



# 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 14th December

**10.30am Holy Communion** (led by Revd Dr Paul Smith)

**Readings:** Isaiah 35.1-10 (p.682); Matthew 11.2-11 (p.923);

**Service:** Liz and Sally; Reader: Ros; Prayers: Ann; Music: Beryl; Tea: Raj;

### Fourth Sunday of Advent 21st December

**10.30am Morning Worship** (led by Helen Rouse)

**Readings:** Isaiah 7.10-16 (p.640); Matthew 1.18-25 (p.913);

**Service:** Peter and Ghislaine; Reader: Peter; Prayers: Karen; Music: Diana; Tea: Liz;

### Christmas Services

- 21st December Carols 6pm Mike Morris
- Christmas Eve Crib Service 5pm Rev Phil Dunning
- Christmas Eve Midnight Communion 11.30pm Rev Phil Dunning
- Christmas Day 10am Rev Phil Dunning



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

### Reflection

**Isaiah 35:1-10. Driving home for Christmas.** Isaiah prophesies that a highway will be provided for the Jewish exiles in Babylon to return home to Jerusalem. The first returnees endured an 800-mile slog through dry and rough terrain. But now, Isaiah proclaims, the way back will be easy. The road will be open for bona fide returnees; it will be safe from dangerous animals; water will stave off thirst and mirages. Moreover, there will be health and wholeness for the frail or disabled. No wonder there will be a song in the hearts and mouths of the pilgrims returning to Jerusalem! Reading this prophecy during Advent and after the coming of Jesus leads to Christian interpretation of it. Our exile is in sin and separation from God. Jesus is the Highway, providing the Way to our true home in heaven. Does that provoke you to sing? **God Bless, Paul**



## PRAYER POINTERS by Lesley

- For those who have no place to call home.
- For the residents and staff of Home Ridings and our carol singing evening with them on Monday.
- For all working hard to prepare special Christmas

services and events, remembering our Carol Service next Sunday

We were sorry to hear of the death of Dawn's mother Audrey. We pray for Dawn and Derek and all of Audrey's family and friends, as well as for others recently bereaved. May they know God's love, peace and comfort surrounding them.

**We pray for those in particular need**, including Sylvia; Jane; Mirella; David; Joan; Eileen; Nimmi; Esther; Ray; Jill; Paul; Lewis; Ann; Clare; and others known personally to us.

- To add prayers contact Beryl •

**Our Mission Focus in December is Toybox**, a MK-based charity working with partners in seven countries to prevent children living or working on the streets. See [toybox.org.uk](http://toybox.org.uk)

## HYMNS TODAY

538 On Jordan's bank the baptist

493 O come, O come, Emmanuel

1045 From the squalor of a borrowed

210 Hark! The glad song the Saviour

**Minister Today** is Revd Dr Paul Smith. This is Paul's first time back here at St Lawrence following his retirement. Please give our usual warm welcome

## CHURCH THIS WEEK

**Wed** Bell ringing 7.45pm

**Fri** Martial Arts Club 7pm

## NEWS & NOTICES

**Bishop Dave Bull** visit is open to all parishioners and will take place on Tues 6th Jan at 7pm St Andrew's Church. Questions for the Bishop should be submitted in advance. Please email your questions to Helen or pass your question to Alan

**From Us to Us** Our annual big Christmas card is in the annexe, please sign to send your Christmas greetings to everyone. A big thank you to Angela who made the card.



**Christingle** was a different service last week and thanks to Phil's hard work going into schools distributing flyers we welcomed lots of families with children to make up the Christingles and help eat up all the breakfast pastries.

**Did you know?** If you give money to the church using our contactless machine, you can still GiftAid your donations. To find out how, speak to Lesley at church or email

**Food Larder** We would like to thank everyone who has brought along food for the Westcroft Community Larder. For the people who also very kindly donate Christmas presents, the last collection to make sure they get delivered on time is today Sunday 14th December.

**Carols** at Homeridings House Monday 15th December 7.30pm We have been invited to bring a group to lead our regular carol singing evening at Homeridings House, Flintergill Court, Heelands. If you can join us for the evening, please sign up on the notice in the

annex or let Diana know. The residents will provide tea and mince pies afterwards.

**Carols** our usual Carol service at Heelands shops will be on the 20th December at 10am, please let Carol know if you can attend. Everyone welcome.

**Bell Ringing** The bell ringers as part of anniversary celebrations will ring a peal of bells on Saturday 27th December between 9am and 1.30pm. A peal last hours and takes a great deal of concentration. As this can be dangerous to bell ringers if disturbed we ask that **no one enters the church or annexe** during this time.

**Floral decorations** for Christmas. We will be decorating the Church with flowers on Saturday 20th December. Help on the day, or donations of greenery as well as cash to buy flowers will be much appreciated. Please see Jenny.

### **From Today's Readings**

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us").*

*Matthew 1:22-23*

## HOUSEGROUPS

**Sun** - Diana (ask at church)

**Mon** - First Monday of the Month  
Beryl

**Thur** zoom Grayham

**Thur** (day) Denise

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Carol Service 21st Dec 6pm
- Crib Service 24th Dec 5pm
- Midnight Communion 24th Dec 11.30
- Christmas Day Service 10am
- Bell Peal (no entry 9.30-13.30) 27 Dec
- Coffee Morning 3rd Jan 10am
- Covenant Service 11th Jan
- Ash Wednesday 18th Feb

Church photocopier is now at church house

**PAUSE FOR THOUGHT** from Mike  
Television allows you to be entertained in your own living room by people you would never invite into your home *David Frost*

**QUIZ** set by Mike

Q. Who discovered the world's first antibiotic and what was it?

Answer: *Alexander Fleming discover penicillin*



## 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**

## BRADWELL CHURCH



<https://bradwellchurch.com>



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## CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE from Beryl

**Nicaragua** Good news for Advent! **Carmen and Lesbia have been released to house arrest.** These two women (Roman Catholic lay leaders) were detained without reason on 10 Aug 2024. They were targeted as part of a wider crackdown on fundamental freedoms in Nicaragua. Their families had had no contact with them for nearly 16 months. But Carmen and Lesbia were among a small group of political prisoners released into house arrest on Saturday 29 Nov. While they are still not free, this is without doubt an improvement on solitary confinement in a maximum-security prison. Let's give thanks for this answer to prayer and continue to remember the prisoners this Christmas (Hebrews 13:3). We will not stop praying for Carmen and Lesbia, and many others like them, until they are fully free.