



Willen Church Newssheet
The Third Sunday of Advent



**Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St Mary Magdalene Willen
Sunday 14th December 2025
The Third Sunday of Advent**



Today: The Third Sunday of Advent; Gaudete Sunday

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

Thank you Sam for leading us this morning

5.00pm Carols by Candlelight - Readings and traditional Carols with Quorum with mince pies and mulled wine before the service Donations of mince pies and/or mulled wine would be very welcome. Please bring for 4.15pm.

11:00am Carol Service at Cross & Stable led 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.

Monday 15th December 2pm Christmas Open House with Willen Hospice Choir who will be singing some of their favourite seasonal songs and Christmas carols.

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

Next week – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am Holy Communion led by Rev. Phil Dunning

3.00pm Children's Crib Service with Christingles led by Rev. Phil Dunning

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion Service at Cross & Stable

Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Morning Worship Service led by Margaret

Heavenly Father, as we light the candle of joy, remind us that You are near.
Give us courage to be Your messengers, to proclaim Your love, and to find
deep, real joy in the wonder of Your Son's birth. *Amen*

Pastoral contact: Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe <i>Email: sam@willenchurch.org sburyepadm@gmail.com</i>	Margaret Moakes Licensed Lay Minister <i>Telephone: 01908 237915 Margaret@willenchurch.org Church website: www.willenchurch.org</i>
Churchwardens Janet Hawkins. To contact about weddings funerals and baptisms and other enquiries please call 01908 382458; or E. warden@willenchurch.org	
Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: www.stantonbury.net and Facebook Please email short succinct notices to notices@willenchurch.org by 5pm on the preceding Thursday	

Collect of The Third Sunday of Advent

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*



ADVENT 3 (*Three candles are lit*)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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.*



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35: 1 – 10 (NRSV)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall

return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 5: 7 – 10 (NRSV)

A reading from the Letter of James

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11: 2 – 11 (NRSV)

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

Glory to you, O Lord

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.



NOTICES

Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 19:00 at St Andrews Church, Great Linford.

'An evening for the SEP with Bishop Dave'

The Bishop's visit is open to all parishioners and questions for the Bishop should be submitted in advance, so that we can organise the meeting around the themes that people want to discuss. Please email your questions to Helen at sburyepadm@gmail.com or pass your question to a church warden to pass to Helen. Over 100 people attended the last SEP wide service at St Andrews on 30th November, thank you to all who attended

The Willen Church **Bible Study** meetings have finished for 2025 and will resume again in Lent 2026. If you want any more details, please speak to Margaret Moakes. The final Partnership wide bible study meeting will be at 2.00pm on Monday 15th December at the Vicarage in Bradwell Village Advent 4 - - 'Love' - Psalm 118, Philippians 2 vs. 5-11

Churches Together in Milton Keynes Hope for the World concert on **Sunday 25th January 2026 at 7pm** at City Centre Church of Christ the Cornerstone. Tickets priced at £22.50 and £15.50 (under 18 years £5) online www.ticketsource.co.uk/cornerstone-music email boyntonmusic@btinternet.com or by telephone 07961 348697.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- our preparations for Advent & Christmas; that we might be prepared to welcome Christ afresh into our own lives and share the message of Christ's coming with our community and our loved ones.
- those who are out of work When people can't find work, the consequences can be difficult. Unemployment affects people in many different ways, from money problems, to loss of self-confidence and strained relationships.
- all who work for the NHS at a time of great pressure
- Torch Trust, which focuses on spiritual support and encouragement of blind and partially sighted people. It provides accessible resources and ways for connection, fellowship and support. See www.torchtrust.org

Sick: Louise Folley, Mark & Janice Earls, Fr Edmund Wheat SSM, Alison Read, Cindy Williams, Liz Halliwell, Lynda Phillips, Rosie Fletcher, Warwick Newton, Gwen McNulty

World Prayers for peace wherever there is war; for those who lost loved ones and homes in major flooding across Southeast Asia. Dec 14 International Day against Colonialism in All its Forms and Manifestations Dec 18 [International Migrants Day](#); [Arabic Language Day](#) Dec20 [International Human Solidarity Day](#)

HYMNS - Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New

- 485** O for a thousand tongues to sing
- 172** Fill your hearts with joy and gladness
- 428** Come, thou long expected Jesus
- 949** Wait for the Lord
- 480** O come, O come, Emmanuel

