



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.

### Reading at the Carol Service

We are looking for nine readers to be part of our Carol Service next Sunday evening. If you would like to read (a short passage from Bible) please let Alex know. No previous experience is necessary.

John is preparing the new service rota this week. Please let him know of any dates that you will be unavailable between January and April 2018 by Tuesday this week so that the new rota can be prepared and be ready for distribution next weekend. Thanks



We thought you'd like to know about our other services designed for children this Christmas:



**Sunday 17th December—4.00pm**

We will be holding our usual Christingle procession thinking about the significance and symbolism of the Christingle creating a really special moment for children.



**Sunday 24th December—4.00pm**

Start your family Christmas by coming to church to hear again the Christmas Story. We place the figures in the crib and sing some familiar songs.

We'd love to see you.

Follow us on Facebook



Please send any notices or information for the pewsheet to the Parish Office by 12 noon on a Wednesday. Send to [st.mary.os@btconnect.com](mailto:st.mary.os@btconnect.com) or text to 07956675990 or phone 01384 441003. This pewsheet is printed on recycled paper.

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



## The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford

### Sunday 10 December 2017

### Second Sunday of Advent



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](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford](http://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford).

**Collect:** O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

### Our services today are as follows:

#### 8.00am - Holy Communion

**President:** Revd Stephen Agnew

Collect, Epistle and Gospel reading on page 91

**Sides:** Nick Harbach

#### 10.00am - Worship Together—Toy service

**Leader:** Revd Stephen Agnew & Revd Alex French

**Warden:** Les Timms **Sides:** Pauline Pettet & Betty Parsons

**Readers:** Merl and Colin Roberts

*The toys brought today will be donated to the Dudley Women's Refuge.*



#### 6.30pm – Evensong

**Leader:** Roger King

**Preacher:** Revd Stephen Agnew

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

**Readers:** Marjorie Ferguson & Alec Beevers

**Intercessions:** Revd Stephen Agnew

**Anthem:** The Advent Prose

**Music:** Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 599—JS Bach

This pew sheet is also available at [www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk)



# Waiting for Jesus!



Welcome, Notices and Lighting of the Advent Candle.

## The Gathering



People of God: be glad!  
Your God delights in you,  
giving you joy for sadness  
and turning the dark to light.  
Be strong in hope therefore; for your God comes to save.  
You are God's children.



Lord make us one in the love of Christ, today and for ever. Amen

**HYMN:** - 160 Make way, make way, for Christ the King

## Thanksgiving Prayer

To each prayer please respond: **Glory to God in the highest**  
At the end of this prayer we remain seated and sing:

**HYMN:** - 418 Holy, holy, holy Lord

## The Proclamation

**Old Testament Reading** Isaiah 40: 1–11  
(The promise of God through Isaiah)

What did God promise through his prophet?

**HYMN** — 45 O come, O come, Emmanuel

**New Testament Reading** Mark 1: 1–8  
(The promise of God through John the Baptist)

What is God's promise to us?

**Prayers**—What is God calling us to pray for in our world today?

We say together:

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

**AMEN**

**Presentation of our gifts and toys for Dudley Women's refuge.**

**HYMN:** - 82 See him lying on a bed of straw

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

The  
Word  
of 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

December 17

Advent 2

8.00 am  
Communion (BCP)

10.00am  
Parish Communion

4.00pm Christingle

6.30pm Carol Service

### CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

**Monday 11**

Parish Office closed  
7.00pm Redhill School Carol Concert

**Tuesday 12**

7.00pm King Edward College Carol Concert

**Wednesday 13**

7.00pm Oldswinford Primary School Carol Concert

**Thursday 14**

10.30am Holy Communion in church

**Friday 15**

Stephen and Alex day off.

**Saturday 16**

Church being decorated for Christmas  
10.00am Vestry Hour and Open Church.  
1.00pm Wedding in church

### MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hello Everyone

We have had lots of messages from individuals and companies asking about how they can help over Christmas. We have received deliveries from supermarkets when kind hearted shoppers have spent their points on our shortages. We have had people dropping in to the warehouse with donations. We have had calls from our collection points letting us that their collection bins are full. We are so thankful for all the support.

