

VIEWES FROM THE PEWS

Christine Lavender

Sunday 3rd December First Sunday of Advent

Advent in Austria

Back in the early 1980s, we were privileged to live in Vienna for five years when my husband's company won a contract to develop an air traffic control system for Austria. One of my most endearing memories is of the preparations for Christmas, in particular the concentration on Advent which is a very special time throughout Austria. There are many old customs like baking biscuits, singing carols and putting up decorations.

I remember visiting friends during Advent and would always be greeted with delicious homemade biscuits – Weihnachtskekse. They were usually small (bite size!) and came in a wonderful variety of shapes and flavours - vanilla crescents, almond balls, coconut macaroons, meringue biscuits to name just a few. There would also be a beautiful Advent wreath – again homemade – with the traditional four (usually red) candles which were lit when visitors came, not just on Sundays! Very special memories for all of us.

INTERCESSIONS AND SERVERS NEEDED

We are looking for Members of the Congregation to lead the Intercessions (prayers) and / or become Servers. In-house training will be provided. Expressions of Interest will be gratefully received by Helen and Rachel

PROJECTOR NEEDED

Does anyone have a projector that connects to a laptop that they would be happy to lend for the Vacancy Vision Workshop on Saturday 13th January 2024. Please can they kindly let Helen or Rachel know. Many thanks

MOTHERS UNION ADVENT SERVICE

The Mothers Union are holding an Advent Service in church on Monday 4 December at 10.30 to which everyone is warmly invited. Do come and join us. You may even get a mince pie after the service! If you need a lift, please contact Christine - 768420 or chris@lavenderfamily.com

We welcome enquiries about Baptism, Thanksgiving for Birth, Confirmation, Weddings, Marriage Blessings, Anniversaries, Memorials, Commemorations, House Blessings, and Special Celebrations.

DIARY FOR SERVICES

Monday 4th December

10.30am Mothers Union Advent Service in Church

8.00pm PCC Meeting in Church Rooms

Wednesday 6th December

9.30am Cleaning in Church

10.00am Small Steps in Church Rooms

10 December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Nativity

8.00am *No service*

10.30am Nativity Service

Monday 11th December

10.00am Coffee Shop in church rooms

Wednesday 13th December

10.00am Small Steps in Church Rooms

Saturday 16th December

2.00pm Decorating the Church with foliage

17 December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Nine Lessons and Nine Carols Rev'd Clive Kirk

8.00am *No Service*

10.30am Service (Church)

Wednesday 20th December

9.30 Cleaning in Church

10.00am Small Steps in Church Rooms

2.00pm Strollers and Striders with Tea in the Church Rooms after

Saturday 23rd December

2.00pm Adding our Christmas Flowers to last week's foliage.

NEWS AT ST. MARY'S

Sunday 3rd December First Sunday Of Advent

SERVICES

8:00am Holy Communion (Church)

10:30am Holy Communion (Church)

PRAYER FOR TODAY

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.

NEWS

FOLIAGE AT THE ALTAR

Our thanks go to Lynda Newland for arranging our Altar piece for Advent and to Sally Harrison for the Advent Candle Ring.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

What a wonderful and successful day we had at the Christmas Fayre last Saturday and a big hug and thanks for all the help from the Team.

Also a big thank you to you all who donated or attended the Fayre without you we wouldn't have had such a successful and profitable event.

To date the total stands at £1,019.50 but we have a final counting to be done so will update in next weeks green sheet.

Many, Many thanks Ann

And thank you Ann for the very hard work you put into organising such a successful event.

SC and YAC: Thank you very much to everyone who visited our stall at the Christmas Fair last Saturday and made a purchase or a donation for an item. We were delighted with the amount we raised towards St Mary's funds. We still have some lovely pre loved children's books which are in boxes in the chapel area at the Church Rooms. If you visit the Church Rooms and the chapel doors are open please feel free to select a book (or two) and put a donation in the tin on the bookcase in the main hall.

