



Parish of Fleet
All Saints
St Philip & St James

News Sheet for Sunday 6 December 2020 Second Sunday of Advent

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP, IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU WITH US.

I hope you are well and coping with these difficult and rapidly changing times.

One of the really positive things that have come out of this period of time has been that so many people have stepped up to do their bit – whether that is checking on their neighbours, supporting the NHS, wearing their mask, or contributing to acts of worship – as so many from our own parish have over these past few months.

Now Advent is here, there are even more opportunities for you to get involved and do your bit!

Elsewhere in this News Sheet you will see appeals from FDC and Churches together for people to be good neighbours to those who will be alone or in hardship this Christmas, and I would encourage as many of you as can to get involved in this important initiative. If you are one of our younger members, you can do your bit by helping to design a Christmas card for those in need.

When it comes to our worship, we are planning a full and ambitious programme of services over the Advent and Christmas period - beginning with Christingle next Sunday (13th). Because we are limited to how many we can have in church, and because of serious restrictions on how we can do live music in church, we are having to be more creative than ever in finding ways to involve everyone in praising God together and proclaiming the true message of Christmas.

So, if you have anything to contribute to our services – let me know or send it in. Musical items – videoed or recorded, whatever the standard, will be gratefully received. If you would like to read a lesson at one of our services – in person or pre-recorded – we will be glad to hear from you. If you have seasonal photographs, video clips, drawings, poems, stories - we will find a way to include these in our worship. It would even be great if you could send a recent picture of yourself from which we could compile a collage of our church family!

The more items and contributions from you we can gather together, the richer the offering to God it will be! And do sign up to come in person to one or more of our services if you can or join by livestream – the more of us that are connected in worship the more meaningful it will be!

We all have our own contribution to make – your church needs you! Now more than ever!

God bless you all.

Mark

THIS WEEK

Sunday 6 December - 8.00am Holy Communion, Ss Philip & James Church (no need to book)
10.00am Morning Service, Ss Philip & James Church*, Second Sunday of Advent,
livestreamed via our Facebook page and
followed by 'Zoom Coffee', [Meeting ID: 761 9820 6224](#), Passcode: 1eGHjT

Wednesday 9 December - 9.30am Midweek Service, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

Thursday 10 December - 2.00pm Bible Study, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

Sunday 13 December - 10.00am Morning Service, Ss Philip & James Church*,
livestreamed via our Facebook page
11.30am Christingle Service in Ss Philip & James Church - see notices

* please sign up beforehand to attend Sunday 10.00am services in church in person, see inside for details.

Ss Philip & James Church is open for prayer Wednesdays 10.00am-3.00pm & Sundays 12noon-3.00pm.

PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION 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.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK . . .

Those in urgent need of our prayers including... Alona Beauchamp, Chris Butterfield, Angus Cairns, Timothy Rayment and John Simson.

Members of our extended church family in need of our continuing prayers... Matthew Allen, Gladys Barber, Marion Brown, Patricia Bull, Dilys Denney, Pearl (Frances) Draper, David and Yvonne Dunk, Jonathan Eddy, Joan Hall, Alan Harvey, Mark Hawes, Mollie Hayes, Dexter Heard, Sue Huddie, Catherine Holder, Garth Kellett, Bonnie Lewis, Roger Matcham, Sheila O'Connor, Gill Page, Matthew Parkes, Barbara Simson, Eileen Taylor, Erica Taylor, Jean Thomas, Tyler Thompson, John Tillyer and Molly Wilson.

Those who have died recently...

Those from our two memorial books whose anniversaries fall at this time... John Richardson, George Baker, Elsie Beale, Pamela Stewart, William Hayes, Ruth Warner, Joy Holmes, Peggy Boyd, David Fladgate, Henry Cotterell, Amy Cox and Doris Record.

PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 7 DECEMBER 2020

Meditation 'I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ' *Romans 8.18-21*

We give thanks for... friends and family.

Please pray...

Mon - For schools in our town, and for those who minister in them – especially the FACCTS team.

Tues - For refugees everywhere.

Wed - For our church gardeners, and all who care for parks and gardens in our community.

