



*Seeking to live out the love of God  
– in all we do*



## 28th November News and Worship

### Welcome

To this week's newsletter: it carries all the news and notices of upcoming events, a look ahead to Christmas and prayer and worship resources for Advent Sunday.

### Vicar's Thoughts

This Sunday is **Advent Sunday** which is the start of a new Church Year - and what better way to begin the new Church Year than with a service of Baptism? Baptism, in many ways, is the most important service in church life: it's one of the two things Jesus instructed us, his disciples, to do in remembrance of him. It signals a decision to follow Jesus and is the first step on the lifetime journey of Christian worship, growth and service.

Almost all the children at Pram Service and in Young Church will have been, or will be, baptised and the overwhelming majority will have been baptised here at St Peter's. Sadly the reverse is **not** true - that all those who are baptised at St Peter's will go on to be Pram Service attenders or members of Young Church and grow up to be part of our church community.

Sometimes this is because their connection with St Peter's is historical and they live elsewhere, sometimes it is because the gap between what parents are promising to do and what they are willing and able to do, is too large. *So how can we help to narrow that gap?*

**1) By our welcome:** Church is a very strange place to those who don't go. It's important to remember that though parents and Godparents have Christian faith, their friends, family and guests may have never been in a church before. Imagine if you invited the fifty people living nearest you to Church - for how many would it be strange and unfamiliar? Standing and sitting, saying the words in bold, not texting or responding to messages, not talking... church can be a strange world. Guiding and helping guests and visitors is important and being there to welcome parents and children is essential.

**2) By our witness:** we are the ones who know the love and forgiveness of God and the ones who have experienced the benefit of all Jesus has done for us. As we sing, pray and participate we not only witness to those for whom this is a new experience, but by our engagement with God he becomes more present for guests.

**3) By our grace:** I don't know about you... but I'm not perfect! There wouldn't be many present on a Sunday morning if to be a Christian you had to be. We all depend totally on God's grace, his free gift of love and forgiveness. Over the years I have seen what amazing things happen when grace is offered and received. How can we show that amazing grace to those who are worshipping with us for perhaps the first time.

The traditional themes of Advent are: "The Four Last Things " will be our focus at Sunday's BCP services. But in our meeting around the Font at 10.30am on Sunday morning for Baptism, we instead will focus on the "First Three Things" *welcoming* all who gather, *worshipping* with devotion and sharing God's *wonderful grace* with those around us.

## Church News

### Advent Reflections

In this year's *Advent Reflections* we are drawing on the Archbishop of York's Advent book for 2021 'Music of Eternity meditations for Advent with Evelyn Underhill' by Robyn Wrigley Carr. We will gather on:

Tuesday 30th November at 1.30pm

Tuesday 7th December at 1.30pm

Tuesday 14th December at 1.30pm

Tuesday 21st December at 1.30pm

Each week we will be in St Peter's Rooms. Reflections will last an hour with refreshments afterwards. All are very welcome to come and join us and we will be finished in time for school pick-up.

### St Peter's Church Nativity

St Peter's Church Nativity is delighted to be back this year on Sunday 12th December during the 10:30 service.

All families are invited to the service to share and celebrate in the story of the birth of Jesus... and we need recruits!

If you would like your child to take part, we are looking for older children for the narration parts and little ones for angels, sheep, shepherds and Kings!

So if you are available and you would like your child/children to join in, please get in touch with either Kathryn Lappin on 07859049586 or Sian Rourke on 07738627084. It's always such a magical tradition in St Peter's and after missing it last year, we are hoping to bring that magic back. Thank you.

Kat & Sian

## Nativity Costume Amnesty

"Where are the shepherds? Two Angels are missing as well and wasn't there a bigger King's costume?" Do you have a church nativity costume tucked away in a wardrobe or dressing up box? Were you thinking it's too late to bring it back now especially as your little shepherd, Angel, Inn Keeper...(delete to fit) has now gone to university. As the Angel says "Fear Not!!" It's never too late to return a nativity costume and if you're not sure where it came from we will happily give it a new home at St Peter's. Costumes can be returned anonymously by leaving at the back of Church or give them to Kat or Sian who will be delighted to receive them.

## Gospel Choir Advent Praise

Sunday morning Worship on 5th December at 10.30am will have a very different feel - we are delighted and excited that our sung worship will be lead by a Gospel Choir. This will be a wonderful service with a mixture of familiar and 'new to some' hymns and worship songs. It's a great opportunity to invite guests, friends, neighbours and work colleagues to Church. There will be more information in next week's newsletter and invitation cards available soon at the back of church to give to guests.

## Christingle Making

Christmas is definitely getting nearer when it's time to make Christingles! Saturday morning 4th December in St Peter's Rooms will be the great *Christingle construction* event. It's always fun and all ages can participate. We start at 10.00am and finish when they all are finished, which is usually about an hour.

## WHAM

Following on from Friday's meeting this year the Churches will not be needed to provide accommodation for the homeless in Macclesfield as alternative provision has been made. We pray that this meets the need and thank you to those who have already, and were planning to, volunteer.

## Church Alarm

The Church alarm will be back in operation from Monday when the church is locked. If you don't have an alarm fob and need one, please talk to one of the Wardens. If you would like a training session on the system please talk to Judith. Remember Church is open during the day so if you alarm the rooms when leaving them, you will also put the alarm on in church.

