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Sunday 16th December 2018 Third Sunday of Advent We Welcome You!

Readings:

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Isaiah 12.2-6

Philippians 4.4-7

Luke 3.7-18

Collect for Dec 16th

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



This is a communion service where we share bread and wine together. Everyone is welcome to receive but if you would rather not then please come forward for a blessing instead. Children who have been baptised are also able to receive from the age of four. The bread we use is baked by hand and contains gluten, wheat and yeast. If you need rice cake please tell one of the people who welcomed you.



If you have come here with needs or anxieties and you would like someone to pray with you, for yourself or for someone else, there will be someone by the war memorial in church during communion who will be very happy to listen and pray. And if you would like us all to pray for someone in the intercessions, just add the name in the book on the wooden lectern by the glass doors.

As three candles are lit: One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, and the third for Mary, who gladly responded to the call of God.

“I am the Lord’s servant,” said Mary; “may it happen to me as you have said.” (*Luke 1:38*)

Startling God, we thank you for the joyful obedience of Mary, we ask you to fill us with your grace, so that we too, may accept your call and rejoice in your salvation. Amen.

♪ ★ **CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT** ★ ♪ *tonight, 6.00 pm.*

Come with family and friends, or simply bring yourself, to hear the story of the Nativity and join in favourite Christmas carols. ♪ ★ ★ ♪

CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2018

Wednesday 19th Dec

19.30 Taizé & Advent Reflection

Thursday 20th Dec

19.00 Carols at The Avenue pub

Saturday 22nd Dec

13.00 Decoration of the church

16.00 Carols at St Paul's Residential Home

Sunday 23rd Dec

8.00 & 10.00 Holy Communion

Monday 24th Dec Christmas Eve

16.00 Crib Service with Circle of Light

23.30 Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th Dec CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 HOLY COMMUNION



FOR ALL OTHER EVENTS AND OUR WEBSITE,
JUST SCAN THE QR CODE HERE

STAMPS for
**UNITED SOCIETY
PARTNERS IN
THE GOSPEL**



Please remember to collect your used stamps,
especially at this time of year,
for us to donate towards the vital and worthy work
carried out by the USPG both at home and abroad.
There is a box on the table.
Thank you.

There will be **NO THURSDAY MORNING SERVICE** on **27th December**.
This will begin again on **Thursday 3rd January** with the service at 10am and
coffee between 10.45 and 12.

CHURCH FAMILY PARTY Sunday 30th December at 4pm-6pm: games,
family quiz, fun and food. Please bring something to eat that you can share.

TRUE LIFE IN GOD AND PRAYER MEETING

On **Thursday 3rd January**, after the 10am service, we will watch a 30mins video of *True Life in God* - all welcome. Beginning on **Jan 4th**, **every first Friday** of each month we will meet at **5.30pm** at St.Paul's church (use the side door to enter) for a prayer meeting of *True Life in God*. Please come and join us for prayers.

THE VICARAGE HOUSE GROUP will resume on **Tuesday 8th January** at **7.30pm-9pm**. Meetings will continue every other Tuesday until Easter.

THE INDEPENDENCE TRUST As announced last week, we will be working in conjunction with The Independence Trust to provide weekly 'drop-in' sessions for information, advice, guidance and collection of food. These sessions will take place on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12noon and the first one will be on **Tuesday 15th January**. We will be moving the 'Foodbank' basket into the hall after each Sunday morning so your donations can go to them. It is hoped that some of the local supermarkets will let us have food which is just out of date to be able to offer to those who come on Tuesdays.

We will advertise this locally but do not want to be inundated and our aim is to start small and see how things expand, or not, as we go. Those who come to us for advice and guidance will be signposted to The Independence Trust for the following Monday morning where they will receive help with online forms and accessing the help they might need.

Please do pray for this endeavour, which we feel is one way in which God is asking us to respond to the need in our community, and for those who may come.

FAMILY FILM NIGHT Friday 1st February, 5pm-7pm

CHURCH FAMILY DATES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Hari Anton Nair (today!) Isobel Godwin (Dec 20th)

YEARS MIND: Jane Thompson (today) John Hunt (Dec18th)
Joseph Smith (20th)

Duties this week: 16/12/2018, THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT

Reader: Lynda. **Prayer:** Jan. **Sidesperson:** Sylvia and Lynda.

Praying Together: Linda. **Chalice:** Jackie and Jan. **Cross:** Jan.

Verger: Jan. **OHP:** Lynda. **Coffee:** volunteers needed ...

Duties next week, 23/12/2018, FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

Reader: Bernard. **Prayer:** Maria. **Sidesperson:** Bernard and Willie.

Praying Together: Marion. **Chalice:** Maria and Dim. **Cross:** Dim.

Verger: Jackie. **OHP:** Lynda. **Coffee:** Sue and Sallie.

Readings for 23/12/2018

Micah 5.2-5a Magnificat /Psalm 80.1-8 Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-45[46-55]

THIS WEEK

**MORNING PRAYER: Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday at 8.30 am**

SUNDAY 16th 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.00 am 10.00am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Holy Communion Carols by Candlelight
Monday 17th	6.00pm	Brownies
Tuesday 18th	8.50am 1.00pm 6.00pm	Lectio Divina Little Angels Open Church
Wednesday 19th	7.30 pm	Taizé & Advent Reflection
Thursday 20th	10.00am 10.45am 7.00pm	Holy Communion Coffee and Company Carols at <i>The Avenue</i> pub
Friday 21st		
Saturday 22nd	10.00-12.00 1.00 pm 4.00 pm	Gloucester Child Contact Centre Decoration of the Church Carols at St Paul's home
SUNDAY 23rd 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Holy Communion

CONTACT DETAILS **Vicar: Rev Ruth Fitter 500537 or 07553 758063**
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Rev Dr Royse Murphy

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