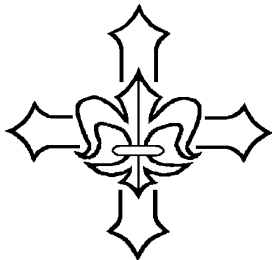


Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester

Weekly Newsletter



Sunday 9th December 2007
Advent 2

Holy Communion *President* David Busk *Preacher: David Busk*

Sung Eucharist *President:* David Busk *Preacher:* David Busk
Deacon Linda Watson

Readers	Arthur Denny
Readings	Isaiah 11: 1 – 10;
Gospel	Matthew 3: 1 – 12
Intercessions	Jean Morgan
Hymns	12, 9, 5,
Communion	315, 407

Grassroots **see separate sheet**

Sung Evensong *President & Preacher:* Paul Sibley

Hymns	14, 18, 500
Psalm	11

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: Danes Croft, McCartney House, Woodley Court

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 would like to receive a Blessing, please come forward with a hymn book, kneel at the rail and bow your head.

NOTICES

Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal

As you will know the coastal areas of Bangladesh have recently suffered considerable devastation by a tropical cyclone. The cyclone was one of the worst to hit the region in the last 37 years. Thousands have died, homes and crops have been destroyed and livestock lost. Millions have been affected and need help. To this end, Christian Aid has set up an appeal for help. In order for us to respond we will hold a retiring collection over the next week or so to give those who wish an opportunity to make a donation.'

Roy Norris (431961)

Sidespersons Rota

The new, January to June 2008, rota will soon be prepared. If any sidespersons have dates they wish me to avoid for them or if they wish their name to be removed from the rota please advise me as soon as possible. Thank you

Peter Hartwell (453336)
peter.hartwell@btinternet.com

Children's Church Christmas Card

Members of Children's Church have again made a large Christmas card, which will be available at the back of church from Advent Sunday. This is for everyone who would like to write a single Christmas greeting to friends at St Mary's, and donate the money they would have spent on individual cards, to charities of their choice.

Victoria Richardson (431430)

Preparing the Christingles

This year, we will be preparing the Christingles at my house, 34 Sweetings Rd, from 10.30am on Saturday 15 December, ready for the service the next day. Please let me know if you would like to come along and help: those who've helped before, and newcomers, are all welcome!

Victoria Richardson (431430)

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 (Tel: 431430)

Free Ely Passes

If you would like to have a free pass for Ely Cathedral for 2008, could you please fill in your details as soon as possible on the form at the back of the church by the south door.

Thank you.

St Anne's CE Primary School

The closing date for applications for admitting pupils to the Reception Class in September 2008 is Friday 7th December. If you have a child born between 1st September 2003 and 31st August 2004 you can apply for a place. Anybody can apply, irrespective of where they live, and if there are sufficient vacancies the child will be given a place. The school admits a maximum of 30 pupils. If there are more than 30 applications, detailed criteria for allocation of places are laid down in the school's admission policy. Up to 12 places are allocated on religious grounds.

For the last two years the Reception Class has not been full. If you are interested in applying for a place, or you would like more information, or you would like to visit the school, please contact the school office on (375300). We look forward to hearing from you. ***Dai Morgan (417502)***

Christmas Cards

The Men's group are willing to deliver our Christmas cards this year but need more help as they are a small group. So please put on your walking shoes and help them out and help us all save on postage. Please talk to ***Peter Ballantine on 450432 or Peter Dawe on 392188*** if you can help.

Freewill Offering Envelopes

The FWO Envelopes for 2008 will be available from today. In order to be certain we have the correct Name to each Number would you please complete the slip given with each box, put it in the small envelope and leave in the letter rack at the rear of the Church. This is essential if we are to ensure we satisfy the Tax Man on reclaiming Tax. Anyone who wishes to start contributing through the Envelope Scheme please speak to either Trevor Weedon or myself (450432) and we will be delighted to help you.

P. Ballantine Treasurer

Tea Makers Wanted

The 0s-5s group urgently needs some people who would be willing to make tea and coffee for them once a month. They meet on Thursdays in the Comrades' Club at 10am. The people making tea need to be there for an hour between 10.30 and 11.30. If you feel you can help please contact ***Jo Jones on 395862***.

Church postcards

Going on sale at the back of the church this week is a set of postcards depicting various views of the church. With an increasing number of visitors entering our church each year, the Communications Committee invited Grace Vane Percy, a professional photographer in London, to produce a portfolio of photographs taken from both

inside and outside the church. From 150 images, members of the Committee selected twelve for this initial set of postcards. We hope you like them. Postcards cost 40p each. (Please put money in the wall box marked Literature located above the table at the south door). Although the Committee has thanked Grace already, perhaps this week is an appropriate time to express our appreciation publicly. Grace gave a considerable amount of time to the project, and would not accept a fee. In the new year, we hope to find a suitable social occasion at church to display the rest of her portfolio

Caring for Carers Concert

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the concert. We were particularly thankful to those who helped us prepare before and clear away after the event. The memories of Pam Ayres, Alan Titchmarsh, Prime Brass, the Soloists and the Choir will stay with us for a long time. We have been able to give the Charity an interim cheque this week for £10,000 with hopefully more to come. We all had a very happy evening for a very good cause.

John and Bizz Thackray

Wives' Group Christmas Party

The Wives' Group Christmas Party will be held in the Church hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11th December. Please bring a plate of food and a present for the bran tub. Entry £2. New members welcome.

Newsletter Compiler

Bizz Thackray is the Newsletter compiler for December and January. Contact: bizzthackray@hotmail.com (457722).

DIARY

Sunday 9th December Second Sunday of Advent

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Sung Eucharist*
- 11:30 *Grassroots with Baptism*
- 18:30 *Sung Eucharist*
- 18:45 *Youth Group Murder Mystery Christmas Party (Church Hall)*

Monday 10th December

- 13:30 *NO Stepping Stones (Baptist Church Centre)*

Wednesday 12th December

- 10:30 *Holy Communion (Oak Tree Court)*
- 15:30 *Pastoral Visitor's Group Meeting (Vicarage)*

Thursday 13th December

- 10:00 *St Mary's 0-5s (Comrades Club)*
- 09:45 *Holy Communion*
- 12.00 *St Anne's Christmas Lunch*
- 19.00 *Wood Green Carol Concert*
- 19.30 *Wives' Group Christmas Party (Church Hall)*

Friday 14th December

- 19:30 *Choir Practice*

Sunday 16th December Advent 3

- 08.00 *Holy Communion*
- 09.45 *Sung Eucharist*
- 15.00 *Christingle Service*
- 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