



Willen Church Newsheet
The Third Sunday of Advent



Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St Mary Magdalene, Willen
Sunday 15th December, 2024
The Third Sunday of Advent



Today: Gaudete Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion lead by Revd. Dr. Sam Muthuveloe

Thank you, Sam, for leading us this morning

5.00pm Candlelight Carol Service with Quorum led by Rev. Canon Chi Okpala.
The wonderful story of Christmas retold. Mulled wine and mince pies from 4.30

11.00am Holy Communion at Cross & Stable lead by Revd. Dr. Sam Muthuveloe

Service details for SEP churches are on SEP website and in monthly newsletter

This week

St Mary Magdalene church is open for private prayer or quiet reflection on Mondays from 9.30am until c.3.00pm. Also open on Sunday until 4.00pm if volunteer available to close church – please sign rota in church foyer.

ChatterboxMK at Cross & Stable each Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30pm. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - chat. Come and meet others.

The final meeting of the **Bible Study Group** will be at the **Quaker Centre** Downs Barn at 7.00 pm on Thurs 19th December. If you wish to join, please see Margaret.

Next week December 22nd The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am Holy Communion lead by Revd. Dr. Sam Muthuveloe

Monday 16th December 1.30pm Willen Hospice Choir Carols & Seasonal Songs

Dates for your diary:

Christmas Eve (Tues 24th December) **3pm** Children's Crib Service with Christingles

11.30pm Midnight Communion Service at Cross & Stable, Downs Barn, MK14 7RZ

Christmas Day (Wed 25th December) **9.30am** Christmas Communion Service

Sunday 29th December 11.00am SEP wide service at Cross & Stable, Downs Barn

Pastoral contact: Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe

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Revd Canon Chi Okpala

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Margaret Moakes Licensed Lay Minister

Telephone: 01908 237915

Margaret@willenchurch.org

Church website: www.willenchurch.org

Churchwardens Brad Stone, Janet Hawkins. To contact about weddings, funerals and baptisms please ring 01908 382458 (10 - 12 Mon - Sat); or E. warden@willenchurch.org

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: www.stantonbury.net and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stantonburyecumenicalpartnership) Please email short succinct notices to notices@willenchurch.org by 5pm on the preceding Thursday

The Collect of the Third Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE **ADVENT 3** (Three candles are lit)

One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, and the third for Mary, who gladly responded to the call of God.

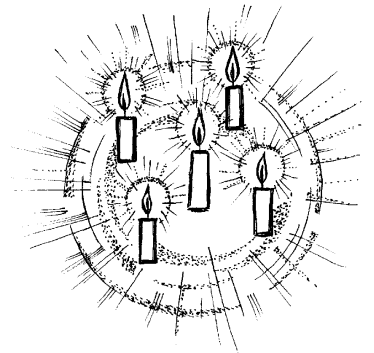
Scripture verse:

I am the Lord's servant, said Mary; may it happen to me as you have said. (Luke 1:38)

Prayer: **Surprising God,**

We thank you for the joyful obedience of Mary.

**We ask you to fill us with your grace,
so that we, too, may accept your call,
and rejoice in your salvation. Amen..**



PSALM 98 (© The Archbishops' Council 2000)

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song, ♦
for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm ♦
have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation; ♦
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, ♦
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; ♦
break into singing and make music.
- 6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre, ♦
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn ♦
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
- 8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, ♦
the world and all that dwell upon it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands ♦
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world ♦
and the peoples with equity.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 1: 3 – 6, 11 – 12 (NRSV)

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



GOSPEL READING

Luke 1: 26 – 38 (NRSV)

Hear the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

NOTICES

Rev. Chi has registered us with The Children's Society and I'll get the oranges, ribbon, sweets and candles. Can you volunteer to make up 50 Christingles, altogether not each, at my house on Saturday 21 December from 10.00 to 12.00? I can provide cuppas and mince pies. Sharron

Over the next three months, Canon Dave Bull, Bishop Designate of Buckingham will be [praying on Zoom](#) on Monday evenings at 5.30pm for 20 minutes. He invites all to join him. You are welcome to join in silently – there will be no pressure to pray out loud.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS - Please pray for

- those in debt. Many people have debts that are unsustainable, or find themselves trapped in a vicious cycle of rising debt. Please pray for those who owe money to others and for debt advice services and credit unions, who are trying to help..
- all workers in the healthcare sector and all those who are ill or awaiting investigations or treatment
- our preparations for Advent and Christmas; that we might be prepared ourselves to welcome Christ afresh into our own lives and share the message of Christ's coming with our community.
- Toybox, a MK-based charity which aims to prevent children living or working on the streets. It works in six countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa with local partners.
- Chi and the Okpala family at this time of great stress following the kidnapping of Chi's father. Pray that God will protect Chi's father and his driver and also for their safe return to their families.

Sick: Louise Folley, Mark & Janice Earls, Fr Edmund Wheat SSM, Lyn Coppendale, Alison Read, Gill Farrow, Cindy Williams, Hannah, David Preston's daughter, who safely gave birth to twins, Annie and Poppy on Thursday

World Prayers: Syria, Ukraine, Lebanon, Israel and Gaza. For Christians throughout the world facing persecution this Christmas. Dec. 18 [Arabic Language Day](#); [International Migrants Day \(A/RES/55/93\)](#); Dec.21 [International Human Solidarity Day](#)

PRAYER O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

HYMNS - Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New

480 O come, O come, Emmanuel

128 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

303 I cannot tell

67 Be still, for the presence of the Lord

631 Tell out, my soul