

**Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership  
St Mary Magdalene, Willen  
Sunday 24 December:  
Christmas Night**



**Christmas Eve:**

11.30pm Midnight Communion led by Rev Wendy Carey

**Christmas Day:**

9.30am Family Celebration and Communion with Rev Paul Smith

**The Traidcraft Christmas catalogue**

This is now available, with a good choice of cards and gifts. A percentage of sales goes towards to Willen Church funds. Please contact Alison Read on 01908 616546 or Alison\_lread@hotmail.co.uk for details.

**Advance notices:**

On 15 January, the Ven Guy Elsmore, the new archdeacon of Buckingham, is visiting our Partnership. He will preach and preside at St James 10am Communion service. From 11.45am all from the Partnership, including members of Willen Church, are invited to meet him over a bring-and-share lunch. For more information please contact Paul Smith.

**JUBILEE PRAYER for our city:**

Thursday, 19th January 2017 7.45 pm - 9.15 pm (Refreshments from 7.15 pm) at Christ Church, Stantonbury MK14 6BN. An event for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017 and for Milton Keynes' 50th Birthday Year. Come and join local Christians from different churches gathering to pray for the shalom of our city and local communities. The evening will begin and end with worship together in different styles, and in-between there will be prayer stations for people to visit.

**Next Week: New Year's Day / Second Sunday of Christmas**

(NB No 8.30am service)

9.30am Morning Worship with Margaret Moakes

**Ministers • Websites • Notice Sheet**

<p><b>Rev Paul Smith, Team Vicar</b> St James', New Bradwell. &amp; St Mary Magdalene, Willen 2 Hooper Gate, Willen MK15 9JR Tel: 606689 / paul.a.smith.mk@btinternet.com <i>Paul is off duty until Wednesday 4th January inclusive.</i></p>	<p><b>Margaret Moakes SSM Licensed Lay Minister</b> c/o St Michael's Priory Willen #300551 margaret.moakes@btinternet.com <i>Margaret is off duty Friday</i></p>
--	--

**Deputy Wardens contact information:** Andy Davey MK 367679

Willen Church: [www.willenchurch.org.uk](http://www.willenchurch.org.uk) / Partnership: [www.stantonbury.net](http://www.stantonbury.net)

**Please email short and succinct notices to [willenchurchnotices@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:willenchurchnotices@hotmail.co.uk)**

**The Collect of Christmas Night**

Eternal God,  
in the stillness of this night you sent your almighty Word  
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:  
give to the earth the peace that we long for  
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven  
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

**FIRST BIBLE READING**

A reading from Isaiah 9. 2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

**Advent Candle Lighting:**

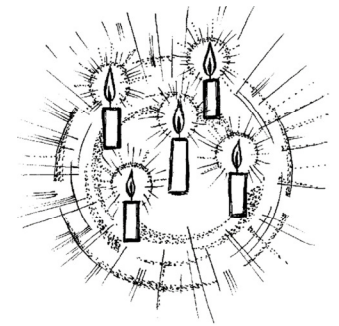
**For Midnight and Christmas Day**

We light this candle for the newborn Christ  
Reawakening hope and faith –

The Word embodied for our time.

**God, as we receive your promise**

**You are light, you are hope**



**GOSPEL READING**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 2. <sup>1-20</sup>

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**



For your prayers:		<b>Street Cycle of Prayer</b>
<b>Willen membership</b>		
Mary Hartwell		Lacy Drive
Janet Hawkins		Landsborough Gate
Carla Jones		Lanfranc Gardens
Hilda Kirkwood		Lascelles Close
<p><b>The Sick:</b> Stuart Bowden, Denis Carpenter, Malcolm Field, Gordon Field, Ena Fisher, Eddie Flitney, Terry Foley, Terance Gayle, Mary Hartwell, Barbara Saunders, Kirstie Wayland, Fiona Wright</p> <p><b>RIP</b> Gethin Abraham-Williams (former Ecumenical Officer of MK Christian Council)</p> <p><b>World prayers:</b> for peace on earth.</p> <p><b>Prayers:</b> The work of the Winter Night Shelter, Open Door and WrapUpWarm initiatives. The Soup Run.</p> <p><b>Prayer cycle:</b> view here - <a href="http://www.missionpartnership.org.uk">http://www.missionpartnership.org.uk</a></p>		
<b>Themes for Prayer:</b>	<b>Areas of Milton Keynes</b>	<b>Villages</b>
Local Government	Bletchley	Cold Brayfield
Emergency Services	Central Milton Keynes	Stoke Goldington
Children and Parents	Watling Valley (West MK)	Warrington
Education and Schools	Walton (East MK)	Wavendon
Relationships and Marriage	Stony Stratford	Calverton
Civil Society and Community	Stantonbury (North MK)	Lavendon
Engagement	Woughton (South-Central MK)	Ravenstone
Further and Higher Education		
<b>ASSOCIATE MINISTER (HOUSE FOR DUTY) APPOINTMENT</b>		
<p>We are now delighted to announce that the ministerial vacancy in the Stantonbury Team is to be filled by the Rev Chukwuemeka Iwuagwu. He is, at present, Associate Priest (House for Duty) in the Parish of Haslemere, Guildford Diocese. Chuks and his wife Adanna and their three children hope to move to Great Linford in mid-February in time for the licensing service on Monday 27th February. He will be licensed by the bishop to have shared responsibility with Rev David Lewis, for St Andrew's, and be a full member of the Ministers Team. In return for occupying the Rectory at Great Linford, Chuks will take Sunday services and be available for the equivalent of 2 days per week. He earns his living as an IT Consultant. Please pray for Chuks and the family as they prepare to move and that they will soon feel at home here in MK and the Stantonbury Partnership</p>		
<b>Hymns</b>		<b>24 December</b>
330 it came upon the midnight clear		
350 Jesus, Good above all other		
326 In the bleak midwinter		
641 The first Nowell.		