

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).

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.

We need to dispose of some wardrobes from the Rectory. Do you know of anybody in need? Speak to Judy Hall if you would like to know any further details.

Notice of a training event on 11 April (10.00 – 12.00) at St Francis Dudley Parish Centre. A great many people struggling with their finances are at risk from illegal money lending, and even within extended family groupings this can lead to coercive and abusive behaviour by the lender. This workshop event has been organised by the Black Country Just Finance worker, Cassius Francis, and will introduce participants to the work of the illegal money lending team, and the issues involved in spotting and reporting loan sharks. It is open to anyone.

Places can be booked via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/loan-shark-training-tickets-53579366327>

The Church will be decorated for Easter on Saturday 20 April from 9.00am. Anyone wishing to contribute towards the cost of the lilies in memory of loved ones can do so by putting donations in an envelope with the name of the person to be remembered and giving it to one of the Church Wardens or Sally Frost. Donations can also be put in yellow gift aid envelopes. Please mark these "For Flower Guild". Thank you very much.

The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford

Sunday 17 February 2019

Third before Lent—Septuagesima



A warm welcome to Revd Doug Chaplin and any other 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 BCP page 121 **Sides:** Eve Evans

10.00am - Parish Communion—*the choir are on holiday today*

President: Revd Doug Chaplin

Preacher: Revd Doug Chaplin

Warden: Tony Tatford **Sides:** Toni Evans & Sue Tatford

Reader: Christine Day **Intercessions:** John Sutton

Children Together: Kirsty Mills and Tony Tatford

Coffee: Carole Duff and Gillian Shaw

Organ Music: Prelude on Hyfrydol by *Vaughan-Williams*

3.00pm Baptisms led by Revd Adam Hadley

supported by MU members Joan Barwick and Pauline Pettet

6.30pm – Evensong

Officiant: Revd Alex French **Preacher:** Revd Alex French

Warden: Joan Barwick **Sides:** Marjorie Ferguson

Readers: Marjorie Ferguson and Angela Price

Organ music - Folk Tune on Dream Angus by *Christopher Tambling*

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

Collect for this week:

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity; give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son 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

Jeremiah 17: 5—10

Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—

who can understand it?
I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

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 24** **Second Sunday before Lent**

8.00 am Communion
(BCP)

10.00am Parish
Communion

6.30pm Evensong

CHURCH DIARY FOR **THIS WEEK** **Schools half term week**

Monday 18

Parish Office closed

Tuesday 19

Parish Office closed

2.00pm Tea in the Coach House

Wednesday 20

10.00am Prayer Group meeting at
the home of Marjorie Ferguson

Thursday 21

10.30am Holy Communion in
church

Saturday 23

9.30am The Walking Group meet
for a walk in the Far Forest

10.00am—11.00am Vestry hour
with Alex

10.00am—12 noon Open Church

Advance warning: 2019 is the year that the existing Church Electoral Roll is scrapped and a new one begun. If you are currently a member of the electoral roll your name will not automatically be carried forward. Everybody needs to complete a new form this year. A new list will be produced beginning from April 1st. Forms are available at the back of church which will need to be returned by April 14 in time for the new roll to be compiled ready for our APCM on April 24.

The piano in the Lady Chapel was on loan and has been returned. We are looking for a replacement which must be not more than four feet tall, with modern action and undamaged. It will be used mostly for choir practices. Please speak to Richard Hall if you know of anything that might be suitable.

A Parish Quiet Day has been organised at Holland House for Monday April 8. Further details and a sheet to sign up is available at the back of church if you are interested.

We invite you to offer prayers for

Worldwide Church:

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan with Archbishop Justin Badi Arama

Churches Together:

St James' Church Wollaston

Bishop John has asked us to pray

for all grandparents throughout the Diocese, that they will find ways to share their faith with their grandchildren.

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

For Sophie Rose Bishop and Betsy May Bishop who will be baptised at St. Mary's today. For their parents and Godparents who will support them. For all children and teachers enjoying their half term break from school this week

Those living in:

Parkfield Road and Vauxhall Road

Local Community:

Mary Stevens Hospice

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, Betty Shore and Geoff Skelding.

The departed:

Margaret Shakespeare, Ivan Price, Florence Wooldridge, Patricia Croden, Mabel Arnold, Doris Simkins and Ralph Heeley.

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 6: 17—26

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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

Post Communion Prayer:

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger; draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for our 6.30pm service.

Apocrypha Reading

Wisdom 11:21—12:11

For it is always in your power to show great strength, and who can withstand the might of your arm? Because the whole world before you is like a speck that tips the scales, and like a drop of morning dew that falls on the ground. But you are merciful to all, for you can do all things, and you overlook people's sins, so that they may repent. For you love all things that exist, and detest none of the things that you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it. How would anything have endured if you had not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved? You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord, you who love the living. For your immortal spirit is in all things. Therefore you correct little by little those who trespass, and you remind and warn them of the things through which they sin, so that they may be freed from wickedness and put their trust in you, O Lord. Those who lived long ago in your holy land you hated for their detestable practices, their works of sorcery and unholy rites, their merciless slaughter of children, and their sacrificial feasting on human flesh and blood. These initiates from the midst of a heathen cult, these parents who murder helpless lives, you willed to destroy by the hands of our ancestors, so that the land most precious of all to you might receive a worthy colony of the servants of God. But even these you spared, since they were but mortals, and sent wasps as forerunners of your army to destroy them little by little, though you were not unable to give the ungodly into the hands of the righteous in battle, or to destroy them at one blow by dread wild animals or your stern word. But judging them little by little you gave them an opportunity to repent, though you were not unaware that their origin was evil and their wickedness inborn, and that their way of thinking would never change. For they were an accursed race from the beginning, and it was not through fear of anyone that you left them unpunished for their sins.

The New Testament Reading

Galatians 4: 8—20

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to beings that by nature are not gods. Now, however, that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly elemental spirits? How can you want to be enslaved to them again? You are observing special days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid that my work for you may have been wasted. Friends, I beg you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong. You know that it was because of a physical infirmity that I first announced the gospel to you; though my condition put you to the test, you did not scorn or despise me, but welcomed me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. What has become of the goodwill you felt? For I testify that, had it been possible, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. Have I now become your enemy by telling you the truth? They make much of you, but for no good purpose; they want to exclude you, so that you may make much of them. It is good to be made much of for a good purpose at all times, and not only when I am present with you. My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, I wish I were present with you now and could change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.