Thurs - For God's justice and truth to prevail in our world.

Fri - For those who find themselves unemployed.

Sat - For everyone who feels under pressure, for whatever reason.

Sun - That many will come to meet and worship the living God.

ALL WEEK - For those who live in Alder Court, Aldershot Road, Alfred Close, Alton Road, Ancells Road, Andover Drive, Angora Way.

ALL SAINTS UPDATE - At the November meeting the PCC resolved as follows...

- We should continue with the building project as currently planned
- We should go ahead with rebuilding the Church itself, west entrance and necessary landscaping as soon as possible to a standard that can be satisfactorily used for worship and community activities, subject to sufficient funds being available to us to complete this phase (Phase 1) of the project.
- We should, as soon as possible review our needs for further building in the light of
 - a) Changes brought about by the COVID 19 crisis and
 - b) Decisions made about the provision or otherwise of other public buildings in the town.
- We should fundraise with a view to completing the 'All Saints - a place for everyone' project in full.
- We should aim to complete Phase 2, i.e. the proposed Annexe, landscaping etc as soon as sufficient funds are raised to do so.

In other words – we will complete the whole project in full – but do what we can as soon as we can!

Meanwhile, in the true spirit of Advent, we are still waiting....

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

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

ZOOM COFFEE - Today, Sunday 6 December, Zoom Coffee will be on a new meeting ID - please use [Meeting ID: 761 9820 6224](#), Passcode: 1eGHjT

SERVICES IN CHURCH - Please contact Mary Goodson (01252 815103) by Friday if you would like to attend the 10.00am service in Ss Philip & James Church on Sunday 13 December. Face masks must be worn.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE - Sunday 13 December, 11.30am, Ss Philip & James Church. The Christingle Service in will be for all ages but you must be booked in to be able to attend. Booking for this service can be done easily via tinyurl.com/yve4xwpc or you can contact the Parish Office by 9.00am on Friday 11 December.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE - Would you like to win a Christmas Hamper? Tickets are on sale from Sunday 29 November until Friday 18 December for £1 each. The draw will take place on Sunday 20 December after the morning service. For full details on how to buy tickets see the Parish Magazine or contact Karen Kite, 01252 613251, kbudge42kite@aol.com. Funds raised will be split between Parish Funds and All Saints Fund.

HOME MADE CAKES - Last chance to order! Homemade cakes, cheese scones, apple or mincemeat tarts, mince pies and tiny Christmas cakes made to order with contactless delivery to your doorstep up until 12 December. To order please contact Elizabeth Waller, 01252 613156, krisaliz@btinternet.com. Profits will be split between Parish Funds and All Saints Fund.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS AND CALENDAR - On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during Advent there will be short recorded reflections from Mary, Jane or Mark on our Facebook page, starting on 30 November. Our Online Parish Advent Calendar can be found via tinyurl.com/yxxta2r8c - if you'd like to receive a daily reminder email to click to open the calendar please sign up via <http://eepurl.com/dxspFL>.

DESIGN A CHRISTMAS CARD - and win a box of chocolates! Christians Together and Fleet Town Council are inviting entries from young people aged 16 or under, to design a Christmas card that will be professionally printed and distributed, along with a Christmas parcel, to lonely folk throughout Fleet, Church Crookham, Elvetham Heath and Crookham Village. The eventual card will be printed at a size of 170mm x 120mm. We need a creative young person to draw a design for the front of the card. When you have it ready please take a picture of your design and email it to Mark Mabin (mark@mabin.co.uk). All entries need to be received by Wednesday 9th December, The winning card will be chosen by the ministers of the Fleet Churches on the morning of Thursday 10th December and then turned into a beautiful card that will be delivered, together with a Christmas Afternoon Tea and gift, to those who would otherwise be alone on Christmas day.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS - Can you deliver a Christmas Parcel to your lonely neighbour? For the past 4 years Fleet Town Council in conjunction with Christians Together, have provided a Christmas lunch and an afternoon of company, for those who otherwise would be spending Christmas alone. For obvious reasons that cannot happen this Christmas and so instead, the council and Christians Together have decided to put together a Christmas parcel that will be delivered to those who otherwise would have joined together for Christmas Lunch. The parcel will consist of lots of festive treats (Christmas cake, mince pies, sparkling juice, chocolates, cheese, Christmas cracker and card) together with an afternoon tea (sandwiches, scones and cream, tea and coffee) and a Christmas gift. The parcel will be attractively presented.

