

Sunday 1st December 2024

Advent Sunday

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
10.00 a.m. Café-Style Altogether Worship Christingle
4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church Christingle

Collect for Today

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Service Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (*p.749*), 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (*p.201*) and Luke 21:25-36 (*p.82*)

Please pray for

... Jo Dwyer, Sue Hawkins, Robin Holdsworth, Sheila Kirkland, Shirley Parfoot, Jean and Tony Reed, Rupert Tear, Lucy Wallis and Roger Young.

... the family and friends of Ernest Barnard, Brenda Horsley, Marianne Hehn, Yvonne Quittenton, Beth Reynolds, Zoe Collins and Peter Scurfield whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... those who live and work in Farm Walk, Farnham Road and Friars Gate.

... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Financial Giving

We take a collection during our services. If you don't give regularly by standing order or the envelope scheme, please put your donation in the bag, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

Dear Friends

Advent. “The coming or arrival of any person or thing considered significant” (Oxford English Dictionary). It was first used in the Anglo-Norman period 1150 and comes from a mixture of Latin and French. It is recorded in 1139 as “the coming of Christ into the world, the Incarnation”

So, we have two quite incredible words there: *Advent* - the coming of a significant person and *Incarnation*. It’s nice to have a clean definition from a dictionary, but I wonder what the gospels have to say? Well, they are all very, very different.

Mark focuses on Advent - he tells us of this through one person, heralded hundreds of years before by the prophet Isaiah “see I am sending my messenger ahead of you”. This person was John the Baptist. Mark then jumps straight to Christ’s baptism - no nativity or three kings at all!!

Matthew is a very detailed gospel writer. He tells of the coming of a significant event through the nativity story. He starts with the family history of Joseph from Abraham in the Old Testament and goes on to tell us of Christ’s birth and the visitation of the wise men. But no shepherds!

Luke, gives us a more backdrop view of the birth of John the Baptist and then the birth of Christ, visited by the shepherds but no wise men!

Then we come to John. John does not mention the nativity as such, but he describes Christ in the most beautiful way of ‘The Word’. The Word shines as the light into the darkness. The Word was God. And the Word became flesh. God incarnate on earth as Christ.

I find this just wonderful to think about as we look forward to the coming of Christmas, the arrival of that significant person.

Andy

Mission Focus for December: Andrew and Clare Koens in Papua New Guinea

Give thanks that Andrew has fully recovered from the cellulitis infection. Please pray for Clare in the responsibilities she carries as she co-ordinates the work of supporting the staff across the organisation. The family are preparing to fly back to the US for a short break to see Andrew’s parents - pray that it will be a good time away and that all the travel arrangements work out well. For more information, please read the article in the Dec magazine or look on the Wycliffe Bible Translators website: wycliffe.org.uk/

Notices

Thank you so much to Clare, Adrian and Anna for hosting us for Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. Everyone had a lovely time and it was a great start to Advent!

Gift Day for The Big Build: Thank you to everyone who came to the 'Prosecco & Plans' event last Sunday. Thank you also to those who have already given so generously. If you've not yet given financially, please do so as soon as possible, and certainly by the end of the year. This is a 'once in a generation' opportunity at All Saints, and we need each of us to give as generously as we possibly can to achieve our target of £300,000.

If you missed the event, please do watch the presentation and be inspired!
youtu.be/SYYOXcURhC0

Christmas Food Bank Collection: Food security is the measure of an individual's ability to access food that is nutritious and sufficient in quantity. The Food Foundation found that in January 2024, 15% of UK households were living in food *insecurity*. This is equivalent to approximately eight million adults and three million children. Please consider donating to the North Guildford Food Bank, there is a box at the back of church. They are grateful for any donations but the following are particularly needed: Bags for Life, shampoo/conditioner, tinned meat, sharing chocolates/sweets, drinking chocolate, tinned pasta and rice. Please donate by **Sunday 9th December**.

New Pastoral Team members needed: Our Pastoral Team works together to offer care and support to vulnerable people within our church family, and in the local community. If you have a caring heart, and a few hours a week to spare, you'd be very welcome to become part of the Pastoral Team. Please be in touch with Beverly for more information.

Carol Singing with the Guides: Tuesday 10th December, meeting in the hall at 6.30pm and we'll be at Dray Court at 7pm.

Christmas Services: It's time to start looking ahead to Christmas! Perhaps put these dates in your diary now...

- 🕯 *Sunday 1st December:* Christingle at 10am and 4pm
- 🕯 *Sunday 15th December:* Nine Lessons & Carols, 6.00pm
- 🕯 *Sunday 22nd December:* Church Family Communion & Nativity, 10am
- 🕯 *Tuesday 24th December:* Crib Service, 4pm
- 🕯 *Tuesday 24th December:* Midnight Mass with Bishop Paul, 11.30pm
- 🕯 *Christmas Day:* All-Age Communion, 10am

Diary for the Coming Week

Morning prayer Mon, Tues, Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and Zoom.

Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.

- Mon 2nd Small Group Leaders, Vicarage, 10.00am
Women's Bible Study, 16 West Meads, 12.30pm
- Tues 3rd Altogether Worship Planning, Vicarage, 7.30pm
- Weds 4th Eco-Team, Office, 9.30am
Clergy & Wardens Meeting, Vicarage, 10.30am
Tea-time Church Planning, Vicarage, 4.30pm
- Thurs 5th Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am
Young Adults' Study Group, 6 Scillonian Road, 7.30pm
Choir Rehearsal, Church, 8.00pm
- Fri 6th Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 9.30am
Friday Group, Reading Room, 3.00pm
- Sun 8th Church Family Communion with Children's Church, 10.00am
Vicar's Update over Coffee, Church Hall, 11.30am
Tea-time Church, 4.00pm
Youth Group, Church Hall, 5.30pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

- Mon 2nd Ps. 50, Isaiah 42:18-end, Revelation 19
- Tues 3rd Ps. 80, Isaiah 43:1-13, Revelation 20
- Weds 4th Ps. 7, Isaiah 43:14-end, Revelation 21:1-8
- Thurs 5th Ps. 42, Isaiah 44:1-8, Revelation 21:9-21
- Fri 6th Ps. 25, Isaiah 44:9-23, Revelation 21:22-22:5
- Sat 7th Ps. 9, Isaiah 44:24-45:13, Revelation 22:6-end

Service Readings for Sunday 8th December: Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11 and Luke 3:1-6

Contacts

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