

### **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.

Groups will operate as follows:

Monday 7.00pm—8.30pm at 6 The Heathlands

Tuesday 10.00am—11.30am at 23 Walker Avenue

Wednesday 2.00pm—3.30pm at 18 Wollescote Road

Thursday 7.00pm—8.30pm at 4 Worcester Lane

As part of our Lent study and reflection groups we have organised a Parish Quiet Day at Holland House on Wednesday 21st March. The day will be led by Stephen and we shall be reflecting further on the themes covered in our Lent groups relating to St Mary's and how we move forward as a Christian community.

This will be a whole day event to include lunch and transport will be organised for people who need it. Please make a note in your diary and look out for further details and sign up sheet soon.

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.

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 pewsheet is printed on recycled paper.

## **The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford** **Sunday 11 February 2018** **Sunday before Lent—Quinquagesima**



*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](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford).*

**Collect:** Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory, 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 reading on page 125

**Sides:** Meriel Harris

### **10.00am - Worship Together**

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

**Warden:** Les Timms **Sides:** Stan & Avril Williams

**Readers:** Stan Williams & Les Timms

**Organ music:** Grand Jeu—D Bedard

### **6.30pm – Choral Evensong**

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

**Warden:** Judy Hall **Sides:** Gill Davies

**Readers:** Revd Andrew Sillis & Judy Hall

**Intercessions:** Revd Alex French

**Responses:** Smith **Setting:** Sumsion in G

**Anthem:** My eyes for beauty pine— H Howells

**Voluntary:** Paeon – H Howells

## *'Travelling on God's road'*

*As we listen to some music and watch the images we think about the greatness of God.*

### Opening prayer in praise of our great God

*After each verse of this prayer of praise we sing:*

**Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord.**

**Sing praises, all you peoples, sing praises to the Lord.**

**HYMN - 650 Great is thy faithfulness**

### Confessing our sins

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed.  
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

In a dark and disfigured world we have not held out the light of life:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

In a hungry and despairing world we have failed to share our bread:  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

In a cold and loveless world we have kept the love of God to ourselves:  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

### Absolution

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

We say together the collect (see front page)

### Readings from the Bible

**Old Testament Reading** 2 Kings 2: 1—15 Elijah and Elisha

*After the readings the reader says:* 'For the Word of the Lord'

*All reply:* **'Thanks be to God'**

Commentary: How did Elisha feel as he travelled on God's road?

**HYMN— 592 As the deer pants for the water**

**New Testament Reading** Mark 9: 2—9

Jesus appears in glory



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



## 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.

We offer a very warm welcome to members of St Thomas' choir and congregation who will be joining us for evensong today. The two choirs will be joining together to sing choral evensong. We hope you enjoy some wonderful music.

The season of Lent begins this week with a service of Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday in church at 7.30pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes.



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

# St Mary's Church Oldswinford



Our next Messy Church event for  
children will be on  
**Wednesday 21st February**  
at 11.00am—1.00pm in the church hall.

Activities and fun for children, parents,  
grandparents and carers with an  
informal act of worship at the end of the  
afternoon. Children must bring an adult with  
them to help them to really enjoy the activities.

The event includes a light meal together so  
please let us know if you would like to come so  
that we can make sure that we have  
enough food.

E mail: [st.mary.os@btconnect](mailto:st.mary.os@btconnect) or phone 01384  
441003 or text 07762250749

Crafts,  
Activities,  
Songs,  
Stories,  
and a Meal



Messy  
Fun for  
All Ages

Commentary: How did the disciples feel when they saw Jesus in glory?

**HYMN — 788 Take this moment, sign and space**

Challenge: How do we respond to God's call?

## Statement of faith

*After each statement we are invited to respond:*  
**But we trust in you.**

## Prayers for courage to follow Jesus Christ

*We respond to the words:* Lord, hear us  
*By saying:* **And answer our prayer**

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.**



## Peace

God has called us to live in peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.



*The notices for the week are given out at this stage.*

**HYMN— 763 Praise to the holiest in the height**  
(during which the collection will be taken)

## The Blessing.

Go in the power of the Spirit to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**





## Readings for our 10.00am service

2 Kings 2: 1—15    Elijah and Elisha

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

When the company of prophets who were at Jericho saw him at a distance, they declared, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." They came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Worcester Repertory Company presents *On a Role*

# JESUS MY BOY

by John Dowie starring Jonathan Darby  
Directed by Chris Joeger

"This is a play which will delight both those who hold Christian beliefs and those who do not"

Jesus - My Boy is extremely funny, incredibly moving, and beautifully and cleverly written by John Dowie. Previously performed in the West End by international star Tom Conti

[www.worcester-rep.co.uk](http://www.worcester-rep.co.uk)

Saturday 24th March at St Mary's Old Swinford beginning at 7.30pm followed by light refreshments and meet the actor in the church hall.

**Tickets £10**

Available from St Mary's Parish Office. Phone 01384 441003 E mail [st.mary.os@btconnect.com](mailto:st.mary.os@btconnect.com)

## 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 18 First Sunday of Lent

8.00 am  
Communion (BCP)

10.00am  
Parish Communion

3.00pm Baptisms

6.30pm Evensong

### CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

#### Monday 12

Parish Office closed

#### Tuesday 13 Shrove Tuesday

Parish Office closed

#### Wednesday 14

##### Ash Wednesday

10.00am Prayer group meeting at the home of Marjorie Ferguson  
7.30pm Communion service in church

#### Thursday 15

10.30am Holy Communion in church.

#### Friday 16

Clergy day off

#### Saturday 17

10.00am Vestry Hour with Stephen and Open Church.

### Mark 9: 2—9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead

### Readings for our 6.30pm service. Old Testament Reading

I Kings 19: 1—16

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

### MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

#### Hello Everyone

**Thank you for the continued support of donations of food and toiletries. We took a call last week asking if the caller could donate just one item. The answer is absolutely 'yes!', we are thankful for each and every item donated. We are just as delighted with one item as we are with bags full of donations. please be encouraged to keep donating and supporting your local community. Every item is vital. Thank you :)**

**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



He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

## **The New Testament Reading**

2 Peter 1: 16—21

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

### **Churches Together:**

St James Wollaston

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

for Toddler Praise in Stourbridge and for all our churches are doing to reach out to parents with young children.

### **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:**

Thicknall Drive and Iverley walk

### **Local Community:**

All those who work at The Corbett Medical Centre

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

Betty and Joe Chiswell, The Palmer family, Judy Taylor, Geoff Skelding, Rosie, Becki Henley, James Gwilliams, Liz Gale, Colin Millward, 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 and Richard Aldred

**In memoriam:** Elizabeth Wassell (17.2.17)

*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.*