

Today

This week in Sunday Club we will be learning that God is all powerful!

Short Prayer Meeting, for 15 minutes in the front of church directly following the Morning Service for In Emergency Break Glass. (Every Sunday until March 6th.)

Church Family Lunch. 12noon in the Cranmer Room. Food will be provided, suggested donation of £2 per person. This is a **come & eat** lunch.

Darkness Falls. A remarkable re-imagining of the Gospel of John by the acclaimed Saltmine Theatre Company. 2.30pm, The Octagon, Edgbaston High School, £3.50. you buy a ticket on the door. Flyers on the Information Table.

Looking Ahead

Tues 1 Mar **Prayer Gathering**, 10.00-11.30am in St Stephen's.

Wed 2 Mar **Prayer Gathering**, 8.00-9.30pm in St Stephen's – with coffee, tea and cakes 7.30-7.55pm.

Fri 18 Mar **TWIST A Night In With Emu** - an evening of song, Bible and praise for the whole church at St Stephens

Sat 19 Mar **A full day music ministry conference** with EMU at St Stephens

Sun 27 Mar **Easter Sunday Church Family Walk**. This will be in the afternoon and is being organised by Mark Checketts. More details to follow.

Mon 18 Apr **Women's Book Group** 8.00-9.30pm at Joanne Butler's house. We will be discussing "The Cross Centered life" by CJ Mahaney. All women welcome! If you have any questions, please speak to Chris Stonehouse or Elizabeth Barry.

News and Requests

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.

Congratulations to Mateus, Vanessa and Bonifacio on the arrival of Manoel Libardi on Mon 8 Feb.

Opendoors Prayer Morning, Sat 27 Feb, 10am-12noon. At Vineyard Church in Digbeth, (B5 7EP) Pastor Edward from Damascus will be there and will share some of the issues facing the persecuted church.

The **Meaningful Chocolate Company** have produced a great range of Easter Eggs, have a look out for them in the foyer at the end of the morning service.

Women's World Day of Prayer. Fri 4 Mar, 10.30am at Weoley Hill United Reform Church,

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

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ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK

taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously



Welcome

21 February 2016

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 at St Stephen's

'The woman and the dragon, the beasts and the Lamb' (Revelation 11:19-14:5) – Chris Hobbs

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 at St Stephen's

'Our God plans mercy and judgement' (Jeremiah 18:1-23) – 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.

Sermon notes

The woman and the dragon, the beasts and the Lamb *Revelation 12:1-15:4*

1. See the Enemy (12:1-17)

The devil:

- frustrated (v1-6)

- defeated (v7-12)

- enraged (v12-17)

2. See the Danger (13:1-14:1-5)

- Tyranny (13:1-10)

- Deception (13:11-18)

- And yet Salvation! (14:1-5)

3. See the End (14:6-15:4)

Final judgment:

- announced (14:6-13)

- executed (14:14-20)

- celebrated (15:1-4)

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

OPENING PRAYER *led by Andy Martin*

SONG Come people of the risen King

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

SONG My God is so big

NEWS

Children and young people go to their activities

SONG Facing a task unfinished

THE NICENE CREED

BIBLE READINGS Revelation 11:19-13:1a, 14:1-5 (page 1241)

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

SERMON The woman and the dragon, the beasts and the Lamb

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.

SONG Jesus Christ I think upon your sacrifice

Please pick up your child from crèche

COMMUNION *see insert*

HYMN There is a Redeemer

BLESSING

Jeremiah so far

- 1: Our God speaks through Jeremiah to tear down and to build up.
 2-6: Our God loves his people deeply, yet finally tears them down because of their ceaseless adultery.
 7-10: Our God lives with his people, forgiving them through sacrifice, yet finally tears them down because of their complacent idolatry.
 11-17: Our God commits to his people in relationship in order to bless, yet finally tears them down because of their stubborn wickedness.

Question: Has God's word failed? Has God been forced to abandon his people, and his covenant, because of their sinful hearts?

1. Our God is God and he does as he pleases (1-10)
 - a. Our God is the potter; we are the clay (1-6)
 - b. He loves mercy (7-8)
 - c. He hates sin (9-10)
 2. Our God speaks and calls people to respond to his warning (11)
 3. Our God shows us that the problem is with our hearts and it is worse than we can imagine (12-23)
 - a. The problem is our hearts (12)
 - b. Israel, with all her privileges, turns her back on God (13-17)
 - c. Israel, with all her privileges, tries to kill God's prophet (18-23)
- Praise God for his Son, Jesus, and the gift of his Holy Spirit!

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OPENING PRAYER *led by Helen Buckley*

SONGS Give thanks to the Lord
 Bless the Lord, O my soul

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.

SONG Facing a task unfinished

THE APOSTLES' CREED

NEWS

SONGS God's saints of old
 O great God of highest heaven

BIBLE READING Jeremiah 18:1-23 (page 777), Romans 9:1-27 (page 1135)
 (This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Our God plans mercy and judgement

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

SONG And can it be

CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your holy word. May it be a lantern to our feet, a light to our paths, and a strength to our lives. Take us and use us to love and serve in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.