

Our APCM meeting, at which we elect churchwardens and members of our PCC, will take place on Sunday 28 April. The format will be the same as last year in that our 10.00am service will take place in the church hall and will be followed immediately by the APCM meeting.

### **A date for your diary**

The social committee are organising a cheese and wine evening which will be held in the church hall on Saturday 4th May 7.00pm—9.00pm

During Lent Roger King, our Reader, will be presenting a course to explore the relationship between science and Christianity. Each session will be held twice a week in the Narthex.

Session 1 Introduction

Session 2 Beyond Reason? Science Faith and the Universe

Session 3 An Accident in the Making? Creation, Evolution and Interpreting Genesis

Session 4 Is Anybody There? Freedom to Choose

The course is based on material produced by the Faraday Institute for Science and Religion ([www.faraday-institute.org](http://www.faraday-institute.org)). You don't need any scientific knowledge to take part, you just need to be interested and open-minded. Please register your interest on the sheet at the back of church.

On behalf of all worshippers at our eight and ten o'clock services last week thanks have been sent to Revd Sarah Northall who officiated and preached. It was a special day for many reasons- the pleasure derived from Sarah's preaching, the many people who attended, the welcome of new choristers and the thank you to Graham Davies. We do not forget our six o'clock service - thank you to the choir and to Roger King who led Graham's final service.

## **The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford** **Sunday 3 February 2019** **Candlemas**



*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).*

**Our services today are as follows:**

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

**President:** Revd Alex French **Preacher:** Revd Alex French  
**Readings** as for the 10.00am service **Sides:** Eve Evans

### **10.00am - Parish Communion for Candlemas**

**President:** Revd Alex French

**Preacher:** Revd Alex French

**Warden:** Judy Hall **Sides:** Jeremy Morgan & Gill Davies

**Reader:** Christine Jones **Intercessions:** Judith Nex

**Children Together:** Peter & Kathryn Hancox

**Coffee:** Peter & Kathryn Hancox

**Communion Motet:** Lead me, Lord - Wesley

**Organ Music:** Tuba Tune – Lang

### **6.30pm – Evensong**

**Officiant:** Roger King **Preacher:** Roger King

**Warden:** Marjorie Ferguson **Sides:** Dawn Nex

**Readers:** Marjorie Ferguson & Dawn Nex

**Anthem:** My eyes for beauty pine- Howells

**Organ music** - Prelude and Fugue in A – Bach

### Collect for this week:

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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

Old Testament Reading  
Malachi 3: 1—5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

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

### Post Communion Prayer:

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

## 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 10 Fourth Sunday before Lent

8.00 am Communion  
(BCP)

10.00am Worship Together

6.30pm Choral Evensong

### CHURCH DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

#### Monday 4

Parish Office closed  
9.45am Candlemas service in church for pupils of Oldswinford Primary School  
1.30pm Funeral service of Margaret Shakespeare in church

#### Tuesday 5

10.00am Alex leading assembly at Oldswinford Primary School

#### Wednesday 6

3.00pm Holy Communion at Oriel House  
5.45 Oldswinford Beavers Group meeting in church  
7.30pm Baptism preparation in church.

#### Thursday 7

10.30am Holy Communion in church

#### Friday 8

Alex's day off.

#### Saturday 9

10.00am—11.00am Vestry hour with Roger  
10.00am—12 noon Open Church

### MESSAGE FROM THE FOODBANK

Hello Everyone

Thank you to everyone who has donated over the first few weeks of 2019. January can be a difficult month for many after the expense of Christmas so we are thankful for all those who have continued to support us with food, toiletries and finance. We couldn't do it without you. Thanks everyone.

**This week's shortages are:**

**FRUIT JUICE, JAM/MARMALADE, PACKETS OF MASH, TINNED FRUIT, SMALL JARS OF COFFEE, HOT CHOCOLATE, SHAMPOO, SHOWER GEL, DEODORANT**

**Please note that the foodbank cannot accept donations of alcohol. Thanks.**

BLACK COUNTRY  
**FOODBANK**  
LOVE · CONNECT · INVEST

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

**Worldwide Church:**

The Diocese of Madurai-Ramnad in India with Bishop Marialouis Joseph

**Churches Together:**

Riverside Christian Fellowship

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

for Dudley Top Church, that it will encourage more people to come to faith and that it will be a helpful resource for other churches in the Diocese.

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

For the families and friends of Margaret Shakespeare who will be coming into church for her funeral on Monday. For the children and staff of Oldswinford Primary School who will be coming into church on Monday for their Candlemas Service. For the Oldswinford Beaver Group who are coming into church on Wednesday as part of their study for their 'faith' badge. For couples who are currently planning their weddings at St Mary's during 2019

**Those living in:**

Thicknall Drive and Iverley Walk

**Local Community:**

Oldswinford Shops

**Among those who are ill:**

Helen and Andrew Charlesworth, Nicola, Marilyn Thomson, Ron Moulton and Joyce Myatt.

**We continue to pray for:**

Colin Millward, Joyce Agnew, Miriam Palmer, Cam Raffan, 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 Moulton, Mabel Arnold, Betty Shore and Geoff Skelding.

**The departed:**

Doreen Rutter, Peggy Wright, Margaret Shakespeare, Ivan Price, Florence Wooldridge, Patricia Croyden and Barbara Hobson

*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**

Luke 2: 22-40

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

**GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

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

## **Readings for our 6.30pm service.**

### **Old Testament Reading**

I Chronicles 29: 6—19

Then the leaders of ancestral houses made their freewill offerings, as did also the leaders of the tribes, the commanders of the thousands and of the hundreds, and the officers over the king's work. They gave for the service of the house of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze, and one hundred thousand talents of iron. Whoever had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the house of the Lord, into the care of Jehiel the Gershonite. Then the people rejoiced because these had given willingly, for with single mind they had offered freely to the Lord; King David also rejoiced greatly.

Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name.

"But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. I know, my God, that you search the heart, and take pleasure in

uprightness; in the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. O Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, our ancestors, keep forever such purposes and thoughts in the hearts of your people, and direct their hearts toward you. Grant to my son Solomon that with single mind he may keep your commandments, your decrees, and your statutes, performing all of them, and that he may build the temple for which I have made provision."

### **The New Testament Reading**

Acts 7: 44-50

"Our ancestors had the tent of testimony in the wilderness, as God directed when he spoke to Moses, ordering him to make it according to the pattern he had seen. Our ancestors in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our ancestors. And it was there until the time of David, who found favour with God and asked that he might find a dwelling place for the house of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with human hands; as the prophet says,

'Heaven is my throne,

and the earth is my footstool.

What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord,

or what is the place of my rest?

Did not my hand make all these things?"