

News Sheet for Sunday 3rd December

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



PARISH OF FLEET
All Saints with Ss Philip & James
*Welcoming all in our community
into the love of Christ*

Welcome in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our worship today. It is a great joy to have you with us as we worship God together. If you are here for the first time we pray that your visit will be a time of blessing. Please make yourselves known to us after the service and, if you can, join us for coffee and a chat in the hall.

TODAY IN THE PARISH

All Saints (FPCC)

10.00am All Age Eucharist

Ss Philip and James

8.00am Holy Communion (1662)

10.00am Sung Eucharist with
Junior Church and Crèche

2.30pm Pantomime Rehearsal

3.00pm Service of Blessing for Knitted Angels, *Fleet Methodist Church*

4.00pm Christingle Service, *All Saints School*

TODAY'S COLLECT 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. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

The Coffee Bar is open Monday - Saturday 10.00am - 12.30pm

Morning Prayer takes place Monday - Friday at 9.00am

Monday 4th December

Ss Philip and James 7.00pm Advent Meditation

Tuesday 5th December

Magazine Press Day

Ss Philip and James 9.00am Coffee & Play

FPCC 10.00am Praise and Play

Ss Philip and James 11.00am Prayer Group

Wednesday 6th December

Ss Philip and James 9.30am Holy Communion followed by coffee

Sunrise & Fleet Hospital 5.20pm Carol Singing (see notice for details)

Thursday 7th December

Ss Philip and James 9.00am Coffee & Play

FPCC 12.30pm Lunchtime Concert
followed by lunch at 1.00pm

Ss Philip and James 4.30pm Hot Potato Youth Group

Ss Philip and James 7.30pm Choir Practice

Friday 8th December

FPCC 10.00am Parent and Toddler Time

Ss Philip and James 4.00pm Christmas Tree Festival Opens

FPCC 8.00pm Choir Practice

Saturday 9th December

Church on the Heath 7.30am Christian Men's Group

Ss Philip and James 10.00am Christmas Tree Festival

SUNDAY 10th DECEMBER - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

All Saints (FPCC)

10.00am Sung Eucharist with
Junior Church and Crèche

2.30pm Pantomime Rehearsal

Ss Philip and James

8.00am Holy Communion (1662)

10.00am Sung Eucharist with
Baptism

1.30pm Christmas Tree Festival

5.00pm Carols Round the Trees
and Prizegiving

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK . . .

Those in urgent need of our prayers including ... David Brett, Michael Clews, Grace Dicker, Martine Dyer, Fiona Guy, Dexter Heard, Louise Purton, Rose Smithers and Erica Taylor.

Members of our extended church family in need of our continuing prayers... Patricia Bull, Alwynne Hallam, Jon Harrow, Mollie Hayes, Marjorie Isaac, Anthony King, Bonnie Lewis, Evelyn Murray, Gill Page, Peter Pimm, John Stocks, Tyler Thompson, Percy Vickery and Molly Wilson.

Those who have died recently... .

Those from our two memorial books whose anniversaries fall at this time ... John Lewis, John Crayden, Madge Cross, Robert Smith-Moon, Mabel Goddard, George Shuttler, Patricia Aldridge, Robert Lewis, John Richardson, George Baker, Pamela Stewart, William Hayes and Ruth Warner.

PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 4th DECEMBER

Meditation: 'God doesn't want something from us – he simply wants us'. C.S. Lewis.

We give thanks for those who tell us we are doing okay, and encourage us to keep going.

Please pray....

Mon - For scouts, guides, cubs, brownies, rainbows, beavers and all who lead them.

Tues - For the people of Bali.

Wed - (S. Nicholas) For all who are extra busy or extra stressed as Christmas approaches.

Thurs - (S. Ambrose of Milan) For the church and people of Italy.

Fri - For our Christmas tree festival.

Sat - For those who suffer from sight impairment.

Sun - For our new Archdeacon, Paul Davies who is licensed today.

ALL WEEK, those who live in Woodgate Green, Woodgate, Woodlands, Woodleigh, Woodside Gardens.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Please note that items with headlines underlined are new this week.

ANGEL BOMBING - Angel Blessing service is at 3.00pm, Sunday 3rd December, Fleet Methodist Church.

ADVENT MEDITATIONS - Our series of meditations for Advent "O Little Town of Bethlehem" begins on Monday 4th December with "Yesterday - Bethlehem & the Birth of Jesus" as the title of the first 45 minutes session in Ss Philip & James starting at 7.00pm. You are welcome to come to any or all as you are able.

SCHOOL CHRISTINGLE - Sunday 3rd December, 4.00pm, All Saints School. Please join us - children and grandchildren especially welcome to come and make a Christingle to take home.

