

Sunday 22nd December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion at St. John's

10am Fourth Sunday Service

Leader and Speaker Richard Field

Sidesman Dawn Thomas, Chris Fawcett

Sound Helen Field

Coffee Jane and Dave Chambers

Counters Helen Field, Richard Field

Duty Churchwarden Sue Davies

Organist John Kingham

Tuesday 24th December

4pm: St. Luke's Crib Service

Organist: Rita Roscoe



(help wanted with the children and their nativity costumes - please speak to Revd. Jo Jones or a churchwarden if you can help)

11.30pm: Midnight Mass

President & Preacher: Revd Jo Jones

Crucifer: Lucy Bubb

Server: David Millward

Chalice: Lucy Bubb

Intercessions: Lucy Bubb

Readings

Isaiah 9:2-7 David Millward

Titus 2:11-14 Lucy Bubb

Luke 2:1-20

Sidesmen: Hilary Few

Sound: Sue Davies

Duty Churchwarden: Lucy Bubb

Organist: Philippa Penkett

Newsletter Content

If you have any items for the Newsletter (including requests for prayer) please contact Janette Tadman 01245 469124

Email janettetadman@gmail.com

Deadline Wednesday evening

Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day

10am: Service of Holy Communion

President & Preacher: Rev Gemma Fraser

Crucifer: Sue Davies

Server: Janette Tadman

Chalice: Revd Suzanne, Sue Davies

Intercessions: Revd Gemma

Readings

Isaiah 52:7-10 Jane Chambers

Hebrews 1:1-4 Dave Chambers

John 1:1-14

Sidesmen: Chris Fawcett, Jane Chambers

Sound: David Millward

Duty Churchwarden: Mike Tadman

Organist: Alan Arnot

Sunday 29th December

8am: Holy Communion at St. John's

10am: Service of Holy Communion

President & Preacher: Rev Gemma Fraser

Crucifer Richard Field

Server Janette Tadman

Chalice Revd Suzanne, Richard Field

Sidesmen Maxine Buck, Hilary Few

Sound Helen Field

Coffee Mary Marshall, Maxine Buck

Counters Richard Field, Mike Tadman

Duty Churchwarden Sue Davies

Sunday 19th January is our Christingle Service



Contacts

Vicar Revd Gemma Fraser 07540 152561

Churchwardens

Richard Field Lucy Bubb

07776 208546 07970 728673

Deputy Churchwardens

Mike Tadman Sue Davies

07740 625454 07708 296804

Sunday 15th December

Third Sunday of Advent

8am: Holy Communion at St. John's

10am: Service of Holy Communion

President & Preacher: Rev Gemma Fraser

Crucifer: Dave Thomas

Server: Janette Tadman

Chalice: Revd Suzanne, Dave Thomas

Intercessions: Revd Gemma

Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10 Richard Field

James 5:7-10 Elaine Law

Matthew 11:2-11

Sidesmen: Hilary Few, Maxine Buck

Sound: Mike Tadman

Coffee: Maxine Buck, Mary Marshall

Counters: Richard Field, Mike Tadman

Duty Churchwarden: Lucy Bubb

Organist: Alan Arnot (*voluntary - one of Bach's 2-part "Inventions"*)

2pm-5pm: Christmas Tree Festival

Refreshments available

4pm-5pm: Carols & Christmas Songs

Led by Revd Gemma with music by the music group

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of
your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready
your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to
the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the
world
we may be found an acceptable people in
your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

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

TO OUR VISITORS Welcome to our service. The **hymn numbers** are displayed on the boards, and will also be announced. When we come to receive Holy Communion, please see the notes in our **Order of Service**, which are provided for your guidance. We like to mark **birthdays** by singing "Happy Birthday to you: to Jesus be true. May God's richest blessing rest today upon you." If it is your birthday this week, please tell one of the ministers.

The ministry of Prayer with Laying-on-of-Hands for Healing is available every Sunday. If you would like this for yourself or another, please speak to one of the Ministers or Churchwardens.

Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?' ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Please Pray This Week

For Brian, Joan, Bob, Margaret, June, Tammy, Emma, Basil, Greta, Carmen, Revd John S, Melvyn, Nicky and Alina, Sally and Peter, Mary U.

For the PCC as they meet this week

For those named on the prayer board

This week we remember:

Robert Lee (16.12.1989)

Revd John Gravelle (17.12.2000)

Ray Moody (18.12.2009)

Joan Church (18.12.2015)

R.I.P Kath Bell †

We were very sorry to hear that Kath died at home unexpectedly on Wed 11th December.

Please keep her daughter Liz and family in your prayers.

Kath will be greatly missed.

Advent Meditations/Reflections

Advent is a time of waiting, a time of preparation, and a time of hope. We have had several opportunities to come together during this time.

On Saturday 21st December at 11am we will have our final Advent Craft and Prayer session - a time together for prayer and craft activities.

Christmas Giving

For those that have not heard, a rough sleeper was found dead in St John's churchyard on 5th December. It had been a very cold night and it is thought that may have contributed to his death. Please remember him (we do not know his name at the time of printing) in your prayers but also consider the impact our advent giving could have in supporting the work of CRISIS, the national homeless charity.

Over the festive period, we will be supporting the following charities:

- CRISIS at Christmas, throughout Advent
- Little Havens Children's Hospice, Crib Service
- The Children's Society, Christingle Service.

Please look out for Gift Aid envelopes so that, if you are a tax payer, the charities can claim an extra 25% on top of your donation.

This Week

The church is open daily for prayer

Monday 16 December

Pray for the BBC Essex

Tuesday 17 December

Pray for Robin Way

9.15am: Morning Prayer at

Church of the Holy Spirit, Widford

Wednesday 18 December

Pray for the Church Army

9.15am: Morning Prayer at St. Luke's

1.15pm: Edward Bear Toddler Group

7.30pm: PCC Meeting

Thursday 19 December

Pray for Peace in Syria and The Middle East

9.15am: Morning Prayer at St. John's

12pm: Funeral for Agnes Millward †

Friday 20 December

Pray for the Little Acorns Pre-School

Saturday 21 December

Pray for Hawthorn Close

11am: Advent Craft and Prayer

&

Saturday Coffee

Living Light

The Aumbry Light for December has been sponsored in memory of Joyce Stockwell