Please encourage each other to consider financial donations as we need diesel to fill the vans, we need lighting and heating for our warehouse and we have to pay rent! Without our lovely warehouse we wouldn't have anywhere to store all the donations. If you would like to donate you can use our Just Giving Page [www.justgiving.com/blackcountryfoodbank](http://www.justgiving.com/blackcountryfoodbank) Thank you! Thank you everyone! :)

This week's shortages are:

**UHT MILK , FRUIT JUICE, HOT CHOCOLATE, PACKETS OF MASH (very low),  
TINNED FRUIT , BOXES OF WASHING POWDER (SMALL)  
SIZE 5 AND 6 NAPPIES**

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.



This pew sheet is also available at [www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk)

**We invite you to offer prayers for .....**

***The World Church:***

The Diocese Western North Carolina (USA) with Bishop Jose McLoughlin. Diocese of Kuopio in Finland with Bishop Jan Jolkkonen

***Churches Together:***

Wollaston Methodist Church

***Bishop John has asked us to pray .....***

for all churches organising events to bring the community into our churches during Advent and Christmas.

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

Laura and Wesley who will be married at St Mary's next Saturday.

For all the visitors, students and staff who will be visiting St Mary's this week to attend carol concerts.

***Those living in:***

Oldfield Drive and Robins Close

***Local Community:***

Residents and staff of Holly Lodge Care Home.

***Among those who are ill:***

Betty and Joe Chiswell, The Palmer family, Judy Taylor, Tim Bradley, Geoff Skelding, Rosie, Becki Henley, Lilian Bunny, Lucy Rennie 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 Moul, Hazel White, Betty Shore, Mabel Arnold and Anne Davies.

***The departed:***

Mary Bashford as her ashes are interred.

*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.*

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

**Welcome 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.**

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**

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.** Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**HYMN:** — 42 Longing for light, we wait in darkness  
(during which the collection will be taken)

**Final Prayers**

Awaiting his coming in glory, 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.**



**A Prayer of emptying and filling**

**The Blessing.**

**Go in the peace of Christ. Thanks be to God.**



This pew sheet is also available at [www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk](http://www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk)

## Old Testament Reading

### 1 Kings 22: 1—28

For three years Aram and Israel continued without war. But in the third year King Jehoshaphat of Judah came down to the king of Israel. The king of Israel said to his servants, “Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, yet we are doing nothing to take it out of the hand of the king of Aram?” He said to Jehoshaphat, “Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?” Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, “I am as you are; my people are your people, my horses are your horses.”

But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, “Inquire first for the word of the Lord.” Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred of them, and said to them, “Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?” They said, “Go up; for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.” But Jehoshaphat said, “Is there no other prophet of the Lord here of whom we may inquire?” The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “There is still one other by whom we may inquire of the Lord, Micaiah son of Imlah; but I hate him, for he never prophesies anything favourable about me, but only disaster.” Jehoshaphat said, “Let the king not say such a thing.” Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, “Bring quickly Micaiah son of Imlah.” Now the king of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. Zedekiah son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron, and he said, “Thus says the Lord: With these you shall gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.” All the prophets were prophesying the same and saying, “Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.”

The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, “Look, the words of the prophets with one accord are favourable to the king; let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favourably.” But Micaiah said, “As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak.”

When he had come to the king, the king said to him, “Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?” He answered him, “Go up and triumph; the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.” But the king said to him, “How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?” Then Micaiah said, “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, like sheep that have no shepherd; and the Lord said, ‘These have no master; let each one go home in peace.’” The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy anything favourable about me, but only disaster?”

Then Micaiah said, “Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting

on his throne, with all the host of heaven standing beside him to the right and to the left of him. And the Lord said, ‘Who will entice Ahab, so that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ Then one said one thing, and another said another, until a spirit came forward and stood before the Lord, saying, ‘I will entice him.’ ‘How?’ the Lord asked him. He replied, ‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ Then the Lord said, ‘You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do it.’ So you see, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has decreed disaster for you.”

Then Zedekiah son of Chenaanah came up to Micaiah, slapped him on the cheek, and said, “Which way did the spirit of the Lord pass from me to speak to you?” Micaiah replied, “You will find out on that day when you go in to hide in an inner chamber.” The king of Israel then ordered, “Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king’s son, and say, ‘Thus says the king: Put this fellow in prison, and feed him on reduced rations of bread and water until I come in peace.’” Micaiah said, “If you return in peace, the Lord has not spoken by me.” And he said, “Hear, you peoples, all of you!”

## The New Testament Reading

### Romans 15: 4—13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.