

This Week

- Tue 15 Dec** **Carols for Samuel Thornhill.** Contact Sandra Thornhill for details.
- Wed 16 Dec** **Carols for the Business Community.** 1.00-2.00pm and 5.45-6.45pm at Birmingham Cathedral
- Fri 18 Dec** **Carol Rehearsal.** 8.15pm to start singing, at St Stephen's Church, Contact Cordelia Checketts for more information.
- Sat 19 Dec** **Carol Singing** in the Pub. At the Country Girl, 7.30pm. Speak to John McNeill to find out more,

Christmas Services

- Sun 20 Dec** **Traditional Carols by Candlelight.** 6.00pm at St Stephen's. Followed by mulled wine and Christmas nibbles. Choir rehearsal
- Thu 24 Dec** **Starlight Service,** for all ages 4.00pm at St Stephens
- Thu 24 Dec** **Midnight Communion,** 11.30pm St Stephens
- Fri 25 Dec** **All Age Christmas Day Service** with Communion. 10.00am at St Stephens

Looking Ahead

- Thu 21 Jan** **Identity course begins.** Invitations are on the table at the back of church.
- Mon 8 Feb** **Women's Book Group.** "Seeking Allah, finding Jesus" by Nabeel Qureshi. All women welcome! See Chris Stonehouse or Elizabeth Barry to find out more.

News and Requests

Updated **Church Family Address Books** now available. See Jem Huggins if you'd like one.

Building for the Future Gift Day Response. Praise God, that so far a wonderful £36,000 has been given or pledged (including tax relief) – enough to pay the final bills. Thank you to everyone who has given and prayed. It would still be brilliant to have another £18,000 to get other jobs done – we trust God to give us what we need.

Could gospel ministry be for you? Why not spend a year serving the church and learning Bible teaching and ministry skills as a Ministry Trainee, from Sept 2016? Speak to Chris Hobbs.

Night Shelter. Please consider volunteering to help, see the back table for more information.

There are copies on the information table of names & addresses of some persecuted believers that it would be great to send cards to. There is also a petition from **Barnabas Fund** relating to our government's care for refugees; you can find this at the back of church.

Vicar: Chris Hobbs **Assistant Minister:** Andy Martin
Parish Office St Stephen's Church, Serpentine Road, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7HU
0121 472 8253 office@sssw.org.uk **www.sssw.org.uk**

ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK

taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously



Welcome

13 December 2015

If you are new, you are especially welcome. Please help yourself to a Welcome Booklet and, if you have time, introduce yourself and ask any questions you may have.

10.00am All-Age Carols at St Stephen's

'I wish it could be Christmas every day' (Luke 1:46-55) – Helen Buckley

Children and young people will stay in the service today.

There is a **Crèche** in the Cranmer Room for 0-3's if you need it, that can be found through the foyer doors.

Toilets are adjacent to the foyer and upstairs; baby-changing facilities are in the disabled toilets.

Coffee, tea and biscuits are served after the service in the foyer.

6.00pm Evening Service at St Wulstans

'Pray, pray, pray again' (James 5:13-20) – Chris Hobbs

Tea, Coffee and cakes will be served at the end of the service.

“There is no time in which God does not invite us to himself” (John Calvin).

1. Pray in all situations (v13)

2. Pray for the sick (v14-15)

3. Pray for sinners (v16-20)

OPENING PRAYER *led by Andy Martin*

SONGS Lo! He comes with clouds descending
Joy has dawned

THE APOSTLES' CREED

BIBLE READINGS 1 Kings 17:1-6; 18:41-46 (pages 358, 360); James 5:13-20 (page 1216)
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Pray, pray, pray again

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

SONGS You're the lion of Judah
I will glory
From the squalor

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

OPEN PRAYER ending with THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

NEWS

HYMN What a friend we have in Jesus

CLOSING PRAYER