



## News Sheet for Sunday 28 November 2021 First Sunday of Advent

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

**Happy New Year!**

Today is Advent Sunday, the first day of the church's liturgical year. Today we begin again to tell the wonderful story of the salvation and transformation of our world and our species by our ever-loving God. We begin with the promise, delivered by a voice crying in the wilderness that God has not forgotten his people and is about to do something incredible to make all their lives better. From now until Pentecost we will hear that extraordinary story unfold Sunday by Sunday - sometimes day by day - until we have heard again all that God in Jesus has done for us.

The story continues, however, and each one of us has a part to play in it. Our task is to share the story, to tell it to everyone who is yet to hear it - the poor, the lost, the oppressed, the fearful – and especially to the next generation – and the one after that!

We are the Church – we are story tellers, and story makers - and this story is the greatest ever told!

At our worship today, we will hear another part of that story - of good works done in the name of Jesus in a far-off land, and of how lives have been changed for the better.

Please come and listen to that story and see how you can get involved and perhaps add your own chapter to it.

This evening at 6.30pm Taizé Worship returns to P&J - do come along, let the love of God wash over you and respond to him in worship and prayer

May God bless you all.

Mark

### THIS WEEK

**The Coffee Bar at Fleet Parish Community Centre is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 10am-12pm.**

**Sunday 28 November** - 10.00am Eucharist, Ss Philip & James Church, livestreamed via [Facebook](#)  
12.00pm Baptism Service, Ss Philip & James Church  
6.30pm Taizé Worship, Ss Philip & James Church

**Wednesday 1 December** - 9.30am Midweek Service, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

**Thursday 2 December** - 2.00pm Bible Study via [Zoom ID: 5089713920](#)

**Sunday 5 December** - 10.00am Eucharist, Ss Philip & James Church, livestreamed via [Facebook](#)  
11.30am Eucharist, Fleet Parish Community Centre  
5.00pm Carols Round the Trees & Prize-giving, Ss Philip & James Church

**Ss Philip & James Church is open for prayer Wednesdays 10.00am-1.30pm & Sundays 12noon-3.00pm.**



**Christmas Tree Festival - Friday 3 to Sunday 5 December, Ss Philip & James Church**

Opening times: Friday 4.00-7.00pm, Saturday 10.00am-6.00pm, Sunday 1.30-5.00pm

Please go to our [website](#) to book tickets in advance to guarantee entry and get a free raffle ticket (adults only). Volunteers still welcomed, please see notices section for details.

## PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**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.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK . . .

**Those in urgent need of our prayers including...** Jean Belgrove, Carol Beynon, Melanie Brant, Chris Butterfield, Angus Cairns, Phyllis McGowan, Carol Paton, Peter Rogers, Tyler Thompson, Lucy Tyler, Clare and family, Phillip.

**Members of our extended church family in need of our continuing prayers...** Matthew Allen, Gladys Barber, Alona Beauchamp, Marion Brown, Dilys Denney, David & Yvonne Dunk, Joan Hall, Alan Harvey, Dexter Heard, Michael Heard, Tony Holbeche, Sue Huddie, Garth Kellett, Bonnie Lewis, Sheila O'Connor, Gill Page, Matthew Parkes, John & Barbara Simson, Ken & Dee Stephenson, Eileen Taylor, Erica Taylor, Jean Thomas, John Tillyer, Molly Wilson and Harry.

#### **Those who have died recently**

**Those from our two memorial books whose anniversaries fall at this time...** Peter Aldridge, Marjorie More, Patricia Peacock, Doris Dickerson, Joy Holmes, Archibald South, Frederick Wallace, George Ockmore, Graeme Peacock, John Lewis, John Crayden, Madge Cross, Robert Smith-Moon, Mabel Goddard, George Shuttler and Patricia Aldridge.

### PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 29 NOVEMBER

**Meditation** "Happiness consists in finding out precisely what the 'one necessary thing' may be, in our lives, and in gladly relinquishing all the rest. For then, by a divine paradox, we find that everything else is given us together with the one thing we needed." *Thomas Merton, "No man is an island"*

**We give thanks for** our Advent hope.

Please pray...

**Mon** - For Churches Together in Fleet and Church Crookham.

**Tues** - For the continued renewal of our worship and life of prayer.

**Wed** - For all who work in retail.

**Thurs** - For those who suffer from stress and anxiety.

**Fri** - For the people of Syria.

**Sat** - For those who are homeless. For winter shelter and homelessness charities.

**Sun** - For victims of discrimination in all its forms.

**ALL WEEK** - For those who live in Bromfield Place, Brook Close, Brookly Gardens, Broomhurst Lane, Broomrigg Road, Buchanan Mews.