FACCTS CHRISTMAS PRESENTATIONS - Wednesday 6th December, 12.00-3.00pm, Velmead school will be visiting P&J for a Christmas presentation by FACCTS. Please pray that this is a fruitful time for all. Contact Ruth Simpson, 01252 627328, if you can help.

MIDWEEK CONCERT AND LUNCH - Thursday 7th December, Jean Hawkins, Carole Chamberlain & friends will be entertaining us for the concert at 12.30pm in the FPCC. Please sign the list for lunch.

CAROL SINGING DATES - Wednesday 6th December, please join us for carol singing at Sunrise and then Fleet Hospital, meet at Sunrise at 5.20pm. Also on 14th December (8.30pm) and 23rd December (10am) at Heron on the Lake.

PLANNED GIVING LETTER - The letter regarding planned giving contains the wrong 'phone number for our planned giving administrator Jean Carr - her correct number is 01252 617199. Sorry.

CLEANER WANTED - Weekends for 3.5hrs per week to clean FPCC. Please contact Elly in the Parish Office for more details.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN - The Heron on the Lake are working with the Lions to provide presents for local children in care or poverty for children aged 0-17 - there is a particular need for teenage presents (e.g. gift vouchers). If you are able to give, wrap and label for age and gender before delivering direct to the Heron on the Lake.

PANTOMIME TICKETS - Tickets are now on sale for our parish pantomime "Beauty and the Beast" (5-7 January 2018) - more details in next weeks sheet, via the Parish Office or Carolyn Ford.

PHYLLIS TUCKWELL EVENT - Sunday 10th December, 5.30 pm, Carols by Candlelight, Church of Our Lady, Kings Road, Fleet. Tickets £12 (incl. refreshments) from the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Shop in Fleet, shop.pth.org.uk/product/carols-by-candlelight or Judy Keep (01252 612527).

LIVINGSTONES - LivingStones Christian Centre is about to undergo some major renovations which will enable a significant expansion of the work on the High Street in Fleet. To find out what's happening please come to the public meeting on 5th December at 7.30pm at Church on the Heath. LivingStones will be closed from 23rd December till 12th February 2018, while these renovations take place.

Readings for Sunday 3rd December 2017

First Sunday of Advent

First Reading

Isaiah 64.1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
²as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil –
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who

is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

⁷There is no one who calls on your name,

or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,

and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

Comment *The final chapters of Isaiah are by a different author written when the Jews were about to return from their Babylonian exile to Jerusalem. This is part of a great poem that recalls the greatness of God and that His people are beholden to Him.*

Psalm 80.1-8,18-20

Refrain: Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;

² Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

³ Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.

Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved

⁴ Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

⁵ O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved

⁶ You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

⁷ You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

⁸ Turn us again, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved

¹⁸ Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

¹⁹ And so will we not go back from you;
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.

²⁰ Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved

Comment *This is a prayer for the restoration of Israel which had been laid waste. Ephraim & Manasseh were sons of Joseph who with Benjamin have given their names to three of the Hebrew tribes.*

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1.3-9**

My brothers and sisters: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech

and knowledge of every kind – ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Comment *Corinth could have been called ‘Sin City’. The church there consisted of both Jews and Greeks from all walks of life. Their errant behaviour and misunderstandings of Christ’s message were great. This is Paul’s opening greeting, softly spoken and intentionally ironic in places, before he starts on a long and hard-hitting letter of instruction.*

Gospel Reading **Mark 13.24-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁴In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

Comment *Not only are Christ’s words steeped in Jewish Old Testament apocalyptic imagery but they are also recorded by one who was convinced that the second coming was imminent. It is thus unwise for us in the twenty first century to interpret them literally or to make specific predictions as to timing. Their underlying message, though, remains very clear.*

ALL SAINTS UPDATE - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The full frequently asked questions document (dated November 2017) is now available as a separate printed sheet with these news sheets in church. The first few questions printed in the last few news sheets are repeated for completeness and a copy will be available on our website in the near future.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 8-10 DECEMBER

We still need lots more helpers for stalls - please sign up on the sheet on the noticeboard. If you are keen to bake home-made biscuits, mince pies, fairy cakes etc. please contact Claire Holt on 628884.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Visitors and Newcomers: If you are new to our church, we welcome you - please fill in one of our contact cards (available from the duty warden at the door) so we can be in touch.

Hospital and home visits: If you know of anybody who is in hospital or housebound and would appreciate a visit, contact the Parish Office.

Pastoral Assistants: Should you have a pastoral need or any other kind of a problem and wish for a listening ear, there is a Pastoral Assistant available after the 10.00am service. Please ask the duty warden at the door for more information.

For any other need, suggestion or query, see contacts below:

PARISH CONTACTS:

Vicar, Revd Mark Hayton ☎ 01252 219281

✉ vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk

Revd Carol Dunk ☎ 01252 444872

✉ carol@parishoffleet.org.uk

Administrators, Chantelle Gardner & Elly Wilson

Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 1.00pm

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