



A Warm Welcome to
ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH
Woodbridge
29TH NOVEMBER, 2020
ADVENT SUNDAY

Wherever we are, we are the body of Christ.

MEETING GOD IN MARK

Although you never hear this word on the news, we are about to begin 'the forgotten' Season of **Advent**. It is very sad we cannot be together this year as it begins and, as the Church 'scenery' begins to change for a new liturgical year. The vestment and altar colour changes to purple, the 'Gloria' is not sung until the Christmas festival begins and any flower decoration is replaced by a simple evergreen wreath bearing the four candles for each week of preparation.

And yes, our cycle of Readings change to 'Year B' and focus on the shortest of the Gospels: St Mark. If lockdown has taught us anything at all, surely it has encouraged us to take things slower, to drink deeply from the waters of scripture without rushing. Why does he choose to tell a story in a particular way or with a particular emphasis? What excites him and us about the kind of adult Jesus we encounter? How are we challenged and transformed by this Jesus coming out of an ancient text and still wanting to meet us here and now and the year ahead?

This is what we are missing most of all. Word and Sacrament feed and nourish the 'body of Christ on earth.'

We are also missing the gift of patience in waiting. In the latest excitement and rush for a vaccine, we can so easily forget the sheer patience, skill, and determination of teams of scientists across the world to be sure about their hopes, and to test them again and again before any shouts of 'Eureka' go up! If waiting is part of their DNA, the same should also be true for God's Advent people.

I also think of the children we don't know who will receive our new toys and games when Christmas dawns! St Nicholas just sweeps silently across the dark chimneys of Woodbridge and Ipswich to surprise and enthrall; as do the angels of God who are on a very grown-up mission before 2021: to lead us to Bethlehem and see there, the comfort and joy of God-with-us.

Fr Nigel

COLLECT AND READINGS

The Collect

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.

Isaiah 64. 1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil –
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our
iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13. 24-37

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁴In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

FOR YOUR PRAYERS AT ADVENT - LIZ PRIOR

As the expectant season of Advent begins, we pray “Come, Lord”.

Be known in your Church; may it be a living witness to truth and freedom, to justice and peace; that all people may be lifted up by the hope of a world made new.

Come, Lord, to our world; give peace and comfort to all in their struggles. We pray for those who strive and serve for the good of others.

Come, Lord, into our homes, communities and workplaces; may we reflect your love and rejoice in each other’s presence. We pray for those who are looking for you. Be with us as we wait in joyful hope for all that God has promised.

Come, Lord, to those unable to cope and are weighed down with troubles and fears.

Come, to those who are sick: Clare Appleby, Christopher Browne, Phylis Davis, Kathy Day, Pat O'Hagan, Joy Shipton, Katie Smith, Iris Stock, James Tucker, Jennifer Workman and any others known to us alone, especially in our local care homes and hospital.

To those who mourn.

We pray for those who have died: Dr Sonia Hall, Constance Jeffrey, David Snowden, Father John Hay, Peter Todd, Norman Johnson, Benita Esposito and Helen Pitcher that they may now rejoice in the fullness of your presence and glory.

Come quickly, Lord.



We will be delighted to welcome The Ven. Annette Cooper, our Rural Dean as our Preacher at both churches on the Feast of St Nicholas:

READINGS (SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT) 6TH DECEMBER

1 Timothy 6 – 11; Psalm 107, 23-30; Mark 10, 13-16

DIARY AND NOTICES

NEXT WEEK

- Monday 30th November 10.30** Time to Reflect group by Zoom on the Archbishop of York's "Walking Backwards to Christmas". Now on sale from the Church Shop.
- Thursday 3rd December 9.30 – 15.00** Church Bookshop and stall outdoors on the Market Hill. Please support.
- 10.00** Said Eucharist in St Mary's.
- 19.30** First new PCC meeting – by zoom (TBC)
- Friday 4th December 9.30 – 16.00** Please take your unwrapped gifts of new toys and games to the foyer of the Church Centre if you cannot attend Church on Sunday 6th December
- Saturday 5th December 16.00** Music recital with Romy Hills (flute) and Andy Greaves (piano) at St Mary's Great Bealings
- Sunday 6th December 15.00** At St Mary's Woodbridge. NB For either concert, please book by email nhp@rillcott.co.uk We need exact numbers and masks must be worn.
- 18.00** Compline – at the West End of the church

SERVICES - SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

9.30 am Great Bealings and 11am Woodbridge

Booking is essential for the 11am service at Woodbridge via the Parish Office as before. parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org 01394 388820
Masks must be worn in church and social distancing respected.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

It is hoped that this will be a regular daily occurrence in the Church from Monday 7th December for half an hour followed by another half an hour of silent prayer. At the moment, we are thinking of 9am and 5.30 pm (to be finalised at our PCC meeting).

