



ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK

taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously

17 April 2016

Welcome

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 Morning Service with Holy Communion

'A new creation' (Revelation 21:1-22:5) – John Ruck

Children and young people will go to their activities part way through the service:

Creche and **Club 114** leave through the Foyer to go to their rooms. **Scramblers, Climbers** and

Explorers leave through the Hudson Taylor Room at the front of church.

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

6.00pm Evening Service

'Our God gives us hope' (Jeremiah 42:1-43:13) – Andy Martin

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

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

Today

Church Family Meal. 12noon in the Cranmer Room. Everyone is welcome! Suggested donation of £2 for adults, £1 for children.

This Week

Mon 18 Apr Women's Book Group. We will be discussing "The Cross Centered life" by CJ Mahaney. Speak to Chris Stonehouse with any questions.

Looking Ahead

Wed 27 April Annual Meeting (APCM). We will be electing three PCC members for the next three years. Please be thinking and praying about who (you?) should fill these important roles in our church's leadership. We would love to hear stories of what you have seen the Lord do this past year – please speak to Chris Hobbs if you have something to share.

Sat 30 April The Addict in Us All: how the Bible understands addiction and how the gospel helps. 10.30am-4.30pm, London. Flyers on the Information Table.

Sat 7 May Saline Solution. Monyhull Church, 9.30am-5.00pm. Calling all healthcare professionals – training, practising or retired! Christian Medical Fellowship are holding a Saline Solution course, Full details: www.cmf.org.uk.

7-8 May Glen and Emma Scrivener are coming to Birmingham. They will share their story of how they found grace and healing for anorexia. See the Information Table.

Tues 10 May MMTC Lite starts, at St Stephen's. The same quality as the full-blown MMTC, just less quantity. Be sure to book early! Flyers on the Information Table.

Fri 13 May The God Particle Play. 8.00pm at St Stephen's. In Birmingham for one night only, don't miss out! See the flyer for more information.

Jul 2-3 Church Family Weekend at Home. Andy Upton will be speaking. Please put the date in your diary! More details to come.

News and Requests

The World We All Want. A chance to explore the unfolding story of the Bible – the story of the world we want but don't have, a world that God has promised and is making. Two options, one course is continuing on Tue 13 Apr 10.00-11.30am & the other begins on Thu 21 Apr 8.00-9.30pm. Flyers on the Information Table.

Congratulations to the Barry family on the safe arrival of **Isobel Barry**, born on Tues 12th April.

Church Family Supper (March 24th). If you are still owing or are owed money please let the parish office know. Thanks!

Vicar: Chris Hobbs **Assistant Minister:** Andy Martin

Parish Office St Stephen's Church, Serpentine Road, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7HU

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New heaven, new earth, new Jerusalem – heavenly home (21:1-2)

1. Perfect people (21:2-8)

2. Perfect city (21:9-23)

3. Perfect international congregation (21:24-27)

4. Perfect new life (22:1-5)

Perfect GOD

OPENING PRAYER *led by Andy Martin*

HYMN The church's one foundation

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.

SONG Your love will last forever

NEWS

After which children and young people go to their activities

SONG May the mind of Christ my saviour

BIBLE READING Revelation 21:1-22:5 (page 1249)

(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON The new creation

PRAYERS 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.

THE NICENE CREED

SONG See him in Jerusalem

Please collect your child from crèche.

COMMUNION *see insert*

SONG There is a higher throne

BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Sermon notes

Our God gives us hope

Jeremiah 42-43

Jeremiah so far

1: Our God speaks through Jeremiah to tear down and to build up.

2-25: Our God loves his people deeply and has wonderfully provided for them yet because of their covenant-breaking idolatry promises right judgement.

26-34: Our God speaks through his true prophet, Jeremiah, to promise a new covenant, restoration, joy and hope.

35-39: Judgement falls on Jerusalem just as Jeremiah has promised.

40-41: The remnant implodes and begins to head to Egypt.

An outline of 42-43

42:1-6 On their way to Egypt, the people ask Jeremiah for a word from the Lord.

42:7-18 The Lord speaks to promise safety in Judah, destruction in Egypt.

42:19-22 Jeremiah implores the people not to go.

43:1-7 The people refuse to listen to Jeremiah's "lies".

43:8-13 The Lord speaks and promises destruction for disobedience.

Reflections

1. The people haven't changed
2. Jeremiah's message hasn't changed
3. Our God hasn't changed

Missed a sermon recently? Please visit www.sssw.org.uk to hear or download an audio version.

Evening Service

OPENING PRAYER *led by Chris Hobbs*

SONG Creation sings

HYMN Thine be the glory

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Lord, we have come to see that our lives fall far short of your glory.

Have mercy and forgive us.

Lord, you have given your life for us, and poured out your Spirit, yet we fail to return your love with all our heart. **Have mercy and change us.**

Too often we are selfish and proud, ignoring you, Lord, and neglecting others.

Have mercy and cleanse us.

Lord, when we do not truly trust and obey you, we are overwhelmed by self-pity, fear and worry.

Have mercy and deliver us.

In Christ we are given a sure hope and secure love, yet we follow the false hopes and desires of this world. **Have mercy and forgive us.**

Father, through the redeeming death of your Son on the cross, by your Spirit and through your word, transform and renew us to follow you with joy.

All this we ask, confident in your unchanging faithfulness. Amen.

BIBLE READING Jeremiah 42:1-43:13 (804)

(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Our God gives us hope

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

SONGS Strength will rise

God of grace

Fairest Lord Jesus

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 O Lord my God

CLOSING PRAYER

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.