

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 for ever. **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 CMS Uganda.
- For all people who are homeless and suffering extreme hardship, as the cold winter weather approaches.
- For our clergy, churchwardens, PCC and all those who volunteer at St Mary's.
- For our country and its leaders in the run up to the election.

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

Suzie Aries, Frances Goodchild, Rob and Sally Goodchild, Marion Long, Joseph Fell, Iris Austin, Norman Edwards, John Hardy, Jim Cadwallader, The Goodridge family, Richard Hayward, Shirley and Eric Watts, Liz and Paul Bracken, Sue List, Gladys Page, Michael & Susan Hopkins, Kelly May, Gordon & Kathleen Plumridge, Joyce Bapty, Richard Heaney, Alex Lake, Barbara Higgins, Simon Clegg.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PRAY FOR:

Gideon, Mary Jefferies, Keith & Judy Brambleby, Barbara Platts, Tony Mead, Hazel Boon, Helena Oecken, Jean Moses, Bill & Marge Philips, Jean Coleman, Liz Lister and Mary Williams.

WE REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THE LIFE OF:

Colin West.

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 1st 2019, Advent Sunday**Dear Friends,**

This Sunday marks the start of Advent, the four week period leading up to Christmas (yes that does mean it is just over 4 weeks until Christmas Day). The word Advent comes from a Latin word that means 'coming' and the season of Advent is marked by waiting for something to come. Waiting for that which has already come (Jesus to be born at Christmas) and which we can experience again, whilst waiting for something that is yet to come (when Jesus will come again) and from which we draw hope that all will be well.

This dual aspect of waiting is reflected in the bible readings, particularly as we draw from the reflections of the prophet Isaiah. He pictures the days to come when God will be welcomed by all nations and God's kingdom will be seen as swords are made into ploughshares, spears made into pruning hooks, and when there shall be peace between people of all nations.

That surely is a vision worthy of inclusion in any election manifesto. But is it anything more than an imagined future? In our services we regularly 'share the peace' – that bit in the service where we greet those around us using the words that Jesus used 'peace be with you'. Both a way of saying 'hello', but also acting out something much more profound. When we offer each other Christ's peace we are accepting that we have gathered together as an acceptance of Jesus' indestructible peace.

In a very small way, we recognise that we are together not because we are friends, or because we share the same opinions or views, nor because we necessarily like each other, but because we are one in Christ's peace. Accepting the gift of that peace invites us to go out to the stranger, for in that stranger we shall discover God (and discover ourselves). In sharing the peace, we recall the prince who left peace with us here on earth, and the king who will bring peace to all. And we are invited to make Christ's peace a reality in our lives.

Rev Michael Hunt

NEWS & NOTICES.

ADVENT COURSE 4TH, 11TH AND 18TH DEC: Led by Michael Hunt at 7.45pm in the Chapter House. The course is entitled From Darkness to Light - a journey in Advent and will be a mix of study, reflection and prayer. If you would like to come along, you are welcome to just turn up on the night. You do not need to be able to attend all three sessions.

CHILDREN'S WORK: Hopefully you have now found out how we would like to take our Children's work forward next year. To ensure this work does go forward, we need funding and we are asking you to pledge your contributions towards that. If you feel able to make a contribution please complete the pledge form in the leaflet 'Equipping Children for Life's Journey in Faith' and return it either to the Parish Office or to Paul Seward. You can monitor our funding progress by looking at the Children's Work Board in church.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CRAFT MORNING: This will be on Sat 7th December from 10am to 12.30pm in the Church Hall. £3 for first child, £2 for 2nd etc. Booking essential so please contact Gill on gill.sunfold@googlemail.com or the Office.

ST ANDREW'S BOOKSHOP EXCLUSIVE OPEN EVENING: Thursday 5th December from 7pm to 8.30pm come along to St Andrew's in Great Missenden to browse and buy from their selection of Christmas books and gifts. Special discounts available on the night, drinks and mince pies will be served. Lifts can be provided – see the Office.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT ST JOHN'S: This will take place between 5th and 8th December at St John's Church, Lacey Green. Light lunches and refreshments available. £2 entry. Thurs 12-4pm, Fri/Sat 12-6pm, Sun 2-3.30pm.

USED STAMPS FOR CHARITIES: 'Started by my daughter 33 years ago, St Mary's and the Library have collection boxes for used stamps. (You'll find the one in St Mary's by the pigeon holes. Stamps given to Florence Nightingale Hospice raised £300 last year. Please continue to donate your stamps leaving a border of at least one cm round the stamp. Thank you.' Frances Ibell.

DAVID AND JO 'AT HOME' ON 14TH DEC: All are welcome to join David and Jo at the Rectory on Sat 14th Dec for mulled wine and mince pies (chocolates on the tree for the children).

CHRISTMAS APPEAL: Our Christmas appeal this year is for Nicci Maxwell, our CMS mission partner in Uganda. She is trying to raise funds for a new oxygen concentrator for their children's hospital and we hope to raise £850 for her. We are raffling a champagne Christmas hamper in Church and tickets are £3 or two for £5. Please buy generously and see Kaye Lillycrop if you would like further information.

Sunday 1st December, Advent Sunday

Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5, Matthew 24, 36-44

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee
- 10.30am** Children's worker presentation.
- 11.15am** TGIS with children's groups
- 3.00pm** Open Door, a Christmas tea, in the Chapter House
- 6.00pm** Churches Together in Risborough Advent Service at Elim Church

What's on in the week beginning Monday 2nd December

- Weds 4th**
 - 9.30am** Wednesday Prayers in St Mary's
 - 10.30am** Holy Communion at St Mary's followed by coffee
 - 7.30pm** Advent course-from Darkness to Light
- Thurs 5th**
 - 10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House
- Fri 6th**
 - 2.00pm** Praise and Play
- Sat 7th**
 - 10am** Children's Christmas Craft Morning in the Church Hall.

Sunday 8th December, Second Sunday of Advent

Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10, Matthew 3, 1-12

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee
- 11.15am** TGIS with children's groups

CHRISTINGLES: Helpers are needed to help make Christingles on Sat 14th Dec from 10 to 11am in Church. Please let the office know if you can help.

ONECAN REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR APPEAL: Listen out for details of this appeal, which will be announced today.

ALPHA: We will be running an Alpha course on Weds evenings in 2020, starting at the end of January. Please tell your friends!

Rector: Revd. David Williams 346984

Associate Minister: Revd. Michael Hunt 344150;

Curate: Revd Pat Kerr 273980

Assistant Clergy: Revds. David & Nancy Wallace 290670;

Revds. Steve & Rose Williams 274225; Canon Nick Molony 273895;

Revd. Jenny Deverill 274269; **LLM:** Averil Stephenson 343649

Churchwardens: David Stephenson and Bryan Matthew