



Parish of Fleet
All Saints
St Philip & St James

News Sheet for Sunday 13 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.

Last Sunday we were able to worship as a congregation for the first time in some weeks - and it was wonderful! 'How good and pleasant it is when sisters and brothers gather in unity' writes the psalmist, and you know, it's true!! For all our success with online worship, there really is something special about being in the same room with other Christians worshipping God together, despite the restrictions.

As I said to them, it is both a great privilege and a great responsibility to worship on behalf of the whole community and something we must be sure to make the most of.

However, this does NOT mean I am putting pressure on anybody to come to church until they feel ready and safe. If you prefer to continue to join us in spirit or online from your own home that is a blessed thing too – because by doing so you may well be protecting yourself and others from harm - a lovely thing in God's eyes.

The important thing is that whether we are at home or in church, we stop all else and set time aside to worship God together every Sunday Morning at 10.00 am. The highest calling and purpose for any Christian community is to worship our Lord, and for all of us there can be nothing more important and no better use of our time – so do join us, we need you, and so in some wonderful way does God!

In the weeks ahead there will be lots of extra opportunities to join in praise and worship together. This week we have Christingle and the Christians Together carol service, next week we will have our own carol service. We are also back to live worship on Wednesdays. Look carefully in this news sheet for more details.

And please do send us your worship contributions - pictures, photos, poems, songs, Christmas greetings - all will be used one way or another in our Christmas worship.

Take a picture of yourself and send it to me, or video a message, or write a short greeting - we will use these to help us feel more connected during these challenging times.

Stay Safe, Stay well, Stay positive.

God bless you all.

Mark

THIS WEEK

Sunday 13 December - 10.00am Morning Service, Ss Philip & James Church*,
livestreamed via our Facebook page
followed by 'Zoom Coffee', [Meeting ID: 761 9820 6224](#), Passcode: 1eGHjT

11.30am Christingle Service in Ss Philip & James Church - see notices

Wednesday 16 December - 9.30am Midweek Service, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

Thursday 17 December - 2.00pm Bible Study, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

Sunday 20 December - 10.00am Morning Service, Ss Philip & James Church*,
livestreamed via our Facebook page
6.30pm Carol Service, streamed (only) via our Facebook page.

* 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 13 DECEMBER - THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S COLLECT O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

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... May Byatt, Sydney Coppard, Blanch Reynolds, Justin Fagence, Jack Spalding, Rebecca Gardner, Nina Poole, Percy Barber, Edith Hankard, Dorothy Simmons.

PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 14 DECEMBER 2020

Meditation "In returning and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust shall be your strength" *Isaiah 30*.

We give thanks for... those who have inspired us in our life of prayer.

Please pray...

Mon - (St. John of the Cross, Mystic) For the people of Spain.

Tues - For the postal service and delivery drivers at this busy time.

Wed - For those who work or live in care homes.

Thurs - For all who will be alone this Christmas.

Fri - For victims of racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia or any form of intolerance.

Sat - For the hungry, homeless and refugees.

Sun - For all those who, like Mary, find their lives turned upside down by unexpected events.

ALL WEEK - For those who live in Beveren Close, Birch Avenue, Blackthorns, Bluebell Walk, Bramblewood Place and Bramshot Drive. For the shops and businesses of our town.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

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

ZOOM COFFEE - Today, Sunday 13 December, Zoom Coffee will be on [Meeting ID: 761 9820 6224](#), with 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 20 December. Face masks must be worn.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE - Sunday 13 December, 11.30am, Ss Philip & James Church. The Christingle Service is **fully booked in church** but you can still watch this live via Facebook.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE - Would you like to win a Christmas Hamper? Tickets are on sale 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 - Thank you to everyone who ordered cakes/scones etc. - £600 has been raised and will be split between Parish Funds and All Saints Fund. Our bakers are now very ready for their Christmas break!

IN SEARCH OF CHRISTMAS - Looking for something to do with your family? FACCTS have produced a fun treasure trail around Fleet to discover the real meaning of Christmas, visit insearchofchristmas.wixsite.com/fleet or watch the trailer at vimeo.com/488500192 for more details.

PARISH MAGAZINES - If you are a magazine distributor and have not received a letter from Chris Waller via the Parish Office this week please contact Chris (01252 613156, krisaliz@btinternet.com) or the Parish Office so that we can update our records and provide you with details of the subscription renewals for 2021.

DOUBLE NEWS SHEET - Next week's news sheet will cover the weeks commencing Sundays 20 & 27 December so please send in items for either week by 12pm on Wednesday 16 December.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER CAROL SERVICE - Saturday 12 December, 7.00pm, Christians Together Carol Service contains contributions from the Fleet & Crookham churches and will be streamed via Facebook on www.facebook.com/ctfleet

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 in 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>.

SANTA STORIES - Fleet Rotary & Santa's stories are now live - see www.fleetsanta.co.uk.

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.



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.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS AND CALENDAR - On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during Advent there are short recorded reflections from Mary, Jane or Mark on our Facebook page. Our Online Parish Advent Calendar can be found via tinyurl.com/yxta2r8c - if you'd like to receive a daily reminder email to click to open the calendar please sign up via <http://eepurl.com/dxspFL>.

NATIVITY PRODUCTION - Friday 18 December & Saturday 19 December, 6.00pm, Church on the Heath becomes a cinema for "Hark! A Nativity Story". Come and see this recently recorded theatre production of the Christmas story produced by Saltmine Theatre Company ([trailer here](#)). Bring the whole family, some camping chairs and snacks for the interval. £10 per family. Reserve your place online [here](#). You can also watch this at home (£10 for the link to download [here](#)).

NOTES ON THE READINGS FOR SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER

[Isaiah 61.1-4 & 8-11](#)

The Hebrew text is in the form of a poem written at the end of the exile in Babylon when the return to Jerusalem was anticipated. It was this passage that Christ read when he first returned to Nazareth at the start of his ministry and that led to his being rejected by those in His home town (Luke 4.18-19).

[Psalm 126](#)

This psalm dwells on the joyful prospect of returning from the Babylonian Exile. The 'riverbeds of the desert' (the Negev) were known for their winter flash floods that swept all before them and irrigated and fertilised the soil.

[1 Thessalonians 5.16-24](#)

In the preceding verses Paul had been talking about the imminent Second Coming for which he now urges his readers to prepare themselves. It is interesting to see that Paul sees a person as comprising both 'spirit and soul and body'.

[John 1.6-8 & 19-28](#)

John the Baptist's encounter with the religious authorities took place before Christ had started His ministry and it reflects the authorities' traditional hard-line orthodoxy. John was an Essene, a Jewish sect that practised baptism in a pre-Christian mode, that is without the involvement of the Holy Spirit. The Essenes (who were responsible for the Dead Sea Scrolls) traditionally had a very uneasy relationship with the Temple authorities.

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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