

Sunday 15th December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

8.00 a.m. BCP Communion

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

6.00 p.m. Nine Lessons & Carols

Collect for Today

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (*p.891*), Philippians 4:4-7 (*p.196*) and Luke 3:7-18 (*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.

... the family and friends of Eleanor Barnard and Audrey Tye whose anniversary of death is at this time.

... those who live and work in Irwin Road, Iveagh Road, Litchfield Way and Lynwood.

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

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **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

I had a week off last week. Well, I say a week off I didn't go into work but the week filled itself up completely. Ordination study and lectures, Uni chaplaincy work and a carol service at the Vet School, patio ground work starting at our house, helping my sister get her Christmas tree, choir rehearsals for gigs, gutter repairs. The usual "week off" stuff! But I did get to see the Abu Dhabi qualifying and Grand Prix! A thrilling race and finish by McLaren to take the Constructors Championship. Anyway, I ramble

What's the point of all this? Oh, yes it was a weird week. Something was missing. I wasn't really enjoying it. It seemed just one thing rolling into the next. On Sunday I went to church as normal. That wonderful hour or two when we sit and connect, both with God and each other. It hit me - that is what I was missing. My week off had been so busy I had missed my Daily Office. The Daily Office is routine that includes morning and evening reflective time with God. It's prayer, listening, reflecting, recognising what God wants me to do that day. I realised I was just tied up with material, secular "stuff".

I suspect this is all too easy at this time of year. So, I am now back to Lectio 365 from today. It's a 10-minute reflection app. I thoroughly recommend it. A little bit of time each morning and evening connecting with God - a time of peace, stillness and hope in this month of busyness.

I hope you all find a peaceful 10 minutes in your day this week and I look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Andy

Mission Focus for December: Andrew and Clare Koenig 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

Nine Lessons & Carols: TONIGHT at 6.00pm. Do come and hear our wonderful choir lead us for this very special occasion. It will be a great opportunity to hear our wonderful choir perform. Our thanks to Jeremy, our choir director.

Christmas Card: With thanks to Alison, we have resurrected the tradition of having a joint All Saints Family Christmas card! It's at the back of church and if you'd like to sign it, instead of sending individual cards, you'll be doing your bit to save resources. You'd also be very welcome to donate any money you've saved to the Big Build using the cash box on the wall at the back.

Funding for The Big Build: We're delighted to announce that following many generous donations over the past fortnight, the total money we have raised since the fund opened last year is £224,000. This is a fantastic achievement and an answer to prayer. Thank you to everyone who has given so generously.

We're now on the home straight. If you've not yet given, please do so as soon as possible and by the end of the year at the latest. We're aiming to raise £300,000 towards the cost of the project in order to attract grant funding in the new year. Please give as generously as you possibly can!

If you haven't yet watched the Gift Day presentation, do take a look: youtu.be/SYYOXcURhC0

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

- 🕯️ *TONIGHT:* Nine Lessons & Carols, 6.00pm
- 🕯️ *Tuesday 17th:* Montessori Nativity, 2.00pm
- 🕯️ *Wednesday 18th:* Dray Court Carol Service, 2.30pm
- 🕯️ *Sunday 22nd December:* Church Family Communion & Nativity with baptisms, 10am
- 🕯️ *Tuesday 24th December:* Crib Service, 4pm
- 🕯️ *Tuesday 24th December:* Midnight Mass with Bishop Paul, 11.30pm
- 🕯️ *Christmas Day:* All-Age Communion, 10am

Do you have space at your dining table? We know of one or two people who will be alone this Christmas. If you could enjoy an extra guest on Christmas Day, day, please speak to Beverly.

A Thank you from North Guildford Food Bank: "Thank you so much for the really generous donations that you dropped with us at St Clares.... I'm sure that clients who receive them will be delighted".

Hearing Champion: Our hearing clinic has been paused for a couple of months as we need an additional Hearing Champion. If you'd like to train to help once a month on a Monday afternoon at the clinic, please contact Beverly.

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 16th Women's Bible Study Group, 16 West Meads, 12.30pm

Tues 17th Montessori Nativity, Church, 2.00pm

Altogether Worship Planning, Vicarage, 7.30pm

Weds 18th Dray Court Carol Service, 2.30pm

Thurs 19th Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am

Young Adults Study Group, 6 Scillonian Road, 7.30pm

Choir Rehearsal, Church, 8.00pm

Fri 20th Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 9.30am

Sun 22nd Church Family Communion and Nativity,
and the baptism of Ivy, Hugo and Eric, 10.00am

Tea Time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 16th Ps. 40, Isaiah 49:14-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Tues 17th Ps. 70, Isaiah 50, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-end

Weds 18th Ps. 75, Isaiah 51:1-18, 2 Thessalonians 1

Thurs 19th Ps. 146, Isaiah 51:9-16, 2 Thessalonians 2

Fri 20th Ps. 46, Isaiah 51:17-end, 2 Thessalonians 3

Sat 21st Ps. 121, Isaiah 52:1-12, Jude

Service Readings for Sunday 22nd December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrew 10:5-10 and Luke 1:39-45(46-55)

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