

Collect for second Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER POINTS:

- For the One Can Trust
- For the family and friends of the young people killed in the terrorist attack at London Bridge.
- For our clergy, churchwardens. PCC and all those who volunteer at St Mary's.
- For our country and its leaders as we prepare to vote on Thursday.
- For all children living in poverty this winter.
- For all those caught up in violence and war in the middle east.
- 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

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 8th 2019, First Sunday of Advent**Dear Friends,**

I'm sure that by now most of St Mary's has heard the great news that we are attempting to recruit a children's worker to join us next year. In thinking about this big step I have found five good reasons why it makes sense. I wonder if you agree with them.

The first is that it is time to take our children's work to the next level. We have a dynamic team of volunteer leaders and it is working well. The addition of a children's worker, however, would import expertise, leadership and a vision for the future.

Secondly, I believe that we have reached shared ownership of the vision to employ a salaried worker throughout the church. The whole church needs to get behind an employed worker, see them as part of the ministry team, and also the whole church needs to share the vision for reaching and equipping our children. I think St Mary's has that vision.

Next there is a significant need in the local community for work that would require a children's worker. The need in our local schools demands a greater response than the one we are currently able to offer. These are difficult times for children and they deserve our help in guiding through the pitfalls in front of them.

There is financial support now and there are plans for the future. We still need to build sustainability into our plans and that will take your prayers and your financial contribution to St Mary's to make it a permanent post.

Finally, there is a clear understanding of what the church wants someone to focus on i.e. our group of children of primary school age and the ones rapidly coming up to that age, as well as primary age children in our community, providing an umbrella that covers all children

I believe that this is an exciting time to move forward witness plans to ensure that St Mary's and the wider community get the leadership they deserve.

Louise Fell

NEWS & NOTICES.

ADVENT COURSE: 11TH AND 18TH DEC: This continues this Wednesday, 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.

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.

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).

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE: This is on Sunday 15th December 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 22nd Dec.

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.

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 19th Dec in the afternoon or on Sat 21st Dec between 10 and 12 noon please let the Office know.

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.

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).

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

What's on in the week beginning Monday 9th December

- Mon 9th** **3.00pm** Bereavement Drop-in at The Chapter House.
6.00pm Guide Carol Service
- Weds 11th** **9.30am** Wednesday Prayers in St Mary's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's followed by coffee
7-8pm Church open for praying for the Election
7.30pm Advent course-from Darkness to Light in Chapter House
- Thurs 12th** **10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House
6.00pm Longwick School Carol Service
- Fri 13th** **1.00pm** Praise and Play Christmas Party (**NB earlier time**).
- Sat 14th** **7.30pm** RAF Halton Voluntary Band Concert at St Mary's.

Sunday 15th 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

PRCS: The PR Choral Society Christmas Concert will be on 17th Dec in St Mary's Church at 7.30pm

CONTEMPORARY CAROL SERVICE: Thurs 19th Dec at 7.30pm at St Mary's.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: This is on Sunday 22nd Dec at 6pm at St Mary's.

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