The December issue of our Parish Monthly New is on sale in church today. It includes details of all our Christmas Services as well as the diary for the month, 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. A huge thank you to the magazine team who create, edit and publish the Monthly News 11 times a year. The publication is also available online via our website if people prefer to read an e version on their phone, tablet or computer.

This year we are planning to carry out the tradition of 'Posada' between 16th—24th of December. The figures of Mary and Joseph will travel around different households in the parish and stay there for one night returning to church on the 24th December. For further details of this tradition visit https://churchofenglandchristenings.org/after-a-christening/no-room-at-the-inn-welcome-mary-and-joseph-to-stay-at-your-place/
There is a sheet at the back of church to sign up to if you would like Mary and Joseph to visit your home this Christmas.

John will be making a start on the next service rota soon. The rota will cover the Sundays from 6th January—28th April 2019. Please let John know by Tuesday 11th December of any Sundays between these dates when you would not be available. It would be great to have some new people on the rota so please consider if you might be able to help in some way. We are particularly short of people to help make coffee at the 10.00am service and for sides people at the 6.30pm service but it would also be great to have some new readers at all services. Thanks John

Thank you to everybody who helped deliver our Christmas Cards. What a fantastic response. Thank you.

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 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 2 December 2018
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 Alex French **Preacher**: Revd Alex French
Readings from the BCP page 89 **Sides:** Gillian Shaw

10.00am - Parish Communion
President: Revd Alex French **Preacher:** Revd Alex French
Warden: Judy Hall **Sides:** Stan & Avril Williams
Reader: Stan Williams **Intercessions:** Roger King
Children Together: Peter and Kathryn Hancox
Communion Motet: Matin Responsory—*Palestrina*
Organ Music: Watchet auf! Ruft uns die Stimme - *J S Bach*
Coffee: Peter and Kathryn Hancox

3.00pm Baptisms — Led by: Revd Alex French
Supported by MU member Sally Frost

6.30pm – Advent Carol Service—from darkness to light
Officiant: Revd Alex French
Warden: Joan Barwick
Sides: Stan Williams, Judy Hall, Tony Tatford

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

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 10.00am service.

Old Testament Reading
Jeremiah 33: 14—16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

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

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

Our next Messy Church, in collaboration with St Thomas' ,will be on Sunday 9 December from 3.00pm – 5.00pm in the Church Hall with a focus on Advent. Anne Batchelor, our Mission Enabler, will be leading the event this time. Please encourage any family or friends that you know who have young children to come along. The afternoon will involve arts, crafts, singing, eating, a short act of worship and most of all lots of fun. For further details contact Anne Batchelor abatchelor@cofe-worcester.org.uk or 07931175448

Childrens Society Boxes 2018
Thank you everyone for your fantastic efforts saving this year. We raised the record total of £1,017.74!! So jolly well done to you all. The money has now been sent off to the Society and they will be confirming the amount in due course. I will put a poster up with the final total once I have that confirmation.
There are some boxes awaiting collection at the back of church but if you have not had yours yet let me know and I will sort them out.
Maggie Abbotts

A huge thank you to everybody who has been involved with the organisation and running of our Christmas Market this weekend. A special thanks to Katey Fletcher who once again has co ordinated the event. The total sum raised will be published as soon as it is available.

Next Sunday morning's service at 10.00am will be our Toy service. We invite you to bring a gift of an unwrapped toy or toiletries which will be placed under the Christmas tree and then donated to the Dudley Womens' refuge for those people who are experiencing real need.

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

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 9
Advent 2

8.00 am Communion (BCP)

10.00am Worship Together
Toy Service

3.00pm Messy Church

6.30pm Choral Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 3
Parish Office Closed
Wednesday 5
1.30pm Mums and Toddlers meet in the church hall
3.00pm Holy Communion at Oriel House
6.00pm 1st Stourbridge St Johns Brownies coming into church.
Thursday 6
10.30am Holy Communion in church followed by Outreach Group Christmas Lunch
Friday 7
Alex's day off.
The Christmas Tree will arrive in church
Saturday December 8
10.00am—11.00 Vestry hour
10.00am—12 noon Open Church

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK
LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST

Hello Everyone
Thank you for all the donations of Advent Calendars. We have been overwhelmed by how many have arrived at the warehouse.
Don't forget our cut off date for donating Christmas food is 7th December.
We love that so many of you want to donate mince pies and Christmas pudding but please remember that our shortages list is there because its the vital items that make up our food parcels. Please keep donating items like fruit juice and milk because these items go in everyone's parcel all year around.
This week's shortages are:
FRUIT JUICE, JAM/MARMALADE, PACKETS OF MASH, TINNED FRUIT ,JARS OF COOKING SAUCE, MEDIUM SIZED BOXES OF BREAKFAST CEREAL, SMALL JARS OF COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE, TINNED POTATOES, TINNED MEAT, ROLL ON DEODORANTS, SHAVING FOAM, SMALL BOXES OF WASHING POWDER, CAN OPENERS, INDIVIDUAL BARS OF SOAP, COMBS
Please note that the foodbank cannot accept donations of alcohol. Thanks.
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.

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

The Gospel Reading

Luke 21: 25—36

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

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

Advent 1
After the lighting of the Advent candle we pray

God of Abraham and Sarah,
and all the patriarchs of old,
you are our Father too.
Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Son of David.
Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth
to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit
to make his home among us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

Lord Jesus, light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be King of our lives today.
Amen.

Kyrie Confessions
Turn to us again, O God our saviour,
and let your anger cease from us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Show us your compassion, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
that glory may dwell in our land:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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

We invite you to offer prayers for ……
Worldwide Church:
Diocese of Porvo in Finland with Bishop Bjorn Vikstrom. Also the Church of Spain with Bishop Carlos Lopez-Lozano.
Churches Together:
St Thomas' Stourbridge
Bishop John has asked us to pray …..
for all those who might find the Christmas period challenging and hope that they find and experience the light, wonder and joy of the Nativity.
The work of St Mary's…..
For Theo Tate and Hugo Lander who will be baptised at St Mary's later today. For their Parents and Godparents who will support them. For the 1st Stourbridge St Johns Brownies that are visiting church this week.
Those living in:
Oldfield Drive and Robins Close
Local Community:
The residents and staff of Oriel Care Home
Among those who are ill:
Joyce Agnew, Sandy Hollywood, Miriam Palmer and Cam Raffan.
We continue to pray for:
Colin Millward, Ian Moore, Brian Drew, Betty and Joe Chiswell, Judy Taylor, Rory Macintosh, Joe and Ros Yeates, Elian Irvine-Boden, Anne May, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan Bryan, Noah Cantius, Michael Woodall, The Rogerson Family, Andrew and Lesley Mullen, Justin and Kevin, Peter & Angela Viner, Lilian Bunney, Penny Webb, Jennie Webb, and Denis Noakes.
Those in nursing home care:
Margaret Moult, Mabel Arnold, Betty Shore and Geoff Skelding.
The departed:
Mary (May) Hill, Peter Gordon, Christine Williams, Anne Davies and as his ashes are interred Cliff Day.
In memoriam:
Kenneth Roden (4.12.17)

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.

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