

The new service rota begins today. Hard copies are available at the back of church.

2018 diaries are available at the back of church. These are given to us at no cost. Please help yourself.

We offer our thanks to Russ Fowler who has stepped down from the role as treasurer of St Mary's finances. Thank you Russ for all the time and energy you have given to support the work of St Mary's. The new treasurer will be Stan Williams who will be supported by a treasury team to include Richard Hall, John Sutton and Mike Blaxland.

### **Lent Course 2018 - could you LEAD or HOST a group?**

Following the success of last years Lent Course we have put together a five session programme (called Counting our Blessings) for this year and we are looking for leaders and hosts. No experience is needed to lead a group and a briefing/training session will be held in the Narthex on Wednesday 31st January at 7pm to talk through the course materials and answer questions. Hosts offer their house as a venue for a group, which will then be guided by a volunteer leader. We are looking to get a spread of groups running during each week of Lent so there is flexibility to establish a group around any time slots that you can offer. We will match hosts and leaders together according to their availability. If you are interested in being either a leader or a host please sign up on the sheet by the North door. Please don't hesitate to speak to Stephen or Alex if you have any questions or queries.

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](mailto:st.mary.os@btconnect.com) or text to 07956675990 or phone 01384 441003. This pewsheets is printed on recycled paper.

## The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford Sunday 7 January 2018 Epiphany



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).

### **Our services today are as follows:**

#### **8.00am - Holy Communion**

**President:** Revd Stephen Agnew

Collect, Epistle and Gospel reading on page 107

**Sides:** Meriel Harris

#### **10.00am - Parish Communion**

**President:** Revd Alex French

**Preacher:** Revd Stephen Agnew

**Warden:** Tony Tatford

**Sides:** Sue Tatford & Andrew Scudamore

**Reader:** Christine Day **Intercessions:** Mike Blaxland

**Children Together:** Roger King

**Communion Motet:** How brightly shines the Morning Star - *Nicolai*

**Organ Music:** Noel Ou s'en vont ces gays Bergers - *Lebege*

#### **6.30pm - Evensong**

**Officiant:** Roger King

**Preacher:** Revd Alex French

**Warden:** Judy Hall **Sides:** Richard Hall

**Readers:** Richard Hall & Judy Hall

**Intercessions:** Revd Alex French

**Anthem:** From the rising of the sun - *F Ouseley*

**Voluntary:** Prelude sur l'Introit de l'Epiphanie - *M Durufle*

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

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

## Collect for this week:

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth; mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory, face to face; through Jesus Christ your 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**

Isaiah 60: 1—6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of 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**

**January 14**  
**Epiphany 2**

8.00 am  
Communion (BCP)

10.00am  
Worship Together

10.00pm Choral Evensong

### **CHURCH DIARY FOR** **THIS WEEK**

#### **Monday 8**

Parish Office closed  
11.30am Pastoral Committee Meeting

#### **Tuesday 9**

10.00am The Open The Book Group visit Oldswinford Primary School  
11.30am Holy Communion at Holly Croft

#### **Wednesday 10**

10.00am Prayer Group meeting at the home of Marjorie Ferguson

#### **Thursday 11**

10.30am Holy Communion in church led by Revd Alex French

#### **Friday 12**

Alex day off.

#### **Saturday 13**

10.00am Vestry Hour and Open Church with Alex

### MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

#### **Happy New Year Everyone**

We have received deliveries from supermarkets when kind hearted shoppers have spent their points on our shortages. We have also 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.



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

**Churches Together:**

Holy Trinity Church Amblecote

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

the Plough Sunday Prayer: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; for in your abundant care you have given us fertile land, rich soil, the seasons in their courses. You provide seed for sowing, water, light and warmth to bring forth the miracle of growth. You give us skill to work the land, to prepare and nourish it, that it may be fruitful. By your blessing, let this plough be a sign of all that you promise to us. Prosper the work of our hands and provide abundant crops for your people to share. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God speed the plough

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

For Robert Moore and Julie Simpson who will be baptised at St Mary's today. Pray for the work of our pastoral committee who will be meeting this week.

**Those living in:**

Melrose Avenue and Pear Tree Drive

**Local Community:**

Students and staff of King Edward VI College

**Among those who are ill:**

Betty and Joe Chiswell, The Palmer family, Judy Taylor, Geoff Skelding, Rosie, Becki Henley, Lilian Bunny and Ian Moore.

**We continue to pray for:**

Rory Macintosh, Joe and Ros Yeates, Elian Irvine-Boden, 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, Penny Webb, Jennie Web and Denis Noakes.

**Those in nursing home care:**

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

**The departed:**

Sheila Westwood, Kenneth Roden, Lucy Rennie, Maureen Parmee and Norma Dunn

*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 2: 1—12

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke*

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**Post Communion Prayer:**

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek; may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42: 1—9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
He will not cry or lift up his voice,  
or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth;  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.  
Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
I am the Lord, that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

## The New Testament Reading

Ephesians 2: 1—10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.