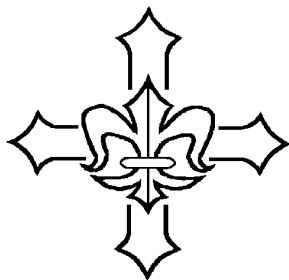


Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Godmanchester

Weekly Newsletter



Sunday 20th December 2009

Advent 4

Holy Communion

President & Preacher: David Busk

Sung Eucharist

President: Mary Jepp

Deacon & Preacher: David Busk

Readers

Malcolm Harris & Andrew Fawcett

Readings

Micah Ch 5 vv 2-5a & Hebrews Ch 10 vv 5-10

Gospel

Luke Ch 1 vv 39-55

Intercessions

Trevor Weedon

Hymns

15, 11, 17, 9 please omit any * verses

Communion

14, 528

Sung Evensong

Paul Sibley

Readings

Isaiah Ch 10 v 33- Ch 11 v 10 & Mathew Ch 1 vv 18-end

Hymns

443, 6, 3 please omit any * verses

Psalm

123

Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Street Prayer Mission: Porch Close, Grainger Avenue, Littlefield Close, Sears Close

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.

Admission to Communion

We welcome to communion today two more young people, Leah Armstrong and Thomas Leigh-Smith. When they are presented to the congregation after the sermon, we shall all say the following prayer together:

Merciful God, you give us new life in baptism and call us to your table. Today we thank you for calling these children to receive the bread of heaven and the wine of life, and we ask you to bless them. As we feed on your love, help us to live our lives for the sake of others and to shine as your lights in the world; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

Time to Talk

Wednesday 23rd December, in the small room at the Queen Elizabeth School from 2.00 to 3.30pm. Come and have a chat over a piece of Christmas cake and a cup of tea. If you have any queries, please contact: Revd.Mary Jepp 01480 411734. Gillian Bathurst Hoile 01480 465442

Christmas Eve Curfew

The curfew will be rung on Christmas Eve, starting at 7.55pm and finishing just after 8.00pm. Anyone interested in witnessing this old Godmanchester tradition (with running commentary) should be at the West Door at 7.45pm prompt – perhaps something for your guests to do while you are preparing the turkey. For an explanation email charles.looker@virgin.net.

Christmas Card Delivery Service

Once again the Men's Social Group are offering to deliver Christmas cards in Godmanchester as an adjunct to using the lettered 'pigeon holes' near the font. Cards may be left in the 'Post Box' by the south door - this will be removed after evensong on Sunday 20th December. Please note that only cards with a Godmanchester address, which should be in full, will be delivered. Volunteers to help with the delivery would

be very welcome. Contact Peter Dawe (392188).

Church Christmas Cards

Christmas cards displaying four images of the church in packs of eight, two cards of each image, together with accompanying envelopes, for £4 a pack will be on sale in the south porch after this morning's 9.45 Sung Eucharist. Proceeds from the sales go towards church funds.

Christmas Flowers

The Flower Guild would be very grateful to receive donations towards the cost of decorating the church for Christmas; these can either be given to Vera Arnold, or Linda Weedon, or placed in the wall box in one of the "Flower" marked envelopes. Thank you all very much. Jean Miller

Christmas Biscuits

As in previous years, we would like to hand out home-made Christmas biscuits at the end of the 4.00pm service on Christmas Eve: there was a lovely selection again last year and they were much appreciated. I know the cooks in the congregation are already really busy, but please can I appeal 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)

Fairtrade Initiative

There is to be a concert of light musical entertainment at All Saints Church Huntingdon on Friday 15th January, at 7.30 pm. Please come and enjoy a variety of music provided by the Belladonna String Quartet, Heather and Peter Moger, with Ally

and Sam Barrett, and also enjoy a glass of Fairtrade wine. £5 for adults, £1 children and students.

