



We extend a warm welcome to our **Christmas Services 2018**

Sunday 2 December – 6.30pm Advent Carol Service

A service of readings and music at the start of Advent

Sunday 9 – 10.00am Toy Service

A family service during which you are invited to donate an unwrapped gift of a toy or toiletries which will be donated to the Dudley Womens' Refuge

3.00pm – 5.00pm Messy Church

Fun activities for children exploring the Christmas story through craft activities

Sunday 23 – 4.00pm Christingle

A family service for Christingle in aid of the Children's Society

6.30pm Carol Service Traditional service of nine lessons and carols

Christmas Eve Monday 24 – 4.00pm Crib service for children

10.00pm Christmas Communion with carols

Christmas Day Tuesday 25 – 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

10.00pm Family Communion with carols

There will be a bucket collection for the St Mary's Mission Charities Appeal at our Christmas services from the Carol Service onwards

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 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 9 December 2018 Second Sunday in 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 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 91 **Sides:** Ian Nex

10.00am - Worship Together

Leaders: Revd Alex French and Anne Batchelor
Warden: Tony Tatford
Readers: Jeremy Morgan & Tony Tatford
Sides: Sue Tatford & Jeremy Morgan
Voluntary: Fugue in C—D Buxtehude
Coffee: Brenda Selby and Chris Brinsdon



3.00pm– 5.00pm Messy Church

in the Church Hall led by Anne Batchelor

6.30pm – Choral Evensong

Officiant: Roger King **Preacher:** Roger King
Warden: Judy Hall **Sides:** Richard Hall
Responses: West **Magnificat:** Philip Moore in B flat
Nunc Dimittis: Plainsong Tones.
Anthem: How beautiful upon the mountains—Stainer
Organ Music: Prelude on Dundee—CHH Parry

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

The day is drawing near.

The Gathering

Welcome

Call to worship

By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:78-79

Let us pray:

Please sit

God of great gifts

**we give you thanks for the gift of your son
who was in every way like us.**

**We who are chained to the cycle of life and death
found freedom in this child
who is our Saviour, Immanuel, God with us.**

**Be with us today,
as we listen, as we sing, as we pray.**

**Fill us with your Spirit
giving light in our dark places
Amen.**

Hymn: 160 Make Way, make way, for Christ the King

Thinking

How do we respond to messages? Part 1

Lighting the Advent candle

*The second Advent candle representing the Prophets is lit, after
which we pray*

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.

Mince Pie Appeal - we asked for help and your response was overwhelming! **Thank you** for the dozens of mince pies brought to our cake stall (in addition to all your cakes), **thank you** for your kind and generous response, demonstrating the spirit of giving indeed. It was amazing - thank you all so much.

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

Don't forget our Messy Church Event today 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.



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 16 Advent 3

8.00 am Communion
(BCP)

10.00am Parish Communion

3.00pm Baptism

6.30pm Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 10

Parish Office Closed
7.00pm Redhill School Carol Service

Tuesday 11

9.30pm Visit by pupils from Elmfield School

2.15pm Mothers' Union Christmas meeting in the Coach House

Wednesday 12

1.30pm Mums and Toddlers meet in the church hall and in church

7.00pm Oldswinford Primary School Carol Service

Thursday 13

10.30am Holy Communion in church
7.00pm King Edward College Carol Service

Friday 14

Alex's day off.
2.00pm OSH Carol Service

Saturday December 15

Got2Sing choir using church all day today.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hello Everyone

This is the last week for donating Christmas food such as mince pies, Christmas puds and selection boxes. Thank you to all those who have donated so far!

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 MEAT, 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.

BLACK COUNTRY
FOODBANK
LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST

God our Father,
you spoke to the prophets of old
of a Saviour who would bring peace.
You helped them to spread the joyful message
of his coming kingdom.
Help us, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
to share with those around us
the good news of your power and love.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
the prophets said you would bring peace
and save your people in trouble.
Give peace in our hearts at Christmas
and show all the world God's love.
Amen.**

Silence

Confession

God, through Jesus Christ,
will judge the secret thoughts of all:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
will enter the kingdom of heaven:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.



Let anyone who has an ear
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Silence

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hearing the Word

A Bible passage from Baruch chapter 5

Holy wisdom, Holy word
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: 39 Hills of the North, rejoice

A Bible passage from Luke chapter 3 verses 1 to 6

Holy wisdom, Holy word
Thanks be to God.

Responding to the Word

How do we respond to messages? Part 2



The New Testament Reading

Luke 1: 1—25

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

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

Readings for our 6.30pm service.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40: 1—11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it
together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows
upon it; surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand
forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Prayers - We pray for prophetic voices

To the words 'Jesus, Lord of Love' we respond
'in your mercy, hear us.'

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.**



Presentation of our toys for Dudley Women's refuge

Please come forward and give your toys to Father Christmas

Hymn: 45 O come, O come Emmanuel

Welcome to the newly Baptised and prayer for those to be 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 is taken)

The Blessing

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



We invite you to offer prayers for

Worldwide Church:

Diocese of Kuopio in Finland with Bishop Jarl Jolkkonen. Also the Falkland Islands with Bishop Timothy Thornton

Churches Together:

Hanbury Hill Baptist Church

Bishop John has asked us to pray

for all those involved in the Singing Angels group in Dudley

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

For Emma Lucas, Alexina and James Tanner, Hugo Lander and Theo Tate who we welcome today. For all the members of the schools coming into church this week for their carol services and for all those who will be visiting St Mary's next Saturday as part of the Got2sing concerts. May they all find something of the joy and love of Christmas at St Mary's.

Those living in:

Pebble Close and Rufford Road

Local Community:

The residents and staff of Doveton House 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 Mould, Mabel Arnold, Betty Shore and Geoff Skelding.

The departed:

Bill Milne and as his ashes are interred Cliff Day.

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.