

NOTICES / DIARY DATES

Event	Date and time	Venue
Advent Carol Service (on Advent Sunday)	Sunday 27 th November (3:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Christingle Service	Sunday 4 th December (3:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Christmas Tree Festival (Details to Follow)	9 th to 11 th December	St. John's Church
"Christmas with G & T" A Christmas Concert featuring Gary Bland and Tom Wakeley (alias Gavin Mole). Tickets £10 (£5 children) – includes light refreshments.	Saturday 10 th December (7:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Annual Toy Service (During the Main Parish Eucharist Service)	Sunday 11 th December (10:00 am)	St. John's Church
"With Christmas in Mind". A scratch choir event for anyone who wants to join with rehearsal of popular secular and religious Christmas songs, followed by a concert. To raise fund for the church. Details from Gavin Mole.	Saturday 17 th December (2:00 pm for Rehearsal) (7:00 pm for Concert)	St. John's Church <i>Tickets to rehearse and sing £15. £10 to just attend the concert.</i>
Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight	Sunday 18 th December (3:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Crib Service	Christmas Eve (3:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Midnight Mass of the Nativity	Christmas Eve (11:15 pm)	St. John's Church
Parish Communion with Carols	Christmas Day (10:00 am)	St. John's Church

ONE CAN TRUST

One Can Trust are trying to create bags that enable families to make a nutritious meal. Soup is not needed, but all donations for the food cupboard are welcome. Sources of protein e.g., tinned meat, tinned fish, lentils etc. In addition, items such as tinned tomatoes and cook-in sauces will enable people where possible to prepare meals of their choice. We are being told that donations to the Trust have been down recently, but demand remains high. Any offerings that you can donate will be welcomed (we have a donations box outside the Church Porch). Thank you.

Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Team Rector:	Rev. David Williams	01844 346984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mr Graham King	01844 343910
Churchwardens:	Mrs Pat Rushmere	01494 562140
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345
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www.stjohnchurchlaceygreen.co.uk

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2022
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

You are warmly welcomed to St. John's Church, particularly if you are new to our congregation or are a visitor.

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Wearing masks in church is now optional except for the Lady chapel where we request that masks are still worn in this part of the Church. Please continue to maintain social distancing where possible and sanitise your hands. We are continuing to offer, for those who wish it, hosts intincted by the Celebrant at all Communion Services. Reintroduction of the Common Cup will be considered again at a later time. The Lady Chapel area will continue to be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others and where masks will be worn. Please respect this. Where possible, we will be serving coffee after the 10:00 am Service on Sundays.

We have now received the card reader so we will shortly be able to take cashless offerings during services / donations. Linked to this we also have a QR code for members of the congregation to donate via their Smartphone, which can be used as of now. You will need a QR reader App to use this. Thank you for however you choose to make your offering.



Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

8:00 am	In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1 st & 3 rd Sun)
10:00 am	In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns

TUESDAY

9:30 am	In-church Said Parish Communion Service
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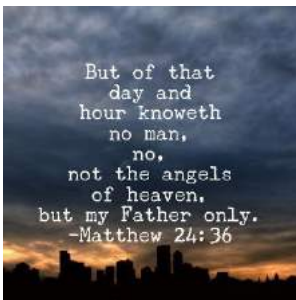
FOCUS ON... THE ADVENT JOURNEY

Advent is understood in theological terms to be a time in which we prepare both for the birth of the Christ-child which we celebrate at Christmas, and for the culmination of all things in Christ's second coming, when he will return in judgement and on clouds of glory. There is therefore in both of these levels of meaning to Advent, an element of the "now" and the "not yet"; as with eager anticipation and yearning we watch and hope and pray. As Advent reaches its climax, it has long been traditional to decorate the Church with a Nativity Crib which is customarily in place from the Eve of Christmas Day until the end of the season of the Incarnation at Candlemas. The Crib is usually blessed on Christmas Eve, and the figure of the Christ-child placed in it at the Midnight Mass of the Nativity. It is customary for the figures of the Shepherds to be in place for Christmas Morning, and to remain until Twelfth Night when they are removed and then the figures of the Three Magi, the Wise Men/Kings, are placed in the crib for Epiphany. At the Parish Church of Saint John the Evangelist, we seek to express the character of the Advent season as a journey of hope and expectation by placing Mary and Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wise Men in various locations around the Church, making their way to the stable at Bethlehem and so helping us to remember and reflect that we, too, are travellers "on the way". And so, on Advent Sunday, we begin a new phase in our own spiritual journey. For the pilgrim people of God, then - the community of faith travelling together on a journey of hope and expectation - Advent Sunday marks a new beginning as, for the Church of God, another year of service for the sake of the Kingdom begins in earnest. A new liturgical year, known as Year A, begins on this day; and so it is that the Advent "tingle" of joyful anticipation and hope stirs in our hearts once more.

Canon Tony Bundock

COLLECT FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, Amen.



READINGS FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

Isaiah Ch. 2 VV. 1 – 5
Romans Ch. 13 VV. 11 – 14
Matthew Ch. 24 VV. 36 – 44

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER



Father God, every word in scripture points to the gift of hope that we have because of Christ Jesus. The Christmas story wasn't the beginning of that message of hope because the old testament is full of glimpses of your plan to redeem your people and restore them into a relationship with you, but we are able to truly begin to see and understand just how great your love for us is when we read the story of Jesus' birth in scripture. Help us to see that you are with us. Nothing is too difficult, too messy, or too dirty for you. Jesus came to give us the gift of eternal life through the salvation that only you, our Heavenly Father, can give when we believe in your Son, repent of our sins, and confess Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray, Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR ADVENT SUNDAY

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

This Week you are Asked to Pray for:

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Sally Zeybek, Marcus Barthropp, Gary Webb, Lila King, Rita Probert, Rev Nancy Wallace and Roger Hussey. Also, Margaret Karstens of Kuruman.
- The recently departed including Gordon Gray and George Locke. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for Margaret and her family and the family of George together with their friends at this difficult time.
- Kelly Safaris Silva and her family who are currently in need at this time.
- We pray for our Government that they will lead wisely and fairly for all.
- We pray for countries where there have been natural disasters, for their peoples and for the various aid organisations bringing relief.
- We pray for Peace in the Ukraine. That there will be a rapid end to the fighting and the suffering for its people.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. Particularly praying for countries where infection rates are very high and the hospitals are struggling to cope.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.