



Parish of Fleet
All Saints
St Philip & St James

News Sheet for Sunday 5 December 2021 Second Sunday of Advent

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

This week we are enjoying our Christmas tree festival. There are over three hundred references to trees of one sort or another in the Bible. Paradise, Genesis tells us, was full of trees, all but one of which were there for humanity to enjoy. There was even a tree of life, presumably eternal life, that was available to human beings until they decided they knew better than God! The tree of life appears again in St. John's vision of the fulfilment of time in Revelation - presumably as God's promise that the fruit of that tree, eternal life, will once again be available to us all in the fullness of time.

God appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, and to Moses in the burning bush (well, it was almost a tree). In the New Testament, Jesus met Zacchaeus in the branches of a tree and called him to new life, He compared the kingdom of God to a tiny seed that grows into a huge tree. At the climax of the Biblical story, Jesus was crucified on a cross, made from a tree - saving humankind and making the tree something special and sacred for all time!

In our own time, we have been reminded of just how important trees are to the sustainability of life on earth - without trees there is no oxygen, without oxygen there would be no us! So, in a sense, every tree is a 'the tree of life'.

You might like to think of this as you enjoy the festival and look at the array of trees that have been prepared so creatively to delight us all in these dark days.

This Sunday we have two services - 10.00 am at P&J and 11.30 am at FPCC - do join us for these, and for carols around the trees at 5pm on Sunday.

Mark

THIS WEEK

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

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

Wednesday 8 December - 9.30am Midweek Service, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

Thursday 9 December - 2.00pm Bible Study via [Zoom ID: 5089713920](#)

Sunday 12 December - 8.00am Holy Communion, Ss Philip & James Church
10.00am Eucharist, Ss Philip & James Church, livestreamed via [Facebook](#)
12.00pm Baptism Service, 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

Open today, Sunday 1.30-5.00pm - votes close at 4.30pm and our Carols and Prize-giving from 5.00pm ends the festival.

PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 5 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, 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, 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 Charles "Dicky" Evans.

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

PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 6 DECEMBER

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 and asylum seekers 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.

PRAYER ROOM AT FPCC IN ADVENT - It's still possible to be part of the 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.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL - Please note that booking is closed for advance tickets but there is some space for walk up visitors to the Christmas Tree Festival but please be aware that you may have to queue at busy times. Adult tickets are £3, children's tickets are £1 and include a drink, biscuit and 2 'games' tokens.

DELIVERY OF PARISH MAGAZINES - If you are a regular distributor of the parish magazine and you haven't been contacted by Heather Turner to confirm who you deliver to, please could you contact her on hdjturner@ntlworld.com or 07740 950456. Many thanks.

FESTIVE TEA TOWEL - Festive tea towel (£5) will be on sale at the Christmas Tree Festival and at the Coffee Bar in aid of Parish Funds - a great Christmas gift idea and raising money for the church as well!

12 DAYS OF GIVING - Ecclesiastical are running a '12 days of giving' campaign where they are giving away £1000 to charities randomly drawn every day from 6 to 21 December. You only need to put in an email address and answer a couple of survey questions to nominate a charity and it would be great if everyone could do this and share with family & friends to maximise the number of nominations and chance of winning. Go to <https://www.movementforgood.com/12days/index.php?cn=1129190&ct=church> and it should prefill with our charity number (1129190).

ALL SAINTS FUNDRAISER - Saturday 15 January 2022, 3.00pm, Ss Philip and James Church. Concert of classical, show and dance music in aid of All Saints Fund. An hour of quintet music featuring Quintessentially Wind and Hart of Brass followed by tea and cake. Tickets £10 from anne.smith33@btinternet.com or 01252 624171.

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 SERVICES

Sunday 19 December

Christingle	10.00am	Ss Philip & James
Eucharist (CW)	11.30am	All Saints (FPCC)
Music and Readings for Christmas	6.30pm	Ss Philip & James

Friday 24 December - Christmas Eve

Come to the Stable *	3.00pm	All Saints (FPCC)
Crib Service *	5.00pm	Ss Philip & James
The Early, Early Midnight Mass	7.30pm	All Saints (FPCC)
First Communion of Christmas	11.30pm	Ss Philip & James

Saturday 25 December - Christmas Day

Holy Communion (1662)	8.00am	All Saints (FPCC)
Family Eucharist	10.00am	Ss Philip & James

* Please note that booking is required for the crib services - booking will open on the website this week and details will be in next week's news sheet. Children are welcome to come dressed up - shepherds, angels and animals from the Christmas story.

PARISH CONTACTS

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

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