

*Happy New Year*







**Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership**  
**St Mary Magdalene, Willen**  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2024**  
**The First Sunday of Christmas**



**Today: The First Sunday of Christmas**

**9.30am** Holy Communion lead by Revd. Hannah Akibo-Betts

*Thank you, Hannah, for leading us this morning*

**11.00am** Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership wide Thanksgiving service and Holy Communion led by Rev Canon Chi Okpala at Cross & Stable, Downs Barn. This will be a time to give thanks for the Lay Ministers, retired clergy, churchwardens, and volunteers who have faithfully supported our partnership throughout the year.

**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.

The monthly communion service at **Oaktree Court**, Portland Drive will be at **2.45 pm on January 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Anyone who would like to join would be welcome. Please speak to Margaret Moakes.



**Next week January 5<sup>th</sup> The Second Sunday of Christmas, Feast of Epiphany**

**9.30am** All Age Morning Worship led by Margaret Moakes LLM

<p><b>Pastoral contact: Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe</b> <i>Email: <a href="mailto:sam@willenchurch.org">sam@willenchurch.org</a></i></p> <p><b>Revd Canon Chi Okpala</b> <i>Email: <a href="mailto:chi@willenchurch.org">chi@willenchurch.org</a></i></p>	<p><b>Margaret Moakes Licensed Lay Minister</b> <i>Telephone: 01908 237915</i></p> <p><i><a href="mailto:Margaret@willenchurch.org">Margaret@willenchurch.org</a></i></p> <p><i>Church website: <a href="http://www.willenchurch.org">www.willenchurch.org</a></i></p>
<p><b>Churchwardens</b> Brad Stone, Janet Hawkins. To contact about weddings, funerals and baptisms please ring 01908 382458 (10 - 12 Mon - Sat); or E. <a href="mailto:warden@willenchurch.org">warden@willenchurch.org</a></p>	
<p>Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: <a href="http://www.stantonbury.net">www.stantonbury.net</a> and <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stantonburyecumenical">Facebook</a> Please email short succinct notices to <a href="mailto:notices@willenchurch.org">notices@willenchurch.org</a> by 5pm on the preceding Thursday</p>	

## The Collect of the First Sunday of Christmas

God in Trinity,  
eternal unity of perfect love:  
gather the nations to be one family,  
and draw us into your holy life  
through the birth of Emmanuel,  
our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**



## OLD TESTAMENT READING

### First Samuel 2: 18 – 20, 26 (NRSV)

*A reading from the First Book of Samuel*

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD'; and then they would return to their home. <sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the LORD and with the people.

*Hear the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

## PSALM 148 (© The Archbishops' Council 2005)

- 1 Alleluia. Praise the Lord from the heavens; ♦  
praise him in the heights.
- 2 Praise him, all you his angels; ♦  
praise him, all his host.
- 3 Praise him, sun and moon; ♦  
praise him, all you stars of light.
- 4 Praise him, heaven of heavens, ♦  
and you waters above the heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the name of the Lord, ♦  
for he commanded and they were created.
- 6 He made them fast for ever and ever; ♦  
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.
- 7 Praise the Lord from the earth, ♦  
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail, snow and mist, ♦  
tempestuous wind, fulfilling his word;
- 9 Mountains and all hills, ♦  
fruit trees and all cedars;

- 10 Wild beasts and all cattle, ♦  
creeping things and birds on the wing;
- 11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, ♦  
princes and all rulers of the world;
- 12 Young men and women, old and young together; ♦  
let them praise the name of the Lord.
- 13 For his name only is exalted, ♦  
his splendour above earth and heaven.
- 14 He has raised up the horn of his people and praise for all his faithful servants, ♦  
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. Alleluia.

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

### **Colossians 3: 12-17**

*A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians*

<sup>12</sup> As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup> Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

## **GOSPEL READING**

### **Luke 2: 41 – end**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were



astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' <sup>49</sup>He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

*This is the gospel of the Lord*

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## NOTICES

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025** 18:00 to 21:00 **WILLEN PAVILION BURNS NIGHT** Tickets £15 each for 3 course meal (£5/child)- it will really help our caterers if you could buy your tickets as early as possible so we know firm numbers attending. Tickets available from David Preston in church or Tel. 07538498061 e: [Davidgwpreston@gmail.com](mailto:Davidgwpreston@gmail.com)

**Bible Study Group:** The bible study group will meet at the Quaker Centre, Downs Barn on the following Thursday evenings until Lent starts: 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February. Lifts can be arranged if needed. If you wish to join, please see Margaret Moakes or e-mail [margaret.moakes@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.moakes@btinternet.com).

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS - Please pray for

- all the staff and residents at HMP Woodhill Prison; for the victims of crime whose lives have been changed; for families of those in prison; for Prison Fellowship and all involved in Restorative Justice programmes; and the multi-faith chaplaincy team
- that we will know the excitement and expectation of celebrating again the coming of the Christ child and to 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,

**World Prayers:** for a peaceful solution in Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Ukraine, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. For those traumatised by being hostages or prisoners in war zones. Jan. 4 [World Braille Day](#) For Christians throughout the world facing persecution this Christmas.

**HYMNS** - Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New

- 370** Joy to the world
- 588** See, amid the winter's snow
- 326** In the bleak mid-winter
- 36** Angels from the realms of glory

