

SERVICES

This Week:

6.30pm

Advent Reflection

Hymns:

45, 46, 75, 38

Weekdays:

Mon – Fri

8am

Morning Prayer

Wed

10am

Holy Communion
(followed by Open Church)

Next Sunday:

8.00am

Advent 3

Holy Communion

10.00am

Holy Communion

Readings

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Philippians 4: 4-7

Luke 3: 7-18

6.30pm

Carol Service

If it is your custom to receive the bread and wine in your own church, then you are welcome to do so here. If you would rather not receive, you can keep your hands down for a blessing.

You may wish to remain in your seat, which is also fine.

Stay for refreshments after the 10am service if you can.

If you wish to support the work of the church financially, you can be part of the 'envelope scheme' or set up a Standing Order. You can also fill out a Gift Aid Declaration to increase the value of the gift. See wardens for information. Here are our account details:

PCC St Mary's Church Selly Oak
HSBC Account number: 41565818
Sort code: 40-11-20

Parish ministry team

Clergy

Revd Jayne Adams 07894 167552

Revd David Parker 0121 445 1901/07532 338961

Licensed Reader

Mary Cutler 0121 472 3343

Church Wardens

George Harrison: 07831 573169 Martin Sorby 07982 850 444

Bookings for weddings and baptisms: Weds 6.15-7.15pm
Bellringing practice: Weds 7.30-9pm.



www.stmarysellyoak.org.uk

Parish of Selly Oak St Mary



TWS

This Week Sheet

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday 9th December 2018

Welcome

We normally have Junior Church every Sunday.
If you can't see any children, ask at the door
and people will advise you.

Hymns: 51 26(v2) 46 **392** 604 39

(the collection for the work of the church
will be taken in the third hymn)

Collect:

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again
as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Amen.

Readings:

Malachi 3: 1-4

Philippians 1: 3-11

Luke 3: 1-6

For your prayers:

Those who are unwell: Brenda Skinner, Vicky Tod, Pat Westwood, Ben Williams.

Those who have died: Alan Wagstaff, Jane Morris, John Bentley, Barry Woodthorpe, Beryl Howlett.

Post Communion Prayer:

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Diary Dates

Dec

Sat 8 th	10am	Activity morning
	7pm	Quinborne choir concert
Mon 10 th	7.30pm	The Way Group
Tue 11 th	10.30am	Advent Studies
Wed 12 th	7.30pm	Musical bingo
Thu 13 th	4pm	School concert
Sat 15 th		Working party
Sun 16 th	10am	Junior Church Nativity Tableau
	6.30pm	Carol Service
Tue 18 th	10.30am	Advent Studies
Wed 19 th	7.30pm	Book Group
Thu 20 th	6pm	School Carol Service
Fri 21 st	9.30am+2.30pm	School services
Mon 24 th	5pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Tue 25 th	10am	Christmas Day Service

Jan

Sun 13 th		Licensing lunch
Thu 24 th	7.30pm	Theological Read

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Praying Together: November-March

Unfortunately there has been a delay in distributing the new edition of Praying Together to deaneries.

The Way Group (Mon 10th Dec)

7:30pm, 36 Innage Rd, B31 2DU: Christmas Readings, nibbles and mulled wine.

Musical Bingo (Wed 12th Dec)

Women's Group has magnanimously decided to open its forthcoming musical bingo evening to non-women! Please join us at 7.30pm in church for an evening of entertainment, mulled wine and mince pies. There will be a small charge of £2 to cover expenses.

Kate

Working party (Sat 15th Dec)

Volunteers needed for leaf sweeping etc.

Advent Bible Studies (10.30 at 37 Tillyard Croft) from Tom Wright's *Advent for everyone. A Journey through Luke*

Tue 11th Dec: A time for justice. John the Baptist confronts the crowds. pp. 56-84

Tue 18th Dec: A time for celebration. Mary's song of praise. pp. 85-113

Donations for Christmas flowers can be placed in the collecting box on the pillar near the entrance.

Book Group (Wed 19th Dec) 7.30pm at 9 Bridgewater Court, to discuss Barbara Pym's *Excellent Women*.

Theological Read (Thu 24th Jan 2019) 7.30pm

We will meet at 9 Bridgewater Court to discuss St Augustine's *Confessions*.

Bellringers needed! Over the last couple of years we have lost 6 of our bellringers, this has left the tower with a core number of 4 ringers on a Sunday. It is becoming a challenge to ring Sunday mornings and we need new blood. The ringers practice every Wednesday evening from 7.30-9pm, and would like to encourage retired ringers to return to the art of campanology and extend a warm welcome to those who would like to start ringing. Contact Joanne Goodall (0121 475 7348) for more information.

Licensing Lunch (13th Jan 2019)

David will be officially "licensed" as our Assistant Priest by Bishop Anne on Sunday 13th January. We will be following the service with a Bring and Share lunch in church and hope that lots of people will stay for this. Please keep the date free in your diaries and look out for a sign-up sheet at the back of church, where you will be able to state what you would like to bring. It will be good to welcome in the new year with such a positive occasion.

Kate

The Readings

"Every valley shall be exalted; every mountain and hill made low". These verses from the book of Isaiah are some of my favourites – admittedly mostly because of Handel's setting of them in *The Messiah* – but also because the words themselves seem to sum up the comfort and joy we should feel at the imminent birth of Christ. According to the prophecies of Isaiah, the complications of life will be straightened out, simplified and made right by His coming; and surely anyone who heard John preaching in the wilderness must have believed and rejoiced.

However, we are reminded in our first reading that we also have cause for at least some trepidation because when He comes, we are told, He will be like the refiner's fire or fullers' soap. Anyone who has any bad within them – so that would be everyone – can expect a pretty uncomfortable day of reckoning before all is made right; and it may well be that God's idea of good and bad "behaviour" does not quite match our own. Once again, the readings remind us that Advent is not all about joyful expectation – although it is about that too – but about being prepared for what in my imagination could be the most rigorous but also the most worthwhile OFSTED inspection ever!

Kate