## Christmas Day Lunch

If you're looking for some company on Christmas Day, please join friends and neighbours from the community for a 3 course Christmas meal. This is open to anyone spending Christmas Day on their own, or couples on their own.

**When:** 25th December 2021

**Where:** Prestbury Village Club

**Arrive:** 11.30am - 12noon

**Meal:** 12.30pm

There is no charge for the meal which has been organised by a group of local people.

For more information or to book a seat at the table, please call Debbie on **07967 191543**

It may be possible to also arrange transport to and from the venue, so please ask. This is not just limited to those living in Prestbury.

## Is God tapping you on the shoulder? Are you unsure what he wants from you?

"Called To Serve" is an event that could help. It's a day to help you explore what God is potentially calling you to be and do for him.

Held at Foxhill Retreat Centre in Frodsham by the Diocese of Chester on Saturday 29th January it will be a gentle and welcoming day to seek out what that tapping on the shoulder might mean for you.

Diocesan Director of Vocations, Sarah Fenby says: "Called to Serve is about exploring licensed ministry and the many, many more informal everyday roles and ministry opportunities we can each step into for God. The day aims to help you to see the matrix of opportunity that make our whole life experience uniquely our own and a blessing to God and the world.

Called to Serve is for everyone, whether you are near or far on the journey of fully understanding how God is calling you to serve."

Find out more here [Diocese of Chester | Called to Serve confirmed for 2022 \(anglican.org\)](https://www.dioceseofchester.org.uk/called-to-serve) or ask Patrick, Avril, Steve or Anne if you would like to know more, or if you would like to have a chat about it before booking a place.

Also there is a free lunch: Foxhill lunches are legendary!

## Mike Cheetham Retirement

There will be a special farewell service of Evensong on 28th November at 4.30pm followed by refreshments and a presentation in St Peter's Rooms afterwards. If you would like to make a donation towards a gift, please hand in to the office in an appropriately labelled, sealed envelope.

## The Big (Carol) Sing

Following last year's fabulous 'Big Sing' event there is another opportunity to get involved this year on Monday 20th December. We will be sending groups of singers (of all abilities) to different areas of the village to spread Christmas Cheer. This is usually very well received and lots of fun. All ages welcome. If you're interested please contact either the Parish Office or Bev at [Beverley.angier@btinternet.com](mailto:Beverley.angier@btinternet.com)

## Looking ahead to Christmas

At present there are no plans to ticket or require pre-booking for any Christmas services. All the main Christmas services will be streamed so if you are clinically vulnerable or unvaccinated we would encourage you to worship at home following the live-stream.

Christmas services

**Dec 5th** 10.30am **Advent Praise** with Gospel Choir  
4.30pm **Christingle** with Worship Band and Voice Choir

**Dec 12th** 10.30am **Young Church Nativity**  
7.00pm **Street Party Carols**

**Dec 19th** 4.30pm **Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Dec 24th** 3.00pm & 5.00pm **Carols around the Crib**  
11.30pm **Midnight Communion**

**Dec 25th** 10.30am **Christmas Family Communion**

## The Church Diary

The Church Office is open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 12noon

### Mondays

9.00am **Morning Prayer** St Peter's Rooms, all welcome

### Tuesdays

9.00am **Morning Prayer** Zoom Code 503 346 024, Password 793684

### Wednesdays

10.30am **Holy Communion**, St Peter's followed by refreshments

## Thursdays

9.00am **Morning Prayer**, Zoom Code 859 930 994

10.15am (25th November) **Pram Service**

11.30am **Holy Dusters**, St Peter's *(If interested please call the Parish Office as in the run up to Christmas, times may vary)*

3.15pm **Voice** Children's Choir St Peter's Rooms

## Fridays

7.45pm **Choir practice**

# Worship Resources

## Worship Services for Advent Sunday

	8.30am St Peter's	10.00am Core	10.30am St Peter's <i>Streamed</i>	11.00am St John's	4.30pm St Peter's <i>Streamed</i>
<b>November 28th</b>	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Baptism	Thanksgiving Service	Choral Evensong

## November 28th Advent Sunday Readings and Collects

### Bible Readings

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

**1 Thessalonians 3:9-end**

**Luke 21:25-36**

### Collects

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the  
light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

## Prayers

### Prayer focus this week

Our prayer focus this week is for those who have been baptised in the last few months and those awaiting baptism. Praying for children, parents and Godparents, for them to feel welcome and included in our worship, to become embedded in the church family, to grow in faith and love for God and that they would know God's love surrounding and upholding them.

### Those who have asked for prayer

Tony Mackenzie  
Graham Lewis  
Keith Ravenscroft  
Geraldine Collins  
Linda  
Neil Roper



### Those who have died

Ian Northcott (Funeral St Peters 1.00pm 29th Nov)  
Malcolm Cooper (Funeral St Peter's 12noon 2nd Dec)  
Marjorie Jackson (Funeral St Peter's 2.00pm 6th Dec)  
Eric Bolam (Funeral St Peter's 1.00pm 9th Dec)  
Mick Barton (Funeral St Peter's 1.00pm 10th Dec)