

## This Week

**Mon 26 Jan** 'How People Change' starts.

**Thurs 29 Jan** 'The World We All Want' continues, 8.00-9.30pm. IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THIS WEEK. Please speak to Chris Hobbs if you are interested.

## Looking Ahead

**Thu 5 Feb** 'Biblical Counselling in the Local Church: How wise biblical counsel produces growth in the body of Christ' – Day conference 10.00am-4.30pm. Evening session 7.30-9.00pm – 'The heart of depression: Understanding and caring for those who experience depression'. Brochures on the Information Table.

## News, Notices and Requests

**Building for the Future:** With the Chancellor's decision expected shortly, we now need to empty St Stephens, ready for Phase 2. Can you help the Decant Working Party at St Stephen's on Saturday 7th February, 10am-12noon? This will also be a chance to see progress on Phase 1. You will need boots or wellies! Please see Richard Phillips.

**Prayer Meetings for Sarah Underwood:** Please know that all are invited to join in. Feel free to come or not, as works for you. The next 3 meetings are on Tuesdays: 27<sup>th</sup> Jan (8-9pm), 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb (1.30-2.30pm) and 9<sup>th</sup> Feb (8-9pm)

**Music rehearsal and musicians wanted:** Our next monthly musicians' rehearsal is on Thursday 29th January from 8.15-9.45pm in St Wulstan's. We're looking for some more musicians to play at Sunday services - if you can sing or play an instrument and want to serve in this way please come along to the rehearsal! Details from Allan Ooi.

**House to rent:** furnished, mid terrace, 2-bedroomed house (1 double, 1 single), upstairs bathroom in Kitchener Road close to Cannon Hill Park, B29. March – Sept 2015 and possibly beyond. For more info, please speak to Julie Keene.

**Rooted weekend away:** This year's church student weekend away is Fri 6<sup>th</sup> - Sun 8<sup>th</sup> March; Quinta, Shropshire. A great weekend of talks, discussion, food and fun for £50! **All** students welcome, please talk to Andy Martin if you're interested.

**Stay'n'Play:** Can YOU help? We need people to help serve tea and coffee and cut up bits for craft activities. Please speak to Amy Walker, Amanda Martin or Helen Buckley for more details.

**Church family address book:** please contact the office if you would like one.

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

**Parish Office** St Wulstan's Church, Alton Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 7DU  
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ST STEPHENS AND ST WULSTANS SELLY PARK



taking Jesus seriously, taking the Bible seriously

## Welcome

25<sup>th</sup> January 2015

*If you are new, please say 'hello' and pick up a Welcome booklet at the back of Church.*

### 10.00am Morning Service

**Giving Sunday:** 'Precious' (1 Peter 1:13-21) – Chris Porter

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

**0-3s** Crèche is in the back room, please collect your child during the final song.

**3-11s** Will be taken to the Medical Centre across the road, and be brought back during the last hymn.

**11-14s** will meet at the back and be taken to 9 Serpentine Road, they will be brought back at the end of the service.

**Toilets** are in the foyer, baby-changing facilities are in the disabled toilet.

**Coffee, tea and biscuits** are served after the service.

### 6.00pm Evening Service

**Giving Sunday:** 'God's ways are not our ways' (Genesis 15-16) – Chris Hobbs

**Coffee, tea and biscuits** are served after the service.

*Chris Hobbs, Vicar (Senior Minister)*

OPENING PRAYER *led by Chris Hobbs*

**Lord God, may you be praised for ever and ever: you are great and powerful, glorious, splendid and majestic; everything in heaven and earth is yours, and you are king, supreme ruler over all: all riches and wealth come from you; you rule everything by your strength and power; you alone are able to make anyone great and strong: now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name. Amen.**

HYMN Come thou fount of every blessing

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.**

SONG My God is so big

NOTICES including Giving Presentation

*Children and young people go to their activities*

SONG Who has held the oceans in his hands?

BIBLE READINGS Leviticus 19:1-18, 37 (page 121), 1 Peter 1:13-21 (page 1217)  
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON Precious

SONG I once was lost in darkest night

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.**

HYMN I will sing the wondrous story

CLOSING PRAYER

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

COLLECTION *Gifts may be placed in the Gifts box on the Information Table*

## Sermon notes

## God's ways are not our ways Genesis 15:1 – 16:16

God saves...

...through faith alone (15:1-6)

...by grace alone (15:7-21)

...not by works (16:1-6)

...to the glory of God alone (16:7-16)

**Missed a sermon recently?** Please visit [www.ssw.org.uk](http://www.ssw.org.uk) to hear or download an audio version.

## Evening Service

OPENING PRAYER *led by Andy Martin*

SONGS Praise my soul the King of Heaven  
Early morning, break of dawn  
Our mouths were open graves

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Blessed are you, Lord our God. How sweet are your words to the taste, sweeter than honey to the mouth. How precious are your commands for our life, more than the finest gold in our hands. How marvellous is your will for the world, unending is your love for the nations. Our voices shall sing of your promises and our lips declare your praise for ever and ever. Amen.**

BIBLE READINGS Genesis 15:1-16:16 (page 15)  
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON God's ways are not our ways

INSIGHTS AND QUESTIONS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God. **We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

SONGS The splendour of the King  
Comfort for weary sinners

CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**O Lord our God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As we come before you now, believers and doubters alike, we all share a deep need, for we are all lost without your grace. Search us, O God, and know our hearts, test us and know our troubled thoughts. Give us true repentance. Forgive us all our wrongs. Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day, to learn to serve each other and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord, to come at last to heaven. Amen.**

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.**

NOTICES including Giving Presentation

HYMN O Lord my God

CLOSING PRAYER

COLLECTION *Gifts may be placed in the Gifts box on the Information Table*