

### Lent Course 2018 'Counting our Blessings'

This course will be delivered through four home groups, running at different times and locations during each week of Lent. The course this year will focus around five different ways in which God blesses us, gives us new life and calls us to live differently. We will also consider each week how we are also called to live differently, corporately as the Body of Christ at St. Mary's. If you are interested in joining this course as part of your lenten preparation this year then please add your name to the sign up sheet. It is not necessary to attend all of the weeks. If you would like any further information please speak to Stephen or Alex

BBC are broadcasting a programme called 'My Life' on the CBBC channel on February 5 telling the remarkable story of Jonathan Bryan.

Please let John, in Parish Office, know if you are on the electoral roll and have changed your address during the past year. It is important that we keep these records up to date.

Next Sunday evening the choir of St Thomas' church will be joining our choir at St Mary's for a joint service of choral evensong. We hope you will be able to support our choir and enjoy some fabulous choral music.

### St Mary's Toddler Group

Elaine Pritchard has been running the Church Toddler Group in the Church Hall on Wednesday afternoons during term time for 6 years and would now like to stand down.

We would like to continue running this successful community group and in order to do so we will need to gather together a group of people from Church and from the Toddler Group who will help to run it. Could you help us with this? It is not onerous, but it is great fun. Have a word with Stephen if you would like to offer your support.

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.

## The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford

### Sunday 4 February 2018

### Second Sunday before Lent



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 Alex French

Collect, Epistle and Gospel reading on page 123

**Sides:** Nick Harbach

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

**President:** Revd Stephen Agnew

**Preacher:** Revd Alex French

**Warden:** Malcolm Frost

**Sides:** Merl and Colin Roberts

**Reader:** Merl Roberts **Intercessions:** John Sutton

**Children Together:** Roger King & Pauline Pettet.

**Communion Motet:** Thee we adore O hidden Saviour

**Organ Music:** Sortie - M Dupré

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

**Officiant:** Revd Alex French **Preacher:** Revd Stephen Agnew

**Warden:** Maggie Abbotts **Sides:** Alec Beevers

**Readers:** Angela Price and Maggie Abbotts

**Intercessions:** Revd Alex French

**Anthem:** I give you a new commandment - P Aston

**Voluntary:** Adagio from Symphony No 2 - C M Widor

## Collect for this week:

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image; teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen

## Readings for our 10.00am service

### The New Testament Reading

Colossians 1: 15—20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

*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 February 11 Sunday before Lent Quinquagesima

8.00 am  
Communion (BCP)

10.00am  
Worship Together

6.30pm Choral Evensong

### CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

#### Monday 5

Parish Office closed

#### Tuesday 6

10.00am OTB team visit Oldswinford Primary School

#### Wednesday 7

3.00pm Holy Communion at Oriel House.

7.30pm Baptism preparation

#### Thursday 8

10.30am Holy Communion in church.

7.30pm Meeting of Churches Together in Stourbridge in the narthex.

#### Friday 9

Clergy day off

#### Saturday 10

10.00am Vestry Hour with Alex and Open Church.

12 noon burial of ashes in the churchyard.

### MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

#### Hello Everyone

We have had some great feedback on the new website.

If you haven't had chance to take a look then please do. We hope you like it. [www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk)

Last Wednesday we held our 'Christmas Meal' for all the volunteers at the warehouse. The event takes place in January because we are just too busy before Christmas. We cooked for 30 volunteers and enjoyed roast chicken and crumble! Our volunteers give above and beyond in terms of time and this is a small way of saying a big thank you for all that they do.

This week's shortages are:

**UHT MILK, FRUIT JUICE, TINNED POTATOES, PACKETS OF MASH, TINNED FRUIT, SMALL JARS OF COFFEE. HOT CHOCOLATE, DEODORANTS and SHAVING FOAM**

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.

**BLACK COUNTRY  
FOODBANK**  
LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST

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

**Churches Together:**

The Quaker Church in Stourbridge

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

for all those who work to keep our churches online presence relevant, up to date and looking good, demonstrating a welcoming presence for those who are looking for a church or to find out more about faith.

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

For our Open The Book Team who will visit Oldswinford Primary School this week and also those who will be visiting St Mary's on Wednesday evening for baptism preparation and Thursday for the meeting of the Churches Together in Stourbridge.

**Those living in:**

Chawn Hill and Chawn Hill Close

**Local Community:**

All those who work at Russells Hall Hospital.

**Among those who are ill:**

Betty and Joe Chiswell, The Palmer family, Judy Taylor, Geoff Skelding, Rosie, Becki Henley, James Gwilliams, Liz Gale, 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 Webb and Denis Noakes.

**Those in nursing home care:**

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

**The departed:**

Vera Hill, Richard Aldred, and as his ashes are interred Kenneth Roden.

*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 1: 1—14

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

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

**Post Communion Prayer:**

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your church; may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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. 

## Old Testament Reading

### Genesis 2: 4—25

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.” Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.” Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

## The New Testament Reading

### Luke 8: 22—35

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, “Where is your faith?” They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?”

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”— for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.