



WELCOME TO BRADWELL CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST LAWRENCE

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership (Baptist, Church of England, Methodist, URC)

Following Jesus Sharing his Love since 1223AD

Third Sunday of Advent 15th December

10.30am Morning Worship (led by Maggie Prisk)

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (p.894); Luke 3:7-18 (p.972);

Service: Janet Smith & Ping; Reader: Ken; Prayers: Ann; Music: Michael; Tea: Beth;

Fourth Sunday of Advent 22nd December

10.30am Holy Communion (led by Rev Phil Dunning)

Readings: Micah 5:2-5a (p.883); Luke 1:39-45 (p.969);

Service: Chris Spikings & Ghislaine; Reader: Laurie; Prayers: Angela; Music: Beryl; Tea: Angela;

Carol Service 22nd December
6pm Service of Lessons and Carols (led by Rev Canon Chibuzor Okpala)

Service: Liz Sharp and Carol; Music: Diana;



St Lawrence is a family friendly church; Children are very welcome

Reflection

Advent. Season when Dual citizenship Holds us in Awkward tension. The world, intent on Spending Christmas, Eats and drinks its way to Oblivion after dinner.

The Kingdom sounds Insistent warnings: Repent, be ready, Keep awake, He comes.

Like some great fugue The themes entwine: The Christmas carols, Demanding our attention In shops and pubs, Bore their insistent way Through noise of traffic; Underneath, almost unheard, The steady solemn theme of Advent.

God bless, Maggie



PRAYER POINTERS by Lesley

- The people of Syria as new leaders take control.
- A sense of God's presence at next week's Carol Service.
- Those who have no place to call home this Christmas time.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Gillian Webber, Beth Ruston's sister. Our thoughts and prayers are with Beth and Rod and all the family.



We pray for the family and friends of Gillian Webber, Val Young and for all others recently bereaved. May they know the peace and comfort of God's love.

We pray for those in particular need, including Paul Lund; Clare Vincent; Esther Squire; Lewis Kite; Chi and his Family and others known personally to us.

- To add prayers contact Beryl on 01908 321322.

<h3>Christmas Services</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22nd December Carols 6pm Rev Chi Okpala • Christmas Eve Crib Service 5pm Rev Phil Dunning • Christmas Eve Midnight Communion 11.30pm Rev Phil Dunning • Christmas Day 10am Mike Morris

HYMNS

- 121 Emmanuel
- 162 From Heaven you came
- 589 See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw
- 249 How Lovely on the Mountains
- 708 To God be the Glory

Minister Today is someone well know to us at Bradwell, Maggie Prisk. Maggie is usually to be found at Christchurch and is a Baptist Lay Preacher. Please give our usual warm welcome

CHURCH THIS WEEK

- Wed** Bell ringing practice 7.45pm;
- Thur** School Visit 1.30pm
- Sat** Church decorating 10am;

NEWS & NOTICES

Altar Hangings Last Sunday we enjoyed seeing the Associate Archdeacon Rev Canon Chris Bull dedicate our new altar cloth. Rev Paul Smith and the 800th Anniversary team commissioned them as a lasting legacy from a local artist.



Christmas Flowers

We will be decorating the church on Sat 21st December 10am. We would welcome anyone to come and help. Please see Jenny

Big Christmas card

Wendy has made our traditional big Christmas card where we sign the card to everyone in the Church. There is a donations box next to it in the annexe for the Westcroft Community Larder.

Funeral of Val Young, one of our loyal members will be held at the MK crematorium on December 20th at 10.45am

Christmas Services We have volunteers for most of the Christmas services. But could someone help Janet Smith at the **Crib service** on Christmas Eve at 5pm. It should be a nice service with usually lots of children. Please see Janet or someone from the leadership team if you can help.

Cleaning Help We have a few people leaving shortly so we need some more volunteers to help out on the cleaning the church rota. This is not an arduous job and is

more about tidying up and keeping on top of the dust. Please see a member of the leadership team if you can help.

29th December There will **not** be a service at St Lawrence on Sunday 29th December, but there will be a special SEP wide service at the Cross and Stable Church, Downs Barn 11am. All welcome

Carol singing We will be singing outside of the Heelands shops on Saturday 21st Dec from 10am to 11am. We used to do this but have taken a break since COVID. The only qualification you need is that you enjoy singing! While singing we are giving out the good message of Christmas as well as collecting for our December sponsored charity which is Toy-box. We meet in front of Tesco's. Friends and family welcome!

Coffee Morning The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 4th January 10.00-12.00. Everyone is welcome.

Prayer God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

HOUSEGROUPS

Sun - Diana

Mon - First Monday of the Month
Beryl 01908321322

Thur zoom Grayham 01908318418

Thur (day) Denise 01908314378

Thur (eve) - Rod

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Decorate Church 21st Dec 10am
- Carols 22nd Dec 6pm
- Crib service 24th Dec 5pm
- Midnight Service 24th Dec 11.30pm
- Christmas Day 10am
- No service 29th Dec
- Next Coffee Morning 4th Jan 10am

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT from Mike
An agreeable person to me is one
who agrees with me
Benjamin Disraeli

QUIZ set by Mike
Q. Who were the Pitcairn Islands
named after?

*Answer: A teenage seaman called Robert Pitcairn
who first spied the islands*

CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE from Beryl

North Korea Please pray for those who have escaped the extreme repression of North Korea. Ask God to guard North Korean refugees and make a way for them to reach a place of safety without detection. China continues to return refugees to North Korea, knowing they will likely face torture, imprisonment, or even public execution. Those found to have had contact with Christians are known to face particularly harsh punishment.

Together we pray: *Wonderful Counsellor, you are unmatched in your guidance and compassion. We lift up those who have fled their homes, under gunfire or airstrikes, hunger or persecution, or many traumatising experiences. Bring healing and strength, we pray. Amen.*



COLLECT OF THE DAY

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. **Amen**

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Phil is off duty Tuesdays

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