2

8.00 am
Communion (BCP)

10.00am
Worship Together
Toy Service

6.30pm Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 4

Parish Office closed
Christmas Tree Festival

Tuesday 5

9.40am Visit by pupils from Elmfield School

Wednesday 6

2.00pm Toddler Group service in church.

6.00pm Brownie Group visiting church

Thursday 7

10.30am Holy Communion in church

Friday 8

2.00pm OSH Carol Service in church

Saturday 9

10.00am Vestry Hour and Open Church.

7.30pm Concert in church by Got2Sing

Quarter Peal

Our bells will be ringing in celebration on Sunday as the bellringers will be ringing a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples which will start at 5.15pm.



The celebration is firstly to welcome the new Christian Year but also to celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversaries of three of our ringers Cliff and Chris Day, Ray and Jean Drew and Tony and Lyn Lloyd. We have some visitors joining us to help us out with the ringing. We hope you enjoy hearing the bells pealing out their message.

A huge thank you to everybody who has been involved with the organisation and running of our Christmas Market and Christmas Tree Festival events this weekend. Both events are hoping to raise funds for church so that we can continue to offer a Christian welcome and presence in our community. Thank you everybody.