

Collect for fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Collect for First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PRAYER POINTS:

- For the London City Mission.
- For all those working for the NHS at this busy time of year.
- 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 lonely this Christmas time.
- For the emergency services, working hard in the festive season to keep us safe.

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

Matteo Bellini, Philippa King, Maggie Wooster, Suzie Aries, Fred and Jenny Deverill, 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 LIFE OF:

Josephine Hipwell

parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk

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

Tel: 01844 273300

Charity No: 1133923

www.stmarysrisborough.org.uk



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

News

Sunday December 22nd 2019, Fourth Sunday of Advent and Sunday December 29th, First Sunday of Christmas

Dear Friends

As Christmas Day draws ever closer and with it the end of another year and the prospect of a New Year ahead, I would like to share a thought about those mysterious Wise Men who followed a star in the sky and ended up meeting the Light of the World, Jesus. Part of the Christmas story, they are our focus on in the first Sunday of 2020 and invite us to consider in what direction **we** are travelling in life. Throughout their journeying, God watched over them, despite the uncertainties and difficulties along the way and they were open to guidance from God.

On the day before writing this, I found myself comforting a pianist who had accompanied a school carol service and, aware of the mistakes she had made, was telling me how she was, first and foremost, a nurse who had offered to help out but was looking forward to driving to work to do what she did best! In an interview with the concert pianist Daniel Barenboim he once said, "Every concert I've finished with the knowledge I've played a fistful of wrong notes", and isn't this so true of life? Each year provides, like an English lane, plenty of twists and turns along the way and I am also aware of that "fistful of wrong notes" I have made through wrong choices, judgements or decisions and yet glad of the opportunities to do better.

The good news, as those wise men discovered, is that God invites us to go on a journey in life that can lead us to find our heart's desires – to find forgiveness, love and hope. We don't need to wander alone through the darkness of this world's night. Instead, Jesus invites us to walk with him along the path of purpose and peace. As this year ends and another begins, may we be open to God's leading so that we, like those Wise Men, may come to know what it is to be "lost in wonder, love and praise".

David Williams, Rector

NEWS & NOTICES.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: This is on this evening at 6pm at St Mary's. It will be a lovely service of readings and carols so do come along.

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.

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.

DAN'S ADDRESS: For those of you who would like Dan's new address, it is The Vicarage, 5, St James' Way, Bierton, Aylesbury, HP22 5ED.

LIGHTHOUSE QUIZ SHEET: 'The Lighthouse Quiz Sheet is now available at St. Mary's from Gill Wilkinson. It's an ideal activity over the Christmas and New Year holiday and the whole family will have fun coming up with the answers. Once you have bought the Quiz Sheet at the cost of £1 all proceeds go to Lighthouse, so whether you enter or not, Lighthouse still benefits. Last year the Quiz Sheet raised over £600 and is included in the budget each year. If for some reason you have problems obtaining a Quiz Sheet please feel free to contact me. Thank you.'

Jamie Carter.

ALPHA: We will be running an Alpha course on Weds evenings in 2020, starting on 29th Jan, 7.30pm. Please tell your friends! Email stmarysprcurate@gmail.com

MESSY CHURCH: Excited about messy Church? Want to be equipped in how to be involved in this exciting ministry? Come along to our training morning on Saturday 1st February, 10am-1pm. Lunch will be provided, fun guaranteed. Email stmarysprcurate@gmail.com for more info.

MENS AND LADIES' BREAKFAST IN JANUARY: The first men's breakfast of the new year will be on Saturday 11th January at 8.45am in the Church Hall. Contact Phil on philince@gmail.com if you could like to attend. The next Ladies' breakfast will be on 18th January at 9am in St Mary's.

CORRECTION TO JANUARY 2020 VIEWPOINT P.20: In the Zero Carbon Cafe poster, the CANR online forum address should be corrected to <http://canrisborough.freeforums.net/>.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS: The Parish Office will be closed during Christmas week. It will reopen on Thursday 2nd January.

Sunday 22nd 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

What's on in the week beginning Monday 23rd December

- Tues 24th 3.00pm Crib Service at St Mary's
- 11.30pm Midnight communion at St Mary's
- Weds 25th 9.30am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Ilmer
- 10.00am Family Service at St Mary's with breaking of bread

Sunday 29th December, First Sunday of Christmas

Reading: Isaiah 63: 7-9, Matthew 2, 13-end

- 9.30am Parish Communion followed by coffee
- NB No 8 o'clock holy communion or TGIS today**

What's on in the week beginning Monday 30th December

NB No Wednesday prayers or Holy Communion

- Tues 2nd 10.30am Coffee in the Chapter House

Sunday 5th January, the Epiphany

Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6, Matthew 2, 1-12

- 8.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 9.30am Parish Communion followed by coffee
- 11.15am TGIS
- 3.00pm Open Door, a New Year Tea, in the Chapter House
- 3.00pm Evensong at St Peter's, Ilmer

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