Bishop Anthony's Farewell

Bishop Anthony's farewell service is to be held in Ely Cathedral, on Saturday 23rd January, and a presentation is to be made at that service. If you feel you would like to make a donation towards this presentation then please put it in the plate by the South Door. Thank you.

A Note From The Treasurer

For those who have not already found them, the Free Will Offering Envelopes are available at the back of the church under the letter rack. If you own envelopes No 7 or 36, we are very grateful for your donations but I have no record of your name, so please contact me so I can link names to envelope numbers. If you wish to start using the Free Will Numbered Envelope Scheme please let me know and I will provide them. Unlike the early days of the scheme (in pre-history) there is no obligation to give a set amount each week, or indeed to donate each week, but it is a convenient way to organise your giving. If you pay UK tax then we can reclaim that tax from HMRC at the rate of 28p in the pound, so please ask me for a gift aid form if you qualify. Additionally, if you are a higher rate taxpayer you can reclaim tax against the difference between the basic rate of tax and the higher rate on your gifts. If you wish to take all the effort out of giving (certainly for the treasurer) then a standing order is the answer. Contact me for the church account details and I will help you to set it up. Please note that we only accept standing orders and not direct debits, so you have complete control over what and when you pay and you can cancel or change the amount as you wish. Again, if you are a UK taxpayer I can provide a gift aid form to accompany your standing order so that we can make the most efficient use of your donations. If you have any questions or

wish to join either of the schemes please contact me on 457018 or at home – 49 London Road. *Colin Thirlwall*

Digital Keyboard

Thanks to a number of generous donations and fund-raising activities over the past month or so, we have now reached the target of raising £813 to pay for the cost of the digital keyboard that was urgently needed to replace the old digital piano. We are very grateful to all who contributed to this project. *Ken Diffey*

Parish News

With the retirement of Joan Jackson from the Editorial Committee the role of typesetter passes to Dai Morgan. Committee members are delighted to have him on board. Items formerly sent to Joan may be sent to Dai on the following email address: morgan_01339@msn.com. The price of the magazine for 2010 remains unchanged – 45p for a single issue, £4.50 for one year's subscription. Annual subscriptions should be paid by the end of January at the latest. If you have not yet taken out a subscription and would like to do so please contact Mary Fawcett (458383) who will put you in touch with your nearest distributor. *Peter Irving (382144)*

Newsletter Compiler

Jim Heeley (412264) jskc@btinternet.com is Newsletter compiler for December & January. ***PLEASE NOTE***, contributions for 27 December & 3 January will need to be in by 8pm on Tuesday 22 December.

Prayer Corner

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near." Phillippians 4:4-5. Lord open our minds and hearts this Christmas to hear you speak to us through music, worship and prayer. May your love run through all our Christmas praise.

DIARY

Sunday 20th December Advent 4

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Sung Eucharist (Children's Church)*
- 16:00 *Ecumenical (Rectory Gardens)*
- 18:30 *Sung Evensong*

Tuesday 22nd December

- 07:30 *Morning Prayer*
- 12:00 *Churches Together Lunch Club (Baptist Church Centre)*

Wednesday 23rd December

- 09:45 *Holy Communion (McCartney House)*
- 14:00 *Time to Talk (Queen Elizabeth School)*

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve

- 07:30 *Morning Prayer*
- 09:45 *Holy Communion*
- 16:00 *Nativity Service / Lighting the Tree*
- 18:00 *Nine Lessons and Carols*
- 20:30 *Quiet Christmas Service – Vigil*
- 23:30 *First Eucharist of Christmas*

Friday 25th December Christmas Day

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Communion Service joint with GMCBC (Church)*

Sunday 27th December

- 08:00 *Holy Communion*
- 09:45 *Parish Eucharist*
- 18:30 *Evening Prayer (said)*

Refreshments are served after the 9.45am Eucharist. Everyone is welcome

Visit the church website at www.stmarysgodmanchester.org