

## Carol Services

If you would like to be involved in the carol services, please speak to Cordelia, and note down the following dates and times for rehearsals: **Dec 5<sup>th</sup>** at 8pm, **Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** at 4.45pm, **Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** at 8.15pm and **Dec 21<sup>st</sup>** at 4.45pm.

## Today

**Suffering Church Sunday.** Bring and Share lunch with speaker from Barnabas Fund after the morning service. All welcome!

## This Week

**Tue 2 Dec Prayer Gathering.** 10.00-11.30am,

**Wed 3 Dec Prayer Gathering.** 8.00-9.30pm, St Wulstan's. Coffee, tea and cakes served beforehand, 7.30-7.55pm.

**Sat 6 Dec Christmas Advent-ure.** Come and join us in the countdown to Christmas. Fun for the whole church family. 2.30-4.00pm at St Wulstans. Fill in a form & return it to Helen Buckley.

**Sun 7 Dec Carols by Candlelight,** 6.00pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

## Looking Ahead

**Tues 16 & Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dec Carols for the Business Community.** Brochures are at the back of church, if you work in town don't miss out!

**Fri 16 Jan Birmingham Churches Night Shelter starts.** Every Friday from Jan 16th to March 6th at St Wulstan's. Overnight shelter for 12 homeless men. Volunteers needed for a range of ways to serve. Forms available on information table or contact Tom for more details.

**Mon 22 Dec Carol singing round the fire pit** with hot chocolate and gingerbread. 4.30-6.00pm. All Welcome!

## News, Notices and Requests

**Building for the Future news.** Lots of info about the Phase 2 work on the church is passing between St Stephen's and the Diocesan Advisory Committee prior to their meeting on 9 Dec.

**How People Change – how Christ changes us by his grace.** Twelve 90-minute DVD-based sessions guide people in understanding how Christ's life, death and resurrection bring lasting change. Chris Hobbs intends to run this course again on Monday evenings, **26 Jan - 6 July 2015.** Places are limited, so please speak to him soon if you are interested.

**Kitchen roll and wrapping paper cardboard tubes needed** (lots and lots!!). Please give any you have to Helen Buckley. Thank you!

**Helpers (desperately) needed** for the morning refreshments rota, please consider serving church in this vital but fun way and speak to Margaret - men - we need you too.

**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

**30<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

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

## 10.00am Morning Service

'The Suffering Church' (1 Peter 4:12-19) – Maurice Sinclair

**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 at the end of the service.

**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

'How to be content' (Philippians 4:1-23) – Andy Martin

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

## Sermon notes The Suffering Church I Peter 4:12-19

*Since Christ suffered in the body, arm yourself with the same attitude*  
**I Peter 4:1**

### Armed with Realism

### Armed with Understanding

### Armed with Compassion

### Armed for Action

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

OPENING PRAYER *led by Chris Hobbs*

HYMN Come, thou long expected Jesus

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 Everybody praise

NOTICES

*Children and young people leave for their activities*

SONG Early morning, break of dawn

FOCUS on the suffering church

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.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SONG Glory and power to the one who loves us

BIBLE READINGS Mark 13:1-13 (page 1019), I Peter 4:12-19 (page 1220)  
(This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**)

SERMON The Suffering Church

HYMN How firm a foundation

*Please collect your child from crèche*

CLOSING PRAYER

The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, make you strong, firm and steadfast:

**to him be glory and power for ever. Amen.**

COLLECTION *Gifts may be placed in the Gifts box at the back*