st mary's wootton

Weekly Bulletin

2nd December 2020

Please pray this week for:

Christmas Outreach
- for preparations for our Christmas services, both online and in person.
- for the tech team putting together online services.
-for Hazel Sanders as she manages the church booking system and keeping church (building & people!) Covid-secure.
-for Matt Hearn, Tim Dillistone, Allyson Cable, John Robertson & all our musicians supporting services online and in the building.
- For the Jesse Tree Advent material & Christmas Windows to remind many of the true meaning of Christmas.

Our Church Family.
- for David and Pauline Kendall and their family as they give thanks for the life of Pauline's mother.
- Brenda Rickuss, receiving treatment
- Jane & Charles Helliwell, following the death of Jane's father Ralph
- for us all in unsettling times to know that Jesus is the same, yesterday, today & forever.

Observing Advent is useless . . . if you think it will change God's heart towards you. We've been misled if we think that any season or festival – even Christmas – is essential.

That's the apostle Paul's point in Colossians 2. He'd been zealous for the religious customs of God's family, the Jews. He'd thought them essential to his spiritual health. Until he grasped that even at their best, they did no more than foreshadow Jesus. With Christ's coming, their work was over. Reality had arrived. Jesus would do all that is needed to bring and keep us in the new family of God. As the heavenly army would sing over Bethlehem: 'peace to those on whom his favour rests'.

So observing Advent can be liberating. That's what our family has found. As we've accepted – in different ways in different life seasons - the invitation to slow down and mark the days. Normally with a reading and a prayer and a calendar. Sometimes with an activity, a song, a candle too. To trace the story of God, keeping his promise to visit and bring peace. To remember that we are hard-wired for the hope he brings. And to hear that he will not fail to bring it, to those who wait for him. However we choose to mark the days – or don't.

In his service,

Peter

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St. Mary's News

Help for the Homeless & Hungry

Our Christmas giving this year is in support of the SMART Prebend Street Centre and Bedford Foodbank. Financial donations can be made online via the church website or here for SMART & here for the Foodbank. To donate food items to the Foodbank, items can be left at the front of church and also Hazel Sanders is collecting.

Advent at St. Mary's: Jesse Tree

Its still only early in December and not too late to join in with our Jesse Tree material! A downloadable pack with colour in baubles and bible passages can be found on the website. Follow along on Facebook every day. If you're not on Facebook, you can still join in.

Christmas at St. Mary's

Details of our Christmas services and events are all on our website. For services & events in church or the churchyard, **booking will be essential**. Bookings will open from Monday 7th December through the website. You will also receive email invitations a few days before each service. You will receive confirmation if a seat is available for you, a couple of days before the service.

The Journey to Bethlehem: Walkabout Nativity 19 & 20 Dec 2-4pm.

To be able to run this fun, socially distant event in the churchyard, we will need lots of help! Please get in touch with Emma Hearn if you can help,

Wootton Christmas Windows

St. Mary's, along with the other churches in Wootton, is organising this event. If you would like to have a look around at the windows, a map of participating houses is available from Lesley Waller: lesleywaller25@gmail.com or on our website. You can also join the 'Wootton Christmas Windows' Facebook page to find out more.

Booking for 10am services in the church building: Booking essential

You can either respond to the weekly email invitation, or book on our website. Or telephone 01234 768391 if you have no access to the internet. You will receive your confirmation by email on Fridays.

Services & events

Sun 6 December

The Lord's Supper 10am in church.

Morning Service (YouTube)

11.30am Zoom Coffee

7pm J.A.M

Weds 9 Dec

7pm Pathfinders (church)

Online Links

Morning Service on our YouTube channel from 6am:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLlOsYfZKLADo1u-Lyd089V5Li62Mz-KKK

Sermon by phone: 01234 866195

Zoom Coffee
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88965219015?pwd=ZUF1RjUreTh5UStPVm1RcmpsTzkwUT09
Meeting ID: 889 6521 9015
Passcode: 031033

St. Mary's Prayer Chain

To add prayer requests to the Prayer Chain - just contact any one of the following:
Peter Ackroyd 768391;
Phillip Young 401462;
Ivy Peacock 303216;
Diane Murray 585540,
Peter & Angela Stephens 765403;
Derrick & Marion Lowe 855288.