Christians Together and Fleet Town Council would like your help by giving up some of your time on Christmas morning to deliver the parcel to someone near you, who otherwise would not see anyone this Christmas. All parcel handling will have been accordance with Covid-safe procedures and you will not be expected to go into the recipient's house. However it would be lovely if you had time to have a conversation on the recipient's doorstep. A safety sheet/procedure will be provided by the Council.

The parcel is to be collected from The Harlington between 10am and 12noon on Christmas Day - you will be allotted a timeslot to help keep interactions to a minimum. We are anticipating that there will be enough volunteers such that you only need to deliver one parcel but it may possibly be more if we have more recipients than volunteers.

If you are willing to help please contact charlotte.benham@fleet-tc.gov.uk. If you are unable to help but would like to financially help to cover the costs of the parcels, then you could make a donation through Hart Foodbank <https://www.give.net/hfb>.

CHRISTMAS GIFT REQUESTS - Step by Step are very grateful for the Christmas gifts in previous years and have asked that any gifts this year are given in the form of gift vouchers or donations via their website stepbystep.org.uk/opendoors . Linda Dart would also be happy to send on any vouchers, please contact her on 01252 202564 by Monday 14 December.

A group of Fleet mums are collecting items to make Christmas stockings for children to be distributed via Hart Foodbank. Suggested items are: children's stationery, small toys/games, reusable drinking straws, children's facemasks, sweets/chocolate, gloves, hats, socks, lip balm. Donations must be in by Friday 11 December. Please contact Emma, emmrobson@yahoo.co.uk to arrange to drop off your donations.

SANTA STORIES - Fleet Rotary have teamed up with Santa to bring 10 original stories read online from Wednesday 9 December by our very own Santa, Chris Johnson. The stories, which were written specially for us by members of the Fleet U3A Creative Writing Group, are aimed at 3-8 year olds. However, the more mature may like to listen to them whilst taking a break and having a coffee. Each story lasts about 10 minutes - see www.fleetsanta.co.uk.

BIBLE STUDY COURSE - Tuesday 8 December, 7.45pm, the GOLD project are running a taster session for their next study in the book of Genesis. More details available at www.goldproject.org.

GIVING OPTION - You can now donate to Parish funds by scanning this QR code with any smart phone with a QR reader on it - it takes you directly to a web page where you can make a donation.



NOTES ON THE READINGS FOR SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER

[Isaiah 40.1-11](#)

This poem is the opening chapter of the second part of Isaiah, written 200 years after chapters 1-39, when the Israelites were about to be released from their Babylonian exile. The author looks back to their days of wandering in the Sinai wilderness and forward to their expected return to Jerusalem.

[Psalm 85.1-2 & 8-13](#)

This psalm promises the returning exiles from Babylon the peace of the Messianic Era as foretold by Isaiah

[2 Peter 3.8-15a](#)

Peter still believes in an imminent second coming but is having to admit its possible delay. He accounts for this by explaining that with God one day is the same as a thousand years and that it is God's way of allowing believers time to repent.

[Mark 1.1-8](#)

Mark's Gospel, the earliest one and thought to be written about AD 60 before the destruction of Jerusalem, does not concern itself with Christ's birth or boyhood but starts by stressing His ministry was foretold, and was the fulfilment of, the Hebrew scriptures.

PARISH CONTACTS

Vicar, Revd Mark Hayton ☎ 01252 219281 ✉ vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer, Sheila Buller ☎ 01252 629346 ✉ s.m.buller@btopenworld.com

Administrators, Chantelle Gardner & Elly Wilson Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 1.00pm

✉ Parish Office, Parish Community Centre, Church Road, GU51 4NB ☎ 01252 812114

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