SUNDAY CLUB AND YAC: Our next meeting for both groups is this Sunday 3rd December in the morning when we will be having our first rehearsal for this year's Nativity play "Star". The following weekend we will have our dress rehearsal in church on Saturday afternoon followed by a visit to Ashleigh Park care home in West Clandon where we will be performing for the residents and, of course, Betty, who has given us so much support over the years. Then we will be in church on Sunday 10 December at 10.30 am where we will be joined by members of Send Primary School who have been practising some lovely Christmas songs to sing for us. No need to book – just come along! Sunday Club meets on the second and fourth Sunday of the month in term time from 10.30 am and this term YAC has met from 6.00 pm on the second Sunday of

the month during term time. Look out for next term's programme in the January edition of OUTLOOK.. If your family has a child aged 3 – 12 years old who is interested in joining Sunday Club or a young person in School Year 7 or above who is interested in joining YAC, please get in touch.

sundayclub@sendparishchurch.co.uk
yac@sendparishchurch.co.uk

CHRISTIAN AID – LIZ BURRELL

"As you have seen on the news and in your social media feeds, the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to be distressing and the humanitarian situation is worsening. Christian Aid partners are responding, under great pressure, the best they can to provide humanitarian assistance, cash grants and psychological support to those who have been impacted by the escalation of violence since the terrible attacks on the 7th of October.

Our Church can support Christian Aid's partners to provide medical relief and community-led initiatives such as food, shelter, sanitation and cash within Gaza. And trauma based psychological assistance to Israelis who have been affected by the escalation of violent conflict since the 7th October."

Here at St. Mary's if you wish to support this initiative and make a donation cash/cheques specifically for Christian Aid can be left at the services this Sunday and next. If you wish to make a donation please leave your envelope marked Christian Aid in the jar. Thank you

CHRISTMAS CARDS.

It's that time of year again when we give out our lovely Christmas cards to each other. PLEASE can I ask anyone placing their cards at the back of church to put the 1st line of the persons address on the envelope. This will make my life easier when I go and deliver any that are left on Christmas Eve. Many thanks. Rachel x

CURTAINS AT THE PRIEST DOOR

Our grateful thanks go to Penny Corlette who has made curtains for the Priest's Door. The material was left over from the main doors which were made earlier in the year. They look amazing and will stop the draughts from the door and keep the choir and congregation much warmer. Thank you once again.

COFFEE SHOP

The December Coffee Shop will be on Monday 11th December - a week earlier than usual to avoid the Christmas panic. The stall will be Christmas goods and there will be a Chocolate & Wine Raffle. Any items for the stall or raffle can be given to Ann or Christine or any of the Team at church or brought along on the day. The proceeds will go to St Mary's Church. Since it opened in 2007 the Coffee Shop has raised over £32,000 which has been donated to over 160 different charities.

NEW PROJECT - THE FOOD BANK

We will be collecting items for the Runnymede Food Bank each Sunday over the winter months. The list of current needs is displayed on the noticeboards in church and in the porch, and there will be a box in the Porch on Sundays into which contributions can be placed. I will pass these to Clive for delivery to the Food Bank. Any contributions will be very gratefully received. For more information or to arrange a collection please speak to Christine Lavender (768420) or chris@lavenderfamily.com

AUTUMN CLEAN AND CLEAR

Our grateful thanks to Ann, Lorna, Rachel, Norman, Sheila and Lawrie. We finished the annual waxing of the wood save for the balcony and cleared the kitchen cupboards and drawers.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

24 December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Christmas Eve

8.00am	<i>No service</i>
10.30am	Holy Communion (Church) Rev'd Roderick Jones
3.00pm	Crib Service (Church)
11.30pm	Midnight Mass (Church) Rev'd Gerard Mae

25 December CHRISTMAS DAY Rev'd Clive Kirk

8.00am	<i>No service</i>
9.30am	Holy Communion (Church)

Contact Linda Mumford on 225425 or news@sendparishchurch.co.uk with any queries or with news for publication or if you would like to receive this by email.

Copies of this newsletter can be found on our website

www.sendparishchurch.co.uk