

**Collect for third Sunday of Advent**  
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**

**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**

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- For the Children's Society.
- For the families of those killed in the volcano eruption in New Zealand.
- For our clergy, churchwardens, PCC and all those who volunteer at St Mary's.
- For the homeless, sleeping on the streets this winter.
- For all those caught up in violence and war in the Middle East.
- For the bereaved and those who find the Christmas season difficult.
- For the police and all they do to keep us safe.
- For the lonely, elderly and frail as winter as the Christmas season approaches.

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

Matteo Bellini, Philippa King, Maggie Wooster, Suzie Aries, Frances Goodchild, Rob and Sally Goodchild, Marion Long, Joseph Fell, Iris Austin, Norman Edwards, John Hardy, Debby and Jim Cadwallader, The Goodridge family, Richard Hayward, Shirley and Eric Watts, Liz and Paul Bracken, Michael Hopkins, Kelly May, Joyce Bapty, Richard Heaney, Alex Lake, Barbara Higgins, Simon Clegg.

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

Mel Rolfe, 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 LIVES OF:**

Colin West, Anne Loose, Ken Eckworth and Barbara Jenkins

[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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**www.stmarysrisborough.org.uk**



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

**News**

**Sunday December 15th 2019, Third Sunday of Advent**

Dear Friends,

**JOY**

I am writing this just before the General Election; one which is arguably more significant than most. Inevitably, whatever the result, which is as yet unclear, some amongst us will be delighted whilst others will be disappointed. Yet, for all of us Christians, this third week of Advent we are challenged to embrace Joy; a gift given to God's people regardless of our circumstances in the world. So, what can we discover about joy from the Bible and, especially, Luke 2 verses 8- 20?

The shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem had no cause for joy as they were despised, marginalised, poor members of their society; living under the oppression of a ruthless, foreign power. Yet it was to them that the Angel of God first brought the news of Jesus Christ's birth and told them to find him. What was the reason for joy? The arrival on earth of the long-awaited Messiah, God's Saviour sent to all the people, in the middle of their mess, to revoke the rift between God and them and to bring God's power to change and heal.

To the Shepherds the Angel brought the healing words that God's "favour", His approval, rested on His people and that included the Shepherds. This was enough reason for "great joy". God was speaking to his people after 400 years of silence and the message was worth waiting for. More, it fulfilled the promise of Isaiah 52 that the Lord would return to Zion and the "watchmen [would] ...shout for joy". Why? Because "Your God reigns" and The Lord had come as comforter and Saviour to "the ends of the earth."

The Shepherds listened to God and immediately acted. They returned "full of joy" because they found everything "just as they had been told". The Lord Jesus still is present with us as he promised, in the middle of our mess. He is still our faithful Saviour and our comforter. He releases in us the gift of joy through His Holy Spirit [Galatians 22]. Let us not miss his message but "rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice."

**Averil Stephenson**

## NEWS & NOTICES.

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE:** This is this afternoon at 3pm at St Mary's. This is a lovely service for Children and adults alike so we hope you can come. There will also be a Christingle service at St Peter's, Ilmer at 11am on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec.

**PRCS:** The PR Choral Society Christmas Concert will be on 17<sup>th</sup> Dec in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm.

**CONTEMPORARY CAROL SERVICE:** This service will be on Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.00pm at St Mary's. Come and follow the star. Invite a friend or neighbour to something different this Christmas. Prosecco, soft drinks and nibbles to begin.

**CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT:** This is on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 6pm at St Mary's.

**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.

**ONECAN REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR APPEAL:** If you can help with delivery of items to the One Can Trust in High Wycombe on either Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> Dec in the afternoon or on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Dec between 10 and 12 noon please let the Office know.

**USED STAMPS FOR CHARITIES:** Please donate used stamps to either St Mary's (box by pigeon holes) or the library in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice and other charities. Please leave a border of at least one cm round the stamp.

**CHILDREN'S WORK:** We are coming to the end of our appeal for funding. Hopefully you have now understood how we would like to take our Children's Work forward next year. We are very grateful for the pledges we have received which will enable us to fund two years but we need some extra funding to ensure a third year. If you feel able to make a contribution, please complete the pledge form in the leaflet 'Equipping Children for Life's Journey in Faith' (available in the leaflet rack) and return it either to the Parish Office or Paul Seward.

**CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH:** If you know of an elderly person or someone in need who would appreciate Christmas day lunch, Paula has kindly offered to invite two people. If you know of anyone in need or lonely, please contact the Office (PR 273300).

**LIGHTHOUSE QUIZ SHEET:** The Lighthouse Quiz Sheet is now available at St. Mary's from Gill Wilkinson. The Quiz Sheet cost of £1 all goes to Lighthouse, so whether you enter or not, Lighthouse still benefits..

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, Third Sunday of Advent

**Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10, Matthew 11, 2-11**

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee
- 11.15am** TGIS with children's groups
- 3.00pm** Christingle Service at St Mary's
- 3.00pm** Carol Service at Icknield Court
- 6.00pm** Carols by Candlelight at St Peter's, Ilmer

### What's on in the week beginning Monday 16th December

- Tues 17<sup>th</sup>** **7.30pm** PRCS Christmas Concert at St Mary's
- Weds 18<sup>th</sup>** **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 in Chapter House
- Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>** **10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House
- 7.30pm** Contemporary Carol Service

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16, Matthew 1, 18-end**

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee
- 11.00am** Christingle Service at St Peter's
- 11.15am** TGIS with children's groups
- 6.00pm** Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's

**ALPHA:** We will be running an Alpha course on Weds evenings in 2020, starting on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan, 7.30pm. Please tell your friends! Email [stmarysprcurate@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysprcurate@gmail.com)

**MESSY CHURCH:** There will be a messy church training on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 10-1pm.

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**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