ST. NICHOLAS' DAY APPEAL – 6TH DECEMBER: GIVE GENEROUSLY

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BOOK FOR THIS SERVICE. PLEASE EMAIL

parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org or telephone 01394 388820

On Sunday 6th December we are celebrating the festival of St. Nicholas with an appeal for the donation of new toys and childrens' clothing. We want you to bring your donations to the **Parish Eucharist at 11 am (9.30am at Great Bealings)** where we shall gather them at the altar and give thanks to God. If you are unable to be with us on 6th December, we will be happy for you to leave your gifts in the Church Centre foyer.

The toys and clothing will then be delivered to locally-based groups that assist families in need. Details of some of the organisations we hope, with your kind donations, to support are given below. The age range of the children who will benefit is 'two to teens', with the older end from 11+ being the group that is most in need at the moment. Local stores with a good range of toys and childrens' games, that are open during the lockdown, include Notcutts, Dobbies and W H Smith.

The St. Mary's Church Shop holds a select range of 'Toys in a Tin'. The Shop will be re-opening on Thursday 3rd December, just in time for you to purchase one or more of these tins before St. Nick's Day! Please leave all gifts **unwrapped** so that volunteers can sort them for particular family groups. However, donations of wrapping paper, bows, ribbon etc. are welcome.

Organisations to be supported include:

Suffolk Baby Bank: Trying to alleviate child poverty, the Baby Bank supports families in need at times of financial and emotional stress. This charity works throughout the county, wherever the need exists.

West Villa and East Villa Centres for Homeless Families, Ipswich: These temporary housing units act as a halfway-house for the homeless whilst awaiting permanent housing allocation. 80% of the rooms are for families with children. The Villas are at full occupancy at the moment.

What You Might Like to Buy to Donate:

Outdoor Toys	Football/Balls/Hoola Hoops
Early Years Shapes, Stackers, Rattles	Baby, Teething Toys
Friction Engine Type Toys	Roller skates/Scooters
Dolls/Action Figures/Dressing Up Clothes	Craft Sets/Play Dough
Dressing Gowns/Slippers/Nightwear	Electronic Games
Lego/Duplo	Cars & Trucks
Board Games	Happy Land Play Sets

NEW 'NEWSLETTER'

This is still in embryo and is quite different from the former Parish magazine in both size and scope with a view to reaching out to every home in the Parish in a new way. We are asking for your kind help to distribute the magazine between the 14th - 19th December. We have a list of streets and numbers of houses. The newsletter will only be 2 sheets of A4 paper so not heavy and we will bundle them up appropriately ready for take-off!

HELEN PITCHER RIP

The number of people who sent kind messages and shared good memories of Helen, was testimony to the love, understanding and faith everyone generated for each other and for her. The length and nature of her prolonged illness drew from her a plea to be delivered from it. I myself and all our family thank you for sharing with us a great swell of good will, and sincerely hope that you received for yourselves, as well as for us, a sense of blessing.

Thank you - David Pitcher and family

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

We are delighted to assure you that all our planned Christmas services will be going ahead and that many of them will also be live-streamed. Next Sunday, 6th December, we will let you know how the booking system will work so please don't worry before then. We will all still have to wear masks and numbers will be limited as before.

CHURCH SHOP UPDATE

I am pleased to let you know that our church shop will be open from Thursday 3 December - 10 until 4. In the run up to Christmas we are hoping to be open Sunday 11- 12

Monday Tuesday Wednesday 10-1

Thursday Friday Saturday 10 - 4

Our volunteers are really making an effort to open as often as possible. Please pop in and support our shop.

In addition on Thursday 3rd December, we are running a pop up table on the Market Hill. Everything will be 50% off the ticket price! Come and have a look!