**PRAYER ROOM AT FPCC IN ADVENT** - There is be a wonderful opportunity to engage in an advent prayer journey in our Prayer Room at FPCC - please contact Cally for more details or simply sign up on the sheet on the Prayer Room door when the FPCC is open.

## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

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

**ALL SAINTS UPDATE** - The drainage work for All Saints has been postponed until the new year.

**GIFT DAY** - Today, Sunday 28 November is a Gift Day for Ashanti Development. In the 10.00am service we will hear about their de-worming project. Donations may be given via the web site [ashantidevelopment.org](http://ashantidevelopment.org) then press the donate button, or cheques by post to: Ashanti Development, 21 Downing Court, Grenville Street, London, WC1N 1LX. If posting a cheque please include a note referring to the Fleet Gift Day.

**ANGEL BLESSING SERVICE** - Today, Sunday 28 November, 3.00pm, United Reformed Church, Kings Road, Fleet. Angel Blessing Service with refreshments afterwards. Please wear a mask. This is a lovely service and everyone is very welcome. For more details please contact Sue Butterfield, 01252 621 786.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL VISITOR ENTRY** - Please note that we are asking everyone to pre-book their tickets for entry to the Christmas Tree Festival to help with managing visitor numbers. Adult tickets are £3 and advance bookings include a free raffle ticket for this price. Children's tickets are £1 and include a drink, biscuit and 2 'games' tokens. Booking is open until 11.00am on Friday 3 December so don't delay booking!

**YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU** - 3 to 5 December, Ss Philip & James Church. Thank you if you have already signed up to help! We need plenty more helpers as we once again welcome our community through our doors. Sign up sheets where you can volunteer for stewarding, stalls or refreshments are on the notice boards in Ss Philip & James and in FPCC and you can also email the Parish Office with offers of help. You can sign up for just one hour or the whole day!

**CALLING ALL BAKERS** - We would love to have a wide variety of large or small cakes, biscuits, mince pies etc. as refreshments to serve at the Christmas Tree Festival. Contact Karen Kite, 01252 613251. Please include a printed ingredient list with your donations when you bring them.

**TOMBOLA AND 'FIZZ' RAFFLE** - Donations of champagne/prosecco and a variety of new items for the tombola at the Christmas Tree Festival would be appreciated. Boxes can be found in P&J Church and FPCC.

**CRAFTS WANTED** - We are having a small craft table at the Christmas Tree Festival - if you have made or are able to make and donate some things to sell we would be really grateful. Contact Sue on 01252 621786.

**ALL SAINTS STALL** - Fundraising stall at Christmas tree festival 3-5 December. Donations of cakes of all kinds, jams, marmalade, chutneys etc. would be gratefully received to sell in aid of the all Saints fund. Please contact Elizabeth 01252 613156 - happy to collect.

**FESTIVE TEA TOWEL** - Festive tea towel (£5) will be on sale at the Christmas Tree Festival and at the Coffee Bar from next week - a great Christmas gift idea and raising money for the church as well!

**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 28 NOVEMBER

[Jeremiah 33.14-16](#) *Both Israel and Judah had been overpowered and destroyed by Babylon. Jeremiah now looks to the future. In ancient Hebrew the names of people and cities like Jerusalem tend to merge.*

[1 Thessalonians 3.9-13](#) *This was written within 20 years of the Passion when Christian teaching and dogma had barely been established hence the simple exhortation to love all mankind and not just one's friends. In those early days the Second Coming was thought to be imminent.*

[Luke 21.25-36](#) *When Christ pondered the future He was using the language and imagery of the day. Moreover as the gospel was written over half a century later there would have been an element of hindsight in the recalling of His words. Nevertheless this does not lessen the message conveyed.*

### PARISH CONTACTS

Vicar, Revd Mark Hayton ☎ 01252 219281 ✉ [vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk](mailto:vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk)

Curate, Revd Cally Burch ☎ 07422 923567 ✉ [cally@parishoffleet.org.uk](mailto:cally@parishoffleet.org.uk)

Safeguarding Officer, Sheila Buller ☎ 01252 629346 ✉ [safeguarding@parishoffleet.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@parishoffleet.org.uk)

Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Jackie Broadfoot ☎ 07918 559387 ✉ [jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:jackie.broadfoot@cofeguildford.org.uk)

Administrator, Chantelle Gardner *Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 1.00pm*

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

✉ [office@parishoffleet.org.uk](mailto:office@parishoffleet.org.uk) website: [www.parishoffleet.org.uk](http://www.parishoffleet.org.uk)

Halls Manager, Sam Lord ☎ 07422 923584 ✉ [halls@parishoffleet.org.uk](mailto:halls@parishoffleet.org.uk)

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