

'Not the Parish Magazine' but something a little different! Issue 43



Across Holy Trinity, South Chatham
we want everyone to be safe

**St. Alban's
Church,
Blue Bell Hill.**



**St. David's
Church,
Lordswood.**



**St. William's
Church,
Walderslade.**



Sunday worship for the coming weeks:

Sunday, 5th December (Advent 2)

10.00am Morning Worship at St. Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

Sunday, 12th December (Advent 3)

10.00am Holy Communion at St. David's, Lordswood

Sunday, 19th December (Advent 4)

10.00am Holy Communion at St. William's, Walderslade

Sunday, 26th December (Christmas 1)

10.00am Morning Worship at St. Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

Sunday, 2nd January (The Epiphany)

10.00am Holy Communion at St. David's, Lordswood

For Advent & Christmas events and worship please see the centre pages.

At the heart of Christmas



A bumper edition of the Newsletter for this month with details of the events and services being held over Advent and Christmas – even taking us into the New Year. The next Newsletter will be coming out at the beginning of 2022.

With four weeks still to go and the latest developments it seems that we shall need to continue to be cautious as we celebrate Christmas this year. Some will be planning large family gatherings whilst others may only gradually be resuming contacts with family and friends. With the news as this Newsletter goes to press all is provisional. Whatever our plans we are certainly seeing the world in a very different way and yet the heart of Christmas remains a message of peace, hope and love in a fragile and broken world.

As you will see from pages 3 and 4 we are offering a simplified pattern of worship and events this year – all are welcome and we shall be heeding current safety advice whether in our buildings or outside. If you have any questions then don't hesitate to get in touch with David or myself but whether or not you are able to attend worship in church this season do be assured that you are in our prayers.

If you can't get out and would like a home visit and/or Holy Communion over the Christmas period then do let us know, we are more than happy to visit if you wish.

Elaine

In our prayers



We remember:

- so many places across the world where lives are overshadowed by war, disasters, injustice and poverty.
- our members of Parliament and pray for their safety.
- all involved in education: our local pre-schools, schools and colleges – their staff, pupils and students
- those whose working patterns have been changed by the pandemic.
- all working in essential services.
- those unable to be with loved ones this Christmas.
- those who are in pain or who are anxious.
- those who are troubled but feel unable to seek help.
- those who have lost loved ones, especially the families of the recently departed including Remi Alabi, Wes Allen, Gina Arnold, Peg Banks, Charlie Bennett, Cliff Carter, Hughie Devine, Maureen Jones, Ade Lawal, Paul Riley and Josie Sanders

and together - Trinity Prayers

7.30pm, on the first Thursday of the month at The Rectory, 18 Marion Close, Walderslade: **Thursdays, 2nd December and 6th January.**

A time to come together for an hour in prayer

- for our parish and its people
- for the mission of God in this community
- for those who have asked for prayer
- for one another



SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR

The Advent Story

Why not take time out of the rush to be ready for Christmas and pause to ponder some of the characters (familiar and unfamiliar) in the Advent/Christmas Story?



We shall be offering three sessions during Advent to take an hour on
either Wednesday afternoons (2.30pm in St. David's Chapel)
or Wednesday evenings (7.30pm on Zoom)

Session One: Wednesday 1st December

Session Two: Wednesday, 8th December

Session Three: Wednesday 15th December

Apologies for any confusion caused by the incorrect dates in the previous Newsletter.



Carol Singing

Friday, 10th December: 1.30pm – 3.00pm (**change of time!**)

Carols, coffee & mince pies at St. David's.

We shall be joined by Swingate School Choir.

Monday, 20th December: 7.00pm

Carols on the Hill – Blue Bell Hill Village Bus Stop

with mince pies and mulled wine.

Wednesday, 22nd December: 3.00pm

Tea & Carols at St. William's.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

This year there will be single services for the whole parish rather than each church hosting at the same time and everyone is welcome.



Parish Carol Service

Sunday, 19th December
6.00pm at St. David's, Lordswood

Parish Crib Service

Christmas Eve: Friday, 24th December
4.00pm at St. William's, Walderslade Village

Parish Midnight Communion

Christmas Eve: Friday, 24th December
11.30pm at St. Alban's, Blue Bell Hill

Parish Christmas Communion

Christmas morning: Saturday, 25th December
10.00am at St. David's, Lordswood

All services and events will be subject to Government and national Church guidance at the time



Bible Focus and Prayers



Here are the Sunday readings and collects for the coming weeks.

Second Sunday of Advent – 5th December

**Baruch 5 or Malachi 3:1-4, Cantic: *Benedictus*,
Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent – 12th December

**Zephaniah 3:14-end, Cantic: Isaiah 12:2-end,
Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18**

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 19th December

**Micah 5:2-5a, Cantic: *Magnificat*, Hebrews 10:5-10,
Luke 1:18-24**

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



First Sunday of Christmas – 26th December

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 124, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:41-end

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.

The Epiphany – 2nd January

Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Some materials in this booklet are drawn from Common Worship: Additional Collects, which is copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England 2004.



Want to come back to church but need a lift?



There are several members of the congregations with spaces in their cars who are happy to help you, don't be afraid to ask - let David or Elaine know and we'll put you in touch.



It's Panto time!

BABES in the **WOOD**

United Players will be presenting their 40th amazing pantomime at St. William's in January 2022. The box office is now open at www.unitedplayers.co.uk or 07858 898178.



A Christmas Prayer: Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Don't hesitate to pick up the phone and call us:

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or visit the parish website www.southchatham.org

and our facebook page Holy Trinity South Chatham 

*The Parish of Holy Trinity, South Chatham is a partnership
between the Church of England and the Methodist Church,
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