Sue Todd

INTER-CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year, we will have a large post box at the back of the church for anyone wishing to send cards to other members of our congregations. It will be in church from Sunday 6th December to Sunday 13th December. The cards will be sorted and bagged for collection from Friday 18th December.



ST MARY'S MOTHERS UNION

Like everyone else we have seen our programme for 2020 basically as non-existent, but we remain very positive and hope for better in 2021. We are still here working away in the background, branches are involved with various on-going projects (knitting needles/sewing machines have been working overtime!).

Starting on November 12th was 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Home-Start help for families in need – (this has certainly been more evident at this time especially during the two lockdowns we have experienced this year). These are just two of the ongoing projects that MU are involved with but there are many many more that we contribute too. We all look forward to getting back into a more regular routine where we can actively take part and give our support to them.

If you have the time please take a look on our webpage and read the latest piece of writing by Pauline Bowbrick entitled: "I remember when... Christmas in World War 2". A truly lovely piece of Pauline's memories and very apt with Christmas now not too far off, a time for some to reminisce and remember when things were a lot different and some not quite as different as to what is happening in our world today.

As a branch we remember those no longer with us and our Indoor members who cannot now make it to our meetings, you are not forgotten.

In whatever way you celebrate this Christmas and the New Year St Mary's Mothers Union wish you all a safe and healthy time ... we all look forward with hope to 2021.

Jean and Rachel

NEW BOOK OUT!

We are pleased to report that Canon David Charles Lowe has written a 'racy' non-religious book called 'With Clouds Descending', recently published by Pegasus of Cambridge at £7.99. It is an unusual semi auto-biography in which he places himself 130 years in the past and spends his main ministry in Ampthill, Bedfordshire (in imagination) rather than in the Suffolk parishes of Bury St Edmunds, Leiston and Felixstowe (in reality). The book is beautifully illustrated by his architect friend, Simon Merrett, who has sketched nearly 30 of the fine buildings of Ampthill and Mauldon. The book is a fascinating read and available directly from the author with profits going to the pancreatic research charity at Addenbrooke's Hospital. Please ask the Parish Office for details of how to obtain this book.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS

The raffle tickets have all been put into envelopes! Please do call by and collect your named envelope from the Church Centre foyer from Thursday 3rd December. They will be placed on the table in church for Sunday's service aswell. We would be delighted if you would like more books to sell than the 4 in your envelope, please let us know! Time is short, so we very much value your help with this to boost our funds. Please return money and raffle stubbs (and any unsold tickets) to the Parish office or through the letter box before the end of Sunday 20th December. THANK YOU.

MUSIC AT ST MARY'S

We are delighted that the first of our series of recitals will take place next weekend under all the Covid19 regulations. The other concerts advertised will be a special treat January 2021 and beyond. Please see the diary for further details of how to book. There are no tickets or interval and entry is by donation, suggested level £10 – more welcome! Our musicians really look forward to playing for you. And we look forward to welcoming you at these concerts.

With best wishes and pre-festive greetings

Norman Porter pp Friends of both St Mary's Churches and Fr Nigel Prior.

WOODBIDGE FOODBANK

The Woodbridge Foodbank is operated by the local Salvation Army and we continue to encourage your support.

Due to operational reasons, we have had to temporarily suspend the 'drop box' that was in the Church Porch. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEMS IN THE PORCH AT THIS TIME.**

Thanks to everyone who has been generous with their donations of food items left in the box since its inception in March. We hope to get this, or an alternative system, back up and running early in the New Year. In the meantime, there is a street collection in Seckford Street - please see the notice in the window of No. 11 for more details.

Alternatively, you can leave food items in the special collection baskets in your local Co-Op store.

Please note that the Foodbank is particularly looking for good quality tinned meats and vegetables, packets of biscuits, small bags (500g) of sugar, tea and coffee.

Due to recent generous contributions from a bulk food supply company, the Foodbank does **NOT NEED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING** at this time: baked beans, tinned spaghetti, dried pasta, tins or jars of pasta sauce.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR:

Churches Together : “Christmas Unwrapped” 21st December 6pm

Churches Together are bringing a Christmas event to Kingston Field on Monday 21st December 2020. There will be a trail of the Christmas story presented in six gazebos on the field from 6pm and a screened carol service at 6.30pm. The whole event will of course be covid safe and follow strict guidelines checked by the local council.

