

**Collect for Advent Sunday**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**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.**

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- For The Children's Society.
- For the Rohingya refugees, particularly the women and girls suffering terrible abuse.
- For the family and friends of the victims of the Egyptian Mosque attack.
- For the homeless, particularly those sleeping rough on our streets.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF HEALING AND PEACE:**

Marion Long, John Babb, John Vince, Carol and Trevor Fitch, Una Harborne, Mavis Finch, Rod and Angela, Michael Hopkins, Christopher and Victoria, Mark Ackford and family, John Hammond, Norman Edwards, Karen Lawrence, Philippa King, Kelly May, Gordon & Kathleen Plumridge, Joyce Bapty, Richard Heaney, and the frail, elderly and bereaved.

**WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PRAY FOR:**

Kate Quarrell, Gideon, Laura Huidekoper, Barbara Higgins, Mary Jefferies, Alex Chauhan, Rachael, Keith & Judy Brambleby, Barbara Platts, Sarah, Anne and Tony Eccleston, Jennie Lunn, Tony Mead, Hannah, Stuart Bailey.

**WE REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THE LIFE OF:**

Paul Rustman

**[parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk)**

**Open: Mon & Tues: 9:30am -1.30pm, Weds & Thurs 9:30am -5.00pm**

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**St Mary's**  
with  
**St Peter's**  
PRINCES RISBOROUGH  
& ILMER

# News

## **Sunday December 3rd 2017, First Sunday of Advent Gift Sunday**

**Dear Friends,**

I dropped a tin of paint on a recent trip to B&Q. Unfortunately, it was a large tin of paint, and even more unfortunately the angle at which it fell meant the lid popped open. The result: a large quantity of white gloss paint on my hands, my shoes and the floor.

As I told my story to people over the following days I was fascinated that there were two almost immediate responses. The first was 'did you tell anyone, or did you just leave'. The second was 'did they make you pay for it!' For the avoidance of any doubt I did not just leave the store. I left white painted footprints as I went to find a member of staff to help. Their first action was to find some tissues to help clean my hands and then to call for assistance to sort out the mess in the paint aisle. I offered to help tidy up, but (with a sigh of relief) health and safety meant a trained operative was required to do the cleaning. I was not made to pay for the paint (although I did buy the smaller tin that I needed).

My experience of sin, our human propensity to mess things up, is similar. Often the first response is to avoid the consequences of the situation – to pretend it's not really a problem, that it's someone or something else's problem, or that no-one is really affected – and the second response is to expect some form of punishment.

**Rev Michael Hunt**

## NEWS & NOTICES

**CTR ADVENT SERVICE TONIGHT:** Please support this special Advent Service tonight which this year is at St Teresa's. It is from 6-7pm.

**CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND COFFEE MORNING:** This raised an amazing £901 for Lighthouse so a big thank you to everyone who helped at and supported this event.

**THANK YOU TO GOD SUNDAY:** We sent out 260 leaflets; so far, we've had replies covering 84 people, with 138 offers of practical help, of which most are continuations, but 22 are new offers. Finances: so far, 18 people have pledged increases, 5 have reduced, and we have 4 new pledges. Overall, a modest increase but a long way short of the target needed to continue our ministries. There's still time to reply!

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX HOLDERS:** Opening Day next weds 6<sup>th</sup> December from 9.30am until 12noon in the Chapter House. Refreshments served.

**RAF BAND CONCERT:** On Sat 9<sup>th</sup> December, RAF Halton will be holding their Christmas Band Concert at 7.30pm in Church. Always an enjoyable event, tickets are £10 (concessions £8) from the church office.

**CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE AT ILMER:** On Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, come and enjoy traditional carols in a beautiful setting.

**COFFEE AND MINCE PIES:** The 8 o'clock Life Group invite you to coffee and mince pies on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 11am in the Chapter House. For details contact Gill Seels on PR 275335.

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL:** On Sat December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at the Baptist Church there will be a special one- man Christmas performance of A Christmas Carol by James Hornsby, a professional actor stage and screen. Tickets are £8 from PR Baptist Church (PR 274499) or the Library.

**PRINCES RISBOROUGH MUSIC SOCIETY:** The PRMS Christmas concert will be held on Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup> in Church at 7.30pm.

**THANK YOU:** To Joy Woodward and Bill Nicholson for offering to continue their services to the Church Hall for another year. This is very much appreciated.

**EASYFUNDRAISING:** If you buy things on-line this Christmas please consider helping St Mary's at NO cost to yourself. Use easyfundraising and many retailers will donate a small percentage of the purchase price to St Mary's. Follow the link on the front page of the St Mary's website.

**A CHRISTMAS ANAGRAM QUIZ:** in aid of Helen and Douglas House is available from Frances Ibell and in the shop.

**LOST PROPERTY:** Black lady's jacket with fur collar (Warehouse). See Office.

## This Sunday 3rd December 2017, First Sunday of Advent

### Gift Sunday

**Reading: Isaiah 64: 1-9: Mark 13: 24-end**

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's  
**9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee  
**11.15am** TGIS  
**3.00pm** Open Door, a Christmas Tea in the Chapter House  
**NB:** No Evensong at Ilmer  
**3.00pm** Service at Icknield Court  
**6.00pm** Churches Together Advent Carol Service at St Teresa's

### What's on in the week beginning Monday 4th December

- Wed 6th** **9.00am** Wednesday Prayers at St Mary's  
**9.30am** Children's Society Box opening in Chapter House  
**10.30am** Holy Communion followed by coffee  
**7.30pm** Advent Course in the Chapter House  
**Thurs 7th** **10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House  
**Fri 8th** **2.00pm** Nursery Service in Church  
**7.00pm** Puppet Club in Church Hall  
**Sat 9th** **7.30pm** RAF Band Concert at St Mary's

### Next Sunday 10th December 2017, Second Sunday of Advent

**Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11: Mark 1: 1-8**

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's  
**9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee  
**11.15am** TGIS  
**6.00pm** Carol Service at St Peter's, Ilmer  
**6.00pm** Pulse in the Chapter House

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**Rector:** Revd. David Williams 346984

**Associate Minister:** Revd. Michael Hunt 344150;

**Curate:** Revd. Dan Beesley 345521;

**Children's & Youth Worker:** Ryan Romano 273300

**Assistant Clergy:** Revds. David & Nancy Wallace 290670;

Revds. Steve & Rose Williams 274225; Canon Nick Molony 273895;  
Revd. Jenny Deverill 274269; **LLM:** Averil Stephenson 343649

**Churchwarden:** Jim Cadwallader 343394