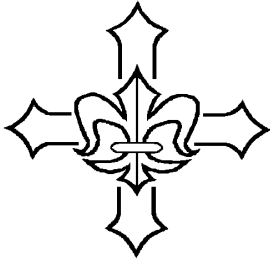


Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester

Weekly Newsletter



Sunday 3rd December 2006

Advent Sunday

Holy Communion

President and Preacher: Jerry Craddock

All Age Eucharist

President and Preacher: David Busk

Deacon: Paul Sibley

Hymns

See separate order of Service

Advent Carol Service

See separate order of Service

Collect

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Street Prayer Mission: Prayers for those living outside the parish.

Charity of the month: Small Donations

Holy Communion. All are welcome at the altar rail. If you are a communicant member of your own Church, you are welcome to receive the Sacrament here. Or if you wish to receive a Blessing, please come forward with a hymn book, kneel at the rail and bow your head.

Notices

Messages from the Vicar

For the saddest of reasons, we have to appoint an interim churchwarden until the Parish Annual General Meeting next April. A notice has been posted in the church porch, and nomination slips are available by the door. I don't think it is a breach of protocol to say that Bob Hurd has agreed to stand. The election will take place in church today, immediately after the 9:45 Eucharist. The appointment will be only until the AGM, and will not in any way prejudice the fresh election that has to take place then. Please pray for the guidance of God's Spirit in this process.

We will soon be starting some groups for confirmation preparation and for anyone who wants to look into the Christian faith for the first time, or to take a refresher course in the basic elements of Christian faith. There will be groups for adults and for younger people. You do not have to commit yourself to confirmation to join, and you can join even if you are already confirmed. If you are interested, please contact me before the end of the month.

As in previous years, the Churches Together are organising a Christmas lunch for anyone who would otherwise be on their own. Volunteers are needed both for preparation before the day, and on the day itself to bring guests to the lunch and to help at the meal. There are leaflets at the back of church with more information and with a form to send off to register as a volunteer. Please do consider whether you might be able to give some time, even if only a little, to what is certainly a worthwhile and enjoyable activity close to the heart of the Christmas message. Please contact me if you can't get hold of a leaflet.

David Busk (436400)

Mothers' Union

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union will take place on Tuesday 5 December in the Queen Elizabeth school hall at 2pm. Members of the other branches in the deanery have been invited and there will be entertainment and refreshments. If you need a lift please contact Jean Morgan on 417502.

Island Hall Carol Concert

At the kind invitation of Lady Linda and Christopher Vane Percy, the augmented church choir will be giving a concert of Christmas carols in Island Hall on Thursday 21 December, starting at 8.00pm. The proceeds will be donated to church funds and tickets at £8 (£7 for senior citizens) will be on sale after the 9.45 service on each Sunday leading up the event, or from Ken Diffey on 458846. The number will be strictly limited to 70 and will be sold on a 'first come, first served basis.' (Please note that the December magazine gives the date as Wednesday 20 December. It is definitely being held on Thursday 21 December).

Parish Christmas Card

Children's Church will prepare another giant Christmas card this year for those of you who prefer to write a single message on the card to all your friends at St Mary's you see frequently, and to donate money you would have spent on individual cards to good causes. We are making the card on Wednesday 15th November and it will be on display at the back of church for you to add your greetings from Advent Sunday, December 3rd.

Jules Shelley (437262)

Radiators in church

Despite the mild weather that we have been having recently, the congregation are asked to leave all of the church radiators open so that we can get the maximum benefit from the heating system when it is on. Thank you.

David Ferris (385070)

Stepladders

We now have a number of step ladders in the church. They are of various heights and are suitable for most tasks. If you ever need to work at height in the building and don't know how to access them ***please ask***.

David Ferris, Churchwarden (385070)

Bob Hurd, H & S Officer (458700)

Huntingdon Male Voice Choir

The HMVC will be giving a 'Festival of Carols and Words for All' in church on Saturday 9 December at 7.30pm. There will be audience participation, readings and music, so come along and have a good sing. Tickets £6 (concessions £5) available from the Town Hall (mornings) or Colin & Barbara Thirlwall (457018)

Christmas Biscuits

As previously, we would like to hand out home-made Christmas biscuits at the end of the 4.00pm service on Christmas Eve: it was very successful again last year. Please can I appeal to the cooks in the congregation, for their help? Batches of biscuits, individually wrapped in cling film, will need to be brought to the Church Hall before the service. I can let you have a biscuit recipe if you don't have one, but any of your favourite recipes will be fine, except any which contain nuts. If you are able to volunteer, either to cook, or hand out biscuits at the door, please let me know. Thank you very much.

Victoria Richardson (431430)

It's that time again

For those of you who like a charity to benefit from your Christmas card buying, Cards for Good Causes annual shop has now opened in All Saints Church, Huntingdon market place. There you can buy cards from almost all the major charities and some lesser-known ones, plus gift-wrap, Advent calendars etc. The shop is open from 10 till 4 Monday to Saturday until 15 December. Get in early for the biggest choice

St Mary's 0-5s Group

The group will meet for the last time before Christmas on 14 Dec and re-start on 4 Jan.

Donna Atkin

Christian Aid's "present aid" scheme

A wonderful opportunity to buy Christmas presents for your friends and family that will make a difference to some of the world's poorest people. Take a look at the catalogue at the south door to see how it works, and start your Christmas shopping now!

Church Website

The Church website is now based on a different server with a new domain name:

www.stmarysgodmanchester.org.

An automatic redirect has been set up at the old domain, but please update your favourites/bookmarks to this new domain.

This move will give us greater flexibility and control over the webspace we use. We will be taking advantage of this soon, as there will be some improvements made to the site which would not have been possible with the space we had before. .

Paul Sibley (380754)

Hinchingbrooke School Chamber Choir

On Monday 11 December at 7.30pm, Hinchingbrooke School Chamber Choir are singing a carol service at St. Mary's. The service will consist of choir carols and anthems, readings, and congregational carols. There will be a collection for the work of the church. It would be great to see as many people there as possible.

Jamie Hudson (375700 ext 5783)

JRH@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk

Advent Calendars

Would Maureen O'Leary please contact Gill Taylor on 390473 to arrange collection.

Newsletter Compiler

The Newsletter compiler until 10 December is Jean Morgan. morgan_01339@msn.com

DIARY

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday

- 08:00 Holy Communion*
- 09:45 All Age Eucharist*
- 18:30 Advent Carol Service*
- 18:45 Youth Group*

Monday 4th December

- 13:30 Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)*
- 19:30 Worship Group (The Vicarage)*

Tuesday 5th December

- 14:00 Mothers' Union (Queen Elizabeth School)*
- 19:30 Men's Social Group Christmas Dinner (9, Porch Close)*

Wednesday 6th December

- 15:30 Pastoral Team Meeting (The Vicarage)*
- 19:30 Bell ringers practice*

Thursday 7th December

- 09:30 St Mary's 0-5s (Comrades Club)*
- 09:45 Holy Communion*

Friday 8th December

- 19:30 Choir Practice*

Saturday 9th December

- 19:30 Huntingdon Male Voice Choir Concert*

Sunday 10th December Second Sunday in Advent

- 08:00 Holy Communion*
- 09:45 Sung Eucharist*
- 18:30 Sung Evensong*

Coffee is served in the Church Hall after the morning Eucharist. Everyone is welcome

Visit the church website at www.stmarysgodmanchester.org