

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCHES & SERVICES



8th December 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

THIS WEEK

Collect: *O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

Readings: Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 3:1-6

Hymns: Carol Book 5 O come, O come, Emmanuel
MP 204 Hail to the Lord's anointed
Carol Book 8 Hark the glad sound
Carol Book 11 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

We hope to be able to live stream the 10am service on Facebook. If so, a recording will be available to watch after end of service.

2.00pm Bells to announce Christmas Tree Festival

4.00pm Churches Together Songs of Praise
at Ness Court

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Mon 7.30pm Bellringing Practice

Wed 10.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

Thurs 9.00am Morning Prayer

7.30pm Concert by Lucy Bunce at St. Mary's

Fri 10.00am Refresh Café and Lunch

Sat 9.00am Village Green Prayers

SUNDAY WORSHIP 15th DECEMBER 2024

8.30am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

10.00am Holy Communion at St. Mary's

3.00pm Quiet Christmas Service

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- For those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment, and compassion to guide their decisions. We pray for just and peaceful solutions to be reached.

We pray especially for an end to the terrible situation in the Middle East and we continue to pray for the people of Ukraine, may the leaders of violence and bloodshed know a change of heart and work towards peace.

- Look with compassion on the world where anger so often prevails over love, where false speech and evil words destroy human fellowship. For all leaders in public life, that they may rise to meet the responsibilities entrusted to them as they serve their nations and those whom they represent. For them to uphold the common good and promote the dignity of all, especially the most vulnerable, including the poor, stranger, the elderly and infirm, and migrants. For our own government; for wisdom and insight and may they aspire to create changes that benefit those that are most in need, in our society and the wider world.

- For the work of organisations helping families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest, and there is high risk of famine including: Haiti, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Syria, DRC, South Sudan.

- We pray for those who have been adversely affected by bad weather and for those who work to raise awareness of climate change; that their voice might be heard above the storm. Make us people who recognise, nurture and act towards a more sustainable world for the benefit of all who draw life from this planet. Raise up campaigners who will speak out for wisdom, restraint & compassion, and pray that political leaders be guided by wisdom, vision, courage to work together and take urgent action.

- For all those struggling in today's difficult economic situation. May adequate immediate provision be made available, and support to find longer term solutions, so that everyone has their basic needs met for food, shelter, employment and security. Help us to see and serve the needs around us, whether through food banks, charity work, or simple acts of kindness. May we be attentive to the lonely, the marginalized, and those struggling in our midst.

- For our leaders as the Diocese continues the process of choosing a new Bishop of Ely. For this parish, for Eleanor, Paula, Jo, Virginia, Kevin & all in leadership.

- For our work with children, young people and families, including Refresh Café, Messy Church and the ideas for engaging with young people. For those involved on the teams, and for others to come forward.

- For those living in:- Baker Drive, Ness Court, Ness Road, The Avenue (Burwell), Swaffham Road (Reach).

- For those in special need: Danny, Sarah, Jackie C, Neil, Don, Sonya (Anna Hopper's sister), Carol, Janice, John H, Sonny (Jackie & Tony's Great Grandson), Kate, Jennie D, John D, Joanne, Pam C, Jessica, Pauline, Michael (Ysanne's brother), Jackie L, Sue A.

- For His Majesty, King Charles, and Catherine, Princess of Wales in their ongoing recovery from cancer, for comfort, peace and confidence in God's faithfulness.

- For the bereaved including the friends and family of John Wilson and for those remembering anniversaries of loss of loved ones.

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

* **Free Advent books** – take one and one to give away!

* **Greetings Cards and fridge magnets** of St Mary's by local artist Sarah Gausden available to purchase, with some of proceeds to come to the church. Cards £2.50, Magnets £3.50.

* **Christmas Tree Festival** – speak to Angela if you'd like to take part. Open for viewing from 2pm Dec 8th.

* **Songs for Christmas concert with Lucy Bunce** Thursday 12th December 7.30pm, with mulled wine from 7.00pm. Tickets £10 now available in Post Office and CentrePeace. Children free.

* A new service is being planned: **Quiet Christmas** 3.00pm on Sunday 15th December – a reflective service of readings, prayers and music, for those who find the Christmas difficult for whatever reason.

PASTORAL CARE

Please contact Eleanor or Paula with messages about pastoral news, needs & concerns, requests for prayer.

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