

Sunday 8th December 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

- 10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion with Children's Church
4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church
5.30 p.m. Youth Group
-

Collect for Today

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Service Readings

Malachi 3:1-4 (*p.904*), Philippians 1:3-11 (*p.193*) and Luke 3:1-6 (*p.57*)

Please pray for

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

... Dan and all the family and friends of Miriam Brown who died recently.

... the family and friends of Ethel Greenacre, Geoffrey Attewell and Rosemary Bailey whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... those who live and work in Hedgeway, Henley Bank, High View Road and Hollow Close.

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

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; 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

Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we'll be lighting the second of our Advent candles. Traditionally this candle represents the prophets, who foretold the coming of the Messiah. Our Old Testament reading for today comes from the prophet Malachi, who writes, 'See I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come' (3:1). It's a prophecy that would be fulfilled through the life of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus to come.

But then, unexpectedly, Malachi writes, 'But who can endure the day of his coming?' (3:2). It's a theme that is taken up by John the Baptist, who preached 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins' (Luke 3:3).

These readings remind us the coming of the Lord as Emmanuel – God with us – is a moment of great joy; the fulfilment of prophecies that had been long foretold. But it's also a time for great soul-searching, as we consider the implications of such a 'coming'. This season of Advent, in partnership with the season of Lent, offers us a time to reflect on the meaning of the Lord's coming among us; and to prepare our hearts and minds in readiness for that time.

My prayer for each of us, this Advent, is that we will find time and space to hear that message from the prophets once again.

Beverly

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

Gift Day for The Big Build: Thank you also to those who have already given so generously. Since our Gift Day on 24th November, almost £100,000 has come in through the donations of just 15 people – a wonderful response!

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. For all those of us who have not yet given, please could you make your donation as soon as possible, and certainly by the end of the year, so that we can begin applying for grants.

Please watch the presentation we gave at the Gift Day and see why the project is so important: youtu.be/SYYOXcURhC0

Christmas Food Bank Collection: It's your last chance to put your goodies into the collection 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. We'll be delivering to the food bank on Monday morning.

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

Men's Wellbeing Group: We are holding another men's wellbeing group social on Tuesday 10th December from 7pm to 10pm. All men over 18 are very welcome. If you would like to come along then please contact Andy who will send you all the details. Food and drinks for the evening are provided (but a drinks donation would be appreciated!) You can contact Andy on 07411 985218 or familywells@mac.com.

Help with the Christmas Tree! Would you like to help put up and decorate our Christmas tree? We'll be doing it at 9.45am on Saturday 14th December. Do come along and help make it look beautiful!

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

- ☸ *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

Electoral Roll Officer: Richard Pointer is looking to step down as our electoral roll officer, but is very happy to work with a new recruit as we revise the roll early next year. If you have some time give, perhaps you could consider this role? Have a chat with Richard or Trish if you're interested. Thank you!

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 9th Barnabas Group, 26 Manor Way, 4.00pm

Tues 10th Carol Singing with the Guides, 6.30pm

Standing Committee, Vicarage, 8.15pm

Weds 11th Men's Coffee Morning, Reading Room, 10.30am

Wednesday Lunch Group, Kempshott, 12.30pm

Sharing & Learning Group, 2 Beechcroft Drive, 7.45pm

Thurs 12th Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am

Fri 13th Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 9.30am

Friday Group, Reading Room, 3.00pm

OVRA Carol Singing, Village Hall, 6.00pm

Sat 14th Prayer Breakfast, Vicarage, 8.30am

Sun 15th BCP Communion, Reading Room, 8.00am

Morning Worship with Children's Church, 10.00am

Nine Lessons & Carols, 6.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 9th Ps. 44, Isaiah 45:14-end, 1 Thessalonians 1

Tues 10th Ps. 56, Isaiah 46, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Weds 11th Ps. 62, Isaiah 47, 1 Thessalonians 2:13-end

Thurs 12th Ps. 54, Isaiah 48:1-11, 1 Thessalonians 3

Fri 13th Ps. 86, Isaiah 48:12-end, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Sat 14th Ps. 145, Isaiah 49:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

Service Readings for Sunday 15th December: Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7 and Luke 3:7-18

Contacts

Revd Beverly Watson, Vicar
vicar@allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk
Tel: 07547 416721

Office: administrator@allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk Tel: 01483 563173

Safeguarding Officer: safeguardingallsaintsguildford@gmail.com Tel: 01483 568857



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