This is going to be an exciting occasion, bringing the Christmas story onto Kingston Field for the whole community.

As a partner in Churches Together, St Mary’s will be taking part and contributing to the event by presenting part of the story and screening a sung Christmas carol.

We are looking for the following :

- Family units to present part of the story (guidance and help given!)
- Stewards for St Mary’s contribution
- People to help set up gazebos in the afternoon
- A gazebo

This promises to be a lovely event for St Mary’s to be part of, and is a real beacon of hope for what we can do locally for Christmas time.

We also need a creative volunteer to help with the costumes and props for the tableaux.

Please volunteer to help if you can. We especially need two or three willing family units or “ bubbles” very soon, so that planning can begin.

Please contact : Liz Prior 01394 610424 or Barbara Stear (churchwarden) 07710 229345



The poster features a dark red background with white and gold text and graphics. The main title 'Christmas Unwrapped' is in a large, white, cursive font. Below it, 'ON KINGSTON FIELD' is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The date 'MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER' is in white, sans-serif font. The event times '6.00pm FAMILY TRAIL TO FIND BABY JESUS 6.30pm CAROL SERVICE' are in white, sans-serif font. In the top right corner, 'churches together WOODBRIDGE' is written in white, sans-serif font. On the right side, there is a white silhouette of a stable with a manger, containing a shepherd with a staff and a woman kneeling. A small COVID-19 logo is in the bottom left corner. At the bottom, the text 'WATCH THIS ONLINE AT CTWM.ORG.UK COVID SECURE EVENT Social Distancing and Track and Trace must be adhered to' is written in white, sans-serif font.

The prayer for the final week of national lockdown.

Loving God,
your Son Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly;
pour out your blessing upon our nation;
where there is illness,
bring your healing touch;
where there is fear,
strengthen us with the knowledge of your presence;
where there is uncertainty,
build us up in faith;
where there is dishonesty,
lead us into truth;
where there is discord,
may we know the harmony of your love;
this we ask in Jesus' name.
Amen.

DR JAMES HARPER R.I.P

Just after Father Nigel's arrival, the PCC received notice that James had bequeathed his home in Carmelite Place, to St Mary's. For some years, a small group had been working with the previous Rector to draw up plans to improve our facilities in St Mary's Church Centre. Hence at an extraordinary meeting of the 'last' PCC, it was unanimously agreed to assign the bequest to a specially Designated Fund, to be used solely to contribute to this work. This designation allows such a wonderfully generous gift to be ring-fenced for that purpose, and not be used for everyday Parish expenditure. It is also hoped that a special service of thanksgiving for James' life and commitment to the Parish will be celebrated later in the New Year.

RECTOR:

Father Nigel Prior

Telephone: 01394 610424

rector@stmaryswoodbridge.org

Day off: Wednesday

ASSISTANT CURATE

The Revd Andy Todd

01394 460329

andyjtodd@aol.com

Day off: Friday

PARISH OFFICE 01394 388820

parish.office@stmaryswoodbridge.org

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THE CHURCH
 OF ENGLAND
**Diocese of St Edmundsbury
 and Ipswich**

Bible Word-Search for Sunday 29th November 2020 (Advent Sunday)

Readings: Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-19; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37

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| 1. MY WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY
<i>(Mark 13.31b)</i> | 21. GLORY |
| 2. ALERT | 22. HOUR |
| 3. ANGELS | 23. JOSEPH |
| 4. AWESOME | 24. JOURNEY |
| 5. BENJAMIN | 25. KNOWLEDGE |
| 6. BEWARE | 26. LESSON |
| 7. BOAR | 27. MANASSEH |
| 8. BRANCHES | 28. MIDNIGHT |
| 9. BRUSHWOOD | 29. MOON |
| 10. CEDARS | 30. NATIONS |
| 11. CHERUBIM | 31. POTTER |
| 12. CLAY | 32. POWER |
| 13. COCKCROW | 33. ROOT |
| 14. COUNTENANCE | 34. SPEECH |
| 15. DOORKEEPER | 35. SPIRITUALGIFT |
| 16. EGYPT | 36. SUN |
| 17. EPHRAIM | 37. TENDER |
| 18. FIGTREE | 38. TESTIMONY |
| 19. FIRE | 39. TREMBLE |
| 20. GENERATION | 40. WATER |