



19 November 2023

Second Sunday before Advent

Welcome to our services today

9.00am Parish Eucharist at St. John's

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's, with KICKSTART in the Bede House

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11, Matthew 25: 14 - 30

Music: Organist St. Mary's, Matthew Foster, **Hymns** NEH, **377, 342, 334, 336.**

Organist St. John's, Sam Stringer, **Hymns: 358, 127, 680.**

The Online Benefice Service 'Meeting Point' is for you if you missed our services in church, or for further reflection during the week.

www.stmarysstjohnsunity.co.uk

Next Week

Mon 20 11.30am St John's, Funeral of Muriel Palmer

Tues 21 10am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Tues 21 1pm St Mary's, Funeral of Jean Daker

Tues 21 7.30pm Bell-ringing practice at St Mary's

Wed 22 12noon St Mary's, Funeral of Peter Grant

Thurs 23 10am Eucharist in St Mary's, with Coffee & Chat to 12noon

Thurs 23 1.30pm School & Nursery visit to St Mary's

Thurs 23 7pm Celtic Liturgy in the Chantry Chapel

Sat 25 10am Morning Prayer, St John's

Sat 25 Farmer's Market, with Stalls, Coffee & Cakes in the Bede House 9am to 12noon, and an 11am Recital inside St. Mary's Church.

Sunday 26 November 2023 Last Sunday before Advent

9.00am Parish Eucharist at St. John's and Morning Worship in the Bede House

10.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's

Children are welcome at all our Services in both churches, we have children's areas with colouring and toys, and are looking at ways to better include them in all we do. We understand that some of our services can seem long to little ones, and it is absolutely fine if they need to wriggle or play or move around.

Collect

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25:14-30

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy servant! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Post Comm

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Prayers Our prayers have been asked for: Karen Addis, Peace Armstrong, Daniel Boxall, Nola Brockhouse, Simon Brown, Albert Clarke, Marian Cox, Elisabeth Craker, Christine Franklin, Colin Gilkes, Ray Grace, David Hales, Cynthia Hobson, Mary Jackson, Sarah Knight, Robert Matthews, Sally Mayes, Lorcan McLaren (age 11), Freda Pack, Ken & Val Robinson, Stephen Slater, Fr. Nichols Spencer, Elizabeth Swindley, Clare Yorke, Jack (aged 10). **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Noreen Hogan, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Sara Owst, Gyles Smart.

In Memoriam. Muriel Palmer, Jean Daker, Peter Grant, Andrew Dickens, *former St Mary's Churchwarden who passed away on Sunday 12th at his care home in Norfolk.* RIP.

Year's mind anniversaries: Arthur New, John Braybrook, Grahame Whitecross, Brenda Wood, Frances Wagstaff, Dennis White, Daniel Neville, Gertrude Gorley, Mary Stuttle, Edward Evans, George Hunt, Hazel Adams, Annie Masters, May Marriott, Bernard Simmons, Richard Hackett, Maria Mommersteeg, Eric Sibley, Lilian Denton, Doris Toppin, Maurice Newman, Rose Watts, Audrey Chesters, William Campion.

NOTICES

Food Bank current needs, please place in our donation boxes. Tins: meat, fish, vegetables, custard, fruit, rice pudding, soup. Tea, sugar, coffee, jam, washing tabs, washing up liquid, anti-bac spray, toilet rolls, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste.

Celtic Liturgy on Thursdays. Will take our usual winter break from meeting in the Chantry Chapel over the Christmas and New Year Period. The last one will be 14 December and we will resume on 1 February, weather permitting. *(amended 19/11/2023 11w)*

Christmas Wreath Workshop Christmas Wreath Workshop at the Bede House on Saturday 2 December 2.00pm to 4.00pm is now sold out but DIY kits to take home are still available to order from Nicky Way on 07875908830 or email on nickyway7@yahoo.co.uk *(amended 5/11/2023.3w)*

Christmas Services Flier listing all the Christmas Services across our united benefice. Copies are available to take away, give to family and neighbours, hand out etc. **A benefice Christingle** 3 December at 4pm, St Mary's, come and join the fun.

ST. MARY'S

Work is ongoing on the Bede House Roof, access inside continues to be limited during the week. Reroofing work has started, nice to see tiles again! Mthr Louise

Angel Festival Our fifth Angel Festival is here, and we are grateful for all the help and support that you have given in the lead up to this event, raising funds needed for our Bede House restoration work - thank you everyone. Do come along and support us, tell your friends and neighbours about it and let's make it a truly special occasion and

enjoy it together. Thank you to all of you for your help already given, none of this is possible without the support of many people - thank you all for being Angels!

Farmer's Market Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th November. Hosted by the Girl Guides, one of whom will be selling her own hand made jewellery. In addition to the usual stalls there will be three new ones, Save the Children, Elegant Harmony and a Hande Made Gifts Stall.

The Chichele Society meet in the Church at 9.30am on Friday 24th November. All are welcome to a talk on the Green Man by Peter Hill.

Bells at St. Mary's. The Christmas Peal will be rung on Friday morning 15th December beginning at 10.00am and finishing around 1.30pm. The following peal will be on the afternoon of Sunday 11th February 2024 from 1.00pm to 5.00pm.

(added 19/11/2023 13w)

ST JOHN'S

Christmas Fair. A huge thank you to all those who supported and helped us at this event last Saturday, and those who came to shop, drink tea and eat lots of cake! It would not have been possible without the team who worked behind the scenes and our musicians who added to the wonderful atmosphere. We cleared the magnificent sum of £2, 351, which under our mission, will be put to good causes.

Soup, Tea and Cakes 1–3pm Tues 21 Nov, 16 Jan, 19 Mar, 16 Apr

Knit and Natter 1–3pm Tues 28 Nov, 23 Jan, 27 Feb, 26 Mar, 23 Apr

Carol Service 17 December 3pm **Crib Service** 24 Dec 12noon, All ages welcome.

For more information and for pastoral advice please contact:

Churchwardens: Arthur Wright 01933 624530. Andrew Wager 07789 286398

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

Please note Mthr Louise is off duty on Friday 24 November

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Please Note: Our administrator, Ria, works part-time hours, please email if possible and await her reply. The office will be staffed 9.30am to 2.30pm Tuesday and Friday. If the matter is urgent or cannot wait please contact the relevant church wardens or Mthr. Louise.

(added 25/10/2023)